

The Baptist CHALLENGE

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The Church or the Churches

By R. E. Colton

(Reprinted from the Watchman-Examiner, June 18, 1953)

A major difference between Baptists and other evangelical groups exists between the ideas of "the church" and "the churches." The prevalent concept among most Protestant groups, as well as the Roman Catholic organization, is that of the church as an ecclesiastical organi-

zation made up of local churches. These local churches are only minor segments of "the church." When the term "church" is used, most people think of the ecclesiastical organization or institution, or some intangible and invisible body of Christians everywhere. These preva-

lent ideas are often reflected in the tendency of news reporters to refer to "The Baptist Church" or "The Southern Baptist Church." They do not realize that there is no such thing.

Some Baptists have been influenced and have come to think of "the

church" in some such institutional sense. But basically, genuine Baptists have never entertained any such idea of "the church," but instead have emphasized the idea of "the churches," maintaining the autonomy of each local

(See **CHURCH** on page 2)

Mother Meditations

The child's first idea of prayer comes to him when an infant by the mother's kneeling beside the crib in silent prayer; her bowed head and kneeling body tell of submission to and reverence for a power greater than herself.

Her tone of voice when she speaks of sacred things is far more effectual with the little listener than the words she says.

Soft, low, sacred music, some beautiful picture of a

(See **MOTHER** on page 17)

Who Are The Greatest Foes To The Church?

By Roy Mason

Truth is an important thing. Much is made of truth in the Bible, and untruth of any kind is a lie, and a lie is an abomination unto the Lord. He tells us that shut outside of the New Jerusalem shall be everything that "loveth and maketh a lie."

Note Some of the Things Said About Truth in the Bible

1. The truth makes free (Jn. 8:32). Free from error, ignorance, falsehood, etc.

2. Sanctification in the Bible sense is through the truth (Jn. 17:19). This is, one is "set apart" unto God as they come to know His will through the reading of His Word. Little Bible reading and teaching and preaching — little sanctifi-

(See **MASON** on page 24)

Is It Fair?

There are 56 missionaries per million people in Africa.

30 missionaries per million people in South America.

20 missionaries per million people in Korea.

19 missionaries per million people in Latin America.

14 missionaries per million people in Japan.

9 missionaries per million people in India and Pakistan.

(See **MISSIONS** on page 18)

Quiz The Pastor -- #17**Is The Act of Cremation
Condemned By the Bible?****By the late Nick Michalinos**

Question: Is there anything in the Bible that would condemn the act of cremation, whether for believer or unbeliever?

Answer: I do not know of any verse in the Bible that is either for cremation or against it. My own personal feeling is that I am opposed to it, but it is one of those things that each individual must decide for himself. We must not press hard for a matter when God's mind is not plainly revealed on the subject. I'm aware of the fact that some who are in error believe that by cremation, they will escape resurrection, and therefore, avoid any kind of judgment as declared in Revelation 20:11-15 and John 5:28-29. I remember reading an account of a man who died, and was cremated, and had

his ashes scattered over the countryside from a plane flying thousands of feet in the air. His intent in doing this was that God would be unable to gather up the ashes and resurrect his body for judgment. Perhaps the god he had in mind couldn't do it, but the Living and True God can and will resurrect the dead (Rev. 20:13; Heb. 9:27; Rom. 2:6, 16; Psa. 90:8).

I believe by looking at a few verses perhaps we can form a Biblical opinion that would be for the burial of the dead instead of cremation. After Adam and Eve sinned, God pronounced a death sentence on their bodies as well as their descendants saying: "In the sweat of thy face shall thou eat bread till thou return unto the ground, for dust thou art, and unto dust

shalt thou return (Gen. 3:19; Eccl. 12:7). By these words we see that through burial of the body ("return unto the ground") it would then turn to "dust" not ashes as in cremation (Gen. 2:7).

The first grave or burial mentioned in the Bible is when Abraham "the father of all them that believe" (Rom. 4:11), buried Sarah his wife in the cave of Machpelah in Hebron (Gen. 23:19). Later Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their wives were also buried there. All the Old Testament saints like David, etc., chose burial.

Even our Lord Jesus Christ predicted His own burial (Mt. 12:40; 27:59-60). If the examples of saints and our Lord means anything to us as believers, I think we would do well to choose burial and not cremation, but let each one be fully persuaded in his own mind. □

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 2)

church. The major factor in the work of God's kingdom on earth is the local church. The denominational organization is only a servant of the churches for purpose of cooperation, never the controlling authority. This is the thing which others have difficulty in understanding about Baptists.

The Emphasis

There is grave danger

that as Baptists we will fall into the tide of popular sentiment and neglect our time-honored and Scripturally sound doctrine of the autonomy of the local church in all matters pertaining to the tangible organization of God's kingdom on earth. Let us continue to think in terms of "the churches."

There are those who would remind us that Scripture does use the term "church" in some such institutional or ecclesiastical sense. Out of the one hundred and fourteen uses of the term in the New Testament, however, without any shadow of doubt, we can say that at least one hundred times the reference is to a definite and tangible local body. This, therefore, is where our emphasis ought to be.

Each Belongs To Christ

The classic passage is Matthew 16:18, in which Jesus says, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Even in this case I am not quite sure that Christ was not thinking of the local congregation. The very etymology of the word *ekklesia* precludes any such institutional sense. The word carries the idea of an assembly of people. This suggests the idea of a group of people who can and do gather together in a tangible body. The principle

(See **CHURCH** on page 17)**THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE****M. L. Moser, Editor****Pastor Emeritus
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SOME BRIEF THOUGHTS ON ISLAM AND TERRORISM

By Imad Shehadeh, Th.D. President
Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary

First, Clearing Some Misconceptions

1. “Islam” does not mean “peace.” It means “submission.” The word for peace in Arabic is “salam” not “islam.” Islam refers to slave submission to Allah. Actually, the Quran lacks the biblical concept of a son’s relationship to God as Father. God in Islam is held to be so transcendent that, not only is He wholly other, but He is also wholly apart. Man’s duty is to submit, but without being sure of the result of this submission.

2. The word “Allah” is the Arabic word for God. The Bible has used this word, even before Islam, to refer to God. Thus the Arabic New Testament speaks of Christ as the Son of Allah.

3. Though Christians and Muslims speak of the same God (or Allah), God’s nature and attributes are entirely different between the two religions. The God portrayed in the Bible is so different from the God presented in the Quran.

4. Not all Arabs are Moslems. The word “Arabs” refers to the Arabic speaking people, while the word “Moslems” refers to those who follow the Islamic religion. There

are 19 Arabic speaking countries located in the Middle East and North Africa, and consisting of about 300 million people. While 95% of Arabs in the Middle East and north Africa are Moslems, only 20% of Arabs in the United States are Moslems. This means that 80% of Arabs in the United States are Christian!

5 Most, if not all,

Council On American-Islamic Relations Openly Admits Goals

Ibrahim Hopper, director of communications for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, stated that “I would like the government of the United States to be Islamic in the future.” Muslim leaders are outspoken in their desire to see America become an Islamic republic.

Moslem countries hold that the state religion is Islam. This is why Moslems tend to think of the West as “Christian,” and of this present conflict as Islam versus Christianity.

6 A Moslem is not allowed to leave Islam or else risk his or her life. At birth, a person is branded either Moslem or non-Moslem depending on one’s descent. One’s religion is therefore marked on his or her birth certificate, identity card, and/or passport. Furthermore, a non-Moslem can

easily become a Moslem, but not the reverse. This is why there are non known visible churches of Moslem converts to Christianity. Converts do exist, but they are in small numbers meeting secretly.

7. There are many decent Moslems who would be against terrorism. Some, if not converted to Christianity, have at least embraced

following verses:

Quran 9:5, known as “the verse of the sword,” declares, “Fight and slay the pagans wherever you find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem.”

Quran 3:85 states, “If anyone desires a religion other than Islam, never will it be accepted of him; and in the hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost.”

Quran 66:9 and 9:73 declare, “O Prophet! Strive hard against the unbelievers and the hypocrites, and be firm against them.”

Quran 5:33 states, “Those that make war against Allah and his apostle and spread disorders in the land shall be put to death or crucified or have their hands and feet cut off on alternate sides, or be banished from the country.”

Quran 8:68 states, “It is not for any prophet to have prisoners until he has made wide slaughter in the land.”

Though early in his career, Muhammad recited verses that were kind to non-Muslims (e.g., Quran 2:62; 2:256), later in his life,

(See **ISLAM** on page 20)

Christian values. In the case of some American Muslims, some have adopted the values inherent in the US constitution.

Second, Four Questions To Ask Islamic Regimes:

1. The question of Jihad. What is Islam going to do about the potential to rely on terrorism from the Quran since it does teach that the active pursuit of non-Muslims, especially Christians and Jews, with the intent to harm and even kill is acceptable? Note the

The Eternal Security of the Believer -- Part 2

100 REASONS AND 100 SCRIPTURES PROVING THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

By M. L. Moser, Sr.

26. The believer is sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13: "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

27. The believer is sealed for a definite time, the day of redemption, or the resurrection of the body.

Ephesians 4:30: "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

28. The believers continue with God.

1 John 2:19: "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." The proof of the believer is his continuance. False professors fall out by the way. Had they been true believers they would have continued.

29. The believer liveth and abideth forever.

1 Peter 1:23: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

30. The believer is dead to sin.

Romans 6:2: "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

31. The believer will appear with Christ in glory.

Colossians 3:4: "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

32. The life of the believer is Christ's life.

Colossians 3:4: "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

33. Since Christ cannot die again, the believer is eternally secure.

Romans 6:9-10: "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God."

34. The believer shall never thirst.

John 4:14: "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

35. The believer will keep Christ's commandments.

John 14:23: "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

36. The believer is saved by faith not works.

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

37. This faith a gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

38. The believer is not saved by what he does, but by what Christ has done for him.

Titus 3:5: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 4:5: "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

39. Salvation is a gift, not a wage.

Romans 6:23 (RV Free Gift): "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

40. The believer's hope is a living hope.

1 Peter 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

41. The believer's hope will not fade away. Will not grow dim.

1 Peter 1:4-5: "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

42. The believer's hope is reserved (set aside) in Heaven for him.

(See **ETERNAL** on page 5)

ETERNAL . . .

