



# The JOURNAL

A Summit Ministries Publication

But from the beginning of the Creation, God made them male and female. Mark 10:6

## MONTH IN REVIEW

Q “Overthrowing the reasonings [logic, arguments] and every high thing [naturalistic science, junk science] that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

II Corinthians 10:5

Q “Looking back on life’s unfolding,  
Thinking of the days, the years,  
Once again the memory quickens,  
Thoughts of happiness and tears.  
And with all these sweet reviewings,  
This great truth I’ll ere recall,  
That the God who rules the cosmos  
Has stood watch above it all.

Never has there been a moment  
When my Lord has not been near.  
Not an hour has come upon me  
When His presence failed to cheer.  
Day by day I walk rejoicing,  
Hand in arm with Christ my friend,  
Knowing I am His beloved,  
Having life that cannot end.

Through the mottled lights and shadows,  
We have travelled, Christ and I,  
On this varigated pathway,

Q “Naturalistic assumptions, beggings of the question such as that which I noted on the first pages of this book, will meet you on every side—even from the pens of clergymen.”

C.S. Lewis,

*Miracles*

Q “But by any secular standard, Jesus is also the dominant figure of Western culture. Like the millennium itself, much of what we now think of as Western ideas, inventions and values finds its source or inspiration in the religion that worships God in his name. Art and science, the self and society, politics and economics, marriage and the family, right and wrong, body and soul—all have been touched and often radically transformed by Christian influence.”

*Newsweek*, March 29, 1999, p. 54

Creation debate Heats Up

Q “For biology teacher Al Frisby, teaching evolution to the many students who take the Bible literally is like ‘banging his face against a brick wall.’

“More than a third of the students at his suburban high school in Johnson County, Kan., wrote in a final evaluation last year they did not believe a thing their teacher had to say on the subject.

“The challenge Frisby faces is likely to get tougher. On Wednesday, a majority of the Kansas Board of Education may vote to pass a new statewide science curriculum for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade that wipes out virtually all mention of evolution and related concepts: natural selection, common ancestors and the origins of the universe.

Winding upward to the sky.  
Oft the storm has blown upon us,  
Ofter still the sun's glad rays  
Have illumined every footfall  
Through life's bright and gracious days.

Since the hour the journey started,  
When He called me to His side,  
“Leave the darkness,” was His promise,  
“I will always be your guide.”  
Naught but fools could longer linger  
In this land of Adam's fall,  
So I leaped with joy and followed,  
Having heard the loving call.

Now the path is still more sunward,  
Now the air is purer still,  
Ah, what glory has attended  
Since the day I said, “I will.”  
Soon before the throne majestic,  
In that palace in the sky,  
Soon in heaven's broad pavilions,  
We shall meet, my Lord and I.

Dave Breese

Q “And when you turn from the New  
Testament to modern scholars, remember that you  
go among them as sheep among wolves.”

C.S.

Lewis, *Miracles*

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“The new curriculum will not explicitly prohibit the teaching of evolution. Its exclusion, however, will severely undermine such efforts when they come under attack from students, parents, principals, or local school boards in a state where fights over evolution are common. Because all public schools in the state are tested yearly according to the curriculum, teachers also will be pressured to follow the new curriculum.

“If the conservative majority on the school board prevails as expected, it will mark the most decisive victory in recent years for the creationist movement: Christians who read the book of Genesis literally and believe God created human beings and animals fully formed.

“ ‘This is the most explicit censorship of evolution I have ever seen,’ said Molleen Matsumura of the National Center for Science Education.

“In the past two decades, creationists have undergone their own process of evolution. After a series of court decisions barred their efforts to have biblical creationism taught in the schools, activists changed their strategy. They began to focus instead on attacking evolution as an unproven theory, picking apart such basic building blocks as fossil records and geological dating.

“National organizations dedicated to ‘scientific creationism’ published books and videos and magazines designed to educate students on how to resist what they described as the ‘conspiracy’ of evolution.

