

# The Baptist

# CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 509

## *The Battle of the Baptists*

By W. M. Nevins

This battle has been in progress for at least 1750 years. We were first called Anabaptists because we would not accept alien baptism, that is, baptism administered by heretics; and insisted on baptizing all that come to us from them.

About 200 A.D., Tertullian, one of the Ante-Nicene fathers, writes: "Heretics have no

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fellowship in our discipline. Their baptism is not one with ours, either, a baptism which, since they have it not dully, doubtless they have it not at all" (Vol 3, p. 676).

Neander, another historian, in speaking about the

churches planted by Paul, says: "It was a Roman bishop Stephanus, who, instigated by the spirit of ecclesiastical arrogance, issued a sentence of excommunication against the pastors of Asia Minor, stigmatizing them as

*Anabaptists*, a name, however, which they could justly affirm they *did not deserve*, by their principles: for it was not their wish to administer a second baptism, but they contended that the previous baptism given by heretics (other sects) could not be recognized as a true one"

(See **BATTLE** on page 2)

### **Baptist Position On Easter**

**The Baptist Message**

The historic Baptist position with regard to Easter is that since it is a pagan festival, brought over into the circumference of Christianity, it would be a monstrosity in a New Testament church service. Baptists do not believe in limiting the observance of the resurrection of our Lord

(See **EASTER** on page 7)

### **The Importance of the Church**

**By I. W. Rogers**

There are only two institutions that have come into being by direct acts of God. They are: *the home*, which was instituted in the early days of the human race; and *the church*, which had its beginning during the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. There can be no doubt that both these institutions are dear to the heart of our

Lord.

It is indeed gratifying to see the increased interest in the home, as expressed in the large number of books and magazines on the subject that are coming from the press, and a deeper concern on the part of pastors and churches and denominations, who

(See **CHURCH** on page 6)

### **How To Become A Baptist**

**By F. M. Goodchild**

If you will leave a man alone with the New Testament, uninterfered with in any way, without a commentary, he will come out a Baptist.

If you send a group of Christian believers to read the New Testament with a desire to find out what kind of church they should form,

(See **BAPTIST** on page 7)

## Quiz The Pastor

# Is It Right For Older Women to Teach Younger Women In Sunday School?

By Garner Smith

**Question:** Is it right for older women to teach younger women in Sunday school?

**Answer:** I recognize that there are some questions that do not have an absolute definitive answer to the minds of some, but I believe there is in the Scripture ample information to satisfy any reasonable Bible believer the position of women in the church. Christianity, like no other religious faith elevated the position of women and children. Instead of criticizing Paul for the instructions on the Scriptural restrictions on women they should thank God for the blessing the Christian faith has been to womanhood. There are restrictions placed upon women in public worship (see I Cor. 11:1-16; I Cor.

14:34; I Tim. 2:1-15; Titus 2:1-8). Paul is emphasizing in these Scriptures the threefold headship in the local church. There is a threefold headship in the local assembly: (1) the headship of Christ over the body, Col. 1:18; (2) the headship of the Pastor over the flock, Acts 20:28; (3) the headship of the man over the woman, I Cor. 11:1-16. Certainly the Scripture teaches that the woman is to be silent and in subjection in the mixed assembly (I Tim. 2:8-15, I Cor. 14:34), but we find nothing against the teaching of women and children alone by women at any time and at any place. Titus 2:3-5 commands that women are especially charged to teach young women practical home duties, but this Scripture

does not limit their teaching to this. They are to be “teachers of good things” (v. 3), and the reason for their teaching, “that the Word of God be not blasphemed,” open up a considerable field of instruction. The Scriptures do not say that their teaching is to be done only in the home, nor does it say that they must teach only one at a time. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, in the Scripture against women teaching Bible classes composed wholly of women or children, so long as they do it in subjection to the church, the pastor, and their own husbands. There are, perhaps many cases where some young women do not get the Biblical instruction of their position in Gods plan at home and unless they receive it from some Godly woman maybe only at Sunday School would never know it. What a great opportunity for Godly women at church. Those who would forbid women to teach women or children are adding to Gods Word not just obeying. ■

Margate, England, said: “These are the descendants of Moravian AnaBaptists in the new plantation of Georgia.” Note this significant fact: the first church established in Georgia was known as the *Kioka Ana-Baptist Church*.

Fifteen hundred and seventy-three years, and now, 1753 years, and Baptists still battling over, this ancient question!

Recently, I received the following statement from one of our leading Baptist editors of the South: “I am making another study of your great book — **Alien Baptism and the Baptists**. All Baptists and teachers especially — should have it close at hand for study and reference. Unquestionably, there is a gradual drifting away from the historic Baptist position, and the process has gone much farther than some suspect. The logic of Alien Baptism, in my judgement, leads to every other form of compromise.”

This indicates that the battle has shifted from the outside to the inside.

Dr. Whitsitt, who was regarded as the historian of the early Baptists of Tennessee, called the receiving of alien immersion by some churches a “modern innovation.” Just before he died, he wrote an able paper on “Alien Baptism” for the Southern Baptist Review. Among other things he said: “We

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## THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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## BATTLE . . .

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(Neander, Vol. 12, p. 318-319).

Fifteen hundred and seventy-three years go by, and in 1773 a colony of Baptists was established in what was then known as the wilds of Georgia, of which Reverend Lewis of



## God's Masterpiece: The Human Body -- Message #47

# Fractured Bones

By **Authur I. Brown**

Before we leave the subject of bones and joints, there are a few more facts which ought to be given. The outer layers of all bone are hard and compact. However, in long bones the inner portion in and near the middle is hollow and filled with a soft spongy tissue — the bone marrow. If you have the opportunity, examine the inner portion of a soup bone, the reddish-yellow gelatinous mass you see is the bone marrow and in this tissue the cellular elements of the blood are formed and developed. This marrow has been called the mint of the blood cell state. A billion new blood cells are coined and issued here daily and then dispatched through the vessels in the bone wall into the circulation. So, this tissue is easily one of the most important in the human body. Just as banks build their vaults in the foundations of their buildings so as to deposit their gold reserves in the safety and security of their depths, similarly the body has used the most protected places, the interior of bones, to deposit there the coin and gold of the cell state — the blood.

The connective tissue

cell which produces bone also forms two other materials possessing different properties — fibres of collagen, and calcium. The fibres are deposited in a spiral arrangement and embedded in a calcified ground substance. This mixture resembles the reinforced concrete used in industry and constructed along exactly the same lines, where flexible, elastic iron wires are embedded in concrete. Bone, then, is a “reinforced concrete” with collagen fibres instead of iron. But, strange as it may seem, bone is much more strongly constructed than concrete. It will carry a load thirty times greater than that which brick will support, three times as great as the maximum for granite, and almost as great as the load carried by equally strong cast-iron bars. Its tensile strength surpasses even that of cast iron. The strongest bone in the body is the shinbone which can support a load of 3,600 pounds.

In spite of this great strength and firmness, bone is quite flexible, owing to its high fibre content. If a fresh human skull be compressed in a vice, it can be decreased in breadth as

much as ten percent before it cracks. A skull dropped on a stone floor will not break. Billiard balls made of polished bone demonstrate this combination of hardness and elasticity, as they collide and rebound rapidly.

In the newborn infant the elasticity is more prominent than the hardness, because of the greater proportion of the organic gelatinous material at this stage compared to the calcium and other mineral substances. This proportion is as eight to one. Because of this a child can execute almost unbelievable contortions of the body without breaking any bones. At the age of eighty the proportion is reversed to one to eight. Then the individual must be very careful to avoid fracture. I once had a patient who, while walking across the floor, caught her foot gently in a rug with resulting fracture of the thigh bone. In the hospital she broke one bone after another simply by small movements of the limbs. X-ray pictures revealed almost complete absence of gelatinous material, and nothing left but brittle calcium.

A boy plays ball, as if

he were made of rubber, while the old man toddles along slowly and laboriously as if his legs were glass rods. They are not quite that, to be sure, but they *are* pillars of chalk — eighty percent calcium. They break easily and mend with difficulty.

In treating a fractured bone, the fragments are brought into as close alignment as possible, just as when we mend a broken piece of crockery. In the case of the bone, however, we do not need to supply any glue, because the connective tissue cells produce this, themselves.

Bone tissue has extraordinary powers of regeneration. Some of the broken fragments die and are dissolved by certain ferments released by the death of the cells. The entire area containing the bone ends and the surrounding soft tissue structures is bound together by clotted blood and lymph. After a few hours, young connective tissue cells, known as fibroblasts, appear in the clot as the first step in the repair of the fracture. These cells multiply rapidly and capture

(See **BODY** on page 5)

## “What Thomas Jefferson Learned From the Muslim Book of Jihad”

By Ted Sampley

Democrat Keith Ellison is now officially the first Muslim United States congressman. True to his pledge, he placed his hand on the Quran, the Muslim book of Jihad and pledged his allegiance to the United States during his ceremonial swearing-in.

Capitol Hill staff and Ellison’s swearing-in photo opportunity drew more media than they had ever seen in the history of the U.S. House. Ellison represents the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota.

The Quran used was no ordinary book. It once belonged to Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States and one of America’s founding fathers. Ellison borrowed it from the Rare Book Section of the Library of Congress. It was one of the 6,500 Jefferson books archived in the library.

Ellison, who was born in Detroit and converted to Islam while in college, said he chose to use Jefferson’s Quran because it showed that “a visionary like Jefferson” believed that wisdom could be gleaned from many sources.

There is no doubt Ellison was right about Jefferson believing wisdom could be “gleaned” from the



Muslim Keith Ellison being sworn in to the United States Congress with his hand upon the Quran. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi administered the oath.

Muslim Quran. At the time Jefferson owned the book, he needed to know everything possible about Muslims because he was about to advocate war against the Islamic “Barbary” states of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Tripoli.

Ellison’s use of Jefferson’s Quran as a prop illuminates a subject once well-known in the history of the United States, but, which today, is mostly forgotten — the Muslim pirate slavers who over many centuries enslaved millions of Africans and tens of thousands of

Christian Europeans and Americans in the Islamic “Barbary” states. Over the course of 10 centuries, Muslim pirates cruised the African and Mediterranean coastline, pillaging villages and seizing slaves.

The taking of slaves in pre-dawn raids on unsuspecting coastal villages had a high casualty rate. It was typical of Muslim raiders to kill off as many of the “non-Muslim” older men and women as possible so the preferred “booty” of only young women and children could be collected.

Young non-Muslim

women were targeted because of their value as concubines in Islamic markets. Islamic law provides for the sexual interests of Muslim men by allowing them to take as many as four wives at one time and to have as many concubines as their fortunes allow.

