

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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The Ecclesia — The Church of Jesus Christ

The Church “Theory”

“I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18).

There is a common theory held by most of Christendom today which says that the church of the New Testament is a “universal, invisible body of all believers between Pentecost and the rapture.” There are those who will claim to be “Baptistic” who will recognize the individual congregation truth of the church as taught in the Scriptures, but will actually hold that there are two churches: one, a universal, invisible body, and the other a local corporate body. I call these “two-churchers.”

To them, the church is likened unto a large body of earth under water which pushes up here and there as islands. The whole body of earth under the water is the “true and actual church” while each island is a “church” as a representation, or part of the actual

true body under the water. While these give lip-service to the “doctrine of the local congregation,” they are still *very much* universal church in theology.

Protestant groups

generally will believe the universal theory which came down from the Roman Catholic church by way of visible universal theory. This is because they are only “reformed”

Needed: A Prophetic Ministry For Our Day

By Chester E. Tulga

The Hebrew prophets were uncompromising individualists. They were not interested in the mere approval of the people. They did not seek or secure the approval of the religious leadership of their day. They were indifferent to the scornful criticism of the false prophets. They were contemptuous of the insincerities of the false priests. They were stern

critics of the cheap, shallow religion of their times and expressed themselves in vigorous language. One force held them enthralled: the Word of the Lord which they had heard speaking in their souls. One weight burdened their hearts: the burden of the Lord. One source determined their doctrine: “Thus saith the

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catholics and still carry a great amount of the original doctrine.

The Biblical Church

We need to establish the true, Biblical meaning of the word church, for this is the truth for the whole doctrine of the church. All church functioning, foundation, and features issue out of this proclamation, “*I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”

The Greek word from which the English word church is translated is *Ecclesia*. This word is used 117 times in the New Testament. Dr. B. H. Carroll describes the meaning of *ecclesia* as “an organized assembly whose members have been properly called out from private homes to attend to public business.” This word is a “legislative” term.

Ecclesias were selected by the process of

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Quiz The Pastor

If Jesus Was Raised From the Dead, Where Is He Today?

By the late Nick Michalinos

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

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

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

His resurrection is part of the “gospel” (1 Cor. 15:4), and we are told that one must believe in the resurrection of Christ in order to be saved (Rom. 10:9-10). The fact of His

resurrection is scripturally settled.

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

This “same Jesus” in His spiritual, immortal, resurrected body, ascended up into Heaven and has been there for the last 1900 years. He “entered ... into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Heb. 9:24). Heaven’s location is said to be “far

above all heavens” (Eph. 4:10), also called “the heaven of heavens” (Neh. 9:5; 1 Ki. 8:27), “the third heaven” and “paradise” (2 Cor. 12:2, 4).

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

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

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

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

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

Baptists and Catholics

By J. B. Lawrence

Fundamentally there are but two structural principles on which churches are founded. One is the direct contact of a sovereign soul with a sovereign God and the obedience of that soul to God in all things — that is the Baptist position. The other is the subordination of God’s authority to human authority and the separation of the individual from direct contact with God and access to Him by the interposition of human ordinances, rules, regulations, requirements, and human authority. That is the Catholic position.

Therefore, Baptists are irrevocably separated from Catholics and also from all forms of belief and from all churches which subordinate the individual to the control of human institutions, and

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THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Creation Versus Evolution — Part 1

By the late Kenneth Mathis
1934 - 2007

Evolution has now been taught in our schools for many years and, in our day, it is widely accepted by many as fact. The news media, knowing little about the issues involved and believing evolution, are quick to televise or to print any development that supposedly supports evolution and very reluctant to televise or print any contrary information.

In recent months, the intensity of evolution promotion has increased. With space exploration and cloning in the headlines, every Christian should arm themselves with the knowledge necessary to successfully defend and witness the truth as presented in the Bible. Our youth are being inundated with evolutionary teaching in our schools and universities as well as by programs on television. The next generation will be lost if we do not address this issue now. You cannot take the position that “I believe it and that settles it” you must know what you are talking about.

In the following articles, I will discuss the so-called proofs of evolution, define life, discuss some of the current theories of the origin of life and our universe, the claims of creating life in a test



Bro. Kenneth Mathis passed away after suffering a “massive heart-attack” on Sunday morning June 17, 2007. He was a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

He surrendered to preach in 1960 under the ministry of Bro. Charles Thomas, pastor of Rodgers Baptist Church, Garland, Texas. Though he was the consulting engineer over several multi-million dollar jobs, he resigned from this work in order to devote full-time to his call to the ministry.

He pastored several churches, Beacon Memorial Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, Solid Rock Baptist Church, Independence, Kansas, and Temple Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He and his wife, Jewel, became members of Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. He was sponsored by Central Baptist to begin a home mission work in Hot Springs, Arkansas where he revived a dead church (only three elderly members) and became pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Hot Springs in 1968 until 2001. He was pastor for over 30 years until he retired due to ill health.

tube, review the cell and its makeup including information on chromosomes, DNA molecules, genes, amino acids, proteins, cell and

human reproduction.

I will also discuss claims of life in a lethal atmosphere, the latest genetic research including

test-tube babies, sex determination of the baby, and cloning. This information is meant to be a brief summary of the many issues involved and to allow Christians to understand the claims being made and how they relate to the Bible.

Philosophies Of Creation

Two philosophies exist to explain the origin of all things. The philosophies are divided by whether one believes in or does not believe in God. Both claim to accept and analyze the facts and relationships of nature in the world but the interpretation of the observed facts is dependent upon one’s original belief. One philosophy assumes something existed and evolved into all that we now see. This philosophy states that all orderly systems in the universe, whether atoms, molecules, plants, animals, stars, galaxies or men have developed by the properties and processes of eternal matter and energy from primeval chaotic randomness into their present state of organized complexity and order. It assumes that these same properties and processes are still functioning.

(See **MATHIS** on page 4)

MATHIS . . .

(Continued from page 3)

The individual who believes this philosophy will seek any explanation possible through natural phenomena. He will reject or ignore evidence that contradicts this belief and will practice the use of selective evidence to try to prove his assumption. Unfortunately, most scientific textbooks present evolution as if it were a proven fact rather than an unproved and constantly changing theory of origins.

God As Creator

The belief that God created all things states that He brought nuclear particles, atoms, molecules, cells, matter, energy, stars, planets, plants, animals, man and all else into existence by special creation and that this process is no longer occurring. It looks back and acknowledges the necessity of origin (God) but that present day phenomena and processes cannot in themselves create anything.

In this belief, we acknowledge that God has a purpose in this universe and that He is the creator and sustainer of all things (including the natural laws that govern all things) and that He is Lord over all things. God is the first cause and origin for this belief. The other belief does not explain origins but assumes inert matter is eternal and the laws that

govern it.

It is essential that Christians today have, at least a basic understanding of the issues that separate the evolutionist and the creationist. The textbooks in our schools and many of the teachers are presenting evolution as a fact and not an unproved and constantly changing theory of men who do not believe in God. The child is taught that God is not real but rather an imaginary invention of uneducated religionists and that evolution is their true creator. The impact of this teaching is seen everywhere by the violence, moral decay and despair in our society.

The evolutionist has unsolvable problems with the origin of life, the evolution of life into its present state and the understanding of our universe. His theories are legend and constantly changing.

In the July 20, 1997 issue of the Arkansas Democrat/Gazette, a full size page appeared with the title "The Search for Life." This is an article on the Pathfinder mission on Mars and contains the latest speculation of these scientists on the origin of life. The article states that the energy required to produce the strings of molecules that form amino acids, the basic building blocks of DNA, proteins, etc. may have been provided in this lethal environment.

In this statement, one of the many unsolvable problems of evolutionists is evident. In a chaotic environment lethal to life, where did the free energy come from that is necessary to produce life from non-living systems and how did that life survive? In these articles, we will try to give a brief summary of the many issues involved in creation by God verses naturalistic evolution.

Laws Of Thermodynamics

Two universal scientific laws that are essential to the discussion of origins is the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics. The First Law states, in effect, that nothing is now being created or destroyed and the Second Law states that every system left to itself becomes more disordered as time goes on. These two laws strongly support the Bible account of creation and the subsequent fall of man and the catastrophic impact of this fall on the creation. Matter is fundamentally a form of energy and every thing that happens in the universe is basically a conversion of energy from one form to another, accomplishing work in the process.

