

# 2008 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](http://webs.lanset.com/carmichael) and [www.preachersnotes.com](http://www.preachersnotes.com)  
(916) 483-9318  
\*\*\*\*\*

## **ELDERS / EVANGELISTS**

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

## **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

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## **FAITH is the VICTORY**

by Alan Smith

I read a parable recently that bothered me when I read it the first time. It is a story that was reportedly told by Buddha:

A traveler, fleeing a tiger who was chasing him, ran till he came to the edge of a cliff. There he caught hold of a thick vine, and swung himself over the edge.

Above him the tiger snarled. Below him he heard another snarl, and behold, there was another tiger, peering up at him. The vine suspended him midway between two tigers.

Two mice, a white mouse and a black mouse, began to gnaw at the vine. He could see they were quickly eating it through. Then in front of him on the cliff side he saw a luscious bunch of grapes. Holding onto the vine with one hand, he reached and picked a grape with the other. How delicious!

That's the end of the parable. That's it??? If you're like me, you want to know how the story ends. Does the man get eaten by one of the tigers? Does he manage to find a way of escape? We don't know. And how can a man possibly stop to enjoy eating a grape while in the midst of such a crisis???

I can't tell you for sure what the parable was intended to teach, but after giving it considerable thought, here's the lesson that I gained from it. We are sometimes so focused on wanting to know what's going to happen in the future that we fail to enjoy what we have right here, right now.

What is the doctor going to find when I go in for these tests? How can I possibly meet the deadline my boss has given me since I have more work to do than I can possibly get done? How will my wife react when I talk to her about the need to go see a counselor to deal with the deep-rooted problems we're having? How am I going to pay the bills that are due next week when there's not enough money in the bank to cover them? How should I react to the racial prejudice that's causing students to say ugly things to me at school?

None of those things are unimportant (nor are the countless other trials and difficulties you could add to that list from your own experience); some may even be life-threatening. But today, all day long, I am surrounded by countless blessings from God -- a beautiful sunrise, the changing autumn leaves, a child's kiss, a bunch of grapes, a warm bed, hot water, and the list goes on and on. Is it possible to focus on the blessings at hand even when we are surrounded by difficulties and we don't know how the story will turn out? For a child of God, it is not only possible, it is essential that we learn to do so.

*"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know*

*what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."* (**Phil 4:11-12**)

Are you surrounded by tigers today? Take a moment to enjoy the grape that God has placed right in front of you.

Alan Smith  
Fayetteville,  
North Carolina

### ***Tom's Pen ~*** **"A Challenge To Atheists"** (William Jennings Bryan)

The following was taken from the address delivered by Mr. Bryan in Orchestra Hall, Chicago, Illinois, on May 4, 1911.

"Is the Bible the work of man, or is it an inspired book? Is it the product of human wisdom, or did its authors speak as they were commanded by the Lord? Atheists and materialists declare that it is merely the work of man; that it was written under the limitations that apply to human wisdom. Taking this position, they must necessarily contend that, unless man has degenerated in ability and declined in wisdom, he can now produce a book equal to the Bible. Let them produce it. Judged by human standards, man is far better prepared to write a Bible now than he was when our Bible was written.

The characters whose words and deeds are recorded in the Bible were members of a single race; they lived among the hills of Palestine in a territory scarcely larger than one of our counties. They did not have printing presses, and they lacked the learning of the schools; they had no great libraries to consult, no

telegraph wires to bring them the news from the ends of the earth, and no newspaper to spread before them each morning the doings of the day before. Science had not unlocked Nature's door and revealed the secrets of rocks below and stars above. From what a scantily supplied storehouse of knowledge they had to draw, compared with the unlimited wealth of information at man's command today! And yet these Bible characters grapple with every problem that confronts mankind, from the creation of the world to eternal life beyond the tomb. They have given us a diagram of man's existence from the cradle to the grave, and they have set up sign posts at every dangerous point along the path. We turn back to the Bible for the Ten Commandments, which form the foundation for our statute law, and for the Sermon on the Mount, which lays down the rules for our spiritual growth. The Bible gives us the story of the birth, the words, the works, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension of Him whose coming was foretold in prophecy, whose arrival was announced by the angel voices, singing 'Peace and goodwill' -- the story of Him who is the growing figure of all time, whom the world is accepting as Saviour and as the perfect example. Let the atheists and the materialists produce a better Bible than ours, if they can. Let them collect the best of their school to be found among the graduates of the universities -- as many as they please, and from every land. Let the members of this selected group travel where they will, consult such libraries as they please, and employ every modern means of swift communication. Let them glean in the fields of geology, botany, astronomy, biology, and zoology, and then roam at will wherever science has opened a way; let them take advantage of all the progress in art and in literature, in

