

# Fulton County Gospel News

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No. 1

## Your Help is Needed in Finding a Lost Child

His picture is not on official documents at the Post Office or other public building. His portrait cannot be seen on a milk carton or rear door of a tractor-trailer rig. But, this child is nonetheless lost, and your help is needed in finding him and bringing him home. Here is a brief description of him:

- He has left his first love (Rev. 2:4).
- He has become a friend of the world, and thus alienated himself from his Father (Jas. 4:4)
- He is currently wasting his substance in riotous living (Lk. 15:13)
- He has placed his trust in the assurance of tomorrow (Jas. 4:14)
- He has become lukewarm (Rev. 3:16)
- He is suffering severely from malnutrition (Jn. 6:48-51)

He has failed on a number of occasions to assemble with his brothers and sisters at the appropriate time (Heb. 10:25). He is sorely missed. If you see this child, or one like him, won't you please help him find his way back home (Lk. 19:10)? His father patiently awaits his return (Lk. 15:20). It might take some persuasion on your part (II Cor. 5:11), but your efforts will be greatly rewarded (Jas. 5:19, 20). Please tell him that the invitation to return is always open to him (Mt. 11:28-30), and that his brothers and sisters eagerly and prayerfully

await his return (Gal. 6:1). Won't you help in this effort? Your services are greatly needed.

### Doing Much With Little

By Mike McDaniel

Recently Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, while speaking at St. Hedwig's Roman Catholic Church in Trenton, N.J., said: "I am example of the small person who can do great things. I am proof of the adage that faith can move mountains. I believe in freedom and liberty and in democracy and I didn't have an army."

There is much truth in this statement from Lech Walesa. In him we see a prime example of a man who was once just a simple electrician and union member who has now become the most influential man in all of Poland. In the past few weeks he has received so many honors, from the President, to the Congress, to the AFL-CIO. He speaks about freedom from a heart that has been in the trenches fighting for it and we are moved. Lech Walesa can remind us of a great spiritual truth . . . it is amazing how one person can do so much when he simply uses the abilities that he

has. So many of us fail to see just how much we can do for the cause of Christ because we lack the faith to launch out into the deep and fish for men. Oh how we need to awake to the fact that nothing we do is too little when it is our best effort for the cause of Christ and for his church! It doesn't matter so much what a person has as what he does with it.

Consider with me just a few of the many Bible examples of individuals who did so much with so little ability.

It is hard for us to believe that a shepherd of eighty with one little rod would be sent to deliver the children of Israel from the greatest nation at that time. But with God's help, Moses did the impossible.

It is hard for us to believe that a little shepherd boy could defeat the mighty Goliath of Gath with a stone and a sling. But with God's help, David moved that mountain of a man.

It is hard for us to believe that the Lord would recognize that poor widow for throwing in her two mites. If we had been her we might have rationalized not giving anything simply because we could not give a lot like some people. But she didn't miss out on her blessing. She gave in proportion to her ability and secured for herself a notable place in the book of God.

It is hard for us to believe that Dorcas had the time out of her busy schedule to sew all those clothes for those widows whom

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 Eddy Gilpin . . . . . EDITOR  
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**DOING MUCH . . .**

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she knew. It is hard for us to believe that something so small as a needle could be productive of so much good. But it was!

Brethren, there are an abundance of things which we can do in the Lord's service. It doesn't take an army to do His work!

1171 S. Main  
 Dyer, TN 38330

**"One Nation Under God"**

Cookville, Tenn. - The elders of the Sycamore Church of Christ in Cookeville, Tennessee have announced plans to launch a nation-wide evangelistic campaign called "One Nation Under God" in the summer of 1991.

In a coordinated effort with churches of Christ throughout the United States, plans are being made for a full page ad in *READER'S DIGEST*, a direct mail piece to go to every household in the United States, a week-long series of nation-wide television broadcasts and simultaneous gospel meetings all across the

country. "This is the kind of effort Christians have been talking about for years," explained one of the deacons at Sycamore Church of Christ, "The technology and resources are available. Our only problem is deciding whether we believe God will help us do what He's told us He wants us to do."

