

“A Passion for Scripture?”

— Michael D. Rankins

One of the papers published by our institution-supporting brethren (Christian Chronicle, March 2002) recently printed an interview with Tim Woodroof, evangelist for a church in Nashville. The introduction goes on to state that brother Woodroof has “a passion for engaging church members in the study and understanding of Scripture” and a “concern for the Biblical illiteracy of our fellowship.” Having similar passion and concern myself, I read on in the hope of learning something that would help me in my own efforts to engage others with God’s word.

I agreed with brother Woodroof’s observation that we who preach the gospel “have to make the connection between life and Bible explicit.” He continues, “Each Sunday, I feel the challenge of handling the Bible in a way that shows its vitality and relevance, its power, its applicability to everyday life. I want people to be impressed with what God has to say to them — enough to put words into practice.” I feel that same responsibility daily.

But brother Woodroof made several other comments in the interview that I found difficult to reconcile. For example, when he addresses the way preachers should engage Christians with the sacred text, brother Woodroof says, “It’s not enough for us to ‘preach Bible.’” I’m not sure I understand that. If one’s intent is to draw people to God’s word, how can it be that preaching that word only is insufficient? Woodroof goes on, “So, when it comes to the pulpit and lectern, I think passion is the hook.” I’m sure it’s not what he meant, but that almost sounds as if brother Woodroof is saying that without emotionalism, it’s impossible to interest people in what God has to say. To me, that’s selling the power of the word awfully short.

When asked how we can encourage people to know the Bible, particularly those who do not have much background in Scripture study, brother Woodroof replies, “I’m convinced it will only happen through story.” He goes on to describe a series of commentaries he is writing, the first volume of which deals with the book of Philippians. “I’ve done this with narrative,” he says. “The bulk of (title of the Philippians commentary) is narrative fiction.” Excuse me? The way to get people to study the Bible is by telling them stories? The way to comment on the inspired truth is through “narrative fiction”? I don’t get that. I doubt Paul would get that either, especially in light of his teaching regarding “fables” in 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

Here’s an interesting comment from brother Woodroof: “If there is a characteristic weakness of our preaching, it is the tendency to view the preaching task through an educational lens. ‘Sermons should make points. Sermons should be heavy on Scriptures and light

on illustrations. Listeners should be better informed after a sermon.’” “Such a view of preaching,” he says, “gets us in trouble...Jesus told parables more often than He quoted Scriptures.” Brother Woodroof says, “The task of preaching isn’t primarily about conveying more information. It’s about convicting people to care about and practice the information they have.” I wonder how brother Woodroof would assess Peter’s sermon in Acts 2 — a sermon largely composed of quotations from and references to the Old Testament Scriptures.

The central flaw in brother Woodroof’s position is illuminated by a remark he makes near the conclusion of the interview. “We are preaching to a postmodern world,” he says. “For many in our audience, piling up fact on top of Biblical fact is not of much interest. They already have more facts than they know what to do with. Their questions are different.” There’s the true bottom line. That old Bible stuff just doesn’t play today. “Book, chapter and verse” is “old-school,” as the kids like to put it.

I have more faith in God and His word than that. I believe that the word is still “living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). I believe that the gospel is still “the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). I believe that preachers should still “preach the word...in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2). I believe that the word of God, planted in noble and good hearts, will still bring forth fruit, thirty, sixty and a hundredfold (Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15). And I believe that the word of God will not return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11). I only wish all my brethren still believed.

CONTACT ADDRESS

Church Of Christ, Delhi,
Rz-2008/25, House No, 13, S.F.
Tuglakabad Extension, New Delhi-110019
Phone No. : 9953968807
email: khriissuangphum@gmail.com

'KHRIS' SUANGPHUM, A WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR THE MEMBERS
OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, DELHI, ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK'

Enkaitu: Jamson Guite | Panpihitu: Kham Minthang | Jangthang

BIBLE CLASS

Class	Teacher
Adult	: B.Thawngsiandong, Jamson
Junior	: L.James Guite, Kham Minthang
Beginner	: Rosely, Mary,

TUNI BIAKKHAWMNA PROGRAMME

Thumna Hun-uk : Thawngsuanlal
Lapitu : Lianminthang
Thilpiak : Timothy
Theihgigena : Lambiaksang
Thuhilhtu : Joseph Vaiphei
Thumna : Mangkholen

Last Sunday (25/03/12)
Offerings - Rs. 6240/-

I Need More Time

In today's rushed living and extra busy and hectic schedules, there is never enough time to adequately finish the myriad of tasks set for us to do. We jokingly speak of working 36 hour days and 9 days a week. Do you suppose anyone in God's Bible had such a problem, or was there time enough to finish a battle, or live one's life?

