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Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m.
Bible Classes 6:00 p.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study

—Readers' Response Continued From P. 14

"Hope you and doing alright; we (Betty and I) think about you all often. We appreciate the great publication B.O.T. each time we receive it and pass it out to every family. Thanks again for your faithfulness to the book. Keep telling it like it is and just maybe it will help wake a few who are still concerned about truth. Not many congregations any size are any longer faithful here in middle Tennessee. Enclosed you will find our check to assist you in your work. Look forward to seeing you in June at the lectureship in Murray" — Paul and Betty Curless, TN. (We are looking forward to having you. I must get out the subjects for the lectures soon. We count on having you to speak, and I should get a subject out to you soon. Thanks for the help with our work. Middle Tennessee is where I grew up. I was not a member of the church then, but I can remember when that was a strong point for the church. But as in many instances, things are not like they used to be. But we must keep on keeping on! — Editor).

"Greetings in the wonderful Savior Jesus Christ. I want to thank you for your wonderful monthly publication that you send to interested persons. It is very profitable publication. Do not give up. Some are becoming Christians through this materials that you make. My request is could you put me in the mailing list so that I should be able to get your publication monthly? I have been blessed with Volume 13, December 2004, No. 11. Please do so. We teach Bible classes daily and preach Christ in rural areas, so your materials will be our weapon for Christ because it was digested in good order. So enroll our congregation in your mailing list that we should not miss this publication monthly (Banner of Truth)." — I. S. T. Nyaslu, Malawi.

FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

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The Judge Alito Hearings And The Advance Of The Current Culture War

The current culture war, which has been under way for the past several decades, continues in an unabated way. Valid evidence of this was clearly seen in the recently concluded Judge Alito Committee hearings.

In recent weeks the committee hearings of Judge Alito, the Supreme Court appointee, have taken a major spot on the national news. That appointees to the Supreme Court should receive attention is certainly in order, inasmuch as the Supreme Court is the highest court in our country and affects virtually every facet of our lives.

Having said the above, we suggest that the appointment of Judge Alito has evidenced an agenda by a political power to advance the current culture war to a degree hardly seen before. This is a matter about which all of us should be deeply concerned.

By discussing the above subject, I can imagine some critics saying: "There you go again, getting into politics." Well, call it what you may, politics affects our lives in many ways and we should get involved in many instances. Our country is run by a political system. Yes, I am concerned about the political direction our country

takes. You see, our Lord's church is affected by the politics of our country, as are members of the church and other citizens. Therefore, I make no apology for discussing things of a political nature which have to do with our spiritual lives and the Cause of Christ.

Thus far, I haven't been able to figure out the reasoning of some, even christians, in the position they take. That position is set forth in the following: A person may in the realm of politics support evil in various forms and not be held accountable by the Lord. A case in point is the support of abortion and homosexuality. From more than one I have heard something like the following: "I don't believe in abortion or homosexuality." But at the same time these individuals support the political party which uses these two things as major planks in their political platforms. It is sort of like having a "Divine right" to engage in things →

BANNER OF TRUTH

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Continued from Page 1

which are such in politics and not be held accountable for such action.

Bidding "God speed" to evil makes one a partaker of that evil (2 John 9-11). God's word teaches that sin is a transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4), and that would include transgression in the political realm as well as in other realms. We are not allowed to bid "God speed" to error and be guiltless (1 Jno. 1:9-11), even though some must believe otherwise.

In the Judge Alito hearings, it is a matter of record that the primary basis of opposition to him by his critics has been their fear that he may be opposed to the killing of innocent children by abortion. Sadly, our country has never been deeper in the depths of immorality than now. When the sanctity of human life becomes meaningless to a great portion of society, that is about as low as can be. Just think. The animal of the field has more legal protection than the unborn human child here in America. Kill an eagle and you will spend time in prison; kill an unborn child and there are sources to help pay the bill.

It has been most evident in the Alito hearings that the minority political party thinks it should have more power than the majority political party. Though it should not be so, a minority of evil does some times is allowed to prevail over a majority which advocates well doing. This says something about the minority party that should serve as an eye-opener to everyone who believes in the sanctity of human life. This is a matter of which the prophet Isaiah speaks, when people call "evil good and good evil" (Isa. 5:20).

Many spoke out against Judge Alito in an evil and angry manner, as though he were a criminal who should be opposed by all means. But there were some critics who used a different tactic. They spoke in a way which was designed to arouse emotions to encourage people to favor the evil of taking the life of innocent, unwanted children by abortion. The objectives were the same, they just went about it in different ways.

One example of appealing to the emotions to uphold abortion was Kate Michelman, President of NARAL. This pro-abortion organization was formerly known as National Abortion Rights Action League. The group changed the name in 2003. Regardless of what it is called, it is the epitome of evil.

This emotional appeal was made after the following fashion, though I'm not quoting Kate Michelman verbatim. This mother of three living children tells her story in a sad and pleading way. Her husband, so the story goes, had walked out on her and their three children. This, of course, would place a burden on her, the taking care of three children. It is more than understandable that a woman alone rearing three children would be somewhat of a burden. Many mothers have borne such burdens in the rearing of their children. My mother's sister gave birth to ten children, and when her husband died she reared those children without a husband. She would not have aborted even one of them had it been legal then to do so. To her, the burden of rearing her children was very much worth it. Many mothers have reared children without a supporting husband because they thought their children were worth it.

Now, back to Kate Michelman. With three children and a no husband, she already faced a burden; but, it would increase considerably if she gave birth to—let live—her fourth child, which she was carrying in her womb. Like the rich fool in Luke 12, she had a

FELLOW-HELPERS

Nov., Dec. 2005, Jan. 2006

CONGREGATIONS:

Pine Ridge	150.00
Rockford Illinois congregation	25.00
Saks	180.00
Maple Hill	300.00
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Berea	100.00
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Raymond Leadbetter	20.00
Total contribution	4,805.00

"That we might be fellowhelpers to the truth" (3 John 8)

Please accept our sincere thanks for you support of our work with Banner of Truth in a financial way and by your words of encouragement. May the Lord richly bless us as we work together to get the truth to thousands of people in our country and in other as well. —Editor

Banner of Truth Financial Report

Nov., Dec. 2005, Jan. 2006	
Balance on hand Nov. 1	10,206.92
Nov., Dec. & Jan. contribution	4,805.00
Total funds available	15,011.92
Total expenses:	
Mailing, postage, returns	2,640.46
Plates, labels, other supplies	430.48
	3,070.94
Total funds available	15,011.92
Less total expenses	3,070.94
Balance on hand Jan. 31, 2006	11,940.98

Postage rates have gone up about 12% this year, but we are confident that our brethren will continue to meet our financial needs, and for this we are thankful indeed - Editor

Banner of Truth Lectures

June 5–8, 2006

Warring A Good Warfare

Carris Center – Murray, KY

Twenty-eight timely lessons presented by capable speakers. Why not arrange your schedule and make plans to attend this spiritual feast?

