

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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Video Shooting in Tel Aviv





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Observations by the Editor

Tel Aviv

Our cover this month shows our video crew shooting a scene on the steps of Independence Hall in Tel Aviv. This is the building where the Israeli Declaration of Independence was read by David Ben Gurion on May 14, 1948.

Most tour groups that go to Israel never spend even one day in Tel Aviv, and that is too bad because there are many interesting things to see there. The ancient port of Jaffa is a suburb of Tel Aviv. It is where Jonah departed on his ill-fated cruise. I like to take people to the Carmel Market, a very large, busy and crowded outdoor market that sells everything imaginable, and some things unimaginable.

Another very informative and interesting place to visit in Tel Aviv is the Museum of the Diaspora, located on the campus of Tel Aviv University. It shows how Jews lived during the past 2,000 years when they were scattered all over the world.

Downtown Tel Aviv is also fascinating. It is very European in style, with lots of small shops and sidewalk cafes. Its centerpiece is a huge multi-colored fountain designed by the famous Israeli artist, Yaakov Agam.



A rather grim site to visit is the place where Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated on November 4, 1995. Brass markers embedded into the concrete show where Rabin, his bodyguards, and his assassin were all standing when the Prime Minister was shot.

Israelis are attracted to Tel Aviv by its secular night life and its beautiful beaches. There is a saying in Israel that relates to these features of Tel Aviv: "You go to Jerusalem to pray; Tel Aviv to play; and Haifa to stay."



Dr. David R. Reagan

But for me, the crown jewel of Tel Aviv is Independence Hall because it was the site of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy when the state of Israel was re-established there in May of 1948. I love to take groups there and tell them about the miraculous fulfillment of Bible prophecy that took place in that building.



David Ben Gurion reading the Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948.

Our next complete tour of Israel, including two nights and one full day in Tel Aviv, is scheduled for June of 2009. If you have never been to Israel, you might consider taking that trip with us and visiting Independence Hall. It will give you a sense of how God is actively working in history. ☆



Crowds outside Independence Hall on May 14, 1948.

Video Shooting in Israel

Dr. David R. Reagan

During the last two weeks of March we conducted our fourth video shoot in Israel since this century began.

In 2000 we re-shot our very popular program, "Israel in Bible Prophecy," a program we first recorded in 1987. It chronicles seven prophecies being fulfilled in Israel today. In 1987 we shot this program using an Israeli film crew, and I appeared in it alone. In 2000 we returned with our own crew, and instead of appearing in the program alone, I brought with me two young boys who traveled to the sites with me and asked me questions on camera.

Those boys were brothers, Trey and Preston Collich, the sons of George Collich, our chief financial officer. Today, eight years later, one of those young men, Trey, is our chief video photographer for field shooting.

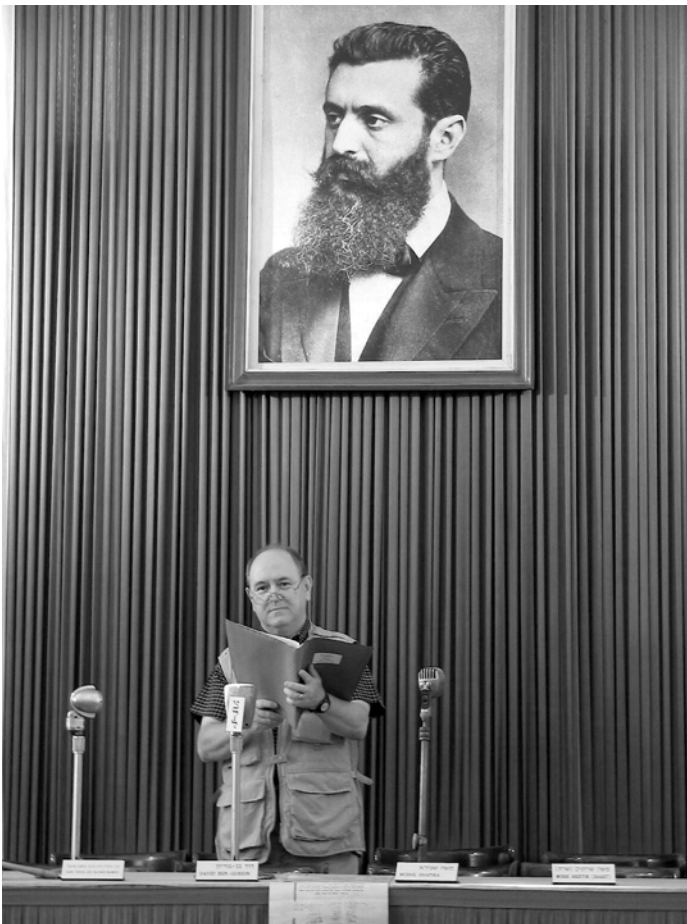
In 2003 we returned to Israel, again with our own video crew. We spent two weeks in Jerusalem shooting a series of TV programs about that city. We later combined them into a DVD album called, "Jerusalem Through Spiritual Eyes."

Our two experiences doing our own filming in Israel convinced us that we needed a larger video crew. In each case, we had taken only five people, four staff members and one volunteer, and we had discovered that there were just too many jobs for so few people. Our problem was that we could not afford to take more than five people.

That's when we came up with the idea of making a public appeal for volunteers who would go at their own expense. For them, it would be a short-term missions trip. The Lord really blessed this idea. The only problem we ran into was that we received requests from far more people than we needed. This was a good problem for us, but it resulted in some people being disappointed when they were not selected for the team.

In 2004 we departed for Israel with five staff members and seven volunteers. For the first time, we had an adequate number of people to handle all the required tasks. We spent two weeks shooting in the Galilee and completed four programs which were later edited together to produce a DVD album called "The Galilee of Jesus."

I had hoped for us to return to Israel in 2006 to do some more



Don McGee reads the Israeli Declaration of Independence inside Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, standing exactly where David Ben Gurion stood when he read the Declaration on May 14, 1948.

video shooting, but severe pain in my low back held up the trip for a couple of years until I was able to get my right hip replaced last October. That operation remedied all the pain, praise the Lord. So, in March of this year we headed back to the Holy Land with the intention of spending five days in Tel Aviv and five days in Jerusalem shooting footage for a great variety of programs.

This time we took five staff members and nine volunteers. One of the volunteers came along to paint scenes in watercolors. We hope to assemble her pictures into a calendar for 2009. So, not counting me, we had a video crew of 13 people.

The trip got off to a bad start due to stormy weather in Atlanta. Nine of the 14 group members were flying to Atlanta from Dallas, and that flight was delayed for over three hours due to the weather. The result was that the Dallas group missed the flight to Israel! The five crew members who came from other parts of the country all arrived in Atlanta in time to catch the flight to Tel Aviv.

So, the Dallas group was stranded in Atlanta for a full night and a day since there is only one flight per day to Israel. The net result of this delay was that we lost one full day of video shooting. However, it turned out that the day we lost was the only day of bad weather while we were in the country, so we probably would not have been able to do any shooting even if we were there.

Our time in Israel was greatly blessed. We had perfect weather during a time (late March) when the weather is totally unpredictable. It can be hot or cold, dry or rainy. All the crew members were in good health the entire time. All our equipment worked properly. The crew gelled quickly and worked together very efficiently. In short, all the prayers we asked you to pray in our behalf were answered.

We were able to complete three programs related to the theme of "Profiles in Righteousness." They included programs about Cornelius, Elijah, and David. The program we had to cut was the one we had planned to shoot about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Due to the day we lost en route, we were not able to get to Nazareth.

Additionally, we shot three programs about the 60th anniversary of Israel. One of them, entitled, "The Miracle of Israel," was



Our video crew in 2000 — from left to right, Don Gordoni, Trey Collich, George Collich, Preston Collich, Shai-Shalom Matter, and Ronnie Jones. Trey was 15 years old at the time. He is now our chief video photographer when shooting in the field.

about all the supernatural political circumstances that led up to the proclamation of the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948. In this program we focused on the factors that played a part in President Truman's decision to recognize the state of Israel. We shot this program inside and outside Independence Hall in Tel Aviv.



Our video crew in 2008 shooting a scene on the beach in Tel Aviv. Trey Collich is the big guy in the middle who is holding the camera.

We also shot enough interviews with people to put together two programs about the past and future of Israel. People we interviewed included:

- 1) Avi Mizrahi — A Messianic Jewish leader in Tel Aviv.
- 2) Annie Thrasher — Director of The Bible Times Learning Center in Ein Kerem.
- 3) Wayne Hilsden — Pastor of King of Kings Community Church in Jerusalem.
- 4) Ray and Sharon Sanders — Directors of the Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem.
- 5) Stan Goodenough — Journalist and founder of the Jerusalem Newswire.
- 6) Malcolm Hedding — Director of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem.
- 7) Don McGee — Founder and director of Crown and Sickle

Ministries in Amite, Louisiana.

We asked each of these people two questions:

- 1) What does the 60th Anniversary of Israel mean to you?
- 2) Do you see any hope for the survival of Israel in the future?

