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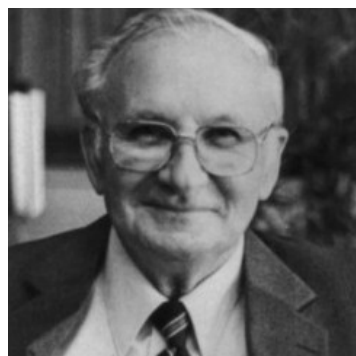
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JERUSALEM

A CUP OF TREMBLING

By: Rev. David L. Taylor

Zechariah 12:2-3: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it."

Israel is a small parcel of land with a population of about 8 million situated on approximately 21,000 square miles, slightly smaller than New Jersey, yet this parcel of real estate is the center of world attention.

In Genesis God gave Abraham the title deed to the land of Israel. Genesis 13:14: "And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." By the mouth of the prophet Moses, God spoke to the Children of Israel and gave them a physical description of the boundaries of this land of promise. Deuteronomy 11: 24 "Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be." God gave the land to the Israelites, yet they failed to follow the true and living God, even rejecting the Messiah when he came to earth.

2 Samuel 5:7: "Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David." King David conquered Jerusalem and made it his capitol city. This same Jerusalem is called the City of God in the Bible. Psalms 87: 1-3: "His foundation is in the holy mountains. The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah."

In the New Testament, we read of how Jesus wept over Jerusalem. He came as their Messiah, but they rejected Him and hung Him on a cross.

Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 24 the city of Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed. Matthew 24:2 "And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not

be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." The Prophet Micah also had foretold of the destruction of the holy city. Micah 3:12: "Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest."

The prophecies were fulfilled in AD 70 when the armies of the Roman Emperor Titus ransacked, and pillaged Jerusalem, even used a plow to plow Herod's Temple under fulfilling both prophecies. The Jews would be scattered among the nations of the world to wander without a homeland.

Even though the Israelites were dispersed among the nations God promised that he would bring them back to their homeland and prosper them. Amos 9: 14-15: "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God." Again in Deuteronomy chapter 30 verses 1 to 6 God told Israel that when they would turn to Him he would gather them from the nations where they were scattered and they would possess the land of their fathers. In Ezekiel Chapter 37 we have the familiar vision of Ezekiel's Valley of Dry Bones. God declares that it is the whole house of Israel and shows Ezekiel that Israel would someday be revived.

For centuries, the land was left seemingly bare, only the Bedouins inhabiting the wasteland. Anti-Semitism caused nation after nation to expel the Jews. Finally, a determined few Zionist returned to the land of their fathers. God keeps His Word.

When the Turkish Empire was divided up the Arabs and the Jews asked for land. The Arabs were given over 5 million square miles for 22 independent Arab states. The Jews asked for 1 percent of the land and the Allies agreed. When the Balfour Declaration was signed in 1917 and the Jews were given a homeland. In 1921 England refused to honor the Balfour Declaration and took away 77 percent of the land

(Continued on page 4)

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promised to the Jews. In 1922, the League of Nations demanded that England give the remaining 23 percent of Palestine (including Samaria, Judea, Gaza and the Golan Heights) for a Jewish state. In May 1948, Israel became an independent, sovereign nation. Immediately the Arab nations attacked Israel. Outmanned 100 to 1 and outgunned, this tiny nation defended its right to exist and even captured more territory. In the 6-day war of 1967, the entire world learned that tiny Israel had grown to be a powerful force in the world. The Jews had regained full control of the city of Jerusalem. In this 21st century, Israel stands on its own, with only one true national ally, the United States of America.

Israel changed its capitol from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, yet most nations still today do not recognize it as the capitol and retain their embassies in Tel Aviv. Yet Jerusalem is an international city and the center of worship for the world's three largest religions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Modern Jerusalem is about 49 square miles in dimension. The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics reports that in 2005 there were 582,700 Jews, 240,900 Muslims and 15,709 Christians living in the city of Jerusalem.

Zechariah prophesied that in the End-Time this City of Zion, also called the City of David – located in the tiny country of Israel would become a '**Cup of Trembling**'.

Even as I write this article, President George Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are negotiating a peace treaty in the Middle East. In an article posted on the Encarta Encyclopedia Secretary Rice called the border fight between Israel and Lebanon "**birth pangs of a new middle east**".