The First Law of Thermodynamics is the Law of Conservation of Energy. It says that energy can be transformed from one kind into another, but it can neither be created nor

destroyed (Their sum is a closed system — Einstein predicted this and it is confirmed today by nuclear physics). This confirms the creationist belief that creation is not now taking place at all and is therefore a completed event of the past. Processes today are all conservation processes and could never create anything as evolutionists theorize.

Today, the world, as we observe it, remains essentially stable. Changes that occur do so within the natural laws decreed by God. Man, today, has greatly increased his knowledge of these laws and much experimentation is taking place. But the planets will remain in their orbits, the earth's rotation remains constant, dogs begat dogs, people begat people, etc. The changes that do occur are normally in the direction of decay.

Everything tends to run down, to wear out and to disintegrate. Although energy can be neither created or destroyed (First Law), the conversions occurring in our universe result in energy decreasing (converted to non-useable heat energy) in its availability for further work. Left alone, all systems proceed naturally from order to disorder. This is a universal law and any seemingly local exceptions are temporary and ultimately obey this law of

(See **MATHIS** on page 24)

Evolving Into Quite An Attraction:

Highly Anticipated Creation Museum Sees Strong First-Month Attendance

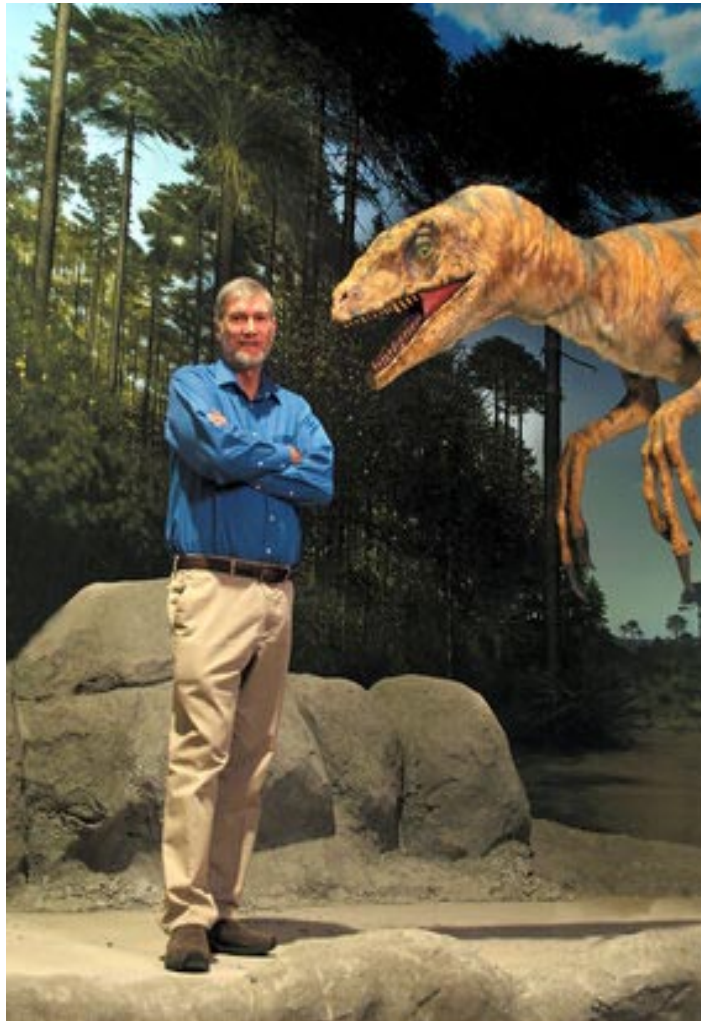
by Dan Wooding
Founder of ASSIST Ministries

PETERSBURG, KY (ANS) — The newly opened Creation Museum near Cincinnati is enjoying tremendous success with more than 40,000 guests having toured the exhibits since the facility formally opened exactly one month ago, officials announced today, Thursday, June 28, 2007.

Another 9,000 visitors came through during pre-grand opening events, making the grand total just over 49,000. Because museum officials are hoping for at least 250,000 guests the first year, the total is better than expected now that one-fifth of the yearly goal has been achieved.

“We’re very thankful that so many people are coming out,” said Ken A. Ham, the co-founder and president of Answers in Genesis, the ministry that built the high-tech “walk through history” museum. He added: “The feedback we’ve been getting is very positive. I’m grateful to observe that people are seeing that solid science backs the Bible.”

Well-known motivational speaker Zig Ziglar,



Dr. Ken Ham

a longtime supporter of Answers in Genesis, was among the first to tour the new museum. He declared: “I’ve been a Christian for many years, but this museum has strengthened my faith.”

A news release from Giles Hudson of A Larry Ross Communications, said, “As a testament to the

museum’s growing profile, on just one day earlier this month, traffic to the museum Web site and the general AiG site drew over 95,000 visitors (about 300,000 “Page views”), an extraordinary number for a religious site.

“In addition, tour group attendance has been robust. The museum is booked solid for groups on Saturdays through the entire summer, and group capacity has been met on many other days. This trend should be maintained through the fall as Christian schools and home school groups schedule visits, and as the tour bus industry continues to supply visitors.”

AiG is a biblical apologetics ministry, which conducts more than 300 teaching meetings each year, hosts an award-winning Web site:

(www.AnswersInGenesis.org),

and produces the “Answers” radio program heard on 860 stations across America.

More information is available in their online newsroom:

www.CreationMuseumNews.com.



Can A Muslim Be A Good American?

This is something I've wondered about for some time now: How and why do the Muslims hate us and everyone else so much? Doesn't their God teach them to love? Can a good Muslim be a good American?

I sent that question to a friend who worked in Saudi Arabia for 20 years. The following is his reply:

Theologically — No. Because his allegiance is to Allah, the moon god of Arabia.

Religiously — No. Because no other religion is accepted by his Allah except Islam (Quran, 2:256)

Scripturally — No. Because his allegiance is to the five pillars of Islam and the Quran (Koran).

Geographically — No. Because his allegiance is to Mecca, to which he turns in prayer five times a day.

Socially — No. Because his allegiance to Islam forbids him to make friends with Christians or Jews.

Politically — No. Because he must submit to the mullah (spiritual

leaders), who teach annihilation of Israel and destruction of America, the great Satan.

Domestically — No. Because he is instructed to marry four women and beat and scourge his wife when she disobeys him (Quran 4:34).

Intellectually — No. Because he cannot accept the American Constitution since it is based on Biblical principles and he believes the Bible to be corrupt.

Philosophically — No. Because Islam, Mohammed, and the Quran do not allow freedom of religion and expression. Democracy and Islam cannot co-exist. Every Muslim government is either dictatorial or autocratic.

Spiritually — No. Because when we declare "one nation under God," the Christian's God is loving and kind, while Allah is *never* referred to as heavenly father, nor is he ever called love in the Quran's 99 excellent names. Therefore after much study and deliberation ... perhaps we should be very suspicious

Professionalism A Danger

Professionalism in any field of service is dangerous.

The sick man, and the wife who watches at his bed, will want to feel that the physician has personal interest and deep concern and is not there just for the money involved. The unfortunate man before the court of justice likes to believe that his lawyer's heart is in his case.

But in no field of service is the sin of professionalism more deadly

of all Muslims in this country. They obviously cannot be both "good" Muslims and good Americans. Call it what you wish ... it's still the truth.

If you find yourself intellectually in agreement with the above statements, perhaps you will share this with your friends. The more who understand this, the better it will be for our country and our future. Pass it on, Fellow Americans.

This war is *much* bigger than most Americans know or can understand. Why do we keep allowing them to come to America? How many Germans and Japanese did we allow in during W.W.II? Probably Zero. Something is wrong with our government because they are either stupid, incompetent or just don't care!!!! — (Copied from the Internet.)

than in the ministry. Yet many have been caught in its choking meshes and robbed both of their joy and effectiveness. Those who have been caught thereby should confess their sin and pray for healing.

Professionalism is, of all ministerial sins, the most easily detected. The handshake, the oral greeting, the cut-and-dried mannerism, the "routine funeral service," the mere recitation of words in the pulpit, the following of set form and custom — all these are quickly spotted and branded by the public as the way of the man whose heart is not in his work or with his people.