Nearly every person responded to the first question by emphasizing the faithfulness of God. They pointed out that Israel has experienced constant warfare since its birth and that there is no natural explanation for the fact that it has survived these wars. Only the supernatural intervention of God can explain the continuing existence of Israel. The verse most frequently quoted was Psalm 121:4 which reads, "He who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps."

In response to the second question, all responded that in the *natural*, there is absolutely no hope for the survival of Israel. After all, the tiny nation with a population of 5.5 million Jews is surrounded by 250 million hostile Arabs who are determined to annihilate it. The leaders of Israel have lost their Zionist vision, and the people of Israel have become so war weary that they have been deceived into adopting a policy of appeasement that can only lead to destruction. Also, all the major powers of the



Dave with Wayne Hilsden, pastor of King of Kings Community Church in Jerusalem. They are standing in Liberty Bell Park in West Jerusalem.

world, and organizations like the United Nations, the Vatican, and the European Union are demanding that Israel surrender its heartland and at least half of its capital of Jerusalem.

But despite these horrendous omens, every person interviewed spoke with confidence that in the *supernatural* there is great hope for the survival of Israel. In fact, to the person, there was absolute confidence that Israel would continue to exist. The verse most frequently quoted was Amos 9:15 which states that after the Lord regathers the Jews to their homeland, "they will not again be rooted out from their land." Several people also referred to Jeremiah 30:11 where God says that every nation will one day be destroyed except the nation of Israel.

We spent a full day at the Bible Times Learning Center in Ein Kerem, a beautiful suburb of Jerusalem. This fascinating place was developed by the famous American archaeologist, Dr. James Fleming. When he decided to return to the States, it was taken over by Annie Thrasher, the sister of Clarence Wagner who used to head up Bridges for Peace in Jerusalem.



Dr. Reagan at The Bible Times Learning Center with Annie Thrasher and her assistant, Sakher.

Annie and her assistant, Sakher, utilize the various sites at the Center to teach about life in Bible times. And each teaching is interlaced with rich spiritual insights.

During our time at the Center, we shot enough video footage for three programs about how people lived in the time of Jesus. The most interesting one to me was about Leonardo Da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper. The Center's director, Annie Thrasher, explained all the many things that are culturally incorrect about Da Vinci's painting and then showed us how the Last

Supper would have really looked.

In and around the Jerusalem area we also shot a lot of video footage to be used in future programs we are developing about the Jewish Temple and Archaeology.

In all, during a period of 8 days, we probably got enough footage for a total of 12 programs! To say the least, it was a very profitable trip for us, even though we lost a day of shooting.

One of the highlights of the trip for all of us was the opportunity to attend one of the several services that were conducted at



The Lamb & Lion video crew on top of Mount Carmel at the traditional site where the prophet Elijah confronted the false prophets of Baal. The building in the background is a Franciscan Monastery. From its rooftop, you can get the best view in all the land of the Valley of Armageddon.



Shooting at the world's lowest place next to the Dead Sea. The marker in front of Dr. Reagan was placed there 40 years ago to mark the lowest point on the surface of the earth. Since that time the shoreline of the Dead Sea has receded about a mile from the marker. That's because the Dead Sea no longer receives much water from the Sea of Galilee. Instead of flowing into the Dead Sea via the Jordan River, the water is diverted by both Israel and Jordan for irrigation purposes. When Dr. Reagan first came here back in the 70's, this sign read 1,291 feet below sea level. Today it should read 1,378 feet. That's a drop of 87 feet in 30 years.

the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem on Easter Sunday. The guest speaker was Wayne Hilsden, the pastor of King of Kings Community Church in Jerusalem.

We were scheduled to interview Pastor Hilsden the next morning. At that interview, I mentioned to him that for one day he had been equal to the Pope! When he asked me what I meant, I explained that each year at Easter the international news media always focus on two events: 1) what the Pope says in his Easter message, and 2) what the guest preacher at the Garden Tomb has to say. Wayne was impressed, but he did not require me to kiss his ring!

I want to thank all of you for the donations you sent which made this important trip possible. Also, I want to thank you for your prayers which sustained us.

I am also very grateful to the nine volunteers who paid their own expenses in order to help us with our video shooting. Without them, it would have taken us twice as long to get all the things done that we were able to accomplish.

Please pray for the Lord to bless our outstanding media staff as they begin editing the footage we have brought home. Pray that they will be able to produce a series of TV programs that will impact souls for eternity for our Lord and Savior. ✚

The 2008 Lamb & Lion Video Crew



Don Gordoni — Director

Don is Lamb & Lion's Media Minister, and as such, he is in charge of all TV and video production. Don is a native of Oklahoma and is a graduate of Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He has been with Lamb & Lion since 1999. He and his wife, Lori, have 9 children, with another on the way.

Trey Collich — Videographer

Trey serves full time in the Lamb & Lion Media Department, focusing mainly on video editing. He is also a very talented graphic artist. He became a full time staff member in 2004. Trey is an ordained minister. He is single and looking for a godly wife.



George Collich — Audio

George is Lamb & Lion's chief financial officer. He has been with the ministry since 1990. When shooting in our studio, he serves as a camera operator. In the field, he operates our audio equipment. He has three sons and one daughter. His wife, Sandy, is a specialist in women's ministries.

Nathan Jones — Teleprompter

Nathan is Lamb & Lion's newest staff member. He serves as the ministry's Web Minister. This was his first visit to Israel, and he served as our teleprompter operator. He and his wife, Heather, have two sons and a daughter. They are graduates of Philadelphia Biblical University.



Larry Neichter – Encourager

Larry lives in Louisville, Kentucky where he attends Southeast Christian Church. Larry is our most experienced volunteer, having been with us on four video shoots in Israel. He provides a great variety of services, but he is most appreciated as an encourager and humorist who helps keep the rest of the crew on an even keel.

Dave Pauli – Equipment

Dave is our strong man from Ohio who totes our heaviest equipment and also handles reflectors. This was his second trip as a volunteer.



Vera Strickland — Make-up

Vera lives in Arlington, Texas with her husband, Mark, who is a member of the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees. She performed a variety of tasks for us, but the most important was to keep Dave's head from shining!



Emmanuel Guerrier – Camera

Emmanuel is a native of Haiti who now lives in New York City where he works in the IT division of one of the nation's largest law firms. He went to Israel for the first time last summer as part of one of Dr. Reagan's tour groups. He served as our second unit video camera operator.



Cathy Smith — Artist

Cathy is an art professor at Collin County College in the north Dallas area. She specializes in watercolors. She painted scenes at the sites where we were shooting. We hope to assemble her pictures into a calendar for 2009.

Don McGee — Records

Don is the founder and director of Crown & Sickie Ministries in Amite, Louisiana. In addition to keeping the detailed records concerning the shooting of each scene, he also appeared in several of the scenes. One of the highlights for him was his reading of the Israeli Declaration of Independence.



Shai-Shalom Matter — Guide and Translator

Shai is a native of Miami, Florida who made aliyah to Israel over 30 years ago. After working for ten years as a shepherd at a kibbutz, he decided to become a tour guide. He is the guide that Dr. Reagan uses for all his tour groups.



Steve Robinson — Photographer

This was Steve's second time to serve as a volunteer. He worked as our official photographer and also helped with equipment hauling and the handling of reflectors. Steve is a businessman in Lexington, Kentucky. He and Larry Neichter often teamed up to keep all of us laughing.



Hani Kalil Saba — Driver

"Honey" is a Christian Arab from Nazareth. He has been driving tour groups in Israel for over 50 years. His personality is as sweet as his name. He serves as the driver for all of Dr. Reagan's pilgrimage groups.

Leon Fink — Clap Board

Leon is a retired Hewlett-Packard technician who resides with his wife, Linda, in a rural area of Arkansas. He is a former trustee of Lamb & Lion Ministries. He operated our clap board which signals the start of each scene. He and his wife have three sons, one of whom is the graphic artist who designs our magazine covers.



Dave Reagan — Writer

Dr. Reagan serves as the script writer and on-camera host of the programs we shoot in Israel. This was his 38th trip to Israel since 1979. He returned in June to host a pilgrimage group. In November he is scheduled to host a special advanced tour called "Focus on Jerusalem." His wife, Ann, is a retired first grade teacher. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. They also recently became great grandparents.



Jack Smith — Equipment

Jack and his wife, Cathy, live in a rural area near Farmersville, Texas. He is a retired medical technician. Jack is also a graphic artist and a specialist in martial arts. He serves on the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees. Jack helped us with a variety of tasks, from hauling equipment to handling reflectors. He also assisted with audio.



Dr. Reagan interviews Stan Goodenough in the courtyard of Christ Church in the Old City. Stan is the editor of The Jerusalem Newswire.

Evangelical Confusion!

