



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

****PUBLISHED AS A MISSION PROJECT OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH****

Vol. XXVIII, No. 4

April 1, 2011

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WITH GOD THERE ARE NO UNINTENDED TRAGEDIES, NO UNCAUSED CALAMITIES, AND NO UNDISCIPLINED DISASTERS

By Wayne Camp

TEXT: Isaiah 24:17-21 *Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of*

PESTILENCE! FAMINE! EARTHQUAKE!

(Bonar, "Man's Misconceptions of the Works of God")

***"By His mighty acts He governs the people."
Job 36:31***

God's purpose comes in contact with earth and its dwellers; not generally and by means of laws, but directly and minutely. His will, His voice, His hand, His arm, all come into contact with this world, as well as with all other worlds, the creations of His power.

He has not left them alone.

He sustains and rules as truly as He creates them. Not for a moment does He let go his hold.

He is the governor among the nations.

He rules by His power forever.

His eyes behold the nations. He does
(See **PESTILENCE** Cont. Page 7, Left Col.)

the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

Amos 3:6 *Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?*

Isaiah 14:24-27 *The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: (25)That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. (26) This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. (27)For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?*

Daniel 4:35 *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*

Psalms 115:3 *But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.*

INTRODUCTION

In the first three passages that I have presented there are clear declarations from

THE GRACE PROCLAMATOR AND PROMULGATOR (USPS Standard Mail Permit Number 876) is published monthly (subscription free) by the authority of **CENTRAL Baptist Church, PO Box 876, Grenada, MS.** Postage paid at Grenada, MS, 38901.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **THE GRACE PROCLAMATOR AND PROMULGATOR, PO Box 876, Grenada, MS 38901-0876.**

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God's Word that show us that his hand is involved in tragedies, calamities, and disasters when they come upon the earth. The last two verses that I used show that God does according to his will where he pleases, when he pleases, always as he pleases, and only as he pleases. When Hurricane Katrina hit some of our southern states, especially in New Orleans, Louisiana, a well-known religious commentator made the statement that it was a judgment of God upon the wicked city of New Orleans and upon this nation generally. The main stream

media jumped on him as did even some TV preachers. If I remember correctly he walked backwards a little bit from what he had said. I don't suppose there are any media persons reading this but if there are some of whom I am not aware let me tell you in advance that I will not take back the things that I am about to say because, with God's help, I intend to substantiate everything that I say by his infallible, inspired word. My subject is ***With God There Are No Unintended Tragedies, No Uncaused Calamities, And No Undisciplined Disasters.***

LET ME FIRST ESTABLISH THAT GOD'S HAND IS INVOLVED IN ALL SUCH TRAGEDIES AS HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY.

The Psalmist David repeatedly called attention to this fact. The psalmist called desolations the works of the Lord. ***Psalms 46:8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.*** The psalmist called some of God's work toward man terrible works. ***Psalms 66:5 Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.***

When God was bringing plagues upon the nation of Egypt even the people of Egypt seemed to realize that it was the hand of the God of Israel in those plagues. ***Exodus 10:7 And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?*** When God brought the last plague upon Egypt even Pharaoh apparently realized that it was the hand of God in the death of the firstborn in Egypt. Pharaoh had originally said who is Lord that I should obey him? ***Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.*** But after all 10 plagues have hit Pharaoh is singing a different tune. ***Exodus 12:30-32 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.*** (31)

And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. (32) Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also.

When Pharaoh sent his warriors after Israel God drowned them in the Red Sea—consider the divine record. **Exodus 14:30-31 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. (31) And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.**

Thomas Brooks wrote, "God is the great agent in all those dreadful judgments which befall people, cities, and kingdoms. Whoever or whatever be the rod—it is God's hand which gives the stroke! The power of bringing judgments upon cities, God takes to himself: **Amos 3:6- 'When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it?'**"

WHY GOD SENDS TRAGEDIES, CALAMITIES, AND DISASTERS UPON THE EARTH.

