

Banner of Truth

"The truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

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The Deadly Doldrums of Indifference

The good country we have known continues her seeming slide into oblivion. A majority has ceased to think seriously and act responsibly. We, the people, have within our hands the power to rescue from disaster. What will we do? Our actions will make the difference. The term "doldrums" described a weather condition in the days when sail ships served as the primary means of sea transportation. Near the equator a condition some times developed resulting in little or no wind. Ships would be unable to move for days or even weeks. It was a terrible and unnerving situation, leading to starvation and even madness. Ship America is languishing in far more dangerous doldrums, the doldrums of indifference. Mariners could do nothing about the doldrums controlling their ships, but thank God, we can do something about The Deadly Doldrums of Indifference.

BANNER OF TRUTH

—all correspondence to—
P.O. Box 100 Almo, KY 42020

Publisher: Powell Grove church of Christ

46 Powell Grove (615) 444-4972
Lebanon, TN 37090

Editor:

Walter W. Pigg

164 Coles Campground Rd. (270) 753-3675
Murray, KY 42071

Assistant Editors:

Lloyd Gale

1186 Martha Leeville Rd. (615) 449-9474
Lebanon, TN 37090

Alan Adams

404 Stillwood Dr. (615) 763-3140
Manchester, TN 37355

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Continued from Page 1

In order for a writer to convey the message he intends it is necessary to clearly define the subject that is being discussed. Since words have varying meanings, it is easy to be misunderstood unless the proper words are used. It is also important that what is being discussed is considered in the right context. It is not all that unusual for scriptural passages to be viewed in the wrong context. Since the subject now being discussed needs to be clearly understood, and we sincerely wish it to be, we begin by considering:

I. THE SUBJECT DEFINED

THE TERM DOLDRUMS. This term is used in various ways. But we will be using it in a more particular way. We find that Webster’s first defini-

tion is fitting with regard to the sense in which we are using it. That definition is: “a state of inactivity or stagnation.” This doldrums afflicting our nation, and worse, the church, is caused by the inability and unwillingness of people to think. As far as thinking goes, minds are now more inactive than ever. It is easy to despair at present circumstances, and simply conclude, “People just do not think. They just do not care.” That certainly hits the nail square on the head. It follows that those, who will not think, seldom care. Surely in recent memory, there has never been such a time of thoughtlessness and apathy as now. It is this that has brought us to the sad state in which we find ourselves today details of which we will discuss later. Someone said the difference between man and monkey with regard to thinking is: The monkey thinks, but he does not think that he thinks. It appears that many people have utterly failed to think they think with regard to numerous things of importance, which affect society, because they do not.

A man’s head is to be used for something other than a hat-rack, the old saying goes. Well, the truth is now that men hardly ever use their head even for that. How amazing that so many seem to stubbornly resist the inclination to just stop and think. They do not think; they do not reason; they make decisions without doing either. The tree of serious thinking has many good branches that bear good fruit, but a dead branch produces nothing. Indifference reaches its apex in the fact that those who do not think, do not care that many others do not think.

God’s Book, the Bible, is filled with that which pertains to thinking. People are urged to think and act wisely. An oft-quoted statement with regard to the importance of thinking is found in Proverbs 23:7: “For as he thinketh in his heart so is he.” Needless to say that those who do not think, ↓

are not much of anything in that sense, yet they are accountable. And they also encourage others to be like them.

DOLDRUMS OF INDIFFERENCE. It is so very easy to understand that those who do not think are indifferent. There is nothing in their mind that warrants thinking. They simply do not care. In rather recent times there has been a great shift in society with regard to caring what happens or fails to happen. To this can be traced to many evils that beset society today. The great tragedy of this indifference is that it goes completely against God and His will for mankind.

Not only is society in general involved, the Lord's church has suffered greatly from indifference. There is now a growing condition that it makes little or no difference as to what is taught and practiced. Whereas the time was that the teaching of false doctrine raised some concern, but so little is evidenced among us now. Furthermore, when brethren are justly aroused about false teaching, and stand solidly for the truth, they may be criticized. A wide range of examples could be given, but we consider only a few. 1) A growing number of congregations are now using instrumental music, at least some of the time. One rightly asks, If only part of the time, why not all the time? In time, they will. 2) There are a growing number of congregations which use women in church services for just about any thing men are used for. 3) In some cases true worship is turned into entertainment. While worship should be enjoyed as a spiritual blessing, true worship is not entertainment, which some try to make it to be. 4) There is a serious lack of teaching on the one and only church and the necessity of being a part of it to be saved. There are others.

DEADLY DOLDRUMS. Serious thinking and doing God's will bring forth spiritual growth and maturity. On the other hand, inactivity with regard to the spiritual realm brings spiritual weak-

ness and even death. The Lord said to the church at Sardis, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and thou art dead" (Revelation 3:1). He said that He had not found their works "perfect before God." When He came to the church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-17), He had not even one positive thing to say about. They were thinking, but it was vain and evil.

Only the Lord knows just how many congregations today have a similar problem to that of Sardis? Or Laodicea? I do know that some congregations today, especially larger ones, have a big name, but their spiritual strength is woefully lacking.