(Continued from page 4)

1 Peter 1:4: "to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

43. The believer's inheritance is incorruptible.

1 Peter 1:4: "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

44. The believer's inheritance cannot be defiled.

1 Peter 1:4: "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for you."

45. The believer is kept through faith.

1 Peter 1:4-5: (See reasons number 36 and 37): "to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

46. The believer to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:5: "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

47. The believer is secure because of Christ's prayer.

John 17:9-12: "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee, Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."

48. The believer shall never die.

John 11:26: "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. *Believest thou this?*"

49. The believer to be kept from the evil (R.V. evil one).

John 17:15: "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." Jesus prays that the believer may be kept from the Devil. Was this prayer answered?

50. The believer to be with Christ in glory.

John 17:24: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

[Continued next month.]**Delinquent Dads and Moms**

We've heard a lot in recent months,
Of delinquent boys and girls:
They're scorned, maligned and called by some,
The worst lot in the world.

But, odd as things may seem to you,
They're not so terribly bad—
They do quite well in spite of their
Delinquent Mom and Dad.

When Dad holds up his stein of brew
And blows the foam away,
And son stands by, it would be strange,
If that boy failed to stray;

And Mom, with painted lips and toes,
She is a sight, you bet,
As she uncorks a bottle, too,
And lights a cigarette.

Don't be too tough on boys and girls
Who never have a chance;
Who learn at home to curse and drink,
And soon are taught to dance,

Who learn in cabarets and dives
Things that bring hurt and shame;
Delinquent Dads and Moms are those
Who really are to blame.

Let's fill our jails with Dads and Moms
And save that teen-age throng,
By placing all the blame, my friend,
Right where it should belong!

If we had paid no more attention to our vegetables than we have to our children, we would not be living in a wilderness of weeds.

Small Snake Eats Big Eggs

By Bolton Davidheiser

The African egg-eating snake, *Dasyplectis scabra*, has a neck about a quarter of the diameter of the chicken eggs which it can and does swallow whole. Furthermore, when the egg is about three head-lengths inside the snake it is cracked by bony projections extending down from the vertebral column. If the snake could not crack the egg it would die. Obviously an immature snake cannot swallow

eggs, and it is a marvel that an adult can stretch its mouth and gullet enough to do so. Putting it anthropomorphically, the snake must have a lot of faith when it swallowed its first egg.

Before swallowing the egg, the snake gives it a thorough inspection. It will refuse a bad egg or a hard boiled one.

It is quite a problem how such a thing could have come about through a

process of "survival of the fittest." How many snakes died as the result of swallowing eggs that would not crack before fitter snakes began the bony process to crack the egg. There are no hard boiled eggs in nature, but how many snakes perished from eating bad eggs until fitter snakes learned to discern them? And since there are no hard boiled eggs in nature, how did the snakes learn to avoid them without trying them?

Natural History, June-July, 1969, shows the remarkable event in a series of pictures. □

Saved Or Unserved?

It is hard to believe, and inconsistent to conclude that a person living within reach of a church and that person habitually refuse or otherwise fail to attend church, is saved.

Perhaps the least of the things a person can possibly do to manifest the trait of a saved soul is to attend and support the church of which they are members.

Having failed in the least of the things necessary to be done, one must conclude that such a person is void of any inner work of grace, the essence of which is the indwelling Spirit of God.

It is my deliberate opinion that people who ignore the church of which they are members, or of which they should be members, are no more saved than heathen Hottentots who never heard that Jesus died, and that before the undertaker gets their devil-serving bodies, their sin-cursed souls will be in the flames of hell.

This may seem rather plain talk, but it is time for plainness of speech, else unsaved church members blindly go on their way to hell thinking they are saved, but disillusioned by a false hope. □

Have You Checked Out

"Great Bible Tracts"

A new section as been entered in the web site of the Central Baptist Church under **The Baptist Challenge**. In this section we will be listing articles and tracts on all subjects. Presently the following articles and tracts are available:

"Creation Versus Evolution" by Kenneth Mathis

"The Eternal Security of the Believer" by M. L. Moser, Sr.

"The Gift" by Father Charles Chiniquy

"The Gospel of Your Salvation" by Norman H. Wells

"Saint Patrick Was a Baptist" by John S. Wimbish

"Three Days and Three Nights" by L. F. Gill

"What Is An Indp. Fund. Baptist Church" by M. L. Moser, Jr.

Other Articles and Tracts Will Soon Be Added

Check Them Out

If Christ is to be glorified, the flesh must be crucified.

God's Masterpiece -- Man's Body #3**How The Body Begins**

By Arthur I. Brown

This is my third article on the Wonders of the Human Body, and if you read the immediately preceding chapter you will recall that I spoke of the wholly marvelous way a fertilized cell of infinitely small size begins to form a new individual, by dividing and re-dividing, countless millions separating into various groups, each with its own plan and purpose, — each marching in orderly array to its prearranged place in the body, there to organize into the tissue for which it was predestined. One who has watched this under the microscope or by examination of the very tiny early embryos almost feels as if it cannot be real — such miracles simply are not possible. And yet this has been going on for ages — the same kind of birth, development and growth, the same order in like process, the identical functions being seen in every succeeding generation. Variations innumerable there are to be sure, but every characteristic has been handed on from preceding generations. In a very real sense, there is never anything new — all that we discover in the uncountable mass of human beings was contained in the original chromosomes

possessed by Adam and Eve, our first parents.

No mind can grasp the wonder of this. If anywhere in this vast material universe God reveals Himself, surely it is here. But I must go on to tell you more of this embryonic or before-birth development.

In my last article we left the little fellow at the end of his first month of life. He was about one-quarter of an inch long, curled almost in a circle, with a sharp-pointed extremity, which some like to call a “tail,” but which certainly is not, this projecting below his belly, and small nubbins or swellings on the sides of his body. These latter are to be his arms and legs.

On the sides of his short neck appear four tiny clefts — pharyngeal clefts, which used to be known as “gill-slits,” because they were thought to be identical with gill-slits in fishes. And even today this exploded argument is often used, but even a superficial knowledge of the facts reveals the weakness of this alleged proof of a fish ancestry. Let us spend a moment here.

At this fourth week, there are five ridges or arches on the side of the neck of the developing embryo. In between these

arches are depressions known as clefts. Now, fish have the arches and the clefts, but — pay special attention to this please — in fish the clefts perforate the pharynx and become actual slits. In a human embryo there is *no* perforation, nothing more than a shallow groove. In fish these are breathing or respiratory organs. In humans they have nothing whatever to do with breathing, as they develop into various structures not associated with respiration. How, then, can they possibly be called “gill-slits” and relics of a fish ancestry?

Wilder, in “**History of the Human Body**,” p. 180, writes: “Beginning as a set of arches ... they become jaws, vocal organs, supports for the tongue, suspensory pieces for the tympanic ossicles (small bones of the ear), and flapping external ears.”

Douglas Dewar, the great naturalist of England writes in “**Difficulties of the Evolution Theory**,” p. 49: “In the embryo of a reptile, bird, or mammal, *no clefts form* between arches ... in these creatures neither the arches nor the blood vessels they contain assume any of the characteristics of gills. It is, therefore, clearly incorrect and misleading to call them *gill arches*. The embryo of a higher animal never passes through a fish stage ... Embryology lends no countenance to the view

that the higher vertebrates evolved from a fish-like ancestor. It is only by putting far-fetched and artificial interpretations on embryological phenomena that they can be made to fit in with the evolution hypothesis.”

I have thought it worthwhile to make this explanation at this point because many students are taught what I'm sure is not true science in regard to these arches and clefts. They are called “evolutionary hangover” and given a high place in the list of proofs of this theory, which, as I have often indicated, is invalid and unsupported by the facts of the case.

Almost all of the organs of the human body have begun to form at this early stage, the strange, and very tiny, one-chambered, delicately formed heart has been pumping away, beating about one hundred and fifty times a minute, in what would seem a frantic effort to prevent the life from ebbing away. In the head, the eyes have begun to form, and show themselves as two small darkened pouches thrust out from the young brain tube. Over the front of the head we see two sunken patches of skin or thickened tissue which are the beginning of a nose.

At a short distance behind each eye an ear has started to develop, not the

(See **BODY** on page 21)



E. U. To Have a God-less Constitution?

— European Union already has a currency. Now a Brussels panel is working on an EU constitution (3/11/03 *World*). The first drafts of articles on the EU's values, objectives, powers, and fundamental rights have no mention of God. European nations are debating this, but one diplomat said: "Putting God into the constitution is simply in the too-difficult-to-agree category." Religion is fast dying throughout Europe. — CC

Homosexual Priests.

— "Homosexuals in the priesthood are now estimated to be between 30 and 60 percent says *The Oxford Review*, a Roman Catholic publication, in an advertisement published in the February 17, 2003, *Human Events*.

Islamic Terrorists Say Killing "Infidels" Is Only Way To Heaven. — Islamic terrorists who die

World News Roundup

as martyrs while waging jihad against the "enemies of God," will enter paradise instantly, their sins washed away (World, 2/22). They believe the only sure way to heaven is to "kill the infidels" (non-Muslims, Jews, Christians). Even mainline non-terrorist Islam is a religion based on works-righteousness. The Quran anathematizes those who believe God has a Son. — CC

Hispanics Are "Fastest Growing."

— There are 37 million Hispanics in the U.S., more than the population of Canada, and they now outnumber African-Americans as the nation's largest minority (3/17 *USN&WR*). An estimated 9 million of them are evangelical (3/03 *Charisma*). Of that number, close to 70% are Pentecostal (mostly charismatic?). — CC

Abortion Is Already Illegal.