Boys, as young as 9 or 10 years old, were often mutilated to create eunuchs who would bring higher prices in the slave markets of the Middle East. Muslim slave traders created “eunuch stations” among major African slave routes so the necessary surgery could be performed. It was estimated that only a small number of the boys subjected to the mutilation survived after the surgery.

When American colonists rebelled against British rule in 1776 American merchant ships lost Royal Navy protection. With no American Navy for protection, American ships were attacked and their Christian crews enslaved by Muslim pirates operating under the control of the “Dey of Algiers” — an Islamist war-lord ruling Algeria.

Because American

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**JIHAD . . .**

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commerce in the Mediterranean was being destroyed by the pirates, the Continental Congress agreed in 1784 to negotiate treaties with the four Barbary States. Congress appointed a special commission consisting of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin to oversee the negotiations.

Lacking the ability to protect its merchant ships in the Mediterranean, the new American government tried to appease the Muslim slavers by agreeing to pay tribute and ransoms in order to retrieve seized American ships and buy the freedom of enslaved sailors.

Adams argued in favor of paying tribute as the cheapest way to get American commerce in the Mediterranean moving again. Jefferson was opposed. He believed there would be no end to the demands for tribute and wanted matters settled "through the medium of war." He proposed a league of trading nations to force an end to Muslim piracy.

In 1786, Jefferson then the American ambassador to France, and Adams, then the American ambassador to Britain, met in London with Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja, the "Dey of Algiers" ambassador to Britain.

The Americans wanted

to negotiate a peace treaty based on Congress' vote to appease. During the meeting Jefferson and Adams asked the Dey's ambassador why Muslims held so much hostility toward America, a nation with which they had no previous contacts.

In a later meeting with the American Congress, the two future presidents reported that Ambassador Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja had answered that Islam "was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Quran, that all nations who should not have acknowledge their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners, and that every Musselman (Muslim) who should be slain in battle was sure to go to Paradise."

For the following 15 years, the American government paid the Muslims millions of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages. The payments in ransom and tribute amounted to 20% of United States governmental annual revenues in 1800.

Not long after Jefferson's inauguration as president in 1801, he dispatched a group of frigates to defend American interests in the Mediterranean, and informed

Congress.

Declaring that America was going to spend "millions for defense but not one cent for tribute," Jefferson pressed the issue by deploying American Marines and many of America's best warships to the Muslim Barbary Coast. The USS Constitution, the USS Constellation, USS Philadelphia, USS Chesapeake, USS Argus, USS Syren and USS Intrepid all saw action.

In 1805, American Marines marched across the desert from Egypt into Tripolitania, forcing the surrender of Tripoli and the freeing of all American slaves.

During the Jefferson administration, the Muslim Barbary States, crumbling as a result of intense American naval bombardment and on shore raids by Marines, finally officially agreed to abandon slavery and piracy.

Jefferson's victory over the Muslims lives on today in the Marine Hymn, with the line, "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we will fight our country's battles on the land as on the sea."

It wasn't until 1815 that the problem was fully settled by the total defeat of all the Muslim slave trading pirates.

Jefferson had been right. The "medium of war" was the only way to put an end to the Muslim problem. Mr. Ellison was right about Jefferson. He was a "visionary" wise enough to

read and learn about the enemy from their own Muslim book of Jihad. □

**BODY . . .**

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all available calcium, so that within seventy-two to ninety-six hours, there is a mass of tissue formed to unite the ends of the bones. Calcium is steadily added to this new tissue, causing the formation of a swelling called a "callus," similar to that seen in a broken and healing limb of a tree. Under suitable conditions, a beautiful result is seen after a few months. The rough edges of the callus are all smoothed down and once more the bone is solid, and may even be stronger than it was before. Do you know of any other self-repairing factory like this in which without any outside help such perfect results can be secured? Do you not think this has been planned and made possible by a wise Creator?

I think we ought to give one more glance at the beautiful system of joint lubrication mentioned previously. The ends of the bones, as I have told you, are covered with cartilage so that they will not become abraded by rubbing against one another, but will glide smoothly without friction. These cartilages, along with other parts of the joint space, develop delicate minute processes,

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have been aroused by the prevalence of divorce, and the frightful and concerted attacks upon the home by the movies, the liquor industry, television, and other forces of evil. Let us hope and pray that the present efforts to show the importance of this basic institution of Christian civilization is only the beginning of a strong emphasis on all that belongs to a genuinely Christian home, and on an all-out war against the evil forces that are pulling millions of homes apart. May God's blessings be upon every one who has a part in arousing the interest of the people in the importance of the home, and upon every soldier of the cross, who enlists in the fight against the enemies of the home.

But we are not going to succeed on our efforts to build genuinely Christian homes by neglecting the other God-ordained institution, *the church*. No nation can have the right sort of homes without having the right sort of churches, and no nation can have the right kind of churches without having the right kind of homes. These twin institutions of God are dependent upon each other. The question, "Which is the more important, the church or the home" is not a debatable question. Both are indispensable, and neither can get along without the

other.

The importance of the church is attested by the emphasis that Jesus and the apostles and the New Testament Scriptures, as a whole, place upon this God-ordained, and God-built institution. Jesus not only instituted His church, but He built it. On the night before He was crucified, in His intercessory prayer, He said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (Jn. 17:4). This was spoken probably less than an hour and perhaps less than thirty minutes, after He had instituted the Lord's Supper, the final act in building His church. While the four Gospels do not use the word "church" but a few times, Jesus was diligently working throughout His ministry, using the material that had been prepared by John the Baptist, and fashioning it into the institution which he called, "My Church" (Mt. 16:18). Jesus, Himself, is the Chief Corner Stone upon which His institution was built; His apostles were the foundation sills, the charter members (Eph. 2:12; 1 Cor. 12:28). He loved His church so much that He died for it (Eph 5:25), and He promised to be with His institution all the days even to the end of the world (Mt. 28:20). This promise He has literally fulfilled down to the present day. One of the most beautiful word pictures in all the Bible, and one that stirs the saint of God with

emotion, is the picture of Jesus walking among the seven golden candlesticks — His seven churches in Asia (Rev. 1:12-13, 20).

The apostles of our Lord placed strong emphasis on the church. The book of Acts is a story of the growth of the institution which Jesus built, and its multiplication into many other like institutions. Paul wrote nine of his letters to one or more churches for each letter, and his other four letters deal largely with instructions as to how church officials ought to behave themselves "in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:13). John wrote his second and third epistles for instruction to churches and their leaders. He wrote the last book of the Bible as "The revelation of Jesus Christ" to the seven churches of Asia. One of the greatest burdens of Paul was his daily "care of all the churches" (2 Cor. 11:28).

So, the New Testament as a whole is largely concerned with the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. Understand, we did not say the Bible, because you will not find instructions concerning or for the churches of our Lord in the Old Testament. The reference in Stephen's sermon to the "church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38), simply means *the congregation* in the wilderness, and has no reference whatsoever to

the church that Jesus built.

Since the church of our Lord is so important, the question arises, "Are Baptists being taught what a church of Jesus Christ is, and are they being thoroughly grounded in the New Testament doctrine of the church?" In most of our churches and in most of our Southern Baptists institutions the answer is an unequivocal "No." In all too many instances, the pastors of our churches and the teachers in our institutions of learning know almost nothing about the church that Jesus built. They never, in all their lives, have made a thorough study of what God has told us in the New Testament about the supremely important institution brought into existence by our Lord, and, sad to say, many of them do not care enough about it to even learn! Is it, then, at all surprising that the average Baptist church member is extremely ignorant about the church that Jesus built? He does not know what a New Testament church is, and there is no one who will instruct him! Is it any marvel that all the cults such as Mormonism, Seventh Day Adventism, Jehovah Witnesses, and Campbellism are making such inroads among Baptists? Is it not time we were doing something about it? □

***Be Fishers of Men  
You catch'em,  
He'll clean'em.***



## “Fencing the Lord’s Table”

By John D. Freeman, Editor  
Western Recorder

The practice of restricting the Lord’s Supper to certain people is as old as the ordinance; in fact is as old as the Jewish Passover. In making a study of a restricted communion, we are not, therefore, dealing with something that is new, or which has been practiced by only one denomination. One searches in vain among the records of the leading Christian faiths for evidences of a real Open Communion policy.

A careful study of the subject will reveal two inescapable facts: (1) Only Quakers, occasional churches, and some small temporary groups, usually of a fanatical nature, have practiced unrestricted communion. (2) The difference between the view of Baptists and the views held by some other evangelical bodies is a difference not of restricted and unrestricted communion, but of beliefs concerning the nature and authority of a church and the form and purpose of baptism.

### Rise of Open Communion

The rise of open, or rather of partially restricted communion is parallel with the development of the

sacramental conception of baptism and the Lord’s Supper. It is not dogmatic for one to declare that had the sacramental idea never come into the observance of the ordinances and the strange, unscriptural belief in an invisible church on earth never been drawn from a false interpretation of the kingdom of Christ, the demand for unrestricted communion would never have arisen. Even to this day we find the strongest advocates of open communion within the ranks of those who hold to the Mystic-Communion theory of the Lord’s Supper and to the theory of an invisible church here on earth. Necessarily there must be a relation existing between the two theories.

Prior to 200 A.D. there were only independent churches in the Christian ranks. Whatever of interrelationships had arisen was limited strictly to the interchange of ideals through selected messengers. Gieseler declares: “All congregations were independent of one another until 193 A.D.” Mosheim supports his statement, declaring: “All the churches of those primitive times were independent bodies, and none of them subject to the jurisdiction of any

other.” He further says that by 400 A.D. “Although the ancient mode of church government seemed in general to remain unaltered, yet there was a gradual deflection from its rules and an approximation toward the form of monarchy.”

The observance of the ordinances, then, was subjected to no rules save such as each church found in the instructions of the apostles, later incorporated in the New Testament. Paul’s instructions to various churches show clearly that each was a law unto itself. He declares that he himself delivered the memorial to the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 11:23). He praised the church, not the ministers,

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### BAPTIST . . .

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they will come out and form a Baptist church.

That has been proved again and again in Christian history. They sought for themselves the directions in the New Testament, and were surprised when they organized a church to find that such a church was already in existence. That was the case in the history of the Dutch Baptists and others. □ □

### EASTER . . .

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to one Sunday in the year — and that an ancient pagan festival day; but rather to observe that Great Occasion 52 times a year — on the Lord’s Day. He rose the first day of the week, and thus the day of worship was observed by the early Christians on that day; and to commemorate the Great Occasion, it was called the Lord’s Day.

