

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XXXX, No. 2

February 2002

WHOLE NO. 448

Love Everybody -- Except

By James L. Boyer

So often we hear the accusation that there is a lack of love for their brethren on the part of fundamentalists. For sixteen years I served as a pastor in the denomination where I found the Lord and where I received my early training in the Word of God. Amid the rapidly growing apostasy in that church I attempted to maintain a testimony for the true gos-

pel. I heard this accusation repeatedly, and the "gospel of love" constantly harped upon, and I saw how it worked among the liberal churchmen who preached it.

I saw love and tolerance shown to the pink advocates of socialism and the recognition of communism. I saw love and loyalty pressed as a reason for keeping silent about the in-

roads modernism was making in the seminary and colleges of the denomination. I saw love and understanding used to excuse the breakdown of moral standards in the churches and church institutions. I saw love and humility employed to belittle convictions and undermine men's faith in the great Christian teachings. I saw love and brotherhood held up as jus-

tification for co-operation with Christ-denying and un-Scriptural organizations and programs. I saw love exalted as the only really important Christian virtue.

But, strangely enough, I saw this love directed towards everyone except the one who believed the Bible. Against the fundamentalist these preachers

(See **LOVE** on page 24)

NYC Ok's Prayer In School — For Muslims

That anti-religion bastion of political correctness, the New York City public school system, has quietly sanctioned prayer in schools — but only if you're a Muslim who wants to worship during Ramadan.

In a talk radio exclusive, New York's WABC Radio has been airing reports on the school systems program for Muslims for weeks. Late Wednesday,

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Editor & Wife To Celebrate 55 Years of Marriage

It was February 23, 1947 that M. L. Moser, Jr. and Edith Moser stood in the front of Central Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas to join hands in marriage. It was M. L. Moser, Sr. who stood before them to pronounce them "husband and wife," words that were to still be in effect some 55 years later.

Both of us have spent our entire married life in the Lord's service. First as

missionaries in Mexico for 13 years, then accepting the call as pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Little Rock for another 29 years, retiring from the pastorate to spend the remainder of his life dedicated to the Challenge Press, the work in Mexico, and editing *The Baptist Challenge*.

God has been good to both of us during these 55 years, although we are both

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The Heritage of Freedom

A precious heritage of Baptists for centuries, based on scriptural facts of the early church is that of complete independence and autonomy of the local churches. Often greedy political systems have sought to intervene between the church and God, to regulate, control, and to make the churches serve mammon instead of God. These political systems

(See **FREE** on page 24)

Quiz The Pastor -- #7**If Jesus Was Raised From the Dead, Where Is He Today?****By the late Nick Michalinos**

Question: If Jesus was raised from the dead, where is He today?

Answer: The record that God gave of His Son Jesus (1 Jn. 5:12) clearly states that Jesus the Christ was raised from the dead (Mt. 26:6; Mk. 16:1-4; Lk. 24:1-49; Jn. 20:1-23; 1 Cor. 15:4-8, 20, 23; Jn. 14:1-3, 19).

It was not a spiritual resurrection. His was a literal, bodily resurrection, with "flesh and bones" that could be handled and touched (Lk. 24:39). He showed Himself alive to His disciples "by many infallible proofs, being seen of them 40 days (Acts 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:4-8).

His resurrection is part of the "gospel" (1 Cor. 15:4), and we are told that one must believe in the resurrection of Christ in order to be saved (Rom.

10:9-10). The fact of His resurrection is scripturally settled.

After His resurrection and His 40 days stay with His disciples, the scripture states that after "He had spoken these things (to them) while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight," and at that time two angels spoke to His disciples and said, "Why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you *into heaven* shall so in like manner as ye have seen him go *into heaven*" (Acts 1:9, 11).

This "same Jesus" in His spiritual, immortal, resurrected body, ascended up into Heaven and has been there for the last 1900 years. He "entered ... into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God

for us" (Heb. 9:24). Heaven's location is said to be "far above all heavens" (Eph. 4:10), also called "the heaven of heavens" (Neh. 9:5; 1 Ki. 8:27), "the third heaven" and "paradise" (2 Cor. 12:2, 4).

The other heavens mentioned are the first heaven which is the atmospheric heaven, the second heaven which is the starry heaven, and, of course, God's dwelling place, the third heaven, where our Lord Jesus presently resides.

The Word of God goes so far as to tell us the exact place our Lord now occupies in heaven. Over 20 times we are told in the Bible that Jesus is "sitting on the right hand of God" the Father. Even in the Old Testament it is prophetically written of this, "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my (Father's) right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Psa. 110:1). Some New Testament verses regarding His seating arrangement at the Father's right hand are Mark 14:62, 16:19, Luke 22:69, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, and 12:2.

When the body of a child of God dies, his spirit immediately goes to be with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23-24), in His wonderful presence in heaven. What a blessing to have this assurance!

And one day soon, the Lord Jesus will leave His place at the right hand of the Father and meet His

ransomed ones, both those who will be resurrected at that time and those then living, "in the air" (1 Thess. 4:13-18), and take them to heaven with Him where they will "appear before the judgement seat of Christ" (2 Cor. 5:10), and then after seven years, to return with Him to earth where He will reign as King with His saints for 1,000 years (Rev. 19:11-21; 20:1-6). The capital of earth at that time will be the city of Jerusalem (Zech. 14). □

The Authority For Faith and —

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both *faith and practice*.

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both *faith and order*.

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both *faith and works*.

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both *faith and principles*.

True New Testament Baptists believe that the Word of God is the rule of both *faith and policies*. □

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE**M. L. Moser, Editor**

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America was born a Christian nation for the purpose of exemplifying unto the nations of the world the principles of righteousness found in the Revelation of God. — Woodrow Wilson

The Independence Of The Local Church

By Chester E. Tulga

1. The New Testament presents only one type of local church: an independent, local assembly under the direction of the Spirit of God and under the authority of Christ, the Head of the Church. Its relationships are purely voluntary, but a deep sense of kinship with other New Testament assemblies is felt and manifested. There is no earthly authority over a New Testament church.

2. The doctrine of the independence of the local church is rooted in the competency of the individual Christian to ascertain the will of God for himself, the necessity for freedom to accept responsibility, and the accountability which individuals and groups have to God for their policies and actions.

3. The New Testament church has the right to own its property free from all outside entanglements, denominational or otherwise; to select its own pastoral leadership; to ordain those called into its ministry; to select its own objects of benevolence; to choose for itself its own religious fellowships; to safeguard its faith; to reject error and to discipline the unruly. It must be free in order that it may give its primary loyalty to Jesus Christ and the Word of God, instead of ecclesias-

tical authority and the programs of men.

4. Individual local churches should voluntarily associate themselves together in Christian fellowship and in Christian tasks whenever such cooperation is desirable or necessary for the larger work of Christ. Such fellowship must be based upon a common faith and common spiritual objectives. The local church has the right to associate itself with other churches or to refrain, and it has the right to discontinue any associations for reasons deemed sufficient by itself.

5. Organized denominationalism, depriving individual churches of their freedom or coercing free churches to abandon their freedom, often prevents local churches from meeting their full responsibility before God for purity of faith and life and full loyalty to the program of the Word of God. Organized denominationalism invariably views the conscientious dissenter from its programs with disfavor and punishes by discrimination and sometimes ostracism in the case of the ministry. Organized denominationalism invariably produces a loyalty to human leadership which undermines the supreme loyalty to Christ

which is the obligation of the church. Organized denominationalism, through the centuries, has a long record of refusing hospitality to the prophets raised up to call it back to God, often forcing them outside the camp in order to obey God. Organized denominationalism glorifies its own program as if it was inspired of God, glorifies its own leadership in disobedience to the Word of God, coerces churches into a blind unquestioning loyalty which paralyzes that spiritual discrimination enjoined by the Word of God. It thus becomes the foe of that independence of authority which is the birthright of every New Testament church.

6. God's answer to the evils of ecclesiasticism is the independent church of Christ, free to do the whole will of God, free to accept or reject human leaders, free to support or refuse to support human programs, free to fellowship or refuse to fellowship with other groups, free to support a prophetic ministry, free to resist apostasy. God's answer to the apostasy of our day and the unity-at-any-price religious unionism of our day, is the call to return to the New Testament faith, the New Testament church, New Testament methods, and New Testament fellowships. There will be no new Reformation unless there is a return to the New Testament church. □

Mr. Kamel Kough

Mr. Kamel Kough says: "There are several reasons why I smoke in front of the church building."

1. We should all be on fire for the Lord, one way or another.

2. Each member should endeavor to let others know his church is on fire for the Lord.

3. Some bum might ask for a smoke and I could invite him to church.

4. When I smoke in front of the building I am showing that our church is not cold and formal.

5. Smoking is a social practice, and we church members should be sociable.

6. Smoking in front of church sanctifies the habit. Its practice has too long been associated with beer joints, gambling dens, etc.

7. If smoking is right in one place, it's right in another.

8. We don't want folks to think that we are so narrow that we don't approve of smoking.

9. My last reason is a personal one. I like to smoke, can't help it, and must do it to satisfy myself. And to be frank, if it were not for this, the other reasons would not need be given. □

I am standing on the promises, walking in His footprints, leaning on His everlasting arms and drinking from the fountain that never runs dry.



Should God-fearing and patriotic Americans respect a man who was un-American, a liar and an immoral trouble-maker?

“A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish” Prov. 19:9.

On January 16th America is told to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. I do not object to celebrating the birthday of a black man (although we do not celebrate Washington’s and Lincoln’s birthdays because they are white!) — lets observe the birthdays of George Washington Carver, John Jasper or Booker T. Washington — but why M. L. King?!!

First of all his name was not originally Martin Luther, he changed it from Michael Luther. Secondly he was *not* an advocate of the U.S. Constitution, a champion for freedom, nor a defender of the faith. M.L. King was born in 1929 to middle income class parents in Atlanta, Georgia. His father, a gruff, self-made man, was pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church

and was outspoken concerning civil liberties. “Reverend King’s boy” became known as bright, talented and mischievous. M. L. King Jr. rebelled against the racial prejudice of the south and his hatred for whites grew as he prepared for college.

M. L. went to Moorehouse College and it was there that he learned that the pulpit could be a powerful forum for ideas and social protest. (“Bringing Glory to God and winning souls through the gospel was not a concern!” DMF). So M. L. King enters the ministry. He went to Crozer Seminary where he became quite concerned about segregation and for blacks to improve themselves in white America. He studied Nat Turner’s slave insurrection, but found tremendous insight from Mohandas Gandhi. Non-violent resistance! — from Henry David Thoreau’s essay on “Civil Disobedience.”

