

WE NEED YOUR HELP

ANGOLA PRISON HAS 11,000 INMATES

Previously I have written to you of the huge prison known as Angola in Louisiana. This prison has a reputation of being one of the toughest in the world with six different prisons scattered over its 18,000 acres of bottom land along the Mississippi River. Yet, through the help of God and the zeal of faithful brethren in the area more than 750 prisoners have been baptized and five churches of Christ planted in five of the facilities on the property.

Through our evangelistic outreach here at Crossville we have supplied several thousand books for distribution in Angola and other prisons. Prisoners with no place to go need good literature. Our book *Is There A Universal Code of Ethics* has proven to be very popular with inmates. It deals with questions of ethics and morals on abortion, bribery, gambling, alcohol, marriage, divorce and many others.

Prior to the hurricane Katrina, August 29, Angola had 5,000 inmates, but now there are more than 11,000 on the grounds. Due to this huge increase, our brethren have been temporarily asked not to come. However, when the prisoners are settle and have readjusted, the brothers will go back. We are right now working hard to supply them and saints working in other prisons with powerful teaching tools such as the *Universal Code of Ethics*. The problem is that we have only 28 copies on hand. A brother in Oklahoma has agreed to print them for us at a very reasonable price, if we order a large quantity. The average book this size would cost \$10.00 or more in a bookstore, but for 10,000 the printer will charge only \$1.65 each or \$16,500 for the lot. Already half of this amount (\$8,250.00) has been paid, but we must raise the matching funds. Will you help us with this?

**Send all funds (marked for Printing) to
Waldron Mission Fund, c/o Main St. Church of Christ,
P.O. Box 1010, Crossville, TN 38557.**

This may be one of the longest lasting (through eternity) ways to help those displaced by Katrina.
Thanks, Jim Waldron

BULLETIN BRIEFS

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GEORGE HAD A LITTLE BOY

Jim E. Waldron

George had a little boy,
His soul was white as snow;
And everywhere that George went,
The boy was sure to go.

George didn't go to Sunday Bible School,
So the boy stayed home too;
It made old Satan laugh and drool,
Thinking how he'd get the two.

The soul that once was snowy white,
Began to turn a dingy grey,
As Dad taught him to swear with all his might,
And with Father's beer bottles he did play.

The boy followed him to the pub one day.
When George went home to the wife,
The boy, now near a man, had said "I'll stay!"
And with his mom there was great strife.

Back at the bar the boy with his mate,
Did swear his Dad was forty or more;
He said "he's even bald on his pate,
And doesn't know the score."

Out into the night the two boys did go,
Drinking and smoking grass;
The mate's bright red car did make a show,
Until on a hill he tried to pass.

Satan now was half way to his score,
And he knew George wasn't far behind,
Because on the boy's grave he drank and swore;
To God's sweet love he was blind.

Bible Study would have helped, you know,
That boy along the right way,
But Papa as Satan's man did say, "I won't go!"
Mom just said, "Oh, well, let him play!"

THE SPRINGFIELD PRESBYTERY

Glenn McCoy

(Ed. Note: Barton W. Stone (1772-1844), who was a true pioneer in North America in calling for the restoration of the church according to the apostolic doctrine (Acts 2:42) and pattern (II Tim. 1:13), and others, formed the Springfield Presbytery in 1803. The objective of that organization was to promote unity among followers of Jesus, but the organizers soon realized there was no authority for such an organization. Thus on June 28, 1804, they published the Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery. In his excellent book **(Return To The Old Paths)** V. Glenn McCoy documents the story of Stone and other preachers who gave up man-made churches to call for unity in the church of Christ founded on Pentecost about 2000 years ago. Here is a portion of brother McCoy's report on Stone and his efforts. JW)

When Stone and the others withdrew from the Presbyterian Synod of Kentucky they set up their own Presbytery called the Springfield Presbytery. They also sent out letters to the congregations explaining why they had withdrawn from the Synod. They wrote an explanation for their actions in a document called "An Apology for Renouncing the Jurisdiction of the Synod of Kentucky." Stone and John Thompson each wrote a section that expressed their abandonment of all authoritative creeds but the Bible.

