

# the Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

ISSN 8756-9612

VOL. XXXVII, No. 8

August 1997

WHOLE NO. 432

## *Paul, The Caretaker*

*By R Nelson Colyar*

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, was in a real sense of the word a caretaker. He said: "Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not?" (2 Cor. 11:28-29).

Paul suffered many things from without: labors abundant, stripes above measure, in prison frequently, in deaths often; five times he had received forty stripes save one, thrice beaten with rods, stoned once, three times shipwrecked; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by the Jews, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness, painfulness, watchings, hunger, thirst, fastings, cold and nakedness—these are the things from without. It would not take nearly so many perils to turn most of us to seeking for an easier path. He was a chosen vessel, called of God to suffer great things for Christ's sake.

Besides these things—over and above all these sufferings, in which it would seem all men, and even the elements, were opposed to him, Paul had a care

which he bore upon his heart daily, the care of all the churches.

### **The Daily Pressure**

Paul's solicitude of the welfare of the churches pressed upon him day by day. In his journeyings he visited them, and in his absence he prayed for them daily. What heaven-sent blessing Paul was to the churches. When heresy invaded them, he defended them against their opposers. When schism rose within them, he ad-

monished them to unity and rebuked those who would divide the body. When contention and strife and tumults would render the churches weak and helpless, he would rebuke them and set them on the right course by the Word of God. When there were hearts made to burn because of warring among the saints, he burned with them; deep in his great heart of compassion he yearned after them. And in all this he bore day by day the care of the churches upon his great heart.

Had it not been for Paul

many of the churches would have been hopelessly divided in the very outset. He had a part in keeping the Jerusalem church straight on the question of salvation to the Gentiles. He also saved the church at Antioch from the destructive effects of the dissimulation of Peter and those who dissembled with him. He taught the saints in the church at Ephesus, giving them the greatest of church epistles, the Book of Ephesians. He saved the churches of Galatia from the heresies of Judaism. He defended others, including the church at Colosse, against the false religious philosophy of the Gnostics. No wonder Paul speaks of the pressure that "cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." Had these churches not been kept true to the gospel message and New Testament methods from the very outset, they doubtless would have been so completely disrupted as to hinder the progress of the gospel.

Paul was pre-eminently a church builder. Paul was not a denominational builder. Paul was not concerned in the leastwise about bringing churches into organizational relationships. Building denomina-

## **False Teachings Concerning The Kingdom**

**By Roy Mason**

Satan, who has counterfeited every doctrine of the Christian faith, has likewise counterfeited the Bible's teachings concerning the Kingdom of God. What are some of these false teachings?

1. There is the false teaching that church and kingdom are to be identified. Some Baptist writers of the "Landmark" school of thought do this. Plainly this is error in the light of the Bible. John 3:3-7 makes

plain that every one who receives Christ is born into the Kingdom. But such are not in a church. Saved people are not church members by virtue of the fact that they are saved. We read that the saved "were added to the church" (Acts 2:47). Also, the term "church" in the original and the term "kingdom" are entirely different terms, and cannot be mixed. The significance

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(See COLYAR on page 20)

## Baptist History

By M. L. Moser, Editor

The following article is a reprint from **The Baptist Challenge**, January, 1982.]

It is sometimes asked, "When and where did Baptists originate? Who were their founders? What is their history?" These questions are very important questions and need an honest answer.

To find the beginning of Baptist churches, one must go back to Christ and His apostles. All other churches must date their origin with men in recent centuries. Baptists are the only churches that had their beginning with the ministry of the Lord Jesus when He built His church out of the material prepared by John the Baptist. This will of necessity be a brief outline of Baptist history, but if you are interested in more detailed information, ask your pastor about books along this line, or

a catalog of Challenge Press books, as we have several books dealing with the origin of Baptists. Let us now look to the beginning of Baptists.

### 1. Baptist Beginnings

**1. Christ build His church during His personal ministry here on earth.** The Lord stated that this was one of the things He came to do (Mt. 16:18). The word "church" in this passage speaks of the church as an institution and the church of Jerusalem was the first church established and the prototype or pattern church for all other New Testament churches. Before the Lord ascended into heaven He said that the work He had come to do was completed (Jn. 17:4; 19:30). Since building His church was part of

(See **HISTORY** on page 16)

## The Global War On Christians

By Ralph Kinney Bennett

In China's Henan Province, 36-year-old Zhang Xiuju was dragged from her home one night by police. When the police returned her lifeless, battered body, they claimed Xiuju had died accidentally when she jumped from a car.

In Pakistan, Munir Khokher was wounded by a gunshot when he tried to stop the destruction of a Christian cemetery by Muslim mobs.

In Bangladesh, when Marzina Begum and her family would not celebrate a Muslim holiday, the villagers beat her husband, breaking his leg.

You haven't heard of these people. They are but drops of water in a vast sea of victims — men, women and children who have been tortured, imprisoned and executed. Their crime? They are Christians.

Never before have so many Christians been persecuted for their beliefs. An estimated 200 million to 250 million Christians are at risk in countries where such incidents occur.

"We are not talking about mere discrimination," says Nina Shea, director of the Puebla Program on Religious Freedom, "but real persecution — torture, enslavement, rape, imprisonment, forcible separation of children from parents."

Until recently, such cases were given scant attention by the news media and were largely ignored by most human-rights organizations, the federal government, even U.S. churches. But now, two important new books are helping to force the issue into the open: Nina Shea's *In the Lion's Den* and *Their Blood Cries Out* by

Paul Marshall, a senior fellow at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto.

Other examples of persecution:

In China, thousands have been sentenced to "re-education camps" for attending prayer meetings or Bible lessons.

The British newspaper *The Observer* reported that in Cairo, Egypt, a teen-age Coptic Christian girl was kidnapped by Muslim extremists who forced her to fast, pray and memorize parts of the Koran. During her nine-month captivity, she was raped repeatedly. Her captors poured sulfuric acid on her wrist to obliterate a tattoo of the cross, and threatened to pour it on her face if she removed the Islamic veil they forced her to wear. Terrorized, she signed papers of conversion to Islam, then escaped and was sheltered by a group called Servants of the Cross.

Marshall notes that, contrary to perceptions held by secular and Christian Americans alike, "most Christians are not white. Christianity was in Africa before Europe, India before England, China before America. Three-fourths of all Christians live outside the West. It may be the largest Third World religion."

Both authors examine in detail the two most implacable forces of Christianity.

**Muslim Militants.** In some Islamic countries, such as Jordan, officials are tolerant of other religions. But in others, Islam's *Shari's* laws, derived from the Koran and sometimes part of

(See **WAR** on page 21)

### THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

(USPS 547-400)

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Periodicals Postage Paid at Little Rock, Arkansas

Published Monthly Subscription: Free By Request

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
The Baptist Challenge, P. O. Box 25848, Little Rock, Arkansas 72221-5848

Articles carrying the author's byline do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the paper.

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A Scientist Embraces Plate Tectonics--and Noah's Flood

# The Geophysics of God

From US News & World Report, June 16, 1997

"Up New Mexico's Interstate 25, north of the Precambrian gneiss that towers over the city of Albuquerque, beyond the basement rock of the Rio Grande graben—some of it 65 million years old—you turn west on Highway 4 and into the basalt canyons beneath the Jemez Mountains, created by volcanic explosions that began 1.2 million years ago. At the foot of these extinct volcanoes sits the town of Los Alamos with its National Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy.

"The supercomputing facility lies behind an immense fence. Inside its doors, signs on the walls direct you to the Theoretical Division, home of a computer program named Terra. Terra was created by a Los Alamos lab scientist, the world's pre-eminent expert in the design of computer models for geophysical convection, the process by which the Earth creates volcanoes, earthquakes, and the movement of the continental plates. Terra is a fascinating program, but what is perhaps most fascinating about it is that it exist because its creator, John Baumgardner, is a fundamentalist Christian who believes, in accordance with the Bible, that the Earth was created by God less than 10,000 years ago.

"In fact, Baumgardner created Terra expressly to prove that the story of Noah and the flood of Genesis 7:18—'And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the Earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters'—happened exactly as the Bible tells it. Not only did he come up with a tool used by geophysicists around

the world but his 'numerical code' actually proves the Bible is correct. Or at least in Baumgardner's view it does.

"**Back to Scripture.** The question of origins has bedeviled Western civilization ever since the explanations offered by religion collided with science. Terra is an attempt to reconcile the most literal reading of Scripture with the most advanced science in existence. Written in the computer language Fortran, Terra takes the spatial volume of the Earth's mantle—2,000 miles of silicate rock that surrounds the Earth's solid iron core—and imagines it as 10 million three-dimensional cells."

"**Dramatic conversion.** Baumgardner, however, believes that not only the Earth, which most geologists estimate is 4.6 billion years old, but also the universe itself, which astrophysicists peg at around 13 billion years, is actually only a few thousand years old. He did not always take the Bible so literally. Fifty-three years old and 6 feet tall, he grew up on a farm near Lubbock, Texas, the eldest of four children. His father was a professor of animal nutrition at Texas Tech, and his family was as he tells it, essentially agnostic. But after getting a master's from Princeton in electrical engineering and returning to Texas (he also has a Ph.D. in geophysics from UCLA), he joined a Presbyterian College Sunday school class. 'I'd never encountered people who were studying the Bible like one would study any other subject,' he says. 'It turned out they were studying the Gospel of

John in the New Testament, verse by verse, which largely focuses on the question of who is this person, Jesus Christ. And I had to admit that never in my life had I considered that question.' "

"For the first five years after this epiphany, Baumgardner 'didn't give that much attention to the issue of creation. I was well indoctrinated in evolutionary theory.' But that changed as he moved deeper into Christianity, which brought him to the 'conviction ... that indeed there had been a major catastrophe in the Earth's past that accounts for a large fraction of the geological features we observe at the Earth's surface today.'

"Baumgardner believes that around 6,000 years ago, when 'God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the Earth' (Genesis 6:5), he caused an enormous blob of hot mantle material to come rushing up at incredible velocity through the underwater midocean ridges. The material ballooned, displacing a tidal wave of sea water over the continents. This, Baumgardner says, was the flood on which Noah sailed, the water covering the mountains and destroying 'every living substance ... which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle.' Then, after 150 days (Genesis 7:24), the bubble retreated with equal speed into the Earth, and the continents began re-emerging above the water, sending the runoff back to the oceans at around 100 miles an hour. (A very fast river with a huge erosion capacity runs at only about 10 miles an hour.) Baumgardner says that this runoff would have been sufficient to create the Grand Canyon and other massive geologic features and to deposit the various sedimentary layers in about one week."

"Baumgardner offers the

following physical evidence for his views: He notes, first, that different radiometric dating methods give vastly different ages. To date rock, geologists commonly use three types of unstable (radioactive) 'parent' isotopes—samarium, rubidium, and potassium—which decay into stable 'daughter' elements: neodymium, strontium, and argon. The rates of decay of these elements are well known, and thus the ratio of parent-to-daughter elements in a rock reveals its age. But different isotopes yield different dates for the same rocks. As an example, Baumgardner points to the Cardenas basalt, a Precambrian volcanic rock found in the Grand Canyon's inner gorge. He says the rock has been dated at 1.7 billion years using samarium, at 1.1 billion years with rubidium, and at 0.7 billion years with potassium. 'All I'm saying as a scientist,' says Baumgardner, 'is that there's reason to question radiometric measurements.' "

"**Fossil record.** Another piece of evidence he points to is the fact that coal—fossilized plant matter—is found in concentrated seams rather than spread out, as forests generally are. This indicates to Baumgardner that a huge mass of water—a flood—swept floating trees together, depositing them in thick layers. He points out that the sedimentary layer in the Grand Canyon known as the 'Tapeat sandstone,' which contains the first evidence of multicellular life (trilobite trackways), also contains evidence of catastrophic violence. Baumgardner believes this layer marks the beginning of the Genesis flood, which killed every antediluvian creature, including the dinosaurs, which were not saved by God in Noah's ark. (Baumgardner believes that hu-

(See **SCIENCE** on page 4)

## Editor Finishes 48+ Years In The Ministry

M. L. Moser, Editor

It was on August 29, 1949 that, trembling I stood before my ordination council. It was my Professor of Bible in college, Dr. Phelps, that was to do the questioning, plus pastors representing churches in the SBC, ABA as well as independent Baptist pastors. I guess I passed okay for they approved my ordination, and I was ordained by the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock. I left the next week to enroll at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I don't remember the exact date when I surrendered to the ministry but it has been nearly 50 years. It has been 48 years since my ordination.

Much water has gone "under the bridge" since that day: 26 years as pastor of the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock, and prior to that, 13 years as a missionary in Mexico, living in three different cities, Morelia, Michoacan, Guanajuato, Guanajuato, and Villahermosa, Tabasco, being in charge of the mission work of the Central Baptist Church and Director of the Latin American Baptist Theological Seminary.

Though years have gone by since that ordination day, I still have the same zeal as I did in those days. Though retired from the pastorate of Central Baptist Church, I have not retired from the ministry, for I still devote most of my time to two of the mission projects of the Central Baptist Church: Challenge Press, and Latin American Baptist Missions in the country of Mexico.

Challenge Press has now

published over 120 books in the English language, many of them sold through bookstores, and then others published in French, Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese. Soon Russian will be added to that list, as we now have the Russian proofs of four books which we hopefully will be able to publish within the near future. Bro. Nils Degerlund and Bro. Tim Chase, missionaries in Russia are responsible for the translations.

