

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Kacee Wasonga - Veroon and Hulder's daughter in Kenya. Undergoing rabies treatment and doing well.
Hiram Njiru - This Kenya brother in Dubai asked for prayers for his spiritual strength.
Patrick King - Neurological problems. Awaiting MRI Test.
Lee Moses - On medication and in therapy.
David Brown - Spring, Texas preacher, blood clots in his leg.
Sandy Craig - Ongoing kidney problems. Kidney function is up to 37 percent, but should be 70.
Jo Ann McLerran - Back problems/COPD.
Glenda Marble - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.
Debbie Post - Wife of Doug Post, Salisbury, Maryland preacher - Cancer.
Sissy Craig - For spiritual and emotional strength.
Charles and Linda Pogue - Congestive heart failure.
Barbara Sybert - Charles Pogue's sister. Suffering from cancer that has spread to her lungs and liver.
Nancy Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Suffers from Von Hippel Lindau disease.
Chuck Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Prostate Cancer.
Don Smith - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

HEALTH ISSUES - Brother Chuck Verkist had a Bone and CT Scan in Yakima, WA on Oct. 2 to determine if his prostate cancer has spread to his bones and lymph nodes. He will have results of those tests on Oct. 11.

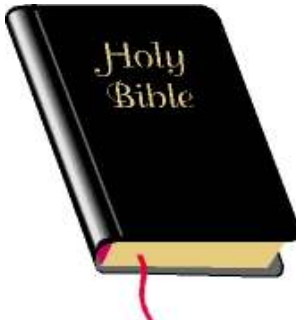
KENYA REPORT - Contributing to the Kenya Fund this week were Gary and Jacque Rogers, Quanah, Texas. Benard returned this week from worshiping with the Dubai church in Namamnga in Masai country. He reports that the preaching school at Bomet is going very well. The Brewers will stop by Denton, Texas on their way to Huntsville where Dub McClish has books from the late Dub Mowery to be sent to Kenya.

GONE TO TEXAS - This week's bulletin is being sent early, as Jerry and Sherlene leave Wednesday for Huntsville, Texas where he will preach in a gospel meeting. Please pray for their safe travel and a fruitful gospel effort. Patrick will preach at Northeast this Lord's Day.

Website - www.necocelkcity.com
 Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok
 You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ

<p>Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Oct 15, 2017 First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer Communion - Dylan Brewer Offering - Patrick King Sunday Afternoon, Oct. 15, 2017 First Prayer - Earl Reed Closing Prayer - Patrick King</p>	<p>Records - Oct. 8 Attendance Bible Class.....13 Morning Worship.....14 Afternoon Worship.....18 Contribution.....\$136.00</p>
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<p>Weekly Meeting Times</p>
<p>Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30 Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00</p>



Sound Doctrine

“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)

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“Here's The Problem With Faith”

Jerry C. Brewer

The following comment comes from a website which debunks urban legends. It was made in reference to the legend making internet rounds in which a young student, named Albert Einstein, allegedly refuted an atheist professor's denial of God's existence: “Here's the problem with faith: that which are articles of it can't be proved. (According to our dictionary, faith is firm belief in something for which no proof exists...) Those who are convinced of the existence of God, therefore, have no incontrovertible, irrefutable answer to anyone who challenges them to provide evidence of the veracity of their belief systems' tenets.” (www.snopes.com/religion/einstein.asp).

Like most of the world, the writer of the above views faith as wishful thinking. But the faith of which the Bible speaks is not some kind of wishful thinking. It's conviction based upon evidence. Without evidence, there is no faith at all. All faith, whether it is true or false rests upon evidence. A study of Hebrews 11 indicates that faith is simply hearing God's word and acting upon it. “By faith, Abel offered...” “By faith, Noah...moved with fear, prepared an ark...” “By faith, Abraham, when he was called to go out...obeyed.” In all of these cases, the faith of these worthies was based upon evidence.

The thesis of John's gospel is to produce faith in Christ as God's Son (John 20:30-31). One who accepts that does so based upon the *evidence* of Christ's life presented by John. It is foolish to say that “faith is firm belief in something for which no proof exists,” as the commentator on the above website avers. Jesus *proved* His claims by the miracles He did (John 5:36) and those claims were faithfully recorded by inspired men for all time.

Testimony in a criminal or civil court trial is given by credible witnesses and that testimony is corroborated by evidence. The trial is committed to permanent record by a court reporter and once the judgment is rendered, all of the testimony and evidence is available for anyone to read. We wonder if the above commentator believes that the “Scopes Monkey Trial” took

place in Tennessee in the 1920s. If so, upon what would the commentator base his belief? And if he believes the trial took place, can he prove it? Of course—by the written evidence.