Dr. David R. Reagan

Last December over 80 Evangelical educators and ministry leaders issued a joint statement affirming the need for Israel to surrender its heartland in order to establish a Palestinian state.¹

I must admit that the statement so infuriated me that I was tempted to entitle this article, “Evangelical Treason!” But I decided that would be too strong. The men who signed the statement are good men who mean well, but they are either very ignorant of God’s promises to the Jews or they have been terribly deceived. So, I decided on the title, “Evangelical Confusion!”

Their statement was a very deceptive one that began with the declaration that they were motivated by “our ongoing support for the security of Israel.” What nonsense! How is the surrender of its heartland supposed to bring peace to Israel? It would leave Israel a truncated state only 9 miles wide at its narrowest point, and with borders that would be completely indefensible.

The Arguments

Their first argument was that the two-state “solution” would benefit America’s security against Islamic terrorists because we would no longer be viewed as the world’s prime defender of Israel. This is naivete gone to seed! If Israel were to disappear from the face of the earth tomorrow, the Islamic threat to the United States would remain unabated. Islamic hatred of our nation is not rooted in our support of Israel. It is motivated by the conviction that we are the only obstacle to world domination by Islam.

The statement then proceeded to get “touchy-feely” by asserting that “the Bible teaches that God longs for justice and peace for all people.” What about justice for the Jewish people? The land of Israel was given to them as their eternal homeland by God Himself (Genesis 13:15 and Psalm 105:8-11). Furthermore, a Palestinian state already exists. It is called Jordan. It constitutes two-thirds of the territory of what used to be called Palestine. Also, more than two-thirds of its population is made up of Palestinians. Why is there any need for a second Palestinian state?

A Call to Prayer

The statement concluded with a call for Christians everywhere to “pray faithfully” for a “lasting two-state solution to the Holy Land.” I for one have no intention of honoring this call to prayer because it is directly contrary to God’s will as revealed in His Word. God has not regathered the Jewish people back to their homeland from the four corners of the earth for them to turn around and surrender their land to their enemies. In fact, the Bible says that in the end times God will pour out His wrath on those nations that try to divide up the land of Israel (Joel 3:2).

This wretched statement was signed by heads of the following Christian institutions:

Abilene Christian University
Asbury Theological Seminary
Azusa Pacific University

Central Baptist Theological Seminary
Denver Seminary
Evangelical Theological Seminary
Fuller Theological Seminary
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Oklahoma Christian University
Palmer Theological Seminary
Wheaton College

It was also signed by the leaders of The Wesleyan Church, the Mennonite Brethren, The Worldwide Church of God, and the Vineyard Churches. The editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today* was also a signatory.

Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, and one of the signatories, is on record as stating that Evangelicals need to ask themselves if there is anything theological that either forbids or requires a Palestinian state. “The answer is, no,” Mouw said. He

added, “The question for me is one of prudence, and not of theological principle.”² When I read this statement, the first thought that popped into my mind was: “I wonder how prudent it is to ignore the biblical statement, ‘He who touches Israel touches the apple of My eye.’” (Zechariah 2:8). I also thought of God’s promise in Amos 9:15 that once the Jewish people are re-established in their land, “they will never be rooted up again.”

Israel’s Shrinking Constituency

Of course the statement represents the long held viewpoint of the leaders of the mainline, non-Evangelical denominations like the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal churches. And it certainly represents the view of the Roman Catholic Church.

This statement is a testimony to the fact that the chorus of Christian voices standing with Israel and God’s end time purpose for the Jewish people is growing smaller and smaller every day.

As prophesied in Zechariah 12:2-3, the whole world is turning against Israel, and ultimately the result will be that the Jewish people will be forced to turn to God as their only hope. At that point, the One who never sleeps as He guards Israel (Psalm 121:4) will reveal Yeshua as their Messiah, a great Jewish remnant will repent, and “all Israel will be saved” (Romans 11:26).

That Jewish remnant will cry out, “*Baruch Haba Bashem Adonai!*” (“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”) and Jesus will return to this earth (Matthew 23:39).

Hallelujah! ☆

Notes:

¹ David Neff, “Evangelical Leaders Reiterate Call for Two-State Solution for Israel and Palestine,” *Christianity Today*, December 13, 2007, www.christianitytoday.com/ct/article_print.html?i=51980, accessed on December 13, 2007. This article lists the names of all those who signed the document.

² Todd Hertz, “Opinion Roundup: The Evangelical View of Israel,” *Christianity Today*, June 2003, www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2003/juneweb-only/6-9-31.0.html. Accessed April 27, 2008.

Evangelical Apostasy!

Dr. David R. Reagan

More and more Evangelical leaders seem to be following the lead of John Hagee in his assertion that Jews do not need to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior in order to be saved. Hagee argues, incredibly, that Jesus never even claimed to be the Jewish Messiah.¹

Others argue that Jews have their own special covenantal relationship with God and can therefore be saved by observing the laws of the Torah.² This view is called Dual Covenant Theology. It has been embraced by most of the non-Evangelical Christian community. It is also the viewpoint of many Catholics. For example, in 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released a document called “Reflection on Covenant and Mission” in which they affirmed that “Jews already dwell in a saving covenant with God.”³

There is tremendous pluralistic pressure these days to waffle on the issue of whether or not the Jews need Jesus. When Larry King interviewed Joel Osteen, pastor of America’s largest church, he asked if Jews must believe in Jesus in order to go to Heaven. Osteen replied, “I’m very careful about saying who would or wouldn’t go to Heaven. I don’t know.”⁴

The Stance of Scripture

He doesn’t know? What did the Apostle Paul mean when he wrote that the Gospel is “for the Jews first”? And what did he mean when he stated that his heart’s desire and prayer to God was for the salvation of the Jewish people (Romans 10:1)? In fact, he went so far as to state that he himself would be willing to be lost if it would mean the salvation of his “kinsmen according to the flesh” (Romans 9:3).

The Evangelical Counter-Attack

In 1989 a group of Evangelical theologians decided to address the growing ambivalence about the relevance of Jesus to the Jews. They issued the “Willowbank Declaration on the Christian Gospel and the Jewish People.” In it they denied that “any non-Christian faith, as such, will mediate eternal life with God.”⁵

The statement was denounced by Jewish and Christian leaders as “politically incorrect,” which, of course, it was. But it was biblically correct, which is all that matters.

In March of this year the World Evangelical Alliance decided to address the issue again in a document entitled “The Gospel and the Jewish People.” It is a biblical statement that expresses the truth in love. This important document reads as follows:⁶

“As Evangelical Christians, we want to express our genuine friendship and love for the Jewish people. We sadly acknowledge that church history has been marred with anti-Semitic words and deeds; and that at times when the Jewish people were in great peril, the church did far less than it should have.

- “We pledge our commitment to be loving friends and to stand against such injustice in our generation. At the same time, we

want to be transparent in affirming that we believe the most loving and Scriptural expression of our friendship toward the Jewish people, and to anyone we call friend, is to forthrightly share the love of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

- “We believe that it is only through Jesus that all people can receive eternal life. If Jesus is not the Messiah of the Jewish people, He cannot be the Savior of the World (Acts 4:12).
- “We recognize that it is good and right for those with specialized knowledge, history and skills to use these gifts to introduce individuals to the Messiah, and that includes those ministries specifically directed to the Jewish people (1 Corinthians 9:20-22).
- “We deplore the use of deception or coercion in evangelism;

however, we reject the notion that it is deceptive for followers of Jesus Christ who were born Jewish to continue to identify as Jews (Romans 11:1).

“We want to make it clear that, as Evangelical Christians, we do not wish to offend our Jewish friends by the above statements; but we are compelled by our faith and commitment to the Scriptures to stand by these principles. It is out of our profound respect for Jewish people that we seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them, and encourage others to do the same, for we believe that salvation is only found in Jesus, the Messiah of Israel and Savior of the World.”⁷

Now, that’s what I call “*Evangelical Faithfulness!*” And I praise the Lord for it. ✚

Notes:

¹ John Hagee, *In Defense of Israel: The Bible’s Mandate for Supporting the Jewish State* (Lake Mary, Florida: Front Line Press, 2007), pp. 132, 136, and 143.

² For an excellent summary of the origins of Dual Covenant Theology, see Joseph P. Gudel’s article, “To the Jew First: A Biblical Analysis of the ‘Two Covenant’ Theory of the Atonement,” www.inplainsite.org/html/two_covenant.html. Accessed on May 1, 2008.

³ Stan Guthrie, “Why Evangelize the Jews?” in *Christianity Today*, March 25, 2008, www.christianitytoday.com/ct/article_print.html?i=54452. Accessed on April 15, 2008.

⁴ *CNN Larry King Live*, Interview with Joel Osteen, <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0506/20/lkl.01.html>. Accessed on April 29, 2008.

⁵ “The Willowbank Declaration,” www.lcje.net/willowbank.html. Accessed on May 1, 2008.

⁶ World Evangelical Alliance, “The Gospel and the Jewish People — An Evangelical Statement,” www.worldevangelicals.org/news/view.htm?id=1732. Accessed on April 28, 2008.