The infiltration of Easter into some of the early Christian churches began about the fourth century.

While we are sure many good people sincerely think of Easter as an appropriate day to place special emphasis on the resurrection of the Lord — His conquest over death and His victory over the grave — we doubt if most people really connect Easter in their minds with the resurrection. The blessed truth of the resurrection, we fear, is lost sight of in the clutter of commercialism that prevails at that season. Ask the average person on the street what Easter suggests, and he will be quite apt to reply, “Easter bunnies and eggs.”

If the Lord should return to earth in person we wonder if He would not rebuke us, even as He rebuked the “religious” people of His day: “Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.” □



**North Korea Tops List Of Countries Persecuting Christians.** — The “World Watch List,” compiled annually by Open Doors USA, ranks countries according to the intensity of persecution Christians face for pursuing their faith. For five years running, North Korea has topped that list. In six of the top ten persecuting countries, the predominate religion is Islam. — **ONN**

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**Muslims Erupt Over Temple Mount Excavations.** — The Muslim world is upset about archeological excavations around Jerusalem’s Temple Mount because they fear it will disprove their claim that Jews never inhabited the Holy Land before 1948, an Israeli expert on Arabic matters said here. Islamic leaders on Tuesday urged Palestinians and Muslims across the region to rally against Israel to prevent damage to the Al-Aksa mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, which is located on the Temple Mount. The calls for violence came as archeologists continued what they call

## World News Roundup

“rescue” excavations, which are taking place about 50 meters (163 feet) outside the Temple Mount compound. The rescue work is part of a plan to build a new footbridge to be used by non-Muslims entering the Temple Mount. The new bridge will replace a temporary wooden ramp that was built two years ago after the original structure leading to the Mughrabi gate partially collapsed following an earthquake and snowstorm. It is the only gate through which non-Muslim visitors can enter the Temple Mount.

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**Illegal Aliens Beat Up Imprisoned Border Patrol Agent.** — A former Border Patrol agent, now behind bars, has been severely beaten by illegal immigrant fellow inmates. An advocate is calling for protection for the ex-border security officer, who was arrested, tried and convicted for his actions regarding the pursuit and shooting of an illegal immigrant drug smuggler.

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**Tancredo Outraged About Border Agent’s Prison Beating.** GOP presidential hopeful Tom Tancredo is outraged that federal prison officials did not protect a U.S. Border

Patrol agent, who Tancredo believes was wrongly imprisoned, from other inmates. The Colorado congressman says that, if he was president, he would immediately pardon both agents.

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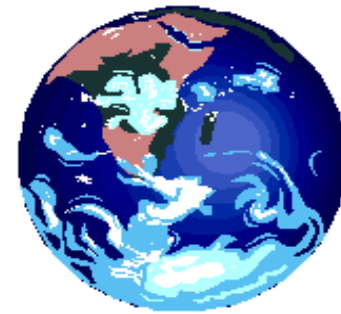
**Global Child Porn Ring Shattered.** — Austrian investigators have uncovered a major international child pornography ring involving thousands of suspects from dozens of countries, including Germany, Algeria, Russia, and the United States.

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**No Stance From President On “Hate Crimes” Bill or “Fairness Doctrine.”** — The Bush administration is playing its cards close to the vest on a couple of contentious pieces of legislation, one a “hate crimes” bill and the other, a measure that would compel broadcasters to give equal time to those on each side of political controversies.

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**Florida Employees Win Right to Make Faith-based Donations.** — A lawsuit filed jointly last year by the Christian Legal Society and Alliance



Defense Fund has helped gain the right for Florida state employees to contribute to the Association of Faith-based Organizations and other similar charities through the State Employees Charitable Campaign.

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**Activist Says Wal-Mart Still Promoting Homosexuality Online.** — A boycott by the pro-family media watchdog group American Decency Association against Wal-Mart will continue, largely because of more than 1,000 book selections in the retail chain’s online bookstore that cater to homosexual interests.

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**Imam Prays For Democrats to Convert To Islam.** — Robert Spencer, one of America’s foremost experts on Islam, says members of the Democratic National Committee may have been ignorant what the words meant when an Islamic Imam recently gave the invocation at the party’

(See **WNR** on page 11)

# La Voz Del Desierto



## ¿Cuál Fue el Origen Del Universo?

“Dijo el necio en su corazón: No hay Dios” (Salmo 14:1).

Hay dos maneras de ver el mundo. Algunos dicen: “¡Asombroso! Una gran explosión hizo esto de la nada.” Otros dicen: “Es un diseño increíble. Debe de haber un Diseñador inteligente.” Estos dos puntos de vista están en guerra el uno contra el otro. Alguien debe estar equivocado.

Obviamente los ateos

creen y defienden la teoría de la Gran Explosión, porque si aceptan la idea de que hay un Creador, pues eso indicaría que Él es el Dueño de este mundo y que nosotros tenemos que hacer lo que Él dice (Hechos 17:24-27; Apocalipsis 4:11). Estas personas encuentran humillante el tener que arrodillarse ante el Dios y Creador de este mundo, y como no les gusta que Dios les diga lo que tienen que hacer, por eso

prefieren aferrarse a estas falsas teorías hasta la muerte, con la esperanza de escaparse de Dios y no darle cuenta a nadie de sus pecados.

Hay quienes dicen que hay que ser un científico para poder hablar de estas cosas. Sin embargo, Cristóbal Colón no era científico y probó que la tierra no era plana, como creían la mayoría de los científicos de su tiempo. Pero los cristianos que leían su Biblia

en aquel tiempo siempre supieron que la tierra era redonda (Isaias 40:22). Sólo unos cuantos paganos creían que la tierra era plana. La evolución es sólo un sistema de creencias y no se necesita ser un científico para combatirla. No tenemos nada en contra de la ciencia, pero estamos en contra del veneno que está mezclado con la buena ciencia, que hay en los

(Vea **ORIGEN** en la pág. 10)

## Amén Y Aleluya

El famoso monje de la iglesia romana, Jerónimo, decía que en Roma la gente acostumbraba decir “amén” en los cultos con tanto fervor, que parecía el ruido de una catarata; a lo cual comenta el famoso predicador bautista inglés Spurgeon: “Yo quisiera que todos los miembros del Tabernáculo (nombre de la iglesia que dirigía), dijese ‘amén’ con mayor uniformidad al final de una

oración pública. Creo que sería de bendición para todos.”

“Quizá hayamos abandonado la costumbre debido a la forma irregular de ciertas congregaciones donde los ‘amén’ y los ‘aleluya’ son dichos en párrafos del mensaje inoportunos, ya que ciertos hermanos celosos, pero atrevidos y analfabetos, dicen ‘amén’ cuando no corresponde hacerlo, trans-

formando la reverencia en algo ridículo. Pero la costumbre de expresar en voz alta el asentimiento del alma a la voz del que está hablando es buena, ya que la palabra significa ‘así sea’ o ‘así acontezca’; es prácticamente el consentimiento de toda la congregación a la emoción o al mensaje que está emitiendo el predicador.”

Así sucede también con los aleluyas de algunas

congregaciones nuevas, pero como declaraba en otra parte el célebre predicador bautista Spurgeon, es mejor que la olla se sobresalga y vierta por exceso de calor, y no que esté fría por falta de emoción y fervor del Espíritu Santo.

De: “Enciclopedia de Anécdotas e Ilustraciones II” Samuel Vila, Recopador. □ □

## UNIVERSO . . .

(Vino de la pág. 9)

libros de textos de nuestras escuelas y universidades públicas y privadas.

Por ejemplo, hay libros de textos que le dice a sus estudiantes acerca de la teoría de la Gran Explosión. Esta teoría enseña que alrededor de 18,000 a 20,000 billones de años atrás, toda la materia, toda la tierra del universo fue concentrada dentro de una materia comprimida, una región muy caliente, más pequeña que un puntito de esta página, que a su vez vino de la nada. ¿Todo vino de la nada? ¿Cómo pudo ocurrir eso? Luego dicen que ese puntito empezó a girar cada vez más rápido hasta que hubo un día que ese puntito explotó causando así la llamada Gran Explosión. Todas las piezas que salieron de esa explosión se convirtieron en el sol, las estrellas y los planetas. Esto es pura fantasía basada en la imaginación.

De hecho, se requiere más fe para creer en esta teoría que en la creación, porque la teoría de la gran explosión no es bíblica, ni razonable, ni lógica, ni científica. ¡Encuentro muy difícil entender cómo

alguien puede creer que nuestro entero y complejo universo vino de un puntito comprimido que a su vez vino de la nada! Una explosión en su garaje jamás crearía un carro. Una gran explosión sólo puede causar caos, desorden y destrucción, no algo tan complejo y ordenado como lo es el universo.

La creación es más fácil de entender, más fácil de creer, más fácil de explicar, y más fácil de defender porque nos presenta una causa, Dios, y un efecto, el universo, mientras que cuando se le pregunta a los evolucionistas ateos ¿qué causó esta explosión? ¿de dónde vino la energía y la materia que causó esa supuesta explosión? No tienen respuesta alguna. Tienen incontables efectos sin causa. ¿Qué hay de las leyes? Tenemos la ley de la gravedad. ¿De dónde vino? No saben tampoco. Un ateo tiene muchas preguntas pero ninguna respuesta.

Otros piensan que el universo siempre ha estado ahí porque creen que el universo es eterno (la mayoría de los científicos de hoy en día aceptan que el universo tuvo un comienzo). Sin embargo,

tanto la Biblia como la ciencia llamada la Segunda Ley de la Termodinámica, enseñan que todas las cosas, vivientes o no vivientes, tendan hacia el desorden, no a algo más complejo y organizado (Hebreos 1:10-11). Nada se mejora con el tiempo. Todo se empeora. Todos los científicos están de acuerdo que el universo está envejeciendo, perdiendo energía y deteriorándose, lo que prueba que el universo no es eterno y tampoco infinito, sino que así como está llegando a su fin, también tuvo que haber tenido un principio. ¿Cuál fue ese principio? “*En el principio creó Dios los cielos y la tierra*” (Génesis 1:1). Eso es verdadera ciencia.

Dios espera que sus hijos estén listos para presentar defensa (1 Pedro 3:15), armados por sí mismos con el conocimiento y un entendimiento de las formas de escepticismo que hay en estos días, por supuesto, al mismo tiempo necesitamos recordar que los evolucionistas ateos no son el enemigo, Satanás es el enemigo. Podrá ser difícil pero tenemos que amar a los pecadores mientras odiamos el pecado. Dios no quiere que nadie perezca sino que todas los hombres sean salvos y vengan al conocimiento de la verdad (1 Timoteo 2:3-4).

