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Heads Up!

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FEATURE ARTICLE - WILL IT FLY AT HUFFMAN'S PRARIE? - by Buddy Smith



Wilbur and Orville Wright's names are not much heard in our day. A hundred and ten years ago they invented the Wright Flyer, the first aeroplane to fly under its own power. Prior to that powered flight at Kill Devil Hill in North Carolina, they made more than 700 flights in gliders they built in their bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio. Their research into the secrets of flight opened the way for all who came after them. At first they had no wind tunnel, so they attached a bracket to the handlebars of a bicycle, and tested the airfoil shapes as they pedaled down the road. Later, they built a wind tunnel and tested each wing, as well as the design for the propellers for their powered Flyer. Amazing innovators, they were! They designed and built their own engine, a 12 horsepower horizontal four cylinder, and made a primitive carburetor for it. One of their own mechanics put it together and tinkered with it until it ran reliably. They solved the problem of low speed stalls by attaching pulleys and cables to a movable cradle the pilot lay in so he could warp the wings and bank the Flyer in a turn. They built a catapult to launch the Flyer, and it flew! They flew that rattling, clattering, vibrating contraption of spruce and cloth and wire, and motor and sprockets and bicycle chains and handmade propellers, they flew it over a hundred feet that day in 1903. Almost the length of a modern airliner's wingspan.

The Wright brothers were impressive characters. The sons of a Congregational minister, they held some surprisingly strong beliefs. No matter what stage of testing they were at, they dressed up in suits and ties and refused to do any work on Sundays. Photos abound of them setting aside the Lord's day, no matter where they were or what they were doing.

They were also brilliant aeronautical engineers before the title even existed.

They often disagreed, and would debate for hours the complexities of their flimsy fledgling aircraft. They were so persuasive that they even convinced each other and traded viewpoints and started the debate all over again.

Many interesting historical highlights of those primitive flights are written down. Years ago, someone built an exact replica of the Flyer, I mean, an exact copy. And they couldn't get it to fly, at all. Someone else built one and got it into the air, only to find that it was terribly unstable and came very close to crashing every time they flew it.

There is one incident, or series of incidents, that deserves special mention. You see, once they'd flown the Wright Flyer off Kill Devil Hill a few times and gained a tiny bit of experience, they disassembled it, packed it up and sent it back to Dayton. They were offered an empty cow pasture on the edge of town for the first flying field in the world. It was called Huffman's Prairie. It lacked several advantages the windy, sea level beach at Kill Devil Hill had. The higher elevation made the air pressure lower so the lift of the wings was less, and the little engine's power dropped as well. At Kill Devil Hill, the wind blew at more than 40 miles per hour, here the wind was almost non-existent, so they lost airspeed for takeoff. The summer air was much hotter and thinner, so the catapult rails had to be lengthened to increase the takeoff speed. But it just wouldn't fly. Local newspaper reporters came out to see it fly, and it didn't, and they laughed and went home.

Orville and Wilbur went back to the bicycle shop and to the windtunnel they'd made, and they argued it out, until they solved the problems, one after the other. The design was good. The airfoil was tweaked, and the wings and tail lengthened. Having the horizontal tail in front to prevent stalls was a good idea, and the wing warping concept was sound. The propeller design was optimal (as computer studies would prove, years later). The center of gravity was right. The catapult was improved, but the Flyer just wouldn't fly. The major problem was the little motor. More power was needed to push the Flyer along fast enough to take off. Twelve horsepower was just barely



enough to fly in the conditions at Kill Devil Hill, but not in those at Huffman's Prairie. They designed a new, more powerful engine, and the Flyer flew. Soon, they were flying, sitting upright, and even carrying a passenger. And flying five hours at a time, non-stop.

IT FLEW AT HUFFMAN'S PRAIRIE

The last fifty years have seen some strange designs come and go. Most of them won't fly at Huffman's Prairie.

No, I don't mean aircraft designs. I mean church designs. In the 50's we saw "bus-churches" springing up everywhere. In the 60's it was "contest-churches" and "southern-gospel-music-churches", in the 70's we had "big-name-preacher-churches", (and sadly, they are still with us today), in the 80's and 90's there appeared the "seeker-sensitive-megachurches", and over the past ten years or so the "emergent/emerging-churches" have spread all over the world. Each of these designs seems to fly impressively for a little while, as long as the winds of culture are blowing just right, and the temperature of society is just right, and the peer pressure is high enough. Some of them need blue collared converts in order to get off the ground, others need cashed up yuppies to take off. Some can only flourish in the sun belt or the deep south, or near Hollywood or Nashville or Disneyland. Large cities are required for some designs to fly, and it seems that they all need Hillsong and YouTube. Most of them would crash and burn without a website, a rockband, and televised church services.

