



March 21, 2014

FEATURE ARTICLE – BUT IF NOT... - by Pastor Buddy Smith

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLE

But If Not...

DEACON TRUE SEZ

MEGACHURCHES

The Bigger They Are, The Farther They Fall

ALDOUS HUXLEY ON WHY HE WAS AN ATHEIST

THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE

GOLD FROM OPHIR

THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE

NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS CRISIS

NAILING IT!

WHAT WE WON'T HEAR FROM THE GREENIES ABOUT POT

EDDY-TORIAL

Pastors and Wives Retreat



"But the path of the just is as the shining light,
that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."
Proverbs 4:18

Heads Up!

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Four weeks ago today I received a telephone call from one of our men to let me know that Bro. John Short had been arrested and detained in North Korea. We had met John and Karen Short in 2012 when we passed through Hong Kong on our way to and from Nepal. We had corresponded some years ago and he offered us a place to stay at the Hong Kong Christian Book Room. HKCBR is the literature ministry they use to supply gospel literature to churches and pastors in several Asian nations and overseas.

We were greatly moved to see the zeal, and the diversity of their testimony for Christ. Bro. John picked us up at the airport and dived into a discussion of wonderful Bible truths before we were even out of the airport terminal. His daily focus is on the Lord Jesus Christ. I suspect that his blood, like Charles Spurgeon said of John Bunyan's, "is so bibline that he would bleed Bible verses if you pricked him anywhere." We had the privilege of attending a house church with them in Hong Kong and rejoiced to fellowship with the Chinese brethren.

Before we departed for Australia Bro. John asked us to pray for a trip he planned to make to North Korea in early 2013. It was his desire then to carry gospel literature with him and distribute it to those he met.

As I prayed for Bro. John Short off and on through that Wednesday night after his arrest (along with thousands of others around the world!!!) I was aware that it was not humanly possible that we would ever see our brother again till the Rapture of the saints. When I awoke the next morning the words of Daniel 3:18a were on my mind, "But if not... But if not..."

GOD DOES DELIVER HIS OWN FROM PERSECUTION!

The 17th verse reads, *"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king."*

God is able to deliver us! He will deliver us!

These young men knew their God. Whether by life or by death, God would deliver them from the hand of the king. And He did deliver them. However, their wisdom was great enough for them to say to the king,

"But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

The tyrants of this world never take it well when one of God's children refuses to worship their idols.

"Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace."

What a surprise it is to the wicked when God defends His children!

"Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and

spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them." Daniel 3:18-27

THE WITNESS OF HISTORY IS OFTEN THAT OF DELIVERANCE –

Daniel is pulled from the lions' den without a scratch. David is preserved for 15 years from Saul's pursuing armies. The apostles escaped more than once from Roman prisons.

Missionary Dick McLellan has performed an invaluable service for missionary hearted churches by writing two excellent books of biographical sketches of Ethiopian pastors and evangelists. In his book Warriors of Ethiopia he tells the stories of the outstanding Christians who came to know Christ during his time there. Every one of them moves me to tears of joy. One of the evangelists is named Nana. He is called "The Invisible Man." His story is told in pieces, all through the two books. He was one of forty two evangelists who preached in southern Ethiopia around Gofa. Opposition arose to their evangelistic work from the local witchdoctors, the Orthodox (Coptic) priests, and the corrupt government leaders. Soon the evangelists were told to leave. "A police lieutenant arrested the evangelist Atero, had his wrists chained and then his ankles clamped together in heavy iron rings so he could not walk, only hop. He then paraded Atero before the market day crowd and proclaimed to any who followed the 'new religion', "Go back to Wolaitta where you came from and take your Jesus thing with you! We don't want your Jesus here!" Atero hopped forward and said, 'O Sir, listen. Please listen. I can go, but the gospel will stay. By the power of God I planted Jesus in Gofa. He is planted in the hearts and souls of the Gofa people. I can go, but Jesus will stay"

Dozens of police were sent to seize all the Wolaitta evangelists and the men who built the 'Prayer Houses' on their land. Of the forty two evangelists, forty one were arrested at their monthly prayer and fellowship meeting. They were all beaten and imprisoned in the Bulki jail. For a time it looked like the priests, police, and witchdoctors had won the day. *Were not all the prayer houses burnt down, all the Bibles destroyed? Were not all the Jesus people scattered? Were not all the people now too afraid to accept the new teaching? Did we not have all the Wolaitta preachers in prison? Of course they were finished.*

Not so fast, Satan! There is still one evangelist not accounted for! *But he is number 1 on our most wanted list! We have a price on his head! All the police, officials, and some hired hunters- everyone is looking for him. Surely we will have him soon/*

Nana was the one Wolaitta evangelist who was not rounded up at that time. He did not try to hide. Almost every day Nana was on the road, carrying corn and sweet potatoes to the many suffering families. He visited us regularly for prayer and to collect medicines from Vida for the sick and money to buy more food in the markets.

Each week he led a group of women and children to the Bulki prison gate with food for the Christians there...Nana carried each bundle of food through the prison gate right past the guards, but they did not see him...Nana was easily identifiable as from Wolaitta, but it seemed that he was invisible, or that the police were blind. They simply could not see him. When he passed police and officials on the road they simply ignored him. When the guards saw the women and children outside the (prison) gate they chased them away but they failed to see Nana coming and going right under their noses! For months it seemed (their) eyes were blind. Not once was Nana ever stopped or questioned.

Nana was everywhere – on the mountains, in the valleys, helping people build leafy shelters in the forest, buying grain in the market places – but the enemy could not see him! Nana, the most wanted, the hunted evangelist, led the relief effort for the suffering believers in Gofa. Despite the severity of the persecution and the suffering they endured, the Gofa Christians sowed the gospel wherever they went.

