

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." **Isaiah 40:3**

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FINANCING THE LORD'S WORK

By F. L. Ray
Goodlettsville, Tenn.

Financing the Lord's work is a part of our service in the advancement of his great cause here on earth.

The Lord has a plan for every phase of his work; the plan of redemption is set forth in his word, the way to administer baptism is set forth in his word, the way to observe the Lord's Supper and Mission work are declared by his word and example.

We should all try to understand the Lord's plan of financing his work. If we would do this and abide by it, he would get much more honor. And it would make it better for all of us, and his Cause would advance much more. If the Bible teaches anything, it teaches that we are to give of our financial means to the Lord's Cause. We really OWE part of our income to the Lord. One of the best ways I have found to give is to figure out how much you are able to give, and how much you can sacrifice, and then do this regularly.

In Bible days, people gave according to their ability - "They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand grams of gold, and five thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priest's garments (Ezra 2:69).

"Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul (Acts 11:29, 30). As we prosper, we should take out of our income and lay it aside for the Lord's work. And, then, as the various causes present themselves, we could take out of what we have in store and give as we purpose in our hearts. "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order for the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

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THE PREACHER

By F. W. Lambert
Westmoreland, Tenn.

(This lesson was originally taught in one of the annual Bible conferences at Old Union Baptist Church. The entire lesson will be published in this and the next several issues combined. It should incite each preacher to stop and take a look at himself. You may benefit along with me as we face a few moments of truth together.

Editor's Note)

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Cor. 2:4, 5

I believe in a God-called ministry, not man-called but God-called; not a sweet call from a precious mother, but one from the loving soul of God. It does not stem from the inspiration of devotion, nor from the romance of service. Paul said, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16) Only the call of God should drive a man to his knees in submission to cry: **WOE IS ME IF I PREACH NOT THE GLAD TIDING (GOSPEL)**. Now, the man in the ministry, who has not heard this call, is an hypocrite; and the man who has heard it and is not in the ministry is a moral coward.

The Holy Scriptures describe the preacher's character in detail. They mark him distinctly as a man of more than ordinary consequence in the church. In his human relations, and his spiritual endow-

(Continued on page 4)

SALEM CHURCH BEGINS NEW BUILDING

By Elder James C. Jones, Pastor
Indianapolis, Ind.

We, Salem Missionary Baptist Church, of Greenwood, Indiana take great pleasure in announcing the construction of our new house of worship is underway. On August 27 the concrete foundation was poured, and God willing, we hope to erect and occupy it before the severe weathers of winter arrive.

The building shall be of brick and frame construction, 40' x 86'. The sanctuary will be approximately 40' x 50', the structure includes four Sunday School rooms.

The new building site is located in the vicinity of Bargersville, Indiana, at Johnson count roads 500N and 400W. The building we now use is located at roads 600N and 600W.

In our excitement we wish not to forget the loving and kind considerations of the many churches and individuals who have made the aforesaid possible. To all of you **THANKS**. May our heavenly Father reward you in time and eternity for your financial aid and prayers.

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor

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ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kenneth W. Massey

QUESTION: "What was meant in Genesis 29:17, which states that "Leah was tender eyed?"

B.H. - Attica, Ind.

ANSWER: "tender eyed" in those days was an expression for blue-eyed people, and it was considered a blemish. Also, blue eyes do not tolerate the sun as well as do dark-eyed people. Jacob made choice of Rachel instead of Leah as a wife because of Rachel's beauty and well favour.

QUESTION: "Who was the first Jew?"
J. R. - Darden, Tenn.

ANSWER: Abraham was the first Jew. He was the Father of the Israel nation. His name was changed from Abram to Abraham (Father of a multitude).

Send your questions or comments today
To: VOICE OF BAPTISTS
P. O. Box 33131
Indianapolis, Ind. 46203



PREDICAMENT - The most terrible feeling I have ever had, is to be caught in church with only a \$20 bill.



VISITING JAPAN

By James H. Smith
Nashville, Tenn.