That's the difference between megachurches and the biblical churches the apostles planted. Peter and Paul did no market research or surveys of lost men's preferences in order to start an enculturated church. They did not seek a favourable environment for an anaemic message. They didn't test the wind, or sample the market. They preached the Word of God and followed the leading of the Spirit of God. They preached the gospel of Christ in the most hostile cultures imaginable. The synagogues erupted, and the silversmiths chanted their threats, and

Nero schemed, and lions devoured them. And those little apostolic churches overcame the gravitational pull of the world, and rose above the crosswinds of pagan religions. When all the world was against them, they flew. You know, that is the real test of a preacher or a church. Does it only survive if it is planted in a favourable cultural climate? Will it only fly if society smiles upon it? Or will it fly at Huffman's Prairie?

Everywhere we look today, Egochurches and Ecochurches are flapping their wings and staggering off the ground in front of TV cameras. But they can only do it if they are supported by their cultures. Their only hope of flying is if they gain the assistance of the world they love. CEO/pastors study the methods of billionaire businessmen to learn how to point their church into the wind. And of course, the business methods they adopt completely eclipse any truth they ever possessed.

One lesson from history they never learn is that culture changes with the passing of time. The favourable breeze that lifts Joel Osteen's Jumbochurch to great altitude this year inevitably becomes a thunderstorm just when he hopes for a gentle landing. They forget about Oral Roberts and Ted Haggard and Truman Dollar and Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Bakker. Woe betide the modern CEO/pastor who is the pilot when the wind shifts or dies. Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral recently crashed and burned spectacularly. Why? Because the economic winds shifted, his New Age doctrines caught up with him, and his church stalled. The Roman Catholics circled like vultures to pick up the pieces. Within twenty minutes of our church is a church that tried Rick Warren's Purpose Driven design a few years ago. But the ambitious pastor found that the culture here could not and would not support "purposeless drivel" and it crashed and burned. I fear it will never recover.



I keep wanting to ask these pastors, "Will your church fly at Huffman's Prairie? Can you get it off the ground when the cultural winds refuse to blow like you've been told they will? What will you do if there are no yuppies to fork over megabucks to fuel your Juggernaut and pay the crew? What if your town has no rednecks (with longnecks?) to pay for Bill Gaither's visit? Can you plant a church in a jungle village that never heard of GenX, or Y, or Z? How will you ever get an emergent church off the ground there? What if

DEACON TRUE SEZ -



Cousin Jake drives a street sweeper
over in _____ town.

We was talkin' on the phone
t'other night and I told him about
the missionary we had in to speak
at church, raisin' support to go to
Lower Aftergrandstand, or
somewhere. Jake wanted to know
what he looked like, and when I
told him he said he reckoned he
saw him comin' out of the
casino/5 star resort t'other mornin'
early.

So he asked his brother in law
who works at the desk, an' sure
enough, it was him. Been there
about a month, livin' it up high on
the hog during the week, and
raisin' support from us little country
churches around the ridges on
Sundays.

I told our preacher what Jake said,
and he rung around to the
preachers he knows. Dunno what
they got planned, but I do know
that tar and feathers is too good
for a crooked moochanary.

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the winds shift? What if you attempt a takeoff in the middle of a societal tornado, or a cultural hailstorm? And when your church won't fly, have you thought about why it won't?"

I know, Rick Warren boasts that he has hundreds of thousands of pastors and churches enlisted in his Saddleback Association. He tells the attendees at his conferences that fundamentalists are his biggest problem. I also know that Bible believing churches have outlived their pallbearers for almost 2000 years. I predict (without inspiration) that the Megachurch window has begun to close. Its explosive growth depended on cultural influences that are dying. Somebody should write a book titled, "How The GFC Killed The Seeker Sensitive Church." The same will soon be said of the Emergent/Emerging church, which is the new face of gnosticism. We cannot help noticing how its gurus and their adherents see themselves to be the intelligentsia, the elite. Have they stopped to think that their culture is already dying, that the dumbing down of the minds of students all over the world will bring their airspeed to zero? It all points to a

simple truth. Churches which are built to soar on the winds of culture usually disappear in the first big storm.

There are thousands of little churches around the world whose pastors understand that the gospel of Christ is still the power of God unto salvation. They understand that the Holy Spirit is the only "wind" a church needs to be concerned about. I know pastors that coax their tiny congregations off the ground every week and they do it with a tailwind, in a hailstorm, with a cyclone blowing, in heavy rain, and sometimes when the passengers don't want to fly! They do it with the power of gospel preaching and the help of the Spirit of God.

These little churches do God's work week after week, year after year, and never have to rely on a godless culture to get them off the ground.

They fly from Huffman's Prairie International Airport, with God's help.

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GOLD FROM OPHIR - by Missionary Jerry Wilhite



Many promises of God are found in these chapters, Genesis 15-17. There are promises regarding the seed of Abram (15:4-5; 17:2,4), servitude (15:13), substance (15:14), survival (15:15-16), space (15:18; 17:8), the son of Hagar (16:10-12), a struggle (16:12), sire (17:4-5),

sovereigns (17:7), specialness (17:8), the sign of circumcision (17:9-11), Sarah (17:15-19), and the states of Isaac and Ishmael (17:19-22). Even novice historians have to admit that God has kept his Word regarding these promises.

