

# 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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## THE HANDS THAT COUNT

by Rex Hunt  
Fountain Run, Ky.

There is much time and many opportunities lost because so many are afraid they will not work in the most prominent place. When Moses went up to the top of the hill to view the battle, between Joshua and his army, and Amalek and his army, he took Aaron and Hur. It is not stated but I believe it is implied, this was in response to God's command. "And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand; that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hands, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side, and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword." Ex. 17:11-13.

This to some would seem absurd, that these three men were so important to the battle though withdrawn some distance. The importance of this is seen in that it was an act of obedience that honored God. When the rod was lifted up, this acknowledged that God was their deliverer.

There were different ways the rod could have been held up. They could have each taken turns holding the rod while the others rested. I think substituting an alternate plan for God's plan has caused many defeats. As Aaron and Hur played supporting roles in this real life drama, so can God's people today. The work of Moses, Aaron and Hur complemented each other. Moses needed the cooperative help of Aaron and Hur to

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## MOSES A Great Leader

by Kenneth W. Massey

"Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee."

In 1571 B.C. a son was born unto Amram and Jochebed of the tribe of Levi. This birth occurred in Egypt during the bondage of God's chosen people. Since Pharaoh had charged all his people that every Hebrew boy should be cast into the river, this baby was hidden for three months by his mother. She then made an ark of bulrushes daubed with slime and pitch, and put her little son into it leaving him in the flags by the river's brink.

His sister, Miriam, hid and watched to see what would happen to her baby brother. In a while Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe in the river. Seeing the ark she had her maid to fetch it. The baby was crying and she had compassion on him. His sister rushed up and asked if she would like to have a nurse from the Hebrew women. Pharaoh's daughter said, go. Soon Jochebed came and was given her son and promised wages for nursing him. Now all this was done unbeknown to Pharaoh or his daughter. What providence of God!

The child grew and his mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and

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## Knowledge And Ignorance

by Jerry A. Reynolds  
Davisville, WV

We have all heard of the "dark ages" in Europe when the continent and surrounding areas descended into the darkness of ignorance in which it largely remained for a thousand years. It was easy for the usurpers of Christendom to lock up knowledge among themselves and hide it from the common people. It became in most places the prerogative of the priests to interpret the Bible for the people who were said to be unqualified to understand it. Little to no effort was made to educate the people in any manner except to incite superstitious fear in them so as to keep them the slaves of the wicked priesthood. As this darkness grew darker, the priests themselves forgot the Bible, taught from their vain traditions which grew more unGodly year by year, and ruled the people by fear and by force. The people, being ignorant and illiterate, were helpless to rise above it. Martin Luther testified from personal experience that in the days of his Catholic priesthood before his conversion he observed that "in the papacy (Roman Catholic Church), those who are called masters wholly neglected the Scriptures, and some of them had not so much as seen the Bible at any time." At the same time Luther witnessed that the Waldenses, who were the predecessors of the Baptists and the true seed of the Protestant reformation, "laying aside the doctrines of men, they meditated in the law of God, day and night; and that they were expert, and even well versed in the knowledge of the Scriptures." (Page 82, Vol. 2, History of the Christian Church, by William Jones) As the Reformation gained ground, the Holy Scriptures were

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Edwards was very critical of ignorance among the ministry, expecting them at least to master the English language, as he said, "an American, with an English grammar in his hand, a learned friend at his elbow, and close application for six months, might make himself master of his mother tongue."

Many of us are spiritual descendants of backwoods preachers on the western frontier. Far be it from us to belittle men of little formal education who preached the gospel with the power of God and brought us to salvation. Their ministry was sufficient for that purpose; but some have made an effort over the years to traditionalize an unlearned ministry. Some have launched an attack against education as a corrupter of the Church, robbing her of her power, and so contending for a ministry "ignorant and unlearned." Pride, not education, is the corrupter. It is to be admitted that "knowledge puffeth up" and so there is in education a danger to be guarded against with utmost carefulness. However, the danger from the extreme of ignorance is no less, and it is hoped that the foregoing will shed some light on that danger.

