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## **Heads Up!**

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## FEATURE ARTICLE - DUCKLINGS AND CHICKS, WHEAT AND TARES



(First published in FBIS February 26, 2003) (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org))

THE FOLLOWING BY PASTOR ROLLAND STARR IS FROM *THE CORNERSTONE CHALLENGE*, JUNE 1986:

I remember reading of a man named Dr. R.B. Shattuck who put duck eggs under a brooding hen. Some very amusing things happened, as he related. He said that next to human beings, hens are the most easily hum-bugged creatures and that putting duck eggs under a hen is one of the biggest jokes on that farm. When the ducks are hatched it is a tragedy for the hen and a comedy for the bystanders. The ducklings go where they please, utterly indifferent to the hen's frantic clucking and cackling. They do not understand the hens' frantic utterings, and she does not know whether they are happy or suffering pain. They eat what she forbids and refuse what she offers. They never follow her; she is always following them trying to get them to do her bidding. They head for the nearest mud puddle and she

almost has a nervous breakdown. When they become waterlogged and sticky with mud, they rub themselves against her to dry themselves off. It is a one-way relationship -- she is compelled to "mother" the ducks, but they never even approximate being her chicks. It is a sad situation to say the least.

It is quite easy to see in all of this a parallel with many who call themselves children of God. They proclaim that God is their Father, but there is little resemblance and no obedience. God is bound to be their Father, but they need not be His children. There is no interest in the things of God and they have no heart to do the things He requires.

As in the former case, something is radically wrong. While many have a smattering of Bible knowledge, they simply are not children of God. They have never experienced new birth. They have not been born of God; just as the ducks were not really born of the hen, these people were never fathered by God Himself.

Peter tells us that the true child of God is a "Partaker of the Divine Nature." Is one a child of God when he cares not for the things of our heavenly Father? One may claim to be saved but if he is like the "ducklings," always seeking his own interests, his actions and desires reveal his true nature. Where there is no desire to meet regularly with the people of God, no interest in reading and keeping His Word, no heartfelt communication through prayer and fellowship, it is difficult to believe that God's life indeed resides there.

**"If any man be in Christ, He is a New Creature: Old Things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17).**

One who knows anything about the suffering and death of Christ, His resurrection for our justification, cannot be indifferent to His voice and concerns. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me."

The Bible speaks of wheat and tares. The tares looked just like the wheat and it was only upon close examination that their true nature was discovered: there was no grain.

The devil is a great deceiver and he has fooled many in our day. Multitudes have heard the Gospel, raised their hand, prayed a prayer and assumed that this was some magic formula for getting saved. Now, you may do these things from the heart and truly become a child of God, but it is equally true that one may go through the motions and remain a child of Satan.

For hundreds of years men have tried to simulate a true cultured pearl. Many good imitations have been produced and multitudes have been fooled. But experts can now detect the real thing from a counterfeit through the use of X-rays, electro-magnets and other means. They can examine the "heart" of the pearl. After all, salvation is a heart matter (not merely head). Rom. 10 says that he who BELIEVES IN HIS HEART SHALL BE SAVED. God knows every heart.

You cannot fool Him for one moment. "YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN." Are you? Is there any evidence? Or, are you claiming His name while running around totally oblivious to His will? Are you doing your own thing? I plead with you to stop and think about the reality of your Christian life.

Jesus said many would come to Him in the Day of Judgment claiming to belong to him, but He will have to say, "DEPART FROM ME YE THAT WORK INIQUITY." God loves you, He sent His Son to die for you, and He will truly save you if you will humbly call upon that name which is above every name.

**"WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."**

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While holding meetings at Burdett road, London, in 1874, Mr. Moody and I one Saturday took a drive out to Epping Forest. There we visited a gypsy camp.

While stopping to speak to two brothers who had been converted and were doing good missionary work, a few young gypsy lads came up to our carriage. I put my hand on the head of one of them and said:

"May the Lord make a preacher of you, my boy!"

Fifteen years later, when Gypsy Smith made his first visit to America, I had the pleasure of taking him for a drive in Brooklyn. While passing through Prospect Park he asked me:

"Do you remember driving out from London one day to a gypsy camp at Epping Forest?"

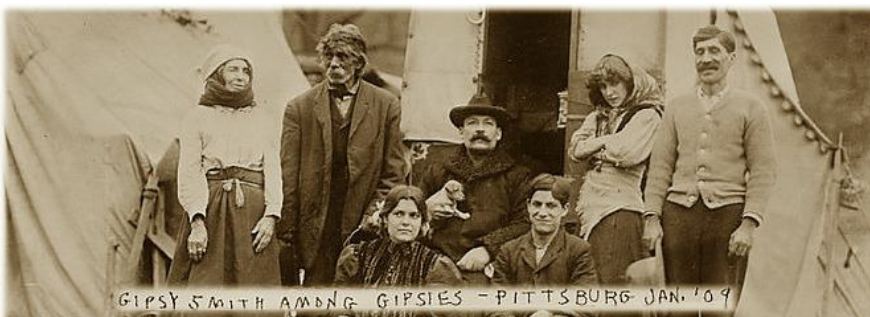
I replied that I did.

"Do you remember a little gypsy boy standing by your carriage," he asked again, "and you put your hand on his head, saying that you hoped he would be a preacher?"

"Yes, I remember it well."

"I am that boy," said Gypsy Smith.

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## DEACON TRUE SEZ -



Old Preacher Jones told us deacons t'other night that his better half is gettin' awful forgetful.

For years, he said they would start out on a trip and about ten miles down the road she would suddenly catch her breath and say, "*Uh-Oh! I think I left the iron on!*"

So back they would go, and usually everything was ok. It happened over and over again.

He said that last week they were on their way to church and it happened again so he pulled over to the side of the road, got out of the car, went back and opened the trunk of the car and got the iron out of the trunk and handed it her.

We laughed pretty hard at that, but after we stopped laughing we could tell he had more to say, so we nodded at him, and he said, "*We had to go back to the house anyway. I forgot to turn off the hose, lock the back door, and tie up the dog.*"

We all agreed with him that his wife's memory is gettin' pretty bad, alright.

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**PHYSICIST LUBOS MOTL ON THE LYING OVER TYPHOON HAIYAN:**

Today in the morning, I was stunned by the dishonesty of the professional climate alarmists again. Their moral defects are just shocking. It seems completely obvious to me that they must know that they are lying 24 hours a day.

This controversy is about the claim that the typhoon Haiyan was the strongest tropical cyclone that ever made a landfall, and so on. You can see this preposterous misinformation almost everywhere. For example, start with the first sentence of the [Wikipedia article on Typhoon Haiyan](#)....

All the mistakes are completely obvious and demonstrable, as I will argue below, but it is impossible to even fix basic errors on the Wikipedia page, or elsewhere. Such pages are being controlled by obsessed hardcore climate alarmist trolls and crackpots...

So let's look at some real numbers and the origin of the flawed numbers...

So have a look at the [list of the most intense tropical cyclones ever](#).

They are geographically divided to 8 regions ("basins"). Starting from the lowest pressure (strongest cyclones), they are (the minimum pressure of the strongest cyclone is added):

- 870 hPa: Western North Pacific Ocean (Tip 1979)
- 882 hPa: North Atlantic Ocean (Wilma 2005)
- 890 hPa: South Pacific Ocean (Zoe 2002-03)
- 895 hPa: South-West Indian Ocean (Gafilo 2003-04)
- 900 hPa: Australian region (Gwenda 1998-99)
- 902 hPa: Eastern Pacific Ocean (Linda 1997)
- 912 hPa: North Indian Ocean (BOB 07 1999)
- 972 hPa: South Atlantic Ocean (Catarina 2004)



Most of the basins are dominated by cyclones in recent decades because reliable and continuous measurements of the pressure only began recently...

I wrote the strongest basin in the bold face because that's the region in which Haiyan belongs. If you focus on [the table for that basin](#), you will see that Haiyan is between 21st and 35th strongest cyclone in that region since the 1950s or so.

In 60 years or so, one gets 21-35 cyclones just in that region that are equally strong or stronger. In other words, every 2-3 years, one gets a cyclone of the equivalent or greater magnitude...

CNN wrote (via [Pielke Jr](#)) that the storm surge was 40-50 feet; the [actual figure from the meteorologists was 13-18 feet](#). CNN probably had no sensible source for the huge (doubled or tripled) figure at all.

[Read on](#). The wind speeds claimed were false, too. Death toll also.

[http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/lying\\_about\\_haiyan/](http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/lying_about_haiyan/)

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The popularity of self-improvement, or self-help, books throughout the history of publishing is rather amazing. The reasons given for the wide acceptance of such books, historically, and especially in our day, are many, but they all boil down to man's desire to improve his condition or situation, whether financially, socially, educationally, physically, psychologically, spiritually, or "all of the above." Although the goals are improvement and the bettering of one's circumstance, the primary method and motivation is by self and for self: how can I improve me?