Excessive sin is the root cause of all these terrible things that happen. The great deluge that covered the earth and brought the destruction of the entire human race except for eight people was because of their great sin. **Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** Except for Noah and his three sons every man on earth was destroyed in that terrible flood. Except for Noah's wife and the wives of his three sons every woman on Earth was destroyed. Every child regardless of their age was destroyed in that terrible flood. **Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and**

destroyed them all. Let me remind you again that the reason for this terrible destruction, this divinely intentioned tragedy, this divinely disciplined disaster, this divinely caused calamity was the great sin of mankind at that time. **Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

The reason that God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah was because their sin was great. **Genesis 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly. Genesis 18:20-21 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; (21) I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.** Need I remind you that only Lot, his wife, and two unmarried daughters were taken out of Sodom before God destroyed it. Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt because she disobeyed and looked back toward the city. Other members of Lot's family were destroyed in the great destruction as were all the other inhabitants of Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities of the plains where they were located. The reason for this destruction was **"their sin was very grievous."**

Let me remind you of one of our texts for this message. **Those who flee in terror will fall into a trap, and those who escape the trap will step into a snare. Destruction falls on you from the heavens. The earth is shaken beneath you. The earth has broken down and has utterly collapsed. Everything is lost, abandoned, and confused. The earth staggers like a drunkard. It trembles like a tent in a storm. It falls and will not rise again, for its sins are very great! Isaiah 24:18-20. ý** This doubtless describes an earthquake such as recently happened in Japan. God himself declared that he would bring such severe judgment upon Jerusalem and Judah that it would cause the ears of those who heard of it to tingle. **2 Kings 21:12 "Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his**

ears shall tingle."

This is a description of the destruction that was brought upon the nation of Israel through God's instrument of judgment, Nebuchadnezzar. **Jeremiah 51:20-24** *Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms; (21) And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider; (22) With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid; (23) I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers. (24) And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD.* Notice the reason for this great judgment. **"for its sins are very great."**

On more than one occasion during the wilderness journey of Israel God brought severe judgment upon them. Paul reminded the church at Corinth of some of these plagues and chastisements which God sent upon Israel because of their sins. **1 Corinthians 10:5** *But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.* A few verses later Paul again warned the Corinthians by using the examples of what happened to Israel. **1 Corinthians 10:8** *Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.* Notice also, **1 Corinthians 10:9** *Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.* Once more, **1 Corinthians 10:10** *Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.* Many Israelites were slain in the wilderness in plagues of serpents and other things that came upon them because of their sins.

When Moses was on the mount receiving the law the children of Israel persuaded Aaron to

make them a golden calf that they could worship. When Moses came down from the mountain the people were dancing and singing and worshipping the golden calf. According to God's commandment Moses called out to those who were on the Lord's side to strap their swords on their side and slay some of the people. **Exodus 32:26-28** *Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. (27) And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. (28) And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.*

On one occasion when Israel fell into idolatry and was worshipping Baalpeor a total of 24,000 people were killed. Paul only mentions 23,000. The explanation is simple. Moses includes in the 24,000 the names of the 1,000 men who were slain in consequence of the judicial examination (**Num** ,25:4as well as the 23,000 who died of the plague; while Paul only refers to the latter.

One of the greatest famines that ever came upon Israel was brought by God. It was a famine of not hearing the word of God. Amos describes it in the Lord's own words. **Amos 8:11-12** *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: (12) And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.*

Micah also described such a time in Israel. **Micah 3:5-7** *Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him. (6) Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark*

unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them. (7) Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God.

SOME POSSIBLE REASONS FOR THIS GREAT TRAGEDY COMING UPON JAPAN.

I will not declare emphatically why this judgment came upon that nation, God knows. ***Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.***

I do know of some possible reasons for this judgment.

Japan is very materialistic and there are not very many who are dedicated to any religion.