“Teaching evolution in public schools and telling children they are just products of a survival of the fittest, animals struggling to survive, leaves many with a sense of purposelessness and hopelessness,” said Mark Looy of Answers in Genesis, which provides students materials. “What meaning is there to life?”

“For biologists, the battle is equally deep-seated: In evolution, they say, lies the answer to who we are as a post-Enlightenment, scientifically literate society.

“The debate erupted again in part from a push to improve science education. About five years ago, a craze for national standards and accountability in every subject swept American classrooms. In response, national groups of science educators wrote benchmarks for scientific literacy. The idea was to replace blind memorization of facts and figures with broad central concepts.

“Religious conservatives then tapped into skepticism from inside and outside the scientific community to discredit evolution, seizing on routine disagreements among scientists to disparage it as nothing more than a theory.”

*The Washington Post, The Colorado Springs Gazette, August 9, 1999, p.1*

Q “The creationism movement’s success has been evident in the past five years.

“In the last four years, school boards in at least seven states—Arizona, Alabama, Illinois, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas and Nebraska—have tried to remove evolution from state science standards or water down the concepts, with varying degrees of success.

“State legislatures in both Georgia and Ohio have bills pending that require all educators who teach evolution to also teach evidence inconsistent with it.

“In 1995, Alabama passed a law mandating all biology books used in public schools bear a sticker describing evolution as a ‘controversial theory...No one was present when life first appeared. Therefore any statement about life’s origins should be considered a theory and not a fact.’

“In 1996, the legislature in Tennessee considered (though ultimately rejected) a bill allowing public school teachers to be fired if they taught evolution as ‘fact’ rather than ‘theory.’

“In 1997, the Texas Board of Education proposed replacing all biology books in the state with new ones that did not mention evolution. The move was considered to signal a national trend because Texas is the second-largest purchaser of textbooks after California. The proposal failed by a slim majority.

“The movement’s recent success may in part be a reflection of the fairly widespread sympathy for some of its basic principles. According to Gallup polls, about 44 percent of Americans believe in a biblical creationist view, that

“Central to this debate is the false impression that the Moral Majority, the Christian Coalition, Vision America, and other patriotic Christian groups somehow tried to get Christians to focus on politics and not on winning souls, building our churches, or founding Christian schools. That was never our emphasis. In fact some of the best soul winners and church builders in the country joined us. For what could possibly be wrong with urging pastors to encourage their members to register to vote, become informed on the moral issues of our day, and launch a get-out-the-vote campaign every two years?

“Anti-Christian liberals in the media have intimidated many pastor shepherds into silence and some into speaking against us. Somehow our objective of restoring the values this country was founded upon—through prayer and the ballot box—was made to look ugly. But if we fail to enlist at least 10 percent more of the noninvolved Christians into the voting booth in 2000, we will assure the appointment of three more ACLU-type Supreme Court justices, and the ACLU mentality will decide what is legally right and wrong. How much freedom to win souls, found Christian schools, and build churches do you think such thinkers will permit future generations?”

Tim LaHaye, *World*, July 17, 1999, p. 5

Q “A federal appeals court in Philadelphia has agreed to decide if a first-grader’s free speech rights were violated when his teacher forbade him from reading a Bible story to his class.

“Eight months ago, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit agreed with a lower-court ruling that teacher Grace Oliva did not violate Zachary Hood’s rights when she kept the Catholic student from reading the Old Testament story of Jacob and Esau in front of his classmates.

“The boy’s presentation, taken from his favorite book of Bible stories, did not mention God or the Bible and was cleared by his mother as appropriate material for an assignment designed to highlight his reading proficiency. The teacher, who called the story ‘a prayer’, did allow Zachary to read it to her alone.

“Last week, after attorneys for the Hood family petitioned for a rehearing, the same appeals court reversed its previous decision and took up the case again. A decision is expected within a month.

