

Features

America at the Brink-Part I

by Dr. D. James Kennedy
Text: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14)

It isn't often that a truly prophetic voice is heard in the history of any people, but in the last several months such a voice has resounded throughout the West. It is the voice of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and it is a voice which every one of us desperately needs to hear. About two months ago Solzhenitsyn was interviewed in an hour-long broadcast on the BCC. The impact of that

broadcast on Britain was greater than anything that had hit England if fifty years. So devastating was the impact that for the next several days thereafter, one commentator said, it was impossible to detect the ideological preconceptions of the commentators who spoke about the broadcast because he pierced through all of the veneer and tinsel of contemporary comment and told us the truth. Malcolm Muggeridge, another of the great social critics of our time, was asked this question: "Mr. Muggeridge, how do you account for the impact of this program?" He said, "Its impact is due to the fact that it is absolutely true. You see, what Solzhenitsyn

has said is on an entirely different level from the comments that go on about our world on television by politicians. His comments were in terms of truth; in terms of good and evil; in terms, ultimately, of the Christian faith." This was rebroadcast in the United States a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, it was on Channel 2 and, therefore, its viewing audience was no doubt far less than in England. But I believe that so important were these words that every Christian needs to be aware of the essence of what he said.

Truth Not Comforting

By the way, for those perhaps who may not clearly know, Aleksandr Solzhenit-

syn, is without question, the greatest literary man in the world today. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature. He is the Dostoevski of the twentieth century. Muggeridge says he is the greatest man living in our time. He was introduced in Washington where he gave a speech, by none other than George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO. George Meany is not exactly what you might call a conservative, but this is what he said: "We heed this voice not because it speaks for the left or the right or for any faction, but because it hurls truth and courage into the teeth of total power, when it would be so much easier and more comfortable to submit and to embrace the lies by

which that power lives. What is the strength of his voice? How has it broken through to us when others have been stilled? Its strength is art. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn is not a crusader, he is not a politician, he is not a general, he is an artist, and by his art he illuminates the truth. It is, in a sense, subversive. It is subversive of hypocrisy, subversive of delusion, subversive of the 'big lie'. No man in modern times, and very few in all of history, have demonstrated as drastically as Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn the power of the pen, coupled with courage, to free men's minds." George Meany, AFL-CIO.

A very interesting comment, I think, was made by one of the *Time* Magazine

editors, Mr. Bernard Levine, who said this: "What shall we do with Solzhenitsyn? Well, if I may conclude with a modest proposal, I suggest that the West, when he was provoked a little further, should possibly under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, formally condemn him to death and execute him, either by obliging him to drink hemlock or by crucifixion. After all, the two most noted figures in history who respectively experienced those fates, were condemned principally because they told their own societies truths that made them uncomfortable." Solzhenitsyn declares, "Friends, I have not come to tell you comfortable things, but I have come to tell you the truth."

Medieval Festival Enjoyed By Many

by Debbie Wright

On October 20, 1979, the Episcopal Church sponsored this area's first medieval festival, Michelmas Day. It was held at In the Oaks in Black Mountain.

The festival was decorated with medieval type banners and ladies as damsels in distress. The men wore the traditional garb of archers, court jesters, knights and kings. Little children were dressed as pages and clowns.

The festival covered a variety of medieval events and pastimes such as archery, jousting, knightly battles and paying taxes to the King and Queen. The different events were spread over the many acres of the Oaks so it was not a crowded atmosphere but one

of leisure.

Several competitions were held throughout the day. One such competition was in the field of archery. The archer's target was a deer in the woods. Two points were given for every organ hit and one point was given for the flesh. Jon Faraone, a sophomore here at Montreat entered the competition in a field of 15 and placed third behind an archery instructor and professional hunter. Jon was required to bow before the King and Queen and was dubbed "Sir Jon Faraone."


The festival also included many artisans. One craftsman specialized in the making of medieval and renaissance musical instruments. He played such

instruments as a medieval oboe and a hammer dulcimer.

There were also food booths scattered throughout the fields where such things as tarts, lemonade and ginger beer could be purchased for a groat, the equivalent of 25 cents.

