

# 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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HUNTINGDON, TENN.

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NO. 5

## WHY I LOVE THE BIBLE

Copied from a sermon by Elder John T. Oakley before Wiseman Association,  
Oct. 19, 1910 at Cedar Bluff Church, Macon County.

At the age of sixteen in an old log school house in Wilson County, I found a sweet message from its Saviour saying "Come unto me all Ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest." That message came through the lips of an unlettered minister of the gospel. It came as I sat on a slab with pegs in it for a bench. The old school house was out in the cedars and snags, but what of that? It is the glory of the Bible to find sinners anywhere. That old unlettered preacher, the old house with a log out of one side for a window, its rude seats and especially the Bible message I heard there, occupy a place in my soul that eternity will not efface.

A few days later, my mother, who was not a Christian came to me and said: "Son, what are you going to do about joining the Church?" I told her I had about made up my mind to unite with the Cumberland Presbyterians as I had made a profession among them - that I loved and I love them still.

Mother said: "John, I am neither a Christian or a church member and feel incompetent to give you advice, but I have one request to ask of you." What is that, mother? She handed me a little ten-cent Testament and said: "John, before you advance will you read this little book the best you can and let it guide you?" Yes, dear mother I will take your advice.

I read that little book between the plow handles, on the fences, in the fields, at the spring when watering, at twelve when father and brothers were resting, in the woods hunting, in the night by fires in the woods. Oh how I loved to read that little book. But it upset my plans.

About two months later I borrowed a saddle from a neighbor and mounted a little mule and went in a gallop to a little Baptist Church down on the branch below Grant in

Smith County, Tenn. It was a Saturday in November. A dozen present. I made known my desires reached through mother's little Testament. I was received for baptism. The next morning in the blue waters of Round Lick Creek and beneath clear skies I was "buried with Christ in baptism." "Going up out of the water," the first to meet me was dear mother, though a sinner, she kissed her boy who was doing his best to follow the little book she gave him.

Later on I was ordained in that little house down on the branch now owned by the colored folks. Elder Louis Dies delivered the charge and presented me the little Bible mother gave me.

With that little Bible I helped mother to the Saviour for it was in that same little meeting house down on the branch she first heard her boy try to preach at which time he asked all the people to join him in prayer for his mother. She told me afterwards she obtained a hope that night.

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## YOUR COMMENTS

We enjoy the paper very much and would like to add to your mailing list. Remember us here in Southeast Missouri. God bless your efforts.

Mr. & Mrs. Homer Thurman  
Route 2, Box 320  
Poplar Bluff, MO

We look forward to reading each issue. Think it's time to send a little donation.

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Law  
Scottsville, KY

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## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

By John Hedges  
Camden, Tennessee

The 23rd Psalm is one of the most used scriptures on various occasions. I wonder how many really understand what it means to say the Lord is my Shepherd? It brings comfort to our hearts to know that we have the Lord as our Shepherd. I would like for us to study the 23rd Psalm.

The first verse, David said the Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. We must be born again to have the Lord as our Shepherd. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3: "Ye must be born again." He said if not, "Ye cannot enter the kingdom of God." To be born again we must repent and believe on the Lord with all our heart. Luke 13:3, Jesus said except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. John 3:18, He that believeth is not condemned but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God.

Paul said Godly sorrow worketh repentance, therefore we must become Godly sorrowful. James 4:9-10, Be afflicted and mourn and weep: Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up.

Psalms 40:1-3, David said, I waited patiently for the Lord and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings and He hath put a new song in my mouth, ever praises unto our God. Many shall see it and fear and shall trust in the Lord.

When we become a child of God we have the Lord as our Shepherd forever. John 10:11, Jesus said, I am the good Shepherd;

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## VOICE OF BAPTISTS

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## I Voted To Close My Church

Last Sunday I voted to close the Church; not intentionally, but carelessly, thoughtlessly, lazily, indifferently, I voted to close its doors that its witness and its testimony might be stopped.

I voted to close the lips of the minister.

I voted that the children of the Sunday School no longer be taught the stories of Jesus and no longer lift their small voices in singing "Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so."