Since self is the fundamental focus of self-improvement, we need to give some serious thought to what it is. A gathering of definitions from contemporary dictionaries reveals self to be: the entire person; an individual's typical character or behavior; an individual's temporary behavior or character; a person in prime condition; the union of elements (as body, emotions, thoughts, and sensations) that constitute the individuality and identity of a person; personal interest or advantage. Simply stated, it's you and me and all that makes up each of us as individuals. The definition of "self" becomes more confusing, however, when words are added to the front or back of it, such as one's true self or self-realization. Moreover, the number of hyphenated "self" words are in the hundreds, from self-actualizing to self-worth, and each one adds its own meaning or nuance to "self."

Two "self"-related adjectives convey the best and the worst condition of self.

**Selfless:** concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own: "an act of selfless devotion." Its synonyms clarify its wonderful qualities: unselfish, altruistic, self-sacrificing, self-denying; considerate, compassionate, kind, noble, generous, magnanimous, ungrudging, charitable, benevolent: "Her love was manifest in selfless service." **Selfish,** on the other hand, has no redeeming qualities: (of a person, action, or motive) lacking consideration for others; concerned chiefly with one's own personal profit or pleasure: "I entertained them for selfish reasons." Synonyms include: egocentric, egotistic, egotistical, egomaniacal, self-centered, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, self-seeking, self-serving, wrapped up in oneself; inconsiderate, thoughtless, unthinking, uncaring, uncharitable; mean, miserly, grasping, greedy, mercenary, acquisitive, opportunistic; looking after number one: "He is just selfish by nature."

Scripture uses the term "self" in a very straightforward way, i.e., the entire person, and most often as reflexive pronouns such as "himself" and "themselves." So the "secret" of the biblical use of the term is not in its definition but in what the Word of God says about self and what it instructs us to do with it, which is in direct opposition to what the so-called wisdom of the world advocates.

According to our world, which has been heavily influenced by humanistic psychology (the contemporary breeding ground of all the selfist teachings), "self"--meaning the entirety of a human being--is innately good. Flaws or dysfunctions within a person's life stem from sources of influences external to the person himself, e.g., his parents, or his physical, social, and educational environment, and so forth. The belief in inherent goodness is involved in all psychological counseling--and not as an option; it is foundational. The reason is obvious. If a person is not inherently good but has a fundamental defect in his nature that affects to some degree every aspect of his life, there is nothing a psychotherapist can do to alter the defect and its ultimate consequences. It's like the proverbial attempt to change a leopard's spots. One could dye the leopard's skin or cover it in some fashion, but such superficial acts would do nothing to truly change the spots. The leopard's genetics won't allow it.

But if self is indeed innately good, then it's simply a matter of a psychological counselor getting a client to recognize the goodness of his "self" and to

psychotherapeutically remove all the things that are preventing the success of that belief. There are more than 500 different psychotherapies that have been conjured up to do just that. But many of them conflict with one another, and none of them proves or even makes a plausible case for man's inherent goodness. Consequently, all of the methodologies only address a client's problems as symptomatic issues, because they can do nothing to change the nature of humanity. However, what is impossible for man is possible with God!

The Bible declares unequivocally that the heart of man is not good:

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?; For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21-23)*

Scripture tells us that "men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19) and that "all have sinned..." (Romans 3:23). These verses, and many more, describe the fallen nature of humanity, and there is nothing that anyone can do to change it or improve it.

Only God can change self and make it better, but He doesn't do it by man's way. That's the "secret" of biblical self-improvement, which is only secret in the sense that Christianity has lost sight of what the Scriptures clearly teach and what the church has practiced since the time of the apostles. That blindness began in earnest in the middle of the last century as psychological counseling made deep inroads to Christendom. By the 1970s some of the most influential names in the evangelical media were Christian psychologists, psychotherapists, and psychiatrists such as James Dobson, Frank Minirth, Paul Meier, Gary Collins, John Trent, and Gary Smalley, to name but a few. Books promoting "self" flooded the Christian marketplace, including *Hide or Seek: How to Build Self-esteem in Your Child* by psychologist Dr. James Dobson and *Self-esteem: the New Reformation* by Robert Schuller, whose book was sent out gratis to 250,000 evangelical pastors. Self-love and self-esteem became new doctrines that were taught by most of the popular evangelical pastors of the day.

What too few Christians realize is that the rise of the unbiblical teachings of self-love within the church in our day is a matter of prophecy being fulfilled. In 2 Timothy 3, the Apostle Paul warns Timothy about a "perilous" time when self-love will be foundational to sins that will wreak

havoc among believers: *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..." (vv. 1-2)*. Some might wonder why that is prophetic, when mankind has had a self-serving bias going clear back to the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Looking out for "number one," Adam blamed the woman whom God had given him, and Eve blamed the serpent (i.e., Satan), who seduced her into disobeying God.

Self-love has created problems for humanity throughout the centuries, but it wasn't until the last 100 years or so that the selfisms were promoted as the basic solutions to nearly all of mankind's ills, especially our mental, emotional, and behavioral problems. Much of that began with the "looking within" and the self-analysis practiced by Freud and Jung, but ironically--and more specifically --it involved a chiding by anti-Christian Friedrich Nietzsche that Christians didn't love themselves enough. That was picked up and promoted by psychologist and humanistic philosopher Eric Fromm, as Dave Hunt noted:

Fromm, an atheist, popularized the idea of self-love. He got it from Nietzsche. One of Fromm's books was *Ye Shall Be as Gods*. He took the lie of the Serpent for its title. In his book, *Man for Himself*, he justified the idea that we all hate ourselves and need to learn to love ourselves by saying that Jesus taught it when He said, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." (TBC, Q&A, 9/1986)

That distortion of the Scriptures was then accepted by increasing numbers of evangelical preachers and teachers who should have known better. First of all, it's a simple error in math. The proponents of self-love have made loving one's neighbor as oneself into a third commandment, whereas **Matthew 22:37-40** declares:

*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

It's two commandments, not three. Furthermore, as Dave points out,

"...if we were deficient in self-love, Jesus wouldn't have said to love your neighbor as you love yourself, because he said it to everybody and not to a certain class or category of people. So it's a given--we must already love ourselves. And he couldn't say 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you' (Matthew 7:12) if we all innately hated ourselves and wanted to do ourselves harm." That error is further contradicted by Ephesians 5:29: "For no man ever yet hated his

own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church."

Loving self before loving God and others is mankind's natural bias, whether he or she is a committed Christian or not, and the consequence of that is associated with nearly all of the difficulties we experience in life. Paul's words to Timothy give a litany of the after effects of loving self:

*...covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:2-7)*

So that's the bad news. What, then, of the good news of how God can change our nature and improve self? It can happen only by turning to Him for the salvation that He alone has provided for all of mankind. That involves being reconciled to Him by admitting our sinfulness and accepting Christ's full payment for our sins by faith alone. Nothing more is required to receive the gift of eternal life, other than trusting in Jesus for saving us from the infinite penalty that our sin deserves. That's the gospel, and it's the only way that humanity can be saved.

Once a person puts his trust in Jesus for salvation, he becomes a new creature: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17)*. He has been purged from his old sins and is no longer under the bondage of sin (2 Peter 1:9; John 8:31-32). As a believer in Christ, he has been born again spiritually, is in communion with God, and is fully able to love and obey Him. This was impossible prior to becoming a new creature in Christ. He is a "new man," a new self (Ephesians 4:24), someone who can now live his life according to God's instructions in His Word.

The first instruction for a blessed and fruitful life is, however, that just as he could not save himself, neither can he do the things that will improve his life by himself. Biblical self-improvement is nothing like the world's "self-improvement"; in fact, it's the opposite. Although a believer's new life in Christ has set him free from the bondage of sin, he still retains his old nature with its self-serving bias. That is a major battleground for every believer in Christ. Yet for all who have committed their lives to the Lord, He has provided through His Word and

the enablement of the Holy Spirit all that they need to win the battle over their flesh and to do the things that please God. Contrary to the world's loving, esteeming, glorifying, even deifying self, Scripture tells us to deny self-to submit oneself completely to God and the instructions of His Word:

*And he [Jesus] said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. (Luke 9:23)*

Denying self is not the same as denying one's existence. For the believer, it's the recognition that although "self," which was formerly in rebellion against God, continues to have autonomy (the capacity to make moral decisions for good or evil), it has now been enabled to choose and to live in righteousness in one's desire to please the Lord.