Look in your Bible at Joshua chapter 10. Joshua and the people of God were battling for the right to own the promised-land. Joshua has put the Canaanite, Amorite, and other armies in flight. He knows he cannot finish this fight because "there are not enough hours in the day". On the spot, at that time, he pauses in prayer and God answers his prayer and extends the day by having the sun stand still. The Bible says the sun did not go down for about a whole day. Long story short; Joshua defeated the enemies. Joshua was a man of God, a leader of His people. He was in a right relationship with God and his prayers were answered immediately.

In II Kings, chapter 20, Hezekiah, King of Judah was sick and near death. Isaiah, the prophet, went to him and told him to put his house in order, for he would not live. Hezekiah prayed to God and told Him how he had done what was good in God's sight. God listened to Hezekiah's prayer and told him he would get well and live 15 more years. Hezekiah asked for a sign that the Lord would heal him. The Lord said he would either have the sun go forward or backward 10 degrees. Hezekiah chose for the sun to go backward 10 degrees. Because of his godliness and faith, God not only made his day 40 minutes longer, but lengthened his life 15 years.

God has given each of us a life, numbered in years and days. Each of us has time enough to do the work He has given us, if we choose to do so. The question is, will you choose to do so?

As a side-note, these two events amount to 24 hours, a day proven to be missing in the history of time.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Mihing bang hi ahia, na huchhi awlmoh a; sithei mihingte na huchhi lim-sak tel? Hinapi in, nang sang a niamzaw zekfel a bawl in, thupina leh pahtawina lallukhu na khusak hi. (Sam 8:4-5)

THU TUAMTUAM**HONGTUNG:**

-Tumalam a Lamka lam a ana zinkhia unaupa Kham-minthang leh unaunu Biaki te nupa leng kal paita nilaini in damtak in Delhi hongtung kikhawnta uhi.

PAWTKHAWMNA NEI UH :

- Delhi a unau numei ten kal paita Toupani biakkhawmna zoh in unaupa Janglet te inn a h pawtkhawm in kithuahkhawmna nei uhi. Numei tengteng phail tel vek uh a, phathuai mahmah uhi. Maban a leng kha khat a khatvei zel hiai kithuahkhawmna neitou zel diing uh hidan in leng thu kin-gah hi.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST,
NEW DELHI.****Financial Report For The Month
of march, 2012.**

1. Opening Bal.	1,26,957.32
2. Total Recvd.	40,110
3. Grand Total	1,67,067.32
4. Total Expdt.	59,783
5. Closing Bal.	1,07,284.32

NILAINI BIAKKHAWMNA PROGRAMME

A Mun : Unaupa Biakmang inn.
Sarojini Nagar, H.No. D-128.
A Hun - 7.00 pm
Hun-uk : Janglet
Lapitu : Lamsuanmung
Thuhilhtu : Thawnkhansang
Thumna : Vicky

KALNAWN BIAKKHAWMNA PROGRAMME

Thumna Hun-uk : Thonggin
Lapitu : Pauliansiam
Thilpiak : Vicky
Theihgigena : Khenpi
Thuhilhtu : Sianno
Thumna : Jolkhojang

PAITOU ZEL:

-Nilaini kikhop bang mah buaina omlou in gelkhol bang in loching tak in neihtouh zel in om hi. Unaute telkim theikei mah lenghang a hunkhop tel in nua-ntak leh kilop tak in hunte kizang hi. A tangpi in hiai hunte ah tuailai lamte thugenna piak hi a, ngaih nop thei mahmah hi. A tam theipen tel diing in hanchiam ni.

LOHCHING:

-Unaupa Thangzalam tapa Nenglian leh unaunu Ngaih-lun tanu Tiffany Hoisang te result leng suak in amau leng a sin-lai maban te uh sunzom touthei diing in lohchinna ana ngah uhi. Kipahhuai mahmah nawn zel.

MEETING OM:

-Zan kiginni in unaupa Janglet te tenna R.K Puram Sector- 12 ah saptuam vai toh kisa a tutkhawmna om hi. Hiai hun ah unau bangzah hiamte paikhawm in thu tuamtuam tapi genkhawm in om hi.

June ni 30 Chiang a Bible Quiz thupitak om diing ahih dan leng genkhawm in om hi. Unaupa Janglet te innkuan in meeting a tel tengteng buh leh meh limtak a ahon vak ziaq kipahthu igen uhi.