⁷ Americans signing this document included (among others), Dr. Mark Bailey, President of Dallas Theological Seminary; Joel Belz, founder of *World Magazine*; Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship; Stephen Strang, publisher of *Charisma Magazine*; and Dr. Lon Allison, director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. There were many signatories from other areas of the world. A complete list can be found at the website quoted in note 6 above.

“As it was . . . so it will be”

Victor Knowles

Quickly now, when was the last time you thought seriously about Christ’s return? We get so caught up in living we hardly think about end time events. And that’s not good. Not at all. There’s no excuse for living like we do. Jesus warned us in advance: “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matthew 24:37 NIV). “As it was . . . so it will be.” *Bulletin!* The way it was in the days of Noah is how it will be before Christ returns . . .



Noah preaching to skeptics.

innocent as it looks.

You really need to study Genesis 6 (and Hebrews 11:7, 1 Peter 3:20, & 2 Peter 3:3-7) to understand what was going on in the days of Noah — incredibly evil stuff. Then connect the dots from “as it was” to “so it will be.” There is no doubt we are living in parallel (and perilous) times. I see at least seven parallels in the sacred text. Seven “flood warnings” issued from God’s Spiritual Weather Service as it were.

One, there was an excessive emphasis on physical things. They were eating and drinking to excess — gluttony and drunkenness. No thought was given to spiritual needs or concerns. “Eat, drink and be merry” was the mindless motto of the day.

Two, unrestrained sexual desires were fulfilled. Their “marrying and giving in marriage” were in reality “promiscuous marriages without regard to spiritual character” (Pulpit Commentary). Women were chosen — and taken — because of their physical attributes which, no doubt were flaunted, thus inflaming men’s lust.

Three, they had the wrong heroes. Men of great physical renown (Nephilim) were applauded and rewarded for their extraordinary exploits.

Four, the earth was filled with violence. The bloodletting started when Cain killed his own brother. Then Lamech, the first polygamist, killed a youth and bragged about it. Brutality and cruelty were the twin terrors that stalked the earth. No one was safe.

What were people doing before the great flood came and swept them all away? According to Jesus they were “eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage.” Sounds innocent enough at first glance. *The Message* says, “Everyone was carrying on as usual, having a good time right up to the day Noah boarded the ark.” Trouble is, their “carrying on” and “having a good time” is not as in-

Five, wickedness escalated to the tipping point. Men and women shamelessly, publicly and openly practiced their sin “before God.” “All flesh” corrupted itself. “Every inclination (imagination) of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” They were not born complete moral degenerates but quickly became such.

Six, a man named Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. In the midst of this corrupt culture one man stood out like a lighthouse. He became the lone recipient of God’s grace. “Where sin abounded, grace abounded more.”

Seven, the Spirit of God strove with men. “My Spirit will not contend with man forever.” Still, God gave them 120 years to change their ways. Noah was commissioned to build an ark. In his “spare time” he became a “preacher of righteousness.” I believe that God’s Spirit contended with sinful man through the faithful preaching of Noah.

These were the depraved conditions in the days of Noah before the flood came. “As it was . . . so it will be.”

You’d have to be as blind as the men of Sodom not to see that all signs today point to the soon return of Christ. Is there an excessive emphasis on physical things? Has our society become sex-saturated? Are society’s heroes the wrong kind of men and women? Is there any place (the womb, the home, the schoolhouse, the church sanctuary) that is truly safe from violence today? Isn’t corrupt man in an accelerated, warp-speed, moral free-fall? God’s Spirit still contends with sinful man through a few that faithfully preach right thinking and right living — but, as in Noah’s day, will not do so forever.

So, what’s our part as time winds down? Be like Noah. Stand for God when the rest of the world rails against Him. Be faithful. Build your life on things spiritual and eternal. Preach (and live) the message of righteousness for (let the modern church please take note!) that is still God’s way of contending with sinful men. Set your own house in order. Get your family into the ark when God says it’s time to go. ✚

Victor Knowles is a 1968 graduate of Midwestern School of Evangelism. For 25 years he and his wife Evelyn ministered to churches in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest. In 1992 they founded POEM (Peace on Earth Ministries) in Joplin, Missouri. Victor serves as President of POEM.

Victor has authored 20 books. Since 1984 he has edited *One Body*, a quarterly magazine dedicated to Christian unity. In 1992 Victor and his wife began publishing *The Knowlesletter*, a monthly newsletter reporting on the national and international work of POEM. He produces a daily Bible study on POEM’s Website called “Honey from the Rock.” You can access the website at www.poeministries.org.



Victor Knowles

“It’s not too late for America . . . yet.”

Franklin Graham

(Editor’s Note: I recently received a mailing from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association that contained a letter from Franklin Graham that I found so full of profound insight that I thought I would share it with the readers of the *Lamplighter*.)

We are living in a time of great spiritual and economic uncertainty when the moral foundations of our great nation are being destroyed. God has richly blessed this land, and I believe these blessings have been poured out upon us because of our strong biblical heritage and the deep faith of our founding fathers.

Unfortunately, in the last 100 years, we have slowly drifted from our spiritual moorings.

A Radically Changed Nation

Once known as a great missionary-sending country, our culture is now defined abroad by our moral decadence. In the living rooms of virtually every corner of the globe, you will find our primary export of Hollywood entertainment focused on sex, violence, and drugs. Our demand for illicit drugs drives the global narcotic trade.

Some godless lawyers and liberal judges have tried to strip faith from our culture once rooted in God. President Bush was sued when I mentioned the Name of Jesus at his first inauguration. Many have tried to remove God from the classroom and the public square.

What do we have to show for that?

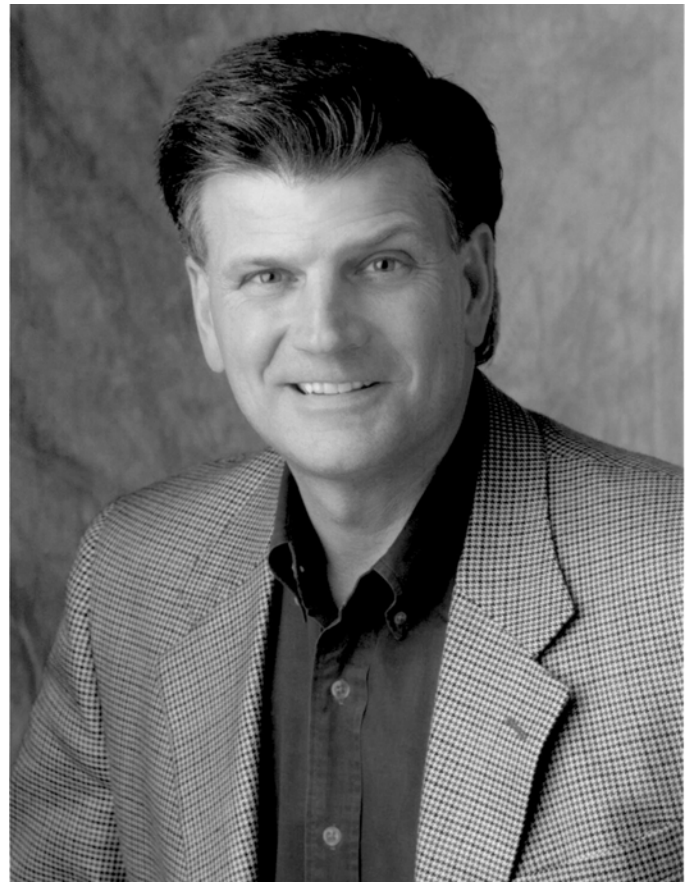
The Results of Godlessness

The government estimates 19 million new infections of sexually transmitted disease occur annually in America. The Bible clearly states that “we should avoid sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:3), but somehow we’ve reasoned that God’s laws are intended to hurt us, when they are designed to protect us. Our culture has failed to teach young people right from wrong. Because they have not been taught to fear God, many have no respect for authority. We have become one of the leading consumer nations of alcohol. One out of every 100 people in this country is incarcerated, locked behind bars.

I remember my mother telling me one day that if God does not judge America for her sins, then He would have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Is There Any Hope?

People throw up their hands and ask, “What can we do?” Well, here’s what I am doing. I am going to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to as many as I can for as long as I can. The Bible says that “night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4), but until that darkness falls upon this world, I will keep on proclaiming the Truth.



We can all make a difference through prayer. Pray urgently. Pray for our nation, and pray for its leaders regardless of political affiliation. Pray for your community, for your church, and for your pastor. Pray for people around you who need to turn to Jesus Christ.

It’s not too late for America . . . yet.

As long as men and women are still calling upon the Name of the Lord, confessing their sins, coming to Him in repentance, receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and following Him in obedience, it’s never too late. “I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). ✚

Relevant Scriptures to Ponder

Nahum 1:2-3

A jealous and avenging God is the Lord;
The Lord is avenging and wrathful.
The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries,
And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,
And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty
unpunished.

