



"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

VOLUME 08 ISSUE 03

MARCH 2005

PAGE 1

Go Ye Into All The World, And Preach The Gospel To Every Creature (Mark 16:15)



A testimony of the past 11 years.

March 21st of this year marks a special anniversary for us. Yet as we share with you where we really stand physically, spiritually,

emotionally, and financially you might question whether we can joyfully celebrate this anniversary, but keep reading.

As the full testimony on the new website soon to be released will reveal, it was 11 years ago that my wife and I were brought from being nominal Christians who never missed church but yet did nothing for the Lord, to being His active servants.

Step-by-step

Some of you who have never heard our testimony might be asking how did we get from there, to where we are today with the ministry? Step-by-step and without any delay the Lord started us down this path.

If there is one thing that you never do -- you never say "never" to the Lord. When I saw the Word of God come alive, I felt for some reason that I needed to make it clear that I would never hold Bible studies, for uncomfortable reasons. Well it was not long at all before Bible studies developed. Before long I was holding evangelistic meetings, helping to plant churches, and beginning "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries.

Keeping in touch.

With our hearts very much concerned for each person we studied with, in 1998 the *Thus Saith the Lord* newsletter was born.

For those that make a big deal about 501(c)3 issues, we have not been stopped from calling sin a sin. We speak what needs to be said without considering consequences. God has taken care of the rest. We have read all the concerns and most of it is either fearful, that which lacks faith in God, or exaggerated. We class it with the groups that are concerned

about what information they supply the world so as to be concealed as possible. They avoid credit cards, cell phones, etc. Do they not realize that if the government wants them, they can be gotten? When technology can read the hand in a card game from outer space, being a 501(c)3 is not going to matter.

And trying to not leave anything undone, the children's version appeared in 2001.

Life of self-denial begins

Shortly after forming the ministry, we decided it was best to close GRO Personal Computer Company. This business primarily provided programming services and the hours it demanded were more than I could give with now doing ministry work. We also had been married several years now and decided it was time to start a family. And so I filed the appropriate papers with the state and federal government to close the business and accepted fulltime employment with a computer consulting firm where I made enough money to fully support the ministries needs and our personal needs. We did not think twice about a 50% cut in income. The Lord blesses.

However, as the mailing list grew by leaps and bounds and our personal needs grew with the birth of children, additional funds were needed and so we began holding yard sales. Then a few of our friends began holding yard sales and donating their sales to us. Then they started just giving us their stuff to sell at our yard sales. Then we had so much that we decided to go to the flea market each week. But the items kept pouring in faster than we could sell them and the weather was not cooperating and so when the two-car garage became full we knew it was time for a thrift store.

The thrift store

We struggled with the idea though because running a thrift store is very demanding work. We requested donations to help fund the newsletters, but despite the few faithful givers, it was not enough to prevent the next move.

**WE ARE NOT A CHURCH
BUT ENCOURAGE ALL
TO ATTEND CHURCH
NOT AS A PEW
WARMER BUT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE!**

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries at PO Box 10607, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Strengthen faith in God's Word.

MISSION FOCUS:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by reaching out to the communities through our newsletter (since 1998) as well as through our evangelistic seminars (since 1994). It is to help keep those that are discouraged about things they see inside the church from leaving, to ground those that are new or have not heard of these things before, and to strengthen those that are already grounded. And to reach out to those that are searching for a meaningful relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ.