#### MOSES

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he became her son. She named him Moses which means "drawn" or "drawn out of the water."

"Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds" (Acts 7:22). When he was forty years old he went to visit his brethren. He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Hebrew and he killed the Egyptian.

Pharaoh heard about this slaying and sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled to the land of Midian and sat down by a well. Jethro, the priest and prince of Midian, had seven daughters and they came to draw water for their father's flock. Some shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up for them and watered their flock. In return for this nice deed Jethro gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses.

During this time the king of Egypt died. One day while keeping his father-in-law's flock an angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. God called Moses right there to go to Egypt and lead His people out of bondage. He made excuse to God, but was promised divine aid and empowerment. Moses had a speech impairment when God called him, so God gave him his older brother Aaron as a helper or speaker.

So at age 80 Moses leaves Jethro and takes his wife and two sons toward Egypt. Moses faced two great problems in Egypt - the children of Israel hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit and for cruel bondage, and Pharaoh refused to release them.

God reassured Moses that the job would be accomplished whatever the cost and it turned out to be a very high cost. For the next few years God sends ten plagues upon the Egyptians with the last one requiring the death of the firstborn in every house if not obedient unto the Lord. Sacrificial blood was to be applied to the doorposts and lintels of each house before the death angel passed through the land. Where blood was mercy availed and the firstborn was spared. Even the king lost his son before calling in Moses and giving his permission for them to leave.

Above six hundred thousand men besides children along with a mixed multitude departed from Egypt. Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he soon pursued the Israelites. God was leading them by a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Moses remembered Joseph's final request and brought his bones out of Egypt.

Along the way Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, wrote a victory song, healed waters, received manna, received water from the rock, defeated Amalak, organized a great nation and arrived at Sinai.

On Mt. Sinai God talked with him giving him His covenant to Israel, and also gave him the Law and instructions for building the Tabernacle.

For forty years he led the children of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness. God gave Moses and Aaron permission to speak to the rock at Meribah and he would again provide them with water. Moses disobeyed God and smote the rock twice. For this sin God denied both Moses and Aaron entrance into the promised land. Aaron died and was replaced by his son, Eleazar.

God allowed Moses the privilege of choosing Joshua as his successor, permitted him to deliver a farewell address and then gave him one view of the promised land. He died and was buried by God in the valley of Moab.

Moses demonstrated great faith and meekness. These characteristics made him the mighty leader he was.

He was like Christ in that both were miraculously preserved in infancy, both fasted for forty days and both reappeared after death.

## WEST END BIBLE STUDY

Elder W. T. Russell will teach from the Book of I Corinthians beginning Tuesday evening, February 14th at 7:00 p.m.

West End Missionary Baptist Church of Main Street, Gallatin, Tennessee will have this annual winter study. All the members and Pastor W. E. Massey invite all churches and ministers to share with them in these lessons.

Lessons will be taught each Tuesday and Thursday evenings continuing through March 22nd.

## OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL



March 28-30, 1984

OLD UNION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH is happy to announce the date for the Twelfth Annual Ministers Seminar. It shall begin Wednesday, March 28, 1984 at 9:00 A.M. and continue for three days.

A number of timely topics will be presented by Elders H. C. Vanderpool, Howard G. Taylor, James H. Smith, Calvin Perrigo, Billy Moran and Jerry Reynolds.

Any minister attending for the first time should send the following Application Form to one of these addresses:

Dr. C. R. Hayes  
Route 3  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Elder Paul Bryson  
Route 9, Box 84  
Bowling Green, KY 42101



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## MISSIONS

God is pleased with His people promoting and advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ and establishing MISSIONS worldwide. We should be ready always to help MISSIONS, the MISSIONARY, and young, struggling CHURCHES. Let us pray, pay and push with all our strength in 1984 that every person may hear the glad tidings, "Unto us, A Saviour is born."