I have always looked up to the man, no matter what his level of service or what his cultural background or the lack of it, whose heart is kindled by holy fires, who can rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. This tired old world needs helpers who understand, who get under the burden, who speak the language of the common people. And such ministers — and we have many of them, thank God — are in demand even after old age has come with the white hair and furrowed cheeks.

It can be said to ministers, even as to all others, "keep thy *heart* with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."



Baptist History In A Nutshell

By J. M. Carroll

1. During every period of the “Dark Ages” there were in existence many Christians and many separate and independent churches, some of them dating back to the times of the Apostles, which were never in any way connected with the Catholic Church. They always wholly rejected and repudiated the Catholics and their doctrines. This is a fact clearly demonstrated by credible history.

2. These Christians were the perpetual objects of bitter and relentless persecutions. History shows that during the period of the “dark ages” about twelve centuries, beginning with A.D. 426, there were about fifty millions of these Christians who died martyr deaths. Very many thousands of others, both preceding and succeeding the “Dark Ages,” died under the same hard hand of persecution.

“Ana-Baptists”

3. These Christians, during these dark days of many centuries, were called by many different names, all given to them by their enemies. These names were sometimes given

because of some specially prominent and heroic leader and sometimes from other causes; and sometimes, yea, many times, the same people, holding the same views, are called by different names in different localities. But amid all the many changes of names, there was one special name or rather designation, which clung to at least some of these Christians, throughout all the “Dark Ages,” that designation being “Ana-Baptist”. This compound word applied as a designation of some certain Christians was first found in history during the third century; and a suggestive fact, soon after the origin of Infant Baptism, and a more suggestive fact, even prior to the use of the name Catholic. Thus the name “Ana-Baptists” is the oldest denominational name in history.

4. A striking peculiarity of these Christians was and continued to be in succeeding centuries: They rejected the man-made doctrine of “Infant Baptism” and demanded re-baptism, even though done by immersion for all those who came to them, having been baptized in infancy. For this peculiarity they

were called “Ana-Baptists.”

5. This special designation was applied to many of these Christians who bore other nicknames; especially is this true of the Donatists, Paulicians, Albigenses and Ancient Waldenses and others. In later centuries this designation came to be a regular name, applied to a distinct group. These were simply called “Ana-Baptists” and gradually all other names were dropped. Very early in the sixteenth century,

even prior to the origin of the Lutheran church the first of all the Protestant churches, the word “ana” was beginning to be left off, and they were simply called “Baptists”.

6. Into the “dark ages” went a group of many churches which were never in any way identified with the Catholics. Out of the “dark ages” came a group of many churches which had never been in any way identified with the Catholics. Therefore, they were not “Protestants.” □

In Any Office

By Amy Carmichael

My potter’s busy wheel is where
I see a desk and office chair,
And well I know the Lord is there.

And all my work is for a King
Who gives His potter songs to sing,
Contented songs, through everything.

And nothing is too small to tell
To Him with whom His potters dwell,
My Counsellor, Emmanuel.

Master, Thy choice is good to me,
It is a happy thing to be,
Here in my office — here with Thee.



Three Removed From Senate During Hindu Prayer.

— Three Christian protestors were removed from the U.S. Senate chamber's observation gallery Thursday when they disrupted the morning prayer — being delivered for the first time in history by a Hindu chaplain. The three unidentified protestors began praying loudly when Rajan Zed, a Hindu chaplain from Nevada, started praying. The demonstrators prayed for forgiveness from Jesus Christ for “betraying” the Christian tradition. Senate security officers quickly removed the demonstrators, and Zed continued with his prayer for peace. “May our study be enlightening,” he said, noting that “by devotion to selfless work we gain the supreme goal of life.” Zed addressed his prayer to “the supreme one” and requested that “he stimulate and illuminate our minds.” “May yours spirits be as one,” Zed said. “Peace, peace, peace be unto all.” He added a prayer of comfort for the family of Lady Bird Johnson, the former First Lady who died Wednesday at 94. Zed addressed a

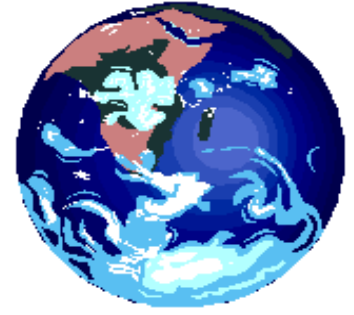
World News Roundup

mainly empty Senate chamber. Among other staff, only Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) were present for the opening invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Reid's office sponsored Zed's request to serve as a guest chaplain. Inhofe was there to deliver a speech moments later on the Fairness Doctrine. After the prayer, Reid took to the floor to thank Zed for opening the Senate. He spoke of a statue of Gandhi he keeps in his office, and encouraged his colleagues to “think of Gandhi.” As **Cybercast News Service** previously reported, Zed is believed by Senate historians to be the first Hindu chaplain to deliver the opening prayer on the Senate floor. The Senate Chaplain, Rev. Barry Black, usually delivers the invocation, but it is common for guest chaplains to appear. While he appears to be the first Hindu to open the Senate, Zed is not the first outside the Judeo-Christian tradition. A Muslim prayer was delivered in 1993.

* * *

Eureka Springs Becomes First City in Arkansas to Register “Gay Marriages”. — Eureka Springs has become the first city in

Arkansas to allow homosexual couples to register as domestic partners. The City Council passed the ordinance unanimously, which basically is the equivalent of the city's leaders recognizing and forcing “gay marriage” on the city's residents. Eureka Springs is recognized as the home of “The Great Passion Play.” Pastor Philip Wilson of Eureka Springs' First Christian Church is leading an effort to get the ordinance overturned. Pastor Wilson said the mayor and city council made a moral decision for the entire city. Wilson twice helped gather signatures in an attempt to bring the issue to the voters, but the petitions failed after the city clerk claimed they lacked specific wording. “My sadness is Eureka Springs is being marketed more and more as a homosexual destination,” Wilson explained. Eureka Springs has opened the door for other Arkansas mayors and city councils to adopt similar ordinances recognizing the equivalent of same-sex marriage. Many Christian families will no doubt reconsider their plans to visit Eureka Springs, or refuse to vacation in Eureka Springs. Incidentally, Branson has become very successful by marketing to families, not special interest groups such as homosexuals.



Baghdad Christians Terrorized, Fleeing.

— The following is excerpted from a report in the Jewish World Review, June 14, 2007, entitled “Is Islam Incompatible with Democracy, Decency?” The report uses the term “Christian” to describe any type of Christian, and the groups that predominate in that part of the world are Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox: “An al-Qaida-affiliated insurgent group is giving Christians in Baghdad a stark set of options: Convert to Islam, marry your daughters to our fighters, pay an Islamic tax or leave with only the clothes on your back. A U.S. military official said American forces became aware of the threats only last month and now have erected barriers around the largest Christian enclave in Baghdad's Dora neighborhood in an effort to protect its residents. Christians in Baghdad refuse to discuss the threats for fear of retribution. But in Syria, where thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled, tales abound of families that were killed or driven from their

(See **WNR** on page 11)

La Voz Del Desierto



Cómo Administrar Nuestros Bienes Para Dios

Por M. A. Curet

Es importante saber que nosotros somos nada más que meros mayordomos de todo lo que Dios nos ha provisto. El mayordomo es uno que administra los bienes que pertenecen a otro. La Biblia contiene una enseñanza muy significativa con respecto a la mayordomía, es decir, la administración de los bienes que Dios nos ha provisto. Consideremos los siguientes puntos bíblicos:

I. Dios Es Dueño Absoluto De Todo Y de Todos.

1. Dios es dueño por creación. En Génesis 1:27 dice: "Y creó Dios al hombre a su imagen, a imagen de Dios lo creó; varón y hembra los creó." Veamos: Efesios 2:10.

2. Dios es dueño por derecho. En el Salmo 24:1 dice: "De Jehová es la tierra y su plenitud; El mundo, y los en que él habitan." En Hageo 2:8 dice: "Mía es plata, y mío es el oro, dice Jehová de los ejércitos." Veamos: 1ra Timoteo 6:7.

3. Dios es dueño por redención. En Isaías 43:1 dice: "... No temas, porque yo te redimí; te puse nombre, mío eres tú." Veamos: 1ra Corintios 6:19-20.