The work in Mexico continues as before. I have just returned in July from a trip to Cardenas, Tabasco where the seminary is located and where we graduated four young men who had completed five years of intensive Bible study. We had some 16 students to begin the semester last September, one dropping out to return to his home in the State of Oaxaca, but the others completed the year. Our next school year begins in September, and we are praying that the Lord will continue to bless the seminary and send us new students for the coming year 1997-1998.

We also are praying that God will raise up new churches and individuals to help us with the expenses of operating the seminary. This year 1997 it took \$2,700 per month to operate the seminary, and we only averaged \$605 per month from outside sources, meaning that it has been a heavy load on Central Baptist Church to provide the difference.

For this reason, the church has asked me if I would visit churches in the interest of the

seminary in Mexico. This is similar to deputation that a missionary does before going to the field (or upon returning from the field on furlough), and we have already begun our visiting. We have visited churches in Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Utah, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arkansas during June and July. Our next trip will take us East.

It may be that I will be calling some of the pastors who receive **The Baptist Challenge** in order that I might visit your church and show slides of the mission work in Mexico. Though probably unheard of among missionaries, it would be great if pastors would take the initiative to call and request that we come by and visit with them. I can't recall any pastor ever calling a missionary and asking them to come by and report on their work. If so, it has been so long ago that I can't remember it, but it would sure be great.

I shall be happy to hear from you, and you can either call me by phone using our toll-free number (1-800 594-4876), or you may send an Email to the address on page 00.

We ask you to remember in prayer the seminary in Mexico as they will begin classes for this next year in September.

We pray God's riches blessing on each of you as you read **The Baptist Challenge**.

### SCIENCE...

(Continued from page 3)

mans and dinosaurs coexisted before the flood and, citing Job 40-41, believes in fire-breathing dinosaurs—what we would call dragons.) This layer is the location of the Cambrian explosion—the fossil record of a sudden burgeoning of life, with almost every phylum represented, from starfish to vertebrates to arthropods."

"Brad Hager, a Massachu-

setts Institute of Technology geophysicist, notes that the time scale of the Earth is determined by how fast rocks conduct heat, or 'thermal diffusivity.' 'If you were to choose,' says Hager, 'to believe that by some miracle the diffusivity of the Earth was different before we learned to measure it, then you could speed up these calculations. But it would mean that rocks conducted heat differently in the past.'

"Yet Hager has only respect for Baumgardner's computer program. Indeed, there is universal agreement that Terra, created to prove the Bible literally true, is one of the most useful and powerful geological tools in existence. 'Baumgardner is seen as one of the world leaders in numerical models of mantle convection,' says Hager. Agrees Gerald Schubert of the University of California—Los Angeles Department of Earth and Space Sciences: 'As far as the code goes, Baumgardner is a world-class scientist.'

"Baumgardner the Christian is well known in Los Alamos. Most people shake their heads wryly or with open irritation at the mention of his name. Abe Jacobson, an atmospheric scientist, says Baumgardner is 'known here in the Los Alamos community as a Christian rabble-rouser. My wife is a schoolteacher here, and Baumgardner regularly takes issue with the teaching of evolution in the public schools, but personally he is nice enough.'

"Baumgardner the scientist, however, is accepted completely among scientists, perhaps because he so easily maintains what Jacobson calls his 'disconnect.' He does not push his religious views on his colleagues. 'I've never become personally involved in these issues,' says Hager. 'I avoid discussing the topic with John.' "

□

# Baptists in Russia — A History

by Nils Degerlund, Missionary in Magadan, Russia

*"Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction"* (Pr. 24:32).

Russian history is something that is not taught much in our schools. We have little understanding of the events that led to the Bolshevik Revolution, for example, and succeeding events which shaped the lives of millions of people. This is sad because there is much to learn from those events that can prove helpful for us.

Modern Russian history is especially valuable to us as Baptists. I believe that it is valuable because it contains lessons about the need for separation of church and state, strict adherence to the doctrines of the Bible concerning baptism and church membership, and the need to be unwavering in our stand against Satan's sometimes subtle attempts to lead us away from these truths.

In the next few articles, I hope to share with you some of what has transpired in Russia and to point out the danger of the same thing happening in our country. I feel that this is needful because I can already see that the stage is set for something similar to take place here in America and in fact some of the symptoms of this sickness which ultimately ruins churches and nations are showing themselves in America.

We will start by briefly looking into the history of Baptists in the USSR. Then, in subsequent articles, I will share some personal observations made during my four years living and working as an independ-

ent Baptist missionary in Far-East Russia.

The following is an excerpt from a book entitled **A Song In Siberia**, written by Anita and Peter Deyneka, Jr., published by D.C. Cook Publishing Co., 1977. I am using it because I feel that it gives a very concise summary of the forces which shaped churches in Russia. The effects of those forces are still being felt in Russia today.

"Even before the Revolution (of 1917), life had not been easy for evangelical Christians. The Russian Orthodox Church had strongly opposed the Stundists (godly Germans who faithfully gathered for Bible study hours) as well as Baptists in the Ukraine and Caucasus and other evangelical Christians in aristocratic St. Petersburg.

"For a few years after the Bolshevik Revolution, life was surprisingly better for evangelicals. Even though restrictions (such as denying the right of juridical personage) were placed on all religious associations, Lenin's new communist government concentrated its attack against the recalcitrant Russian Orthodox Church in its campaign to root out religion. Evangelicals experienced an unprecedented but short-lived freedom. It is estimated that evangelicals numbered approximately a hundred thousand before the Revolution. Under the first ten years of Soviet rule, they grew to about two million adherents." (It must be noted that the term "evangelical Christians" in Russia refers to not only Baptists but Pentecostals, Mennonites, and Plymouth

Brethren — ND)

"...Josef Stalin climbed to power in 1928. In April, 1929, Stalin codified all previous laws on religion into a 'Law on Religious Associations' containing sixty-eight articles. Stalin's new laws reinforced a 1922 law which had already stipulated that only churches which registered with the state were allowed to function. However, now the state agency could arbitrarily grant or deny registration and also could control the appointment of church leaders.

"To make it consistent with Stalin's new codes, the paragraph in the 1918 constitution which had guaranteed freedom of religion (emphasis mine) was altered in 1929. The 1918 constitution had said, 'In order to guarantee complete freedom of conscience for the workers, the church is separated from the state and the school from the church. The right to religious and anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.' The new 1929 code canceled the right to 'religious propaganda' and allowed only 'freedom of religious worship.'

"In reality, Stalin's new laws on religion put the Soviet government in a position to control the churches of Russia.

"By the 1930s Stalin was deporting Soviet citizens for various reasons to Siberian labor camps and prisons. The Georgian dictator had set in motion the terror that would eventually mean the death to at least twenty million." (Note: Hitler is accredited for causing the death of about 6 million, Stalin for at least 20 million. nd)

"But Christians ... viewed

their exile as a missionary opportunity. Through footsteps of blood, many churches sprang up across Siberia."

"On June 22, 1941, Hitler's army attacked an unprepared Russia. ... World War II, which threatened to devastate Russia, brought some relief to churches ... Because Stalin needed to unite Russia's people against the German invaders, he abruptly granted concessions to Orthodox and Protestant churches (Since 1944, almost all evangelical Protestants in the USSR have been commonly known as Baptists. Baptists that I have met in Russia believe they are Protestants. This is one of several observations which cause me to believe that Baptists in Russia are Baptists in name only. — ND)- whose congregations, ironically, included many German-Russians. These concessions, however, constituted a secret concordat and were only a matter of policy, not public law.

"In 1944, the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB), an alliance uniting most evangelical Protestant groups in the Soviet Union into one official denomination, was formed under Soviet government supervision (emphasis mine, again). Some churches previously closed at Stalin's orders were allowed to reopen. From 1944 through 1948 many new congregations were allowed to 'register' under the AUCECB — now the gateway to legal legitimacy."

"Stalin died in 1953, and the iron grip of the dictator was

(See **RUSSIA** on page 23)

# The Marvel of Man's Body Proves God's Workmanship

The stunning marvel of our Lord's workmanship — "without him was not anything made that was made" (Jn. 1:3) — perhaps reaches its apex in the human body. "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psa. 135:14); and when are added the depthless mystery of the soul and of the spirit, we are struck speechless.

## The Heart

The heart is six inches in length and four inches in diameter and beats seventy times a minute, 4,200 an hour, 100,800 a day, 36,792,000 a year, 2,565,440,000 in three-score and ten years, and at each beat two and a half ounces of blood are thrown out of it, one hundred and seventy-five ounces a minute, six hundred and fifty-six pounds an hour, seven and three-fourths tons a day. All the blood in the body passes

### Through the Heart in 3 Minutes.

This little organ, by its ceaseless industry, pumps each day what is equal to lifting one hundred and twenty-two tons one foot high, or one ton one hundred and twenty-two feet high.

The lungs will contain about one gallon of air at their usual degree of inflation. We breathe on an average 1,200 times an hour, inhale six hundred gallons of air, or 24,000 a day. The aggregate surface of the air cells of the lungs exceeds 20,000 square inches, an area very nearly equal to the floor of a room twelve feet square.

The average weight of the

brain of an adult male is three pounds and eight ounces, of a female two pounds and four ounces. The nerves are all connected with it, directly or by the spinal marrow. These nerves, together with their branches and minute ramifications, probably exceed 10,000,000 in number, forming a bodyguard outnumbering by far

## The Greatest Army Ever Marched!

The skin is composed of three layers and varies from one-fourth to one-eighth of an inch in thickness. The atmospheric pressure being about fourteen pounds to the square inch, a person of medium size is subjected to a pressure of 40,000 lbs. Each square inch of skin contains 35,000 sweating tubes or perspiratory pores, each of which may be likened to a little drain pipe one-fourth of an inch long, making an aggregate length of the entire surface of the body of 201,165 feet, or a tile ditch for draining the body almost forty miles long.

Man is marvelously made. Who is eager to investigate the curious and wonderful works of Omnipotent Wisdom, let him not wander the wide world around to seek them, but examine himself!

## Wonders of the Human Body

The human body is a marvel of mechanical efficiency and adaptability. Like many other machines, it derives its energy from carbon. Coal or oil burning engines get their carbon from coal or oil. But these fuels come originally from plants. Man also gets his carbon from

plants, either directly or through the meat of an animal which has eaten plants or has eaten some other animal which has eaten plants. The body, like an engine, takes in oxygen, combines it with the carbon, and exhales carbon dioxide. The energy resulting from the combustion is the energy at our disposal for everything we do.

## Oxidation In The Body

Because of this oxidation process going on within him, man is a kind of walking furnace. The average human body dissipates about 2,500 calories daily — enough energy to boil 25 pots of coffee.

The oxidation also provides us with heat — which is a form of energy. A remarkable temperature regulation system keeps the body heat at an average of about 98.6 F. throughout our lives, summer and winter, except when a higher temperature is needed to combat dis-

ease.

## Temperature Regulation

The regulation of the temperature of the blood stream is accomplished through a delicate control center in the brain. From this center, nervous signals are sent throughout the body asking for an increase or decrease of temperature. If the temperature drops, oxidation is increased and the blood vessels of the skin contract, so that less heat is lost by radiation. The skin glands secrete a fatty substance, the hair of the skin stands erect, resulting in a layer of dead air which acts as an insulation layer.

If the blood temperature becomes too high, signals are sent from the control center for the oxidation to be decreased. The blood vessels of the skin dilate, so that more blood passes through and perspiration takes

(See **BODY** on page 7)

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## Four Facts Showing Supper A Local Church Function

In Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth, he taught four things about the Lord's Supper.

1. The Supper is a church ordinance. In 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Paul tells them that the one loaf should be partaken of by them as one body in Christ as a symbol of His one physical body being broken for them and of their oneness in Him. The three-fold oneness there emphasized is one loaf of bread partaken of by one local church as a spiritual body of Christ symbolical of His one physical body which was given for them. That passage means nothing, if it does not mean local church communion. There is no point nor purpose to what Paul says, if he is not teaching this local church that as a body of Christ, they should partake of one loaf of bread to symbolize the one broken body of Christ and their unity in Him.

2. Another proof of Paul's teaching that communion should be limited to the local church is found in 1 Corinthians 11:18-20. "When ye come together in the church." Church never means house of worship in the New Testament. It always means the local body or institution, when used as Paul uses it in that passage. They came together as a church to observe the Lord's Supper. It is a church ordinance. It cannot be observed by conventions, associations or fellowships. They came together as a church to observe it. There is no more warrant for a member of another Baptist church observing the Lord's Supper with the Corinth church than there is for a member of another church voting in the church at Corinth in the election of a pastor or the reception

of new members. The Lord's Supper as truly as church government is a local church affair. There is reason as well as scripture for that. No church ought to extend its communion beyond its discipline. If so, as lax as many churches are in their discipline, there will be heresy and immorality both present, and if they are present, it ceases to be the Lord's Supper.

3. The third fact Paul emphasizes in this epistle is also found in 1 Corinthians 11:18-20. In that passage Paul very plainly says that if heresies or division is either there, it is not possible to eat the Lord's Supper. This goes back to the passage in chapter 10 where he emphasizes the three-fold oneness or unity at the Lord's Table. Here he puts the negative side. If heresy is present, unity in doctrine is destroyed. If division is present, unity in doctrine is destroyed. Open communion destroys and frustrates the Lord's Supper so completely that it ceases to be the Lord's Supper and becomes a social feast.

But modernism and fundamentalism in the same church effectually destroys its unity and makes impossible the observance of the Supper. So does gross immorality. See 1 Corinthians 5.