The words of Secretary Rice remind me of the words of the Apostle Paul and the Prophet Jeremiah. 1 Thessalonians 5:3: "*For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*" Jeremiah 30:6: "*Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?*" These scriptures speak of a time of Great Tribulation that is to come on the earth. So was Secretary Rice speaking prophetically? You make that estimate.

What is Biblically true is that God has honored His Word and Israel is now, in this '**last days**', established in their homeland. Just as true, is the

hatred and vitriol of the Arabs toward Israel. Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad has openly called for the total destruction of Israel. Iran itself poses a threat of nuclear war in the Middle East. In Bible prophecy we find that there will be an amalgamation of nations including Iran that will come against Israel. In an editorial in worldnetdaily.com by Joseph Farah dated July 23, 2002 he quotes the world's second richest man, Warren Buffet, as Buffet was addressing the stockholders of Berkshire Hathaway; "*We're going to have something in the way of a major nuclear event in this country.*" "*It will happen. Whether it will happen in 10 years or 10 minutes, or 50 years, it's virtually a certainty.*"

Iran, which is modern day Persia, will be with the hoards that attack Israel in the last days. Ezekiel 38:3-6, 8-9, 16, 19 and 23: "*...Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee...After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee...And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes...For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;...Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.*" Ezekiel 39: 2-4: "*And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands,*

and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.”

Is this war prophesied almost 2500 years ago about to come to pass? Paul told Timothy that the last days would be perilous times. So, are we on the threshold of the greatest conflict in history? Is World War III on the horizon? Luke records the words of Jesus when the disciples asked about the future. Luke 21: 9-11,24-26: *“But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. ... and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”*

If this was the entire message it would be a sad state of affairs, but, Luke continues with the good news. Luke 21: 27-28: *“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption drawled nigh.”*

What is bad news for the world is Good News for the Church. Jesus Christ is coming back. Not as a babe in a manger, but as the King of Glory to sit on the throne of David and rule in righteousness. He is not coming as a lamb prepared for slaughter but as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, roaring against the enemies of the Living God. Jesus is coming for His redeemed.

You see, when Jesus died on the cross, His blood was shed for the remission of our sins. That blood ran from His head where the crown of thorns were placed, from His back where it was beaten and bruised, from His hands and feet that were nail pierced, and from His side that was pierced by the sword. Once again, He will wear blood soaked garments. This time the blood is not His. Isaiah 63: 1-4: *“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments*

like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.”

We are living in the greatest time since Jesus walked with the disciples. Soon we will see Him coming in clouds of glory. Then these bodies of mortal flesh will be changed and the mortal will take on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15: 5-57: *“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

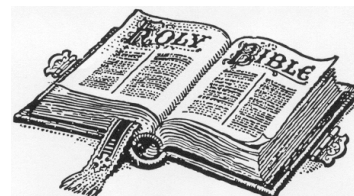
With the whole world’s attention focused on the Middle East and the earthly Zion This city of David has become **“A Cup of Trembling”** to the surrounding Muslim nations. Yet, earthly Jerusalem is a man-made city. Let us as the Church get focused on the New Jerusalem, the Holy City of God that is prophesied in the Book of Revelation. The city that is made without hands – whose builder and maker is God. Just like the old gospel song that says “looking for a city, where we’ll never die.”

In conclusion, I must say just like John in Revelation 22:20: *“...Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”*

UN secretary general Kofi Annan called for a ceasefire. U. S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice visited the region for talks with both Lebanese prime minister Saniora and Olmert to negotiate a settlement. But Rice drew criticism from Arab and other international leaders for depicting the conflict as “the birth pangs of a new Middle East” and for failing to halt continued Israeli bombing by calling for an immediate ceasefire. A UN Security Council resolution led to a ceasefire in August after 34 days of fighting. An international peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon took up positions in southern Lebanon to monitor the ceasefire. [http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761564963_10/Lebanon_\(country\).](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761564963_10/Lebanon_(country))

ⁱⁱ 2 Timothy
ⁱⁱⁱ Hebrews

html
3-17
11:9,10



In Memory

REV. PAUL E. WOOD

The Rev. Paul E. Wood, of Cape Girardeau, was born to Edwin Thomas and Dona Evans Wood on September 4, 1915 at Cape Girardeau, MO, and departed this life on Saturday, July 5, 2008 at Marble Hill, MO at the age of 92.

