

2006 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" -Isa.61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

Homepages: webs.lanset.com/carmichael and www.preachersnotes.com

(916) 483-9318

ELDERS / EVANGELISTS

Glenn H. Reagan - 721-9464; Ron Stewart - 771-2064; C. L. [Vern] Wilson - 961-6944
<lareagan@lanset.com> <rstewcrr@lanset.com> <vernwil@comcast.net>

DEACONS:

Frank Ayers, 966-4979; Bill Kizer, 745-1043; Carl Romine, 773-4402; Rick Rittenhouse, 728-5077;
Bill Schultz, 543-0206; Brad Shuck, 530-677-9474

March 26th, 2006

RUNNING THE RIGHT RACE

by David A. Sargent

A world-class female runner was invited to compete in a road race in Connecticut. On the morning of the race, she drove from New York City, following the directions – or so she thought – given her over the telephone. She got lost, stopped at a gas station, and asked for help. She knew that the race started in the parking lot of a shopping mall. The station attendant also knew of such a race scheduled just up the road and directed her there.

When she arrived she was relieved to see in the parking lot a modest number of runners preparing to compete -- not as many as she'd anticipated. It was also an easier race than she'd been led to expect. She hurried to the registration desk, introduced herself, and was surprised by the race officials' excitement at having so renowned an athlete show up for their race. No, they had no record of her entry, but if she'd hurry and put on this number, she could just make it before the gun goes off. She ran and, naturally, she won easily, some four minutes ahead of the first male runner who finished in second place.

Only AFTER the race – when there was no envelope containing her sizable prize and performance money – did she confirm that the event she'd run was

not the race to which she'd been invited. THAT race was being held several miles farther up the road in another town. She had gone to the WRONG starting line, run the WRONG course, and missed her chance to win a valuable prize. *

Each one of US is running in a race... and many of us are expending a lot of time and effort in completing the course. How SAD it would be to learn in the END that we have run the WRONG course!

The RIGHT race is the one that is following Jesus! (Hebrews 12:1-2) This is the ONLY "race" that leads to an **ETERNAL REWARD** (2 Timothy 4:7-8). All other "races" – as thrilling and fulfilling as they appear to be -- lead to **DESTRUCTION** (Mat. 7:13-14).

To ENTER the right race, **we must first BEGIN by becoming a child of God:** through faith (Acts 16:30-31), repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confession of Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

THIS. . is the "STARTING LINE "

THEN, we must RUN the right race: with our eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), running faithfully according to the prescribed course (1 John 1:7). We WILL stumble and fall at times, but if we will get back up and keep running, Jesus WILL lead us to VICTORY.

Follow the instructions given in His Word and run in the RIGHT race.

On your mark..... Get set..... GO!

>>>>> <<<<<<



**Execution for
Distributing
A
BIBLE
in China**

Persecution of Christian Disciples

When 34-year old Jiang Zongxiu went to her neighboring market last June in Guizhou Province, China, along with her mother-in-law, Jiang went through the marketplace and took opportunities to hand out Bibles and Christian literature and tell people about Jesus. Only this day they had an encounter with the Chinese police.

The two Christian women were handcuffed together and brought to the police station. They were interrogated throughout the evening of the 17th. The next morning they were sentenced by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) to 15 days incarceration for "*suspected spreading of rumor and disturbing the social order.*"

Jiang and her mother-in-law knew the risk of spreading Christian literature in communist China. Both had been active in their church for more than 10 years

and dared to go forth. Even when they were arrested, interrogated and sentenced to serve 15 days, they were willing to accept the consequences of their actions—all from a government that claims to have “freedom of religion.”

But it was not enough for the PSB to arrest and beat these two Christian women for the crime of passing our Christian literature. In the afternoon of June 18th, Mrs. Jiang Zongziu was pronounced dead by the PSB office of Tongzi County. They claimed she died of “natural causes.” The fact is she was beaten to death.

The Voice of the Martyrs has received video testimony from the surviving family, along with photos of Jiang showing her bruised body, and a copy of the actual arrest document. All of this had to be smuggled out of China as the authorities continue to attempt to hide their systematic persecution of Christians. An international campaign is now under way on behalf of the surviving family.

Much of the world would like you to believe Christians are no longer persecuted. Jiang’s family would disagree! "30"

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature..."

