



Serving the suffering church around the world



Jan 2005 Feb

## Standing on the Promises of God

By: Rev. Ron Warren, Executive Director

*“So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”*

Isaiah 55:11

*“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*

Heb. 4:12

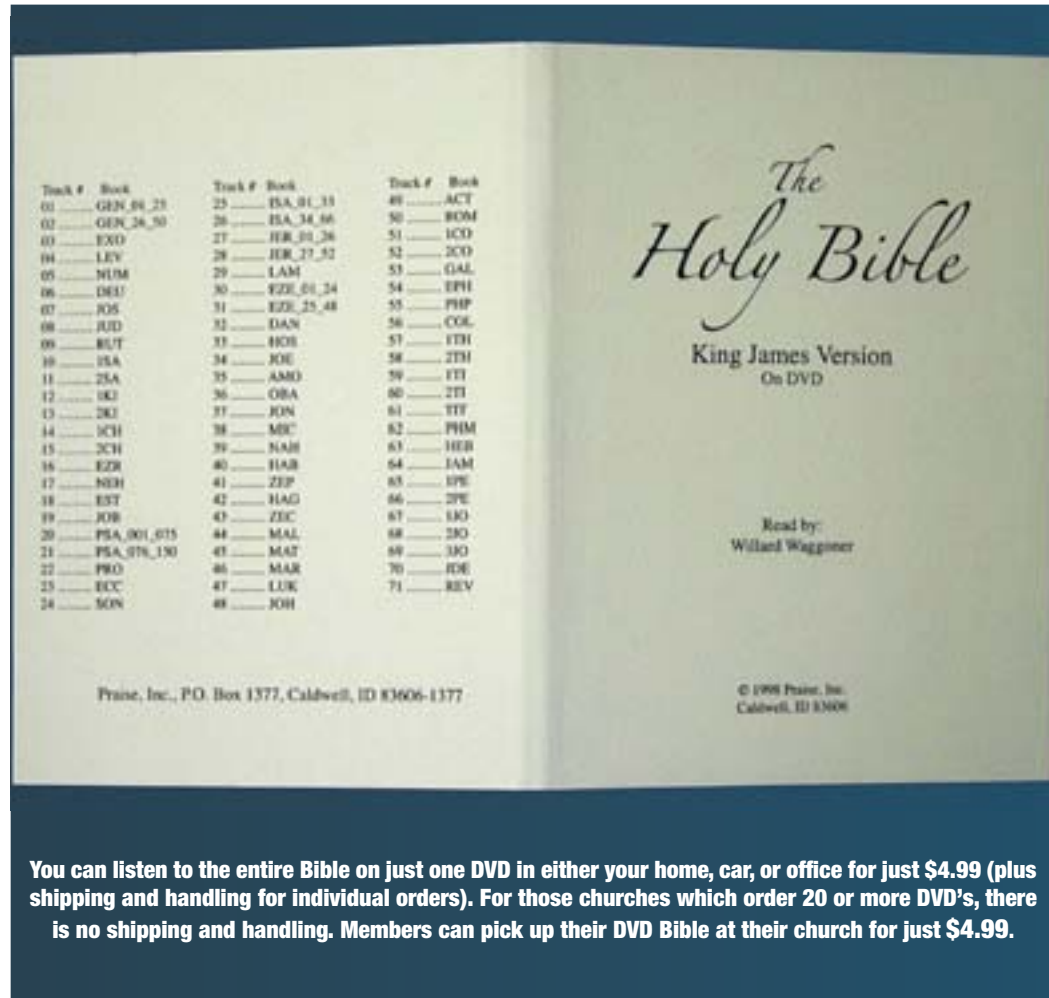
*“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*

Romans 10:17

The largest part of those who read this newsletter do not know much of the ministry's history. With our latest release of Bible recordings, the entire 75 hours of recordings by Willard Waggoner of the King James Bible, we are making a journey back in time to our ministry foundations. The recording effort to provide reasonably priced recordings of the Bible, really began back in 1980, when we introduced the lowest priced cassette recordings of the Bible in the world.