84% to 96% of the Japanese people adhere to Shintoism (worship of one's ancestors) or Buddhism or a combination of the two but much of this is simply out of tradition because of long family practice. 64% of the Japanese people claim that they really do not believe in any god.

Less than 1% of the Japanese are aligned with any "Christian" religion; some say it may be even less than one-half of 1%. This includes Roman Catholic, Protestant, and a few more fundamental churches.

Immorality is rampant in Japan. Groups of businessmen regularly go to Thailand where they engage in homosexual activities for a week or two. Others go for the prostitution that is rampant in Bangkok and other cities.

From a report I read on the Internet I take this quotation, "Japan is a destination country for women and children who are trafficked from China, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and to a lesser extent Latin America for sexual and labor exploitation."

Another quotation from the same report is as follows, "Women also voluntarily migrate to work in Japan but are later coerced into exploitative conditions. Women are usually held in debt bondage for \$26,000 to \$43,000 for their living expenses, medical care, and other necessities."

The pornography industry flourishes in

Japan—the adult video business is approximately \$1 billion per year. Pornography which involves older people is rapidly increasing. One of the leading stars of the elder pornographic video industry is a 73-year-old man.

The number of Muslims in Japan is on the increase.

When you consider God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah and the reason for it you can understand why this judgment may very well have come upon Japan.

According to *Conservative Alerts (3/28/2011)* ***"... the governor of Tokyo, Shintaro Ishihara, says he fears the Japanese people were being 'punished.'"*** He is probably right. According to Lee Jay Walker, writer for the *Modern Tokyo Times* (who is no fan of the governor) the governor "linked the earthquake and tsunami with 'divine punishment' because of the egoism of Japanese people." The governor said, ***"Japanese politics is tainted with egoism (egotism?) and populism. We need to use tsunami to wipe out egoism, which has rusted onto the mentality of Japanese over a long period of time. I think (the disaster) is tembatsu (divine punishment), although I feel sorry for disaster victims."*** David was clear on this matter of divine judgment on wicked. ***Psalms 75:8 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.***

I should also point out that such judgments as the earthquake and tsunami that recently occurred may also be intended to serve as a warning to other nations ***such as our own nation.***

Our nation would be wise to heed the warning and repent. ***Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.***

Remember Sumatra: Dec. 26, 2004. An earthquake of the magnitude 9.1 is remembered for the deadly tsunami that the undersea quake let loose. The earthquake was felt in Sumatra, parts of Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand,

and the ensuing tsunami hit 14 countries as far away as South Africa. The death toll was over 225,000 people. I was 227,898. All of these countries are primarily pagan, immorality of a kindred sort of Japan, except that they supply the women and children for Japan.

When God keeps silent and does not rain severe judgment anywhere men begin to think that **HE** is all together as we are. ***Psalms 50:21-22 These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. (22) Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.*** When God stretches out his arm to bring judgment upon a nation or region or a city ***none can stay his hand or say under him what doest thou?***

Let us remember the questions of the Psalmist. ***Psalms 94:10 He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?***

God is to be praised for his mighty power, his wonderful justice, and righteous judgment upon these heathen nations.

If God wills to do so he can bring terrible judgment without earthquakes, without pestilence, and without famine. He can simply send his angel while men sleep and kill them in their sleep. He did this when Sennacherib king of Assyria came against Jerusalem. ***Isaiah 37:36 Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.*** Imagine this judgment! In one single night while the camp of the Assyrians slept an Angel of the Lord silently slays 185,000 men. God's arm is not shortened that he cannot save. Neither is his arm shortened that he cannot slightly a multitude in one night. Our great God is terrible in judgment when he lifts up his sword against men.

God sometimes brings severe judgment upon his own people to bring about repentance. ***Hosea 5:14-15 For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of***

Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue him. (15) I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early. Hosea 13:8 I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.