And so from the godless Gandhi — (not Jesus Christ) M. L. King Jr. received his vision, philosophy and strategy. M. L. King later received a Ph.D. from Boston University, was married to Coretta Scott in 1955, and took his first pastorate at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in

Montgomery, Alabama in 1956. King became quite an orator and inspiring leader for the poor, the blacks and for socialistic reformers. King never was Baptist, a Bible teacher or even a professing born-again Christian. King would often appeal to “Zeitgeist” (spirit of the age) as having leadership in his own life. Did King have any legitimate protests and ideas? Of course! Blacks have been discriminated against, but so have Baptists! So have Jews! (Jackson called them Himies). What about the American Indians? And yes even many whites! Neither the Lord Jesus, the Apostle Paul, not even Martin Luther spent twenty minutes trying to change laws nor reconstructing public opinion concerning racial reforms.

When M. L. King visited New York in 1958 he was seriously stabbed with a letter opener ... by a black woman. His popularity increased into a black Messiah or should I say a black Gandhi. King said, “But if you are cut down in a movement designed to save the soul of a nation, no other death could be more redemptive.” Oh really! My Bible says “... *by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place,*

having obtained eternal redemption for us” (Heb. 9:12). King said, “Such a (peaceful) society could be achieved only when people accepted that inner, invisible law that has etched on their hearts the conviction that all men are brothers and that love is mankind’s most potent weapon for personal social transformation.” Again the “Reverend” King makes a serious blunder by preaching another gospel — Social Justice and Racial Equality!

Mr. King was given a Nobel Peace Prize (sic) in 1964. (The blood-thirsty Rev. Tutu was given one a few years ago.) The Nobel Peace Prize is about as credulous as a mud wrestling trophy!

King admitted to being a student of Karl Marx, some of his colleagues were known Communists, considerable Communist funds came to King’s organization — SCLC, and many of M. L.’s ideologies were as Communistic as Fidel Castro’s and Jesse Jackson’s. M. L. King was supposed to be a champion for the poor but he lived luxuriously and fared sumptuously. M.L. King was supposed to be a Reverend with high morals, but the FBI and his own con-

(See **MLK** on page 5)

Who Is Martin Luther King Jr?

By Daniel M. Ferrell

Vital Facts From The Bible

About forty men were engaged in the writing of the Bible, during a period of about 1,600 years — that is, from 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100.

These men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21). They wrote not in words of human wisdom, but in words divinely taught (1 Cor. 2:13).

The Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 773,746 words, 31,102 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The Old Testament contains 39 books; the New Testament 27 books. In point of length, the average word of the Bible contains fewer than five letters.

The word “Jehovah” occurs 6,855 times.

The word “Lord” occurs 1,853 times.

The word “and” occurs 46,277 times.

The book of Esther contains ten chapters, but neither the word “Lord” nor “God” is mentioned.

The middle chapter and shortest is Psalm 117. It contains only two verses.

The middle verse in the Bible is Psalm 118:8.

The middle book of the Old Testament is Proverbs.

The middle chapter of the Old Testament is Job 29.

The middle verse of the Old Testament is 2 Chronicles 20:13.

The shortest verse in

the Old Testament is 1 Chronicles 1:25; the longest, Esther 8:9.

The middle book of the New Testament is Second Thessalonians.

The middle chapter in the New Testament is between Romans 13 and 14.

The middle verse in the New Testament is Acts 17:17.

The shortest verse in the New Testament, in English, is John 11:35; in Greek, 1 Thessalonians 5:16.

The longest word in the Bible is found in Isaiah 8:1.

All the letters of the alphabet, except “J”, are in Ezra 7:21.

The nineteenth chapter of Second Kings and the thirty-seventh chapter of Isaiah are nearly identical.

The Bible holds the distinction of being the first printed book.

The first Bible printed in this country was in the Indian language in 1663. This translation was made and published by John Eliot, called the “Apostle to the Indians.”

The first English Bible printed in this country was in 1782.

The first translation of the Bible made in America was printed in 1808. It was the work of Charles Thomson.

The first translation of the New Testament published in America was

printed in 1826 by Alexander Campbell.

It is not generally known that Noah Webster, author of the famous “Webster’s Dictionary” and the “Blue-Back Speller,” made a translation of the Bible, which was published in 1883.

The King James Version of the Bible was first published in 1611.

The Bible was divided into chapters by Cardinal Hugo in 1250.

The New Testament was divided into verse by Sr. Robert Stephens in 1551.

The whole Bible, divided into chapters and verses, first appeared in 1560 in what is known as the “Geneva Bible.” It was so called because it was prepared by the Reformers in Geneva. It is also called the “Breeches Bible,” because Genesis 3:7 is translated: “They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves *breeches*.”

The Bible is the most translated book in the world. It has been translated into more languages and dialects than any other book.

It is the best book in the world. □

MLK . . .

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stituents proved and confessed him as an adulterer and whoremonger.

CBS, NBC, ABC, Robert Kennedy, LBJ, the Gannet News Syndicate and the ACLU has kept it a secret. Kennedy said that “King’s

personal life did not affect his probity as a civil rights leader.” Many blacks declared that what he did in private was his own business! What about Hart, Swaggart and Bakker?

Martin Luther King Jr. “had a dream” — his dream was an integrated world. A modern Babal where the masses are under the sovereign control of a few world leaders. His dream will soon prove to be the nightmare of a totalitarian coalition with the Anti-Christ as the leader and social equality for everyone!!

M. L. King did not hold a card, but he was a genuine Communist. Communism is a Religious Idealistic Philosophy that seeks a new world order with no God!! Hypocrites and liars such as Jesse Jackson, Rev. Tu-face, Ted Kennedy and M.L. King are *not* for the poor — they are pseudo Robin Hoods that rob the rich and horde the money. They are not for peace; there were hundreds of riots, deaths and pillage during King’s so-called peace marches.

The love of Christ and the grace of God causes me to love my Christian brothers, whether black, white or tan. *But* my love for truth and freedom moves me to *protest* the socialistic trend that prevails in this country and makes the birthday of an immoral Marxist a national holiday!! — Copied from The Baptist Voice Banner, January 1989. □



Money And Missions

By Frank E. Beck

Nine cars of a California bound Union Pacific mail train were burned down to the wheels some-time ago, and hundreds of sacks of mail were destroyed. The accident happened near Morgan, Utah, when the speeding train crashed into a stalled gasoline truck, which had gone out of control and crashed onto the tracks just outside a tunnel.

The entire cargo of mail was destroyed. No one will ever know how many thousands of letters were destroyed, what their messages were, who were waiting for them. Letters of hope, cheer, despair; good news, bad news — all destroyed in a few seconds. Serious as this loss was, how much more tragic when God's saving gospel does not get through to those who must hear it in order to be saved, and have a right to hear it.

One of the roadblocks to the advancement of world-wide missions is the lack of finances. It is not that God has failed to provide. He has given abundantly (Phil. 4:19), but that Christians have failed to give of God's provision (Mt. 25:14-30).

I cannot conceive of any two more unpopular or disinteresting words to

bring together for the average church-goer than money and missions. Yet can you think of any two more vital and necessary commitments made by the Savior to His church than money and missions? You cannot have missions without money. You should not have money without missions. We consider then, first,

The Reasons for Money and Missions

There are personal reasons and there are practical reasons. Every missionary has personal needs, and, if he is human, he also has a few personal notions. All the rest of us do. And if the missionary has a wife, and a family you may multiply the needs and notions by two, three, four, and up. All missionaries eat. They sometimes need medicine, clothing, and have even been known to take vacation, even as you and I. They must have cars, sometimes boats, and in some cases airplanes. That includes the need for gasoline, mechanical repairs, etc. The missionary needs good books. He needs a house. And with the many all about him in many areas of the world who are almost naked and starving

and sick he cannot help but give away more of his money than he can afford, for his heart is torn asunder and bleeds for them. All of this takes money. Money that must come from you and me, for the missionary has little or no opportunity to earn any money for himself. In time should not the nationals who are saved support him? Only in the rare instance that he should become their pastor, and of course, if he does, he has ceased to be a missionary. In every other instance the money from Christian nationals should go into their own established native, local churches, to support their own pastors, and in time to send out their own native missionaries; while our missionary moves on to another unevangelized, unchurched field, still needing your money and mine to keep him going.

There are also practical reasons for money and missions. In some degree every foreign missionary will need medicine and bandages for those about him. He may not be a doctor in the homeland, but he will be a better doctor than the medicine man, or witch doctor. That takes money. The money must come from you and me. And where a clinic or a hospital has been erected, the need is so much greater. Money for more of a quantity and more of a variety of medicine is needed. Money is needed for surgery. Money for electrical plants, for beds, for high-

priced equipment such as X-ray machines, radium, expensive laboratories. Missions cost money. And what of optical care, and dental care, and leprosy, and other diseases needing special treatment? Nor have I touched other admirable means of getting the gospel out, such as the erection of radio stations and the distribution of local radio sets working so successfully in South and Central America and in Africa. The sending of Bibles into Russia by balloons. But all of this takes money that you and I must sacrificially give.

Secondly, in considering money and missions we must wisely face

The Regulation of Money and Missions

It is the principle of the Word of God that money for the ministry of the gospel (including mission work) should come to be given only through the local church of which one is a member. If the objection arose that this cannot be done because the particular church supports worldly missionaries, or heretical missionaries, then the answer must be, either to show the church its error and help to clear the condition or separate from the church to a church where such a condition does not exist (1 Cor. 5; Rom. 16:17; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:11).

Some of our present independent brethren have

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BECK . . .

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labored to do away with “store house tithing,” which means the giving of one tenth of your income into your local church. However they cannot very well do away with God’s house for which purpose the store house existed (Mal. 3:8-10). God’s house is the local church, as can be seen by reading 1 Timothy 3:15. The store house is now usually a nearby bank and trust company. You will find that giving in the Scriptures is always associated with God’s house, the visible, local, organized house of God, now the church of God. Should you not be Scriptural in your giving? Will the Holy Spirit lead you to give contrary to the principles of His Word?

That means that your giving to God and to missions will go to church approved missions. That is being consistent, as I have already suggested. Church approved missions will be church controlled missions, missions that are known by the spiritual leaders of your church. This is in keeping with the forgotten command of 1 Thessalonians 5:12.

It also means that your giving to God and to missions will go to church associated missions. That is as it should be. Who was the first and greatest missionary? Jesus Christ the Son of God. He was associated with the church, for

He is its Founder, Foundation, and Head (Mt. 16:18-19; 1 Pet. 2:6-7; Col. 1:18). Who were the first missionaries? The apostles, but they were “in the church” (1 Cor. 12:28). And the later apostles or missionaries, were the missionaries independent of the church? You will find none in the New Testament. Paul and Barnabas were not. They were “in the church that was at Antioch” when they were called to mission work by the Holy Ghost (Acts 13:1-2; 14:14). Mission boards and missionaries and all ministers who have substituted their own independent works for the “churches of Christ” (Rom. 16:16) are, despite their boasted results, unscriptural. Do not support them. Let them come into and under the authority of the churches. Then lavish them with your tithes and gifts. You cannot give them too much.