Praise, Inc. was founded in 1979 as a ministry to help local small churches bring in quality Christian entertainment. Many Christian groups and musicians require a guaranteed amount from a church before they will commit to coming to their church. As an organization, we knew that many small churches could not afford such a guarantee, so our goal was to feature well known Christians groups in small churches that could not otherwise afford them. God was good to us during these humble beginnings.

A year after our founding, my wife got me a copy of the New Testament on tape. I spent a lot of my time driving so it would allow me to listen to God's word during a good part of my day. It changed my life. I was amazed at how many years I had gone to church and how much I did *not know* was in God's word. He spoke to me daily from His word, and I wanted others to experience the same incredible voice of God in their lives. There were scores of Bible tape sets being advertised in Christian magazines so I assumed it would be easy to get permission to copy the sets. I wanted to be able to give away tapes of books from the Bible, so I bought a tape duplicator. When I called the man who



owned the Alexander Scourby recordings of the King James Bible, I was surprised to learn that virtually none of those being advertised – were being sold legally. This man had not given permission to them and he wasn't giving it to me either.

A manager at a company who was selling Bible tapes recorded by Mr. Scourby told me, "You don't need permission. The KJV is public domain." Well, it is true that the KJV is public domain, but the Scourby recordings of the KJV were not. I knew I would have to do something different. So, I told my wife, "We will have to produce our own recordings of the Bible." The duplicator would have to sit while I tried to figure out how we would produce Bible recordings. I had gotten the cart before the horse.

I asked numerous well-known Christian voices to provide audition tapes for these recordings. However, the least expensive of them was

\$10,000 to record the entire Bible. That was a lot of money for me in 1981. I asked the Lord for direction in what I should do. He told me to stop by and visit my pastor one day and seek some counsel from him. So I did. The pastor told me about a man in the church who always served as "the voice of God" in church dramas. I sat there thinking I had wasted my time. I walked out to my car and told the Lord, "I have auditions from Los Angeles to New York and you send me to a guy who says there is a great voice located 5 miles from me." I felt like I had just wasted both time and energy. Then the Lord said, "Why don't you just try what he recommended before you forget about the suggestion?" So I went to this man's house where I would meet one of the most remarkable people I have ever known.

Willard Waggoner grew up in India as the son of missionaries. He married Alice, the daughter of 4<sup>th</sup> generation missionaries. In the

Continued on page 2...

years prior to my visit, Willard had lost his voice and struggled for that entire time to just speak. Just a few months prior to my knocking on his door, he had told the Lord, "Please give me my voice back, and I will use it for you." So when I knocked on his door and asked him if he would be willing to audition for some recordings of the Bible, he did not hesitate. Willard kept his commitment to the Lord, but he didn't tell me about it until some time later.

When we took the various voices and put all eight of them on one tape "a" thru "h" for people to hear voices, we weren't expecting the results. Without exception, those who listened picked Willard's voice as their favorite. I was more than a little surprised! So I told Willard we would like for him to do the readings of the Bible for us, but I needed to know what he would charge for his labor. He agreed and began to record in my home.

It didn't take long to figure out that homes were not made to be recording studios. Outside noises were a constant problem. In the meantime, I kept asking Willard to tell me how much he would charge for his time. I told him I could not really begin until I could "count the costs." He agreed, said nothing about an amount, and continued to show up every day to work on the recordings. Finally, after several weeks, I told him I could not work any longer until I knew what I needed to pay him.

With a tear in his eye, Willard shared with me the commitment he had made with the Lord many months earlier, and finally he said, "The Lord gave me my voice back, and now I want to do this as unto the Lord." In the years that followed this simple beginning, Willard read passages countless times until he got them the way he wanted. I remember one day in particular when I came home. Willard was walking out of our very small studio, about to head home, and it looked like he had been crying. I asked if he was O.K. He began to share about how much trouble he had reading the scene where Mary comes to an empty tomb and Jesus calls her by name, "Mary...". Willard knew something of the Lord he was reading about, and his voice began to break again. He said, "I just need to rest for a day and try again tomorrow." It took Willard several days to get through those verses, and they wouldn't be the only ones that would touch

his heart, just in the reading of them. He loved the Lord so very much.