CONCLUSION: God has more weapons in his arsenal than we could even consider in any one message. He uses earthquakes, hurricanes, famine, pestilence, wicked kings and rulers with their armies, floods and sometimes a combination of these to execute his fierce wrath and justice for sinful cities and sinful nations. I pray that God may awaken us if we are still asleep as a nation. From time to time in history God has stepped out with special judgments upon cities and nations of the world. It is no accident when these things come. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! ***Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Luke 21:11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.***

Let me reiterate, ***With God There Are No Unintended Tragedies, No Uncaused Calamities, And No Undisciplined Disasters.*** To everything there is a purpose. While we may not know all the reasons that such judgments happen, we can know that God is on the throne working all things after the counsel of his own will. ***Job 34:29 When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only.***

Isaiah 24:17-21 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. (18) And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do

shake. (19) The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. (20) The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

(PESTILENCE Continued from Page 1) according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.

It is with no distant, unheeding God that we have to do; but with that God who fixes the bounds of our habitation, who counts our hairs, who feeds the ravens, notes a sparrow's death, and clothes the lilies of the field.

God governs the people by means of the changes of nature. We use "nature" for lack of a better word. We mean earth and sky with all their motions, and alternations, and transformations, great and small, all "natural phenomena" as they are called.

These phenomena, or appearances, appear to us common things; by some ascribed to "chance", by others to "laws of nature."

Here they are ascribed directly to God.

They are . . . His voice by which He speaks to us; His finger by which He touches us; His rod by which He corrects us; His sword, by which He smites us.

It seems to be the thought of many, that in none of these can we or ought we to recognize, directly and specially, the interposition of God; that it is fanaticism to interpret them so as to make them special messengers of God to us. But the words before us are very explicit, **"By His mighty acts He governs the people."**

The things by which He is here said to govern the people, are the common things of the day and year--the rain, the clouds, the lightning, and such like. He uses these as His voice in . . . warning, or commanding, or chastising, or comforting.

These common things do not come by chance, or at random, or by dead law, but go out from God as His messengers. Thus

everything has a divine meaning and a heavenly voice. Let us listen and interpret and understand.

Summer speaks to us with its green fields and fragrant gardens; winter speaks to us with its ice and snow and frost. By these God governs the people . . . the pestilence, the famine, the earthquake, the lightning, the storm, the shipwreck, the overthrow of kingdoms and kings.

Each of these has a special message to the nations--and to each of us. Let us see God drawing near to us in them; showing His care and love, manifesting an unwearied concern for our welfare.

Woe to us if we either misinterpret them, or refuse to interpret them at all.

The common daily changes of personal or family life, all speak in the same way. Not only the sweeping calamity that carries off its hundreds; but the sickness, the pain, or the gentle indisposition--these have a voice to us.

He who has an ear, let him hear!

We disjoin God from creation, and so see nothing in it of divine life and power.

We disjoin God from the changes of creation, and so find no meaning in these.

We disjoin God from the beautiful or the terrible, and so realize nothing in them which overawes, or attracts, or purifies, or comforts.

We have so learned to separate between God and the 'works of God', that we seem to imagine that they contradict each other. The fair sky, and the clear stream, and the green hills--all speak of divine goodness.

This separation of God from His works is one of the awful features of human unbelief.

How much more of Him would we know, were we to interpret His works aright, and hear His voice in each, whether in love or discipline.

"By His mighty acts He governs the people."

THE GREATEST PROBLEM OF ARMINIANISM

"I believe that very much of current Arminianism is simply ignorance of gospel doctrine; and if people began to study their Bibles ...they must inevitably, if believers, rise up to rejoice in the doctrines of grace."--Charles H. Spurgeon

THAILAND MISSIONS REPORT

By Bill Lee

“The churches of Asia salute you...” I Corinthians 16:19

In the past the Lord has used some pretty unusual ways to open doors for us to get the gospel to different people and villages in northern Thailand. More often than not, it is the people in “other” villages who contact us and ask us to come and preach the gospel unto them. While we do seek to go to new places and preach in villages where we have never been before, the majority of the churches now established in Thailand are the results of them seeking us out, not us seeking them out. Opportunities just seem to open up to us to go and preach in different places we have not even thought about going as yet. It is simply amazing how God works things together in order to get the gospel to His elect. His ways and thoughts are surely greater than ours.