Money and missions. The money must come from your pocket and mine. How much do you give to missions? Are you giving as much as you can?

A few years ago there was printed a paper on giving to missions, that I am sure that the most of you have read. However with the thought that there may be one or more among you who have not become acquainted with it, I shall repeat its challenge.

“How Much Shall I Give This Year To Missions? A Little Argument with Myself. (1) If I refuse to give anything to mis-

sions this year, I practically cast a ballot in favor of the recall of every missionary, both in the home and foreign fields. (2) If I give less than heretofore, I favor a reduction of the missionary forces proportionate to my reduced contribution. (3) If I give the same as formerly, I favor holding the ground already won, but I disregard any forward movement. My song is, ‘Hold the Fort!’ forgetting that the Lord never intended that His army should take refuge in a fort. All His soldiers are under marching orders always. They are commanded to ‘Go!’ (4) If I advance my offering beyond former years, then I favor an advance movement in the conquest of new territory for Christ. Shall I not join this class? Resolved! I do believe in increasing the present number of our missionaries, therefore, I will increase my former offerings to missionary work.” “How shall they preach except they be sent?” (Rom. 10:15). How shall they continue except they be supported?

An artist was once asked to paint a picture of a dying church. He painted a stately, modern edifice, richly carved pulpit, magnificent organ, beautiful stained glass windows. Near the entrance was an ornate contribution plate for the offerings of fashionable worshippers.

Above the plate, suspended from a nail in the wall, hung a small box, bearing the inscription,

A Stranger

An earnest Christian woman was engaged in her ministry to doctors, nurses and patients in a hospital.

A doctor facetiously said to her, “Do you believe God will hear your prayer? I’m hard up. If I asked Him would He send me \$50?”

The good woman answered, “If you were introduced to the president, would you put your hand in his pocket at once?”

“No,” he said, “not until I knew him better.”

“You will need to be a great deal better acquainted with God before you can expect such an answer as you wish.” □

Two Questions

A skeptic once derided a Christian by asking him, “Say, George, what would you say if when you die you found there wasn’t such a place as heaven after all?”

With a smile the believer replied: “I should say — well, I’ve had a fine time getting there anyway.”

Then the Christian sent a boomerang back to the skeptic not quite so easy to answer.

“I say, Fred,” he asked, “what would *you* say if, when you die, you found there *was* such a place as hell after all?” □

“Collection for Foreign Missions.” Over the slot of this box he painted a huge cobweb. That is a dying church! Amen! □



Amendment To Alter Teaching of Evolution. — Senator Rick Santorum (R.-Pa.) has offered an amendment to the Education Bill which would encourage science educators to help students to learn to distinguish philosophy from science. On June 13 the Senate approved the Santorum amendment by an overwhelming vote of 91 to 8. The amendment is scheduled to be included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act. The amendment would free public educators to teach evolution as theory and not fact and would allow educators to teach creation as scientific theory as well. — The Washington Flyer, 10/11/01.

President Bush & Islam. — Pray that our president will heed the advice of evangelical advisers and cease making overtures to Islam. It deeply saddens us that he has in recent months visited the main Washington mosque, and declared Islam a religion of peace; hosted a formal (and first!) Ramadan celebration dinner at the White House with dozens

World News Roundup

of Muslim leaders (where prayers to Allah were offered), and asked our children to find Muslim pen pals, etc. He is likely unaware that Islam has a false god, a false gospel, and that idolatry is such a *serious* thing. — CC

Muslims Could Out-number Anglicans In England. — If the current and expected rate of growth continues, practicing Muslims will outnumber practicing Anglicans in England in about 12 years. In the early 1960s there were only ten Islamic mosques in Britain; today there are almost 700. The projection was made by Christian Research, an organization that collates religious statistics.

Prayers To Allah At The White House. — In what is believed to be a first in American history, there were prayers to Allah at the White House where President Bush hosted a formal Ramadan Celebration with dozens of Muslim leaders. The Ramadan event was another effort by the Bush Administration to prove its war on terrorism is not a war against Islam.



Clinton Blames USA For Terrorists' Murders.

— Yes! Bill Clinton really blamed us all for the terrorists' murders. In a speech he gave at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Clinton told his audience that America was founded as a slave state and still is. He told his audience of hundreds of years of our misdeeds all the way back to when crusaders killed a lot of innocent Muslims, that we all are responsible for this and it is time for America to empty its treasury to right every wrong in history. His speech conveniently tied in with current lobbying for "reparations" for descendants of slaves. Another angle, Bill. Reporting on Clinton's speech, columnist Georgie Anee Geyer wrote that Clinton "effectively blamed the international situation today not on the terrorists but on the 'terror that has existed in America for hundreds of years'." Geyer went on in her column to recap Clinton's failures to deal with the world terrorists and their many murders of innocent people of all races and creeds. These include the fiasco in Somalia, the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia in which U.S. servicemen were killed, and Clinton's single failed at-

tempt to strike bin Laden after the African embassy bombings. Clinton refused the advice to have the U.S. State Department list the Taliban regime as a "terrorist sponsor" for a political payoff at the time. Geyer reports his failures were while Clinton was "playing doctor" in the White House. She writes that we are reaping the final reward for Clinton's failures, the price in death of thousands of innocent lives including the thousands murdered by bin Laden's terrorist September 11, 2001. —Robert I. Doggett

Bill Would Make "God Bless America" National Hymn. — A Texas congressman wants to make "God Bless America" the country's national hymn, but a leading atheist watchdog group says the bill is another example of "feel-good religion" that offends non-believers. Rep. Gene Green, D-Texas, and 29 other House members from both parties want to give Irving Berlin's patriotic

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anthem official status. Green's bill has been referred to a House committee. Although Green's office was unavailable for comment, the bill has American Atheists Inc. talking, saying the job of public officials is to run the government, not "organizing or encouraging worship services." "Isn't it foolish to be calling upon 'our God' to bless us when Islamic terrorists like Osama bin Laden are doing the same thing?" asked Ron Barrier, communications director for American Atheists. "We should be standing up for separation of church and state, not trying to turn our secular republic into a theocracy." — Kevin Eckstrom.

Founder of Comic Books Ashamed. — The man who started comic books in 1932 is ashamed of his accomplishment. Harry I. Weldenburg, Key West, Florida says: "I don't feel proud that I started the comic books. If I had had an inkling of the harm that they would do, I would never have gone through with the idea. I am glad that parents and educators are waking up to the menace of our comic books. — The Independent Baptist, July 1959.

Tolerance Vs. Pluralism.

— There is a distinction between tolerance and pluralism. Tolerance gives us room to say, "I think you're wrong, but I'll defend your right to be wrong." Pluralism strongly suggests that there isn't any such thing as right and wrong — and no such thing as truth and error. As is practiced more and more in America, pluralism tends to require that you not only leave room for your neighbor to believe what he believes, but that you also refrain from disagreeing with it (*World*). While tolerating "rights" of sinners, we must not condone sin, and must expose and warn against false doctrine. — CC

Jesse Jackson Guilty of Racial Profiling! —

After his home and neighborhood were invaded by street punks Jesse Jackson dedicated himself to fighting black-on-black crime. He confessed: "There is nothing more painful for me than to walk down the street and hear footsteps and start to think about robbery and then look around and see it's somebody white and feel relieved. How humiliating" (1/17/94 *US News & World Report*). Law enforcement officials should be able to use, but not abuse, racial profiling. It makes no sense to ignore statistics. — CC.

Harry Potter Movie Is Bad Like Books. —

The Harry Potter movie, like the book series, gives kids a first look at the occult. A Southern Baptist author says: "Besides getting kids hooked on the occult," they teach children "moral relativism" and desensitize children to profanity and off-color humor. Other Christian movie reviewers say the movie presents a "deep occult and pagan world view." Harry Potter conditions children to think of witchcraft as harmless fun. The books are "entry-level occult tools that introduce readers to witchcraft, sorcery, spells and spiritual power apart from God. A Focus on the Family writer says, "Anytime the dark side of the supernatural world is presented as harmless, or even imaginary, there is the danger that children will become curious and find too late that witchcraft is neither harmless nor imaginary." — CC

Harry Potter Is Harmful. —

The following is a letter that appeared in the "Baptist Forum" in the 12/20/01 issue of the **Arkansas Baptist News**. "After years of clinical involvement in adolescent treatment in the area of satanic and occult issues, I am alarmed at professing Christians who remain naïve regarding Satan's devices, in spite of Paul's admonition in 2 Corin-

thians 2:11. Contrary to the protests of a recent letter writer, Harry Potter is neither harmless nor advantageous to our children. While it may be well-written, it remains an extremely powerful occult indoctrination and a potential recruiting tool. Parents who buy into this craze and allow their children access to it will be held accountable by a higher Judge. With the help of Warner Brothers, Mattel and Coca-Cola, witchcraft has been subtly repackaged. While Bible reading is banned in our schools, Scholastic Books helps hold 32 million school children captive to occult doctrine by encouraging teachers to read them aloud in class and providing resources to help them 'teach' it. Children as early as kindergarten are force-fed instances of human sacrifice, the sucking of blood from dead animals and possession by spirit beings. The ritual and technique in the Potter books are amazingly accurate. Witches in tales of old, always the 'bad guys,' were evil, scary and were ultimately defeated by the tale's hero. No child wanted to emulate the witch in the old fairy tales. Not so with Harry Potter. The Potter series has so reinvented sorcery and witchcraft that your children now see such evil characters as positive role models. Occult indoctrination is the inevitable next

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Santa Biblia

Las Versiones de La Biblia de La Nueva Era

El movimiento de la Nueva Era ha mostrado un interés en crear una nueva Biblia universal y ecuménica para conformarla con una *Sola Religión Mundial*, lo cual es evidente en las versiones modernas. Sus palabras y doctrinas preparan a la iglesia apóstata de estos últimos tiempos para aceptar al Anticristo, su marca, su imagen y su religión.

Nuestra Antigua Versión Reina Valera publicada en 1569 D.C., fue la primera versión completa de la Biblia en el idioma castellano. Ha sido elogiada por la excelencia de su language y es el libro más ampliamente leído en la lengua española. Sin embargo, hoy en día han surgido nuevas y diferentes versiones que han tratado de desacreditarla. Estas diferencias no consisten en cambios de palabras arcaicas por palabras simples y modernas, sino en cambios teológicos donde se elimina y se ataca las doctrinas fundamentales de nuestra fe cristiana.

“Yo testifico a todo aquel que oye las palabras de la profecía de este libro:

Si alguno añadiere a estas cosas, Dios traerá sobre él las plagas que están escritas en este libro. Y si alguno quitare de las palabras del libro de esta profecía, Dios quitará su parte del libro de la vida, y de la santa ciudad y de las cosas que están escritas en este libro” (Apoc. 22:18-19).