Isaiah 26:9b

When the earth experiences God’s judgments,
The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

Christian Persecution in Canada

A Canadian ministry called Christian Horizons was recently fined \$23,000 and required to pay two years of back pay to a former employee who was fired for homosexual activity. This incredible ruling by the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario was handed down despite the fact that the woman signed a contract agreeing to abstain from all sexual immorality, including homosexuality. In effect, the tribunal stated that the ministry had no right to require her to sign such a statement as a condition of employment.

Another Canadian ministry known as MM Outreach (formerly MacGregor Ministries) recently lost its tax-exempt status as a Canadian charity because the government demanded that it stop criticizing cults and claiming that Christianity is the only true religion. The government seized all their assets (funds and equipment) and informed them that they would have to either give the assets to another charity or purchase them back from the government.

"Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12

Christian Persecution in the United States

Elaine Huguenin and her husband, Jon, own a photography studio in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Both are Christians. When a lesbian couple asked Elaine to photograph their "commitment ceremony," she refused on religious grounds. The couple then filed a complaint with the New Mexico Human Rights Commission. Incredibly, the Commission ruled that the Huguenins were guilty of discrimination and required them to pay over \$6,000 in court costs. The Alliance Defense Fund has come to the defense of the Huguenins, arguing that "Americans do not surrender their freedoms of speech or religion just because they choose to open a business. The Fund's senior legal counsel, Jordan Lorence, said, "This lesbian couple is free to have any ceremony they want, but they don't have the right to force unwilling people to participate in it."

Meanwhile the battle for Christian rights continues in our public schools:

- At East Brunswick High School in New Jersey school officials have told a football coach that he cannot kneel or bow his head during student-led pre-game prayers.
- In a Wisconsin school district, a teacher has refused to give a student a grade on an art project because it included a sign of love and a reference to John 3:16. But works of art featuring symbols from world religions like Buddhism and Hinduism are considered "approved."
- In Mt. Vernon, Ohio, school officials have told a teacher that he cannot have his Bible in sight while students are in his class room. He has had his Bible on his desk in plain sight for the last 18 years.

TIMES and Seasons

Scripture Abuse

The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi (Democrat from California), has consistently used a Scripture quote to justify her environmental legislative agenda. Recently, on Earth Day, she used the

quote again, saying, "The Bible tells us in the Old Testament that 'to minister to the needs of God's creation is an act of worship and to ignore those needs is to dishonor God who made us.'" When she was finally challenged about the quote, which appears nowhere in the Bible, she said she had heard a Catholic priest read it years ago.

Barack Obama's pastor, Jeremiah Wright, recently spoke in the Dallas area. He proclaimed Allah to be the God of both Islam and Christianity and argued there are many roads to God. Afterwards, he was challenged with the statement of Jesus that He is the only way to God (John 14:6). Wright responded by quoting John 10:16 — "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd." This verse, of course, is speaking of Gentiles who would accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. It has nothing to do with Hindus or Muslims or the adherents of any false religion.

Barack Obama, in the spirit of his pastor, has proclaimed that the Sermon on the Mount gives support to civil unions. His exact words, spoken in Nelsonville, Ohio on March 2nd were as follows: "I believe in civil unions [between same-sex couples] . . . If people find that controversial, then I would just refer them to the Sermon on the Mount, which I think is, in my mind, for my faith, more central than an obscure passage in Romans." He did not bother to explain what passage in the Sermon on the Mount he was referring to. Nor did he bother to explain why the writings of the Apostle Paul should be considered "obscure."

"You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it . . ." Deuteronomy 4:2

Churches Without God

In a recent issue of *New York Magazine* (April 21, 2008) there was an article by Sean McManus about a movement among Secular Humanists and even Atheists to establish church-like organizations to help spread their "Gospel" of a better world without God. One of the leading Humanists, Greg Epstein, is quoted as saying, "I want to build big, beautiful buildings . . . in every city in America."

Some Humanists are already conducting church-like services with a message and music. This could lead to a legal quandary. What if these Humanist churches seek tax exempt status and are granted recognition as legitimate expressions of religion? It could backfire on them, because that could lead to the claim that the Secular Humanism that is being taught in American schools today is a religion (which, of course, it is). Then, if both Humanist and Christian values are banned from the schools under the reasoning of separation of church and state, what will the schools teach?



Is Anyone Listening?

On April 11, 2008, the Al-Aqsa television station in Gaza, owned and operated by Hamas, broadcast a sermon by Yunis Al-Astal, an Islamic cleric. He is also a member of the Palestinian parliament. He proclaimed that Rome, "the capital of the Catholics," would soon be conquered by Islam, just as Constantinople was. It then, he said, would become "an advanced post for the Islamic conquests, which will spread through Europe in its entirety, and then will turn to the two Americas, and even Eastern Europe." [Source: Al-Aqsa MEMRI TV]

Also in April, Abbas Zaki, the Palestinian Authority's Ambassador to Lebanon, stated on Lebanese television that "after we take Jerusalem, Israel's ideology will collapse altogether, and then we will proceed with our own ideology, Allah willing, and we will throw them out of all of Palestine." [Source: Arutz Sheva News]

A month earlier, in March, the Palestinian Authority's Interior Minister, Said Siam, stated that "There isn't a chance any Hamas leader will ever recognize Israel. We will not betray our values . . . We will leave this world as martyrs without recognizing Israel" [Source: Jerusalem Newswire]



Ismail Haniyeh

All the above statements simply underline what Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh said in December 2006 when he vowed that his Hamas-led government will never recognize Israel and will continue to fight for the liberation of Jerusalem. Here's how he put it: "We will never recognize the usurper Zionist government and will continue our jihad-like movement until the liberation of Jerusalem." [Source: *Jerusalem Post*]

In May of 2007 Sheik Ahmad Bahr, the Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, spoke at a mosque in the Sudan. He declared that America and Israel will be annihilated," and he called upon Allah to kill Jews and Americans "to the very last one." [Source: *Lekarev.org*]



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

"It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples . . . And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it." — Zechariah 12:3

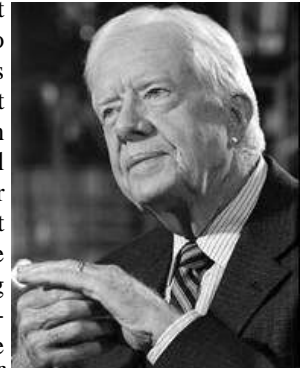
TIMES and Seasons

Jimmy Carter's Anti-Semitism

In September of last year Jimmy Carter's book about the Middle East was published. It was entitled *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. As the title implied, Carter accused the Israelis of practicing apartheid by separating themselves from their Arab neighbors with a wall, and he made it clear that in his thinking, the Israelis, and not the Arabs, are the stumbling block to truth. The thesis was so outlandish and bizarre that 14 members of the advisory board of his foundation resigned. Carter totally ignored some very crucial facts:

- There are over one million Arabs living within Israel with full citizenship rights.
- The wall Israel has been forced to build is a security wall designed to keep terrorists out of their country, and it has proved to be very effective.
- It is the Arabs who have expelled the Jews from their countries and who refuse to allow any Jews to dwell within their territories.

In April of this year Carter was at it again. This time he decided to go to Damascus to meet with the leaders of Hamas, one of the world's worst terrorist groups. It is an organization of thugs who have one fundamental goal: the annihilation of Israel. After the meeting, Carter announced that Hamas is willing to make peace with Israel, and that the only thing standing in the way is Israel's refusal to negotiate with Hamas! The very next morning, the leaders of Hamas repudiated Carter's statement, saying he must have misunderstood them. Israel's ambassador to the United Nations immediately labeled Carter a "bigot."



Jimmy Carter

Carter is a classic Humanist who believes in the basic goodness of mankind. He has never met an international thug that he was not willing to snuggle up to, believing that if he will only treat the thug with kindness and dignity, some sort of magical transformation will occur. He also has a terrible blind spot when it comes to Israel and the Jewish people and God's purposes for them.

"O God, do not remain quiet; do not be silent and, O God, do not be still. For behold, Your enemies make an uproar . . . They have said, 'Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.'" — Psalm 83:1-4

Land for Peace?

In the summer of 2005 Israel forcibly uprooted thousands of Jews living in Gaza and withdrew its military forces from that area, all in the name of "land for peace." Since that time Gaza has been transformed into a terrorist enclave and a missile base from which rockets are fired into Israel every day. During 2007 a total of 1,100 rockets were fired into Israel. During the first four months of this year, over 900 rockets were fired. Where is the peace? Where is the world outrage? ☆

Concerning Bible Prophecy

“Newspaper headlines today are plagiarizing Bible prophecy!” — Phillip Goodman of Thy Kingdom Come Ministries

“If prophecies are not fulfilled literally, then how can you know when they are fulfilled?” — Ed Hindson of The King is Coming Ministries

“Prophecy was not written to frighten us, but to inspire us.” — Ed Hindson

“I’m not looking for the undertaker; I’m looking for the upptaker!” — Ed Hindson

“Regarding the return of Jesus, don’t waste your time trying to guess the time. Instead, be ready all the time for Jesus to return any time.” — Ed Hindson

(Editor’s Note: Ed Hindson is one of Christendom’s most outstanding Bible prophecy teachers. He recently had heart bypass surgery and experienced complications that immobilized him for several months. Please pray for his full recovery.)

