

THE HAVEN NEWSLETTER

OUR NEW RELIGIOSITY

A few days before I became a Christian in January of 1973, I attended a church and saw the movie "Thief in the Night". It was all about the second coming of Christ – a phrase I had never heard before. A large portion of the movie was related to atheists who were running this one world government and were putting Christians to death. That was scary but I really didn't understand it much.

Upon becoming a Christian and engaging in reading what the Bible actually said, I found that the movie was flawed at this point – it isn't going to be atheists killing the Christians – it will be very religious people. Jesus says in John 16: "A time is coming when they will put you to death, thinking they are doing a service to God". Paul speaks of those who have a "form of godliness, but deny the power of God". In other words there are those who know God and those who don't, but think they do. The differences are important. This seems to fall on deaf ears these days.

One is reminded of the old joke "What do you get when you cross a Unitarian/Universalist with a Jehovah's Witness? Answer "Someone who goes door to door with nothing in particular to say". The humor might seem like an "insider" joke to those who have never talked to either. The humor comes

when you realize that the UU religion holds almost nothing as really important, except that belief itself that nothing about God is really important. Strange position historically for a religion, but not these days. One exception to that rule – if you are a Bible believing Christian you are not welcome. Hitler is welcome but not you. I actually had that conversation once! Anyway the humor comes from recognizing that the JW's have something terribly important to say which motivates them to go door to door. This message is false and their motivation is more about fear than anything else – but they do go door to door. So the crux of the two groups provides the humor involved. Why would you go if everyone were already ok?

Another illustration I like was C.S. Lewis depiction of the "hollow man" or "men without chests". His usage of these images was to describe people who had no sense of honor, morality, decency and so on. They would blather on about something without the convictions that undergird and sustain the position. I think of this in terms of those who find distinctions/exclusions/judgments so distasteful. I had a professor at CU who was turned off by my statements that the people in the Jesus Seminar (a group of primarily

liberal scholars who despised the Bible, attacked it repeatedly, yet still professed to be Christians) were not Christians. "How could I say such a thing?" "Well the word Christian is not an empty word that means whatever you want it to mean. It has to mean something." This is where his postmodern sensibilities kick in "Well it means something to you and something else to someone else – who made you the judge?"

In response to this I would like you to imagine that particular exercise being used in virtually any other arena. We hear about surgeons who accidentally amputate the left limb when the right limb was the one that needed to be operated on. I mean who are we to arbitrarily decide the difference between left and right? These terms are relative and no one can say which is right. Or perhaps you could imagine a brain surgery being conducted on the femur bone. I mean who are we to judge? The surgeon is merely using his poetic consciousness to enact his street art upon the canvas of the patient. You get where I am going. Politicians equate losing jobs with the Holocaust, conservative protestors with Islamic Jihadists – hey all just words right?

The emergent and church growth movement has been systematically attacking systematic theology. They have been rationally pushing irrationality upon those who rationally disagree. They teach Hindu and Buddhist religious teachings (panentheism – the divine is within all) and practice (yoga, pranayama/divine breathing, mindless meditation using mantras/sacred sounds) as “spiritual formation”. To be a Christian is now an open-ended term, which can be painted in any way, one chooses, and all the lines can be crossed. Just great – the drawings of a two year old with crayons is just as descriptive as a Rembrandt.

The word Christian was first used to describe the followers of Jesus. They carried a message of a holy God who sent his holy Son, who fulfilled the Law of Moses, and died on a cross to pay the price for our sins against this holy God. Then most amazing of all – the Son was resurrected from the grave, ascended into heaven and will one day return to judge the world. This message and more was to be taken to every nation because all needed to hear it. This content brought life according to these messengers. To deny or pervert the message was to bring death.

The term Christian has meaning. It has since its inception. One can choose to deny the message, but it is not open to addition. It is not open to

personal interpretation or flights of mythical fancy.

Choose which way you will go.

Love,

Bill & Terri

Future Events

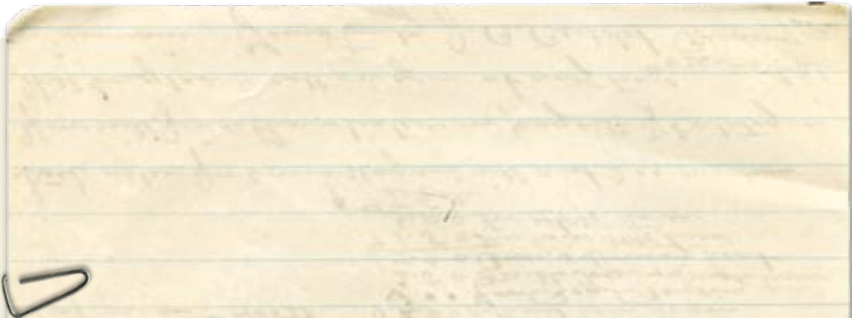
- June 24 – Scott graduates from US Army Boot camp at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri
- June 29 – Home Bible Study – The Gospel of Matthew. Break for summer
- July 17 – Rose is marrying Tyler Carroll. I am doing the wedding. I hope not to cry but Terri thinks I will fall apart!
- July 25 – Hasting Evangelical Free Church – Hastings NE Morning service
- July 25 – Pleasant View Bible Church – Aurora NE Evening Service
- July 27 – Men’s group – Grace Life Fellowship – Juniata, NE
- July 28 – Calvary Chapel Lincoln – Lincoln, NE Mid week Service
- July 29 – Women’s group – Grace Life Fellowship – Juniata, NE
- Aug 1 – Grand Island Evangelical Free Church – Combined Sunday school Grand Island, NE
- Aug 8 – Stockham Community Church – Stockham, NE Morning Services and Sunday school
- Aug 8 – Aurora Evangelical Free Church – Aurora, NE Evening Services
- Aug 12-15 – Ministry to Mormons and Unity Village in Kansas City/Independence MO.
- Aug 30 – Fall classes start at Horizon College Denver. Book of Romans and History of World Religions