A highlight of Michelmas was the Manor House. This tudor-style mansion was open for the public to roam through. Inside was a gymnasium, a swimming pool and a small bowling alley as well as antique furniture and artwork.

All in all Michelmas Day at In the Oaks proved to be quite a success. Considering there was no admission charged it was a pleasure for young and old alike.



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Richard Socco (photo by Carter)

Native of Zambia

by Jill Roberts

Richard is from Zambai, in Central Africa. He is a day student at Montreat and commutes from Swannanoa where his wife Cathy and his two sons Dalitso, four years old and Chifatso, sixteen months old, lives now. His foreign background is as follows: he has lived in Zambai all of his life and has been part of the United States for eight months. He belongs to a tribe called "The Nyanja Tribe." Richard speaks eight different languages from Zambai. He was taught some English before he came to the United States and he attended AB Tech for further help in learning English so that he could communicate with others in the United States.

He is praying about majoring in being a Minister of the Word of God. Richard has been a Christian for fourteen years and he loves the Lord with all of his heart. His main hobbies are soccer, and he likes to jog every once in awhile. He loves to sing with his wife to Jesus and Praise the Lord for everything in his life. His greatest achievement he plans to obtain is to go back home to Zambai to minister the Word of God. Richard has many reasons to be thankful and to praise God that he has come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. His trust in Jesus is so great that he believes he will provide all his needs and yours too.

"The Great Commission"

by Hany Samuel

I am honored to join the mission group here at M.A.C. Each week a group of young dedicated Christians under the leadership of Francie Griffin gather together to pray and share about missions.

I originally came from Egypt. Some of you call me "King Tut". As I spoke with many Americans, I found that they look to Egypt as the land of the Pyramids, old temples, and mummies. Some others look to the Middle East as a place of conflict between Israel and its neighbors. Others consider the Arabs as crazy people who have nothing else to do except raising the oil prices.

But I think that we as Christians should look to the Middle East from another perspective. We should look to the millions of peoples there as precious souls Jesus went to the cross for each individual of them, and each of them should hear about the amazing love of God and respond.

We as Christians should show them in our lives that the solution to the conflicts there cannot be achieved when each of the parties there gains its rights. But the real solution is in knowing Christ, and then give it all to Him, dying for self and accepting Christ to live inside each individual. By that each individual will become a unique expression for the life and love of Christ and so the presence of Christ will draw all of them together as one people in Him. But how shall they hear?! It is not an easy task to change a religion and its traditions they inherited for a long time. However, the church there is doing its best under so many restrictions. And the Christian leaders there are doing their best with the very little they have.

America contributed much to the mission field. Our church in Alexandria, which is the largest Presbyterian Church in Egypt and the most active church in the Middle East, was built by the

American missionaries. All over the world we see the good works of the missionaries. We read about "David Livingston" going to reach the dark continent of Africa for Christ. Mother Teresa in India, Dr. L. Nelson Bell was a missionary Doctor in China for over 25 years, and here at Montreat we have now Dr. Billy Graham, one of the greatest missionaries the world ever knew, and where you go in the world today you will find people who have come to Christ through the ministry the Lord has given to Dr. Billy Graham.

This is the age we live in. Never before in history has a generation enjoyed such progress as ours. Man actually landed on the moon. The progress in communication is unbelievable. There is no "far off" place now, there is no dark continent. The world became one small continent, and we all need each other, and we all need Christ as our only Saviour.

So, we as Christians should use the technology of our age for achieving the Great Commission. But first we should understand that if we depended only on our strength and progress, we will achieve nothing. The battle for Evangelism is not ours. The Battle is for the Lord. The power of His Holy Spirit is our guide and leader. And we have to be sensitive to the Spirit, able to hear and know the voice of the good Shepherd, willing to obey His will not ours regardless of how much following Him will cost us. Jesus said: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit, the gift my father promised, comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. He promised us also that He will be with us always, to the very end of the age, and what more assurance do we need as missionaries for the true Lord to the sinful world, than the assurance of the presence of Christ with us."