— We don't deny, Iraq is evil. But the abortion industry is also evil, with a death toll surpassing 42 million babies since the 1973 *Roe v Wade* ruling. If life begins at conception, as true pro-lifers say, then abortion is premeditated murder and all 50 states

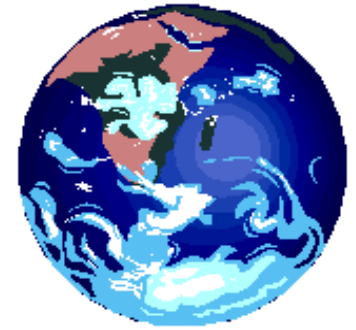
already forbid it! — CC

Religious Beliefs Rising.

— Per a David Barrett and Todd Johnson report the world is becoming more religious with each day. The annual growth rate of religious belief in the world is at a steady 1.2 percent, compared to the growth of atheism, which is less than 1 percent. The fastest growing religion is Islam, followed by Hinduism. Christianity is the third fastest growing religion, with a 1.3 percent annual growth (3/16/03 *Alabama Baptist*). According to the report by these American statisticians, more than 26 percent of the world's population has not heard the Christian gospel, despite the fact that nearly five billion Bibles are distributed annually throughout the world. "I speak this to your shame!" — CC

Arrests in China After Police Find Babies In Bags.

— Chinese police have made several arrests in connection with a foiled plot to smuggle and sell 28 baby girls, who were found hidden in nylon bags on a long-distance bus. The



babies are believed to be victims of China's notorious "one child" policy. — CNS

Transgender Discrimination Bill Closer to Passage In California.

— The Campaign for California Families is warning religious bookstores and Boy Scout Councils that they could face fines of \$150,000 for refusing to hire transsexuals or cross-dressing job applicants.

Court Hears Same-sex Case.

— Massachusetts' highest court heard oral arguments March 4 in a case some observers believe could lead to the nation's first legalization of homosexual "marriages." The Supreme Judicial Court heard arguments from a lawyer representing seven gay and lesbian couples, *The Boston Globe* reported. The case is considered a possible boost to homo-

(See WNR on page 11)

La Voz Del Desierto

Datos Sobre El Día de la Muerte De Jesús

Por María T. Curet

En la semana de la muerte de Jesús los judíos estaban celebrando la Pascua (Marcos 15:42). La Pascua se celebraba desde el día 14 del mes de Nisán hasta el día 21 a la puesta del sol. El día 15 se contaba como el primer día y el día 21 era el último, ambos eran días de reposo. Esto nos demuestra que los judíos tenían varios días de reposo, el primero y el último día de la Pascua, y séptimo día de la semana,

llamado sábado. El origen de la palabra sábado viene de la palabra “*Shabbath*” que significa, desistir, parar o cesar. Los judíos tenían varios días de sabbath o de reposo (Levítico 16:31; 23:14).

Los judíos dividían el día en 12 horas o partes iguales (Juan 11:9). Contaban las horas desde la salida del sol hasta su puesta, de seis de la mañana a seis de la tarde. De manera que las horas

tercera, sexta y novena correspondían casi exactamente a las nueve de la mañana, las doce del medio día y las tres de la tarde. Según la Biblia, el Señor Jesús fue crucificado a la hora tercera de los judíos, lo que equivale a las 9 de la mañana para nosotros. Desde la hora sexta a la novena, hubo tenebras en la Tierra. Para nosotros sería de 12 m. a 3 pm. A la hora novena, Jesucristo murió. Lo que equivale a

las 3 pm., para nosotros (Marcos 15:25, 33-34)

En Mateo 12:40 aparece el tiempo en el que Jesús estaría sepultado en la tierra, 3 días y 3 noches.

En Génesis 1:5-8, 13, podemos ver que hoy hay fracciones de tiempo. Un día está compuesto por una tarde y una mañana. Por otro lado, los principales sacerdotes y fariseos sabían que Jesús estaría

(Vea PASCUA En la pág 10)

Un Buen Soldado de Jesucristo

Hay una sola forma para llegar a ser un buen soldado de Jesucristo, nuestro Señor y Salvador. Para que esto se pueda lograr, la persona debe ser un creyente bautizado en la Iglesia que Jesús edificó, y debe conocer la doctrina que Cristo dejó para su Iglesia, de esta forma podrá estar en las filas del General que nos llamó, con llamamiento santo (Rom. 8:28-30).

Un soldado no puede ir a la guerra, si primero no es alistado en el servicio militar, así también sucede

con el cristiano, tiene que ser alistado en el ejército de Cristo. Luego de ser entrenado y estar listo para la batalla, el soldado de Jesucristo tiene que llevar una armadura y se le entregan una serie de armas para poder combatir al enemigo.

¿Cuáles son las armas del cristiano? En primer lugar mencionaré la Biblia (que es la palabra de Dios), la espada del Espíritu, que penetra hasta partir el alma y el espíritu, las coyunturas y los tuétanos, y discierne los pensamientos y las

intenciones del corazón (Efeios 6:17; Hebreos 4:12). El cristiano que le falta una Biblia está desarmado, no puede luchar legítimamente y está expuesto a los ataques del enemigo.

En segundo lugar mencionaré la oración (que es un diálogo con Dios). Tenemos que separar tiempo para estar a solas con Dios. Estar en comunión íntima con Dios nos fortalece y nos prepara para la batalla que llevamos contra Satanás y el pecado del mundo.

También tenemos que

tomar el escudo de la fe, con el cual podemos apagar todos los dardos del enemigo. La fe es necesaria para que podamos leer la Biblia y orar en confianza. Sin fe es imposible agradar a Dios (Hebreos 11:1, 6). Si no leemos la Biblia, y no oramos con fe, no seremos buenos soldados de Jesucristo, y estaremos expuestos a la merced del enemigo.

Otra cosa que nos puede ayudar a lograr

(Vea SOLDADO en la pág. 10)

DATOS . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

sepultado tres días y tresnoches (Mat. 27:62-64). Desde la puesta del sol del miércoles, luego de Jesús estar sepultado, hasta la puesta del sol del sábado se cumplen 72 horas, es decir, los tres días y tres noches que Jesús señala. La noche del miércoles, la noche del jueves y la noche del viernes; el día del jueves, el día del viernes y el día del sábado, tres días y tres noches tal como Jesús lo había dicho. Un total de 72 horas (3 días y 3 noches).

Para el domingo Jesús ya había resucitado (el sábado después de las 6 pm), pero como el séptimo día de la semana (sábado), era día de reposo, ellos no pudieron ir a ver la tumba hasta el primer día de la semana, el domingo (Mat. 28:1-6). Desde entonces, los discípulos de Cristo (la Iglesia), comienza a reunirse los domingos, el primer día de la semana, y se le llama el "día del Señor." Esto se hace en celebración de la obra de la Redención terminada. Hoy en día los cristianos no tenemos que preparar las mesas para el día de reposo, como lo hacían los judíos, pero tenemos que preparar nuestros corazones para el "día del

Señor."

Todos estos datos nos hacen llegar a la conclusión de que nuestro Señor Jesús, fue crucificado un miércoles y sepultado este mismo día antes de ponerse el sol. En Deuteronomio 21:22-23 podemos ver que los cuerpos de las personas que estaban colgadas en un madero no debían pasar la noche colgados sino que debían enterrarse el mismo día de su muerte. También podemos ver que Jesús resucitó el sábado de esa misma semana de su muerte, después de las 6 pm, cumpliéndose así lo que Jesús había dicho, de que estaría en el corazón de la tierra tres días y tres noches (Mat. 12:40).

Con esto termina el viejo pacto que Dios había hecho con los judíos (el pacto de la Ley) Marcos 15:37-38, y comienza el nuevo pacto de la Iglesia (Heb. 4:14-16). □

SOLDADO . . .

(Viene de la pág. 9)

buenos resultados en esta batalla, es el congregarnos siempre, todos los días de cultos; de esta forma seremos fortalecidos en el hombre interior, tanto adultos, como jóvenes y niños.

Es nuestra responsabilidad como padres cristianos, velar porque

nuestros hijos tengan una Biblia, esti-mularlos a leerla, y a que la llevan al Templo. Debemos esforzarnos por ir al templo, aunque tengamos compromisos en el mundo, pues nuestro mayor compromiso es con el Señor (Josué 24:15; Hebreos 10:25). Si pone-mos al Señor primero, y buscamos las cosas de Él, todas nuestras necesidades serán suplidas (Mateo 6:31-33).

Como padres, no podemos decir que somos buenos soldados de Jesucristo, a menos que seamos ejemplo, instruyendo a nuestros hijos en el Evangelio, y trayéndolo al Templo, los días que la Iglesia se reúne. ¿Cómo podrán combatir los ataques del enemigo, si no cumplimos con nuestro deber? Hago una exhortación a todos mis hermanos en la fe, para que seamos responsables, con la encomienda que tenemos del Señor, de criar a nuestros hijos para Él (Efesios 6:4).

Cada padre o madre, debe y es responsable ante Dios, de proveerle una Biblia a su hijo, no lo enviemos a la batalla con las manos vacías. Ocupémonos de que estén preparados en estos últimos tiempos. El Señor nos pedirá cuentas de nuestros actos y responsabilidades algún día (2da Corintios 5:10), porque el Señor viene como Juez y juzgará a los vivos y a los muertos (Apocalipsis 22:13).

"El que da testimonio de estas cosas dice:

Ciertamente vengo en breve. Amén; sí, ven, Señor Jesús" (Apocalipsis 22:10). Que Dios los bendiga. — Por Luis M. Alicea, Redactor. □

La Decisión

Aquellos que conocen el plan de salvación, visitan el Templo, participan de las actividades espirituales y sociales, disfrutan de ellas y tienen conocimiento de la Palabra, NO tienen excusa, para NO aceptar al Señor y exclusivo Salvador.

Sólo aquellos que desean en su corazón en las cosas del Señor. Esto no es juego, la salvación es algo realmente maravilloso, es el mejor regalo que nadie jamás te puede ofrecer, esa oportunidad de vida eterna que sólo te brinda Dios. Analiza tu vida, ¿qué pasaría si murieras en este instante? ¿Estaría Dios satisfecho contigo?