A local firm headed by a Sycamore church member will provide office space, a toll-free WATS line, fax equipment and other support. Plans are being made to hire a full-time coordinator, and costs for media, mailing and other expenses are estimated at .17 cents per household, or \$15 million. "Some churches of Christ will want to use funds not already budgeted for missions and evangelism," said the spokesman, "Others may want to plan special contributions. We hope local churches of Christ will use this campaign as a springboard for local outreach and Bible study."

Plans for the "One Nation Under God" campaign include "June, 1991 - Full page ad in *READER'S DIGEST* will inform its fifty-four million readers of a mailing they will receive in July. July, 1991 - Mailing of a brochure to every home in the United States, with response card enclosed; brotherhood publications, radio and TV programs will be encouraged to center on theme: "One Nation Under God", five dynamic gospel messages will be shown on a major television network; local churches will write letters, make phone calls and promote this event in local newspapers and on local radio and television; more than 14,000 churches of Christ will be asked to conduct simultaneous gospel meetings.

"This campaign is ambitious," said the spokesman, "But we can do it if we draw on the resources God has given us. Even a 1% response will mean a mission interested people!" For more information, write to Sycamore Church of Christ, Box 3273, Cookeville, TN 38501 or call 1-800-251-6871

and ask for Horace Burks.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**CHURCHES**

- Agnos Church of Christ ..... \$15.00  
 Agnos, AR
- Jeff Church of Christ .....10.00  
 Thayer, MO
- Hatfield Church of Christ..... 25.00  
 Koshkonong, MO
- Church of Christ ..... 10.00  
 Marionville, MO
- Viola Church of Christ .....10.00  
 Viola, AR
- Elizabeth Church of Christ .....15.00  
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- Garfield Church of Christ .....25.00  
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- Pilot Church of Christ .....20.00  
 Mammoth Spring, AR
- Dellhalf Church of Christ .....20.00  
 Myrtle, MO
- Clarkridge Church of Christ .....25.00  
 Clarkridge, AR

**INDIVIDUALS**

- Mr. & Mrs. Grace Wilson .....\$20.00  
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- Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Loomis .....25.00  
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- Imogene White .....10.00  
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- Quay Deatherage.....50.00  
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- Mr. & Mrs. Hayden Estes.....10.00  
 Ash Flar, AR
- Mr. & Mrs. Steven Orendorff .....5.00  
 Elk River, MN

\* \* \* \* \*

Christianity is daily bread, not cake for special occasions.

## Does the Bible Teach Celibacy?

By Joel Wheeler

One of the most discussed subjects of the Bible is that which concerns the laws of marriage. Paul discusses and gives inspired advice to help troubled Christians overcome the trials and temptations of this life. A question that has often been asked is what did Paul mean when he said "For I would that all men remain as I ... It is good for them if they abide even as I (I Cor. 7:7-8)." Was Paul condemning the marriage bond? Was he saying that is was wrong to marry or remain married? Let us examine what the scriptures say concerning this subject.

In Genesis 2:18 God said "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." Our Savior is recorded as saying "For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh (Matt. 19:5)." The Lord ordained this bond of marriage from the very beginning in the Garden of Eden. In Hebrews 13:4 the writer records "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers (fornicators) and adulterers God will judge." Many other passages of scripture condemn adultery and fornication. I Corinthians 3:13, 18; Galatians 5:19; Matthew 5:32; Luke 16:18 are some Bible passages which condemn these.

The disciples on one occasion said "It is not good to marry (Matt. 19:10)." Jesus replied "... and there are some eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake (Matt. 19:12)." Some individuals foregoe the privilege of marriage in order to devote themselves more completely to the service of God. Never was celibacy a command from the Lord or any of his apostles.

Why then would the apostle Paul make such a statement in I

Cor. 7:7-8? The answer to this question can be found in verse 26 of that chapter. It was because of the "present distress" which was persecution of the saints. Many husbands and wives were forced to choose between Christ and their mates in the first century. Many individuals renounced Christ because the persecutions and affliction of Jews and Romans were too great to bare. This is why the Lord said "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (Rev. 2:10)."

One may remain unmarried if he so chooses but must restrain the sexual passions (I Cor. 7:9).

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## Abortion and the Child Passenger Protection Act

By Eddy Gilpin

If not THE darkest, January 22, 1973 is certainly one of the darkest days in American history. It was on this dreadful day that the Supreme Court handed down the infamous Roe vs. Wade decision which legalized abortion in this "civilized" country. In the words of Justice Blackman, according to the constitution the term person "has application only postnatally". Because of such "interpretation" the Court's 7-to-2 ruling made abortion a decision to be made by the mother and her doctor during the first two trimesters and the mother, her doctor, and the state during the last. The rights and/or objections of the baby are not considered. Rather, the mental and physical well-being of the mother take the precedence.