4. The fourth fact about the Lord's Supper brought out by Paul in this epistle is this, namely, that turning the Lord's Supper into a social or sacramental feast, is a grievous sin and brings sickness and death upon those who pervert its design. See 1 Corinthians 11:23-32. If we discern our own souls and seek sacramental grace in this memorial ordinance, we eat and drink condemnation to our

own souls and bring upon ourselves chastisement from the Lord. If in our coming we discern only his broken body and shed blood in these beautiful symbols as we meditate upon Him, whose death we commemorate, we have fellowship with Him, and with His kindred spirits, who discern His body and his blood. □

### BODY...

(Continued from page 6)

place. The moisture thus evaporated cools the skin surface and the body.

This remarkable system can — for a limited time — prevent our body temperature from rising, even in heat that will fry a steak. A man has actually withstood a temperature of 262 degrees for fifteen minutes. A steak was fried in the same enclosure during the time he was in it, yet close to his skin, almost normal body temperature was measured.

### An Intricate Electronic Device

The body is an intricate electronic device, far more complicated than any which man has ever built. The human brain is made up of something like 10 million nerve cells, or neurons. Each neuron is a battery-powered device operating at a potential of 0.07 volts.

If man were to make an electronic equivalent of the human brain, it would need a very large building to house it, and all the electricity generated at Niagara Falls to operate it.

### A Telephone System

The nervous system is a telephone system by which the brain is kept informed of what goes on around us. It is estimated that each of our eyes has 130,000,000 rods and 7,000,000 cones which are the sensory

terminals of sight. These are connected to the brain by over 300,000 separate "telephone" lines. When we look at something, the thing we see is broken down by these millions of sensory points, and the graduations of light and shade and color of each incremental area are sent to the brain as separate signals. There they are rearranged, in some way yet unknown to us, to give the impression of visualizing the whole scene.

In television, each tiny elemental area of the screen is connected to the receiver for only about 1-250,000th of the time. In the human eye, information is sent to the brain from all areas of the scene simultaneously. Some of the early television systems proposed to use the method which the eye uses, but the system was so bulky, even to transmit a very poor image, that it was abandoned.

### Signals From Ear To Brain

To carry signals from the ear to the brain, something like 150,000 separate conductors lead from each ear, each insulated from the others. These signals are picked up by delicate probes on the brain, amplified by sensitive amplifiers and reproduced on a loud-speaker. These electrical signals sent to the brain, in some unknown way give us the sensation of hearing. — World Science Review □

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# Challenge Press Books

**A CLOSE LOOK AT THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESS BIBLE** by Frank Swartz. The author, a missionary in England for many years, finding the influence of the so-called Jehovah's Witnesses everywhere, he took their own Bible called the "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures" and compared it with the Scriptures in order to show that they have deliberately mis-translated many passages of Scripture in order to support their false doctrines. Particularly he shows how the deity of Christ is eliminated from their "translation." This book is very valuable for those needing assistance in dealing with those called Jehovah's Witnesses. **\$1.25**

**BIBLE BRIEFS AGAINST HURTFUL HERESIES** by H. Boyce Taylor. This book concludes that any teaching or doctrine not found in the Bible is heresy. All heresies are sinful because they are contrary to the truth. God's Word is truth. Any error will damn eternally unless atoned for by the blood of Christ. **\$2.95**

**WHY BE A BAPTIST?** by H. Boyce Taylor. This is one of the classics. Bro. Taylor was for over thirty years pastor of the First Baptist church, Murray, Kentucky, editor of News and Truths, and an outstanding pastor among the Baptists of the South. This book was first published some years before his death in June, 1932. The first editions consisted of 52,000. The book has now gone through at least eight editions, and the demand continues. Doubtless this is one of the greatest books ever written on the Bible, and therefore, Baptist doctrine. **\$6.00** (Also available in Spanish)

**"JUST A MOMENT"** by Otis B. Testerman. This book is a collection of articles written for weekly church newsletters over the years. Dr. William G. Tanner, president of Oklahoma Baptist University writes in the Foreword, "These stories are the gems from an intense and fruitful ministry. Each vignette is a complete message within itself ... In these personal experiences there is always the warm, heart going after souls. The witness is bold, subtle if need be, always friendly, reaching out in a congenial way to retrieve a wanderer for Christ. Dr. Testerman's writing is sharp and clear. No one ever has to wonder what he said or what he meant. He does not wander out through the brush but walks on the straight path of clear thinking. I have been impressed with his ability to make eternal principles march down Main Street." **\$3.95**

**BAPTISTS ARE MORE THAN EVANGELICALS** by Chester E. Tulga. The title of this book speaks for itself. Chapters are entitled, "The Bible and Society," "Our Permissive Society," "Characteristic Words and the Permissive Society," and "Baptists Are More Than Evangelicals." **\$3.95**

**THE CASE AGAINST MODERNISM** by Chester E. Tulga. Modernism quickly penetrated to the strongholds of traditional orthodoxy, influencing all the schools and completely capturing most of

the older seminaries. The conquest began with a plea for inclusivism; it ended in most cases with the fundamentalists excluded from the seminaries which their people had built and endowed. Modernism has arrived and the men who "crept in unawares" are now masters of the house. **\$3.95**

**THE CASE AGAINST MODERNISM IN FOREIGN MISSIONS** by Chester E. Tulga. The apostate drift from the faith in the homeland has infected the "younger churches" with its deadly spiritual paralysis, its intellectual agnosticism, and its animosity to the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith and those who defend them. Examine the milestones of missionary objectives, and attempt to evaluate in the light of the Scripture, this new "missionary" strategy of theological humanism. **\$3.95**

**THE CASE AGAINST NEO-ORTHODOXY** by Chester E. Tulga. The purpose of this book is to show that Neo-Orthodoxy is not according to the Word of God and consequently is untrustworthy as a spiritual guide. We insist upon the basis of the evidence that Neo-Orthodoxy must be rejected by true Christian believers. We believe there is a "Case Against Neo-orthodoxy" from the standpoint of the Bible, the Word of God. **\$3.95**

**THE CASE AGAINST THE SOCIAL GOSPEL** by Chester E. Tulga. Under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, the prophets laid down certain timeless principles for every social order. The author has set forth in this book for us these principles in a thought provoking and interesting manner. Let this book help you in your determination of God's social principles. **\$3.95**

**THE CASE AGAINST THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** by Chester E. Tulga. The Life and Work and the Faith and Order movements in 1936 called for a committee to initiate an "ecumenical movement." This Committee of Thirty-five met and adopted certain proposals looking toward the formation of the World Council of Churches. The motion was adopted August 23, 1948, which officially brought into existence the World Council of Churches. This book is a warning against participation in such movements. **\$3.95**

**THE CASE FOR THE ATONEMENT OF CHRIST** by Chester E. Tulga. The misinterpretation and the misuse of the doctrine of the atonement is one of the besetting sins of modern Protestantism. Christianity has fallen upon evil days when its very foundations are questioned and its basic truths are either denied or distorted by self-willed interpreters. Dr. Tulga ably presents "the case." **\$3.95**

**THE CASE FOR SEPARATION IN THESE TIMES** by Chester E. Tulga. This is a call for a restoration of biblical separation which has been ignored today for the sake of cooperation and so-called

# Challenge Press Books

unity — a kind of unity where you have the believer cooperating with the unbeliever, the fundamentalist cooperating with the liberal, when the Bible demands true believers separate not only from evil, but even from the very appearance of evil. As Dr. Tulga says, the Bible doctrine of separation “is based upon the fundamental necessity for separating right from wrong, to preserve right; to separate truth from error, to preserve truth; to separate the true Christ, that He might not be confused with the false christs of men; to separate true churches that they might not lose their identity in the false church; to separate believers from unbelievers that the world might always have a true witness; to separate the true doctrine from false, that the world may always have a saving gospel.” **\$3.95**

**THE CASE FOR THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST** by Chester E. Tulga. A widespread impression, fostered by agnostic theologians and speculative higher critics, has been created, that the birth of Jesus Christ was not “on this wise” at all. Belief in the virgin birth, from the earliest period, has been an integral part of the faith of Christendom. A fascinating study. **\$3.95**

**THE DOCTRINE OF HOLINESS IN THESE TIMES** by Chester E. Tulga. We are living in unholy times — times in which there seems to be, on the part of the world, a deep degeneration of moral principle; and on the part of the churches, an almost loss of interest in personal holiness. This loss of interest in personal holiness in the churches is closely related to the loss of interest in high morality in the world. It is also seen in theological liberalism, which has subtly weakened the concept of the holiness of God. here is a genuine call back to biblical holiness based on biblical definitions of holiness rather than this false pseudo-holiness we hear so much about today. This book gets to the very core of the holiness of God, the unholiness of man, and the holiness in man which God demands and expects. **\$3.95**

**THE DOCTRINE OF RIGHT AND WRONG IN THESE TIMES** by Chester E. Tulga. Our times are characterized by deep uncertainty concerning truth and morality, resulting in an alarming moral confusion which has corrupted the world and deeply infected the churches. The prevailing liberal theology of our day reflects this moral confusion in its emphasis upon love rather than holiness, in its disregard of ethical values in formulating its doctrinal views and its tolerance of sin in the lives of its ministers and churches. The evangelical world, with its shallow knowledge of the very theology which it professes to believe and defend, has been deeply affected by relativism in both truth and morality, resulting in moral and ethical antinomianism often connected with the most fervent professions of orthodoxy. The liberals and the neo-orthodox, knowing that they have abandoned the Biblical basis of truth and morality, offer many and varied schemes whereby moral reconstruction can begin, none of them adequate to the task. This book explains

that the Christian basis of morality, long since abandoned by the world and the liberal churches, is based upon the nature and character of God, the moral law as set forth in the Scriptures, the perfect example of Christ, the moral sanctions of the heart and the ethical strivings of the Spirit of God in the believers’ heart. **\$3.95**

**THE ETHICS OF MODERNISM** by Chester E. Tulga. This book is divided into two parts: the first, *The Fundamentalism of Yesterday, The Evangelicalism of Today and the Fundamentalism of Tomorrow*. The second, *A Study of Unscrupulous Intellectualism*. **\$3.95**

**THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH** by Chester E. Tulga. The rise of denominationalism very early in the history of Protestantism proceeded on a milder scale to construct other types of ecclesiastical structures which would also undermine and destroy the sovereignty of the local congregations. Many denominations did not recognize the independence of the local church in any sense. Other groups recognized the sovereignty of the local church, but as they became more complex in organization, the independence of the local church was reduced to a shadow. This study should help today to recognize the independency of the local church. **\$3.95**

**WHAT IS MAN?** by David A. Warriner, Jr. Dr. Warriner is formerly Assistant Professor of Natural Science at Michigan State University and Professor of Physical Science at Eastern Kentucky University. The sub-title of the book indicates its subject, *"A Consideration of Some Theological and Biological Evidences and Beliefs on Evolution and Special Creation."* The first half of this book was first presented as a lecture through arrangement with the Michigan State University Committee on Church related Programs and was presented at The Kellogg Center for Continuing Education. The Second half has the sub-title, *"Evolutionism and Creationism: Some Ideas and Their Consequences."* Dr. Warriner is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Tulane University and received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. **\$3.95**

**THE CHURCH THAT JESUS LOVED** by Norman H. Wells. "The Importance of the Baptist Church Being Independent." A collection of pithy articles formerly published in the *Central Contender* -- a hard-hitting, no punches pulled book, written by an experienced pastor of an independent Baptist church. Very good reading! Wells was pastor of the Central Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio and President of Cincinnati Baptist College. **\$6.00**

**DIAMONDS FROM EPHESIANS** by Walter Wilson. There are twelve main topics revealed: The Father, Christ, The Holy Spirit, The Christian, The Church, Satan, The World, The Flesh, Victory, The Scriptures, Service and Prayer. **\$2.50**

## A Missionary Interview

The young man wanted to be a missionary more than anything he had wanted in his whole life. His love of God was profound and his concern for people who had never heard the message of the gospel was consuming.

He had passed his written examination with flying colors, and all that remained was the oral exam, conducted by one of the elders of the church.

Fear would be the wrong word, but he was filled with nervous apprehension as the time for his meeting to be tested drew near.

What if he had a brain cramp? What if the questions were about obscure Bible passages or about controversial issues? Would his youth serve him well or would his inexperience be a handicap?

Then the word came.

He was to meet the elder for his oral exam the next day at three o'clock in the morning.

"Three in the morning?" he asked. "Are you sure?"

"Yes," he was assured. "And, be there," he was instructed.

Besides being very dark, the night also had a damp chill to it and just the slightest trace of fog, as the missionary candidate climbed the steps to the examining elder's home.

The elder's wife greeted him cheerfully at the door and escorted the young man into the study. There, surrounded by the elder's considerable library, the young man sat and waited.

Minutes passed, and then hours.

Just after dawn, about 6 a.m., the elder strode into the study and proceeded to ask questions.

"Can you spell?"

"Yes sir."

"Good. Spell 'baker' for me."

"Baker?"

"Yes," the old preacher said. "Baker."

"B-a-k-e-r."

"Fine. Now how are you at arithmetic?"

"Alright, I think."

"Well then, how much would four times two be?"

"Eight," the young man answered, in amazement.

"That's is correct, and that will be all. I will present the results of this examination to the missionary selection board tomorrow."

The rising of the sun had burned away the trace of nighttime fog, but the young missionary candidate left the elder's home in a confused fog of his own.

Could that bit of silliness have really been the test? Was this all a trick or just a bad dream?