He worked in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp from 1937 to 1938, and it was there that he met his future wife, Pauline Virginia Counts. They were married June 12, 1938.

He worked for 35 years at the Marquet Cement Plant in Cape Girardeau.

He served in the U.S. Army in World War II in the South Pacific on the island of Leyte in the Philippines.

He became a Christian in 1948, and began preaching in 1951. Along with his wife, he was a charter member of Bethel Assembly of God Church in Cape Girardeau, a church that he helped to start, and which has grown to be one of the largest churches in Cape Girardeau. He also served as pastor of several churches in that area and held many revivals. He was a member of AIGA, holding Ordination Credentials since 1980.

He is survived by his wife, four sons, Paul Wood of Lady Lake, FL, Billy Wood of Alvin, TX, Ron Wood of Dickinson, TX, and Kevin Wood of St. Louis; a daughter, Donna Gardner of Marble Hill, two sisters, Reva McClain of Cape Girardeau, and Shirley Emmons of West Paducah, KY.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Brenda Gilder; two brothers, Tom and Leonard Wood; and four sisters, Betty Masterson, Doris Arnzen, Patsy Deitz and Norma Wood.

The funeral service was officiated by Rev. Charles Lance and was held at Lorberg Memorial Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, July 8, at 2:00 p.m. Burial was at Fairmount Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

The Delta team provided military honors.

Pallbearers were Jim Niedbalski, Terry Borgfield, Jordan Garrier, Ian Grantwood, Mark Grindstaff and Herb Gilder.

Arrangements were under the direction of Lorberg Memorial Funeral Chapel.

REV. EDNA 'DENA' GLADYS LANGE

Edna 'Dena' Gladys Lange of Ashford Kent, England (formerly of St. Louis, Missouri) was born August 3, 1918 and departed this life on Tuesday, July 8, 2008, at the age of 89.

Wife of the late Wolfgang Bernhard Lange; daughter of the late Mr. George Albert and Mrs. Gladys Annie White of Horsham, UK; mother of Hazel (Bill) Bacigalupo, Christopher (Grete) Stone, and stepmother of Erika Welker, Ingrid (Rich) Jones, Ursula (Alvin) Rankins, Martin (Lisa) Lange, and Esther (Sam) Aldridge; grandmother of 17 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Sister Lange was an Ordained Minister of AIGA since 1971. She and her husband were pastors in Canada and first established the work of AIGA and registered our incorporation there. In 1972 they moved to the United States and were pastors of Radiant Light Assembly at Overland, Missouri for a number of years. They served on AIGA's Board of Directors and Sister Lange also filled the position of President of WIC (Woman In Christ).

Celebration of Life Service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 19, 2008, at Baue Funeral and Memorial Center Chapel. Interment was at St. Charles Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements were under the direction of Baue Funeral and Memorial Center.

REV. PETER T. CATALINO

Peter T. Catalino was born in Brooklyn, NY on June 25, 1934, and passed from this life on August 4, 2008 at the age of 74.

He was an Ordained Minister of AIGA since March 1981, and was always faithful to support the work of our Association.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita, and three children.

BETTY ELIZABETH ZANE WILLIAMS nee FARR

Elizabeth Williams, of Citrus Heights, CA, passed from this life on July 13, 2008 at her home. She was 82.

She was preceded in death by her husband.

She is survived by four children: Rev. Scarlet Roper, Donna L. Stout, David C. Williams, and Matthew W. Williams, 13 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren nieces and nephews.

She was an inspiration to all who knew her and will be greatly missed. She loved the Lord. One of her favorite scriptures was St. John 14, 1-3.

Her daughter, Rev. Scarlet Roper is an Ordained Minister with AIGA.

*"And God shall wipe away all tears
from their eyes; and there shall be
no more death, neither sorrow, nor
crying, neither shall there be any
more pain: for the former things
are passed away."*

Revelation 21: 4



The Old Paths

I liked the old paths, when Moms were at home,
Dads were at work.

