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Marks of A Scriptural Church

By M. L. Moser, Editor

The mission of a New Testament church is identical with the mission of Christ (Jn. 20:21). In the 17th chapter of John we have the will of Christ for His churches. Whatever His mission was in the world, our mission is in the world. His mission was to save sinners (Jn. 3:17), and our mission is to do the same by pointing them to Christ. And yet today, even in some Baptist churches, they are utterly failing in the one mission their Savior gave them to do. Book reviews, nature stories, and civic activities are the sermons of the day, instead of the blood-bought redemption of sinners through Jesus Christ.

In the first chapter of Acts this mission is enlarged upon. It not only points out our mission, but also points us to our source of power. We must have power enough to place the gospel throughout the whole world at one and the same time, and that power must come from the Holy Spirit. The power derived by man's efforts is not sufficient. This

power then cannot be realized through the power of education, organization or even cooperation. The power must be a supernatural power; one given from God. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts (Zech. 4:6). Churches depending upon gaining power through cooperative organizations shall always be weak, because they have not tapped

the main source of power.

The main and central passage of Scripture which gives us our mission in detail is in Matthew 28:16-20. This must be the commission that each church operates from. Each church must do all that is included in the commission, and equally so, they should not add anything to this commission. There are several things included in this com-

mission and we should note well what it includes.

First, we are to make men born-again believers or disciples. This is the first mission of the New Testament church. If we fail in this point, we cannot do the others. This is the main emphasis of the New Testament church. Following the example of Christ, we see that His method was to make disciples first before He baptized them (Jn. 4:1). How is this to be accomplished? "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:21). The preaching of the gospel will reveal Christ to the hearts of men and the very moment they receive Christ as their personal Lord and Savior they are a disciple or a Christian.

Baptism has no part in the salvation of any person. Only faith and faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ can save a person; plus nothing and minus nothing. Paul's preaching always made it

The Work Christ Is Doing In Behalf Of His Church

By Roy Mason

Before we deal with what Christ is *now* doing, suppose we briefly consider what He is *not* doing. He is *not* seated on His own throne, but "at the Father's right hand" on the Father's throne (Heb. 8:1; 12:2). Likewise Christ is not a "spiritual King" ruling over some kind of a spiritual kingdom, as is widely taught. Neither is He looking on while denominations by means of

their ecclesiastical organizations build Him a kingdom down here on this earth. The theory of "bring in the Kingdom" before the King comes back is one of the most senseless heresies that was ever coined anywhere, time or place.

What Then Is Christ Now Doing During This Age?

(See **WORK** on page 22)

(See **CHURCH** on page 23)

Quiz The Pastor -- #3**What Does The Bible Say About Life On Other Planets?****By the late Nick Michalinis**

Question: Do you believe there is intelligent life on other planets?

Answer: Since no scientific evidence has been presented thus far to prove there is intelligent life forms on any other planet other than earth, then I must say "no." I don't believe intelligent life as we know it exists on other planets.

It seems that the scientific mind of man is prone to speculate with regard to finding intelligent beings on other planets. Even today, our space program is aimed in this direction. The Gamma Ray Observatory was launched from the space craft Atlantis in April, 1991, in hope among other things, of finding out "What created us?" This is a flat, public denial of the Genesis record of creation. It is not "What created us" that should draw our interest, but "Who created us!" (Gen. 1:1, 26).

The unbelieving mind

pushes God completely out of the picture because man does not naturally "like to retain God in his knowledge" (Rom. 1:28). He does not want a God he will eventually have to give account to at some sort of future judgment, so he does away with Him, and by so doing, he also does away with the idea of a Creator God. This, then, leads him to the conclusion that things that exist now actually came about on their own, via the "big-bang" theory, or such like.

Now, taking this a step further, he reasons that if earth and its inhabitants came about as per evolutionary thinking by accident, then if it could happen this way in our galaxy, then the same set of developments could have taken place in other places in the universe. So, he takes billions of tax dollars, and goes about searching for extraterrestrial life on some other planet. They are constantly

sending out signals from earth hoping to contact someone or something out there in the vast universe that might respond in some way. Their search will prove to be in vain.

The scriptures tell us that only earth was uniquely created to be the dwelling place for man. "The heavens, even the heavens are the Lord's; but the earth hath he given to the children of men" (Psa. 115:16). "God hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:20).

Of all the billions and billions of heavenly bodies, God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, visited tiny planet earth as a new-born babe, and as a man, and suffered and died on the cross for man's sins. There is no other planet like earth with all its complex environmental factors suited to sustain divinely-created human life.

An astronaut on one of our space crafts remarked about the beautiful colors of earth he observed as he looked down from space on this unique globe. There's none like it. One day it will be renovated by Divine power, and the redeemed of the Lord will dwell on it forever with their Creator. ¶

**A Member of
The Club**

Castro suggests restoring normal relations between the U.S. and Cuba. That means he could continue to insult us and get foreign aid, too.

**From A Bonfire
To A Museum**

"Every great religious movement has had three stages in history. In the first, it is truly a movement. Fervency, zeal, intensity — these mark its adherents. Consciousness of divine leadership is strong; human leaders take second place. The moving of the Spirit — this is the central thing.

"In the second stage the movement becomes an institution. Regimentation takes place increasingly, until organization overshadows everything else. The creed becomes settled, the organization fixed. Interest centers more and more in buildings. Human plans and programs take the place of the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The early enthusiasm and spontaneity begin to wane.

"Thirdly, the institution becomes a museum — a place where we gather to worship the past. We visit the collection of mummies and gaze reverently at the statues of the heroes of history. The bygone days — in those days there were giants in the earth! And we forget what made those men great, the spirit of God coming upon them mightily; forget that we, too, may have that same power today" — (Ralph Earle (**The Quest of the Spirit**, p. 31).

[Can anything describe more accurately the organizations among Baptists today: Conventions, Associations, Fellowships, etc.?)

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How The First Church In Tabasco Was Organized

[This is an article that appeared in the June, 1956 issue of **Mexican News-flashes** written by M. L. Moser while a missionary on the field. This is a typical trip to the mission fields in Mexico.]

* * *

About five years ago the group of believers in Vicente Guerrero were Presbyterians. After they had studied their Bibles they came to the conclusion that they had not been scripturally baptized because the Bible taught that baptism must be by immersion. "If this be true," they said, "then we have not been baptized." That raised the question, "To what church shall we go for baptism and what kind of church should we be?"

The group, with the pastor Bro. Raul Garcia, voted that they would withdraw from the Presbyterian denomination and remain independent of all denominations until after they had time to study their Bibles and see what the Bible taught about all of these things.

It was then during this time that the Baptist work through our national missionaries, was getting established in Tabasco. They heard of Bro. Julio Morales, and knowing that he was a Baptist, they wrote him a

letter asking him if he would be able to come to Vicente Guerrero and tell them why he was a Baptist and what Baptists believed.

Of course, he gladly consented and for a period of two or three years he corresponded together about the teachings of the Bible and occasionally Bro. Julio Morales would go there and speak to them about the teachings of the Bible.

Near the end of 1955 they became fully convinced from their five-year study of the Bible that the Scriptures clearly taught that the New Testament church is a Baptist church and that they should be baptized under the authority of a Baptist church.

Bro. Raul Garcia then wrote Bro. Julio Morales telling of his personal conviction and that the members of the church would like to be baptized under the authority of a Baptist church and then they said that they wanted to be organized into a Baptist church. Bro. Julio Morales forwarded the letter to me.

Following receipt of the letter I made a trip down to Tabasco to investigate their beliefs and to see if Bro. Raul Garcia was a true Baptist by his convictions. After making a full investigation and talking with Bro. Julio Morales and Bro. Joel Rosas [a seminary student

beginning a work in Villahermosa, Tabasco] who both endorsed them highly, I then told Bro. Raul Garcia that he should write to the church in Little Rock and that the members of the church in Vicente Guerrero should write the church in Little Rock telling them the story and requesting baptism at the hands of a duly qualified administrator and under the authority of a Baptist church.

It was just a short time after that that the church in Vicente Guerrero met in a regular Sunday service and authorized a letter to be written to the Central Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas and the letter stated in part "we are at the complete disposal of your church and we humbly ask that you grant us the privilege of being scripturally baptized and organized into a Baptist church."

After a full discussion with the Central Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, the church voted to grant me the authority to make the trip to Tabasco and after hearing their testimony, to perform the act of baptism under the authority of the Central Baptist Church and that the church in Little Rock would then give me the authority to sit in as a member of the organization council to assist in the organization of the Baptist church there.

On March 18, 1956, we had the privilege of helping in the organization of the First Baptist Church of the city of Vicente Guerrero, the first Baptist church ever

to be organized in the entire state.

Baptists had never gone into the State of Tabasco until one day while our Seminary [Latin American Baptist Theological Seminary, LABM] was located in Morelia, Michoacan, a young man who was a student in the Seminary came to me and told me that he wanted to go into the State of Tabasco and work and that he felt that the Lord wanted him to open up the Baptist work in that state. I asked him if he knew the problems that he would face and he said, "Yes," but that he wanted to begin the Baptist work there. That was a little over three years ago (1953).

Today (1956), we can see some of the fruit that has resulted from the first Baptist missionary going into the State of Tabasco. There are missions in all three zones of the state, and now, thanks unto the Lord, we can say that there is an organized Baptist church there.

I arrived in Vicente Guerrero on Friday night along with Bro. Julio Morales. On Friday evening we had services at the church and made arrangements for the mission to meet on Saturday all day for some classes on Bible doctrine so that we would be able to give them some real Bible teaching along certain lines.

In the morning I met with them and we spent an hour and a half on the subject of the New Testament

(See **TABASCO** on page 21)

Baptists, Others Adrift In Doctrinal Beliefs

Only 43% of Baptists believe works don't earn salvation and 66% believe Satan isn't a real being, according to a new study released by the Barna Research Group and reported by the *Florida Baptist Witness*.

The study explored the religious beliefs of the nation's 12 largest denominations and determined that only 41% of adults in those denominations could be classified as "born again."

George Barna, president of the California firm that conducted the research, said the study was not intended to report the official teachings of any denomination. "The data reflect what the people within those churches believe," Barna said. "If nothing else, this outcome highlights the substantial theological shift that has been altering the nature of the Episcopal church, particular, as well as other Christian churches, in recent years."

The study's findings identify an alarmingly high number of church members whose beliefs fall far short of orthodox Christianity. For example, 41% of all adults surveyed believed in the total accuracy of the Bible. Catholics had the lowest percentage (23%) who believed the Bible to be accurate, while 81% of those attending Pentecostal churches held to the same belief. Only 40% of those surveyed believed Christ

was sinless, while 27% believed Satan to be real.

The numbers were better for Baptists than for the whole sample, but not by much. Of the Baptists surveyed, 57% believed works play a part in salvation, and 45% believed Jesus was not sinless. Only 34% of Baptists thought Satan was a real being, while 51% believed Christians have the responsibility to witness to others. Sixty-six percent of Baptists considered the Bible to be totally accurate, 81% considered their religious faith to be important and 85% believed God is the all-powerful creator of the universe.

