

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." Galations 5:1*

## NEWS LETTER

Issue #29

March/April 2015

### Canada- Brace yourself for Perilous Times

By Sis. Grace Brooks

Canada's majority-Conservative government, led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, stands firmly against the euthanasia of the elderly and physician-assisted suicide. Parliament voted 228-59 against a private bill to permit the euthanasia of handicapped elderly. Despite all this Canada is expected to pass a bill and legalize assisted suicide and abortion.

Yet on February 6, the Supreme Court of Canada says they find such rulings to violate the Canadian Charter of Rights Link: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-15.html> and Freedom, therefore charged the Federal government with drafting a law to permit the practice. (Continued on page 14)

*"So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep."*

- II Samuel 30: 3 & 4

Even David & his mighty men came to a point of weeping & exhaustion. Surely no one would accuse these men of being weaklings. How often though do we feel weak & helpless, how often do we feel as if we're at our breaking point? How do we define strength? What actions and behaviors do we attribute to a strong person? What does the Bible say about strength and human frailty? Do we wrongly associate certain behavior as weakness that may actually be strength?

How about on a larger scale. When we think of leaders, politicians & strong nations? Do our ideas really align with scriptures? These are some of our thoughts in this issue. What examples do we have in the Bible, how does God's Word define strength? What is the example of Christ?

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*"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." ~ II Corinthians 12:10*

### Debate Announcement: Pro-Life Incrementalism V.S.

### Abolitionist Immediatism

-- Gregg Cunningham of **The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform** and T. Russell Hunter of **The International Coalition of Abolitionist Societies** will be debating which ideology is most effective for bringing about the total abolition of human abortion. Mr. Cunningham will be arguing in favor of Pro-Life Incrementalism, and Mr. Hunter for Abolitionist Immediatism. The debate will be held at the OU Tulsa Schusterman Center at 7:00pm CDT on April 25, 2015 and will be open to the public. There will be a question and answer session following the debate.

Read more at [Christian News Wire](http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/7711375850.html)

<http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/7711375850.html>

# Sermon: "Patience In Suffering"

by Bro. Timothy Works



"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

Isaiah 53:7

Jesus Christ is an example to us of many things, but perhaps this is the most difficult example of all to follow; "Patience in suffering"

Philippians 2:5-11 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Jesus made himself of no reputation, humbled himself and was obedient unto death.

## "He opened not his mouth"

Matthew 5:10-12 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 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."

John 19:6-12 "When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he

ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar."

## So how does this relate to us?

Matthew 5:10-12 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 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 7:24-25 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

Jesus taught us to rejoice and to be glad when we are persecuted. (Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.")

When persecutions come, trials, tribulations; we are to endure patiently.

"Opened not his mouth" He did not complain.

Long text but needful, I Peter 2:15-25

15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

# NEWSBLITZ

(month of March/early April)

Blue underlined texts are links to news stories from various sources. If reading this as a printout you can find the links to these stories on our website (<http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com>) by going to the archives and clicking on the PDF version of this issue.

## U.S. Local & State news stories

### March 2<sup>nd</sup>

["CPS Finds "Free Range" Parents Responsible for Unsubstantiated Child Neglect. Now What?"](#)

### March 11<sup>th</sup>

["Oklahoma Educational Television Authority to Air Chickasaw "First Encounter" Documentary"](#)

### March 21<sup>st</sup>

["Syracuse reverend in jail after being beaten by police"](#)

### March 24<sup>th</sup>

["After 22 years on death row, woman sees murder case tossed"](#)

### March 25<sup>th</sup>

["Jackson Pink House Vandalized: Outward Crime or Inside Job"](#)

### March 26<sup>th</sup>

["NH Police Officer Rejects A Father's Request To Use "Scared Straight" Tactics On Son"](#)

["BIA Superintendent Stabbed on Crow Creek Indian Reservation"](#)

### March 31<sup>st</sup>

["Oklahoma Earthquakes Rattling the Fracking Industry"](#)

### April 2<sup>nd</sup>

["NYPD Strips Badge from Joint Terrorism Task Force Cop Who Bullied Uber Driver"](#)



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23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (see Isaiah 53:5)

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Peter applies this statement to our suffering for Christ's sake. So remember every time someone says some mean thing about you and you are tempted to reply back in kind, Jesus took that "stripe" for you .

Remember the sting-

Remain silent-

Silently pray for them.

"Forgive them for they know not what they do"

Every mean and hurtful thing ever said about you, especially for Christ's sake is a stripe he received on your behalf, and as he was silent and opened not his mouth, so ought we to be.

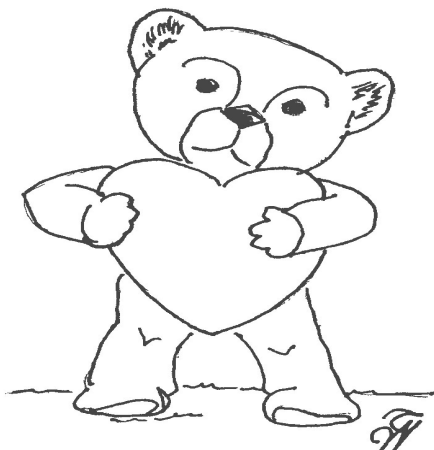
Job 1:21-22 *"And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."*

Job 2:10 *"But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."*

Job 42:10 *"And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before."* Job prayed for his friends.

This is the manner in which we are to receive such persecution and evil speaking - silently, patiently, enduring, praying for our enemies, doing good, trusting God, rejoicing in Him who loved us and gave himself for us.

Think on Him and let his mind be in us!



## Misc. U.S. Politics

### **March 2nd**

["Supreme Court gives tacit approval for government to take anybody's DNA"](#)

### **March 6th**

["Unanswered Questions in Hillary Clinton E-mail Scandal"](#)

### **March 9th**

["More African Americans are Abandoning State-Run Schools and opting for Homeschool"](#)

["Fact Check: Were There Really No GOP Leaders at the 50th Anniversary Event in Selma?"](#)

### **March 12th**

["America's Kingly Constitution"](#)

["Senate Democrats Withdraw Support for Anti-trafficking Bill That Bars Funding for Abortions"](#)

### **March 13th**

["Paul Opposes Nation Building, but Would Create a New Kurdistan"](#)

### **March 16th**

["Why Are Pit Bulls Banned? How Media Hysteria Fueled Stupid Laws"](#)

5 minute long video from ReasonTV

### **March 17th**

["Scandal-Plagued Aaron Schock Resigns from Congress"](#)

### **March 18th**

["Scott Walker Is Quick to Retreat"](#)

["Big Business Gets Big Subsidies From Washington"](#)

### **March 19th**

["Lawmakers press for ban on first-class travel"](#)

["Obama Promotes Federal Mandatory Voter Law"](#)

### **March 21st**

["ATF Director Resigns Amid Controversy Over Backdoor Ammo Ban"](#)

### **March 22nd**

["Just Building A Bus...No Big Deal"](#) Saving The Storks, an organization working to help save lives gets another bus to their fleet

["ObamaCare Insuring Fewer Than Expected, With Many Choosing Fines Over Coverage"](#)

### **March 25th**

["Pro-Life Victories!!!"](#) A 3 minute video from Abortion Abolitionists group "Abolish Human Abortion"

["Pro-Lifers Arrested For Praying Outside Boehner's Office"](#)

["Con-Con Backers Deploy False Attacks Against John Birch Society"](#)

["GOP Turns to Rare Rule for Budget Votes"](#)

["Forfeiting Property Rights in the Name of Fighting Crime?"](#)

### **March 26th**

["Ted Cruz: Pros And Cons"](#)

["VA Hospital Director Paid \\$288K In 'Relocation Payments' To Move 140 Miles"](#)

### **March 27th**

["Senator Harry Reid Retiring"](#)

### **March 29th**

["Gingrich: I Don't Want to Repeal ObamaCare, and Neither Does Congress"](#)

### **March 31st**

["Net Neutrality Lays Groundwork for Internet Taxes"](#)

### **April 2nd**

["40 Mothers Launch Hunger Strike As They Await Immigration Hearings"](#)

## U.S. Security & Surveillance

### **March 12th**

["Three in 3 Weeks: Outrage Grows over US Police Killing of Mexicans"](#)

### **March 21st**

["Judge Orders US Government to Stop Suppressing Evidence of Torture and Abuse"](#)

### **March 24th**

["House bill aims to repeal the Patriot Act"](#)

["Arizona Bill To Conceal Police Identities Involved In Use-Of-Force Incidents Meets Public Opposition"](#)

### **March 25th**

["Here are 9 important things the Patriot Act repeal bill would accomplish"](#)

### **March 26th**

["The State Is Spying on You Right Now. Where's the Outrage?"](#)

["Google Paranoia in a September 12 World"](#)

["Congress Pushes Obama-backed National Biometric ID for Americans"](#)

### **March 27th**

["Military Drill Identifying "Hostile" U.S. States Sparks Alarm"](#)

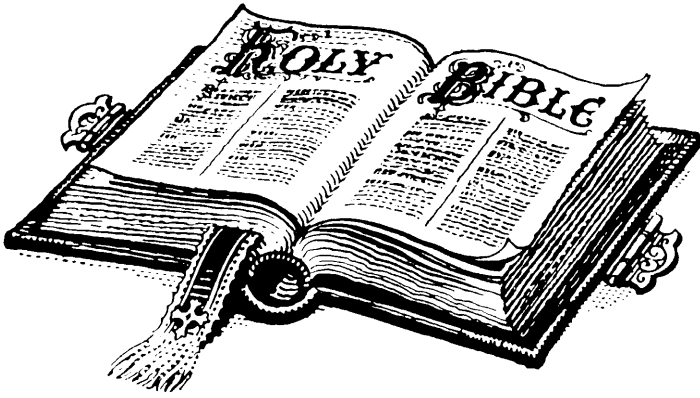
### **March 30th**

["Critics Fear TX Military Training Exercise Could Be Precursor to Martial Law"](#)

["TSA Behavior Screening Checklist is a Joke"](#)

### **April 2nd**

["Facebook Is Tracking You Even When You Aren't Logged In"](#)



## **"On Eagles' Wings"**

by Bro. M. J. Seymour, Sr.

It is written: "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and **how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.**" (Ex. 19:4)

It is wrong to assume that the only reason God brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt was to free them so they could dwell happily ever after in the Promised Land. This verse is very explicit if one listens accurately. God freed them from the bondage of Egyptian influence and removed them out of Egypt **to bring them to Himself**. In other words, the Israelites were burdened with the overpowering influences of Egyptian paganistic worships, and in their weakness they drifted away from the only true and living God. The plagues were not so much to convince the Egyptians as they were to convince the Israelites there was a greater God than all the gods of Egypt.

The term "I bare you on eagles' wings" discloses the sovereign ability of God to soar above all the brutish strength of the Egyptian mighty dynasty. They were no match for heaven's King of king, and LORD of lords. Now, the reason for the display of His sovereignty was to bring them unto Himself. That is, He brought them out of the straw pits and out of the depths of spiritual darkness for the express purpose of establishing a peculiar and heaven fashioned relationship with them. God brought them out to be face to face with Him. God in His sovereignty scooped Israel from the miry clay, and upon the Holy wings of His breath they are soared upward to His holy mountain, far away from the scum and filth of Egypt for a blessed encounter with the eternal "I AM that I AM." God brought them out to firmly establish an intimate spiritual relationship, which had to be built upon the fact that He, and He alone, is the only SOVEREIGN ETERNAL GOD, their only hope and their only salvation. It was imperative for them to know beyond any doubt that there is no other god but the LORD. Hear, O Israel, the LORD thy God is one LORD!