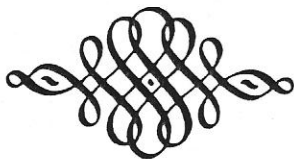
I voted for every missionary to be called home.

I voted to close the Open Bible.

I voted for every native worker supported by the Church to stop preaching.

I voted for the darkness of superstition, the degrading influence of sin; the blight of ignorance and the curse of selfish creed again to settle their damning load on the shoulders of an already overburdened world.

HOW? By staying away from MY church, and by withholding my financial support from MY church. For you see, I could have gone, but I DIDN'T. I could have contributed, but I DIDN'T. I voted to CLOSE the Church.



## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

(Continued from Page 1)

the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. John 10:27-29, Jesus said, my sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My father which gave them me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

The last part of verse one David said, "I shall not want." John 4:13-14, Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. John 6:35 and Jesus said unto me, I am the bread of life, He that cometh to me shall never hunger and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Verse two - He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters. Jesus said in John 10:9, I am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture. When we have done what the Lord wants us to do, we always receive the spiritual food that we need to strengthen us and feed on His goodness and mercy.

Too many times if we don't mind we want to feast on the green pastures and are not willing to go out and work for our Lord. Isaiah 1:19-20, If ye be willing and obedient ye shall eat the good of the land. But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

When we obey the Lord and He blesses us and our cup runs over, it leaves a great calm in our soul, it is so wonderful in the stillness of our soul to know the Lord is leading us. No wonder David said, He leadeth me beside the still waters. What a wonderful picture when we look on the lakes and streams of this world when they are still, maybe just a little ripple now and then, they look so peaceful and still. So it is with a child of God. They have peace that the world doesn't know. God helps us to try to express that peace as the waters do when there is a great calm that others might seek the Lord and find the same peace.

Verse 3 - David said, He restoreth my soul. It is so wonderful to know that we are in fellowship with God. No more strangers nor foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name sake. God is a righteous God and wants us to follow after Him for His name sake. God helps us to walk that righteous path. By God's help, Jesus said, If

any man come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Jeremiah 6:16, Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said we will not walk therein. God help us to look for the old path and walk therein.

If the people of this world would look for the old path and walk therein, we would have a better world to live in. There would not be so much trouble. It is so wonderful to have the Lord as our Shepherd; even in a world of trouble we can have peace in our soul and joy unspeakable.

Verse 4 - Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, (I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. It is so wonderful to have the assurance that when we come to the crossing that the Lord will be there to go with us.

Verse 5 - Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. I am so glad that in spite of all the enemies of the children of God, He takes care of them. My cup runneth over. It is so good to be filled with the spirit of God, till our cup runs over. Some are trying to do away with the old time way of worship. They say to praise God aloud, as a real happy child of God does, is nervousness. I wish the world was nervous if that is nervousness.

Verse 6 - Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. I am glad that I have the Lord as my Shepherd. Not by my goodness but by the grace of God. Like David, I was in a horrible pit on Friday night after the 4th Sunday in August, 1937, down in the floor in Cross Roads Church in Benton County, Tenn. The Lord heard my cry and picked up me out of that pit of sin and put a new song in my mouth. Thank God he has been with me ever since. He has given me lots of whippings for which I thank Him for, which makes me know I am His child. Paul said, "whom He loveth He chasteneth," which we (the children of God) are all partakers; if not chastened we are bastards and not sons.

If you don't know the Lord as your shepherd, seek Him now while He can be found; call on Him while He is near.

Paul said in Romans 10:13, For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved. If you will call on the Lord, believing with all your heart, He will save you. God help you whoever you are to do that now while you have the time and opportunity.

## WHY I LOVE THE BIBLE

(Continued from Page 1)

Some six years ago in the old home stead at the gathering shades of night I kissed her good-bye as she bade this world adieu and went home to God. Her little book tells me I may find her again some sweet day. Do you wonder that I love the Bible? With it I have passed over high mountains and through dark valleys. With it I have led thousands to Christ and to baptism and to church relationship. With it I have comforted the distressed and lifted burdens from the oppressed. With it I have administered consolation to the dying and conducted service of hope at a thousand funerals. With it I have fed my soul as I have tried to feed others.

