



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

HOW IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO!

December 2007

President Reagan's remarks on lighting the National Christmas Tree, Dec. 12, 1985. - From Legal Alert (12/06).

"My fellow Americans, thank you for joining Nancy and me on this festive evening. The menorah stands lighted in Lafayette Park, for this is also the time of Hanukkah, and this season is rich in the meaning of our Judeo-Christian tradition. In a moment we'll be lighting the National Christmas Tree, carrying forward what is now a 62-year tradition first begun by Calvin Coolidge. Tonight we are drawn in warmth to one another as we reflect on the deeply holy meaning of the miracle we shall soon celebrate. We know that Mary and Joseph reached the stable in Bethlehem sometime after sunset. We do not know the exact moment the Christ Child was born... Suddenly, a star from Heaven shining in our eyes, shining with brilliant beauty across the skies, a star pointing toward eternity in the night, like a great ring of pure and endless light, and then all was calm and all was bright. Such was the beginning of one solitary life that would shake the world as never before or since. When we speak of Jesus and of His life, we speak of a man revered as a prophet and a teacher by people of all religions, and Christians speak of someone greater -- a man who was and is divine. He brought forth a power that is infinite and a promise that is eternal, a power greater than all man's military might, for His power is Godly love, love that can lift our sorrows and heal our wounds and drive away our fears. He promised there would never be a long night that does not end. He promised to deliver us from dark torment and tragedy into the warming sunlight of human happiness, and beyond that, into paradise. He has never been a halfway giver; His generosity is pure and perfect and sure.

This, then, expresses the true meaning of Christmas. If each of us would give but a fraction to each other of what He gave to the whole human family, how many hearts would heal, how much sorrow and pain could be driven away? There's still time for joy and gladness to touch a sad and lonely soul, still time to feed a hungry child, to wrap a present for a kind old man feeling forlorn and afraid, and to reach out to an abandoned mother raising children on her own. There's still time to remember our Armed Forces, to express our profound gratitude to those who keep watch on faraway frontiers of freedom... They are not and never will be forgotten. And there is still time to remember the deepest truth of all: that there can be no prisons, no walls, no boundaries separating the members of God's family. Let us reach out tonight to every person who is persecuted; let us embrace and comfort, support and love them. Let us come together as one family under the Fatherhood of God, binding ourselves in a communion of hearts... May we give thanks for an America abundantly blessed, for a nation united, free, and at peace. May we carry forward the happiness of the Christmas spirit as the guiding star of our endeavors 365 days a year. As we light this magnificent tree, may all the youthful hope and joy of America light up the heavens and make the angels sing. Merry Christmas, God bless you all. And now we are going to light the tree." (Ed. Note, it was not a Holiday Tree).

Ed. We'd not agree with every statement above, but it shows that only a few years ago Christianity was permissible in public life. Can you imagine a public official speaking like that today, when Christ, Christmas and everything related to Christianity is being banished from public life? The Constitution doesn't require hostility to Christianity!

CORNERSTONE NEWS

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Monday, December 31 – 5:00 - 8:00

A Great Family Night! Invite a Friend!

5:00 – GOSPEL FILM

6:00 – BUFFET SUPPER

7:00 – TESTIMONIES

PRAYERTIME

LORD'S SUPPER



No better way to end the Old year
And start the New!

WEEK OF PRAYER

JANUARY 7 – 10, 2008

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

“IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER”

Bring the Family!

HEAVEN KNOWS WE NEED REVIVAL – WE COULD HAVE ONE IF...

All the sleeping folk will wake up
All the lukewarm folk would fire up
All the dishonest folk will confess up
All the disgruntled folk will cheer up
All the discouraged folk will liven up
All the depressed folk would look up
All the estranged folk would make up
All the gossippers will shut up
All the dry bones will shake up
All the non-tithers will pay up
All the Church members will pray up -Copied

MORE “NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW”

Two full pages each month on our web site:
www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