For six years Stone had preached as a Presbyterian for the Cane Ridge and Concord congregations in Kentucky. He called them together and informed them that he could not conscientiously preach Presbyterianism any longer. In their presence he tore up their financial obligation to him. Without salary and having freed his slaves, Stone worked on his farm to support his family but continued to preach to large and interested audiences. Sometimes he worked on his farm at night so that he could continue his preaching. He was popular among the people and would remain with the Cane Ridge congregation until 1811.

The Springfield Presbytery had a short life. It lasted only nine months, but in that short time fifteen congregations were set up, seven in Ohio and eight in Kentucky. In this short time Stone and the others realized that the Springfield Presbytery was not right, that it "encouraged a party spirit" and they made plans to dissolve it. On June 28, 1804, they published the "Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery." It contained only 800 words but it is recognized as one of the most unique documents in religious literature. Some consider June 28, 1804, as the date marking the beginning of the Stone movement in the Restoration. Notice that it was written eight years before the Campbells were baptized. Here is the "Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery" in its entirety.

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE SPRINGFIELD PRESBYTERY



The Presbytery of Springfield, sitting at Cane Ridge, in the county of Bourbon, being through a gracious Providence, in more than ordinary bodily health, growing in strength and size daily; and in perfect soundness and composure of mind; and knowing that it is appointed for all delegated bodies once to die; and considering that the life of every such body is very uncertain, do make and ordain this our Last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, viz.:

Imprimis. We will, that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large; for there is but one Body, and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling.

Item. We will, that our name of distinction, with its **Reverend** title, be forgotten, that there be but one Lord over God's heritage, and his name One.

Item. We will, that our power of making laws for the government of the church, and executing them by delegated authority, forever cease; that the people may have free course to the Bible, and adopt **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.**

Item. We will, that candidates for the Gospel ministry henceforth study the Holy Scriptures with fervent prayer, and obtain license from God to preach the simple Gospel, **with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven**, without any mixture of philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men, or the rudiments of the world. And let none henceforth take **this honor to himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.**

Item. We will, that each particular church, as a body, actuated by the same spirit, choose her own preacher and support him by a free will offering, without a written **call**, or **subscription**—admit members, remove offenses; and never henceforth **delegate** her right of government to any man or set of men whatever.

Item. We will, that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books which stand in competition with it, may cast them into the fire if they choose; for it is better to enter into life having one book, than having many to be cast into hell.

Item. We will, that preachers and people, cultivate a spirit of mutual forbearance; pray more and dispute less; and while they behold the signs of the times, look up, and confidently expect that redemption draweth nigh.

Item. We will, that our weak brethren, who may have

been wishing to make the Presbytery of Springfield their king, and wot not what is now become of it, betake themselves to the Rock of Ages, and follow Jesus for the future.

Item. We will, that the Synod of Kentucky examine every member, who may be **suspected** of having departed from the Confession of Faith, and suspend every such suspected heretic immediately; in order that the oppressed may go free, and taste the sweets of gospel liberty.

Item. We will, that Ja _____, the author of two letters lately published in Lexington, be encouraged in his zeal to destroy partyism. We will, moreover, that our past conduct be examined into by all who may have correct information; but let foreigners beware of speaking evil of things which they know not.

Item. Finally, we will, that all our **sister bodies** read their Bibles carefully, that they may see their fate there determined, and prepare for death before it is too late.



Brother Glenn McCoy's book **RETURN TO THE OLD PATHS** is a readable and enjoyable history of the Restoration Movement on this continent in the 19th century. In contrast to some of the false impressions given by the change agents on the work of Barton W. Stone, Alexander Campbell, Raccoon John Smith and others, brother McCoy documents the monumental task those men had to virtually bootstrap themselves out of denominationalism as they championed a call to return to the old Jerusalem gospel (Acts 2:42). Every elder, preacher, deacon, and Bible class teacher (men and women) would do well to read it. It would be an excellent gift for someone whom you wish to honor. One copy is \$13.00 plus \$3.00 postage, but if you can buy a case of thirty-two to distribute to friends and family the cost is \$280.00 (postpaid). That's \$8.75 each.

Order from Glenn McCoy at 22470 Mission Hills Lane, Yorba Linda, CA 92887