

# VOICE OF LIBERATION

BY REV. G. WESLEY RANEY



## IS THE NEW TESTAMENT VALID?

We are all familiar with the game of whispering something in the ear of one person, and then have that person whisper it into the ear of someone else, and so on until the message has been passed to the last person in the group. The larger the group is, the less likely you will recognize any part of the original message.

The words and activities of the New Testament happened nearly 20 centuries ago. If we cannot repeat messages accurately to one another today, then how can we know that the things we are reading in the New Testament are valid facts? As far as we know, nothing that Jesus said or did was written down until at least 20 years after He died. Paul was the first person to write about Jesus. Mark, the first of the gospels to be written, was probably not written until 35 years after Jesus died.

Some people say that we cannot trust the New Testament writings about Jesus, for they do not tell us the facts about Jesus, only about the faith of His followers. These doubters teach that the Christians made up stories about Jesus, and that Jesus' teachings were only what the writers claimed He said and in their words. The Christians are said to have changed whatever they wanted to change to fit their beliefs and practices.

The place to begin answering these criticisms is the same place the Christians of the first century began—with the Resurrection of Jesus. The Resurrection of Jesus is the central evidence of Christianity. By this, the apostles were turned around.

After the arrest of Jesus, every one of His disciples deserted Him (see Matthew 26:56). They thought that their dreams were over, and that it was time to run. It was customary in the first century to award the followers of a master whatever honor or dishonor befell the master. The disciples were fearful of their own lives after the crucifixion of their Master.

How, then, can we explain that within a few days, they could not keep quiet about this same Jesus? Simon Peter was terrified to admit to an insignificant maiden that he ever knew Jesus (John 18:17). But later the rulers could not squelch his words about this same Jesus (Acts 4). The disciples were at first terrified to whisper about Him, but later they were thrilled to shout about Him.

How could these changes take place if there were no resurrection? Some people say that the disciples expected the resurrection, and that their strong expectation played tricks on their minds. But the facts, the disciples never expected the resurrection. In fact, they didn't even believe the first reports that it had happened. They believed that He was gone from the tomb, but they did not believe that He had risen (John 20:8-9).

The angel's message to the women, "He is risen," did not bring joy, but fear (Mark 16:8). They simply did not believe it. Mary wept and wanted to know, "Where have they taken him?" (John 20:11-13). This disciples did not believe until Jesus showed them the scars in His hands and feet. Then, they talked with Him and saw Him eat. They saw Him perform miracles, build a fire, and fix breakfast.

The risen Jesus remained on the earth 40 days, performing many signs so people could believe He was alive. John testified that Jesus performed "convincing proofs." In I Corinthians 15:5-7, the apostle Paul says that the resurrected Jesus appeared to more than 500 brethren at one time. Paul also said that most of these people were still alive at the time in which the Letter to the Corinthians was written. This was Paul's way of saying, "If you don't believe the resurrection, check it out. There is abundant evidence all around us."

People could deny that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, but they could not put down the resurrection any more than we can deny the fact that Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn. Who would believe a writer who said that Dr. King died of cancer? No one would believe that now because there are too many eyewitnesses around. The facts about Jesus were written down while the eyewitnesses were still alive. The facts told by the eyewitnesses spread across the Roman Empire. Today, we can be sure that the New Testament, and the facts about Jesus, are valid. God's Word is trustworthy?

## Man Jailed For Tricking Money For Black Votes

LEESBURG, Ga. (AP)—A man jailed previously on misdemeanor charges of duping people out of money now is accused of tricking three Lee County politicians into giving him money for black votes, police said.

Ivory Johnson, 33, of Albany, was charged with getting \$235 over a recent weekend from three candidates, whose identities were not released.

Johnson told the candidates in the southwest Georgia county he was with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and could get the organization to endorse their campaign—for a price, authorities said.

Sheriff's Deputy Dennis Parker said the men believed Johnson. One of the men gave Johnson \$105, one gave him \$100 and the third forked over \$20, he said.

Johnson was charged with theft by deception, a misdemeanor, Parker said.

He was arrested in Albany when a car he was riding in was stopped by police at a grocery store. Parker said a man driving the car was unaware that Johnson was being sought. He was not charged.

Parker estimated that Johnson had been arrested at least 40 times before on similar charges.

"He's either representing a church or he's got a sick relative or he's representing a service organization," Parker said. "He's changed up a little, but he's a good con man."