Algunas de estas versiones modernas que corrompen y pervierten el evangelio de Cristo son las siguientes: **Nueva Versión Internacional (NVI)**, **La Biblia de las Américas (LBLA)**, **La Biblia al Día (BA)**, **Biblia Dios Habla Hoy**, y otras más.

En Marcos 4:15 nos dice que: “...**enseguida viene Satanás, y quita la palabra ...**” Estos ejemplos mencionados, son sólo algunos donde vemos que Satanás está utilizando a los traductores y editores, de las nuevas versiones de la Biblia, para crear la última versión del anticristo con el propósito de unir y con-trolar al mundo por medio de la religión. La Biblia dice: “... *No sólo de pan vivirá el hombre, sino de toda*

¿Tienes Una Santa Biblia? Compara.

NVI, LBLA, etc.	Pasaje	Reina Valera
hombres	2 P. 1:21	santos hombres
ángeles	Mt. 25:31	santos ángeles
apóstoles y profetas	Ap. 18:20	santos apóstoles y profetas
hermanos	1 Ts. 5:27	santos hermanos
Espíritu	Hch. 6:3	Espíritu Santo

¿Salvación por obras o por fe en Jesucristo?

NVI, LBLA, etc.	Pasaje	Reina Valera
Omitido	Mt. 18:11	Porque el Hijo del Hombre ha venido para salvar lo que se había perdido.
herederos de Dios	Gál. 4:7	heredero de Dios por medio de Cristo
fidelidad	Gál. 5:22	fe
obedece	Jn. 3:36	cree
el que cree tiene vida	Jn. 6:47	el que cree en mi tiene vida eterna
en quien tenemos redención, el perdón de pecados	Col. 1:14	en quien tenemos redención por su sangre , el perdón de pecados

El Dios de las Nuevas Versiones, Nueva Era, Versión NVI, LABLA, etc.	Pasaje	El Dios de la Biblia el Christianismo, Reina Valera
Padre	Lc. 11:1	Padre nuestro que estas en los cielos
Rey de las naciones	Ap. 15:3	Rey de los santos
El Santo de Dios	Jn. 6:69	El Cristo, el Hijo del Dios viviente
Omitido	Col. 1:2	Señor Jesucristo
Omitido	1 Jn. 5:7	Porque tres son los que dan testimonio en el cielo: el Padre, el Verbo y el Espíritu Santo, y estos tres son uno.

palabra que sale de la boca de Dios” (Mateo 4:4).

Debemos estar alertas y no usar las diferentes versiones nuevas de la Biblia, pues omiten y cambian cientos de palabras, frases y versículos, a su conveniencia. Usemos una sola Santa Biblia: La

Antigua Versión de Casiodoro de Reina, revisada por Cipriano de Valera.

“Escudriñad las Escrituras; — ellas son las que dan testimonio de mí” (Juan 5:39). — Por Félix M. González Bulgalá, Redactor. □

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

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step for our children. We who should have sounded a warning have invited our children to follow the Wiccan Pied Piper to their destruction. Harry Potter has desensitized our children into believing that witchcraft is harmless. It is high time believers started behaving like salt. The welfare of our children's souls hangs in the balance."

The First Human Clone. — Scientists have finally cloned a human embryo, which promises cures for terrible disease. This is good, right? Wrong! A 12/3 *Christian News* article states: "Human cloning is a grievous assault on God as the author of life and an insult to Him as Lord of life. Human cloning of embryos for the purpose of destroying them for their stem cells multiplies that horror. ..." The scientists have taken body cells and cloned them to generate embryos [harvesting spare parts], then shown that stem cells from those can grow new tissue and cure diseases (12/3 *USN&WR*). But it is wrong to deliberately kill such innocent human life. — CC

Moon's God Is Not Ours. — According to Sun Myung Moon, "in love, God, as the Father, wants

his children to be better than Him." Man be better than God? An 11/19 *Christian News* article states: "Moon's god is not the Holy Trinity, the only God who exists. He maintains that he is the real Messiah and that Jesus Christ failed. Although he is a divorced adulterer, remarried, he poses as a great champion of family values." — CC

Hagin Visits Hell, Later Speaks With Jesus. — In Kenneth Hagin's Oct. 2001 *Word of Faith* magazine, in an article titled "Born Again," he recounts his three visits to hell as a 15-year-old boy in 1933. In his Nov. 2001 magazine, in an article titled "A Sobering Vision," he recounts a 1950 Texas tent revival where Jesus appeared to him in a vision. — CC

Salvation Army Back Peddles. — The Salvation Army established a new policy to provide health benefits for domestic partners of its homosexual employees and then after overwhelming opposition from inside and outside of the organization, backpeddled and reversed the policy. Homosexual advocates expressed dismay at the Army's action, saying, "This is very disappointing. They bowed to pressure from anti-gay extremists. They caved into right-wing organizations." If the Sal-

vation Army could have gotten away with it, they would have let the policy stand. They did not reverse it because of spiritual convictions, but because of opposition both internally and externally, thus stated Major George E. Hood, national spokesman for the Army. The reversal was not the result of moral convictions, but the fear of losing financial support. It is amazing how ministries are influenced by what the Bible calls "filthy lucre." — MBW

North Carolina Baptists Distance Themselves From Schools. -- The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has dramatically distanced itself from Wake Forest University and Meredith College. More than 90% of messengers, or delegates, to the convention's recent annual meeting amended their constitution and bylaws to change its connection with the schools. Wake Forest and Meredith are now "historical" educational institutions rather than "affiliated" ones, reported the Biblical Recorder, the state Baptist news journal. Based on the November 13 decision, the two schools will continue to receive some scholarship funding but they will no longer be promoted by the state convention. Wake Forest is located in Winston-Salem and Meredith is in Raleigh. Some North Carolina Baptists have criticized Wake

Forest for selling alcohol on campus and permitting a same-sex union ceremony to be held in its chapel. — RNS.

Teens In America Support Homosexual Marriage. -- According to a large recent survey, two-thirds of high school graduates support the right of homosexuals to marry. The poll was connected to a special aired by the rock music video channel, MTV, titled "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Discrimination." The rock and roll philosophy has always been anti-God and anti-righteousness. It has promoted the idolatrous philosophy that man should be free to do whatever he pleases. The public school system in America has become a vast system for brainwashing young people in godless, humanistic causes. — FBIS

Sperm Donor To Pay Child Support? — A 35-year-old Swedish man has been served notice demanding that he pay child support, as he donated sperm to two lesbian women who formed a family, according to the Swedish daily *Nerikes Allehanda*. The lesbian couple broke up after ten years and three children. One of the women is now living with the children and is demanding child support from the

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What Will Happen During The Millennium?

By Roy Mason

It is the theological fashion of this day to deny that there will be a Millennium — a perfect reign of Christ over this earth for the period of a thousand years. Seminary professors, many of them, wouldn't stoop to such a "corny" thing as belief in a Millennium, and it is hard to find a Premillennialist on the faculty of the average Baptist college. Talk with *Amillennialists*, and about the first statement they come up with is the statement, "Why the Millennium is only mentioned in one chapter of the Bible, the highly symbolical 20th chapter of Revelation." Suppose that were true? What of it? Does God have to say a thing a thousand times to mean it? As a matter of fact however, the statement quoted above is a big lie. The Millennium *is taught* over and over again in the Bible. The term Millennium may not be mentioned, but the period referred to by that word is unmistakably mentioned. I shall not take the time to enumerate the many Scriptures, but shall refer to just one passage — the 11th chapter of Isaiah. This chapter doesn't make good sense apart from the idea of the perfect reign of Christ over this earth.

But what will happen

during the Millennium? What kind of place will this earth be? Let us take a brief glance at some of the Scriptures that throw light on these questions.

In Matthew 16:28 we find Jesus saying "There are some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." The meaning of this becomes clear when we read Matthew 17:1-5. This is the story of the transfiguration. In the transfiguration scene we see Jesus glorified, as He will appear when He returns. We see Moses, who represents the Era of the Law. We see Elias, who represents the prophets, and we see the disciples who represent the dispensation and period of the church. The transfiguration scene therefore is a little picture of Christ coming in His (Millennial) kingdom, glorified, and all the saved of the dispensation of the past — law — prophets — and the period of the church.

What will happen during the Millennium? Well, in the first place this earth will be a shambles at the return of Christ with His people. Instead of the converted world that some talk about, the last picture of this earth before Christ takes over is the picture of a huge battlefield covered

with the dead soldiers of the armies of this earth. Militarism is destroyed through the destruction of earth's armies, and the buzzards are pictured as feasting on their flesh (Rev. 19:17-19).

What else?

1. *Earth's final dictator*, a veritable human devil, will be taken (2 Thess. 2:8).

2. *The False Prophet* — the one who headed up Antichrist's church, which we now see being formed by the ecumenical movement as expressed by the National and World Council of Churches, shall be dealt with. Both he and his master, the Antichrist, shall be cast into hell. They will be the first inmates in the place (Rev. 19:20).

3. *The Devil* shall be cast into a place called the Abyss — a place of confinement (Rev. 20:2-3).

4. *Israel regathered* to Palestine in unbelief (that is happening now), shall be delivered from destruction by a sudden return of their long expected Messiah. They will turn to Him, and veritably "a nation will be born in a day." Reborn could be the better term (Read Rev. 12:4-14; 13:8-9; 14:9; Rom. 11:26-29).

Converted Israel shall be elevated to the place of world leadership (Isa. 2:1-5). The resurrected apostles of the Lord shall be the judges of converted Israel (Mt. 19:27-28). The "Times of the Gentiles" will be over forever (Lk. 21:24).

As to the rest of the

world, we see the saved of this age shall be the rulers, and our positions of rulership will be in accord with the way we have served Christ then and now (Lk. 19:17-19). We will of course be immortal.

5. *There will be mortals on this earth*, but youth among them shall be a rare thing. If one dies at the age of one hundred, he shall be thought of as being in mere childhood (Isa. 65:20). The birth rate will be much less than now, for multiplied conception was a part of the curse that followed sin (Gen. 3:16).

6. *With the curse removed, the earth will be more productive* (Amos 9:13-15).

7. *Jerusalem shall be the capitol of the world* (Isa. 2). Jesus shall rule from the throne of His father David (Acts 15:16). One purpose for which He was born was this very thing (Lk. 1:32-33). The angel so announced, and the angel knew what he was talking about. What lame brained interpreters are those who spiritualize and teach that Jesus shall reign over the "Church," or over some kind of a "spiritual kingdom."

8. *War shall be no more*, and there won't even be military training. "Neither shall they fear war anymore," says the Bible.