Scripture abounds with verses exhorting us to put the Lord and others before ourselves. *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Romans 12:10); "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's [well-being]" (1 Corinthians 10:24); "Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself" (Romans 15:2-3)*. Furthermore, the Word of God gives us instructions on how we can do those very things, in essence "biblically improving self." Ironically, it involves a dying process.

We are to die to self--that is, to our autonomous will (also known as self-will) --not only by turning it over to the Lord and submitting to Him, but also by allowing Him to live His life through us:

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

The issue of self is one of the most confused and distorted doctrines among Christians today, including those who profess that the Bible is their authority in all matters of faith and practice. That's the primary reason why the troubles of non-Christians differ little statistically from those who profess to be Christians. The hope for this series is that we might clarify what the Bible says about self and how we can biblically improve it. There is no doubt that such an understanding and a carrying out of what the Scriptures teach will transform us and improve every aspect of our lives in Christ. *TBC*

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(Most of the people I know resemble Hezekiah in [II Kings 20:12-19](#). Berodach-baladan heard that Hezekiah had been ill and sent presents to him. Hezekiah was one of the few godly kings in Judah and there are many things we admire him for, BUT this once he erred. He showed the Babylonian king's emissaries all his treasures. We read that *"...there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah showed them not."* Whether he felt that they had a common enemy in the Assyrians, or he simply neglected to consult Isaiah, God rebuked him for his carelessness. Isaiah faithfully reproved the king he loved, *"Hear the word of the LORD. Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."* And what was king Hezekiah's response? He said, *"Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?"*

It is this response that reminds me so often of Christians' responses to bold preaching (and preachers.) The alarm must be sounded against the rampant apostasy of our day. Warnings about CCM's inroads into our homes and churches, sermons that call attention to evangelical compromise with the Mormons or Rome, and wise counsel against Rick Warren's New Age methodologies, all these are smirked at and draw no more response than a raised eyebrow or two. It's like Hezekiah said to Isaiah, *"Just as long as judgment doesn't fall on us while I am on the throne, just so it doesn't happen on my watch, it's ok if my family and my nation goes down the drain."* And that is what I am hearing people say today. *"I know, I know, my kids look like Las Vegas, and sound like AC/DC, and smell like a nightclub, and walk like Sodom, and talk like the Simpsons on TV. They still go to Sunday School and sleep at home, and their grades are not toooooooooooooo bad. What happens when they marry, and what happens to our grandkids is not our problem, and what happens to our church is not important, just as long as everything is ok now."*

Somehow the prevailing apathy to the things of God that we see in the world has crept into our churches and slithered its way into our pulpits and pews. We have forgotten the men of Issachar, [1 Chronicles 12:32](#) *"And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their*



*brethren were at their commandment."* Discernment has been replaced with the TV guide, and perception is no longer welcome in our churches.

Do you pastors disagree? Here is a test for you to use the next time you sit down with other pastors. There are only a few questions on the exam.

1. Ask them if Amos 3:3 is still true?
2. Ask them what application Hebrews 13:12-14 has to do with the present trends among IB churches? ([Hebrews 13:12-14](#), *"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."*)
3. Ask them if they have ever studied out the roots of the word "Holy" in Hebrew, as in [Leviticus 11:44-45](#), *"For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."*
4. Ask them if they have ever disciplined a member out of their churches and why?
5. Ask them what fellowship they are presently having with immoral pastors?

It will likely be the last time you are invited to their meetings.

This column in Heads Up is intended to alert pastors the trends that demonstrate the blindness of heart and mind that is described in [2 Corinthians 4:3-4](#) *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe*



*not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*

It is a tragic fact that pastors and churches tend to shine forth the glorious light of the gospel in direct proportion to the level of darkness they see around them and the glory of Christ within them. - Ed.)



#### THE DEATH CULT AND ITS TENTACLES - EUTHANASIA DEATHS IN NETHERLANDS INCREASE 13 PERCENT



**ReligionToday.com, 9/30/13, [Excerpts]:**

Euthanasia deaths in the Netherlands jumped 13 percent last year to constitute about 3 percent of all deaths in the European country, Baptist Press reports. Official statistics released Sept. 23 show 4,188 people died by euthanasia in 2012, an increase of nearly 500 from the previous year, The Daily Mail reported.

It marked the sixth consecutive year for an increase in the Netherlands, which legalized euthanasia in 2002. Last year was the first during which mobile euthanasia units staffed by doctors and nurses started crossing the country to end the lives of people in their homes....Dutch law supposedly limits those eligible for euthanasia to people who are incurable and in unbearable pain, but the actual practice appears far more expansive. Newborns with disabilities and people with chronic depression, mental pain and even macular degeneration have been euthanized, said Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Macular degeneration is an affliction typically in older people that causes a loss of vision in the center of the eye.

"The Dutch experience shows that euthanasia becomes routine," said Elspeth Chowdharay-Best of anti-euthanasia ALERT. "It traps more and more people into thinking they ought to leave this world prematurely. In that kind of culture euthanasia becomes expected and

inevitable and everything else--such as good palliative care and a functional hospice movement--is gradually portrayed as rather selfish." The Netherlands is one of three countries that have legalized euthanasia. The others are Belgium and Luxembourg.

(<http://www.theguardian.chhttp://www.religiontoday.com/blog/euthanasia-deaths-netherlands-increase-13-percent>)



#### WHO SOLD US DOWN THE YELLOW RIVER? - THE US TRADE DEFICIT WITH CHINA - by Michael Snyder

In the future China will employ millions of American workers and dominate thousands of small communities all over the United States. Chinese acquisition of U.S. businesses set a new all-time record last year, and it is on pace to shatter that record this year.

The Smithfield Foods acquisition is an example. Smithfield Foods is the largest pork producer and processor in the world. It has facilities in 26 U.S. states and it employs tens of thousands of Americans. It directly owns 460 farms and has contracts with approximately 2,100 others. But now a Chinese company has bought it for \$4.7 billion, and that means that the Chinese will now be the most important employer in dozens of rural communities all over America.



Thanks in part to our massively bloated trade deficit with China, the Chinese have trillions of dollars to spend. They are only just starting to exercise their economic muscle. It is important to keep in mind that there is often not much of a difference between "the Chinese government" and "Chinese corporations". In 2011, 43 percent of all profits in China were produced by companies where the Chinese government had a controlling interest in. Last year a Chinese company spent \$2.6 billion to purchase AMC entertainment - one of the largest movie theater chains in the United States. Now that Chinese company controls more movie ticket sales than anyone else in the world.

But China is not just relying on acquisitions to expand its economic power. "Economic beachheads" are being established all over America. For example, Golden Dragon Precise Copper Tube Group, Inc. recently broke ground on a \$100 million plant in Thomasville, Alabama. Many of the residents of Thomasville, Alabama will be glad to have jobs, but it will also become yet another community that will now be heavily dependent on communist China.

And guess where else Chinese companies are putting down roots? Detroit. Chinese-owned companies are investing in American businesses and new vehicle technology, selling everything from seat belts to shock absorbers in retail stores, and hiring experienced engineers and designers in an effort to soak up the talent and expertise of domestic automakers and their suppliers.

If you recently purchased an "American-made" vehicle, there is a really good chance that it has a number of Chinese parts in it. Industry analysts are hard-pressed to put a number on the Chinese suppliers operating in the United States.

China seems particularly interested in acquiring energy resources in the United States. For example, China is actually mining for coal in the mountains of Tennessee. Guizhou Gouchuang Energy Holdings Group spent 616 million dollars to acquire Triple H Coal Co. in Jacksboro, Tennessee. At the time, that acquisition really didn't make much news, but now a group of conservatives in Tennessee is trying to stop the Chinese from blowing up their mountains and taking their coal.

And pretty soon China may want to build entire cities in the United States just like they have been doing in other countries. Right now China is actually building a city larger than Manhattan just outside Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

Are you starting to get the picture? China is on the rise. If you doubt this, just read the following:

When you total up all imports and exports, China is now the number one trading nation on the entire planet. Overall, the U.S. has run a trade deficit with China over the past decade that comes to more than 2.3 trillion dollars.

- China has more foreign currency reserves than anyone else on the planet.
- China now has the largest new car market in the entire world.
- China now produces more than twice as many automobiles as the United States does. After being bailed out by U.S. taxpayers, GM is involved in 11 joint ventures with Chinese companies.

- China is the number one gold producer in the world.
- The uniforms for the U.S. Olympic team were made in China.
- 85% of all artificial Christmas trees the world over are made in China.
- The new World Trade Center tower in New York is going to include glass imported from China.
- China now consumes more energy than the United States does.
- China is now in aggregate the leading manufacturer of goods in the entire world.
- China uses more cement than the rest of the world combined.
- China is now the number one producer of wind and solar power on the entire globe.
- China produces 3 times as much coal and 11 times as much steel as the United States does.
- China produces more than 90 percent of the global supply of rare earth elements.
- China is now the number one supplier of components that are critical to the operation of any national defense system.

