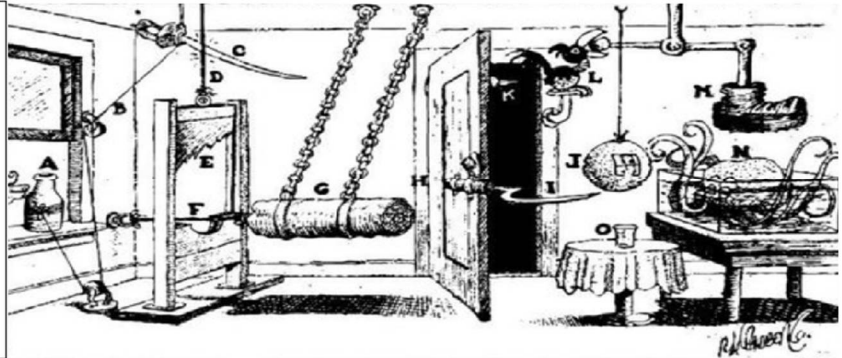


Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute Report

"Gaps" – "Of Course Gaps!"

Fresh Orange Juice Machine by Rube Goldberg

Professor Butts steps into an open elevator shaft and when he lands at the bottom he finds a simple orange squeezing machine. Milk man takes empty mild bottle (A) pulling string (B) which causes sword (C) to sever cord (D) and allow guillotine blade (E) to drop and cut rope (F) which releases battering ram (G). Ram bumps against open door (H) causing it to close. Grass sickle (I) cuts a slice off end of orange (J) at the same time spike (K) stabs "Prune Hawk" (L). He opens his mouth to yell in agony. Thereby releasing prune and allowing diver's boot (M) to drop and step on sleeping octopus (N). Octopus awakens in a rage and seeing diver's face which is painted on orange, attacks it and crushes it with tentacles, thereby causing all the juice in the orange to run into glass (O). Later on you can use the log to build a log cabin where you can raise your son to be President like Abraham Lincoln.



Apart from a report to come later this fall when we complete the final graduation ceremony, this will be the last Newsletter reporting on the activities of this first AABTI class. We will not be starting another group until we have helped this class "get settled" in the various ministry areas they will be pursuing. In our last Newsletter, I mentioned "gaps" relative to my concern about their preparation for ministry. I suspect that most of you thought at that time, "well, obviously they have gaps in their training." That is indeed a part of life, ministry, and learning. I write this introduction on the day I sent out the July Newsletter to be sure I kept this in my mind. Professor Butts was, no doubt, absentmindedly unaware of the great hazard involved in the first vast gap (falling down the elevator shaft). It's surprising he survived to complete the cartoon. Of course, that is the joy of writing and drawing cartoons – all the characters are invincible. Real life is never like that.

August 23, 2025, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Life in the Kingdom, lived based on the plans and purposes of God, though, does provide an insured invincibility and grandeur that exceeds the wildest imaginations of the most capable cartoonists. The enticing allures of this physical realm we currently inhabit will be counted as nothing when we see Jesus, upon His return, "as he is" (1 John 3:2). Excitedly inquiring into what the Biblical text can reveal regarding the profound gap John is speaking of in 1 John 3:2 leaves us anticipating "see[ing] him as he is" so "we [might see] what we will be." This gap is commonly shared by every believer no matter their age,

intelligence, level of faith or biblical education. And this is so, because the gap we are now contemplating is that between this earthly, physical realm and the promised reality that Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 15:35-58. And even more profoundly so, this reality is so because "flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the corruptible inherit the incorruptible."

Considering what is shared just above should leave us in awe of the power of a "gap" such as this to ennoble and motivate every believer toward greater confidence in service to our God who enables such "wildest imaginations." We are not cartoonists, we are believers, redeemed by the Blood of Christ, and enabled by the power of the Gospel to share this "wildest imagination" with others. Envisioning this "wildest imagination" gap can and should be a powerful tool to lead each of us to share this wonderful Gospel message with others.

Pray that these 20 men graduating from the AABTI will be truly blessed and motivated to understand and pursue sharing with others the knowledge involved in the "gap-jumping" between the physical and spiritual realm enabled by a loving response to the Gospel message.

All of us involved in this work look forward to seeing many more potential "gap-jumpers" coming to faith in the power of what Jesus did for all mankind on the cross. These men have a better background and understanding of such potentials following their two years (minus 2 weeks studying the Book of Revelation with Jeff Jenkins) of committed time in the word. They are a good group who have lovingly endured close-quarters dormitory living with one another. Pray that the relief and joy they feel in returning to their families and areas of ministry will be a great blessing to each of them and those they encounter regarding the message of the Gospel.

Jim Wilson and the Students of AABTI