Cuando estemos en el Templo pongamos todo nuestro interés en las cosas de Dios. Aprovechemos cuando el pastor esté haciendo el llamado y pídale al Espíritu Santo que lo redarguya, que lo inquiete, para que ese corazón se arrepienta, y que pueda alcanzar la salvación y la vida eterna. Te garantizo que tu vida cambiará, no te hagas de oídos sordos; tal vez mañana sea demasiado tarde (Hebreos 3:7-8; 1ra Tesalonicenses 5:2).

La gloria sea para el Señor, siempre. — Por Jemar Montes, Redactora.

Iglesia Bautista El Redentor
Central Lafayette #17, Arroyo, PR 00714
(787) 839-3669 y (787) 839-5792
Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

sexual activists because of the liberal makeup of the court. Two years ago, Vermont became the first state to recognize what it calls same-sex "unions," which give homosexual couples many of the rights of heterosexual couples without using the term "marriage." The plaintiffs in the Massachusetts case want the high court to take the next step. "Why should we do something that virtually no other state has done?" Justice Judith Cowin asked plaintiff attorney Mary Bonauto. "The court should do so because it is the right thing to do," Bonauto answered. "The exclusion of the plaintiffs from marriage ... violates the fundamental right that these plaintiffs enjoy with all others in this commonwealth." — BP

* * *

Ban On Public "Jesus" Prayers New Focal Point. — The name of Jesus is set to replace the Ten Commandments as the new focal point for church-state clashes at city halls. While public displays of God's laws on civic property have been the center of constitutional disputes for the last couple of years, attention seems set to switch to local authorities' pre-meeting public prayers. The debate has been sparked in

California, where city councils have been trying to figure out how to ensure the name of Jesus is not invoked following a state appeals court ruling that lets stand a ban on sectarian comments. Several cities are set to back the city of Burbank, should it decide to go to the U.S. Supreme Court over a ruling that has barred prayers in the name of Jesus, on the grounds that it violated the constitutionally required separation of church and state. — CNS

* * *

Nigerian Elections Could See Extension of Controversial Islamic Law. — Forthcoming presidential and gubernatorial elections in Nigeria could result in a further expansion of Islamic (shari'a) law across Africa's most populous country. Compromising about half of the national population of 129 million, Nigeria's Muslims are regarded as a significant determinant of the country's next president and have the potential to influence the further adoption of shari'a. Already, 12 of Nigeria's 36 states use the Islamic criminal and civil penal code, a situation that has given rise to numerous controversies, such as sentences of stoning to death for women accused of adultery. The process to elect the country's next president, due to start on

April 19, will involve six contenders. ... Christians comprise some 40 percent of the population, and the remaining 10 percent are animists. ... A report by the Center for Religious Freedom, a part of the Washington-based Freedom House, says at least 6,000 Christians, Muslims and animists have been killed in religious conflicts in the last five years. This was despite this being a period of civilian rule, which ushered in relative religious freedom. ... The report said the rapid growth of the type of Islamic extremism from which the al Qaeda terrorist network has drawn support, the center said. Muslims who convert to Christianity face the death penalty, while women accused of sexual crimes can also be sentenced to death.

* * *

U.S. In a Quagmire. — The United States is bogged down in a quagmire. No, not in Iraq - in the United States Senate. Read how Democrats are using a weapon of mass obstruction on the President's judicial nominees in "Read My Lips ... No New Judges."

* * *

DWC: Deliberating While Conservative. — "It has been two months since Senate Democrats began a filibuster to block

the federal appeals court nomination of Miguel Estrada, and they are willing to persist until Dick Cheney grows a full head of hair. Mr. Estrada has not been caught smoking pot, molesting interns, cheating on his bar exam, or anything else improper. All he has done is arouse suspicions that once on the bench, he will behave like a con-servative."

* * *

Work Requirements Work. — "The good news coming out of the war in Iraq this week has crowded out another important story that should be front-page news. Landmark welfare reform legislation passed by Congress in 1996 not only worked to reduce welfare rolls but actually lifted millions of poor, single mothers out of poverty, according to a new study by two distinguished economists. "Legislation to extend the law and toughen the very work requirements that have proved so valuable recently passed the House of Representatives. But only 11 Democrats voted for the measure, which still faces a battle in the Senate. It's as if liberals would rather keep single mothers poor and dependent on public largess than admit that tough love works and that's a story Americans shouldn't miss, war or no war." — Columnist Linda Chavez. □

An Outstanding Work of Discipleship

By Foy M. Moser

One of the outstanding marks of discipleship in the early church was their evangelistic zeal. Beginning with the second chapter of Acts, we find that about three thousand souls were saved, and the chapter ends with the statement, "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." This denotes a constant action of evangelism, and when the church through severe persecution was scattered abroad they went everywhere preaching the Word.

All the persecution of Nero, with his flaming fire, his hungry lions and his inhuman Satan-inspired forms of punishment could not kill their evangelistic zeal. There were two outstanding reasons for this: the command of Christ, and their love for lost men. He had told them and it is passed on to us, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This was His command and who is the Christian who can stand in the shadow of Calvary's cross and ignore or neglect this command? Yet it is true today, that we have lost our love for lost men, respect for the command of Christ, and our zeal to evangelize.

We have substituted denominational programs, built worldly ecclesiastical

machines, schools and top heavy mission programs, but we are not going into all the world preaching the gospel and winning men to Him. The majority of young preachers coming from our seminaries and Bible schools know nothing about evangelism, have little love for the lost, begin to pastor churches, and then we wonder why the spirit of evangelism is dead. We are convinced that before any ministerial student is graduated or ordained he should first be required to demonstrate his ability to lead men to Christ, and this ability will only be demonstrated when there is first a burden for souls in his heart. There is therefore a definite need for a school of missions in our Bible Institutes, where each student will not only be taught God's plan for evangelization, but will also actively engage in personal work.

This course must of necessity be taught by one who is on fire for souls himself, and who is successful in the field of evangelism. For a person cannot teach others spiritual truths which they have not experienced themselves. The textbook should not be so much the writings of men on this subject but the Word of

God. When the student goes to the Word and observes how the early Christians won men to Christ, then they are challenged to go and do likewise. The result of this would be, pastors who were on fire for souls, and who would challenge their churches not only to engage in local evangelism, but to go into all the world.

We try to excuse our failure to engage in first century evangelism by saying that changing times demand changed methods, and that we must become all things to all men, that we might win some. Many churches have employed paid personal workers, with a lazy membership gladly paying their salary, that they might be relieved of this responsibility. But this is not God's way. He would have every Christian to be a personal evangel of the grace of God. And only as a pastor and church accepts this responsibility can we expect first century results. God never authorized us to scrap or to

change His plan of evangelization, and substitute one born in the minds of men.

In the thirteenth chapter of Acts, the Holy Spirit spoke to the church at Antioch, and commanded them to separate unto Him Barnabas and Saul for a work He had called them to do. This early church although small compared with the Jerusalem church accepted their responsibility and acted under the command authority of the Holy Spirit, without the help, sanction or advice of any denominational machine, mission board or ecclesiastical boss, and sent out these two as missionaries of the church at Antioch. Now we say that this method is outmoded and that we must organize, and instead of churches sending out missionaries, boards, synods, associations, etc., must have this authority. We ask where did these boards get their authority? Certainly not

(See **WORK** on page 18)

The Smile That Shines Through Tears

It is easy enough to be pleasant
When life flows by like a song,
But the man worthwhile is the one who can smile
When everything goes dead wrong;

For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth the praises of earth
Is the smile that shines through tears.

Difference — Between the Family of God, Kingdom of God — Church of God

Is the true church visible or invisible?
Many have the church and kingdom mixed
— causing much error.

From “Why Be a Baptist” by Boyce Taylor

THE FAMILY OF GOD

“Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named” (Eph. 3:14-15).

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

“The Lord ... who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into THE KINGDOM of his dear son” (Col. 1:10-16).

“Except a man be born again, he can not see (enter) THE KINGDOM of God” (Jn. 3:1-8).

THE CHURCH OF GOD

“Paul ... unto the church of God, WHICH IS AT CORINTH” (1 Cor. 1:1-3).

“YE (the Corinthian church) ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST” (1 Cor. 12:27).

“The Lord added to the church daily the saved” (Acts 2:47).

BRO. TAYLOR IS ASKED A QUESTION

“Men are born into the family of God by the new birth, but men are NOT born into the church” (H. B. Taylor in **News and Truths**.

Bro. Boyce Taylor made the above statement in his paper. A certain editor read it and asked this question:

“If that is the truth, if men get into the family of

God by one process, and into the Church of God by another and a different one, it follows, certainly, that the family of God and the Church of God are two different institutions. ... We should feel an everlasting obligation to Bro. Taylor if he would tell us just what God must do to this person, or what the person himself,

must do to become a member of God’s church, after he has been ‘born into the family of God,’ after he has remission of sins, after he has become a ‘new creature.’

“His declaration that ‘men are born into the family of God’ is entirely correct, but that the family of God is one thing and the church of God is another thing is entirely erroneous.”

BRO. TAYLOR’S ANSWER

We gladly answer the questions herein contained. In fact, while we are at it we go a little further and distinguish between the family of God, the church of God and the kingdom of God as used in the New Testament.

FAMILY

The family of God includes all the children of God in Heaven and on earth. In Eph. 3:15 Paul speaks of the “whole family in heaven and on earth.” This family includes all believers. “Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26).

All believers are God’s children. Since the Old Testament saints were saved by faith in Christ (Acts 10:43; Rom. 4:16; etc.), they are all members of God’s family.

God’s family is bigger than the kingdom of God

or the church of God, for it now contains all the saved from Abel to the last man who has believed, whether in Heaven or on earth. God has only one family. All believers (saved, born again) are children and heirs of God.

THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God includes all the saved on earth at any given time. In Matt. 13 the kingdom is used to include all professors. But the kingdom as used in John 3:3-5, Matt. 16:19, 11:11; Luke 16:16; Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13; John 18:36, etc. is composed of all the born-again on the earth.