God by the power of His might snatches His elect out of the clutches of spiritual death and darkness. He carries them from the bondage of the sin pits, soaring them upward upon the holy wings of SOVEREIGN GRACE unto HIMSELF. Why? That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His GRACE!! (Eph. 2:7)

## **Economy** **(U.S. & International)**

**March 4th**

["The \\$1.2 Trillion Student Loan Bubble—The Ultimate Subprime Debacle"](#)

**March 10th**

["Here's How China Is Screwing North Korea's Economy"](#)

**March 13th**

["3 Ways TPP Could Cost Small Businesses"](#)

["Ecuadorian Shoppers Rush to Clear Shelves before 'Safeguard' Tariffs Imposed"](#)

**March 16th**

["Why Bitcoin Is Better Off without a "Gold Standard"™"](#)

["At Egypt's Economic Conference, Development and Human Rights Are Uneasy Bedfellows"](#)

**March 27th**

["'Green' Meltdown: Solar Companies Are Germany's Biggest 'Capital Destroyers'"](#)

**March 30th**

["Why The Mania Is Getting Scary—Central Bankers Are Running A Doomsday Machine"](#)

## **U.S. Foreign Policy &** **Foreign Relations**

**March 2nd**

["The US Is Trying to Deport At Least 150 Bosnian War Crime Suspects"](#)

**March 5th**

["US Ambassador's Face Slashed in South Korea by Assailant Protesting Annual War Games"](#)

**March 10th**

["The GOP Senate Leadership's Iran Letter Was No Mistake"](#)

**March 11th**

["Will GOP Use Kerry's "We Didn't Know" NAFTA Defense on TPP?"](#)

**March 12th**

["Truth in Media: The Origin of ISIS"](#)

["US Sanctions May Save Venezuelan Govt"](#)

**March 17th**

["America Tests Out a New Whining Offensive In Asia" After the UK announced its plans to join a China-led rival to the World Bank, the White House publicly lashed out at its closest ally and its 'constant accommodation of China.'](#)

**March 19th**

["Islam Isn't a Peril" America keeps trying to see conflicts with the Muslim world through the failed lens of ideology.](#)

**March 20th**

["Despite Promises, President Keeps Drone War Under CIA Command"](#)

## **(U.S. Foreign Policy & Foreign Relations continued)**

### **March 25<sup>th</sup>**

["Bahrain asks Congress for help in restoring arms sales"](#)  
["US Declassifies Document Revealing Israel's Nuclear Program"](#)  
["Iran's hardliners are finally shutting up about a nuclear deal"](#)

### **March 26<sup>th</sup>**

["U.S. Humvees Arrive in Ukraine"](#)

### **March 30<sup>th</sup>**

["The Sale of US Reaper Drones to Australia Could Provoke Regional Tensions"](#)

### **March 31<sup>st</sup>**

["Drownings Spike along Rio Grande amid Border Crackdown"](#)  
["Report: US Soldiers Sexually Abused Underage Girls in Colombia"](#)*Diplomatic Immunity = No Charges for Alleged Child Rapists*  
["A British Politician Urged Israel to Lock Up the US President"](#)

### **April 1<sup>st</sup>**

["The Big Business behind the US-Mexico Border"](#)

## **Internationalism & Globalism**

### **March 6<sup>th</sup>**

["UN Rights Agency Urges Indonesian President to Suspend Executions of Drug Offenders"](#)  
[The Building Blocks of Fortress Europe: How EU Policy Is Failing Record Numbers of Migrants"](#)

### **March 8<sup>th</sup>**

["UN Peacekeeper Among Three Killed in Rocket Attack on Base in Northern Mali"](#)

### **March 11<sup>th</sup>**

["Anger at Greece's Threat to Unleash Wave of Migrants and 'Jihadists' if Europe Leaves it in Crisis"](#)

### **March 12<sup>th</sup>**

["Reporters Without Borders Unblocks Censored News Sites"](#)

### **March 13<sup>th</sup>**

["The European Union Wants an Army of Its Own"](#)

### **March 16<sup>th</sup>**

["In a Freezing Kabul Refugee Camp, a Former Taliban Commander Turned NATO Ally Says He Was Betrayed"](#)

### **March 18<sup>th</sup>**

["NGO Proposes Open Borders between Commonwealth Nations"](#)  
["Rwanda Versus the BBC: Broadcaster Faces Growing Storm Over Documentary's 'Genocide Denial' "](#)

### **March 19<sup>th</sup>**

["The UN Might Spend Millions on Iran's Drug Program Even Though Offenders Are Being Executed"](#)

### **March 20<sup>th</sup>**

["World Faces Severe Water Shortage If Changes Are Not Made, UN Warns"](#)

### **March 30<sup>th</sup>**

["Australia Accidentally Leaked the Personal Information of All the G20 Leaders"](#)

### **April 1<sup>st</sup>**

["Congress Warns UN That Obama "Climate" Pledges Not Binding"](#)  
["UN Adopts Resolution Calling for International Coordination Against Boko Haram"](#)  
["Austerity and Anger: Protests Against Syriza's EU Deal"\(Greece\)](#)

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

["UN Condemns Its Own Peacekeepers for Killing Three Protestors in Mali"](#)



## **Neighbors to the South** **(Mexico & South America)**

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

["Mexico's Birthday-Boy Mayor Gives Robin Hood Defense for Stealing"](#)

### **March 11<sup>th</sup>**

["Will ZEDEs Benefit Honduras?" Revolutionary Economic Innovation or Latin-American Cronyism Reloaded?](#)

### **March 13<sup>th</sup>**

["Peru's Insane Drug Warriors Bring Back "Death Penalty from the Sky""](#)

### **March 24<sup>th</sup>**

["200 Opposition Candidates Blocked from Bolivia's Local Elections"](#)

### **March 27<sup>th</sup>**

["Cuba Threatens to Strip Licenses from Its Doctors in Brazil"](#)

### **March 31<sup>st</sup>**

["Peru Ousts Prime Minister over Domestic Spying Scandal"](#)

### **April 1<sup>st</sup>**

["Desperate Parents of 43 Missing Turn to Mexican Drug Kingpin for Answers"](#)  
["Ecuador Bulldozes Guayaquil Slum, Leaves 40 Families in the Street"](#)

## The Western World (Canada, Europe, & Australia)

### March 2<sup>nd</sup>

["Putin Critic Nemtsov Murdered: 100,000 March to Honor Him"](#)

### March 3<sup>rd</sup>

["Human Rights Activists Remain Behind Bars as Azerbaijan Prepares to Host First European Games"](#)

### March 6<sup>th</sup>

["The Assassination of Boris Nemtsov: Kremlin's Biggest Critic"](#) short article and 7 minute video.

### March 9<sup>th</sup>

["Putin Reveals He Ordered the Annexation of Crimea on the Day Yanukovich Fled Kiev"](#) *In a documentary trailer, Putin speaks of a secret meeting on February 22 in which he told security services to "begin the work to bring Crimea back into Russia."*

### March 10<sup>th</sup>

["Why Is the British Government Still Withholding Files on Establishment Child Sex Abuse?"](#)

*The government has been accused of a cover-up after it emerged that officials sought to withhold evidence that Margaret Thatcher knew about allegations relating to a senior politician*

### March 11<sup>th</sup>

["Islamic Leaders Accuse the UK Government of Inciting a 'McCarthyite' Witch Hunt Against Muslims"](#)  
["Plot Thickens as Suspect Who Said He Killed Boris Nemtsov Retracts Confession"](#)

### March 12<sup>th</sup>

["Australian Teenage 'Suicide Bomber' Wrote Blog on His Journey to the Islamic State"](#)

### March 16<sup>th</sup>

["London Police Face 14 New Investigations into Corruption to Cover Up Child Sex Abuse"](#)  
["Crimeans Celebrate Annexation with Patriotic Flash Mob and Soviet Nostalgia"](#)  
["Russia Is Not the Same as Putin": Marina Litvinenko, Widow of Murdered Ex-KGB Agent, Speaks"](#)

### March 17<sup>th</sup>

["Cork Statue Pays Tribute to Choctaw Tribe's Generosity during Irish Famine"](#)

### March 18<sup>th</sup>

["Over 500 'Blockupy' Protesters Arrested Amid Violent Clashes in Frankfurt"](#)  
["Serbia Detains Seven in First Arrests Over 1995 Srebrenica Massacre"](#)

### March 20<sup>th</sup>

["Top Court Rules Quebec Infringed on High School's Religious Freedom"](#)  
["Canadians Resort to Medical Tourism in Dramatic Wave"](#)  
["The UK is Going to Send Billions in Arms Exports to Countries on the Human Rights Blacklist"](#)  
["This Elderly French Couple Will Have to Return 271 Stolen Picasso Artworks They Kept In Their Garage"](#)  
["Russia's Massive Military Exercise in the Arctic Is Utterly Baffling"](#)

["Aboriginal 'Lifestyle Choice' to Live in Australia's Outback Will No Longer be Supported"](#)

### March 24<sup>th</sup>

["Putin's Corrupted Orthodoxy"](#)

### March 26<sup>th</sup>

["Resistance Mounts to Stephen Harper's Secret Police Bill"](#) (Canada)

### March 30<sup>th</sup>

["Conservatives Triumph Over Ruling Left In French Local Elections"](#)  
["Germanwings Co-Pilot Was Treated for Suicidal Tendencies in the Past. Say Investigators"](#)

### April 2<sup>nd</sup>

["Food Crisis in Eastern Ukraine: Russian Roulette \(Dispatch 103\)"](#)

## The Middle East

### March 3<sup>rd</sup>

["FSB Director Admits Russians Fighting for ISIS"](#)

### March 4<sup>th</sup>

["Palestinian factions maintain fragile stability in Sidon camp"](#)

### March 10<sup>th</sup>

["Erdogan fined \\$3,800 for insulting peace monument"](#) (Turkey)

### March 20<sup>th</sup>

["#AskHamis campaign reaches out on Twitter"](#)

### March 22<sup>nd</sup>

["Palestinian female judges gavel down taboos"](#)

### March 23<sup>rd</sup>

["Iran wages psychological war against IS"](#)  
["Why did the left parties fail?"](#) 2 min clip from Israeli news with English subtitles on their most recent elections.

