

LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

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William Hallmark



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The Lamplighter is free of charge to anyone requesting it. Lamb & Lion Ministries is a non-denominational ministry whose purpose is to proclaim to as many people as possible as quickly as possible that Jesus is returning soon.

Observations by the Editor

Date Setting

Anyone familiar with this ministry knows that we are ardently opposed to date-setting. Our cover this month does not represent an attempt to set a date for the Lord's return. Rather, we are simply challenging our readers to think seriously about whether or not Jesus could possibly return this year.

As you will see in the lead article, the answer to that question depends upon the meaning of the word "return."

One thing I do want to emphasize is that although we cannot know the date of the Rapture, we can know the season of the Tribulation and the Second Coming because we have been given signs to watch for.

Paul wrote that Jesus will return like "a thief in the night," but he added: "not for you brethren, for you are not in darkness that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day . . ." (1 Thess. 5:2, 4-5).



Television Equipment

As this new year begins, we are launching a campaign to raise money for new television equipment. Ultimately, we are going to need to raise a total of about \$100,000 to provide all the new equipment that will be necessary to make the transition to high-definition television. We must raise those funds before the transition is required in the year 2009.

Our first appeal is stated on page 19 of this issue. It is for \$25,000 to be used for purchase of a variety of equipment.



Dr. David Reagan

Prophecy Partners

On page 18 you will find an appeal for new Prophecy Partners. These are the people who supply the financial foundation of our ministry. We love our Prophecy Partners, and we cherish their financial and prayer support. We urge you to consider making the commitment to become a partner with us in proclaiming the soon return of Jesus.



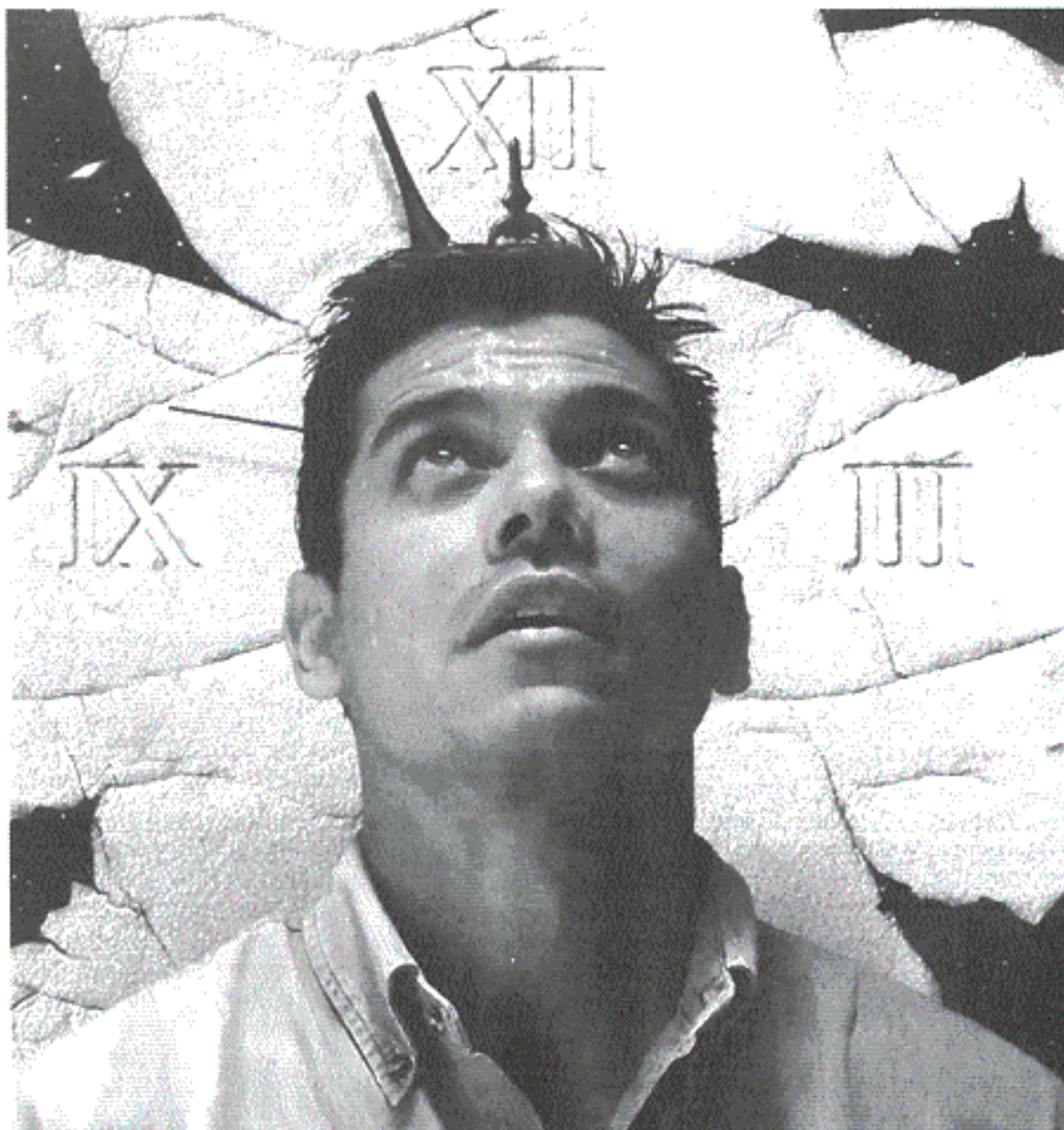
Dr. Reagan is shown above with two of the ministry's Prophecy Partners, Tim and Amy Moore of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Tim was elected to the State Legislature in the November 2006 elections.

Cover Art

Once again this month we are blessed to be able to feature on the cover of this magazine the outstanding art work of William Hallmark of Birmingham, Alabama.

The title of the image is "The Midnight Herald." You can purchase copies of this image, as well as other great pictures by Mr. Hallmark through his website at www.williamhallmarkart.com.

Could Jesus Return in 2007?



Six reasons why all Christians should desire the soon return of Jesus.

Dr. David R. Reagan

As every new year dawns, I find myself earnestly yearning that it will be the year that will initiate the end time events that will lead to the Lord's return to this earth.

The first of those events will be the Rapture of the Church. That will be followed by the Great Tribulation of seven years, a period of unparalleled horror that will culminate in the return of Jesus to reign over all the world.

The writings of the early Church Fathers (100 to 300 A.D.) reveal that one of the earliest prayers of the Church was "Maranatha!" (1 Corinthians 16:22). That word is actually an Aramaic phrase that means "Our Lord come!"

This prayer expresses a fact that is confirmed by many other scriptures; namely, that the First Century Church had an ardent desire for the soon return of Jesus.

A Waning of the Zeal

The 21st Century Church seems to have lost that desire. Most professing Christians today do not pray "Maranatha!" They do not yearn for the return of the Lord. Instead of yearning, they are yawning.

Christendom at large is caught up in apathy regarding the return of Jesus. And that is sad, for the Word says that the return of the Lord is our "Blessed Hope" (Titus 2:13).

Also, we are constantly admonished in Scripture to watch for the Lord's coming and to be ready. Jesus Himself said, "Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps alight . . . for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect" (Luke 12:35,40). Paul exhorted Titus to live "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and savior, Christ Jesus" (Titus 2:13). And as Paul faced death in prison, he wrote:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. — 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Think of it, Paul says that a special reward — "a crown of righteousness," will be given to any person who lives his or her life loving the appearing of the Lord.

Are you a candidate for this reward? Do you have a zealous yearning in your heart for the Lord's soon return? Are you one who prays daily, "Maranatha!"?

Looking for Jesus

There are at least six reasons why every Christian should earnestly desire the soon return of Jesus:

1 Jesus — When Jesus returns He will get what He deserves — honor, glory and power.

When He came the first time, He was repudiated by the Jews, rejected by His home town, and spurned by His family. He was persecuted by the religious leaders, betrayed by a friend, denied by another friend, deserted by His disciples, and mocked by the masses. He had no place to lay His head. His only possession was a robe.

He was born in a stable, raised in poverty, nailed to a tree, and buried in a borrowed tomb. Today, people scoff at Him and ridicule Him. His name is used as a curse word.

That is not what He deserves!

It is going to be different when He returns. The first time He came as a gentle and helpless baby. He is going to return as a mighty warrior. He came the first time as a suffering lamb to die for the sins of the world, but He will return as a conquering lion who will pour out the wrath of God on those who have rejected

the love, mercy and grace of God. His first coming was marked by compassion, humility, and a willingness to be judged and to die. He will return in triumph and in wrath to judge and make war against the enemies of God. He came the first time as a Servant; He is returning as a Monarch.