And when I look back to the sweet long ago and ask where are the loved ones with whom I mixed and mingled and the answer comes, gone, then I look through my little book and read, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord," and press on with the hope that when I am absent from the body I will be present with the Lord and find them there.

Mothers, brothers, sisters, and my own child today are on the other side while dear old father deaf, crippled and afflicted lingers on this side ninety years old. I weep over these things, but thank God the Bible tells me of an unclouded day.

Brethren, we owe it to God, one another and a lost world to send the message of this book to the uttermost parts of the world. The world needs it. The world must have it or perish. It contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and decisions immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to lead you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the travelers map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's character.

Here paradise is restored.

Heaven is opened and the gates of Hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mind of wealth, a paradise of Glory and a river of pleasure. It is given us in life, will be open at the judgment and remembered forever.

Today we may be like a ship, tossed hither and thither on life's tempestuous sea but thank God his blessed book tells us we will soon sail into the Heavenly port fanned by celestial gales.

With the most of my footsetps behind me I face the future with an unflinching faith

in the truths of God's book which dear mother gave me in the sweet long ago.

*Blessed book - precious book,  
On thy dear old tear stained  
leaves I love to look;  
As I walk the narrow way  
That leads at last to that bright  
home above."*

## YOUR COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

Enclosed is a donation to the "Voice of Baptists." We appreciate all the staff writers and everyone involved with the paper. The church appreciates the papers sent to us and always looks forward to receiving them.

We held our revival the week of June 17. God wonderfully blessed us with five souls. All joined the church by experience and baptism. We enjoyed nine days with many blessings from the Lord, and outstanding preaching from our pastor, Bro. Odus Cummings, and our helper, Bro. Nathan York. Indeed the power of God was on the scene.

God bless you in your efforts. Pray for us.

Freedom Baptist Church  
Speedway, IN  
Bro. Gilliam Johnson, Treas.

I enjoy reading your interpretations of the Bible, and feel like I have gained more understanding of the Bible from your labors.

Also, the little notes you have enclosed that Baptist people have written encourages me. Some of them I knew in childhood, and I'm glad to know they are reading a paper like the "Voice of Baptists."

A Missionary Baptist,  
Wanda Samson  
Scottsville, KY

## BRO. SMITH WRITES

We don't have big things to report of our efforts for the Lord here in California, but we want to keep the churches and friends informed about our activities, for it is through your help that we are able to stay here. When I say that we don't have big things to report, I mean as to ourselves, and our part, and I don't mean to depreciate the Lord's part, because he always does great and mighty things; and I can say that He does great things for us, even though we might not see all the good results that we would like. The joy of knowing that we are in the Lord's will is of great worth. The first thing that the Lord requires of any of us is to obey, "Behold, to obey is

better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." I Samuel 15:22. We must always remember that He is the Master and we the servants. If we are put in the lowest rated places, that is His business, and we shouldn't ever complain.

The climate here has had some adverse affect on us since we came, but we are becoming more adjusted to it. Our place is close to the ocean, and there is a lot of moisture in the air which is not good for sinus trouble and my ear trouble, and Annie Laura's arthritis. We have been looking out for a place farther from the water, but places are hard to find. So if we have to stay here we will try to put up with it. We took a trip to Palmdale, up in the edge of the desert, the other day to see how that would affect us. The air is dry there, of course, but very windy, and that isn't too good. We enjoyed our trip, the beautiful scenery but not the strong wind, you can't even keep your hat on your head. So we stayed over one night and came back home. Palmdale is about two hours' drive from Ventura.

We are enjoying our work at Nyland Missionary Baptist Church; there are just few in attendance, but the few seem receptive and devoted to their church. The most we have had on a Sunday morning is twenty. Three of those who were visitors on that Sunday morning were Spanish Americans, I suppose of Mexican extraction. There is a large population of these people around the church, and if they will come to church, well and good. It doesn't make any difference with me about the color of their skin; I would just be delighted at any time to preach to them. Most Mexicans are of the Catholic faith, but if they will come to church I will be more than glad to preach the pure Gospel to them.