The Spirit of God gathered great numbers into the kingdom and new churches were started in scores of villages. Praise God that today there are more than 1000 churches in the area that used to be Gofa province!" (Warriors of Ethiopia)

"BUT IF NOT!" – GOD SOMETIMES PERMITS WICKED MEN TO SLAY HIS SERVANTS!

Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego knew that the true God, in all His wisdom and for His own great purposes, might permit Nebuchadnezzar to slay them.

God is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace... But if not!

Christians living behind the plush curtain have great difficulty with *"But if not"*. The Health, Wealth, and Prosperity heresy has so enticed our western cultures that most Christians live in a fairy tale world in which all stories end with "happily ever after." These young men were wiser than this generation. They knew the grisly facts about Assyrian armies and Babylonian kings, and had heard of the Persian tyrants who were already flexing their muscles in the east. They had read of Abel's martyrdom for his faith, and of Jeremiah's imprisonment. They knew the fate of Isaiah, so they understood the words, "But if Not..."

DEACON TRUE SEZ -



Ma went to town to get her hair done t'other day and I mosied over to the drugstore to see if their coffee was still any good. It was. So I had three cups. I was on my last cup when Job Jackson sat down beside me and shook my hand real good. I hadn't seen him since we both worked at the sawmill twenty years ago. Knew him since we was little troublemakers in the third grade. He was the first black kid we had at our school and we got on real good together. I asked him what he is doin' for a crust these days and he said he is the new janitor at the negro Baptist church down by the river, a nice little weatherboard church. He told me he likes the job and is real pleased with their new preacher.

I asked him what he preaches like and he smiled real big and leaned in close to tell me somethin' he didn't want nobody else to hear. He whispered, "Didja ever hear of the 'bomination of des'lotion what's in the holy place?" I nodded, and he said, "Our new preacher done figured out what it is."

"Oh yeah?"

"Sure 'nuf! It is them 'lectronic phones what people can't stop playin' wif durin' the sermon. That's what he says, anyhow! Ain't nobody can say 'Bomination! like he can!"

I told him it sounded pretty good to me, and that I would pass on the word to our preacher as he would want to know about it.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

THE GREAT QUESTION OF THE TEXT – WHY SHOULD ANYONE PUT THEMSELVES IN HARM’S WAY?

THEY KNEW THE NATURE OF TRUE SAVING FAITH –

The same commitment that offered Abel’s lamb, the same faith that moved Abraham to forsake the idolatry of Ur, the same faith that led Israel out of Egypt was the very faith of Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego. It was no indifferent response to a religious sales pitch on the doorstep. It was that deep and total commitment to God of heart, soul, mind, and strength which has always brought the Life of God into the soul of man. They saw Nebuchadnezzar’s image for what it was, an insolent affront to their Saviour, so they chose to trust and obey the true God.

THEY KNEW THEIR THEOLOGY!

They confessed a good confession of faith. And had engrafted the Word of God into their hearts so that they could declare four truths to the king and his noblemen.

- **Jehovah is greater than Bel!** - “Our God is Creator, Lawgiver, Redeemer, Revealer, and Judge of all men. He hears and answers our prayers, protects, provides, and supplies wisdom to those who seek Him.”
- **Our God Has Authority Greater Than The King’s!** - “Our God sets kings upon their thrones and removes them as He sees fit. His Throne is higher than the king’s. He is the God above all gods. He is the King above all kings, the Lord above all lords, and the Prince above all princes! His kingdom is above thy kingdom. We are not careful to answer thee.”
- **Our God Has Given Us Laws That Are Higher Than the King’s!** - “Our God has commanded us not to

worship or serve graven images. We are not to bow down to them, neither to offer sacrifices to them. Be it known to thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

- **Our God Has Laid Up For Us Greater Treasures Than Our Earthly Lives!** - “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. Psalm 68:19 Therefore we love not our lives unto the death.”

WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE! –

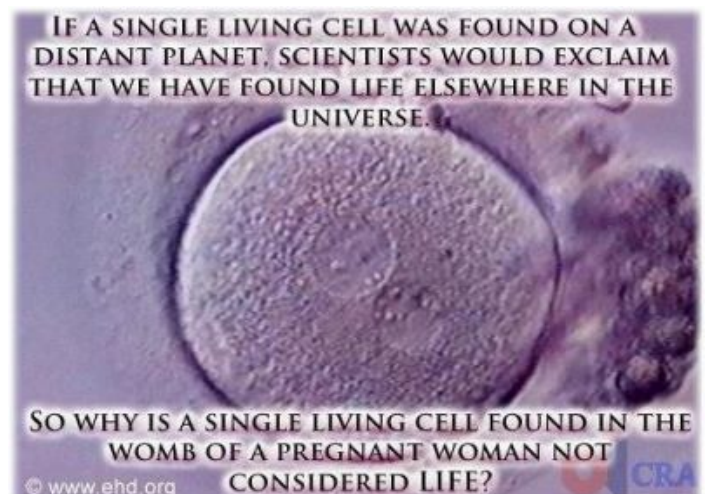
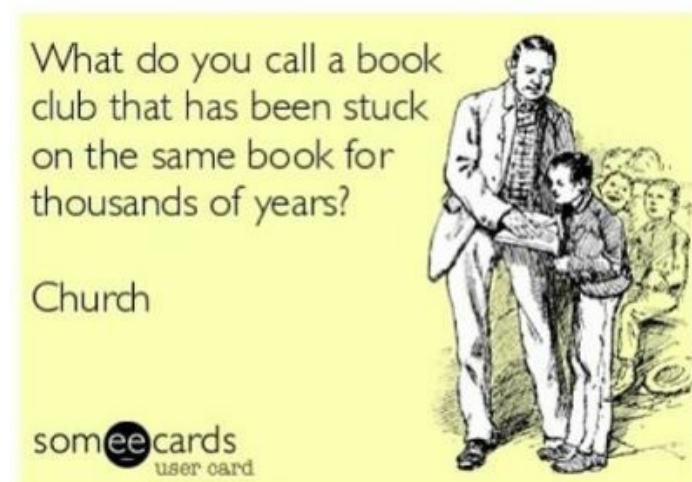
These are the words that echo down to us from those who were delivered from persecution and from those who were not – “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us! But if (He chooses) not (to do so) be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods.....”