As always, check the website for more events. There is always much to pray for.

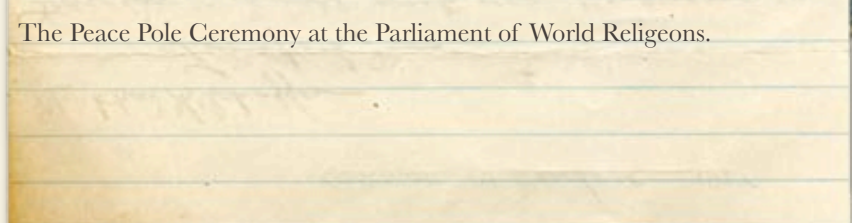
Prayer Requests

We thank the Lord for each one of you. We have blessed to serve in missions for over twenty years now and hope Lord willing to continue to do so until the Lord calls us home. My board has informed me that our support is down over \$22,000 from the same time last year. For the third summer in a row we are at the point of not getting a pay check. We pray that our Father will continue to support this mission. Please prayerfully consider what part you might have in this endeavor.

1. Thanks to the Lord for so many good things happening in our family. Our family is always an adventure and we thank the Lord for the blessing that they are. I am so thankful for my wonderful wife Terri (we celebrate our 32nd anniversary this summer!) - As many of you have said for so long – how can she possibly put up with me all this time? I consider this living proof of a God who can and does do miracles. Shawn and Kelly are living in Albuquerque, NM and are doing well. He released his second album as Argyle Street (www.theargylestcampaign.com). Gabe and Shania are stationed at Camp Pendleton in Southern California and are also doing well. Scott has just joined the Army and is just now finishing basic training and hopes to go to officer candidate school this next year. We are very proud of Gabe and him and their service to our country. Andy enjoys going to our Bible classes and is still looking for a job. Rose is getting married to Tyler. Please pray for them as they start their new life together. Joey is still struggling with his faith – but is working and taking classes at Metro State. Johanna is doing a great job as mom to Kevin and Kevin is doing a great job of growing and being overwhelmingly cute! Jonathan is still a struggle but we do see some signs of hope there. Pray that the Lord grabs his heart.
- 2) Please continue to pray for my family's salvation. I do have some good news on the cancer front – both of my parents and my step-dad are currently doing quite well with their treatments. Continue also to pray for my step-moms relative who was kidnapped to the Muslim world and cannot be found.
- 3) Please pray for some friends and co-workers who have serious health issues. Our dear fellow ministers at Haven, Mark and Rose Roggeman, are both doing better but there are still issues. Also pray for many who have pressing chronic issues such as Becky C, Sherri C, Liz H, Sheila H, Julie, Gordon L, Rebecca G and others. Also pray for our friends Susan L and two of her grandchildren who have all had surgery recently.
4. Pray for the miracle of repentance and reconciliation in the marriages or now ex-marriages of Greg and Karina, Mike and Julie, and way too many others. Two Christian couples we have prayed for help in their marriage for many years – have gone the way of divorce. Pray for healing in their families and for restoration of their walks in Christ.
5. Pray for the salvation for the Muslims, Gnostics, Mormons, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, as well as our homosexual transvestite nun friend, some Japanese Buddhists I talked to recently at the psychic fair and many others wiccans, new agers and others. Also please pray for the many people we talked to at the Parliament in Melbourne. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring them to Christ.
6. Pray for the Haven staff. In addition to the issue with Mark and Rose mentioned above, please pray for Jim and Barb Choury as they raise more support and Jeff and Sandy Chrisman as they work on some family concerns. Rita had a great trip to Russia and was allowed to share the Gospel in all sorts of venues and we thank the Lord for those opportunities and her safe return. Pray also for Jonathan and Carrie Jolly who are coming along Haven as potential Ministry Associates as well.
- 7) Please pray for our many friends and children who are serving with our military. As we have seen recently at Ft. Hood, the war is not necessarily so far away. Pray for soldiers like Carlos and Matt and Josh and Nick. Pray for sailors like Josh N. We thank the Lord for all of them and so many others who serve us all. Gabe has just reenlisted with the Marines and he and Shaina will probably be posted somewhere far from Camp Pendleton – we are still not sure yet as of this newsletter printing. Scott will be stationed here in Aurora after his specialty schools and or until his unit is deployed.



The Peace Pole Ceremony at the Parliament of World Religions.



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June 2010

FROM:

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