“How are you these days? I do long to hear from you my dear brother. Want to let you know that you have been one of encouragements to me to go on serving the Lord faithfully. Also, I want to let you know you are in our prayers. With love and prayer” — **Jozel, Philippines.** (*It's so good to hear from you, Jozel. I shall always remember you from the time we first met when I preached in a meeting at Central in Manila. It is good to know that you now have a good companion, who is devoted to serving the Lord, and three children, that you and your wife have the opportunity of bring up in the 'nurture and admonition of the Lord.'* — Editor).

“It certainly was good, talking with you last night and with your wife earlier in the day. So glad you both are feeling better. I have been taking Banner of Truth for several years and look forward to receiving it each month, knowing full well that it contains the truth of God's word. We pray that you will have many more years to labor in the Lord's kingdom. Keep up the good work” — **Charles Miller, FL.** (*We thank you as a reader of Banner of Truth for several years, and we thank you for your prayers that we will have many more years to labor in the kingdom of our Lord* — Editor).

“I really appreciate the recent issue discussing elders. As the Brits say, 'It was spot on.' Lately, I have given a lot of thought as to why so many of our brethren are placing so much emphasis on activities of fellowship. It seems that it is o.k. to pay for any type of fellowship out of the church treasury. I have recently come to the conclusion that brethren have confused fellowship with edification. Fellowship activities do help promote peace and harmony among members. Therefore, it one questions the practice of sponsoring fellowship from the treasury, they say, 'fellowship is edifying and the church is taught to edify.' I may be wrong but my studies of the scripture have led me to believe that edification is the process of building up the church and members through teaching of God's word, thus increasing faith. I don't anywhere find the authorization for the church to use fellowship for edifying. What are your thoughts on this. Do you know of any written material on this subject? If so, please let me know. We so much appreciate the good and needed work you continue to do and pray God's blessings to be on you and your family as you strive to do His will. In Christian love” — **Don Waggoner, AL.** (*Don, I can't think right now of material on the subject. But I believe we have gone too far in emphasis upon food and drink. Peter says the "sincere milk of the word" is needed to grow. While it is good to get together as Christians, the kingdom is not "food and drink." Our fellowship should include much more than food. I'm appalled at the trend of engaging in entertainment, as though this edifies* — Editor).

“What wonderful copies of Banner of Truth we received

a few days ago. I am still reading and studying these, Vol. 14, September & October, 2005 bulletins. A note to let you know how much you are valued as you speak the truth about Jesus and His Word. My husband, Larry Ware, and I, Rose Marie Ware, live in Granite, OK. We thank you so much for sending us you B.O.T. We will send you a check to help cover the cost by snail mail on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2005. Thank you for your efforts and for all those collate, fold, staple, and make address labels and mailing these by zip codes. We are both ex-printers and office workers so we understand the difficulties that can arise while publishing a newsletter. Thank you again. Larry is a Volunteer Preacher and Teacher at the Oklahoma State Reformatory, a prison 2nd only to McAlester in Oklahoma. OSR does not have the death penalty as does McAlester but some of the worst criminals are in this prison....We are keeping busy even though everyone thinks we are retired! I knew a couple once who retired from preaching after 30 years and never went to a worship service again – I could not determine how one retires from God???” — **Larry and Rose Marie Ware, OK.** (*As for retiring, I can't seem to find the time to do that! I never have enough time to do what I want and need to do. The preacher of whom you spoke must have been preaching for "the loaves."* Teaching those who have gone in the wrong direction and are serving time in a prison, is a greatly need work, I'm sure. People who are paying for their mistakes in that way should think seriously about a different life for the future. Thanks for the check — Editor).

“Received B.O.T. today and thought I would help you with a printer. May the Dear Lord continue to bless you and sister Naomi. Hope you have a joyous Holiday Season” — **Ernest E. Armstrong, TX.** (*Thank you for your generosity! It is encouraging when brethren are willing to have a part in our work by supplying the finances which are necessary to carry on. I have purchased another stapler and have a used printer. If it does not work I will be able to buy a new one if need be. Our New Year has started off well. We have some aches and pains, but I had rather be here and do so than not to be here at all! Our prayer is that you will have a wonderful year this year and that there will be many more to come.* — Editor).

We Appreciate The Readers' Response. We are not able to carry it all, but we do not just select the favorable ones. We carry both positive and negative responses. We believe this helps our readers to better understand how our brethren think and what some of the problems facing our brotherhood are. We encourage you to let us hear from you and know and let us have your thoughts. —Editor

problem. “What shall I do?” Like the rich fool “reasoned” out a solution. “This will I do.” She would kill the child in her womb, thus solving the problem of an increased burden by a fourth child. This is what she did. She murdered her unborn child.

She showed no remorse, as far as I could tell, for having killed her unborn child, but to the contrary she appeared thankful that she could lessen her burden by killing her fourth child. To her the legal killing of her baby served as a blessing. She also appeared happy that she could give her experience with the intent that it would help the practice continue. Her conscience? I saw no evidence to suggest that the act bothered her conscience at all.

In other words, the life of that unborn child was not worth any extra effort which would be added to its mother, who was at least partly responsible for the child being in her womb. But legally, the mother could kill her unborn child, which she did with impunity. One wonders whether such a “mother,” were it legal, would have killed her other three children to lessen her burden? It seems that a mother so lacking in “natural affection” (2Tim 3:3) for her unborn child that she would not let it live, then her love and concern for her three other children might neither be that strong.