---Jesus, in Mark 16:16

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Ayers Family

Edith Ayers

Lucille Erickson

(3529 Walnut, Rm 206A, Carmichael)

Helen Gray

Margaret Holcomb

Chuck House

Cameron Johnson (in a coma)

Jim Jones

Catherine Kay (Escalon)

Jean McCarty

Stan & Therena Mellor

Pat Pefley's friend Noel

(Bone marrow transplant in S.F.)

Jeffry Pennant

Kaye Pennant

Irma Rapier

(Irma's sister Doris & niece Robin Shockley)

Sven Raven

Reagan Family

Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)

Caleb & Jacob Robertson

Taylor Romine

Tom & Boots Royston (Folsom)

Mike Rude (in Missouri)

(**Oliver Sasse** had a good report from last scan, to be repeated quarterly)

Rena Schultz

Geneva Shelton

Shuck Family

Ken Sterling

Ola Thornburg

(Now at June's house)

Nancy Valine

Donna Williams (Carol's Sis)

Ellie Williams

Gordon Wilson

Glenda Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Rick Rittenhouse

Brad Rusk

Aaron Robertson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson

David Lovett

Michael Mendez

Aaron Robertson

Trent Walsh

**The church of Christ meeting
at 6044 Sutter AV, Carmi-
chael, CA
will be engaged in a series of
GOSPEL MEETINGS
Jul. 30th thru Aug. 4th, 2006.
SPEAKER: John Buttrey, II.**

"THE KIND OF CHURCH I'M LOOKING FOR ..."

Luke 12:16-21; Judges 17:5-6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. From the earliest of times, each man doing what was right in his own judgment has been a most dangerous endeavor. Judg 21:25; Prov 12:15; 21:2
 - 1. God always reveals what He desires His people to be and to do.
 - 2. When the Law of Moses was given, they knew exactly what was expected. Deut 12:1
 - 3. They were also warned against using their own judgment. Deut 12:8-9
- B. History shows that trouble has always resulted when man tried to guide himself. Judg 17.
 - 1. This man, Micah, directly violated at least two of the Ten Commandments, the law under which he was then living. Deut 5:7-9
 - 2. Throughout the book of Judges the prevailing attitude of everyone was doing "what was right in his own eyes," as per those cited verses.
- C. A sentiment expressed by many is, "I WANT A CHURCH THAT MEETS MY NEEDS"

I. THE FIRST THING WE MUST DO TO TAKE CARE OF ANY SPIRITUAL PROBLEM IS TO DEAL WITH IS THE "I" PROBLEM THAT MOST HAVE.

- A. God's word reveals we can't have good results when we leave God out! Lk 12:16-21
- B. Christianity is not an "I", "me", or "mine" religion.
 - 1. Christianity is a religion of submission; we must submit to God. Jas 4:7-10
 - 2. Christianity is a religion of service, not being served. Matt 20:25-28
- C. We have to KNOW that Christianity is not "MY" religion, but it's "GOD'S religion!"
 - 1. Being a part of God's church is NOT ABOUT what I want.
 - 2. Being a part of God's church IS ABOUT what God wants OF US!

II. THE "WANT" PROBLEM.

- A. What we "want" is not always what we "need".
 - 1. Toddlers often reach for things they shouldn't have and we teach them.
- B. We may think we know what's best for us, but God's judgment is greater than ours.
 - 1. What seems right often is not. Prov 14:12
 - 2. A toddler can't possibly make qualified judgments, neither can we. Jer 10:23'

III. THE "CHURCH" PROBLEM, AS IN "THE KIND OF CHURCH.."

- A. Such a statement, as it is often worded, may reveal more than we care to admit about a faulty concept of the church Jesus promised to build. Matt 16:18
- B. We need to realize that the church belongs to Christ, not to us.
- C. We need to realize that we do not have a choice about which church to "join".
- D. The church...
 - 1. Belongs to Christ.
 - 2. Is made up of the saved people.
 - 3. Is not a club or social organization.
 - 4. Is not optional.
- E. AND, just "any church" will NOT do.
 - 1. Many groups have been formed referring to themselves as this or that "church".
 - 2. The Bible knows of only one church.

IN SUMMARY:

- A. People, generally speaking, need a radical change of perspective.
 - 1. It's not "I", but "God".
 - 2. What "WE WANT" is not nearly so important as what "WE NEED, spiritually".
- B. God, by the blood of His Son, has established "the" church, where we can be saved!
 - 1. Getting into the church Jesus built is really a very simple matter.
 - 2. God has given us His plan. H+B+R+C+B+Personal service ~ ~ Deut 12:8-9