Por Hno. Félix M. González Bulgalá, Redactor. □

## “El Reto A La Blasfemia”

Recompensa a Participantes por demostrar su incredulidad en la página Electrónica En el Internet “YouTube.”

La Esquadra de Responsabilidad Racional ha lanzado una campaña de \$25,000 para atraer a la juventud a que renieguen públicamente cualquier creencia del Dios de la Cristiandad. Llamado “*El Reto a La Blasfemia*”, esta campaña motiva a los participantes a cometer lo que la doctrina cristiana llama el pecado imperdonable, la blasfemia contra el Espíritu Santo.

El Espíritu Santo es el Espíritu invisible, en quienes los cristianos creen que habita en la Tierra como el representante de Dios. De acuerdo a la página electrónica “Más de 160 participantes ya han blasfemado contra el Espíritu Santo y han recibido gratis DVDs durante la fase de prelanzamiento del Reto a la Blasfemia. [Noticias Alrededor del Mundo.]

Lea la Biblia: “Por tanto os digo: Todo pecado y blasfemia será perdonado a los hombres: mas la blasfemia contra el Espíritu no será perdonado a los hombres. Y cualquiera que hablare contra el Espíritu Santo, no le sería perdonado, ni en este siglo, ni en el venidero” (Mateo 12:31-32.) □

### Iglesia Bautista El Redentor

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

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2007 winter meeting. — ONN

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**Q: When Someone Rejects Genesis, Will They Then Reject the Whole Bible? A:** The following is a terrible warning for the church today as to what happens when one compromises on the Word of God. In the 1950s, a famous evangelist named Charles Templeton received wide media attention across America. Great crowds flocked to hear him. Large numbers of people came forward when he challenged them to trust Christ. But in 1994 he published a book called *Farewell to God* in which he totally rejected the Christian faith. He died a few years ago as a man embittered against the Christian faith. What happened to Templeton is a warning for us all today. He went to Princeton University and was taught to believe in the evolutionary teaching of “millions of years.” He recognized that if this were true, then God used death, bloodshed, suffering and disease for millions of years as part of His creative process — and then called this very good. All through his book, Templeton wrote that there can’t be a God of love because of all the death and suffering in the world. The

teaching of “millions of years” destroyed Templeton. Don’t compromise, as he did, and destroy your faith.

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**Homosexual Backlash Against Mars.** — All it took for the candymaker to pull the two-million-dollar commercial was a complaint from homosexual-rights groups that the ad, which featured an accidental kiss between two men, was “homophobic.” — ONN

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**Christians Urged To Go To Bat For German Home-schoolers.** — An attorney with the Home School Legal Defense Association says Germany’s Hitler-era ban on home schooling has reached a troubling apex with the seizing of a teen home-schooler, who was interrogated by police then forced to go undergo psychiatric treatment for “school phobia.” — ONN

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**Gideons Face Trespassing Charges.** — Two Christians who volunteer to distribute free copies of God’s Word are facing criminal charges in Florida even after they complied with a police officer’s questionable order to leave a public sidewalk. — ONN

**Michigan Appeals Court Hands Victory to Traditional Marriage.** — Pro-family advocates are applauding a recent ruling by the Michigan Court of Appeals which banned public universities and state and local governments from providing health insurance to partners of homosexual employees. — ONN

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**Changed By Christ.** — Having weathered an apparent attempt by homosexual activists to shut it down, Love In Action — a Memphis-based ministry which helps men and women find freedom from the bondage of homosexuality — continues to focus on discipling its clients in their relationship with Jesus Christ. “Discipline best describes what we do,” says ministry president John Smid, who himself had struggled with homosexual attractions in the past. — ONN

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**Protest of Tax Dollars Supporting Sundance Film Festival.** — The American Family Association is shining light on the fact that federal dollars were used to underwrite a popular film festival that premiered films containing bestiality and child rape. The money came from two taxpayer-supported entities: the Public Broadcasting System, and the National

Endowment for the Arts. — ONN

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**New Jersey Grants Civil Union Licenses.** — Hundreds of gay couples were granted the same legal rights as married couples as New Jersey became the third state to offer civil unions. More than a dozen couples applied for licenses for ceremonies later in the week. The civil unions, which offer the legal benefits of marriage but not the title, were granted automatically to the hundreds of gay New Jersey couples who had previously been joined in civil ceremonies in other states or nations. Couples who had not been joined previously could apply for licenses but must wait 72 hours before they can hold civil union ceremonies, the same waiting period for weddings.

\*\*\*

**Death For Dollars? Ukrainian Infants Likely Killed to Harvest Stem Cells.** — Evidence from a video obtained by the BBC points to the stomach-churning possibility that healthy babies born in a Ukrainian maternity hospital were taken from their mothers and then murdered so that large amounts of stem cells could be har-

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vested from their brains and bone marrow. A spokesman for the hospital denies it is connected in any way with the use of stem cells — but one Ukrainian couple never saw their newborn daughter again after being told all was well and then told later she had died.

\* \* \*

**Swiss Court Okays Euthanizing The Mentally Ill.** — A Christian group that seeks to promote biblical morality in Europe says a ruling last month by Switzerland's highest court opens the door for people with serious mental illnesses to be euthanized against their will. The Federal Tribunal's decision puts mental illnesses on the same level as physical ones in a country that already allows physician-assisted suicide for terminally-ill patients ... More than 1,000 people have been euthanized against their will since euthanasia was legalized in the Netherlands in 2001. — Agape Press.

\* \* \*

**Could It Happen In Your State?** — The American Family Association of Pennsylvania says homosexual activists are targeting public schools through covert means. Recently the Gay, Lesbian

and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) held its fourth-annual "No Name Calling Week," an observance whose objective, GLSEN says is "ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch ongoing dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in their communities." As part of the event, GLSEN sponsored activities including literature distribution portraying elementary and middle schoolers as homosexual, and redefining families to include same-sex couples. Included among the "suggested literature" for No Name-Calling Week are books for children as young as pre-kindergarten, among them "It's Okay To Be Different" by homosexual author Todd Parr.

\* \* \*

**Florida Group Proposes "Pro-Abortion" License Plate.** — "Florida is moving ahead with plans to create a pro-abortion license plate for state motorists," said a recent LifeNew report. "To get the 'United for Choice' license plate approved, abortion advocates would need to get a bill through the state legislature, which will likely be a difficult task. The Orlando affiliate of the pro-abortion National Organization for Women is behind the license plate effort and is attempting to raise \$60,000 to cover the

application fee and generate 30,000 signatures of people who will commit to buy the plate if it is offered ... Sales of the plate would benefit sexual education programs that are not abstinence-only based. "The Florida Department of Motor Vehicles says the Choose Life plate is the eighth most popular plate among the more than 100 specialty plate designs."

\* \* \*

**Utah's High Court Denies Parental Rights To Former Lesbian Partner.** — Utah's highest court has decided that an unrelated woman doesn't have any parental rights over the child of her former lesbian partner. That's a good, common-sense ruling, says Liberty Counsel. Cheryl Barlow and Keri Jones were living together in Utah when they went to Vermont and took part in a civil union. They were still living together when Barlow gave birth following artificial insemination in 2001. Their relationship ended two years later, and Barlow is now a Christian. Jones sued for parental rights and visitation, but the Utah Supreme Court said Jones had no right under the law to seek visitation or parental rights. "[We] decline to adopt a 'de facto parent' doctrine," stated Justice Jill Parish in writing for the majority, "because it would be an improper usurpation of legislative authority and would con-

tradict both common law principles and Utah statutory law."

\* \* \*

**Former Students At Historic College Upset Over Recent Actions Of Administrators.** — Recent events at William and Mary, one of the oldest colleges in the United States, have sparked a flurry of protest from conservative students, faculty and alumni. The school, which not long ago removed a cross from display in a campus chapel, has now hosted a show featuring performances by people employed in sexually-oriented, adult entertainment jobs. Last week, the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, hosted an event called the "Sex Workers' Art Show." According to news reports, the visual and performance art presentation featured topless dancers and other sex industry workers — this at the same campus that made headlines last fall when officials removed a cross from the college's Wren Chapel, claiming its display did not promote diversity. That cross is now placed on Wren Chapel's altar for extended hours every Sunday and removed from public view the rest of the time. However, William and Mary alumnus Dennis Di Mauro is cur-

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rently helping to organize a petition drive, soliciting signatures from alumni, students and faculty who want to see the cross placed back on permanent display in the chapel. Di Mauro says the College of William and Mary has a rich Christian history and heritage. "It isn't just any college," he points out; "it's the second oldest college in the country, and it really represents the United States."

\* \* \*

**Author Asserts Muslim Countries Pouring Oil Revenues Into Spread of Islam.** — An Egyptian-born Christian author who immigrated to the U.S. to escape Islam contends the oil-rich nations of the Middle East are deliberately keeping their populations in abject poverty because they want to put all their wealth into spreading Islam into the Western world. That agenda, she says, is not a secret — and it concerns her that many people in the West don't seem to be paying attention. Nonie Darwish is the author of *Now They Call Me Infidel: Why I Renounced Jihad for America, Israel, and the War on Terror*. The former Muslim says the Islamic world, including oil-rich countries like Saudi Arabia, does not care about

improving the lives of their own people. "I feel that sometimes [the prevalence of poverty in Muslim countries is] done by design because when you educate people, when you bring their standard of living up, they will start questioning things around them more," says Darwish, "and [political leaders in those countries] don't want that." Instead, says Darwish, Muslim leaders are pouring their oil wealth into the spread of Islam. "Arab oil money is directed to one purpose, and one purpose only: to spread Islam around the world," she states. But time is running out for that, she adds. "They only have one-hundred more years of wealth from oil and oil reserves, and the Saudi government and many Muslims across the world want to see Islam in the West, in America ...." She also asserts there are Muslim leaders in America who say they want to see the Quran replace the Constitution.

\* \* \*

**Miami Churches Take On County Over Meeting Requirements.** — Two Christian groups in Miami are claiming that a county is violating their constitutional rights by requiring them to own a minimum land acreage in order to continue having religious meetings. Miami-Dade County does not require assembly-use busi-

nesses — theaters and pool halls, for example — to own a minimum amount of land to operate. International Out-reach Center has been holding meetings at its facility for ten years, and Worldwide Agape Ministries is a home-based group. Both groups have been notified by Miami-Dade County officials that they can no longer continue having prayer and Bible study meetings unless they buy a minimum of 2.5 acres of land, even if only a few people are in attendance. The two groups have filed a federal lawsuit together in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida through Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). The legal group says placing a minimum acreage requirement on religious ministries is unconstitutional when there is no similar restriction for assembly-use businesses like pool halls, theaters, and convention centers. ADF senior legal counsel Joel Oster says the limitation placed on the two ministries "acts as a major roadblock, particularly since land in south Florida is so expensive."