Listening to the several hours of those questioning Judge Alito, I took note of the terminology used by his critics. They never used the word “kill” or “murder” with reference to abortion. In fact, they didn't use the word “abortion” very often. When it was clear that they had in mind the killing of unborn children by abortion, they would instead say “Roe v. Wade.” Why did they avoid certain terms? What do you think? It appeared to me, and to many others, that this was an attempt to get the minds of the hearers off the reality of the act, the evil act, of killing unwanted human beings.

Having worked a number of years in other countries where it was necessary to use a translator in order to get the message across to the hearers, it occurred to me that some of the terminology used by Judge Alito's critics should be “translated” in order for people to fully understand what those people were actually saying. We shall note a few examples of the many which were used during the hearings. There is no reason to doubt the intentional use of such terminology and the reason for it: People are not as likely

to be reminded of the gruesome reality of the wanton murder of innocent children, that it some times entails tearing them limb from limb or sucking out their brains to bring about death. Let us “translate” for the pro-abortion folks:

1. “Pro Choice.” — In favor of the right to choose to kill the unborn.
2. “Freedom of Choice.” — The legal right to choose to kill the unborn for any reason.
3. “People's Rights.” — Usually the “right” to choose abortion over the birth of a child.
4. “Lose our Freedom.” — Lose the right to kill the unborn rather than letting them live.
5. “Pack the Court.” — To put people on the court who believe the Constitution does not give a mother a right to kill her unborn child. Having a majority of judges who favor abortion is not “packing the court.”
6. “A woman's right over her own body.” — The right to take the life of “another body,” the child in her womb, which is not “her body.”
7. “A Fetus.” — A living child, a person, within its mothers womb, which in some states constitutes murder if it is killed.
8. “Women's Reproduction Freedom.” — The freedom to stop “reproduction” by killing the living child while in the mother's womb.
9. “Extreme View.” — That unborn children are human beings whose life should be protected.

Again, I ask, are not the above terms used to lead people's minds away from the grizzly thought of murder? If not, why are such terms used?

Those in favor of taking the lives of the innocent unborn are clearly working to advance an evil Culture War. Fifty years ago, such terms as the above, with their present meaning, were scarcely if ever heard. Had politicians then had taking innocent human life by abortion as a major plank in their political platform as is the case now, they would have gotten nowhere. How times have changed; but no surprise, for Paul said, “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse...” (2 Tim. 3:13). Who can honestly deny that this has happened, even in our own generation?

Judge Alito was confirmed to be a Justice of our Supreme Court. This was a sound defeat for those who believe in abortion and whose priority was a judge who favors abortion. But to those who value the →

sanctity of life, Judge Alito's confirmation was a ray of light in a morally benighted world. They believe that Judge Alito's confirmation is a step in the right direction, because he is perceived to favor life rather than death of the unborn. There must be something to this given the lengths to which the pro-abortion people went to defeat Alito. Had his critics thought Alito was in favor of abortion, most, if not all, would have been in favor of confirming him. The action of his critics has been rightly described as "despicable." And the background of some of his critics is such that it makes it even more so.

Though the confirmation of Judge Alito was an encouragement to those who believe unborn children have a right to live, we must bear in mind that the battle is not over by any means. Given the number of those who resorted to the tactics of Judge Alito's critics, this is a strong indicator that they will not give up easily. Evil often resists efforts to overcome it, and especially when those efforts weaken.

To help us realize the enormity of the movement to kill the unwanted, just stop to consider that 42 Senators voted against Judge Alito, and 58 voted in favor. Now link this to the scary thought of what can happen if the pro-abortion party gets control of the Senate. The prospects of overturning Roe v. Wade would then be nil., perhaps for generations to come. For thirty-three, years, our Supreme Court has upheld the murder of innocent unborn children; the number of people who favor abortion is much greater now that it was then.

Those who favor the sinful, though legal, act of abortion realize their greatest opportunity to continue the legal practice is through the courts. This may account for some of the despicable tirades by some of the senators. They know that, not through elections, rather through judges can abortion and other anti-God policies be enacted.

The broader scope of our discussion is the Culture War. The Alito hearings were closely related to that war. How so? The current Culture War has as its objective the removal of virtually every vestige of God's influence from our society. The number of those who want a strictly secular society in our country is increasing. We know that those who believe in God, the giver of life, believe in the protection of the life of the

unborn as well as the born. If God's influence is removed from our society, then the reason for believing in life will no longer exist. Then, killing the unborn, as well as many other ungodly acts will become so commonplace that few will even lift an eyebrow at any action or practice.

Another battle in this war which also has to do with the Supreme Court and the sanctity of life, is that of the "suicide prescription." The Supreme Court recently upheld the Oregon law which permits doctors to prescribe drugs or means of suicide. Just think how easily it is under such a law to induce the old, disabled, unwanted, whose minds may no longer be working well, to opt for a "suicide pill." Please do not foolishly say, "It can't happen."

This is a form of so-called euthanasia, mercy killing. It is all about getting rid of the unwanted in society, by legal means, as in the case of the unwanted unborn. The practice is now in vogue in Holland; it was a practice under Hitler's reign in Germany. Many of the old, and those who were not a benefit to society were simply killed off. It seems that those who believe in the killing off of unborn and unwanted children would not be too averse to getting rid of the feeble and infirm.

It is unlikely that those who are much younger (I am eighty) fully understand the nature and advance of the current culture war. They have not lived during a time when many of the common unethical things of today were not common. Those of us who are older are astounded at what we see taking place, and the unconcern evidence by such a great portion of our society.

What Can and Should We Do?