We received word last Monday afternoon, as we parted from Bro. John Ecob (a dear friend of John and Karen Short) that Bro. Short had been released and deported from North Korea. We rejoiced with joy unspeakable and full of glory to hear the good news, and are yet thanking our Heavenly Father for His great mercy!

It is said of Charles Spurgeon, when he chose a site for the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle to be built, that he determined that it should be located at Smithfield, for there it was that the last blood of the martyrs was shed in England. These were the men and women who whispered as the flames swept their souls up to Heaven,

BUT IF NOT!

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)





**DAVID YONGGI CHO'S CHURCH LOSES BOARD MEMBER;
MEGACHURCH PASTOR RESIGNS, CONVERTS TO CATHOLICISM**

A former Swedish megachurch pastor has resigned from the church board of the largest Assembly of God church in the world.

Ulf Ekman, the former leader at Word of Life, announced earlier this week that he and his wife Birgitta would be converting to Catholicism, and that he would also be departing his post at Yoido Full Gospel Church, where pastor David Yonggi Cho was recently convicted on charges that millions of dollars of church money was spent on buying his son's stocks. Cho was also sentenced to three years in prison.

Ekman did not mention the church scandal in his resignation letter, but thanked the board "for a vital and blessed fellowship over the years," in a document published by Charisma News.

"It has been immensely important for me to have been entrusted with the honour of belonging to this great group of ministers. I treasure it very much and carry it with me into future engagements in the Body of Christ," wrote Ekman.

The former megachurch pastor clarified that his conversion and departure from the board was "not a severing of ties."

Instead, Ekman and his wife were merely being faithful for what God had called them to do.

"The Lord gave me a word a few months ago: 'The task is fulfilled but the friendship remains'," he

wrote. "We treasure the friendship we have with you in the Lord and believe we will, in a different capacity continue to have a living fellowship and a deep unity in Jesus. Let us draw inspiration from one another and together work for the strengthening of the Body of Christ on the earth."

In an explanation on his website, Ekman explained that his and his wife's conversations with Catholics challenged their "protestant prejudices" and led them to the realization that they "in many cases did not have any basis for our criticism of them."

"We needed to know the Catholic faith better. This led us to ... realize that it was actually Jesus Christ who led us to unite with the Catholic Church," the pastor stated.

The decision was one that began "around the beginning of this millennium" and come from an "an increased longing for and understanding of the importance of Christian unity started to grow in us," he explained in his letter to Cho.

"We have seen a great love for Jesus and a sound theology, founded on the Bible and classic dogma. We have experienced the richness of sacramental life. We have seen the logic in having a solid structure for priesthood, that keeps the faith of the church and passes it on from one generation to the next," he wrote on his website.

"We have met an ethical and moral strength and consistency that dare to face up to the general opinion, and a kindness towards the poor and the weak. And, last but not least, we have come in contact with representatives for millions of charismatic Catholics and we have seen their living faith."



Ekman founded the charismatic Livets Ord (Word of Life) in Uppsala, Sweden, in 1983, and served as pastor there for close to 30 years.

Cho, 78, was sentenced to three years in prison after he was convicted of directing officials to buy stocks from his son at four-times the market price. The church subsequently lost U.S. \$12 million, according to The Gospel Herald. Hee-jun, Cho's oldest son, the former CEO

of the media company, Kookmin Ilbo, was also sentenced in February to three years in prison for his participation in the embezzlement scheme.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/david-yonggi-chos-church-loses-board-member-megachurch-pastor-resigns-converts-to-catholicism-115980/>

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

ALDOUS HUXLEY ON WHY HE WAS AN ATHEIST – *contributed by Pastor Jesse Smith*

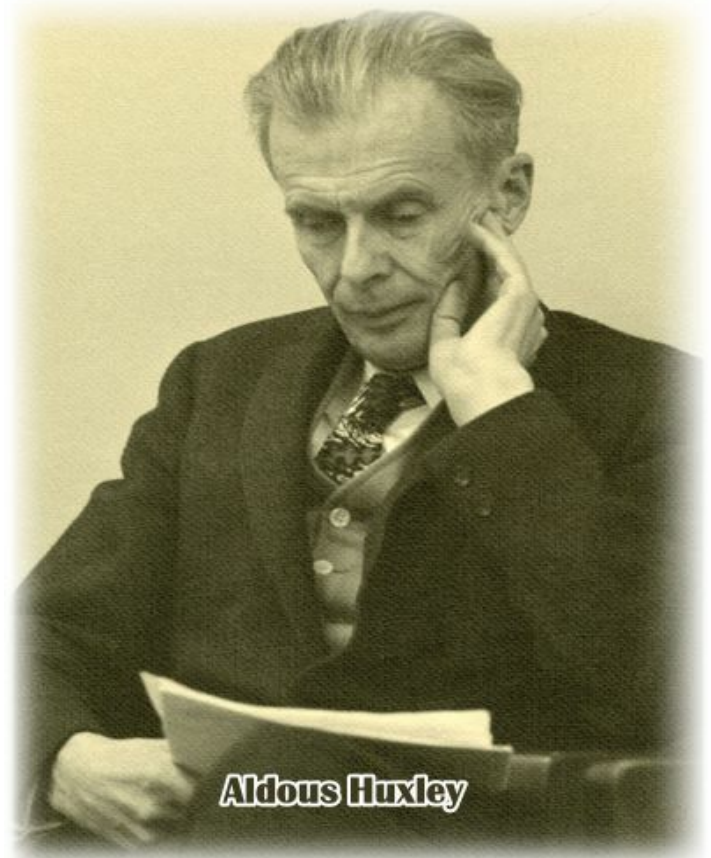
Proverbs 18:2. *"A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself."*

Aldous Huxley was a British novelist who wrote *Brave New World* (1932), and was a grandson of 'Darwin's Bulldog', T.H. Huxley. He was also the brother of the leading atheistic evolutionist Sir Julian Huxley. Aldous Huxley made this frank admission about his anti-theistic motivation:

'I had motive for not wanting the world to have a meaning; consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. The philosopher who finds no meaning in the world is not concerned exclusively with a problem in pure metaphysics, he is also concerned to prove that there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do, or why his friends should not seize political power and govern in the way that they find most advantageous to themselves. ... For myself, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation, sexual and political.'