Concerning World Events

“Militant Islam is a judgment of God against the post-Christian, secular and pagan Western world.” — Jacob Prasch of Moriel Ministries

Walid Shoebat, a former Palestinian terrorist who has become a Christian, reports that the most common graffiti found on the walls of Arab-Islamic controlled areas in the Middle East reads, “We knock on the gates of Heaven with the skulls of Jews!”

“The United States is on a collision course with the Almighty, and the impact is near.” — Lance Lambert of Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem

Concerning Evangelism



Mike Gendron

With regard to fishing for men (Matthew 4:19), Mike Gendron of Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries observes: “When you catch fish, they are alive, and then they die. When you catch men, they are dead, but then they come alive.”

Concerning the Christian responsibility to share the Gospel with others, Mike explains, “Our responsibility is to deliver the Gospel. It is the Holy Spirit’s responsibility to convert the person. Our job is like that of a mailman. He delivers the mail and that fulfills his responsibility. He has no responsibility to see

to it that those who receive the mail open it, read it, and pay their bills.”

With regard to the seeker-friendly advocates who often soft-pedal the Gospel, Gendron warns: “I say that people must be told of their sin condition in order to get them interested in the cure.”



Food for Thought

Concerning Death

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian who was murdered by Hitler, told the two guards who came to escort him to his execution, “For you it is the end; for me, a beginning.”

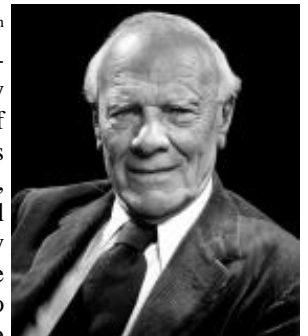
On his deathbed, William Blake, the English poet and painter, told his wife Catherine that to him, “dying is no more than moving from one room to another.” As his end approached, he started singing beautiful songs which he told his wife were not of his composition, but “came directly from Heaven.”

While dying, Michelangelo is reported to have said: “I have loved my friends and family. I have loved God and all His creation. I have loved life. And now I love death as its natural termination.”

Malcolm Muggeridge (1903 - 1990) was a life long agnostic who became a Christian in his mid-

60’s and then spent the rest of his life writing in defense of the Christian faith. One of his most famous observations concerning death reads as follows: “With old age comes what is called a ‘second childhood,’ so that we may meet our Maker precisely as we left Him — as little children who, the Gospel tells us, alone are able to understand what He came into the world to tell us.”

As Muggeridge approached his 84th birthday in 1987, he wrote the following prayer: “God, humble my pride, extinguish the last stirrings of my ego, obliterate whatever remains of worldly ambition and carnality, and in these last days of my mortal existence, help me to serve only Your purposes, to speak and write only Your thoughts, and to have no other prayer than: ‘Thy will be done.’”



Malcolm Muggeridge

Concerning Mormonism

In an interview with *Newsweek* magazine in March of 2007, former president Jimmy Carter was asked, “Do you think Mormons are Christians?” He replied: “Yes I do. I have a cousin who is a Mormon, and she married one of the Marriott family. I don’t know who’s more devout in their faith than she and her family. I admire them very much.”

Question: Since when are we saved by sincerity or devoutness? The world is full of people devoted most sincerely to false religions.

Concerning Prayer

“I have so much to do today that I should spend the first three hours in prayer.”

Martin Luther



The Importance of Hope

“How does faith differ from hope? At first glance they seem to be almost the same. Both relate to good things God has for us in the future, things which we believe will occur. Yet there is a difference . . .

“While faith is the calm, dispassionate acceptance of the promises of God, hope is the joyful delight in contemplating the desire fulfilled. Faith says, “It must be,” but hope says, “And I can’t wait until it gets here!” Faith accepts the promise, but hope delights in it . . .

“We can see that hope is no small thing. Hope feeds the soul and stirs our emotions in a very positive way. If hope could be formulated into a pill, we’d all be taking it. No price would seem too high to have a heart bursting with hope. While it always looks to the future, it is a powerful medicine for the present. More inspiring than any drug, hope banishes dark clouds, laughs at difficulties, and provides spiritual energy that fits us for effective service.

“Perseverance during great difficulties is hope’s speciality . . .”

From an article entitled “The Power of Hope” by Dennis Pollock of Spirit of Grace Ministries in McKinney, Texas.

In a recent sermon, Don Perkins, founder and director of According to Prophecy Ministries in San Diego, California, made the following observation about hope: “Hope is the rope that enables you to cope!”

How Alert Are You?

In a recent issue of his church’s newsletter, John Seitz, pastor of Antioch Christian Church in Marion, Iowa, presented the following story.

“The *Washington Post* conducted an experiment: What would happen if a world class musician performed elegant classical music on a priceless instrument in the metro station of a major American city? The city was Washington, D.C. The musician was Joshua Bell, who can earn upwards of \$50,000 for an evening’s performance. The instrument was a 300 year-old Stradivarius valued at \$3.5 million. The music included works of Bach and other masters.

“The experiment was captured on a hidden camera. So, what happened? How did people respond? During Bell’s 45 minute performance, 1,097 people passed by. Twenty-seven of them dropped spare change into his open violin case, for a total of \$35. Only seven of them stopped what they were doing to listen for at least one minute. The other 1,070 people hurried past, oblivious, uninterested, unmoved.

“We need to ask ourselves: How many times a day does something like this happen to you or me? How many times do we encounter truth, beauty and excellence, without giving it a second look? How many messages of hope do we ignore? How many demonstrations of grace do we disregard? How many divine appointments do we overlook?”



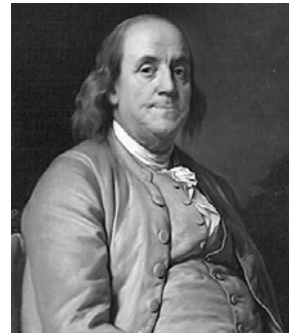
Food for Thought

Wisdom from our Founding Fathers

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” — John Adams, second President of the United States

“Is it not that in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer’s mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?” — John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States

“An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us! Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power . . . Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations and who will raise up friends to fight our battle for us . . . Is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” — Patrick Henry, patriot and statesman



Benjamin Franklin

“I’ve lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We’ve been assured in the sacred writings that unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.” — Benjamin Franklin, signer of the Declaration of Independence

“The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the Word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts . . . Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” — John Jay, signer of the Declaration of Independence and first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court

“Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament . . . be read and taught as a divine revelation in [schools] — its general precepts expounded, its evidences explained, and its glorious principles of morality inculcated? . . . Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly as from the New Testament?” — Unanimous decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1844 ♦

Muslim Evangelism

Joel Rosenberg, the Messianic Jew who is a best selling novelist, recently posted an amazing report on his web blog concerning Muslim evangelism (<http://joelrosenberg.blogspot.com>). A summary is presented below:

- **Afghanistan** — There were only 17 known Evangelical Christians in the country before the 9/11 attack on the U.S. Today, there are over 10,000 Afghan followers of Jesus, and the number is growing steadily.
- **Uzbekistan** — There were no known Muslim converts to Christ in 1990. Now there are more than 30,000.
- **Kazakhstan** — There were only 3 known Evangelical Christians before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Today there are more than 15,000 Kazakh Christians.
- **Iraq** — There were only a handful of Muslim converts to Christianity in 1979 when Saddam Hussein took control of the country. Today, there are more than 70,000 believers who were former Muslims.
- **Iran** — In 1979 when the Ayatollah Khomeini led the Islamic Revolution, there were only about 500 known Muslim converts to Christianity. Today, there are over one million Shia Muslim believers in Christ.
- **Egypt** — More than one million Egyptians have put their faith in Jesus over the past decade. The Egyptian Bible Society reports that whereas they used to sell about 3,000 copies of the Jesus film each year in the early 1990s, they sold 600,000 copies in 2005! That same year, they also distributed 750,000 copies of the Bible on tape (in Arabic).

U.S. Congress Affirms Israel

In April both houses of Congress passed resolutions strongly endorsing America's friendship with Israel. The resolutions were prompted by the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the nation of Israel, which this year was celebrated in Israel on May 8th. The Senate resolution (S. Res. 522) passed by unanimous consent. The House resolution (H. Con. Res. 322) passed by a vote of 417-0.

Both resolutions reaffirmed the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the countries, and both reaffirmed America's support for Israel's right to defend itself against threats to its security and existence.

Evangelicals Outnumber Catholics

According to the *Washington Times*, Evangelical Christianity has become the dominant religious faith in the United States, surpassing Catholicism for the first time. This was the finding of the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey which interviewed 35,000 adults. Evangelicals numbered 26.3% of the population (66 million) whereas Catholics now constitute 24% (54 million). One out of ten Evangelicals is a former Catholic. Hispanic Catholics are leaving the Catholic Church at high rates. Twenty per cent of them are ending up in Evangelical churches.