Just as those who favor the taking of the life of the totally innocent unborn speak out so forcefully, so should we speak out even more forcefully in favor of life. Some times we underestimate what a minority of people, who sincerely believe in God, can do when they are determined and unwilling to give up. We should use every opportunity to speak up in support of allowing the unborn to live. Don't be afraid of criticism. It comes with the territory. Standing up for God, His Word, and Truth as Christians should, is sure to bring forth criticism. — Editor

Readers' Response

"Thanks so much for sending Banner of Truth. It is a very worthwhile paper. God bless you all" — **Geraldine Bearden, AR.**

"Thank you so much for your stand for the truth. We recently moved to Tuscon, AZ. Out of 14 churches only one is sound. Hope you and yours are blessed greatly in the New Year. God bless you and the church at Hickory grove. In His name" — **Baleri & Darron Cunningham, AZ.** (*I'm hearing the same story from many places. That is, the sound congregations are few and far between. How sad that is. I can well remember when most were sound. — Editor.*)

"Please sent me your publication "Banner of Truth." Thank you and God bless" — **Ernest Sands, Sr, GA.**

"Dear Banner of Truth, We have always learned a lot from your newspapers. We had an address change back in Jan. 03 and the post office quit forwarding them to us. We talked many a time about sending you our new address but shamefully 'never got around to it.' Would you kindly send us the back issues from Feb. 03 up till the current time? We have enclosed a check to pay for the postage and also to help further your hard work. Your articles have always helped us to understand different 'touchy' topics that would come up (dance, marriage, divorce, remarriage, etc.). Please don't ever give up your paper. Thank you very much" — **Mr. & Mrs. Andy Shanks, MO.** (*How kind.. I, too, sometimes fail to do things. A bundle of back issues is on its way.. We have about 90 issues that we try to send when people ask for them. Thank you for the check to help in our work and for sending your new address. That's a favor to us It is our intention to keep the paper going as long as we are mentally and physically able to do so — Editor.*)

"I pray this finds you and the work there going well. Would you please add me to your mailing list for 'Banner of Truth'? I appreciate your good work for the Lord and his church" — **David Ferneyhough, SC.**

"Dear Banner of Truth. My husband and I really learn a lot from your publication. We have recently moved and want to continue receiving it. Thank you" — **David & Twila Dozier, TN.** (*Thanks for letting us know — Editor.*)

"Hey, Brothers, I would like to receive your free publications. I read of few of your publications from a friend. I enjoyed reading each one and have shared them with others" — **Terrell Mack, GA.** (*We are happy to have you as a reader, and we do appreciate your sharing them with others. This helps us to increase our mailing list of those who want them and will profit from them. Your are being a "fellow helper" with the truth — Editor.*)

"Dear brother Pigg: I'm writing you with a sad heart but

I'm not able to get all the bundle of BOT out any more. I'm asking you to stop the bundle, but please don't stop my single one. Please keep sending it. I enjoy reading it. It is sound reading and that's what we need today. So much false teaching. They clap their hands here when they have a baptism. I talked to three of the sisters about it. They thought it O.K. They said it showed joy. I said it didn't show reverence. They said, well the kids like it. I told them they picked it up from Tulsa Workshop. We never had it until they went to it and brought it back here, and the elders let them keep it because the kids liked it. I talked to two elders once about it and for a while it stopped and they would sing a beautiful song, which sounded so much better. But now it has begun again. I'm going to talk to them again. Maybe if I keep on they will stop. I pray for you and sister Naomi for a long life in the Lord's work. I'll soon reach my 94th birthday. I had a broken hip and feel prayer has helped me to be as well as I am. I covet your prayers all the time. I've never met you all in person, but I love you both for the work you all are doing. I don't ant to miss a bulletin. God bless you both. In Christian love," — **Ica Savage, OK.** (*We are sorry that your health is such that it prevents you form doing the things you want to do. But we are thankful that the Lord has given you so many years to be a great servant in His church. I have printed your entire letter because I think it is a good example of one who loves God's truth and is devoted to upholding it in every way you can. My heart goes out to many of our readers who are in their golden years, who still love the truth. But I am saddened when some are not given a listening ear by those who are in the leadership. Younger people can learn much they need to know from servants such as you. You have seen changes come about within the Lord's church that many have never seen. So many don't know what the church was like fifty years ago. The church was not perfect then, on the side of man, but it was in a much better condition than it is today, since the bringing in of many innovations which are not in harmony with the Book. May the Lord richly bless you with much more time — Editor.*)

"We have made a couple of moves during the past three years and somehow our copy of 'Banner of Truth' has not been received. We have missed it very much and would like to be placed on your mailing list again if possible. Thank you very much" — **Melvin Smook, AR.** (*We are happy to add your name again. When we received a 'returned' BOT, we mark that name off our mailing list. Each 'return' costs us 39¢. We are always happy to add a name again when the reader desires — Editor.*)

"Would you please send me a copy of each of the Back Issues of Banner of Truth? It is a great paper" — **Ronald Boatwright, AR.** →

as to the reality of Islam. However, a few are unafraid to “tell it like it is” with regard to Islam. Cal Thomas and Suzan Fields are among those who tell us things we need to know about this religion.

Evil, of which Islam is an example, can hardly be stopped by either feeding it or fearing it. By “feeding it,” we mean attempting to placate, pacify or appease. A good example of that in world affairs was Neville Chamberlain of Great Britain, when he gave in to Hitler and his Germany.

I believe it was a couple of years ago that a man and a woman, in Alaska, set out to make friends with some bears, who are some times man-eaters. They spent quite some time with the bears, attempting to make friend with them. This worked quite well for a time. But time ran out. Those bears were man-eaters all the time, in spite of their show of friendship. But the time came when the bears “took them in.” They ate them.

Columnist Cal Thomas, writing with respect to the danger posed by Islam, said: “The good news is that they speak openly of their intentions. The bad news is that many of us are not taking them seriously. “ When we reflect upon the actions of Muslims over the past few years, including 9/11, it could hardly have been said better. Thomas also said that “what may the greatest threat” was “radical Islam.”

There is no lack of evidence that Islam is “a radical religion.” A point many fail to understand is that Muslims who are true to their so-call holy book, are radical. This is what the Koran teaches them to be. This is one instance in which it is better for a religion to be liberal rather than conservative. The liberal Muslim is not as likely to follow the Koran which clearly teaches Muslims to kill the “infidel” or “unbeliever.”

As American citizens we should be deeply concern as to the danger posed by Islam, and as Christians we should be even more concerned. Under Islam it would be difficult if not impossible to worship the one and only true God. Within the church there is a great need for more teaching on Islam. With the present growth of Islam, the time when it will have a great power in our society may not be as far off as some think. Since I’m eighty years old, I may not live to see it, but my children and grandchildren could very well do so.

But let us remember that the Lord will find a way for us if we remain loyal to Him.

—Editor

Car Wash? — Sex!