RECEIVING GIFT — Master of Ceremonies, Kenneth Wilkins, receives gift from NAACP president, H. B. Pickett, Jr. on the occasion of the Raleigh-Apex NAACP's Freedom Fund dinner. The event was held on Saturday,

March 21 at 6 p.m. in the Shaw University Gym. Wilkins has served for 2 years as chairman of the steering committee and the branch members wanted to say thank you by giving him a gift.

## You & Your Child

by Eileen Adams

### Raising Cooperative Kids

Some people tend to think that a competitive nature is something that is taught and implanted in our children. That's true, not only in part — we as people are born with a necessary aggres-

sive energy if for no other reason than to be able to survive. Also, parents teach their children when they're very young that it's good to be "first"; that is to say that parents make things "games" for

kids, like being the first to find the peanuts in the supermarket, and, therefore, kids learn to compete.

During the early adolescent years, youngsters take greater responsibility for their thinking. This, then, is the time to emphasize the importance of fair play and cooperation. To do this, encourage your children to participate in sports, such as relay races, which

are collaborative as well as competitive. This will serve your child well, as they will learn cooperation as well as competitiveness. You see, while the word "competitive" conjures up a negative image, it is indeed a necessary facet of the individual who wishes to achieve. In a way, a healthy sense of competitiveness can be seen as desire and ambition — in a healthy sense.

# Come Worship With Us

**LAODICEA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2004 Rock Quarry Road  
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Radio Ministry (WCLY, 1550 AM)  
Saturday—7:00 P.M.  
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Bible Study Wed., 8:00 p.m.



Rev. G. Wesley Raney, Pastor

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558 East Cabarrus St.  
Raleigh, N.C. 27601  
(919) 832-6270

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Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
V.C.E. .... 6:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Service ..... 7:30 p.m.

C.E. WILLIE, III  
Minister



Office Phone: (919) 832-5628  
Parsonage: (919) 821-4979

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DR. W. B. LEWIS, PASTOR



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Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Teachers Meeting & Prayer Service  
Wednesday ..... 7:30 p.m.

**Wake Baptist Grove Church**  
302 Main Street Garner, N.C.

SUNDAY  
Regular Sunday School 9:45 am  
Worship Service 11:00 am  
TUESDAY  
Continual Witness Training 7:00-9:00 pm  
WEDNESDAY  
Seed For The Sower Bible School 7:00 pm  
THURSDAY  
Lay Institute For Equipping 7:00-9:00 pm  
TUESDAY & FRIDAY  
Incessary Prayer 5:00 am  
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Music Ministry, Cross Ministry, & Other.  
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**WAKE CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4888 Blvd Road  
Raleigh, N.C. 27609  
Phone: 876-4986

**SERVICES**  
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Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study ..... 7 p.m. Tuesday  
Prayer Meeting ..... 8 p.m. Tuesday

Pastor: Rev. J. Wilkins, Jr.

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Morning Worship ..... 11:00 A.M.  
Baptist Training Union ..... 5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday:  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study ..... 7:00 P.M.

DR. CHARLES T. BULLOCK, PASTOR

Free Transportation



**Lincoln Park Holiness Church**  
13 Heath Street • Raleigh, NC 27610  
(919) 832-5119

BISHOP ELIE RATCLIFF, JR.  
Pastor  
BISHOP ELIE RATCLIFF, SR.  
Founder

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
8:30 P.M. Evening Service

## Sunday School Lesson

### THE CRUCIFIED SON OF GOD

Mark 15:23-28

Victims of crucifixion often suffered two or three days before dying, but Jesus was on the cross only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Although the duration of Jesus' physical agony was relatively short in comparison with other crucifixions, the depth of His suffering cannot be measured.

To lessen their extreme pain, crucifixion victims were given wine drugged with myrrh. Jesus, however, refused to have His senses dulled in any way until the end. During those six hours, the Son of God experienced the total impact of our sin.

The trappings of this crucifixion were not unusual. Since their pay was so low, soldiers on crucifixion duty usually received the victims' possessions as part of their wages. Customarily, a sign indicating the crime of each man being crucified was posted above his head. To most of the people in the crowd, this was an ordinary execution scene—a gruesome but frequent event that was usually soon forgotten.

This particular crucifixion, however, had worldwide importance. Hanging on the center cross between two thieves, the Son of God became the focal point of history. As He suffered, "the scripture was fulfilled."