Someone has said there are 365 promises for the believer in Scripture, one for every day of the year. While men often break their promises, God never does! Whenever a missionary lives in a land where promises are rarely kept, he truly values and clings to the promises of God.

Early on, I learned that men only told me what I wanted to hear. Their word could rarely be trusted. Once I questioned them about doing this, and they said, "Teacher, we want to be nice. We don't want to hurt you."

What response could I make? I had to flee to the Bible again and again because I realized that truly, really, only God could be trusted to keep His promises. Yes, I have been tempted of the devil to forget or forsake God's guarantees, but a regular diet of God's Word brings me back again and again to the promises of God, and there I find rest.

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October 24, 2013 (Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) –

The following is by Gene Gurganus of Truth Publishers and is dated January 3, 2011. Gurganus is the author of two excellent books on Islam: "The Peril of Islam" and "Islam and the End Times"

(<http://truthpublishers.com/books/>).

(quoted from) Peter Hammond, author of **SLAVERY, TERRORISM, AND ISLAM: THE HISTORICAL ROOTS AND CONTEMPORARY THREAT** shares how Islam affects host countries. Read with care. Islam is not a religion, nor is it a cult. In its fullest form, it is a complete, total, 100% system of life. Islam has religious, legal, political, economic, social, and military components. The religious component is a beard for all of the other components. Islamization begins when there are sufficient Muslims in a country to agitate for their religious privileges. When politically correct, tolerant and culturally diverse societies agree to Muslim demands for their religious privileges, some of the other components tend to creep in as well.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

- As long as the Muslim population remains around or under 2% in any given country, they will for the most part be regarded as a peace-loving minority, and not as a threat to other citizens.
 - At 2% to 5%, they begin to proselytize from other ethnic minorities and disaffected groups, often with major recruiting from the jails and among street gangs.
 - From 5% on, they exercise an inordinate influence in proportion to their percentage of the population. For example, they will push for the introduction of halal (clean by Islamic standards) food, thereby securing food preparation jobs for Muslims. They will increase pressure on supermarket chains to feature halal on their shelves - along with threats for failure to comply. At this point, they will work to get the ruling
- government to allow them to rule themselves (within their ghettos) under Sharia, the Islamic law. The ultimate goal of Islamists is to establish Sharia law over the entire world.
 - When Muslims approach 10% of the population, they tend to increase lawlessness as a means of complaint about their conditions. In Paris, we are already seeing car-burnings. Any non-Muslim action offends Islam, and results in uprisings and threats, such as in Amsterdam, with opposition to Mohammed cartoons and films about Islam. Such tensions are seen daily in many countries.
 - After reaching 20%, nations can expect hair-trigger rioting, jihad militia formations, sporadic killings, and the burnings of Christian churches and Jewish synagogues.
 - At 40%, nations experience widespread massacres, chronic terror attacks, and ongoing militia warfare.
 - From 60%, nations experience unfettered persecution of non-believers of all other religions (including non-conforming Muslims), sporadic ethnic cleansing (genocide), use of Sharia law as a weapon, and Jizya, the tax placed on infidels.
 - After 80%, expect daily intimidation and violent jihad, some State-run ethnic cleansing, and even some genocide, as these nations drive out the infidels, and move toward 100% Muslim.
 - 100% will usher in the peace of 'Dar-es-Salaam' - the Islamic House of Peace. Here there's supposed to be peace, because everybody is a Muslim, the Madrassas are the only schools, and the Koran is the only word. Unfortunately, peace is never achieved, as in these 100% states the most radical Muslims intimidate and spew hatred, and satisfy their blood lust by killing less radical Muslims, for a variety of reasons.

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THE MARTYRDOM -

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." - John 15:13

Towards the close of the century, a society was heard of in China, who called themselves the "Yi Woh Chuan", meaning "Righteous united fighters." These Boxers were bitterly anti-foreign and their hatred extended to the Chinese Christians who the Boxers considered to be but followers of the foreigners. Men joining this society trained with one object, to destroy all foreigners and all Christians. Their numbers increased with unbelievable rapidity.

During the winter of 1900, the rumours concerning this society seemed like the rumblings of a coming storm. Most foreigners believed that in time the danger would pass as other such troubles had done before. Then early in May the cyclone of horror was suddenly let loose. So sudden and unexpected was it, that hundreds of missionaries and Chinese Christians failed to reach a place of safety and were put to death by the merciless Boxers.

When the clouds of persecution began to gather, Blind Chang was visiting the Christians at Teshengkow. All felt he would be a marked man and therefore one of the Christians there led him further into the mountains where he could be safe until the troubles passed. It was in this safe hiding place that Blind Chang was to meet the supreme test of his life.