"What we've found is that when you interview people about what kind of Baptist church they attend, a large proportion of them either don't know or they will give you information that's inaccurate," Barna said.

The two denominations with the highest number of members who hold to orthodox Christian beliefs were Pentecostals and Assemblies of God. Catholics and Episcopalians had the lowest percentage of members reporting a belief in traditional Christian teachings. Just 20% of Episcopalians and 17% of Catholics believed Satan was real; 33% of Catholics and Episcopalians believed Jesus was sinless; and 26% of Episcopalians and 9% of Catholics believed works don't earn

salvation.

"The Christian body in America is immersed in a crisis of biblical illiteracy," Barna said. "How else can you describe matters when most churchgoing adults reject the accuracy of the Bible, reject the existence of Satan, claim Jesus sinned, see no need to evangelize, believe good works is one of the keys to persuading God to forgive their sins and describe their commitment to Christianity as moderate or even less firm?"

The study determined that evangelicals are scarce. Barna defines "evangelicals" as a subset of "born again" believers — those who say their faith is very important in their lives, believe they have a responsibility to witness to non-Christians, acknowledge the existence of Satan, contend that eternal salvation is possible only through God's grace and not good deeds, believe Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth and describe God as the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect deity who created the universe and still rules it today. Those who fit in such a category include only 8% of adults.

Fourteen percent of Baptists qualified as evangelicals, compared to 33% from Assemblies of God churches, 29% from non-denominational churches and 27% from Pentecostal churches. Only 1% of Catholics and 1% of Episcopalians could be clas-

sified as evangelicals.

"The most disappointing finding of the report is the loss of doctrinal clarity among evangelicals," said R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "We have come to expect doctrinal compromise in the liberal denominations, but we now see the same process at work among those who call themselves evangelicals. The Barna report helpfully defines evangelicals by beliefs — not by denominational membership, etc. For too many 'evangelicals,' all that remains is emotional fervor and religious participation — not the living faith founded upon the truth of the Gospel."

Roberts said one solution to such biblical illiteracy lies in pastors' diligence in preaching truth and in their willingness to go house to house, if necessary, to inquire about each person's spiritual condition.

"The church needs to take seriously its shepherding role," he said.

Mohler added that all Baptists should be alarmed at what the study reveals.

"The Barna report is a warning of what is to come, if these trends are not reversed," Mohler said.

The study's results came from telephone interviews with a nation-wide random sample of 6,038 adults. — Via *The Baptist Trumpet*. □

America Is A Christian Nation!

The Supreme Court Says So!

Professional Bible haters, especially those who hate the Name of Jesus, mainly college professors, politicians, and reporters continue to shriek that America is not a Christian nation, and that the Founding Fathers did not establish it as such. However, the Supreme Court in a unanimous decision in 1892 declared, after a ten-year study, that America definitely was a Christian nation and that the deliberate purpose of the Founding Fathers had been to establish a Christian nation. Part of the famous decision declared, "We are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity, and not upon the doctrines of (other religions) ... and truly that the Christian religion is a part of the common law ..." Nothing could be clearer!

The Capitol Dome Says So!

America's National Motto is "In God We Trust." Some are currently trying to put this holy motto in every American school room, but it is being fought viciously by Satan's crowd! It is on our money, it appears opposite the moderator of the Senate; it is carved in large marble letters in

back of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. "This nation under God" is under the Great Seal of the United States. *Unknown to most people is a picture of the Crucified Christ in the Rotunda (Dome), with the Pilgrims ready to embark to the New World. Chaplain Brewster has his open Bible, with the Pilgrim's words, "The New Testament according to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ... In God We Trust, God With Us!" Only Satan and his followers oppose this for our schools!*

The Constitution Said So!

In Article One, Section Seven, Paragraph Two, the last sentence excludes Sunday from the 10 days given the president to consider a bill passed by the Congress. Sunday is the Lord's Day for Christians, their day of worship and rest. No other religion in the world honors Sunday except Christians, not the Jews, or the Muslims, or the Hindus, or the Biddhists, or any other. This statement in the Constitution honors only the Lord's Day of Christians.

When the Constitution was ratified by the various states, the signers added this paragraph above their signatures: "Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present, the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our

Lord, one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth, IN WITNESS whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names." And the very first name is that of George Washington.

The Constitution of the United States of America actually uses the common expression, "in the Year of our Lord." They were honoring none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, including the date of His birth, and the day of His Resurrection. This unmistakably acknowledges America as a Christian Nation!

The Declaration of Independence Said So!

Four times the Declaration of Independence refers to God "The laws of Nature and of Nature's God ... We hold these truths to be self-evident that all Men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness ... appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions ... with a firm reliance on the Protection of divine Providence ..." Today these words are not permitted in most public schools!

The 10 Commandments In School?

South Dakota recently authorized that the Ten Commandments be posted in all its school classrooms. Wonderful! This victory was the result of a drive by Concerned Women of America, an organization founded and directed by Mrs. Beverly LaHaye.

About 30 other states are in the process of passing legislation to post the Ten Commandments in their school rooms. Many people and leaders are trying to take back our schools and government from the small minority of anti-American Bible haters.

The Present Wicked Supreme Court!

Sadly and tragically, a few months later, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down South Dakota's law. Legal experts are not sure what effect the Court's decision will have on other states. But this satanic Court betrayed the work of America's Founding Fathers, plus 343 years of legal precedent. It also violated the Constitution's own stated method of amendment which requires a two-third's majority of both houses of Congress, the president's signature, and then approval of two-thirds of the states.

In 1963 the Supreme Court outlawed prayer and

(See COURT on page 21)

33 Prophecies Fulfilled In One Day

1. Prophecy: The prophecy of the betrayal of the Lord Jesus Christ by Judas, 1000 B.C. "Yea, mine own familiar friend in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me" (Psa. 41:9).

Fulfillment: "And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them" (Mk. 14:10).

2. Prophecy: It was predicted that the Lord Jesus Christ would be forsaken by His disciples, 500 years before. "Awake, Oh, sword, against my shepherd (Jesus), and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of Hosts; smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered" (Zech. 13:7).

Fulfillment: "And they all forsook him, and fled" Mk. 14:50).

3. Prophecy: The price paid for His betrayal was foretold. "And I said unto them, if ye think good, give me my price; if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver" (Zech. 11:12).

Fulfillment: "What will ye give me, and I will deliver unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver" (Mt. 26:15).

4. Prophecy: What would be done with the money? How would Judas use the betrayal money? "And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter; a goodly price

that I was priced at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the House of the Lord" (Zech. 11:13).

Fulfillment: "Then Judas which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for us to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in" (Mt. 27:3-7).

5. Prophecy: The prophecy of His scourging. "I gave my back to the smiters and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; I hid not my face from shame and spitting" (Isa. 50:6).

Fulfillment: "Then released he Barrabas unto them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified." "And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head" (Mt. 27:26, 30).

6. Prophecy: Prophecy of shame, reproach and dishonor. "Thou hast known my

reproach, and my shame, and my dishonor" (Psa. 69:19).

Fulfillment: "And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe" (Mt. 27:28).

7. Prophecy: Prophecy of False Witnesses against Christ at His trial. "False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not" (Psa. 35:11).

Fulfillment: "Yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses" (Mt. 26:60).

8. Prophecy: A prophecy of the Smitten Shepherd. "Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered" (Zech. 13:7).

Fulfillment: "Then did they spit in his face and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands" (Mt. 26:67).

9. Prophecy: A prophecy of the parting of His garment. "They part my garments among them and cast lots upon my vesture" (Psa. 22:18).

Fulfillment: "They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be; that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did" (Jn. 19:24).

10. Prophecy: It was foretold that the Lord Jesus Christ would not open His mouth at the trial. "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" (Isa. 53:7).

Fulfillment: "Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marveled greatly" (Mt. 27:13-14).

11. Prophecy: The prophecy of our Savior's crucifixion. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand" (Isa. 53:5-6, 10).

Fulfillment: "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left. (Lk. 23:33). "Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away" (Jn. 19:16).

12. Prophecy: It was seen in prophecy that He would fall beneath the Cross. "My knees are weak through fasting" (Psa. 109:24).

Fulfillment: "And he bearing his cross went forth unto a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha" (Jn.

(See 33 on page 18)

President Bush: “A Man Of Deep Faith”

By Todd Starnes

WASHINGTON (BP)—James Merritt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church, Snellville, was one of six ministers invited to join President Bush for a closed-door meeting just hours before the president addressed a joint session of Congress on Sept. 20.

“I think I can speak for the entire group when I say that without question, we all came away impressed with where he is right now as a leader and where he is spiritually,” Merritt told Baptist Press. “I was very elated and came away from the meeting encouraged.”

Merritt said the six religious leaders spent 30 minutes with the president talking about the importance of Americans to come together spiritually and the importance of faith.

“Those were the things on his heart and mind,” Merritt said. “He shared with us that he is being very deliberate and he is going to uphold his responsibility to defend this nation.

“This meeting was a signal that this is a president who understands the foundation of this nation is not financial, economical or military,” Merritt said. “The foundation of this nation is spiritual.”

At times, Merritt said, the president became emotional.

“He is a man of deep faith,” he said. “The president is without question a compassionate conservative. His heart is broken over what has happened.”

Merritt said the president requested prayer from the group of leaders.

“He wanted to share with us his need for prayer and his need for wisdom during these days,” Merritt said. “Physically, he is doing well. Emotionally, he is totally at peace. He knows where he wants to lead the nation.”

Merritt said the religious leaders stood in a circle with the president, clasped hands, and prayed.

“For a president to take 30 minutes to spend with religious leaders tells you where his priorities are,” Merritt said. “The fact that we were able to interact with him in that type of setting is remarkable. He listened more than he spoke.”

While some ministers offered counsel to the president, Merritt said he simply offered a word of encouragement.

“As fellow believers we believe in the sovereignty of God. On the one hand, God knew what was going to happen on Sept. 11, but he also knew who would be sitting in the White House. I believe that President Bush is God’s man for this hour. God’s hand is on him.

“I encouraged him to humble himself to the Lord and God will lead him in a divine, providential way,” Merritt said.

After the meeting, Merritt asked the president how Christians could pray for him.

“First, he said to pray for wisdom; second, strength; third for clarity of thought; and he asked us to say a special prayer for his wife, daughters and family that God would protect them and he would be a godly husband and godly father,” Merritt said.

At the end of the meeting, Merritt said he shook the president’s hand and told him that “I loved him.”

“That’s when he looked at me and said, ‘James, tell all my Southern Baptist friends how much I love them as well.’”

While Merritt said he never dreamed he would be in the Oval Office, he said the most impressive memory of the prayer time was the president.

“Again, what I will remember is that we have a president who has a genuine love for Christ,” Merritt said.