Just recently representatives from a village where we have never been came to see Bro. Anond and told him “they wanted to believe in Jesus and be baptized”. When Bro. Anond questioned them as to why they wanted “to believe in Jesus and be baptized”, they responded that some of them had seen Jesus in a dream and therefore thought it would be the thing to do, to follow Jesus and be baptized. Of course we know that God does not reveal Himself nor His Son today through dreams and private revelations. We know the Scriptures are God’s final revelation until the return to earth of His Son. We have no doubts or misgivings about these things. But instead of our writing these people off as heretics or superstitious heathens, we view this as an open door to go to their village and preach Christ unto them. What an opportunity we now have to go to a village of approximately one hundred families, a village where we have never been before, and preach and teach the true gospel unto them. They have made contact with us and now our responsibility is to get the truth unto them.

The Lord willing, I will be going back to Thailand in June and I do plan, if I do nothing

else, to go to this village and spend time preaching and teaching God’s Word unto them. I cannot help but remember when Paul went to Mars Hill and found a people who were “too superstitious”, or maybe more literally “too religious” and preached unto them concerning the true God and His Son Jesus Christ. This village is very far away and the travel getting there is not easy, but I am praying, and I ask for your prayers in this matter, that God will make our time in this village to be the highlight of this next trip. We know that God has a purpose for all things and certainly He has a purpose in these people seeking us out.

As I mentioned in the above paragraph, the Lord willing, we will be returning to Thailand in the month of June. We look forward to once again being among the churches and people there. On this trip we will spend time among the villages, especially the one mentioned above but others also, and time in the churches. These opportunities always give us an occasion to answer questions the pastors and/or others in the churches may have. We will also use this time to set in order whatever we might see that is lacking in the churches. We always keep in our minds that these are new Christians and the concept of the Lord’s church is still new unto them. On different occasions, as opportunities present themselves, we seek to teach them “the way of God more perfectly”. On this trip, as on other trips in the past, we will also seek to take care of any medical needs that we find among the people there. Ricky Cash will once again be accompanying Janice and I us on this trip, as will Rachel Fulton and Rebekah Mintor. This will be Rachel’s and Rebekah’s first trip with us to Thailand. Rachel, the daughter of Bro. and Mrs. Steve Fulton of Henderson, Texas, has finished nursing school and is now working as a full time nurse. Rebekah is presently in nursing school. Their skills in this area will be of a great help to us in our medical work in Thailand and we look forward to them being with us during this time.

Also, I am sure that many of you have read recently or have heard on the news of an earthquake in Burma. This was a very strong quake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale. This quake did much damage and there was loss of life among the members of some churches in

Burma. You might recall that in a previous report I mentioned to you of people from the churches in Burma coming over into Thailand to meet with us. On our last trip there were over fifty members of churches in Burma that have been established as a result of our work in Thailand, who made this trip to meet with us. Bro. Anond has informed me that several of these who met with us were killed in the earthquake. A total of twenty-three church members were killed and many more were injured. There are many whose homes were completely destroyed and as of now do not have a place to live. Bro. Anond has told me that these are now sleeping outside under plastic tarpaulins beside their destroyed homes. Church buildings have been completely destroyed and reduced to rubble. There is a lack of food, water and medical attention among the church members there. Of course, the repressive government of Burma has no interest at all in giving any aid to these Christians, who are considered by their government as no more than outcast and a menace to their communist state. Neither are they going to allow any "official" aid from foreign governments come to these people.