\* \* \*

**More Americans Killed By Illegal Aliens Than Iraq War, Study Says.** — Illegal aliens are killing more Americans than the Iraq war, says a new report from Family Security Matters that estimates some 2,158

murders are committed every year by illegal aliens in the U.S. The group says that number is more than 15 percent of all the murders reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the U.S. and about three times the representation of illegal aliens in the general population. Mike Cutler, a former senior special agent with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (the former INS), is a fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies and an advisor to Family Security Matters (FSM). He says the high number of Americans being killed by illegal aliens is just part of the collateral damage that comes with tolerating illegal immigration.

\* \* \*

**Illegal Alien Received "Rewards" To Testify Against Border Agent.** — A top executive with the Minutemen Civil Defense Corps says he's pleased that a former Border Patrol agent is now free after it was learned that prosecutors had given an illegal immigrant various incentives to testify against the agent. David Sipe was convicted in 2001 for using excessive force in the arrest of a Mexican national in 2000. But the conviction has since been reversed after an appeals court ordered a retrial, saying the

agent. David Sipe was convicted in 2001 for using excessive force in the arrest of a Mexican national in 2000. But the conviction has since been reversed after an appeals court ordered a retrial, saying the

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illegal alien had been given a “get-out-of-jail-free card,” a Social Security number, and cash incentives to testify against Sipe.

\* \* \*

### Judge Orders “Gay” Agenda Taught To Christian Children.

— A federal judge in Massachusetts has ordered the “gay” agenda taught to Christians who attend a public school in Massachusetts, finding that they need the teachings to be “engaged and productive citizens.” U.S. District Judge Mark L. Wolf yesterday dismissed a civil rights lawsuit brought by David Parker, ordering that it is reasonable, indeed there is an obligation, for public schools to teach young children to accept and endorse homosexuality. Wolf essentially adopted the reasoning in a brief submitted by a number of homosexual-advocacy groups, who said “the rights of religious freedom and parental control over the upbringing of children ... would undermine teaching and learning...” David and Tonia Parker and Joseph and Robin Wirthlin, who have children of school age in Lexington, Mass., brought the lawsuit. They alleged district officials and staff at Estabrook Elementary School violated state law and civil rights by

indoctrinating their children about a lifestyle they, as Christians, teach is immoral. “Wolf’s ruling is every parent’s nightmare. It goes to extraordinary lengths to legitimize and reinforce the ‘right’ (and even the duty) of schools to normalize homosexual behavior to even the youngest of children,” said a statement from the pro-family group Mass Resistance. It also is making available background information about the lengthy dispute. “In the ruling, Wolf makes the absurd claim that normalizing homosexuality to young children is ‘reasonably related to the goals of preparing students to become engaged and productive citizens in our democracy.’ According to Wolf, this means teaching ‘diversity’ which includes ‘differences in sexual orientation.’ “In addition, Wolf makes the odious statement that the Parkers’ only options are (1) send their kids to a private school, (2) home-school their kids, or (3) elect a majority of people to the School Committee who agree with them. Can you imagine a federal judge in the Civil Rights era telling blacks the same thing – that if they can’t be served at a lunch counter they should just start their own restaurant, or elect a city council to pass laws that reflect the U.S. Constitution?” the organization said. Lawyers for the families said they already

had planned an appeal of the judge’s opinion.

\* \* \*

### Arkansas Rejects Equal Rights Amendment.

— An Arkansas legislative committee dealt a blow Feb. 7 to efforts to resurrect the seemingly dead Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). ERA opponents, who viewed the measure as a vehicle for funding abortion and legalizing same-sex marriage, rejoiced over the result. The State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Arkansas House of Representatives voted 10-10 on the controversial measure, preventing it from moving forward for a floor vote. ERA proponents had hoped a successful vote by the panel would be the first step in gaining ratification by three more states in their strategy to amend the United States Constitution. ... The failure in Arkansas dealt a significant setback to what has become known as the “three-state strategy” by ERA advocates. ERA supporters argue their amendment needs only three more states to approve it in addition to the 35 that endorsed it in the 1970s. Opponents point out, however, the ERA had a seven-year timetable for ratification.

\* \* \*

**Pelosi Accused of**

**Attacking Evangelicals With HBO Film.** — A conservative columnist says an HBO documentary produced and directed by the daughter of U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is intentionally designed to denigrate evangelicals and make them appear “absurd.” Alexandra Pelosi’s film on evangelical Christians called *Friends of God: A Road Trip with Alexandra Pelosi* has been airing all month on HBO. Author and former syndicated columnist Don Feder has written an op-ed for *USA Today* on the documentary. He calls the film “an attack piece,” noting that Pelosi focused on the most “absurd, ridiculous” things she could find, positing or suggesting “that this is the essence of what it is to be an evangelical Christian in America.” For example, at one point in the movie the filmmaker trains her camera on “the Christian Wrestling Federation,” Feder points out. And in another instance, he notes, “she interviews a group of Christian teens who have tie-dyed hair and nose rings and studs in their tongues, fuchsia-colored hair — so-called ‘Goth teens’ — talking about getting a ‘high’ from God.” The documentary’s director selected extreme subjects like the Christian wrestlers and the Goth Christian

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teens specifically to lampoon evangelicals, the conservative author asserts. "This is a tried-and-true technique of filmmakers with an agenda," he says. "If you want to make something look absurd, you find the most ridiculous examples you can of that thing and you put them all together in a 'documentary' — and that's exactly what Alexandra Pelosi did." Feder says Pelosi and other liberals correctly view evangelical Christians as "the principal enemy to the realization of their goals." He says the left has "feared and loathed" Christianity in America since the Revolutionary era, as do liberals today because they recognize that evangelical Christians are the driving force behind the pro-life, traditional marriage, and anti-pornography movements.

\* \* \*

### **The Discovery Channel Documentary Slams Christianity.**

— The documentary claims that the tombs of Jesus, Mary, Mary Magdalene and a supposed son of Jesus — Judah — have been found, thus making the Bible and two thousand years of history a lie. According to the Discovery Channel's documentary "The Lost Tomb of Jesus" aired Sunday, March 4, the bones of Jesus

— buried with His family — have been found. In addition, the documentary says that Mary Magdalene and Jesus might have had a son named Judah. Here is what The Discovery Channel says about the program and the Christian faith: "All leading epigraphers agree about the inscriptions. All archaeologists confirm the nature of the find. It comes down to a matter of statistics. A statistical study commissioned by the broadcasters concludes that the probability factor is 600 to 1 in favor of this tomb being the tomb of Jesus of Nazareth and his family." Having watched how Hollywood portrays Christians and Christian values for the past 30 years, it is clear that Hollywood considers Christianity its greatest enemy. Because of our silence, Christianity is the only religion they feel free to attack! It is time for Christians to send a message to The Discovery Channel and Hollywood that enough is enough! Don't stay silent while The Discovery Channel and Hollywood continually attack our faith and our values. The documentary was produced by James Cameron, whose claim to fame is directing the movie "The Titanic." Saying that Cameron is qualified to make a documentary on Jesus is like saying Hugh Hefner is qualified to make a documentary on abstinence before marriage!

### **Jerusalem Experts Trash Jesus' Bones Claim.**

— Claims in a new documentary that an ancient tomb discovered decades ago outside of Jerusalem contained the bones of Jesus and his family may be a great money-making gimmick — but scientifically, it is nonsense, according to leading archeologists and scholars in Jerusalem." The documentary claims that inscriptions on six of 10 ossuaries found in a single tomb indicate that there is a one in 600 chance that bones in the tomb were those of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and a son, along with other family members, a press release said. According to the Bible, Jesus was God incarnate who was crucified, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. He wasn't married and never had any natural children. Mary Magdalene was a woman out of whom seven demons were exorcized and became a follower of Jesus.

\* \* \*

### **Diocese Files Bankruptcy.**

— The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego (CA) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection a few hours before it was to go to trial in the first of more than 140 lawsuits accusing priests of sexual abuse. The bankruptcy filing automatically halted the

court proceedings.

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### **Social Conservatives See "Two Americas".**

— Taking a page from the playbook of Democratic 2008 presidential hopeful John Edwards, social conservatives attending the 34th annual Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C., Thursday agreed there are "two Americas" — but the division, they said, is over morals, not money. "It's been said that there are two Americas, and what I'd argue is that if there are two Americas, we're not divided economically, we're divided morally," Wendy Wright, president of the group Concerned Women for America, said during a panel discussion entitled "Beyond Our Pocketbooks: Social Issues and the Conservative Movement." On one side, Wright noted, "we have hedonistic Hollywood that imposes their sense of indulgence that the only life worth living is one that indulges itself." "We have the entire Planned Parenthood mentality that says other human beings should be used for your own sexual pleasure, and if someone else is a burden to you, if they are unwanted, then simply eliminate them, abort them," she told the gathering." And then, we have the other America that respects

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morality, that wants to end pornography in our society because it uses women and children as objects for other people's pleasure," Wright said. That side of America "wants to put an end to the killing of little human beings who have been designated as less than human" because "of where they are located — inside a woman — or because of how small they are, or because they don't yet look like you and I do," she added. "This is also the moral America that wants to protect marriage because we recognize that marriage is the distinct union between a man and a woman, and it is the foundation to a stable society."

\* \* \*

**Scripture Affirming Creation Museum Set to Open In June.** — A state-of-the-art museum dedicated to the biblical account of creation will open this spring in northern Kentucky. The 50,000-square-foot Creation Museum, which is located in the Greater Cincinnati area, is scheduled to open its doors on Memorial Day. The Creation Museum is a project of Answers in Genesis (AIG), an apologetics ministry based in Kentucky. The new attraction will feature many educational displays, including life-size dinosaur

models, fossil and mineral collections, and other live exhibits designed to teach and to proclaim the authority of biblical scripture. Dr. Ken Ham, president of AIG, says the \$27-million project will be more than just entertaining. "It's as good as anything Disneyland or Universal Studios could do, but it's not entertainment; it's 'edutainment'," he insists. "It's education, using these exhibits."