“The Bible story episode was not the first time Zachary’s expression of faith had been squelched. A year before, a teacher’s aide at Haines Elementary School

‘God created man pretty much in his present form at one time within the last 10,000 years.’ About 40 percent believe in ‘theistic evolution,’ the idea that God oversaw and guided the millions of years of evolution that culminated with humankind. Only one in 10 of those surveyed held a strict, secular evolutionist perspective.”

*The Washington Post, The Colorado Springs Gazette, August 9, 1999, p. 4*

#### Call to Action

Q “At a crucial time in American history, when we are about to lose most of what our forefathers helped create, we do not need less involvement in the political process by the body of Christ. We need more. In 1996, 48 percent of professing evangelicals never bothered to vote. That is a national disgrace. And frankly, having been a pastor for 40 years myself, I blame our timid preachers who are so afraid of being branded ‘controversial’ they will not even urge their members to get out and vote.

in Medford, N.J., where Zachary also attended kindergarten, took down a picture of Jesus that Zachary had drawn as part of an art assignment to capture something for which the youngsters were thankful.

“The boy’s teacher, who was absent when it was removed, later put the artwork back up on the wall, but moved it to an area away from the drawings of his classmates.

“Both actions prompted Zachary’s parents to call school officials and complain. When they received no satisfaction or apology after the reading-assignment dispute, they filed suit in 1996, claiming their son had been the victim of discrimination and the school had violated his constitutional rights.

“The case continues to draw national attention to the thorny issue of exactly which religious-based materials are acceptable and which constitute a violation of the mandate of separation of church and state for public schools.

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## From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

#### From the Editor:

One primary responsibility of Summit Ministries is preparing Christian teenagers to not only survive their college years, but prosper spiritually, emotionally, intellectually. When we find our Summit graduates facing college professors challenging their faith in God and the Bible we feel it important to provide solid materials for these students to at least survive these classes with their Christian faith intact. As many Christian parents can attest—this isn’t always so easy.

But what is particularly discouraging is to find Christian teens having their Christian faith challenged in Christian colleges!

It is one thing to have their faith challenged at the University of Wisconsin or Stanford, or Harvard. It is quite another thing to have it challenged at Christian colleges and

Before we do, however, let me make an observation or two. If one were to attend a Nazarene church (and your editor has spoken in many Nazarene churches) one would find that 95% plus of the believers in the pew believe in creationism—which has been a major part of the historic Christian faith. Most Nazarenes believe that Adam and Eve were literally and directly created from the hand of God as the Bible teaches (Genesis 1:27). Most Nazarenes believe that Eve was created from the side of Adam (I Cor. 11:12) and most Nazarenes believe that Jesus Christ spoke the truth when he said “from the beginning of the Creation God made them male and female” (Mark 10:6).

No self-respecting atheistic or theistic evolutionist can accept these simple Biblical declarations (for the best presentation of the

universities!

I can hardly believe that Christian parents are deliberately sending their sons and daughters off to Christian colleges to have their faith challenged. One would think that Christian colleges were founded to enhance the Christian faith; not challenge it! For example, why should a Christian parent pay \$20,000 a year to a Christian college only to have their son or daughter come home a socialist or an evolutionist? Why not send Missy or Jr. to the state university for a fraction of the cost and have the son or daughter come home a socialist or an evolutionist! I personally would love to see a reasonable explanation from one of our Christian college presidents whose school is, for example, cranking out evolutionists.

I am looking at two articles. One in a secular newspaper (*The Washington Post* reprinted in our local Colorado Springs *Gazette* for August 9, 1999) and one in a Christian newspaper (the Point Loma Nazarene University newspaper for February 22, 1999).

In the secular newspaper there is an article entitled “Kansans likely to make Darwin taboo in schools.” (See the complete article elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*.)

In the Christian newspaper there is an article entitled “The Great Debate: Is the literal interpretation of Genesis the only option?”