In published scientific research articles China is expected to become number one in the world very shortly.

And what we have seen so far may just be the tip of the iceberg. For now, I will just leave you with one piece of advice - learn to speak Chinese. You are going to need it !

and a little more on the subject:

<http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/9-signs-that-china-is-making-a-move-against-the-u-s-dollar>



#### CHRISTIANS FACE CULTURE OF FEAR, INTIMIDATION IN U.S. MILITARY TODAY- *by Penny Starr*

(CNSNews.com - November 11, 2013)

The Family Research Council (FRC) released a video in time for Veterans Day that warns Americans about the persecution of U.S. troops who express their Christian faith.

The four-minute-and-44 second video, "A Clear and Present Danger," features active duty members of the U.S. military sharing their concerns about the "tremendous culture of intimidation and fear in the ranks of the American military right now." The identities of the men the faces and voices of the man are obscured to cloak their identities. "Soldiers give up a lot of privileges or rights to be soldiers and defend the freedom of





others,” says one soldier in the video. “But certainly the free exercise of religious freedom is not one of them.” “It’s become increasingly difficult for believers to openly express themselves out of fear of the potential consequences to their careers,” a soldier says. Another soldier says the powers-that-be in the U.S. military are “bound and determined to eradicate the military and its heritage of any references to our Christian heritage and Christian beliefs.”

“In recent years we have witnessed our servicemen and women being attacked for holding to the fundamental truths of their faith,” the text about the video on FRC’s [militaryfree.org](http://militaryfree.org) states. “As these attacks increase, there are many who are taking a stand to defend their religious freedom and that of their comrades.” “This video is a brief collection of instances of the restrictions on religious liberty in our military,” it states. “Our hope is in watching this video, you, too are inspired to voice your concern of this very clear and present danger.” “On Veterans Day, Family Research Council and the Restore Military Religious Freedom Coalition honor and pray for our troops, especially those who are being discriminated against for living out their faith,” said FRC President Tony Perkins. “More and more service members are facing harassment, demotion, and formal reprimands simply for being Bible-believing Christians.” “They’ve been prohibited from sharing their faith, forbidden from praying publicly, and dismissed from duty for refusing to surrender their religious convictions,” Perkins said.

“Defending America’s freedom shouldn’t mean surrendering theirs,” he said, “especially given that the Constitution they have sworn to uphold guarantees religious liberty as all Americans’ ‘first freedom.’” The video mentions two specific cases of such persecution, although there have been many other cases in recent years that have been documented by the FRC and other organizations. The two cases mentioned are the brief ban on Bibles being allowed in Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and a soldier in the Army who was

disciplined after he sent out invitations that said, “in honor of my promotion and in honor of the Defense of Marriage Act [which was still law at the time] I’m serving Chick-Fil-A sandwiches at my promotion party.” In the video, soldiers tell Americans they need to speak out on this issue. “American Christians have to understand that this is not going to stop with the military,” a soldier says. “It’s not going to stop there.” “This kind of repression is crouching at the door of America churches,” the soldier says. “And if they decide to do nothing they have only themselves to blame because they refused to act when action was warranted.”

FRC also took out an ad in the *Military Times* urging people to take action to protect the religious liberty of troops. The FRC report, *A Clear and Present Danger: The Threat to Religious Liberty in the Military*, was released in October. It documents more than 25 instances of religious persecution in the U.S. military.

See more at: <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/penny-starr/christians-face-culture-fear-intimidation-us-military-today#sthash.Xt71clEP.dpuf>

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### RAMPANT ATHEISM? - I’M AN ATHEIST: CHRISTIAN COLLEGE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT REVEALS SHOCKING SECRET IN OP-ED - *by Billy Hallowell*



Eric Fromm, student body president at Northwest Christian University, a faith-based college in Eugene, Ore., stunned his college community last week when he revealed through an op-ed published in a campus outlet that he’s an atheist. Fromm shared his theological views and issued a clarion call for Christians to be more accepting of others who disagree with their worldview in the *Beacon Bolt*, an online publication. “My name is Eric Fromm. I am Senior at NCU majoring in communications, and I am an atheist,” he wrote in an article titled “Lifting the Curtain.” He continued, “Yes, you read that correctly,

I am an atheist. For those of you who didn't already know about my nonbelief, this news may be a bit shocking, but I was an atheist long before I came to NCU." Fromm went on to explain that he was baptized a Lutheran and raised a Methodist, but that, over time, he began to develop the belief that "God wasn't real."

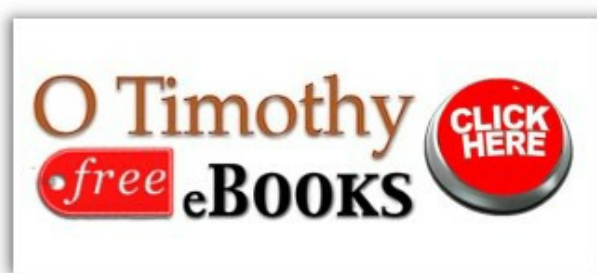
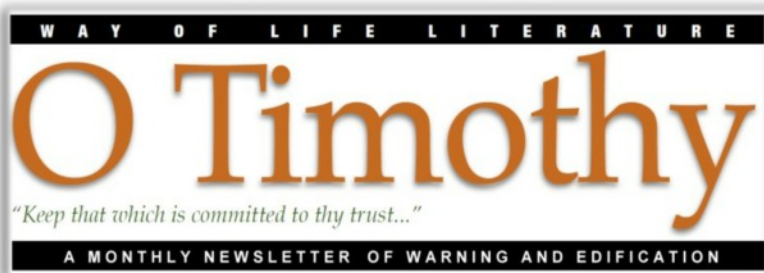
Considering Fromm's admission that he came to Northwest Christian University, a well-known Christian school, as an atheist, he explained that he did so because he knew the school had a good communications program. "I knew that the school catered to Christian thinking, so before I enrolled, I visited the campus to make sure that the chapel services were comfortable enough that I could fulfill the requirement," he wrote. "No one was speaking in tongues or handling snakes, so I decided to stay." In his op-ed, Fromm described often struggling during university chapel services, as he found himself wanting to be a part of the excitement and energy, but he said he couldn't force belief in God upon himself.

From there, Fromm took aim at some of the Christians on campus who have treated him differently since they found out he's a non-believer. He called it ironic that these same people who now scoff at him would often complain about how they were treated in high school as a result of their Christian views. "When people found out that I was an atheist, they started treating me differently," Fromm continued. "Sometimes they would verbally attack me, sometimes they would give me the

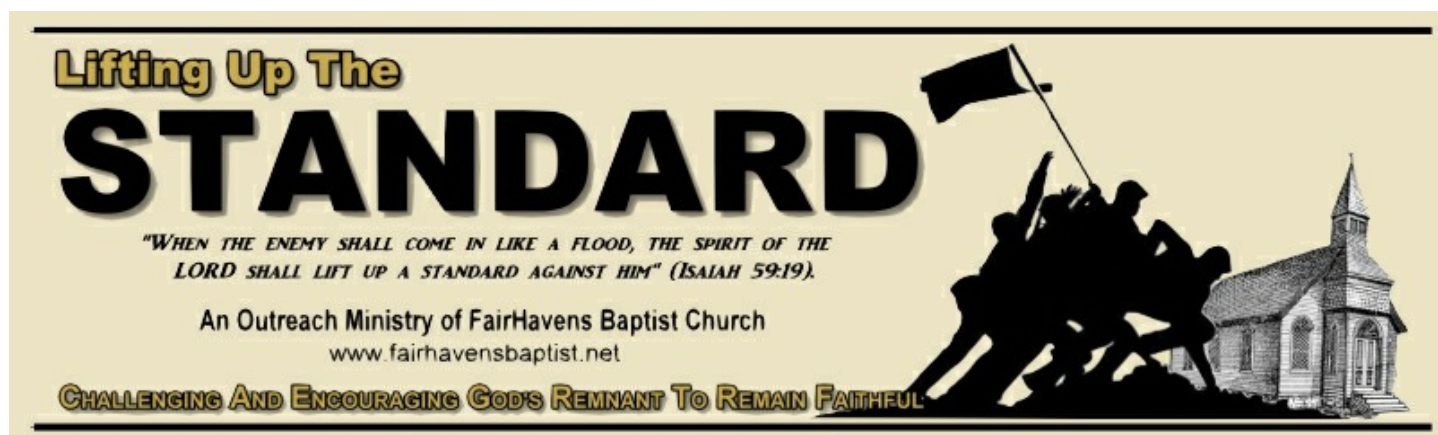
cold shoulder, and sometimes they just gave me dirty looks." He concluded by noting that he is "burdened" by the potential of rejection because of his non-belief. Fromm said he wrote the article so that he no longer has to keep his atheism a secret — and because he wanted to target his peers' "inability to accept those who don't fit their Christian pattern." In an interview with The Register Guard, Michael Fuller, vice president for enrollment and student development at Northwest Christian University, said that he has known about Fromm's atheism for years and that it did not cause him to question his student body presidency. "He's a man of very high character and respect. He's a great advocate for our student body, which is exactly what he's supposed to be and do," Fuller said. While Fuller added that the school wishes Eric would be a "strong Christian man," he went on to say that he wants students like Fromm to be a part of the academic community — individuals "who are looking to explore their faith and willing to look hard and make their faith their own." Some critics, though, question Fromm's presidency and charge that a Christian school's mission cannot be fulfilled by having an atheist student leader at the helm.