YOUTH CORNER

THE DRESS DOWN PHENOMENON. The dress down look started in the world but soon got into the churches, including Fundamental ones. People say, “Well, the times and styles have changed.” They certainly have! Is that cause for God’s people to follow the worldly crowd. It is appalling the way some preachers allow people to come to church. Is it wrong or asking too much to require that Christians dress up when going to the house of God to worship the Lord? Nobody thought so a few years ago; believers and unbelievers always wore their “Sunday” best to church. Many believers go to church looking as though they were going to a ball game or out to wash the car. I am constantly amazed how people invariably wear their dress up clothes for a wedding or a funeral, both the saved and unsaved. Recently, while doing door-to-door visitation, one man came to the door in a formal suit. He said that he had just come from a funeral for a friend. Why is it right to go to a funeral all dressed up to pay your respects to a dead man, but not to worship the living God? People say, “Why do you make such a big fuss over such a little thing?” It is not little! Sensual dress and undress is getting worse all the time. It’s ungodly and ought not to be condoned, much less practiced by Christians. The feminist and unisex movements are also gaining advocates. What I don’t understand is the professing Christians who make a fuss and leave a Fundamental church (and even go to a New Evangelical one) because they cannot wear slacks, shorts, or sensual clothing. It seems to me a serious Christian should be more interested in attending a Church where the Word of God is faithfully preached. We have had many leave over this issue and many more who attend once or twice, but as soon as they see we have a dress code they are gone. We are not happy about that, but the primary goal is to please God and obey His Word.

D.L.MOODY ON TOBACCO. Moody was in Glasgow for evangelistic meetings. There were about 5,000 present in a question and answer session. Someone asked: “Are there any verses in the Bible against the use of tobacco?” Moody pondered for a moment and said, “No, but I can give you one in favor of it.” The audience was breathless. He continued saying: **“He that is filthy, let him be filthy still.”**

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS! A sign in a manager’s office said: “When all else fails, try doing what the boss said.” We would suggest: “When all else fails try doing what the Lord has said.” In fact, try it first and you’ll be way ahead! Jesus’ mother had it right when she said, **“Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it!”** There is no other right or safe course.

ONLY ONE WAY TO LOOK!

**TIRED OF THE OUTLOOK? TRY THE UPWARD LOOK!
HEBREWS 12:2: “LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR
AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH.”**

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

EVANGELICALS AND CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson is a book that promotes mantra meditation and New Age mystics. It stands among many other contemplative prayer books that do the same. But what is so alarming is that it also stands within the ranks of many Christian ministries, organizations, churches, and colleges. And even though Thompson does not hide her mystical affinities, many in Christian circles see her as a trustworthy source for spiritual nourishment. In *Soul Feast*, Thompson's "Annotated Bibliography" (of books she favors) is a who's who of pantheistic contemplatives including: Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, Anthony de Mello, Richard Foster, Tilden Edwards, Edward Hays, Morton Kelsey, and Parker Palmer. (All Roman Catholics).

Willow Creek did a women's study of *Soul Feast*, and Abilene Christian University used the book as a textbook. Bethel University also used the book as a textbook in their Spring 2007 course, DYNAMICS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY as did Wheaton College in a similar course. Mark Yaconelli of Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project also recommends the book, and so do many other Christian leaders and groups. -TBC (10/1/07). Ed. Contemplative prayer is Roman Catholic but originated in Eastern religions such as Hinduism.

THE ANSWER MAN WRONG AGAIN! Hank Hanegraaff has a new book, *The Apocalypse Code*, which supposedly explains the Book of Revelation. The book is anything but true Bible exposition for he thinks the events of Revelation have already been completed. I don't have space to deal with that but two of his sources of information are indeed astounding. According to TBC (10/1/07). "Sadly to assist in twisting the Scriptures, Hanegraaff enlists the help of noted atheists such as Bertrand Russell whom he introduces as 'a world-class philosopher and leading intellectual.' (God says the atheist is a fool! Psalm 14:1). "Russell's words are presented without challenge..." He quotes Albert Schweitzer, "the great missionary physician and New Testament scholar." Schweitzer a New Testament scholar? He was a Universalist who believed in reincarnation and would not kill a fly lest he destroy someone from a former life. I think it is arrogant to call oneself "The Answer Man," especially one who calls on an atheist and a Universalist to help interpret Scripture.

SAY GOODBYE TO THE GOOD OLD U.S.A! We have been writing about the North American Union for over a year. Many believe it is a joke. It is not! This is from *WorldNetDaily* (10/10/07): Former Mexican President Vicente Fox confirms the existence of a plan conceived with President Bush to create a new regional currency in the Americas, in an interview on "Larry King