We know that physical death is somewhere in the future, unless the Lord returns while we are living, but spiritual death is the worst thing that could happen to a follower of the Lord. Those accountable people who are not true Christians are already spiritually dead, and can only be brought to life by the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16). The Holy Spirit spoke words of warning when He said, "And as it appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Just as sure as it is that men are going to die, so it is with regard to the judgment. Whereas we cannot avoid physical death, we can make preparation for it and for the judgment. Who can think of a sadder thing than dying outside God's requirements for salvation?

II. QUALIFICATIONS TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE SUBJECT

As to my qualifications, I make no claim regarding academic qualification. I went to a two-room two-teacher elementary school until the eighth grade. Then I went to a one-room one-teacher school to graduate. I can't really remember my grades or how they compared to others. After elementary school I went on to finish high school, where I made average grades. My qualifications, though, came more from the school of experience, and sometimes "hard knocks." →

At age 18 I entered training for the Merchant Marines and served in that capacity until the end of the World War II. In the Merchant Marines I visited 21 foreign ports on my first trip overseas. This enabled me to observe various things about the thinking of many different people of different races, countries and the circumstances under which they lived.

In 1953 I became a Christian. Since then I have spent some years in college, and more than 50 years preaching, and untold thousands of pages of writing, during which time there was a continual association with people, and observation of their thinking. I have traveled to several foreign countries in mission efforts having spent more than five years out of our country.

What precisely is the point of all this, one might ask? While I have learned some academically, my main benefit has been *observation*. I have learned that observation is a powerful means of learning. One can see what others are doing, and observe the results of failure to think and reason. At the same time one can see the favorable results, which occur as a result of serious and sensible thinking.

During about a year and a half that I spent in Ukraine, I saw the results of people who for generations let someone else — in this case, the state — do their thinking for them. In Ukraine, when Communism reigned, children were sent to camps where they were programmed *not* to think for themselves. Not only is failing to think in opposition to what God's word repeatedly emphasizes; but people who persist in mindlessness are destined to become much like the extinct dodo bird.

In Islamic countries I have observed much mind-control. People are largely uneducated and unable to think for themselves. This is what the leaders want. You see, when people do not think for themselves they do not reason. They are so used to not thinking, that asking, "Why are things as they are?," is not a serious question with them at all. They just do not think.

In India, where I was associated with mission work for several years, during which time I spent almost six months in the country, the caste system kept those of the lower cast in a state of ignorance. They accept their plight. I asked one of my translators why couples had so many children, which is a serious problem, his reply was, "They just do not think about tomorrow." The result is that millions of children are born into a situation where they are virtually helpless, and consequently face a life of poverty and lack of education, and little in the way of medical benefits. And, they seldom think and reason. Those of the higher caste have things much better. They think and reason, though they seldom think in a sensible way with regard to God's will for man. Most are steeped in idolatry and know little or nothing as to what the true God sets forth with regard to the necessity of thinking.

III. RESULTS OF FAILURE TO THINK

We have already noted some of the results of failure to think, based primarily on observation. We noted some benefits of serious thinking. However, there are still important things to be considered. The last few years have brought our great country to a state of the greatest despair ever known to us. People who are inclined to think, are asking, "How long is the Lord going to let our country stand in view of the evil conditions now prevailing?" The Psalmist gave a serious warning, which should be heeded. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17). The failure to think and act in accordance with God's will is a great encouragement to the rise and spread of evil. The apostle Paul sets forth a sobering thought with regard to evil. "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13). This occurs when people fail to think, and it is happening *now* at a speed

greater than we have ever seen or imagined. Various things are encouraging this sad condition.

EVIL LEADERSHIP. History records the evil of many leaders. Yet, an individual leader must have his supporters. An evil leader can do little by himself. Some time ago I heard a comment by a well-known commentator, which evidenced some thinking. The person said: "I do not fear President Obama. We could handle him. But I am very fearful of those who support him." A fact we must face is: Those who support an evil leader and enable him to achieve that which is evil, are also partakers of evil. They are accountable. The notorious evil leaders such as Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini and Emperor Hirohito all had their supporters. Among those supporters were, without doubt, those who failed to think where they were being led. Most likely, some were indifferent.

OUR COUNTRY AND HER LEADERS. Looking back at our past leaders, for the most part our leaders have had concern for the well being of our country. But no leader is perfect, and some times they stand for that which is not for the good of the people in general. While God intended for leaders to be for that which is good (Romans 13), some are not. This has been demonstrated countless times.

When speaking of our country and its leadership, we begin with the president and include the various leaders of lesser power and influence. It is somewhat misleading to refer to the President as standing for evil, when he is only a leader in the same. These leaders for the most part are elected by the vote of the people. This may bring bad things on people in general or good things.

Our government is largely run by a political system, with two major parties. The state or condition of the country is largely determined by the political system and has some influence in just about every facet of our society, including reli-

gion. Governments can have a great influence on religion, either by encouraging or discouraging. Since this is the case, we fail to understand our brethren some times when they declare, "Religion and politics do not mix," or words to that effect. It is a fact that unscrupulous politics can be evil, but politics can have an important part to play in the betterment of our society. As we noted earlier, there are no perfect politicians, but it is just as true that some are much better than others. Am I "getting into politics," as some may say? Yes, in the sense that I am most concerned relative to the Lord's church and individuals who choose to live a life in accordance with God's will. I can see how politics can affect this most important aspect of life and wellbeing.