God graced our studio for years with the sounds of Willard's voice as he labored to produce some of the world's finest recordings of the word of God. Willard has gone on to his reward, but he leaves behind these incredible recordings. With today's technology and the efforts of many who love the word of God as much as Willard did, we are able to offer them at an incredible price. We appreciate all of the efforts of those who labored to edit and master these recordings into a digital format.

With today's DVD technology, we are able to put the entire 75 hours of audio recordings on a single video DVD. Contrast this amount of recording time on a CD which only holds about 84 minutes. Each book is accessible individually by a simple click of the control. From 60 cassette tapes of the entire Bible down to a single DVD disk! The quality of sound does not deteriorate a little each time you play it, as a tape does. 75 hours of audio recordings of God's Word - on one single DVD disk!

Having all this on one disk isn't a wonder. What is a wonder is the price! *The entire 75 hours of recording for just \$4.99.* You spend more than that for any one of a few meals on any fast food restaurant. Most of us have bought someone one of those meals. Just a few hours later, we are all hungry again. Here is a meal you can buy someone, and if they listen, they will most likely not hunger again. If they do, they will be able to go back to the same source and eat again. Their hunger will be satisfied each time with an eternally fulfilling meal.

At just \$4.99 (plus shipping and handling) these recordings make it possible for all of us to give these recordings away to both friends and strangers. These are video DVD's and will play on your home or car DVD as well as the one in your PC or notebook computer. There isn't much on television these days so we encourage you to just let the recordings run all day on your home DVD, and the Word of God will fill your home for hours on end.

If you place an order for 20 or more DVD's through your church, all shipping and handling charges are waived. You can then pick up your DVD's at your local church and everyone pays just \$4.99!!

One of the primary reasons this ministry exists is to offer God's word at the most reasonable prices possible.

***We want you to experience His Holy Spirit revealing truth to you. He doesn't show favorites, and He knows your heart.***

Call our offices at 1-877-7PRAISE (1-877-777-2473)  
Extension 101

Ask about how you can get your copy of the  
**entire audio Bible on DVD for just \$4.99** (plus S&H).

# Anti-Christ *Me*

I am privileged to visit brethren around the world who do not enjoy a "Bill of Rights" or a society that allows them to let their opinion be known at the ballot box. They envy our freedoms. Yet, in this country, I see brethren who do not realize the battle we are presently in. Freedom isn't free. The freedom that Christ gave us came at a very high price. His blood was spilled for us on the cross, not at a ballot box.

Christianity will be hated for what it represents as surely as Christ was hated for that which He stood for. Jesus told us this would happen. The Bible tells us there will be one person who will rule the world as the "anti-Christ". Christians need to stop and think about what they are seeing happening in their communities today. *The battle has begun that will one day allow the anti-Christ to rule.* For that to happen, everything Christian or Christ like thing or event will have to be considered "anti-society" or "against the rules". The society or world that will allow this person to rule who hates Christ will have to be one that hates Christ, as well as things Christian!

I have seen small pictures of this scenario already so it is not hard to imagine how it could be world- wide. Islam hates anything Christian or Jewish already. Despite what a politically correct press says, Islam is a religion based not on love, but hatred. In its verses are explicit exhortations to completely destroy Jewish and Christian communities. All of this, of course, is to be done in the peaceful name of Allah. In many schools across American, there are secularists who treat this as nothing more than a garden variety religion, much more acceptable in their minds than Christianity. In this field of ignorance are standing what I refer to as secular Christians.

These are Christians who may even wear clerical garb but know nothing of the Spirit in God's Word. Their knowledge is in their head only, not in their heart. They accept things that are an abomination to the Lord, and justify political stands accepting the deaths of millions of children while using the name of Christ to gain access to audiences who sit and listen to their diatribes. They are truly wolves in sheep's clothing. Then there are those sitting in the audiences who claim the name of Christ in their lives and "acceptance or tolerance" as their identifying armband. A complete lack of knowledge of God's Word is their true identifying marker. Yet, many gullible Christians accept their "anti-Christian" rhetoric.