Several hundred miles distant in a city called ChaoYangShan, about fifty Christians were seized by the Boxers. They were threatened with death and as preparations were being made for their execution a certain man spoke up saying, "You are certainly foolish to kill all these. For every Christian you may kill, ten will spring up while that man Chang Shen lives. Kill him and you may crush the sect."

As a result of this advice the Boxer leaders promised to save the lives of the Christians if they handed Blind Chang over to them for execution. For a time none of would hear of this but when things looked so serious for the Christians, one man, weaker than the rest, went in search of Blind Chang to give him word of what was taking place. When this man reached Blind Chang's place and told his story the blind evangelist listened silently through it all and then a look of strange eagerness came over his face. When the man had finished his report to Chang, without a sign of doubt as to what he should do, Blind Chang



reached out his hand, saying, "I will gladly die for them. Take me to them for it is better that it be so."

Over that long, stony path they travelled for days with the burning sun of July beating down upon them. Did the blind man's heart fail within him at times? If so, he did not reveal it. On reaching ChaoYangShan he was immediately arrested and bound. His quiet dignity and absence of any sign of fear impressed and awed his enemies.

The details of that sad but gloriously victorious scene have come to us from several sources and differ only slightly in minor details.

The day when he arrived in ChaoYangShan, Blind Chang was taken bound to the temple of Kwan Kung (god of war). Wild crowds had gathered and on reaching the temple he was dragged inside and commanded to worship the gods. To this he replied with quiet dignity, probably the only calm one in the midst of that throng of savage and merciless tormentors:

"I worship only the One Living and True God."

"But you must repent," they cried.

"I have repented long ago," was the quiet answer.

"Then you will believe in Buddha?"

To this he replied, "I believe in the one true Buddha, even Jesus Christ."

When again he was commanded to bow before the gods, he exclaimed, "Turn my face towards the sun." He knew the gods always faced the South, so by him facing the South his back would be therefore be toward the idols. As they turned him he knelt down and worshipped the God of Heaven and Earth.

While this was going on, the Boxer leaders with fifteen executioners were on their way from a town twenty five miles away. We know nothing of the terrible days between but from what we have heard concerning the methods of torture used in many other cases, we cannot but believe that those days must have tested the blind man to the utmost. He did not fail throughout that furnace of horror, he was faithful unto death.

Three days after his arrest, on the 22nd of July 1900, Blind Chan was placed on an open cart at eight o'clock in the morning, and driven through the streets of the town amidst great crowds to the common burial ground outside the city wall. Christians followed beside the cart and witnessed the blind man all the way, engaged either in prayer or singing aloud.

"Jesus loves me, He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
His blood washed away my sin,
Let His little child come in .

Jesus loves me, He will stay,
Close beside me all the way;
If I love Him when I die,
He will take me home on high."

On arrival at the place of execution Blind Chang was dragged from the cart and forced to kneel down. As he did so he cried with a loud voice, "Heavenly Father, receive my spirit." This he said three times but before the third sentence ended, the swords of his murderers from behind him, cut him down.

The Christians begged for his body but the Boxer leader refused their request and forced them to buy oil to burn the mangled remains of Blind Chang to ashes. This was done because a report had spread abroad that the Blind Chang would rise from the dead. The Boxers thought therefore how to make this impossible. Later, these very men, the Boxers, became afraid, for they came to believe that the man they had killed was in fact a good man of God. This fear caused them to flee to other areas to escape the revenge they believed his spirit would wreak upon them. With the Boxers gone, no further persecution followed.

When the Boxer uprising had come to an end and at least some outward repentance was shown, the Provincial

Government of Manchuria ordered a handsome stone monument be erected in honour of the man whose memory was so cherished with love and reverence in the hearts of many thousands throughout that area. As a mark of their regard for Blind Chang the official order was given that the highest number of dragons next to that which was placed in Imperial Tombs, namely eight, were to be carved on the stone monument.

We cannot close this brief sketch better than by giving in full the one hymn which has come down to us from the hands of this blind hero of faith. As one reads these lines they seem to breathe something of the closeness and preciousness of Jesus to the soul of Blind Chang as he trod those hard, lonely paths in witness and love for the Lord Jesus Christ. - R.G.

JESUS MY GUIDE

by Chang Shen

Jesus my Guide! 'tis my delight!
Peace fills my soul, He is my Guide.
In toil or rest, by day or night,
Jesus ever by my side.

My Guide is Jesus day by day.
His hand of mercy laid hold on mine;
He is my Guide, on Him I stay,
Upon His right hand I recline.

Fast hold of Jesus hand I take
Life's journey though to Heaven's gate,
Nor weal, nor woe, my hope can shake,
Jesus is Guide, on Him I wait.

Victor I stand when life is done,
O'er outer foes and sin's foul brood,
Jesus my Guide, I trust alone,
I shall not dread the coldest flood.