For the past few years we have seen a considerable change politically. The condition is such that more and more people are greatly concerned. So much so that more people are concerned that our country is in the throes of lasting destruction. Having lived through the 1930s until now, I am of that number. The question is being raised as to whether or not the Lord may allow us to stand as a country, due to the evil that is prevailing.

We are made to wonder just why our leaders choose to uphold and support evil? The "why" is not of the Lord. Therefore it must be of the wicked one. The apostle Paul sounds a warning, which we are seeing in reality. He says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). Then, he states a reason why such is so. "But evil men shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (v. 13). Evil people crave power, and will strive for it by every hook and crook. In their quest for power it is to their advantage to dissuade people from thinking.

IV. THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OBAMA, AND HIS SUPPORTERS

This marks the beginning of the greatest tragedy ever to befall our country and way of life, →

in our lifetime. Room does not allow all the negative and hurtful things that have happened during his tenure. We shall consider a few important ones. It is noteworthy to consider how much they reflect a persistent philosophy of opposition to what God has set forth as the only guide by which man is to live. This is our main concern.

To the true Christian, God and His will must always come first. We should remember that most of these things have been brought to pass by the President of the United States and most of his supporters. Why have these things happened? It is because our nation, our society, even the body of Christ lies dead in the water of the doldrums of indifference. Multitudes have allowed it to happen because they did not think and were indifferent. They failed to stand up for the well being of our country and people, and they are most likely to reap the results.

The president was elected on the basis of a promised *change*. Well, things have changed. But not for the better but for worse. After it became clear as to the change he had in mind, many were still in the doldrums, and allowed a continuation of evil change. He was elected for a second term. Just a few, relatively speaking, could have helped to stop this sad change in the the course of our country.

EVIL, UNGODLY THINGS ENCOURAGED. It is self evident that our President has no respect for God and His will. Not only do his words confirm that, but also so do his actions. Any claim of his being a “Christian” is sheer duplicity and hypocrisy. Any inclination of religious belief on Mr. Obama’s part is seen more readily in his affinity for Islam. There is plenty of evidence of this. While there is quite a litany of things that warrant serious concern, we are considering only three of them. These things involve God’s will, and they all show

outright opposition to God’s will. Therefore, this gives reason enough to discuss these things from a religious standpoint. We begin with:

ABORTION. It seems to me that one of the most ungodly things is to show disdain for human life, by brutally murdering an innocent child, made in the image of God, by taking its God-given life. Our President is so gung-ho for abortion that it is one of his points to encourage political support. What a tragedy it is that so many people are evil-minded to that extent. But it is a sad fact. That the taking of innocent life, born or unborn, is so evident that we are not setting forth the scriptural proof. It indeed is a given.

HOMOSEXUALITY. Who would have thought that our society would come to the point that a majority of voters either favor it or are indifferent? Our President has even said that this is what our country should be. He has declared his determination to see that such is the case. Of course he is not alone in this desire. Just stop to think, if you will. The very thought of encouraging innocent boys and girls to view homosexuality as acceptable, with the fact that some will be encouraged to become such. But what does God’s word say? To show God’s opposition as stated in His word, nothing more than Sodom and Gomorrah need be mentioned to give valid evidence. But, then, those who favor such do not believe God’s word, in the first place. Thinking people should be aroused with the possibility that their sons and daughters may be encouraged to be homosexuals and lesbians.

DISCOURAGING A WILL TO WORK. When man was created God intended that he work. In years past most of our people were willing to work for a living. But that has changed drastically. The number of those

unwilling to work has increased to the point that those who are willing to work are penalized to support those who will not. Our President and his supporters have encouraged this to the extent that our country is in great peril financially. People are actually encouraged to get on the dole, rather than work.

God's word has so much to say about this matter. Listen to Paul: "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Again, the problem is that people are indifferent to what God's word says. They do not care. Being a true Christian rules out laziness.

V. ENCOURAGING THE DOLDRUMS OF INDIFFERENCE

It is the very nature of people to be encouraged and discouraged. From God's perspective that which is good is encouraged and that which is evil is discouraged. Involved in indifference are a number of factors. Of course God's word speaks out against the failure to think; to reason and act responsibly.

We have all heard the old adage, "birds of a feather flock together." When people are amongst those who neither think, reason, nor care, there is the tendency to become like them. People of this sort have increased greatly in recent times. In some areas, an opportunity for children to attend a school of choice would do much for them. But some politicians are opposed to this. Our schools are no longer the source of encouragement in the issues of life which tend to make it better. Another factor is that parents are no longer instilling in their children the need to work in order to succeed. A sense of pride in well doing is weakening, and in many cases completely absent.

The failure in leadership can create a "do not care" attitude. Responsibility is an extremely

important word, yet it is being kept in the background far too often. When people are led to believe, as many are today, that the government will take care of them, even think for them, they are dissuaded to think and act.

