

2011

Update 11/12/11

Congratulations are in order for the Mountain Meadows Monument Foundation and other organizations of the descendants of those who were slain at the Mountain Massacre in southern Utah in 1857. At last, they have been granted National Historic Landmark status by the U.S. Government, and that property has been placed under Federal Stewardship. The official ceremony marking the event was held on its anniversary, September 11th, at the lower grave site. The Mormon Church graciously provided tents, equipment, transportation and refreshments for the occasion. Speaker Scott Fancher was able to report that the graves of 15 of the 17 survivors of the massacre have been located and marked appropriately. Also, library collections about the event have been established in Arkansas, Arizona, California, Missouri and Utah. Furthermore, special thanks was given to Diann Fancher for successfully reintroducing the history of the massacre into Arkansas' curriculum and text books.

Special thanks were given to a number of other organizations and personalities who worked long and hard to achieve this goal. Lora Tom, Tribal Leader of the Paiute Indian Tribe gave a remarkable speech, pointing out that this was the first time in the past 150 years that the Paiutes have been allowed to set foot on the meadows. Their side of the story is quite different than what has been told about them before now.

Spokesman Scott ended his tribute by saying: "This is a very proud day for our Foundation and for all the stakeholders in the Mountain Meadows tragedy. We have also sought respect--not reparations: respect for all of the victims--respect for all of the stakeholders--respect for our shared history. This...is worth more than all the pioneer gold and cattle that ever traveled this valley enroute to California."

More information on this matter may be found on the website:
<http://www.mountainmeadowsmonumentfoundation.org>.

Update 11/3/11

My understanding of Bible Prophecy:

It was with great sorrow that I heard the latest news about Iraq's new constitution declaring it a capital crime for anyone in that country to promote the idea that Israel's return to their ancient boundaries is appropriate. However, it was just another fulfillment in a long line of Bible prophecies concerning the last days, preparing the world for the Second Coming of Christ. Bible Prophecy of these events and what

will occur when the nations attack Israel before Christ's coming is described in great detail in the Bible, particularly in Ezekiel, chapters 37-39 and Zechariah, chapters 13-14.

It prophesies that armies from all nations will attack Israel, and it will almost be overrun before God intervenes. At that point, God Himself will intervene and defend Israel, the invading armies will fall on the hills of Israel, the remaining Jews will recognize Jesus Christ as their rejected Messiah, and Jerusalem will become the capital of the world, with Christ reigning as the King of Righteousness! Hallelujah!

Update 10/8/11

My "Doomsday" Observations:

"The land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants." (Leviticus 18:25)

How could a God of Love have commanded Israel to exterminate men, women and even animals from the promised land as they entered it during the days of Moses and Joshua? It's because God is righteous, and can only tolerate wickedness up to a certain point before He intervenes and puts things right again.

A key to understanding this is found in Genesis 15:16. Here God was speaking to Abram about the future nation of Israel, explaining why his offspring could not yet possess the land. He told him that "in the fourth generation they shall come hither again; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." Their wickedness had to get to a certain point before God's patience with them would end!

The reasons God gives for unleashing of such total destruction on the inhabitants of the promised land are listed as in Leviticus 18. They may be summed up as (1) sexual promiscuity and (2) witchcraft.

Reasons for God's destruction of the world in Noah's time are further identified as (3) corruption and (4) violence. (Genesis 6:11-13) While corruption is not here defined, there is little doubt that it included both of the first two reasons mentioned as well as His distaste for violence and all forms of immorality.

These toxic behaviors are rampant in the world today, being promoted by satellite through the internet and the mass media as appropriate methods of expressing "liberty" and following after "the pursuit of

happiness." These distortions of what used to be virtues are signs that the last days are approaching when God's judgment will again be poured out upon the earth.

Truly, King Solomon had it right when he observed: "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."
(Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Unfortunately, with the number of Mormons in the running as presidential candidates and the rise of Islam since 9/11, the world is now seeing both Joseph Smith and Mohammad offered as examples of prophets whose teachings should guide the world.

As people who have actually studied the details of lives know, both abundantly exhibited all four of the above-mentioned elements, and their examples certainly will only serve to bring us one step closer to the day of the Anti-Christ.

What did Jesus say about such things? He said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28)

Meantime, the saints of God shall continue doing what they have always done. "The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." (Daniel 11:32) They will be called "The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." (Isaiah 58:12)

Yet "the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." (Daniel 12:10)

May God give you understanding!