MAILING ADDRESS:

700 Clay Street
Carlisle, PA 17013

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Voice - 717-249-8785 (TSTL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Info@tstl.net

COPYRIGHT:

This publication is **free** and free to copy, however, your tax-deductible donations are needed and greatly appreciated.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

WEB SITES

We host the following websites:

www.tstl.net
www.tstlstore.com
www.tstlseminars.com

ADDED LAST MONTH TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

WWW.TSTLStore.COM:








- None


WWW.TSTLSeminars.COM:

- None






FUTURE WWW.TSTL.NET:

- The following are remaining to be transferred to the new site:

-  Adult Newsletters
 - 1999.
 - 2000.
 -  2001
 -  2002
 -  Jan - Mar '03
 -  Create April - Dec. 2003.
 -  Create 2004
 -  Create 2005

-  Children's Newsletters

~~~~ NEW SITE WILL BE LAUNCHED ONCE WE REACH THIS POINT ~~~~

-  Children's Coloring pages
-  Forum
-  Prayer Requests
-  Online Study
-  Free Church Web

How could we do it with me working full time and my wife raising, at the time, two children and a third on the way? But we wanted to be fulltime in the ministry and so we prayed that this would pave the way to that goal and give us a mission field, a community to befriend to the Lord.

We began our search for a location but the properties we looked at in our initial price range were dumps. They would require so much cash up front to fix them up and we did not have the cash. We did not even have the cash for the down payment. How would we ever do this? As we searched for a place, we had in our minds the areas that we thought would be best for store traffic but also for volunteers to help us. There was no way we could run this store ourselves.

There was one particular property in Carlisle that would appear each time I went searching because it was in our range and while it was cute, it was not in the location we wanted. We wished we could have that building but in a different town. We ruled it out and continued our search elsewhere. After awhile we were getting discouraged. We just could not afford to go higher and yet we were not finding anything close to what we needed. Then one day, there in the list, was that property again in Carlisle. We had not even noticed that it had been taken off the market while we were searching elsewhere, we simply noticed that it just kept coming before us over and over again. Ever notice that this is how God works. He does not let you rest; He just keeps bringing you around to it over and over again until you finally catch on.

We called the agent and scheduled an appointment. The agent said that there was going to be a double showing. We would be first and a massage company would be second. We were told that they were ready to buy it after a tour and that we are probably wasting our time. After waiting in the parking lot of the facility for a little while, another car pulls up and waits. Since they did not go inside we knew they were from the massage company. They were quite worldly and very impatient. We noticed that the time for our appointment was passing and our agent had not yet showed up. They were becoming quite upset and were on their cell phone yelling at the agent. My wife being many months pregnant could wait no longer and went inside to use the restroom. The manager inside was very kind to her and when she discovered that we were the showing scheduled first that evening she explained to my wife that this woman currently waiting is so terribly rude and is very upset because the agent is stuck on the highway in a traffic jam caused by an accident. She told my wife that if it is ok with us she is more than willing to give us a tour of the building. As my wife was coming out to tell me all of this the other couple tore out of the parking lot madder than anything. We proceeded to see the inside and knew immediately that this was the place for us. We then drove down the street to look at the outside

of one other building for sale and then circled back past the building to head home. At this very moment the agent arrived at the building and so we pulled in and were able to talk with her. We learned that the accident was caused by an overturned truck full of beer, spilled all over the highway and that no one was harmed. We also learned that the building had been taken off the market when the owner thought he might just rent it instead of sell but then later reconsidered and put it back on the market. This took place while we were off looking in other areas. We felt the Lord was definitely leading us and intervening where necessary. Of all things to spill – beer! So we made an offer to buy the building.

#### *Help arrives for a time*

With the help of many of our friends in painting, reconstruction work, and financial support the thrift store opened May 18th, 2003. Along with this we also provided educational seminars in health, Bible, money matters, computers and other subjects. The building turned out to be in a good location because of car shows coming to the fairgrounds, however with not being directly in town it would take some time for the town to learn we were here. Funds were very tight right from the start and the workload was also intense.