Jesus was humiliated in history. I want to see Him vindicated and glorified in history. And He will be because His Father has promised Him that He will reign over all the earth (Psalm 2:7-9). He has also been promised that He will manifest His glory before His saints (Isaiah 24:21-23) and before the nations of the earth (Isaiah 66:18 & Psalm 22:27-31). Paul says He is returning "to be glorified in His saints . . . and to be marveled at among all who have believed" (2 Thessalonians 1:10).

2 Satan — When Jesus returns, Satan will receive what he deserves — defeat, dishonor and humiliation.

I'm sick of Satan. I'm tired of his plots and schemes and lies and deceptions. I'm fed up with his sicknesses and temptations. I'm weary of his physical, emotional and spiritual pollution. I'm disgusted with his wrecking of marriages and homes. I loath his wars and terrorism. I despise His ceaseless attacks on the Church.

I often feel like the martyrs portrayed in Revelation who cry out day and night before the throne of God, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood?" (Revelation 6:10). Like Isaiah, I want to cry out to God, "Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down!" (Isaiah 64:1).

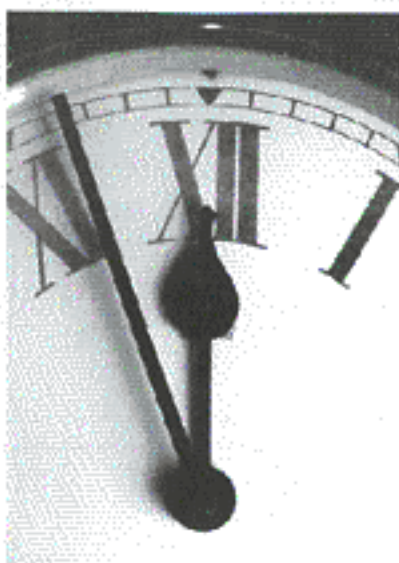
The fate of Satan was sealed by the Cross, but his nefarious activities will not cease until the Lord returns. At that time, the Word says that God will deal with Satan decisively. Luke 18:7 says that God will vindicate His elect who cry out to Him day and night by providing them justice. Romans 16:20 says that Satan will be "crushed." The book of Revelation says he will then be thrown into the lake of fire where he "will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10 — see also, Isaiah 14:12-17).

But Satan doesn't want to go to Hell alone. He's working overtime to take as many people with him as he can. And I want that work stopped! I want Satan to get what he deserves.

3 The Creation — When Jesus returns, the creation will receive what it has been promised — restoration.

The material universe was originally created in beauty and perfection. There were no poisonous plants or animals, nor were there any meat eating animals. There were no natural cataclysms like earthquakes and tornados. Mankind lived in perfect harmony with nature.

But when Man rebelled against God, one of the consequences of his sin was that God placed a curse on the creation. Poisonous plants and animals suddenly appeared. The animal kingdom turned against itself and Man as some of the animals became meat eaters. And the natural cataclysms began to take their toll. Man now had to strive against nature to survive.



But the moment God placed the curse on the creation, He promised that one day it would be lifted through "the seed of woman" (Genesis 3:15). That promise is repeated throughout the Scriptures. For example, in Isaiah 11, the prophet says that when the Messiah comes to reign, "the wolf will dwell with the lamb" and "the lion will eat straw like the ox." He further states that "the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra" because the snake will no longer be poisonous.

Paul reaffirms this promise in the New Testament in the eighth chapter of Romans. He pictures the whole creation as being like a pregnant woman gripped by birth pains, crying out for the moment of delivery. He says that moment will come when "the sons of God are revealed." In other words, it will occur at the resurrection when the Lord returns (Romans 8:18-23).

On the day the Lord returns, the earth will be renovated by earthquakes and supernatural phenomena in the heavens (Revelation 6:12-17). The result will be a refreshed and beautified earth. The destructive forces of nature will be curtailed. Deserts will bloom. The plant and animal kingdoms will be redeemed. Poisonous plants and animals will cease to be poisonous. The carnivorous animals will become herbivorous. All of nature will cease to strive against itself. Instead, it will work together harmoniously to the benefit of Man. (Isaiah 11:6-9; Isaiah 35:1-10; Isaiah 65:17-25; Acts 3:19-21; and Romans 8:18-23)

4 The Nations — When Jesus returns, the nations will receive what they have been promised — peace, righteousness and justice.

People have dreamed of world peace throughout history. Disarmament treaties have been negotiated, peace treaties have been signed, international organizations have been created, but true peace has remained elusive.

The Bible says that permanent world peace will never be achieved until the Prince of Peace, the Messiah, returns. Both Isaiah and Micah prophesied that when the Lord returns, the nations "will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" and that "nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war" (Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3).

The hope of the world for peace will never be realized in summit conferences between heads of state. The only hope is the return of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who will rule the world with "a rod of iron" (Psalm 2:9 and Revelation 2:26-27).

5 The Jews — When Jesus returns, the Jews will receive what they have been promised — salvation and primacy.

God has made many wonderful promises to His chosen people, the nation of Israel. Most of these are unfulfilled and will not be fulfilled until a remnant of the Jews turn to Jesus and accept Him as their Messiah. The prophetic scriptures tell us this will happen at the end of the Tribulation when the Jews who are left alive have come to the end of themselves and decide to turn

to God.

Zechariah says this remnant will "look upon Him whom they have pierced and will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only son" (Zechariah 12:10). The prophet also says that on that day of repentance, "a fountain of salvation will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity" (Zechariah 13:1).

This believing remnant will then be regathered to the land of Israel to receive the blessings that God has promised the nation. Those incredible blessings are described in great detail in chapters 60 through 62 of Isaiah. God's Shekinah glory will return (60:2) to a rebuilt Temple (60:7). The nations will send all kinds of assistance (60:10), including their wealth (60:5). The land of Israel will be reclaimed (60:13), the nation will receive respect (60:15), the people will enjoy peace (60: 18), and the Messiah will live in their presence (60:13,19). All the ruins will be rebuilt (61:4) and the land will be filled with joy (61:7-8) and praise (61:10-11). The nation will be a beacon of righteousness, and its glory will be witnessed all over the world (62:1-3). To sum it up, Isaiah says the nation of Israel will be "a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of God" (62:3).

In effect, the world will be turned upside down regarding its relationship to the Jews. Today the Jewish people are despised and persecuted. They are the butt of jokes and ridicule. But a day is coming when all that will cease. Zechariah says that during the Lord's millennial reign the Jewish people will be so honored that when a Jew walks by, ten Gentiles will grab his clothing and say, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you" (Zechariah 8:23).

6 The Saints — Some of the promises to the Saints — to those who are members of the Lord's Church — will be fulfilled at the time of the Rapture. The Rapture is an event that could occur any moment. It will precede the Second Coming.

At the Rapture, the dead in Christ will be resurrected and the living will be translated to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). It is at this time that both the living and dead in Christ will receive their glorified bodies. These will be immortal, perfected bodies — like the body that Jesus had after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:42-53 and Philippians 3:21).

When Jesus returns to this earth, the Saints who have died will come with Him and will witness His glorious victory over the Antichrist and his forces (Revelation 19:11-21). The Saints will then receive what they have been promised — a redeemed earth and ruling power over the nations (Matthew 5:5 and Revelation 2:26-27).

Jesus will reign from Mount Zion in Jerusalem as King of kings and Lord of lords (Isaiah 24:21-23). David in his glorified body will reign as king of Israel (Jeremiah 30:9 and Ezekiel 34:23-24). The Saints in their glorified bodies will be scattered all over the world to assist with the Lord's reign (2 Timothy 2:12 and Revelation 2:26-27). Some will serve as administrators





(mayors, governors, presidents, and kings), others will serve as judges, but most will serve as teachers, for the entire educational system of the world will be in the hands of glorified Saints. It will be their responsibility to teach those who are in the flesh about the Lord. There will be no legislators (thank God!), for Jesus Himself will give the law. (See Isaiah 2:1-4; Isaiah 66:19-21; Jeremiah 3:12-18; and Luke 19:11-27.)

These six reasons make it clear that every Christian should be earnestly desiring the return of the

Lord. Yet apathy prevails. Why?

Yawning about Jesus

I have found four reasons for the apathy and indifference that characterize the Christian community concerning the return of Jesus: unbelief, ignorance, fear, and carnality.

Unbelief Regarding unbelief, many professing Christians simply do not believe that Jesus will ever return. Most of these are people with a liberal view of Scripture. They have spiritualized away the meaning of the Second Coming, just as they have spiritualized the virgin birth and the miracles. To them, the Second Coming is nothing more than a fairy tale.

In 2 Peter 3:3-4 we are told that the end times will be characterized by scoffers who will mock the Lord's promise to return. The tragedy is that many of these are people who profess to be Christians.