At one time, reading the Bible was a very

# ans Anti-Christian

common thing for our society. It was a book that was used regularly in the classroom. Today, even the mention of Christ in Christmas brings lawsuits. In the interim, Christians have set aside their Bibles and their ignorance of God's Word has grown exponentially. Christians need to spend a regular part of their day in His Word and seek His Spirit in understanding what they read or hear. Jesus said, "*If you ask for bread, you will not be given a stone.*" Matt. 7:9 If you don't spend the time, but only rely on someone to tell you about what is in His Word, then you will end up being like so many who fill churches today. All they know is what they're told!

Jesus gave us the signposts needed to help see the secular Christians in our midst, but most, out of ignorance, fail to even look at the sign posts. If you follow sign posts carefully on the road, it helps you to avoid accidents. The same is true for signposts that God gives us; use them and avoid an accident. Ignore them, and prepare for what could result in a catastrophic decision on your part. The signposts are clear, but like fastening a seat belt, their use is optional.

I regularly see very respected Christians fail to apply even the most basic of signposts in their decisions, but rather use the same guidelines that the secular world around them uses. I can't count how many well-meaning Christians rely on secular distinctions rather than those clearly laid down in scripture. Satan effectively uses this blindness to his advantage.

God speaks to this in II Thessalonians 2:9-11, "... *the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false.*" How else could such a person rise up to literally hate what Christ loved; to hate all things truly Christ-like, or to hate those things that grow from the love of Christ? How else could a lie become truth?

We are seeing it today, and it is being accepted by more and more secular Christians as truth. Compromise is taking away the transforming power of God's Word. Yet, some of the most vocal critics of truth are people dressed in the uniform of a Christian. They take on the name and title of Christian ministers, hold a Bible under their arm, or speak from behind a pulpit in a church with a cross behind them, and they speak a mixture of truth with outright lies. Lies are accepted

by those in front of them. Why? They are not walking in the love of the truth, so they do not receive the truth. The enemy is able to deceive, because the word of God is not alive and discerning in the listener.

Loving God's Word will lead you to take His Word seriously. Being in His word will allow you to take that sword to what you hear and discern what is truth. I see an absolute reverence for God's Word in those who risk their lives daily and whose families are at risk every day for their faith. Their daily goal is to learn more, to spend as much time as possible in His Word, and to apply what they learn from His Word to their lives. They live their lives knowing that which is ahead for them is much greater than that which is here today, or that which lies behind them. Their tomorrows are not focused on how much money they will have put away, or where they will live. They do not focus on their possessions, but rather on their walk with Jesus.

The reason is simple. They know in Whom they have believed and they are confident He is able to keep them for the promise of eternal life He has given them. Their confidence and focus is shared by Paul in II Tim. 1:12 "*For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.*" Sharing this hope with others remains a primary objective in their daily life. Their lives are the best example of what the disciples' lives must have been like. The focus is on sharing the Good News! It is in helping them to achieve this goal, that this ministry is blessed by their friendship and prayers.

We believe the best way to encourage and help the church is through its ministers. So we begin by helping the minister live a life that will allow him to focus on his calling to be a minister. We believe we are in a literal battle on a daily basis with Satan's forces who aim to destroy not only our brothers and sisters, but us as well. We also believe that it is possible to aid and abet the enemy by either empowering the enemy through ignorance and gossip, or not assisting our brethren in their time of need during this battle. Aiding and abetting the enemy occurs far too often today.

Blurring the truth has always been one of Satan's most effective weapons, and it is still true today. That blurring gets worse, the further we get away from the principles of battle given to us in God's Word. Since there is no better teacher of how to be an effective combatant in this eternal battle, than the Holy Spirit, I encourage everyone I meet to spend time listening to what He has to say. That is done by spending just 10 to 15 minutes a day in His Word. Paul, a man well acquainted with adversity, tells us in Romans 10:17, "*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*" Are you facing difficult decisions

or difficult circumstances, and it is hard for you to get a handle on what God would have you to do?