In the secular account of what is happening in the state of Kansas it is obvious that the theory of evolution (whether atheistic or theistic) is no longer being promoted as the only explanation for the origin of life and the gradual emergence of mankind from ooze, single cell, multicell to man.

On the other hand the Christian newspaper article is quite pleased to see Christian young people lose their creationist point of view in favor of some form of evolutionary gradualism. In fact, in one chart published in the article 63% of the students come into a particular course of study (BIO 101) creationists, but after the course only 31% remain creationists.

In fact, one professor at Point Loma Nazarene University said it all—“I think it [biology department] would lose credibility if we did have a creationist and if we were teaching creationism.”

theistic evolutionist position see Howard J. Van Till’s chapter “The Fully Gifted Creation” in J. P. Moreland and John Mark Reynolds, general editors, *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*.) For example, all evolutionists see sex as late in the evolutionary process—certainly not from “the beginning of creation.” And Eve is seen as emerging from a female hominid, certainly not from an evolving male hominid, etc. etc.

Let me also publically apologize to a Nazarene brother who told me something a few years ago that I should have believed, but found hard to believe. This brother was working in a Nazarene college bookstore—not Point Loma—when the order came down from the top to *remove* all creationist books from the bookstore. He did, of course, but under protest. I should have believed him totally then, but still find it hard to believe that a Christian college, supported by Christian believers who believe creationism, would issue such an order. After reading the Point Loma Nazarene University newspaper for February 22, 1999 I believe him explicitly!

The following works will assist any Christian student survive and even flourish in the biology departments of our nation’s colleges and universities—both secular and Christian, and we have the testimony of countless Summit students using these types of materials to prove it.

1) Walter James ReMine, *The Biotic Message*; 2) W. R. Bird, *The Origin of Species Revisited*; 3) Phillip E. Johnson, *Reason in the Balance, Defeating Darwinism, Darwin on Trial*, etc.; 4) Walter Brown, *In The Beginning*; 5) Henry M. Morris, *The Long War Against God, The Biblical Basis for Modern Science, etc.*; 6) Duane Gish, *Evolution: The Fossils Say No!, etc.*; 7) Norman MacBeth, *Darwin Retried*; 8) Luther D. Sunderland, *Darwin’s Enigma*; 9) J. P. Moreland, *The Creation Hypothesis, Christianity and the Nature of Science, Three Views on Creation and Evolution, etc.*; 10) Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*; 11) Michael Behe, *Darwin’s Black Box*; 12) Jobe Martin, *The Evolution of a Creationist*; 13) John Ankerberg and John Weldon, *Darwin’s Leap of Faith*; 14) Nancy R. Percy and Charles B. Thaxton, *The Soul of Science*; 14) Marvin Lubenow, *Bones of Contention*; 15) Scott M.

One senior at Point Loma, Amy Files, said, “They [professors] present things as though everything is due to evolution. We’re not equipped to prove them wrong and I don’t think it’s fair that we don’t have the creationist view.”

Well, Amy you can rest assured that you will not be given both points of view because if both sides are given about 60% of the students will emerge creationists. Therefore, we are about to give you the ammunition you need to survive not only Point Loma’s biology department, but Stanford’s, Harvard’s and the University of Wisconsin’s biology departments as well.

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“ ‘The school is trying to hide behind an erroneous reading of the Constitution, saying that Zach reading his story would be the equivalent of official school prayer,’ said attorney Eric Treene, who represents the Hood family on behalf of the Beckett Fund, a non-partisan, interfaith public-interest law firm in Washington.

“ ‘While government religious speech like school prayer is forbidden, the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that student religious speech is constitutionally protected and may not be discriminated against,’ he said.

Michael P. Madden, an attorney representing the Medford Township Board of Education, says he believes Mrs. Oliva’s actions were correct.

“ ‘We’re taking the position that it was nothing but a closed forum, and she had the right to check on what the children wanted to read and to make sure the content was appropriate to first-graders,’ he said.