Indifference and a failure to think and reason, are taking a toll within the church of today. Zeal in that which is godly is not being seen as it once was. The distinctiveness of the gospel and church are not being emphasized as was true in the past. Members are being brought down due to a lack of knowledge. Only the positives in God's word are often considered while the negatives are overlooked. The Good Book, the word of God, must not be treated as a book of fiction, or a dead letter, but to many it is.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

My objective in the above discussion has been to arouse our readers to reality as to what is happening to our country simply because people, so many of them, are not thinking. Therefore, they are not aware of what is happening and fail to reason that something could be done to stop or restrain this evil. Not only is this true in society in general, but it is happening within the Lord's church. God's warnings concerning evil men are not being taken seriously.

It is high time to think and act, lest the opportunity pass away. Our preaching, teaching and conversing should be done with great vigor. Can you imagine what the topic of conversation was often about, as the early Christians faced all manner of evil? Do not you suppose it was quite different when compared with that of today? From general conversations or discussions, it is apparent there is not the concern that should be.

May the Lord bless as we face the evils of today, and may we do our part by contending for and standing fast in the faith. It is time to say: Do not forget to pray.

— *Editor*

Response To President Obama's Response to Walter Pigg's Article:

— At the Gate of Sodom and Gomorrah: Our President Leads
Powerful Influence To Enter In —

Lloyd Gale

The response, in my opinion, begins with an elitist attitude by the use of the term “ordinary Americans.” He says they “have led a proud and inexorable march to toward freedom, fairness, and full equality under the law.” What the majority of Americans have desired, in the way of freedom, is to be free from oppressive government control over their lives. A thing the Obama administration has greatly restricted by increasing the size and scope of Government while bypassing Congress with Presidential mandates, having employed this tactic many times more than all previous presidents combined. It has now come to light that government agencies have been used, under this administration, to punish those who express Constitutional right to disagree with current government policies. It appears that this administration defines “freedom” as their right to dictate what one must believe and speak. It is also evident that their definition of “liberty” is license to ignore boundaries and restrictions on human conduct established by our Creator.

All of our citizens will live longer, more healthy and prosperous lives by following the love-filled rules of human conduct and behavior ordained by God.

The hypocritical statement, “I appreciate your perspective on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) rights” and then by completely ignoring what the article had to say. No attempt was made, in the President’s reply, to deal with issues raised and cited in regard to God’s clear condemnation of sexual deviancy. It is

thereby clearly evident that the President has no clue to what the word of God teaches or just doesn’t give a hoot. It is evident that the President thinks that he may, without consequence, ignore God’s word. Other rulers in times past have made the same mistake, and God is no respecter of persons.

“Since I took office, my Administration has worked to broaden opportunity, advance equality, and level the playing field for LGBT people and communities. We have fought to secure justice for all under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention act, and we have taken action to end housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Let’s hold on right here for a moment. There can be no equality of righteousness and unrighteousness. Between sin and holiness. By calling good evil and evil good you are doing great harm to the American people and even those you foolishly think you are helping. You are in every way discriminating against the children of Christian parents by your attempt to make them accept ungodly conduct as being acceptable and normal. Your radical far left cohorts have removed the word of God from display with the invention of a non-existing claim that the Constitution requires the separation of church and state. You have taken away the right of property owners and individuals to choose the right of association.

The legislation of what is labeled “Hate Crime Prevention Act” will no doubt be used to silence the freedom of speech to publicly

When God's word. Just as it has been used in other countries and already to some extent in America. Your legislation has taken away the right to business owners to conduct their business, as they desire. We have a government that cannot manage its own resources but mistakenly believes that it can run private businesses more efficiently they can.

By allowing gay, lesbian and bisexuals into our military forces you are in the process making them the laughing stock of the world. Decent God-fearing men and women will rightfully shun military service. Troops with no moral or spiritual convictions will not be successful. Read the certified history of God's people when they were in favor with God and when sin was in the camp. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

God established marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Such has been regarded as the definition of marriage by the nations. Every man and every woman has the right to marry. Marriage is non discriminatory. However the desire to change the definition of marriage to allow men with men and women with women, or people with animals, or a man with many wives or one woman with many husbands cannot properly be called marriage. All this is called freedom of choice and equality but is an attack upon the word of God and all decent God-fearing Americans.

The President goes on to say that even more needs to be done and that this administration will continue to work to advance the rights of LGBT Americans. It will also do everything in its power to tear down legislation that protects the correct definition of marriage. To put it simply, the Obama administration is in an all out assault on the foundational values that made America the envy of the world.

The White House now wants to pass laws to stop bullying. Don't you think that when God is replaced with secular humanism and that children are being taught the false religion of evolution that

is why children have no regard for others? When I was in school if there was a bully around, there were some good guys around and they took care of the bullies. Your philosophy created the problems and you have no answers. When God is abandoned chaos and sin rules.

How arrogant men become when they think that they, rather than their Creator, know what is best for mankind. That is when men believe that they can redefine the meaning of words to suit their sensual desires. Freedom is not a license to do as one pleases. Freedom is the right to do what is right as defined by God. Liberty is not license to violate God's boundaries of conduct for His creation. Marriage is just exactly what God ordained from Creation: the union of a man and a woman. Yes, as the inspired Apostle Paul was inspired to record, "let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

The freedom that I, and millions of others, have struggled to have for others and ourselves is to be free from tyrannical governments that desire to dictate to us. Who falsely believes that we, as a free people, are unable to make our own decisions of associations, health care, what we eat, where we live and whom we are to associate with?