9. *Mortals will not be perfect for they will be born of imperfect parents*, but they will only have the

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I Helped My Church

I helped my church! I was there. I knew my friend the minister would be there — so I was there! My presence helped. I was one more. That cheered the minister mightily. I need him and he needs me, too. When I joined the church, I promised to be there. I didn't join the church to stay away from it. So I helped my church. I was there!

I helped my church! I paid my way. I did not let others pay my way any more than I permit them to buy my clothes or feed my children. I pay my bills — my taxes — my upkeep. But I pay my way at my church too. A manly, ample, competent sum must be my investment in my church. I should not wish to know that I had not paid my way.

I helped my church! I prayed for my church. I never have wanted much for myself — except strength — but I want every blessing and grace and health and power for my church. “For her my prayers ascend.” I pray for her as naturally, as nor-

mally as I do for my dearest ones. She is one of my dearest ones. To forget her would be to forget everything lovely. I helped my church by praying for her. To these three ways in which every real Christian will help his church I would add a fourth:

I helped my church! I was the hand and the voice of my church in the homes of those who had forgotten or neglected the most important thing on earth. I went to them, not with a brilliant sermon or convincing argument, but with love and compassion. I witnessed for my Lord. I went as a friend to friends and found the door already opened for me in the longings and loneliness of the people who had been left out until I came. I helped my church fulfill its true mission and in so doing I helped not only a home that needed God and the church, but I helped myself. I wouldn't take anything for the joy I have found.

How do you measure up in the light of this little examination? Let's pray that God will give us the holy daring to be different!

MILL . . .

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sinful nature to contend with, without Satan's solicitation to sin. That they will still have the fallen nature is shown by the fact that when Satan is “loosed for a little season” he will find adherents to follow him (Rev. 20:7-9).

It is interesting to note that “Gog and Magog” is particularly mentioned. Russia is signified by these terms in Ezekiel 38. Russia is God's chief enemy today, and Communism was spawned in hell. God, according to Ezekiel, will break the power of Russia, but enough antagonism toward God will remain through the Millennium to make Russia the first breeding place of rebellion when Satan is loosed.

But *why will Satan be loosed before he is finally sent to hell?* There is no dogmatic answer to this, but someone has offered

the suggestion that he is to be loosed to prove that man is always and everywhere a failure, apart from the grace of God. He was created and placed in a perfect environment, but he sinned. He shall be placed in a good environment with Satan shut out, yet he will be ready to trail off after the devil as soon as he is loosed. Praise God, the time is coming when man will be completely redeemed, and the devil will be shut out from the earth forever, and there will nevermore be a hand lifted against the rule and reign of God. □

NOT ONCE

Africa, China, The Islands of the Sea,
Mexico, Peru and the nations that be.
The need is so great we cannot delay;
Behold! Costa Rica, Brazil and Uruguay

The nations of the world before us unfold;
The gospel they need ... the truth must be told!
You will not move when the Lord bids go!
You still linger there and slowly say no!

I haste to ask you then does it suffice
That they hear not once, when you have heard twice!
Twice ... and again, yea, A thousand-fold more!
Wait! Hear ye the cry from the Amazon shore.

Those ever-grasping hands; the heart-rending plea;
The spiritual hunger you can't fail to see.
That darkened soul for whom Jesus died
Must now be pointed to the Crucified.

Yea, the Risen One, who with love intercedes
For the man who humbly comes and mercy pleads.
Oh, God, haste the day when You will return;
But first let us win souls for whom we yearn!

Abraham Lincoln

I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how a man could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.

The Scarlet Worm

By John H. Bostrom

The 22nd Psalm is a prophetic portion of Scripture of supreme importance. A careful study will reveal that it speaks of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In fact, the use of personal pronouns, together with certain phrases, the exact duplicate of which are found in New Testament fulfillment, leave no doubt that our Lord spoke through the Psalmist concerning Himself in connection with His great redemptive work.

Notice the expressions "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Psa. 22:1; Mt. 27:46).

"All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him" (Psa. 22:7-8; Mt. 27:39, 43).

"They pierced my hands and my feet" (Psa. 22:16; Mt. 27:35; Jn. 20:25).

"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Psa. 22:18; Mt. 27:35).

But the most unusual term descriptive of the Savior in the entire Psalm, if not the whole Bible, is found in the sixth verse: "but I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the

people."

"I am a worm." How strange and utterly unique! What an odd name for anyone to assume, and an especially peculiar appellation for the Son of God. It is interesting to examine closely this term to discover the meaning hidden in its depths.

There was a time when I did not like to sing the first stanza of one of our good old hymns —

Alas and did my Savior
bleed
And did my Sovereign die;
Would He devote that
sacred head
For such a worm as I

That word "worm" was repulsive to me. I did not like the idea of referring to myself as a worm, for the simple reason that I did not consider myself a worm. Was I not a man created in the image of God?

But when this extraordinary expression was opened up to me, and I saw that the Lord Himself had said, "but I am a worm." I concluded that "the servant is not greater than his Lord." And if my Master, my Savior, the Son of God, could say that of Himself, surely I dare not make any greater claims

In the Hebrew, this word "worm" is *Tolahath Shanee*, and means "scarlet worm." It refers to certain worms gathered in the Arabian peninsula, for the purpose of producing a beautiful scarlet color or dye, with which the orientals, and at the time of

Why Wait Till Next Christmas?

By Emil Turner

By Dec. 1, Mary and I had already purchased most of the gifts we would give for Christmas. Impressed? Mary stays on top of that

Moses, were accustomed to color their garments. Some of the furnishings of the tabernacle in the wilderness, and part of the veil, were this bright crimson color.

The blood of the red or scarlet worm was different from the blood of other worms, also different from the blood of human beings, in that it would neither coagulate nor change color. The blood of all other creatures is subject to both coagulation and fading.

For instance, if you cut your finger and watch the blood as it flows from the wound, you will see that it is bright red. Later on, however, when removing the bandage, you will see that the stains on the cloth are not bright red, but a pale brown. Not so with the blood of the scarlet worm. Its brilliant hue was retained even after being exposed to the air. Hence, it was valuable as a dye.

Here, out of natural history, we have a remarkable comparison with the incorruptible blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. His

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kind of stuff. If it were up to me, I'd be shopping at 9 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Have you decided what to give your church? Surely, you have given a generous gift to missions and to your pastor, but have you considered a gift to your church? If your church had a list of gifts that would be appropriate, some surprising items would be included.

Most churches need about five years of peace. Five years of harmony — no fighting with the pastor, other members or other churches — and many lost people could be reached. You can give this gift by resolving to be a peacemaker.

Another appropriate item to give your church would be encouragement. Imagine a church where everyone experienced Christ's love through the membership. Encouraging words and deeds would truly be a wonderful gift.

Few churches have enough baptisms. Give this gift by learning how to lead others to Christ and being involved in weekly evangelism and visitation. A year from now, your church could have many new members — a gift that has eternal significance.

Every church needs prayer warriors. Fifty-two private prayer sessions devoted to your church's needs would be a tremendous gift. You could give this gift from your home, a prayer room in your church or in meetings with church members. —ABN

WNR . . .

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children's biological father, \$340 dollars per month.

Why The Death Penalty? — Capital punishment is not rehabilitative or remedial but retributive. A main reason for it is that justice demands it. The results of the recent "most thorough study to date" suggest that capital punishment has a strong deterrent effect. An increase in any of the three probabilities — arrest, sentencing, or execution -- tends to reduce the crime rate. In particular, each execution results, on average, in 18 fewer murders — with a margin of error of plus and minus 10 (Manfred Kober, Th.D., 12/01 BB). As to racial fairness, Norm Geisler says: "A disproportionate number of capital punishments is not in itself a proof of inequity any more than a disproportionately high number of minorities in professional basketball is proof of discrimination." — CC

Mormonism is Still a False Cult. -- Set to host the 2002 Winter Olympics, Mormons are polishing their image and seeking to appear as just another Christian religion. But their writings present a salvation-by-works gospel and teach they will one day

become gods. Mormons are gaining many new converts, but don't be deceived by this false system that tries to pass itself off as Christian by using terminology designed to confuse and ensnare the unwary. Be warned, be wise, beware! — CC.

Worshiping Music or God? — The 9/01 Vanguard posed this question: "Have we, unknowingly, actually arrived at a position where music has replaced faith as the means by which we appropriate God's blessings and where the 'worship leader' rather than the evangelist is responsible for bringing people to God?" Churches are being filled with concert goers rather than congregations, and the music team are becoming performers rather than pastors — and often having more public presence and time with congregation members than does the pastor. — CC

Red China To Offer More Freedom To Churches? — Communist leaders in China are preparing to give formal recognition to unregistered religious groups, but house-church leaders are wary and wisely so. China's government brands as illegal any Protestant group that refuses to join the officially recognized TSPM church. On another front, U.S. tax dollars are sent to the UN

Population Fund which in turn supports China's forced abortion policies. — CC.

No Time For More Gun Control Laws. — Even though firearm sales increased dramatically after Sept. 11, this is no time to ban guns from law-abiding citizens. In Hitler's Germany, gun laws that proved useful to the Nazi regime were enacted by its predecessor. Once a population has been disarmed by a relatively humane government, it is deprived of the most valuable means of resisting a more corrupt one. Simply brandishing a gun is enough to stop most crimes, — CC

Absent Fathers, Unwed Mothers — On any given day, one in three black men, ages 20-29, is in prison or jail, on probation, or on parole (compared to 12.3% of Latinos and 6.7% of whites). Many who are not incarcerated deal drugs and belong to gangs. Seventy percent of African American babies are born to unwed mothers. A recent study indicated 29.9% of black boys engage in sex before age 13 (compared to 14.2% of Hispanic boys and 7.5% of white boys), and 75.7% do so before finishing high school. Of African American girls, 11.4% engage in sex before 13; 66.9% before graduating. Such sad

statistics indicate Christians are failing to reach perishing souls, for whom Christ died, with the gospel. — CC

City Council Ceases Prayer. — Oakland, California officials have decided to stop their practice of prayer before meetings. The Alameda City Council votes 3-2 to end the pre-meeting invocations, becoming the last city in Alameda County to do so, the Oakland Tribune reported. "People say they are offended by prayer," said Vice Mayor Al DeWitt, who dissented with council member Barbara Kerr. "I took the opposite side — prayer is inspirational. It helps me a lot. I believe in public prayer and private prayer. Praying is an inspirational thing for me, and I think it's okay." ... "It is a mistake to suppress the invocation based on the fact that others are offended by a reference to Jesus Christ," Alameda [resident] John Pillitiere said. "The essence of free speech is that we tolerate speech that offends us. Nonsecular invocations are not considered unconstitutional." But the Tribune noted that the prayer issue ... isn't over yet. In the coming weeks, the council must decide whether to replace the invocation with a "reflective" presentation or nothing at all. The meetings could open with a reflective poem, talk or reading by students or adults, or a "moment of silence."

WORM . . .