“Zachary’s mother, Carol, an artist, said educators must do their part to learn more about the Constitution and the rights it provides. Many are afraid to speak out or ask question, she says, and most have very little critical understanding of the law.

Huse, *The Collapse of Evolution*; 16) William A. Dembski, *The Design Inference*; and 17) Richard Milton, *Shattering The Myths of Darwinism*.

And I should mention for the record that Richard Milton is an atheist who sees very clearly the scientific case for evolution is not doing well at all. The fact that the atheist biologist Richard Dawkins is doing everything in his power to silence him should tell us something. But when Christian College bookstores silence creationist books and authors—that also should tell us something.

In closing let me say to Amy and the thousands of other Christian teens facing the creation-evolution controversy—keep tight to the historic Christian faith; the evolutionists are the ones having a tough time and the state of Kansas isn’t making it any easier for them. The Biblical, historical and scientific facts are on the side of Creation!

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**“Moral relativism.** This philosophy is implicit and explicit throughout the film. In a faculty meeting regarding a school’s Gay and Lesbian Pride Day, a teacher declares, ‘We have to respect the right of all of us to...be who we are...There isn’t a right way, there isn’t a wrong way, there isn’t a good way, there isn’t a bad way. The way that it is, is what it is.’”

“So much for the Judeo-Christian tradition. What do they think about that anyway? Read on:

**“Distortion of opposing viewpoints.** In the world of *It’s Elementary*, tolerant is extended to everyone except those who find homosexuality repugnant. Virtually every ‘conservative’ belief included in the film is stated by someone who doesn’t share it. Predictably, those beliefs emerge as hideous caricatures.

“According to *It’s Elementary*, those with traditional views of homosexuality are ignorant (a teacher remarks that to be ‘homophobic’ means to think that homosexuality is contagious); racist (a parent, upset with another parent who kept his child home from school the day gays and lesbians were discussed, fulminates that such persons probably would also take exception to their offspring learning about ‘Mexican history, or the Dutch, or African

“ ‘By dismissing religion from schools, it’s like throwing something away that has made our country great,’ she said.

“Zachary, now 9 and in the third grade at another school, remains hurt over the incident, but is determined to move on despite the continued media glare, his mother said. She also said she will press forward, even if it means going all the way to the Supreme Court, because the issue is important for all children and society.”

*The Washington Times*, June

8, 1999, p. 1

Q “In 1996, Hillary Clinton’s book *It Takes a Village* argued for greater nonparental influence in the lives of children. That same year, a documentary film called *It’s Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School* offered an example of the Hillary Doctrine in action. In the movie, administrators and faculty, stepping into the moral tutor’s role historically filled by moms and dads, advocated to youngsters in grades one through eight the oh-so-enlightened position that Gay Is OK.

“Now *It’s Elementary* has come to public television. Some PBS stations have already aired it, and several dozen more will over the summer. Its director and coproducer, Debra Chasnoff, admits that it was ‘not intended to be a journalistic piece of work. We wanted to make an uplifting, inspiring film.’

Chasnoff is absolutely right about *It’s Elementary* not being journalism. It is, in fact, pure propaganda, ‘uplifting’ and ‘inspiring’ only if you agree with the film’s militant promotion of the homosexual lifestyle.

“This film flies in the face of not only public broadcasting’s supposed commitment to balance but also common sense and decency. Care to know the kinds of themes you’re funding with your tax dollars?

“**Dishonesty.** *It’s Elementary* features a brief montage of talk-show and movie clips depicting supposed homophobia. In one, Jim Carrey as Ace Ventura, having discovered the female-looking person he kissed is really a man, proceeds to vomit, brush his teeth vigorously, and burn his clothes, while the song ‘The Crying Game’ plays on the soundtrack.