My memory is not all that good anymore, but I can remember a game that people used to play. I think it was called The Matching Game. The game worked this way: A player would mention a word, and someone would say something to match that word. An example might be: “Bread?” “Butter,” someone responds. The two are kind of related in that when we think about bread we are likely to think about butter, which might go on the bread.

It is not springtime now, but it won’t be long until the sun is out in force and spring is in full swing. It is then that the above game is more likely to be played. The game we are talking about is: **Car Wash? — Sex.** Most of us are familiar with that game, or at least, should be. But in case you are not familiar with it, let me fill you in.

The setting for the game to take place is on some prominent street corner, or other conspicuous place, where many cars drive by. A sign says, in large letters, “CAR WASH.” But who are the Washers? Many should guess who they are. The washers are pretty, young girls, whose sexuality could hardly be overlooked by the opposite sex. They may be dressed in short shorts, with the midriff bare under a scanty bit of covering above.

The game to be played is this: A sexually active male is the driver of the car. It could even be one who is now called “a sexual predator .” But as the car approaches the washers, the male sees all the bare skin they reveal. He also sees the sign: CAR WASH. In his mind he can play the matching game, and without doubt sometimes does so. It goes this way in his mind. “CAR WASH?” — “SEX” is the match, because it is so obviously intended to be so.

I’ve wondered if any of the male drivers have their car rewashed or washed a second time?

How can parents of the young, attractive girls allow them to present themselves in such a fashion? A parent who allows a daughter to display herself in such a way as to cause men to ogle at her sexuality must not think very highly of that daughter.

Sex is being flaunted in almost every possible way in our immoral day. Someone suggested that no matter what time it is, it is always “sex-o’clock.” Where have our former moral guidelines gone? There’s not much evidence of them now.

—Editor

Liberals and Their Use of Matthew 18:15-17

For years we have noted that brethren with a liberal bent toward God’s word, often and seriously misuse the above passage. We grant, however, that such misuse can be due to a misunderstanding of the text. There is a difference in using a passage in the wrong way due to a lack of understanding and intentionally using it incorrectly.

Different ones have approached me using this passage and suggesting that before responding to someone’s public error, I should first go and talk with them. Only recently a person asked me if I had gone and talked with people about their error before making any response to it.

For easy reference, let’s note the entire passage:

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou has gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let them be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican (Matt. 18:15-17).

A cursory look at the passage shows that it deals with personal matters, rather than matters of the public arena. It bothers me that some people do not see this, and it raises some questions in my mind. Yet, as said, we grant that some people do not “see” things that are very clear in the Bible. Not so with some people, though. Some I know and have read after have know only too well what this passage says.

It is evident that the passage involves a conflict and offense of a personal nature. Consider:

1. Note the reference to individuals in verse 15: “Thy brother....Against thee....Tell him his fault between thee and him....He shall hear thee....Thou hast gained thy brother.”

2. “He” and “thee” stand out clearly in verse 16. It is only when the offending brother will not hear the offended brother that others become involved. The offended brother is to take with him “one or two more” knowledgeable witnesses that every word may be es-

tablished. At this point only three or four brethren are involved. It is still not a public matter.

3. It is only when the offender will not hear the offended that the matter becomes public in the sense of involving the church.

Our discussion is primarily concerned with capable people who misuse this passage; people who obviously have enough understanding of the Bible to see that private, not public, matters are under consideration. When people who clearly know better abuse this passage, it letitimately raises questions as to the motive involved. We cannot always know one’s motive, but we can know a tree by its fruit.

Let us first consider a real example of a serious misuse of the passage.

A brother writes an article in the church bulletin which is made available publicly. The article contains some harsh criticism of the Lord’s church, as voiced by people outside the church. Though the writer fails to offer valid evidence that the harsh criticism is justified, he agrees with the critics in a number of instances. When I respond to the above public article in a public way, via BOT, the writer of the critical article implies, in correspondence to me, that I should have come to him first. in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17. I maintained, and still do, that since the writer’s article was unjustly critical of the Lord’s church in general and in a public way, I am not duty bound to go to him before responding to his public article in a public way.

The writer also cited Matthew 7:23 and chided me for violating the *Golden Rule*. Let me clearly say —If I write something for public distribution which deserves criticism due to its lack of scriptural justification, I expect people to respond to it in a public manner, whether they ever see me or not. They have a duty to do so.

Let me here make an observation which I believe has a direct bearing upon the matter at hand: A person who is liberal-minded with reference to God’s word takes unjustified liberties with God’s Word. By this I mean that a strict compliance with what is clearly taught in the Bible is not considered essential. →

In other words, God's Word does not always mean what it says and clearly teaches. When an individual treats God's Word in this manner, he is not being honest with God. If then, a person is not honest with God, he would have no compunction about misusing Scripture so as to mislead mere men.

Now some questions:

1. Is it reasonable to believe that a person of average intelligence cannot see (understand) that the passage under consideration has reference to a difference between individuals, and not to a public matter?
2. Could it be that the passage is knowingly misused in an attempt to ward off criticism of some error of some kind which should be criticized?
3. Could it be a copycat action because it is quite often used by other liberal minded brethren?
4. Could it be used in an effort to try to unjustly place blame upon those who steadfastly oppose error in accordance with the plain teaching of the New Testament?
5. Is it wrong to knowingly "pervert" or misuse a passage of scripture?
6. Is it wrong to use the passage as referring to individual differences only, and not to those of a public nature?
7. Would the misuse of the passage be a case of "wresting" the scriptures as referred to in 2 Pet. 3:16?

Suppose one does go to the false teacher first. Is he going to retract what he has taught? One couldn't count on it. It is some times the case that the teacher of error responds by saying he didn't mean what he wrote or said orally. Or, the response might be that he was misunderstood, even though what was said was clearly unambiguous. In either case, a preacher should not speak or write unless he has the ability to say what he means. Neither should he speak or write when he does not mean what he says, nor that which is not in harmony with God's word. If these three rules were followed, it would lessen considerably what our liberal-minded brethren are saying.

Another consideration of going to the false teacher before responding to his publicly taught error is that his error is allowed to be publicly distributed without any response from the side of truth. Should teachers

of error expect such advantage? Apparently some do. This the apostle Paul would not have done. On one occasion Paul said to the Galatians, with regard to "false brethren," "To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you" (Gal. 2:5).