### March 24<sup>th</sup>

["Erdogan grows more radical"](#)  
["ISIS "hackers" didn't actually hack anything"](#)  
["Big love in Turkey"](#)  
["Post-election Netanyahu tries to make amends"](#)  
["PM Barzani: Shiite militias should be regulated"](#)  
["Iranian vendor dies after setting himself on fire"](#) *Why does one man's act cause a frenzy & movement while another man's similar act is ignored? Are they so similar?*  
["Israeli Zionist Camp lost the periphery towns"](#)

### March 26<sup>th</sup>

["Palestinian national unity priority after Israeli elections"](#)  
["Who determines Iran's foreign policy?"](#)

### March 31<sup>st</sup>

["Turkish Prosecutor Held Hostage by Militants Dies After Special Forces Storm Courthouse"](#)

### April 1<sup>st</sup>

["Multiple Attacks Rock Turkey, a Day After Prosecutor Is Killed in Hostage Drama"](#)  
["Yemen's Houthis Are No Iran Proxy"](#)

## Africa

### **March 2nd**

["Rebels In Northern Mali Seek 'Reasonable Delay' Before Signing Peace Deal"](#)

["Slow Response Follows Forced Conscription of Hundreds of Child Soldiers in South Sudan"](#)

### **March 5th**

["Thousands Of New Nigerian Refugees Flock to Cameroon To Escape Boko Haram"](#)

["Liberia's Last Confirmed Ebola Patient Released From Treatment"](#)

### **March 12th**

["Italy Backs Controversial Plan to Build Migrant Reception Centers in North Africa"](#)

### **March 16th**

["Congolese Youth Fight Against President's Attempt to Extend Term Limits"](#)

### **March 19th**

["Gunmen Named and Accomplices Arrested in Tunisia Museum Attacks, as Death Toll Rises"](#)

["Family of Abducted Zimbabwean Activist Accuses Mugabe Regime of Disappearing a Man It Feared"](#)

### **March 20th**

["Fear, Censorship, and Pledges of Loyalty: Egyptian Press Freedom Is at Its Lowest Ebb"](#)

### **March 24th** ["The Islamic State in Africa"](#)

### **March 27th** ["Nigerians Head to the Polls Amid Rising Tensions"](#)

### **March 28th**

["The Village That Beat Ebola: How One Liberian Community Avoided the Outbreak"](#)

["Al Shabaab Attack on Popular Mogadishu Hotel Ends After Bloody 12-Hour Siege"](#)

### **March 29th**

["Suspected al Qaeda Mastermind of Museum Terror Attack Killed in Tunisia"](#)

### **March 31st**

["Free Flights Save Egyptians in Libya From Violence — And Provide Cheap Vacations"](#)

["Al Qaeda Splinter Group Claims Deadly Attack on Red Cross Aid Workers in Mali"](#)

["Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan Concedes Election Defeat to Muhammadu Buhari"](#)

### **April 1st**

["Reports of Suspected Ebola Cases Skyrocket in Sierra Leone After Three-Day Lockdown"](#)

["Nigeria Reacts to a Historic Change as President-Elect Buhari Prepares for Power"](#)

["Can a 72-Year-Old Former Military Dictator Bring Nigerians the Change They Have Voted For?"](#)

### **April 2nd**

["Yemen's Conflict is Getting So Bad that Some Yemenis Are Fleeing to Somalia"](#)

["147 Killed By Al-Shabab Militants During Attack On Kenyan University"](#)

["Death Toll Rises to 147 After Al Shabaab Gunmen Attack Kenyan University"](#)

## **"Peace and Edification"**

by Bro. Todd Bryant

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" – Romans 14:19

Christian people are to stand for the truth. Numerous verses could be supplied to prove this. 1 Corinthians 16:13, for instance, says, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong". This speaks loudly to seeking out the truth of "the faith" and standing for it. However, the manner in which we stand must never be arrogant or spiteful. In fact, the verse that follows this one says, "let all that you do be done with love" (1 Corinthians 16:14).

Christian people are going to disagree. Jesus Himself told us, "It is impossible that no offenses should come..." (Luke 17:1). There isn't a one of us that will live through this life without disagreeing with somebody else. Where there is no disagreement, somebody is leading the parade. If, however, we all enter into a study of God's Word, we will sometimes find ourselves with different understanding. Now, somebody is incorrect – perhaps all of us. But, there is a right way to handle our differences.

There has, perhaps, never been a man more bold (outside of the Lord Himself) than our brother Paul. He boldly spoke the truths of God's Word. This does not mean, however, that Paul was purposely offensive.

In fact, he said we ought to be "...speaking the truth in love..." (Ephesians 4:15). There are two admonitions in this verse. Most certainly, we are to speak the truth if we talk of the Lord and His precious Word. Hopefully, there is no disagreement there. Secondly, this is always to be done in a loving manner. There simply is no excuse for treating our fellow man in a way contrary to the way the Lord has treated us.

God's Word is the "sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17). We do not wield the sword that is the Word of God. The Holy Spirit alone has this right. Unquestionably, we are to stand on the Lord's Word in all that we do. We are to find our doctrines and practices from the Bible and it alone. Yet still, we do not wield the Word of God. Our job is to preach it. If it pierces "even to the division of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow" (Hebrews 4:12), the Spirit must do that. We have neither the right nor the power to make the Word so effectual.

So, what is being said here? Simply, we are to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints with the right motive and the right attitude. Our motive should always be that we may "edify one another" (Romans 14:19). Our attitude should always be such as will "make for peace". God's children ought to be known by love (John 13:35).

Child of God, pray today that God will empower you to stand firm in the truth. While you pray along these lines, ask Him to help you do this in the right way.



## Asia & Pacific Isles

### **March 2nd**

["38 Arrested In Hong Kong Rallying Against Chinese Shoppers"](#)

["Bangladesh Arrests Prime Suspect in American Blogger](#)

[Murder"](#) Nearly four days after the gruesome murder of atheist American blogger Avijit Roy in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, the country's elite paramilitary police force today arrested a prime suspect in Thursday night's brutal killing.

["North Korea Launches Two Missiles in Protest Over US-South Korea Military Drills"](#)

### **March 5th**

["How Can the Government Say What We Cannot Eat?: Mumbai Muslims Are Stung by Beef Ban"](#)

### **March 6th**

["Islamic State Killings Pit Japan's Right Against Left in Battle Over Pacifist Constitution"](#) For nearly 70 years, Japan's constitution was understood to grant it the right of self-defense at home while forbidding military action overseas — but this could soon change.

["Indian Police Open Fire on Mob After Rape Suspect Is Pulled from Jail and Lynched"](#)

**March 9th** ["China's War on Drugs Could Deprive Developing Countries of Ketamine"](#)

### **March 10th**

["Radioactive Leaks Remain a Problem on the Fourth Anniversary of Japan's Fukushima Meltdown"](#)

["Video Shows Myanmar Police Beating Students and Monks at Education Bill Protest"](#)

["North Korea Apologizes After Diplomat Caught Smuggling \\$1.4M of Gold into Bangladesh"](#)

### **March 11th**

["Pakistan Paramilitary Force Raids Headquarters of Major Political Party"](#)

### **March 12th**

["Five Chinese feminists held over International Women's Day plans"](#)  
["China Decries the Dalai Lama's 'Double Betrayal' and Demands He Reincarnate"](#) China's ruling Communist party has informed Tibet's exiled spiritual leader he will be reborn, but into a body of its choosing.

["A Sign of How Bad Things Are: North Korea Is Sidling Up to Russia Again"](#)

["Several Killed and Dozens Trapped After Factory Collapse in Bangladesh"](#)

### **March 17th**

["We Spoke to a North Korean Defector Who Escaped Terrible Working Conditions Overseas"](#)

["Myanmar Jails Trio for Two and a Half Years Over Bar Advert Deemed Insult to Buddhism"](#)

### **March 19th**

["Stay of Execution Granted for Pakistani Prisoner Convicted at 14. But His Case Could Be One of Many"](#)

Authorities are investigating Shafqat Hussain's case after an international and domestic outcry. But activists say hundreds of juveniles could be on death row as a result of a "broken" system.

["We Spoke to the Lawyer Facing Death Threats for Defending the Doctor Who Helped Find Bin Laden"](#)

### **March 28th**

["Human Stampede Kills 10 During Hindu Bathing Ritual in Bangladesh"](#)

### **March 30th**

["Bangladeshi Blogger Hacked to Death by Suspected Islamic Extremists"](#)

### **March 31st**

["Singapore Arrests Teen for Video Insulting the Late Lee Kuan Yew"](#)

### **April 1st**

["China Accused of Doling Out Counterfeit Digital Certificates in 'Serious' Web Security Breach"](#)

## Social Commentary, Culture, Arts & Entertainment (U.S. & International)

### **March 4th**

["Bill O'Reilly Disgraces War Reporting"](#)

### **March 12th**

["ACLU Joins Redskins Fight for Trademark Protection"](#)

["The Death of Ferguson"](#)

["Can you be an Islamist and a feminist?"](#)

### **March 18th**

["The Man Who Saved The World"](#) Documentary by BBC on the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis, particularly the actions of Vasili Arkhipov, an officer aboard the submarine.

### **March 22nd**

["Ultra-Orthodox scene bursting with kosher fashion"](#)

### **March 23rd**

["How Jews, Muslims and Christians Are Making Peace Go Viral in the Middle East"](#)

### **March 24th**

["10 Middle Eastern writers you should know"](#)

### **March 30th**

["A Tragedy of Dignity: Life as One of Bangladesh's 'Untouchables'"](#)

## Devotion:

# "The LORD Will Strengthen Him"

by Bro. Jeff Short



*"The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing:  
thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." ~ Psalm 41:3*

It is the lot of God's people to suffer the affliction of sickness. In His wise providence, we find that not all suffer the same afflictions, but all suffer from one degree to another. The testimony of Holy Scripture is plain. The Psalmist writes, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous" (Psalm 34:19). Jehovah declares, "I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction" (Isaiah 48:10). Peter wrote, "The same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Peter 5:9).

Some sicknesses are chastisements and some are trials. However, all are according to the purpose of God and all accomplish His glory. Furthermore, we can be assured that the sickness will accomplish His purpose in us.

Sickness can be a sore trial and especially to those who are not right in heart or weak in faith. Surprisingly, many professed Christians are reduced to the "weak and beggarly elements" by sickness. Often that one will question their affliction thus, "Why has this happened to me?" On the other hand, they will submit, "I try to eat right. I work hard and exercise. I take vitamins, minerals, and herbs. I just don't understand how this could happen to me?" Their attitude seems to be that these good physical habits have insulated them in some way from sickness. We certainly can abuse our body, and we ought to care well for our earthly tabernacle, but these things are no safeguard from suffering physical affliction.

That testimony is essentially the same that many worldlings give in their sickness. It is the same reply against the Sovereign Creator made by the unsaved. I ask you to consider – Is this a testimony that is glorifying of the grace of God, when you murmur thus as if you were above common suffering? When the disciples' hearts were near failing them for fear, Christ asked, "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?" (Mark 4:40). He marveled that they could think and act like the unsaved when faced with a sore trial. On the contrary, we magnify His grace when we are "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation"

(Romans 12:12).

Some even question the love and mercy of God concerning sickness in His people. Perhaps some might wonder whether He has the power to do anything about it. Expel all such wicked thoughts at once and repent over the same! The report to Jesus concerning Lazarus was, "Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick" (John 11:3). It did not diminish the Lord's love that He tarried two more days before He went to Bethany. Nor was it a token of His displeasure that He did not immediately heal him.