"With an atheist president, it doesn't make sense how this mission can be carried out," one critic wrote in an e-mail to The Register Guard.

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## THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE-

Johnny's Mother looked out the window and noticed that he was "playing church" with their cat.

He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water.

She called out, " Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "We are Baptists, aren't we? He should have thought about that before he joined my church."



A blond man is in jail. Guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet. "Just WHAT are you doing?" he asks. "Hanging myself," the blond replies. It should be around your neck" says the guard. "I tried that," he replies, "but then I couldn't breathe."



Two blond men find three grenades, and they decide to take them to a police station. One asked: "What if one explodes before we get there?" The other says: "We'll lie and say we only found two."



Two guys go into a pastry shop. One is a redneck from the Atherton Tablelands, the other is a smooth talking hot shot from Sydney.

The Sydneysider wants to show the Tablelander how clever he is so he whisks three cookies off the shelf and into his pocket with lightning speed. The baker doesn't

even notice. He says to the redneck: "See how clever I am? You rednecks can never beat that!"

The redneck says to the Sydney guy: "Watch this, any redneck is smarter than some hothead from down south, and I'll prove it to ya."

He says to the baker, "Give me a cookie, I'll show you a magic trick!" The baker gives him the cookie, which the redneck promptly eats. Then he says to the baker: "Give me another cookie for my magic trick." The baker is getting suspicious, but he gives it to him to see where this is going. He eats this one too. Then he says again: "Give me one more cookie..."

The baker is getting really angry now, but gives him one anyway. The Redneck eats this one too.

Now the baker is just down right mad, and he yells: "And where is your famous magic trick?" The redneck says, "Look in the Sydney guy's pocket!"



"I've just had the most awful time," said a boy to his friends. "First I got angina pectoris, then arteriosclerosis. Just as I was recovering, I got psoriasis. They gave me hypodermics, and to top it all, tonsillitis was followed by appendectomy, all in one day."

"Wow! How did you pull through?" sympathized his friends.

"I don't know," the boy replied. "It was the toughest spelling test I ever had."

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## WHEN THEIR SHOES STAND IN LINE! -



## A STAMP WE'D LIKE TO USE -



Another one of the great words of the New Testament is the word MESITES (pronounced MES-EE-TACE), that we know better as the word "MEDIATOR."

In the middle of Job's tribulation, Job cried out in 9:33, "Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, *that* might lay his hand upon us both." Job was crying out for a mediator between he man and God. The word "DAYSMAN" means literally, "one being caused to judge." That can be understood in a couple of different ways. But the best way to understand the word is as the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament used in the New Testament times) uses the word. MESITES is the word it uses for "daysman," which is a MEDIATOR.

This is a wonderful title of the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Consider Paul's words concerning the Savior as being the Mediator in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." MESITES is from the shorter Greek word MESOS, which means "midst or middle." The word MESITES means, "one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant." This word is used a total of six times in the New Testament. In secular Greek, the word was seldom used, but the concept was very common.

In Athens, there was a group of men known as "The Forty." Their job was to hear disputes between two different parties. An arbiter or mediator was appointed by the forty to settle the two parties. The people who were arbiters were those citizens of Athens who had reached sixty years old. All had to serve as an arbiter as these sixty-year old citizens represented both sides of a dispute.

In Rome, there was a group of men called the "arbitri." These were used in cases of equity. The arbitri's job was to bring a dispute to an end. Simply, the word spoke of one who brought two people that were estranged together and got rid of the differences between them. That is the place that Jesus Christ took between us and God. On the one hand, we are sinners and are estranged from God. On the other hand, God is not a sinner, but is perfectly holy and righteous.

Jesus, as the Mediator between God and man, brings out three glorious truths.

First of all, Jesus' work involves the bringing of God and man together. He is the Messenger of the King, standing between us and a Holy God. Christ is not One that separates us at all.



Secondly, because man is a sinner, there is a wall between him and God. That wall acts as an impenetrable barrier that none can penetrate. In the creation, there was a perfect relationship and complete fellowship between the first human pair and the One Holy God. There was no wall nor barrier between man and God. But when the first couple chose to disobey, they left the presence of God, and completely severed the relationship and the fellowship. Man needed to be reconciled to God.

Paul wrote in Romans 5:10, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (If means "since" in the verse, not implying any sort of doubt.) Through Christ's redemption, He restores man, via man's choice to repent and believe, back to a complete relationship and fellowship with the Father. Jesus is the Mediator that makes the peace and restores the friendship. Christ as Mediator, brings together the two parties that are at variance.

Finally, there is yet a third great truth in the title of Mediator. Paul gives us the idea of it in that he says, "the Man Christ Jesus." You see, before a mediator can be effective, he must perfectly represent both parties. Jesus Christ fits that definition perfectly. As the God-man, Jesus showed God to man, and man to the Father. It is He that is perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man. Paul uses an exclusive word in the verse as well that tells us that Christ alone is the only Mediator between man and God. It is the word "ONE." There can be no other.

Religion has tried to make various humans be the one that is between God and man. Even some in true churches try to put pastors in that place. But no human can represent both. It is only through Christ alone that we are able to come to the Father and be reconciled. Indeed, it is He that declared that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and no man comes to the Father except by Him.

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### The Story of God's Dealings

It is clear Nebuchadnezzar was living a very comfortable life (Dan. 4:4) having in his court the intellectuals of the conquered nations, as well as all those who worked in every aspect of the fine arts (Dan. 1:3-4). Babylon was a magnificent city having one of the wonders of the ancient world, its amazing hanging gardens. This was not a dirty dusty little outcrop but a city which in beauty and art equalling any today, and Nebuchadnezzar was King. However, God meant nothing to him, life was too good to think about meeting God.

One night he had a dream that so troubled him he called for the soothsayers to tell what

it meant. Richly trained, as they all were, they could not tell the meaning of the dream. In time Daniel was brought in, and with great solemnity he told Nebuchadnezzar that his dream was a message from God to repent or else judgment would fall (Dan. 4:27). Though he was clearly warned, Nebuchadnezzar did not repent, and one year later in a single hour the judgment fell. It was to be seven more years before he would be made conscious of God again, and this time he repented.

Nebuchadnezzar begins his written testimony by praising God (Dan. 4:2, 37), writing it for all to read and know (Dan. 4:1) so that God will be glorified by it, and finished by giving a warning (Dan. 4:37).

### The Major Features

In reading Nebuchadnezzar's tract there is seen a number of truths, but one main feature is it was approximately 1000 words and that includes the introduction and conclusion. He told the story of his conversion in approximately five minutes! Below are some of the other features which a preacher could develop, however, in this paper only four will be considered.

- a. The carelessness of Nebuchadnezzar concerning his relationship with God (Dan. 4:4)
- b. God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream, and by the understanding of the meaning (Dan. 4:5)
- c. None of the religious leaders could tell the message from God (Dan. 4:6-7)
- d. Only a man who had the Spirit of God could tell the true meaning from God. (Dan. 4:18-32; 5:8, 23-28)
- e. Such was the solemnity of the message, Daniel was to tell that He sat astonished for one hour. This was not a light communication, nor just without passive

**A QUESTION:** Every year thousands of Gospel tracts are printed and distributed and there can be no doubt thousands have been saved through the printed page. One of the more notable was Hudson Taylor, a mighty man of God through whose work 800 missionaries went to China, 125 schools were opened, and 18,000 people were saved. Which of us would not have loved to have been the individual who gave Hudson that gospel tract? Speaking of tracts leads to an interesting question.

**"When was the first gospel tract written?" or "When was the first story of conversion written for others to read and learn?"**

In the 1300's the teachings of John Wycliffe were distributed in written form, and we know they were used for both religious and political purposes in the 1200's. In the 1800's Charles Spurgeon wrote tracts called his little "Penny Sermons". The American Tract Society has been publishing tracts since 1825. The problem with the earliest of these is they are some 1800 years too late, in other words, the first gospel tract was written some 2700 years ago! It was written six hundred years before Christ, and I have seen it and read it!

