

This is so true when we compare the way worldly people strive for the worldly possessions on which their hearts are set with the lackadaisical attitude that many Christians have in seeking eternal life.

Concerning our quest for the latter the apostle Paul wrote, God, “*will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek (true) glory, honor and immortality*” (Rom. 2:6-7).

Yet, the words about the unjust steward could also be stated about the manner in which mission work is often done. By that I mean sometimes congregations are contributing toward a mission effort with little or no expectation that it will be an effective well-disciplined work. Sometimes it seems that mission work, instead of being conducted like a careful man of the world would his business, we act like the government; that is, if there is a problem throw money at it.

Beloved, local congregations must anchor the urgent need to get the gospel to the world (I Tim. 3:14-15). Elders and congregations should expect discipline (II Tim. 2:3), results (John 15:8), and regular reports as to what the missionary is accomplishing.

PRAISE AND APOLOGY

In August, 2005, I published a letter from a brother in Pakistan concerning a threat on his life and asked you to contact your federal representatives asking them to contact the U.S. State Department concerning the matter and the concern for the church property in which he lives, which property is owned by the church in Pinellas Park, FL.

Many of you wrote, your representative in Congress followed up just as you requested and the American State Department did likewise. For this I am thankful and commend you and the government representatives who were not slack in response to our request. Many of you have sent me copies of the State Department report.

That report stated that U.S. consular officers had contacted our brother, but that he stated along with other denials that “neither he nor his family had ever been threatened with physical violence.”

Why he responded in this manner is known only to him. If you wish to see the full report from the State Department you may request a copy from our office at P.O. Box 1010, Crossville, TN 38557. You may contact the church at Pinellas Park in care of Glenn Duncan, 4403 80th Street, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, Phone 727-544-0460. To all who wrote their congressional representatives, please accept my thanks and my humble apology and regrets. Jim E. Waldron

BULLETIN BRIEF

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DISCUSS THE SHAME OF NAKEDNESS

Jim E. Waldron

The term used here is found in Revelation 3:18 and it refers to the spiritual nakedness of the fruitless life of the church at Laodicea. The figure comes from the physical shame of nakedness. When sin entered the world our parents in the garden perceived this shame. Thus “they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings” (Genesis 3:7). Such was not sufficient to hide their nakedness, therefore we are told, “*also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them*” (Genesis 3:21).

Modern man in many cases with a calloused heart has obliterated any sense of shame. The malls, public pools and beaches are filled with those who do not “*know how to blush*” (Jeremiah 8:12). Often even professed Christians wear little or nothing to cover their nakedness, e.g., shorts, halters, pool wear, beach wear, skin tight jeans and much sportswear. Such is the clothing, or lack of it, which manifests “*the works of the flesh...*(in the heart, particularly) *lasciviousness* (or licentiousness, NKJ) ...” (Galatians 5:19). At times, even well educated people will hold up the lack of clothing worn by poor ignorant pagan savages as justification for their own lack of decency as though they themselves had no better training in modesty. It is particularly appalling to hear that some youth groups are having “pool parties” included in their activities. Do not at least the males, elders, preachers and “youth ministers,” who are a part of such not intrinsically know that such promotes sexual lust in the heart and that Jesus said such is adultery (Matt. 5:27).

Not only does salacious dress generate sexual lusts, but dancing has the same effect. Thus parents and those concerned for the souls of young people must provide wholesome activities for them instead of “pool parties” and dances such as the prom. Why not organize a banquet in lieu of that spiritual minefield for your young people or those in the area? Jim E. Waldron.

**This is one of 575 questions found in the commentary on the Revelation by this author. You may have a copy without cost by writing to R. Standefer, P. O. Box 123, Dunlap, TN 37327.*

2005 SUMMARY OF INDIA WORK

As you are aware, just six days before the New Year of 2005 began, a flood of epic proportions, called “The Tsunami,” struck a dozen or more countries and snuffed out more than 200,000 lives. In the state of Tamil Nadu, South India, which is some 1,800 miles from the source of the quake that caused the huge wave, the government’s estimation is that at least 10,000 died; others say many more were drowned. The state population is about 65,000,000.

Some of the results as related to the gospel that have grown out of that horror I have reported before, but I can now give you a summary for the year. On that fateful date (December 26, 2004) of the death-dealing wave Don Iverson was in the States and I was in India. Both of us sent out appeals for help and churches across the US and from other countries responded. By January 1st, Don and I began coordinating the work of relief and soul winning. Here are some highlights of the work accomplished by God’s grace:

- 1) At the time we had more than 1,000 brethren around the state that had been trained in our twelve schools of preaching to be “tent making preachers” (Acts 18:3).
- 2) The vast majority of whom are day laborers and were therefore available for work on the coast in relief and in bicycle campaigns to win souls in the wake of the Tsunami. In relief work over an eleven-month period (January – November) about 25,000 were helped with physical needs, e.g., nutritious meals, sacks of rice, other food, household and personal needs: pots, pans, dresses, school clothes for children, relief to repair houses and other things. There were 200 to 250 Tamil brothers involved in this work.
- 3) Eleven months of preaching among these led to 1,627 baptisms and thirty-four new congregations being established on the coast itself.
- 4) The first bicycle campaign in the wake of the “tidal wave” was held January 3-12, with 233 preaching brethren traveling to villages and towns spreading the good news of salvation to those traumatized by the sudden onslaught of so many deaths. In nine days 671 souls were baptized.
- 5) Between May 9 and 19, a second statewide bicycle campaign was held, which involved 1,031 preaching brethren with 1,867 obeying the gospel.
- 6) On October 11 and 12 gospel lectures were held in thirteen locations across the state to fire up the brethren to win souls, motivate them to plant churches and appoint elders in older congregations. Fourteen hundred forty-five preachers attended those lectures and gave this report: **a)** In all 10,726 had been baptized in the first nine months of 2005, **b)** they

were preaching for *1,559 congregations, **c)** the membership total (not total attendance) was 32,496.

7) The third bicycle campaign of the year in the wake of the Tsunami was held December 18-31, and 3,072 were added to Christ’s church.

8) Adding this latter number to the baptisms reported in October gives the figure of 13,798 for the year; although it does not include any whom the brothers baptized between October 12 and December 18, as that figure was not available.

9) During the campaigns as well as at other times the brothers distributed more than 3,000,000 tracts during the year.

Our most pressing need is for monthly support for the on-going work. It takes \$60 a month to support a preacher in one of the schools of preaching. Besides the large influx into the SOP for single men, the growth of interest among all churches in 2005 will mean more married men will seek to enter the eleven schools open to them. In April we will have about 75 graduates for whom we will need to buy a bicycle (\$60). These brothers are not put on support. We always need to buy goats for widows. One goat costs about \$30 and we usually buy each widow five. In January we bought 15 widows 75 goats. Toward this we had received just over \$400, but the 75 goats cost right at \$2,100. The balance had to come from our general fund. Thirteen widows, all Christians (they have to be faithful for 18 months to two years) are now waiting for me to send the funds for their goats. If you have a Bible class that would like a picture of a Christian widow and her goats let me know. Above all pray for the lost, for my family and for me. J. Waldron

***We do not build, buy or rent buildings except in the case where we have a Bible training school. This we have done in 15 locations only.**

LETTER FROM A FRIEND [Feb. 6, ‘06]

Dear bro. Waldron,

As I was reading your “*Bulletin Briefs*,” Vol. 9, No 2, February ‘06, the article by Mickey Harrison entitled, “Beware of Corruption In Missions,” I was thinking that I could have written the same article about our work in Africa, specifically Malawi and the Ivory Coast.

I have made nine journeys to Africa to preach the Gospel, the last five have been to the Ivory Coast. The most recent was November, 2005 when we (Harriett and I), were to stay for three months. However, we got robbed and had to return after only three weeks. We plan to return in November 2006 to continue our work. The robbers stole all my diabetic medicines. Even with the help of the American Embassy, we could not replace them.



This past November, I preached in five different congregations, four of which were less than one year old. In all four of the new congregations, the main plea from the preachers was American money for support, plus 40—45 thousand dollars to build a church building. There seemed to be little passion to preach the gospel unless they could get the American support. They needed \$400 per month, yet the average Ivorian income in their areas is about \$50 per month. One congregation literally asked for \$50,000 to build a church building that would “attract the rich!” While there is much good work going on there, it seems that when the American dollar begins to flow in, preachers build themselves a comfortable life style, stop studying, and concentrate mainly on how to keep the dollars flowing in. We spend much time teaching against this dilemma.

American congregations, both generous and compassionate, have told me that it would be better to send \$5000 to the African brethren, rather than spend the same amount to send me there for a few weeks to preach. It just doesn’t work that way. The money would never accomplish its intended purpose.

Don’t get the wrong idea. There is much good work going on there. We have baptized hundreds, but there is the constant need to stay on top of this problem

Stay Hungry (Matt. 5:6)

Toby Miller P.O. Box 561, Auburn, Indiana 46706

Editor’s Note: The most urgent work of local churches of Christ in this generation is to get the pure and unperturbed gospel (Gal. 1:6-9) to the six and one half billion souls with whom we share this planet (Mark 16:15-16). Jesus expects us to bear much fruit as His disciples for He said “here in is my Father glorified” (John 15:8). Therefore we must not be slothful in the Master’s business. Yet, as the above letter and the article we published in February illustrate elders and congregations must be more diligent to expect that the work they support will be well disciplined not only to produce results, but that honesty and integrity must be maintained in all things. J.W.

THE URGENCY OF DISCIPLINE IN WORLD EVANGELISM

Jim Waldron

In His parable about the unjust steward our Lord said the master of the unjust steward commended him not for his culpability but for the astute manner in which he got what he truly desired. Note Jesus’ words, “so the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light” (Luke 16:8).