Prior to the Oval Office gathering, Merritt attended a noontime meeting at the White House with ministers from 30 other denominations including evangelist Franklin Graham and Christian author Max Lucado.

Think Awhile!

By Don N. Kitch

Our large American cities are plagued with a smog problem — polluted air. To date, no one has come up with the right answer. Not only do we have an air pollution problem, we have a water pollution problem. Not only our water and air, but our morals are becoming more polluted, year after year. It is not a good situation.

An enterprising company in Rome has hit upon an idea that appeals to some tourists. Souvenir vendors in Rome are selling sealed cans of “fresh Italian air.” The idea seems to be that a tourist, seized with melancholy when he gets home, can at least open a can of “fresh Italian air” and have a satisfying whiff of Italy!

One must have a vivid imagination to get a “lift” out of opening a can of air from Italy!

The earnest child of God who seeks the face of God in prayer, can get much more than a bit of air from a foreign land; he can receive a whiff of the atmosphere of heaven, that will thrill his soul! What a blessing to be able to go to the prayer closet, close the door and commune with God!

Have you prayed today?

Universal Church.

“The popular teaching that all of the saved compose the church of Christ is a man-made theory without Bible proof. We recognize every saved person as a brother or sister, but not every saved one is a member of a gospel church” — J. T. Moore

World News Roundup

Appeals Court Upholds "Minute of Silence."

A federal appeals court affirmed the constitutionality of Virginia's daily schoolroom minute-of-silence law in a 2-1 vote July 25. While the dissenting judge contended the law "establishes religion in the public schools of the Commonwealth," the majority on the three-judge panel agreed with Virginia Solicitor General Bill Hurd's argument that the requirement for a minute of silence is only that. Prayer is only one of many silent, mental activities each student may choose, Hurd reasoned in arguments before the panel in May. "This is a victory for common sense," Attorney General Randolph A. Beales told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "If the ACLU appeals this decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, we will be there to defend the law, yet again."

Canada Legalizes Medicinal Marijuana. The Canadian government has made it legal for terminally ill patients and those with chronic conditions to use marijuana to relieve their symptoms, making America's neighbor to the north the first country to allow marijuana use for certain medical conditions. Under Canada's new rules, which went into effect July 30, patients will be allowed to apply for licenses to grow marijuana for medicinal use or appoint someone to grow

it for them. Insiders say it is the first time for a national government to be directly involved in the production and supply of the drug for medicinal purposes. The Canadian Medical Association opposes the decision, saying there has not been enough scientific research for doctors to properly prescribe dosage. Robert Maginnis, vice president for policy for the Family Research Council, said, "Giving someone marijuana for medicine is like giving them pond water when pure bottled water is available" In other words, he said plenty of good medicine is available to treat people without resorting to marijuana.

Humph! If Virginia had been paid for not raising tobacco, our billion-dollar, hundred-thousand-job tobacco industry would never have been born. How many people would have lived longer if the tobacco industry had not been born?

Epistemology, A Nice Great Big Word. One doesn't have to read very far into the writings of the new evangelicals until we find the problem of "epistemology." We are reminded of the remarks of one who said: "To fill the void caused by the rejection of metaphysics,

there has been substituted a worship of epistemology, which attempts to find out how much you can know before you actually start knowing. There are many philosophers in this field who have made the problem of knowledge very much like the problem of discovering how you go to sleep, forgetful that we are already asleep before we know that we are asleep. We have to wake up before we know that we were asleep, and we have to know before we can know that we knew." But you say, "We must understand epistemology" or we cannot understand how we know what we know, and how we know that we "don't know, and how we know the other fellow knows, and how we know that the other man don't know." The jargon of the academic world is more and more unintelligible. When men are educated beyond their intelligence, they love to talk unintelligibly and the simple minded listen in awe to their "great swelling words" (Jude). True education enables a man to put profound truths into simple language.

Wisdom From A Term Paper. Students who write term papers occasionally furnish the world with new bits of humor and occasionally with gems of wisdom. Recently we read this gem in a term paper: "A true church is

one which corrects itself instead of the Bible." How true! Everywhere men are seeking new translations, advancing ingenious interpretations all designed to correct the Bible. Scholars are busy assuring us that this is a better translation than that. There is very little interest in correcting the church. We are more interested in "correcting" the Bible.

The Political Philosophy of The Catholic Church. A long time ago Macaulay described the political philosophy of the Roman Church as "I am in the right and you are in the wrong. When you are the stronger, you ought to tolerate me, for it is your duty to tolerate truth: when I am stronger, I shall persecute you, for it is my duty to persecute error." In the United States the Catholic Church asks for toleration and religious liberty *for them*. In Spain and some South American countries, the Roman Church dominates and there it feels divinely called to persecute heretics (non-Catholics). — **The New Testament Baptist**, July 1960.

The First Bible Commentator. Said a quaint old New England preacher, "Beware of Bible commentators who are not willing to take

(See WNR on page 17)

La Voz Del Desierto

¿Quiénes Son Los Bautistas?

Por María Teresa Curet

La palabra Bautista significa Sumergido. En la Biblia podemos encontrar esta palabra junto al nombre de Juan. Su nombre fue Juan (Lk. 1:63), pero en su oficio fue Juan el Bautista or Juan el Sumergidor (Mateo 3:1-6). Dios le dio ese nombre porque esa fue la misión que el Señor le encargó aquí en la Tierra, que bautizara a Jesús (Mateo 3:13-17), y que predicara y bautizara (sumergiera) a los creyentes en Jesús (Marcos 1:1-8).

En Hechos 2:41-42 podemos ver el propósito del bautismo, ser añadido a la

verdadera Iglesia del Señor. También, al ser sumergida la persona en el agua, simboliza la muerte del viejo hombre de pecado y la resurrección del nuevo hombre en Cristo (Rom. 6:3-4). El nombre de Juan el Bautista fue dado por Dios (Lucas 1:57-66), por lo tanto la doctrina que predicaría Juan sería doctrina Bautista. Esto nos demuestra que la Iglesia que Jesús edificó fue la Iglesia Bautista, porque fue edificada con los discípulos de Juan el Bautista.

Desde ese momento en el que comienzan a bautisarse

los creyentes (Juan 1:19-28), es cuando surge la verdadera Iglesia del Señor, la Iglesia Bautista. Luego en el día de Pentecostés el Señor Jesús le envía a su Iglesia (la Bautista), el Espíritu Santo (Hechos 2:1-4) para que los dirija y los guíe, porque Jesús ya no estaría físicamente con ellos (Hechos 1:6-11), y les envía al Consolador, al Espíritu Santo, la tercera persona de la Trinidad.

Desde entonces la verdadera palabra del Señor ha llegado a muchos lugares y han surgido Iglesias Bautistas a través del mundo. Desde el comienzo de la Iglesia del Señor (la Bautista) hasta nuestros tiempos, su Iglesia ha sufrido persecuciones y ha sido

atacada por iglesias que dicen ser la verdadera Iglesia del Señor, y principalmente ha recibido ataques de parte de Satanás quien quiere que la verdadera Iglesia del Señor sea destruida, pero el Señor Jesús dijo: "Que las puertas del Hades no prevalecerán contra su Iglesia" (Mateo 16:18), refiriéndose a la Iglesia Bautista. Es por esto que su Iglesia todavía existe y existirá hasta que El venga.

Hermanos si desean conocer más detalles acerca de "Quiénes son los Bautistas," y su verdadera doctrina, pueden visitar la biblioteca de nuestra Iglesia que contiene diversos libros que tienen valiosa información acerca de este y otros temas. □

¿Es Pókeon Tan Inocente Como Parece?

Ya se pueden adquirir en almacenes de autoservicio o en jugueterías; existen álbumes de estampas autoadheribles y libros para iluminar; hay llaveros, carteles, muñecos de peluche y de plástico; también está en videojuego. Ha sido un fenómeno mundial. Es la famosa caricatura japonesa Pókeon (seguramente la ha escuchado mencionar o incluso la ha visto).

En las calles, los niños juegan a "Pókeon" e interpretan a su personaje favorito. Pero, ¿alguna vez he escuchado sus diálogos mientras juegan? ¿No se le

hacen familiares las frases como "Te voy a hipnotizar," "Estás poseído" o "Tu destino me pertenece"? ¿Sabe cuál es el trasfondo de Pókeon? Esta caricatura (y también el juego de video) consiste en la preparación del entrenador Pókeon para alcanzar su grado de "maestro" en este oficio. Para ello, junta una serie de Pókeons que le ayudarán a combatir a los malos, a protegerlos y a cumplir con su misión.

Nuestra primera pregunta es: ¿Sabe usted qué significa Pókeon? Es la contracción de las palabras en inglés "Pocket monster" o

"monstruo de bolsillo." En realidad, los Pókeon representan a monstruos o demonios, mientras que los tiernos "Píkachus" (el muñeco amarillo que inunda los centros comerciales) son proyecciones animales de los espíritus-deidades producidas por la mente humana. Pókeon tiene una serie de influencias como el misticismo budista, el hinduismo, los rituales de meditación, el libro egipcio de los muertos, los escritos de Confucio, y otras más. Existen autores que reúnen estas filosofías en una teoría llamada "inconsciencia colectiva," que se refiere a la

relación entre las pseudociencias contemporáneas con las prácticas del ocultismo y la intervención de la energía del agua, la tierra, el fuego y el viento, de manera que se puede alcanzar la alineación espiritual y el éxito, y esto es lo que permite la "proyección de la mente humana."

Los poderes de Pókeon. Los Pókeon tienen poderes especiales para pelear unos contra otros. Durante la serie de televisión, el entrenador de los Pókeon menciona el nombre de alguno de ellos y de inmediato sale

(Continúa en la página 10)

POKEMON...

(Viene de la página 9)

de ellos y de inmediato sale de la esfera en el que está contenido. Esto está relacionado con el paganismo y el ocultismo, que dicen que existen los espíritus guía, los mensajeros y los elementos libres. Al ser invocados para realizar las órdenes de los entrenadores, ellos pueden observar lo que el entrenador ve, pelear contra otros espíritus, cuidar al entrenador y llevar a cabo las misiones dadas a los entrenadores. Los poderes de Pokémon provienen de la energía del agua, de la tierra, del fuego y del viento, que, como comentamos anteriormente, son característicos de las religiones orientales. Así mismo, los monstruos Pokémon solamente pueden decir su nombre.

En las filosofías orientales, los espíritus o Kamis son convocados; éstos pueden ser agentes de posesión como en los rituales de trance y en la posesión chamánica, y se utilizan para dar protección y combatir al maligno Kami. Ellos usan una música llamada Kagura, interpretada con diversos instrumentos y la voz del cantante de Kami Uta, o canciones de Kami, para convocar a las deidades. Por tanto, al mencionar su nombre, en realidad los Pokémon crean una especie de trance. Además, los Pokémon mueren debido a la fejez y se reencarnan en seres más desarrollados. Esto proviene de religiones misteriosas orientales y se narran en el Libro egipcio de

los muertos; además de retomar aspectos de las teorías evolucionistas.