“Completely ignored is the well-known fact that the media in general—prime time television in particular—have been overwhelmingly pro-gay since

Americans’); and violent (a fifth-grader claims that ‘some Christians’ want to ‘torture’ gays).

“A typical slap at the religious occurs when Emily, who looks to be, oh, about eight, reads aloud her essay: ‘A boy in my class...could not come to my house because my parents were lesbians. One night I called [his] house and the mother told me their version of the Bible. I stood up for my mothers.’ When the [gay] teacher asks for students’ reactions, they praise Emily’s feistiness and loyalty. Final score: Emily and her mommies 1, Scripture 0.

“What is perhaps the most chilling moment in *It’s Elementary* comes at the very end. The song heard over the closing credits says, in part, ‘Your children are not your children...They come through you, but they are not from you, and though they are with you, they belong not to you.’

“It’s reprehensible enough that the radical gay movement would take to the airwaves—the public, taxpayer-funded airwaves—to promote its wretched lifestyle. But by brainwashing little children to serve as its mouthpieces, this movement shows it will stop at nothing to get its way.

“So who paid to produce this vomitous stuff? Some of the money came from you—through the National Endowment for the Arts. Some came from radical gay groups. The rest came from individuals, like James C. Hormel, Bill Clinton’s new ambassador to Luxembourg.”

L. Brent Bozell, III,

*Human Events*, July 9, 1999, p. 16

Q “A federal judge has ruled that a tiny fish on the official municipal seal of Republic, Mo., is unconstitutional because it indicates Christianity is the city’s official religion.

“Members of Republic’s board of aldermen will meet Monday night to decide whether they will remove the fish from the city’s logo within the month, as the judge has ordered, or appeal his ruling.

“ ‘Sentiment is running pretty close between those who want to keep the fish on the seal, and those who say it’s time to put this controversy behind us,’ Tom Cunningham, president of the eight-member board, said in a telephone interview yesterday.

“ ‘People are definitely split on this issue. They are either adamantly for keeping the fish on the seal, or they are against it,’ said Bob Swearngin, a member of the board.



the 1970s.

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“Those who favor keeping the fish symbol, known as an ichthus, on the city seal argue ‘that this is a pretty religious community, and that a great many of its residents are of the Christian faith,’ Mr. Swearngin said.

“The lawsuit that led to the July 9 ruling was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Jean Webb, a former Republic resident who practices Wicca.

*The Washington Times*, July 15, 1999, p. A 6

Q “Harvard Law School is going to the dogs. For the first time, the school will offer a course on what some consider an emerging field: animal rights law.

“The elective class next year will discuss fundamental rights—why humans are entitled to them and why animals have been denied them— and whether legal rights should be extended beyond people.

“ ‘There is this thick legal wall with humans all on one side and all nonhuman animals on the other side,’ said lawyer Steven Wise, who will teach the course next spring as an adjunct faculty member.

“While the law currently protects pets from abuse and endangered species from extinction, animals do not actually have rights—an age-old position of the legal system.

“But over the last 50 years, science has shown that some animals—chimps in particular—have extraordinary mental capacities beyond what the ancient Greeks, Romans and Hebrews ever imagined, said Mr. Wise, whose forthcoming book is called ‘Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals.’

“If they have a humanlike intelligence, Mr. Wise said, shouldn’t that entitle them to human-type rights?”

*The Washington Times*, June 27, 1999, p. C5

“The media present gun-control issues solely from the perspective of a battle of the good guys who want to get rid of dangerous weapons versus the National Rifle Association that wants to keep guns around. Most mainstream journalists have an almost total lack of interest in either the facts or the fates of a quarter of a billion Americans who do not belong to either the anti-gun lobby or the NRA.

“Every story about a child killed by a gun is front page news. Stories about lives saved by guns are lucky to appear in the second section of the newspaper and can just about forget it as far as appearing on CBS, ABC, NBC, or CNN.