At the board meeting the next day, the examining elder submitted his account of the interview.

"This young man has all the qualifications you would want in a missionary."

"First, I tested him on self-denial and I made him leave his warm bed and come to my home in the middle of the night. He did so without one word of complaint."

"Secondly, he was prompt and obedient and he even showed up for his appointment just a bit early."

"Thirdly, I examined him on patience. I made him sit in my study for hours with absolutely nothing to do, and he never mentioned the wait to me or my wife."

"Fourthly, I tested his temper when I showed up late and without apology or explanation and he remained patient and courteous."

"Finally, I tested his humility by asking him questions that

a five-year-old could answer, and he showed no anger or indignation."

"So you see, I believe this man meets our needs to serve God on the mission field."

And the young man, his name Adaniran Judson, went on to be one of the greatest missionaries in the storied history of Christianity.

The elder never explained his methods to Judson, but it is certain the lesson was learned, for many years later Judson's wife Ann wrote:

"One headstrong missionary could ruin us. Conscientiously obstinate men could ruin us. Send us preserving men, decent men, amiable and willing to be the least of all, having no pride. Send us men such as my husband."

The Judsons were married in 1812, served in Burma as missionaries, until the Burmese war, when he was imprisoned.

His Burmese translation of the Bible still stands, and his Burmese-English dictionary was the first of its kind.

He died at sea in 1850.

While a great deal has changed in the nearly 150 years since his passing, and at the same time some things have changed very little.

We now have SAT's and computers to challenge our intellect, but the information highway can only come to a dead end, if we lack integrity and character as a people.

Where will we find the young men and women who could answer Ann Judson's call or pass the wise old elder's test?

There are no doubt lots of them out there.

And no doubt they would make themselves known, if only their elders would demonstrate that integrity and character mean more than showing the money. — Copied □

## Memories of a Mexican Trip

Recently I received a copy of an Email from Bro. Bob Ross of Houston, Texas which he had mailed to another brother. In the Email, he was talking about two previous trips he had made, one to London, England and the other to visit the mission work in the State of Tabasco, a mission work of the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock. This trip was back in the 50's and things have gone through many changes since then. However, I thought our readers might like to read that portion that he mentioned about his visit to the mission field in Tabasco. — (MLM)

"I went to the 'backside' of old Mexico one time with Missionary M. L. Moser Jr. [Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas], and I liked to have perished! M. L. put-me-thru the 'great tribulation' ahead of time, and if I had not taken along some peanut-butter, spam, and crackers, I would have never made it! But it was a lot of fun, too, and I would not trade that trip for anything. It was the greatest 'education' on Mexico and its history I ever got anywhere.

"Bro. M.L. was so 'Mexicanized' in language and even appearance (mustache and tanned skin), he was often mistaken for a native. On occasion, that saved us some 'bucks' when it came to dealing the 'sharpies' who know how to 'sucker' the Gringos at the 'Curios shops' and markets.

"I recall one young Mexican's 'apologizing' to M. L. for thinking he was 'a Gringo' when the fellow was trying to peddle Lottery-tickets." □

## Disney Promoting Homosexuality

Disney is going full steam ahead in its promotion of homosexuality.

"Disney out of the closet!" — "Ellen's hoopla confirms Disney's link to gay causes" is the title of the lead article in the June, 1997 AFA (American Family Association) Journal, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, Mississippi 38803.

The **AFA Journal** says that "What the future holds for the **Ellen** show remains to be seen. But everything the public has seen from Disney makes it clear that the future holds only more pro-homosexual programming." The **Journal** says that "Once a friend of families, Disney is now leading the fight for homosexual rights."

"Profits from family entertainment products and theme parks are subsidizing Disney's promotion of the homosexual agenda. A boycott — including even their good products — is the only way to impact the company."

"Disney execs in collusion with homosexual rights activists," another article in the **AFA Journal**, says: "Homosexuality. Violence. Anti-Christian themes. Incest. Graphic sex. Hard drug use. Profanity and obscenity. All these now share a strange legacy with Pinocchio, Snow White, Peter Pan and the Little Mermaid as hallmarks of the Walt Disney Company.

"This radical departure from traditional Disney values is nowhere more evident than in the company's headlong rush to promote homosexuality as normal and to profit enormously from that promotion.

"When Disney extended company benefits to the same-sex partners of his homosexual employees, it was following a blueprint developed by Hollywood Supports, a power-

ful workplace advocacy group that wants to influence cultural attitudes concerning homosexuality."

"In normalizing the homosexual lifestyle, Disney has discovered a successful mix of mission and money. Homosexuals form a wealthy and identity-conscious consumer group — and Disney knows it. Offering movies, books and TV shows with gay themes guarantees the company of loyal homosexual following. For example, one study showed that gays and lesbians are avid film fans — more than three times as likely as the general population to see two movies a month.

"Disney also exploits their gay connection by welcoming 'Gay and Lesbian Day at the Magical Kingdom (that Walt Built).' Organizers of the annual celebration at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, estimate that the economic impact to the city is \$20 million, much of that going into Disney's bank account.

"Hyperion Press is another Disney subsidiary which pushes homosexuality. It has published the autobiography of well-known transvestite entertainer RuPaul, as well as the book **Growing Up Gay**, aimed at the so-called homosexual children of heterosexual parents.

Disney Promoting Homosexuality Disney facts," a column in the June AFA Journal reports:

- ABC's *Relativity* has shown what is perhaps the most passionate lesbian sexual encounter so far on network TV.
- Danzig, an occultic rock band, is signed to a Disney record label. Their music is laced with satanic themes.
- Disney helped underwrite

the 1993 Hollywood benefit for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

• Disney signed Martin Scorsese, director of *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Casino*, *Taxi Driver* and many other hardedged films to a 4-year contract.

• Disney hired a convicted child molester to direct its movie *Power*.

• Mark Gill, the president of Miramax Films, a wholly-owned Disney subsidiary, admitted that his company thrives on racy, often violent promotion for its movies.

• Priest (Miramax) is a pro-homosexual movie which depicts five Catholic priests as dysfunctionals and blames their problems on church teachings. One priest is a homosexual; a second an adulterer; a third an alcoholic; a fourth demented; and the fifth just plain mean and vicious. The film is blatantly anti-Christian.

• Other objectionable films from Disney subsidiaries included *Dogma* (homosexuality), *Chasing Amy* (lesbianism), *Pulp Fiction* (sex & violence), *Color of Night* (sex), *Clerks* (graphic language), *Chicks in White Satin* (lesbianism), *Lie Down with Dogs* (homosexuality), *The House of Yes* (incest.).

• Disney/Miramax originally purchased and intended to distribute *Kids*, the pornographic movie about early teen sex and drug abuse. Miramax later formed an independent company to distribute the film. It was rated NC-17 (formerly X) by the MPAA.

— *The Christian News*

## Why The Bible Is God's Word

1. Our Lord's own testimony. He set His seal to the great historical facts: Mt. 19:4; Lk. 17:26-27; Jn. 1:51; Mt. 1:23; Lk. 17:32; Mt. 12:39; Lk. 4:27; Mt. 4:4 & Dt. 8:3; Jn. 14:26; Jn. 16:12-13.

2. The Bible's Own Claim. It claims to be the Word of God. The New Testament confirms and endorses the Old, e.g. 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:1-2.

3. Unity of the Book. It covers a period of about 1,600 years, and is written in three different languages, with an endless variety of literary style, and yet no one writer contradicts another. All have the same view of God, man and of sin.

4. Nature of the Contents. Apart from the Word of the Lord we know nothing of God. The Bible deals especially with five things: Creation, Man, and his Nature, Sin, and Redemption.

5. The influence that the Bible has exerted over nations, families, and over individuals. Wherever the Bible goes, it carries with it this same influence.

6. Power Over the Human Soul.

7. Fulfilled Prophecy. Things are happening all over the world which were prophesied thousands of years ago. What God said regarding great nations have come true. Those things which were prophesied of the Jews are coming to pass. Our Lord's earthly life is outlined in every detail in the Old Testament. Everything has come true regarding His earthly career. □

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**“Pray For China,”** an article in the June 9, 1997 *Newsweek* says in part: “The question is whether Christian groups accurately portray the state of religious freedom in China. Human-rights workers concur that the government has clamped down on Christians since 1994, when Prime Minister Li Peng issued a decree requiring all religious organizations to register with the state or be destroyed. Police in recent years have cracked down on openly defiant groups, razing churches, beating parishioners and rounding up priests and bishops to be sent for ‘re-education.’”

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**More Catholic Annulments.** The number of marriages annulled with the Roman Catholic Church’s blessing has risen from hundreds to tens of thousands a year as church leaders in America have taken a more modern view of marriage. — Associated Press.

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**Speaking Out Costs Pro-Life Judge.** Washington State Supreme Court Justice Richard Sanders has been threatened with disciplinary action, after he spoke at a pro-life rally last spring. “Nothing is, nor should be, more fundamental in our legal system than the preservation and protection of innocent human life,” he declared on that occasion. For that he was charged with participating

in a political demonstration. Previously, at least two pro-abortion judges had declared their firm stands as pro-choice on abortion, without drawing repercussions. Judge Sanders told the investigating commission that he spoke only about his personal beliefs, not about how he would vote on specific cases. The judge, if found to have violated the state judicial code, could receive anything from a reprimand to a recommendation for removal from the bench. — National Right to Life News.

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**Mormons Employ New Missionary Tactics.** Have you noticed the changes in Mormonism’s television ads? Now, instead of offering the **Book of Mormon**, they are offering the Holy Bible! How sneaky can you get? Now, when one expects only to get a free Bible by calling in to the toll-free number, they will be instead giving their addresses to the Mormon Church. It is surprising that they have not employed this tactic before now. Missionaries will almost certainly deliver the Bibles to the unsuspecting people and then try to convert them to Mormonism. UMI’s [Utah Missions, Inc.] advice is to get the Bibles but to not invite the missionaries into your house or to try to debate them as this is never productive. Do not even carry on extended conversations with them. UMI will keep on updating you about the Mormons latest proselyting tactics. — The Evangel.

**Tobacco Outkills Booze.** Tobacco products kill over 400,000 people each year. That’s more than the combined deaths due to AIDS, car accidents, alcohol, homicide, illegal drugs, suicide and fires (1/6 *USN&WR*). Tobacco causes approximately 115,000 “spontaneous abortions” every year. If it doesn’t get the fetus in the womb, it may get the baby in the crib. Maternal smoking alone is responsible for an estimated 1,200 to 2,200 deaths each year from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Meanwhile, alcohol is the leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24. They die in alcohol-related car crashes, drownings, fire, homicides and suicides. — CC

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**Parents Alert To Internet Dangers.** The internet has provided a new way for pedophiles to contact children and exchange child pornography, FBI Director Louis Freeh told a Senate appropriations subcommittee. Freeh acknowledged that the Internet is a wonderful learning tool, but added, “The dark side of that technology is that criminals and pedophiles can reach into your home. You never know whom] you are speaking to. Increasingly, pedophiles and sexual predators are using the Internet and on-line services to target and recruit victims and to facilitate the distribution of child pornography.” — EP

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**Courts Restrict Speech of Officials.** The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the fir-

ing of a minister from San Francisco’s Human Rights Commission. The Rev. Eugene Lumpkin, Jr., was fired after he said publicly, “The homosexual lifestyle is an abomination against God. So I have to preach that homosexuality is a sin.” Lumpkin sued, saying his rights to free speech and free exercise of religion were violated by the firing, but the court ruled that the commission was not required to tolerate public statements by members that were at odds with its aims. Judge William Norris wrote, “When Rev. Lumpkin speaks as a private citizen, he has every right to preach that homosexuality is a sin ... but the First Amendment does not assure him mob security when he preaches homophobia while serving as a city official.” The case will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. — Sword of the Lord.

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**Statue Replaced at Capitol.** A statue of Roger Williams, Baptist leader in the colonial United States, champion of religious liberty and founder of the state of Rhode Island, is being replaced in the U.S. Capitol building rotunda with a statue honoring women’s rights leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott. — The Baptist Bulletin.

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**Churches To be Taxed In Florida.** The Port Orange (FL) City Council voted 3-2 to give preliminary approval to an ordinance which, if passed, would require churches and other non-

profit groups to pay a per-property assessment for fire and rescue services. Leaders of area churches have promised to fight the ordinance, which is scheduled for a final vote at an Aug. 5 public hearing. At issue is whether the assessment amounts to taxation of churches and non-profits, which traditionally have been tax-exempt. In its June 10 meeting, the council voted to exempt schools and government properties from the assessment. The churches' assessment rate would be "50 percent higher than Wal-Mart," said Brent Poe, pastor of Church of the Nazarene in Port Orange. "We assume they would go up after the first year," added Jay T. Cosmato, pastor of First Baptist, Port Orange. — Florida Baptist Witness

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### World News Roundup

#### Russia Puts Religious Limits On Un-Orthodox.

Parliament's lower house overwhelmingly approved a bill that sharply restricts many religious groups while preserving the special role of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Russian Orthodox Church has repeatedly spoken out against the spread of foreign-based religions in Russia and proselytizing by other churches. Besides highlighting the Russian Orthodox Church's central place in Russian history and culture, the bill pledges respect for Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and other unspecified "traditional" religions. But it imposes rigid limits on other religious groups, requiring them to register with the

government before the end of 1999. It also requires a religious organization to work at least 15 years in Russia before it can gain property rights. Members of the State Duma (Parliament) voted 300-8 to approve the bill. Before becoming law, it must be endorsed by parliament's upper chamber and President Boris Yeltsin.