Good News

Messianic Jews Win Victory

The Supreme Court of Israel ruled in April that being a Messianic Jew cannot prevent a person from receiving Israeli citizenship. The case was prompted by the state of Israel refusing to grant citizenship to 12 Messianic Jews simply because they were believers in Yeshua.

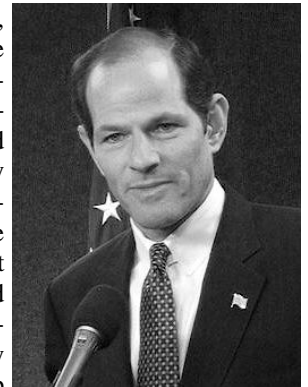
This was a landmark decision that reversed a decision made by the same court in 1993 when it ruled that a Messianic Jew is not a Jew. The court argued that Jews who adhere to Christian beliefs are "members of a different faith," and are not eligible for the automatic citizenship that Israel grants Jews. In its summary of that ruling, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the belief that Jesus is the Messiah "cannot be reconciled with Judaism" and "marks the clear separation between Judaism and Christianity." That decision said, in effect, that a Jew could believe

in any religion or reject all religion and still be a Jew, unless he converted to Christianity.

The new ruling now means that Messianic Jews can apply for citizenship without keeping their faith in Yeshua a secret. It also recognizes the fact that when a Jew accepts Yeshua as Lord and Savior, he does not cease being a Jew.

A Prayer Answered

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, who recently resigned in disgrace due to his involvement with prostitutes, was one of the nation's foremost advocates of both abortion and same-sex marriage. As Attorney General he constantly harassed pro-life pregnancy centers. When the news broke about his involvement with prostitutes, he was scheduled to speak to New York's largest pro-abortion organization called Family Planning Advocates. This group supports unlimited tax-funded abortions, without regard to a girl's age or the number of tax-funded abortions in a calendar year.



Eliot Spitzer

The month before Spitzer's exposure and subsequent resignation, The Family Research Council (FRC) warned that he was preparing for the possible reversal of *Roe v. Wade* by pushing for a state law that would declare abortion to be a "fundamental right" for women. The FRC called for Christians to pray, "May God intervene to stop Governor Spitzer from succeeding in this evil ambition to make abortion a 'fundamental right' in New York." The prayer was answered.

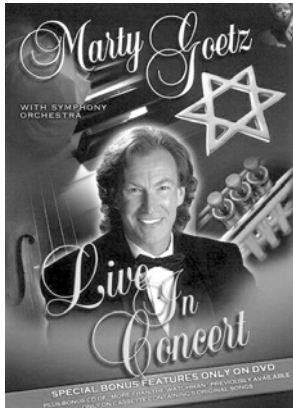
Porn Spammers Fined

The Federal Trade Commission recently fined an adult web site more than \$410,000 for sending obscene email messages to unsuspecting recipients. This is the sixth company that has settled with the FTC over complaints about porn spam. The amount of pornographic spam email had dropped over the past few years due to the crackdown. PTL! ✚

Television Update

300th Program Broadcast!

During the week of June 8th we broadcast our 300th program of "Christ in Prophecy." It was a program that focused on the life and ministry of the great Messianic musician, Marty Goetz. The following week our TV program was a celebration of the last 100 programs, showing many highlights.



The Marty Goetz program was based on his spectacular DVD album entitled "Live in Concert." It is a unique album in that it contains both a CD and a DVD. The CD has five songs on it. The DVD contains Marty's full concert of 12 songs running 90 minutes in length. Additionally, as a bonus, it contains four other songs, all recorded with Marty's orchestra. That's a total of 16 video songs. We can provide you with this album for a gift of \$20 or more. Just

call 1-800-705-8316.

In April we recorded two television programs with Larry McCoy which will be broadcast in early September. Larry is a very gifted musician from Gallatin, Tennessee. About 25 years ago he put the entire book of Revelation to song, chapter by chapter. It was an amazing feat that is still unrivaled today. During his interview he revealed that he served as the pianist for Johnny Cash for many years and that Mr. Cash was the one who financed his recording of the album. We offer the album for a cost of \$15, CD format only.



Dave with Larry McCoy

In April Dave visited the headquarters of the GLC Network in the Midland-Odessa area of West Texas. He was interviewed for two hours on their evening anchor show, and the broadcast received a tremendous response. The initial interview was broadcast live, but a taped version of it was re-broadcast several times. It was a good introduction of "Christ in Prophecy" to the viewers of this regional network. ✚



Dr. Reagan is shown on the left with Jeff and Tommie Cooper. They are sitting on the main set at the GLC studios. Tommie and her husband, Al, founded the station in 1982. Jeff is their son.

"Christ in Prophecy" Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

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

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 IPTV Channel 110				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Sun. 10:00am	Sun. 11:00am	Sun. 12:00pm	Sun. 1:00pm

National Religious Broadcasters TV Network DirectTV Channel 378				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Sun. 2:00pm	Sun. 3:00pm	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm

Regional Networks



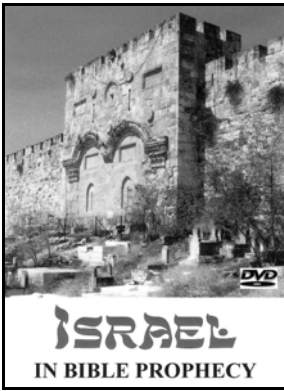
"Christ in Prophecy" is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network**: Sunday at 6:30pm; Monday at 8:30am; and Wednesday at 7:00pm.

FamilyVision TV can be seen on 11 cable systems throughout South Louisiana. For specific broadcast information, see: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



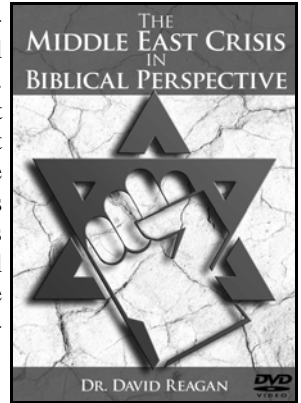
God's Learning Channel broadcasts our program on Wednesday at 6:00pm throughout Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah via cable. It can also be picked up nationally via Direct Broadcast Satellite. For more information, see: www.godslearningchannel.com.

Video Resources Concerning Israel

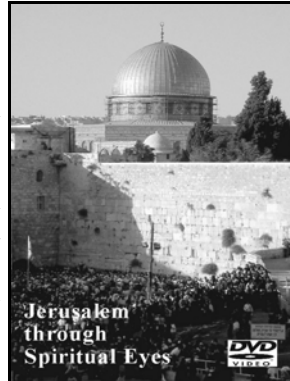


Israel in Bible Prophecy — A 65 minute video movie filmed entirely in Israel. It focuses on 7 prophecies being fulfilled in Israel today that point to the soon return of Jesus. In addition to contemporary scenes of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the Wilderness of Judea, it also contains clips of historic footage. This is not a travelogue. It is a teaching film about Bible prophecy being fulfilled today. DVD, \$15.

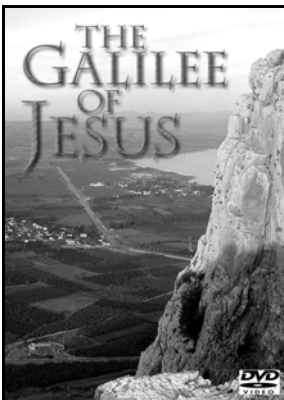
The Middle East Crisis — A powerful presentation about the spiritual roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Dr. Reagan surveys the conflict from biblical times to the present and shows why there will never be peace in the Middle East until Jesus returns. In the process he shows from Scripture that the land of Israel has been given to the Jewish people as an eternal possession. 50 minutes, DVD, \$12.



Jerusalem Through Spiritual Eyes Shot on location in Jerusalem. Contains fascinating footage of the Old City, the tombs of the city, and the city's gates. These are related to the crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and return of Jesus. Also contains a walk along the Via Dolorosa ("The Way of Suffering" to the Cross). An outstanding study resource. Running time is 65 minutes. DVD, \$15.

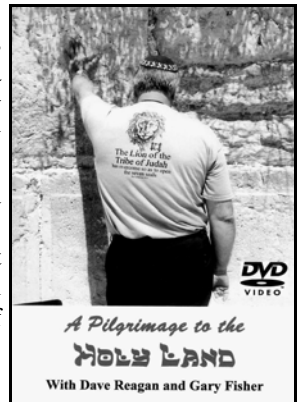


Israel in the Last Days — Begins with a shocking survey of Christian anti-Semitism from the beginning of the Church to the present. Presents a powerful argument against the apostasy of Replacement Theology. Concludes with an affirmation of the continuing love of God for the Jewish people and His determination to fulfill His promises to them. 50 minutes, DVD, \$12.



