

The Exact Location

August 2006

"The Hospital"

For every time someone has named the hospital in which another is, I have heard perhaps 100 times:

(Person A) is in *the hospital*.

In rural areas, there may only be one hospital. My home churches have been in New York City and Philadelphia, PA, where there are *many* hospitals.

What Hospital?

Sadly, you have to ask: "What hospital?"

Call before you go

Call the hospital before you go there. God still works wonders!

Funeral Location

Twice I have been told that the funeral will be held around the corner or up the street. When I went out of town to go to the city where the funeral was to be held, I found that it was not around the corner from the church I attended 2 days before or up the street from the funeral home whose address I was given.

Ask the Funeral director

I drove around until I found the Catholic Church having a hearse on which was the name of the funeral home. I assumed I was at the church where the funeral mass was in progress.

Sometimes this assumption is false because that funeral home might be conducting more than one funeral. I should have asked the funeral director to verify my assumption.

The Law of Non-Contradiction

June 2006

The law of non-contradiction, or the law of contradiction, is:

No two contradictory [antithetical, which stresses clear and unequivocal diametrical opposition] statements can both be true and false, at the same time, in the same sense (Zacharias, 2005, 5). A proposition cannot be true and false at the same time and in the same relationship.

“A” cannot be “non-A” at the same time and in the same way.

I can be a bachelor (“A”) and married (“non-A”) at different times, but not at the same time. I can be a father and a son at the same time, but I cannot be a father and a son at the same time *and* in the same relationship. I cannot be a father and a son to my son. I can be a father to my son and a son to my father.

Zacharias states that some claim falsely that Easterners do not hold to the law of non-contradiction

To address the claim made by a university professor that Easterners reject the one-hand system of logic as expressed by the law of non-contradiction and embrace the both-hand system of logic, he asked the following question:

Do Easterners use the both-hand system [of logic] *or* nothing else?

The professor responded: “It seems that the one-hand system does emerge!”

Then Zacharias added: “Even in India, they look both ways when crossing the street. It’s me *or* the bus.

Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr. gave the following needed warning on the last page of his electronic paper (see reference below): We should observe the law of contradiction so long as we do not place our imperfect understanding and applications of the law above the teaching of Scripture as the unquestionable arbiter of truth.”

References

Pratt, R. L. (n.d.). *Does God observe the law of contradiction? . . . Should we?* Retrieved on May 17, 2006 from http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/ric_pratt/TH.Pratt.Contradictions.pdf#search=%22pratt%20law%20of%20contradiction%22

Zacharias, R. (2005). *The inextinguishable light*. Retrieved on May 17, 2006 from <http://www.rzim.org/noindex/sliceprint.php?/sliceid=24>

Water Baptism

July 2006

No Hesitation

Many years ago, the LORD gave me the following directive for my behavior at the church where I worshipped: When someone wants to be water-baptized, you prepare for the baptism.

A Man with a Bad Back

While in the pool, a man expressed concern about being baptized because he had a back problem. I explained that I would hold him so that he would not be baptized from a standing position.

I held him in a partially submerged position, almost parallel to the surface until he relaxed. I dipped him and returned him to the partially submerged position so that he could then stand without straining his back.

Sitting Position

Sometimes, a person is to be baptized from a sitting position. This can arise because of the following:

- The baptism occurs in a shallow pool (e.g., a cattle feeding trough set aside for baptism only).
- The water level is low.
- Setting will help the candidate relax.
- The candidate is unable to stand.

Baptizing Women

I insure that women know in advance where my hands will be when I baptize them. I am right-handed.

I place my left hand on their shoulders or higher. I ask them to hold my right hand so that their hands are between them and my hand. In this way, they are holding my right hand during the baptism process.

Is He Strong Enough?

Responding to the gospel preached by Apostle H. D. Jones, a “heavysset” woman came for baptism. I tried to dip her twice. Twice, in silence, she did not budge. The Lord let me know that she thought I could not bring her up from the water.

I asked her to give me a moment. I put on work pants after giving the baptism boots to our head deacon. We entered the pool and baptized her.

Breath Odor

Because baptism involves my speaking to the candidate, no “bad breath” is *mandatory*.

Baptizing Children

Prepare the Child

When I baptized an age 14 Sunday School pupil, he began to cough because he failed to “hold his breath.” When I was baptized at age 10, I knew I needed to hold my breath. I assumed he knew what he needed to do—an incorrect assumption. His age 8 sister burst out crying when she saw his reaction to the baptism.

I resolved to do the following:

- Do not rush.
- Insure that candidates are ready to be dipped by doing several, if not all, of the following:
 - Briefly tell them what I will do.
 - Tell them: You have to hold your breath.
 - Tell them: When I count to three, you hold your breath, and I will put you in the water and bring you back up right away (illustrating by a down and up movement).
 - Hold some candidates partially submerged and almost parallel to the surface to help them relax. This gives them a sense that someone who is strong enough to hold them is holding them at all times While holding them say: When I count to three, you hold your breath, and I will put you in the water and bring you back up right away (illustrating by a down and up movement). Dip them and bring them back to a partially submerged position. This almost always alleviates the concern: What do I (the candidate) need to do when coming out of the water.

My Age 7 Daughter

One Sunday night during worship after prayer, my wife came to me saying that our (age 7) daughter wanted to be baptized. When she came to the pool, the LORD led me to hold her in my arms for a few minutes. I later found out that she needed this because she was fearful.

Fear caused my son not to be baptized for years. The night the LORD Spirit-baptized him, I said to him: "You know you need to be baptized." He trusted that his father would carefully baptize him.