God is Love. Jesus is coming soon! And He will put things right again! (2 Thessalonians 2:3-10)

Jesus said: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." John 10:10-11

Your Bible Study for Today:

Who will be in heaven? Read Psalm 15 and Revelation 12:11.

And who will populate hell? Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Revelation 22:14-15.

How to change your destiny? Read Ezekiel 18:21-24.

Thursday 10/6/11

An interesting story I heard from Pastor Kenneth Edwards goes like this:

A scientist was talking with God. He said to God: "I can create anything You can. I don't need your help."

"Fine," said God. "Go ahead. I want to see you do it."

"Alright," said the scientist. First of all, I'll just take some dirt..."

"Oh, no you don't," said God. "I made that!"

Fri 9/30/2011

Ron Meyers [ronrm@juno.com]

Fri 9/30/2011 7:21 AM

Dear Friends,

We have just returned to Tiberius after two months in Rwanda. We traveled to within sight of Burundi in the south, just next to and across the lake from the Congo in the west, and a few kilometers from Uganda in the north, presenting eight different conferences, a special series, and a convention. The best news is that when at three Leadership Empowerment Conferences, which each began with the host and participants saying they needed more money, after the teachings the conferences ended with the participants still excitedly attending even without money and inviting us to return. Let us explain.

In this part of Africa, “dependency” is a serious problem. White missionaries from Europe and North America for a century and a half have not only shared the gospel, but also, with good intentions, built churches, schools, and hospitals for them with Western money. By this policy they contributed to the impression that Africans could not expand the Church themselves, but needed financial resources from outside. The Rwandan government, by contrast, is now up to 70% self-reliant and seeks to further reduce dependency on foreign aid. Yet the Church is far behind as is reflected by the anticipation for food and transportation, and sometimes housing funds when Africans attend a conference conducted by a Westerner.

Some of our leadership conference materials include lessons on self-reliance. The best part about the story in Acts chapter three is that Peter and John did not give the lame man what he asked for. If they had, where would he be again the next day? Still at the gate, still begging. So, I teach that just as Peter and John told the lame man, “Silver and gold I do not have but what I have I give to you, in Jesus’ name rise and walk,” so it is time for the African Church to walk, to become self-reliant.

My four teaching points for pastors and church leaders are:

One, we should not let people in our churches manipulate us by their many requests which hinder us from spending the time we need to in prayer, Bible study, and sermon preparation, but rather teach them to rely on God. We should not allow others to require us to do for them what they should do for themselves and we should not expect others to do for us what we can do for ourselves. Self-reliance, as opposed to dependency, is a sign of maturity. (The Africans already know pretty well how to be inter-dependent.)

Two, I must ask myself in what way am I, like the lame man, asking God for a temporary fix (silver and gold) when God wants to give me a permanent solution to a deeper need (strong feet and ankles).

Three, Christian leaders know better what people need than people themselves know. If someone complains that he needs a new job, we may serve them better by telling them that they need to learn to get to work on time, work hard all day up until closing time, and that way become eligible for a

promotion (which is better than getting a new job if you have not yet learned to work hard and honestly) Give people what they really need, not what they think they need.

Four, in the history of missions work in Africa, well-intended but miss-guided missionaries taught the church in Africa that it could depend on the foreigner's silver and gold since the church in Africa was weak and could not provide for itself. The time has come for us to realize that this policy weakens the church in Africa and keeps it from developing the muscle it could and should have. So, we teach, "Church of Africa, rise and walk."

The outstandingly favorable response to these teachings (along with the many other leadership empowering concepts) has been phenomenal—especially during this time in Rwanda during August and September. In all our participation with the Rwandans they were eventually satisfied with the financial help we gave even though it was only a partial contribution and much less than they are accustomed to receiving. But most significantly, in three of the ten conferences, observing their favorable response to our teaching them about self-reliance, we actually decreased the amount we gave them and invited them to attend the second and third days without any financial support from us. In other words, we gave them the opportunity to decide that the teaching was worth coming to listen to even if they would not be given transportation money and a free meal. In those three conferences the attendance did not go down; participants attended because they valued the teaching, not the funds. If you have not served in Africa or known about dependency here as an extremely deeply held subconscious assumption, you may not be able to fully appreciate the greatness of these miracles.

Thank you for praying for the Meyers on Mondays. Please pray about our going to Chad and Cameroon the end of October and all of November. We feel the strength of your prayers and are always glad to hear from you. God bless you richly.