Ignorance I think most of the Christians who are apathetic about the Lord's return are just ignorant about what will happen when He comes back. As a result, they cannot get excited about an event they know nothing about. I was in this category for thirty years. Although I attended church faithfully, my church ignored the teaching and preaching of God's Prophetic Word. I didn't have the foggiest idea about what would happen when the Lord came back, and the result was apathy about His return.

But when I began studying Bible prophecy and learned what is in store for believers when the Lord returns, I started jumping pews and shouting "Maranatha!" I have never been apathetic since that time.

Fear The apathy of some Christians is due to the fact that they fear the Lord's return. Because of that fear, they try to repress the thought that He might break from the Heavens at any moment.

These people fear He might return on one of their "bad" days or when they have an "unconfessed sin" on their conscience. These people are caught up in works salvation. They do not understand that they are saved by grace and that "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Carnality Finally, there are many carnal Christians who cannot get excited about the coming of the Lord because they are in love with the world. They are walking with one foot in the church and one foot in the country club.

Their attitude about the Lord's return is, "I want Him to return, but . . ." They want the Lord to come, but they want Him to come after they have made a million dollars, or written the great novel, or built the huge church. They want the Lord to come, but they want Him to come after they are 80 years old and have experienced all that this world has to offer. In other words, they want Him to come, but they don't want Him to mess up their lives.

A Seventh Reason

There is a seventh reason I want to see the Lord return, and it is rather personal in nature. It has to do with the fact that when you love someone, you want to be with them.

My wife and I have been married for 46 years. When I have to be on the road, my desire is to be with her. I call her every day and tell her that I love her. I send her cards, and when I have to be gone a long time, I arrange for flowers to be delivered to her. I love to talk with her on the phone and send her cards and flowers, but these things are no substitute for being with her.

Likewise, I love to fellowship with Jesus in worship, in prayer, and in His Word. But these forms of fellowship are no substitute for being with Him. I love Him, and therefore . . .

I want to be with Him.
I want to bask in the presence of His love and holiness.
I want to see the glory of God in His face.
I want to kiss His nail-scarred hands and say, "Thank you!"
Thank you for . . .
dying for me,
forgiving me,
changing me,
guiding me,
comforting me,
and for giving my life meaning and purpose.
And I want to join the Saints and the Heavenly Host in singing, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

The Question of Timing

Let's conclude by taking a look at the question we began with: "Could Jesus return in 2007?"

Hopefully



The answer to the question depends upon the meaning of the word, "return." The return of Jesus is going to be in two stages. First, He will appear in the heavens to take His Church out of this world in an event known as the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Then, later, He will return to this earth to pour out the wrath of God on those who have rejected His love, grace, and mercy (Revelation 19:11-16).

The Rapture is an event that could occur any moment. There are no prophecies that have to be fulfilled before it happens. It could certainly occur in 2007.

The Second Coming cannot occur until a number of prophecies are fulfilled. Here is a partial list:

- A treaty is signed that will allow Israel to live in peace and rebuild its Temple (Daniel 9:27).
- Two miracle-working witnesses appear in Jerusalem to call the world to repentance (Revelation 11:3-6).
- The Antichrist leader based in Europe launches a war to take over the entire world, resulting in the death of half the world's population (Revelation 6:8-9).
- The Antichrist goes to Jerusalem, kills the two witnesses, enters the rebuilt Temple, and declares himself to be god (Revelation 11:7, Revelation 13:1-7, and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).
- The Jews in the Jerusalem area flee into the Jordanian wilderness where they are supernaturally sheltered from harm (Revelation 12:13-17 and Daniel 11:41).
- The kingdom of the Antichrist is totally destroyed supernaturally by God in one hour of one day (Revelation 18:8-10).

The Bible tells us over and over that no one can know the date of the Lord's return (Matthew 24:36, 42, 44 and 25:13). These warnings must apply to the Rapture and not the Second Coming, because the date of the Second Coming can be calculated precisely once the Great Tribulation begins. The book of Revelation tells us that the Tribulation will last exactly 2,520 days after the treaty is signed that marks the start of that terrible period (Revelation 11:3 and 12:6). Another way of stating this time period is seven years, based on prophetic years of 360 days each.

The current day signs of the times point to the beginning of the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming of Jesus. Although the Rapture could occur at any moment, we can know for sure that it is near when we see signs that we are on the threshold of the Tribulation. That's because the best inference of the Scriptures is that the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation begins. The Rapture is not the event that marks the beginning of the Tribulation, since there could be a time period between the Rapture and the Tribulation, but it is most likely to occur in close proximity to the start-up of the Tribulation.

Think of it like this: When you see Christmas decorations going up in early November, you know they are specifically pointing to Christmas Day, but they are also an indicator that Thanksgiving Day is right around the corner!

So, 2007 could very well be the year of the Rapture, but not the year of the Second Coming.

The Most Important Question

There is a more important question than the one we have been considering, "Could Jesus return in 2007?" That question is, "Are you ready for His return?" If He were to appear in the heavens today for His Church, would you be taken out of this world, or would you be left behind to face the horrors of the Great Tribulation?

The choice is yours. If you have never received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, I urge you to do so *now*, before it is too late. Simply confess to God that you are a sinner, ask Him to forgive you, and embrace Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Then, seek out a Bible-believing church where you can publicly manifest your faith through confession of Christ and baptism. ❖

A Powerful Poem About the Lord's Return

When the Ministry takes a group to the Holy Land for a pilgrimage, one of the highlights is always the cruise across the Sea of Galilee. Dr. Reagan has the captain stop the boat in the middle of the sea and kill the motors. Then, with only the sound of the water lapping against the side of the boat, Dr. Reagan conducts a devotional with singing, Scripture reading, prayer, and a commentary on the story of Jesus walking on the water.

Dr. Reagan always ends that devotional by reading a poem by Carl Sandburg regarding the Second Coming of Jesus. The poem is entitled "Epistle." It reads as follows:

Jesus loved the sunsets on Galilee.
Jesus loved the fishing boats forming silhouettes
against the sunsets on Galilee.
Jesus loved the fishermen on the fishing boats forming
silhouettes against the sunsets on Galilee.
When Jesus said: "Goodby, goodby, I will come again
. . ."
Jesus meant that goodby for the sunsets, the fishing
boats, the fishermen, the silhouettes all and any
against the sunsets of Galilee.
And that goodby and that promise mean all or nothing
at all.



Why President Bush believes in the two state “solution” for the Middle East. And why we should pray more than ever for the opening of his eyes.

Stan Goodenough

The President's Christianity

(Editor's note: Stan Goodenough is a South African journalist who lives in Jerusalem. He is one of the founders of an Internet news service called Jerusalem Newswire. The address of the website is www.jnewswire.com. This insightful article was posted on October 31, 2006.)

“I don't see how Israel can possibly survive in the long term unless there is a democracy on her border. I don't see how she retains her Jewish state if there is not a place for Palestinians to go to.” —
President George Bush, October 25, 2006

American (and many other) Evangelical Christians worry like dogs over a bone why it is that US President George W. Bush is personally committed to a two-state solution which sees “Israel and Palestine living side by side.”

Why, they ask, is he pursuing a Middle East policy whose ultimate goal, and even the path towards achieving that goal, so obviously puts at risk the very existence of the State of Israel?

How, they fret, can a born-again Christian countenance such a thing? Isn't he aware of the enormous injustice this plan visits on the Jewish people? Doesn't he know the biblical promises granting exclusive ownership of this land to the people of Israel? Where is his fear of the God Who has vowed to judge the nations that divide up His land?

For heaven's sake, isn't President Bush a Christian Zionist!?

The answers to some of these questions are complex.

But the answer to the last one is a simple “No.”

Mr. Bush is a Christian.

He professes Christianity; he is on record as having committed his life to Christ in the presence of credible and respected witnesses like Arthur Blessitt and Billy Graham. A pastor who was among a group of church leaders who laid hands on Bush when he was still state governor and prayed for God to “put the mantle of a champion” on him, described the future president as a man “whose heart gravitates towards the things of the Lord.”

Mr. Bush is a daily Bible reader, has participated in intensive Bible study courses, and hates to miss church. Although no theologian or televangelist, he is transparently unashamed of the Gospel of Christ and has often confessed his faith in Jesus before other men (Luke 12:8).

Asked publicly and directly, shortly before becoming the 43rd president of the United States, if he was born again, Mr. Bush answered with an unequivocal “yes.” Asked how he knew, he quoted Romans 10:9 word for word: “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.”

“I have been changed inside. My life has been transformed. Jesus is my Lord,” he declared.