Brethren, we should never strive to make a passage say something that it does not say, nor lead anyone to believe anything which is not the truth and nothing but the truth. When we find someone attempting to do this, then it is in order raise questions as to the motive involved. It is a matter of fact that some times people attempt to mislead people with regard to doctrinal matters. There are various possible motives for doing this, but not a single one of them is right.

With regard to Matthew 18:15-17, I have had preachers, elders, and individuals call me into question as to why I did not go and speak to some individual who taught error in a very public way before responding to said error. This shows, for whatever reason, an attempt to use the passage in a way that was not intended by our Lord.

To use a passage in the wrong way due to a lack or learning is one thing, but to deliberately use a passage in the wrong way is nothing less than dishonest, and that should be recognized. —Editor

A Note from the Preacher

Mailing Banner of Truth to others: More than once people have addressed copies of BOT to individuals and then dropped them in the mailbox, without putting a stamp on the piece. Our mailing permit is good only at the Post Office where it was issued, Almo, KY 42020. Therefore, if you wish to mail a copy of BOT to someone, just remember to place a first class stamp on it. That is now 39 cents. If it is not stamped, then it is returned to us with "postage due" of 39¢.

We appreciate those who pass on copies of BOT to others, who they think would profit from reading them. A number of people have expressed appreciation for receiving a copy of the paper.

Wake Up To The Threat Of Islam!

Why discuss the religion of Islam? Well can I remember some brethren saying, "Why don't you just preach the gospel and leave others alone?" This is evidence of a misunderstanding of what the gospel of Christ is all about. The Gospel involves "others," in various ways. There are various stern warnings in the New Testament relative to those who are the enemies of the cause of Christ. Paul speaks of those who are "the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil 3:18). There are enemies of the Lord's church within the body. Paul warns of those in Acts 20:28.

In the October and November 2001 issues of B.O.T. and January 2003, the subject of Islam was discussed at some length. Many hours of study and research have been spent in learning about this evil religion. My eyes have been opened as to the real threat this fastest growing religion in our country poses to true Christianity and even our way of life in this country. It is evident, however, that many of us are still woefully unaware of this threat. It is urgent that we "Wake Up" and face reality.

Islam had its beginning by the edge of the sword, it has grown by the sword, and it is still using the sword (violence) to further its evil cause and accomplish its mission — conquest of the world.

Solid evidence of the continuing resurgence of the Islamic religion has been seen in many parts of the world recently. A rash of riots came about as a result of twelve cartoons published by the Danish newspaper *Jyllends-Posten*, Sept. 30, 2005. These cartoons involved the so-called prophet Muhammad, depicted in an unfavorable way. The cartoons were published in places other than Denmark.

As to the cartoons, I've not been able to view them in detail. The twelve cartoons I've only seen in a very miniature form. One cartoon has Muhammad wearing a bomb-shaped turban. In another one, Muhammad tells dead suicide bombers that he has run out of virgins with which to reward them. These two cartoons are not far-fetched, as some would have us believe. The terrorists in general are carrying out what Muhammad teaches in the Koran. It is a matter of fact that those who are killed in the support of Islam are promised virgins. Why should Muslims get so out-

raged when the reality of their religion is made known?

This recent rioting in several countries by the Muslims help to clear up some misunderstandings on the part of many as to the extent of Islamic power. Time after time we hear people touting the idea that Islam has been "hijacked" and that by a "few radicals." In this recent rioting more than "just a few" are involved. It is true that the clerics and imams stir up the rank and file Muslims, but even so, more than "a few" are involved. This is what Islam is about. People who do not think for themselves are easily led by those who lead them, regardless of the direction taken by the leaders. A case in point is that of the followers of Hitler and his evil actions.

A matter of which we should take note is that many newspapers and other sources have taken up Islam's gripe in a defensive way. Denmark has been criticized far and wide, because of the cartoons. Denmark's society is probably very secular, but even those who are in no sense religious can see some of the errors of Islam.

Mockery of Christ and Christianity can occur and there is little outrage. A picture of the supposed virgin Mary with cow dung on it doesn't cause riots in many countries. Why does criticism of Islam cause such an outrage? Is this not an indication of the power and influence of Islam?

A serious question which deserves an answer. If it is true, that Muslims are generally peaceful people and only a few are "radical," why don't the supposed to be peaceful Muslims stage riots and go all-out to condemn the terrorist activities of Muslims? Yet, it is very little that we hear by way of condemning the murder of innocent men, women and children by the Muslims, and this is happening on a regular basis. Could it be that the true Muslim, who knows the teaching of the Koran, knows that this type of activity is characteristic of Islam?

The influence of Islam is such that most news sources are afraid to publish the twelve cartoons which have caused such an uproar. To have people fear speaking out against the evil of Islam could not play better in the hands of the Muslims. Not many newspaper columnist speak out forcefully →

A Note from Virgil L. Hale

In October of 2005, my wife, Dana, and I moved from Tennessee to work with the congregation at Hickory Grove, Almo, KY. We have known the congregation for a number of years, as we worked in Kentucky for eleven years, and I had the privilege of speaking at Hickory Grove on numerous occasions. We are happy to be here and have been received in a great way. Hickory Grove is blessed with two fine elders, Jimmy Lockhart and Mike Smith. These men believe in standing for and defending the truth.

As you know, Hickory Grove is the publisher of *Banner of Truth*. Until we moved here I had no idea as to the number of hours that go into getting out each issue. Brother Pigg spends several days in the printing room getting all the printing done; this after many hours of work getting the paper ready for printing. Next comes the folding, which also requires many hours. About 7,500 copies are printed each time. After the folding comes the tasking of putting each page in its proper place. Next comes the stapling, which is a slow process (one at a time). Finally, each issue must be addressed for mailing, and then taken to the Post Office. Many people are involved in this work, and we are grateful for each one who helps in any way. When you read your copy, just give some thought as to the many hours of work that has gone into that issue.

May we all be ready to uphold and defend the truth regardless of the opposition, and may we do so with love and concern for souls (ours and others).