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**Jerusalem Experts Trash Jesus' Bones Claim.** — Claims in a new documentary that an ancient tomb discovered decades ago outside of Jerusalem contained the bones of Jesus and his family may be a great money-making gimmick — but scientifically, it is nonsense, according to leading archeologists and scholars in Jerusalem. "The Lost Tomb of Jesus," due to air on the Discovery Channel on March 4, claims that a 2,000-year-old tomb containing 10 boxes of bones belonged to the family of Jesus of Nazareth. (Two millennia ago, the dead were left to de-compose in a cave and their bones collected a year later and buried in bone boxes or ossuaries.) The documentary claims that inscriptions on six of 10 ossuaries found in a single tomb indicate that there is a one in 600 chance that bones in the tomb were

those of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and a son, along with other family members, a press release said. According to the Bible, Jesus was God incarnate who was crucified, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. He wasn't married and never had any natural children. Mary Magdalene was a woman out of whom seven demons were exorcized and became a follower of Jesus.

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**Christians Urged To Dig Into God's Word.** — Woodrow Kroll of Back to the Bible says a new survey shows biblical illiteracy is one of the biggest problems facing the Church in America. According to the Christian ministry president, research shows that the average American owns three copies of the Bible, but doesn't read any of them. Back to the Bible surveyed 12,000 people in an effort to learn about the Bible-reading habits of Christians. Kroll, commenting on the issue of Bible illiteracy during an interview on *Mission Network News*, noted that an increase of modern translations of the Bible appears not to have resulted in more people reading God's Word, as Bible translators had hoped would happen. "When I was growing up, we blamed Bible illiteracy on King James," the ministry spokesman says. "Well, now we have 35 or so

modern translation Bibles. We're dumber now than we were back then. One of the things we've already learned from our survey is this — there is a direct correlation between how much time a person spends in the Word and how easy they believe it is to understand." Christians who do not read God's Word are stagnant in their spiritual walk, Kroll contends. "In the area of morality, we rob ourselves of a moral position if we don't know the Word of God," he says. "I think we also rob ourselves of the ability to move on toward spiritual maturity. We get stuck in spiritual infancy, and that's a clear detriment that comes from not reading the Bible." And certainly, Kroll adds, Bible illiteracy is a factor in many believers' inability to defend or even share their Christian faith. In fact, he says, Bible illiteracy is one of the main problems the church faces today.

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**Solidarity: HRC 'Proud' to Stand With HRC.** — Hillary Rodham Clinton says that when she's president, she'll be an advocate for gay and lesbian Americans. "I want you to know that just as you always have an open door to my Senate office, you will always have an open door to the

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White House," she told the Human Rights Campaign, a homosexual advocacy group. Clinton said her agenda includes ending the ban on homosexuals in the military; expanding "hate crimes" law and allowing same-sex couples to adopt children; ending "discrimination" in the workplace and in housing; and extending the legal benefits that married couples enjoy to same-sex couples.

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### **Indianapolis City Officials Accused of Religious Discrimination.**

— A Baptist church in Indianapolis is standing its ground in a dispute with city officials over alleged violations concerning zoning codes. The Alliance Defense Fund is appealing the decision of a federal judge that could prevent the church members from meeting in their leased facilities. Last month, city officials in Indianapolis sent a letter to the Baptist Church of the Westside, where members meet regularly at their leased building for worship and other church-related activities. The letter said the church's "religious use" of the property violated the city's zoning code. A federal district court has refused to halt enforcement of the zoning code, so ADF attorneys are appealing that

decision. David Langdon, an allied attorney with ADF, says churches should not be relegated to second-class status by city zoning officials. "The city has indicated that they're going to pursue legal action against the church, which could involve severe fines up to \$2,500 a day as well as possibly seek an injunction from a court shutting them down, preventing them from meeting and from worshipping on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday nights and so forth." According to ADF, the city also informed the church it would need to obtain special permission to use the building for religious purposes. But Langdon points out the city does not require nonreligious groups to obtain special permission to use leased buildings for meetings or gatherings. The city's action, says the attorney, violate the Constitution. "They treat religious uses much more onerously than they treat other very similar uses," he asserts. "For example, any kind of assembly hall or any place where people might gather to discuss politics or [meet as an organization like] Kiwanis, they're permitted to meet as of right in most places in the city," Langdon explains. "Whereas a church, no matter where it is — whether it's [in] a residential district, a commercial district, anywhere in the city — they have to

get special permission." The ADF-affiliated attorney contends it is discriminatory to single out churches and make them "jump through hoops" while at the same time giving nonreligious groups a "free pass." He is hopeful the court will grant a preliminary injunction halting enforcement of the zoning code so that Baptist Church of the Westside can continue to meet while the case moves forward.

\* \* \*

### **Perspectives: End of Marriage? Indications All Point Down.**

— It barely caused a stir when the *New York Times* reported in mid-October that, for the first time in the history of the U.S., the percentage of American households that are home to a married couple had slipped into the minority. That discouraging fact was revealed by the American Community Survey, which was released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The numbers show that 49.7 percent of the more than 111 million U.S. households in 2005 contained a married couple, whether or not they had children. As the *Times* reported, however, that percentage is down from the 52 percent of households with a married couple in 2000, part of a longer-term trend in which fewer Americans appear intent on marrying.

### **Former Navy Chaplain Vows To Continue Appeal As A Civilian.**

— Former Navy chaplain Lieutenant Gordon James Klingenschmitt says he will now have to fight as a civilian for his reinstatement after a federal judge lifted a restraining order that had temporarily blocked his removal from the service. The evangelical pastor feels he won his battle with the Navy over a policy that barred him from praying publicly in Jesus' name while in uniform, but the fight has apparently cost him his military career. The Navy ordered Klingenschmitt's dismissal in light of a court-martial ruling that determined he was guilty of disobeying a direct order when he prayed in Jesus' name while in uniform at a news conference outside the White House last March. The former chaplain was originally scheduled for dismissal January 31, but the judge's restraining order bought him a little more time to move forward with his appeal. Now, however, Klingenschmitt says he will have to carry on as a civilian while his lawsuit continues. "And then, if I win, maybe in six months or eight months, I could be reinstated to the Navy with back pay," he observes. "I want to be a chaplain, I want to wear my uniform, and I want to pray in Jesus' name," the ex-Naval of-

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ficer asserts. And he believes he has a good chance of eventually being reinstated, he notes, as judges that have heard his case “seem to admit that I am being harmed.” These judges are “just saying it’s not irreparable harm,” Klingenschmitt says. In other words, he contends, they are saying that the dismissed chaplain is being punished for his prayers and sermons, but that this harm can be repaired later on if he is reinstated to the Navy and awarded back pay. Nevertheless, Klingenschmitt acknowledges that his Naval career is over, at least for the time being. “I have lost a 16-year career, I am out on the street without a job, and we’ve already been evicted from our home,” he says. “But you know what? I am declaring victory. I would do this all over again.” Despite the court-martial and his subsequent dismissal from the Navy, the evangelical pastor insists he has no regrets, “because we got the policy changed for all other chaplains, and now they are free again to pray in Jesus’ name.” And because of that policy change Klingenschmitt feels his chances are good of being reinstated and serving as a chaplain again. In the meantime, he is attending Regent University and accepting speaking invitations.

### Rise of The Funerals That Leave Out God. —

“More than 30,000 funerals in Britain last year were nonreligious, as families turn increasingly to ‘celebration-of-life’ ceremonies rather than church services, according to new figures.” According to the article this is “attributed to people’s growing willingness to admit that they are non-believers, and to their desire to avoid ‘hypocrisy’.” It was only ten years ago that “a funeral without a minister of religion and reference to God was virtually unheard of but increasingly, services are presided over by a ‘celebrant’ and involve poems instead of psalms, while mourners are often asked to wear something bright rather than black.” According to the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD), one in 20 families now rejects a church service “...in favour of a celebration of life...” Surprisingly or not “Most of those choosing non-religious funerals were brought up as Anglicans or Presbyterians but have stopped going to church and no longer believe in God” a spokesperson for the NAFD said. “Part of the appeal of non-religious services may also be the increased cost of conventional funerals. Britons spent £1.3 billion on funerals last year and the average cost has risen by 61 per cent from £2,048 in 2000 to £3,307 last year. A celebrant from the British

Humanist Association charges an average £130, about the same fee as an average clergyman.” A Pentecostal minister said that “Most church ministers” he knows “will happily have music the deceased liked and will not insist on hymns.” He went on to say that “We need to get the message out to people that the church has come a long way.” □

FENCE . . .

(Continued from page 7)

for their conduct in regard to the ordinances (1 Cor. 11:2). He sent Timothy to the church at Corinth to bring to their remembrance his methods of doing church work (1 Cor. 4:16-17). He warned the church at Colosse to beware of innovations (Col. 2:5-8). He begged the Thessalonians to stand fast in the traditions (ordinances and teachings) which they had been taught (2 Thess. 2:15).

But there came along about 300 A.D. those who were led astray by popular ideas of government, by heathen practices, by superstition both of a pagan and a Judaistic origin, and they slowly but surely overthrew the simple democratic policy of many of the churches and substituted for it a hierarchical polity together with a sacramental conception of the ordinances.

### Scriptural Observance of the Supper

Is it right to restrict the Supper to a certain class of Christians? Who has the authority to say who may and who may not partake of the memorial? If restrictions are to be enforced, by whom are the rules to be set up whereby the table is to be “fenced.” These are pertinent questions and must be answered. What saith the Scripture, and what does unbiased reason demand?

The Scriptures demand rigid restrictions. A careful and honest study of the Scriptures, will convince anyone that an open communion policy is heretical and hurtful by spiritual life. The ordinances were committed to the churches (Mt. 28:18-19; 1 Cor. 11:2, 23). The Great Commission expressly states that the apostolic church was to “teach them to observe all things,” which includes the Lord’s Supper, and the same divine document specifically declares that the teaching must follow “making disciples and baptizing them.” Now the translation of the text at this point fails to convey the full import of the command, for the Greek word “*tyrein*” means not only “to observe,” but “to guard, to keep.”

Paul commanded the church at Corinth to practice closed communion by debarring from the table the fornicator and the covetous (1 Cor. 5:11). The same

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## Missions Is Missions

*[This article is a part of the report on missions as published in the minutes of the 1908 meeting of Blood River Association in Kentucky. It was written and read by H. Boyce Taylor. That was nearly 100 years ago, but the conditions he described are even worse today than they were then; but, thank God, the gospel has not lost any of its power to change men's lives! God help us to quit playing at this task that Jesus has given us!]*

\* \* \*

Missions is missions. Divide it as we will "the field is the world" and nothing short of world-wide missions satisfies our risen Lord. Theorize as we may, argue as we may, make excuses as we may, God's word declares that every soul out of Christ is lost, dead in trespasses and sins, without God and without hope, guilty, condemned, and without excuse, whether that soul be the veriest heathen in the wilds of Africa or jungles of India or the president of the United States. God says "there is no distinction; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." They are all guilty, all under the curse, all under divine wrath and every mouth and every man speechless before God. While the lost

are without excuse, Baptists are likewise without excuse before God for their failure to warn these lost ones of the impending wrath of God. Paul said he was pure from the blood of all men. God declares that if we fail to give the wicked warning from Him that their blood will be required at our hands.