Indeed, there is a great deal of evidence to support Mr. Bush's claim to being a Christian president.

The President and Israel

A great deal of other evidence shows just as clearly, however, that he is not a Christian Zionist president.

There is no doubt that Mr. Bush cares deeply about Israel. He has called the Jewish state one of America's “important friends” whose safety and security is “a top foreign policy priority” of his presidency.

At the onset of his first term in office he announced that his administration would "be steadfast in supporting Israel against terrorism and violence, and in seeking the peace for which all Israelis pray."

And he cannot be faulted on keeping that pledge. Nor has any other American president given Israel as much consistent support and leeway to act in areas that also impact on American foreign policy as has George W. Bush. Virtually from day one in the White House he enabled Israel to wage its war on terror by refraining from the pressure and manipulative tactics his predecessors frequently employed against Jerusalem.

Instead of calling for Israeli "restraint" as others regularly did, Mr. Bush had his officials coin and consistently use the noncommittal phrase "Israel has the right to defend herself but must keep in mind the consequences of its actions."

Mr. Bush cares deeply about Israel. I would say he probably loves Israel. He has taken some substantial political risks to support this small nation, standing with her when virtually no other country on earth has been ready to do so.

This means he is a good supporter and a good friend of Israel.

The Requirements of Christian Zionism

But he is not a Christian Zionist.

If he were a Christian Zionist, President Bush would:

- Support Israel's God-given right to all the covenanted land, including Gaza, Judea, Samaria and the Golan Heights.
- Believe that God's hand was behind the issuing of the Balfour Declaration in 1917; in its ratification by the League of Nations in 1920; in the United Nations Partition Plan of 1947; and in Israel's military victories in 1948-9, 1967 and 1973.
- See the hand of God in the unprecedented and incomparable return of the Jews to their land, and in the miraculous return of their land to the Jews, including very much the return of the "occupied territories," Samaria, Judea, Gaza and the Golan Heights.
- See the unrelenting effort of the Islamic and secular worlds to remove the Jew from their land and to persecute them everywhere as a satanic attempt to destroy them.
- Believe that it is God's will that the Jews remain in their land and that the gentile nations, including the United States, commit to keeping them there.

Mr. Bush does not believe in accordance with these things, and it is neither realistic nor fair for Christian Zionists to judge



President George W. Bush greeting former Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon.

and condemn him for this.

Take my own experience for example. Before God opened my eyes to Israel as a young man, I was a born-again Christian born and raised by born-again parents and surrounded by born-again siblings. I had been taught a great deal about what it means to walk the Christian walk and to live for God. No one who knew me would have questioned my faith in Jesus.

But about God's purposes for the people and land of Israel I was completely unaware.

Christian Ignorance about Israel in Prophecy

The vast, vast majority of Jesus-loving Bible-believing Christians on this planet are living out their lives totally oblivious to Israel's still central place in God's unfolding plan of redemption.

President Bush is in the ranks with these millions and millions of Christians.

There is little point, and little headway to be gained, in lambasting him for this. As has happened with past presidents, aggressive Zionist lobbying is more likely to harden Mr. Bush's heart than soften it.

A Call to Action

Far better that we intensify our fasting and our prayers, earnestly and relentlessly petitioning the only One Who is able to open the president's eyes to do so, and quickly. President Bush does not have much time left in office.

Then write to him, repeatedly even, not to attack him but to respectfully urge him to take another look at this issue, starting on his knees and in the pages of the Bible that foretell the restoration of Israel in our day.

"Please Mr. Bush, ask God to show you in His Word what it is that He is doing in and with Israel, and how He would have you, as the man He placed in the White House for such a time as this, flow with the unfolding of His plan." ✠



Observations of an evangelist about church trends.

Jerry Drace

(Editor's note: Jerry Drace is a past president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. In addition to revivals and area wide crusades, he and his wife, Becky, conduct Hope for the Home conferences. They live in Jackson, Tennessee. More information about the Draces is available at www.jdea.tn.org.)

Since February 1975, when God led me to establish the Jerry Drace Evangelistic Association, He has allowed me to preach in more than 1,000 churches across our nation. In His divine providence He has placed me in the company of some of His choicest servants as well as some who seek to be served.



Throughout the past 31 years I have kept notes and observations on each of the pastors, staffs and churches where my team and I have been privileged to present the claims of Christ. I am sure some of these observations will be misunderstood, others will be embraced. I wish to share only 13 in hopes they will serve as a catalyst for your own reflections:

1 I have observed the lowering of the standards of holiness from the pulpit to the pew. It appears we are seeking to develop happy churches, but not holy churches. One pastor stated that he wanted his people to leave the Sunday morning worship feeling "affirmed, approved and applauded." Whatever happened to leaving feeling confronted, convicted, confessed and cleansed? Spurgeon put it in perspective years ago when he said, "Of all the griefs the church ever feels, the keenest is when those who once stood in her midst dishonor the name of Christ by unholy living."

2 I have observed the seductive fashions of the world being worn in the worship centers of our churches. Teenage girls and sometimes their mothers wear clothes to church they neither could wear to school nor in the workplace. The same applies to the male gender. We have developed such a laxity in our attire the result has numbed the spiritual senses of being in the presence of Deity. I am fully aware that God looks on the heart, but clothing, or the lack thereof, should not distract from looking into His face.

3 I have observed more and more churches having fewer and fewer revivals. Of course, the rural church will always hold a revival, whether they actually have one or not, the third week of August. Vance Havner once said, "Preachers speak of 'holding revivals.' Somebody ought to turn one loose!" Real revival — which takes prayer and preparation and sees scores ushered into the Kingdom and church members rekindling the fire within — is quickly giving way to one-day events. We have

stopped singing "Take Time To Be Holy," because we don't have the time.

4 I have observed more and more churches decreasing from mortification rather than increasing due to salvation. There is more life outside in most church cemeteries than inside on the pews. At least in the cemeteries the grass grows and the flowers bloom. If there is not a revival in our land many of our rural churches will become bed and breakfast inns and our larger churches will be turned into antique malls. If you don't believe this, visit Great Britain.

5 I have observed more and more churches growing by transferring letters rather than transforming lives. It doesn't take a genius to build a church numerically. Given the right staff and programs you can fill a church. However, there is an eternal difference between filling a church with people and filling the people inside the church.

6 I have observed more and more pastors and evangelists preaching someone else's sermons rather than studying and preaching their own. The call to preach has been replaced with the desire to succeed. Being an expounder of the Word requires time alone with God. Being a mouth for God to the people of God is an awesome responsibility. Preaching someone else's anointed sermon doesn't guarantee your anointment. If the sermon isn't gathered and set ablaze in the pastor's heart, it likely won't spread to the hearts of the church members. Some of the greatest proclaimers of the Good News are seldom heard because they neither pastor a mega church nor are they featured speakers on Christian cruises.

7 I have observed unethical and even immoral conduct by religious leaders with little or no remorse on their part once their deeds were made public. The graveyard of compromise is filled with those who listened to the sirens of the world. Accountability and integrity were sacrificed for personal gain and puffed-up egos. When Christian leaders become legends in their own minds the ice has already broken.

8 I have observed the policies of the community dictating the policies of the church, especially in the area of sports. We now schedule the events of the church around the athletic calendar of our schools or recreational departments. We have surrendered to the god of sports. Many of our parents allow their children to play their favorite sport on Sunday morning with the rationale, "What can we do about it?" These same parents wouldn't allow their children to skip school for a church event. We even close our churches on Sunday nights if it is a national holiday. Good thing God doesn't cancel His services.

9 I have observed more and more churches teaching the latest trends in church growth rather than the doctrines of the Scriptures. We have churches full of people who can quote from the latest church growth guru, but for the life of them they can neither recall nor defend any of the doctrines of the Bible. We can be seeker friendly and purpose driven, but if we fail to seek Christ and find our purpose in Him alone all the

books, seminars and mega conferences will only impede the salvation of the lost and the disciplining of the saved.

10 I have observed us becoming a people who enjoy the expression of worship without encountering the experience of worship. No one enjoys beautiful choruses more than me, yet with the freedom of style which this has ushered into our churches we must be careful not to allow our performance to overshadow His presence. Celebration without commitment leads to worthless worship.

11 I have observed religion becoming big business. Christian recording artists are now referred to as superstars and certain pastors are touted as religious CEOs. Religious leaders have evolved from troublers of society to trend-setters in society. We have religious personalities who are known as much for their political creeds as their theological convictions. Simple statements from the Bible are marketed into multimillion dollar enterprises. An executive in a Christian publication company once told me, "It's all about the buck." You half expect to see certain religious organizations listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

12 I have observed a few proclaimers who have compromised their call because of a cowardly commitment to the truths of God's Word. This brings about a deceitful delivery of devilish doctrines. The end result is a man who panders to the people and prostitutes the proclamation in the process. When wickedness enters the doors of the church it soon spreads throughout the land without any opposition. Satan himself could not have better allies than pastors who refuse to preach the truths of the Scriptures and church members who refuse to live godly lives.