Live." Fox was asked by a listener: "Mr. Fox, I would like to know how you feel about the possibility of having Latin America united with one currency." Fox answered in the affirmative indicating it was a long-term plan. He said he and Pres. Bush had agreed to pursue the Free Trade Agreement for the Americas (*Note: Not just Canada, U.S., and Mexico*). "What we proposed together, Pres. Bush and myself, was a trade union for all the Americas." King, startled by Fox's revelation asked, "It's going to be like the euro dollar (sic), you mean?" "Well, that would be long term." Fox noted the FTAA plan had been thwarted by Hugo Chavez... "Everything was running smoothly until Hugo Chavez came." Fox stated: "I think the process to go, first step is trading agreement. And then further on, a new vision, like we are trying to do with NAFTA." Last week WND reported BankIntroduction.com, a Canadian company is advising clients that the amero may be the currency of North America in ten years. WND also reported the African Union is moving down the path of economic integration... and a single African currency by 2010. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR - the one-world movers and shakers) has supported regional and global currencies... CFR economist Benn Steil asserts the dollar is a temporary currency. Steil concluded: "Countries should abandon monetary nationalism... and move to a 'one world currency.'" Ed. Italics mine. What this means to me is "the shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God" is close. After God's people have been Raptured, the Great Tribulation will begin and there will be one-world and one-world leader under the devil. "Even so come Lord Jesus!" Are you ready?

BUSH: ALL RELIGIONS WORSHIP SAME GOD. In an interview with Al Arabiya, reporter Elie Nakouzi, Bush said, "I believe that all the world, whether they be Muslim, Christian, or any other religion, prays to the same God." Bush has made this same statement throughout his presidency. George Bush is the first President in U.S. history to worship and pray in a Shinto temple. *World Net Daily* quoted Bush as saying, "We are having an Iftar dinner tonight - I say, 'we' - it's my wife and I." Bush also said, "This is the seventh one in the seven years that I have been president. It gives me a chance to say, 'Ramadan Mubarak' (blessed Ramadan)." *chuckbaldwinlive*. (10/9/07). Ed. Bush is a "born again" Christian? NEVER! You cannot believe all religions lead to God and Heaven and be a true Christian! Jesus said, "**I am the way, the truth and the life, NO MAN COMETH TO THE FATHER BUT BY ME.**" Further, we read in Acts 4:12: "**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NONE OTHER NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**" There is ONE God, ONE Savior - ONLY ONE! He is the God of the Bible! (Not the Koran, etc.)

REDEEMING THE TIME

Christians are exhorted to **“Redeem the time...”** ~*Ephesians 5:16*. I am afraid the truth of the matter is that many are wasting their time on things that don't matter. I read of a dear old lady from the country going for the first time on a railway journey through an interesting and beautiful region. She looked forward to it with great pleasure. When she got on board, it took her a long time to get her baskets and parcels right, to get her skirt adjusted and her seat comfortably arranged, and the shades on the window just right. Then, she had anxious questions about all the things she had left behind. When she was finally getting settled down to enjoy the journey, they called out the name of her station and she had to get up and hustle out. “Oh, my,” she said, “If I had only known that we would be here so soon, I would not have wasted all my time fussing.” Christian, time is flying by and one of these days that last station will be coming up. Are you, like many, busy fussing about things that really do not matter? It is time to get your mind on the main business of life; live for God and for eternity. How many of God's people have time for everything except, soul winning, Bible study, prayer, faithful Church attendance, etc? Some are not even fussing; they are asleep to the things of eternity. God says: **“Knowing that it is high time to wake out of sleep...”** What a sad day the Judgment Seat of Christ is going to be for many when they see all of their “fussing” burned up; years of Christian life wasted. What about you? Better get your priorities straight! Jesus is coming, and it may not be another year before He does! Wake up Christian!

Cornerstone Baptist Church

54 Brighton Street

P.O. Box 438

Belmont, MA 02478

www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

MANY WAYS TO GOD?

Way back in 1959 Dr. Wilfrid C. Smith, professor of comparative religion at liberal McGill University in Montreal said: “The question used to be asked, ‘How is it possible to take the Christian faith seriously and at the same time believe other ways to God to be valid?’ I predict the day is coming when the contrary question will press more cogently - How is it possible to hold a firm, deep, vibrant Christian faith without knowing that God meets men in other ways.” His prediction has come true. It is commonly held today, even by many professing biblical faith, that one may be saved and reach Heaven without a knowledge of Jesus Christ. Both Billy Graham and Pope John Paul VI said it was. But such statements are contradicted by the Word of God! The Scriptures state: **“There is a way that SEEMETH RIGHT UNTO A MAN, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”** ~*Proverbs 14:12, 16:25*. Who will you believe? Jesus said: **“I am the way, the truth and the life: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER BUT BY ME.”** Whatever you believe, you must have an authority for it. Today, many are their own authority. They say, Well, I think thus and so. But does that make it right? The only true authority on life and death and eternity is the Word of God. It says that Christ, through His death and resurrection, His shed blood; that alone is the way to have your sins forgiven and be accepted by God. **“Neither is there salvation in any other, FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME (JESUS) under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”** ~*Acts 4:12*. Better trust Christ today!