Yes, we have a hard time comprehending His love, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it" (Psalm 139:6). Such is the love and mercy of God that gave to the rich man in his lifetime "good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things" (Luke 16:25). It is easy here to complain against God, but fight off the temptation. The rest of the verse gives us, "But now he [Lazarus] is comforted, and thou art tormented." While we do not understand Lazarus' affliction, it is clear it was a "light affliction, which is but for a moment," and it certainly worked for him "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

We are assured that His love is present, even in our sickness, and that blessing is borne out in our text. There are precious blessings contained in these words that are now in our view. However, before we assay to appropriate the blessings, we must observe the condition that comes before.

This Psalm begins, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble" (Psalm 41:1). We may trace the word "him" through the first three verses and note that verses two and three are extended blessings on "he that considereth the poor." This condition is multiplied throughout God's Word. "With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful" (Psalm 18:25), etc. The condition is this: Have you been merciful to others in their affliction? Have you done what you could to relieve them that suffered sickness? If you have, the blessing is here for you. Solomon taught, "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh" (Proverbs 11:17).

Let us now turn to the particular blessings of our passage. In the first place, David writes, "The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing." The aforesaid merciful one has been brought down to the bed of sickness, sorrow, and discomfort. Being confined to the bed of sickness is a particularly difficult trial for the mind and spirit of man. We are tempted to murmur or just give up. The burden may seem greater than we can bear to the point that we are driven to despair.

Ah! But here is the blessed thought, "The LORD will strengthen

him.” The word translated ‘strengthen’ signifies to support, to hold up. God will undertake to bear him up. Note here that God does not promise to remove him from the bed, but rather to sustain him “upon the bed of languishing.” Do not misunderstand the blessing promised. There is no heavenly panacea here. God is promising to supply grace and strength to the sick saint. He is going to make him able to bear his affliction. The Lord told Paul, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

In the last place, David writes of God, “Thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.” Here we find love, mercy, compassion and unparalleled condescension. The language is picturesque of a nurse tending to the sick. It does not take long for the sick to grow weary on their bed. They toss to and fro and quickly come to discomfort. That nurse with tender hand will turn the bed or remake it to give them relief.

Here God promises to attend to the bed of the sick saint. With mercy, love, and tender hand God will make the bed of His afflicted child. No, in His wise providence, He does not lift him off, at least not yet, but He makes up the bed and “giveth His beloved sleep” (Psalm 127:2). I have known Bro. Bill James to say, “He will even fluff up your pillow for you.” Praise God that we have not an austere man for our attendant when we are sick. We have a kind, compassionate, benevolent Father. He pities us “as a father pitieth his children” (Psalm 103:13).

Are you sick at this very hour? Are you tempted to murmur and complain? Have you sought to appropriate this blessing? Are you praying that the purpose of the Father will be accomplished in you? May God make our beds giving us rest and comfort, and may we rejoice to know that He is near.

## “Bullying”

by Bro. Jason Smith

My Pastor, who happens to be my Dad, recently said in a sermon that the old phrase, “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” isn’t true. Words do hurt. I couldn’t agree more. The things we say, and often times how we say them can and do cause hurt. Bullying is one of the biggest issues that our society faces today, in particular with children. This issue is even more prevalent due to the advent of social media. The attacker doesn’t even have to be face to face with the victim any longer. As such, more mediums exist to today than ever before to bully another person.

Matthew 5:39 tells us, “But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.” Are God’s people denied the option of self-defense? Not necessarily. All husbands are required to defend their wives, children, families, homes, businesses, and their nations

(Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9). Where the bullying of children is involved, it is the parents’ responsibility before God to protect their children and remove them from situations where they may be in danger.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matthew 22:36-40). The Bible says believers are to love God with everything in them, so they can produce good fruit (Galatians 5:22-23) and apply what we would often call “the Golden Rule” to others. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus reveals that the heart of a true neighbor is one that shows mercy, even to one’s enemies. So, those who are saved are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), first being sure their own hearts are pure before God. There are several reasons a person could choose bullying as a behavior. The most often discussed and usually the ones that make the most sense are: craving attention, the feeling of power, misunderstanding differences, for example. Another contributing factor that society often doesn’t consider is the influence of media. From movies to video games, today’s media portrays these types of behavior in a fashionable light. I’m afraid we have often become numb to the mistreatment of others. Simply put, and unfortunately so, it’s become the norm.

As a high school principal in a public school, bullying is an issue that is becoming more prevalent and severe. Most encounters that I have with students that have been bullied there is one outcome that is usually discussed. They want the behavior to stop. Most victims don’t seek retribution or punishment of any kind for the accused, they simply just want left alone. Often times, the reaction of the accused is to blame the victim because the victim has reacted towards them in some way. That reaction is used as an excuse to claim that the accused has actually been bullied by the victim. I truly believe that is why we are encouraged in the Bible to, “turn the other cheek”.

The most appropriate way to handle these situations, in my experience, is to walk away. Secondly, inform the individuals that have the authority and the ability to handle these types of situations. As a school administrator, most of the time the goal when addressing the accused is to get the behavior to stop immediately so no further harm is done. The next step, and the key aspect, is to get the accused to empathize. Empathy really is the ability to find parts of another person in yourself. Often times, the same situations or realities of both the victim and those accused of bullying are so similar that all it takes is an adult to find the common ground. It doesn’t always happen, but many times this can be accomplished in the situation of bullying through the intervention of an adult.

Finally, there will always be bullies. The Bible speaks of those with “brutish” behavior. Certain people will always default to this type of behavior regardless of the amount of attention or education that we give to the subject. However, if we handle these situations in a godly, biblical way, the outcomes will resolve themselves through the intervention of an adult, or unfortunately for those who fail to listen to that adult, through the intervention of the Lord.

# "Spring of Life"

by Sis. Courtney Huffman

What does Spring mean to you?

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Spring?

Perhaps our first thoughts would be of rebirth. New flowers. Trees full of green leaves. Things growing. But before the flowers bloom, and the trees grow new leaves, the snow from winter has to melt, and leaves big puddles, and mud everywhere. Then it rains, and it storms. The sky is cloudy and gray. You can't have spring without these things. At least, not in Ohio. Half of my "spring breaks" when I was in elementary school were freezing with rain or snow. But without the rain and the storms, there would be no flowers blooming, no full beautiful leaves on the trees, no bright green grass growing.

I see two kinds of spring.

The first spring is cold and dreary. It's rainy and muddy. You just don't want to be outside. At all.

In Matthew 14:23-26, it says *"And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear."*

Now, please forgive my over-active imagination here...

The strong wind is blowing, making the waves swell and crash. It's blowing water in the disciples' eyes, maybe the waves are crashing down on their ship. And then they see a figure that looks like a person, walking on the water. Their vision is probably blurry, and they're already scared from the wind and waves, so to see something walking on the water towards them had to just push them over the edge into terror. They thought it was a spirit.

Matthew 14:27-30 *"But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me."*

I think Peter started out with a lot of faith here. To ask to come out on the water had to take a good bit of courage, let alone, to actually climb over the edge of the ship. So he climbs out of the ship, and starts walking toward Jesus, on the water. Maybe he's thinking, "Wow! This is amazing!"

But then something catches his attention out the corner of his eye. He turns from looking at Jesus, and sees this huge wave rising up next to him. All the terror comes rushing back to him, just like

the wave rushing towards him. Now he's thinking, "Oh, this was a GREAT idea, Peter! What am I doing?!?" Peter's focus has completely shifted from Christ.

Then he feels the cold water rising up his legs. He realizes he's sinking. I don't know how fast he was sinking. Maybe it was slowly, or maybe the water was up to his head before he even knew what was happening. With his last breath before he's completely underwater he cries out "Lord, save me!"

Matthew 14:31 *"And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"*

"Why would you look away from me, Peter? Why did you doubt me?"

Matthew 14:32 *"And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased."*

Notice here that the wind didn't stop until they were back on the ship. The wind was still blowing, and the waves were still rising and crashing around them, all the way back to the ship. But now Peter's focus was fully on Jesus.

This is the hard part of spring. The winds and storms, trials and hardships, trying to pull our focus and faith away from God.

But there are some unexpected days of glorious sunshine and warmth, even in the middle of the cold.

After weeks of freezing cold and rain, there will be a day, just one day, that is just gorgeous. It's warm and sunny. A welcome respite from the gloominess of early spring. We just soak it all in and enjoy every minute of that day, because we know it's going to snow again the very next day. I remember one early spring day that it was maybe 55 degrees. It felt so good outside, that I was thrilled to go out and scoop up after the dog in the back yard.

So after the early spring, comes the beautiful late spring, when the flowers start popping up, the leaves and grass start to turn green.

Psalm 74:16-17 *"The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun. Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter."*

Psalm 147:7-8 *"Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God: Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains."*

Isaiah 55:10 *"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:"*

The beauty of late spring wouldn't be possible without the storms

of early spring. And we might not appreciate the flowers of late spring quite as much if we didn't have to endure the drab and mud of early spring.

In thinking about Late Spring, let's look at some ways that God uses flowers.

He used almond blossoms to show his will to Israel. After Korah and his followers were swallowed up by the earth for questioning who God's man should be, God told Moses to have one from each of the tribes to bring a rod to the tabernacle for a sort of test.

Numbers 17:1-11 *"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you. And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you. And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not. And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he."*

These rods were just big dead sticks. God caused Aaron's rod to come alive and bloom, and even produce almonds. In one night. And Moses was told to keep Aaron's rod for a testimony, so that no one else could question God on this matter. The evidence was right there.

God used the blossoms of the vine to reveal the restoration of Pharaoh's butler, in the dream that Joseph interpreted, which eventually led to Joseph's becoming second in Egypt only to the Pharaoh.

Genesis 40:9-14 *"And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me; and in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes: And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand. And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The*

*three branches are three days: Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler. But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:"*

But flowers also have thorns.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 *"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

Thorns that made up the crown put on my Savior's head.

Just as the early spring has those few days of warm and sunshine, so the beautiful flowers of late spring have their thorns. Even late spring has its showers and set backs. But that can't keep us from trusting God.

Flowers weather the storms. They might lose a few petals, but they survive. And when there's a lack of rain, they start to wither in the heat of the sun. But after a little rain, they perk right back up in all their beauty.

Just think about that: rain is necessary for the life cycle of flowers. Maybe we need a storm now and then to cause us to grow more in the Lord, or closer to Him.

Seasons change and things come and go, but He is always constant. Always ready to take care of His children.

Matthew 6:28-34 *"And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."*

If God can make, and keep, the flowers so beautiful, (because they don't make themselves beautiful,) won't He take care of you? How much more will He provide for you? In Matthew 6:28, toil means "To labor; to work; to exert strength with pain and fatigue of body or mind". The flowers aren't worried about where they're planted, how fast they grow, or how beautiful they are.

God provides for them, and they don't even know it. They're just flowers! But we do know. We know that God provides for us. We know that He loves us.

Spring is seeking Jesus. Seek Him through the tempest and storm. Seek Him when the flowers bloom and grow.

The end of spring will come. We might be overwhelmed by the cold and rain, but it will end, and the flowers will bloom.

Isaiah 35:1-10 *"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."*

### ***"Canada- Brace yourself for Perilous Times"***

by Sis. Grace Brooks

*(Continued from page 1)*

In Canada the Campaign Life Coalition is the largest pro-life organization. Its main function is to help the unborn, speak for those that can't speak for themselves in other words. This includes lobbying against stem cell research, and other scientific practices supposed to be for the good of the citizens of this country, such as killing babies at the earliest stages of life.