Just governments are essential for the well being of the people. When governments become dictatorial the people suffer and freedom is lost. When governments call good evil and evil good their demise is certain. As Christians we pray for elected officials to be governed by God's laws; for when they do so the people prosper. When our officials embrace evil the people suffer. LGBT, is according to God, evil. — Associate Editor

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The striking down of DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) by the Supreme Court pleased our President, according to reports. Thus, it is evident that the more of God's word that is thwarted by evil men, the happier is our anti-God President.]

Miracles on Main Street

The Main Street church of Christ in Manchester, TN is soon to have VBS of 2013. The planners and organizers thought it good this year to use as our theme: Miracles on Main Street. Our purpose is to focus on some of the great miracles of the Bible, with view toward filling our hearts with awe and wonder at the power of God; understanding the nature and characteristics of real miracles; realizing the limited duration, yet the abiding effect of miracles; and, learning some of the built-in spiritual lessons attending each of these spellbinding events. The effects and lessons of the miracles on main street Jerusalem, main street Antioch, main street Lystra and so on, are the exact same effects they should have on main street Manchester, or main street *Anywhere*.

Four fishermen, one former tax-collector, one former fanatical “zealot,” six other nondescript men; and, finally one former hard-nosed Pharisee: How did this unlikely band account for the church of Christ’s, Christianity’s, being universally, permanently, even irrevocably imprinted upon planet Earth? In only slightly over thirty years, the apostle Paul speaking of the “hope of the gospel” said it had been “preached in all creation under heaven” (Colossians 1:23). Nearly 2,000 years later, it is still here, and it always will be. A part of the explanation is that people “hearing and seeing the miracles” (Acts 8:6) believed and obeyed the gospel of Christ.

Who were these men? Apostles. How did they accomplish this humanly impossible task? They “received power from on high” (Luke 24:49), when they were “baptized in the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5), by which they were endowed with the “signs of an apostle” (2 Corinthians 12:12). When Jesus initially gave them their apostolic marching orders,

He said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). He promised, “These signs shall accompany them that believe” (v. 17). He itemized these “signs” (vv. 17,18): They would be able to cast out demons; they would be able to speak in languages they had never learned; neither ingested poison, nor the venom of deadly snakes would hurt them; and they would be able to make sick people “recover” simply by laying their hands on them. Not only these; but also the apostles, and only apostles, could “impart some spiritual gift” (Romans 1:11), that is empower other Christians with various ones of these miraculous signs (Acts 8:14-19). So, it was that apostles and those whom they endowed “went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed” (Mark 16:20).

Jesus, suspending natural, law “rebuked” a fever and it went away (Luke 4:38). He bypassed laws of space and physical properties and simply materialized in a room where the doors were “shut” (John 20:26). He cowed meteorological forces, when he told a storm, “peace be still” (Mark 4:39). He unlocked the grave and Hades, telling a decayed corpse to “come forth” (John 11:43). He, by Whom all “things [were] created” (Colossians 1:16), skipped all sorts of botanical and physical laws, which laws He himself “settled” (cf. Psalm 119:91), and without the benefit of a grapevine, dirt, photosynthesis and so on, He turned water into “good wine” (John 2:10). Not only did He do these marvels, but when He gave the apostles their marching orders, he promised, “These signs shall accompany them that believe” (Mark 16:17). In fact, He had promised them, “He that believeth on me, → *Continued on Page 14*

Reader's Response

We really appreciate the response we receive from our reader. It is an encouragement to us when we are told that our efforts are worthwhile. Although nearly all the response we receive are positive, we occasionally receive some negative. We invite our readers to express their sincere thoughts, even if they are negative. We realize that it is possible for us to make mistakes.

A great many responses mention sending financial help for our work. Except for our formal financial statement, we make no mention of contributors and amount of contributions. Rest assured, we appreciate every contribution regardless of the amount. We are humbled daily by the realization that our work is made possible due to our *fellowhelpers* and their willingness to be a part of our work.

"Dear Sir. A friend gave me his copy of your paper and I would like to receive it also. If you will send a bill for one year I will pay. Hoping to hear from you soon. It is a very good read. – James Brooks." – **AL**. (*We have never had a price for Banner of Truth. It is sent free. We do, however appreciate contributions by congregations and individuals, since this is the means by which it is made possible.* – Editor).

"Dear Brother and Sister Pigg, I hope and pray you both are feeling better. God bless for the wonderful work you do. In Christian love, – **Sheila Mash**."

"Walter, I sure appreciate you sending us Banner of Truth. I hope that you and Naomi are doing well and are in good health. Maybe you could ride with those guys from over there next time they come over here fishing. We sure like those guys. If see any of them tell them I said Hello! Thanks, Jim and Jackie Patchell." – **AR**.

"Enclosed is _____ for Banner of Truth. May God bless both of you. Keep up the good work. We love ya'll, – James and Jean Berry." – **AL**.