oratory and in history -- let them use to the full every instrumentality that is employed in modern civilization; and when they have exhausted every source, let them embody the results of their best intelligence in a book and offer it to the world as a substitute for this Bible of ours. Have they the confidence that the prophets of Baal had in their god? Will they try? If not, what excuse will they give? Has man fallen from his high estate, so that we cannot rightfully expect as much of him now as nineteen centuries ago? Or does the Bible come to us from a source that is higher than man -- which?"  
 via Tom's Pen  
 (Tom Wacaster)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Carmichael Church Services:**

**Sunday:**

<i>Classes</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>
<i>Assembly</i>	<i>9:55 AM</i>
<i>Mt. Manor service</i>	<i>1:30 PM</i>
<i>Evening</i>	<i>5:00 PM</i>

**Wednesday:**

<i>Mt. Manor service</i>	<i>11:00 AM</i>
<i>Classes</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**An appeal to every member**

We are an evangelistic body of people striving to serve and honor the Lord in our efforts of teaching and our examples of caring for others! New classes are starting with this in mind. The elders ask you to please attend every one of these Sunday evening classes. They begin on Sunday evening, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 5:00 PM.

**REMEMBER:**

**5:00 PM on Sunday evenings**

## **BRIEF EXHORTATIONS**

via David J. Riggs

The above article is very edifying and worthy of our deepest consideration. If others through handicaps can attain such heights in the sight of men and of God, we with our minor deficiencies should surely be able to at least gain respect and a good name before God and men. If we strive to do the will of God we will not always be loved and thought well of by the servants of Satan, but if we continue to strive and grow not weary in well doing we shall reap if we faint not. Do you think you have handicaps and hindrances? Think of this thought and meditate upon it prayerfully. "I thought I was in bad circumstances when I had no shoes, until I saw a person that had not feet." God's grace is sufficient for us in every circumstance of life. Let us learn with the apostle Paul; that "whatever state we find ourselves to therewith be content." We must learn to be in need and to abound, using both to the glory of God.----- (Jim Sasser)

-----

"But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Tim. 6:9-10)

Money often comes between men and God. Someone has said that you can take two small ten-cent pieces, just two dimes, and shut out the view of a panoramic landscape. Go to the mountains and just hold two coins closely in front of your eyes. The mountains are still there, but you cannot see them at all because there is a dime shutting out the vision in each eye. It doesn't take large quantities of money to come between us and God. Just a little placed in the wrong position, will effectively obscure our view. (A.W. Tozer)

## **THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

Don Alexander  
Jason & Marie & Cayna Anderson  
Frank & Tina Ayers  
Edith Ayers  
Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
Margie Buchanan  
**Bill Cain (Red Bluff)**  
Karen Daly  
Helen Gray  
Chris Heffelfinger  
**(Christine's dad)**  
Margaret Holcomb  
Chuck House  
Catherine Kay  
Darrel & Kristie Collier  
Dale Lovelady  
Jean McCarty  
R.B. & June Rankin  
Wendell & Irma Rapier  
Berniece Raven  
Rosie Reagan  
LaurieAnn Reagan  
Eli & the Roadman family  
Caleb & Jacob Robertson  
Taylor Romine  
Ray Rude  
Bill & Rena Schultz  
Troy Shadman  
The Brad Shuck Family  
Ola Thornburg  
Nancy Valine  
Shirley Watkins  
Ellie Williams  
Kathy Wilson (Folsom)  
Gordon Wilson

### **TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK**

Karen Daly  
**Aaron Robertson**  
Gordon Wilson

***And all those traveling  
this holiday season***

### **IN THE MILITARY**

Jason Anderson  
David Lovett  
Aaron Robertson  
Trent Walsh