Paul talked about all of the difficult circumstances, people, hostile governments and officials he had to deal with; yet, he found renewed faith and refuge in the sanctuary of God's word. That same place is available to you today. God's word is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is forever faithful and holds you in no less esteem than he held the apostle Paul. You are as important to Him as His famous servant, Paul. Meet Him in a quiet place and either read or listen to Him on a daily basis. Don't allow yourself to be guided by the blind or gossips. Choose you this day who you will listen to regularly, either the voices of men or the voice of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of your life will reflect it. The path you leave behind you can reflect His life, not the destruction and death found in Satan's hand.

## A Very Personal Note

While all of us read newspaper stories or watch the news about other Christians whose lives are threatened for their faith, some of those whose names appear in these stories, are good friends. I can't tell you how heartbreaking it is to know that someone you care for and appreciate so much is at great risk – along with their families.

On December 14, we received news that a good friend, and a writer known around the world, was again detained in Beijing by Chinese authorities. The New York Times reported that Yu Jie and two other intellectuals "were detained in raids at their homes. Mr. Yu's relatives were handed a that said he was suspected of 'participating in activities harmful to the state' (his books are novels about life in China). Liu Min, Mr. Yu's wife said her apartment was surrounded by uniformed policemen. The telephone line to her home was cut in the middle of a conversation with a reporter."

Yu and his wife, "Maggie", are two very special young Christians. They love their country and they love the Lord. They need to know they are not alone and there is a very large family praying for them. Their situation is dangerous. The Times article went on to quote an unidentified editor at a major state-run newspaper, "The steps the authorities have taken are not by coincidence. This is a new era, but right now we're moving backwards."

Would you join with us in praying for Yu and his wife in China? Write to us at [sponsors@praiseinc.org](mailto:sponsors@praiseinc.org) and let us know you will pray for them. If you cannot email us, then please take a moment to write to Yu and Maggie. Send your letter to us. We will gather the letters you send and give them to Yu and Maggie to let them meet their family and see the level of prayer support they have. You and I can stand with them and pray for them during this time of uncertainty in their lives.



In just the past few days, poor Christian ministers faced increasing levels of attack. One of China's house church leaders, Zhang Rongliang was arrested and is being held with no information being given to his family. They are not only concerned for his safety but he suffers from diabetes and they have not been allowed to get any medication to him.



Muslims in the Philippines killed several people recently in a marketplace where the inhabitants are predominately Christians. Local pastors are caring for the grieving families now. In Indonesia, the Muslims attacked churches while the congregations were worshiping. No one was killed, but several were injured by the gunfire. Rounds that were fired into one of the churches narrowly missed the pastor.



The Indigenous Minister Assistance Program does not take these dangers away from the minister. It only brings two people together in prayer and support. You provide the minister a small amount (\$25) each month that insures his family has something to eat that month, and he is able to focus his entire attention on the work entrusted to him in the community where Christ has placed him. With your partnership, there is now one more person in helping him to win the lost in his community. There is now one more person standing with him in difficult, and many times deadly, situations.



- 13"x19"(shown) \$100
- 15"x23" \$150
- 19"x34"(bottom) \$200

You can help your children, or their children by giving them tools that keep His word in front of them, on a daily basis.

These hand made plaques with in-laid mother-of-pearl are made by Christians in Vietnam. They take your favorite verse and inlay it by hand then apply nearly 10 coats of hand rubbed lacquer.

With proper care, these incredibly beautiful plaques will last not just one lifetime, but several. Take your favorite verse from the Bible today and gift it to those you love.



**Praise, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 1377  
 Caldwell, ID 83606  
 (208) 454.1377  
 1.877.7PRAISE  
 FAX (208) 459.7139  
[www.praiseinc.org](http://www.praiseinc.org)

**KOP** (Kids of Praise)  
 Doug & Stacy Carbol  
[kop@praiseinc.org](mailto:kop@praiseinc.org)  
 1.877.7PRAISE ex.104

**Graphics**  
 Grant R. Wilson  
[graphics@worldstreaures.biz](mailto:graphics@worldstreaures.biz)  
 (208) 695-6465

**Business Development**  
 Steve Durham  
[busdev@worldstreaures.biz](mailto:busdev@worldstreaures.biz)

**Product Information**  
 World's Treasures  
 16534 West Oak St  
 Caldwell, ID 83607  
 (208) 454-2944  
[www.worldstreaures.biz](http://www.worldstreaures.biz)