Brothers went into the army, and sisters got married
BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay; hard work did;
And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook; Dads would work;
Children would behave.

Husbands were loving; Wives were supportive;
And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry; And Men wore the pants.
Women looked like ladies;
Men looked like gentlemen;
And children looked decent.

People loved the truth, and hated a lie;
They came to church to get IN, not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded Godly; sermons sounded helpful;
Rejoicing sounded normal;
And crying sounded sincere

Cursing was wicked; Drugs were for illness
And divorce was unthinkable.

The flag was honored; America was beautiful;
And God was welcome!

We read the Bible in public, prayed in school;
And preached from house to house
To be called an American was worth dying for;
To be called a Christian was worth living for;
To be called a traitor was a shame!

Preachers preached because they had a message
And Christians rejoiced because they had the VICTORY!
Preachers preached from the Bible;
Singers sang from the heart;
And sinners turned to the Lord to be SAVED!

A new birth meant a new life; Salvation meant a changed life;
Following Christ led to eternal life.

Being a preacher meant you proclaimed the word of God;
Being a deacon meant you would serve the Lord;
Being a Christian meant you would live for Jesus;
And being a sinner meant someone was praying for you!

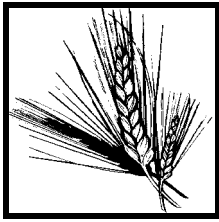
Laws were based on the Bible; Homes read the Bible;
And churches taught the Bible.

God was worshiped; Christ was exalted;
And the Holy Spirit was respected..

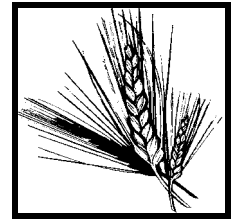
Church was where you found Christians
On the Lord's day, rather than in the garden,
On the creek bank, on the golf course,
Or being entertained somewhere else.

I still like the old paths the best!

"The Old Paths" was written by a retired minister who lives in
Tennessee.



FROM THE MISSION FIELDS



We receive many reports about the great work that God is doing through our AIGA officials and ministers as they carry the Gospel to many countries throughout the world. As some of you have asked for information about the missions in different countries, we would like to give a brief review of some of the areas of missionary activity, what is being accomplished, and some of the needs.

AFRICA

As we write this article, our International Missionary Director, Rev. Stacy Jackson, is planning to leave tomorrow, September 3, to travel to Nigeria to dedicate a new building that will house a children's home, Christian school and medical/dental clinic. The Nigeria work is under the direction of AIGA's Coordinator there, Dr. Ifeadi Okaro. Dr. Okaro plans to name the building in honor of our late president, Dr. Granville M. Rayl. We hope to be able to tell you all about this in the December issue of our magazine, which will be our annual memorial issue. Funds were donated by one of our member families in Florida to drill a well at the Nigeria headquarters.

The outreach from Nigeria throughout Africa is great and there is much interest in the work of AIGA. Please pray for the work in Africa as the radical Muslim threat looms large and a number of Christians have given their lives for the cause of Christ. Your support is needed and can help to reach many souls in Africa. Truly the harvest is ripe.

Rev. Philip Kruger, Coordinator to South Africa, is reaching many souls in the prisons of that country. Continue to pray for Brother Kruger as the correctional centers there are some of the most dangerous in the world. Your support would also be appreciated as the Kruger's carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the prisons.

PHILIPPINES

Rev. Donald Soriano, our Chairman to the Philippines, oversees a large missionary outreach

to about twenty-six countries. Also, there is a great youth outreach, high school crusades, prison ministry, feeding stations, medical missions, children's home and much more. We were so blessed to receive their report of reaching a goal of winning 100,000 souls in 2007.

AIGA's work in the Philippines is rather large with several hundred ministers and a number of churches. There are AIGA officials, pastors and evangelists who also carry the Gospel throughout the Philippines, and other places. A number of them are in need of support.

Thank you to those of you who have given to help support the work of Bethesda Children's Home. The need there has been, and continues to be, great because of various factors such as different exchange rates due to the decline in value of the American dollar, donors that can no longer give, and the tremendous rise in the cost of rice. Please continue to pray for them, and any support you can give is needed and will be appreciated.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Rev. Alfred Morgan and his wife, Rev. Febe Morgan, our coordinators to Central America, were both born and raised in Central America. They are U.S. citizens and have lived in the United States for many years, and have been active in the work of AIGA for more than 20 years. Their hearts desire is to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Central America.