Los Entrenadores Pokémon. En una religión conocido como Witchcraft (oficio de brujos), la mayoría de sus miembros consideran que su práctica es adquirida por la experiencia. Ellos realizan diferentes rituales para volverse poderosos en el "oficio." Así sucede con los entrenadores Pokémon: ellos deben pasar por mucho entrenamiento y acciones de tipo ritual para poder convertirse en entrenadores maestros con la habilidad de controlar a los Pokémon y sus poderes. Ellos eligen a sus Pokémon para protegerse de espíritus malignos. Los "p o c k e t - m o n s t e r" seleccionados son espíritus con los que el entrenador se siente a gusto y tiene alguna forma de relacionarse con ellos (de hecho, en la serie, los entrenadores entablan una amistad con sus guardias y desarrollan relaciones verdaderas y llenas de consejos).

Casos De La Vida Real. En diferentes medios de comunicación y en otras investigaciones se han comentado muchos casos de la influencia de este tipo de programas en los niños y jóvenes, que van desde las pesadillas hasta la pérdida de valores y, en algunos casos, problemas en la salud (como en Japón, en donde muchos niños presentaron crisis epilépticas). ¿Qué se puede hacer? Satanás utiliza los medios que menos nos imaginamos para atacarnos y evitar que tengamos una relación personal con

Jesucristo. En el caso de las caricaturas, él toma las inocentes mentes de los niños que no están preparados para diferenciar la fantasía de la realidad.

El Primero Es Acer-carnos A Dios. El es el único que nos puede ayudar a romper con cualquier intento del diablo por quitarnos la tranquilidad en el hogar. Si usted, lector o lectora, no conoce a Jesucristo, pídale perdón por sus pecados y entréguele su vida para que llene de paz su corazón.

Posteriormente, debemos confiar en Su Palabra, que nos guiará para hacer lo bueno ante Sus ojos. La Biblia dice: "Y no participéis en las obras infructuosas de las tinieblas, sino más bien reprendedlas; porque vergonzoso es aun hablar de lo que ellos hacen en secreto. Mas todas las cosas, cuando son puestas en evidencia por la luz, son hechas manifiestas; porque la luz es lo que manifiesta todo" (Efesios 5:11-13).

Nuestro propósito no es, "que no vea televisión" sino que conozca el trasfondo de esta serie televisiva "Pokémon." Ore al Señor para que le ayude a descifrar las obras oscuras del enemigo y que pueda renunciar a ellas, además de hacer la voluntad de Jesucristo para su vida. Platique también con sus hijos para que sepan la realidad oculta dentro de los "Pocket-monster" (Pokémon).

Bendiciones Espirituales

"No gano un sueldo grande, y tengo una familia grande," comenzó diciendo un diácono al dar su testimonio en la Iglesia en cuanto al diezmo. "Al principio yo no podía saber cómo íbamos a diezmar, pero hablamos en cuanto al asunto en la familia y decidimos que si deseábamos ser buenos majordomos de lo que Dios nos había dado tendríamos que diezmar."

"No puedo decir que siempre ha sido fácil diezmar. Ha habido ocasiones en que hemos tenido que sacrificarnos, y creemos que los cristianos deben hacerlo. Dios nos ha bendecido y ha multiplicado nuestras entradas."

"No obstante, nuestras bendiciones más grandes no han sido de carácter material. Nuestras verdaderas bendiciones en cuanto al diezmo han consistido en un mayor crecimiento espiritual, en el amor de Dios y en una consagración mayor a la causa de Cristo."

Recibimos bendiciones en diferentes maneras y de diferentes fuentes: riquezas, posesiones, poder, influencia, posición, etc. Mas las bendiciones espirituales sólo vienen de Dios. Estas son las bendiciones más ricas.

"La bendición de Jehová es la que enriquece, y no añade tristeza con ella."

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Millions Dying ... So What!

(From The Baptist Challenge, June 1968)

I'm quite surprised that you should ask me what I think of missions, as that's quite obvious. Let me tell you a little about myself, for knowing me will help you to understand my point of view.

My name is Indifference.

Spell that with a capital "I" if you please. That first letter is a key to my entire nature. My rich heritage includes such ancestors as Selfishness, Pride, and Prayerlessness. My mother's name is Ignorance.

I do not lead a very strenuous life. I just settle down in the lives of Christians, with one foot firmly planted on Love and the other equally as firm on Compassion and keep them smothered. No one can do this job better than I.

I want you to know that I attend church regularly. In fact I visited your church this morning. It was I who sug-

gested that you might as well read your bulletin now, you'll not miss anything. Did you recognize me? It was I who distracted your interest while the missionary letters were being read.

I am sorry I missed your missionary conference this year, but I just don't like to be around fellows like Dr. Let's

(See **SO WHAT** on page 15)

Dreaming of Mexico

Nell (O'Neal) Linton

April 20, 1949

Through the State of Texas we had to go
Down to the country of Old Mexico
From Laredo o'er the Rio Grande River flow
'Twas a land where cactus grow.

As a story book does unfold
Was the mountains their beauty to behold
With valuable recourses, perhaps silver or gold
Could of the future of Mexico mold.

Through mountains on the onward way
Over hairpin curves the car did sway
Looking afar off saw where a village lay
Which was lovely on a fair day.

In the desert soon to be
Was cactus as far as eye could see
Depicting a picture of plain beauty
With the downpouring of the sun's glory.

Ancient down there it did seem
Was the native with his ox team
Passing over a lovely stream
Living there on a meager mean.

Many lakes were bedecked here and there
To look upon was a pleasure rare
With fishermen and their nets everywhere
Toiling hard to earn their daily fare.

A strange mountain, Paricutin Volcano
In a field blew up a few years ago
Has from that day grown so
Now a wonder in day, at night when aglow.

There are many cities in Mexico land
Where many ancient cathedrals stand
Poverty and riches are hand in hand
And marketing is their demand.

Mexico City spreads far and wide
Surrounded by mountains on every side
To go the pyramids was next to decide
Where in this form of worship, they did once confide.

Millions have not the Gospel light
Idol worshipers are there in might
To see such is a sad sight
For many are in a pitiful plight.

As Brother Lacy, our missionary year by year
Labors for the Lord in boldness without fear
He loves the souls of Mexicans so dear
Has faithfully proclaimed the Gospel here.

As I think about Mexico day by day
I hope again to be down that way.
For these poor people I do pray
That they might know the True and Living Way.

Why I Believe The Bible To Be the Word of God

By Charles H. Stevens

Dr. Harry A. Ironsides tells us that he went through 24 volumes of the Religious Encyclopedia with the purpose in mind of discovering the place of prophecy in the religions of the world. To his amazement he found that the Bible alone deals with prophecy. Other nations possess books of a religious character, called "Sacred Books"; however, none of them contain predictions concerning the future. The Bible is the only book in the world which foretells future events. As a matter of fact, nearly one-third of all the Bible is prophetic in character. These predictions are declared to be the utterance of Jehovah; they show that the Bible is the supernatural book, the revelation of God.

Listen to the challenge that God flings to mortal man as He addresses Himself to the pagan religions of the world. Jehovah challenges herein the idol gods of Babylon to predict the future events. "Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forward, and show us what shall happen; let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them, or declare us things to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter,

that we may know that ye are gods" (Isa. 41:21-23). Again, "I declare the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying my counsel shall stand, I will do all my pleasure" (Isa. 46:10).

Does it seem strange or is it the thing to be expected in this day of rationalism and human pride that the subject of prophecy should not only be neglected but despised? Perhaps there is no greater stigma that can fall upon one than to be dubbed a prophetic preacher. In the minds of most of those who claim to be learned, cultured, and educated, a prophetic preacher is classed with snake handlers, fanatics, and the uneducated. We are thoroughly convinced that one of the contributing causes to the existing liberalism that is sweeping our country and especially our institutions of higher learning is the neglect of prophecy and the deprecation of its fulfillment. We quote Dr. A. C. Gaebelein:

"If prophecy were intelligently studied, such a denial could not flourish as it does, for the fulfilled predictions of the Bible give the clearest and most conclusive evidence that the Bible is the revelation of God. To this must be added the fact that destructive Bible criticism, which goes

by the name, 'Higher Criticism,' denies the possibility of prophecy. The whole reasoning method of this school, which has become so popular throughout Christendom may be reduced to the following: Prophecy is an impossibility; there is no such thing as foretelling the future events. Therefore, a book which contains predictions of things to come, which will later be fulfilled, must have been written after the events which are predicted in the book."

One cannot believe in predictive prophecy and at the same time be a liberal. One excludes the other.

Fulfilled Prophecy

There are at least a hundred and nine Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in Christ's first coming, dealing with such matters as where He would be born, when He would be born, the nature of His life, the character of His death, His resurrection, and His ascension. The probability that these one hundred nine prophecies could have been fulfilled by mere chance or accident stands as a ratio of one to three trillion (3,000,000,000,000).

Let us begin with the wonderful chain of prophecies in the Old Testament that deal with the coming Messiah. In Genesis 3:15 we are told that He will be the seed of woman, which necessitates the Virgin Birth. In Genesis 9, He is to come through the seed of Shem and is to be the seed of

Abraham. He is to come from Isaac, not from Ishmael; from Jacob, not Esau. The divine prediction points to Judah and later to David of the tribe of Judah; and as David's greater Son, He was to inherit the throne of King David. In Isaiah 7:14 we are told that He was to be born of a virgin and should be called "Immanuel," God with us. Isaiah 9 tells us that His name shall be "Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6). Micah tells us that He is to be born in Bethlehem. The Psalmist tells us that He is to be hated without cause, to be betrayed by a friend. Isaiah foretells the treatment that He is to receive at the hands of His own and how He is to die by crucifixion, though crucifixion was not known at the time these predictions were uttered, but came much later when invented by the Romans.

Prophecy further tells us that His body shall not see corruption and that God will not leave His soul in Sheol. All of these and many other predictions were literally fulfilled in the person, work and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Jewish Nation

All prophecy centers in the Jewish people, the Gentile nations, and in Christ. The very existence of the Jewish nation today with more than 12 million scat-

(See STEVENS on page 13)

STEVENS...

(Continued from page 12)

tered over 42 nations of the earth, constitutes a living testimony that prophecy is history pre-written. How wonderful is the testimony of these people, now returning to their native land and building again the ruins of their ancient civilization in accordance with prophecies that were spoken 35 hundred years ago. How blind must be human eyes that fail to see the ominous significance of this event that now is transpiring before the eyes of men. None are so blind as those who refuse to see.

The Coming Judgment Upon Tyre

Urquhart, in his book, *The Wonders of Prophecy*, calls attention to the remarkable fulfillment of Ezekiel 26:3 through 5. "Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up. And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God: and it shall become a spoil to the nations.