The Lord willing, by the time you receive this issue we will be visiting in Japan. I felt that we should go there and stay for a while, maybe a month or so, and view the situation. I hope to make a report to the churches that helped to establish that work when we return home. There were churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, North and South Carolinas, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, and California that helped us to stay in Japan and preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to establish a church in the city of Hiroshima, called Koi Baptist Church. It was our home church, McFerrin Baptist Church, that set me apart for the work and sent us to Japan, and all of these other churches volunteered to send their offerings, and to send up their prayers, to help us in establishing a witness for our Lord in Japan.

Our mission to Japan was one of faith, and I don't mean to say here that I have great faith, but I do believe in faith principles, I did then, and I still do; and by this plan the Lord, in a most gracious way, took care of all our needs. I still believe that a missionary should be sent out by a local Baptist church, without having to apply to any other organization in this world. Paul and Barnabas were sent out by the Antioch Church, and they went from there and preached the Gospel in various countries and then returned to Antioch and gave a report of what the Lord had done with them. (See all of the 13th chapter of Acts)

I fully believe that if the missionary stays in the will of the Lord He will take care of all his needs. Everything that he might want will not be available to him, but the Master will see to it that he gets all he needs. The missionary will not always have smooth sailing, of course not, for we are not promised that in any phase of the Lord's service, but His grace is sufficient to keep us sailing whatever the conditions; storms, floods, or raging seas, for He is the Master of the ship, and He speaks to those on board, "Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid."

We hope to go to Hiroshima and Koi Baptist Church to be with Brother Tajima and family, and of course worship with them. I hope and pray that we will be able to contact some of the old members of Koi Church who are scattered all over Japan. We love these people dearly and long to see them again. Yes, and we want to see the church and dear friends in Yamaguchi, the church that was established there of the Lord by the ministry of Brother Frank Carr. Pray for us that we may be used of the Lord while in Japan.

CHRISTIAN LOGIC

By Darrell Hicks

At the time of his greatest weakness, he is strongest. When he thinks himself strong, he is really weak. During his darkest hours, he sees his brightest lights. He must lose his life to save it, and is in greatest danger while trying to preserve it.

To gain the victory, he must surrender. He finds that the only way up, is down; and when he will not go down, he is already down; yet if he realizes he is down, he is on his way up.

He does that which he would not, and that which he would do, he cannot. He wants to go to heaven, but is in no hurry to leave this world. He feels the most undone in the presence of God, yet there is no place where he would rather be. His greatest love is for the One whom he has never seen. His greatest desire is for that which has never entered into the heart of man. He counts himself as nothing, but he and one other are a majority.

If no other verse of the Bible you understand, to discern this discourse shows you the master of one.

"...and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto Himself," (Deut. 14:2)

MAIL REGRETS

We regret the delay you have experienced in receiving the "Voice of Baptists." A mail strike threat may have caused the delay one month, while incorrect sorting (sent through bulk mail dept.) resulted in the delay another month.

Also, due to mail theft, we have stopped mail delivery to the church address in favor of opening a post office box. All unacknowledged contributions for the paper were most likely stolen. Our new mailing address is as follows:

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH
P. O. Box 33131
Indianapolis, Ind. 46203

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WARNING

As the minister took the offering he said, "Some ministers feed the sheep, some lead the sheep, but now I'm going to shear the sheep."

OUR YOUTH

By Rex Hunt

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy Youth. . ." Eccl. 12:1a

There have been many things written and spoken about the present-day youth; many of which have been universal in their condemnation and others universal in their justifying the conduct of today's youth.

I think today's youth deserves our prayers and understanding as much or more than any other generation. Society provides the most difficult environment for today's youth to establish proper priorities and maintain moral standards required of God. Although we should try to understand and pray for the youth, we should never condone their sins of commission or omission. It has been said that the young must sow their wild oats. However, this is not true, but if they are sown, they must be reaped. The wise man Solomon said in Eccl. 11:9, "Rejoice O young man in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart and in the sight of thine eyes, but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."

There are many who charge society altogether for the action of today's youth. Therefore many grow into adulthood thinking they can transfer their guilt by denying their responsibilities and blaming something or someone else. There have been some of the youth in our churches led to believe their sins should be overlooked because of their youth.