(Continued from page 14)

blood was *different* than any that ever flowed in human veins. His was life-giving blood. In fact, of Christ it is written, "A body hast thou prepared me."

Belief in the miraculous conception and virgin birth of Christ is essential to saving faith. In the plan of redemption these are basic truths.

He who was in the beginning — He who created worlds and myriads of shining stars that no man can number — came to earth to dwell among men. Not in His glorified, celestial beauty did He come, but as a man.

Isaiah said that He would be "as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." He took upon Himself human form. The Holy Spirit prepared in the womb of the Virgin Mary a body for the Son of God, and in that body was placed life-giving blood.

Speaking of the Lord Jesus, the Apostle Paul writes to Timothy, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, (Christ appeared in human form — Weymouth) justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." God manifest in the flesh! Otherwise His blood

could not atone for the sins of a fallen race.

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," which means God with us. This name speaks of the union of the human and divine natures in our Lord. Here, indeed, was the promised seed of the woman which was to bruise the serpent's head.

Whereas, there are many in church circles who deny the deity of Christ, and the efficacy of His shed blood, the fact remains that we must accept this revelation of divine truth or perish by the wayside. Was Jesus the son of Mary by natural generation, or was He the Son of God by supernatural generation? The answer to this question makes all the difference in the world.

Was Jesus just a good man or was He God-Man? To say that He was just a good man is illogical, for if His claims to deity were not true, then He was not a good man, but an imposter; and, consequently, if He did not speak the truth, He was not a safe guide to follow. The Scriptures do not refer to the Galilean as a mere human being setting forth a splendid example for others to follow, but they speak of Him as the divine Savior, who by His death and resurrection, is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him.

In order to get the blood of these scarlet worms, the orientals would

take a mortar and crush them, and then dip their garments or curtains into the blood, and the fabrics would come out a beautiful scarlet hue.

Our Lord was also crushed; not at first on Calvary, but in Gethsemane. It is significant that the word "Gethsemane" means oil-press or olive-press, for here commenced, in earnest, the pressing or crushing of the Scarlet Worm. Blood poured from the pores of His flesh down upon the sands below.

The red worms had a certain monetary value, but it was only because their blood was useful as a dye. Consequently, they were worthless, as far as a dye was concerned, unless the blood was taken from them. This meant a crushing process — a squeezing out of every drop of blood, every bit of life. In a word, it meant death! While the scarlet worms were alive, naturally they could not be used to color fabrics, but when death came, their blood was available. Jesus, before His death, was God's potential sacrificial Lamb, but not until His blood was shed did He atone for the sins of the world.

"And without shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). "That he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Heb. 2:9).

Look at the typical lamb in the fifteenth chapter of Exodus. The instructions there were explicit, even as to the details of the Passover feast. The lamb was to

be without blemish. It was to be killed, and the blood applied to the door posts.

The life of the first-born son in every home in Goshen was spared, not because the lamb was without blemish, nor because it met other requirements, but because it was slain and its blood sprinkled on the door posts. The lamb's physical perfection alone in nowise guaranteed the protection of the life of the first-born.

The directions for preparing the lamb for judgment were very specific as to how it was to be slain, and its blood was to be applied to the two side posts and the upper door post of the house. He said, "And the blood shall be to you a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you." So we see that the thing of paramount importance was the *application of the shed blood*.

Dr. Stearns, of Germantown, Pennsylvania, was approached at the close of a gospel service by a man who said: "We are tired of the Christ whom you preach, the Christ of vicarious suffering, that bloody religion you are always presenting. All we need now is an example; just someone to show us the way."

The preacher replied, "Are you willing to follow Jesus as an example all the way?"

(See **WORM** on page 17)

Printer Fined For Refusing to Print for Homosexual Organizations

Many are speaking out in support of the Toronto printer who has been fined heavily for refusing to print material for a homosexual organization.

Scott Brockie, owner of Imaging Excellence, is appealing a \$5,000 fine levied in February 2000 by the Ontario Human Rights Commission after he refused to print materials for the Canadian Gay and Lesbian Archives. He says that he refused the work because of his Christian beliefs.

Brockie was represented in his recent appeal to the Ontario Divisional Court by a lawyer associated with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. He also has the support of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, which said people should be able to refuse to assist causes they don't agree with.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission found that even though Brockie refused the work because of sincerely held religious beliefs, it is reasonable to limit his freedom of religion "in order to prevent the very real harm to members of the lesbian and gay community."

That is nonsense. What harm? They simply had to go to another printer. In reality, the

Ontario Human Rights Commission is persecuting a Canadian citizen for his religious beliefs. This reminds us that when a government gives homosexuals their "rights," Bible believers lose theirs. (Religious organizations in Canada are thus far exempt from the discrimination laws that pertain to homosexuals.) — Fundamental Baptist Information Service. □

The Nature of the Church

The following quotes are taken from the book "History of the Baptists" page 121 by Thomas Armitage.

"An invisible church is a purely indefinite and mythical idea"

"The only invisible church that exists is embodied in the visible, local, and self-governing church"

"The Romish figment of an impersonal and invisible church never existed until the fourth century, when it was created in order to bring local churches under the yoke of an irresponsible and arbitrary power, at the utter sacrifice of those divine rights, with which Christ, the rightful Head, had endowed the local churches. The local church was the only church known to the Apostles themselves, the only body which they ever addressed, and which they knew collectively as the 'Churches scattered abroad'." □

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? □

WORM...

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Serenely he said, "I am."

Dr. Stearns then quoted: "He ... who knew no sin," adding, "Now, take the first step."

Of course, the man found that impossible, as does everyone else, for we are all helpless to take the first step in following Jesus as an example. What we need is not only an example, but a Savior! You cannot walk in the footsteps of Jesus unless first you have been a partaker of His life. It is through the death of Christ that we have the forgiveness of sins, and power is imparted to us by the risen Lord, to live a victorious life.

What can wash away my sins?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus. □

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. A link to your web site would also be appreciated. Thanks.

What Is A Church Letter?

By C. E. Colton

(Scripture Reading: Romans 16:1-16.)

It is both interesting and amusing, and sometimes pathetic, to observe how we so often drift away from the original meaning and use of certain terms. Take, for instance, our present use of the term "church letter." Such expressions as these are very common among Baptists: "Where is your church letter?" "I plan to move my church letter." "My letter is in such and such a church." "I plan to put my letter in this church."

What is a church letter anyway? Did you ever seriously ask this question and analyze the answer? Because of the widespread misunderstanding of the use and purpose of a church letter, let us give some time to a serious consideration of this phase of church life. Our discussion will be divided into four parts: The New Testament example of a church letter; the true significance of a church letter; some misconceptions concerning church letters; and some practical suggestions regarding the form and use of church letters.

New Testament Example of A Church Letter

For every activity within our churches we ought to have a basis in the

New Testament either by direct teaching, inference, or example. Our justification in the matter of the church letter is the example of the New Testament. A typical case is that of Phebe who moved from Cenchrea to Rome. Paul added a note of recommendation to his Roman epistle concerning her. It is found in the sixteenth chapter: "I commend unto you Phebe our sister; which a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: that ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also" (Rom. 16:1-2).

Thus was Phebe recommended to the church at Rome and was no doubt received on the basis of this recommendation. Not being known in Rome it was necessary that she have a letter of recommendation from someone who did know her as to her Christian character and integrity. This letter of recommendation from Paul and the church at Cenchrea made it possible for her to be received into the fellowship at the church at Rome.

It was the custom then, and has been ever since, when a Christian moves

from one locality to another that a letter of recommendation be sent to the church in the new locality concerning the brother or sister who has moved, in order that he or she might be received into the fellowship of the church in the new locality.

True Significance of A Church Letter

The Letter Itself. In the light of this New Testament example, what is the real meaning and significance of a church letter? It is nothing more than a letter of recommendation from one church to another concerning a certain individual. A person joins a church on the condition that a letter of recommendation will be written to that church from the church of which he is a member at the time. When the letter has been written and has been received by the sister church, it has served its purpose. The individual has not moved his church letter; rather, he has moved his church membership. The letter is simply a recommendation which makes possible the reception of the individual into the new church.

The Promise of A Letter.

A church may refuse to accept the member even though a letter of recommendation is sent. Each church makes its own decision in receiving members. A letter of recommendation does not have to be

recognized, though usually and rightly so, the church will recognize the recommendation of a sister church of like faith and order. If one is received on promise of a letter, he is not considered a member of that church until the letter of recommendation is received. He is received on condition that the letter be forthcoming. If this condition is not met, he should not be considered a member of the new church.

The practice of joining a church on promise of a letter was not followed in New Testament times. However, it does no injustice to the New Testament idea of a letter of recommendation in the transfer of a church membership. It simply receives the member on condition or probation until the receipt of such a letter.

Misconceptions Concerning Church Letters

Not a Transaction Between Church and Individual. Many Baptists have confused a church letter with church membership. The two terms are not synonymous, and a fair analysis of the terms according to their original use will make that clear. Some people have the absurd and fantastic idea that they can call for a church letter, take the card or sheet upon which the letter is written, and file it away in a trunk or throw it in the waste

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basket, with the feeling that they are no longer a member of any church. They are only deceiving themselves and have never stopped long enough to consider what actually happened. The card upon which the letter is written is not equivalent to church membership at all. It is simply a recommendation for presentation when seeking membership in some other church of like faith and order.

The filing away of this letter by the individual does not change his status with the church in any way. He is still a member of that church until united with some other church of like faith and order. Church letters are not granted to individuals but are addressed to churches on behalf of individuals. A church letter of recommendation ought never to be granted at the request of individuals or given to individuals unless there is reasonable assurance that the individual concerned plans to join some other church of like faith and order immediately. A church letter of recommendation is a transaction between two churches concerning an individual, never a transaction between a church and an individual.

Not A Termination of Membership

A church letter never terminates church member-

ship for any individual. It is only a convenience in transferring membership. There are really only two ways for an individual to terminate church membership in a Baptist church without becoming a member of another Baptist church. One way is by death. Death, of course, terminates all earthly ties. The other way is the way of exclusion or, as we sometimes call it, withdrawal of fellowship.

Perhaps some of those who call for a church letter with the idea of putting it away so they will not be affiliated with the church ought to be given a termination of membership, but it ought to be done in the only way that it can be properly done — exclusion. You do not rightfully solve the problem of a troublemaker or a disgruntled member by granting him a letter to be tucked away in his trunk at home. He is still a member. If there is good reason for his not being in the fellowship of the church, then he ought to be excluded and lettered out.

Not To Churches of Other Faiths

Some Baptist churches have even been known to grant letters of recommendation to churches of other faiths. And it is not at all infrequent for Baptist churches to receive requests for such letters. But Baptists cannot consistently grant a letter of recommendation concerning

any individual joining a church of another faith.