"Dear brother Pigg, My brother-in-law, receives Banner of Truth and passes it on to me,

and it is a blessing. In turn I pass it on. I would like to order 25 tracts on the danger of Islam. I hope you get may more orders from this area when I pass these out. Thank you for your service to the Lord. I am sending a little extra for you to use in your work for the church. In Christ, Geraldine Mayhue." – **AR**. (*Thanks for helping get the tracts out that people may be informed about the danger of Islam. Ten thousand tracts are now in print. I have only a few hundred left. I have been disappointed that more brethren have not shown interest in this most serious subject. Many people are just not thinking! Thanks for the "extra."* – Editor).

"Bro. Pigg, We continue to enjoy BOT and appreciate your strong stand for truth. God bless you and your family in 2013! – Maurice Brown." – **IL**.

"Dear Bro. Pigg, I am grateful for the Good sound work that you are doing. I'm enclosing a check for 25 copies about the Muslims. We are in trouble and most people do not know it. I'm close to 80 myself but my great grandchildren will live to see this problem. God Bless you for your good sound work. Your brother in Christ. – J. B. Renner." (*How great it would be if many others could realize the danger our children and grandchildren may see if something is not done about the Muslim threat. Our government is even encouraging the increase of Muslims in our country. Why can't people see? I would have thought many more of our brethren would have been seriously concerned, but I was wrong!*).

"Bro. Pigg, We wish for many more years of health for you and Mrs. Pigg. We enjoy the Banner of Truth paper very much and wish it could go to every house and congregation in the country. We are sending a check to help with needs and with the printing and mailing of Banner of Truth. We would also like to start receiving a bundle of about 20 for the congregation where we worship. In Christ, Bro. & Sis. – Jerry and Geraldine Statler." – **MI**. (*Thanks for getting Banner of Truth out to others. Thanks also for the check to help our work.* – Editor). →

“Bro. Pigg, Enclosed is a check for your work with BOT. Thanks for being a Defender of the Truth. May your and Naomi’s health be good. Keep up the good work. In His Holy Name and Christian Love, – Gene and Margie Neese.” – **AL.** (*Thanks for your concern and help.* – Editor).

“Dear brother Pigg, Please send 25 copies of “THE SPREAD OF ISLAM IN BOTH COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY.” ... We very much enjoy reading Banner of truth and appreciate you sending it to our congregation. – Church of Christ,” – Oil Trough – **AR.** (*Please give the brethren our sincere regards. We well remember our visiting with you and preaching. How time does fly!*) – Editor).

“Dearest Brother in Christ, W.W. Pigg, This is a contribution to use in the spread of the everlasting gospel. How can they hear? How can they preach? unless they be sent. Pure logic of Christianity. I love it. Your Sister in Christ.” – **MS.** (*Dear sister, thank you so much for helping that gospel out to thousands of people in this country and to several foreign countries.* – Editor).

“Dear Brother Pigg, Please send 10 pamphlets on Islam. I’ll see how it goes in our congregation. Also adding a little to help with postage and your work. Which is a wonderful thing for you and the Mrs. to do for the church. Your fight is valiant. Oh! If we would all carry the torch as you do. I know you thank God daily for your strength, health and courage to do so. Sincerely, – Mrs. R.V. La Conte. P.S. Our young people do not realize the threat to our nation. They did not live through Stalin, Hitler, etc. We are sitting on the premises waiting for the promises. And many older congregants have obviously forgotten Hitler’s experiments on human beings, etc. Woe unto us who have left God for other worldly pursuits.” (*Yes, I do thank God that I am able to do what I do. I only wish I could do more, but at 87 my energy is not what it used to be. But I thank God for what I have. I, too, am astonished at the failure of people to think, after having seen and being aware of so much evil. People are woefully unrealistic when they think: “It can’t happen to us!”* – Editor).

“A friend of mine has your Banner of Truth sent to me. Thank you for it. It has helped me to see the truth. Keep sending it. Inclosing a check to help pay for it. – John & Frances Stoelting.” – **IN.** (*We are thankful that BOT has been helpful to you. If you have friends who would like to receive it, just send us their names.* – Editor).

“Bro. Pigg, Please send us 15 copies of Banner of Truth every time it is printed. Thank you, Bro. I have told the congregation how great the paper is, to the edifying of your soul. – Bro. Lamar Johnson.” – **GA.**

“Bro. Pigg, Thanks for Banner of Truth and the stand for the truth you take. We greatly appreciate brethren like you. – Kenny Birdwell.”

“Dear Bro. Pigg, Enclosed find a check for _____, for which please send us 10 copies of the Islam pamphlet, if they are still available. Any remainder keep as a contribution for Banner of Truth. We enjoy the magazine. Love, God bless, Val & Don Misch.” – **NY.**

“Dear brethren: I m enclosing a check in the amount of _____ to assist in the mailing of Banner of Truth. I know the expense of such mailings are costly and continue to climb. We appreciate receiving the publication and the soundness of articles contained in it. Hopefully we will be able to send another contribution before long. We appreciate the great work you are doing. In His Service. J. T. Morgan, Florence church of Christ.” – **MS.** (*Yes, costs continue to rise. But we are sincerely thankful for brethren like you, who continue to help us with support and encouragement.* – Editor).

