

## EDITORIAL

It has been quite a summer and spring. End April, your editor left for the Philippines for three weeks. In the course of my stay, I talked to a score of churches, schools, and homes, preaching and teaching geocentricity, special creation, and Bible preservation as I went. In addition, I met thirty-plus pastors of churches I could not speak at. Many of these attended meetings where I did speak.

The reception geocentricity received in the Philippines is quite different than it receives in the western world. The west is proud of its science and education; of its professors and instructors at all levels. To the modern, Western mind, they can do no wrong. This insanity started about 150 years ago in the USA, striking Europe more than a hundred years earlier.

It was in the Philippines that I learned the true value of geocentricity, the true significance of the ministry of this publication and the *Biblical Astronomer* as an organization. It happened on the day that I missed my flight for Kuala Lumpur, which would have started the next leg of my journey. In the afternoon, my host, pastor Emmanuel Tannierla, and I had a long, heart-to-heart talk about the ministry of the Filipino pastors and their spiritual needs. Their fiscal poverty (in large part due to oppression by the Roman church) is always present and is an expected truism. But from that, there results a spiritual lack, too.

A Filipino Baptist pastor starts his ministry from scratch. He and his family move to a town, and for the first year or two they do nothing but visit from door to door telling people about the free gift of God, forgiveness of sins and heaven, too, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Slowly, a church is formed. First in a home, and when the congregation reaches about 25, it starts to build. Being an independent Baptist church, the church building can only be on the edge of town or out in the countryside. The center of town belongs to the Church of Rome, which is usually located across the street from the city hall. From there outward, one can trace radially the decreasing devotedness of the churches to the ecumenical principles of Vatican II.

The immensity of the spiritual poverty of the Filipinos so overwhelms the new pastor that he has to spend all his time in evangelistic work. As a result, he often does not have time to study doctrine. He thinks doctrine is too hard, that it would siphon all his time from the needs of his congregation and his outreach to the community. He starts to think that the only way he can learn doctrine is to go to school, quite often a school that is as clueless about doctrine as is he. But that is where the significance of geocentricity comes into play. It teaches him that God himself will teach his pastors.

You see, most of these pastors have read Joshua 10:13 and noted that it runs contrary to what they were taught in school. They wonder about it, but, unable to pursue it, that is as far as they get. Then someone comes along and explains that even according to science, which their schools taught them was a final authority, the entire universe can rotate about the earth in a day; that the sun does go around the earth daily and yearly. They learn that they can build upon every word in the Holy Bible, even when it contradicts what their teachers have taught them, be those teachers in a seminary or in a state-run school. The result is that their faith is strengthened.

It was on the matter of the motion of the earth that the Church (I refer to the Bride of Christ presented in the Bible, not the traditional one of the Catholic and Protestant churches) was deceived. Because of the fear of ridicule, Bible-believing, Christian scholars and pastors succumbed to the science falsely so-called. God allowed that, for he warned all Bible readers that there is a science falsely so called (1 Timothy 6:20), and he warned against both it and all philosophy (Colossians 2:8). But a hundred twenty-five years ago, in 1881, both warnings were removed on the basis of Catholic scholarship and tradition. The purveyors of the new bibles, while claiming to be true to the original, fired an endless barrage of criticism at the Monarch of Books, the word of God, his Holy Bible. After eighty years of this, American churches were too weak to resist a handful of reprobate Supreme Court justices who did not like to retain God in their knowledge from exiling God from the United States. Ever the gentleman, God obliged.

Since the believers were not willing to fight for their faith, and felt justified in not doing so, it was only a matter of time before they would no longer keep the word of God, either. Indeed, they even lost the meaning of "keep." Now they are blown about by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14). But in 1967, God raised up the modern geocentric movement to combat the apostasy. No longer can Christians claim that since God did not preserve his words, he is unreasonable to expect them to obey them. The very point on which the Church succumbed to science falsely so called is now so totally discredited by the very scientists themselves, not to mention the popular press, that relativity is now a household word. The very theory scientists concocted to keep the earth moving while all the fundamental evidence and the Bible says it does not, is the theory that exposed the error of the post-Reformation Christians of all stripes. The choice is clear, fight for the God-preserved, divinely-revealed Bible, or die with the apostate Bible of your choice. And that is what your editor learned from the Filipino pastors.