Church (Ekklesia)
In the Wilderness

"The Church (Ekklesia) in the wilderness"

Acts 7:38

"But what did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

Matthew 11:7

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"Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."
1 Corinthians 2:13

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God has a purpose
in the wilderness.
He wants His people to SEE
- "Something Better".[1]

People see what they want to see
- usually quail.[2]

"But what did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

Our father of faith "obeyed to GO OUT
as a sojourner in the land of promise".[3]
It takes faith to see your way through the wilderness.

In the Wilderness of Sin[4] –
"Moses saw Him who is invisible".[5]

In the wilderness of Ziph[6] –
those who were "in distress, in debt and discontented"

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[1] Viz. JESUS. The basic theme of the Book of Hebrews is found in the word "better," in describing the superiority of Christ in both His person and His work. Christ provides: • Better revelation. 1:1-2 • Better expectation. 6:9 • Better priesthood. 7:7-11, 20-28 • Better hope. 7:19 • Better testament, covenant. 7:22, 8:6 • Better promises. 8:6 • Better sacrifices. 8:6 • Better possessions. 10:34 • Better country. 11:16 • Better resurrection. 11:35 • Better things. 11:40; 12:24

[2] Exodus 16; Numbers 11.

[3] Hebrews 11:9

[4] Exodus 16-17; Numbers 33-34; Deuteronomy 32:51

[5] Hebrews 11:27

[6] 1 Samuel 23:14; 26:1-2

saw the difference between Saul and David[7]
– "The Glory of Israel".[8]
In the Wilderness of the People[9] –
a remnant saw the restoration of
"The city which has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God".[10]

In the Wilderness of Judea[11] –
many heard the crying, WENT OUT,
and saw one decrease and Another increase.[12]

"But what did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

God always "makes a way in the wilderness".
He always "makes rivers in the desert".
And He always "does a new thing" in the wilderness.[13]

Yes, when Gomer was allured into the Wilderness of Trouble[14],
she learned to sing a song of Hope to her Husband

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[7] 1 Samuel 22:1-2; 23:13; 1 Chronicles 11:15
[8] Micah 1:15
[9] Ezekiel 20:35 Or the wilderness of the "tribe", or "flock", or "congregation".
[10] Hebrews 11:10
[11] Matthew 3:1-3
[12] John 3:30
[13] Isaiah 43:19
[14] Hosea 2:14-15 Viz. "Achor" which means "Trouble".

and was betrothed to Him forever in faithfulness.[15]
So, you have to GO OUT into the wilderness in order to SEE.
But one of two things will happen:
You will either SEE JESUS,
or you will die of leanness, rebellion, or idolatry.

"But what did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

[15] Hosea 2:19-20

Bill & Frances Furioso

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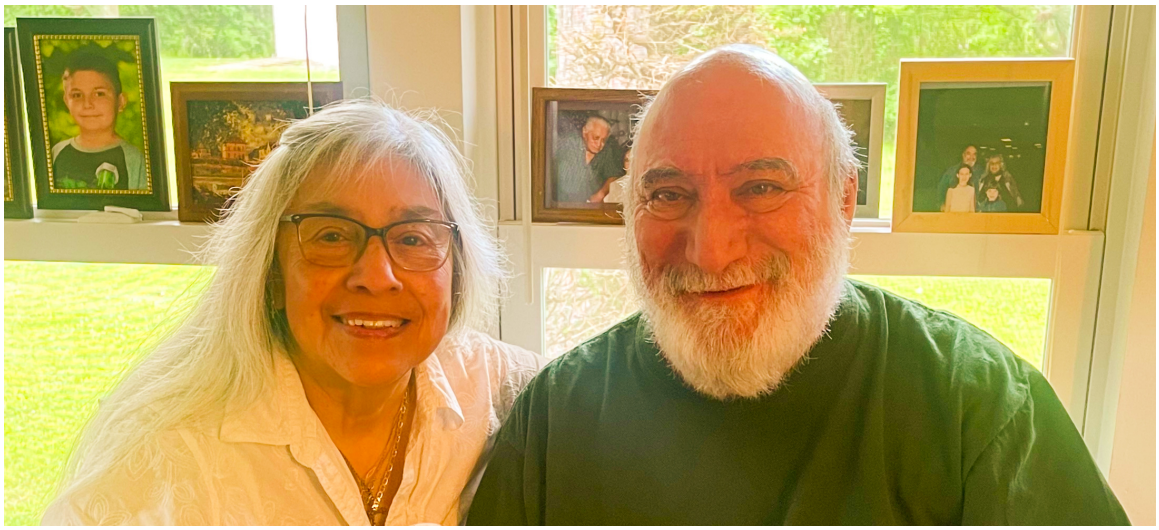

Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, discipled many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, he can no longer travel, so their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet... www.AtChristsTable.org

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with a view to
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