Reference - Huxley, A., *Ends and Means*, pp. 270 ff.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



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DR. TERRY L. COOMER
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Sharpened Arrows

AS ARROWS ARE IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN,
SO ARE CHILDREN OF THE YOUTH.
Psalm 127:4

A publication of Golden West Independent Baptist Church Australia which aims to encourage and edify preachers children, youth & young adults to stand for Christ in the battle for the truth.



A word in which all believers should know is the word FORGIVENESS, as we that know Christ Jesus as our Savior have experienced this wonderful word in our lives. Sometimes we find this word translated as “forgiveness” and other times it is translated as “remission.” This word is only found sixteen times in all the New Testament, but its meaning reaches back to an act that was performed in the Old Testament one day a year.

One of the verses that contains forgiveness is found in Colossians 1:14, which states, *“In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”* Of course the words “in Whom” refer to Christ Jesus, for He is the only source of having redemption and forgiveness of sin.

The word FORGIVENESS – APHESIS - is a compound word. It is made up of the little preposition, “APO,” which means “away from, to separate,” and the verb, “HIEMI,” which means “to send.” That gives the meaning of APHESIS as “to send away from.” In Colossians 1:14, Paul states that we have redemption, which is the release from the bondage of sin, even (which carries the idea of “that is”) the forgiveness of sins. The FORGIVENESS – APHESIS – is the sending away of those sins.

APHESIS referred to an act carried out by the high priest and the scapegoat on the day known as Yom Kippur, or

the Day of Atonement. This special day is described in Leviticus 16. The highlight of this day was in the two goats that would be brought before the tabernacle and the high priest. These would be presented before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle. Lots would then be cast. Based upon the outcome of the casting, one lot was unto the LORD, which was for one of the goats to be the sacrifice unto the Lord, and the other lot was unto the scapegoat.

After offering a bullock of the sin offering for himself and his house, carrying out the work of putting incense upon the fire in the holy place, and then entering into the Holy of Holies (16:14) sprinkling the blood upon and before the mercy seat, the sacrificial goat would be killed, and offered unto the LORD, as the blood was taken into the Holy of Holies and offered in the same manner as was the bullock. He would return and lay his hands upon the scapegoat, *“and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat”* (v. 21).

Then a man would lead the scapegoat into the wilderness, so as to be released and sent away forever.

What a great truth! When our sins are forgiven, they are sent away once and for all. Those sins will never be used against us as they have been sent away from the Father forever.

That fits perfectly with what David said in Psalm 103:12, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.”*

But there is a very significant difference in our forgiveness in light of the Day of Atonement. What occurred on that day, had to be repeated year after year after year. It was not permanent. At best, the atonement could only cover over the sin of the people, and every year, another scapegoat would be taken out into the wilderness to be released.

But when we are forgiven, the sin is sent away once and for all, and our sins are completely cleansed never to be used against us ever again. That is why our salvation is permanent. Once we have been cleansed, we remain cleansed. The cleansing comes through the blood of Jesus Christ as Paul states in Colossians 1:14. Blood had to be shed, for as the writer says in Hebrews 9:22, *“without the shedding of blood, there is no REMISSION”* – APHESIS.

Have your sins been forgiven once and for all?

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



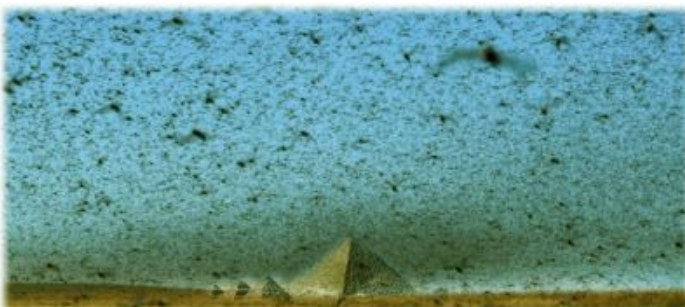
LAND OF PLAGUES

Eight of the ten plagues upon an African country (Egypt) are listed in Exodus 8-10 revealing the powerful finger (8:19) and hand (9:3,15) of Jehovah in opposition to the proud heart (8:15,19,32; 9:7,12,14,34,35; 10:1,20,27) and face (10:28,29) of Pharaoh. In 8:7 we see where Pharaoh's false teachers could cause problems, but never do we see them eliminating problems. Later these same men admitted they were not servants of God (8:19).

The Scriptures teach that adding to God's Word will bring plagues upon a people (Rev 22:18) and that subtracting from the Word will bring brevity of life (Rev 22:19). Foreign debt, unsustainable demands on the African soil, poverty, lack of infrastructure, lack of education, corruption, diseases such as AIDS, malaria and TB, military conflicts and ethnic cleansings are "plagues" with which Africa must deal. Could these be due to the many false prophets who add to the Bible with their dreams, visions and prophetic utterances? Could life expectancy be raised if the Bible were heard, honored and held?