Please remember to pray for us and for those who come to hear the Word of God. If sinners don't hear the Word, how can they believe? "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17.

We plan to come home sometime in August, perhaps the latter part. While home I want to have surgery on my hand where there are growths that are drawing two of my fingers down into the palm. We might have to stay for a month on this account. So we ask for your prayers as we make this journey. We are truly thankful for the churches and friends who have remembered us since we came to California. We have received many encouraging letters, and we like that. Our financial needs are being supplied. Thank the Lord for so many dear friends!

Prayerfully yours,  
Henry and Annie Laura Smith  
6600 E. Telephone Road, Apt. 1508  
Ventura, California





The Wilburn Family

## NOTICE!!

Dear Brethren,

We are having an afternoon of gospel singing and fellowship Sunday, August 26th. The event is being sponsored by a group of friends of the Wilburn Family gospel singers. Our intention is to further the cause of gospel singing by showing our appreciation to the Wilburn Family for their considerable efforts over the years in promoting the Lord's work through gospel singing.

The event will be held at the Smith County Courthouse in Carthage, Tennessee, in the tradition of singings of yesteryear. We will begin at 4:00 P.M. and continue until the Lord is through with the service. We have invited the area's convention singers, the original Wilburn Trio from the 1940's, and the Wilburn Family to provide the afternoon's singing, and we would like to invite you to come enjoy it with us.

A freewill offering will be taken up to help offset the many expenses the Wilburns' have incurred in expanding their efforts to carry the Gospel in song to many different areas. For everyone's convenience, refreshments will be available. Seating will be provided but bring a lawn chair, if you wish.

Come with a prayer on your heart asking the Lord to be in the singing, and to lead and encourage this fine Christian group in His work.

Yours in Christ,

Friends of the Wilburn Family  
Stan B. Blades  
James C. Kent  
Dewey W. Langford  
Barry C. Witcher

## VIRGINIA MISSION

The Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, worshipping at 1032 S. Holmes Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana 46221, takes this method to announce a mission effort that is in progress in Roanoke, Virginia. Bro. Jerry Miller has the burden for the work in Roanoke and he and his family (wife and three small children) have been on the field in Roanoke for several months (15 at this date). Services are being conducted at 1801 Dale Ave. in Roanoke, Virginia. Sunday School and a morning worship service are being conducted at this time with others planned as the interest may demand. Bro. Miller is a licensed preacher of Fellowship M.B.C. and has authority from the Fellowship Church to hold public services at the above address. We consider Bro. Miller and the work in Roanoke to be worthy of Baptist considerations and prayers. Please pray for this work.

Done by order of the Fellowship M.B.C. in conference June 16, 1984.

Terry Lyles, assistant church clerk  
Calvin Perrigo, moderator

A little old man was seen every Sunday morning walking to church. He was deaf — he could not hear a word of the sermon or the music of the choir or the hymns sung by the congregation.

When a scoffer asked, "Why do you spend your Sundays in that church when you can't hear a word?", he replied, "I want my neighbors to know which side I'm on!"

## REVIVALS

August 12

NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - Henry, Tenn. Pastor Ronnie Stewart will be assisted by Bro. Harold Carver. Services twice daily at 1:30 and 7:30 PM. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH - Camden, Tenn. Pastor W. T. Russell to be assisted by Bro. Kenneth Massey. Service each morning at 10:30 AM and each evening at 7:30 PM. YOU ARE INVITED!

## YOUR COMMENTS

Enclosed is a check. Enjoy the paper very much.

Mrs. Ethel Smith  
Lafayette, TN

Enclosed is a check from our church to help with the "Voice of Baptists." Our church has moved from Fishers, Indiana to Fortville, Indiana. May God bless everyone involved with this paper.

Grace Baptist Church  
Richard Kerr, Treas.  
Greenfield, IN