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#### Falwell & Flynt: Pastor & Porno King.

Dr. Jerry Falwell last month visited Larry Flynt for coffee and a friendly chat in his Beverly Hills office. Falwell had unsuccessfully sued "sleaze merchant" Flynt over a 1983 smutty Hustler magazine cartoon which suggested he had sex with his mother. But at the meeting, they acted like long-lost pen pals, per the 6/11 *L.A. Times*. Falwell praised Flynt: "He is a warm-hearted, very talented and very generous person whom I believe has much to offer the world." Hardly the language of Spurgeon, or Paul to a "child of the devil" and "enemy of all righteousness" (Acts 13:10). — CC

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#### Another SBC Church Hires a Woman As Pastor.

The first woman head pastor in the South Carolina Baptist Convention doesn't know if she'll face opposition in her community. "I came to peace with that a long time ago," says Dr. Jean Pruett, minister at First Baptist Church of Moore in Spartanburg County, S.C. "I don't have to justify God's call to me." The church is affiliated with the

Nashville-based Southern Baptist Convention and the moderate (liberal) Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. A graduate of New Orleans and Erskine Theological seminaries, Pruett says most of the opposition to women in the pulpit comes from conservative Christians who believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible. "The Scriptures were never meant, I think, to be taken literally," she says. "How many sassy children have been stoned at city hall? That's what the Scripture says to do. The Bible is a guidebook for life, a wonderful gift from God," she says. "People get to worshipping the Bible instead of worshipping God."

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#### ACLU Sues Chicago Over Boy Scouts.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is suing the City of Chicago, claiming that the city is endorsing religious and sexual discrimination by operating Boy Scout troops. The suit is the latest in a string of challenges to the Boy Scouts, which excludes homosexuals and requires members to recognize a "duty to

God." The suit was filed on behalf of Kevi Poloncarz, a homosexual agnostic who wants to be a scout leader, and on behalf of Eugene Winkler, a Methodist minister who objects to what he calls government endorsement of religion. The ACLU is asking the court to order the city to eliminate the religious elements of scouting and to include homosexuals.

\* \* \*

#### Newspapers Too Hard on Christians.

Why is newspaper readership falling? At a forum called to examine the question, one editor suggested that religion might be a factor. "We're relentlessly secular," said Gil Thelen, executive editor of *The State* in Columbia, South Carolina. Daily newspapers tend to pigeonhole religious people with labels such as 'religious right' and 'Bible Belt' rather than taking their concerns seriously. Instead, Thelen suggested, editors should ask themselves, "What

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### Services "Live" On the Internet

The 11:00 A.M. Sunday morning service of the Central Baptist Church of Little Rock can now be heard "Live" in both audio and video on the Internet. Though the Sunday morning service is the only one carried "live" every week, at times other services are also carried live. To receive the service in video you must have a modem greater than 14.400. The service can be received by searching:

[www.centralbaptistchurch.org](http://www.centralbaptistchurch.org)

WNR...

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is the faith set of questions here?"

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**Abortionists Out For Money.** What is the motivation for abortionists? It's money, answers Joe Clark, executive director of the Illinois Family Institute. "They are often doctors who are unqualified or otherwise unable to develop a legitimate practice — who prey upon confused and frightened teenagers and other expectant moms who feel overwhelmed by the circumstances of their lives. Their ideological supporters work to create laws permitting the execution of the unborn — and pave the way for over a million deaths by abortion each year." Clark also put pornographers and gambling proponents in the money-seeking class.

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**Creationist Being Sued.** A geologist in Australia has launched a fraud case against a creationist "who says the earth is six thousand years old and [that] all living species emerged from Noah's Ark." "It's the first time in the world a scientist has sued creationists," said Melbourne University professor Ian Plimer, who has filed the case dubbed the "Monkey Trial II." — Baptist Bulletin

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**Wes Auger With the Lord.** We have just learned that Dr. Wes Auger passed away in Greenville, SC on January 25 at the age of 77. We have known Wes Auger for many years, for he held a revival meeting in the Central Baptist Church of Little

Rock while he was about 18 or 19, and has been a speaker at several of the Bible Conferences at the Central Baptist Church. We have printed several of his books, and they are available from the Challenge Press.

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**Salvation Army Bows To "Gay" Agenda?** San Francisco's pro-homosexual politicians are using taxpayer dollars to punish institutions that do not toe the "gay rights" line. They recently tried to pull \$65,000 in federal funds from the local branch of the Salvation Army after an official was quoted as saying that "homosexuality ... presents a serious threat to the integrity, quality and solidarity of society as a whole." Supervisors voted to restore the funds after the Salvation Army chapter promised it would not discriminate against homosexuals. The Salvation Army also agreed to launch pro-gay sensitivity training for its staff, work to hire more homosexuals, and review its policy on homosexuality. The Salvation Army is a member of the NAE. — CC

## Corrections From A Previous Article In TBC

We received the following letter from Dr. Bolton Davidheiser, a Ph.D. graduate of Johns Hopkins University, etc. and a member of the Creation Research Society..

I became acquainted with him when he came to Little Rock to speak in a Creation Seminar in Central Baptist Church along with four other men of science, just as eminently qualified. They spoke not only in our church, but in four other locations as well, rotating between the churches each night for five

nights.

I appreciate the following letter from him, and hope that our readers will read it as well.

Dear Pastor Moser:

I appreciate **The Baptist Challenge** very much. It holds to the faith and has many interesting items. You cannot be a specialist in everything and science is not your strength. I have offered to pre-read science items gratis, but I realize that would be time-consuming. But let me make a few comments on the current issue.

"Scientists Discover Genetic Adam and Eve. Scientists have finally caught up with Scripture." No they haven't. The MIT "Eve" never was promoted as the first woman. From the start it was admitted there were many others living at the same time. Further, there are many criticisms of this research. The placenta is used and they could not get a good sample of African women. They used American blacks, admittedly mixed. There were other problems and their results are not well accepted. The paleontologists strongly oppose this research and disagree with its findings. It had to have a baseline, which was taken from presumed fossil evidence, but their conclusions came out that man separated from the apes much more recently than paleontologists allow. The matter is not settled and by no means is widely accepted. And if it were, their "Eve" would have no relation to the Eve of Genesis. To say about this that scientists have finally caught up with Scripture is entirely incorrect.

As to the mule, evolutionists do not depend upon hybrids. From an evolutionary point of view hybrids are deadends. Evolutionists depend upon mutations mostly, plus a few other things. And there are fertile female mules. Probably more, as who would test them just to find out? For some unknown reason, some mules get all the chromosomes for reproduction from one parent. But at any rate, the idea that evolutionists depend upon hybrids for evolution is not correct. If all mules were freely fertile it would not be a way of obtaining evolution to something really different.

At last the manuscript for my book on the ministry of Dr. Hugh Ross is ready and I think I have a good publisher. Not sure yet how soon it will be in print but I pray as soon as possible.

My concern about misinformation about evolution is based on my own experience. I would have become a creationist sooner except for two things. (1) Although a church member I did not understand the gospel and its relationship with evolution. (2) Everything I read about the evolution issue written by creationists showed that the creationists did not understand the issue and made mistakes, so I was turned off. That's what I fear about well-meaning people who take items about evolution from your paper and present them to evolutionists in an effort to defend creationism. The evolutionists will see the errors and be turned off.

My regards,  
Bolten Davidheiser

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## Judge Stands By Ten Commandments

By Julia Duin,  
The Washington Times

An Alabama judge whose courtroom is Ground Zero for the latest church-vs-state battle said yesterday he would risk jail before removing a copy of the Ten Commandments from his walls.

"I didn't say I shouldn't be held in contempt (of court)," Etowah County Circuit Judge Roy S. Moore said during a news conference at the Capitol, "but there is a higher law I should recognize ... I didn't say I shouldn't suffer for it."

The judge, a Southern Baptist, is defying a lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union. A lower court ruled in favor of the ACLU, ordering him to remove the plaque from his Gadsden, Ala., courtroom and cease prayers with jurors before each session. Judge Moore appealed the decision to the Alabama Supreme Court, which has agreed to hear the case.

The case drew national attention last month when Alabama Gov. Fob James announced he would call in the National Guard and state troopers to thwart efforts to remove the Commandments from the courtroom.

"The acknowledgment of God is not a violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution; am I ashamed to say so? Certainly not," Judge Moore said.

Politicians intent on seeing the ancient laws posted in every government building applauded the defiant magistrate.

"The Ten Commandments are the cornerstone documents of the American nation," said Alabama Sen. Jeff

Sessions, standing beside Alabama Sen. Richard C. Shelby. The two GOP lawmakers announced their sponsorship of a nonbinding resolution calling for the Ten Commandments to be displayed in government buildings and courtrooms.

Under the guise of interpreting the Constitution, Mr. Sessions said, "the government of the United States is actually hostile to religious faith and attempts in every opportunity to eliminate its free expression in the public sphere of government."

His and Mr. Shelby's efforts, he added would be to "re-introduce these great words from Mount Sinai to the American people."

A similarly worded House resolution passed 295-125 on March 5.

In town for a round of speaking engagements with his expenses paid for by a group of Amway distributors, the judge received a framed original of the House resolution from its sponsor, Rep. Robert B. Aderholt.

The Alabama Republican pointed out that "In God We Trust" is emblazoned over the speaker's chair in the House, as is a bas relief of Moses, who brought the Ten Commandments down from Mount Sinai.

However, Rabbi Barry Freundel of Congregation Keshet Israel in Georgetown, who was slated to read the Commandments aloud in Hebrew to the gathering, did not show up. Americans United for Church and State labeled the affair as "playing politics with religion." □

## Two Home Mission Works Available

Recently I received two letters concerning the need of men to help in what I would call home mission work. One is a church, and the other a letter from those who are interested in beginning a new work. If you are interested in either of these two places, please contact me through **The Baptist Challenge**. The letters are as follows:

### Woodland, Washington:

Hello. I'm writing to request a subscription to **The Baptist Challenge**. I really enjoy reading it. The church that I used to attend, Pioneer Baptist in Portland, Oregon subscribed to the paper. In the last couple of years the church has declined to a point of almost not existing anymore. Two others and I are the only members left. Our pastor has moved on as well. I would really appreciate some good Baptist literature to read. Thank you for your time.

### Lewistown, Montana:

I was given a copy of **The Baptist Challenge** dated October 1993. I read it from cover to cover. I have been an independent Baptist since 1958 when I put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ. I like what this little magazine is saying. I have believed these great truths for many years and here in Montana, you very seldom hear any of these truths held up.

The theme song every one around here is singing is the "walls are coming down." The three Baptist churches we have in town are very ecclesiastical and belong to the local ministerial association and go right along with all the other false man-made churches.

Could I get a subscription to the "Challenge"? I would

love to have this paper with these kinds of articles. Could you send me any back issues? It would be great appreciated.

I have a Bible study each week in a home I am conducting. I hope to find a good Baptist pastor to make it into a church. So far no one is interested in coming to do this.

I am not discouraged. God will send us the right man in His time.

Thank you very much.

## "Taking A Stand."

I often hear talk of "Taking a stand," and I surely agree that every minister of the gospel, and yes, every Christian ought, not only to do so, but to live that way. But for what should we stand? Many men stand upon, and even die for religious error. Would anyone claim that the Moslem terrorist refuses or fails to take a stand? I think not! The problem is that he stands firmly, and even sacrificially in horrible error. This, of course, brings us to the obvious conclusion that we should take a stand for truth.

Truth is not established by what we believe, but by what God says. For this simple reason our stands should always be taken, not in pride, arrogance and stubbornness, but in humility and introspection before God. The man who thinks he has always been right on everything is a proud fool. None of us wants to be that, so let us take our stand not just before man, but realize we are also standing before God. This realization should cause every one of us to say with Job, "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred" (Job 6:24). And let us each say, Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths (Psa. 25:4). — Forrest Keener □

**HISTORY...**

(Continued from page 2)

the work He came to do, it was therefore built. Though we cannot point to a specific Scripture declaring that the church at Jerusalem was organized on a particular day, that it was organized by the Lord during His personal ministry is evident from the following.

The first members of the church were apostles (1 Cor. 12:28; Mk. 3:13-14; Lk. 6:13-16). This church the Lord built had all the essentials of a church. It had a message (Mk. 16:15); an organization (Acts 1:21-26); a form of discipline (Mt. 18:15-18); a church roll (Acts 1:15); the ordinances (Mt. 28:18-20); a treasurer (Jn. 12:6). It was a church prior to the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:42) for you can only add to that which already exists, and it was a functioning church prior to the day of Pentecost for the church elected Matthias as an apostle to take the place of Judas (Acts 1:15-26). That this was a valid election by the church is attested to by the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:26 for He says, "And they gave forth their lots (votes), and the lot (vote) fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." The Holy Spirit further ratifies or shows His approval of this election on the part of the church by including Matthias along with the original eleven in Acts 2:14 where it says: "But Peter, standing up with the eleven." The Holy Spirit again affirms the election of Matthias as being valid in Acts 6:2 by saying, "Then the twelve." The Apostle Paul also includes Matthias as a duly elected apostle, for he says, "And that he (Christ) was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve" (1 Cor. 15:5).

**2. This church was a Baptist church,** for Baptist churches today are like it in organization,

doctrine, and practice. This first church was organized out of material prepared by the first Baptist preacher, John the Baptist (Jn. 1:6; Mt. 3:1, 13-17; Acts 1:22). A church organized out of people baptized by a Baptist preacher must be a Baptist church (1 Cor. 12:28). Furthermore, Baptists alone can trace their teachings and principles back through the ages to Christ.