Jesus said in Mark 13:34, "he gave to every man his work." The youth should be given an opportunity to perform this work. Some think they are only to be observers without opportunity and responsibility to do their work. Others think they should have full responsibility and exercise all authority. It is necessary that the older members love and encourage the youth in their work. It is also necessary that the youth respect and prayerfully consider the teaching of the older members.

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: (1 Peter 5:5a). Paul taught in the second chapter of Titus that older women should be teachers of the younger both in precept and example.

There have been many outstanding contributions made in the service of God by young men and women. The need for greater zeal and perseverance in the work of God, among all ages, is clear to see. May we all, regardless of the generation, exert our abilities and talents as true laborers together with God.

CONTEND FOR THE FAITH!

By Kenneth W. Massey

"... YE SHOULD EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS." Jude :3b

One of the saddest statements ever made by a so-called religious person is "I don't care what the Bible says, I still don't believe it." Then, did you ever hear a person who belongs to some false church tell a member of a true Baptist Church, "Well, it doesn't matter about the church just as long as you have been saved, that's all that counts?" The inspired word of God informs us, that the same creator of earth and man and all things therein, has an identifiable church in this world with the age-long commission to preach the gospel, baptize disciples and teach them to observe all things whatsoever he hath commanded. The member of the Lord's church, when confronted by someone as depicted above, should teach that person the truth about the church that Jesus established and simultaneously condemn all the false churches with founders other than Christ. That's contending for the faith!

UNIVERSALISM

The advocates of this concept of the Lord's Church usually teach that all saved people are members in the church. They will then teach you to unite with the church of your choice in your community and worship God accordingly. First, is there any difference in the family of God and the church of the living God? The Old Testament reveals a church in prophecy and in type, but not in reality. Were those people half saved? Or were they saved without a church? If they were saved without a church, then salvation and church membership must be two distinctively different Bible subjects. If you read the letters of Paul in the New Testament to the various churches, it is quite obvious that unity in doctrine was a basic essential for the progress of any church. But the Universalists teach that all these denominations are one big church in the sight of God. They say "love" is the most important asset. Can anyone love a false doctrine of the devil? He shouldn't **COMPROMISE IS THE OLDEST TRICK OF SATAN.** "But if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (Matthew 5:13) The churches of our God, those peculiar people, that royal priesthood, holy nation and chosen generation, have a great obligation to show a world in sin the way of salvation and then teach those who get saved their duty to become a member in the church and help perpetuate the work of God until Jesus comes in power and glory.

MADISON CHURCH DEDICATES BUILDING

Sixteen years and nine months following to the day, Madison Missionary Baptist Church dedicated their building to the Lord for His glory and His worship services. Elder L. W. Smith, pastor of the church located on Maple St., Madison Tenn., delivered the Dedicatory Sermon with Bro. E. T. Cole offering the prayer of dedication. God was magnified and his people were blessed as a full day of service was given to the occasion. Special singing by the Christianaires was enjoyed by everyone.

BETHEL ASSOCIATION FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The churches representing annually in the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association will meet with Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church for the third quarterly fellowship meeting. Religious services begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening, November 4, 1978. Refreshment hour will precede the service and begin at 6 p.m. Elder William L. Shoulders of Bethel Baptist Church will bring the sermon that evening. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

SINGING SCHOOL

The Marion County Singing Convention is sponsoring their annual two-week "singing school" Oct. 30 - Nov. 3 and Nov. 6 - Nov. 10, 1978 beginning at 7 p.m. each evening. Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church of 1032 S. Homes St., Indpls. is hosting the school with Mr. Herbert Martin serving as instructor. **ALL CHURCHES ARE INVITED!**

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MODERNISM

A modern preacher said: "If you don't repent (in a manner), you'll be damned (generally speaking). .and go to hell (in a degree)."

FINANCING

(Continued from page 1)

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2). Now, after we have laid by in store for the Lord, he tells us how to distribute this money - "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:6, 7).

In addition to giving that which we owe to the Lord, we are called upon to make an offering to the Lord. This means that we sacrifice or do without something ourselves in order to give to the Cause of God. This is what the Lord's offering really means (to make a sacrifice). Notice the following Bible example: "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living" (Mark 12:41-44).