If I were to take off hitch hiking east on Interstate 40, to travel to the moon do you suppose I could wind get there? According to the commentator cited above I would be traveling to the moon on faith, because the world defines faith as a “leap in the dark.”

But faith is based upon *evidence*—not a stab in the dark.. The commentator who said believers in God, “have no incontrovertible, irrefutable answer to anyone who challenges them...” doesn’t understand that his own existence bespeaks the existence of God. David said, “the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork” (Psa. 19:1 ASV), and Paul declared that the universe and all that therein is testifies to the existence of a Creator (Rom. 1:19-20).

The commentator who said that, “faith is belief in something for which no proof exists” would probably accept the existence of his house as proof that it had a builder (Heb. 3:3). Then, why not accept the heavens and the earth as sufficient proof of the Eternal Builder?

Whether true or false, faith is *always* based upon evidence. A false faith is based on false evidence. That is seen in Jacob’s case when his older sons sold their brother Joseph into slavery. To cover their wickedness, they took Joseph’s coat of many colors, which his father had given him, and dipped it into the blood of a goat (Gen. 37:31). They brought the coat to Jacob and asked him if he recognized it as Joseph’s (Gen. 37:32).

When Jacob observed the blood stained coat, he exclaimed, “It is my son’s coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces” (Gen. 37:33). What was Jacob’s belief? He believed Joseph was dead—torn asunder by a wild beast. *That* was Jacob’s faith. Why did he believe what he did? Was it just a “leap of faith” or a “shot in the dark” or a “wild guess”? Of course not. His belief was based upon the evidence presented to him—his son’s bloody coat. Was he sincere? Yes. Was his faith true? No. Why? Because the evidence upon which his faith was based was *false* evidence.

Further proof that he sincerely believed Joseph was dead is found in these words: “And Jacob rent his clothes and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him” (Gen. 37:34-35). What was the source of Jacob’s deep grief? It was his belief. What did he believe? He falsely believed Joseph was dead, based upon the evidence presented by his other sons.

Biblical faith is based upon *true* evidence. When one reads and understands the will of God expressed in the Bible, and believes that word, he has faith that is based upon written evidence from eyewitnesses, just as the “Scopes Monkey Trial” can be believed today from the written record of it. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Bible faith is *not* a leap in the dark which cannot be proven. It is conviction, based upon evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1).

Whence Came The Bible?

The Bible is here. If it did not come from Jehovah, whence did it come? It is unlike the product of any human being. It points out man’s defects, and pronounces maledictions on the wicked. It cannot be ascribed to Satan, for it constantly strikes at the very foundations of his kingdom.

It is the world’s most wonderful library. It differs from all other books in that it gives true history. It does not fail to record the shortcomings of its heroes. It tells of Noah’s drunkenness (Gen. 9), as well as his faithfulness (Heb. 11); of Abraham’s faith (Rom. 4), then of his weakness and lack of courage when he represented his wife to be his sister (Gen. 20); of the meekness of Moses (Num. 12:3), then his presumption (Num. 20:7-12); of David’s wonderful power, then his criminality; of Solomon’s incomparable wisdom, then his foolishness; of Peter’s boldness, then his denial of Christ.

Is not the indestructibility of the Bible *proof* of its inspiration? It began in a small country with a despised and persecuted people, but it has found its way into every corner of the earth. It is the most widely read book in existence. It is the forerunner of civilization, and the foundation of every enduring government.

Through the ages many have made attacks on the Bible. These critics have passed and are almost forgotten. Voltaire, possessed with a most wonderful brain power, predicted that in one hundred years from his day there would not be a Bible. How short-sighted was this French infidel! The very press which was used to print his infidel criticism of the Bible was afterwards used to print the word of God; the very house in which he lived was used as a wareroom and filled with copies of the Bible.

Let us encourage you to read this wonderful book. It contains counsel, condemnation or approval for man, regardless of his relationship or station in life. If you are a rebel against Jehovah, you will find warnings, admonitions, entreaties; forgiveness is within your reach. If you are a Christian, work is outlined by which you can enrich your life, bless humanity, and have fellowship with the Infinite.

The Bible makes known to man his sins, reveals God’s love, and shows the way to life and happiness.

You should form your life, shape your character and seal your destiny in keeping with the teaching of the Bible.

Would you like to live in a country where they do not believe the Bible? If no, why? If yes, why? **(C. R. Nichol & R. L. Whiteside, *Sound Doctrine, Vol. 1, 1920*)**