In 1969 for a woman to get an abortion, she had to go before a panel of three physicians. Then she had to find a physician willing to carry out her wish to abort.

Only nine years later in 1988, The Supreme Court of Canada threw out this section of the Criminal Code their reason being that these "safeguards" violated the Canadian Charter of Rights. The unborn are left without protection. In Canada there's publicly

funded abortions-for any reason. At one time the only reason for abortion was rape, or incest or the pregnancy somehow threatened the life of the mother.

The conscience rights of the physicians who object to abortion and other procedures they feel sick to the stomach at, are under attack in most provinces. In Ontario the pressure is deeply disturbing.

Many Canadians greet this ruling with great joy.

PSALMS 127:3:10, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward.

God gave us children to enjoy, to raise properly in a home environment- not to murder before they even see the light of day. The animal kingdom show more affection for their young than that.

We, as Christians, read our Bibles and are warned by Jesus that times like this would arrive. We can see these signs now concerning the sad state of affairs in our country. Hospitals and Doctors don't come close to meeting the standards of compassionate medical care. Murder is on the minds of those in high places and Doctors have become The Agents Of Death. Do you trust your Doctor?

MATTHEW 24:21:FOR THEN SHALL BE GREAT TRIBULATION, SUCH AS WAS NOT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD TO THIS TIME, NO, NOR EVER SHALL BE.

LUKE 21:28: AND WHEN THESE THINGS BEGIN TO COME TO PASS, THEN LOOK UP, AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH.

Is there anything our leader, Prime Minister Steven Harper, can do? Can the Supreme Court of Canada overrule the Prime Minister?

Parliament can:

- 1.) Evoke Section 33 of the Charter of rights and Freedom.
- 2.) Pass new legislation governing physician assisted suicide.
- 3.) Do nothing.

What is this Supreme Court Of Canada?

This Supreme Court Of Canada has the final say in Canadian law. As it is the last court to appeal to, it is the final say of all litigants. It embraces both the civil law of Quebec and the common law of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the territories.

MORE READING ON THIS SUBJECT: CANADA'S SUPREME RULING TURNS DOCTORS INTO "AGENTS OF DEATH".

Link:

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/supreme-courts-assisted-suicide-ruling-turns-doctors-into-agents-of-death-t>

CANADIAN PM BLAMES "ACTIVISTS" FOR FORCING ASSISTED suicide ON THE NATION.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2014/07/04/euthanasia-activists-push-assisted-suicide-for-everyone-not-just-the-old-or-ill/>

LEGALISING ASSISTED SUICIDE IS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CANADA'S MOST VULNERABLE.

Link:

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/legallizing-assisted-suicide-results-in-discrimination-against-canadas-most-vulnerable>

Brace yourselves Canadians for turbulent times ahead. We can recognize this by the signs Jesus gave his elect while still with His church on this earth.

What are we as Christians to do? Keep our feet firmly on the rock, Jesus, and steep ourselves in God's word. It may be possible to kill the body but our souls go right through to heaven- for eternity. This is merely a passing wave in God's plan.

Second Thessolians 2:2 *"That ye be not soon shaken in mind or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter, as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand."*

### ***Labor In Love: Good Medicine***

*"And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick." - Luke 5:31*

If you're a child of God you've recognized your spiritual need of a physician and have been healed by Jesus. In this broken physical world though we and our loved ones still suffer illness, injury, and are in need of care aren't we glad that God has also gifted people to aid these physical needs? The medical world has changed quite a bit since the Old and New Testaments. We have all kinds of medical specialists, technicians and even have professionals to help people with mental illnesses.

This month we were able to speak with two very special saints; Sis. Donna Lafferty of New Testament Baptist Church Dover, TN who is a former RN (registered nurse ) and currently a Midwife and Bro. Andrew Sullivan of Faith Missionary Baptist church

Chicago, IL a student studying psychology.

#### **Sis. Lafferty:**

*What scriptures or means did God use to bring you to repentance of sins and faith in Jesus Christ?*

"I was raised in an armenian type Baptist Church. We were taught that conviction must be present for salvation as well as Church truth, modest dress, wine for the Lord's supper, etc. etc. So I heard a lot of messages on the pains of hell in that venue. I was talked into saying I was saved at 8 years old by a well meaning preacher but at the age of 12 years old the Lord "got hold of me" and showed me how I was going to hell and how there was nothing I could do about it. I rolled and tumbled for about a week or more in my despair until one glorious night the Lord "rolled that burden" away and replaced it with a peace that passeth all understanding as well as a faith in the blood of my dear Lord and Savior. As far as specific scriptures I cannot pin point any - I was young - but for all of their misunderstandings of the scriptures the preachers I sat under preached the gospel (and I'm talking 2 hour sermons) and so the whole Word of God was my instructor."

#### ***What kind of training did you have to receive to become a midwife?***

"I became a registered nurse and worked in labor and delivery that had nurse midwives. Then, as I began to have children I had to change jobs and so I worked in a nursing home near our home and did a brief apprenticeship with a homebirth midwife. Soon after, the Lord convicted my and my husband's heart about the truth of being a keeper at home. Over the years as we raised our children the door of opportunity opened so that I could occasionally help a local lady or some of the mennonites and amish to have their babies at home. So I delivered a few babies here and there and raised not only our 3 birth children but over 75 foster children for varying lengths of time for the next 18 years. Then, the laws changed in our state and to deliver a baby in a home you had to be certified. So I went through the lengthy process of becoming a certified professional midwife while also accepting the responsibility of raising my great niece beginning at 2 months of age. I am so thankful I have a supportive husband and daughter who not only allowed me to do this but encouraged me as well. So now as a CPM I deliver babies in my state and in the neighboring state I deliver them as a lay midwife. I don't deliver a whole lot of babies because I still think that being a keeper at home and attending Church when the doors are open is still the priority. Thus far, the Lord has not allowed any of the ladies I am helping to have their babies during church times and for that I praise His name but as a midwife it can happen. Just a side note: Midwives, as I'm sure your readers well know, are mentioned in the Bible. I passionately feel that this is "women's work" and as an "older women" these skills should be taught to

the younger generation. I try to do that when the opportunity arises.”

***How do you find patients, or they find you?***

“They find me through word of mouth.”

***Have you ever had to take a mother and baby to the hospital?***

In 18 years of doing this off and on I've had to take 4 mom's to the hospital or to a doctor to transfer their care during their prenatal period.

***Have you ever faced any controversy because of your work?***

“I have had one doctor yell at me over the phone for doing homebirths. He had no understanding of our training and so just had to show his authority, I think. That's as far as that went.... I've had some tell me I'm not a TRUE keeper at home if I deliver babies. I guess I would agree with the last statement if I did it as a career and was never at home. I do know midwives throughout the years have had to leave their homes to care for the sick (which we still do) and deliver babies yet they have managed to still be a good wife and mother and homemaker. Its definitely a challenge. Thats about it. I'm sure more has been said that I don't know about.”

***How has the LORD blessed you through your labors?***

“The relationship that develops between a midwife and the women is precious. The midwife becomes like a family member. In the closed communities of the Amish I have been blessed to witness, praise the Lord for miracles (this is not their way), and discuss Biblical beliefs. That is the MAIN reason I do this. The Lord OFTEN went into a place and healed the sick or ministered to the sick BEFORE sharing His gospel. I find that the biggest blessing of this work is the doors that open in otherwise closed community groups to speak the name of the Lord! During these sweet times when the families defenses are down they actually HEAR what we are saying. This is very difficult to achieve as they are taught to put up walls their entire life. What a blessing that I am sometimes allowed to go around those walls if only for a short time. Praise His Name! 7. What do you think is the most important quality in a midwife?

“There are 3 that must be present: Compassion A willingness to learn, learn, learn and Being able to prioritize and not let midwifery become your whole life at the expense of being a Godly keeper at home.”

**Bro. Sullivan**

***How did you choose to study psychology?***

I am diabetic, so at first, I was a nursing major. I thought that since I had this disease, that I could be a blessing to others in a similar situation. But that all changed when I went to a mission

trip to New Orleans my freshman year of college. There were two little kids that stayed with us at the community center, and one night during a benefit to raise money for playground equipment, the little girl went outside and wrote in chalk “my heart is broken please fix it for me,” and the little boy went into the kitchen and put a knife to his throat and said “I'm gonna do it! I swear I'll do it!” That night, I was spending time with family since I have relatives that live there. I came back and I saw the chalk drawing, and I started to cry. I was taken back to a dark place in my life. My mom divorced my dad when I was a year old due to his alcoholism. HE use to take me to bars when I was 4 years old only because he knew the bartender so well. I would have to make my own fun, as much fun as you can as a 4 year old in a bar. I felt alone, like he didn't love me and that I was an inconvenience. I was able to empathize with the little girl. When we got back to campus, I opened my bible randomly to Proverbs 20. I read it, and then closed my bible. I opened my bible again randomly to that exact same page. The verse that stood out was Proverbs 20:5- *“Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.”* I took that to mean I was supposed to go into counseling and to help children who have been afflicted with pain. Every time I think of this, I get emotional.

***What happened with the boy who put a knife to his throat?***

Good question. I wasn't there for that one, but from what I understand, one of the girls that went on the trip helped to calm him down enough to get it away from him. Not too long after that, their mom came over, drunk, to pick them up. Thank the Lord they lived literally across the street!

***Has your studies in psychology helped you in resolving your own past issues?***

Yes and no. It has helped me learn coping mechanisms on how to deal with those issues. The problem is that my past, especially the relationship with my dad, runs very deep and is very emotional. I was never physically or mentally abused, but I have experienced pain, loneliness, and some trust issues. The main thing that has affected me is my faith and relationship with the Lord. I was raised in the church (non denominational) and was very involved in it. As my faith and relationship with the Lord progressed, my mistrust and inability to forgive gradually dissipated. Yes, there are some issues and some things still are there, but it only makes me stronger. My favorite verse is Philippians 4:13- *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”* Even though I have been through various trials with family, medical, and other issues, I know that all things work for the glory of Him and that it can only make me a stronger person. Because of the past, I hope to be able to help others with family issues. The Lord put me through that for a reason, and I believe it is to help others. In some ways psychology has made me more conservative, but



has also allowed me to understand more of the human mind and behaviors. The Lord has given me an empathizing heart and the ability to understand those in distress.

***How & when did the LORD save you, what church are you a member of now?***

I was saved at the age of 11. I wasn't raised Baptist. In fact, I attended a non-denominational church most of my life. My pastor, Brother Robert Keller, reaffirmed me of my salvation and that it was indeed true. On December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014, I was baptized into Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Streamwood, Illinois.

***How and when did God bring you to the church you are a member of now?***

This is one of my favorite stories to tell. My aunt and uncle have been a member of Faith Missionary Baptist Church for quite some time, and my cousins were raised in it. One day, I decided to go with them, years ago. I actually did not care for it back then. Then one day, my cousin, her daughter (who was a few months old at the time), and her mother in law came in from Kentucky for a visit early in the summer of 2014. I decided to join them one Sunday and have been going there ever since. I attribute it to my cousin's daughter, Paetyn. You probably know who Tracy Hall is from Facebook.

The next part is how and why I went from a non denominational church to where I am now.