There is great need in that part of the world as the majority of the people are very poor. Most of them do not even have a Bible. They need Bibles. The native ministers there need assistance to be able to travel to remote places to carry the Gospel. They travel in buses, by bicycles, boats and canoes. They do not have nice homes and need help with necessities like toothbrushes, toothpaste, first aid items and other things that can help them like chain saws, motors for their canoes, fishing lines, and materials to build church buildings.

The Morgan's make trips to Central America several times a year to take needed items, and plan to leave in about a week to minister there for nine months. They now have an outreach into several Central American countries. Can they count on you to help in this outreach to the lost and needy in Central America?

MEXICO

Our Chairman for Central Mexico Missions, Rev. Russell Thibodeaux, oversees a number of churches in Central Mexico and also wants to help in completing the building of a children's home at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

Rev. Thibodeaux has a deep concern for these children some who have been left behind by their parents that have gone to the U.S. to work. If their grandparents pass away they are left with no one. Some sleep in old cars or between houses until the children's home can be completed. The need is critical. Drug traffickers prey on unsuspecting, ignorant, helpless children, addict them to drugs and then use them for prostitution and drug trafficking for their profit. Having the orphaned children in a Christian home where they can learn and receive the love of Jesus is their only hope of escaping such horrific ordeals, and they can then be witnesses for our Lord in the future.

Your help is needed to build a home for these children, and to assist in reaching the lost in Mexico.

EUROPE

Rev. Mike Lyon, of Scotland, is our AIGA coordinator to Europe and has promoted activity in several Western European countries where coordinators have been appointed. He also has a missionary outreach to some of the Eastern European countries where crusades are held as well as a missionary outreach to Uganda in Africa. Rev. Lyon has been faithful for many, many years. Your prayers and support would be of much help to the work there.

We received a report from Rev. Dr. Jerry Fitzgerald that he recently returned from a mission trip to Romania where he ministered in churches in Bucharest, Black Sea and various other regions. There were many healings and miracles, and many people were saved and en-

couraged in the Lord. Hundreds of Bibles were distributed to those who never had their own Bible. The people of Romania have a hunger for God's Word. There are churches with three hundred and fifty members who have only fourteen Bibles and churches with one hundred and fifty members who are sharing just four Bibles for the entire congregation.

Brother Fitzgerald also ministers in Russia. He has taken the Gospel there nineteen times and has distributed thousands of Bibles and tracts throughout Russia and The Ukraine. Help is needed to take Bibles to these countries.

INDIA

Rev. Sam Paul Gokanakonda is AIGA's Coordinator to India. He lives in the United States and travels to India several times each year to evangelize and visit the ministry works there. His father is AIGA's National Chairman to India. Their ministry in India includes evangelizing, overseeing several children's homes, training of ministers, and an ongoing ministry to those in need.

This ministry has a great outreach and any help you could give in assisting the children and helping to reach souls for Christ would be appreciated.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE CHILDREN

Christmas will be here soon, and it is time to begin thinking about how we can help the children's homes with Christmas for the children. The funds should be sent from our office by November to get there in time for Christmas. If you can help to make this a joyful Christmas for the children it would be appreciated so much.

"...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

John 4:35-36

NOT FOR SALE

By: Rev. Jeff Reed

King Ahab may very well have been one of the most wicked rulers that the world has ever known. His heart was full of evil and his intentions were constantly sinful. Surprisingly the event that sealed his doom unfolded in his covetous actions against an innocent man named Naboth. The purity of the scriptures best describes the way that this tyrant was so consumed with envy that he lashed out toward one of the citizens of his kingdom.

I Kings Chapter 21 Verses 1 and 2

“And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.”

Ahab gives us a picture here of the way that Satan operates. Many times the Enemy will appear to us with an offer. He will act as if he is doing us a favor if we will only trade away our inheritance. Satan wishes that we would all be as foolish as Esau trading away our very birthright for a measly bowl of stew. Here Ahab has a smooth cunningness, his proposal seems logical and even attractive. The vineyard is right next to his palace, why shouldn't he have it for a garden of herbs?