This is not the kingdom of Dan. 2:44, Luke 9:11, 27, Acts 1:6, etc. Those passages refer to the millennium. That kingdom is yet future.

What is sometimes called the spiritual kingdom is composed only of those who have been born again, who have been “translated out of darkness into the kingdom of his dear Son.” In John 3:3-5 the Master said, except a man be born anew he can neither see nor enter the Kingdom of God. In Matt. 18:1-16 and Mark 10:13-15 the Master shows very clearly, that the kingdom is composed of only such as have received Him, whether children or adults. The family of God includes all

(See **FAMILY** on page 19)

“Roe” of “Roe v. Wade” Joins Case To Block Abortions

By Jeff Johnson

More than 700 women — including Norma McCorvey, the “Roe” of *Roe v. Wade* — are expected to join a “friend of the court” brief in a case filed for consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court. The lawsuit claims women are not provided with enough information by abortion clinics to give truly informed consent to the procedure and that some are even forced or tricked into having abortions against their will.

“It is unjust and immoral to force or mislead any woman into having an abortion,” McCorvey said. “I am honored to stand with these women who have been hurt by abortion.

“Their lives have been severely disrupted and injured by not having all the facts, by being lied to, by being pressured or forced into having an abortion they did not want,” she continued.

Friend of the Court Brief

More than a dozen of the 700 women joined McCorvey at the National Press Club Monday to announce that they will file an Amicus Curiae (friend of the court) brief in support of the petition for

certiorari for the Supreme Court to hear the case of Donna *Santa Marie* (a fictional name for a real person) *et al.*, vs. *James McGreevy, et al.*

The lawsuit originated in 1999 when New Jersey state courts blocked wrongful death lawsuits by three women against the doctors who had performed abortions on their unborn children.

“Santa Marie” was 15 years old when she became pregnant by a man she planned to marry, who wanted to and was reportedly able to support Santa Marie and her child. Despite this, her parents took her to an abortion clinic, which refused to perform the procedure when she told the doctor that she was being pressured to have the abortion.

Her parents then allegedly took her to another clinic, after telling her that she could not marry the father of her child and that he would be prosecuted for statutory rape if she did not allow the abortion to proceed. Her pregnancy was then ended against her will.

Attorney Allan Parker, founder of the San Antonio-based Justice

Foundation, represents McCorvey and the more than 700 women supporting the Santa Marie case.

“When they sued for the wrongful death of their children, which was done without voluntary and informed consent, the courts of New Jersey said, ‘You do not get a cause of action for wrongful death, the child is worth nothing because of *Roe v. Wade*, and you are presumed to have consented [to the abortion].’” Parker explained.

The Justice Foundation also represents Sandra Cano, the “Doe” of *Doe v. Bolton*, the *Roe v. Wade* companion case that broadly defined “health” of the pregnant woman to include emotional, educational, familial and financial difficulties unrelated to the woman’s physical health, thereby legalizing abortion on demand during all nine months of pregnancy.

“I am in great sympathy with Donna Santa Marie because, like her, it was others who wanted me to have an abortion, not me,” Cano wrote in a statement given to reporters. “They tried to force me to have an abortion. I was able to avoid the abortion,” Cano added, “but my case ... has been used to force many women into abortions they did not want.”

Abortion-related Scars

Tammy Ruttkofsky of Adrian, Mich., shared a story similar to that of

Cano, Santa Marie and the other plaintiffs in the New Jersey case. When she was 17 years old, Ruttkofsky was taken to have an abortion against her will by a parent.

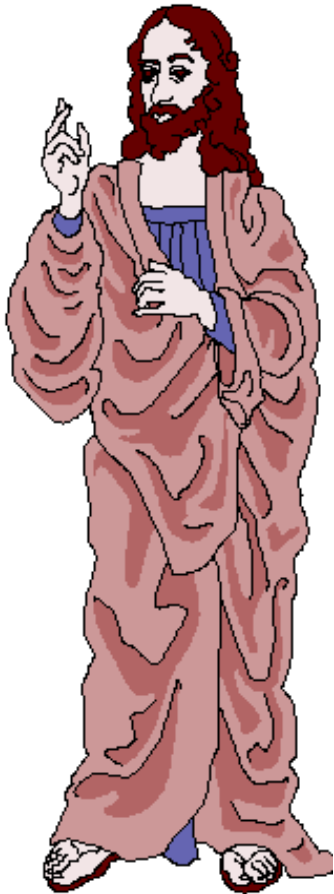
“I was told the procedure was very simple with minimal pain, and it would be over in a matter of minutes with nothing to worry about later,” she recalled. “I was never told there would be any physical, mental or emotional risks attached to an abortion. Never was I shown any fetal development pictures,” Ruttkofsky added. “I was told only that my baby was ‘... just a blob of tissue.’”

Tough she objected to the doctor when he began preparing her for the procedure, Ruttkofsky claims she was referred only to the parent who was ordering her to end the pregnancy.

“I felt like a frightened, trapped animal in desperation, not knowing what to do or who might help me to carry my baby to term,” she said.

When the doctor actually began to perform the abortion, Ruttkofsky again told the doctor she did not want an abortion and physically resisted because of the pain. “It took several nurses to hold me down, only to tell me I needed to be quiet so as not to disturb others in the hall,” she alleged.

(See **CHILD** on page 17)



Our Great Sin

From
The Arkansas Baptist,
5/1/58

if we could use them. It was with deep comfort that he saw all this for he felt that since the Baptists knew the Bible so well they certainly ought to know whether it is right or wrong to use figures or images in worship. Personally he could see nothing wrong with it at all.

He went on to explain that the priest told him the

“How easy it will be for the anti-christ, the devil incarnated, to look just exactly like the “head” picture and fool the religious world.”

IT WAS DURING a visit to one of our Southern Baptist Churches when a few penetrating statements from a fellow visitor caused me to examine the increased use of head pictures of Christ. He was heard to say that he felt very happy to see so many of these around for it almost made him feel at home; just like he was in his own church. After seeing the gilt frames, lighted candles, and indirect lighting of some which were arranged behind velvet curtains he knew the priest was right in urging them to use statues in their homes. He offered to let us have one or two figures

only way they could use statues and images was by uniting the first two Commandments and then dividing the last one into two in order to have the Ten. There was no harm done to the Bible for they felt they had the right to change the Scriptures since they were the authority. This caused me to wonder just what the second Commandment said. I turned to Exodus 20 and saw, “Thou shalt not make unto

thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything ...” Why, the thought occurred to me that we were breaking this Commandment. It did not say anything about falling down before them; only that we were not to make them. It was the next verse that told me that I must not bow down to them.

Oh, I said to myself, it cannot be too wrong since everybody does it and we do not bow down to them. Then I thought that popularity does not make anything right. Sin is very popular.

Well anyway, we do not bow to them. However, I thought of what Jesus said about the mere look of lust being adultery. Could the look of adoration be idolatry? Certainly! One did not have to bow in body to

bow in spirit and it is the spiritual aspect of worship that Jesus sees. He sees it as being done in body too.

I was disturbed to my innermost being because I did not want to sin against God in any way. Could my preacher be wrong? Could the literature be wrong in urging me to use “head pictures” to show my class? They are, if the Bible is right.

Then another statement came to my mind that our friend said. “After all, we

need help in order to worship and the use of such pictures and images is not wrong if we worship God better.” I settled back complacently after this rationalization. But again, Scripture came to my mind to disturb me. Jesus told the woman at the well that true worshipers must worship God in spirit and in truth. Material things are not spiritual things. If I need a picture to help me worship God than I must not be a true worshiper, and my innermost being must be warped. This made me angry. Angry because I really down deep in my heart wanted pictures and needed them. Angry because I felt a slave to things when my salvation was supposed to set me free. I was not free as long as I needed and wanted “head pictures.” I was angry because all my agencies helping me to teach and work urged me to use them.

Further, I was not worshipping in truth since the “head” was not a true image of Jesus, but only a man’s imagination. I was a slave to another man’s imagination. This made me furious. I was looking at a lie and bowing to it in my spirit. It is a wonder that God did not strike me dead.

I could hardly sleep that night for thinking all this and the more I tossed and turned the more I thought. The devil was the cause of

(See **IMAGE** on page 17)

Fundamental Baptist News Service

By David Cloud

The Polluted Holy River

The River Ganges in India is considered so holy by Hindus that it is thought to cleanse away sins. It has become so polluted, though, that Hindu religious men are refusing to take their ritual baths. Tests show that the level of human and animal waste in the river is 5,000 percent above the level acceptable for human consumption.

* * *

Popes Say No One Can Be Saved Outside of Rome

Many of the Roman Catholic popes have proclaimed "*ex cathedra*" (meaning "from the throne") that no one can be saved apart from the Roman Catholic Church. These declarations are considered infallible by Roman Catholic dogma and cannot be overturned. Pope Innocent III, speaking at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215, said: "there is but one universal Church of the faithful, outside of which no one at all can be saved." Pope Boniface VIII, in his Bull Unam Sanctam of 1302, said: "We declare, say, define, and pronounce that it is absolutely necessary for the salvation

of every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff." Pope Eugene IV, in his Bull Cantate Domino of 1441, stated: "No one, let his almsgiving be as great as it may, no one, even if he pour out his blood for the name of Christ, can be saved, unless he remain within the bosom and unity of the Catholic Church." Any so-called Evangelical or Protestant or Baptist today who affiliates with the Roman Catholic Church is a traitor to the "faith once delivered to the saints."

* * *

Promise Keepers Still Preaching Ecumenism

The Promise Keepers (PK) organization is reduced in size and influence today as compared to what it was in the 1990s, but it is still alive and has 18 men's conferences planned for 2003. One of the speakers at the PK pastors conference in Phoenix in February was James Merritt, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Merritt told the 9,000 Christian leaders that unity is something God desires and demands and that Jesus prayed for unity ("Unified church can convince the lost," Baptist

Press, Feb. 21, 2003). What he failed to say is that the same Bible instructs God's people to mark and avoid those who teach false things and to earnestly contend for the faith; and when we do this, it is impossible to follow the PK ecumenical philosophy. Further, we wonder why he didn't also take that choice opportunity to explain that in the last hours of the church age the Bible says we can expect massive apostasy and compromise and that we are commanded to separate from it (i.e. 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3-4). That is precisely how the Apostle Paul instructed the leaders of Ephesus when he spoke to them in Acts 20:26-32. Of course, if Merritt had preached those parts of the Bible (and they are extensive) he would not have been invited back!