Can any Baptist church conscientiously recommend a brother to a church which does not, as we see it, follow the principles and patterns of the New Testament? The only proper action to take in such a case is by withdrawal of fellowship.

Sometimes we make it sound better by saying “erase from the roll.” Any Baptist has a right and is free to join a church of any faith, but if he does join a church of another faith, he has no right to expect a letter of recommendation from a Baptist church.

Some Suggested Methods in Writing, Sending, and Receiving Church Letters

Church Action Necessary. Since a church letter is a recommendation of the church concerning an individual, every individual case should be brought before the church for official action before the letter is sent. Some churches have the unwise and unscriptural practice of authorizing the church secretary or church clerk to send a letter of recommendation upon request without any official action by the church. This is a dangerous practice and could lead to embarrassing results. Let the church in conference vote on every request for letter.

The Form of the Letter. A few churches have the clerk or secretary write a personal letter to the

church involved. This is much more personal, impressive, and effective. However, most churches use a form card, on which is wording something like this:

“This is to certify that _____ is a member of this church in regular standing, and in compliance with _____ request is given this letter cordially recommending _____ to your fellowship. By order of the church _____.”

There is a question as to whether inactive members ought to be described as being in regular standing or in full fellowship. This phrase could be left out in such cases if it seems wise. In case of members who are active in places of leadership, some word should indicate on the letter of recommendation as to their activity in the church they are leaving. If there is anything unusual about the individual, this information should be given so the receiving church may be able to minister more effectively to this new member. This was true of the recommendation concerning Phebe to the church of Rome.

Requests for letters are also usually sent on regular forms for this purpose. The request for letter will have words something like this: “_____ has united with our church on the promise of a letter from your church. Please grant it and send to us if meet

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Marmiloid Attends An Ordination

“Now it came to pass as Marmiloid did journey toward the City Celestial that he was persuaded to attend a thing known in the Hill Country as an Ordination. It requireth a goodly number of Men of the Cloth to set apart the Candidate, notwithstanding that the Ancients had decreed that it is the Church Which Ordains.

“And who is the Candidate on this High Day? asked Marmiloid. The Young Prophet is a choice young man and a goodly; skilled in all the tongue of the Egyptians; a Graduate in Philosophy in all the learning of the Ancient Grecians. The Young Prophet must be quite concerned as to how the matter will fall? spake Marmiloid. Oh no, spake one of the pillars of the Cloth, he hath already appeared before the Sanhedrin Committee, and it hath been fully decided that he shall be set apart. Then why this assemblage today? Oh, today, why this is an Old American Custom to keep the churches in line.

“After seeking Guidance, though it seemeth to Marmiloid that all had been settled beforehand, one of the Chief Pillars was designated as Head Domo with authority to steer the assembly. Now my Young Prophet, this only would we know of thee: Wilt thou support the Program decided upon by

our most worthy Sanhedrin? But what of his Doctrine? asked Marmiloid. We have no doubt of that, spake the Head Domo: has he not sat at the feet of the Great Mogul? Is he not a product of our most learned School of the Prophets?

“But we would know of the Doctrine of the Young Prophet, insisted Marmiloid. I should like to hear of the One Way, the One Door, and the One City. And there arose great disputation among the men of Cloth as to whether the Young Prophet should speak of his Faith. Nevertheless, after great while the Head Domo quieted the multitude and the Young Prophet was permitted to speak for himself. As to One Way, I believe there are many ways; I am not sure about the Door, whether supernatural or no; the One City — if there be such a City — all are going there.

“Then spake the Head Domo: The Young Prophet truly speaketh not the Ancient Tongue, but he supporteth the Program, which is all that we requireth. And so spake Dr. Broadspeech and Dr. Big Inch, who seemed to be pillars. And so the Young Prophet was Set Apart.

“And thus did Marmiloid perceive that to many the Voice of the Sanhedrin is the Voice of God.” — The New Testament Baptist. □

LETTER...

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ing your approval.” These form cards or letters may be obtained through most Baptist book stores.

Receiving Members By Letter. And now one last word concerning the reception of members who join by letter or promise of letter. The church from which the new member comes should be made known to the congregation. The church has the right to know this before voting on the new member. In some cities there has developed the unfortunate practice of not announcing the church from which the individual comes for fear that it might be embarrassing to those coming from other churches in the same city.

This practice is wrong for several reasons: First, it denies the full exercise of discretion and decision on the part of the membership voting upon the applicant. Second, it delegates to the moderator and to the clerk the authority to decide for the church whether the demitting church be a church of like faith and order.

In a pure democracy such as a Baptist church, everything should be clear and in the open to the whole church. Certainly this would include the procedures involved in demitting and receiving members. We need to adjust the use of the term “Church Letter” according to its original use and purpose. □

Are Humans And Chimps Really Related?

One of the most frequent questions we get asked through our Creation Tips website goes like this: “It has been found that humans and chimps have almost 99% similar DNA. Doesn’t this prove we evolved from the same ancestor as chimpanzees?”

Although we have several articles on our website showing why this does NOT show evolution, the question keeps coming.

What many people do not realize is that they have DNA similarity in various amounts with just about everything alive. Did you know that you have: about 30% genetic similarity with baker’s yeast; about 50% genetic similarity with a fruit fly; about 80% genetic similarity with a mouse?

You also have some genes the same as a potato, weeds, and almost every living thing.

DNA similarities do not show that long ago your ancestors evolved from the same ancestor as a potato, a weed, a mouse, or a chimp. What they show is that you have some things in common with them — not that you evolved.

The Creator showed incredible and marvelous skill in using many of the same types of genes to create such widely different animals and plants. Praise Him! — Robert Doolan.

Something Is Wrong In America

Archibald Macleish said recently, "That something has gone wrong in America most of us know. We are richer than any other nation before us. ... We have wiped out many of the pests and scourges that afflicted humanity. We have lengthened men's lives and protected their infancy. We have advanced science to the edges of the inexplicable and hoisted our technology to the sun itself.

"We are in a state of growth and flux and change in which cities flow out into countryside and countryside moves into cities and new industries are born and old industries vanish, and the customs of generations alter and fathers speak different languages from their sons.

"In brief, we are prosperous, lively, successful, inventive, diligent — but, nevertheless and notwithstanding, *something is wrong and we know it.*"

This analysis reminds us of the statement in 2 Kings 5:1: "Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honorable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valor — *but he was a leper.*"

America is GREAT — *but, America is afflicted with the leprosy of sin and unbelief!* As a nation, we

have departed from God. We have locked Him out of our public schools, sought to drive Him out of His own universe by substituting the phantom "evolution" for His work as Creator, and have come to think of His Holy Word, the Bible, as a book of myths and legends. We are ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, and of His words.

We despise His laws, are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God," and have crucified Christ afresh between the modern thieves of greed and love of self.

With divorce, adultery, crime, Sabbath violation, drunkenness, juvenile delinquency, gangs and the use of narcotics and "happy pills" on the increase, and with an ever increasing loss of moral integrity and spiritual alertness on all sides, we need, desperately, to get back to God! Back to the Bible! Back to Christ and His gospel!

It may be we have slipped so far as a nation that we are "beyond redemption point" — beyond the "point of no return." God only knows. If such is the case, we will soon be visited with judgment — a judgment commensurate with the awfulness and inexcusableness of our sins.

It is not too late for God's people to pray, and plead with God, for our people and our land. But what we do we must do quickly — for the tide of wrath is about to pour in upon us . □

Dear Obadiah

Zarephath
Place of Refining
925 B.C.

To His Excellency Gov.

Obadiah

Fence Straddlers Roost

Compromise Cave

Famine Dist. No. 1

Dear Obadiah:

I arrived in Zarephath just in time to save this widow and her son from death by starvation. She was gathering a few sticks to bake her last handful of meal. I told her to "Fear not, but go and make me a little cake first and bring it unto me, and afterwards make for her and her son, for God says the barrel of meal shall not diminish nor the cruse of oil fail until He sends rain upon the earth."

It may sound like a "me first" proposition but inasmuch as I represent God's interest in the earth, it is a "God-first" proposition. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you" (Mt. 6:33).

Believe it or not, Obadiah, I've been here a week now and there is still a handful of meal in the barrel and a little oil in the cruse. People all around us are dying like rats because they can't find any food or water. We do our best to tell them if they would seek God first, He would supply all their material needs — (My God shall

supply all your needs (Phil. 4:19), but most all of them are following Baal or taking a middle-of-the-road position, either one of which, as far as I can see, lands them in the cemetery or the cave of Compromise. At least this widow of Zarephath knows that her life depends on whether she will feed God's prophet first.

May the Lord bless you "real good,"

Elijah.

Pithy Paragraphs

The time spent by many church members thinking and talking about the kind of pastor they wish theirs could be, could be better spent thinking and talking about the kind of church members he wishes they would be.

When God's people begin to emphasize the greatness of their men instead of the greatness of their God, for them the age of decay has begun.

The majority rules, but according to the Bible, the minority is right. Read and see.

It's strange that we can find so many "whosoever won'ts" standing around arguing that "whosoever will" can be saved.

Do you *belong* to the church, or do you just have your name on the roll?

Is Your Church Liable?

By William K. Newman
Attorney-at-Law

Your church is liable! It has a moral responsibility for the safety and welfare of all persons using its property, and legally, the church is being held accountable in an increasing number of instances for injuries to persons and for property damage. The courts apparently are taking a firmer position in dealing with churches in matters of public liability.

Despite their best efforts to the contrary, even the most careful churches may, through accidents or acts of carelessness, become involved in costly litigation, unfavorable publicity and be required to pay substantial sums for the claims of plaintiffs upheld by the courts. This is doubly true of those churches who through inadequate budgeting, or plain negligence, invite hazards to life and limb for persons entering their premises.

Years ago churches and charitable organizations were not held responsible at law for the negligence of their "servants." If a church janitor carelessly dropped a hammer on the head of a passerby, the injured person could sue the janitor for his broken skull but he could not sue the church. Likewise if the front steps to the church

collapsed or the roof caved in, there was no legal remedy at all for the people injured. Today, in many states, this is no longer the case. People not only sue the church for damages but collect some handsome sums.

Trustees should be reminded that in many states the church is held legally responsible by the courts of law for damages sustained by members and visitors through its negligence. Damage suits against churches are not frequent but there are enough resulting in verdicts for such large amounts that trustees and churchmembers need to be aware of such damages and to take steps to safeguard their churches.

Apparently public liability laws are not uniform. In some states the church is liable only if it has been negligent by employing incompetent servants. In others it is liable for injuries suffered by business people making deliveries to the church and strangers passing by on the sidewalks, but not for injuries sustained by members of the church, nor by persons receiving a benefit from the church program. In other states there is liability for any injury received through the church's negligence.

In Minneapolis, some church trustees after repeated warnings from the sexton failed to have a caster on the piano repaired. When the piano turned over, breaking the leg of a Sunday school

teacher, the latter brought suit against the church and recovered damages. Said Judge Olsen of the Minnesota Supreme Court, "Men and corporations alike are required to be just before being charitable."