II. El Cristiano Es Un Mayordomo.

Todos los bienes en este mundo son de Dios, haciendo a cada cristiano un mayordomo de:

1. El Tiempo. En Exodo 20:9, 11 dice: "Seis días trabajarás, y harás toda tu obra; ... por tanto, Jehová bendijo el día de reposo y lo santificó." En Eclesiastés 12:1 dice: "Acuérdate de tu Creador en los días de tu juventud, antes que vengan los días malos, y lleguen los años de los cuales digas: No tengo en ellos contentamiento." Veamos: Eclesiastés 9:10.

2. El Evangelio. En 1ra Corintios 4:2 dice: "Ahora bien, se requiere de los administradores, que cada uno sea hallado fiel." La orden que aparece en Mateo 28:19-20 es: "Por

tanto, id, y haced discípulos a todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo; enseñándoles que guarden todas las cosas que os he mandado; y he aquí yo estoy con vosotros todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo. Amén."

3. Los Talentos. Veamos: Mateo 25:14-15, 19, 21, 28-30.

4. Los Dones. En 1ra Pedro 4:10 dice: "Cada uno según el don que ha recibido, ministrado a los otros, como buenos administradores de la multiforme gracia de Dios." Veamos lo que dice: Santiago 17:17.

5. El Amor. En Marcos 12:30 dice: "Y amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, y con toda tu alma, y con toda tu mente y con todas tus fuerzas." "Si me amáis, guardad mis mandamientos" (Juan 14:15). Veamos lo que dice: 1ra Juan 3:18.

6. Las Posesiones. Veamos Deuteronomio 8:18. "Antes acuérdate de

Jehová tu Dios: porque él te da el poder para hacer las riquezas, a fin de confirmar su pacto que juró a tus padres, como en este día."

7. La Vida. Veamos: Lucas 12:20-21. "Y díjole Dios: Necio, esta noche vuelven a pedir tu alma; y lo que has prevenido, ¿de quién será? Así es el que hace para sí tesoro, y no es rico en Dios."

III. Como Buenos Mayordomos de Nuestras Posesiones, Lo Mínimo Que Debemos Traer A Dios Es El Diezmo.

1. En la época de la Promesa. Veamos: Génesis 28:20-22. "E hizo Jacob voto, diciendo: Si fuere Dios conmigo, y me guardare en este viaje que voy, y me diere pan para comer y vestido para vestir, Y si tornare en paz á casa de mi padre, Jehová será mi Dios, Y esta piedra que he puesto por título, será casa de Dios: y de todo lo que

(Vea **DIESMO** en la pág. (10))

Noticias Alrededor Del Mundo

Jueza Alemana Provooca Protesta Al Citar El Corán. — Una jueza alemana ha provocado una tormenta de protestas citando el Corán, al negar el pedido de un divorcio rápido a una musulmana alemana, alegando que su marido le golpeó. En una decisión que subraya la tensión entre las costumbres musulmanas y las leyes europeas, la jueza, Christa Datz-Invierno, observó que la pareja provenía de un entorno cultural marroquí, en el cual es común para los maridos golpear a sus esposas. El Corán, escribió la jueza en su decisión, sanciona tal abuso.

* * *

Escándalo Sobre Renuncia de Ganadora Certamen Embarazada Saccude a La Srta. Jamaica. — La decisión tomada por la Srta. Jamaica de renunciar a su corona antes que tener un aborto, ha impactado a Sara Lorenzo de 23 años, quien aboga por el sexo seguro, y que finalizó sexta en el desfile

de la Srta. Mundo, el año pasado. Lorenzo, que también ganó el título de Srta. Mundo Caribe y es la primera Srta. Jamaica en renunciar a su corona, sacudió a la nación el pasado 13 de marzo, cuando anunció que estaba embarazada. En su declaración dijo que “había tomado una decisión muy personal, y que era su responsabilidad, como alguien quien esperaba ser madre más adelante durante este año.” También agregó: “Creo que mi obligación moral es hacer lo que creo éticamente correcto en mi corazón.” Las autoridades del desfile Srta. Jamaica, llamaron su embarazo el resultado de un error de juicio y dijeron: “Había otra salida del asunto, y muchos, quizás la mayoría de las mujeres jóvenes, habrían elegido dicho camino.” Mickey Houghton-James, promotor del desfile, elogiando a Lorenzo dijo: “Como es típico de ella, está haciendo esto de una manera directa, con clase y en armonía con sus dictados morales.” — Herald De Miami. □

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DIEZMO . . .
(Vino de la pág. 9)

me dieres, el diezmo lo he de apartar para tí.”

2. En la época de la Ley. Veamos: Levítico 27:30-33. “Y todas las décimas de la tierra, así de la simiente de la tierra como del fruto de los árboles, de Jehová, Y si alguno quisiere redimir algo de sus décimas, añadirá su quinto a ello. Y toda décima de vacas o de ovejas, de todo lo que pasa bajo la vara, la décimaré consagrada a Jehová. No mirará si es bueno o malo, ni lo trocará: y si lo trocare, ello y su trueque serán cosas sagradas; no se redimirá.”

3. En la época Neotestamentaria. Veamos: Mateo 23:23. “¡Ay de vosotros, escribas y Fariseos, hipócritas! porque diezmaís la menta y el eneldo y el comino, y dejasteis lo que es lo más grave de la ley, es á saber, el juicio y la misericordia y la fe: esto era menester hacer, y no dejar lo otro.”

IV. Dios Promete Recompensar A Sus Mayordomos Fieles.

1. En Bendiciones. Veamos: 2da Corintios 9:6. “Esto empero digo: El que siembra escasamente, también segará escasamente; y el que siembra en bendiciones, en bendiciones también segará.”

2. En Cantidades. Veamos: Lucas 6:38. “Dad, y se os dará; medida buena,

apretada, remecida, y rebosando darán en vuestro seno: porque con la misma medida que midiereis, os será vuelto á medir.”

3. En Abundancia. Veamos: Malaquías 3:10. “Traed todos los diezmos al alfolí, y haya alimento en mí casa; y probadme ahora en esto, dice Jehová de los ejércitos, si no os abriré las ventanas de los cielos, y vaciaré sobre vosotros bendición hasta que sobreabunde.”

V. ¿Cuándo Debemos Traer Los Diezmos Y Las Ofrendas A La Iglesia?

1. Cada primer día de la semana. Veamos: 1ra Corintios 16:2: “Cada primer día de la semana cada uno de vosotros aparte en su casa, guardando lo que por la bondad de Dios pudiere; para que cuando yo llegare, no se hagan entonces colectas.”

Para concluir hermanos, administremos bien lo que Dios nos ha encomendado. Seamos buenos mayordomos, ya que algún día daremos cuentas al Señor de todo (2da Corintios 5:9-10). Espero que ese día seamos hallados fieles en nuestra responsabilidad. □

“Jesus le dice:
Yo soy el camino, y
la verdad y la vida:
nadie viene al
Padre, sino por mí.

John 14:6

WNR ...

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their roots to ancient Mesopotamia. Some of Saddam Hussein's closest confidants were Christian, including his foreign minister, Tarik Aziz. Christian communities were prominent in many major Iraqi cities, including Mosul in the north and Basra in the south. Baghdad had major Christian enclaves in the central neighborhood of Karada, the eastern mostly Shiite neighborhood of New Baghdad and nearby al-Ghadir and the notorious Sunni-dominated Doura in the capital's south. As Iraq has descended into chaos, however, many Christians have fled, joining an estimated 2.2 million exiles, including 1.4 million Iraqis now estimated to be living in Syria. ... A Christian Iraqi legislator estimated Tuesday that a half-million Christians have fled Iraq since 2004." — FBIS

Maryland Board of Education: State's Right Supersedes Parent's Rights. — Only a positive view of homosexuality can be taught in classrooms. The Maryland State Board of Education has ruled that the right of the state supersedes the rights of parents in teaching children about homosexuality. The Board said the "right (of parents) is not absolute. It must bend to the State's

duty to educate its citizens." The ruling means that the teaching of homosexuality as an accepted and approved lifestyle in Maryland public schools can move forward. **Very important!** Some professionals feel that the Maryland curriculum could become the model for promoting the homosexual lifestyle in public schools across the nation. That is the reason we are asking you to send the email. The new policy prohibits any unfavorable view of homosexuality from being presented. A video for use with eighth-graders instructs students on how to put a condom on a pen-s. The Board has been trying to incorporate the promotion of homosexuality into their sex-education classes. A federal judge overturned a previous attempt to include the promotion of homosexuality because of the curriculum's expressed hostility toward Christianity. But in approving the new curriculum, the Board refused to hear arguments from those who oppose the promotion of homosexuality in the classroom. — AFA