Further, Merritt had the audacity to say that true unity does not mean "unanimity" of doctrine but "a oneness of heart, a similarity of purpose and an agreement on the basics of Bible doctrine." That sounds

bold, but in the context of a Promise Keepers meeting, it is almost meaningless. Does Merritt agree with Roman Catholic doctrine and think that Roman doctrine is in agreement with the truth? If not, why would he pretend that Promise Keepers believes in a unity that is based in any sense on agreed Bible doctrine? Why did he not rather rebuke Promise Keepers for caring more about unity than about doctrine? Does he not know that Promise Keepers has had a Roman Catholic on its board of directors? Or that Promise Keepers leaders have spoken at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, an institution that exalts such heresies as the supremacy of the pope and prayers to Mary? Or that Roman Catholic priests have been featured as speakers at PK meetings? Oh, the deception and hypocrisy of the bold-sounding but weak-kneed "evangelicals" of our day? □

To Do Thy Will

No service in itself is small;
None great, though earth it fill;
But that is small that seeks its own,
And great that seeks God's will.

Then hold my hand, most gracious God;
Guide all my going still;
And let it be my life's one sin,
To know and to Thy will

CHILD . . .

(Continued from page 14)

“Oh, Look, Twins!”

Like Ruttkofsky, Rebecca Porter of Plant City, Fla., “wanted to be dead” after her abortion experience. She alleges that she, too, was physically restrained when she tried to stop an abortion doctor from ending her children’s lives.

“He started the procedure, the suction started, and within a few minutes, the nurse looked over at the doctor and she said, ‘Oh, look, twins!’” Porter recalled. “I went hysterical. I tried to get up off the table. I was screaming, ‘No! No! Stop! Stop!’”

As she was being restrained, Porter alleged, the doctor told her that the “rest of the tissue” had to be removed to eliminate the risk of infection, a claim she now believes was false.

“So I just laid there, crying, while they sucked the other baby out of my body,” she recalled.

Several of the women present at the press conference relayed details of multiple miscarriages, infertility, uterine complications and other health problems they attribute to their abortions. Many also described problems bonding with children they have given birth to or adopted since their abortion experience.

While the women hope *Roe v. Wade* will be

overturned as a result of their efforts, they say they also want those considering abortion to have a realistic understanding of the potential consequences of that decision.

Susan Renne Mosley of Caladonia, Miss., has had four miscarriages, which she blamed on an earlier abortion, and numerous surgeries to repair her uterus. She has also had part of one breast removed because of a lump, she said, further evidence of the purported link between abortion and breast cancer.

“Abortion More Violating Than Rape”

But Mosley compares her abortion experience to what many women would consider the most horrible thing that could happen to any woman. “I can say that, as a woman who has struggled not just with that but, after conceiving out of rape and giving birth to a son,” Mosley said, “I felt more violated in abortion than I did in rape.”

Calls to the National Abortion Federation, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and NARAL Pro-Choice America (formerly the National Abortion Rights Action League) seeking comment for this article were not returned. □

David killed a lion and a bear in secret, before he killed Goliath in public

MOTHER . . .

(Continued from page 1)

sad-faced Madonna-like mother watching over her sleeping child floods his little soul with reverence — Froebel in “Quests and Conquests”.

* * *

Man, if you have an old mother, be good to her. Tell her that you love her. Kiss the faded old lips. Hold in yours the work-knotted old hands.

Scatter a few of the flowers of tenderness and appreciation in her pathway while she is still alive and can be made happy by them.

Don’t wait to put all of your affection and gratitude and reverence for her into a costly ton of marble inscribed “Mother.”

Don’t wait to throw all of your bouquets on her grave ... These words written for some one particular man who reads this page. I do not know his name, but I know his story. □

CHURCH...

(Continued from page 2)

involved is similar to that involved in our use of the word “home.” When we speak of the “American home,” we are not thinking of some national organization or institution as such; rather, we are thinking of the individual home, each an entity within itself. There is

good reason to believe that in this sense Jesus used the term *ekklesia* in this passage. He was thinking, not in terms of some ecclesiastical organization headed up in a hierarchy, but in terms of each local assembly as His *ekklesia*. The word thus used was a symbol or token of all the churches. At least such an interpretation suits much better the emphasis and tone of the whole New Testament.

The time has come when Baptists need to accentuate their distinctive interpretation of the church as a local body of baptized believers voluntarily banded together for the purpose of worshipping Christ and spreading His gospel. Let us carefully and deliberately refer to “the churches” rather than “the church.” □

IMAGE...

(Continued from page 15)

this and he is laughing like mad at every picture sold. Well I was through making the devil happy. I wanted to make my Jesus happy.

Finally just before I fell asleep I thought *how easy it will be for the anti-christ, the devil incarnated, to look just exactly like the “head” picture and fool the religious world.* Well, by the grace of God he would not fool me; and I thanked Jesus for using a friend to help me see the truth. — W. P. Watson in **The Maryland Baptist**. □

MISSIONS . . .

(Continued from page 1)

3 missionaries per million people in French Indo China.

Yet there are 1,448 ministers per million people in the United States.

Sometimes I have heard people, both ministers and laymen, say that they are missionary and believe in missions, but that we should begin our mission work at home first and then go out to the foreign field. In fact, I have heard preachers preach that home missions, meaning the United States, should always be first in missions, and then if any money is left over we should do missions in foreign countries. The fallacy in that is that these churches never seem to have anything left over to be used in foreign missions.

The Scriptures that I have heard them use to support such a doctrine are not "United States first," but "Jerusalem first." They will go to certain Scriptures where it says "beginning at Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:47) or "and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem" (Acts 1:8), and from this go to the statement that we should begin missions here in America first.

I have heard sermons like that and instead of preaching "America first," they have preached "Jerusalem first," and if I believed what they preached, I would make arrange-

ments to go on the first plane back to Jerusalem, because there are fewer believers in Jerusalem today than there were during the lifetime of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the Apostles had followed out the idea of "missions at home first and then foreign missions," none of us would have ever heard the Gospel because Jerusalem is not yet converted, nor is Judea, nor Samaria, and our business would be to preach the Gospel there until we had converted that section of the world and then move on to other areas.

The fallacy of that doctrine is the fact that Jesus says in Acts 1:8, "And ye shall be witnesses unto me *both* in Jerusalem, etc." The word *both* means that home missions and foreign missions are to be carried on at one and the same time. If we are to begin at one place and preach there until everyone there is converted before we move on, we will forever remain in one place, because none of us ever have 100 percent results. If we are to be obedient to the Lord, we must be foreign missionary minded as well as home missionary minded. In fact, for awhile the church in Jerusalem was not obedient in taking the Gospel into other areas of the world, and the Lord brought persecution down upon the church in Jerusalem to force them to scatter abroad and the

result was as Luke records, "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committing them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went *every where* preaching the word" (Acts 8:3-4).

Looking at the statistics noted, one wonders from a human standpoint, if it is fair that some countries should have so much Gospel while other countries scarcely have heard the Gospel. The Bible clearly teaches that everyone who dies without trusting Jesus Christ, as his Lord and Savior spends an eternity in Hell, and it applies to the heathen in Africa, Mexico, China, India, or any other country or area in the world, and it is our responsibility to see that every man has the opportunity to hear the Gospel at least once before he dies. God has ordained that men are to be saved by the preaching of the Gospel, and the Gospel and its preaching has been given to the churches to carry forth to all the nations of the world. When we limit our preaching to "home missions" instead of expanding it into foreign missions, we are not obedient to the Lord's commission to His churches.

A noted preacher has asked the question, "why should any man hear the Gospel twice until every man has heard the Gospel

once?" and that question remains as one to induce us to be missionary. Are all men lost? Do we not have a responsibility of taking the Gospel unto all men? Mark 16:15 clearly states that we are to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." □

WORK . . .

(Continued from page 12)

from the great Head of the church, even from the Lord Jesus Christ, nor from the Administrator of the local church, the Holy Spirit, so from whence cometh their authority? The action of this early church acting under the authority of the Holy Spirit, began the great march of world missions and their efforts were successful, they left behind a group of established churches, basking in the sunshine of God's pleasure, empowered by the Holy Spirit, preaching Jesus and Him crucified, and the Lord added to the churches.

The time has arrived to clear out churches of all this dead weight, to scrape off the barnacles, with each church and each Christian recognizing their responsibility as stewards of the grace of God, going forth under the command of the Lord Jesus Christ "into all the world." When churches, pastors and laymen, get the vision of a lost world, our work as disciples, we shall accomplish an outstanding work of discipleship even as they. u

FAMILY . . .

(Continued from page 13)

the saved of all ages, whether in Heaven or on earth; *the kingdom of God includes that part of the family of God who are on earth now.*

THE CHURCH

The church of God is never used of any institution, except of an assembly or congregation of baptized believers in some given locality, e.g., the church of God at Corinth (1 Cor. 1:2).

The local individual church is the only kind of church God has on this earth today.

There is only *one family of God*, composed of all the redeemed of all the ages in Heaven and on earth.

There is never a day so dreary
But God can make it bright;
And unto the soul that trusts Him
He giveth songs in the night.

There is never a path so hidden
But God will show the way,
If we seek the Spirit's guidance
And patiently watch and pray.

There is only *one kingdom of God*, composed of all the born again on the earth NOW.

There are thousands of churches of God on earth. Every individual Baptist church is a church of God. No others are.

When a man is *born again* he is *born into God's family*. He is in the family of God forever. The relationship does not change. Whether in Heaven or on earth he is in God's family.

When he is born again he also enters God's Kingdom. This relationship is for life. When he dies he passes out of the kingdom of God on earth and enters "His heavenly kingdom" (2 Tim. 4:18).