We rob God when we fail to perform our duties. I am afraid we are robbing God in many ways, in these days of prosperity. We rob God when we fail to let our light shine. We rob God when we fail to assemble ourselves together in the House of the Lord. We rob God when we fail to humble ourselves in prayer to give thanks and praise unto his great and blessed name. We rob God when we fail to give of our means. We should ask ourselves the question: **WHEREIN HAVE I ROBBED GOD?**

"Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality" (2 Cor. 8:11-14).

* *

"I'd rather be genuinely disliked for telling the truth than to be liked for being dishonest."

THE PREACHER

(Continued from page 1)

ments, he stands on a high level. No slipshod man; no come-easy, slack-twisted church members may be inducted into the ministry. The churches are put under severe limitation as to the kind of men who are to be recognized as ministers of the word. Who can estimate the harm done by overriding the Divine restrictions placed around this most sacred office? It is a mystery known only to God why he calls some and passes over others. There seems to be no chart whereby man can understand God in this matter. Only the great and loving God knows the secret; God seems to have need of all kinds of men. He chooses many that we would not touch. Looking out over the multitude of preachers, we are amazed at the various kinds and shapes. I read this little story once:

A member of the church's board had watched the pulpit committee reject applicant after applicant for some fault, alleged or otherwise. It was time for a bit of soul-searching on the part of the committee. He stood up and read the following letter - purporting to be from another applicant: "Gentlemen: Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position, I have many qualifications; I have been a preacher and evangelist with much success, and also had some success as a writer. I've been a leader most places I've been. I am over 50 years old. I have never preached in one place more than three years. In some places, I have left town after my work has caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still get a great deal done. The churches I have preached in have been small though located in several large cities. I've not been able to get along too well with religious leaders in towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked my physical body. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you." The board member looked over the congregation, "Well, what do you think?" Shall we hire him?" The good folks were shocked and surprised. Would they hire an unhealthy troublemaker, an absentminded jailbird? Who signed that application? Who had a nerve like that? The board member eyed them all keenly, saying, The Apostle Paul.

God has called his eloquent and polished men. Men like Isiah, the mighty statesmen of the Old Testament. He has called men who excelled in tenderness. There are many of these tender-hearted men. Men like Jeremiah, the weeping prophet. Hear him cry, "Oh, that my head were waters and mine eyes

a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." (Jer. 9:1) God has also had need of men with great boldness. After stirring among men, he called Elijah, the man of boldness. There was not a fearful fiber woven into the fabric of his life. God called a little stoop-shouldered Jew by the name of Saul. He straightened up and would not bend except to lay his head on the block. He has called men so crude that we stand back in amazement. Take a look at John the Baptist. How fortunate it was that an outspoken preacher like John could live on wild honey and locusts. He was so outspoken in his preaching that he had his head cut off before he would bend.

The world sets standards for God's preachers. Most of these standards can be filled in Dale Carnegie's Institute. It is necessary for most preachers to spend much time with the text, "How to win friends and influence people." If we listen to some, we might as well trade the brush of inspiration for a colored chart styles. Many can't enjoy the preacher's message for looking at the preacher's hair or loud tie. Do not misunderstand me. We need to improve and develop to the sharpest point. Training, study and prayer are essential! As you go before your people next Sunday, just look out over the great sea of faces. What do they say? Do they say, "have you walked with men?" Do they say, "Have you been approachable?" Do they say, "Have you been socially correct?" Are they wondering about your clothes? NO, THEY CRY, "PREACHER, HAVE YOU BEEN WITH GOD?" "HAVE YOU A MESSAGE FROM GOD FOR US?" It reminds me of what Ezekiel said: "Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

(Ezekiel 34:2)

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SPECIAL SERVICES

You are invited to attend revival services with FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of 1032 S. Holmes St., Indianapolis beginning Sunday evening, November 19, 1978 at 6 p.m. Pastor Calvin Perrigo will be assisted in the preaching by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services begin at 7 p.m. on week nights.

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