Signed: *Virgil L. Hale*

EDITOR'S NOTE: I have known Virgil and Dan for many years. Virgil knows and preaches the Truth, and he is known by people in this area. We appreciate his mentioning *Banner of Truth*, which is sponsored by the Hickory Grove church. Virgil is already helpful in getting BOT ready to mail. He is right: Many people have no idea as to how much work is involved in publishing the paper.

Though *Banner of Truth* is sponsored by Hickory Grove, I do not preach at Hickory Grove. I preach for the Dexter congregation, whose meeting place is a couple of miles from Hickory Grove. People from both congregations have a part in the work which is necessary to produce B.O.T.

Tanzania: An Opportunity for Serious Evangelism Investment

May I commend to BOT readers *Anthony and Shasta Brown*? This faithful christian couple with several years' experience "in the field," have now made preparations for the long haul. Their one child is now headed to college; they have sold their house and auctioned off belongings. Their faces are now set toward the East African country of Tanzania.

Anthony is a graduate of Freed Hardeman University, Memphis School of Preaching, and received an M.Ed. from Tennessee State University. In addition to his work in Tanzania, he has worked for local churches in the U.S., and as a Special Education teacher. Shasta holds degrees both from FHU and Western Kentucky University; she is a licensed CPA.

Their work is under the aegis of the Kensington Woods church in Hattiesburg, MS. They will work together with Cy and Stephanie Stafford. Anthony will serve as Dean of Students and instructor for the Andrew Connally School of Preaching, as well as work with local churches to strengthen them and help them develop leadership. Shasta already has work cut out for her in conducting Bible studies and seminars for women in Tanzania.

Though it "dates" me, I have known this couple for several years. Shasta was a teenage christian in my first fulltime work. The lives of the Browns, from the get-go, have been centered around Christ and His church. Neither of them is afraid of work. What an opportunity for a solid investment in evangelism. Better yet; they, back in the early '90s, spent three years in Tanzania, giving them a leg up on the culture.

The Browns will head out in October. They need faithful christians and churches to support their effort and resolve. They are worthy of our finances and prayers. Contact them: Anthony and Shasta Brown, 7452 East Plunders Creek Rd., Dickson, TN 37055; TEL- 615-446-7360 (H), 615-419-0520 (M); email: anthonybrown9@aol.com; shastagail@aol.com; or, via the Kensington Woods church of Christ, 415 South 40th St., Hattiesburg, MS 39402-1724; TEL- 601-264-2945, ext. 13, ATTN: Ken Upchurch.

Let's help them on their way.

—AA

Satan's Guide To Church Growth

Victor M. Eskew

We know the Lord wants His church to grow and increase. The book of Acts sets forth the beginning of the New Testament church. This inspired church history shows the phenomenal growth of the body of Christ. It began with about 3,000 people obeying the gospel. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). In Acts 4:4, the size of the church had increased to 5,000 men, excluding the women and children. The growth spread beyond the boundaries of Judah. Men and women obeyed the gospel in Samaria, in heathen lands, and in the imperial city of Rome. Yes, the Lord longs for the growth of His body.

Some have become so obsessed with church growth that they have forsaken the Lord's way and have begun to follow Satan's guide to church growth. First, they try to make the way **EASY** for people. One church in Jonesboro asked individuals to come to their services, which is proper. The inference, however, was made that they could sneak in and out without being noticed. All the "minister" wanted was for them to show up. Jesus didn't preach an easy message. In fact, He exhorted people to enter in at the "strait gate" (Matt. 7:13-14). This gate involves struggle, hardship, and difficulty. The Master's life was a life of struggle, sacrifice and death. His followers should expect nothing less (Matt. 10:24-25).

The second element involved in Satan's guide for church growth is **ENTERTAINMENT**. In the December 17th edition of "The Sun," an article was run about a musical drama being performed at the Nettleton Baptist Church. John Waters is quoted as saying: "The people have really enjoyed it." The article also states: "Attendance has also increased during the past few weeks." This proves our point. Entertainment and church growth go hand-in-hand today. Musicals, dramas, and concerts were not the methods used by the first century evangelists to increase church attendance. It was done by the simple preaching of the gospel of Christ. Some will laugh at this method. Perhaps, they need to study again Paul's words to the church at

Corinth. "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21).

The third method Satan uses to grow churches today involves **EATING**. Let us emphasize that we are not opposed to brethren eating together. The first century church ate with each other (Acts 2:46). Some, however, have taken eating way too far. Every event involves food and drink. Some churches have made snacking an essential part of Bible class and worship. There are churches that have put coffee shops in the foyer of the church building. The kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking. Some in Jesus' day would come as long as the loaves were present. Jesus chastised them for desiring only the food (John 6:26). He then said: "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give you: for him hath God the Father sealed" (John 6:27).

Satan's methods of church growth appeal to the carnal, fleshly side of man. They do not develop and nourish the inner man. Satan rejoices when his methods are used. He knows that church leaders and many church members are deceived by the increase in numbers. He also knows that there is no depth, no conviction, no lasting love for spiritual things in those who have been reached with these things. Our prayer is that churches will forsake Satan's method of church growth. We need to return to the simple method of sowing the incorruptible Word of God into the hearts of men and women, allowing God to give the increase (Lk. 8:11; I Cor. 3:6-7; I Pet. 1:22-23). —9664 Highway 49B, Brookland, AR 72417

WELCOME NEW READERS! We have New Readers with each issue of *Banner of Truth*. If you enjoy the paper and believe it to be worthwhile, we ask you to pass it on to others who might enjoy it.

WHEN YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES. We are happy to send *Banner of Truth* to those who want it for free. We appreciate it greatly when we receive address changes. It saves us \$. —Editor

Evolution (1)

You and I through our taxes pay for the indignity of having our children taught that human beings are essentially “matter in motion.” They are taught that “science has proved” that the origin of life, as to substance, is ultimately traced back to rocks, dirt, gas and water; that life’s origin, as to cause, is traced back to natural forces acting upon rocks, dirt, gas and water. They are then taught that the same natural forces, through immeasurable periods of time, have acted upon the first and simplest forms of life resulting in all the forms of organic life we see now, with man at the top of the heap. In a series of articles we will examine this thing we pay for; this thing called “Evolution.”

THE THEORY DEFINED. Discussing Evolution can be like trying to grab an eel or soap in the shower. The purported grounds and claims constantly shift; different people use different terminology. In just a few years, the “talking points” of the *evolution community* will shift to an entirely new paradigm.