Back when I was looking into college, I was looking into only private, Christian schools. I was evaluating my beliefs with the denominational affiliation with the school, and I found out a lot about myself that way. I realized over the course of my junior and senior year of high school that my beliefs did not align with my current church. I started looking into an Assembly of God school in Missouri, a Lutheran one in Chicago, a Methodist school in Michigan, and an American Baptist school in the suburbs of Chicago. I realized that my beliefs aligned most similarly to Baptist. Then I found myself into a new dilemma. What type of Baptist am I? At first I thought my beliefs were more Southern Baptist, until I quickly realized I wasn't. I checked out Free Will, primitive, and then I looked into Independent Fundamental. I went to the local IFB church near my house, and I enjoyed going. This church was also affiliated with the school my cousins went to, so I thought I would try it out. After going for about a year, I realized that there were some flaws with it, as with other denominations. They used the KJB, most of the women wore skirts and dresses, and the pastor got a degree from Bob Jones. I started looking more into their beliefs and the church's stance on them. The church was more "liberal" than most IFB churches. Most of the women wore pants when not in church, they associate with Christmas and other so called Christian holidays, among other things. It wasn't a church I felt comfortable at after a while.

It was also bigger than most churches. I wouldn't call it a mega church, but a good few hundred people gathered every Sunday and Wednesday. I love my church now! It's super small, where everyone knows each other, and my aunt and uncle go there, so I felt more comfortable there going the first time. I also knew the pastor previously, so that also helped. After going there for 7 months or so, I realized that this was a church I wanted to be apart of. One of my favorite aspects of the Independent sovereign grace community is just that, community. I have met people from Kentucky, Tennessee, and even Florida where we all share similar ideas and the same faith, but with differing, non salvation issues. It's been interesting talking to some of the girls about head coverings and their thoughts on it as well as wine vs grape juice during the Lord's supper and even to the extent to which people will acknowledge Christian holidays. It's a blessing to be apart of a church that fellowships with other churches of like faith.

***Has your conversation to Baptist changed any of your previously held beliefs? Has this effected your beliefs in regard to psychology or your college experience?***

Yes and no. I have always held more conservative values than those around me. I would say the biggest thing that changed was my view on modesty and the use of the King James bible. I have always believed in modesty, but the deeper I dive into the bible and read what the text is actually saying, the more I agree with "Baptist dress." Obviously, those are not the right words, but I believe that women should wear skirts and dresses to the knee and shouldn't wear pants. Modesty isn't just for women, but men too. Men shouldn't have their shirts off in public, or those weird shirts where their chest and abs are exposed. I never thought that way before. My convictions keep changing and growing. Even with non salvation issues, I think they are still important. The only way to heaven is truly believing that Christ died on the cross for my sins, and the Lord already knows who he is going to save. Issues concerning modesty, head coverings, the role of women in the church, and various other things that are not pertinent to salvation, but it does pertain to a Godly way of living. The bible calls us to be separate from the world and to live by example. These issues never came up really, growing up. If they brought up the verse about women not being allowed to preach, the only thing they would say is that it is not relevant to today's society. But of course, that church was one of the top 5 biggest churches in the United States, has contemporary music, and big screen televisions and even a food court. They are more concerned about bringing visitors in rather than sustaining their own members. I never knew what their stance was on homosexuality until an issue arose within the church. Their views were not always known to the public. My conversion has made me think about different issues within Christianity and to find biblical answers. My views really haven't changed, they just have become more conservative.

In regards to Psychology and my college experience, my views have basically been the same. When I started college, I was still going to that non denominational church, but only when I was home for breaks. While in the city, I was going to an Independent Fundamental Baptist church, just to try out new churches and to figure out what church I truly belong too. So my views haven't really changed. I was looking for a church that held my values, and the Lord led me to Faith Missionary Baptist church. I love my church, the members and the pastor. They have truly embraced me as a member and I feel like I truly belong there. One of the reasons I wanted to originally look for a different church other than my own beliefs and values was the size. I went from a church of 7,000 plus seats with three services (exactly the same, there was no difference between them), to a church of about 20 members, including 2 kids and a few "visitors" that attend weekly. It's a totally different feel, but I can feel the Spirit working through our church and it's members. Going to that other church, the only reason people knew me so well was because I volunteered there for several years. You could be attending for several years and not even know the people you sit next to, and I knew that wasn't an experience I wanted. Becoming a member of one of the Lord's churches was the best decision I have ever made and very blessed for that.

***Has college been what you expected?***

I go to a private "Christian" university in the city of Chicago. I put Christian in quotes because they are very liberal and you don't have to be Christian to go there. Chapel is optional and if you don't look for campus ministry activities, you won't find them. I wanted a university where my faith would be challenged and reaffirmed. In some ways, I regret going to this university, but at the same time, I have been challenged and have created close friendships. College is a lot of work. Lots of reading, writing, and studying. Trying to fit in devotional time and worship can sometimes be a challenge. In Chicago, my church is the closest Baptist church in our fellowship (Independent, sovereign grace, etc.), so even that can be a struggle from time to time. I am grateful for friends at Faith MB Church who I can text on a regular basis to check in on me and vice versa.

***Did you have any fears or concerns about college or your field of study prior to starting classes, how have these fears turned out so far?***

One of my biggest fears was my faith. In psychology, they talk about homosexuality, evolution, Gender Identity Disorder, among other various things that I do not agree with. The professors know there are varying views on these topics, so we always have a class discussion on them and if we have polar opposite views, then that's okay to have. It's somewhat frustrating because usually there will be only a few students who do not agree to what is

generally accepted among the field of psychology. One of my professors has even said that combining faith and religion is relatively new to the field and a lot of it is unknown or studied. I believe the 2 should not be separated, which is one reason why I plan on going for my Master's in Christian counseling. That way, I can include the bible and my faith into my practice of counseling. You can't counsel people on an emotional level without the spiritual aspect. For me, spirituality is a big gray area that a lot of people avoid, but if you avoid it, you are not going to fully be able to help anyone.

***How close to finishing your program are you?***

I will graduate in May 2015, so 2 months, with a degree in Psychology and a minor in biblical studies.

***What are your plans for after graduation? Do you have any job opportunities lined up?***

My goal is to go to graduate school for a Masters in Christian counseling either at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky with the recommendation of my pastor, or Liberty University in Virginia. I'm hoping for Southern because it is about 5 hours away from home and my cousins are just a few hours away if I need them or want to visit. them. I was highly considering Bob Jones University in South Carolina, but I would be limited in job opportunities. They also had some strict rules including no facial hair for men and that you had to regularly attend one of their pre-approved churches. I looked to see if any of the Lord's churches were on the list, and there weren't. My ideal work setting would either be in a Christian counseling group or center working primarily with children. I am open to other job possibilities, it's in the Lord's hands and where ever he leads me, that's where I will go.



# NEWS

March 9, 2015

## Congressman Cleaver Announces Introduction of "*The Fair Justice Act*"

Legislation would make it a civil rights violation to enforce criminal or traffic laws for the purpose of raising revenue. Today, U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-05) in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Selma, and in response to the tragic events of Ferguson, announced his plan to introduce a bill to ban criminal and traffic law enforcement activities motivated by revenue raising purposes.

Announcing introduction of the Fair Justice Act, Congressman Cleaver stated, "**The time has come to end the practice of using law enforcement as a cash register, a practice that has impacted too many Americans and has disproportionately affected minority and low-income communities. No American should have to face arbitrary police enforcement, the sole purpose of which is to raise revenue for a town, city, or state.**"

Congressman Cleaver's Fair Justice Act would make it a civil rights violation, punishable by up to five years in prison, to enforce criminal or traffic laws solely to raise revenue. Thus, no official or agency of a state or a county, city, town or other political subdivision may adopt a policy or engage in any activity that authorizes, promotes, or executes the enforcement of criminal, civil, or traffic laws for the purpose of raising revenue. This legislation will help prevent the kind of reprehensible activities that occurred in Ferguson, Missouri, where the Department of Justice found that Ferguson's law enforcement practices were shaped by the city's overwhelming focus on raising revenue rather than protecting the public.

"It is a common practice of certain law enforcement officials of state and local municipalities to target communities solely for profit," said Congressman Cleaver. "**Americans of all stripes have faced this, but there can be no doubt that minorities and low-income residents have faced the brunt of this. Make no mistake, the Fair Justice Act is needed now more than ever, in order to finally put an end to criminal and traffic law enforcement activities motivated solely by raising revenue,**"

Last week, Attorney General Eric Holder announced the results of the Department of Justice's investigation of the Ferguson police department. The report provided a searing account of unconstitutional police practices motivated by the purpose of generating revenue. The DOJ reported that police work

disproportionately targeted minorities in generating revenue from fines and fees, rather than protecting the community.

Additionally, The U.S. Department of Justice report on examples of other incidents in recent years outside of Ferguson, across the United States:

- In Jennings, Missouri a new lawsuit alleges that the court system has almost exclusively black defendants, who are routinely sent to jail for failing to pay minor traffic fines.
- In Alabama, which has made heavy budget cuts to court funding, several lawsuits contend that local courts perpetuate a cycle of steep fines for minor offenses, and jail those who cannot pay.
- In California, residents in the predominantly Latino community of southeast L.A. County have complained for years that they are unfairly targeted by city officials for profit. Citizens allege that the city extracted tens of thousands of dollars from plumbers, carpet cleaners, even people scavenging for bottles and cans, by seizing vehicles for alleged code violations, and then pressuring the owners to pay arbitrary fines. Additionally, it was reported that local law enforcement officers targeted immigrants in the U.S. without proper papers by using towing schemes. Police would pull over drivers simply to impound their cars, forcing the drivers to pay large impound fees.

Source: [Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II press release](#)

## March 26th, 2015 "*Budget Spending and Taxes*"

Congressman Walter B. Jones (NC-3) posted two press release on his congressional website regarding his vote on the proposed budget plans; In his first message he announced that he had voted against H. Con. Res. 27, the Fiscal Year 2016 federal budget proposal which passed the House by a vote of 228 to 199.

In this statement he pointed out - "**The budget would raise federal discretionary spending for fiscal year 2016 by \$23 billion over fiscal year 2015. Much of that increase would go to spending overseas on Afghanistan and other foreign aid. All of it would be deficit-financed by adding to America's \$18 trillion debt.**"

"The people of Eastern North Carolina sent me to Washington to cut spending, not increase it," said Congressman Jones. "As a result, there's no way I can vote for a budget that spends \$23 billion more than last year, and adds at least \$346 billion to our \$18 trillion debt. It's irresponsible, it's immoral, and it's wrong for America."

**“Furthermore, this budget relies on a host of smoke and mirrors accounting gimmicks and rosy economic forecasting to make it appear as if it balances in ten years.”** Also **“Frankly, I am tired – and I know the American people are tired – of the dishonesty in Washington. We’re fed up with the annual budget charade where Washington makes another empty promise to get tough on spending in future years, while spending more today. It’s bankrupting America and it’s got to stop.”**

In his second message to the press he also took on health care; Voted against HR. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, which passed the House 392-37. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), over the next 10 years the so-called ‘doc-fix’ bill would add \$141 billion to the already unsustainable \$18 trillion federal debt. Yesterday, the Obama administration released a statement supporting H.R. 2. When the bill was brought to the House floor, only one hour of debate was allowed and no floor amendments were permitted. The bill now goes to the Senate, where it is expected to be approved and then sent to the President to be signed into law.