I would suspect that the vast majority of those who read this have also read it, although without recognizing it as the first gospel tract. The first gospel tract was written by a king of ancient Babylon whose name was Nebuchadnezzar, and he records his conversion in Daniel chapter four.

By telling others how the Lord dealt with him, Nebuchadnezzar recalls his spiritual journey. As he does this the Holy Spirit caused him to give truths relevant for any presenter of the gospel.

conveying a message from God, it was a great weight upon him. (Dan. 4:19)

- f. The messenger from God reiterated that which Nebuchadnezzar knew in his heart, and applied the truths. (Dan. 4:20-26)
- g. Judgement would come if he did not change, there was room to repent. (Dan. 4:27)
- h. He not only refused but became more boastful. (Dan. 4:28-30)
- i. There was a time lapsed before God ever spoke again (Dan. 4:25, 34)
- j. He refused to hear and repent (Dan. 4:30)
- k. The solemn message was fulfilled (Dan. 4:31-33) and judgment fell.
- l. Nebuchadnezzar's conversion (Dan. 4:34-36)

**1)** God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream and by the understanding of the meaning

Herein lies a number of truths, among them being: "God speaketh once, yea twice" (Job 33:14). God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar in the dream and is troubling him, and in giving him the meaning of it. Despite the spiritually careless lifestyle of this man, God was deeply interested in him and sought to warn him of approaching judgment. He did the same to Pharaoh who had the message of God revealed to him by Joseph (Gen. 41:14-36). Sadly, Pharaoh refused to repent despite multiple warnings, and will pay the price for his disobedience throughout eternity. Belshazzar knew of this experience of his grandfather but he refused to submit to the warnings of God, and by the time God spoke forcefully to him it was too late (Dan. 5:5, 24-30). Can God still speak through dreams? We must never determine what God can do, or try to put limits on His prerogatives. Of course God can still speak in dreams. I am sure we all could think of a testimony heard, or even our own, when God used an expression not in the scriptures, an accident, a death, a word of a hymn, a single word. He can save, has saved, and does save people in any way He desires. He has saved people in cinemas, through various translations, in many different sorts of churches. There is no church that can say, "only people saved in our churches are saved", for God cannot be limited in His sovereignty.

**2)** Only a man who had the Spirit of God could tell the truth from God. The world had thousands of religions, but there is only one true message from God. Whither it is accepted or not, atheism, agnosticism, and evolution are all religions, for they are all beliefs regarding God, man, and eternity. All must face the question: "How can I get right with God?" The soothsayers could not give Nebuchadnezzar an answer of truth, and neither can the religions of man give an individual the assurance of going to Heaven. The message preached in thousands of pulpits

is: "Turn over a new leaf"; "Do the best you can"; "Be faithful to the religion of your parents".

One day I met two young men who wanted to speak about God and the conversation went something like this. They said: "Sir we would like to speak to you about God" to which I replied: "I know I am going to Heaven, I know my sins are all forgiven, and I have peace with God". Continuing, I asked them two questions: "Do you have those assurances and what do you have I don't have?" They had no answer for either.

Paul wrote to the Galatians warning of those who present a false gospel, so what is the message from God? (Gal. 1:8).

What then is the gospel? It is the message of the total helplessness and enmity of man toward God (Rom. 3:9-20); the sufficiency of the sacrifice for all (1 Jn. 2:2); to be received without works and by faith (Eph. 2:8-9). Or, to repeat the triplet from years past:

- a. Man's ruin - man is a guilty sinner
- b. God's remedy - the Sufferings of Christ at the hand of God, His death, burial, and resurrection
- c. Man's responsibility - to accept or reject.

**3)** The message came from a man exercised of its solemnity before he ever delivered the message.

As one who has had the responsibility of preaching the gospel for some fifty-four years, I can attest that the preparation is vital, however, there are two preparations needed.

- a. There is the preparation of the material for one is to speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11). That is speaking God's message and not just God's truth. That which is said could be the truth, but it is not God's message for that meeting. Thus, there must be personal preparation for the individual to make sure that the message is the Lord's message.
- b. Again there must be preparation of the individual spiritually, that is to be sure they are in clean fellowship with God. It is not enough to get together with the saints 30 minutes before the meeting to pray, nor is it sufficient to get perspiration mixed with inspiration. Gospel preaching necessitates a lifestyle of living the reality of Heaven and Hell and not preaching it for 30 minutes at a meeting, then with the audience afterward turning around and speaking about sports, weather, etc. Unwittingly we are working with Satan to take away the good seed (Matt. 13:19). Such behavior indicates there has been no reality of souls hanging in the balance.



Daniel was deeply exercised before God for his message had serious consequences. There needs to be the remembering that at the Judgment Seat this message will be reviewed by God, and how it was delivered. Daniel the preacher told the message of warning, he explained clearly what Nebuchadnezzar had to do, but he did not use emotionalism. Speakers must be careful they are not casual with the responsibility and finish by a: "May you do so for the glory of the Lord", or similar words which is a cop out for pressing the issue. The Lord said: "Compel them to come in" (Luke 14:23). On the other hand, they must not try to do the work of the Holy Spirit. When dealing with one desiring to be saved there are times when the best thing is to be silent, and leave the work to God.

#### 4) His conversion -

God brought Nebuchadnezzar to his senses. It had been eight years since he heard the first warning, and for seven years God had been silent. It is always frightening when God is silent. Nebuchadnezzar became like an animal, God was not in his thoughts and he lived only for the moment, and thought nothing of eternity. Then one day the Lord brought his mind back, and this time there was no preacher, but he recalled that which he had heard eight years previous. This time He turned to God acknowledging that God was God. Seed sown may take years to develop but that which God has sown will be recalled. Jonah and Adam learnt that it was impossible to run and hide from God.

As preachers of the gospel, it becomes a frightening realization to know when an individual is preaching that someone in the audience could be hearing the voice of God for years, and perhaps for the last time. I know God made me aware of the need of salvation when I was nine years of age and it was put off. It was four more years before I ever came under conviction of sin again. Like Nebuchadnezzar, this time I responded in minutes.

#### In Summary

Standing on a platform to speak to saints or sinners is one of the most frightening responsibilities that can ever be placed on any individual. Many years ago I had the responsibility of speaking in an assembly in Belfast. There was a family and one son was unsaved. He knew the gospel but wanted nothing of it. The following Saturday he was killed in the riots and died unsaved. I shall never forget the wails of that mother as the cortege moved down the street knowing her son was in hell for eternity. May the Lord help us to learn or re-apply lessons from the world's first gospel tract.

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#### NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- Years ago we started a church that struggled and was very small for many years. Of course, at every preacher's meeting the first question asked by preachers was how many we had in church.

We had a radio program at our church which other bigger churches did not have at the time. According to the radio station 70,000 people tuned in to our broadcast which I did live every Sunday afternoon.

I got sick of telling preachers we had 30 people if we counted the nursery, the pregnant ladies twice and the Trinity as three People. So... I told one pastor that we had 70,000 tune in our radio broadcast.

His immediate response was, "well, they don't count."

- If a man yells "you lie!" in a room full of politicians, how do they know who he's talking to? ~ *Bernie Korselman*
- Someone criticized Charles Spurgeon for his humour. He replied, "You should hear what I hold back."
- Let me never become a slave to crowds. ~ *A.W. Tozer*
- Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life thinking that it is stupid. ~ *Albert Einstein*
- The real reason that we can't display the Ten Commandments in a courtroom is that you cannot post "Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not commit adultery, and Thou shalt not bear false witness" in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It will create a hostile work environment." ~ *Selected*

*(Ed- This is what Romans 1:18 refers to when it says, that men "hold" or "suppress" the truth in unrighteousness. It has always been the practice of wicked men to do their utmost to keep men from reading the truth of God's Word which would expose their wicked deeds. John 3:20 "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd." )*

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## FINALLY, A GOOD USE FOR BRITNEY SPEARS' "MUSIC"!

*(Ed. Some years ago a friend told me of a little town here in Australia that was having trouble with a gang of teens loitering in front of their shops and vandalizing them late at night. So some of the older shop owners got together and decided to become proactive. They installed speakers overhead in front of their shops and then played classical music 24 hours a day. They reported that the gangs all moved on and left their shops alone. It seems they couldn't handle the music!!! And so it is with the pirates described below. It all just proves that Music, its Message, and its Morals go together. How bad must the music of the world's darlings be if even pirates can't stand the sound of it?)*



### BRITNEY SPEARS MUSIC USED TO SCARE OFF SOMALI PIRATES - by Jon David Kahn

Whoever believes that Britney Spears' music isn't powerful, needs to think again. Chart toppers like "Hit Me Baby One More Time" and "Oops I Did it Again" have proven to be effective weapons when blasted at approaching Somali Pirates who reportedly retreat at the mere sound of the songstress.