Opening day came with me still working my full time job and not one single volunteer to run the store for us. A couple of people had offered to come a day or so a week to help out but they all became suddenly too busy or other things kept them away, even other good reasons. So here we were, my wife had just given birth four months prior and is now needed to run the store. When the one and only volunteer for that week was suddenly ill and my wife had no choice but to run the store with all three children with her, the Lord showed her that she could do it. But I told her it was just temporary, soon the classes will fill and the store will take off and I will be able to quit my job and run it all or so we thought. But to our surprise the classes did not fill up and the store was slow to take off because of not being in town. But we pressed on and the children endured very well.

#### *Additional challenges*

Just eight months after opening the store, my wife became pregnant with our fourth child. And then the devil was really upset. I was squeezed out of my full time employment over a religious observance issue. If I were squeezed out for any other reason, I would have thought maybe it was God trying to speak to us. Even my former boss admitted that they had no other grounds for letting me go, but they knew they could get me on this issue. Too bad I did not have a tape recorder, but that is another story. In any case, it sounded very much like something out of the Bible but now it was happening in the year 2003 on Christmas

Eve.

### **Ministry to stand immediately**

The ministry had to immediately support itself. In addition to the few who faithfully support this ministry, donations of goods continue to pour in and most items sell within 24 hours of being placed on the shelf. It is quite a job for us to keep the shelves stocked. All things considered, we basically do the work of six people in addition to being parents. We have become the talk of the town and are absolutely amazed at how blessed this ministry has become. The sales during this past year were more than double of last year. There are many who come to shop, many more who come to talk, and many who are blessed by the free literature and books that are provided.

### **More sacrifices**

The ministry is not entirely self supporting yet but is well on its way. Personally however we struggle much. With the loss of my job we had to immediately choose between the loss of the ministry or personal loss. Both could not survive. So we sold my car, and on what little money we could scrape together, we sold the house. It took a year for the house to sell and in the meantime we lived off of the line of credit to avoid bankruptcy. It sold with only one month of credit remaining.

While there are the faithful few who support us monthly and several others who stepped in to help during this past year, it is far less than what is now needed. Because our names are on all the loans for the ministry, including the van, we cannot be approved now for a personal mortgage. The ministry does not make a profit and it cannot pay us. To help make ends meet and to enable me to run the store during the day, I work third shift at Wal-mart. We had initially thought this would only be necessary until the house sells. But because we had to run up our entire line of credit I now must stay there until at the very least it is paid off. The computer industry is not the best right now for job placement and the starting salary is far below what I was making.

### **Blessings continue**

We are blessed with a business consultant who tithes his time to non-profit ministries and so after meeting with us several times he suggested that I reopen the computer business seeing the educational seminar classes that are the most popular are the one-on-one computer classes. So I contacted the state and federal governments to see what would be involved, and they both informed me that the forms I submitted to close the business were never executed. Praise the Lord! They gave me my old EIN number and sales tax number and now GRO Personal Computer Company is open for business once again. I am able to do the web based programming while running the store and

my wife covers when I have training appointments.

### **The Reality**

Sounds like things are not too bad right? Well it depends on which perspective you look at, after all, there are advantages and disadvantages to everything in life. We have shared with many of you the advantages and have chosen to keep the disadvantages to ourselves but the Lord does not want it this way. He impressed upon us that you need to know how things really are.

Seven years ago, I gave up a six-digit figure to be a lay evangelist. You heard about the sale of the car and the house. When I was squeezed out of my job over a religious matter, we could have folded the ministry immediately and kicked into survival mode for ourselves. We chose to forsake everything we own and make sure the ministry does not suffer.