Herein is stated that the walls and towers of Tyre shall be destroyed and the very rocks scraped. Profane history tells us that

Nebuchadnezzar came first and destroyed the city, fulfilling the first part of this prophecy. Now we read in verses 12 and 14 these words, "And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise: and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water. And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard. And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord God."

Some two hundred years after, the city of Tyre, bordering on the Mediterranean, destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, remained a heap of ruins upon the rocks that marked the site of the old city. In the meantime, the inhabitants of Tyre had gone out into the sea and on an island nearly a mile removed from the mainland had rebuilt what seemed to be an impregnable city. Thus part of Ezekiel's prophecy remained unfulfilled for two centuries. Then it was that Alexander the Great came to besiege the city and in order to do so, built a causeway through the sea. He scraped the very rocks on the site of the ancient city, thus fulfilling to the letter what God's Word had before spoken to this prophet. This prophecy further tells us that the city should never

be rebuilt; it should remain a rock upon which the fishermen should spread their nets. Those who have visited the site in recent years tells us that this prophecy remains fulfilled, a place where the fishermen continue to spread their nets.

The Destruction of Jerusalem

Jesus, speaking just prior to His death, prophesied the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem. In speaking of the temple, He said, "Not one stone shall be left upon another." Some 38 years after these words were spoken, Vespasian's armies, led by Titus, set siege to Jerusalem which resulted in the destruction of the city and the murdering of her beleaguered people. So complete was this destruction, we are told, that the streets were plowed. According to Josephus, more than one million people perished in the siege and a hundred thousand were led away captive.

Again in Luke 21:24 our Lord tells us that Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. From all indications this prophecy spoken by our Lord 1900 years ago is being fulfilled before our very eyes. Since the 1967 War, the Jews have occupied Jerusalem. The complete fulfillment must await the end of the "Times of the Gentiles" and the ushering in of the Messianic reign of Christ initiated by His re-

turn involving the rapture, the revelation of the antichrist, the Great Tribulation, and the battle of Armageddon. All of these could involve the short period of only seven years.

The manner in which predictive prophecies have already been fulfilled at once becomes our cue in interpreting the prophecies that remain. In the light of this fact, we need to recall that there is about twenty times as much Old Testament prophecy relating to Christ that remains yet to be fulfilled as was fulfilled with His first coming. Since the more than one hundred and nine Old Testament prophecies relating to the coming Messiah were fulfilled literally, minutely, and in detail, we may expect the same concerning the promises that relate to the Second Coming of Christ, to His Kingdom and to His Glory.

Predictive prophecy and its fulfillment stands today as one of the strongest proofs of the inspiration of the Bible. Only God could have written this Book! □

Free Lance Baptizers

"There is something quite admirable in the rigorous theological consistency of the seventeenth century English Baptist clerk who, as Robert G. Torbet tells us in his Baptist history, refused to perform the ordinance of baptism in mid-passage from Europe to the New World because, as a ship's passenger, he was not then the minister of a local congregation." — Lloyd J. Averill. □

Watch Out For The Upstart World Court

By G. Russell Evans
Captain U.S. Coast Guard (Ret)

Normally, we'd dismiss President Clinton's approval of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Treaty as a dying gasp of a man desperate for fame and legacy. But, there's much more.

While the world was celebrating New Year's Eve, Clinton sent an assistant secretary of state to the 32nd floor of the United Nations Headquarters to sign the infamous document, just in time to beat the midnight deadline of December 31. The bells were ringing. The Clintons were singing. They'd won!

Bill of Rights Trashed. If the U.S. Senate ever votes two-thirds approval for this ICC Treaty, American citizens and soldiers could be tried in foreign courts by foreign judges with their basic constitutional rights gone.

Our cherished Bill of Rights would be trashed, along with universal rights derived from the Magna Charta of 1215, endemic to liberty and human rights for centuries. This is serious business — much more than a routine Clinton betrayal!

And it is not far-fetched. A world court has been a dream of Bill Clinton since 1966 when Prof. Carroll Quigley's book **Tragedy and Hope** lit the way for global controls to supersede

our self-government.

Clinton's "view for the future" was born, and as president, he pushed hard for UN treaties to control human conduct (the ICC), energy (the Kyoto Treaty), private property (UN taxes) and natural resources (the Kyoto Treaty). Constitutional restrictions were ignored — and our Congress let him get away with assumed absolute power.

"Loathed the military." Candidate Clinton said he "loathed the military" and later proved it with his Presidential Decision Directive No. 25 (PPD 25) placing U.S. troops under foreign command and in UN uniforms as global cops and social workers.

As for controlling American trade and property, Clinton used the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to regulate American free enterprise and ingenuity — and to lock us into UN controls, including the World Court.

This World Court, from the International Criminal Court Treaty — signed but not ratified — even now claims powers to try Americans without protection of their constitution.

Arizona Rebuked. For example, On January 27 the

International Court of Justice (ICJ) rebuked the State of Arizona for executing a German national. The ICJ judges wrote, "By failure to ensure that Walter LaGrand was not executed pending the ICJ final decision ... the United States breached the obligation incumbent upon it."

What obligation? Are the ICJ judges living in fairy land? Even so, former Justice Department lawyer Lee Casey hints at creeping international controls: "It shows that the court (ICJ) is more assertive than in the past, and, given where we are in the development of international law, that's important."

Another example: The international court at The Hague is prosecuting Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes in Yugoslavia, usurping sovereignty it doesn't have, no matter how despicable Milosevic is. NATO's bait of one billion dollars in aid undoubtedly helped the Yugoslavs decide to hand over Milosevic.

Clinton in the Dock? Consequently, isn't it logical to prosecute Bill Clinton for killing innocents in ordering bombing attacks on Serbia and Kosovo?

Clinton's approval of the ICC Treaty last New Year's Eve implies recognition of ICC authority and puts Clinton himself on the hot spot for war crimes — even though the Treaty has not been ratified. The Clinton ego over such an outlandish treaty is generating mischief — with more to come unless President

Bush steps in to kill it pronto.

Thirty six nations have ratified the ICC Treaty. With 24 more, the Court can open for business and Americans will be at risk.

Rights Denied. Such an upstart UN World Court would give the hate-America crowd at the United Nations the power to seize, convict, punish and imprison American citizens found anywhere and denying them:

- Protection under the U.S. Constitution.
- The right to bail.
- The right to a jury trial.
- The right to appeal.
- The right to confront accusers.
- The right to a speedy trial.

Under the ICC Treaty, any American, civilian or military, could be arrested and prosecuted for trumped-up charges of "crimes against humanity" or "genocide." This includes all U.S. officials.

UN Stalwarts. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan calls the UN the "ultimate power" and "the sole source of legitimacy in the use of force in the world," adding that the United States is "the most selfish nation on earth."

UN deputy Bacre Waly Ndiaye of Senegal calls the U.S. law for the death penalty "unacceptable."

UN special meddler Abdelfattah Amor of Tunisia is stirring up American Indians to sue the United

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WORLD...

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States for "genocide."

Let's not forget the U.S. Kennedys. Ted's son Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI) is an outspoken supporter. Young Kennedy needs to review his oath of office to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution."

What To Do. We do not have to put up with these absurdities. The way out is H.R. 1146 to end membership of the United States in the United Nations. Haven't we really had enough of the UN arrogance?

H.R. 1146 will take time. Meanwhile, the Congress can quickly pass the American Servicemembers' Protection Act for immediate protection against prosecution by an international court.

If the United States ever accepts jurisdiction of this upstart UN World Court, we can kiss our Republic goodbye — and the pledges of our Founding Fathers of "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor" will have been betrayed.

"Eternal Vigilance."

But we are not going to surrender our precious sovereignty and freedoms to a bunch of greedy, grabbing UN bureaucrats — and the ICC is not going to happen to us because "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" (John Philpot Curran, 1790). Americans believe in "eternal vigilance," but they have to be informed.

So, why not send this

column to your senators and representative? Challenge them to disprove a single fact about the ICC. Remind them that the World Court applies to them too and ask if that is acceptable?

Ask them how they stand what they will do. And, don't accept a form-letter answer that says virtually nothing. □

SO WHAT...

(Continued from page 11)

Get Concerned and Dr. Let's Pray More. They'd like to run me off personally and permanently if they could. They don't fool me though; I know who to do my work. I was in your office the new day and suggested that you needn't get too concerned about missions. I know you haven't for gotten the visit, though perhaps you don't remember it was I.

Do you remember the Wednesday evening a missionary spoke in your prayer meeting? Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot I had persuaded you to stay home where you had more important things to do than listen to the woeful tales of a missionary.

Let me give you a few pointers on missions. They say that millions of people are dying, SO WHAT! Is this something new? People have died before, haven't they? Don't forget you'll die too someday, so enjoy your privileges now. You're only young once, you know.

SO WHAT if you don't pray for Who-is-it on the mission field! How can your prayers affect God? And besides, if He wants the mis-

sionary to get well, or to build a church, or to start a school, He'll supply the need whether you pray or not. He always does. And if He doesn't, don't they just assume it was not God's will?

SO WHAT if you didn't make a Faith Promise offering this year for the work of God! You gave what was in your pocket that morning. It made an impression when you dropped it in the plate, and you had to eat dinner at home instead of at your favorite restaurant. Now that was sacrifice!

SO WHAT if your aunt went to the foreign field having her affections set on "things above" (Col. 3:2)! You know she was an old maid who couldn't find a husband to set her affections on. After all, she had to have something to do. But you're beautiful, talented, musical. Why be foolish enough to take off for parts unknown where your talents will go unpraised, where your beauty won't even be appreciated?

You know there's really no reason to get involved in this matter of missions. In fact, if this is what you want I'll be glad to help out. I'll run your life for you without any charge. You will still attend church of course, but just abide by a few simple rules and we'll get along fine. Let me list them for you:

1. DON'T ever attend a missionary meeting if you have anything else to do.

2. DON'T attend prayer meeting. They pray too much for missions.

3. DON'T read your Bible daily, only on Sunday.

4. DON'T go near a Bible college or conference. They are both the camp of the enemy.

5. DON'T allow your friends to talk about missions in your presence. Guilt feelings are a cause of mental disturbance.

If however, with all these precautions you should hear of a missionary crying for help, a church presenting a financial missionary need, or read (quite by accident) a prayer letter, simply shake your head, sigh, and say, "Isn't it too bad." This will clear your conscience, create a favorable impression, and won't cost you a thing. □

The Regular Sunday Morning Service

A flock of geese once lived together in a barnyard. Once a week they gathered in a corner of the yard and one of the more eloquent of their number mounted the fence to speak of the wonders of geese.