Rachel Owens, 34, a merchant navy officer on huge super tankers off the east coast of Africa says music is a really effective way of deterring the pirates and their high-speed skiffs: "Her songs have been chosen by the security team accompanying our tankers because they thought the pirates would hate them most. These guys can't stand Western culture or music, making Britney's hits perfect."

According to Rachel, the blasting of Britney's music can be specifically targeted as well: "The speakers can be aimed solely at the pirates so as not to disturb the crew. They're so effective the ship's security rarely needs to resort to firing guns - as soon as the pirates get a blast of Britney they move on as quickly as they can."

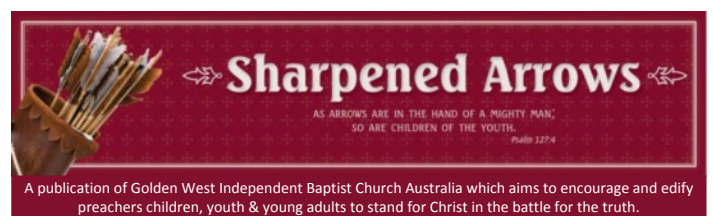
The music is currently a second line of defense and is utilized when initial calls from armed security guards on board fail to deter the pirates.

Steven Jones, of the Security Association for the Maritime Industry, said the US police and military were the first to use music to deter potential raiders. Subsequently, the tactic was adopted by cruise ships and merchant navy vessels to scare off pirates. "I'd imagine using Justin Bieber would be against the Geneva Convention," Jones said. "Pirates will go to any lengths to avoid or try to overcome the music, even using earplugs."

Another testimonial as to the power of pop came from a spokesman for the British Association of Private Security Companies added: "Playing loud pop songs has been proven as one of the most effective ways of fending off attackers. As a tool against pirates, it is pretty effective. It's all part of the development of sophisticated technology to make high value cargo secure from attack."

The east African coast has become a hot spot for pirates desperate to board ships and kidnap crews for multi-million pound ransoms. But are they desperate enough to overcome Britney? Apparently not.

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### 1. UNCONSCIOUS ADDICTION

Facebook is habit forming. Much like any other addictive substance, it's completely plausible to get hooked on social networking, one study claims. But unlike smoking or other dangerous activities, it's much harder to notice the backlash from Facebook addiction, meaning you might not even know just how hooked you are. On average, women spent 81 minutes per day Facebooking, and men spent 64 minutes.

Seth Fiegerman points out Facebook is like a credit card – it encourages you to overspend in time you may not have. It's wiser to avoid it now than realise the lost resources later on.

### 2. LOW SELF-ESTEEM

As if you haven't punished yourself enough for that holiday weight gain, leave it to Facebook to make you feel worse.

One study shows Facebook users, especially females, feel more body conscious by looking at friends' online photos. More than half of the 600 study participants said looking at others' online albums left them wishing for the same body or weight as the person pictured – creating more negative feelings than a fashion magazine might stir up. The study added that younger users were more likely to develop eating disorders because of the pressures of social networks.

Other studies have proven that younger Facebook users are even open to increased narcissism, aggressive behaviour and sleeping problems.

### 3. THE JOB HUNT

The job search may be the most contested reason for deactivating your Facebook account. Though studies have shown 90 per cent of job recruiters will use a candidate's

profile as part of the screening process, those same studies indicate 69 per cent of those recruiters have rejected a candidate based on the content they saw.

Other studies have shown that employers *may* believe a person not on Facebook is a psychopath, although that's one of the most extreme conclusions.

While you might not think your profile is in the realm of scandalous, you never know which small no-nos might trigger a company's reconsideration. You can always let your potential employer know that you had a Facebook, but deactivated it to spend more time in the real world than the online. That sentiment alone could communicate that you aren't a Facebook addict, that you will ultimately be more productive at work.

### 4. APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

Much like applying to jobs, similar rules apply for university applications. You don't want your high school mistakes to shape the rest of your educational opportunities.

As a bonus, you'll notice the application process goes by a lot faster without a Facebook interruption every five minutes.

### 5. THE BREAKUP

If you're going through a breakup, do us all a favour and get off Facebook. No one wants to read your Taylor Swift-fuelled, bitter statuses claiming to be "over it". Clearly you're not. And trust us, no one is believing your post-breakup albums of "girls night awesomeness" either, so instead of looking pitiful, opt for mature.

Then after the messy breakup is over, you'll be able to forget your ex that much faster – without stalking him or her. They don't say "ignorance is bliss" for no reason.

## 6. FACEBOOK ENVY

No surprise here, but Facebook breeds jealousy, a new study shows. Most people use the social network to post celebratory moments – forget the bad stuff. Reading a continuous stream of other people's happy moments can almost directly correlate to feeling negative about yourself, as well as comparing your accomplishments to others.

Furthermore, Facebook envy also bolsters gossip and online bullying, which can only make those involved feel worse. Deactivate and feel less pressure about creating a life of online coolness.

## 7. EXAM TIME

Procrastination is in a student's blood. Whether it's studying for a test or the HSC, a biology quiz or the bar, any student can become easily distracted by Facebook, potentially leading to lower test scores.

Deactivating your account during exam time makes it that much harder to refresh your news feed, aka slack and lose focus – since it will seem like the majority of the world is out enjoying themselves (even though they're probably procrastinating, too).

If you feel like you don't have the willpower to stay off the site even after deactivating, ask a trustworthy friend

to change your password and keep it out of your hands until you're done hitting the books.

## 8. PRIVACY

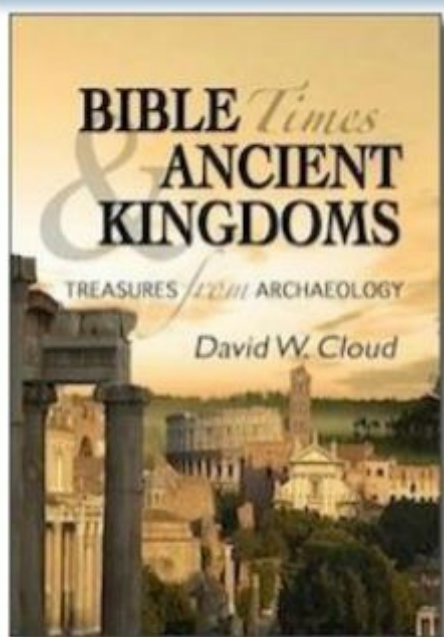
Privacy is always a huge concern for web users. But Facebook's ever altering data policy should be reason enough to consider logging off.

Features such as graph search render all your likes and dislikes available to anyone who can navigate a search bar. Marketers have access to significant details of your life, as well, which should make you at least slightly uncomfortable. And while you can delete pictures or statuses, nothing ever dies on the internet. Just ask US news anchor Katie Couric, whose party pictures were downloaded and used against her, or the girl whose Facebook status about President Obama led to a federal investigation.

Without Facebook, your pictures, thoughts, work and ideas remain your own, inaccessible by potentially harmful intentions.

<http://mashable.com/2013/01/28/reasons-deactivate-facebook/>

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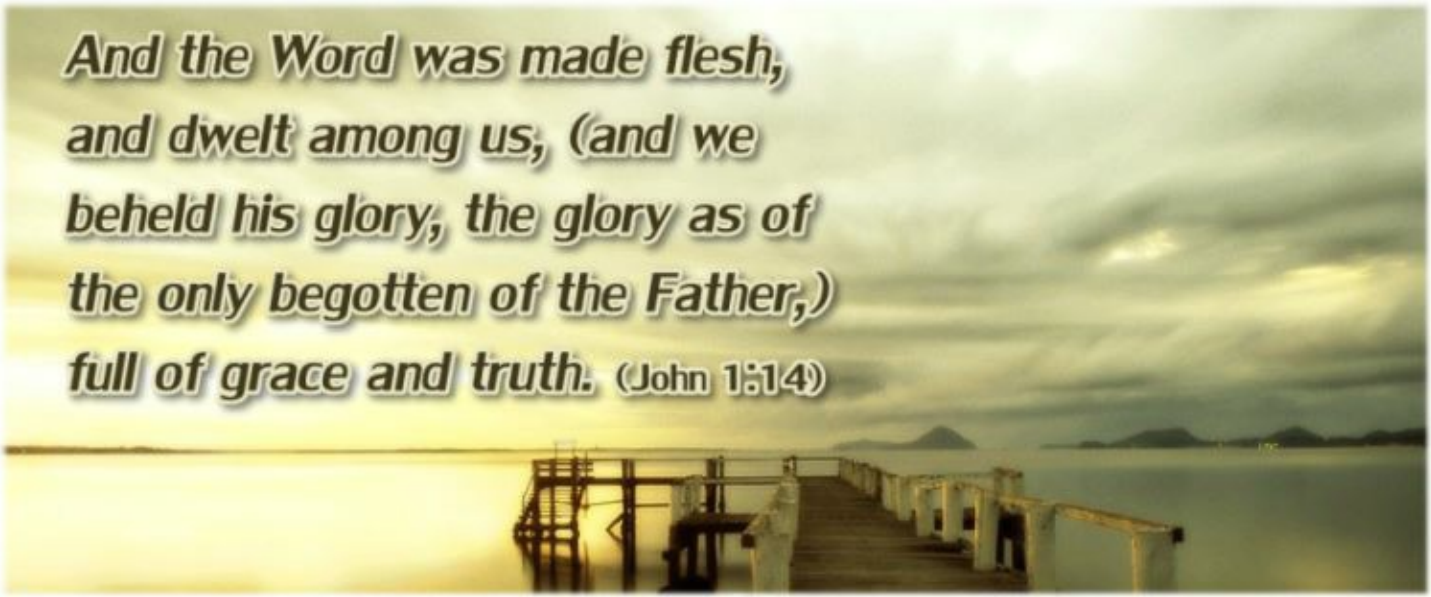
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*And the Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us, (and we  
beheld his glory, the glory as of  
the only begotten of the Father,)  
full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*