Remember, if God wanted the ministry to fold, He would not have used a religious issue as a test. Why? Like Moses, *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season"* (Hebrews 11:25). We rather be financially strapped than to have given in to the ungodly demands so as to make the necessary money to cover the bills for personal and the ministry. Besides, *"For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering"* (Isaiah 61:8). So robbing God of our standing for the truth so as to offer money (my salary) for the ministry was not an option.

Further, the countless people that demand the newsletter, and in some cases, congregations using the newsletter to take to task teachers and pastors is evident that God wants the ministry to survive. But why the financial lack? In short, God tests the observers to see how they spend their money. Also, right now is the time for Satan to have the upper hand in sponsoring liberal agendas with His money. Many churches and ministries that have the right stance are struggling financially. It is the Biblical model. Jesus Himself was poor. So was Paul and the other apostles.

Personally, we were denied a mortgage for a much cheaper home, forcing us to look into renting. But with needing a minimum of 3 bedrooms the price for renting is right back up where our mortgage was. So after struggling much with how to survive on the given situation, temporary housing is being provided. Through this, there are hard lessons of self-denial for each of us.

I get on average 4 ½ hours of sleep a night. I sleep at the store in the computer room on the floor. Because the rest of the family awakens long before I do, I cannot sleep in the "house". Our "bedroom" is also the office and the living room. But the Lord did provide for our needs before we ever knew of the need. Washer and

### **TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT** (Prov. 22:6)



#### **Character Examples From the Bible – Stephen**

*"Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [unto them], and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch"* (Acts 6:2-3, 6)

When positions become available from youth to adult, just about everyone deep down desires to be in an important role, but what we should desire is what God wants for our lives. Here we have the Apostles, who have a very important role. Shall they be held back from their missionary work? No. So seven others were selected in what the world would consider as a not so important role even though they are the more important roles for if they did not do their jobs, the ones in the public's view would not be able to do what they do. Stephen is among the list. Who knows if Stephen would have rather been a missionary or not. It does not matter. For when the name of a deacon found in the Bible is stated, Stephen tops the list. His court scene and faithfulness stand immortalized.

So when a child is disappointed that they did not get the position they wanted, bring to mind how important what appears to be a lesser role really is.

## BIBLE STUDY



*How Important Are God's Commandments?* (John 14:15)

1. What do we show God when we keep His commandments?  
**John 14:15**
  
2. What will Jesus do for us if we keep His commandments?  
**John 14:16**
  
3. What shall we receive if we keep the commandments?  
**John 14:16**

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

*The Bride of Christ*  
(Revelation 21:9)

1. How is the bride presented to her husband? **Revelation 21:2** "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."
  
2. What does she put on? **Isaiah 61:10** "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God;

(Continued on page 5)

dryer hookups and a working shower were provided. However, it does not have a kitchen sink. We purchased a stove but do not have enough money yet for a sink. So my wife is challenged with washing dishes but most of all with cooking. She makes do with the bathroom sink and filling a container from the shower for washing the dishes but there are some things that just do not fit. She pretends she is camping and makes the best of it but after seven months of this, it is not efficient and is very exhausting. If anyone is renovating their kitchen and has a spare working sink in good condition we could make use of it.

Our seven year old very much misses being able to go out and play in her yard on her swing or ride her bike. Her outside time is very limited because it is not safe here for her to be out without us. There is a small strip of grass behind the building for her sandbox. To swing or run we must take her and her sister across the street or down to the school. With two other little ones my wife does not have as much time available for being outside with the two older ones.

Our three year old struggles much in another area. She so much misses our two dogs that died (one last year and the other the year before). She does not understand money yet and so she cannot understand why we cannot have another dog right now. My mother is more than willing to buy the girls a Shih tzu (the kind they love and my wife's not allergic to), however we cannot afford to feed it and groom it right now. So we keep just saying, "some day".