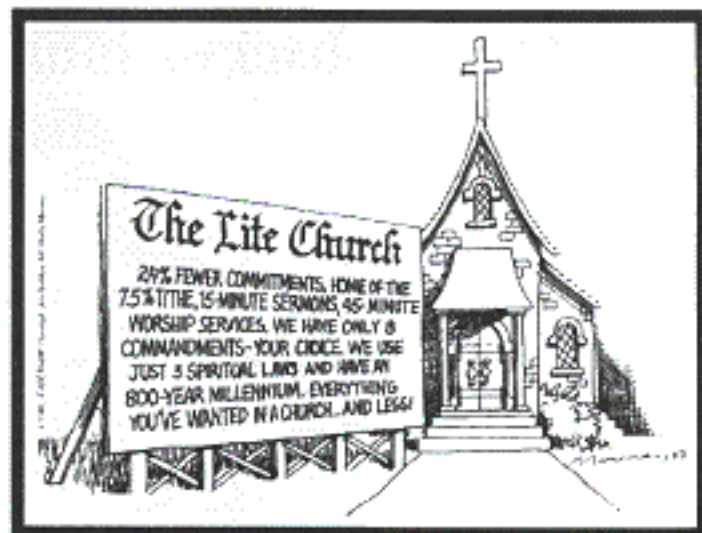
13 I have observed a righteous remnant in every church who have a hunger and thirst for experiencing God to the fullest. It is this group, both young and old, who will pass on the teachings and doctrines of Holy Scripture to the next generation. Praise God for ministers and members who are not driven by fashions and trends, but remain faithful and true to fulfilling the Great Commission. ❖

Editor's Observations

I have never had the privilege of meeting Jerry Drace, but I certainly identify with the observations he makes in this article. Like him, I have been a traveling evangelist for many years. Unlike him, (he is a Southern Baptist evangelist) I have spoken in a great variety of churches representing a wide assortment of denominations.

Despite the type of church, I have witnessed many of the trends he mentions above. I have been particularly grieved by the way the Church seems to be conforming to the culture, instead of standing apart from it.

The fact is that many churches have gotten in bed with the culture. Rock and Roll music has become commonplace. Dress codes have gone to the dogs. Doctrine has been trivialized. Social events have replaced Bible studies. Sermons often sound like warmed over inspirational ditties from the *Reader's Digest*. Sin and repentance have become unmentionable topics. Church



discipline has become an anachronism. Psychological well-being has replaced salvation. Reverence has given way to silliness. Comfort has been substituted for commitment and sacrifice. Entertainment seems to predominate over holiness.

The marketing techniques of the world have been adopted to assure church growth. We are subjected to one fad after another — the "purpose driven church," the "seeker friendly church," the "people's church," and the "emerging church." *I yearn for the Bible driven, Spirit-led church.*

Englishman William Booth (1829 - 1912), who founded the Salvation Army, was a man with a great zeal for the Lord and a passion for lost souls. He was also a man of vision. On the eve of the 20th Century when Christendom was caught up in euphoria about how the Church would soon take the world for Christ, Booth predicted that the Gospel would not fare well in the new century. Specifically, he prophesied that by the end of the 20th Century, much of the Church would be preaching:

Christianity without Christ
Forgiveness without repentance
Salvation without regeneration
Heaven without Hell

The Bible says that in the end times people "will not endure sound doctrine." Instead, they will want "to have their ears tickled," and they will seek "teachers in accordance to their own desires and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). We have arrived. ❖

For more detailed information about the apostasy of the Church in the end times, order a copy of Dr. Reagan's book, *Living for Christ in the End Times*. It presents many specific examples of heresy and apostasy in the Church today. 263 pages, \$10.

To order, call 1-800-705-8316 Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time.



Other observations on the condition of the Evangelical Movement.

Jan Markell

(Editor's note: Jan Markell is a Messianic Jew who is the founder and director of Olive Tree Ministries located in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota. She is widely recognized as a pioneer in the Messianic Movement. She hosts a radio program and publishes a highly informative Internet newsletter. You can access her website at www.olivetreeviews.org.)

When I first filtered into an Evangelical church at the age of 14, defining the term "Evangelical" was simple, even for a kid my age. Without having to be told, I concluded Evangelicals preached a solid gospel, emphasized evangelism and missions, majored in soul-winning and minored in social issues, abstained from some worldly values (and occasionally went too far in this department, coming close to legalism), were faithful in church attendance, Bible reading, and generally had a biblical worldview. Sure, we were often called "legalistic fundamentalists," but better to lean right than left. I was never and never will be ashamed of the old definition of "Evangelical."

Those churches are still around, but something has happened in the last twenty years. New leaders are rising and some do NOT preach a solid gospel, yet they are called Evangelicals. It is no longer possible to talk about "Evangelicals" with any unity. Many call themselves Evangelicals when they are not, and a new term has sprung up: "Evangelical Centrist." That means there is compromise somewhere.

Evangelical Confusion

To me, this says that today no one is really sure what "Evangelical" means. When those leaning left such as Tony Campolo and Jim Wallis (editor of *Sojourners* magazine) are called Evangelicals, I can tell we have a new day. When "Emergent Church" leader Brian McLaren is called an Evangelical even though he lumps the *Left Behind* books in the same category as *The DaVinci Code*, something is amiss. This is false labeling. When Richard Foster and Brennan Manning, revered by many Evangelicals, have never met a mystical practice they didn't endorse, today's Evangelical Movement has a problem.

At one time the magazine *Christianity Today* was the house organ of Evangelicalism. Over the last twenty years, that has changed. For example, the magazine recently called the *Harry Potter* book series, "A wonderful Christmas gift for all."

Many Evangelicals have embraced mysticism and have the audacity to call it "Christian mysticism," an oxymoron if there ever was one. Evangelical churches are now proudly announcing to all that they offer classes in "Christian Yoga" which is "just stretching" to them, but in reality, calls down Hindu gods to their Yoga mat.

The New York Times states, "A tug of war is unfolding behind the scenes over theology — should Evangelicalism be a big tent open to divergent views, or a smaller movement with more pure theology?"



Dave Reagan with Jan Markell

The Drift to the Left

Theology isn't the only issue. Some of today's Evangelicals are into global warming with the new "Evangelical Environmental Network." Others are involved in immigration issues, anti-war movements, and other issues that were once found only in churches that were a part of the National Council of Churches and the World Council. Some are involved in ridding the world of AIDS, an impossibility but a noble cause — but should it be the cause of Evangelicals? Or is it just the old Social Gospel from which Evangelicals fled in the 1940's to focus on soul-winning?

It is fine that those who embrace the cause of Christ — who Himself reached out to the poor and needy — will today reach out to the masses that are hurting. That is not the issue. The question is, "Are these issues the cause of Evangelicalism?" and if they are, then I stand corrected. But can you ever err by having an emphasis on solid gospel preaching and saving lost souls?

So what should be a new term for a true Evangelical? Is it "Fundamentalist" which has negative overtones? How about "Historical Orthodox Christian"? How about "Bible-believing Christian"? Are we sliding into a pit that says, "Anything is OK as long as we love one another? We just have to all get along."

The lines are blurred right now and I am troubled by it. ♦

The photo to the right shows a prayer station for praying to icons that was set up recently at a well known Evangelical Church in California.



Christianity Lite

Dennis Pollock

(Editor's note: Dennis Pollock is a former Lamb & Lion evangelist who now has his own ministry, called Spirit of Grace. It is an evangelistic and healing ministry aimed at Africa and India. His website is located at www.sogmin.org.)

A few generations ago the church in America was known for her hellfire and brimstone preachers. These fiery orators loved to paint hell hot, sin ugly, and God angry. They sometimes preached the terrors of God with such enthusiasm you suspected they actually enjoyed the prospect of sinners getting their just due in that place where the "worm never dies and the fire is not quenched. . ."

It was easy to tell who was a Christian in those days and who was not. Righteous males didn't "drink, or chew, or go with girls that do." Righteous women wore the plainest and ugliest clothes possible, with dresses that nearly reached the floor, and hairdos that nearly reached the ceiling. Most forms of entertainment were looked upon with suspicion — having fun somehow didn't seem very righteous.

That was then — this is now . . . The pendulum today has swung in the opposite direction with a vengeance. Exit Christianity harsh; enter Christianity lite.

