

ITINERANT PREACHERS TODAY:

A Sign and a Warning

The Abortion Abolitionist believes that today, just as in the earliest days of the nation, the emergence of a growing wave of Itinerant Preachers is a sign and a warning that the Holy Spirit of God is beginning to move with power in a cold and apostate generation. As an ongoing feature of The Abortion Abolitionist, each issue will spotlight these itinerant ministers or the ministries that support them today.

ITINERANT PREACHERS: WITH US FROM THE BEGINNING

From the beginning of His ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ sent out people to expand His ministry to the world. And from the beginning they were sent as both a sign and a warning to a world facing the coming Judgment of God.

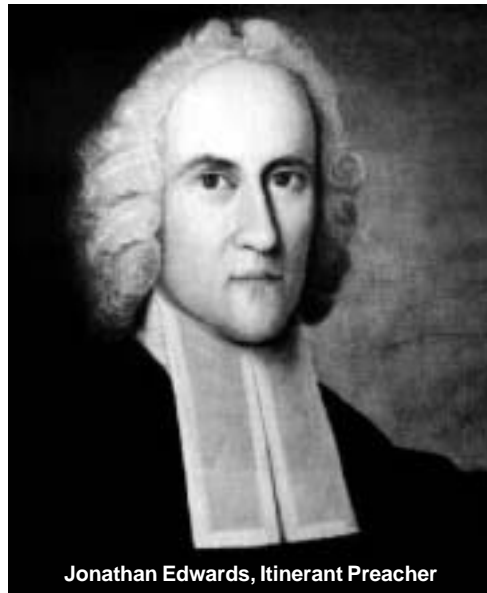
Luke 10:1" After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two... "And then we are told that Jesus Christ gave them instructions: "...and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. ¹⁰But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, ¹¹Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. ¹²But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city..."

While the instructions Jesus Christ gave His disciples about what to carry when they went out into the world changed over time (compare Luke 10:1ff with Luke 22:35-38), His intention to continue sending out people to proclaim that the kingdom of God was at hand never changed. The instructions Jesus Christ gave resonated across the ages and charged into the New World and literally created the United States of America.

The History of the Itinerant Preacher

Beginning with those sent out by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Itinerant Preacher has never left the history of Christendom. During the age of the Apostles, the Apostle Paul provided a model for the Itinerant Preacher that has been followed by every generation of Christian since him. And just as the life

of the Apostle Paul was beset by conflicts both from within those who claimed to be a part of the True Church of God (remember the conflicts Paul had when he spoke in the Jewish synagogues scattered throughout the Roman Empire) as well as with those without (the riot in Ephesus when the pagan tried to kill Paul for interfering with their idols), so too have the lives of the Itinerants who followed him been beset.



Jonathan Edwards, Itinerant Preacher

For nearly two millennia, the life of the Itinerant Preacher has always been one of the most difficult of callings. We forget that travel itself, one of the identifying marks of the Itinerant Preacher, was once literally a death defying act. The Catholic Encyclopedia says this about the Itineraria, the Middle Ages equivalent of today's Itinerant Preacher: "Nearly all the *itineraria* of the Middle Ages have for their subject the journey to the Holy Land and neighbouring countries. In those days, when travelling was beset with difficulties and dangers, long journeys were rarely undertaken except under the impulse of religious motives."

While people travel today easily and without fear, the Itinerant Preacher still encounters the inconveniences, hardships, and even dangers common to the calling throughout history. One of history's most traveled itinerant preachers, John Wesley, said that the true itinerant needs only four characteristics to be successful: "a back for any bed, a face for any weather, a stomach for any food, and strength for any work." Anyone who reads the Itinerant Preacher section of The Abortion Abolitionist will see that this generation has brought its own trials to the calling.

THE GREAT AWAKENING, ITINERANT PREACHERS AND THE USA

The importance of itinerant preachers to the USA can be seen by examining the Great Awakening in America. That was movement of the Holy Spirit occurring during the 1730's and 1740's in which itinerant ministers presented powerful messages of salvation which provided early Americans with



**John Wesley Addressing Preachers
Actual Likenesses of Preachers Used**

a greater sense of nationality, was the melting pot out of which the USA was forged. This "greater sense of nationality" was the foundation upon which the nation called the United States of America was built. The USA was not built on a foundation of mortar or concrete but was laid on a foundation of tempered steel. That steel that composed the foundation of the United States of America began to be formed in the Great Awakening. You can see the hard metal of the United States of America in the characteristics of national identity precisely defined in the Declaration of Independence.