“Dear Bro. Pigg, I hope I haven’t missed out on getting another package of pamphlets. I want to give some to the elders and preacher where I’m going. I hope you and Naomi are doing good. Enclosed is a check to help you in your work, also a check for the Pamphlets. You take care. In Christian love, – Thelma Clark.” – **MS.** (*I still have a few hundred booklets on hand. I may not have more printed, since so many brethren seem to have no interest and concern about the threat of Islam, which is increasing daily! Thanks for the check for our work.* – Editor). 1

“Our Love and Prayers for you & sweet wife to our Heavenly Father Always. In His Name. – Sister Scott.”

“Dear brother Pigg, Please send me 10 copies of the pamphlet on spread of Islam. The balance of my check you can use as you see fit. Thank you for all that you do to convert the lost and strengthen the church. In Christian love, – Kely Rowe.” – **AR**.

“Really enjoy reading this newsletter. – Beth Foster.” – **AR**. (*Thanks for the check. – Editor*).

“Dear Brethren, We are thankful for the great work you are doing with Banner of Truth. We are praying for your future efforts in standing for the truth. As an elder of Grandiflora church of Christ we would request 50 copies of Banner of Truth be sent to the church. Fellow worker in the Lord, – Galen Busby.” – **AL**.

“Dear bro. Pigg, Here is a donation to help with your postage and printing. You have a good paper and we appreciate your sending it to us. May God bless you and your wife. Sincerely, – Everett & Colleen Anderson.” – **MI**.

“Dear Bro. Pigg, Thank you for the last 100 copies of **Beware Beware**. Here is a check to pay for them. I am in a 5 – week Lecture Series at the Gus Nichols School of Biblical Studies. We are studying Islam in my lectures and other world religions. Thank you for your great work. We are leaving in March for several weeks of teaching and preaching in Russia and Ukraine. I will be teaching **Church History** which is a perfect place to show where and when and how all false teaching originated. In Christ, – L. T. Gurganus.” – **AL**. (*Our prayers are with you that you may have successful trip to Russia and Ukraine. We trust that your lectures will accomplish much. There is such a great need for knowledge and understanding among people. I've spent about a year and a half in Ukraine in the several trips I made to teach and preach. I'm thankful that you are able to make such a trip to Ukraine, as well as all the other teaching you do. May the Lord richly bless you in your endeavors. – Editor*).

“Dear Bro. & Sis. Pigg, The Banner of Truth is a much needed paper and I pray you both will have sufficient health to continue your work as true soldiers of the cross. Enclosed is a check to help with printing expenses. In Christian love, – Jackie Thompson (Mrs. Bobby H. Thompson),” – **GA**. (*Thank you so much*

your concern and help. May the Lord bless you with many more years. – Editor).

“Dear Walter and Naomi, I'm writing to say thank you for being so kind and generous with your BOT studies. I needed them as well as wanted them. I just can't thank you enough. Can you suggest a leaflet or book that best summarizes each book? Something that rightly divides the Bible? I just love to study but want to start from the beginning. Enclosed is a little something to help you wherever you need help. God Bless You, and I pray you and your wife are doing better....Please stay strong and know you both are in my prayers. Thanks for everything. – Mrs. Barbara Durham.” – **MO**. (*You are to be commended for your desire to know more of God's word. Multitudes need to have that desire. If I remember correctly, I suggested a book with the information you desire*).

“Dear brother Walter, I thank you so much for sending Banner of Truth. I do enjoy it. I pray you will send me 10 pamphlets....I thank you so very much. Love and Prayers, your sister in Christ, – Joan J. Tatrae.” – **MI**.

“Dear bro. Pigg, Would you send me 10 pamphlets.... I get BOT and enjoy it very much. – Mrs. Ruth Davis.” – **TN**.

“We enjoy reading your Banner of Truth, – Don & Shirley Haddix.”

“Hope all is going well with you and your good work. The May 2013 edition was excellent and contained so much information that is needed by the church and the world. May God bless you! – Ms. Betty Welch” – **TN**.

[EDITOR'S NOTE] Naomi and I deeply appreciate all the prayers and well wishes for us, and that we may have may more years to work. Several have mentioned our health. We are thankful that it is as well as it is. I am doing fairly well for a person of 87 years of age. I do have aches and pains, but manage to keep going. Naomi is not doing as well. She is pretty well confined to the house, but with the use of her wheeled walker is able to get to the car when there is need to go places. We do ask for your prayers that our health doesn't worsen, and that we have several more years. I am still able to get Banner of Truth out and in the mail, thanks to several great helpers.

Can Man Be God?

James P. Needham

Someone has said, “Every man would like to be God if it were possible; some few find it difficult to admit the impossibility.” Not many persons have ever admitted it, but there have been many who thought they were smarter and more powerful than God.

Of the ancient and proud king of Tyrus, God said: “Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, thou set thine heart as the heart of God” (Ezekiel 28:2). The king of Babylon said “...I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...” (Isaiah 14:13). In the New Testament Paul spoke of one “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called god, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

While these are brazen actions and words, they are not far from the arrogance of many in history and some in our own time. David prayed unto God, and said, “Arise, O Lord; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight. Put them in fear, O Lord: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah” (Psalm 9:19, 20).