But, the Lord willing, on this trip in June, we will seek to get all of the aid we can to these saints who have suffered such a loss. Whether we will be able to get into Burma and be able to personally go to them, I don't know. But I do know there are other ways to get help to them without our personally going into Burma.

On May 8, we at Central Baptist Church will be taking up a special offering for these saints in Burma. I would like to encourage individuals and churches to join with us in sending relief to these Christians in Burma. In the Scriptures collections were taken for saints and churches who were in special need and living in dire circumstances, and I think it would be well for us to follow that biblical example. Please send any offerings for this to:

Central Baptist Church,
P.O. Box 876,
Grenada, MS 38902.

And make sure your offering is marked "**For Burma**". I will personally take these offerings with me when I make this next trip in June.

"THE DEATH OF A FRIEND"

By Bill Lee

The world measures greatness in a far different manner than do the saints. The values of the world are different from those of the saints, therefore their standards of greatness are different also. Worldly achievements and accolades do not come into consideration when the saints measure the stature of a fellow believer. We know that ***"whatsoever is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of the Lord"***, **Luke 16:15**. We also remember the words spoken by our Lord and recorded in Luke 6:26, ***"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you"***. The godly do not seek the favor of men, but rather the favor of their God. For with the righteous, it is a small thing as to how they might be looked upon or judged by those of the world. They know the only judgment which really matters is that of their Lord. Therefore they seek, not to please men, but to please the God of their salvation, I Corinthians 4:3, 4; Galatians 1:10.

On Sunday, March 27, 2011, a special friend and faithful servant of the Lord died. Bro. Garnett Brown went to be with the Lord, and the world has suffered a great loss. Bro. Garnett seemed to have been well respected by all who knew him. For ***"When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him"***, **Proverbs 16:7**. While it is true that many opposed and even hated the biblical doctrine believed and faithfully preached by Bro. Garnett Brown, his enemies were at peace with him, for his ways pleased the Lord. Bro. Garnett Brown was a man of character in his spiritual as well as his secular life. He could be counted on as being faithful in all aspects of his life. The news of his death brought both sadness and a sense of relief and thankfulness. The sadness was because Bro. Garnett Brown is no longer among us. His place on earth is empty, and I feel a great loss. The sense of relief and thankfulness was because Bro. Garnett's suffering is now over, never to return again, and he is at perfect peace with the Lord.

I counted it as a great honor to be asked to bring a message at the funeral of Bro. Garnett

Brown. I chose Acts 13:36 as a text for this message. In this verse it is recorded concerning David, **“after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep”**. As these words were true of David, they are equally true of Bro. Garnett Brown. By the will of God Bro. Garnett served his own generation as a faithful man of God. And then on March 27, 2011, after a life spanning 87 years and a marriage of 67 years, Bro. Garnett Brown fell on sleep. He will be missed!

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

By Wayne Camp

Luke 10:3 “Go...behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.”

Luke 10:7 “...the labourer is worthy of his hire.”

In the years since I have not been pastoring and have been working only in the Thailand mission work, different brethren have said to me, “If you need some help be sure to let us know.” I am writing this to let you know what the circumstances are on my support at the present time.

Before Pilgrims Hope Baptist Church was disbanded and our property was sold, the church voted in the late summer or early fall of 2004 to set up a fund for my support. This fund was for two years. When the church was finally disbanded this fund was transferred to Central Baptist Church. With the offerings that have been sent by other churches and individuals designated for my support this fund has lasted several years. The designated support (except for one month that I recall) has never risen to the amount of support set for me. Consequently, the fund has gradually been used until it is now gone.

At the current rate of offerings designated for my support I will be taking a 30% to 40% cut in support beginning May 1, 2011. In October, 2004, I wrote, “I will continue to go to Thailand and teach the Bible School there for as long as my health will allow.” That is still my plan and this change in support will not change that plan. As Bro. Bill Lee recently pointed out something

to this effect in a message, “When God appoints a man to a work only God determines when that appointment ends.”