The following should be on our pray and pay list:

Old-Time Baptist Church

Jerry A. Reynolds, Pastor

Route 1, Box 216-J

Davisville, WV 26142

Arkansas Baptist Mission

M. V. Hammack, Mission Pastor

766 Sidney

Batesville, AR 72501

Colorado Baptist Church

Gary Dunn, Pastor

45 Garfield St.

Denver, CO 80206

Camden Baptist Mission

Roger Fowler, Mission Pastor

121 E. Frazier

Camden, TN 38320

Koi Baptist Church

Koji Tajima, Pastor

Hiroshima Nishi Box 62

Hiroshima, Japan 733

### KNOWLEDGE & IGNORANCE

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translated into and printed in the common languages and made available to the common people. The Scriptures began to be consulted not only in the Catholic Bible, the Latin Vulgate, but also in the Greek, the original language in which the New Testament was written. In the sixteenth century "the faculty of Theology at Paris declared before the assembled parliament, that religion was undone if the study of Greek and Hebrew was permitted. But the language of the monks in those days is still more amusing. We are informed by Conrad of Heresbach, a very grave and respectable author of that period, that one of their number is said thus to have expressed himself - "They have invented a new language, which they call Greek; you must be carefully on your guard against it; it is the mother of all heresay. I observe in the hands of many persons a book written in that language which they call the New Testament. It is a book full of daggers and poison. As to the Hebrew, my dear brethren, it is certain that all those who learn it immediately become Jews.'" (p. 294, Jones) It seems incredible that those Catholic monks who were supposed to be the guardians of divine knowledge were themselves totally ignorant of the New Testament Scriptures.

In this dark period and in centuries preceding it while priests were ignorant of truth and the people illiterate, the true people of God according to their enemy and persecutor" were so well instructed in the Holy Scriptures, that he had seen peasants who could recite the Book of Job verbatim, and several others who could perfectly repeat all the New Testament." And according to another enemy, "One thing is very remarkable, that persons externally so savage and rude, should have so much moral cultivation. They can all read and write." According to Reinerius Saccho, their greatest enemy of his time because he had once been numbered with them and had become their enemy and persecutor, as he wrote in 1258 a.d., the Waldenses used as part of their persuasion in their evangelistic efforts, "Among them (Roman Catholics), you can hardly find a doctor who can repeat three chapters of the New Testament by heart - BUT AMONG US THERE IS SCARCELY A MAN OR WOMAN WHO DOTH NOT RETAIN THE WHOLE." (pages 72, 76, & 80, Jones' History) In those days it was made a crime to possess the Bible written in languages that the common people could understand.

The first complete translation of the Bible into English was completed by John Wycliffe in 1380. For this he was hated and persecuted and no doubt would have been killed if Providence had not interfered. Forty-one years after his burial his remains were dug up by those who hated him and burned and the ashes thrown into the river. William Tyndale was strangled to death and his body burned in 1536 for translating the Bible into the English language. The first English Bible to be authorized by law in England was published in 1611 by authority of King James, the work of about fifty scholars appointed by the king. This is the translation that is still favorite among our people more than 350 years later. It is worthy of note that the Baptists at that time, known then as Anabaptists to their persecutors, were outlawed in England as they were nearly everywhere else. Thus the king and his court who authorized our beloved translation and probably many, if not most, of the scholars who did the translating were at the time hostile to the true churches of God. Yet they were considerably honest in their scholarly effort and all have agreed for three and a half centuries that it is an acceptable and indeed a beautiful translation of God's written word.

