

Church News

THE VOICE OF MAN...

by Dr. James N. Lowery, DD
When a man holds up a book and says, "You must believe this, because it says 'Thus saith the Lord,'" should we not pity that man? Does he comprehend the liberty of man to acquire knowledge? If a book were to fall down out of the sky with the Lord's signature on it, man would not accept it on that account.

Thy wide earth hath room for all. Yes, I accuse the earth with starvation and sin and untimely death. O, that I could school myself to boast not of greatness that I should be forever ashamed in the sight of the Creator. I took up arms against my brother. With great armies I encompassed him about to despoil him. His widows and orphans I multiplied by the stroke of my sword. The cry of anguish that came out of their mouths I answered by the destruction of my brother's harvest. We have those among us today that are held hostage by the job they hold, which is by their own choice.

Man, by his cunning works has taught that my brother was his enemy, and that to fall upon him and destroy him was great patriotism. And they ran at the sound of his voice, and committed great havoc. And their judgment was turned away from the people of peace! I made them think. To stand up for me was righteousness for their land. I called upon my armies saying, "Come, behold the glory of my defenses which I built for you." Thus I led them away from the Great Spirit. Their eyes I turned down to the way of death. To the man that said "There shall come a time of peace where war shall be no more forever," I mocked and said, "Thou fool. Man knows the counts against him; he can not hide his iniquity from the Great Spirit. Man has said war was a necessary evil to prevent a too populous world. Man turned his back toward wide unsettled regions of the earth, with this falsehood in his mouth." I stood before him. Yes, I cried out as if for the righteous, saying, "I war for righteous and for the protection of the weak." In the destruction of my brother, I stood as a murderer, pleading this excuse. Stubbornly I persisted in not seeing justice on the other side, whilst I cut down whom the Great Spirit had made alive. I am the great grandson of a famous person of the 18th century, who fought for the great truth that I am fighting today. He fought with fire arms and vengeance. I am fighting with love and education. He wanted to build a Temple or Village on the foundation of this great truth. He was told he could not because he was a murderer and blood was assigned to his hands. Bout out of your seed it shall come to pass. Will you agree? The voice of man has cried out more than this. I persuaded my sons and daughters to war for me as to war for our Father in Heaven. By such blasphemy led I them into ruin. Behold the glory of them that were slain for the honor of this country. Thus have I added crime to crime, before the Great Spirit. Thus destroy

ing thy beautiful creation. Verily have I not 1 word of justification of my deeds before thee. In my place, I called out to one son and daughters saying 'Be ye Brahmins. Brhama saveth who-soever called upon his name' In another place I said, "Be ye Christians: who-soever calleth on Christ is saved." In another place I said "Be ye Mohammedans, who-soever saith 'There is but one God and Mohammed is his prophet shall have indulgence without sin.' Thus have I divided the earth. I founded them and into their hand have placed all manner of weapons of destruction and they have become more terrible against one another than the beast of the forest. O, that I could put away these great iniquities which I raised up as ever lasting torments to the earth. Verily, there is no salvation in any of these. Their people are forever destroying one another. They quarrel and kill for their respective religions, setting aside Thy commandment: Thou shalt not kill. They love their own nation and hate all others and set aside Thy commandment, "Love Thy neighbor as thy self."

In vain have I searched for a plan of redemption; a plan that would make the earth a paradise and the life of man a joy upon Thee and joy unto myself. But the two extremes riches and poverty have made the prospect of a millennium a thing of mockery. For one man that is rich there are a thousand poor. Their interests are an interminable conflict with one another. Labor crieth out in pain but capital smiteth him with a heartless blow. To understand this, man must have an understanding of faith and wisdom. There is more wisdom in the song of a bird than in the speech of a philosopher. Any message that imparts knowledge of the life and destiny of man is a good message. When a message give us information of things we know not of, it should also give us a method of proving that information to be true. This message covers that ground. The day has arrived when man will not accept proclamations and assertions. He wants plausible or substantial proofs. The time of man worship is at an end. The message must have merit to its own, other wise it will soon pass out of existence. But, as many as separate themselves from the dominion has been given the faith that the foundation of the earth was founded on and by their works will they be known henceforth on the earth as faithists.

WORDS OF HOPE

By Charles W. Godfrey, Pastor
Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church

Does God always answer our prayers? If He does answer, does He give us exactly what we ask for? What was the first example of answered prayer? In fact, what was the first prayer?

In the perfect Eden world Adam and Eve had the privilege of talking with God face-to-face. Before their sin marred their perfect life and home, they could communicate freely and directly with their Maker and Master. In this sense they didn't need to pray.

After the tragedy of sin ruined this beautiful situation, Adam and Eve fled from their best Friend. Genesis 3:8 tells about it: "They heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden."