Conversely, on April 27, 1977 a bill was signed into law by Gov. Ray Blanton of Tennessee. The Child Passenger Protection Act (the first of its kind) took effect on January 1, 1978. Since that time all fifty states have enacted some form of child restraint law to protect children in automobiles. The Tennessee law stated that "Every parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of four (4) years . . . shall be responsible, when transporting his child in a motor vehicle owned by that parent or guardian . . . for providing for the protection of his

child and properly using a child passenger restraint system meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards, or assuring that such child is held in the arms of an older person riding as a passenger in the motor vehicle...". Many who pushed for this law were concerned about exceptions contained in it (i.e. "vehicle owned by parent or guardian"; "child is held in the arms of an older person"). Because of the zeal of these interested individuals, the "Crusher Amendment" was signed into law by Gov. Lamar Alexander on April 18, 1985 and was effective on and after July 1, 1985. Those who pushed for this amendment were concerned about the well-being of a child involved in a collision while being "held in the arms of an older person". The force of impact would involve not only his own weight, but also the weight of the person holding him. Thus, the amendment was labeled the "Crusher" amendment, and provided that a child safety restraint be used by "any person transporting a child under the age of four" (not just parent or legal guardian). It also did away with the "Babes in Arms" clause of the original law. Therefore, this law is bound on all drivers for the protection of children under four. The rights and/or objections of the parent or guardian are not considered. Rather, the well-being of the child takes the precedence.

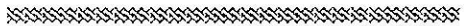
In view of the foregoing, some questions must be asked. Why does a government (or some form of it) give no liberty concerning the protection of the newborn, and yet give all liberty when it comes to the destruction of the unborn? How can a government (or some form of it) that is so sensitive to the protection of a precious child from birth to four years of age be so insensitive about that same child from conception to birth? How can a government of the people, by the people, and for the people be so concerned about a child that it puts him in a safer place than his mother's arms, be so unconcerned about that same child that it denies him the opportunity to be in his mother's arms? How can a system be so caring about a child's welfare that it considers only his rights and well-being from birth to four years of age, and be so uncaring about that same human life from conception to birth that it denies him any rights or considerations at all? Is this consistency? Can a comparison of these two laws and these two antagonistic standards come from the same nation, a nation on whom God has

"shed His grace"?

In a book entitled "Handbook on Abortion" by Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Wilke (Cincinnati, OH.: Hayes Publishing Co. Inc., 1979), the authors refer to two items received by them in the same week (pp. 2,3). The first was a letter from the police which asked for the assistance of Dr. Wilke in locating a woman who might be seeking medical attention after having given birth to an infant (found dead in a garbage dumpster) which had suffered a concussion, been stabbed seven times, and strangled with a zipper. She was to be arrested. The second item was a newspaper article which told of an abortion attempt in a nearby clinic which resulted in the death of one twin fetus and the live birth of the other. After several hours of attempting to save the baby, it died. The authors of the book posed the question of why the police were only seeking the woman. Why were they not attempting to arrest the physician? The insinuation by Dr. and Mrs. Wilke is the same question this writer is asking -- Is this consistency?

Had those twins (which were destroyed through legal abortion) lived, they would have been protected against bodily injury while riding in an automobile by the same system which allowed them to be destroyed prior to their birth. One can legally destroy a human life before its birth, but cannot legally jeopardize that same life (after its birth) unprotected in an automobile.

The writer of this article praises the Child Passenger Protection Act and applauds those who strove to see it enacted. Just think of the lives that have been and will be saved because of it. At the same time, I cry out strongly in bitter protest against the abortion law. Just think of the lives that have been and will be destroyed because of it. Where is the blind maid of justice here? Oh, consistency, consistency, thou art truly a jewel.



The road to irreverence usually does not begin with disrespect toward God, but disrespect towards the things of God.

\* \* \* \* \*

Arrogance is sometimes mistaken for power, humility for weakness.

## THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isiah 2:2,3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

## GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9,10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

"YOU CAN HELP WITH POSTAGE"

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