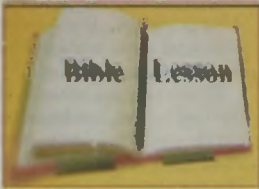


8B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Everlasting Gospel

Revelations 14:6-8

I. Everlasting Gospel (Revelations 14:6-8)  
A. Message to everyone (vv.6,7)

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

The scene focuses on a series of angels and their messages. We need not try to identify these angels concerning whether or not they already have had a ministry in connection with the Revelation of Jesus Christ. After all, God has a great host of angels to assist in his purposes. Remember that Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, said that he could call on "twelve legions" of angels. (Matthew 26:53)

The series of angelic messages has to do with the eternal gospel. In Revelation 14:3, 4, just before our text begins we can see what this gospel means for those who have been redeemed "from the earth" and "from among men." These are the ones who sing the "new song," knowing the quality of life with the Lamb. Their faithfulness is one side of the gospel. The flip side is the judgment of the unfaithful. This is something of a repeat of the opening of the fifth seal in Revelation 6:9-11. There we see the protected position of the slain servants under the altar, calling out for the judgment of the wicked. (See also Matthew 12:41, 42 and 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10)

The gospel message of the glorified Christ is a two-edged sword (Revelation 1:16; 2:12), even for Christians; the gospel corresponds with the messages of "the little scroll" that John was both sweet and sour (10:9-11). Throughout the book of Revelation we have occasion to see both sides of the gospel in the lives of the faithful: it means both protection and suffering for God's people. The suffering is brought by sin, which comes from various directions.

But the gospel requires also that this suffering not go unavenged. This message before us shows the just recompense in the eternal gospel. This is a message to all who live on earth.

He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Those hearing the message must worship God. They must fear God and give him glory. He is Almighty God, the powerful Creator (Exodus 20:11; Psalm 146:6). Christians gladly worship him.

God's enemies, however, prefer to worship "the beast" of Revelation 13.

Message, health are in the music

Fitness industry using hip hop and gospel to market exercise



PHOTO/DONNARICHARDSON.COM

Donna Richardson Joyner uses gospel music and gospel music artists like Shirley Murdock for motivation. Her DVD "Sweating in the Spirit" is a top seller.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORFOLK, Virginia — Against the odds, Elaine Green is calling on a powerful ally to help stay fit: Jesus Christ.

A recent evening found the 51-year-old at Norfolk's First Baptist Church, shimmying and sliding through a physical fitness workout set to a gospel beat.

"Amaaaazing grace," — left leg up, and down.

"How sweet the sound," —step left, step right.

"That saved a wretch, like meeeee," —and squat, two, three.

By the blood of the lamb, she's gonna win the battle of the bulge.

Keen-eyed marketers in the fitness industry are

spicing up their workout offerings with a touch of gospel, soul and hip-hop, tailoring the music and dance in a direct appeal to black consumers.

"They found there was a niche audience to tap into," said Keecha Harris, a spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association.

That's because nation-

wide, black waistlines are expanding. One 2002 study by the Centers for Disease Control found 78 percent of black women ages 20 to 74 were overweight, with more than 50 percent qualifying as obese.

Solutions are showing up on store shelves and TV screens. At Wal-Mart, Please see FITNESS/7B

Youngest King to speak at S.C. celebration

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Martin Luther King Jr.'s youngest child plans to help Greenville County celebrate its first official holiday honoring her father.

Bernice King, a lawyer, minister and author, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at a diversity banquet Jan. 13 in Greenville that kicks

off the 2006 MLK Dream Weekend.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a Greenville native and head of the national civil rights organization Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, will conduct a memorial workshop Jan. 15 at a Simpsonville church. A scholarship gala is planned for the official holiday Jan. 16.

"We've been working on this for months and months," said Nika White, a spokeswoman for the weekend events.

Greenville County Council mem-

bers voted 7-5 in February to officially add King Day to the list of holidays county employees receive with pay. Greenville County was the last of South Carolina's 46 counties to make such a designation.

The fight over the holiday brought national attention to the county, as Jackson organized several protest marches and civil rights leaders called for an economic boycott.

On the Net:

MLK Dream Weekend: www/mlk-dreamweekend.com

Catholic magazine apologizes for condom ad

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK—A Jesuit magazine has apologized after inadvertently publishing an advertisement for a Virgin Mary statue wrapped in a condom that an artist intended as a protest against the church's opposition to condom use.

The Rev. Drew Christiansen, editor-in-chief of America, said in a note to readers that the condom was not visible in the black and white proofs that were used to review the final draft of the Dec. 5 issue, which appeared with color photos.

"We are returning payment for the ad and

protesting the abuse to the artist," Christiansen wrote to subscribers.