As long as there was a balance in my salary fund I was hesitant to say much about my support. Even now, I am hesitant to say much about it. In all the years that I pastored I never asked any church for a raise. God always supplied.

I have had some problems with my health and I am sure there are those who have felt that I should stop going to Thailand. I do not get around as well as I used to but I do get around. With the assistance of students and others I made it to my classes and taught them every day but one this past school term. That day I was at the hospital with my wife who had gotten food poisoning from food eaten in a village. Others of us had stomach problems also. Nearly every day (four days each week) I taught three hours. From December 8, 2010, through December 31, 2010, I taught for five hours each day. I mention this simply to assure you that I'm still able to do the work. When I cannot do it any longer I will know that God is ready for me to discontinue my participation in it. Until then, as I have told some, “I have no choice in the matter. God has called me to do this work and as long as I am able I must continue.”

For many years I have rested in the assurance that is set forth in the following passage of Scripture. **Philippians 4:13-19** *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (14) Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. (15) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. (16) For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. (17) Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. (18) But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. (19) But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by*

Christ Jesus.

I believe the promise of verse 19 just as strongly as I have ever believed. Therefore, I am trusting God to supply our needs. This church at Philippi had supported Paul when no other church supported him. He did not desire their support simply for his own welfare. He desired that fruit might abound to their account.

Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

In the past I have been asked how support that is intended for me should be sent. It should still be sent to Central Baptist Church. It should be clear that it is for my support, **otherwise** it will go into the general Thailand fund and be used for other aspects of work.

I greatly appreciate all who have supported this work. I appreciate your continued prayers for my wife and me as we continue to engage in this work. It is a real blessing to have a part in a work that is being so greatly blessed by the Lord. Only eternity will reveal what is being accomplished in the various aspects of the mission work in Thailand.

A BRIEF REPORT CONCERNING THE WORK

I want to mention what I believe to be some very positive benefits of the school. To do that I want to mention two students. The oldest is She Ba. I have mentioned him in previous reports. He is a very faithful student. Three years he has had perfect attendance. He is a very faithful pastor also who stands for the truth and will not compromise even though great pressure has been put on him to do so. He has stood up to the pastor that we have previously mentioned who has erred from the doctrines of the word of God and has strongly ridiculed any who come to school. It has been tough for him to do so since he lives in the same village where this pastor and church are located. When school ended plans were to build him a house in the village where he pastors, Pa Tong Eh. Hopefully, that has been accomplished. Even though it means moving away from family and friends, he is eager to get moved. He is probably one of the best preachers as far as content, delivery, and fervency in preaching who is in the work. He is 36 years of age. He speaks La Hu and Thai,

and is learning English very well. His wife is also very dedicated.



She Ba and Wife

The second student that I want to mention is Matthew. Matthew is 21 years old. He is a very dedicated student. He speaks Burmese, Thai, La Hu and Li Su and is a very good English student. He has been preaching at some of the churches that are without pastors. Since he speaks Li Su he is able to fill a vacuum we have in preachers for the Li Su congregations. One of the recent times I talked to Brother Anond he and Matthew were on their way to preach at two Lisu churches on Sunday. Plans are that he will begin to preach to these two congregations on a regular basis. Matthew is not married. His home is actually in Burma. So that he could be more involved in the work in Thailand he has remained in Thailand instead of going home. With his abilities to speak different languages he promises to be a great asset to the work in coming years. Pray that God will give him the grace to be faithful and strong in the Lord.

Matthew

I can foresee a day in the not too distant



way to the hospital. I am including a couple of pictures from Burma.

May God bless you is my prayer.



HOUSE OFF PIERS

future when these two young men will be able to relieve Brother Anond from some of the duties of translating.

CHURCH BUILDING DESTROYED

As Brother Lee mentioned in his article there has been an earthquake in Burma. One of the



churches in Burma that fellowships with us had their building destroyed, 20 members were killed immediately and three more died on the

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