"I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them."
Isaiah 42:16

**(Blind Chang's story is available in booklet form from
Hong Kong Christian Bookroom - contact details:
<http://christianbookroom.com/contact-us/>)**

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(I always wonder when scientists make some "great" scientific discovery, if they are not just very small mice nibbling around the edges of a very large cheese. Most times they find that the increase in their knowledge is actually minimal, and that there is more that is unknown than is known. - Ed)

SCIENTISTS FIND SECOND, 'HIDDEN' LANGUAGE IN HUMAN GENETIC CODE

<http://www.breitbart.com/system/wire/upiUPI-20131212-174536-3107>

U.S. geneticists say a second code hiding within DNA changes how scientists read its instructions and interpret mutations to make sense of health and disease. Since the genetic code was deciphered in the 1960s, scientists have assumed it was used exclusively to write information about proteins, but University of Washington scientists say they've discovered genomes use the genetic code to write two separate "languages."

One, long understood, describes how proteins are made, while the other instructs the cell on how genes are controlled. One language is written on top of the other, which is why the second language remained hidden for so long, a university release said Thursday.

"For over 40 years we have assumed that DNA changes affecting the genetic code solely impact how proteins are made," UW genome sciences Professor John Stamatoyannopoulos said. "Now we know that this basic assumption about reading the human genome missed half of the picture. These new findings highlight that DNA is an incredibly powerful information storage device, which nature has fully exploited in unexpected ways."

Parts of the genetic code have two meanings, one related to protein sequence, and one related to gene control, the researchers said, and both apparently evolved in concert with each other. The gene control instructions appear to help stabilize certain beneficial features of proteins and how they are made, they said.

The discovery has major implications for how scientists and physicians interpret a patient's genome and could open new doors to the diagnosis and treatment of disease, Stamatoyannopoulos said.

"The fact that the genetic code can simultaneously write two kinds of information means that many DNA changes that appear to alter protein sequences may actually cause disease by disrupting gene control programs or even both mechanisms simultaneously," he said.

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Lifting Up The
STANDARD

"WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM" (ISAIAH 59:19).

An Outreach Ministry of FairHavens Baptist Church
www.fairhavensbaptist.net

CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL



Every time I read James 3 and think about worldly wisdom I remember a story told by my grandmother, Lilly Denton. Granny died a few years ago at the grand old age of 100 years and one month. She was a tiny old lady who loved us rugrat grandkids and made great biscuits. Her story was about an uncle who owned a corner grocery store with two rooms, one for sales, and one for storage.

A lady walked in one day with a pound of homemade butter wrapped in a piece of brown paper. She asked Granny's uncle, "Mr. Morgan, can I swap you a pound of my butter for a pound of your butter?"

He looked at her for a moment and then asked, "Now, what's the good of doing that?"

"Well," she said, "When I was started churning it, a rat fell into the churn, and I sort of didn't want to eat butter that's had a rat swimming around in it. I still reckon the butter would be ok to eat, so I didn't want to throw it out. I thought maybe you would swap with me. I'd have a pound of your butter, and somebody else could buy my butter off you, and nobody would be the wiser. What they didn't know wouldn't hurt them, would it?"

Mr. Morgan thought on this for a bit, and then replied, "Alright, I'll swap you."

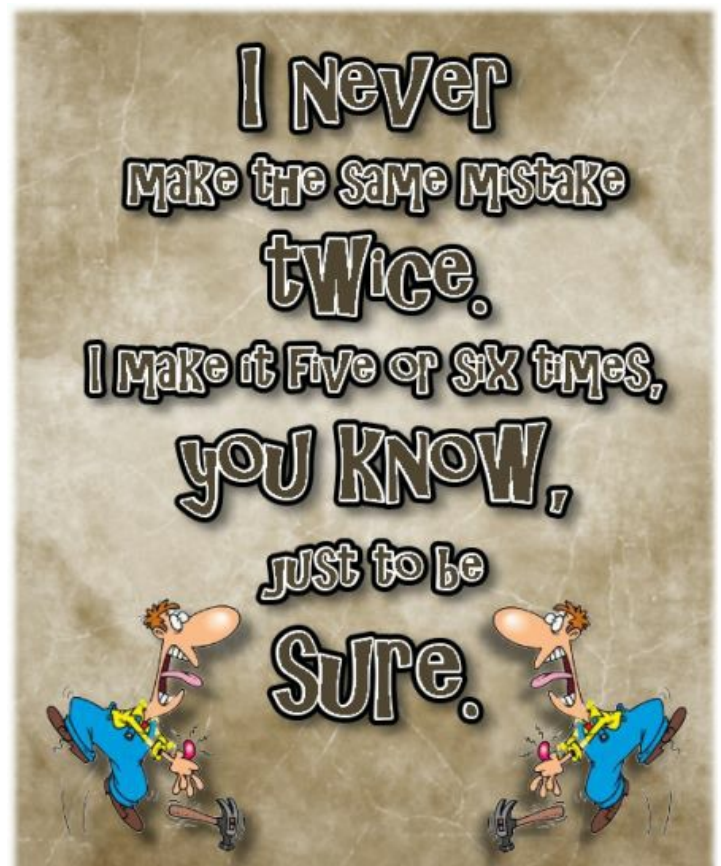
He carried the lady's butter through a curtain into the back room. He took the lady's "ratty" butter out of its brown paper wrapper, re-wrapped it in his own wrapper, carried it back to the counter, and handed it to the lady with these words, "What they don't know won't hurt them, will it?"