Ahab is offering at least fair market value for the property; he is actually offering a better vineyard in trade. He is even willing to give cold hard cash for that vineyard. Satan barterers in much the same way, he appeals to us with the “grass is greener on the other side” approach. The Devil always claims to have something better than what God has blessed us with. If his junk is so good, why does he want to trade it? We find that Naboth was not interested in Ahab's offer;

I Kings 21:3

“And Naboth said to Ahab, The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.”

Let us first understand that it was not mere stubbornness that caused Naboth to reject Ahab's offer. It would have been against the Law of Moses for Naboth to sell his inheritance. He did not refuse to seek a better offer or out of political rebellion; his refusal was based solely on obedience to the Word of God. Pastors hear me when I say; we must stand as firmly as Naboth did! Satan will come to each one of you and offer a bigger church if you will sell the one you've got. He will promise more square footage in your auditorium, more members in your pews, and more money in your offering plates if you will only trade your vineyard for his.

Remember this, God put you right where you're at. He trusted you to care for your vineyard whether it is small or large. God trusts you to till the land. God trusts you to plant the seeds, and water them. He trusts you to prune the branches and pull up the weeds. No matter how many grapes your vineyard yields, God has placed you there for faithful service.

Do not make deals with Satan. Do not entertain his offers. Hold fast to the inheritance that God has given you, and do not compromise! Clutch your deed firmly in your hand, look the Devil square in the eye and tell him, “Not for sale!” This church is not for sale! This ministry is not for sale! This pulpit is not for sale!

I Kings 21:4

“And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers, And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.”

Here we find the king pouting like a two-year-old baby. He is doing what a lot of folks are doing today, throwing a pity party for himself. He was the king, and he was throwing a fit about a little vineyard that was next to one of his palaces. He was rich, he was powerful, but his mind would only dwell on what he could not have.

I think of this king in his fine garments and crown indulging himself in a hunger strike over a little garden. Then I think about the Apostle Paul shackled in a muddy, dark, rat-infested prison cell writing that "I have learned in whatsoever state I am in therewith to be content!"

You can make all of the trades you want. You can go out and accumulate wealth and riches and build a personal empire. You can have a stock portfolio as thick as the Strong's Concordance, but it will not make you happy. Wealth, power, and fame are not worthy to be compared to peace, joy, and contentment! The Apostle Paul also wrote that contentment with godliness is great gain. Even if we could out-trade the devil, riches can never replace the satisfaction of a Christian's inheritance!

As we read on in this account we find how Jezebel birthed an evil plot that would get Ahab the ownership of Naboth's vineyard. Jezebel whose very name has become intertwined with all that is wicked and vile, hatched a plot to have Naboth eliminated. Let's pay particular attention to the religious nature of Jezebel's scheme:

I Kings 21:9

"And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die."

Notice here that Jezebel's scheme had a religious appearance. Writing as Ahab, she proclaimed a fast, which is of course a religious activity. She was very crafty in lining up two witnesses as prescribed in the Law of Moses. Of course her key ingredients in this plot involved sins such as lying and bearing false witness. What is any royal scandal without a little bit of murder? Jezebel was not afraid to shed innocent

blood to accomplish her mission. The end result found an innocent man named Naboth stoned to death for merely being obedient to the Word of God.

When we take a stand for God, our fate may not be much different than Naboth's. We may very well find ourselves paying the ultimate price especially if we would find ourselves in opposition to the government. There are already laws in our country that stand in direct contradiction to God's Word.

Gay marriage may soon be legalized from coast to coast, even though it is currently only recognized in a couple of states. In California a minister has to be very careful how he shares the Gospel with a child, because a mention of hell could land him in jail. That does not justify us compromising the Word of God. We must stand fast and hold onto the inerrant Word of God. We will never lose if we hold firmly to the message that God has given to us. Even if it would cost us our very lives, this present suffering is not worthy to be compared to the rewards that God has prepared for us.

We must never trade the preaching of the truth for larger congregations, bigger buildings, better offerings, or a upgraded social standing. God will hold us accountable for how we have preached His Word. At the end of the day, it really is not our vineyard. We are God's caretakers of these churches and ministries. Let us do our very best to honor God with our faithful service!



