

HAVEN NEWSLETTER



MISSION TO THE AMERICAS
"A vision for the harvest"



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Greetings

Greetings again in the name of our blessed Lord and Savior Yeshua! It is such a privilege for us to serve the Lord in partnership with you all. We hope that as you celebrate the Resurrection this year, you are reminded of the hope that we all share, and that you continue to prayer for those who desperately need to



Our trip to the Philippines was one of the really special things that God has blessed us with. Yet it also drove home something that I have been harping on for a long time; *the misplaced love of the American church.* By this I mean that

when our Lord taught us that where our treasure is, there will our



heart be also, He meant that you could tell a person's or a people's priorities by where they spend their money. He may have had other things in mind there also, but his words meant at least that much. I remember hearing in the early eighties how Christians owned *over \$200 billion dollars worth of church buildings.* This was before the popularity of the church growth mentality really took off. It boggles the mind to think of where that number might be now. We might need to ask

ourselves - "Are we better off as a church than we were then?" Has the investment of billions of dollars of our money into buildings impacted our culture in some dramatic way? Or in fact is it the opposite - *is our culture so thoroughly pagan now* that we cannot believe what is considered normal? I believe it is the latter. (For a much more thorough browbeating on this subject, please

Our culture is so thoroughly pagan now

check out my article "How to Reach a Pagan World." in the Fall 98 edition of the *International Journal of Frontier Mission.*) The pagans are look-

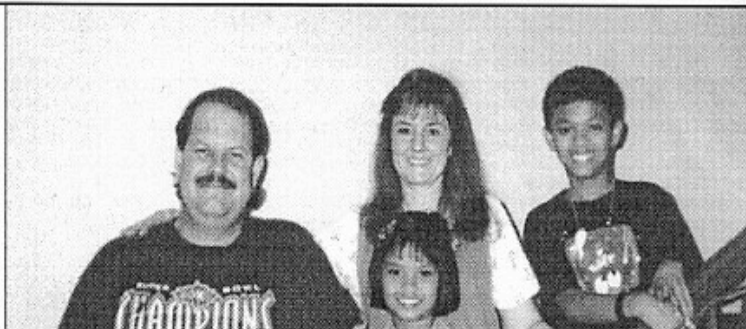
ing at our "six flags over Jesus" and yawning. The pagans outbuild us and they out entertain us. We cannot possibly keep up with their single-minded focus of serving the "Self." Yet modern church growth mentality has the same focus, building up our corporations, expanding our market base (being seeker sensitive), and turning our pastors into CEOs. Even if I were a pragmatist, which I am not, I would have to ask myself, is it working? Have our beautiful buildings impressed the lost and

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FAMILY NEWS

It is with great joy that Terri and I announce to you that we are the

up from the orphanage where they had been for the previous five years. They are 12 and 10 years old respectively. We are so blessed by the Lord to bring them into our family. We thank our Lord and we thank so many of you



ESCAPE!

proud new parents of a brother and sister **Gabe** and **Rose**! We went to the Philippines in late February and picked them

who gave so graciously to help us bring them home. We could not have done this without you. We give praise to our Father for his gracious gift of so many
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HOME AT LAST

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brought the Kingdom of God into the forefront of the cultural scenario? Sadly, it has not. *Our growth rate of born again Christians is in decline* and this becomes even worse when we realize that the Mormons are now identifying themselves as born again Christians in the polls! According to the National

Association of Evangelicals, *since 1995 America has become the fourth largest pagan country in the world, and the second largest receiving country of missionaries in the world,* behind only Brazil. What can we do? I am convinced that we have much to learn from our early church brethren. They faced a hostile pagan cul-

"The God who made the world and all things in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands..." (Acts 17:24)

ture, which despised them. They had no buildings on record until 250 AD and the one they had, they lost in a terrible persecution. But prior to Constantine's legalization of the Christian faith

in 311 AD the Christian church was turning the largest pagan empire in world history inside out! And without any of the things we deem so necessary. How did they do this? I like to describe the process as a working out of what the Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:15 "speaking the truth in love". The early
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PRAYER REQUESTS

- For my family's salvation.
- For our children **Gabe** and **Rose** as they get acclimated to a new country and home and family.
- For our friends with life threatening conditions - **Frauke, Paul F. Steven Z., Nicki C.,** and others who suffer as well - **Becky G., Sherri C., Pat F., Laurel H., Liz H.**
- For our friends who marriages are hurting - **Dave and Jenny, Carl and Annette, Monte and Robin, Bobby and Coleen, Mike and Ruth, Bruce and Diane, Don and Peggy.**
- For the many people trapped in the concerned Christian cult, and for the family members who are hurting so bad.
- For people trapped

FAMILY NEWS

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people who support our family in this ministry, and who are so caring towards us. We do not deserve any of you, but yet the Lord has given you to us as friends. Thanks for serving our

DID YOU KNOW?