From the outset then, it is necessary that specific definitions be noted and certain distinctions be drawn. It is a typical of evolution advocates to simply say that evolution is nothing more than the process of change; and, therefore, for one to admit that changes do in fact occur, is to admit that he accepts the theory of evolution. We who oppose the theory of evolution must not allow its advocates to employ such vague definitions.

At this point, proper distinction must be made between the “General Theory of Evolution,” which is to be dealt with, and the “Special Theory of Evolution”. This distinction, is one of the most crucial issues when dealing with the subject of evolution. As regards the distinction, a noted evolutionist, G. A. Kerkut, said:

There is a theory which states that many living animals can be observed over the course of time to undergo changes so that new species are formed. This can be called the “Special Theory of Evolution” and can be demonstrated in certain cases by experiments. On the other hand there is the theory that all the living forms in the world have arisen from a single source which itself came from an inorganic form. This theory can be called the “General Theory of Evolution...”¹

The distinction and difference between the two “theories,” and the implications of the latter should be fairly clear.

An observant resident of the planet recognizes the fact of the so called “special theory.” There is really no need to call it a theory, it is rather an acknowledgment of the reality of change, and formation of new varieties or species of organisms. That is why, as to cattle, we have Charlois, Angus and Jerseys. As to dogs, we have French Poodles and German Shepherds. In other words, this “special theory” does not fly in the face of other facts: (1) The Law of Biogenesis (i.e. life comes only from preexisting life); and (2) Genetic barriers between “kinds” of organisms, barriers that are never crossed.

The “General Theory,” however, respects neither of these, and further implies violations of numerous, known, observable, and demonstrable facts and laws. For a clearer picture of the “General Theory”, Dr. John Klotz gives the following practical definition: Evolution is the concept that nonliving materials became alive through natural processes by chance alone, that all things now alive are descended from a single or a very few initially living organisms, and that man himself is the product of a process of chance development over millions of years from nonhuman ancestors.²

We are not then talking about the difference between apples and oranges; rather, it is more like the difference between apples and bird dogs. In view of the tremendous distinctions between the two theories, we are compelled to agree with the following, “It is inaccurate and perhaps in some cases downright dishonest to pretend that the word evolution refers merely to change...Organic evolution [“General Theory”, AA] is not merely change from generation to generation such as would occur in selective breeding, but the concept that every living being is organically related to every other living being.”³

THE PREDOMINANCY OF THE “GENERAL THEORY OF EVOLUTION.” Surely no one book has had as a

great an impact upon all realms of education than has Darwin’s *Origin of Species*, which was published well over one-hundred years ago. From Mr. Darwin to the present, one thing is certain: If proof of a position or theory is to be based upon its acceptance by people of “profession” and “prestige,” then the “General Theory of Evolution” [from this point forward to be simply called “evolution,” AA] has certainly been proven. Notice how people pretentious people “prove” things:

It [evolution] has for many years been well-established scientifically...There are no hypotheses alternative to the principle of evolution with its “tree of life,” that any competent biologist takes seriously...students taking biology in high school, should be made aware of it, and of the fact that it is firmly established even as the rotundity of the earth is firmly established.⁴ – *Dr. Herman J. Muller, Nobel Laureate (genetics)*

[P]ractically every educated man believes in evolution...evolution is incorporated in the thinking of our time.⁵ – *Conway Zirkle*

[Darwin] rendered evolution inescapable as a fact, comprehensible as a process, all-embracing as a concept.⁶ – *Julian Huxley*

If one is easily swayed by “professional” asseverations, then the problem is settled at this point. Rational people, however, demand somewhat more.

THE IRONY OF SUCH PREDOMINANCY From the standpoint of science, evolution has never been observed to occur; it has never been demonstrated experimentally; and, the fossil record, the one alleged evidence that purports to be a “historical” record of evolutionary development from the past until now, shows nothing has occurred in the past save only what occurs now — i.e. life comes only from prior life, and always reproduces according to its own kind; which, or course, is more than merely coincidental with the Genesis record.

When Darwin finally published his *Origin of Species*, he sent complimentary copies to several scientists and others along with the following note:

There are so many valid and weighty arguments [emphasis mine, AA] against my notions, that you, or anyone, if you wish [to be] on the other side, will easily

persuade yourself that I am wholly in error, and no doubt I am in part in error, perhaps wholly so, though I cannot see the blindness of my ways. I may, of course, be egregiously wrong; but I cannot persuade myself that a theory which explains (as I think it certainly does) several large classes of facts, can be wholly wrong; notwithstanding the several difficulties which have to be surmounted somehow, and which stagger me to this day.⁷

May we borrow from Mr. Darwin and say that this series of articles will deal with certain “staggering” and “insurmountable” problems of evolution, and show that, rather than being “firmly established, even as the rotundity of the earth is established,” the theory of evolution is riddled with fatal wounds. To do this, this series will examine INTRINSIC PROBLEMS, SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS, and PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS of the theory of evolution.

¹ Kerkut, G.A. *Implications of Evolution*. Pergamon Press. 1960. Quoted in: *Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation*. Vol. 16, No. 4, 1964.

² Klotz, John. *Genes, Genesis, and Evolution*. Concordia Publishing House. St. Louis, Missouri. 1970, p. 9.

³ Camp, Robert S. *The Issue of Life*. Ed. Robert S., Camp and H. Douglas Dean. Religion, Science, and Communication Research and Development Corporation. Decatur, Georgia. Vol 1, p. 8.

⁴ Muller, Hermann J. Quoted in: Thompson, Bert. *Theistic Evolution*. Lambert Book House. Shreveport, Louisiana. 1977. P. 26.

⁵ Zirkle, Conway. *Ibid.*, p. 27.

⁶ Huxley, Julian. *Ibid.*, p. 27.

⁷ Davidheiser, Bolton. *Evolution and Christian Faith*. Baker Book House. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Seventh Printing 1976. Pp. 62-63.

—AA

Banner of Truth in its 15th Year

We started the paper with a mailing list of about 230. Since that time we have increased our mailing list to about 7,500. About 350 copies go to people in foreign countries. This includes bundles and individual copies. – *Editor*