Essentially this was a prayer to God; in a sense it is the first prayer recorded in the Bible. Adam and Eve were asking God to leave them alone. They knew they had sinned, and they were afraid. They were saying to God, "Stay away."

Did God answer this prayer? No. He came looking for them and calling to them.

This picture of a pursuing God is the same as that portrayed in Francis Thompson's memorable poem, "The Hound of Heaven." Adam and Eve were the first of God's children to flee from Him. To some degree all of us have followed in fleeing from Him, as the poem describes: "I fled Him down the nights and down the days; I fled Him down the arches of the years."

God knew Adam's heart better than he knew it himself. Even though his outward prayer was, in effect, "Stay away from me; leave me alone," surely his deepest desire was different. Surely the greatest longing of his heart was for something better, for Someone to make things right again and to restore the lost paradise. And as the poem emphasizes, God pursued His straying children in the hope that they would turn and accept His mercy.

In Jeremiah 29:11 God assures us that His thoughts toward us are "thoughts of peace, and not of evil." Instead of answering the prayer of Adam and Eve exactly as they asked, God followed them and brought them good news, the greatest news ever told, the greatest idea ever conceived.

And that news was that all was not lost. There was a plan. There was a Saviour. And now He had come to tell them all about it. He gave them the promise of a Redeemer. Adam and Eve began to understand the infinite love and mercy of God in finding a way out for them.

So, did God really answer their prayer? He did not give them exactly what they asked for, but did He give them the deeper desires of their hearts?

The Lord seems to say it all in Isaiah 65:24: "It shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer."

A second striking example of how God answers prayer or doesn't answer is found in the story of the prophet Elijah in I Kings, chapters 18 and 19. First, though, let us remember how Elijah met outstanding success on Mount Carmel when he called down fire from heaven and then had his prayer answered when God sent rain to end the drought. Not only was God greatly exalted; Elijah also, as His true prophet, was honored before all the people.

But Elijah proved to be all too human. That very night, when he learned that the wicked Queen Jezebel had threatened to kill him, Elijah fled in terror. He kept going for an entire day until he couldn't go a step further. Then he collapsed under a juniper tree and prayed for death.

How far Elijah had sunk in despair! From the heights of Mount Carmel he had gone downward until he prayed to die!

How and when did God answer his prayer?

First, He sent an angel with food for the weary and hungry man. He waited until Elijah was nourished and rested before trying to reason with him. He still had a great work for him to do.

On Mount Carmel God had answered every request Elijah had made. But when did He answer the prophet's prayer to die?

Never did he answer it, for Elijah was taken to heaven without dying. Great are the ways of God! He knows us better than we know ourselves. He responds to our deepest desires.

Don't forget to listen to "Springs of Living Water," Weekdays at 7 p.m. on WSTS-FM, 96.5 on the Dial With Your Host, Pastor Godfrey!

PEMBROKE NEWS ITEMS

By Mrs. Bazie Hardin

Mr. Jose Cervantes, an exchange student at West Robeson High, spent the holidays with his parents in Chihuahua, Mexico. Jose was accompanied back to Robeson County by his sister Miss Lupita Cervantes. She spent a few weeks visiting with Mrs. Essie D. Locklear where she made her home, while she was an exchange student some four years ago. While here, Lupita visited with several friends, including Mr. Larry Brewington, Mrs. Lena J. Dial, and Mr. and Mrs. Bazie Hardin and family, and many more friends. Jose is making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Hartman Brewington while attending school.

Mr. Kenneth Locklear has returned home from Southern General Hospital of Lumberton where he was a treatment patient.

Mr. Teddy Jacobs has returned home from Duke Hospital in Durham where he underwent surgery for the second time. His first time was at Southeastern General Hospital of Lumberton. Mr. Jacobs later suffered a relapse of the same illness and was carried to the Duke Hospital of Durham. As of Tuesday he was reported to be improving satisfactorily.

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Chavis of Greensboro spent the past weekend visiting with mothers, Mrs. Lila Chavis of the Terrace and Mrs. Melissa Deese and other relatives. Mrs. Deese has been in several days due to illness.

Mr. Billy D. Jacobs of Myrtle Beach, SC attended church service Sunday at the Mount Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church along with his mother, Mrs. Christine Burke and other relatives. Mr. Jacobs came especially at this time and spent some time with his brother, Mr. Carl Jerry Jacobs, a patient at the Moore County Hospital of Pinehurst where he underwent major surgery Tuesday.

Mrs. Mary Ann Locklear was scheduled to have surgery Wednesday at Southeastern General Hospital of Lumberton. Mr. Brent Locklear and his friend attended a basketball game held between the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State on January 18 at Chapel Hill.

BIRTHDAY PROVERBS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH

Ephesians 3:16

"Cease not to give thanks for you. Making mention of your prayers."

IN LOVING MEMORY

In loving memory of Rev. C.H. Cummings by daughter, Fannie C. Ozendine.