Ron & Char

What prayer will God put in my heart regarding something close to His?

Leadership Empowerment Resource: <http://leresources.com> Char's Facebook address: Char Meyers

Update 9/29/11:

Information from the Middle East reports to me that many of those who do the suicide bombings are taught from childhood that the number of people their suicide kills will guarantee that number of people from their family a place in heaven. Family loyalties make this a greater incentive to kill Christians and Jews than even the promise of a heavenly harem!

Update 9/22/11:

Do you want to be blessed? Or do you want to be cursed?

The formula for getting either blessing or cursing is found in the Bible. It is unconditional for anyone of any religion and is backed by the only and unchangeable God! It reads like this, concerning Israel:

"Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee." (Numbers 24:9)

The United Nations should take note of this and point out to its members that still today, the nations that bless Israel are experiencing blessing, and those that curse Israel are under a curse!

I owe this observation to Robin Akbar, from Pakistan.

Update 8/6/11: "What does God think about it?"

That is a question that our "objective" secular leaders do not seem to be taking into account! What are they going to say to God when they stand before Him on Judgment Day? All people are going to have to give account personally of what they did while here on earth on that day, according to the Bible.

Man, left to his own devices, will not only turn his back on God and godliness, but, if given the opportunity, will destroy all life on this planet! Fortunately, God will not let that happen! He will put a stop to that process through the sudden return of Jesus Christ and all the saints who have gone before us! He will judge the nations and put everything in order again!

Where are you, Church? Where are the standards of holiness in your proclamation of the Gospel? If ever there was a time to stand up for holiness and the clear teachings of the Bible, it is now!

Update 8/5/11: My thoughts on what's happening to our society:

The Gross Generation

Guidance for Generation Y:

I could hardly believe it when I heard the explanation given to the public by the United States Supreme Court for permitting the unrestricted flow of violent video-games to even the youngest members of our society. Grimms' Fairy Tales was set forth as a standard of decency for infants!

When the Grimm brothers published the original tales in 1812 and 1814, the public was scandalized to think that they were presented as children's stories. Their overt sadism, acting out of immature impulses, and sexual improprieties even repulsed adults! However, their basis in ancient French and German culture provided a fascinating justification of the dark side of human nature and reflected the pagan roots of their past. I think they were used in the times before movies and TV to give the children nightmares! They tend to be excellent examples of child abuse!

As they were modified over the years, they became but pale imitations of those original horror stories, and present-day adults generally do not have any idea of just how gross those original tales really were.

The extreme grossness to which the youngest members of our society are now being regularly subjected with no legal recourse by parents or the watchdogs of decency in our society is appalling! Things that are too repugnant for "normal people" of "polite society" to even read about in the news media are now becoming the norm for what is thought necessary to "pursue happiness." "Satanism," for example, is now being depicted as a legitimate form of worship in our society! The darker side of our pagan past is swiftly overtaking whatever advances may have come about in the world in the past generations.

The Church and the Bible, despite the multitude of claims to the contrary, have been the most civilizing elements in Western society. They deserve and must maintain a loud and public voice! Passages such as Philippians 4:8 and Proverbs 23:7 must retain their moral influence and civilizing effect on our society:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

“As a man thinks, so is he.”

The power of the unfettered Word of God is a civilizing influence, and must remain with full legal protection if civilization is to survive.

Update 4/28/11: We mourn the passing of Rev. David Wilkerson, founder of Teen Challenge, a rehabilitation center which has spread to cities around the world. I worked for a short time in the center in the Brooklyn, New York during the summer of 1964 and then for a year in the San Francisco, California center after graduating from Arizona State University in 1965. His best-seller book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*, had just come out about that time, and I used it as a witnessing tool. It tells how he gained the confidence of youth gang leaders in the slums of New York and saw the change in many of their lives as they learned to live for Jesus Christ. He died in an automobile accident at the age of 79.

Update 1/9/11: I wish to give special thanks to Dr. Mark Rutland, president of Oral Roberts University, for directing that a missionary offering of \$5,000.00 be sent to the National Bible Institute in Santiago, Chile to help it tear down an adobe building that was condemned as a result of the terrible earthquake that took place in Chile last February. The monies will also provide storage for the furnishings of that building until a replacement can be built. The entire student body took part in this offering. I and my wife, Penny, had the privilege in participating in its foundation and teaching ministry along with Paul and Betty Hoff and others during our time as missionaries in Chile from 1975 to 1990. (See Update 3/31/10).