God’s plan for the world has suffered more at the hands of self-deifying men than from any other known source. Men are not satisfied to fear God and keep His commandments, they want people to fear them and give their own commandments — telling men they don’t need to listen to God. Sinful, rebellious men don’t want to be told what to do, while they do as they please. But no man

can resist God and get by with it. God will have His way in the world and at the judgment. This is His world, and He will run it as He pleases in spite of arrogant sinful men who often think He needs their help and advice. What men in our time desperately need is more fear of God and less fear of man.

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25). Today it can be said of many, “There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:18). — 6800 Lake Underhill Dr., Orlando, FL 32822

Miracles on Main Street, Continued from Page 10 —

the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto the Father” (John 14:11-13).

Miracles were abrupt, immediate suspensions of natural law. There is not a single person on the planet that can “do” a miracle; nor is there is single person on the planet that knows anyone who can “do,” or anyone who has “seen” anyone “do” a miracle. Yet, we believe in miracles: Those recorded in the Bible in general, and the New Testament in particular. The marvelous miracles done by Jesus, His apostles, and disciples whom the apostles endowed with “spiritual gifts,” confirmed the Gospel. It was confirmed when they did these wondrous works, and stands confirmed today because of them. The confirming work of the miracles stood, stands and abides. By these miracles, our faith was —is— confirmed; we are certified people (Galatians 1:11, KJV). The effect they had 2,000 years ago on people is the exact same effect they should have on people today. — aa

Banner of Truth Financial Statement

Feb. - May 2013

CONTRIBUTIONS

Nancy D. Hammett	200.00
Pine Ridge church of Christ I	50.00
Mrs. Marion A. Harlow	260.00
Allen Rupert	85.00
Cynthia McIntyre	120.00
Thelma O. Clark	75.00
Anonymous	30.00
Eugene Johnson	210.00
Anonymous	582.00
Church of Christ, Florence St	200.00
Barbara Durham	25.00
Bell church of Christ	50.00
Whitlock church of Christ	300.00
Bill Coe	10.00
Gene Nese	220.00
Joyce W. Parker	10.00
Colleen Anderson	50.00
Damon Road church of Christ	100.00
Anita Taft	50.00
Cedar Grove church of Christ	400.00
Shirley Haddix	100.00
Dale I Royal	10.00
Florence church of Christ	500.00
Beth Foster	25.00
Joe C Turbeville	72.00
Sis. Scott Hurley	20.00
Lakeview church of Christ	50.00
Leland Adkins	50.00
Berea church of Christ TN	100.00
Ms Virginia Caudil	20.00
Griselda Adams	50.00
Dorothy Strattis	<u>50.00</u>
Total Contribution	4,194.00

EXPENSES

Mailing BOT, three issues	3,859.45
Other mailing and returns	87.09
Internet, four months	100.00
Mailing labels	105.00
P.O. Box rent	46.00
Foreign mailing	200.00
Materials	11.98
Total Expenses	<u>4,409.52</u>
Balance on hand Feb. 1, 2013	1,393.44
Total contribution	4,194.00
Total funds available	<u>5,587.44</u>
Less expenses	4,409.52
Balance on hand May 31,2013	<u>1,177.92</u>

“That we might be
fellowhelpers to the truth”
(3 John 1:8)

We continually are thankful for each of our concerned brethren who give and do so much to make Banner of Truth possible. We started a journey together so many years ago. Just imagine how many miles, hours, dollars and words we have shared together.

Because of you, we are able to mail out thousands of BOTs to people in our country, and hundred to other countries. The mission is daunting at times, but we are heartened by the many thanks from readers. We continue to solicit prayers, comments and suggestions to make the BOT even better.

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Return Services Requested

Sponsored by:
Powell Grove church of Christ
Lebanon, TN

Sunday Schedule:
Bible Classes 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Worship Assemblies 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Schedule:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Partners

In Koine Greek a father in the 1st century wrote, "I need you to come back home and help on the farm. Our partner has not taken on his share in the work."

Speaking of the lazy partner, he used the word *κοινωνός* (*koinonos*) which means one who fellowships and shares something in common with another. James and John were "partners" with Peter (Luke 5:10). Peter was "a partaker of the glory" to come (1 Peter 5:1). Some of the early Jewish Christians, whose faith was waning, had once been so strong that they were willing to be "made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions," and willing to be "partakers with them that were so used" (Hebrews 10:33).

Fellowship is about partnership and sharing, in many things. —aa

SAVING STEPS OF FAITH

"walk in the steps of that faith" (Rom. 4:12)

Hear the Gospel

Jn. 20:30, 31; Rom. 10:17

Believe

Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6

Repent

Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess Faith in Christ

Rom. 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Mat. 28:19; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:47, 48;

22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12;

1Pet. 3:21

Be Faithful Unto and Until Death

Mat. 25:21, 34; 2Pet. 1:1-11; Rev. 2:10;

1Jno. 1:6-9

FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

EDITOR'S EMAIL: walternaomi@bellsouth.net

ONLINE BOT: www.banneroftruthonline.com