To make a long story short, the summary of it all is that until the loans outside of the mortgage are paid off, I will have to remain on third shift and we will have to continue living in our humble abode. At least we do have a dry place to sleep, although it so noisy with truck traffic that the children are not getting their right rest, let alone mom and dad. We are thankful that we at least have a place to call "home". If things continue as is financially with my current employment and the revenue with the computer business and the thrift store continuing as is then we project that it will be five years at least until we can move out. That is a long time to ask the children to be without their own yard and with no puppy.

We have consolidated and refinanced the loans as best as can without using debt consolidation services. We have tightened everywhere possible. The only way we can get out of here sooner is if you help. But we are not speaking to those who are already our faithful supporters and we are not talking to those who are financially challenged as well. We are appealing to those who the Lord has blessed financially so as to help those who do the work. "For the scripture saith, *Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer [is] worthy of his reward*" 1 Timothy 5:18. We would like to attack with extra payments the loan that has the highest interest rate. It also has the lowest balance due.

We currently owe \$6,482 on it. With your help we can knock this one off the list. It would not take much. If each reader could donate just \$7.50 it would be paid off. Excluding the mortgage, this loan is one of five that keeps us strapped. The mortgage is the sixth loan, which the thrift store alone handles.

### Plans

I wish space and time would allow me to share with you all that we want to do with this ministry. In a short list, it includes: finishing the Internet project making the most useful tool on the Internet not for our sake but for the winning of souls, publish a pamphlet a month, do more in-depth studies, hire Bible workers for challenged churches, teach lay evangelism classes, perform prison ministry work, provide a Spanish version of the web site, and get back into conducting public meetings.

We are held back so much because of my employment outside of this ministry and because of finances. I could give the ministry thirty more hours a week if I did not work at Walmart. This challenges us spiritually many days. Yet through it all we have never been more certain that this is right where the Lord wants us to be. This is His ministry and we believe that He has big plans for it. Each time we get discouraged and question whether we are doing the Lord's will, He promptly reminds us of how he spilled beer all over the highway. And on the same day, God will cause the phone to ring or letters to arrive telling us how the Lord is using this ministry to bless them and strengthen them. Also, several times two people will walk into our store, hold conversation covering the topics my wife and I discussed and are concerned about, and continue talking in the affirmative on which side of the issue one should be on, and then leave, not to be seen again. We believe we have been visited on more than one occasion by angels in human form to help us through these struggles. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2). We are so encouraged by all the letters we receive and even if you cannot donate at this time we encourage you to write to us and let us know that this ministry is a blessing to you. It means so much to us and helps us through the tough days.

### Conclusion

We did not know eleven years ago that we would basically be homeless and nearly unemployed. We did not know what exactly the Lord would ask us to do or surrender but had we known we would have still made the same decision. We have no regrets and we will not deny or curse God. He is in control and He is faithfully providing for our every need. We pray that you will allow Him to use you to fulfill His will for this ministry.

## THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER AND BE IN HEALTH, EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH (3 John 1:2)



### HEALTH SNIPPET:

#### Topic: Personal Rights

Have I not the right to do as I please with my own body?-- No, you have no moral right, because you are violating the laws of life and health which

God has given you. You are the Lord's property,-- his by creation (Genesis 1:27) and his by redemption (Luke 1:68). Every human being is under obligation to preserve the living machinery that is so fearfully and wonderfully made (1 Corinthians 6:20). The physical organism should have special care, that the powers of the body may not be dwarfed, but developed to their full extent. The health should be as sacredly guarded as the character (3 John 1:2). Jesus did not ignore the claims of the body, He had respect for the physical condition of man, and went about healing the sick (Matt.

14:14), and restoring their faculties to those suffering from their loss (Matthew 12:13). How incumbent, then, is it upon us to preserve the natural health with which God has endowed us, and to avoid dwarfing or weakening our powers.

### HEALTH SNIPPET:



Vitamin B-2 or Riboflavin is present in leafy vegetables, whole grain breads, and legumes. A deficiency of riboflavin causes lesions of