Tip-toeing Around Sin

In the modern Evangelical church today there are two cardinal sins that pastors attempt to avoid like the plague: 1) Don't be lengthy. 2) Don't be negative. People with habits that are questionable have nothing to fear from such churches today. Not only do the pastors fail to preach against sin specifically — the very mention of the general concept of sin is taboo.

The goal for the church service is to keep things positive and keep things moving. Emphasize the goodness of God and His wonderful plan for your life. Stress Christ's willingness to help you not only get to Heaven, but to make sure that you are successful and fulfilled in the here and now. In fact, better not to say anything about Heaven — the concept of an afterlife with God in a perfect place seems so irrelevant to today's modern generation as they strive for higher self-esteem and are preoccupied with their cell phones, blackberries, and laptops. Streets of gold and mansions in Heaven are so 1800s!

In many churches the idea of directly appealing for sinners to come to Christ, and to take some action that indicates their willingness to do so, is anathema. Just preach a pleasant message and let them find Christ in their own time and on their own terms.

Keep in mind that I am not describing the "liberal" churches that deny the deity of Christ and can't even believe in Christ's virgin birth and resurrection. No, many of the "lite" churches consider themselves staunchly Evangelical . . .

The Real Problem

The problem with such churches is really not so much in what they are saying. After all, God is good and Christ is more than willing to help you with your present situation and problems. We

are exceedingly valuable in the sight of our Creator, and in Jesus life can be more than pleasant; it can be filled with "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (along with the inevitable trials and pressures that come our way).

The problem is not so much in what they proclaim; it is in what they dare not say. Perhaps the key doctrine that has gone AWOL from the church today is the doctrine of repentance. The idea of admitting ourselves to be rebels at enmity with a holy and sin-hating God doesn't fit well with our touchy-feely, warm and fuzzy brand of Christianity. Far better to speak of the need to be more well-balanced or have our attitudes adjusted, rather than tell people to their faces that they need to turn from their sins.

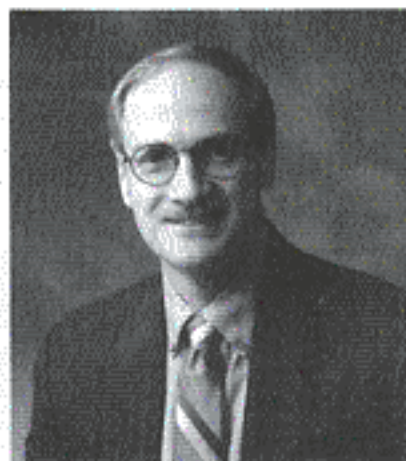
Sin Must Not Be Trivialized

By minimizing God's holiness and hatred for sin, pastors often think they are doing people a favor. They can draw them with honey, and later on the new converts can learn that God may still get upset about certain things. But we do people no favor when we withhold from them the very essence of the One we yearn for them to know. The Cross never shines so brightly as when it is portrayed in the light of God's majestic holiness. Indeed it is that very holiness that made the Cross an absolute necessity.

Most of us have had times when someone who had hurt our feelings came to us later and apologized. Often, in an attempt to smooth things over, we might have said something like, "It was nothing," or "I never thought a thing about it." One thing you can be sure of — when you go to God with your sins, asking His forgiveness, He will never say, "It was nothing" or "I never thought a thing about it." Your sins are a big deal to God — such a big deal that the only way God could maintain His own integrity and forgive you was to have His only begotten Son die on the cross in your place . . .

I am certainly not advocating a return to some of the harsh and legalistic strains of Christianity that held sway in the past. Preaching entire sermons on the evils of lipstick or suggesting that anyone who smokes cigarettes is on a fast train to hell is not only wrong; it is stupid. God's holiness is far bigger than health issues or cosmetics. On the other hand, preaching such a soft wimpy gospel that adulterers and practicing homosexuals can sit through a year's worth of sermons and never feel the slightest twinge of guilt for their lifestyle is not much better.

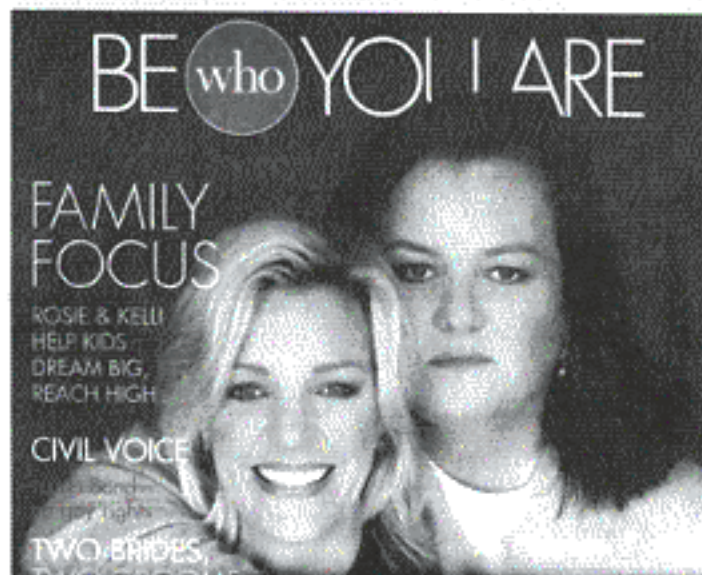
The concepts of repentance and the holiness of God are not antiquated notions that are no longer relevant to modern Americans. As long as people still sin, and as long as God is still holy, there will be a need for preachers and teachers to emphasize these things. And having made plain that "the way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord," we can then proclaim the glad tidings, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . ." ❖



Homosexual Activism —

The Dallas Morning News recently included a 20 page supplement promoting the homosexual lifestyle. The cover featured a photo of Rosie O'Donnell and her lesbian marriage partner, Kelli.

TIMES and Seasons



Dr. Reagan wrote to the newspaper and pointed out that the title "Be Who You Are" is a very dangerous one. He asked, "What if I am a pedophile, or racist, or sadist? Should I be who I am?" Dr. Reagan asserted that we are not supposed to be "who we are." Rather, we are supposed to become who God wants us to be — and that is to be shaped into the image of Jesus.



Meanwhile, the supposedly family-friendly WalMart, America's largest retailer, has joined the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. WalMart also made an initial donation to the chamber of \$25,000. The president of NGLCC said he expects

WalMart to use its influence to pressure other suppliers, like Proctor & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson, to give homosexual businesses preferential treatment. WalMart is also working on a plan to provide domestic-partnership benefits to the partners of its homosexual employees. You can express your opinion to WalMart management at the following website: www.walmartstores.com/GlobalWMStoresWeb/navigate.do?catg=221. Or you can write to WalMart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, AR 72716.

The Middle East —

In his latest book, former president Jimmy Carter accuses Israel of being an "apartheid state" and blames Israel for "its continuing conflict with the Palestinians." He ignores the fact that almost one million Palestinians live in Israel whereas the Arabs have evicted all Jews from their countries, and the Palestinian authorities want all Jews tossed out of their territory. He also conveniently overlooks the fact that it is the Palestinians, not the Israelis, who keep trying to solve the Middle East situation through violence. The fact of the matter is that if the Arabs were to disarm, there would be peace in the Middle East; but if Israel were to disarm, Israel would cease to exist.

Christian-Bashing —

ABC's Rosie O'Donnell told a nationwide audience that "radical Christians" are the same as the radical Muslims who piloted hijacked jetliners into New York's Twin Towers, who chop off the heads of individuals, and who bomb innocent children in suicide attacks. She made her comments as host of ABC's program, "The View."

NBC planned to broadcast a blasphemous act by Madonna showing her hanging from a cross wearing a fake crown of thorns. After the American Family Association spearheaded a massive protest, NBC decided not to air the scene. But NBC did proceed to edit Bible verses and expressions of Christian love from the broadcast of the "Veggie Tales" cartoon series which it has been showing on Saturday mornings. NBC executives said that comments such as "God made you special and He loves you very much" were offensive, and they therefore censored them from the show. Although NBC said the cuts were made to make the programs fit into the time slot, the show's creator, Paul Vischer, said, "The show wasn't too long, it was too Christian."

Islamic Hate-Mongering —

The Freedom House has issued a disturbing report showing that some Saudi textbooks used in schools in the United States, Europe and elsewhere continue to promote hatred and violence.

A 4th grade reader states, "True belief means that you hate the polytheists and infidels . . ." Here is an excerpt from an 8th grade text: "The Jews are apes, the people of the Sabbath; while the swine are the Christians, the infidels of the communion of Jesus." Or, consider this quote from a 12th grade textbook: "Jihad in the path of God — which consists of battling against unbelief, oppression, injustice, and those who perpetrate it — is the summit of Islam."