I always find it a bit difficult to know what to preach in the month of December leading up to Christmas. Santa and Saturnalia and Sentiment and all that Stuff just leave this old preacher feeling fat, foolish, and frustrated.

I suppose that if the weeks leading up to Christmas were really spent in preparing to glorify my dear Lord and Saviour, and if the gifts we give were actually given to Him (as they were at His birth), and if it was truly a time of worship, well, it would be different. But the fact is that Jesus is not the reason for the season.

If we would have a reality check, and a moment of total honesty, and of spiritual clarity, we would have to admit that Christmas is about Gluttony, Greed, and Gross Self Gratification. Oh, the Lord may get an occasional mention, but.....

So what does a pastor do if he is courageous enough to be an iconoclast? If he tosses out as many of the accumulated traditions of the Santa season as possible, what SHOULD he preach on? I decided some years ago (to each his own) to focus on the doctrine of Christ everytime Santa strives to capture everyone's attention.

According to John the apostle, the doctrine of Christ is the touchstone of Christian theology.

**2 John 1:9-11** *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."*

Note the words, "this doctrine" in verse 10. The doctrine of Christ is the test doctrine above all others.

Sadly, it is the doctrine often neglected because of our emphases on other truths (and sometimes because we pastors are too busy riding our hobby horses up and down the aisles of our churches!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

So this December, God willing, I will preach on **John 1:14**, *"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."* We will explore the depths of this glorious text a phrase at a time.

The first Sunday we will ask and answer the question, *"Who is the Word?"*

The second Sunday we will examine the phrase, *"Was made flesh."*

The third Sunday we will explore the truths of the phrase *"And dwelt among us."*

The fourth Sunday we will ponder the parenthesis, *"And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father."*

And the fifth Sunday we will conclude the series with a sermon on *"Full of grace and truth."*

Line upon line and precept upon precept. Here a little and there a little.

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Some of us really do like object lessons. We like to present Bible truths to our hearers by showing them something tangible, something they can touch and see and hear. I will never forget my old pastor doing a chemistry object lesson one Sunday night to show how the Blood of Christ can wash away our sins. Another time he used a battery and some copper strips in a large vase and stirred in some salt to make the water conductive enough to cause a light to shine brighter and brighter. Object lessons stick in people's minds and sometimes open the heart's door enough for the light of the gospel to shine in.

I read a story that had to do with a long handled spoon, a really long handled spoon. And then I saw a picture of a telescoping fishing rod, and put the two together and came up with The Gospel Spoon. Here's one way to teach the object lesson of the gospel spoon.

#### **I WAS SPOON FED THE GOSPEL BY OTHERS-**

My mother was converted to Christ when I was about four years old, I think, and she took us to Sunday School the first Sunday after. Mrs. Lane was my teacher. I can't remember her face, but I remember the map she showed us of the children of Israel's exodus from Egypt. She spoonfed me the gospel in little boy-sized bites. Our preacher set the table every Sunday right down low so little boys and girls could be spoonfed the milk of God's word at their level.

It is right for the gospel to be preached simply for the Lord Jesus Christ told Peter to "Feed my lambs", not "Feed my giraffes!" Even when I was an unsaved teenager, our Sunday School teacher, Mr. Hargraves, spoonfed us week by week, and when I moved away from

home and started attending the church where I was converted, old brother Woody Stewart spoonfed us a sip, a bite, a nibble, a morsel at a time, and then it happened! I was saved, wonderfully saved, and all that laborious, time consuming spoonfeeding paid off!

#### **I THEN USED THE SPOON TO FEED MYSELF THE WORD OF GOD -**

Within a week after I was saved I began spoonfeeding myself the word of God. It seemed that the ladle of the spoon now held much more than it did when others were spoonfeeding me. Or maybe it was that now that I held the spoon I could practice "demand feeding" and feast on the Holy Scriptures anytime I liked. It was some time before I discovered **1 Peter 2:2**,

*"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby."*

I desired spoonful after spoonful and couldn't get enough. My pastor reached way down from the pulpit with his longhandled spoon and fed all of us row by row and we loved it. Oh, the delight of feeding upon the limitless resources of Holy Scripture!

#### **THE AMAZING DISCOVERY - MY SPOON BEGAN TO GROW LONGER!**

I knew it was the perfect length for spoonfeeding me, but I found that, as I grew in the Lord, my spoon grew longer, too. When I eagerly took on teaching Sunday School, to my surprise, my spoon grew in length and I found myself spoonfeeding a class of little boys. And wonder of wonders, I found that it was now long enough to reach my sister so that she came to faith in Christ as well, and

my friends began to sip from my gospel spoon so that one after another they took up the spoon for themselves.

#### **THE GOSPEL SPOON REACHES FROM THE PULPIT TO THE PEW -**



It was about this time that God called me to preach, and my spoon grew longer yet. I had always been fearful of speaking before a class in school, but when I stood in the pulpit with my little gospel spoon and opened my Bible to preach the gospel, I found the spoon was long enough to reach all the way to the back row. Small churches, large churches, it makes no difference. Obedient faith makes the spoon grow.

#### **THE GOSPEL SPOON REACHES FROM CHURCH TO CHURCH -**

My spoon began to reach out to other churches in our area. Pastors encouraged me to come and speak, knowing full well that my spoon would grow if I would use it to feed others. At first it was just long enough to reach across town, and then a hundred miles, and then 700 miles to the little town where I first took up the pastorate in 1966.

#### **THE GOSPEL SPOONS OF OTHERS AND THE INFLUENCE THEY HAVE ON US -**

Leon Huse introduced us to Missionary Randy Pike in 1967 in Aurora, Mo. and we began to see that the gospel spoon could reach from one continent to another. Bro. Randy grew up in Tennessee, was converted there, and then God stretched his spoon all the way to Australia. It was the length of his spoon that provoked us to wonder just how long God would make our spoon to grow. So, to test the limits, the Lord led us a thousand miles south to McAllen, Texas to plant a church there, and we found that our spoon kept on growing, sometimes it grew across the border into Mexico.

#### **THE GOSPEL SPOON THAT SPANNED THE OCEAN -**

In 1972 the Lord made a way for our little family to take our Gospel Spoon to Australia and we found that there was plenty of room for it to grow longer. Youth Camps, Bible conferences, new churches, even to other nations, to Papua New Guinea, to Hungary, and Scotland, and South Africa. Who knows where it will reach next?

#### **SO, HOW LONG IS YOUR SPOON?**

God has commissioned us to spoonfeed the nations with the gospel of Christ. In a self centered generation, the tendency is for the saints to stay home and just feed themselves. Is it any surprise that we have become, for the most part an obese and inert subculture? Maybe somebody could start a new denomination. They could call it the SSOICPCC (Short Spoon Obese Inert Couch Potato Christian Church)?

We need to start asking each other, "How long is your spoon? Can it reach across the street? Can it reach to another town? To another state? Around the world?"

I have dear friends whose spoons encircle the entire world with their witness for Christ, while others' spoons lie rusting in the cutlery drawer, not even being used to feed their owners.

You may ask, "How do I get my gospel spoon to grow?" You have to stretch them by frequent use.

It is a fact that if you stretch your spoon across the street, you may soon find it reaching around the world.

How long is your spoon?

***PS** If any of our readers are interested in making a gospel spoon to use as an object lesson, please write me at the email address below.*

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## Heads Up!

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