Study Sees "Turn-around" In Young Adults' Positions on Abortion. — Younger voters, especially women, are embracing a pro-life position in surprising numbers and in sharp contrast to attitudes that

held sway 15 years ago, according to a new study. The study by Overbrook Research, a public consulting firm in Illinois, examines public opinion data from Missouri. With proportions of blacks, Catholics and union members in line with national averages, the state is viewed as "highly representative of the American electorate," the study says. Over 30,000 survey interviews were conducted in the state between 1992 and 2006. Participants were asked: "On the debate over abortion policy, do you consider yourself to be pro-life, pro-choice or somewhere in between?" Those who gave a definitive answer were then asked how strongly they held their view. — CNS

Canada's "Three-Parent" Ruling Opens New Can of Worms. — A Canadian pro-family activist says a recent ruling by the highest court in Ontario could prove to be more harmful to Canadian society than even legalized same-sex "marriage." Pro-family groups in Canada are vowing to fight the appeals court ruling which says three-parent families must be legalized. The highest court in the province of Ontario issued a unanimous ruling earlier this week that gives legal parental status to the lesbian partner of a biological mother, essen-

tially giving a five-year-old boy three parents. The court also declared that the Children's Law Reform Act does not reflect current society and does not provide for the best interests of the child who is raised by the lesbian women and visited by his father twice a week. — Religion Today

"Choose Life" Plates Upheld by Federal Judge As Free Speech. — A federal judge turned back pro-abortion objections against the Choose Life license plates in Illinois saying motorists have the free speech rights to purchase them and place them on their automobiles. U.S. District Judge David Coar said protests from abortion advocates don't trump the First Amendment. Coar also said the state must issue the specialty license plates as long as the sponsors of it meet normal requirements on the design and number of motorists wanting one. — Lifenews.com

Mosque and State: Taxpayer Dollars, Time Devoted to Islam in Schools. — Decisions by public schools and colleges to provide special prayer times or to make other allowances for Muslim

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J. Edgar Hoover

Apparently there are few formal statistics relating to the efficacy of religious training in preventing crime, but let me tell you of the experience of one juvenile court judge who over a period of eight years, had some 8,000 boys and girls under 17 years of age brought before him for violating the law.

Of these 8,000 delinquent children only 42 regularly attended Sunday School.

Perhaps even more striking was his finding that *none of these children had a mother or father who attended Sunday School or church regularly.*

Let me emphasize the word “regularly.” The person whose religion is genuinely a part of his daily living, consciously or unconsciously, permeating his every thought and deed, almost invariably will be one who is constant in his church and Sunday School attendance. Such a person, truly imbued with Christian principles, is incapable of engaging in crime. The laws of God and man are

inextricably entwined, and the personal philosophy that abhors the breaking of the one will not countenance the violation of the other.

But looking again at the survey by the juvenile court judge, what of the small proportion of 42 juvenile delinquents who had a record of regular Sunday School training, but nevertheless, became embroiled with the law? How can we reconcile the delinquency with their faithful attendance?

Those erring children simply point up a fact we all should recognize — a vital fact to those who have dedicated themselves to making the Sunday School a truly effective instrument of divine inspiration. Not all who are faithful to their Sunday School or church in attendance are faithful to its teachings in practice. Sunday School had not yet succeeded in its mission toward those 42 delinquents. It had not yet imbued them with the type of Christian conviction that would have prevented their missteps from the paths of righteousness. It had not yet succeeded in making of

them true, representatives of their religion. We can only speculate how successful it might have been over a long period of time.

Frequently, of course, the home-training factor is missing because of a broken home. Then the task of the Sunday School is more difficult — and infinitely more important. It must compensate as much as possible for the lack of parental guidance. But where the home factor presents no problem there can be little excuse for the absence of Sunday School training. In most instances it is readily available.

A few months ago a 17-year-old boy was arrested in a California community on charges of robbery and murder. Involved with him, and likewise arrested, were another boy, age 16, and three girls, 15, 16, and 17. The older boy and the oldest girl, both armed, held up a liquor store. The boy, who

had bragged he would “shoot his way out” if cornered, did just that. The liquor store proprietor was the victim. Two weeks later this pair and the others of the juvenile gang were identified following the holdup of another liquor store in a neighboring community.

It is almost superfluous to record that this 17-year-old gang leader — this youth with his life ruined at its threshold — lacked parental guidance. The boy had never known a father; his mother had become a chronic alcoholic. Yet twenty character witnesses testified at his trial as to his previous good reputation for honesty, integrity, and peace and quiet in the community. It is not difficult to imagine how different his life might have been had he received the additional incentive toward moral, productive living that the influence of Sunday School would have provided. □

Delinquency, The Home, and the Sunday School

By J. Edgar Hoover, Former Director of the F.B.I.

Ever thought about how many more mistakes you and I would make if Christ weren't there?

WNR . . .

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students have raised eyebrows — but not all groups that oppose expressions of religion in the public domain are speaking out. Some religious liberty advocates — who have long battled efforts to purge government of religious displays, Bible readings and graduation prayers — regard the Muslim-accomodation trend as an opportunity that should be seized. In one instance, the University of Michigan is preparing to spend \$25,000 to install two footbaths at its Dearborn campus to accommodate Muslim students wanting to wash their feet before prayers. Muslims initially were willing to raise the money to cover the cost, but the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union — often a foe of faith in the public square — said there was no constitutional reason why the university could not fund the project. — CNS

* * *

Gaza Christians Question Future. — As Hamas imposes a Taliban-style Islam on residents of the Gaza Strip, Christians are concerned about the welfare of believers there. After weeks of violence, border crossings were sealed and humanitarian aid finding its way into Gaza doesn't begin to meet the needs of Gaza's 1.5 million

residents — 80% of whom live under the poverty line, said Carl Moeller of Open Doors, a ministry that focuses on the needs of persecuted Christians. Evangelical believers trapped in Gaza have no supplies and are unable to leave, yet they are determined to share the hope of Christ, Moeller told Mission Network News. Christians who come from a Muslim background are afraid they will be discovered by militants and executed, Mueller said. Most are afraid to contact other believers. — BP

* * *

Radical Islam Called Largest Threat to Global Religious Freedom. — A conservative watchdog group has issued a report claiming that religious freedom is deteriorating worldwide and that radical Islam is the largest threat to people's ability to worship according to their beliefs. The findings by the Center for Religious Freedom were presented on Monday and come in advance of the publication of the book, "Religious Freedom in the World 2007," to be released next year. The report cited Burma, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, the Maldives, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tibet, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as nations with the worst religious freedom records of the 100 countries surveyed. The Center, a

division of the Hudson Institute, also found a correlation between a lack of religious freedom within a nation and other measures of repression regarding the same country. When compared to other international surveys, a "strong and significant linkage" exists between religious freedoms and other liberties that many Westerners take for granted, such as free enterprise, a free press and civil liberties, the report stated. — CNS

* * *

Pope Reaffirms That The Catholic Church Is the One True Church. — A new document approved by Pope Benedict XVI reaffirms that the Roman Catholic Church is the one church that Jesus founded and that Protestant churches aren't true churches. The document, which was released on July 10, is entitled "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine on the Church" and it revisits statements made by the Vatican II Council in the 1960s. It says that while the "Christian communities separated from the Catholic Church" can act as "instruments of salvation," they are not true churches and they only act as "instruments of salvation" because they partially participate in "the fullness of grace and of truth which has been entrusted to the

Catholic Church." In addressing Eastern Orthodoxy the document calls them sister churches "because of apostolic succession, the priesthood and the Eucharist," but says they fall short because they do not recognize the supremacy of the pope.

* * *

Head Of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Says We Are Free To Experiment. — In his report at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's annual meeting at the end of June, executive coordinator Daniel Vestal said Baptists must celebrate their freedom. He said: "We are free from the institutions of the past even as we birth and build new institutions for the present. We are free to work with people of other faiths for social justice and racial reconciliation. ... We are free to experiment. We are free to explore" ("CBF Pares Budget," Baptist Press, July 2, 2007). In fact, while we are free to reject human tradition, the divine model for the church is 2,000 years old and we have no freedom to change it. Further, we have no freedom to join hands with unbelievers for "social justice," for the Word of God says, "Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity?