the mouth, a smooth, painful tongue; hair loss; scaliness of the skin with a flaky dermatitis between the nose and lip; and other skin lesions. Deficiency is rare except in gastrointestinal surgery or when the diet is extremely high in refined and concentrated foods, especially the so-called "empty calorie junk foods."

(Continued from page 4)

*for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh [himself] with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth [herself] with her jewels."*

3. What do they represent? **Malachi 3:16-18** *"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard [it], and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not", **Revelation 19:7-8** *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."**

## WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?

(Isaiah 53:1)

- COMMENTS ON ITEMS IN THE NEWS -



The following are news items that appeared between January 16 and February 15, 2005. [Preview future news snippets at [www.tstl.net/news](http://www.tstl.net/news).]

### ►► Union Tribune, February 15, 2005 - Unidentified resident, rare N.Y. case linked

An unidentified San Diego resident may be infected with the same rare, aggressive and highly drug-resistant strain of HIV found last week in a New York City man who has rapidly become ill with AIDS, health officials said yesterday.

**COMMENT:** Jesus says that the last days will be marked with pestilences (Matthew 24:7, Luke 21:11). A pestilence is a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating.

### ►► WorldNetDaily, February 13, 2005 - Sabbath-breaking 'caused tsunami'

A Christian minister claims the tsunami of Sunday, Dec. 26, killing at least 160,000 people, was direct result of "pleasure seekers" breaking God's Sabbath. In the February issue of his church magazine, Rev. John MacLeod of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland writes: "Possibly ... no event since Noah's flood

has caused such loss of life by drowning as the recent Asian tsunami. That so many of our fellow creatures should have perished in so short a time, and in so awful a fashion, was a divine visitation that ought to make men tremble the world over." He continued: "Some of the places most affected by the tsunami attracted pleasure-seekers from all over the world. It has to be noted that the wave arrived on the Lord's day, the day God set apart to be observed the world over as a holy resting from all employments and recreations that are lawful on other days."

**COMMENT:** Though many Christians honor Sunday as the Sabbath, in reality, Sabbath was given to a specific day of the week just as any other day we know of (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, etc.). Sunday, the first day of the week, cannot be known as the Sabbath because Matthew 28:1 states, *"In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first [day] of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre."* And Hebrews 4:4 in addition to the explicit commandments in Exodus 20:8-11, states *"For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works."* The point is that God was not behind the disaster because of the

## IN THE CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

**PAGE 1** — New Testament Lesson in children's language.

**PAGE 2** — Old Testament Lesson in children's language.

**PAGE 3** — Character Lesson — Application of character attributes from both Bible lessons.

**PAGE 3** — Question and Answer.

**PAGE 4** — Nature Lesson — Learning from God's nature.

Health Lesson — Taking care of the body.

**PAGE 5** — Coloring Page — New Testament

**PAGE 6** — Coloring Page — Old Testament

**PAGE 7** — Puzzle and Definitions — Matching from both Bible lessons and answers to questions.

**PAGE 8** — Learning Activities — Object lessons in our work and in our play.

### FREE CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

Child's Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Send to TSTL, 700 Clay Street,  
Carlisle, PA 17013

disregard of Sunday being the Sabbath because to God it is not the Sabbath. Many Christians just simply go to church on that day.

►►9News MSNBC, February 5, 2005 - **Cookie girls won't have to pay fine, Station raises money**

Two teenage girls who got in trouble for surprising their neighbors with homemade cookies will not have to pay nearly \$1,000 in medical bills for a woman who says she was so startled that she had to go to the hospital. Radio station KOA-AM of Denver raised more than \$1,900 from listeners Friday to pay the girls' \$930.78 fine. The rest of the money will go to a charity dedicated to victims of the Columbine High School massacre.

**COMMENT:** "Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it" (1 Peter 3:11). The bigger story was that the two young girls skipped their school dance because they did not want to partake of the evil things that happen there - drinking, cussing, and other things. But they did not simply stay away, they did what was supposed to be a good deed -- make cookies for the neighbors.

►►SooToday.Com, February 4, 2005 - **Miracle on St. George's Hill? - Did the big cross move?**

120 feet tall and brightly lit, it's the first sight seen by many U.S. visitors crossing the International Bridge into Canada. The school's principal, its groundskeeper, a math teacher and a large number of students saw the steel structure swaying from side to side during a 150-minute period on Monday, January 24. "It was really something to see, though," said Ouellette, who says he doesn't know why the alleged phenomenon occurred or why it happened. He's certain, however, that it's a sign of something.