He recounted the exploits of their forefathers, who mounted on wings and flew the trackless wastes of the sky. He spoke of the goodness of the Creator who had given geese the urge to migrate and wings to fly. And as he spoke the geese would nod their heads and marvel at these things and comment on the eloquence of the preaching goose. All this they did. But one thing they never did: they did not fly. They went back to their waiting dinner for the corn was good and the barnyard secure. □

Evolution Versus The Bible

By Carl R. Bollinger

Evolution is the theory that traces the ancestry of all living things back to a speck of protoplasm. This protoplasm, in the form of a living cell, is said to have come into existence hundreds of millions of years ago. Evolution says all forms of life developed into their present structure by natural means. Man, for example, developed from an ape-like creature. This creature's ancestry is traced back through a quadruped, then a reptile, then a fish, then

through an invertebrate and finally back to a single-celled animal that lived in the slime of the sea. All of these changes came about without God's work. There was no supernatural origin and no control of development.

Charles Darwin wrote, "I would give absolutely nothing for the theory of natural selection (evolution) if it requires miraculous additions at any one stage of descent." Julian Huxley says that supernaturalism "runs counter

to the whole of our scientific knowledge ... To postulate a divine interference with the exchange of matter and energy at a particular moment in the earth's history is both unnecessary and illogical."

Adam and Eve

The evolutionist claims that Adam and Eve are symbolic types for the first men and women. Many Adams and Eves emerged from their ape-like ancestors. In contrast to this the Bible refers to creation as an accepted event. See Luke 3:28; Romans 5:14; 1 Cor. 11:9; 15:22, 45; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-

14. Our Lord Jesus spoke of Adam and Eve in Matthew 19:4 and Mark 10:6. If it had not been true He would have told us.

If man evolved from an animal what then is the source of evil in mankind? The evolutionists say it is a remnant of the bestial nature and that man someday will develop beyond evil tendencies. Man is to improve until wars cease and prosperity is the rule. But Romans 5:12 says, "by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin ..." Sin entered the world through Adam and by inheritance all mankind is

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A Sermon To Preachers

I am greatly disappointed with some
preachers of today,
With their logic and their ethics; their
aristocratic way;
With their science and their theories and
their new Theology
Full of everything but Jesus and His love
for you and me.
There is plenty in the Bible for the
preachers of today,
If they will but search its pages and for
help divine would pray;
For God's Word is everlasting and
it never will grow old—
'Tis indeed a priceless treasure — far more
precious e'en than gold.

What we want is consecration in a good
true man of God,
With a Bible education, and a love for
God's dear Word;
Who can lead us and direct us to the
truth, the life, the way,
Which brings peace to soul and body
through the burdens of the day.

If the preachers in our churches would
preach Jesus crucified,
How through love for us He suffered,
and through love for us He died,
Then our pews would not be empty, as
so many are today,
But be filled to overflowing in a
Pentecostal way.

What we need is just plain Gospel, in the
good old-fashioned way,
Place of Emerson or Shakespeare, or
some topic of the day.
What care we for all their sayings, or
their teachings true and tried?
We want just the dear old story of the
Savior crucified.
That alone can make men better, that
alone can make men free—
Just the precious, dear old story, of God's
love for you and me;
That is what the people's wanting, there
is where the crowd will be;
Where they hear the same old story
which they heard at mother's knee.

VERSUS...

(Continued from page 16)

evil. We know that animals do not misbehave so animals could not have passed on evil to man. The Bible clearly states that Satan is the source of evil and man is the recipient.

Now, if there were no sin, there would be no need for a savior. There would be nothing to be saved from and Christ's death would be meaningless. To the evolutionist His death is a beautiful example of complete dedication to an ideal, and not a substitutionary act of redemption.

This theory claims evolution as a fact that has been divinely directed instead of coming through a natural process. Those holding this position believe it to be a grander concept to think of God working this way. But, the Bible expressly states that Eve was made from Adam's side and not by an evolutionary process.

The original theory of evolution was atheistic and though polished by recent proponents to make it more palatable to a "Christian" society it remains basically atheistic. A Christian makes a grave mistake in conceding that God so devised a creation that would evolve. To admit that these things just happened without previous design is to rule God out of the process of development. To accept man's self-improvement is to rule out the future tribulation period and the necessity for Christ to return to the earth as the Prince of Peace.

Threshold Evolution Or Progressive Creation

This theory states that as creatures evolved they reached stopping places, but God stepped in, created a slightly higher order and brought the evolutionary process over the threshold so that it could evolve more.

These and many other variations in the theory permits a "foot in the door" for the atheistic evolutionist. The American Scientific Affiliation began with the aim "to study those topics germane to the conviction that the framework of scientific knowledge and a conservative Christian faith are compatible." But later Dr. Frank Cassel wrote "Thus in 15 years we have seen develop within the ASA a spectrum of belief in evolution that would have shocked all of us at the inception of our organization." Later he writes, "As we begin seriously, critically, and objectively to examine data of evolution we become less and less convinced of its refutability." To accept changes due to heredity or environment as evidences of evolution is to permit a wedge of doubt which will soon permeate all.

We therefore can not accommodate atheistic philosophies in Biblical interpretation. It is true we do not know how God created all things but we know He said He did create, this we believe. Variations and changes in species do occur but this does not prove evolution. It is a grave mistake to label this as a part of evolution which we must accept . □

WNR...

(Continued from page 8)

God's words just as they stand. The first commentary of that sort was the devil in the Garden of Eden. He proposed only a slight change, just the one word 'not' to be inserted — 'Ye shall *not* surely die.' The amendment was accepted and the world was lost. Satan is repeating that sort of commentary with every generation of hearers." In our day the devil would no doubt have based his exegesis upon his superior knowledge of the original Hebrew.

* * *

"Beware of False Prophets." "Prophecy seminars" are being held across America by Seventh-day Adventists who rarely tell who they are in their slick and very colorful brochures, and they often use other public buildings so the gullible public will not know it is an Adventist church. They use a lot of direct mail and offer "college credit" for taking these courses. Few Christians today are spending enough time learning their Bibles to avoid being duped by Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses and other sects that are capitalizing on the fears of people have about future things. And Bible-believing preachers have never had a better opportunity to keep abreast of what's going on to enlighten our people with true Bible prophecy and prepare them for His glorious return!

A "New" Tipper. Al Gore's wife, Tipper, got behind the conga drums on the stage with the Grateful Dead rock band at a fund-raiser for her husband's presidential campaign. Before her own children became teens, she once spoke out boldly against such raunch.

* * *

City Confiscates Church's Sign. A church's lawn sign was carted off by the city. A crew from the Washington, D.C., Department of Public Works arrived at Lincoln Park United Methodist Church June 1, 2000, disconnected the new \$5,000 sign, loaded it onto a flatbed truck, and drove away, *The Washington Post* reported. On the sign were the words, "Was it Adam and Eve, or Adam and Steve?" and a reference to Genesis 2:18-25, which describes God's creating Eve from Adam. Neighbors have campaigned for two months to get rid of the sign, saying it violated historic preservation standards, blocked views of traffic, and screamed the church's moral teachings, *The Post* Reported ... The church says it was not the sign but what was on the sign that angered residents. "If the gay community can rally and have a movement to support their right to a cause, why can't we freely express our beliefs?" Pastor Harold D. Lewis, Sr., said.

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Two Versions of John 3:16

Brother Blank of the First Baptist Church of Pigeon Holler, so loved the world that he gave up what was dear to him, so that the work of the Lord and His church might go forward. This he did that men might know of the eternal life and not perish.

Brother Blank of the First Baptist Church of Big City, so loved himself that he withheld all but a trifling amount of his money, that he might gratify his own whims, caring little whether his Lord and His church could carry on. This he did in spite of the fact that he knew men would perish without the word of eternal life. □

WNR...

(Continued from page 17)

New Book Says WCC Infiltrated by KGB. A new book, *National Protestantism and the Ecumenical Movement: Church Activities During the Cold War*, by Mikhail Gundyayev, based on KGB files opened in 1992, confirms that at the height of the Cold War the World Council of Churches was "infiltrated" by E. European intelligence agencies and that one of its former presidents (Metropolitan Nikodim) was a KGB agent. Gundyayev represents the Russian Orthodox Church at the WCC's Geneva headquarters. — CC

Four Ecumenical

Groups Admit Homosexuals. A gay-oriented denomination has been admitted into membership by church councils in four states. The Colorado Council of Churches became the fourth such group to admit the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), the others are in North Carolina, Hawaii and California. James Ryan, council executive for the Colorado group, said the action didn't endorse positions held by MCC but is "a statement of the inclusive nature of Christian unity," according to the Associated Press. The MCC, founded in 1968, has an estimated 45,000 members. — Religion Today

Moonies Honor Falwell. A special reception on Capitol Hill honored Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon and was sponsored by his *Washington Times* Foundation, with members of Congress attending. The event included an "American Century Awards" ceremony. Dr. Jerry Falwell was honored with the Foundation's Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for Freedom, Faith and Family and for "overcoming man's inhumanity to man." The 3/20/00 *Christian News* article we're quoting from said: "Falwell has appeared at three previous Moon gatherings, including one in Uruguay in 1995, and he has relied on Moon's largess to bail him out of tight financial spots. In 1997 a Moon front group called the Women's Federation

for World Peace funneled \$3.5 million to a non-Moon group to alleviate financial problems at Falwell's Liberty University. In 1996 a Moon publishing group lent Falwell \$400,000 for use at Liberty. ..." Moon claims to be the Messiah sent to complete the failed mission of Jesus. Falwell says he has addressed several groups Moon attended, and said: "I preach for the Moonies ... the Mormons ... the Catholics ... the Jews. ..." — CC

Hindu Hostility Toward Christians In India. Missionaries should be expelled from India, say a prominent Hindu leader. K. S. Sudarshan said the government should establish an all-Indian church and tell foreign missionaries "to pack up and go," according to ... a British tabloid. Sudarshan is a leader of the radical Hindu Rashtrya Swayamsevak Sangh spiritual organization, which has close ties to the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Hindu ruling political party. ... [Christians] have been the targets of a well-orchestrated campaign of hate and calumny" in recent years, Christian leaders [said]. Radical Hindus, with the tacit approval of government officials, have attacked Christians and their churches and homes. — Religion Today

College Student Dragged to Psyche Ward After Dispute Over Blas-

phemous Play. Officials at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA allegedly had student Michael A. Marcavage involuntarily committed to a state mental hospital after he initiated a Christian response to a blasphemous play performed on campus. ... Marcavage was a junior at the university in the fall of 1999, when he discovered that the Temple University Theater Department would be performing the play *Corpus Christi* on campus. *Corpus Christi* inflamed Christians around the country, and especially in New York City, when it was first performed on Broadway in 1998. The play depicts Jesus as a homosexual who has sex with His disciples and was crucified for being "king of the queers." — AFA Journal. □

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19:17). This tells us that Jesus came forth, carrying His cross. "And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross" (Mt. 27:32).

13 Prophecy: The prophecy of His thirst. "I am weary of my crying; my throat is dried" (Psa. 69:3).

Fulfillment: "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst" (Jn. 19:28).

14. Prophecy: What would they give Him to

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drink? "In my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink" (Psa. 69:21).

Fulfillment: "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall; and when he had tasted thereof; he would not drink" (Mt. 27:34). "Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth" (Jn. 19:29).