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ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN??

By G. M. Rayl

Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.") (The theme of this sermon is, "What is a Christian?")

"Are you a Christian?" Every time I hear this question, it brings back remembrance of an experience in my life that I will never forget. As I was growing up from a boy into a young man, I never went to church except for funerals or some other special occasion, therefore I knew very little about Christianity. I would sometimes wonder about what would happen when I died, and I remember on several occasions, that I would ask some older person what I would have to do to go to heaven, I was told that all I had to do was be good. So I believed that if I was good that I would go to heaven when I died.

It may be a shocking statement to say that many people living all about us are in the same condition that I was, do not know what it means to be a Christian. I believe that we could go to a prominent corner of a large city, stop the first ten people that pass us, and ask them the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian?" Nine out of ten would answer in one of the following ways: They would say that it means to be honest, to be a good neighbor, to be a lodge member, to obey the Golden Rule, to be confirmed, or to join the church. Not one of them has come within a mile of the true answer. The tragedy of the situation is that even some of the people in the church are self-deceived; they think they are right with God because of decency, respectability, membership in an organization, or mental assent to a creed. All of these four things are good and commendable, but they do not make us a Christian. John 3:7, "*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*" Oh yes, I tried to be as good as I knew how to be, I never got too drunk too many times. I didn't do too much fighting at the dances that I attended at times. I loved to go to the movies and watch western pictures, sometimes when I would get mad and curse a lot I would get ashamed of myself and think that I should stop cursing so much or I wouldn't go to heaven if I should die. Remember it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment. No one had ever asked me if I was a Christian, until one night I went to my first Pentecost church, I had never had an experience like this! I felt about as much out of place as a tramp would in a king's palace. There I sat while they prayed, sang, testified what the Lord had done for them, and rejoiced in the Lord. After the preaching was over and the service was dismissed, the old preacher came back to me and grabbed my hand and said that he was

glad that I had come and invited me back. He looked me right in the eye and said, "Are you a Christian?" I felt as guilty as a sheep killing dog, I stammered around and said, "yes." Oh, what a lie, for there I stood so under conviction by the Holy Spirit, with condemnation written all over my face and a pack of cigarettes in my shirt pocket. I didn't fool that old preacher. And thanks be unto God, before that week was over, that preacher saw me give my heart to God, yes I was born again, my sins were under the blood of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Yes, I had the witness of the Spirit that I was a child of God, a Christian.

Who is a Christian, and how can a person be right with God? A Christian is one in whom Christ dwells: "*Christ in you, the hope of glory*" (Col. 1:27). You have the witness of the Spirit that you are a child of God and an heir of glory, Rom. 8:16, 17, "*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God; And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*" If you are a true Bible Christian such as you may and should be, then you have peace with God, and all your sins are forgiven and your name is registered in the Lamb's Book of Life. Rom. 5:1, "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Rom. 8: 1, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*"

You are saved from the love of the world. You are not eagerly seeking its wealth, and striving to lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth; you do not desire the honors and praise of men, neither do you follow their customs and fashions, for you have learned and proved, in your experience, that there is something better. 1 John 2:15, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*" 1 John 5:4, "*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*" Rom. 12:2, "*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

You either keep out or come out of all oathbound societies. 2 Cor. 6:14-18, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And*

what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

You give freely and liberally of your means to, relieve the poor and advance the truth. You love the Word of God and delight in its study; have great peace and do not stumble into sin. Psalm 119:11, *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* Psalm 119:97, *"O, how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."*

You love the Prayer Meeting, and are constant, and active in your support of it as far as possible. Hebrews 10:25, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

You make no attempt at outward display, either in style or living or by personal adornment with gold, precious stones and costly array. 1 Peter 3:3-5, *"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands."*

You are saved from the bondage of depraved appetites and habits. Strong drinks, tobacco, opium, cards, rink-going, dancing, horse-racing, gambling, lying, swearing, stealing, cheating, scolding, fornication, adultery, pride and all uncleanness and foolish talking and jesting, do no longer bind you and bring you under their power. The ruling power of sin is broken and your emancipated soul has victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. There is no law out against you, but you are free, yes, free indeed. Gal. 5:16, *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* John 8:36, *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*