All of these events can be traced in a straight line linear arrow pointing directly back to the instructions Jesus Christ first gave to His disciples.

To see how Jesus Christ's instructions to Itinerant Preachers created the nation that became the United States of America you must study the historical record of the colonies. One of

the most helpful books available is called "The Great Awakening" edited by two Harvard Professors, Alan Heimert and Perry Miller. Subtitled "Documents Illustrating The Crisis And Its Consequences," the book contains a series of original documents written by people in the period leading up to the Great Awakening in 1742. The eye witness accounts contained in the book document the power and the method that Itinerant Preachers, as well as their more traditionally rooted likeminded reformers, used to forge a nation out of the dead and inert metal of colonial America.



The editors summarized the importance of their subject of study by writing, "Out of the [Great] Awakening came new ideas—the many propositions that 'American society, having been shaken by this experience, was henceforth

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consciously to observe.' The Great Awakening thus stands as a major example of that most elusive of phenomena: a turning point, a 'crisis' in the history of American civilization."

ITINERANT PREACHERS FLOODED AMERICA

This paragraph from the archives and research center of the Methodist Church, only one tributary that created the Itinerant flood, will give some insight into the large numbers of Itinerant Preachers roaming the highways and byways of the American colonies: "From 1742 to the death of John Wesley in 1791, nearly five hundred lay itinerants were recruited by Wesley and with no formal training were charged with the task of taking the gospel message to wherever they saw a need. They came from every social class and by the 1770s women were added to their numbers. The preachers endured a life characterized by frequent persecution, the rigours of constant travel and isolation from friends and colleagues. Many failed in their calling while the conduct of others brought Methodism into disrepute. The best of them, however, carried the Evangelical revival throughout Great Britain and overseas to North America and the West Indies. Without their contribution, Methodism would have remained a short-lived movement which would not have survived its founders."

Since in our time the Methodist denomination has become a leader in ordaining homosexuals and defending the butchering of God's children in legalized abortion, many people see the fruit of those Methodist Itinerants as more evidence proving what many religious people have been contending ever since the first day the Lord Jesus Christ sent his disciples out into the world; namely, that the onslaught of Itinerant Preachers has always been an abomination before God and a usurpation of authority that rightfully only belongs in the established and duly ordained institutions of religion.

One of the ongoing objectives of The Abortion Abolitionist will be to document the fact that the tsunami let loose by the Itinerant preachers the Lord Jesus Christ sent out millennia ago continues to roll across these shores today. As we the people struggle to deal with the growing crisis in the United States of America, there is no doubt that Itinerant Preachers will today, as they have done throughout the history of Christendom, lead the way out of the crisis at hand. END

To Stop Legalized Abortion We Must Be OBDIENT TO GOD

- Single-Mind
- Teachable About Scripture
- Truth Telling
- God-Serving
- Presume Nothing About God's Patience

What Christian would argue with that prescription? No one! Help Us Make it Happen!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE ABORTION ABOLITIONIST!

TAKE THIS TEST TO SEE WHETHER YOU ARE AN ABORTION ABOLITIONIST

- Are You Prepared To Act Like Unborn Babies Are Human Beings Endowed By The Creator With The Same Rights You Have?
- Are You Prepared To Single-Mindedly Make the Abolition of Legalized Abortion Your First Political Priority?
- Are You Prepared To Refuse To Be SideTracked By Activities That Have Been Tried And Failed?

Unless God will raise up people who believe God will grant us a fresh vision to deliver His children from death, then we are fooling ourselves that legalized abortion will be abolished in our lifetime!

Are you an Abortion Abolitionist?

**Do You Have A Dial Up Connection To The Internet?
Why Not Use One That Fights Legalized Abortion?**

THE WE CHOOSE LIFE NETWORK

www.wechooselife.net