

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus. As many know I have been working in India since 1986, and thanks to our God, *and* to fellow laborers like you, the work has been blessed enormously. Yet, in this special report I wish to speak of the urgency of mission work in our own land, because there are grave signs that the churches of Christ are not growing, but rapidly shrinking. For example in the 2018 edition of the book, *CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE UNITED STATES*, (21st Century Christian, Inc., 2809 12th Ave S. Nashville, TN 37204), the compiler, brother Carl Royster, reports that between 2000 and 2018 there was a loss of 1,067 congregations for an average loss per year of 59.28 churches. Comparing that to the three year record from 2015 until 2018 there was a loss of 335 congregations for an average of 112 per year. Those who plea for the one original church of Christ, which is His kingdom founded on Pentecost about 2,000 years ago, are going down in number in America. To put it mildly, the Lord's church is in numbers and influence going backward at a time that America needs the pure unperverted gospel as much or more than it ever has.

To illustrate,

- 1) Since January 22, 1973, when the Supreme Court ruled that a babe in the womb is not a person; over 60,000,000 babies have been ripped from their mother's wombs as though they were so-much vermin; but God hates, "*hands that shed innocent blood*" (Proverbs 6:17). That figure is five times as many as the 11,000,000 the Nazi's slaughtered in their death camps; 1935 to 1945.
- 2) On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court made a ruling that would have pleased the mayor of Sodom. Based on that ruling men may enter women's restrooms pretending they are women and created enormous problems for women and girls. Also by pretending they are women they win in women's sports. Well did the prophet speak of such, "*They declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves*" (Isaiah 3:9).
- 3) In America there are man-made churches in the form of sects, parties, factions and denominations by the thousands. Yet Jesus prayed, "*I do not pray for these (the twelve) alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me*" (John 17:20-21). Denominationalism is sinful and anti-Christ in its very nature. It causes unbelief around the world.
- 4) There are 2.2 million men incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails, and 85% of them came from homes where there was no father – 20 times the average. (Google: The Fatherless Generation).

PREPARE FOR WAR

In Exodus chapter 15 a Song of Moses is found, in which he declared, "***The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name***" (Exodus 15:3). At the time it was a war of God against Pharaoh's army. God's people today must be warriors as Paul wrote to Timothy, "***This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare***" (I Timothy 1:18). This charge to the young man was not for him to war according to the flesh for Paul had written to the church in Corinth, "***For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ***" (I Corinthians 10: 3-5).

Paul, earlier to the Corinthians, had made it clear as to the kinds of things on which Jesus' soldiers were to make war, "***Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God***" (I Corinthians 6:9-10). Not only are Jesus' servants warriors, but He Himself is also, even as it is written,

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war ... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword (the word of God) that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Revelation 19:11,14-16).

This statement, revealed to the disciples in West Asia about A.D. 91, through the pen of the apostle John, makes it clear that the Lord Jesus, even then was leading the saints clothed in robes of white (a symbol of their devoted lives) to the breaking in pieces the kingdoms of men to serve God. We must be doing that today. Our commitment must be to make war on sin, ungodliness and unbelief.

URGENT THINGS TO DO

About 600 B.C. the prophet Daniel wrote, that, "**The God of heaven (will) set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed... but it shall break in pieces and consume all**" the kingdoms (named before), "**and it shall stand forever**" (Daniel 2:44). Jesus Himself ordered that we "**make disciples of all nations**" (Matthew 28:18-20). He also said, "**Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature**" (Mark 16:15). Beloved as I have documented above we are not doing that even in our own country. What to do?

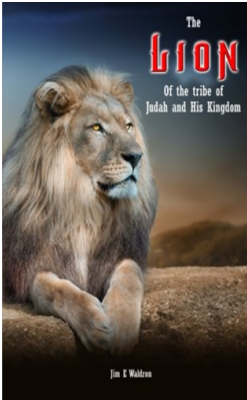
Get the whole church involved. Sisters and brothers can make contacts that the preacher or elders never will see. Elders or others who guide the church should urge every member to be soul seekers. Often we fail to regularly charge the whole church to become active in bringing their neighbors, friends or acquaintances to hear the gospel.

To elders the word of God says, "**Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock**" (I Peter 5:3). That means elders are not worldly bosses, but their word is to be honored as real leaders and movers among the flock; for the Spirit also said,

"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17).

Next month I will suggest other ways to get the whole body of believers motivated, but just here I want to let you know of some powerful tools to impact your neighbors. Some of you know that for years we have offered free books, printed in India at a low cost, for evangelism here in the States. This is done to promote soul saving in the hearts and minds of disciples. A side blessing of this portion of our work is that other brothers have sent us their books to give away freely also. Below are some samples of books I am going to urge you to give away in a booth at the county or state fair in September or at another time, door to door or by simply standing on the street handing them to passers by. Don't be embarrassed at any cross remark an individual may make, but rejoice that you can take insults for Jesus' sake. Be bold. Order two or three hundred if you want to give them away at a fair or order ten or twenty for each member, who will commit to giving them to others.

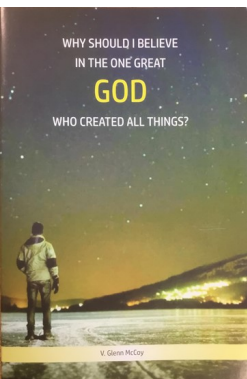
THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH AND HIS KINGDOM



At the left is a book, which I introduced to you earlier this year. It is based on a text in Revelation that says, "**One of the elders said to me (the apostle John), 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.'**" **"And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne ... stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, ... Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne"** (Revelation 5:5,6,7).

The affirmation in the book is that Revelation 5:5-7, tells in symbol that Jesus Christ as a descendent of David was exalted to the right hand of the throne of heaven on the day of Pentecost just fifty days after His resurrection and ten days after His ascension back to heaven in clouds (Acts 1:9; cf. Daniel 7:13-14). Thus Pentecost was the birthday of the original church, that is the church of Christ, which is "the Kingdom of Christ and God" (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 1:13).

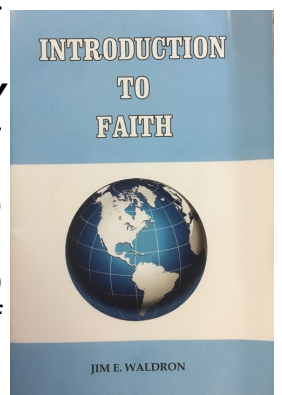
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN THE ONE GREAT GOD WHO CREATED ALL THINGS?



This book, which was written by Glenn McCoy, an elder, who lives in California is also a great tool to put into the hands of those who need Christ. Order a number of them in quantity for a booth or ten or so for individuals. Be sure to stamp your contact address on the back.

INTRODUCTION TO FAITH

This book was developed while we lived in Hong Kong (1979 and 1982) for teaching unbelievers in that great city. It was later translated into Russian when we went to Ukraine in 1981. It begins with the question, **How can we know that God exists?** It was very useful among those whose country had been under the rule of the communist system of the USSR from 1922 until 1991. If you want some copies to teach a class write for those in your the class. There is no charge for the books; you may pay the postage after receiving the books, if you wish and are able. If you have an interest to help in this mission effort please do so of your own free will. Also I am very bold in wanting the average member of the church to become active in soul winning; so if you are a mind to, please forward this newsletter to others who may want these books to use in their own areas. Write to P.O Box 1010, Crossville, TN 38557 or email: vrothery@frontiernet.net.



In Christian love,
Jim E. Waldron