**3. Churches like this first church have continued to exist from that day to the present time.** Christ promised that they would not cease to exist (Mt. 16:18; 28:20). Those churches today which claim that they and the churches of the Reformation have restored New Testament Christianity overlook the fact that the church Jesus built would not have to be restored, for He promised they would not cease to exist. If these churches did cease to exist for a period of time, then Christ's promise failed, and we know that is not true or possible. Churches like the one Jesus built have existed in every age down to the present hour.

Historians of various denominations admit that Baptists have existed through the ages since Christ. The following list of quotations are taken from the book, "**Baptist Doctrine In One Year**", pages 212-220. [It is available from the Challenge Press for \$6.95 plus postage and handling.]

#### QUOTATIONS PROVING BAPTIST ANTIQUITY

**Cardinal Hosius**, Roman Catholic, the president of the Council of Trent. Cardinal Hosius wrote in A.D. 1554. This dates Baptists back to at least 354 A.D.:

If the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and boldness of which a man

of any sect shows in suffering, then the opinion and persuasion of no sect can be truer and surer than that of the Anabaptists since there have been none for these twelve hundred years past, that have been more generally punished or that have more cheerfully and steadfastly undergone, and even offered themselves to the most cruel sorts of punishment than these people. [Hosius, *Letters Apud Opera*, 112-113, Baptist Magazine CVIII, 278, May 1826].

**Zwingli**, the Swiss reformer, co-worker with Luther and Calvin in the Reformation of 1525:

The institution of Anabaptism is no novelty, but for three hundred years has caused great disturbance in the church, and has acquired such strength that the attempt in this age to contend with it appears futile for a time.

**Mosheim**, Lutheran historian of great note:

Before the rise of Luther and Calvin, there lay secreted in almost all the countries of Europe persons who adhered tenaciously to the principles of modern Dutch Baptists.

**Robert Barclay**, Quaker, says:

We shall afterwards show the rise of the Anabaptists took place prior to the Reformation of the Church of England, and there are also reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe small hidden Christian societies, who have held many of the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the times of the apostles. In the sense of the direct transmission of Divine Truth, and the true nature of spiritual religion, it seems probable that these churches have a lineage or succession more ancient than that of the Roman Church. [Barclay, "The Inner Life of the Societies of the Commonwealth," 11,12. London,

1876]

"**Crossing the Centuries**," edited by William C. King, having as associate counselors, editors and contributors such as: Cardinal Gibbons, Roman Catholic; Bishop John H. Vincent, Methodist; President Theodore Roosevelt; President Woodrow Wilson; W.H.P. Founce (President of Brown University); Albert Bushnell Hart, Ph.D., L.L.D., Head of the History Department of Harvard University; George B. Adams, M.A. Ph.D., Litt.D., of Yale, and many more such famous men, says:

Of the Baptists it may be said that they are not Reformers. These people, comprising bodies of Christian believers, known under various names in different countries, are entirely independent of and distinct from the Greek and Roman churches, and have an unbroken continuity from apostolic days down through the centuries. Throughout this long period they were bitterly persecuted for heresy, driven from country to country, disfranchised, deprived of their property, imprisoned, tortured and slain by the thousands; yet they swerved not from the New Testament faith, doctrine and practice.

**John Clark Ridpath**, Methodist, author of that monumental work, "Ridpath's History of the World," in a letter to Dr. W.A. Jarrell (Baptist Church Perpetuity, p. 59), says:

I should not readily admit that there were Baptist churches as far back as A.D. 100, although without doubt there were Baptists then, as all Christians were Baptists.

**Alexander Campbell** founder of the "Christian"

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church or "Church of Christ" or "Campbellite," says:

I would engage to show that baptism as viewed and practiced by the Baptists, had it advocates in every century of the Christian era ... and independent of whose existence (the German Anabaptists), clouds of witnesses attest the fact, that before the Reformation from popery, and from the apostolic age, to the present time, the sentiments of Baptists, and the practice of baptism have had a continued chain of advocates, and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced. [Macalla and Campbell Debate on Baptism, 378, 379, Buffalo, 1824.]

**Sir Isaac Newton**, learned English philosopher, student of the Scriptures and of history:

The Baptists are the only body of known Christians that have never symbolized with Rome. [Whiston, *Memoirs of*, written by himself, p. 201.]

**Edinburg Cyclopedia:**

It must have already occurred to our readers that the Baptists are the same sect of Christians that were formerly described as Anabaptists. Indeed this seems to have been their leading principles from the time of Tertullian to the present time.

Tertullian was a Montanist. He was born fifty years after the death of John the Apostle.

**Professor Wm. C. Duncan**, of the Department of Greek and Latin, University of Louisiana:

Baptists do not, as most Protestant denominations, date their origin from the Reforma-

tion of 1520. By means of that great movement they were brought out of comparative obscurity into prominent notice. They did not, however, originate with the Reformation; for long before Luther lived; yea, long before the Catholic Church itself was known, Baptists and Baptist churches flourished in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Bureau of the Census United States Department of Commerce:

The Baptist bodies of today trace their origin as distinct communities to the Protestant Reformation. It is claimed, indeed, that the churches of the apostolic age were in doctrine, polity and ordinances the exact counterparts of Baptist churches today.

**Edwin A. Lane**, Managing Editor of "Church Management," in an article entitled, "Anabaptists: Forgotten Reformers," writes:

It is rather strange that the role of the Anabaptists is all but forgotten, although they played an important part in the Reformation and, according to some church historians, probably had a greater following than the Catholic Church or the Lutheran Reformers.

**C. H. Spurgeon**, eminent Baptist pastor and professor of London, England:

History has hitherto been written by our enemies, who never would have kept a single fact about us upon the record if they could have helped it, and yet it leaks out every now and then that certain poor people called Anabaptists were brought up for condemnation. From the days of Henry II to those of Elizabeth we hear of certain unhappy heretics who were hated of all men for the truth's sake which was in them. We read of poor men and women, with their garments cut

short, turned out into the fields to perish in the cold, and anon of others who were burnt at Newington for the crime of Anabaptism. Long before our Protestants were known of those horrible Anabaptists, as they were unjustly called, were protesting for the "one Lord, one faith, and one baptism." No sooner did the visible church begin to depart from the gospel than these men arose to keep fast by the old way. The priests and monks wished for peace and slumber, but there was always a Baptist or a Lollard tickling men's ears with Holy Scriptures, and calling their attention to the errors of the times. They were a poor persecuted tribe. The halter was thought to be too good for them. At times ill-written history would have us think that they died out, so well had the wolf done his work on the sheep. Yet, here we are, blessed and multiplied; and Newington sees other scenes from Sunday to Sunday. As I think of the multitudes of your numbers and efforts, I can only say in wonder — what a growth! As I think of the multitudes of our brethren in America, I can only say, What hath God wrought! Our history forbids discouragements. [Spurgeon's *Expository Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 41.]

**Dr. Dermont**, chaplain to the king of Holland, and **Dr. Ypiej**, professor of theology at Grannigen, a few years since received a royal commission to prepare a history of the Reformed Dutch Church. This history, prepared under royal sanction, and officially published, contains the following manly and generous testimony to the antiquity and orthodoxy of the Dutch Baptists:

We have now seen that the Baptists, who were formerly called Anabaptists ... were the original Waldenses, and have long in the history of the Church received the honor of that origin. On this account, *the*

*Baptists may be considered the only Christian community which has stood since the Apostles, and as a Christian society which has preserved pure the doctrines of the Gospel through all ages.* [Hist. Ref. **Dutch Church**, Breda, 1819.]

The Baptist historian that is regarded by many leading Baptists as their greatest historian is **John T. Christian**, occupying much space in "Who's Who in America," says:

I have no question in my own mind that there has been a historical succession of Baptists from the days of Christ to the present time. [A **History of the Baptists**, p. 5.]

**Edward T. Hiscox**, noted Baptist author says:

Few denominations have better claim to antiquity than have the Welsh Baptists. They trace their descent directly from the Apostles, and urge in favor of their claim arguments which never have been confuted.

When Austin, the Romish monk and missionary, visited Wales at the close of the *sixth* century, he found a community of more than 2,000 Christians quietly living in their mountain homes. They were independent of the Roman See, and wholly rejected its authority. Austin labored zealously to convert them — that is, to bring them under the papal yoke — but entirely failed in the effort. Yielding things in general, he reduced his demands upon them to three particulars: 1. That they should observe Easter in due form, as ordered by the Church. 2. That they should give Christening or baptism to their children. 3. That they should preach the Word of God to the English, as directed. This demand proves that they neither observed the popish ordinance of Easter, nor baptized infants. They, however, re-

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jected all his overtures, whereupon he left them with many threats of war and wretchedness. Not long after Wales was invaded by the Saxons, and many of these inoffensive Christians were cruelly put to death, as was believed, at the instigation of this bigoted zealot, the exacting heartless Austin. [**The New Directory for Baptist Churches**, pp. 506, 507.]

The following are statements from noted Baptists themselves concerning their origin and perpetuity.

**J. B. Moody:**

Church perpetuity is scriptural, reasonable, credible, historical and conclusive. [**My Church**.]

**Dr. J. L. Smith:**

We have submitted the testimony of more than forty of the world's best historians — not one of them a Baptist — who expressly and clearly point out the movement of these Baptist people through the long centuries back to the apostolic days. [**Baptist Law of Continuity**.]

**J. W. Porter:**

If Baptists have not perpetuity, then Christ's prophecy and promise have failed. This is unthinkable.

**H. B. Taylor:**

Baptist churches are the only institutions that are divine on this earth. Without them Matthew 16:18 has failed of fulfillment.

Those who oppose Baptist succession have no logical ground to stand on in organizing a church out of material furnished by other churches, and with those bap-

tized by regular ordained ministers.

**R. B. Cook:**

Baptists are able to trace their distinctive principles to the apostolic age ... When from the union of the church and state Christianity became generally corrupt, there still remained, in obscure places, churches and sects which maintained the pure doctrines and ordinances of Christ, and hence it is certain that these churches and sects held substantially the same principles which are now held as the distinctive views of the Baptists. [**Story of the Baptists**.]

**D. B. Ray:**

Baptists have with one voice denied any connection with the Romish apostasy, and claimed their origin as a church from Jesus Christ and the apostles. [**Baptist Succession**, p. 10.]

**D. C. Haynes:**

The Baptist church is the primitive church — there has never been a time when it was not in being. [**The Baptist Denomination**.]

**Dr. George Lorimer:**

That the Baptists are more likely the oldest, is generally conceded and grows more certain with the progress of scholarly investigation. [**The Baptists in History**, p. 49.]

**Dr. George W. McDaniel:**

There is no personality this side of Jesus Christ who is a satisfactory explanation of their origin. [**Churches of the New Testament**.]

Many more similar quotations could be given, but these are sufficient to prove to the honest inquirer that historians, even of other denominations, admit that Baptists have existed since the apostolic days.

**4. Baptists churches alone find their beginning with**

**Christ.** Three things must be true concerning the beginning of the church in order for it to be a Scriptural church. It must have the *right founder* — Jesus Christ (Mt. 16:18); the *right place* — Palestine (where Christ lived); and the *right time* — during Christ's personal ministry. Any church that does not meet

these three requirements cannot be the church that the Lord built.

When and where did all these other denominations begin? The following table showing the origin and founders of the various major denominations is prepared from the statements of church historians and is listed in the book "**Baptist**

Roman Catholic (Present Universal Church)	610
Greek Orthodox	1054
Lutheran — Martin Luther	1530
Episcopal — Henry VIII	1530
Presbyterian — John Calvin	1541
Congregational — Robert Browne	1581
Friends	1624
Church of the Brethren — Alexander Mack	1708
Free Will Baptists — Paul Palmer	1727
Seventh Day Baptists — John C. Beissel	1728
Methodist — John and Charles Wesley	1729
United Brethren in Christ — Otterbein & Boehm	1800
Evangelical — Jacob Albright	1800
Unitarians — W. E. Channing	1825
Churches of God in N. America — J. Winebrenner	1825
Plymouth Brethren — J. N. Darby	1829
Latter Day Saints — Joseph Smith	1830
Primitive Baptists — Daniel Parker	1831
Christian — Alexander Campbell	1837
Church of Christ — Alexander Campbell	1837
Christadelphians — John Thomas	1844
Seventh Day Adventists — James White	1845
Church of God (New Dunkards) — G. Patton	1848
Salvation Army — William Booth	1865
Church of Christ Scientist — Mary Eddy Baker	1879
Church of God — Daniel S. Warner	1880
Christian & Missionary Alliance — Simpson	1881
Brethren Church	1882
United Evangelical	1894
Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. — C. P. Jones	1894
Church of the Nazarine — Hoople & Bresse	1907
Churches of God, Holiness — K. H. Burruss	1914
Asemblies of God	1914
National Council of Churches of Christ	1907

**Doctrine In One Year**" on page 219:

What is true of the above listed churches is true of all other denominations, as they also would fail to meet these three requirements.

Baptists are the only churches that can meet these requirements. No man this side of Christ can be named as the founder of Baptists. Nor can any

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date this side of His personal ministry be pointed out, nor any location outside of Palestine be for their beginning.

**5. The Universal Church Theory.** Some say that all churches are members of the "Universal Church," therefore, all churches are churches of Christ. But according to the Bible, there is no such church as a "universal church." The word "universal" is nowhere used in connection with the Lord's church. In fact, the word "universal" nowhere appears in the Bible. The only churches found in the New Testament are local churches, either as particular churches or the church as an institution. A church founded hundreds of years after Christ established His church does not become a New Testament church simply by making the claim.