15. Prophecy: They stare at Jesus on the cross. The minutest details are prophesied. "They look and stare upon me" (Psa. 22:17).

Fulfillment: "And sitting down they watched him there" (Mt. 27:36).

16. Prophecy: They pierced hands and feet. "They pierced my hands and my feet" (Psa. 22:16).

Fulfillment: "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left" (Lk. 23:33).

17. Prophecy: The pierced side. "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced" (Zech. 12:10).

Fulfillment: "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water" (Jn. 19:34).

18. Prophecy: His heart was broken. "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax: it is melted in the midst of my bowels" (Psa. 22:14).

Fulfillment: "But one

of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water" (Jn. 19:34). The blood and water issuing from His side, indicated extravasation of the heart, a broken heart.

19. Prophecy: Our Lord's mother and friends in prophecy. "My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore (wounds); and my kinsmen stand afar off" (Psa. 38:11).

Fulfillment: "And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things" (Lk. 23:49).

20. Prophecy: The mockery of the people in prophecy. "I became also a reproach unto them. When they looked upon me they shook their heads" (Psa. 109:25).

Fulfillment: And they that passed by reviled him wagging their heads. And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Mt. 27:39-40).

21. Prophecy: The railing, hatred, and taunting of the mob. "He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him" (Psa. 22:8).

Fulfillment: "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God" (Mt. 27:43).

22. Prophecy: The prophecy of the Lamb of God. "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter" (Isa.

53:7).

Fulfillment: "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29).

23. Prophecy: The prophecy of His intercession for the transgressors. "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12).

Fulfillment: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34).

24. Prophecy: The intense lonely cry in the midnight hour of His suffering. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Psa. 22:1).

Fulfillment: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mt. 27:46).

25. Prophecy: The prophecy of His marred visage, due to the brutality of the soldiers. "As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men" (Isa. 52:14).

Fulfillment: Pilate called to the mob: "Behold the Man!" "Behold your King!" to call their attention to His marred visage, and to excite their sympathy, for Pilate wanted to release Him (Jn. 19:5, 14).

26. Prophecy: The cry of victory and triumph. In the Authorized Version the latter part of the verse reads,

"He hath done this." In the original Hebrew it reads, "It is finished!" (Psa. 22:31).

Fulfillment: "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, it is finished! and he bowed his head, and gave up the Ghost" (Jn. 19:30; Lk. 23:46).

27. Prophecy: The Lord Jesus Christ commends His Spirit to His Father. "Into thine hand I commit my spirit" (Psa. 31:5).

Fulfillment: "Into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Lk. 23:46).

28. Prophecy: A wonderful prophecy uttered 1490 years before its fulfillment. "In one house shall it be eaten; thou shall not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof" (Ex. 12:46). Not a bone of the typical Pass-over Lamb was to be broken, and so it was with Christ.

Fulfillment: "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs" (Jn. 19:33). "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken" (Jn. 19:36).

29. Prophecy: It was foretold 700 years before that He was to be numbered with the transgressors. "He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12).

Fulfillment: "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefac-

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How Big Is Space?

“Consider how inconceivably huge is the stage on which creation unfolds. A quick trip out into the universe at the speed of light, 186,281 miles-per-second and in a mere 1 1/3 seconds, we pass the moon. In 5 hours we’re out of our solar system. But it is 4 years later before we approach the *nearest* star. Going on through the Milky Way (our Galaxy of stars), we pass a star only every five *years* on the average, despite traveling at more than 11,000 miles per minute. Yet there are 100 billion stars in our galaxy. It would take 80,000 years to go from one end of it to the other. Once out of it, space is really empty, for the next galaxy, *Andromeda*, is 2,300,000 *years* away. Our own sun, an average star, is about 1 million miles in diameter.

“But even after *Andromeda* we’re not really out in the ‘wide open spaces’ yet. The Galaxies come in groups. Some have as few as three galaxies. Our own is a cluster of about 17, called the ‘local group.’ The largest group, *Hercules* (it would take us 300 million years to reach it), has more than 10,000 galaxies, each containing *billions* of stars. In all, there are *at least 10 billion* galaxies in the *known universe*.” *National Geographic Magazine* says perhaps 100 billion galaxies. — *Reader’s Digest*, May

1970).

“Imagine the thickness of this paper to be equal to the distance from earth to the sun (93,000,000 + miles). There the distance to the *NEAREST* star equals a stack of paper 71 feet high (4 1/3 light years). Also — diameter of our own galaxy (*Milky Way*) would take a 310 mile high stack (100,000 light years) while the edge of the known universe is not reached until the pile of paper is 31 million miles high (1/3 of the way to the sun. — **National Geographic Magazine**, May 1974.

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? ... O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” (Psa. 8:3-4, 9). □

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tors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left” (Lk. 23:33).

30. Prophecy: The Messiah was to be cut off, but not for Himself. “And after three-score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself” (Dan. 9:26).

Fulfillment: “Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of him-

self; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; and not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad” (Jn. 11:50-52).

31. Prophecy: The oldest prophecy of all uttered by the Lord Himself, at least 4,000 years before (Gen. 3:15). “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

Fulfillment: The heel of the Lord Jesus Christ was bruised when He was crucified, for the nails were driven through His feet, thus bruising His heels. Fulfilled (Jn. 12:31-33). The execution of this sentence will take place when Christ returns (Rom. 16:20).

32. Prophecy: The place of the burial of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ is predicted. “And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth” (Isa. 53:9).

Fulfillment: “When the even was come, there came a rich man of *Arimathaea*, named *Joseph*, who also himself was *Jesus’* disciple: He went to *Pilate*, and begged the body of *Jesus*. Then *Pilate* commanded the body to be delivered. And when *Joseph* had taken the body, he rapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock;

and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed” (Mt. 27:57-60).

33. Prophecy: A great *Calvary* miracle prophecy, wonderful! Uttered about 800 years before. “And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord (*Jehovah*) God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon and I will darken the earth in the clear day” (Amos 8:9). One of the most profound prophecies of the Word of God. On the day that the Savior would be crucified, there would be darkness at noonday.

Fulfillment: “Now from the sixth hour (noon, Jewish reckoning) there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour” (Mt. 27:45).

My dear friend and reader, let us ask you three questions as given in the Bible: 1. “What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is he?” (Mt. 22:42). 2. “Whom say ye that I am?” (Mt. 16:15). 3. The third is *Pilate’s* question: “what shall I do then with *Jesus* who is called Christ?” (Mt. 27:22). The only way to rightly answer these questions is: To believe this Son of the Living God, the Lord Jesus Christ, to accept and receive Him as your crucified, risen glorified and returning Savior, and obey Him and confess Him as such before the world. This is the only honest way. Your answer and mine will determine our eternal destiny.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only

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begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). □

COURT...

(Continued from page 5)

Bible reading in the schools in clear violation of the Constitution while American Bible believers let them get away with it! We should have demanded that the Senate impeach those wicked judges and replace them with Christian judges. And just look at the price we are paying: School shootings, abortions, fatherless children, pandemic sexually transmitted diseases, out of control crime, etc.!

The Founding Fathers

John Jay was one of the great Founding Fathers. He helped write the Constitution and served as the very first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He was also president of the American Bible Society! This godly man wrote, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the *duty*, as well as the

privilege and interest of our *Christian nation* to select and *prefer Christians for their rulers!*" According to Jay, it is a sin not to vote, and it is even worse to vote for those who don't believe the Bible!

Another tremendous Founding Father was **James Madison**, known as the "Father of the Constitution." This outstanding man of God wrote about the Constitution, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it ... (but) upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the **Ten Commandments of God!**" But Satan's henchmen are working night and day to keep the Ten Commandments out of our schools, and Bible believers are doing almost nothing to stop them.

Traitors To America!

Only those who have a satanic hatred for the Bible, the Name of Jesus, and our Forefathers can read these documents without clearly seeing that the Founders were solid Bible believers who were building a new Nation on the Bible. The tragic condition in American schools and society today is the result of shyster lawyers, wicked judges, and bribed politicians, with the permission of lazy Bible believers. These leaders have betrayed their oath of office, the Constitution, our

Founding Fathers and 343 years of Christian historical precedent. Bible believers should vote these scoundrels out and replace them only with Bible believers. If we don't we are betraying our Founding Fathers, but even worse we are disobeying Almighty God who is holding us responsible for the condition of our once Great Nation and *our children's future*. — The Missionary Challenge □

TABASCO...

(Continued from page 3)

Church. All of them had their families with them so that we had a large crowd present for this period of Bible study. Following that we went into a study of the ordinances of a Baptist church. In the afternoon we had a discussion of the government of a church and a treatment of certain Pentecostal teachings such as speaking in tongues and the scriptural place of women in the church.

In the evening we had another evangelistic service and two responded to the message and made professions of faith and we made plans that evening for services on Sunday morning at 10 A.M. at the church building, and from there we would go to the river for the baptismal service.

In the morning I preached to them on the subject of baptism and after we closed the service with prayer we went to the river which was about one and a half miles from the church building.

Walking along the path to the river I saw some men

carrying a alligator that had been killed and had been dressed for eating. I learned that this alligator had been taken from the same river, but they assured me that I didn't have to worry about crocodiles where we were, as they were a little bit up the river and underneath the undergrowth that grew next to the river bank.

When we arrived at the river bank I noticed that a small crowd was following us, and by the time we had walked out into the water to perform the baptism, there was quite a large crowd standing around on the bank. They had seen us walking through the streets of the town and out to the river and knowing something was about to happen, they followed us out to see what it was all about.

I stood in the water about 100 feet from the bank and had the line of women on my left and line of men on my right and after a word of prayer and verse of a hymn, I began the act of baptism and baptized the entire group. Turning again and seeing the crowd standing on the bank, I knew that they were seeing baptism (immersion) for the first time and did not understand what it was all about. Also, knowing that they would not come to the services, I knew that it would be my only opportunity to preach to them, so for about 20 minutes I preached to them on the significance of baptism and preached them a gospel message.

Following the baptismal

(See **TABASCO** on page 22)

Pass It On!

We would appreciate it if our readers would pass the information on to others that **The Baptist Challenge** is now available on the Internet. A mention in your church bulletin or paper giving the Internet address would be appreciated and if you can send out Emails, please notify those on your mailing list about TBC being available. Thanks.

TABASCO...

(Continued from page 21)

service, we returned to the town and ate dinner and then went to the church for the organization of the church.

When the group met for the afternoon service, we called the meeting together with a word of prayer and the singing of a hymn. There seemed to be a hush and a stillness over the audience as they realized the solemnity of the occasion. As the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant were read, it seemed that every ear was strained so as not to miss a single word. Bro. Isidro Estrella read the Articles of Faith and Bro. Raul Garcia read the Church Covenant and following their adoption, they then voted to resolve themselves into a Baptist church. Most of them in the congregation did not have dry eyes as they realized that they were being privileged in being charter members of the first Baptist church to be organized in the state, and they solemnly pledged to each other that they would strive together to see that others of their state would come to know the truth as they had. They selected the name of "The First Independent Immanuel Baptist Church."