The mob at the foot of the cross represented the depraved side of human nature. Possibly some of the same people who had proclaimed Jesus as the one "that cometh in the name of the Lord" the previous Sunday now hurled insults. Not completely trusting Pilate or the Roman executioners, the chief priests and the scribes had come to Golgotha from Jerusalem to make sure the execution was properly carried out.

## PRAY FOR PEACE!

Join us each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. as we honor the Black Madonna, Queen of Peace and pray for an end to War and God's own Peace for our World.

*Church of St. Joseph*  
SUNDAY MASS  
9:00 AM  
11:30 AM

A parish in the Roman Catholic tradition small enough to call home

Pearlree Lane at Poole Road  
Raleigh, North Carolina



ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

## ATTEND SERVICES

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

101 S. Wilmington Street  
(DOWNTOWN RALEIGH)  
Phone 832-1649

Church School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.

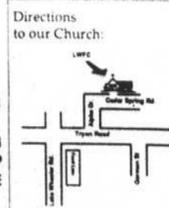
PASTOR: Rev. Nathaniel Boykin



**Living Waters Fellowship Center**  
3309 Cedar Springs Drive  
Raleigh, N.C. 27603  
Phone No. 831-1200

PASTORS: DRs. JAMES & ALLONA HOLMES

**SERVICES**  
SUNDAY ... 9:30 a.m. BIBLICAL TEACHING  
11:00 a.m. PRAISE & WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m. MID-WEEK SERVICE  
"Willing & Determined To Serve"



**Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church**  
Bunn, North Carolina 27508  
(919) 496-6681

Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 11:00 a.m.

"Saving the Bunn area for God so that we can Save the World!"  
DR. JOSEPH C. PAIGE, PASTOR.

Minister K.L. Dunston, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Dexter Wright, Associate Pastor



## Come Let's Think

BY EVA L. PERRY

### WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

- One who is Saved. II Timothy 1:9.
- One who is being Sealed. Ephesians 1:13.
- One who is Seated. Ephesians 2:6.
- One who is Sanctified. I Corinthians 6:11.
- One who is Secure. John 10:28.
- One who is Sustained. II Corinthians 9:8.
- One who is a Son of God. Romans 8:14.
- One who is a Saint. I Corinthians 1:2.
- One who is a Servant. Colossians 3:24.
- One who is a Supplicant. I Timothy 2:1.
- One who is a Soldier. II Timothy 2:3.
- One who is a Stone. I Peter 2:5.
- One who is a Stranger. II Peter 2:11.
- One who is a Sheep. I Peter 2:25.
- One who is a Steward. I Peter 4:16-19.
- One who will see the Savior. I John 3:2.

### THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God is very plain,  
To those who from their sins Refrain;  
And seek to walk with Jesus here,  
He makes their Bible vision clear.  
The Word of God is understood,  
By honest hearts who never Would  
Go wrong because of selfish gain,  
Or choose to walk a hidden lane.  
The Word of God is now revealed,  
To those who covet to be sealed;  
And always practice perfect love,  
And live as harmless as a dove.

Constant Bible study gives rise to so many poems in my heart and mind—I do enjoy my task in life. To God be the glory for ever!  
Again I must say—Read your Bible prayerfully and think!

## Muhammad Speaking At Duke

DURHAM—Imam W. Deen Muhammad, the fifth son of Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad and spokesman for Muslims in America, will speak at Duke University on Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m. in Page Auditorium, West Campus.

Sponsored by the Black Student Alliance of Duke University, Muhammad will speak on "The Impact of Islam in America."

Tickets, which are free to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, are now available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the BSA office in the Bryan Center on West Campus, 684-4154, and at Page Box Office, 684-4444.

Muhammad, the only American invited to attend the Islamic Conference on the Persian Gulf, also was invited to Duke to speak to the class of friend and associate C. Eric Lincoln, a Duke religion professor and author of a book on black Muslims in America.

Muhammad is spokesman for Muslims in America, a group including African-American, ethnic and white Muslims. He is credited with establishing direct interfaith dialogue between leaders of Al-Islam, Christianity and Judaism across the globe.

In 1988 Muhammad represented Muslims at the World Parliament of Religious Leaders for Survival of the Earth and Its Environment in Oxford, England. That same year, he represented Muslims at the signing of the First Amendment Charter for Religious Freedom in Williamsburg, Va.

Last fall, Muhammad became the first Muslim to give the invocation at the opening of the Senate.

For more information, call 684-4154.

Some say a raccoon's footprint looks a lot like one that would be left by a small human being.