It seems like we have annual "plagues" in our area. One year it was ants, another year rats, yet another year goose feet (thorny grass) and still another year flies. All these serve to remind our family here in Africa of the Egyptian plagues against Pharaoh's false gods and of God's present anger at the false prophets with their false gods.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE —

- Definition of perfect pitch — What you have when you throw an electric guitar or a drum kit into a dumpster and it doesn't hit the sides.
- For those who do not believe in the security of the believer, a new hymn, "There's a new name written down in pencil."
- The minister told the story of a lady and her five-year old son. The lady wanted her son to attend Sunday morning service, but she couldn't sit with him because she sang in the choir. So, she asked the boy's grandfather to accompany him. Realizing that older gent always nodded off during services, the lady offered her son fifty cents to keep him awake.

Half way through the sermon the lady glanced from the choir loft and saw/heard her snoring relative. Upon questioning the boy after Church as to why he didn't do his "paid" job of keeping grandfather awake, the boy said that grandfather offered him a dollar to let him sleep.

- My wife and I were in a church service. There was an older gentleman in the audience near the front who would periodically interject a "Praise God" or "Amen, brother". During the sermon, the pastor began speaking about Solomon and mentioned his 700 wives and 300 concubines when the old man said "Lord have mercy".

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- God never fills a vessel until it is broken. ~ anon
- The fruit of the Spirit depends on the filling of the Spirit. ~ anon
- Our wanderings depend on our ponderings - anon
- When a diseased Christianity becomes evangelistic it merely spreads the area of infection. ~ A. W. Tozer
- A preacher once said, "There are two parts in the Gospel. the first part is the believing it. The second part is the behaving it."
- "You will never stub your toe standing still. The faster you go, the more chance there is of stubbing your toe, but the more chance you have of getting somewhere."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

LETTER RECEIVED FROM MICHAEL WURMBRAND:

Dear sisters and brethren in Christ:

This sad letter you are reading comes from Michael Wurmbbrand, the son of the late Rev. Richard Wurmbbrand, who spent fourteen years in the communist prisons of Romania, author of the book *Tortured For Christ*, a book of valiant Christian testimony under communist persecution that has been translated in over 85 languages. My parents died in 2000-2001, and I am now 74 years old.

Against my express request NOT TO DO SO, the mission Voice of the Martyrs of Bartlesville (VOM), Oklahoma, USA and its international affiliates, continue to use Richard Wurmbbrand, Sabina Wurmbbrand, my parents' persona, pictures, writings and books, my persona also to obtain your donations!

Tom White, the past Voice of the Martyrs Chairman for more than 20-years, committed suicide in April, 2012, only two to three hours after an accusation of child molestation (pedophilia) of a 10-years old girl was formally filed by her parents with the local police, and while the Bartlesville, OK. police were searching to arrest him.

This terrible event made world news. At the time of his committing suicide, Tom White had a \$140,000+, plus perks, yearly salary and very substantial travel and expense accounts used in his extensive and frequent international travel year after year. Since the suspected perpetrator was dead, the police closed any further investigation of the molestation. The police chief and the former mayor of the town of Bartlesville, OK. were personally serving on the Board of Directors of Voice of the Martyrs. Some directors are related or get income from the organization.

I asked in writing of the Voice of the Martyrs Board of Directors for an independent investigation, to be undertaken from outside of VOM. The investigation in the famous legal action in England of Jimmy Saville, the BBC children program head while alive, started with only 2 cases BUT there were more than 600 pedophilia complaints after Saville died. In the last 4 years, the state of Arizona, for instance, failed to investigate 6,000 cases of children molestation. Being the son of Richard Wurmbbrand, a person of my background and position could have more inside information than I can discuss publicly. I asked therefore for an independent investigation!



Richard Wurmbbrand

The main question in the letter I wrote to the entire Voice of the Martyrs Board of Directors was worded as follows:

"In a Christian spirit of love and faith, if you want to continue using the names, persona and copyrights of my parents, I ask first that you do not try to accomplish this in an adversarial way through lawyers, etc. but rather in an amiable way by fulfilling only one request for the board to decide and approve: Please allow and pay for an independent "blue ribbon" commission ... to investigate within the next two months, back at least two years, all Tom White's travel points, contacts and especially financial expenditures to establish and put to rest any suspicions re. child molestation. Sorry, whether you like it or not, this unpleasant event that happened to VOM with its Chairman during twenty years cannot be dispensed with as just 'a family affair' or an unfortunate sudden decision. If you do not intend to accept the above request, the other decision I ask you to take is not to use the name Wurmbbrand any more."

Only 4 days after I addressed this letter to the Board of Directors, I received a curt letter of termination of employment. No "sorry" and no "thank you" for my founding the organization or the many years of service! My letter now for more than a year, has not been answered!

I should be entitled to make such a request since:

- Voice of the Martyrs published for years a specially dedicated children's magazine. This was done by

sharing mailing lists with organizations
focusing on families and children;

- My person, my life, and our family Wurmbrand story was used in this magazine;
- Without my knowledge, without my permission, a very laudatory biography of mine was written, printed and distributed to tens of thousands of American children;
- In order to obtain donations from the parents, the organization tried to gain credibility and goodwill with tens of thousands of Christian children in home-schooling families.

Donors should be aware that:

- Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) spent \$28 million dollars — not on the mission field but to build its own headquarter thus in economic times difficult for us all, encouraging construction in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, USA, a town of only about 32,000. To my knowledge, the previous headquarters of VOM in the same town cost in the neighborhood of about \$90,000! To read more, [click here]. The present chairman of VOM is a former mayor of Bartlesville and was part of the city leadership.
- This was done in secret, until the buildings were erected. Neither I nor the donors were told of such grandiose projects. It is hard to believe this could be done, but correspondence I display on the web (see link below), should convince you. I worked with VOM from Los Angeles, California, USA and never was part of the VOM board of directors. The donors only saw money spent for projects, and they trusted that the word “projects” referred to missionary work, like helping widows of Christians killed in Nigeria!
- A repeated offender 3rd degree felon, who as of 2013 was STILL UNDER A-10-YEARS CONVICTION SENTENCE AS AN EMBEZZLER was named the Voice of the Martyrs Vice President. Tens of thousands of dollars out of contributions for supposed missionary work were extended as a loan to him to pay back some of what he stole and escape parole supervision. To read more on this convicted felon, [click here or here].
- All of the above occurred while, at the same time, without any reasons proffered, they sent a termination of employment letter to me, Richard Wurmbrand’s son, who founded the mission, four days only after I asked for an independent



investigation of the expenses and travels of the suicidal and suspected pedophile past chairman of VOM, USA.