Baptists claim to be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself the chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). But as important as the beginning of the church is, the doctrines of the church are of equal importance. Are the doctrines of Baptists according to the teachings of the New Testament? Many things which are old are not true. There are creeds and sects that boast a venerable antiquity, yet the Word of God utterly condemns them. Any organization that cannot claim Christ for its founder and cannot match its doctrines with the New Testament has no right to the name of a Baptist church, no matter how old it may be.

Baptist history, though brief since most of it was written by their enemies, constitutes one of the most interesting chapters in the records of Christianity. Let us trace briefly the high points of this history.

The doctrines of the gospel became corrupted during the Apostolic age, and the ordinances soon thereafter. Many Jewish and Gentile converts brought into the churches many of their old religious notions and sought to incorporate them with the faith of Christ. These, along with many philosophical ideas of the times and with other perversions of the truth, very early turned some of the churches aside from the faith once delivered to the saints. Still the majority of the churches maintained the doctrines and customs in their original purity. However, those churches which were strongest and most prosperous were most exposed to corruption by alliances with the world. Following a period of extreme persecution in which there were many martyrs, a nominal Christianity began to come into being and united both Church and State. With this, nominal Christianity lost its simplicity, its spirituality and its power, and a temporal hierarchy took over control of the nominal church. This was the great apostasy of the early centuries which developed into the Catholic church.

But all the churches did not go off into this apostasy and departure from the truth. There were many churches who were true worshipers that kept the doctrine of the gospel and the ordinances in their New Testament purity, and this they continued to do throughout all the dark ages of doctrinal and moral corruption which followed. They never were identified with the Catholic church, either Greek or Roman, nor did they ever form alliances with governments or form hierarchies among themselves. These were all independent churches or congregations without organization and with no other bond of union than a common faith and fellowship. These churches took the Word of God as their guide and

saw no Scriptural example or justification for organized Fellowships, Conventions or Associations, etc. History had taught them that the great hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church had begun on as simple a scale as an organized Fellowship, yet grew through the Association stage, through the Convention stage, to the powerful stage of a full-grown dictatorship under a Pope.

These independent Baptist churches or communities were called *sects* and stigmatized as *heretics* by the then dominant church. We do not claim that all of these churches were perfect or free from errors (even as Baptists are not today), but the majority of these churches were the best and purest defenders of the Christian faith, and were the only true representatives of New Testament churches existing during these centuries. In reality, the state churches were the heretics, while those so-called sects were the true successors of the New Testament churches.

**Hiscox**, writing concerning this group of Baptists says:

They were defamed and oppressed, calumniated and martyred because they bore witness to the truth of God and testified against the errors and vices of the so-called churches. History has never done them justice, and perhaps never will; because history has been too much written in the interest of their enemies, or from their standpoint. Tortured and tormented by those who should have been their defenders, crowns and miters alike pledged to their destruction, they could do nothing but suffer, and this they nobly did as Christ's faithful witnesses.

These early Baptists were known by various names in different lands, but retained the same general characteristics. In the *first* and *second* centuries,

Messalians, Montanists, Euchites, were terms which distinguished some of these sects. In the *third*, *fourth* and *fifth* centuries arose the Novatians. Increasing with exceeding rapidity, they quite overspread the Roman empire, in spite of the cruel and destructive persecutions which they suffered. In the *fourth* century the Donatists appeared, as a new form of existing sects, and long survived. In the *seventh* century appeared the Paulicians, attracting much attention, and calling down upon themselves the wrath of the Catholic church. Still they increased greatly, notwithstanding their many persecutions.

We do not claim that all of these churches were faultless, but they were the churches maintaining the true gospel and the New Testament practice of the ordinances. Without a hierarchy or organization of any type, it is natural that they differed somewhat among themselves, even as Baptists differ today.

But in general they all took the New Testament as the rule for their faith and practice. They held to a spiritual church membership and would only baptize those who were regenerated. They denied the validity of the Catholic church and rebaptized persons received from then and hence were called *Anabaptists*. They rejected infant baptism and baptized by immersion, as did the Catholics during those ages. It is said that the Empress Theodora, after having confiscated their property, caused no less than 100,000 to be cruelly put to death for no other crime than their refusal to accept as valid the immersions of the Roman Catholic church.

It was near the close of the *tenth* century that we find these *Anabaptists* called *Paterines*.

(See **HISTORY** on page 20)

**HISTORY...**

(Continued from page 19)

They too rejected infant baptism and spoke out against the corruptions of the Catholic church for which they suffered long and severe persecutions.

In the *eleventh* and succeeding centuries the Anabaptists were called Waldenses, Albigenses, Vaudois, Cathari, and Poor Men of Lyons. These were new names, and names usually given by their enemies. They increased, even under their persecutions to a wonderful extent, and attracted the notice, if not the sympathy, of all Europe.

These various groups were not known by the name Baptist, but they held and maintained the distinctive principles which have always characterized Baptists, i.e. (1) The freedom to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience; (2) They denied the authority of the Popes and the right of kings and governments to interfere with the people in the matters of religion; (3) They rejected infant baptism and practiced immersion; (4) They held the Bible to be the only rule and authority in matters of faith and practice; (5) They received into their churches only such as profess to having been regenerated and promised to live a godly life.

It is conceded by all historians of note that such churches and groups did exist, separate from and persecuted by the prevailing State churches and civil authorities during all the ages from the apostles to the Reformation. It is true that when the Reformation under Martin Luther and others broke out, some of these, included under the "umbrella" of Anabaptists, did yield to the influence of the reformers, and through sympathy, did what the Catholics had never been able to compel them

to do — abandon immersion for sprinkling and adopt infant baptism. However, these were only a small minority, and the vast majority of these Anabaptists maintained their doctrines and practices during the Reformation, requiring those who came to their congregations from the Protestant churches to be rebaptized. Thus they became the object of persecution by the newly begun Protestant churches also.

This then is a brief history of Baptists as to their origin and perpetuity. □

**COLYAR...**

(Continued from page 1)

tional institutions was not on Paul's New Testament church program. Paul was a church builder: his great concern was for all the churches.

At one time in Paul's history he had been an ardent "denominationalist." He cooperated to the fullest extent with the Jewish rulers in Jerusalem. In the Jews' religion he persecuted the church of God and wasted it beyond measure, till one day he met the Lord, the Head of the church, on the road to Damascus. From that time Paul severed his relation with the headquarters of the Jews' religion in Jerusalem. Never again do we find him spending his time building a denomination. Paul was as zealous a church builder, after he met the Lord, as ever he had been in the Jews' religion before he met Him. Paul knew that if the truth of the gospel was to continue and be disseminated among the nations through coming generations it must be done by building churches like the one Jesus built and left in Jerusalem. He built the churches, nurtured them, and defended them against attack from within and from without, until his head was severed from his body. "I have

fought a good fight, I have finished by course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing," is his dying testimony.

**The Great Present Need**

The great need of this hour is that every pastor should be a caretaker of the churches. The dissemination of church truth is second only to the dissemination of the gospel message itself: Without true churches, a true gospel will not be preserved. If our evangelists and pastors and teachers had the care of the churches upon their hearts as Paul had it upon his, we would witness a revival of power and a renewal of interest among all our people in the salvation of the lost. Churches go spiritually dry on the dry grass of denominational programs. I am persuaded that hundreds of thousands of God's

saints burn within, thirsting for a renewal of old-fashioned Christianity.

Many are saying within themselves, today, no doubt, why spend so much time and effort in this matter of preaching church truth? The answer is, for the same reason Paul did it: The church is the pillar and the ground of the truth; and when true New Testament churches cease to exist, the truth of the gospel will cease to be preached.

Does that mean anything to your children? to your children's children? Certainly, it does. Then remember, kind friends, and all who may oppose this movement back to a New Testament order, somebody must pay the price in bitter suffering. All who do will rejoice, when they come to the end of the way, to be able to say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." The call of this hour and the crying need is for men who love the Lord enough to suffer all these things for His Name's sake. □

## Expository Notes On The Book of Ephesians

By R. Nelson Colyar

An excellent scholarly exegesis of the book of Ephesians, verse-by-verse. Dr. Colyar, a Greek scholar, places particular emphasis upon the doctrine of the local church, revealing the erroneous interpretations in Ephesians by those who advocate the universal, invisible church theory. Order from:

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**WAR...**

(Continued from page 2)

the legal code, "are used to invoke discrimination, repression and outright persecution against Christians," Marshall says. No nation illustrates this more brutally than the Sudan.

Since 1989 the Sudanese government has been engaged in a wholesale war against Christians, who constitute roughly one-fifth of the population. Marshall reports that the goal of the ruling National Islamic Front led by Hassan Al-Turabi — who some consider the country's de facto leader — is to "eradicate non-Islamic religion."

In the North, Al-Turabi's forces control the necessities of life. "Non-Muslims are given the choice of converting to Islam or being denied food, clothing and shelter," Marshall says. Thousands of women and children have been sold into slavery to Muslim masters who force them to convert to Islam.

Sudan's Nuba Mountains, where Christians have lived since the sixth century, are now a wasteland of mass graves, destroyed villages and camps filled with starving women and children. Half a million Nuba Christians, virtually all men, have been killed in the past decade. "The word *genocide* is thrown around too frequently," says Marshall. "In the case of Sudan, however, it is a factual description."

American ally Saudi Arabia is another country where, Shea says, "freedom of religion simply does not exist." All citizens must be Muslims. Expressions of Christianity — wearing a cross, reading a Bible or uttering a non-Muslim prayer — are prohibited.

The *Mutawua'in*, the Saudi religious police, search out hidden church services among the millions of Filipinos, Koreans,

Indians and other foreign workers. In December 1992 two Filipino Christians, allegedly arrested for preaching Christianity, were sentenced to death on Christmas Day. After an international outcry, the sentence was commuted to deportation.

**Communist Oppressors.**

The collapse of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European client states shook China's leaders, who noted the church's role in fostering the collapse. According to a Puebla Program report, China's state-run press, referring to Christianity, proclaimed, "If China does not want such a scene to be repeated in its land, it must strangle the baby while it is still in the manger."

This chilling pronouncement ignores the fact that Christianity has been rooted in China since the seventh century. It survived even Mao Zedong's 27 years of fierce repression, which culminated in the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, when countless Christians and other believers were executed. "It was probably one of the largest intense persecutions of Christians in history," Marshall writes.

Many of China's estimated 40 million Christians still worship in fear. They rise on Sunday at 3 a.m. to make their way to secret worship centers in the home of evangelists. Police roam the countryside seeking out these "house churches." In Xinjiang Province, police burst in and found 17 worshipers. When five women admitted they were the leaders, they were detained, beaten and tortured.

Life for China's Christians has taken a turn for the worse since 1995, when Ye Xiaowen, whom Marshall describes as "a prominent atheist and Communist hard-liner," was placed in charge of the government's Religious Affairs Bureau. . . .

The Shea and Marshall books are helping to rouse a

growing chorus to join what had been a handful of voices raised on behalf of persecuted Christians. Chief among those early voices was a Jewish lawyer, Michael Horowitz, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, a think tank based in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C.

"Why a Jew? Why me?" Horowitz is quick to answer his own questions: "It may be easier for me to see the eerie parallels between what is happening to Christian communities today and what happened to my people during much of Europe's history," he says. And he is grateful for the way American Christians joined with the Jewish community in the campaign to free Soviet Jews.

That's why he was shocked by the silence of U.S. Christians in the face of worldwide persecution. "I didn't understand how the American Christian community, so vociferous, so committed to ending the suffering of Jews in the Soviet Union, could have been so mute, so tongue-tied, on behalf of its own."

Then Horowitz realized that some people had never heard the message. And some in the human-rights community and among the intellectual, media and political elites had such a misinformed view of Christianity that they were blind to the problem.

The U.S. government has also shown a lack of understanding. Nina Shea recalls when she and others briefed the Clinton Administration's new ambassador to China, former Tennessee Sen. James Sasser. He revealed extensive knowledge of human-rights problems in China. But when asked about the perilous situation of Christians meeting in secret house churches throughout China, the puzzled ambassador responded, "What's a house church?"

Shea says, "China is the litmus test. If our government

means to take the assault on Christians seriously, it must deal with China." But she isn't hopeful. Despite several Congressional proclamations bemoaning the persecution, the China lobby — pushing for increased trade — has thus far proved too powerful.

The White House answered Christian human-rights activists by forming the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad. "It is a slow and cumbersome mechanism," says Shea, who was named to the panel.

But there are signs that the government is reacting to growing grassroots pressure as more Americans become aware of the persecution. Legislation has been introduced by Sen. Arlen Specter (R., Pa.) and Rep. Frank Wolf (R., Va.) that would create a White House position to monitor levels of religious persecution and have the power to impose sanctions against offending countries.

A board of Christian leaders is organizing an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, set for November 16. "If tens of thousands of churches engage in an inter-denominational effort," Horowitz says, "we'll send the world's tyrants a message they can't ignore. And Washington won't be able to ignore it either." -- The Reader's Digest, August, 1997. □

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## RUSSIA...

(Continued from page 5)

broken. After twenty-four years of rule, some Soviet citizens thought the country would not survive without him. Others, ... wondered if freedoms promised in Lenin's Bolshevik Revolution would finally begin to materialize. When Khrushchev denounced Stalin at the 20th Communist Party Congress in February, 1956, hopes soared."