Blasphemy —



Billboards like the one above have been popping up all over the country. The persons behind this travesty simply hijack a billboard and plaster it with their sign. They are believed to be the work of New Jersey agitational-propaganda artist Ron English (www.popaganda.com).

"Realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be . . . haters of good . . ." (2 Timothy 3:1, 3).

Quote of the Month —

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?" — Jay Leno

The Jewish People —

A thought from the writings of Mark Twain:

"If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way.

"Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.

"His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers.

"He has made a marvelous fight in the world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself, and be excused for it.



"The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished.

"The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind.

"All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"

"For You have established for Yourself Your people Israel as Your own people forever . . ." 2 Samuel 7:24

Food For Thought



The Importance of Doctrine —

"Divine division over truth is better than Satanic unity."
— Mike Gendron, founder and director of Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries (www.pro-gospel.org).

"In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine . . ." — Titus 2:7



Mike Gendron

The Watered-Down Gospel —

"God hates the lukewarm gospel of half-truths that is now spreading over the globe. This gospel says, 'Just believe in Jesus and you'll be saved.

There's nothing more to it.' It ignores the whole counsel of God, which speaks of repenting from former sins, of taking up your cross, of being conformed to the image of Christ by the refining work of the Holy Spirit. It is totally silent about the reality of Hell and an after-death judgment." — Dave Wilkerson, pastor of Times Square Church in New York City.



Dave Wilkerson

The Need for Moral Outrage —

A commentary by Bill O'Reilly:



Bill O'Reilly

"Moral outrage is the only way to defeat terrible behavior. Today, many of us don't even know what terrible behavior is. Could gangsta rap music have existed 30 years ago?

"How about partial birth abortion?"

"Hitler and Tojo were defeated by men and women who were willing to die so those villains could not enslave and kill other human beings. It was moral outrage over Pearl Harbor that led to the demise of the dictators.

"We had a semblance of the same moral outrage in America after 9/11, but that is ebbing away. The terrorists and perverts understand that only moral outrage will beat them back. A person or nation with no moral compass will never be able to summon up that outrage. A human being that lives in the gray area of right and wrong is likely not to make a stand against evil.

"And that is what the evil doers are counting on."

"Who will stand up for Me against evildoers? Who will take his stand for Me against those who do wickedness?" — Psalm 94:16

An Update On Our Television Outreach



We have been receiving a great response to the television specials being broadcast by the SkyAngel network. They started broadcasting ten of our video programs as TV specials in late August and continued airing them through the end of 2006. Each was shown three times, and some were repeated a fourth time.

In November Sky Angel invited us to participate in their new "DVD Preview" program, which began in January of this year. They are going to distribute DVDs free of charge that will contain a program by one of their broadcasters together with some information about the SkyAngel network. The idea is to give both the broadcaster and SkyAngel exposure to a wider audience. The program of ours that they selected is "The Galilee of Jesus." This is actually four TV programs about the Galilee that we edited into one video program. They anticipate distributing up to 50,000 copies of each DVD.



The DayStar network continues to expand worldwide. During their most recent telethon, they received donations from almost 100 countries! People in each of those countries can view our program because it is broadcast internationally by DayStar over about a dozen different satellites that literally cover the globe.

Other recent developments include the fact that DayStar now owns the only Christian TV station in Boston and Washington, DC. DayStar also owns the only TV station in downtown New York City.

An effort was made recently to stop DayStar from purchasing a television station in Los Angeles. Legislation to that effect was introduced in the California Legislature and passed, but Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed it. So, hopefully, DayStar will soon have its own broadcast station in Los Angeles.



INSP is a 24 hour-a-day cable television network which currently serves more than 2,000 cable systems across the country with a growing subscriber base of more than 22 million households. The

network targets the millions of Americans who embrace inspirational values. INSP features original and exclusive music, children's programs and a wide variety of different ministry programming.



The FaithTV network showed Lamb & Lion's video, "God and the Weather" as a television special in November. The program was broadcast two times. For more information about this new network, take a look at their website at www.faithtv.com.

"Christ in Prophecy" Broadcast Schedule

| DayStar Network | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | DirecTV Channel 369 | | DISH Channel 263 | |
| Zone | Pacific | Mountain | Central | Eastern |
| Day & Time | Wed. 4:00pm | Wed. 5:00pm | Wed. 6:00pm | Wed. 7:00pm |
| | Sun. 10:30pm | Sun. 11:30pm | Mon. 12:30am | Mon. 1:30am |

| Inspiration Network | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Available on cable networks | | | | |
| Zone | Pacific | Mountain | Central | Eastern |
| Day & Time | Tues. 5:30pm | Tues. 6:30pm | Tues. 7:30pm | Tues. 8:30pm |
| | Wed. 8:00am | Wed. 9:00am | Wed. 10:00am | Wed. 11:00am |

| FaithTV Network | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| SkyAngel Channel 9708 | | | | |
| Zone | Pacific | Mountain | Central | Eastern |
| Day & Time | Sun. 10:30am | Sun. 11:30am | Sun. 12:30pm | Sun. 1:30pm |



Pictorial Survey of Recent Ministry Activities

In October of last year Dr. Reagan spoke at the annual prophecy conference sponsored by Olive Tree Ministries. It was held in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota. This is one of the largest Bible prophecy conferences in the United States. Approximately 4,000 people attend the two day conference. One of the featured speakers was Joseph Farah, founder and director of WorldNetDaily (www.wnd.com).



Jan Markell, founder and director of Olive Tree Ministries, presents questions to Joseph Farah and Dr. Reagan.

In mid-October Dr. Reagan spoke at the Stealing the Mind Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. His topic was "Israel in Bible Prophecy: Past, Present and Future." Other speakers included Mike Gendron, Chuck Missler, Frank Peretti, and Bill Koenig.



Dr. Reagan with Mike Riddle at the Coeur d'Alene conference. Mike is on the staff of Answers in Genesis. He is one of the most outstanding Creation speakers in America.

Also in October the ministry hosted one of Christendom's most outstanding artists, William Hallmark, who resides in a suburb of Birmingham, Alabama. We recorded a television program about his remarkable art. Assisting with the program was Gary Fisher, founder and director of Lion of Judah Ministries in Franklin, Tennessee. The logo of Gary's ministry was designed by Mr. Hallmark. Gary stayed over and recorded two additional TV programs with Dr. Reagan in which he asked Dave questions about various aspects of Bible prophecy.



William Hallmark signs one of his prints, "The Lion of Judah," while Dr. Reagan and Gary Fisher look on.

In the last issue of this magazine we expressed a need for some new television production equipment. Specifically, we needed to purchase a new digital switching system. Our supporters rallied to the need and we were able to purchase all the equipment we needed for about \$16,000. Meanwhile, one of our computers used for TV editing crashed, and we had to replace it at a cost of about \$4,000. Our media director, Don Gordoni, is pictured below with his assistant, Larry Watts. They are looking over the new high-speed computer that had just arrived. As you can tell by the smiles on their faces, there is nothing that makes a media crew happier than new equipment!



Don Gordoni and Larry Watts

In December the third edition of Dr. Reagan's *Prophecy Study Guide* was published. First published in 1997, this book has proved to be one of the ministry's most popular study resource materials. It runs 150 pages in length and has a special binding that enables it to lie flat when it is opened. The price is \$15. To order, call 1-800-705-8316.



Greetings from the Lamb & Lion Staff

We need your support as a Prophecy Partner!



First row, left to right: George Collich, Jr., Trey Collich, Leo Houck, Rachel Houck, Don Gordoni, and Gary Byers. Second row: Kay Bien, Dave Reagan, Cathie Grubb, and Larry Watts.

Program Requirements

The financial base of Lamb & Lion Ministries is provided by its Prophecy Partners. These are the people who pledge to provide \$20 a month or more for one year.

We currently have 1,793 Prophecy Partners. We need to increase that number to over 2,000 for 2007 if we are to continue expanding our media outreach with the message of the soon return of Jesus.

We ask our Prophecy Partners to aim at giving \$1 a day for a year — or \$30 per month. Many do this, and some give even more. The minimum contribution is \$20 per month.

Program Benefits

There are many benefits and blessings associated with being a Prophecy Partner. First and foremost is the knowledge that your sacrificial support is going to a ministry whose purpose is to point people to Jesus Christ and to proclaim His soon return.

As a Prophecy Partner you will receive a monthly audio or video program or special publication, together with a personal report from Dave Reagan highlighting major events and decisions affecting the ministry. The report will also include a list of our prayer needs.

The audio or video program usually covers some special study topic or current event topic related to Bible prophecy.

Program Purposes

Your donations will be used to help pay for our media outreach all across this nation and around the world via television and the Internet. They will also be used to help cover the cost of materials we distribute free of charge to foreign missions.