- Voice of the Martyrs had agreed reluctantly in 2001 to help about 100 believers who were imprisoned 5-10 years for their faith in communist prisons in Romania, currently destitute in their 80s and 90s, with less than \$1 (yes, one dollar) a month. As outrageous as it sounds, considering tens of millions of dollars solicited from you, it is documented. It was raised in the following year to the value of about 2 tanks of gas/month worth of help only because I wrote feet of email messages and renounced a total of over \$100,000 of my salary over four years (I accepted being paid only \$500/month!) just so these Christian martyrs would be helped. To read more on the “VOM claims of pretended lack of money,” [click here].
- A fundraiser for VOM was promised to be paid a percentage or cut of the funds he raised! We are far indeed from charitable actions through which one sacrifices for the interests of others.

After I brought all of these facts to light, I was asked also to keep quiet, not to rock the boat. Before being laid off I was offered substantial contractual financial incentives not to “badmouth” VOM. Some of the organizations endorsing Voice of the Martyrs have interrelated employees and interests. When I approached them, they were shy and sore afraid for their own interests to insist my letter be answered. Some pathetic answers like: “Do not cast the first stone,” “king Solomon made mistakes,” “we might also sin,” or “promise to keep correspondence private only” displayed the hypocrisy to protect the flow of donations rather than any interest in protecting possible children victims! Some answers were outright sarcastic, as if my requesting a proper investigation regarding suspected pedophilia among “Christian missionaries” would be some joke.

In the past, Voice of the Martyrs had written a dedication about myself sent to tens of thousands stating: *“To the Rev. Michael Wurmbrand, who has lived his life in a fishbowl among both friends and enemies, and has done*

so with dignity to the glory of God. We are grateful for the numerous personal interviews in which he shared his memories with patience and enthusiasm.” As soon as I asked for this independent investigation, the VOM attitude of respect towards myself I enjoyed for years turned into one of incredible vindictiveness. Christians who were in the know could not believe how it was possible. The false answers given to those who inquired were that this is a personal (!?) conflict with Michael Wurmbbrand we try to solve with prayer and mediation! In reality, VOM employees were expressly forbidden to have contact with me, so as not to lose some income and employment positions from [one of the] largest employers in Bartlesville, OK. Same employees had before vied to be photographed with me and get my autograph.



Michael Wurmbbrand With Parents

The worst vindictive act towards myself though was the refusal on the part of VOM of my simple request to dump or allow myself even pay to withdraw immediately from the VOM circulation advertising, about 2,000 copies of *Tortured For Christ*, my father's book, published by VOM with a preface by, and having right in the middle, a portrait of Tom White, the past chairman who had committed suicide after the police-filed accusation of suspected pedophilia. I was answered IN WRITING (by the convicted felon-embezzler who had meantime become Vice President of VOM, see above) that my request is morally wrong. I was written: *"Tom White was VOM,"* and according to VOM, I have no right to ask that my father's name not be associated with this past chairman — even if he committed suicide under a strong suspicion of pedophilia. VOM even claimed to know apparently better than the parents of the victim, if there was or not substance to the police complaint. To spite me, the book showing Tom's picture continued to be widely advertised and even offered for free for 6 more months following Tom's suicide. VOM knew that during the first month my family arrived to the United States in the end of 1966, I had personally typed on a clunky typewriter four

manuscript versions of this book. How could my request be refused?

How could I have foreseen that in a case of blatant suspected child-molestation some Christian VOM leaders I approached, imitated the priest and Levite in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, trying their best re. suspected pedophilia, to "pass by on the other side," so as to maintain their perks! John the Baptist was not beheaded because he sermonized in general asking people to repent. Against his own personal interest, he put his life at risk to denounce the sin of Herod, the ruler of the day.

What about "missionary outreach" to poor "persecuted Christians?" Voice of the Martyrs, with its opulent (\$28 million) headquarter built out of your sacrificial contributions, makes a mockery of the sacrifice of persecuted Christians like my parents. Imagine a surgeon insisting to operate, having no time to clean his hands after searching in garbage. What patient has any use for such a surgeon? The betrayer of [our] Lord Jesus, Judas, in his apparently most "unselfish" enunciation of a project to help the poor, was but a thief. (Indeed the Gospel of John 12:6 writes: "This he said, not that he cared for the poor, BUT BECAUSE HE WAS A THIEF!")

VOM published even how within months of our arrival in the United States, from 1967 on, I worked together with my parents Richard and Sabina Wurmbbrand, to start what is now Voice of the Martyrs. Recently released documents from the archives of the Romanian secret police prove the communists had issued an order to kill our entire family.

We started what is now Voice of the Martyrs under a communist sentence of death. When I was only a child, the communists forcefully took away my parents to communist prisons. I suffered plenty. My parents died with a good name. I do not want to allow VOM to use my parents' good name, to raise money under false pretenses.

I wrote the VOM directors: *"If you enjoy, for motivations of your own, to wallow in the mire of suspected pedophilia go ahead. If you do not want to accept an independent investigation and complete transparency of your dealings, I begged you do not use my father's long years of suffering in communist prisons and the intense suffering of his whole family to raise money from naive donors."* I was written by VOM, when asking help for formerly persecuted Christians under communism, now in their 90s, *"we are technically out of money!...there will be NO check requests approved for anything other than absolutely essential"* only to find out later that \$9.5 million were available not for mission work, but for construction work in Oklahoma (see above link).