- A recent survey by the Mormon cult in Africa showed that in a survey of 400 recent converts to Mormonism, 398 were members of established Christian churches!!!

All too sad...

- Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons have both publicly thanked Christian missionaries for blazing the way for them in Africa, by translating Scriptures, and introducing people to "Christendom",

effectively greasing the skids for the cults. People need to be disciplined, not just converted.

- Over six million signatures on petitions have been gathered so far to encourage the Pope to speak *ex cathedra* and make
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Many of the "Concerned

are keeping to themselves. If they really did believe that Jesus is coming back this

saved. The group has been told that they alone are God's "special dumplings",

left the cult in the past two years. It is very difficult for those who have left the group to

Non-Prophets

...update

Christian cult have been located in some nice condos in Greece. Much like the ones who were found in Jerusalem, they have nice cars, nice homes, and

tall, you would think that they would be out witnessing to everyone in sight, but the fact that they don't tells us much about the group. The leader, **Kim Miller**, told me that "God is done with the church, there is no more grace for anyone". Only those who are willing to die for God can be

"God is done with the church, there is no more grace for anyone"
Kim Miller





and no one else has a grasp the true nature and the breadth of the deception. But the real Lord is faithful, and does grant grace and mercy, even to those in serious deception. How thankful we should all be for that!

in another cult - "good ground", that I have been working with. - Please pray for New Agers, Mormons, JWs, Muslims, and many others that I have talked to over the past several years.



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 church was not afraid to speak the truth. They spoke out against slavery, war, ill treatment of the poor and elderly, and against the false beliefs and immoral practices of the pagan religions. They also spoke out against the primary entertainment of their day, the "games at the Coliseum." 

They were not afraid that their culture would not like them, since they had eyewitness evidence that the culture would hate and even kill them for their stand. Also the early church loved in such a way that pagans had no way to respond. They modeled what the Lord said, when he told them to love their neighbors and even their enemies. Jesus notes that the pagans

loved their own, so it was and is not uncommon for them to set up welfare organizations for their own kind. What is uncommon is for people to love those who are not like them, cutting across racial, class, and gender lines. In other words Romans saw

"...since 1995 America has become the fourth largest pagan country in the world"

that it made sense for them to take care of their own people, what made no sense for them was for Romans to love Greeks! And vice versa. So into this atmosphere the church is born. Jews started loving Romans and Greeks and Ethiopians. And it was not cheap talk. They loved them by adopting them, by burying their dead, by feeding

them, and other very practical ways of showing them the love of God. The pagans could not relate nor understand. It is so contrary for them to think in such a way. Let me quote you **Julian** the Apostate, who was emperor of Rome from 360-361. He writes a letter to his pagan priest in Galatia, a certain **Arcasius**. It is stunning to hear his complaint against our early church family.



"Why do we not notice that it is their kindness to strangers, their care for the graves of the dead, and the pretended holiness of their lives that have done most to increase atheism (i.e., Christianity). I believe that we ought really and truly to practice every one of these virtues. And it is not enough for you alone to practice them, but so must all the priests in Galatia, without exception. In every city establish hostels in order that strangers may profit by our generosity; I do not mean for our own people only, but for others also who are in need of money... for it is disgraceful that, when no Jew ever has to beg and the impious Galileans (Christians) support both their

own poor and ours as well, all men see that our people lack aid from us.

It is almost humorous to imagine the reaction of a pagan priest being told to act like a Christian! It didn't happen and paganism in all its forms became minor players in the empire. It was not the buildings or the entertainment of the Christians that brought pagans in, it was the love of God in Jesus Christ that no pagan could truly imitate. New Agers in America are talking this way, but

it is a pale shadow of the real thing. Spending your life getting in touch with your higher self has a nasty way of making you into a completely self-absorbed person. Love against personal interest can only come from one source.

This was a long way around to get to this: Imagine how the world might react if the church fell out of love with their buildings and started emp-

tying out orphanages around the world? *In the orphanage where Gabe and Rose were, there were 119 children in about 1000 square feet.* Rose shared a bed that was a mattress on the floor, about two feet wide, with two other children. *In India you can save a baby girls life by giving a \$200 donation.* Christians are purchasing people out of slavery in the Sudan. In other words, it

is a crime that while we pour out our love on bricks, we could be making a dramatic impact all over the world. Do we think it is possible that pagans right here in the good old USA might look at us a bit differently if we were to do this? I can already tell you of individual cases of this happening. Imagine if this

became normative Christianity. Imagine if pagans started seeing the same love that transformed the ancient pagan world. Think of what it would be like to touch the heart of God, whose love for his favorite creation (people) is at the center of all He has done in this world.

God's love for people...is at the center of all He has done in this world.