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NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- A Social Gospel that provides beans and bacon for the bellies and broadcloth for the backs of the poor, but gives them no saving gospel ends up sending obese men in tuxedos to Hell for eternity. - B. Ferraro
- "Let me never become a slave to crowds." - A.W. Tozer
- "The Church did the most when the Church was the least like the world." - G. Campbell Morgan
- "At any point in all of Eternity, we can say, 'This is just the beginning.' How wonderful for those who are with Christ. How unimaginably dreadful for those who are not." - Leonard Ravenhill
- A wise woman understands that to become the Proverbs 31 woman- she can't skip chapters 1-30. - Suzi Crocket
- Isn't it strange that our teens can operate any electronic device on earth, but have no understanding of a lawn mower or vacuum cleaner whatsoever. - Anon.

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As I stood looking at the lifeless body of a dear preacher friend's son who took his own life, my friend said to me, "You know, Tom, God's grace really IS sufficient!" Indeed, God's grace is sufficient. We have all been in a great trial or will be there some time in life. I have been there for the last week or so with the homegoing of my father. I know that some of the staff at the hospital were having a hard time figuring us out after dad passed from this world into eternal life. We were not weeping uncontrollably, nor were we threatening the doctor or nurses like many do. We were rejoicing that the suffering had ended, that the disease would go no further, and that rest had finally come to the 88 year old soldier. The head nurse came by and spoke with us wanting to know if there was anything we needed. I told her that we had all we need, because dad was in the presence of the Lord. She smiled and rejoiced with us as she too is a believer. God's grace IS sufficient.

So exactly what does that mean – My grace is SUFFICIENT? That phrase is found in **2 Corinthians 12:9** *"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."* It was after Paul asked the Lord three times to remove the thorn in his flesh.

The word that Paul used for SUFFICIENT is the word ARKEO. ARKEO is defined as "to be possessed of unfailing strength, to be strong, to suffice, to be enough, to be satisfied, to be contented." Think of that: to be possessed of unfailing strength. "That is what God's grace is," Paul is saying. Unfailing strength is not found in therapy. It is found in God's grace. That is the kind of grace that sustains us in the darkest of times. That grace gave Paul

strength to bear up under the literal "stake" (thorn) that he sought to have removed. That grace strengthened him to face whatever else would come his way from prison, all the way to his eventual death. God's grace was there all the way.

The only thing that is sufficient is that grace. The other things are NEVER sufficient. Look at all the other things today that are described as being sufficient. Those things fall far short. One of the ways that this word is translated in the New Testament is "content." For example, the writer of Hebrews said, *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* **Hebrews 13:5** The opposite of covetousness is contentment. It is that which the Lord supplies, and what He supplies is enough – just like in a time of what we call Tragedy. Is it really tragic? Not from Heaven's standpoint. The apostle Paul would call those things "light affliction."

A lost person has great difficulty during those times. The only thing that they have to rely upon is human flesh – fallible, failable, weak human flesh. Flesh has never had anything sufficient about it.

But because God's grace was ARKEO, that is, sufficient, Paul stopped asking for the thorn to be removed. Even more, ARKEO is what is present tense. That means that it is continual. The action never stops. That tells us that God's grace is always being supplied. Indeed, it is. Ask Paul. Ask those who experience it.

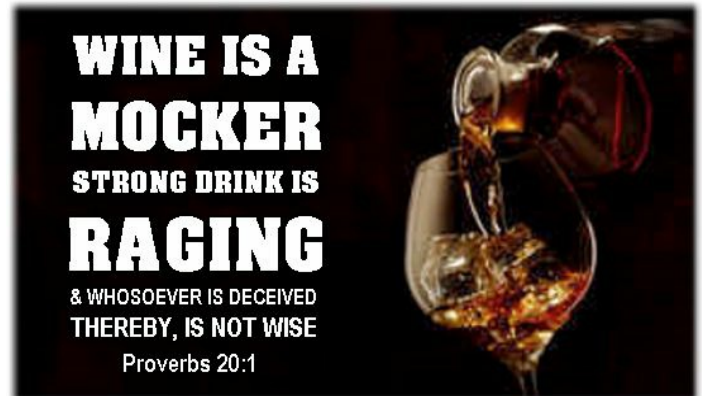
We are possessing that unfailing strength through our merciful Lord constantly, continually, and consistently!