Christian parents please protect your children! Consider how grave it is to allow your children to trust and be reached by a missionary organization having had a case of suspected pedophilia and a suicide because of it in its midst, and then terminating me, its founder so as not to have to respond to a request for an independent investigation of possible child molestation. After all the laudatory words published of me, they also tried to badmouth me. If you are a minister, I can only beg you to share this letter with your congregation.



I tried to document the facts recited above, but think on your own: How can "Christian missionaries" in a good Christian conscience even indulge to build themselves an opulent \$28,000,000 headquarter from your donations, while withholding help to persecuted Christians in far away lands badly in need of your donations? Love of money is the root of all evil. A way to stop evil is to stop financing it. If you were inspired by the Wurmbbrand family story of suffering to donate to Voice of the Martyrs or its international affiliates in the ICA, as the only son of Richard and Sabina Wurmbbrand, I humbly ask you not to. My parents' Christian life-vision has been misused by Voice of the Martyrs.

Tortured for Christ circulated throughout the world with more than 10,000,000 copies. Inside the \$28 million Voice

of the Martyrs headquarter prominently named as the Richard Wurmbbrand Center, there is a Wurmbbrand museum. My own mother's Bible to be displayed there was obtained from me under false pretenses. I have both moral and legal rights to the persona of my parents, even regarding the unauthorized use of my own name, pictures, etc. It would take a very long time and a lot of money to try to stop such use through courts. VOM would employ the millions of dollars of donations to fight me in court while my income is very limited. If you still want to help projects started by my parents, Richard and Sabina Wurmbbrand, now hanging in the air, please help me reclaim my parents and my family name. Like the first Christians please ask: "Brethren, what shall we do?" (Book of Acts 2:37) You may write to me at the address below.

God Bless,

Michael Wurmbbrand.

PO Box 5161
Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA,
Email: appeal@wurmbbrandmichael.com

LTRP Note: We urge readers of this article to contact Voice of the Martyrs and beseech them to allow an independent investigation in order that other children connected to VOM may be protected.

Contact Information for VOM:

Phone: (877) 337-0302

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 443
Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443


[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

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



EARTH GOING TO POT – MARIJUANA GROWN IN CALIFORNIA PRODUCES MORE CARBON THAN 3 MILLION CARS

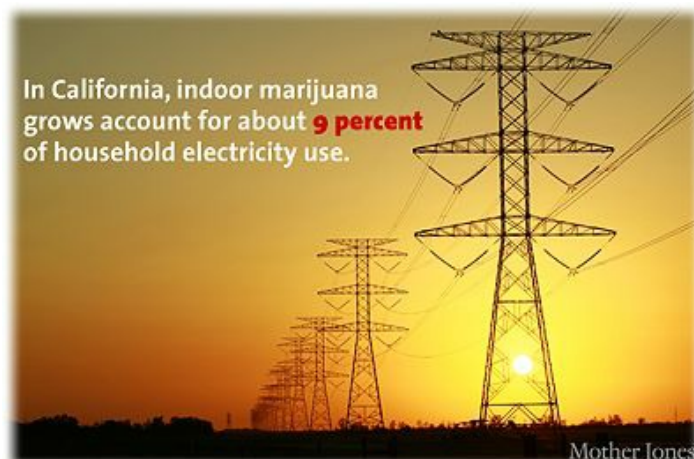
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/17/earth-going-to-pot-marijuana-grows-in-california-produce-more-carbon-than-3-million-cars/>

Thanks to "Climate Desk" for pointing out this gem of an article.

These factoids are from the earth-friendly "Mother Jones" magazine "24 Mind-Blowing Facts About Marijuana Production in America", referencing several federal data sources.

A FEW OF THOSE POINTS:

- 80 percent of all marijuana grown in the USA comes from California, Tennessee Kentucky, Hawaii, and Washington. The vast majority comes from California.
- In 2013, California authorities seized 329 outdoor pot grow sites with: 1.2 million plants, 119,000lbs of trash, 17,000lbs of fertilizer, 40gal. of pesticides, 244 propane tanks, 61 car batteries, 89 illegal dams, and 81 miles of irrigation pipe.
- During California's growing season, outdoor grows consumed roughly 60 million gallons of water a day – 50% more than is used by all residents of San Francisco.
- In California, indoor pot growing accounts for about 9% of household electricity use.



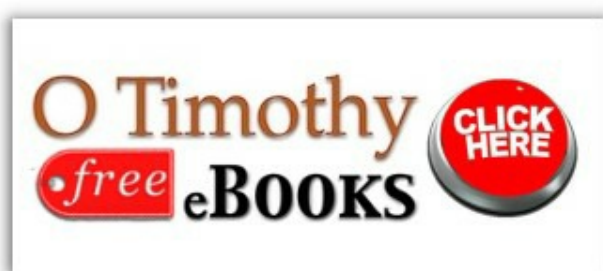
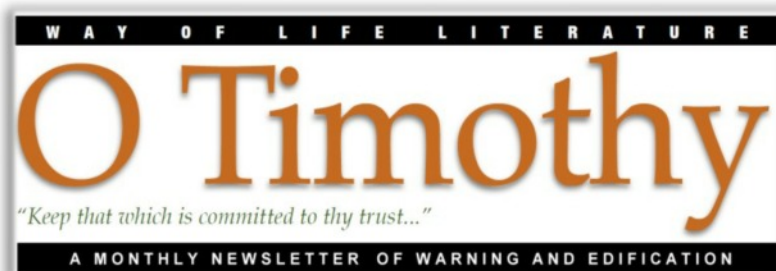
- For every pound of pot grown indoors, 4600lbs of carbon dioxide goes into the atmosphere. California's production equates to emissions of 3 million cars.
- The energy needed to produce a single joint is enough to produce 18 pints of beer, and creates emissions comparable to burning a 100 watt light bulb for 25 hours.