After he has been born again he is not yet in a church of God, but is now a scriptural subject for admission into a church of God. "The Lord added to the church daily the saved" (Acts 2:47). *Church membership was NOT something a man got with salvation but a subsequent blessing he got after salvation by being added to the church.*

Baptism is NOT essential to admission into either the family of God or the kingdom of God; *but baptism is essential to admission into a church of God.*

Men are born anew into the family of God and into the kingdom of God; *but they are baptized into a church of God* (1 Cor.

12:13). The "*one body*" referred to by Paul in 1 Cor. 12:13 was the church of God at Corinth. Note in 1 Cor. 12:27 he says, "*Ye are a body of Christ and members in particular.*"

ONE BODY

That local church at Corinth was the body of Christ at Corinth. *Jesus Christ has only one kind of church or body on this earth, and that is the local assembly — the organized body of baptized believers in any given community.*

VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE

Joseph Cross says: "We hear much of the *invisible church* as contradistinguished from the *church visible*. Of an *invisible church* in this world I know nothing, the Word of God says nothing; nor can anything of the kind exist.

"The church is a body; but what sort of a body is that which can neither be seen nor identified? *A body is an organism, occupying space and having a definite locality.*

"A mere aggregation is NOT a body; there must be organization as well. A heap of heads, hands, feet and other members would not make a body; they must be united in a system, each in its proper place and all pervaded by a common life.

So a collection of

stones, brick and timbers would not be a house; the material must be built together, in an artistic order, adapted to utility.

So a mass of roots, trunks and branches would not be a vine or a tree; the several parts must be developed according to the laws of nature from the same seed and nourished by the same vital sap."

Exactly so — Amen and Amen!

The limbs of a body scattered on a battlefield are not a body. The material of a house in the woods or quarries is not a house. These members and this material must be put in place before you have either a body or a house. So the saved are not a church unless brought together and organized or builded into a body or house of God.

There is not and *cannot be such an institution as a universal invisible church* on this earth, composed of all the saved, because the material has never been brought together and builded into a house or body.

When the Lord Jesus and Paul spoke of the baptized believers of a larger territory than a local church *they always said churches* (plural). There was no confusion in their speaking though there is much confusion in modern thinking upon this question.

(See **FAMILY** on page 24)

ISLAM...

(Continued from page 3)

his language changed. His last words commanding harm to non-Muslims are said to abrogate those verses commanding kindness (see below on the quranic doctrine of abrogation of verses). It is said that non-Muslims will be forgiven only if they turn to Islam and practice Islamic religious duties. No matter how Muslims try to explain away the above verses, terrorists use them so that to them the end justifies the means. It is verses like these that form the basis for one of the fundamental tenets of Islam:

Jihad. Accordingly, Islam's ultimate goal is to enforce worldwide submission to the Quran at whatever cost. What we label as terrorists is simply a group of people who obey the Quran. Yet, what makes things more complicated is that Muslims in the world today are either ignorant of the teachings of the Quran, or they hide it (for more on Jihad, please see the article "Don't Hit the Snooze Button" by Barbara Richmond on www.foryourglory.org. Also see the feature story "One Nation Under Different Gods?" By Janet Chismar, editor of *Religion Today*, September 19, 2001).

2. The question of reciprocity. Why is it that

Muslims are allowed to establish mosques and Islamic centers in the western world, when the same privilege is not granted to Christians in many Muslim countries? For example, there is not one single church in Saudi Arabia. Christians there gather either in embassies or associated cultural centers or military bases. In contrast, in the US, there are 3,500 mosques, and growing at the rate of 4 to 5 a week! Wherever Islam spread it has closed the doors behind it. No wonder that today the Middle East and North Africa, the home of the early church, is a most needy mission field

3. The question of democracy. Why is there no democracy in the Arab world that insures with action, not simply words, basic human rights? On the one hand, and contrary to what Islamic leaders declare to the West, the voice of Arab Christians and other non-Muslim groups are not heard, and they are persecuted and not given rights on equal par with Muslims. On the other hand, searching Muslims themselves are not allowed to question or criticize their religion but are locked in it, with the threat of severe persecution and death for leaving the Muslim faith. Muslims who have converted to Christianity remain hidden out of fear. Today there is not one single visible church of Muslim converts in the

entire Arab Muslim countries. This lack of true democracy has resulted in the absence of any common ground for dialogue or constructive cooperation between Muslims and non-Muslims in facing political, social, economic, and religious challenges.

4. The question of truth. According to the quranic doctrine of abrogation, God is supposed to have made Muhammad forget some verses and then replaced them by others.

Quran 17:86 declares, *"If it were Our will We could take away that which We have sent thee by inspiration: then wouldst thou find none to plead thy affair in that matter as against Us."* Thus it is said that the responsibility for verses being erased from Muhammad's memory lies on God Himself.

Quran 13:39 adds, *"Allah doth blot out or confirm what He pleaseth."* According to this well known doctrine in Islam, when God replaces a verse, the latter version is a better and improved one, and may even contain opposite instructions.

Quran 2:106 says, *"None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar: knowest thou not that Allah hath power over all things?"* Furthermore, man is not to allow this teaching of

abrogation to cast doubt upon the reliability of Muhammad.

Quran 16:101 declares, *"When we substitute one revelation for another, and Allah knows best what He reveals, they say, 'Thou [Muhammad] art but a forger': but most of them understood not."* Thus, authentication for the truth of Muhammad's claims is not required, and does not extend beyond the alleged claim to a miraculous poetic style. This doctrine of abrogation has extended so far as to dismiss all previous revelation, vis-a-vis the Bible.

Thus the Quran has rewritten biblical history with stories and accounts that contradict the Bible. To deal with the contradiction between the Bible and the Quran, Muslims throughout history have claimed that the Jews and Christians have corrupted their Bible so that the original Bible no longer exists. No matter what evidence for the truth and reliability of the Bible is provided, Muslims refuse to face the possibility of the truth of the present Bible as we know it. This has resulted in the general deep lack of commitment for seeking truth or for seeing the value of truth.

Questions To Ask Ourselves

(See **ISLAM** on page 21)

ISLAM...

(Continued from page 20)

1. The question of identity. Do we really understand the deep heart of the average Muslim today, especially the Arab Muslim (the one closest to the Quran because of the Arabic language)? On close examination, one finds that Arab Muslims have an identity problem. They see themselves as having been humiliated by Israel's conquering the land of Palestine from them. They see that their large number of one billion has been unable to defeat the small six million Jews in the land. They see their countries divided, backward and way behind the West. As a result, they cling to the one thing they have which the West does not: Islam. This means that in dealing with the future, the West must realize that terrorism has religion at its roots and its justification. Though not all Muslims think like this, the problem is that the Quran can be used as justification for terrorist activities against the West

2. A question of wisdom. In light of the above, we must be careful not to rely on military action alone to stop terrorism. We must be sure to address the religious element and not only the political one. We need to be extremely patient and loving to go beneath the deepest of layers to understand where the root problem is in

Muslim thinking. Muslims are uncompromising and they react more violently when threatened or attacked. An anonymous friend put it this way, "Unless the world's religious leaders — Jewish, Christian and Muslim — could find common ground in the disposition of the Holy Land, the conflict would escalate as it has." To be honest, I am concerned that military actions may cause more problems in the long run. I strongly support President Bush's repeated declaration that the fight is going to be very long. Actions such as freezing the financial sources and stepping up security in travel are right on target. Other such non-military moves may be more effective than military action. But more so, it is time to challenge the Muslim world and its leaders with the questions outlined above. These questions strike at the heart of our future human existence. □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 7)

external ear, but that very sensitive tissue which will later on enable the individual to hear. In thirty short days the new human being has traveled the path from the mysteriously simple egg and sperm on to the threshold of humanity.

As you may have looked at these early

embryos with the bulbous heads, — which droops and is very large compared with the rest of the structures, the formless stubs for arms and legs, and the rest of it, — you will agree that it bears little resemblance to a human form.

The little fellow takes quite a spurt in his second month. He begins to look decidedly more human, and increases six-fold in length — so that he measures almost an inch and a half, and has increased in weight again approximately 500 times. Bones and muscles seem to emerge from nowhere, developing between the skin and the internal organs; the contour of the body is rounding out. Evolutionists say that during this month the tail reaches its greatest development — it is almost one-twentieth of an inch long. Some tail!

Permit me to pause here briefly to discuss this alleged tail, which again is used as an argument to bolster the notion that the humans have developed from animal ancestors with tails. Is it true that this terminal part of the backbone is a real tail in its early stages and is it made up of bones and muscles which disappear entirely as the human stage is reached? At this period are we simply tailed animals? That is the inference we are asked to draw, I believe. And we are told that the evolutionary history of the race is repeated very

rapidly in this early embryonic stage. This is known as Von Baer's Law of Recapitulation. It is simple enough if we free it from technical language.

I would like you to get my meaning here. One of the earliest portions of the human being laid down is the back-bone. In this there are thirty-three separate vertebrae, — seven in the neck, twelve in the back, five in the loins or lumbar region, five more in the sacrum, and four in the coccyx. Twenty-four of these remain separate throughout life, but the five sacral unite into one bone, the sacrum, and the lower or terminal four unite into the coccyx. It is this latter portion which is called the tail and we are told that the tail is shed after the second month of embryological life. If that be true, it ought to disappear.

But what are the facts about this? It does not disappear at all. Before the chest, abdomen, arms and legs are fully developed, this spinal column naturally shows prominently, simply because the other parts have not caught up with it yet. But, in the natural process of growth, it is simply covered up, and remains at the end of the vertebral column, giving attachment to certain muscles enabling the shape of the pelvis to change, and cannot be called a tail like that of animals, and not

(See **BODY** on page 23)



Little Baptist Church Gave Jefferson His Model

(Reprinted from the Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch)

When Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it contained some revolutionary ideas for that time. The views that all men were created equal, and that every man had the right to be heard, were new and strange indeed, to have come from the pen of a man who belonged to the higher social order in the colony. Young Jefferson belonged to the wealthy land-holding class. To his close friends, the document he turned out came as no surprise, but to many of the older and more conservative colonists it must have been a matter of great wonder, as to where young Jefferson acquired these radical new ideas.