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or what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14). The apostles and leaders of the first churches did not join hands in "social justice" issues with pagans in the Roman Empire. Further, we are not free to experiment and explore beyond the bounds of the inerrant Scriptures. Of course, few within the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship actually believe the Bible is verbally-plenarily-inerrantly inspired. The CBF announced a new partnership with the liberal American Baptist Convention, which allows unrepentant homosexuals to be members of churches. Leaders of the two groups took the Lord's Supper together. The CBF also adopted a statement of support for Jimmy Carter's ultra liberal New Baptist Covenant. The new moderator of the CBF is a woman. The CBF was formed in 1991 by men who were disgruntled at the conservative trend within the Southern Baptist Convention. — FBIS

Wal-Mart Adds Faith-based Toys. — Wal-Mart is about to bring religion to the toy aisle, *USA Today* reports. About one-sixth of the chain's 3,300 stores will carry the "one2believe" line, which includes figures based on Daniel in the lions'

den, as well as a talking Jesus doll. It's the first time the world's largest retailer has carried a full line of religious toys. "We're seeing interest from parents in faith-enriching toys," Melissa O'Brien, a Wal-Mart spokes-woman, told *USA Today*.

Cost of Government: A Painful Milestone. — "July 11 was Cost of Government day — the day when the average American worker has earned enough cash to pay off his or her share of taxes and regulatory burdens imposed by all levels of government." ... "Government takes 52.6% of the nation's income."

Muslims Closing Churches In West Java. — The following is from Strategy Page, June 4, 2007: "In West Java, Islamic terrorists have forcibly closed another Christian church. Typically, a mob of Islamic militants will invade a church, during services, and desecrate the place, drive the worshippers out, and attack any clergy, all the time shouting Islamic slogans. When the police investigate, none of the known Islamic militant groups will take credit for the attack. In the last three years, at least 30 Christian churches have been forced to close in West Java."

Church of England Document Says Calling God "He" Can Lead to Wife Abuse. — New Church of England guidelines for bishops and priests on the subject of domestic abuse warn that calling God "He" or "Lord" encourages men to beat their wives. The goofy guidelines, issued by the Archbishops' Council, urge pastors to make sure that sermons and hymns don't contain "uncritical use of masculine imagery." The document, which is fully endorsed by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, says: "Domestic abuse is fundamentally an abuse of power, and many conceptions of God derived from the Bible and the Christian tradition have portrayed divine power in unhealthy and potentially oppressive ways" ("Out-cry," *Daily Mail*, Oct. 3, 2006). To blame God the Father and the Bible for man's sin is feminism and apostasy run wild. "The foolishness of man per-verteth his way:

and his heart fretteth against the LORD" (Proverbs 19:3).

"Just Use Me"

I am a Bible. I am God's wonderful library. I am always — and above all — the Truth.

To the weary pilgrim, I am a good strong Staff.

To the one who sits in black gloom, I am glorious Light.

To those who stoop beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet Rest.

To him who has lost his way, I am a safe Guide.

To those who have been hurt by sin, I am healing Balm.

To the discouraged, I whisper a glad message of Hope.

To those who are distressed by the storms of life, I am an Anchor, sure and steadfast.

To those who suffer in lonely solitude, I am a cool, soft Hand, resting on a fevered brow.

O, Child of man, to best defend me, just use me! □

Ford Sponsors Seattle Gay Pride Parade

Having just sponsored the Gay Pride Festival in Cleveland, Ohio, Ford Motor Company followed up by sponsoring the Seattle Gay Pride Parade held June 24 in the city's downtown.

Believe It or Not In The Bible

1. Every book in the New Testament was written by a foreign missionary.

2. Every letter in the New Testament that was written to an individual was written to a convert of a foreign missionary.

3. Every epistle in the New Testament that was written to a church was written to a foreign missionary church.

4. Every book in the New Testament that was written to a community of believers was written to a general group of foreign missionary churches.

5. The one book of prophecy in the New Testament was written to the seven foreign missionary churches of Asia.

6. The only authoritative history of early Christianity is a foreign missionary journal.

7. The disciples were called Christians first in a foreign missionary community.

8. The language of the books of the New Testament is the missionary language.

9. The map of the early Christian world is the tracing of the journeys of the first missionaries.

10. Of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus every apostle but one became a missionary.

11. The only man among the twelve apostles

who didn't become a missionary became a traitor.

12. The problems which arose in the early Church were largely questions of missionaries' procedure.

13. Only a foreign missionary could write an everlasting gospel.

14. According to the apostles, missionary service is the highest expression of Christian life. □

TWO . . .

(Continued from page 2)

from Christian groups which impose a barrier of any sort between the individual and God.

Hence, churches which practice infant baptism, or which hold to the idea that the ordinances are sacramental, or which have established orders in the ministry, or which have ecclesiastical control of the churches, are automatically fenced off from Baptists.

In fact, if everything that Baptists hold were taken away from such churches what remains would be Catholic. For instance, immersion is Baptist; sprinkling is Catholic; individualism in religion is Baptist. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit acting directly on the sovereign soul of the individual when he believes

is Baptist; regeneration through the sacraments of the church is Catholic. The symbolic view of the ordinances is Baptist; the sacramental view is Catholic. The equality of ministers in the ministry is Catholic. The democracy of the church is Baptist; hierar-

chical control is Catholic. The separation of church and state is Baptist; the union of church and state is Catholic. On and on we might go, and when we finished we would have two Christian groups which are absolutely distinctive, Baptists and Catholics, and only two. □

The Preacher's Wife

There is one person in your church
Who knows your preacher's life
Who wept and smiled and prayed with him,
And that's your preacher's wife.

The crowd has seen him in his strength,
When wielding God's sharp sword,
As underneath God's banner folds
He faced the devil's horde.

But deep within her heart she knows
That scarce an hour before,
She helped him pray the glory down
Behind the closet door.

She's heard him groaning in his soul
When bitter raged the strife,
As, hand in his, she knelt with him —
For she's the preacher's wife!

You tell your tales of prophets brave
Who marched across the world,
And changed the course of history,
By burning words they hurled.

And I will tell how back of each
Some woman lived her life,
Who wept with him and smiled with him —
She was the preacher's wife.

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

(See **JUDGE** on page 17)

The Books of the Bible

In Genesis the world is made by God's creative hand;
In Exodus the Hebrews march to gain the Promised Land.
Leviticus contains the Law, holy, just, and good,
Numbers records the tribes enrolled—all sons of Abraham's blood.

Moses in Deuteronomy records God's mighty deeds,
Brave Joshua into Canaan's land the host of Israel leads.
In Judges their rebellion oft provokes the Lord to smite;
But Ruth records the faith of one well-pleasing in His sight.

In First and Second Samuel of Jesse's son we read;
Ten tribes in First and Second Kings revolted from his seed.
The First and Second Chronicles see Judah captive made,
But Ezra leads a remnant back by Princely Cyrus' aid.

The city wall of Zion Nehemiah builds again,
While Esther saves her people from the plots of wicked men.
In Job we read how faith will live beneath affliction's rod;
The Book of Psalms has precious songs for every child of God.

The Proverbs like a goodly string of choicest pearls appear;
Ecclesiastes teaches man how vain are all things here.
The mystic Song of Solomon exalts sweet Sharon's Rose;
While Christ the Savior and the King the rapt Isaiah shows.

The warning of Jeremiah apostate Judah scorns,
His plaintive Lamentations their awful downfall mourns.
Ezekiel tells in wondrous words of dazzling mysteries,
While kings and empires yet to come Daniel in vision sees.

Of judgment and of mercy Hosea loves to tell,
Joel tells how the Spirit will come with men to dwell.
Among Tekoa's herdsmen Amos receives his call,
While Obadiah prophesies of Edom's final fall.

Jonah enshrines a wondrous type of Christ our risen Lord,
Micah pronounces Judah lost — lost but again restored.
Nahum declares on Nineveh just judgment will be poured;

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A view of Chaldea's coming doom Habakkuk's visions give;
Next Zephaniah warns the Jews in turn, repent, and live.
Haggai speaks to those who saw the temple built again;
And Zechariah prophesies of Christ's triumphant reign.