SOURCE:

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/03/marijuana-pot-weed-statistics-climate-change>

References: Jon Gettman (2006), US Forest Service (California outdoor grow stats include small portions of Oregon and Nevada), Office of National Drug Control Policy, SF Public Utilities Commission, Evan Mills (2012).

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



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My sweetheart Susan and I recently had the privilege of attending and speaking for the 2014 Pastors and Wives Retreat at the Merroo Conference centre in NSW. Bro. Sam Joukhadar was in charge and worked tirelessly to make the retreat a blessing. We had a true Welshman, Eric Rees, to lead the singing, and Bro. Ian Western played the piano superbly. In fact, he played it so well we all requested him to produce a piano Cd for us to enjoy year round.

We were blest to have over forty pastors and wives there, plus children. This was the first year children were present, and they added to the atmosphere, and were a great blessing, especially to us old grandparents whose littlies were far away.

The theme was Servanthood and the Bible studies were centred around the three occasions in the gospels when the disciples expressed a desire for positions of honour at the right hand and left hand of Christ in His kingdom. His reply in each case was always directed toward teaching them to be servants.

We examined the present day focus in our churches on Leadership, where the pastors are taught to be the CEO's of religiously inclined business empires.

One of the strongest impressions of my childhood, my youth, and my early ministry was the relentless pursuit of honour, the craving for positions of power among pastors.

My wife and I grew up in Southern Baptist churches, and BBF churches. We fellowshiped with BBF churches, with INDEPENDENT IB churches, with Sword of the Lord affiliated churches, with IBFA churches, and with churches affiliated with many of the IB mission boards (Maranatha, WBF, BBF, BIMl, Baptist Mid-Missions, ABWE) and with some boards that were not exclusively IB, such as Gospel Fellowship Association.

In every case, without exception, we observed this same craving for leadership, and I might add, almost total silence on the subject of Servanthood. Almost total silence, not quite.

I know a few good men who are at least aware that Servanthood is the Lord's methodology. I have heard it taught (once or twice at least) that magnitude depends on servitude. Thank God that not every knee has bowed.

Why is this so? Why is there this almost universal praise of men and this almost totally pervasive love of applause in our churches? Why is there such a prevalence of "name dropping" and "pecking order"? For what it is worth, I am persuaded that it is closely related to the philosophy of pragmatism that rules most churches, worldwide.

Pragmatism is the new kid on the block, as far as the history of philosophy goes. Its history can only be traced as far back as the middle of the 19th century.

Its meaning is tied to practical consequences. It determines the worth of an idea, a method, a man, and a movement entirely on its results. It is only interested in the bottom line. If the bottom line is big, or good, then the means for getting those results MUST be right! What God says in His Holy Word is of secondary importance.

What the banker and the statistician say is what counts!

Pragmatism pokes its tongue at there being only eight souls on the ark, laughs at Jeremiah's meager following, and disputes the textual veracity of Luke 12:32 (*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*) After all, how could you ever describe a budding megachurch as a "little flock." That is the utmost put-down!!!

Pragmatism has many incarnations. Rome's boast of supremacy, state churches, denominational pride, Finney's results-oriented evangelism and all its clones, Promise Keepers, Moral Majority, Crystal Cathedral, Purpose Driven, Willow Creek, and all the hype and tripe of televangelists, whatever their stripe.

Right from the first, Independent Baptist pastors jumped on the Pragmatism bandwagon. Anyone who reads a biography of J. Frank Norris with his Bible open should be able to see pragmatism on every other page, at the very least.



Here's a Photo of Most of the Ones Who Attended

Rice, Hyles, Hutson, Gray, and now Chappell, all these preach from the same page and sing from the same songbook, well, maybe not the same songbook, as that does seem to have fallen off the cliff just lately.

One of the former staff members at West Coast Baptist College wrote, *"the Music at Lancaster Baptist Church isn't the only area headed toward the contemporary movement. Pastor Chappell is heavily influenced by Rick Warren and the Mega-Church Movement. Pastor Chappell has sent his staff to Rick Warren's church on multiple occasions."*

(for details on this quote, write the editor at smiletex@bigpond.net.au)

Not all IB churches or pastors drink at those broken cisterns.

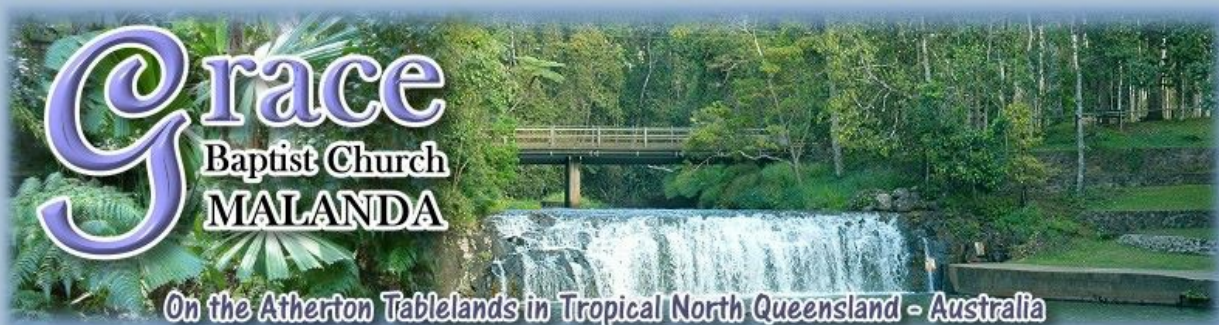
The fellowship with the folks at the Couples Retreat had a heavenly flavour. Susan and I especially rejoiced in the youthfulness of the couples (well, relative youthfulness, when compared with us old theological dinosaurs who were there.) And the fact that all but two families were Aussies, well, it did us good.

If there was any disappointment it would be that a number of people volunteered to work in the kitchen, but there was no room for them, simply because there were already tooooooo many willing workers in place already.

There are still three and a half thousand pairs of stiff knees which refuse to bow to Baal.

Thank God for every one!

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



Heads Up!

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