"But in the early sixties Khrushchev's government launched a new offensive against religion. Confident of the success of his anti-religious campaign, Khrushchev once bragged that he would exhibit the last Christian in the USSR on television by 1965.

"From 1959 to 1964 an estimated ten thousand Orthodox and Baptist churches were closed. At the same time, Khrushchev and the Communist Party intensified atheistic indoctrination in Soviet schools. The output of atheistic literature was increased (these textbooks are still being used in Russian schools today, by the way — ND). At the 22nd Communist Party Congress in 1961, Khrushchev said: 'Communist education presupposes emancipation from religious prejudices and superstitions, which hinder Soviet people from fully developing their creative powers. A well-thought-out and well-proportioned system of scientific atheistic propaganda is necessary to embrace all strata of society and to prevent the spread of religious attitudes, especially among children and juveniles.'

"In 1964, Leonid F Ilichev, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, asserted: 'We cannot remain indifferent to the fate of children whom fanatical religious parents are virtually rapping spiritually. We cannot permit blind and ignorant parents

to raise children like themselves and thus deform them.' (These two quotes sound much like what we are hearing from liberals in our society today — ND).

"In 1960 the Soviet government pressured the governing body of the AUCECB in Moscow to issue a pastoral Letter of Instructions to Baptist presbyters or leaders throughout the nation. The letter was accompanied by the stringent New AUCECB Statutes.

"The New Statutes diminished autonomy of local churches and gave more authority to the central body. The statutes further declared that the AUCECB would recognize only congregations which had been legally registered by the Soviet government. A large percentage — possibly as high as two-thirds of all Russian Baptist congregations — had never been able to obtain legal registration from the government. Consequently, the New Statutes effectively cut off unregistered congregations from the national brotherhood of the AUCECB and invited schism.

"Among other constricting clauses, the Letter of Instructions to pastors prohibited 'unhealthy missionary manifestations.' Emphasis on evangelistic preaching was condemned. The baptisms of young people between the ages of eighteen and thirty were to be kept to a minimum. Children were not to attend religious services, and young people under eighteen could not be baptized." (Most Russian churches still do not baptize anyone under the age of 18 — ND).

"Many believers in ... the Soviet Union felt that obeying these instructions would ruin their churches. Some Baptists tried desperately to call the AUCECB to reformation. They urged the AUCECB to stand boldly against government edicts. Some believers decided

either to separate from registered churches of the AUCECB where they found government control intolerable, or in the future not to apply for registration under the AUCECB.

"In Barnaul (a town in Siberia) one evening in 1960, the local minister of cults (a governmental representative of the Council for Affairs of Religious cults) arrived at the church board meeting. Reinhold (one of the members of the Barnaul church) recalls, '(He) insisted that a new man, Yakov Fedorovich Sablin, be installed as chief pastor or presbyter.'

"The Barnaul believers protested. As accustomed as they were to government surveillance, they insisted that internal affairs of the church must be sacred matters for the local congregation to resolve. Each church should elect its own presbyters, not the central AUCECB or the Soviet government. Furthermore, the Christian had serious doubts about the character of Yakov Sablin. Believers in another town had accused him of drunkenness and immorality.

"However, the local communist officials were insistent. 'If you don't accept Yakov Feorovich Sablin as your new presbyter, we'll completely close your church,' they threatened.

"The believers distrusted Sablin and resented the government's interference. Nevertheless, they agreed they must try to keep their church open. Sadly, they listened to Sablin's sermons urging Christians to be less firm in their faith. One day Sablin announced to his congregation, 'I am a communist plus God.' The Barnaul believers prayed that the new preacher would either be converted or leave. But Sablin stayed.

"Mostly by threats, the minister of cults established a

council of twenty leading members (*dvadtsatka*) from the church to carry out his orders. Then he ordered the council to prepare to ordain Sablin. Church members like Reinhold, who objected, were swiftly excommunicated.

"At the end of a service, Sablin would simply read a list of members whom he and the local communist authorities had decided to excommunicate that week. There was no appeal, no referral for general vote of the church membership. The government's orders, carried out through the minister of cults, Sablin, and the *dvadtsatka*, were irrevocable.

"Finally, several of the church members could endure the heavy-handed interference no longer. At a member's meeting they excommunicated Sablin.

In January, 1961, Comrade A. N. Gorbatenko, vice-president of the Railroad Regional Executive Committee (a municipal/police district in Barnaul), arrived with the (police) and hung locks with seals on the doors of the prayer house at 67 Radishchevskaja Street. The act meant much more than the loss of a place to meet. It signaled the loss of official sanction. As far as the Soviet government was concerned, the Barnaul Baptist Church no longer existed."

(See RUSSIA on page 23)

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## RUSSIA...

(Continued from page 22)

As I mentioned previously, this insert was intended to present a brief overview of events in the former Soviet Union which have shaped and molded the way in which Baptists in Russia operate today.

## SUMMARY

These are valuable lessons for us. Notice the following general progression of events which transpired over a period of 40-50 years in the former Soviet Union:

The existence of a state religion (in this case Russian Orthodox).

A society and government whose policies and prevailing ideologies are against the churches.

Subtle changes in laws which progressively reduce the rights of churches. Through these laws the government begins to assert control over churches.

Limits on attendance, what churches may or may not do, etc.

Churches or individuals that do not submit are chastised.

Man-made religious organizations are encouraged by the government and then later used to control churches. (Watch out for any Council of Churches being given any kind of political power.)

Any effort to weaken the independence of a church helps the government exercise control.

The goals and agenda of public education are contrary to those of Godly education.

Churches become unwilling to stand against government pressures or control.

Our situation in America is somewhat different than what was experienced in Russia. We are not being put into prison,

etc. for our beliefs. However, it is clear to even the casual observer that churches and individual Christians in America are coming under attack. The same general progression of events which took place in the former Soviet Union is shaping up in America, today. Satan is up to the same tactics. Today the front lines of the battle in America include education, parental rights, taxation of churches, materialism, abortion, and homosexuality. Recent articles from **The Baptist Challenge** make this very clear.

The February 1997 edition contained an article "Judge Redefines Role of Parents" in which it was reported that a Federal District judge "ruled that 'parents give up their rights when they drop the children off at public school'."

The June 1996 edition of **The Baptist Challenge** carried an article entitled "ACLU Files against Garbage Pickup" which stated that the ACLU had filed a lawsuit against the town of Barrington, Rhode Island. The suit claims that for the town to provide free weekly garbage pickup for churches is unconstitutional.

These articles serve to remind us that the same Satan which attacked churches in Russia is busy attacking churches in America. These attacks on the Lord's churches are not new nor will they cease. It is a wonder that under such attack that the truth can be preserved in living form which we see in local, independent churches today. How can this be?

There are certain doctrines to which a church must adhere that can keep a church and the faith pure and undefiled. They are:

- rejection of alien immersion
- separation of church and state

— independence and autonomy of each church

— restriction of ordinances to church only (closed communion, church authorized baptism)

These are Baptist doctrines. These doctrines have served to identify Baptists down through the ages. When churches begin to compromise these doctrines, they separate themselves from the scriptures and from their Baptist identity. This is what has happened in Russia and is happening in America.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

With the exception of some of our early American forefathers, we have not suffered to the extent that Christians in Russia have suffered. Though they have been beaten, starved, and even tortured and killed, they have managed to preserve many of the tenets of the Baptist faith.

I find it amazing that they emerged from 70 years of communist rule doing as well as they did. However, the persecution took its toll. Some of the government mandates upon churches are still practiced in Russia today. The Russian Baptist churches still have a hierarchy of elders and a council which oversees the activities of the various churches in each region of the country. They practice "close" communion and, as near as I can tell, will accept Pentecostal baptism. Pentecostals and Baptists were lumped together by the government and there still tends to be some cooperation between the Pentecostals and the registered Baptists. They also believe that individual believers can lose their salvation. Though they ear-

nestly contended, it is obvious that some of their doctrines and practices were corrupted and the effect still lingers. Let this be a lesson to us to be always watching for the subtle attacks of Satan and his efforts to subvert the truth.

In my next article, I will share with you some recent events in Russian politics and in the city of Magadan, where we live, which show that religious oppression is alive and well in Russia today. □

## Criticism

When the Sunday meal was over, we walked down to the barn to look over the livestock and, as my companion said, "to give the women folk room to clean up the mess."

I always enjoyed going to that quiet out of the way ranch nestled among the hills alongside the meandering Brazos River.

We stopped by the chicken pen, and I noticed one running wildly about with a bloodied head and the others in pursuit.

"What is wrong with him?" I asked.

"Well," he replied, "every once in awhile a chicken cuts its comb on the wire fence, and the others peck it to death."

Later, I had cause to ponder on that cruel fact. Folk stumble in life's way, bruised by the subtle power of sin, hurt in spirit, wounded and bloodied. Other folk just won't leave them alone. They pick and pick at them with their gossip, criticism, and holy manners until they die a little each day.

Our Lord taught us the essence of our faith is compassion: to suffer with a downed comrade, to lift up the bruised neighbor and say: "Take care of him; see to his need, and I will repay thee." □

**LITTLE ROCK, AR**

October 27-29, 1997, Central Baptist Church, 15601 Taylor Loop Rd., Little Rock, AR 72221, B. Lawrence Jones, Pastor.

\* \* \*

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October 27-29, 1997, Bryan Station Baptist Church, 3175 Briar Hill Rd., Lexington, KY 40516, Al Gormley, Pastor.

\* \* \*

**GATESVILLE, TX**

November 10-12, 1997, Gateway Baptist Church, Hwy 36 South, Gatesville, TX 76528, Royse T. Cockrell, Pastor.

\* \* \*

**CINCINNATI, OH**

November 10-13, 1997, Central Baptist Church, 7645 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45224, James W. Love, Pastor.

We shall be happy to list the dates of fellowship meetings of independent Baptist churches throughout the country. Please send the dates far enough in advance.

**MASON...**

(Continued from page 1)

is entirely different.

2. There is the false teaching that the kingdom is entirely "spiritual." One of the first things we learned when we started into Sunday School was that the disciples and other Jews had an entirely wrong conception of the kingdom. They looked for a literal kingdom, when Jesus came to establish a "spiritual" kingdom. This was a falsehood which we had to unlearn. Unfortunately it has not been unlearned yet by many. It

is still widely taught that Jesus came to establish a great "spiritual" kingdom and that He is now ruling and reigning over it, and that this is the only kingdom we need ever expect. Bunk! Nonsense! Let us ask a question just here:

If Christ came to establish a purely spiritual kingdom, then why did God teach the coming of a literal kingdom throughout the Old Testament? Why did He lead the Jews to look for one kind of a kingdom, when he meant to establish another kind entirely? The answer is, He did not. Isaiah 11 portrays a literal kingdom on this earth, with Messiah ruling over it in righteousness and with universal peace. The same thing is taught in the opening verses of Isaiah 2. Zechariah foretells the return of the Messiah to this earth (14:4) and following that return, he takes over the rulership of the earth (14:9).

Jesus after His resurrection appeared for the space of forty days to the apostles, and what did He talk to them about mainly? The answer is, the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). Was Jesus a good teacher? Did He make Himself understood? It is to assume that He was guilty of stupidity if He didn't. After He had taught them about the kingdom, what did they understand — that the kingdom was "spiritual?" **NO!** They knew that it would be literal and that Israel would be at the top in that kingdom. But Jesus has not made clear when the kingdom would come, so they asked, "Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). Did Jesus rebuke them for misunderstanding? Did He say, "The kingdom is spiritual and it will never be restored to Israel?" One hundred times no. He did not deny that the kingdom would be restored to Israel, but He told the disciples that it was not for them to know when it

would take place (Acts 1:7).

One passage is often used by exponents of the "spiritual" kingdom, to reverse the entire teaching of the Bible on the kingdom question. The passage in question is Luke 17:20-21. But it is to do violence to the Scriptures to set one passage in contradiction to all the rest. Some do that with reference to baptismal regeneration. They make Acts 2:38 teach something that the rest of the New Testament does not teach. A good translation of Luke 17:20 goes like this: "The kingdom of God cometh not with outward show." And verse 21 would read, "Behold the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." How in the midst? In the person of the King Himself — Jesus. Certainly He did not mean that the kingdom of God was within those wicked, unbelieving rejecting Pharisees.

All of us who are born-again believers are now members of the kingdom of God, and the reign of the King over us has already begun within, but to stop with that and to rule out Christ's reign over this earth is either stupid or else willfully wicked. When did Jesus say His kingdom will come? Jesus' answers that question directly, and in such a way that no one need misunderstand. He says, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Mt. 25:31). What does that say? It says that He shall sit upon His throne when he comes again. If He were now ruling over the only kingdom that He shall ever rule over, He would never have said that.

Also the picture given in Daniel 2:34-35 and 44-45 is that of Christ first smashing Gentile world rule completely — then His kingdom grows and expands until it covers "the whole earth." **□**

**FELLOWSHIPS  
AND  
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September 15-17, 1997, Fellowship Baptist Church, 216 Wilson, Liberal, KS, 67901, L. K. Landis, Pastor.

\* \* \*

**GRANITE BAY, CA**

September 25-28, 1997, Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, 7150 Wildwood Pl., Granite Bay, CA 95746, Rick Perdue, Pastor.

\* \* \*

**SIoux FALLS, SD**

October 6-8, 1997, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Ron Tottingham, Pastor.

\* \* \*

**FORT WORTH, TX**

October 6-8, 1997, Lake Worth Baptist Church, 4445 Hodgkins Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76135, Jerry D. Locke, Pastor.