My Dad was a good man. He was my dream. He was my heart, the apple of my eye, my life, my hope, my dream. He often told me as I rode with him to and from church how much he loved me. He, Dad, often sung a song entitled "Gonna Lay My Burden Down By The River." Not really knowing one day he was going to leave me, but one day, on August 9, 1971, my birthday, my dad laid down his last burden, never to worry again.

So, Dad, life for me has never been the same since

you left me behind. Dad, I sure you are happy in heaven and I know your crown is many stars. But, Dad, how I miss you. Words never be able to explain. If you can look down, I speak a kind word to you because I long to hear your voice. I long to hear you say, "Dad, it is so hard living here in this sinful world. Things have changed so much since you left. But, Dad, of all, God has not changed. You taught us to love each other and to help everybody. So, sleep on, Dad, and get your rest because you worked hard for your home in Heaven. I love you, Dad."

TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, PASTOR, URBAN BIBLE SOCIETY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60635

GRACE ABOUNDING

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and THE MINISTRY WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED OF THE LORD JESUS, TO TESTIFY OF THE GRACE OF GOD" —The Apostle Paul, in Acts 20:24.

"GRACE to you, and peace" (Rom. 1:7); "Being justified freely by His GRACE" (Rom. 3:24); "we have access by faith into this GRACE wherein we stand" (Rom. 5:2); "the GRACE of God, and gift by GRACE... is by one Man" (Rom. 5:15); "the abundance of GRACE and of the gift of righteousness" (Rom. 5:17); "where sin abounded, GRACE did much more abound... that GRACE might reign" (Rom. 5:20, 21); "for ye are not under the law, but under GRACE" (Rom. 6:14); "not under the law, but under GRACE" (Rom. 6:15); "there is a remnant according to the election of GRACE" (Rom. 11:5); "if by GRACE, then it is no more of works; otherwise GRACE is no more GRACE... But if it be of works, then is it no more GRACE" (Rom. 11:6); "By the GRACE of God I am what I am; and His GRACE was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the GRACE of God which

was with me" (I Cor. 15:10); "that the abundant GRACE might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God" (II Cor. 4:15); "receive not the GRACE of God in vain" (II Cor. 6:1); "ye know the GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Cor. 8:9); "God able to make all GRACE abound toward you" (II Cor. 9:8); "the exceeding GRACE of God" (II Cor. 9:14); "GRACE is sufficient to thee" (II Cor. 12:9); "do not frustrate the GRACE of God" (Gal. 2:21); "the price of the glory of His GRACE" (Eph. 1:6); "the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His GRACE" (Eph. 1:7); "the exceeding riches of His GRACE" (Eph. 2:7); "For by GRACE are ye saved, through faith" (Eph. 2:8); "the dispensation of the GRACE of God... given me to you want" (Eph. 3:2); Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly... singing with GRACE your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16); "the GRACE of our Lord was exceedingly abundant" (I Tim. 1:14); "who hath saved us... according to His own purpose and GRACE, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (I Tim. 1:9); "Be strong in the GRACE that is in Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 2:8); "GRACE be with you all" (Tit. 3:15).

Mr. and Mrs. Carson Revels Observe 64th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Carson Revels of Route 1, Shannon, at the Saddletree Club of God. The event was hosted by their children and grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Revels celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary January 24, 1987.

children: Mrs. Lillie Mae Bullard and Mrs. Odessa Hammonds, both of Lumberton, Hubert Ray Revels of Shannon, Ralph Revels of

Pembroke, William Earl Revels of Red Springs, Theodore Revels of Fayetteville and the late Robert Lee Revels.

The couple was honored with a three-tiered cake baked by Mrs. Woodrow Cummings

which was served with a delicious dinner and enjoyed by everyone. The invocation was given by the Rev. Julian

Ransom. Tena McMillian sang a solo. The music was by the Monroe Goin's Sensational

Singers. Remarks were made by the Rev. Reuse Hunt who spoke well of the couple. The honorees received many anniversary cards and gifts.

150 guests attended the event. Mrs. Shirley Locklear was mistress of ceremonies. [T/Sgt. W.P. Revels Photo]

"It is better to have loafed and lost than never to have loafed at all." James Thurber

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CHURCH BRIEFS

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Pembroke-Prospect Road, Pembroke, NC, will observe Praise Sunday on Sunday, February 1, 1987.

Morning worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. The pastor, Reverend Coolidge M. Cummings, will be the speaker. Lunch will follow with afternoon worship beginning at 2 p.m. Reverend Willie Scott will be the guest speaker for the evening worship. A gospel singing will follow and church groups are invited to attend and participate.

"Animals are agreeable friends—they ask no questions they pass no criticisms." George Eliot

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"With God All Things Are Possible" Matt. 19:26

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