Malachi was the last who touched the high prophetic chord;
Its final notes sublimely show the coming of the Lord.
Matthew, Mark and Luke and John the holy Gospels wrote,
Describing how the Savior lived and died — and all He taught.

Acts tells how God confirmed His Word with signs in every place;
And Paul in Romans teaches us how man is saved by grace.
Paul also, in Corinthians, instructs, exhorts, reproves;
Galatians show that faith in Christ alone the Father loves.

Ephesians and Philippians tell what Christians ought to be;
Colossians bids us live for God and for eternity.
In Thessalonians we are taught the Lord will come from heaven;
In Timothy and Titus a bishop's rule is given.

Philemon demonstrates a love which only Christians know;
Hebrews reveals the gospel prefigured by the Law.
James teaches without holiness our faith is vain and dead;
And Peter shows the narrow way in which the saints are led.

John in his three epistles on love delights to dwell;
While Jude gives awful warning of judgment, wrath, and hell.
The Revelation prophesies of that tremendous day
When Christ—and Christ alone—shall be the trembling sinner's stay

JUDGE . . .

(Continued from page 16)

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 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

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JUDGE . . .

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“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.

Everything In the Bible

Little 5-year-old Sandra said to her pastor, “I know everything that is in the Bible.”

Astonished, her pastor replied, “Well; if you know everything in the Bible, tell me about it.”

“Well, sir”, she began, “there is a lock of Johnny’s hair and a pressed flower from mama’s wedding corsage, and grandpa’s insurance policy.”

Soldier Or Marine?

The six-year-olds of a Sunday school Class had finished singing “Soldiers for Jesus” when the teacher asked,

“How many would like to be soldiers for Jesus?” All hands went up except one.

“Jimmy, don’t you want to be a soldier for Jesus?”

“Naw,” answered Jimmy, “I’m going to join the Marines.”

TULGA . . .

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Lord.”

The Prophets Were Human, But Remarkable

The prophets were real men who attempted to live big, earnest clean lives as they faced the twisted problems of their times. They were real men, red blooded men, unlike many of the anemic preachers of our times.

But they were extraordinary men. They thought soberly. They were flaming preachers of righteousness. They were impassioned reformers, clear-eyed statesmen, flaming orators. The Word of the Lord did not come to them as they sat in ivory towers, or book lined offices, but they heard the Word of the Lord speaking in the midst of their conflicts.

They were remarkable for their unshakable convictions. They knew they were right, for they had heard the Word of the Lord. They declared their message with authority. The prophet was not an echo, but a voice. He did not draw his water from the cisterns of dead wisdom, but was a living voice uttering the Word of the Lord as it came to him.

The Prophet Was A Critic As Well As A Proclaimer

The prophet, in the

name of God, was a critic of the total life of his times. The prophet spent no time splitting hairs. He had little interest in those empty abstractions, so dear to the heart of philosophers and theologians. The prophet’s message penetrated life and current human situations with the Word of God. He brought specific evils under the judgment of the Divine Word.

The prophet did not simply preach against sin, he condemned specific sins. He brought the social life, the economic life, the political life, the religious life under the scrutiny of the Word. He brought the political leaders, the religious leaders, the business leaders to the white light of the divine judgment. The prophet brought social customs, religious observances and political alliances to the white light of Divine Revelation.

The prophet was the

spokesman of no political party, he was a spokesman for God. The prophet did not defend an economic system or advocate a new one, he brought all systems under the judgment of the Word. He was not the voice of a party, he was the voice of God speaking to all parties, all systems, and all leaders.

The prophet was always a critic of his times, bringing his own generation under judgment. He preached to his times in the context of eternity. Time was not as important to him as it is to us, for to the true prophet, time is only a parenthesis in the vast framework of eternity.

All of life moved within the orbit of the direct or permissive will of God. All life was subject to the sovereignty of God. This was the context in which he lived and in which he preached. Prophetic preaching is infused with the breath of eternity. □

Poisoned! Don’t Eat It

A Baptist pastor is quoted as saying:

“I have reached the point where even the New Bible’s so-called merits mean nothing to me.

“I believe that if a loaf of bread contains poison, we should not waste any time in praising its lovely form, its beautiful brown crust, and its magnificent texture; but we should say:

“Poisoned! Don’t eat it!”

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 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.**”

**The trouble with stretching
the truth is that it’s apt to snap back**

*A false witness shall not be unpunished,
and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.*

Proverbs 19:5

CHURCH . . .

(Continued from page 1)

election. They were selected from among the populous to assemble in a legislative fashion as a “body politic” to do whatever public business that was required. It requires that they assemble in a legislative fashion to accomplish their calling. Therefore, one cannot have a church, Biblically, without an assembly of that church.

There cannot be a universal invisible church today, because the family of God on the earth has never assembled in one place. In this age the only church that is assembling is the local congregation. The local “gathered together” assemblies of believers that assemble on the first day of the week are the only fulfillment of this term.

Dr. R. V. Clearwater gave this definition: “An organized assembly whose members were properly called out from their homes or businesses to attend to public affairs. In all of its usages it prescribes conditions of membership.” He goes on to say that there are only three kinds of assembly in the Bible. The assembly of national Israel, the local assemblies spoken of clearly throughout the New Testament, and the assembled believers in eternity, which has never been.

In Acts 19:39, the New Testament Greek legis-

lative, or “body politic” sense is enacted for the reader to see. In Acts 7:38 (“... the church in the wilderness ...”) you have Old Testament assembly in the national sense, as of Israel. In Matthew 16:18 (“upon this rock I will build my church”), you have the New Testament church in the sense of “my assembly.”

The “Church” Defined

The definition of *Ecclesia*: *ek* — from “out of” (interior) implies removal, as of intensive force, *kaleo* — to summon or to invite; to appoint or select for office, to be called or accounted. It implies assembling with like-called subjects for business purposes, or legislative assembly.

Ecclesia is found in two usages: 1) as the visible local congregation: Acts 2:47; 5:11; 1 Cor. 1:2, 14, 23; 2 Cor. 1:1; 8:1-19, 23-24; Gal. 1:2, 22; Phil. 4:15; Col. 4:15-16; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2:14; 2 Thess. 1:1.

2) The *ecclesia* is also found used abstractly and generically. Such meaning is: “generically which is to use in a general way and not specific in reference to a class or kind. Abstract generic usage is to be used apart from any particular applications.” Examples: “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the

body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Eph. 5:23-25).

It is easy to see that this singular use means every husband. It does not mean a universal husband and/or universal wife. And as the verses go on they become self explanatory, using husbands and wives in the plural. It would seem that anyone that had the ability to know that wife and husband and child means any, or every wife, husband, or child wherever they may be, it would also mean any church wherever it may be as a compacted entity. There will always be husbands and wives and children, but there will never be a universal husband or wife or universal child.

Other instances of generic usage in the N.T. is Eph. 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your (every) mouth” (Eph. 4:29). “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his (every) neighbour: for we are members one of another” (Eph. 4:25). “Honour thy (every) father and (every) mother; (which is the first commandment with promise)” (Eph. 4:25). No one (but a fool) would interpret this to mean a single universal mouth, or a single

universal neighbor, or single universal father or single universal mother. The same people who will interpret church here as universal will recognize the truth of the generic in all these other instances.

The Unbiblical Church

What is commonly called “The Church” is not the Biblical church. This “universal church” so-called, is actually the kingdom of God and family of God. God has three stages: 1) the family of God are all the saved in heaven and on the earth at any given time. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26) and “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named” (Eph.3:14-15).

The kingdom of God is on earth and all the saved on the earth at any given time. (We are born into it: “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (Jn. 3:3). One is born into the kingdom and we are water submerged (baptized) into the church (Acts 2:41; 8:36-37; 1 Cor. 12:13).

The Bible never speaks of baptizing children. You must be saved first (“See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou

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believest with all thine heart, thou mayest" (Acts 8:36-37), so when you are baptized into the church, you are baptizing saved people. One must be in the family to even apply for membership into any one of God's Biblical churches.

What Is God's Church?

God's church — a very vital issue to New Testament believers! "Not discerning the Lord's body" is what causes some to sleep and others to be judged. This is the examination that is urged as prior to the Lord's Supper instead of an occasional self-examination for sins. Self examination for sin is a daily issue not occasionally as prior to participating in the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25).

