

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. X

July 1, 2001

No. 26

Don't take trust lightly

By: Jerry Fite

A mother has drowned her five children. What has been lost? A respected history professor has lied about his personal credentials. What has been lost?

Over the last two weeks, the horrific scene of five children being methodically drowned in their family's bathtub by their own mother is hard to block from sensitive hearts. Regardless of the mental state of the mother, the fact remains that five innocent lives have perished for evermore from the earth. But something other than innocent lives was lost that day. A precious thing called “trust” was trampled upon in the thrashing waters of death.

Four of these children had learned in their short years to depend upon mother to fix them food, dress them, and teach them the 3 R's. Who can tell us the depth of bonding the infant girl was developing with her mother? What horror must have filled the heart of the seven year old as his own mother ran after him, caught him and drowned him by the lifeless body of his infant sister. These children had developed trust in their mother. And now, as they realized they were being held

under water by the hands of their own mother, valuable trust was fleeing with their departing spirits.

Recently, professor Ellis of Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts had to admit that he had lied about his credentials of being a Vietnam veteran. For two decades he had offered his “personal insights” in his course on the Vietnam War. He and his supporters are trying to distinguish his scholarship from his “personal” failures. But how do you listen to a teacher of history and trust him to tell you the truth when he has deliberately lied about his own history? If he keeps his job or not, he has lost a precious quality connected with his character. Every time he stands before an audience, he will be looking into the eyes of people who will have to wonder as to the truthfulness of his statements regarding history. He lost trust in order to gain acceptability in his views of the Vietnam War.

“Trust” is at the foundation of our relationship with God. God teaches us to not trust in ourselves, (2 Cor. 1:9) or our riches, but on God (I Timothy 6:17). God wants us to “trust in Him at all times, ye people; Pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge

for us” (Psalm 62:8). God invites us to “trust in Jehovah with all thy heart, and lean not upon thine own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).

God backs up the invitation for trust with his “faithful” character. We can trust Him for salvation, eternal life and fulfilling His promise to preserve us to the end because “Faithful is He that calleth you, who will also do it” (I Thessalonians 5:24). God never loses our trust, because he always remains faithful.

Trust is earned by acts of faithfulness. The fruit of “faithfulness” will develop by putting into practice the teachings of the Holy Spirit revealed in His word (Galatians 5:22). Each day we tell the truth (Ephesians 4:25), and keep our word (Matthew 5:37) we are developing trust.

Trust takes time to earn, but it can vanish quickly, causing a life time of sorrow. Value it, guard it, and preserve it with faithful living according to God's standard of righteousness (Romans 1:17). Don't take “trust” lightly. Value it now, instead of mourning it's loss later.