Since that time I have received a letter from Bro. Raul Garcia telling me of the persecution that is being brought to bear on them. Not only have the Catholics sought to persecute them, but the Presbyterians as well.

This is a new work in Tabasco. The members are now members in the Baptist

church and so we need to remember them in our prayers in a great way, and especially as they face the problems that they have now. I feel that each one of our readers should remember this church in your prayers today so that they might be given the strength and courage to stand up under the hardships and persecutions. □

WORK...

(Continued from page 1)

1. *He is preparing a place for us.* "I go to prepare a place for you" (Jn. 14:2). That place, in the light of other Scripture, is evidently the New Jerusalem, the city that John saw descending from God out of heaven. Will that be our headquarters, even during the Millennium? We know it will following the Millennium.

2. *He is carrying an intercessory work for us* (Heb. 7:25). "He ever liveth to make intercession for us." That is primarily why a saved person will never "fall from grace." Christ does not intercede by presenting our good deeds before the Father, pleading leniency for us upon that basis. No, He pleads His own sacrificial death, coupled with the fact that we have trusted in the merits of that death. For a saved person to lose salvation, would mean that Christ's intercession has proved to be in vain.

Christ is now "our great High Priest," exercising a high priestly ministry for us in the heavens.

3. *Christ is now seated at the Father's right hand, waiting for the time when*

His enemies shall be made His footstool (Heb. 10:12-13). This is in accordance with the prophecy of David, where the Father is represented as saying, "Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool." Note that men shall not do this by "bringing in the kingdom," for the Father says, "Until I make ..." God the Father prepares the time when the enemies of His Son shall be vanquished.

4. *Christ is now away to "receive a Kingdom and to return"* (Lk. 19:12-19). He is to be invested with the authority to return to this earth, and to take over a kingdom. That investiture is described by Daniel (Dan. 7:13-14). There is the picture of One brought before the "Ancient of Days," and He is given a kingdom. This evidently is a picture of what happens in Heaven just before Jesus returns to this earth. What happens on earth just following this is revealed to us in Revelation 11:15-19. How absurd is the theory of men bringing in the kingdom, in the light of these Scriptures.

5. *Christ is now calling out from among the Gentiles "a people for his name."* He has an elect people, given Him in the covenant of redemption, before the foundation of the world was laid, and these He is busy calling out during this age (See Acts 15:14-18). This is not the age of the "bringing in of the kingdom" — it is the age of out-calling. Thus churches and Christians should be concerned about

missionary and evangelistic endeavors — not about bringing in the kingdom, which is a thing that will be done by the Lord Himself in His own good time.

The devil wants to get churches and Christians to forget the eternal purpose of God in this age, and he succeeds in doing it. He gets churches to build immense church plants, spending tens of thousands of dollars on recreational equipment. He gets them to spend great sums on hospitals and educational institutions — something that has no authorization in the Scriptures whatsoever. The Lord never commissioned us to give people secular education, or to go into the business of healing the sick. The mission of Christianity is to the soul, and the message of Christianity is a message which when received results in people obtaining eternal life.

The faithful, called out, during this age, will rule and reign with Christ over this earth in the Millennial age just ahead. "If we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him." Do you believe that, or do you seek to spiritualize it away? Paul said, "Know ye not that the saints shall judge (rule) the world?" Most people don't know it!

This age is not an end in itself — it is preparatory to the glorious age ahead during which Christ shall sit upon the "throne of his father David," and shall have His faithful ones associated with Him in the rulership of this world. □

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 1)

clear that baptism had no saving efficacy whatsoever. "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel" (1 Cor. 1:17). Or we might place it in our own words, "For Christ sent me not to baptize but to evangelize," and there is a world of difference between the two. Because salvation is placed before baptism in every instance in the New Testament, we can readily see that only a Baptist church fulfills the commission in this point. Others will sprinkle (baptize as they call it) small infants or else they immerse for the purpose of saving the person. Either of these two is unscriptural and is not following the command of Christ.

The second part of the command of Christ is to make them Baptist. This is seen in the command to baptize the disciples. This command was given to the people who had been baptized by John the Baptist, hence it was Baptist baptism. A requirement for being an Apostle was that he be baptized by John the Baptist (Acts 1:15-26). John's baptism was Christian baptism and from the material that John prepared, Christ built His church and His church was a Baptist church.

There are four requirements for Scriptural baptism.

(1) A regenerated person. A person who is not born again is not a proper candidate for baptism. If he is immersed, then he has

not been baptized only "ducked." If he went under a dead sinner, he comes out a dead sinner. Water will not change his heart.

(2) The right mode. The only scriptural mode for baptism is by immersion. Any one who will make a detailed study of the different accounts of baptism in the New Testament can readily see that an immersion is the only mode which will satisfy each case. Further, the word itself comes from a Greek word meaning "to dip" or "immerse," and all Pedobaptist scholars are forced to admit this fact. They say that the "how" doesn't make any difference; one way is as good as another," but it does make a difference. It determines whether one is following the command of Christ or changing the command of Christ to suit his own fancy. It is a matter of obedience.

(3) The right motive. For those who believe that baptism is essential for salvation, even though they may use the scriptural mode of immersion, they do not have scriptural baptism. A person is baptized because he *has* been saved not *in order to* be saved.

(4) The right authority. The last requirement is the right authority. Jesus gave His New Testament church the authority to baptize and only His church. No individual has the authority to baptize even though he may be a Christian or even a preacher. Any baptism which comes from any other church than the one Christ founded is

not scriptural baptism even though it may meet all of the other requirements.

A simple way to determine what baptism is scriptural baptism today is to check history records and see what date the different denominations or churches were founded. A check of this nature will reveal that only one church has existed on this earth continuously from the time of Christ, and that is the Baptist church. Baptist churches today are the only churches who date their ancestry back to the time of Christ. The Roman Catholic church attempts to but miserably fails to do so. "**The Trail of Blood**" by J. M. Carroll will confirm this statement as will "**The Church That Jesus Built**" by B. H. Hillard of Lockland, Ohio.

The head and founder of every other denomination can be found in the histories. Christ said "I will build my church." Any church begun by anyone else at any time after the lifetime of Christ cannot have scriptural baptism.

Thus we see then that the commission to the New Testament church was to make the new disciples Baptists. For those who reject the baptism of John the Baptist as Christian baptism, they place themselves with the Pharisees and other hypocrites who "rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him." This passage (Luke 7:30) is speaking of the baptism of John the Baptist. All present when Christ gave this command

were Baptists as all had been baptized by John the Baptist.

It was given to them not as preachers or individuals, but as a church, for it was to be obeyed to the end of the age, and none of them would live that long. This command of Christ was a definite command to make men Christians by preaching the gospel to them and then make them Baptists by giving them Baptist baptism, for that was the only kind there was at the time the commission was given. No one else but Baptists can obey this commission because no one else has the kind of baptism that Jesus commanded Christians to submit to, and no one else can do what this commission enjoins, that is, make the disciples Baptists by giving them Baptist baptism.

Third, we are to indoctrinate them. We are to make them Christians and then make them Baptists and then indoctrinate them of the truths in the Word of God. Churches of today are fast losing this part of the commission. In most churches today very little doctrine is taught. Instead they have short programs every Sunday evening, which maybe once a year will touch upon some doctrine, and then in only a half-hearted way. Ask the average church member today why he is a Baptist, and why he believes such and such a thing, and he'll not be able to give you an answer.

(See **CHURCH** on page 24)

Fellowship And Conferences

SIoux FALLS, SD

October 1-3, 2001, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Dr. Ron Tottingham, Pastor.

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COLDWATER, MS

October 7-11, 2001, Victory Baptist Church, Dan Hall, Pastor. (662) 233-2102, (888) 289-8745.

* * *

LEXINGTON, KY

October 22-24, 2001, Bryan Station Baptist Church, 3175 Briar Hill Rd., Lexington, KY 40516, Al Gormley, Pastor.

* * *

FT. WORTH, TX

October 29-31, 2001, Lake Worth Baptist Church, 4445 Hodgkins Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76135, Jerry D. Locke, Pastor.

* * *

CINCINNATI, OH

November 12-15, 2001, Central Baptist Church, 7645 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45224, James W. Love, Pastor.

CHURCHES...

(Continued from page 23)

Churches of today should remember the command or charge of Paul to Timothy that we are to "exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine, for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables" (2 Tim. 4:2-4). I am afraid that this is the case with many of the churches today. Preachers who really preach the Bible in its entirety are not wanted in the average pulpit today; they are unwelcomed. Baptists of today should wake up to this important part of their commission and should indoctrinate the people.

The last function of a New Testament church is to be a missionary church. This does not mean that the word "missionary" must be in the name of the church, but it means that they must be missionary in practice. There are many churches today who have the words "Missionary Baptist" over the door, and yet do no mission work at all. Many of these do not even make a pretense of doing missionary work. These churches are the kind who "talk the talk, but don't walk the walk." Hardshells (Primitive Baptists) fail utterly at this point as they do not "go." They do not preach the gospel. They have no gospel to

sinners, yea, they have no gospel at all.

A New Testament church must be a missionary church. To do this mission work best one should consult the churches in the New Testament in order to learn how this is done. When one does, he will find that it was the churches themselves who sent out the missionaries. The Holy Spirit spoke to the churches when calling men to go as missionaries as is seen in the calling of Saul and Barnabas, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2). There was no Mission Board, Directors, Secretaries, etc. or any other society to regulate the work of missions, but each individual church had control of its own work. The missionaries (Paul being one of the main ones) made reports back to the local church (Acts 14:26-28), and never through a board or agency. There is no scripture anywhere for a Mission Board, Missions Committee, Mission Secretary, Mission Director, etc., or anything else other than a New Testament church. These different organizations are all foreign to the Scriptures and wholly man made.

Thus we see that the commission was given to a church that had these four distinguishing marks. The Founder of that church was baptized by the first Baptist preacher and or-

ganized His church out of material baptized by that same preacher. Its members were all baptized by the first Baptist preacher or by those who were baptized by him. This church had no overlords or ruling elders or bosses. All of these marks fit no other church but a Baptist church. It was therefore a Baptist church to whom the Lord gave this commission and since all other New Testament churches are patterned after this church and working under the same commission, all New Testament churches are Baptist churches.

Does this mean that there are no Christians in other denominations? No! There are Christians who are members of other denominations, but it does mean that there are Christians in other denominations who are not obedient Christians. They have not received New Testament baptism, nor are they members of a New Testament church, the church that Christ founded.

Will they be lost because of it? No! But they are losing many of the joys of their salvation which comes by obedience to Christ, and as such will lose some of their rewards because of a lack of obedience.

Have you had New Testament baptism? Are you a member of a New Testament church? A Baptist church is the only church which can answer for these two problems. □