**COMMENT:** "And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation" (Mark 8:12).

►►The Daily News, January 28, 05 - **More Churches Incorporating Arts Into Worship**

The theologian believes it's important for 21st-century churches to incorporate the arts into worship, adding visual and emotional impact for congregants who have grown up with television, films and, more recently, the Internet. Icons, for example are central to worship experience in the Orthodox church and are considered "windows to heaven," Dyrness said. Many Protestant churches are adding dance, drama, music, film clips, banners and artwork. Some worship services are eclectic, blending the traditional, modern and contemplative. At Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena during one recent Christmas, two artists painted on giant canvases as the Rev. Gordon Kirk, the senior

pastor, preached. Another time, a soloist sang in the middle of his sermon. St. Luke's of the Mountains Episcopal Church in La Crescenta, Calif., is another that uses video, graphics and music -- both classical and contemporary. Mosaic, a multiethnic congregation that has its main Sunday services in a nightclub in downtown Los Angeles, includes live bands, drama, dance and artists working at easels during worship. Many of its members are artists and like to perform for fellow congregants. Mime is another art form increasingly used in worship and ministry.

**COMMENT:** Some others tried to create a worship environment that was more appealing and called it a feast to the Lord. "And he received [them] at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These [be] thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And when Aaron saw [it], he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow [is] a feast to the LORD. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play" (Exodus 32:4-6).

In every single incident in the Bible of rightly winning souls, it was always through verbal teaching and reading. Lack of technology then does not allow the use today. They did have worldly plays, but Jesus and the prophets did not incorporate them. They could have done mime but did not. They could have had singing during Jesus' messages but did not. Parables are permitted. Why? Every single incident always appealed to the mind -- not the emotions. Decisions on emotions are not solid decisions. We are to "believe" not "feel" in Jesus. And do not just agree, address this with your church.

►►AHMEDABAD Newline, January 24, 2005 - **Man chops off co-worker's head, held**

Halol police on Monday arrested a youth, Naushad Pathan, allegedly involved in the murder of his associate, Dilshad, on the outskirts of Halol town on Friday last. After preliminary interrogation of the accused, Rathod said that the deceased was a gay and used to indulge in unnatural sex.

**COMMENT:** Though homosexuality is not pleasing to God (Romans 1:27-28), that does not give us permission to exterminate them. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19).

►►WorldNetDaily, January 18, 2005 - **Iran gives Cuba 20 million in euro credit**

Iran's ambassador to Cuba said his country will increase ties to the Communist dictatorship 90

miles from Florida by extending some 20 million in euro credit. United by anti-Americanism, the two countries have grown closer in recent years – a concern to some in Washington because of Iran’s sponsorship of terrorism and desire to develop weapons of mass destruction.

**COMMENT:** *"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet"* (Matthew 24:6).

►► **WorldNetDaily, January 16, 2005 - Theologian makes case**

A leading aide to the archbishop of Canterbury has come out in defense of voluntary euthanasia, a move some see as signaling a change in position by the Church of England. "Christianity is about compassion, and one has only to look at the sad circumstances in the Blackburn case to recognise that the current law is not a compassionate response," Deborah Annetts, chief executive of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, said. "The bishops have

consistently shown they don't believe in changing the law, but the majority of churchgoers think it should be amended."

**COMMENT:** This is the sad problem when the standard of truth has been set aside. Not one Bible verse was provided in the new desired position. All that many of the churchgoers and some of the leaders are going on are emotions. *"For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD"* (Isaiah 55:8). It all starts with one step. There was the homosexual stance on the wrong side and now this. And there were more steps off of the Word of God prior to these. If we would all get back to taking the Word as it reads, we would truly be one body. You think God intended all these different denominations. Satan's plan is to divide. Jesus said that the house would fall. And this church is not the only one. To the faithful few, stand up and defend the truth before the church becomes wholly dark.

**BIBLE THOUGHT**

*Never Sell Your Home or Food*