The headline for the ad read, "Unique Contemporary Religious Art Work for Sale." In the text, the statue was called "Extra Virgin," and was described as "a stunning 22 cm high statue of the Virgin Mary standing atop a serpent wearing a delicate veil of latex."

The statue was made by Steve Rosenthal, who said he was an artist in London. Rosenthal released a statement Thursday saying he placed the ad as a protest for World AIDS Day against Vatican opposition

to the use of condoms to stem the spread of the disease. World AIDS Day is Dec. 1.

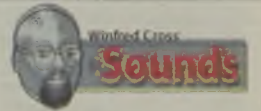
"I at no time tried to dupe or deceive 'America' magazine," Rosenthal said. "The description of the work was clear by both the text included and image provided."

The Rev. Jim Martin, associate editor, called the ad "a deliberate attempt to embarrass us and denigrate Mary."

"The word condom is not in the ad," Martin said Thursday. "The word 'latex' for a celibate priest does not register as it might with lay people."

Christiansen said America was changing how it reviewed ads in response to the mistake. Martin said the magazine, which has a circulation of about 46,000, received a few dozen complaints from readers.

America previously had been the target of criticism from church officials. The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, pressed Jesuit leaders to remove the previous editor, the Rev. Thomas Reese, after the magazine published articles by scholars who took issue with Catholic teaching, according to sources in the religious order.



'Hero' another Franklin success

Kirk Franklin  
Hero  
Kirk Franklin, producer  
Fo Yo Soul\Gospo Center



Kirk Franklin continues to take heat for his radical approach to gospel music. It's radical only because he will not be placed in a box. He does not shy away from using God or Jesus in his songs, but he also will sample secular artists such as Randy Crawford and Earth, Wind & Fire.

There's nothing particularly churchy on this record, yet it has to be considered gospel. That's exactly what Franklin is spreading - albeit with as much funk as possible.

Franklin opens "Hero" with "Looking For You," which is based on the Patrice Rushen tune "Haven't You Heard." It's more likely to be played on "Soul Train" than a church but the message is undeniable. "Hero" combines jazz and R&B licks with soaring choir vocals. Franklin gets extremely personal on "Let It Go." He throws out all his demons and shortcomings. The song's chorus comes straight from Tears For Fears' "Shout." Tobymac and Sonny Sandoval from P.O.D. add edgy background vocals.

The CD's most spectacular offering is "The Appeal," a song that switches between ensemble and solo singing effortlessly. It's moving, thought-provoking and plain pretty.

You can't have a gospel CD without Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin or both. This time it's Adams adding her glorious voice to "After while," a haunting song of hope and salvation. It's simple and sweet. "Broken Hearted" is anything but. It's the most overtly gospel song on the CD. The choir is reverent and soothing. Marvin L. Winans throws his wonderful voice in the mix to add even more gospel flavor.

Stevie Wonder, Ty Tribbett and J. Moss also contribute to this project. Even Franklin sings on the CD - a rare thing indeed. It's icing on this tasty cake for sure. As usual, there's something for everyone and everything is good. I'm wondering if Franklin can make a bad CD? If so, this is not one.

**Ratings**

Classic	★★★★★
Excellent	★★★★
Good	★★★
Fair	★★
Why?	★
No stars - A mess	

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements is 5 p.m. on Fridays. Fax your announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail to cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

December 31

Reeder Memorial Baptist Church will hold New Year's Eve services at 10:30 p.m. Reeder's Music Ministry has prepared a special music event for the evening followed by the New Year's Eve sermon. The church is located at 3725 Beatties Ford Road.

• University Park Baptist Church will have Watch Night Service at the Charlotte Mer-

chandise Mart, 2500 Independence Blvd. This service will begin at 6 p.m.

• Bishop C.M. Beatty and New Covenant Bibleway Church will celebrate the groundbreaking of the new sanctuary at 11 a.m. The sanctuary will be 15,000 square feet in size and will accommodate 750 people. Work on the building is expected to begin early 2006 with an estimated completion time of one year.

January 8

Carolina Voices will hold a special audition for singers for "Psalms & Songs of the Ages," a concert planned for March 3 and 5 in collabo-

ration with Discovery Place and The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit.

This concert will feature the world premieres of two choral works commissioned by Carolina Voices. Up to 20 persons from all voice parts will be added to the Festival Singers for the concert. Singer requirements: The ability to read music and blend with an ensemble, as well as a commitment to weekly rehearsals on Monday nights from Jan. 9-Feb. 27.

Candidates are asked to sing a prepared piece of music of their choice that shows their vocal quality, range and artistic expression. A

piano accompanist will be provided. Individual auditions will take place beginning at 3 p.m. at Temple Beth El, Shalom Park, 5101 Providence Road. Call Carolina Voices at (704) 374-1564, for an appointment.

January 15

Bethlehem Baptist Church, located at 4 Harrison Bridge Road, Simpsonville, S.C., will host a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at 4 p.m. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