“Twice in less than 24 hours the House has tried to pull the wool over the eyes of the American people,” said Congressman Jones. “On both the Fiscal Year 2016 budget passed yesterday and the so-called ‘doc fix’ passed today, the majority of my colleagues have attempted to convince Americans that these bills will save money in the long run. Those claims couldn’t be further from the truth. The reality is that these bills will add hundreds of billions to the federal debt. The people of Eastern North Carolina sent me to Washington to cut spending, not to run up the debt and force taxpayers to borrow billions more from the Chinese and other foreigners just to pay our bills.”

The night before Congressman Justin Amash took to social media as is his habit to share his thoughts on the purposed budget plans; "The House is poised to set a shocking precedent of more spending, more debt, and higher taxes this evening. There are two main competing budgets on the House floor: one from the Budget Committee and one supported by the Armed Services Committee.

Compared to last year's budget, the Budget Committee's budget includes \$20 billion in additional "emergency" military spending that's off-budget. This extra military spending isn't counted toward the spending caps set in the 2011 fiscal deal that has modestly reined in spending over the last four years. The Budget Committee's budget says that the new "emergency" spending should be offset by cuts to other programs.

The Armed Services Committee's budget raises "emergency" military spending by \$22 billion, but unlike the Budget Committee's budget, this budget eliminates the spending offsets.

It doesn't ask for any cuts to other programs. The Armed Services Committee's budget lays the foundation for more spending from both parties, hundreds of billions of dollars of new debt, and tax hikes.

If the House passes the Armed Services Committee's budget tonight, we'll have set the dangerous precedent that violating the 2011 budget deal and sequester are acceptable, that more national debt is just fine. We'll have joined with Pres. Obama in obliterating even the pretense of fiscal responsibility.

The votes on the Budget Committee's budget (known as "Price #1") and the Armed Services Committee's budget (known as "Price #2") will happen around 5 p.m. I will vote yes on Price #1 and no on Price #2."

Later he had to explain in the comments why he would be voting yes on price #1 and not no on both, he said "These are competing amendments. There is a separate vote on final passage of whichever amendment prevails in the first round."

Neither posted updates during the long struggle to pass a budget. However P. Scott Shearer, Bockorny Group, Washington, D.C. reported on March 30th "The House and Senate passed their respective Fiscal Year 2016 budgets. The House of Representatives passed the Republican budget by a vote of 228-199. It would balance the budget in a decade, repeal Obamacare, transform Medicare and Medicaid, and cut \$1 billion from agriculture over 10 years. The House Agriculture Committee will determine where those cuts will be made. "

And "The Senate passed the Republican budget by a vote of 52-46. The Senate budget does not give any instructions to the Senate Agriculture Committee. There were over 1,000 amendments filed. Many were messaging amendments that were filed but never considered. The House and Senate will now try to reconcile the differences."

Read his full article at [Nationalhogfarmer.com](http://Nationalhogfarmer.com)

## The Forum:

### *The One About Strength*

***1. What does it mean for a nation to be strong? Does it matter if a Christian lives in a strong nation?***

**Bro. Jason Shults (Associate Pastor Beverly Manor Baptist Church Washington, Illinois):** The Old Testament speaks of the strength of the nation of Israel as they rest in the strength of the Lord Himself and the Word of God. For example, when Joshua assumed leadership of God’s people, he was told several times in Joshua 1 to be strong and courageous. Yet, that strength was clearly not in himself, but in the Lord and His Word.

**Joshua 1:7-9** "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? 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."

The Lord Himself is the only source of true strength. This is true for nations and individuals alike. And since a nation is a collective of individuals, it takes personal faith in the Lord Jesus for national strength to be displayed.

The second part of this question asks if it matters if a Christian lives in a strong nation. To that, I must give a perhaps surprising but emphatic, "no." Of course we would all like to live in a nation of strength and certainly we Americans are blessed to have a degree of religious freedom. But I would encourage you to consider the Christians of the New Testament. You'll be challenged to find even one that lives in a strong nation.

Individual strength comes from the Lord (**Ephesians 6:10**). Individual Christians may serve God resting in His strength regardless of the earthly power of the nation to which they belong whether it be Israel, the Roman Empire or the United States.

**Bro. Todd Bryant (Pastor Sovereign Grace Baptist church Northport, Alabama):** "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance" – **Psalms 33:12**. First off, the United States is not Israel. We are not God's chosen earthly people. We are not God's mouthpiece on Earth (the church is). Though Americanism may lead us to believe we are the greatest nation on Earth, I have a feeling many believers in other countries would argue that point with us. The nation that is strong has God as the Lord. **Psalms 33:12** could not be clearer. The U.S. does not have God as her Lord. The vast, vast majority of American citizens are unbelievers. There is merely a remnant here. This is much like every other country on our planet. So, at least Biblically, we are not strong. It's not high taxes, government run healthcare and government spending which has made us weak. It's the fact that God is not recognized here by the majority of our citizens. Until that is corrected, nothing else really matters as far as the political climate goes.

But we still do have some freedoms. We are, today, still free to worship. There are no restrictions on churches to carry forth the Commission. We can evangelize our communities by sharing the Gospel with whomever whenever. The question I have is why aren't we? The rights we supposedly love seem tossed by the wayside in most of the Lord's churches today. We aren't even attempting to make an impact in the very place the Lord has placed us. Oftentimes, we haven't even tried to reach those on the actual street the church is located on. Does it matter if a Christian lives in a strong nation? Well, only if we take advantage of the rights we have. If we don't, then it doesn't

matter.

## 2. What does it mean for a Christian to be strong?

**Bro. Jason Shults:** There is no such thing as a strong Christian. Consider some of the following statements of strength:

- **Exodus 15:2a**, "The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation."
- **2 Samuel 22:33**, "God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect."
- **Psalms 73:26**, "My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."
- **Psalms 84:5**, "Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them."

If we think there is some part of our natural character that reflects strength, then we are denying the only true source of strength. We understand that Jesus Christ is preeminent in all things because He is the very creator and sustainer of our lives (Colossians 1:16-17).

Our complete reliance on God for all things is our only source of strength. Of course, to gain that strength means to experience and admit weakness. Paul learned this when he relied on God to remove the thorn in his flesh and was told, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

All Christians should have learned this lesson when we looked to the Lord for salvation. Romans 5:6 is the perfect statement of this lesson, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

**Bro. Todd Bryant:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (**Galatians 5:22-23**). How can this really be improved on? The only thing I will add is that it requires knowledge of God's Word to grow into this description. **2 Timothy 3:16** says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." So, in order for a person to be "thoroughly equipped for every good work", they must know God's Word well. This should lead to a life full of Spirit fruit.

## 3. What are the principle traits of a strong character?

**Bro. Jason Shults:** If what we've said above is true, the traits of a strong character are nothing that we have by nature. I would simply say that the strongest character traits are what often seem the weakest to the world around us.

Isn't that what Jesus taught us in the Beatitudes? We are to be spiritually poor, mournful, meek, righteousness starved, merciful, pure-hearted peacemakers.

**Bro. Todd Bryant:** It's often been said that integrity is doing the right thing when nobody is looking. Of course, we all know that

God is both omnipresent and omniscient. But, there's some truth to the proverb. The principle trait of strong character is a desire to magnify Christ in our lives. A life devoted to this will be a life full of Christ-like traits. We are supposed to be Jesus followers. So, our lives should be like His. We should be known for our service to God and our fellow man. We should be full of an attitude of humility and meekness. We ought always to put others before ourselves. What often looks like service (faithful attendance, tithing, the occasional "amen") may not be. Our church life should change our daily routine. We should awaken daily to serve the Lord. This means serving our neighbor with selflessness. Even if our neighbor is opposed to us, we are to do too them. *"See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all"* (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

#### **4. Would you mind sharing a personal example of weakness but the LORD lifted you up?**

**Bro. Jason Shults:** When my wife and I determined to adopt children we chose to go through foster care, understanding the scary and uncertain nature of that system. We heard the horror stories. We knew that the first goal for any child in foster care is to be returned home. We went through foster care training, received certification, but always trusted God.

On a busy Wednesday afternoon in September I got a call at work from a caseworker who said they had a little girl who needed a home and asked if we would want to take a little time thinking about it. She didn't know or understand God had already made the decision for us. We had put the future into His hands and asked Him to bring us a child.

"Okay, I'll give you a little time to get ready," the caseworker said. "We'll be there in about an hour."

Biologically, parents are generally given about nine months to prepare themselves. That's three full seasons of a year to decorate a room, buy baby clothes and pick out names. Our timing would depend mostly on how much traffic was on the 20-mile stretch of road between her office and our home. We trusted God.

Over the next several years, and two more little girls, we not only went through the process of parenting, but got to add on familiarity with the court system. The legal wrangling that ensued was out of our control. Court hearings included attorneys for the state, attorneys for the social services, attorneys for the birth parents and even court-appointed attorneys for the children. There is only one interested party that isn't allowed representation – my wife and I.

It was a lesson of excruciating weakness. Yet it also taught us to trust God. After all, what else could we do but bring our petitions to the Judge of all?

The process was not easy. It was, we decided, God's way of allowing us labor pains to perhaps appreciate our family even more. But ultimately I praise God that in His strength He brought

Himself glory through blessing us with children who are now officially, legally ours.

**Bro. Todd Bryant:** My life is a living example of this, really. Prior to knowing the Lord, I was quite the scoundrel. When the Lord saved my soul, my life was an immediate train wreck. The people I had counted on for several years...the people I loved...the people I called friends...all slowly and steadily left me behind one by one. I'm thankful that the Lord placed me in a strong family and a strong church. I had a haven. But it didn't take away the immediate sting of broken friendships. Looking back, I can see the Lord's hand. He ended a job I had and immediately opened another. Knowing I had struggles, God opened doors that made things easier for me.

I never had any desire to be a pastor prior to being called. I was the kid that didn't want to speak in public. I was happy just being one of the guys. I was satisfied teaching an occasional Sunday school class as I was really outside my comfort zone even then. But, God gave me a desire and worked in me an ability to reach people that I never knew I had. It's Him – not me. I could spend pages sharing how God has helped me at times when the flesh struggled with sickness, death, budget, children, etc. But again, my entire life is a picture of God's grace.

## *Forsaken by All*

by Bro. M. J. Seymour, Sr.

By heaven's eternal decree, Jesus came into the world for the ultimate purpose of dying upon the cross. When He was working miracles, multitudes flocked to Him. When He fed the multitudes, they gladly took all they could from Him. However, when Jesus began to teach hard things, the multitudes dwindled to the few. When Jesus was determined to do the will of the Father and to finish the work for which He was sent, it is written: "And they all forsook him, and fled." (Mk. 14:50) Jesus was left alone to fulfill the will of the Father. Forsaken by all, Jesus finished the work for which He was sent. The Sacrificial Lamb of God died upon the cross, forsaken by all.

When Paul the Apostle stood to give his defense in the judgment hall, he said: "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me..." In Paul's determination to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ regardless of the consequences, he found himself abandoned by man, especially when it came to the heaviest yoke of the calling. Yet, in contrast to the Lord, Paul wrote: "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me..." (II Tim. 4:16,17) Man forsook him, but God did not; God ever remained his Comforter.