**Isaiah 65:21-22** *"And they shall build houses, and inhabit [them]; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree [are] the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands."*

Imagine a time that you will have a perfect home and the perfect garden that will yield the right amount of fruit without worrying that it will go bad or insects will get to it. The home will be in the perfect location without ever needing repair. In addition to the mansion that God is preparing (John 14:2), we will have our own country estate. This is the best retirement home known to man. How much do you want it?

**ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH** *(Daniel 10:21)*



**QUESTION #1 – Do you think we will succeed at time travel?**

**ANSWER #1** – Absolutely not. Man will never be able to transport himself back or forward in time for many reasons. This is a counterfeit to God’s prophets who receive visions as if they were transported back in time or taken into the future.

First, if we could develop it, that means the Devil could either now do it or would also be able to. And if he had that ability, he would undo what happened at the cross.

Second, if one transported themselves into the future a few thousand years from now, they would be on the new earth. There is only one way to be on the new earth – to be saved through Jesus Christ.

Third, the desire to undo sins of the past would no longer be through confession, but through transportation into the past and choose a different path.

Fourth, the prophecies of the Bible would not stand because constantly people would be going back in time undoing certain events.

And this is just for starters. *"And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe"* (John 14:29). The future is only in the hands of God.

**QUESTION #2 – Can you please explain the meaning of predestination in the Bible?**

**ANSWER #2** – As you are aware, the Bible does use some form of the word in four occurrences.

Two occur in Romans 8:29-30, *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."*

Ephesians 1:5-6 *"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*

Ephesians 1:11-12 *"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."*

*(Continued on page 8)*

**ADD TO THIS FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER**







**Name:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip Code:**

Send to TSTL, 700 Clay Street, Carlisle, PA 17013

MARCH 2005

-  **MAIN ARTICLE:** Personal Testimony (Page 1)
-  **HEALTH:** Personal Rights (Page 5)
-  **PARENTING:** Stephen— Example of not being in the first position (Page 3)
-  **BIBLE STUDY:** How Important Are God's Commandments? (Page 4)
-  **NEWS:** Minister Defends Euthanasia!!! (Page 5)
-  **QUESTION:** Is Time Travel Possible? (Page 7)

And more...

(Continued from page 7)

Now we should not believe in predestination as some believe it to mean, that whom God wants saved will be saved and whom God wants lost will be lost. That belief includes the fact that humans have no choice in the matter.

This is taking an imbalanced approach to the Bible. It would not make sense if we are predestined that the Bible would include these verses:

*"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).*

*"Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15).*

*"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (1 Thessalonians 4:14).*

We have a choice according to the Bible. But that does not negate the use of the predestination verses. We still need to

understand them now in this light. If we have a choice and yet are predestined, what is it that we are predestined?

Who made us? God (Genesis 1:26).

For what purpose were we created? To live (1 John 4:9)

So it is out of character for God to purposely create people to be lost. Further, the other reason we have been created is to love God (1 John 5:2). Predestined people cannot love. Love is a choice. Also, it makes no sense then why all that is occurring on earth is continuing. If God made people predestined, He could have wrapped up the whole thing long ago.

Further, there would be a lot of unemployed people. If people are predestined, there is no need for missionaries, teachers, and even pastors, whose primary duty is to lead people to conversion.

So predestination is the fact that we all have been created with a beginning predestination, which is heaven. But, not all will choose to end up there despite the opportunities given of God to be there.

## NEWS FOR CHILDREN OF LIGHT

(1 Thessalonians 5:5)



The following are "sudden destruction" news items that appeared between January 16 and February 15, 2005. [Preview future "sudden destruction" news snippets at

[www.tstl.net/suddendestruction.](http://www.tstl.net/suddendestruction.)]

►► **WorldNetDaily, January 29, 2005 - Saudis spread hate through U.S. mosques**

The government of Saudi Arabia is disseminating propaganda through American mosques that teaches hatred of Jews and Christians and instructs Muslims that they are on a mission behind enemy lines in a land of unbelievers, according to a year-long study by a Washington human-rights group.

**COMMENT:** *"And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Mark 13:13).*