We need your support! Join us for 2007.

Prophecy Partner Commitment

Yes! I want to be a Lamb & Lion Prophecy Partner during 2007.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

2007 Monthly Commitment \$ _____
(Goal of \$30 per month — minimum of \$20 per month)

or

2007 Yearly Commitment \$ _____
(Goal of \$360 — minimum of \$240)

Mail to Lamb & Lion Ministries P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070.
Or, call in your commitment to 1-800-705-8316.

Holy Land Pilgrimage —

Our next tour of Israel is set for June 2-13. It will be led by Dr. Reagan. The pilgrimage group will spend two nights in Tel Aviv, two in Tiberias (on the Sea of Galilee), and five in Jerusalem. The air carrier will be Delta, non-stop to Tel Aviv out of Atlanta. For more information, call 1-800-705-8316. The registration deadline is April 1st. The group will be limited to a total of 52. This is a comprehensive tour that includes Tel Aviv, the Mediterranean coastal plain, the Galilee, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea area, and Jerusalem.

Magazine Returns —

Each magazine that is returned to us costs us 83 cents! Please help us avoid this cost by informing us of any change of address. Thank you!

Television Equipment —

We need to purchase a variety of new television production equipment, including hydraulic camera pedestals, like the one pictured below. The total needed is about \$25,000. Some of the equipment is needed for the transition to HD-TV in 2009.



Calendar —

Due to the demands of editing our monthly magazine and producing our weekly television program, our board of trustees has asked Dr. Reagan to cut back his travel schedule to one out of town speaking engagement per month. His schedule for 2007 is completely full in this regard. The only openings he has are for appointments in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area of Texas. He recommends that churches interested in scheduling a Bible prophecy conference should contact one of the following evangelists:

- 1) Gary Fisher of Lion of Judah Ministries — 615-591-8036, www.sxws.com/LIONJUDH/
- 2) Al Gist of Meranatha Evangelistic Ministries — 337-725-6209, www.sxws.com/maranathaevangelisticministries/
- 3) Don McGee of Crown & Sickle Ministries — 985-351-0832, www.crownandsickle.com/
- 4) Don Perkins of According to Prophecy Ministries — 619-661-5913, www.according2prophecy.org/

All of these men are outstanding teachers and preachers.



Appointments —

Dr. Reagan will hold a prophecy conference at Community Christian Church in Apache Junction, Arizona in January (14-16). In February he will speak at the Steeling the Mind Conference to be held at Ocean Hills Church in San Juan Capistrano, California (17). In March he will be at the Eastview Christian Church in Martinsville, Indiana (4). He will speak at another Steeling the Mind Conference in May that is scheduled to be held at Calvary Chapel in Albuquerque, New Mexico (12).

Financial Accountability —

Lamb & Lion is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). This is an organization founded by Billy



Graham. Its purpose is to ensure that ministries operate with the highest possible degree of financial integrity. We were audited by them late last year and received a letter of commendation for our strict conformity to their principles.

We also received a letter of commendation late last year from an organization called Charity Navigator, the nation's leading watchdog of non-profit groups. For the second year in a row, they gave us their highest 4-star rating. Only 12% of the charities they have rated have received two consecutive 4-star evaluations. To check our evaluation in detail, go to their website at www.charitynavigator.org.

Notice! This may be your last issue of this magazine unless we hear from you. Each year we delete from our mailing list all persons we have not heard from in two years. If this applies to you, you will find a red notice stamped on the back side of this page, right above your address. To keep receiving the magazine, all you have to do is call us at 972-736-3567. There is no subscription fee. The magazine is free of charge. It costs us about \$25 per year to print and mail the magazine to each person on our mailing list. So, a donation would be appreciated, but it is not required. Thanks!

Missions —

We currently provide financial support for the following ministries:

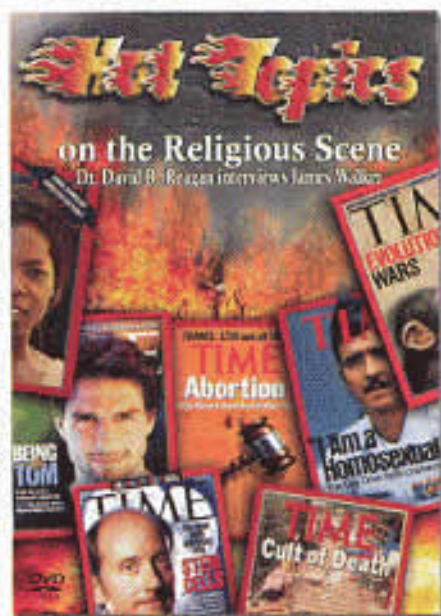
United States:

- Lion of Judah in Franklin, TN (Gary Fisher)
- Maranatha in DeRidder, LA (Al Gist)
- Crown & Sickle in Amite, LA (Don McGee)
- According to Prophecy in San Diego, CA (Don Perkins)
- Acts 29 on the road (Juck & Sally Hollingsworth)
- Mercy Ships in Lindale, TX (Becky Bynum)
- David's House in Ozona, FL (Randall Banc)
- Spirit of Grace in McKinney, TX (Dennis Pollock)

Foreign:

- Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem
- Bridges for Peace in Jerusalem
- Avi Mizrahi in Tel Aviv
- Pastor Remegio Blanco in the Philippines
- Evangelist Edmund Martinez in the Philippines
- Pastor Nazer Gil in Pakistan
- Evangelist John Ishmael in India
- Evangelist Kenneth Humphries in Northern Ireland
- Pastor Abraham Louw in South Africa
- Pastor Marco Samaniego in Juarez, Mexico

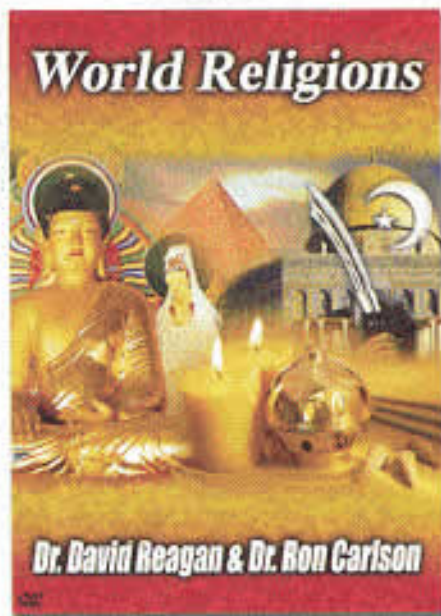
Three New Video Programs



Three interviews with James Walker, director of Watchman Fellowship, one of the nation's leading cult-monitoring ministries. He tells how to identify a cult; he discusses his personal experience with cults as a result of being born into a Mormon family; and he talks about the crazy trends that are going on among cultic groups today.

The video contains a fascinating clip from an Oprah Winfrey show in which she reveals her apostasy from her Baptist upbringing.

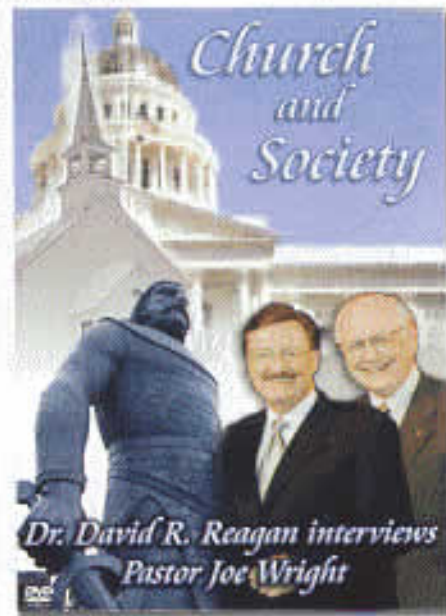
75 minutes. DVD only. \$12.



An interview with Dr. Ron Carlson, one of Christendom's foremost experts on cults and world religions. The topics include "The Distinctiveness of Christianity," "The Lure of Eastern Religions," "The Essence of Islam," and "The Nature of the New Age Movement."

This video is hardhitting and thought-provoking in nature. It refutes the popular concept that there are many different roads to God. It contains outstanding resource material for Bible study groups.

90 minutes. DVD only. \$12.



Dr. Reagan interviews Joe Wright, former pastor of Central Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas. Pastor Wright is a strong Evangelical who believes that in addition to preaching the Gospel, the Church should take a stand for righteousness with regard to the moral issues of society.

Pastor Wright discusses his campaigns against abortion, pornography, and same-sex marriage. He also reads the famous prayer he prayed before the Kansas State Legislature.

50 minutes. DVD only. \$12.

Special offer: Purchase two and get the third for one dollar, for a total of \$25. Save \$11!



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& LION
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