For another instance, a church had to pay \$30,000 for injuries incurred by a child while riding in an automobile operated by a member of the church staff. The insurance carried by the church did not cover incidents of this kind. The funds had to be borrowed and the church was seriously handicapped for some time. Any church, therefore, that owns or operates an automobile, or that uses automobiles not owned by it directly, whether hired, borrowed or used on its behalf, is liable and should make certain that the proper insurance is carried to meet all contingencies.

It is the duty of the trustees to do two things: (1) See that no accidents take place; and (2) carry adequate insurance in case they do. While insurance is very helpful in the event of litigation, the most important thing is to protect those who visit the church property from harm.

Following are some of the more obvious precautions which should be taken:

1. Refrain from active acts of negligence, employ custodians and other staff members who will be careful in what they do and who will have Christian regard for the safety of

others.

2. Keep the church property neat, clean and in order. The banana skin on the walk is the time-honored booby trap. When many groups are using the church building, particularly groups of children, there is a constant tendency to leave things in the wrong places where people can trip over them and fall. All groups using the church should be educated in good housekeeping.

3. Keep hallways and staircases well lighted. It is much easier to fall if you cannot see where you are going.

4. In building churches, avoid steps wherever possible. Church-building leaders have for years advocated church buildings on the ground level without steps, thus avoiding basements and multi-storied structures. This is not always possible. Where lack of land or the use of

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55 . . .

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now 76 years of age, I am in comparatively good health, while Edith in now in the latter stages of Alzheimer's.

We covet the prayers of all of our readers during these "twilight" years of our life, especially with Edith's illness.

We now live at 805 Winding Creek Trail, Red Oak, Texas 75154. Our telephone number is (972) 617-6966. □

LIABLE . . .

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an old building make steps unavoidable, be sure that there are as few as possible.

5. Be sure that all staircases, hallways are in good repair. Be sure that there are strong rails for every staircase.

6. Sidewalks should be smooth and without holes or uneven surfaces over which people can trip.

7. Keep the walks clear of snow and ice in winter and slippery wet leaves in autumn.

8. If the church cannot afford new carpets and old ones have holes in them over which people can trip, patch them up or remove the carpets entirely.

9. Be sure that all the apparatus in the kitchen is in good order and that the kitchen and other floors are kept clean and dry.

10. If folding chairs are used in the assembly hall or various classrooms, be sure that they are in good working order and strong enough for the members of the church who have not made an effort to reduce.

11. Be sure that the building itself is physically sound. Sometimes ceiling plaster is loosened through roof leaks or vibration of passing vehicles so that it is in great danger of falling. If plaster falls from a considerable height, death or serious injury may result.

12. Be sure that the heating system, including the furnace, is in good op-

erating order, that you have a fire-resistant furnace room and that it is free of debris. Most church fires start in the heating system and all too many churches use the furnace room as a catch-all for last year's Christmas decorations, for example, which need only a spark to set off a roaring blaze.

The hazards are indeed many. Eternal vigilance is needed on the part of the trustees and house committee. Frequent inspections of the whole premises are necessary. A consistent effort should be made to eliminate every possible hazard. Insurance companies are usually helpful in sending safety engineers to make thorough inspections of the premises.

After every possible precaution has been taken, the church should be sure that adequate public liability insurance is carried. The church should remember, however, that such insurance protects only where the church is legally liable for damages and where, if the person injured were to bring suit against the church in the law courts, a judgment against the church might be rendered.

Many churches, therefore, carry medical payment insurance riders on their liability policies. Such riders provide for payment of doctors' bills and medical expenses incurred by the injured regardless of the legal liability. While such additional insurance is not a necessity, it is a good

Non-Doctrinal Interdenominationalism**By N. I. Edwards**

A strange paradox in Evangelicalism is before us today. In the last fifteen years I have often been approached by evangelical groups and have been invited to "fellowship" with them. In the early years of my ministry, I tried to fellowship with all who went by the name of "Evangelicals." Then I discovered a startling thing. To fellowship with these diversified groups meant that I could not discuss or preach about certain things lest I "mar" the fellowship. Such Biblical truths as "Baptism," the "Security of the Saints," etc., were "offbounds." In fact, in a Union Youth Rally where I was the speaker a number of years ago, I was asked not to bring anything doctrinal. I was puzzled, for how could I preach even the most simple salvation message to lost sinners and not bring out the Doctrine of Salvation.

Has it ever occurred to you that a great many evangelicals are attempting to have fellowship on a sentimental basis rather than on a Scriptural one? Fellowship is not just warmly grasping someone by the hand nor slapping the back. That can be, and often is, hypocrisy to cover up the very apparent investment. It is good public relations. It prevents misunderstanding and ill will. □

ferences between individuals or groups. Scriptural, and therefore spiritual fellowship, is dependent for its maintenance upon walking in the light. It is impossible to have a real Bible fellowship without the Bible, and some would have us believe that some things are minor and unimportant in God's Word and, since they are, must not be discussed in what is facetiously called the "larger fellowship." This is undoubtedly the Devil's lie. No amount of ignoring or deleting of a doctrine which finds its roots in God's Word will change this. Fellowship can only be maintained by walking in the light and we shall find the light in no other place than in God's Holy Word. □

What Motivation Will Do

The story is told of a young man who took a shortcut home through a cemetery one night. He fell into an open grave and being unable to get out decided to save his strength, go to sleep and wait till morning for help. In the meantime another fellow did the same thing and fell into the same open grave. As he was threshing around trying to climb out the first man was awakened and said, "You can't get out of here!" *But he did!* Amazing what motivation will do! □

LOVE . . .

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of the doctrine of love showed unqualified hate. I have seen them turn white with anger when a Bible-believing Christian dared to criticize some policy or refused to support some compromising program. I have letters in my files in which high church officials use scorn, ridicule, name-calling, threats, misrepresentation, and lies — every conceivable tool of hatred — against the person who would cross them.

Recently I was urged to read some of the neo-evangelical writings, to see for myself their wonderful spirit of Christian love. And truly it was remarkable. I saw love for the intellectual person who has difficulty accepting the facts of Christianity and who needs another road to faith. I saw love and broad-mindedness toward the one who would give up the doctrine of creation in favor of biological evolution. I saw love and sympathy for the one who is lacking in social grace and wants to indulge in the innocent pastime of dancing because David danced before the Lord. I saw love again excusing co-operation with Modernists and unbelievers in the work of preaching the gospel!

But what happens to this doctrine of love when these new champions of orthodoxy meet the fundamentalist? Contempt and

disparagement, reproach and name-calling (“cultic” is the word), false accusations and insinuations — all the tools of hatred are again called into use against the fundamentalist. It is the same old tune, but a different voice sing: “Makes me love everybody except a fundamentalist.”

It seems that nobody loves a fundamentalist. The reason is found in John 15:17-20.

Frankly, I have found more real love during the past ten years which I have spent among the “fighting fundamentalists” than I ever saw demonstrated among the love-preaching liberals. And I am not too much impressed with the sentimental exaltation of love over doctrine as advocated by the new evangelicals, when they apply it to everyone except to those who have preserved for them their own faith. □

FREE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

sometimes are outside, sometimes inside denominational circles. Martyrs have died to keep their churches free of governmental control, only to have the self-seeking leaders of their own group build empires within. Hierarchies, councils, conventions, associations, organized fellowships and pressure groups have arisen to plague nearly every Baptist movement.

Let us as independent Baptists resist steadfastly such selfish interests in our

midst. Let us be aware that the local church is the scriptural unit supreme; let us beware of any “sales-talk” tending to “line up” the local churches whether it comes from a mission society, mission board, college, seminary, or well-meaning but misled laymen’s groups which are actually tools in the hands of the parent “glamour group.”

We must see that the true strength of the local church lies in its independence and freedom to choose for itself its missionaries, its pastor, and to channel or to change its giving only through local independent Baptist churches. All our independent Baptist churches need to be aware of the predatory forces which must be recognized, resisted, and put in their proper places as servants, not bosses of the Lord’s churches. We should (and must) be alert to support only truly independent Baptist missionaries, causes and institutions practicing Baptist polity and policy. □

NYC . . .

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schools Chancellor Harold Levy finally confirmed that the religious double standard indeed exists.

“Christian parents would love to have a place where their children could pray during school hours,” WABC newsman George Weber said Thursday. “They don’t — but the Muslim kids are getting their very own prayer room

in New York City public schools.”

The New York City public school system is going to accommodate Muslim students allowing them “space for prayer” during the five week Muslim holy season of Ramadan, reported Weber partner, Babita Hariam.

“In a statement, though, school’s Chancellor Harold Levy adds the prayer cannot interfere with classes or infringe on other students,” she explained.

That’s not exactly what the Chancellor’s office told the New York Post, which reported Thursday that Levy spokeswoman Margie Feinberg told them Muslim students will be allowed to cut classes in order to pray and then reschedule them later.”

(Note: Never mind the comments that “other student’s can’t be barred” from the prayer room. The *fact* is that it was set up for Muslim students to pray during Ramadan. These Muslim students will be praying to the god Allah. The god of Ishmael, not the God of the Bible. This is not the god of Ishmael and Isaac as George W. says. Allah had no son, and salvation from an eternity in Hell comes only through the Son. “And this is the record, that God hath given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son” (1 Jn. 5:11).

[Editor’s questions: Where is the ACLU and People for the American Way when you need them?] — Maranatha Baptist Watchman □

We often hear people say that money is not everything, but it is just about the best thing to pay bills with that we have ever come up with.

In modern church life we have two extremes: first, how to do it, and second, how not to do it. The mean between these two extremes is, do it.

Christ died for us in three hours, but it takes a life time for us to die with Him.

Testimony we heard from an old man in a rural, mountain church: "Brethren, there is one thing I hope never happens to me, and that is that they wheel me into heaven in a baby carriage."

We learn from history that nobody learns anything from history.

Yes, any man can have his say or have his way about anything, anywhere — provided he doesn't want any friends.

There is nothing big about defending one's littleness.

Be big about little things, and you'll never be little about big things.

There are those who think they would be willing to die for Jesus who cannot find the time nor inclination to live for Him.

Folk who can't give at least a tithe under grace should go back to law.

Just because somebody gets the cart before the horse is not a good reason for getting rid of either one. If we put them back in the right order, they may both be useful.

The battleground of Satan is always where God is working most. We should not be surprised that churches have internal conflicts. Where else would they be? Why should Satan start a fight in his own ranks?

Folk who can't give at least a tithe under grace should go back to law.

Remember your wife's birthday but forget which one it is.

Life is just an eternal struggle to keep one's earning capacity up to one's yearning capacity.

The first lie detector was made out of the

rib of a man. No improvement has been made on the original machine.