You do not run in debt without knowing how or when you will be able to pay. Rom. 12:17, *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."* Rom. 13:8, *"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."*

You have confidence toward God and are entirely condemned, either of God or of your own

heart. Your communion with Him is real; often sweet and precious beyond expression, and your prayers are most graciously heard and answered. 1 John 3:22, *"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."* By constant abiding in Christ, you are saved from committing all known, hidden and outward sins. 1 John 3:6, *"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not."* 1 John 3:9, *"Whosoever is born of God sinneth not."*

You suffer in some form, and to a greater or less degree, from the persecuting spirit of the ungodly; and are not loved, courted and sought after by the world, 2 Tim. 3:12, *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* John 15:19, *"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."* 1 Peter 4:16, *"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."*

You hunger and thirst after righteousness. Walking after the Spirit, you are led to see the need of an experience beyond what you now enjoy, and you are eagerly desiring and pressing on for the whole will of God to be done in your soul, and to know more and more of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, until you comprehend it in its breadth and length and depth and height and are filled with all the fulness of God, 1 Peter 1: 16, *"Because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy."* Hebrews 12:14, *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."*

The question naturally arises: How can one become a Christian? God has the answer in His Word in Rom. 10:9, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* 2 Cor. 7: 10, *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."* First you must believe in your heart that you are a sinner, then you must believe that Christ died for our sins, 1 Cor. 15:3, *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."* When we so accept Christ, the Spirit of God through the Word of God performs the miracle of God that makes us the children of God. We then rest in the Word of our Lord, John 6:37, *"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* Rom. 10:10, *"With the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

Have you received Christ and confessed Him as your Lord and Saviour? If you haven't, then why not? Oh, Why Not To-Night?

Supplementary Update of Members, Churches, and Officials

we welcome the new members, charters, AND OFFICIALS below that were approved at the JuNE, JULY AND AUGUST, 2008 credential committee meetings, AND JULY 2008 BOARD MEETING.

NEW MEMBERS – U.S.A.

HALE, Luella M. (Ordained Minister) Camp Hill, PA

HENSLEY, Eric Paul (Christian Worker) Roseville, CA

NANCE, Diana P. (Ordained Minister) Corpus Christi, TX

NAVA, Juan Jose (Licensed Minister) Pharr, TX

REED, Kasaundra Ann (Exhorter Minister) Bonne Terre, MO

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UPGRADES

LASLIE, Ginger Elizabeth (Licensed Minister) Brighton, IL

RICHARDSON, Gera Elaine (Licensed Minister) Bowie, MD

SPINNER, Deborah C. (Ordained Minister) Luray, VA

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FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP

HASSELL, Michael Andrew (Ordained Minister) Grand Cayman, Grand Cayman Islands

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CHARTERS

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER OF PORT ORANGE
(Church Charter) Port Orange, FL - Pastor:
Rev. Paul E. Hallett

FRONTIER MINISTRIES (Evangelistic Charter)
Beaumont, TX - Evangelist: Rev. Russell
Thibodeaux

NEW LIFE RESTORATION MINISTRIES, INC.
(Church Charter) Melbourne, FL - Pastor:
Rev. Clyde M. John

OVERCOMERS LIFE CHURCH (Mission Charter)
Park Hills, MO - Director: Rev. Larry Young

RESIGNATIONS

REV. THOMAS L. BLOCK, JR., *North Carolina State Chairman* (Effective: July 16, 2008)

REV. PRIMO VOISIN, *Vice-Chairman of the Arkansas State Committee* (Effective: July 16, 2008)

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OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS FROM JULY 2008 MEETING

MRS. LAURA NEEL, *Secretary of the International Youth Activities Committee* (Date of Appointment: July 16, 2008)

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Bradenton, Florida

For Information or Reservations Contact: Rev. Sam Pennington—Florida State Chairman

Phone: 352-394-8196

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1230 Monterey Street, Bakersfield, CA

Phone: 661-326-1651

Host Pastor: REV. WILMA J. ROBINSON

Phone: 661-366-2052

June 3—5, 2009

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Host Pastor: Rev. Pete Taylor—Virginia State Chairman

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