When Joshua was commissioned by God after the death of Moses, God told him: "...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage..." (Josh. 1:5,6) In his calling he would be alone to fulfill his duty, but God promised not to forsake him, and He never did.

King David wrote: "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging for bread. ... For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever..." (Ps. 37:25,28) God never forsakes the righteous!

The heavenly calling of God frequently brings one to journey through the valley forsaken by all men. No man can tell you how to fulfill the purpose of God for your life. Those closest to Jesus tried to stop Him from going to the cross. Those closest to Paul tried to stop him from fulfilling his destiny. The hardest part of God's calling is when those closest to you THINK they know what the purpose of God is for you, even better than you know what it is. Do what God has called YOU to do, and He will never leave you standing alone!

## Point Of View: *Leta of Cork, Ireland*

**Talking with Leta Ellis of Cork Ireland about herself, the church there, and the differences between Ireland and the U.S.**

"I'm just a Christian woman living each day as God gives it."

"I have resided in Ireland for 22 years, and was granted dual citizenship in May 2014."



"I was raised in a Christian home and was brought to a New Testament church before I can remember. I was personally saved about the age of eight. Even so young I remember the sorrows of knowing how bad I was, that I deserved Hell. After the struggles of the second birth, I submitted soon thereafter to scriptural Baptism."

*(Leta Ellis)*

***What do you like best about Ireland?***

"I love the slow pace of life.[in Ireland] I love that I live in Europe but it isn't over rated or over populated."

***Will you share some of God's blessings you are thankful for?***

"I am blessed beyond measure it's difficult to know where to begin. I love my Savior, and the church He has given me. I love Ireland, my job, and the traveling I get to do."



*(Picture taken by Leta of Cork from Galtees)*

***What caused you to decide to apply for dual citizenship? What was the process of obtaining dual citizenship like for you?***

"It was getting more and more difficult and expensive to get a visa stamp each year. Because I could get citizenship without forfeiting my American passport, it seemed a good idea especially since I was raised here and I wanted to call it home."

"It was not difficult. It was a case of offering the government past proof of residency, proof of self sufficiency, and loyalty."

***Even though you were young when your family moved to Ireland do you remember anything that you found hard to adjust to in Ireland?***

"No, nothing. As a child you roll with the punches. Or at least, I did."

***Do you ever experience culture shock when you visit the states?***

"Yes I do!! It surprises me and it is usually very little things."

***Is there anything you dislike about Ireland?***

"The people live immorally. severely so. More than in the United States."

***Can you explain more or give examples?***

"I don't really want to get graphic... The government is pushing for gay rights to include their right to marry, own property, and adopt children."

***What are some of the differences between the US and Ireland?***

"There are many!! In a nutshell, the culture is completely different their approaches to morals are far more liberal. Language, even slang, is all their own! The weather? Well, NO ONE has weather like we do, and Washington State would be close!!"

***What are some miss conceptions people in the US tend to have about Ireland?***

"People presume the Irish are all short. Apparently they never met Liam Neeson or Ciarian Hines!! There are short people here including men, but they are the same as everywhere else--short, very tall, and average! While we do have an alcohol problem in the country, not all Irishmen drink, they even have a young pioneers society which prohibits the consumption of alcohol altogether. The few who drink to excess are the ones who travel and give the Irish the bad rap that they have as being drunks!"



*(Group photo from the Church Organization service, Pastor Larry Killion of The Lord's Baptist Church, Tacoma WA is on the far left.)*

***What is the form of government in Ireland?***

"They claim they are Republican (I do live in the Republic of Ireland) it is in fact more socialistic form of government. "

***What is Ireland's relationship with the U.K. like?***

"Very close although they hate to admit to it! Immigration especially has a close working relationship with the UK. If you are Iris you can live and work in the UK with no special stamps or green cards and there is no boarder between the two countries. Flying made easy!!"

***On Religion:***

"Most people in Ireland profess to be Catholic but with 163 countries represented here, other religions have strung up. The most common are Muslimism and Pentecostalism."

"The Irish profess to be open minded and liberal but in actual fact if you are not Catholic they can make life very uncomfortable. The Constitution DOES allow for other religions without restriction so once things get to court they are more careful."

***About the Church:***

"The church I am a member of is warm and closer than family. When one of us undergoes a trail, we go through it together, and on mountaintops we sing and praise God."

"We organized in October (2014) with 11 official members. Three visit regularly."



*(Leta & Sarah Doherty, October 2014)*

***Does the church there have any needs or prayer requests you may share with us?***

"There is one request and it has been weighing on me for a long time. My dad is not getting any younger and his eyes are deteriorating. I have been praying for God to send a Samuel, Eli is getting old....."



Leta is a talented jeweler among other things. You can see for yourself at her online store [EireShaDore](#)

Bro. Robert Ellis who pastors Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Cork Ireland, last posted a newsletter March 2nd:

\*REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2015\*

Dear Pastor and Church

Psa. 105:1 ¶ O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

Greetings in the Sovereign name of Christ Jesus our Lord. We do pray that this finds all of you well and rejoicing in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. King David was a man of gratitude, prayer, and proclamation.

February was a very special month for us here in Cork. On Sunday evening February 1 we assembled for the purpose of partaking the Lord's Supper. It was a very blessed and special time for all of us to remember that our salvation though free to us yet it cost such a great price.

We are grateful for the spirit of unity the Lord has given us in our assembly. Our members are faithful in the work of evangelism. They do have a genuine care and compassion for the plight of the lost. Our folks are a constant source of encouragement and assistance to me. I have been very blessed by the Lord for the privilege of pastoring some of His choicest saints.

We covet your continued prayer for Aidan McDarby. Aidan did not return to services this month. It is my understanding that he is under obligation to the Charismatic group. Aidan is self employed and in the process of establishing his own business. Pray for him that he might become financially independent.

My wife and I recently celebrated our 39th wedding anniversary. Dee really went out of her way to make the day very special for the both of us. Her dedication to her Saviour and her constant love and devotion to myself makes me realise just how richly blessed I really am. The Lord has truly blessed me with a wonderful help meet.

I had my appointment with my oncologist on Tuesday February 17th. Dr Keohane informed me that the lymphoma is still indolent. She was very satisfied that my health is as good as it is. She has determined to schedule my appointments every four months instead of every three.

We deeply appreciate all of the prayerful and sacrificial love offerings. We also desire to extend our sincere thanks to all who

take the time to correspond with us each month. May the Lord richly bless as you preach the unsearchable riches of Christ!

By His Sovereign Grace,  
Bro Robert G. Ellis  
Grace Missionary Baptist Church  
Glounthaune Co Cork IRELAND



*(Leta with her parents, Bro. Robert Ellis & Sis Denise Ellis)*

## Announcement:

Baptists For Liberty's Podcast is  
BACK!

You can now listen to us on [Sound Cloud](#), our [Youtube page](#), or go to our show [archives](#) on our website.

New shows will be posted every Saturday afternoon for a fun one hour conversation touching many subjects including but not limited to; news of the day, entertainment, interviews, and of course the THE Good News! (Gospel!)

# Editorial: "To the Youth in Europe & North America, sincerely Khamenei"

by Sis. Joanna Works

Mid March I was contacted by [Belen Marty](#), a reporter with the Panampost.com for a statement on the letter by ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei Leader of The Islamic Republic of Iran posted online addressed to "To the Youth in Europe and North America" This letter was written in English & dated January 21st 2015, you may read the letter [here](#)  
<http://s15.khamenei.ir/ndata/news/28731/pdf/en.pdf>

Ms. Marty's article was published in English & Spanish March 20th, covered a few different point of views including statements by political activist Kenneth O'Keefe. Please read her article ["Iran Revisits "Wise" Letter to Western Youth as Nuclear Talks Stall"](#) here  
<http://panampost.com/belen-marty/2015/03/20/iran-revisits-wise-letter-to-western-youth-as-nuclear-talks-stall/>

Bellow is the "short" statement that I was able to write for her. There is much more that I could have written and LORD willing in the near future I'll write a more thoughtful article conversing more political, social, and religious issues that this touches on.

I'm not sure if I still qualify as "the youth" to whom this letter is addressed. Nevertheless here are my thoughts on the letter from ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Firstly I think it is very interesting that he has even taken this step of opening dialog in this way. For over three decades there has been limited communication between the citizens of Iran and the U.S. Instead our politicians and media have been in charge of telling us what to think of, or more accurately how we should feel toward one another. With the rise of the internet and new media these kind of open addresses are easier. Yet I do wonder at his timing. We've had the internet and new media for quite some time now, why wait till we're at such a boiling point, what could have been accomplished by now had he addressed the youth of America ten years ago, if citizens of both counties had unlimited access to share thoughts and ideas with each other? Oh, but that is not the issue at hand. We must address the letter that we where sent and what we will do with it. I have no disagreements with his comments on history or the fear that our politics is based on, which is the primary topic of his letter. These are topics I have attempted to address through my own writings and the articles I select to publish in Baptists For Liberty. I'll answer the ayatollah's question "why the old policy of spreading "phobia" and hatred has targeted Islam and Muslims with an unprecedented intensity" plainly, fear is a powerful motivator, fear is also easily induced for such a powerful tool. Why make Islam the target in particular? Because to unite the masses, as a nation or larger body there must be an enemy and Islam fits the bill to unite Western cultures and countries across lines that have

kept us divided. Those of progressive/liberal sensitivities are easily offended at the treatment of women and homosexuals in the Muslim world, of their "backwardness" and being uneducated while conservatives have someone to harp at for not having the "christian culture" that we have and makes us "superior".

Furthermore I must comment that the Ayatollah isn't just a political leader, but a religious leader and he does comment on religion, and much of the rhetoric used by neoconservatives against Islam are religious in terms, so I feel I must make a few plain statements here;

- 1.) The Catholic church and many of her off spring are using the hatred of Islam as a means to gather various religious sects that call themselves christian,
- 2.) The west and the Catholic church have long held the goal of controlling the Biblical promise land Islam and Arabs have long been in the way,
- 3.) God is indeed merciful, however He is not the god of Islam or those who would use His words to persecute nonbelievers. The examples we see of those sent by God to spread the Gospel in the New Testament is that of humility, men and women who traveled far to share The Good News, people who suffered willingly at the hands of their enemies. *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?"* - Matthew 5:43-46  
*"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."* -1 John 4:18 I'd further like to point anyone who is interested in reading to an article "Who Persecutes Whom" written by Curtis Pugh  
<https://ovocebaptistainoltenia.wordpress.com/2012/06/16/who-persecutes-whom-curtis-pugh-poteau-oklahoma/> Also the subject of Fear was our theme for the February 2014 issue <http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com/newsletter-archive/issue-17-february-2014> 4.) Any political measure used to undermine, spy on, or other wise inhibit another religion such as Islam, either domestically or abroad will most easily be used against you and your religion.

Lastly, public figures are often insincere & manipulative with public addresses, while I think reading this letter is worth while I also implore those reading it, young and old alike, to take it with a grain of salt and research for yourself the history and current events to which he alludes to.

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<http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com>  
**You can also look us up on Facebook**  
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