The gospel is a trust

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**FENCE . . .**

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church was rebuked for trying to observe the Supper when there were schisms in its membership caused by heretical teachings, and they were expressly told that without unity and harmony they could not eat the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20). The meaning in this passage is inescapable. A breach in the fellowship of any body of Christians makes impossible the observance of the Supper. How then can members of opposing bodies eat together?

Churches have the authority to say who shall be members (2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15). They are to exclude disorderly members. Heretics are to be rejected after admonition (Tit. 3:10). Whosoever causes divisions in a church is to be marked and avoided (Rom. 16:17), and our history proves that

none has ever caused more divisions and trouble in Baptist churches than those who have sought to destroy the restrictions placed about the two ordinances. Baptist history is shamefully besmeared by the records of conflicts which such members have caused by their open views and demands.

The writer of Hebrews, that final authority on the relations between the old and the new covenants, tell us specifically: "We have an altar whereof they have no right to eat who serve the tabernacle" (Heb. 13:9-11). The meaning of those words is clear and inescapable. The heart is established with grace, not with meats (9), therefore all who seek to establish their hearts by partaking of the element of the Supper, or by doing good works, are serving the tabernacle. If the church members of Paul's day, who ate the sacrificial meats of the temple and the tabernacle, could not eat the Lord's Supper, then those who are sacramentarians in any sense of the word cannot partake of that table today. Therefore it is unscriptural for any group of Christians holding to a simple New Testament interpretation of the ordinances to allow sacramentarians to come with them to the table of the Lord.

Scriptural Communicants are clearly revealed in the Book. Two essential characteristics of them are set forth in the Scripture

and approved by the usage of true Christians from the day of Christ until our own time: (a) Baptized believers may partake of it, if (b) they are in full fellowship and doctrinal accord with the body administering the Supper.

Consider these facts: Partially restricted communion came into existence long after Jesus was here on earth; originally all churches were independent, autonomous, sovereign units in the kingdom of Christ; all rules governing the life and fellowship of church members were either given the churches by the Lord or came into existence in individual churches as a result of the appearance of heresies; all bodies of evangelical Christians and all Catholics have recognized the primary rules governing the observance of the Lord's Supper and have not thrown it open to everybody; apostolic churches did restrict "communion" very rigidly; many of the world's greatest Christian statesmen have admitted the truth of the Baptist position on restricted communion; surely these reasons should be enough to make Baptists know the strength of their age-old contention for "fencing the table of the Lord." The demand of the Scripture for restriction and the clear teachings concerning who are entitled to the Supper give the final word for Baptists. □

## That Blessed Hope

By M. R. DeHaan

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also” (Jn. 14:1-3).

“I will come again and receive you unto myself.” With these words of comfort for the disciples, the Lord Jesus Christ set His face to go to Calvary. Shocked beyond measure at the announcement of His death, these disciples were cheered with the **Blessed Hope** that He who was going away was coming again to receive them unto Himself that they might be with Him.

After the resurrection of the Lord, as they stood upon Mount Olivet with Him, He was suddenly taken away from them into heaven, in fulfillment of His words in John 14 that He was going away. But scarcely had He been taken from their sight when He sent word back to them from heaven, with the same comforting assurance that He was coming back again.

Luke gives us the first words which the ascended Lord sent back from glory.

They are found in Acts 1:11: “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

The last promise of the Word of God before the canon of Scripture was closed is also concerning that **Blessed Hope** of the return of the One who went away, for we read in Revelation 22:20: “He which testifieth these things said, Surely I come quickly. Amen.” It is this blessed hope of the return of the Lord Jesus which has been the strength of God’s people in every age, their comfort in affliction, their hope in trouble and their strength in battle. It was this hope that set on fire the early apostles as they bore the blessed news far and near and were faithful unto death. It was this hope of the imminent return of their Lord that their loins girded, their lamps burning and their eyes watching, lest coming upon them suddenly, He should find them sleeping.

Nineteen hundred years have passed since the last of these promises was given, and we today are just that many years nearer the time of which our Lord

(See **HOPE** on page 24)

### MISSIONS . . .

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committed to us and we must stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give account for our faithfulness or unfaithfulness in the use of this trust. At that day shame and confusion shall cover the face of every child of God who has been recreant to this trust. John warns us to abide in Him and let His word abide in us that we may not be ashamed before Him at His coming. The gospel is a trust committed to us to give to others, “Have we been true to the trust He left us? Have we sought to do our best?”

The supreme need of Kentucky and the world is the “glorious gospel of our blessed God.” The prevailing lawlessness in our state makes this need an imperative one. The night riders destroy property and threaten life in western Kentucky; the bribery, graft, gambling, profanation of the Lord’s day, and political corruption of Louisville and other cities; the feuds and shameful proceedings of mock courts of justice in the mountains and in western Kentucky, all reveal an appalling state of lawlessness and crime in our state.

Education, law-enforcement, temperance and other reform legislation may curtail and hold in check this spirit of lawlessness for a while, but the only permanent and effective

cure is the gospel of Jesus Christ. John tells us that sin is lawlessness, and that he that doeth sin doeth lawlessness. The only way to stop the lawlessness, then, is to remove the sin. Lopping off a few branches may check the growth and manifestation of the lawless spirit for a while; but the only cure is to lay the ax at the root of the tree. Let men be made new creatures in Christ Jesus and the blood of Jesus Christ applied to their hearts and the spirit of lawlessness is dead. This is why that one missionary has often been worth a dozen officers in promoting peace and restoring order.

What have we done to give this gospel of peace to our state, our nation and our lost world? As Amy Wilson Carmichael says: “We are playing at praying, and caring, and going, playing at doing — if doing cost — playing at everything but play.”

God open our eyes and convict us of our insincerity, and burn out the superficial in us and make us intensely in earnest! ▣

**Thine, O Lord, is all  
the glory,  
Thine alone is the  
praise,  
Thine, O Lord, is all  
the glory  
Throughout endless  
days.”**

## Who Are We To Judge?

By Joe Bayly

A man who is separated from his wife writes a book that presents a new view of divorce — a view that permits it today for the same reason God permitted it in the Old Testament: the hardness of His people's hearts. The man is respected; the book is accepted. In fact it is welcomed by one of our most conservative evangelical periodicals, which headlines the review "Remarriage as God's Gift." Calling the book "monumental," the reviewer summarizes the new doctrine as "God's gracious action in permitting us to sin, then forgiving us and giving us another chance to succeed." And how many chances? Two, three, five?

Another man writes a book on how Christians should have a caring attitude toward others. He's divorced. Others continue in positions of leadership, including youth work, after divorce and remarriage.

The reviewer of the book I alluded to earlier says that "evangelical thinking about divorce has been cast in concrete since the early 50s, with the works of John Murray, Guy Dury, and Charles Ryrie forming the basic framework for that thinking." I wonder why he only went back thirty years instead of to Jesus' teaching in the

New Testament. Surely Christian thinking about divorce was cast in concrete then and continued until ten or fifteen years ago when evangelical Christians discovered that divorce with remarriage was acceptable. Subsequently new and exciting (or comforting) discoveries were made by so-called theologians to rationalize the disdain of Christians for the teachings of the Bible.

A similar pattern is displayed in liberation theology, women's theology, black theology, homosexual theology. Maybe I shouldn't lump these together; I am not implying that some of them don't have valid, biblical goals. But they are alike in starting with a problem, a need, a desire, rather than with God; then building a construct that is unbalanced, to support their teaching about that need. If Bible passages have to be explained away or even rejected to support their thesis, so be it.

I remember studying under C.T. Craig, New Testament scholar and Revised Standard Version translator at Union Seminary the summer of 1942. The course was "The Pauline Interpretation of the Gospel." For the first few weeks Dr. Craig could not have been more clear in his understanding of the

Pauline teaching if he had been teaching at Dallas or Wheaton.

Then, at a critical point in the course, he said, "Up to this time we've been studying what Paul actually said. Now we shall proceed to reinterpret his writings in the light of the twentieth century." From then on he cut down what he had previously built. St. Paul was "a child of his times"; cultural change necessitated drastic revision of his ideas.

I could not have been persuaded in 1942 that many years later a respected professor at an evangelical seminary would reject St. Paul's teaching about gender differences with almost the same words.

How far we've strayed from believing and obeying the Word of God.

The evangelical church is sick — so sick that people are crowding in to join us. We're a big flock, big enough to permit remarriage of divorced people (beyond the exception Jesus allowed), big enough to permit practicing homosexuals to pursue their lifestyle, big enough to tolerate almost anything pagans do. We're no longer narrow; it's the wide road of popular acceptance for us.

"When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Lk. 18:8).

That question asked by our Lord haunts me. To me its implications are far more serious than the timetable

of His return, over which we spend so much time arguing.

What do I suggest?

First, that we begin to take the Bible seriously again, as God's Word — God's Word. Not something to hold conferences about, to give lip service to; something to reckon with and to obey.

If we take the Bible seriously, we won't rationalize the parts that convict us of sin — whether the sin of divorce and remarriage, the sin of homosexual relations, the sin of scorning the poor, or the sin of genocide by nuclear weapons.

Somehow we must restore the sacredness of the marriage vows. Maybe there could be two different ceremonies; one for those who have forsworn divorce and remarriage; another for those who consider divorce and remarriage an option "if this doesn't work out." I'd like to see all latter such ceremonies relegated in the county clerk's office.

By revealing my thoughts, by writing these words and submitting them to the editor for publication, I have stepped away seemingly from the tolerant, caring, loving, "who am I to judge?" attitude of many evangelicals, including many of my friends. I'm considered judgmental; I ought to cast the beam out of my own eye (Mt. 7:3-5); I've forgotten to show love; I'm

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**BATTLE . . .**

(Continued from page 2)

object to receiving the baptism of Pedo-baptists because we think it a dangerous innovation. We have no recollection that the history of the Baptists furnishes an example of the kind, and we are well assured that the common sense and the piety of the Baptists were as strong one hundred years ago as they are now. We say again, we think this is a dangerous innovation."