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**The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust. (Psalm 18:2)**

The following story is told of General Harrison, one of the candidates for the Presidency of the United States, in connection with a public dinner given him on one occasion:

"At the close of the dinner one of the gentlemen drank his health. The General pledged his toast by drinking water. Another gentleman offered a toast, and said, 'General, will you not favour me by taking a glass of wine?' The General, in a very gentlemanly way, begged to be excused. He was again urged to join in a glass of wine. This was too much. He rose from his seat and said in the most dignified manner: 'Gentlemen, I have twice refused to partake of the wine-cup. I hope that will be sufficient. Though you press the matter ever so much, not a drop shall pass my lips. I made a resolve when I started in life that I would avoid strong drink. That vow I have never broken. I am one of a class of seventeen young men who graduated together. The other sixteen members of my class now fill drunkards' graves, and all from the



pernicious habit of wine-drinking. I owe all my health, my happiness, and prosperity to that resolution. Would you urge me to break it now?"

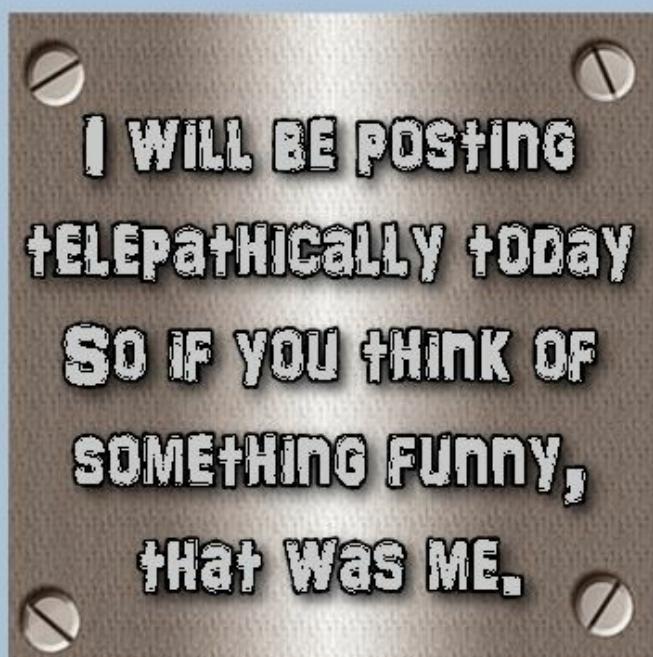
Proverbs 20:1 *"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."*

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THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

A few years ago I visited a zoo run by an animal psychologist. They trained animals to behave in a civilized manner. In one cage there was a lion and a young lamb, and to my surprise, the lamb was snuggled up right next to the lion. I was amazed. "For thousands of years, we've been trying to train animals to get along like this. How did you do it?"

"It's easy," said the psychologist, "We just have to replace the lamb every few hours."



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MILEY CYRUS - YOUNG POP DIVA FOLLOWING HER HEART -

(Friday Church News Notes, September 27, 2013, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) –

From the 1950s to today, rock musicians have pushed the moral envelope until there is not much envelope left, except perhaps bestiality. Nothing has done more to destroy morality in modern society than rock & roll, and it has operated at a global level.

Miley Cyrus is on the cutting edge of the push today, with her naked video "Wrecking Ball" becoming the fastest music video to reach 100 million views on VEVO.

At a recent concert at the iHeartRadio music festival in Las Vegas, the former Disney Channel starlet acknowledged that she is doing things that are getting her into trouble, but she argued, "It's just me doing what my heart and soul is telling me what to do" ("Miley Cyrus performs at iHeartRadio," CNSNews, Sept. 22, 2013).

Indeed, and that is because man's fallen heart "is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). Miley added that her actions are "inspired by the music." Elvis said the same thing, and we have been agreeing with them for 40 years.

The rock backbeat is inherently sensual and rebellious. When I was a church kid teen in the 1960s, it grabbed me, encouraged me to "do my thing," and nearly led me to hell.



Rock music is the sound-track of end-time rebellion and apostasy, and to think that it can be "Christianized" is spiritual insanity. At the iHeartRadio festival, Miley joined Justin Timberlake, Paul McCartney, Elton John, Katy Perry, and others.

Preachers who have stopped warning loudly and plainly about the spiritual dangers of rock and the pop culture it has created and who are so careless as to "adapt" contemporary worship music are the blind watchmen and dumb watch dogs that Isaiah warned about. They are the chief reason why most "fundamentalist" Baptist churches will be emerging within 10-20 years.

"His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber" (Isa. 56:10).

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EDDY-TORIAL - THE RUINING OF THE ROSEBUDS - PART 1 - by Buddy Smith



Roses are still our favourite flowers. We love the spectrum of colours, the perfection of shapes, the velvety textures, and the heady fragrances of roses. Most of all, I love watching them grow to maturity, from the tiniest buds to the flamboyantly opened blossoms, glorious in their beauty. I love to cut a rose or two and take them to my sweetheart for the vase on her window ledge. Nothing quite dresses up our kitchen like one of our own roses

gifted from one of us to the other. We even enjoy the fallen petals, a shattered rainbow, decorating our doorstep. At times we've saved hundreds of rose petals to make potpourri with fragrant spices. When it comes to roses, I am a real softy.

