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Testament

Ministries -

Unlimited

Flee the Sand Witch; Go for What's Rock Solid!

We can't help being attracted to 'sand', it bewitches us. It's not just children; adults too create marvelous sand-castles and sculptures. Yet we know perfectly well that a bit of rain is bound to ruin it all.

The number of men and women that are on Ashley Madison's hacked lists is at least 33 million; more than half are outside the US. All have paid for the privilege and pleasure to commit adultery. The website's slogan is: "Life is short. Have an affair."

Now some fall-out 'rain' is causing havoc. The dreamy sandcastles have become ugly piles of mud. In reality, it turns out their very lives, their reputations, their homes and jobs were all built on sand. Reportedly, a number of them have already committed suicide.

What would be an adequate word to describe the madness of adultery? Irresponsible? Foolhardy? Insane? Actually "bewitched" would be a good word, not in the least because it implies

demonism. God's terrible judgments on humanity in the past all had to do with overt sexual sin, steeped in demonism. To the antediluvians judgment came through water, to Sodom and Gomorrah through fire, to the Canaanites through the sword... **"Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!"** (James 5).

But it is not only gross sin that is represented as 'sand' by the Lord in his parable of the two builders in Matthew 7. The preceding verses show that the religious folks too, the 'Lord-Lord' people - who prophesy, exorcise, do miracles - are notorious sand-lovers, at least many of them. Jesus says that **only** the Rock of his 'sayings', specifically chapters 5-7, provides the rock-solid foundation for a man's life, for his home, testimony and destiny. His Word, if only heard, not obeyed, provides sure condemnation! But any man in this world of 'sand', who simply obeys by faith is building on the one Rock, i.e., Jesus Christ and **HIS WORD!**

Hi friends,

I guess it is inevitable that when you get to a good age yourself (by the Lord's mercies), funerals become more frequent in your experience. My brother of 91, who was here for Janet's funeral, last November, went himself quite unexpectedly in May.

All my family (six of us) had eventually, many years ago, been touched by the Gospel through the fact that as a young man he was "infected" first of all. What a wonderful legacy, yet he wasn't even conscious of it until I reminded him. Of all four siblings he never felt he was called to missionary work or any public ministry, yet there were ways in which the Master used his disciple.

One unusual occurrence was that time when, on impulse, he had hidden a Russian Bible among his belongings when the firm he worked for sent him to Moscow - years before the Iron Curtain came down. One day, traveling there by taxi, that Bible was lying on the seat, next to him. When the taxi stopped at the traffic lights, a lady on the sidewalk approached and, in broken English, asked him for a Bible. Amazed and overjoyed he handed it to her. In heaven she may already have approached him again, this time to thank him...

Two days after my birthday in July, Elaine (Michael's aunt) also made her exit. I wrote about her illness last time. In Spain she was Janet's best friend and they enjoyed each other immensely. That fact was made more poignant by us having the funeral service in the very hall and at the same cemetery where Janet was buried less than 9 months earlier. Now more than ever will they find their common enjoyment in the great Savior they loved. Among us, both of them are missed a lot!

In Spring, just as she was hoping to come out for a week, **Lydia** fell ill and was hospitalized. The doctors were non-plussed at first, not knowing what was the problem, but at last what emerged was a very bad case of pneumonia, and it took a long time to be eradicated. Once at home, she had to continue the treatment for quite a while, but at long last was able to go back to work - for half days at least. Now she is back to normal, but, according to **Dave**, we had nearly lost her.

Their house is still on the market and there seems to be a certain interest in it. Whenever they sell, the idea is to come out to Andalusia as soon as possible, first to rent something and then, from there, to look for a permanent place that might be bought.

Granddaughter **Anya**, has just turned 19 and is starting 'Uni' one of these days. Brothers **Joshua** and **Daniel** are doing well in all kinds of things, especially in athletics.

Michael and **Julie** had four extremely busy days with a team of two coaches from Ireland. More would have come, but they were already booked elsewhere. These two and Michael and his helpers did lots of organizing and coaching with the football, and evangelizing-with-interpretation after the matches. The numbers of youngsters were amazing and God’s Word of Salvation was sown in what seemed to be good soil. Michael is much exercised about some of them and praying about the best way to follow-up.

Jesús and **Amanda**, recently married, but not yet baptized, moved to the small town of Nerja, some 30 km to the east from us; that was when Amanda found a job there. It means that, because of her working hours and lack of transport, they are not able to come to meetings, so they too are much missed. Next time we hope to be able to tell you about times of fellowship in their home.

Enrique, **María** and **Elizabeth** (María’s daughter) have been opening up more and more and loving the meetings. Mother and daughter are Bolivian, while he is Spanish. They too have moved, but in the other direction, to Málaga capital. From there they still try to come, but don’t always manage it.

Favio and **Inés** attend the meetings. Favio’s son, **Cristian**, comes now and then. He is 13. His friend, **Hugo**, has also been. There is a lot of potential in this family, if only Favio could give the right spiritual leadership. Please, pray that he might be truly grounded in the Word!

Elías, María’s brother, has been working in Brussels for a few months, but the work there dried up and he’s back here. He loves the meetings. His marriage tangles, though complicated, are not beyond the Lord. Pray!

Asa and **Mira**, our Swedish ladies, are still on the “little farm in the hills”. They enjoy being there, but **Karen** is getting a bit anxious, since a good friend would like to rent it from her. Everything hinges (humanly speaking) on their account in Switzerland. It is still blocked and so they’re still without any money whatsoever. But there seems to be a tiny bit of light now at the end of this long, long tunnel. Thank you for praying! In HIS love,

Jim

**NOW IN HARDCOPY AND PDF!
LET US KNOW WHICH YOU PREFER.**

IN THIS ISSUE:



- “The Comeback of Paganism” - JvH
- “TO BURN OR TO BURY” - JvH / “Paganism Beaten”
- “And the Door Was Shut in Their Faces” - JvH
- “DO THIS FOR ME!” (Philemon) - Howel Jones / You Wrote
- “Radical Transformation” - Ron Sider / EUROPEAN CHRISTIANITY

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child...”

The following was written by 8-year-old Danny Dutton (who lives in California), for his third grade homework assignment, to “explain God”.

“One of God’s main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn’t make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn’t have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God’s second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn’t go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad’s head, asking for something they said you couldn’t have.

Atheists are people who don’t believe in God. I don’t think there are any where I live. At least there aren’t any who come to our church.

Jesus is God’s Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn’t want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn’t know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn’t have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there’s anybody you want to make happy, it’s God!

If you don’t believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can’t go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He’s around you when you’re scared, in the dark or when you can’t swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But... you shouldn’t just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And... that’s why I believe in God.”

“...but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see... dimly, but then FACE TO FACE”

(1 Corinthians 13).