So also speaks Dr. Cone, who in the early days was pastor of the First Baptist Church of New York City. Alas, alas! what would they think today if they could see this heresy rampant in the North, and invading the South also where we are establishing seminaries for the education of preachers with a neutral position on this vital doctrine of our fathers!

We are glad to note that in certain quarters the battle is still going on. In the minutes of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for the year 1949, appears the following which was adopted:

"Be it resolved that the words Baptist Churches which appear in article II, section I, (of the constitution defining the membership of the body) be interpreted to mean churches that are sound in faith and practice, and, be it further resolved, that churches that accept alien

immersion, practice open communion, or affiliate with the Federal Council, World Council, or any similar unionizing organization, shall be considered unsound in faith and practice."

I now quote from the annual of the Arkansas Convention of the same year, 1949: "Be it resolved: That the Convention refuse to seat any messenger from any church that accepts alien immersion, practices open communion, or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, or any other organization similar to, or growing out of such."

One or two questions in conclusion, before I close this article. Were our Baptist fathers who died for this principle (a million in one century we are told) fanatics, mistaken, and did they die in vain?

Here is one picture: As we approach the great Protestant Reformation, we find the Anabaptists everywhere cowed before the growing power and inquisitions of the Roman Catholic Church. Many outrages were visited upon them. Orchard, the historian, describes one against the inhabitants of the valley of Preagela in Piedmont as follows:

"The attack was made toward the end of December, when the mountains were covered with snow. The inhabitants fled to one of the highest mountains in the Alps with

their wives and children, the unhappy mothers carrying the cradle in one hand and in the other, leading such of the offspring as were able to walk. The inhuman in-vaders pursued them until darkness obscured the objects of their fury. Many were slain before they reached the mountains. Overtaken by the shades of night, the afflicted outcasts wandered up and down the mountains covered with snow. Benumbed with cold, some fell asleep, never to awaken. When the night had passed, there were found in their cradles or lying on the snow four-score infants frozen to death. Many of the mothers were dead by their side."

A little later, an army was raised by Albert, the pope's legate, and marched into the Valley of Loyse. The inhabitants fled to the caves in the mountains. Albert and his hordes followed, and built fires at the entrance to the caves. Four hundred were suffocated in their cradles, or in the arms of their mothers. Multitudes, to avoid death by suffocation, or being burnt at the stake, threw themselves headlong down the precipices of the mountains, when they were dashed to pieces on the rocks below. If any escaped death by the fall, they were brutally slaughtered by the soldiers. More than three thousand from the Valley of the Loyse perished on this occasion. In order to have money for

the expedition, the pope granted indulgence to sin, and pardon for past crimes.

Another question: if they were not fanatics, what shall we say of those who take a neutral position and do not stand for the truth for which they died?

"They climbed the steep ascent to heaven  
 "Through peril and pain:  
 "O God, to us may grace be given  
 "To follow in their train."

In conclusion, we would issue this call to Southern Baptists and the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Miami next May:

That they demand of the Convention in the establishment of the new Seminary at Wake Forest, and any other Seminary that may be later established, that there be incorporated in the constitution of said institution or institutions a positive declaration against alien immersion as contrary to the teachings of Scripture and the faith of our Baptist fathers. □ □

There are times when silence is golden, other times  
 It is just plain yellow

*"To everything there is a season...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak."*  
 —Ecclesiastes 3:1,7b

**BODY . . .**

(Continued from page 5)

resembling the nap of velvet, which manufacture a whitish fluid somewhat like raw egg white in consistency. This is the amazing synovial fluid — the finest lubricating oil known — which effectively reduces friction and makes possible the smooth functioning of the joint. In order that this shall be retained it is necessary that the joint should be used actively. A joint, immobilized for any reason and kept so far any considerable period, will become dry and stiff. We are made to move! This joint-lining is obviously the grease or synovial fluid, formed from the blood by these amazing cells. When your joints begin to creak, you had better think of an oil change!

I have mentioned those curious small sacs containing a clear viscid fluid, known as bursae, and found in the capsule of the joint. Around the knee joint there are several of them, evidently placed there for protection when kneeling. They become thickened, if irritated for any length of time. This is the condition known as “house maid’s knee” where much time is spent on the knees.

If a joint is stretched until a ligament or capsule around the joint is torn, there is a sprain, which is almost always accompanied by some internal bleeding at the point of injury.

Sprained joints used to be immobilized because of the pain caused by movement, and several days were needed to absorb the fluid in the joint. Now, a new system is adopted in many cases. A solution of Novocain or procaine is injected into the painful area, and the patient is permitted to walk. The injection relieves the pain and the movement hastens absorption of fluid.

When the force of the injury not only stretches the ligaments but actually tears them and permits the escape of the bone from its socket, so that it becomes impacted among the neighboring ligaments and muscles, the condition is described as a dislocation of the joint. Of course, it is much more serious than a simple sprain. Under favorable conditions the bone may immediately be replaced in its socket and the dislocation reduced. Unless some one with training is present at the scene of the accident, the muscles will contract rigidly, holding the dislocated bone in its abnormal position, causing intense pain if even the slightest attempt is made to touch the dislocated limb. Several weeks usually elapse before the torn ligaments and joint capsule heal sufficiently to permit free use of the joint.

Do you remember the agonizing cry from the lips of our Lord as He hung on the cross during those six terrible hours? Some of His words are recorded for us

in Psalm 22 and reveal an infinite depth of suffering which we can never appreciate nor measure. The fact that He was separated from His Father, because for a season “He was made sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him,” cause Him to cry: “My God, my God why hast thou forsaken?” We cannot study this mysterious utterance in its entirety at this time, but I call your attention to a few statements regarding His body: “I am poured out like water,” due, no doubt to excessive perspiration, producing the agony of intense dehydration. “And all my bones are out of joint.” Doubtless the shoulder joints were thus dislocated, because of the weight of His body and pronounced muscular weakness. “My heart is like wax,” that is, softened and dilated acutely, causing great weakness of which He speaks.

Then He speaks of the dryness of mouth and the agony of thirst, adding to the physical suffering; and as He turns His head to look at His body, He cries out as if in surprise, “I can count all my bones; they look and stare upon me,” this statement suggesting extreme emaciation. This vivid picture of the suffering Lord, enduring the spiritual torments of hell as He realized the world’s sin heaped on Him, compelling His Father’s repudiation of

His Son for the time being, and the physical pain to which He refers with the astonishing and sudden change in His appearance, surely ought to move us, not only to sympathy, but to adoration and surrender.

Why was this necessary? Some presume to tell us that it was not necessary for our salvation, that He could have saved Himself, and still mankind could come to redemption by imitating His life. But God tells us definitely and repeatedly that we cannot be saved except through the death and the blood of Christ. “Without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin.” “The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

Now, you may not agree with this, but that makes no difference. It is not what you think about it that counts — it is what God says. If you persist in setting your will against His, that is possible, but the end thereof is eternal death. To me that seems perfectly fair. Surely God has the right to determine how we shall get into His presence. And He states that there is no other way except this “way of the Cross”; in other words, Jesus Christ was our Substitute in death. To profit by this sacrifice, there is just one thing necessary: to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you done it? Think it over, and remember: — HE’S VERY WONDERFUL!” □

**FELLOWSHIPS  
and  
CONFERENCES**

**WICHITA, KS**

April 16-18, 2007,  
Lincoln Baptist Church,  
7801 Lincoln St., Wichita,  
KS 67207, Wichita, KS,  
V. L. Lindbloom, Pastor

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**SANTA FE, NM**

April 22-25, 2007,  
Temple Baptist Church,  
2103 Yucca St., Santa Fe,  
NM 87505, James Velazquez,  
Pastor.

\* \* \*

**BENTON, KY**

May 9-11, 2007, Faith  
Missionary Baptist Church,  
P. O. Box 153, Benton, KY  
42025, Bill Amberg, Pastor

\* \* \*

**SIOUX FALLS, SD**

Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2007,  
Empire Baptist Temple, 412  
S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls,  
SD 57104, Ron Tottingham,  
Pastor

**HOPE . . .**

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spoke. As the deepening shadows of the coming night of this world's judgment spread about us and we hear the thunder of the coming predicted storm, Christians are looking up, even as they have done since the promise was first given them — looking up in the same assurance of faith that He who said He

would come will come, and will not tarry.

We Christians have this advantage over the early Christians: we are nearer that event now than we have ever been by almost two millenniums. Add to this the fact that all the signs given in the Bible as heralding the coming of the Lord are being fulfilled before our very eyes. The wars and rumors of wars, false messiahs and false prophets, pestilences, famines, earthquakes, increasing anti-Semitism, the sea waves roaring, apostasy, moral wickedness, political corruption and all the other indications are here simultaneously for the first time in history, and Jesus said "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Lk. 21:23).

The next prophetic event in the program of God is the catching away of all true believers before the final world crash of this dispensation. This catching away of the saints, preceded momentarily by the resurrection of all the righteous dead, is generally called the rapture.

The word "rapture" itself does not occur in the Bible, but we use it to express an event which is clearly and repeatedly taught. The fact that the word does not occur does not alter the fact. The word "Trinity" does not occur in the Scriptures neither, or the

expression "supernatural conception" or "virgin birth", but these terms express rather that which is taught in the Bible.

"Rapture" is the word which expresses that event when Christ shall come again according to His promise to take away His saints in preparation for His reign with her on earth.

The word "rapture" comes from the Latin word "rapio", which means "to snatch away suddenly". The English word "rapture" as applied to the Lord's return means "to carry away to sublime happiness". It is called in Titus "That Blessed Hope." □□□□□ □

**JUDGE . . .**

(Continued from page 21)

getting old.

To those who consider the latter a valid objection, especially since I've been married to the same person

for thirty-nine years, I'd like to say that pressures on marriage are nothing new. Don't think my generation and previous generations were free from the relational, emotional, financial, health, and spiritual problems — including the temptation to commit adultery — that confront you today. We were confronted, some of us had good marriages, some poor ones.

But divorce wasn't an "out" for previous generations of Christians. Maybe that was the reason we honored our promise to stick to our mate for life, "until death us do part."

I like to think that a lot of us were persuaded that we'd make the best choice in the whole world and that nobody else (including young flesh) could be better. And I like to think that we had a bit more concern for our children. □

**The Presence**

**By Ralph Spaulding Cushman**

There is a peace that passeth understanding;  
There is a joy the world can never know,  
There is a light, you will not find it burning  
On any land or sea where'er you go.

This joy of mine is not of earthly making,  
Though you may find it in the sunset's blush;  
Above the noise and din of human striving  
There is a Presence and a holy hush!