There is a tradition in Albemarle, Jefferson's home county, that it was the system of government used by a little Baptist church, the first of that sect in Albemarle, which gave Jefferson his ideas on representative government. The same congregation which Jefferson studied close at hand is still going strong. It is not only the oldest Baptist congregation in Albemarle, but is the

mother church of the Albemarle Association, which at one time covered a good part of central Virginia. It is at present known as Chestnut Grove Church, and is located about one mile west of Earlysville, Va. In 180 years of its career it has undergone a number of changes in name and locations, but the congregation remained intact, and the record books have been continuous, as it moved from place to place.

Jefferson became associated with this church from the time it was formed in 1773 though there is no indication that he ever joined it. The members met in a small building known as Lewis Meeting House, which was said to be either on, or near the University of Virginia grounds. Historians do not agree on the exact location.

From the first, Jefferson became much interested in the Baptist form of church government. He was much impressed, it seems by the fact that every member was given a fair hearing, however serious the charge brought against him. Wealth, station or class had nothing to do with the

justice handed out by the Baptists. In the eyes of the church, slaves were the equal of their masters, and were given as fair a hearing as any white member. A number of slaves were members of this first Baptist Church in Albemarle.

“Purest Form of Democracy”

The Baptists were very strict at that time, and any member who failed to live up to the tenets and church rules were “churched” — that is, called before the church to answer for their errors. A common charge was that of working on Sunday, or selling on Sunday. One man was charged with “rolling” his tobacco to market on Sunday, and pleaded guilty, but said he did not know he was doing wrong. Another member confessed he had done the same thing but also did not realize he was doing anything wrong. Both men confessed and promised not to sin again, and were forgiven.

To young Jefferson, whose mind was trained in legal matters, this form of pure justice had great

appeal, and another idea which he liked was the fact that no member was ever excluded from a meeting. Nor did the church ever hold secret meetings. All church business was conducted in the open, before all who wished to attend business sessions.

The first pastor of the Albemarle Baptists, as they became known, the Rev. Andrew Tribble, said many years later, that when Jefferson was asked what he thought of the Baptist church government, he said it was the purest form of democracy to be found in the world at that time, and that it would make a good model for a republic.

So it was not surprising that, when Jefferson was given the task of writing the Declaration of Independence, setting down on paper the embryonic ideals of which the American Republic is founded, those practices which had so impressed him in the little Baptist church should influence that historic document.

Even without its connection with Jefferson and

(See **JEFF** on page 23)

JEFFERSON . . .

(Continued from page 22)

the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson's "model" church has a colorful history. In its 180 years of existence, it has had almost as many ups and downs, as the Republic itself. The Rev. Mr. Tribble was pastor until around 1785. He with the Rev. John Waller in 1780 ordained to the ministry one of the most colorful figures in the Revolution, Rev. William Woods, better known as "Baptist Billy." This gentleman was often in conflict with his congregation. He was once "churched" for working his slaves on Sunday, and when he was allowed to defend himself, he put his talents of speech to such good use, he was forgiven. He declared the slaves had been gathering food and material for the Virginia troops, and in time of war he "saw no difference between his religion and his patriotism."

**"Model Church"
Marches On**

When the Revolution was over, and religious freedom came to Virginia, the established church abandoned some of its buildings, and the Albemarle Baptists took possession of one of these, the Buck Mountain Church near Earlysville. This old frame building was one of three built in the Fredericksburg

parish around 1747. The Baptists used this building for 30 or more years. They were in it in 1809 when Thomas Jefferson retired from the Presidency, for this congregation wrote him a letter welcoming him home, to which he replied, commenting on their church, and expressing his pleasure at being back among friends. □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 21)

even a vestigial "left-over." Every human being still has the coccyx and it is not useless by any means.

Look at it from another angle. If we lose our tail in embryo, then it follows that at an early stage we had more pieces of bone or cartilage in our spine than when we are fully formed. That is not so. The embryo at six weeks or two months has 33 vertebrae, the adult has the same number. Where is there any loss? Because it *looks like* a tail we are surely not justified in calling it a tail exactly like that of an animal.

We are told that occasionally today babies are born with undoubted tails. I challenge that statement. I have examined some of these so-called tails. They are simply tabs of skin, slight faults in development, which can be easily removed, because they do not contain bone, and certainly cannot logically be called tails.

In this second month

the face and neck are changing. The mouth which has been very wide indeed, narrows, and is bounded by upper and lower jaws, with real cheeks beginning to show. A broad nose is forming and the eyes which at first lie on the sides of the head, are shifted around to the front. During the last week of this month, the eyelids develop and shortly afterwards are tightly closed.

The forehead is prominent and bulging — and he looks like a brainy fellow who will surely make his way in life. In the next article I shall tell you some other very surprising things which now occur in this mysterious being that is struggling to become a real man.

It is always with a feeling of awe that I consider this subject. I try and imagine what God's thoughts were as He planned with omniscient wisdom all these slowly and steadily progressing changes. It was easy for Him, and this Divine Intelligence, so infinitely removed from us, instantly surmounted all obstacles. There are no obstacles to Him and when Adam was created, I dare say every organ, tissue, nerve, blood-vessel, bone and muscle fell into their appointed place ready for that great moment when God "breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul."? That is the simple statement of Genesis 2:7.

There are many questions I'd like to ask but we shall have to wait. I'd like, for instance, to have a quiet chat with Adam. I would say, "Adam, how did you feel that first moment when you opened your eyes and looked around? What was the first thing you did? Were you hungry? Were the animals crowding around you? Did you stroke the head of the lion? What was the weather like? What did the voice of God sound like to you?"

Trivial questions, maybe, but I think I'll try and ask them if God permits. *The voice of God!* It came to Adam in the garden several times. I know there's one time Adam will never forget — the time after he had sinned, when he tried to hide. *Adam*, "where art thou?" That voice, I think, struck terror into his heart.

Have you ever heard that voice, my friend? God is now speaking to you if you will listen — pause for a moment; do you hear Him say: "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life (Jn. 5:40, 24).

That was Jesus Christ speaking to you just now. You have heard — will you obey and live? Won't you let Him in? HE'S WONDERFUL! □

FAMILY . . .

(Continued from page 18)

**MAKE THE
DISTINCTION CLEAR**

Once more we try to make the distinction clear. The family of God is composed of all the saved in Heaven and on earth. Old Testament saints and babies who died in infancy are in God's family. They are not now, nor were they ever in the Kingdom or in any church of God.

All believers ON THE EARTH at any given time since the days of John the Baptist (Luke 16:16) compose the Kingdom of God. There are no infants in it.

All true believers, whether Catholic, Protestant, Baptist or non-church-members, on earth are in the kingdom; for if true believers they have been born anew.

Only scripturally baptized believers or Baptists are members of the churches of Christ. — Ashland Avenue Baptist, June 21, 1963. □

Men and Angels

1. Man created: lower than the angels (Heb. 2:7).

2. Man resurrected: equal to the angels (Lu. 20:36).

3. Man in grace: higher than the angels (1 Cor. 6:3).

MASON . . .

(Continued from page 1)

cation.

3. The human race got into its present bad fix by turning God's truth into a lie (Rom. 1:25). That was the genesis of idolatry.

4. Many regard the preacher who tells them the truth as an enemy, when he is not. Paul had such an experience (Gal. 4:16).

5. The truth is to be taught and spoken in love always (Eph. 4:15). To merely "bawl somebody out" does little good.

6. It is through the Word of Truth that one is begotten unto God — therefore there is not salvation apart from the preaching of the essential truths concerning salvation (Jas. 1:18).

**The Greatest Foes To
The Truth**

1. TRADITION. Many are what they are religiously because of tradition. If mom and pop or grandma were, settles it for them. They inherit their religion, like they inherit a big nose or flat feet. But every individual is personally responsible, and inherited religion is not worth a five cent piece. Many feel that it would be an awful thing to break the tradition of the family when all the rest belong to a certain denomination.

2. SENTIMENT. Others are a bundle of sentiment. We think of the

young man, whose answer to all arguments for becoming a Baptist, was the fact that his Methodist father and mother prayed for him as a boy. What had that to do with it? A person who settles everything according to their sentimental feelings, is a dangerous person so far as the truth is concerned. "It's so beautiful;" that is the only argument of many a person for all of the ritual and tomfoolery that is put on in the ritualistic churches. The right question is this: "Where is the scripture for it?"

3. IGNORANCE. Ignorance is a hard thing to combat. Some fellow who doesn't know any more about the truth of God than a moron, can come along with a big voice and a lot of ballyhoo, and people will sit entranced. It's the greatest they have heard! Yet if they were asked just what he said, they couldn't tell. They merely got excited over the "rousements."

4. LAZINESS. Many are too mentally lazy to study and learn the truth. Plenty of preachers are in that class. Plenty of preachers who are too lazy to study. Some throw down their books and go off fishing. Doctors as lazy and poorly prepared as thousands of preachers, would poison and kill a good portion of the human race. The law won't let a doctor practice without study — but a preacher without any

knowledge and too lazy to get any, can broadcast his heresies and no one is able to stop him.

5. THE SYSTEM. The ecclesiastical and denominational systems keep multitudes in ignorance. How?

(1) By a nonsensical scheme of Bible study in which people have little chance to really learn what it says.

(2) By educating preachers such that they don't know how to do expository preaching, but preach the "Program."

(3) By substituting amusement for the truth. When they need a Bible died, they are on a diet of wienies? □

**God Is Back Of
Everything**

Dr. Beattle of Aberdeen, in the corner of a little garden wrote with his finger the initials of his son's name; then he sowed garden cress in the furrows, covered the seed and smoothed the ground.

Ten days later the boy, with astonishment told his father that his name was growing in the garden.

"Yes," the father said, carelessly, "I see it, but what is there in that worth noticing? Is it not mere chance?"

"No, something must have made me."

Then the father told him anew of the great God of the universe. □