The Galilee of Jesus — Four TV programs edited together to produce a sweeping overview of the ministry of Jesus in the Galilee of Israel. Following an in-depth introduction to the whole area of the Galilee, the program focuses on the Nazareth of Jesus, His miracles in the Galilee, and His transfiguration. All footage contained in this program was shot on site in the Galilee. Running time is 80 minutes. DVD, \$15.

Holy Land Pilgrimage — This highly entertaining video follows a pilgrimage group through the Holy Land led by Dr. Reagan and Gary Fisher of Lion of Judah Ministries. You will walk where Jesus walked and hear moving devotional talks. You will be laughing one moment and crying the next. You will see all the major sites related to the life of Jesus. Running time is 75 minutes. DVD, \$15.



We Need Your Support As A Prophecy Partner!

The most important way you can help us to proclaim our message about the Lord's soon return is to become a Prophecy Partner.

Our Prophecy Partners are composed of those supporters who have made a commitment to give a donation to the ministry each month for one year. The goal is one dollar a day, or \$30 a month. Of course, many give much more than that. The minimum is \$20 a month.

Each Prophecy Partner receives a monthly letter from Dr. Reagan in which he reports in detail about the ministry's activities and needs. Included with the letter is a monthly gift, usually a DVD containing one of the ministry's TV programs.

To become a Partner, give us a call at 1-800-705-8316. Thank you and God bless you! ✚

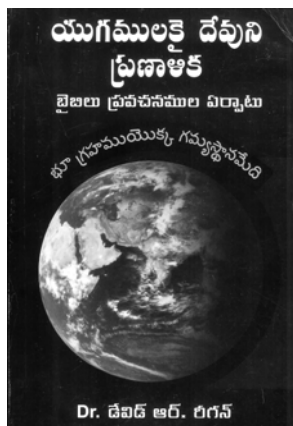


Dr. Reagan with Eugene & Lillian Banks of Lexington, Kentucky.

Ministry News

Foreign Publication —

Dr. Reagan's comprehensive study of Bible prophecy, entitled *God's Plan for the Ages: The Blueprint of Bible Prophecy*, was recently published in India in the Telugu language. This language is the second most spoken language after Hindi in India and is one of the top fifteen most widely spoken languages in the world. The translation and publication was done by Revival Literature Fellowship in Bangalore. The director of this ministry, John Ishmael, is a long-time friend of Lamb & Lion Ministries. He has published several of our books and many of our articles in both Hindi and Telugu. We are planning to bring him to the States in December of this year to speak to our trustees.



Website Overhaul —



Nathan Jones

Our new website, which our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, has been preparing for over six months was launched on May 1st to enthusiastic acclaim. There are some aspects of it that are still in development, but Nathan will soon be spending most of his time interacting with those who respond to the website. Nathan has a great vision for reaching the world for Christ through the web-

site. Please visit the new site at www.lamblion.com and let Nathan know what you think. We are open to any suggestions you might have for improving the site.

Israel Pilgrimages —

Our next basic tour of Israel is scheduled for June of 2009. If you are interested, give us a call at 800-705-8316 and request a brochure. We are also planning to provide a "Focus on Jerusalem" tour for November of 2009. This will be designed for people who have already taken the basic tour. The group will spend ten days in Jerusalem seeing things that are not seen on the basic tour. A brochure for the November tour will not be ready until sometime next year, but if you are interested, you can write or call and get on the mailing list to receive a brochure when one is ready.

A Plea for Assistance —

The wonderful Bible Times Learning Center in Ein Kerem, Israel is in need of financial assistance. You can make a donation to help them through us. Just designate your gift for them. This is an outstanding Bible teaching center that is run by a very gifted Christian woman named Annie Thrasher (see page 5). Also, if you are a tour leader, we recommend that you contact Annie and arrange for your group to visit her learning center and experience a biblical meal. For further information about the Center, you can access the website at <http://standingstrong.org>.



Earlier this year Dr. Reagan was one of the featured speakers at a Bible prophecy conference in the Los Angeles area. Because the conference focused on the threat of Islam, there was heavy security. In fact, law enforcement officers surrounded the church. When Dr. Reagan got up to speak, he announced that he had brought his own body guard. He introduced a close friend and former trustee of the ministry, Tom Shepherd, who lives in Montclair, California. Tom jumped up and revealed a T-shirt that said, "Don't Mess With Texas!"

Missions —

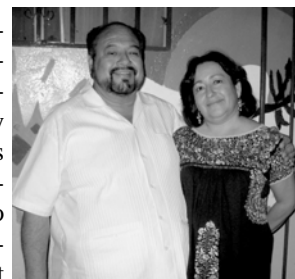
- **India** — John Ishmael at Revival Literature Fellowship in Bangalore needs financial assistance for publications and for native ministers who are affiliated with his ministry. This ministry was founded in 1968 by John's father. It is firmly established, greatly respected, and very effective in its outreach. The native ministers who work with John can be supported for only \$100 per month. Donations can be made through Lamb & Lion. Be sure to put the Christians of India on your prayer list. They are being severely persecuted by Hindu extremists. John's website: www.rlfministries.com.



John Ishmael

- **Philippines** — Pastor Remegio Blanco is a zealous evangelist and an avid teacher of Bible prophecy. In addition to pastoring a local church, he conducts evangelistic crusades throughout the area north of Manila, often using messages of Bible prophecy. He has sponsored two pastor's conferences for us, and he has distributed our materials to many pastors. His church members are currently constructing a new church building, and they need financial assistance. You can contribute through us. Just designate your donation for Philippines outreach.

- **Mexico** — Hands of Luke Ministries in Juarez, Mexico, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The ministry is directed by Dr. Marco Samaniego and his wife, Carmen. They house orphans, provide medical care to the public, operate feeding centers for children, and support several churches. ✚



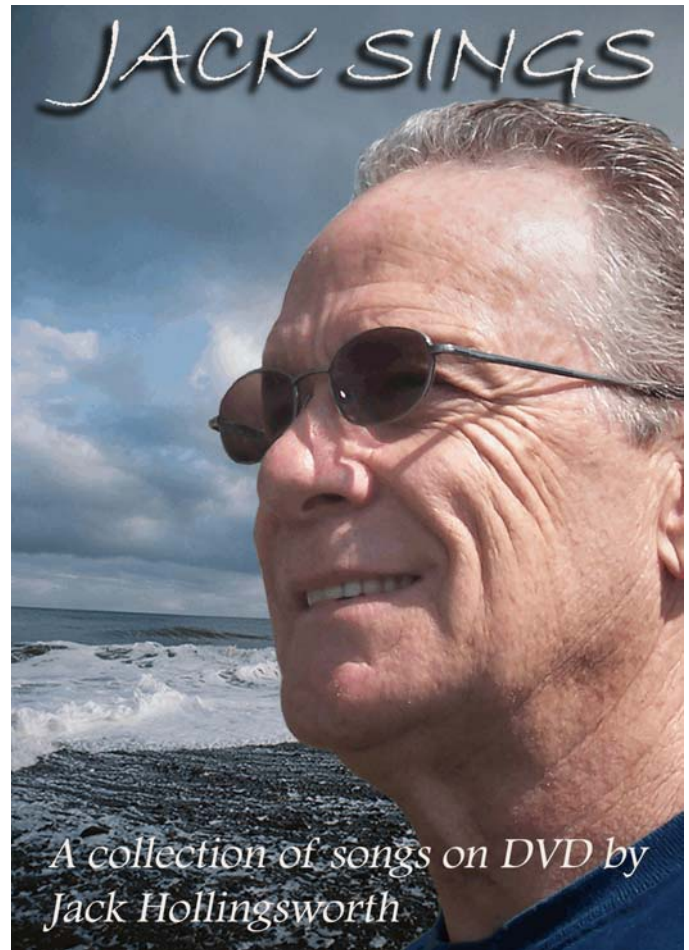
The Samaniegos

Exciting New Music Video!

Jack Hollingsworth has been the featured singer on Lamb & Lion's television program, "Christ in Prophecy," ever since the program began broadcasting in the fall of 2002.

This album contains six songs. Each has been edited creatively by the Lamb & Lion media crew to present the greatest possible visual effect in support of Jack's anointed singing.

- **Leavin' on My Mind** — words and music by Rusty Goodman
- **Bring Back the Cross** — words and music by Squire Parsons
- **11:59** — words and music by the Jeff Treece Band
- **We Shall See Jesus** — words by Diane Wilkinson, music by John Dewitt Rowe
- **It Is Well With My Soul** — words by Horatio Spafford, music by Philip P. Bliss
- **Midnight Cry** — words and music by Chuck and Craig Day



Jack and his wife, Sally, have a ministry called Acts 29. They travel constantly throughout the United States ministering both in music and in teaching at churches, prisons, and missions for the homeless.

Jack lived on the streets as a homeless person before he came to the Lord in 1988 and had his life totally transformed. He sings with an anointing that expresses his fullness of the Spirit and his joy in the Lord. You will be blessed by his singing and by the innovative editing of our media crew as they have attempted to re-enforce the words of his songs with exciting and inspirational visuals. DVD, \$15.



Jack and Sally Hollingsworth



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