Nothing wounds my heart more than a ruined rosebud. At least, nothing temporal. I am not thinking of a worm-

eaten bud. I am thinking of a man-opened rosebud. To me, a manipulated rosebud, a bud forced open before its time, a flower peeled back, petal by petal, clumsily man-handled into a false and crippled maturity is a botanical tragedy. It hurts me in my soul.

WHO AND WHY?

Little children sometimes ruin a rosebud, out of curiosity.

Big children ruin rosebuds, too. They think God's way is too slow. They think they can do His work better, faster.

It is because they haven't yet discerned the difference between ministering and manipulating.

THE ROOTS OF THE WORDS - MINISTER OR MANIPULATE?

Truth involves the careful defining of terms.

TO MINISTER

- "to serve (food or drink)" late 14c.
- "render service or aid"
- "to serve, attend, wait upon" c.1300,
- "one who acts upon the authority of another"
- "servant, valet, member of a household staff, administrator, musician, minstrel" (12c.),
- "inferior, servant, priest's assistant"
- from "*minus, minor*", "less" hence "subordinate," + "*teros*."

TO MANIPULATE

- from manus "hand" + root of plere "to fill"
- from manipule "handful" (a pharmacists' measure)
- a method of digging ore, from c.1730,
- from Latin manipulus "handful, sheaf, bundle,"
- "skillful handling of objects", from 1826;
- "handling of persons" from 1828
- "to handle skillfully by hand,"
- of mental influence, from 1864.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MINISTERING AND MANIPULATING?

- Ministering is serving. Manipulating is ruling, especially **overruling** God's appointed order.
- Ministering is patiently waiting for God to do His work His way in His time. Manipulating is impatiently taking God's work away from Him and doing it my way, on my schedule.
- Ministering is wisely seeking what God would have me to do and how. Manipulating is foolishly developing my own methods and motives for doing His work.
- Ministering is exercising my gifts in the fruit of the Spirit for the benefit of others. Manipulating is

carefully orchestrating carnality, doing the works of the flesh for my own glory.

- Ministering is contentment with doing the task God assigned to me, knowing that I may not see its completion in my lifetime. Manipulating is being discontented with anything less than immediate results in what I think I am doing for God.

WHO MINISTERS AND WHO MANIPULATES?

The record of Holy Scripture is replete with those who ministered and those who manipulated. Elisha ministered as he poured water on Elijah's hands and Jezebel manipulated when she schemed Naboth's vineyard into Ahab's control. David ministered to Saul and Saul manipulated his servants to slay him. Dorcas sewed as a ministry for the saints and Salome manipulated Herod by teaching Herodias to dance.

The lines between ministering and manipulating were more distinct then. Oh, now and again we saw in a church a Simon Magos, with his occultic Ph.D in Manipulation, professing faith, and asking to transfer his degree into the ministry. Early church historians claim that Simon Magos, Ph.D, was the first of the Gnostics to try to worm his way into the church. Peter saw through his spurious faith. rebuked his bitter spirit, and sent him packing.

THE BLURRING OF THE LINE BETWEEN MINISTERING AND MANIPULATING

Of late, the line between ministering and manipulating has become increasingly blurred, almost to the point of invisibility. Oh, if you attend the biggest and best (?) Leadership Conferences and Bible colleges you will hear them say that everything they offer has to do with Ministering To Others, but it isn't so. Manipulation 101 is preached under the banner of Pastoral Leadership in every nation under the sun and taught in almost all the Independent Baptist Bible Colleges.

God's plan for Ministering has always been the same. He calls and equips all who trust in Christ to serve. Puppetmasters in western culture have so powerfully influenced Independent Baptists that Manipulator (par excellence?) has become the career of choice, and is now accepted as being "baptistically correct." In most circles preachers are under enormous pressure to learn all the CEO skills needed to become Master Manipulators.

We must never forget that Ministering, not Manipulating, is God's method. *"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but **ministers** by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any*

thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." I Corinthians 3:5-8

In churches where God's ways and God's thoughts are seen to be higher than man's, those who preach and teach are simply ministers, servants, and helpers of the saints. They plant (as Paul did), they water (as Apollos did), and they wait on the Lord to give the increase. They never try to open the rosebuds.

That work is God's work. It always was.



Have a look the next time you attend one of the Leadership Conferences or famous Bible colleges. Have a look at the ruined rosebuds.

Did you really think those were rose petals on the podium, in the aisles, in the foyer, and on the footpath?

Look again.

Look closely.

They are ruined rosebuds. Manipulated by man. Forced open.

They will never have the opportunity to grow to full size.

They will never gladden hearts with the fragrance God created them to give.

They will only ever be ruined rosebuds.

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Heads Up!

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