We should keep in mind that much of the world then, as now, did not speak English. In fact many of the early settlers in America spoke other languages in addition to ours. Morgan Edwards, a Welshman, began his Baptist ministry in Great Britain and Ireland after which he migrated to America and became pastor of the Baptist church in Philadelphia. J. Davis referred to him as a "truly eminent man, and distinguished promoter of the Baptist cause in America." (History of the Welsh Baptists by J. Davis, page 77) Of him it is said, "His Greek Testament was his favorite companion, of which he was a complete master; his Hebrew Bible next, but he was not so well versed in Hebrew as in the Greek language; however, he knew so much of both as authorized him to say, as he often did, that the Greek and Hebrew are the two eyes of a minister, and the translations are but commentaries; because they vary in sense as commentators do." (P. 81, Davis) In my opinion, the foregoing statement is an exaggeration which might tend to cause all God-called preachers to think that they must learn to read the Bible in the original languages before they can properly minister the word of God. However, the prospect of being able to read the Bible in the exact words penned by the inspired writer is a pleasing one to all that love the truth. Mr.

## HANDS THAT COUNT

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hold his arms up. Aaron and Hur needed Moses' arms to hold up. This is a great lesson for us, while there was one chosen to hold the rod of God, it took two to support him in this task. This teaches us the supporteth role has a much larger field, and thus the need for many more laborers. One who is not willing to function in a supporteth role is not humble enough to be used in a primary way.

The apostle Paul taught us the need to work together. He said in I Cor. 3:6-7: "I have planted, Appollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase." As we labour together it is so important to be sure we are laboring with God.

The desire for a prominent position is set forth in I Cor. 12:31: "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." I believe the apostle was suggesting the Corinthians were desirous of the greater gifts. He also told them the more excellent way was the way of love as is set forth in I Cor. 13. He also gives us some very important instructions in Gal. 5:13: "For brethren, Ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

Sometimes the ones that are not on the scene of the greatest activity play a decisive part. Moses, Aaron, and Hur were away from the battle field, but played decisive parts in the victory. All the hands that are engaged in the service of the Lord, whether wielding the sword, holding the rod of God or supporting the hands that hold the rod of God, COUNT. We may play any one of the three roles and at different times all three. It matters not which place we serve, as long as God has chosen us to serve there. The lowest position in the service of the Lord is of greater honor than being monarch of the world.

## JOSHUA

### The Great Warrior

by Kenneth W. Massey

Our subject was the son of Nun of the tribe of Ephraim. He was the great warrior of the Israelites during the desert wanderings and conquest of Canaan. His book, 6th of the Old Testament, contains the history of his conquests and governorship, B.C. 1451-1426.

Joshua is referred to in scripture by three other names - Jehoshuah (I Chron. 7:27), Oshea (Num. 13:8), Jesus (Acts 7:45). The names Jesus and Joshua are defined respectively, Jehovah saves and Jehovah is salvation.

During the exodus from Egypt the Israelites were confronted in Rephidim by Amalek. Moses told Joshua to go out and fight with Amalek while he went to the top of the hill with the rod of God in his hand. So the next day Moses, Aaron and Hur (Caleb's son) went up to the top of the hill and Joshua met Amalek in battle. As the two armies fought, Israel would prevail when Moses held up his hand and Amalek would prevail when he let it down. Finally, Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands until the going down of the sun. Joshua defeated Amalek with the edge of the sword. Joshua, previously known as minister to Moses, became famous as a mighty warrior in battle. Joshua represented the tribe of Ephraim as one of the twelve spies sent by Moses into Canaan.

## GOD APPOINTS JOSHUA

"And the Lord said unto Moses, take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight." (Num. 27:18,19) Then, Moses ordained him by laying his hands upon him.

The Lord gave Joshua this charge, "Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them; and I will be with thee." (Deut. 31:23)

## CROSSES JORDAN

Joshua was assured by God that as the priests bearing the ark of the covenant dipped their feet in Jordan the waters would be dried up. This happened exactly as God promised. Joshua, as commanded by the Lord, erected a memorial using twelve stones taken out of Jordan.

Some of Joshua's other achievements were capturing Jericho, seizing the city of Ai and apportioning the land. This is the man who said, "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15) Joshua died at age 110 and was buried in Timnath-serah. He was truly an outstanding servant of the Lord.

## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

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Years in Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you now pastor a church? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If so, give name of church \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please relate your experience of salvation and God's call for you to enter the ministry.

Tuition fee is \$20.00.