The original "church IS CHRIST's church! "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). The original "church IS GOD's House! "*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*" (1 Tim. 3:15).

What was the original church? "*And God hath set some in the church, first apostles*" (1 Cor. 12:28). And here are those first set in the church when Jesus sat them in. "*And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter), and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphæus, and Simon called Zelotes, And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor*" (Lk. 6:13-16).

"For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias" (Acts 1:20, 22-23). And we know that this election/choosing of man and God was of God as next we read "*Then the twelve*" (Acts 6:2).

Therefore the original foundation, or membership of the church was the twelve. "*And God hath set some in the church, first apostles*" (1 Cor. 12:28).

The foundation, or beginning is told in 1 Cor. 3 "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*" And Eph. 2:20 "*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.*"

"Church" Membership Requirement

Salvation is first required. Universalists hold that the following are all a part of salvation — believing, spirit baptism, or being placed into the invisible body of Christ by

the baptism of the spirit, the body of Christ, and the bride. However, no where in the Bible does God join these together into the unit of salvation. Salvation is believing, BUT it does not include baptism, nor the body of Christ, nor the bride of Christ. These follow after salvation. Baptism is the very first act of obedience a new convert does. If it was fulfilled at, or in salvation, why repeat it? "*See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest*"

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Grace

By Phillip Doddridge

"Grace! 'tis a charming sound,
Harmonious to the ear;
Heaven with the echo shall resound,
And all the earth shall hear

" 'Twas grace that wrote my name
In life's eternal book;
'Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb
Who all my sorrows took.

"Grace, taught my wandering feet
To tread the heavenly road;
And new supplies each hour I meet;
While pressing on to God.

"Oh let that grace inspire
My soul with strength divine
May all my prayers to Thee aspire,
And all my days be Thine."

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(Acts 8:36-37). We read in Eph. 4:5 that there is only “one baptism.” Can there then be a “Spirit baptism”? Would the Spirit lie to us? I think not!

So when we say baptized into the body of Christ as the local, visible church, they think we are saying getting saved (according to their theological interpretation). We are not! We are teaching joining the local, visible congregation by water baptism, as the Scriptures teach.

Into A Church Body

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13). Paul here is showing these Gentile believers that they are now equal inside a congregation, as set there by the Spirit. There is now no Jew or Gentile but all are equal in Christ and in membership in a church — house of God. There is only *one* kind of baptism (Eph. 4:5), and it is a physical burial in water. “Buried with him in baptism” (Col. 2:12). “And they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:36). And “And John also was baptizing in Ænon near to Salim, because there

was much water there: and they came, and were baptized” (Jn. 3:23).

Single Congregations

“Know ye (collective plural) *not that ye* (the church in Corinth) *are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*” (1 Cor. 3:16). “What? know ye *not that your body* (that specific body in Corinth) *is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* (1 Cor. 6:19)

“In whom all the building fitly framed together (each individual congregation is a part built off-site to be joined together into one in the future) *groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye* (the specific congregation at Ephesus) *also are builded together* (one fitted together congregation as one of the off-site parts) *for an habitation of God through the Spirit*” (Eph. 2:21-22).

“For as the body is one, and hath many members (persons), and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles (each church may be ethnically mixed), whether we be bond or free (may be vocationally mixed): and have been all made to

drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member (individual), but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them (each member) in the body (congregation), as it hath pleased him” (1 Cor. 12:12-18).

Many members of Corinth. Writing to the “church of Corinth” the Lord is saying they were a body of Christ and had many members but one body. He was speaking to the congregation at Corinth — and every congregation! (1:2).

“Gave him to be the

head over all things to the church. which is his body” (Eph. 1:22-23). These two, the Church and the Body, are the same institution. The terms are interchangeable. “And he is the head of the body, the church,” for his body’s sake, which is the church” (Col. 1:18, 24). Or “There is one body” is talking about the church which is his body (Eph. 4:4). Therefore, if we define one of these terms, we have also defined the other. The church is clearly a locally congregating institution, which means the Body of Christ is also a local assembly and NOT a universal invisible body!

The Likenesses of The Lord’s Church

It is a Body. “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

(See **CHURCH** on page 23)

The Age-Long Minute

By Amy Carmichael

Thou art the Lord who slept upon the pillow,

Thou art the Lord who soothed the furious sea,
What matter beating wind and tossing billow

If only we are in the boat with Thee?

Hold us in quiet through the age-long minute

While Thou art silent, and the wind is shrill;
Can the boat sink while Thou, dear Lord, art in it?

Can the heart faint that waiteth on Thy will?

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which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all (Eph. 1:22-23).

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Col. 1:18). “Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church” (Col. 1:24).

It is a House. “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).

It is a Flock. “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind” (1 Pet. 5:2).

It is an Assembly. “And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for

the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me” (Acts 1:4). “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26).

*** With a membership roll.** “And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty” (Acts 1:15). “And they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, and they declared their pedigrees after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls” (Num. 1:18).

*** Within an assembling congregation.** “When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper” (1 Cor. 11:20). “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16).

“Ye (a congregation) are the light of the world ... Neither do men light a

candle (one believer), and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick;” [“and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches” (Rev. 1:20)] “and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your (congregation) light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Mt. 5:14-16).

Jesus Is the Founder of His Church

The true founder of the churches. Christ’s church does not have a human founder — as all others claim. “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11). “And I say also unto thee ... upon this rock I will build my church” (Mt. 16:18).

Jesus Christ established and built the first church. It was during His earthly

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Nothing In The House

By Amy Carmichael

Thy servant, Lord, hath nothing in the house,
Not even one small pot of common oil;
For he who never cometh but to spoil
Hath raided my poor house again, again,
That ruthless strong man armed, whom men call Pain.

I thought that I had courage in the house,
And patience to be quiet and endure,
And sometimes happy songs; now I am sure
Thy servant truly hath not anything,
And see, my song-bird hath a broken wing.

My servant, I have come into the house—
I who know Pain’s extremity so well
That there can never be the need to tell
His power to make the flesh and spirit quail:
Have I not felt the scourge, the thorn, the nail?

And I, his Conqueror, am in the house,
Let not your heart be troubled: do not fear:
Why shouldst thou, child of Mine, if I am here?
My touch will heal thy song-bird’s broken wing,
And he shall have a braver song to sing.

**FELLOWSHIPS
and
CONFERENCES**

SIoux FALLS, SD

Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 2007,
Empire Baptist Temple, 412
S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls,
SD 57104. Erich McCand-
less, Pastor.

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ministry and put in that church the embryo, the cell structure for every church to be built from until He returns at the rapture. Every Biblical church must come out of the loins of "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3) and bear a continuance of "Holding the mystery of the faith" (1 Tim. 3:9) in this hereditary lineage to be of the royal lineage of "His" church. "But if any ... hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim. 5:8).

The original church was established by Jesus Christ Himself. "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (Jn. 17:4). "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it" (Psa. 127:1).

Jesus was sent by divine plan — "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (Jn. 4:34). "For I came down from heaven,

not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (Jn. 6:38).

**The Foundation of the
Churches**

Was laid before Pentecost. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles" (1 Cor. 12:28).

The twelve apostles were in the church before Pentecost. "Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" (Heb. 2:12). "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles: Simon (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphæus, and Simon called Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor" (Lk. 6:12-16).

"Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John, unto that

same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection" (Acts 1:21-22). "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20).

Christ is the Head. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:22). "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (Jn. 10:14).

Holy Spirit as the Administrator. "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God" (Jn. 3:34). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come" (Jn. 16:13).

"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (Jn. 14:17).

"And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (Jn. 20:22).

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. But the manifestation of the Spirit

is given to every man to profit withal ... But all these worketh that one and the self same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (1 Cor. 12:4, 7, 11).

Men ordained as shepherds. [No where are pastors called "under" Shepherds]. "And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach" (Mk. 3:13-14).

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (Jn. 15:16). □

MATHIS . . .

(Continued from page 4)

disintegration. Thus, this principal of decay (result of the fall) can be seen in the natural world. God created the world and then, as a result of man's sin, imposed the disintegrative principal that we see covered by the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

[Next month: Creation, Fall and the Flood, the Geological Time Column.]

The most critical period in married life is the first, second, third and following years.