“Like everything else, guns have pluses and minuses. Accidental deaths have to be weighed in the balance against the lives saved both by armed interventions and by the deterrence created when an intended victim turns out to have a gun. Just the knowledge that many citizens in a particular community are authorized to carry concealed weapons takes a lot of the fun out of being a burglar or a mugger.

“It is a matter of plain fact—no matter how much these facts are ignored in the media—that violent crimes have declined immediately and dramatically in virtually every case where local gun-control laws were modified to allow law-abiding citizens to readily obtain permits to carry concealed weapons. The statistics are available in a book titled ‘More Guns, Less Crime,’ written by John Lott, who teaches at the University of Chicago Law School.

“This book is the most massive and careful study of the subject ever written—but it remains as unknown in the media as the hero who saved three lives in San Mateo. Both the book and the California hero are politically incorrect, so the mainstream media treat both as if they were non-existent.

“The issue is not one of fairness. The issue is one of life and death. If you are not going to be serious about life and death, when are you going to be serious? It matters whether more lives will be lost with one policy than with another. It matters far



Q “You would think that a man who saved three people’s lives, at considerable risk to his own, would be politically incorrect, so it has received virtually no media attention and his name remains unknown.

“It all started when a gunman took three hostages at a San Mateo, California, shooting range. He had left a note announcing his intentions to kill hostages and then himself, so this was worse than even the usual hostage situation. At this point an anonymous employee of the shooting range took one of the guns on the premises and shot the gunman, freeing the hostages.

“This happened on July 6<sup>th</sup>, but have you seen the story anywhere? People get more media attention than this for recycling aluminum cans.

“It is politically incorrect to let it be known that guns in the hands of law-abiding private citizens can save lives as well as cost lives. Yet this has happened any number of times. There have even been cases of a policeman under fire being rescued by a private citizen with a gun. One year, more criminals were reported killed by private citizens than by the police. But it wasn’t reported very widely.

“People who have been wringing their hands asking, ‘What can we do to stop shootings at schools?’ have apparently not been told that a couple of these shooting were in fact brought to a halt by an armed adult on the scene.

“Fox News Network has the slogan ‘We report. You Decide.’ That clearly is not the watchword at most major media outlets. They decide what you ought to believe and then tell you only what they want you to know, so that you will believe it.

more than the anti-gun lobby or the NRA matter.

“If the media will report, we the citizens and voters can decide. But the media remain wedded to one side of this issue—the gun-control side—and wedded still more so to presenting the news as one interest group versus another, rather than informing the public about the facts, regardless of which side it helps or hurts.

“Blind opposition to guns in anybody’s hands reached a new level of irresponsibility in San Francisco recently, when the school board declared that policemen who come on school grounds should not be armed. Fortunately, outcries from both the public and city officials forced this silly policy to be repealed. What will it take to bring some sense of responsibility to the media?”

Thomas Sowell, *The Washington Post*, July 20, 1999, p. N5

Q “ ‘I’d rather have Jesus,’ sang the inner city boys and girls, ‘than silver and gold.’ They weren’t on pitch. They were nervous. But their teacher guided them lovingly—with a finger to the lips here and a hand under the chin there.

“A lifted chin is the perfect image for what the adults do for these children. The performance was part of a ceremony to honor faith-based charities sponsored by Empower America and the Manhattan Institute. The singers were from the Fisher School in D.C.

“It isn’t really a school, but when you hear founder Tom Lewis describe it as a ‘safe haven,’ you begin to get the picture. The ‘school’ is located in one of Washington’s least desirable addresses. Just within the past several weeks, two of the teachers have been shot. One of them—who teaches rocketry to the children—is alive, but with a bullet lodged in his skull.

“The Fisher School is openly religious. It’s name derives from the Gospel of St. John: ‘If you give a man a fish, you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will feed himself for a lifetime.’ At the Fisher School, the children get homework help, choir, drama and art classes, computer training and more. But underlying all of it is spiritual sustenance. They are taught God loves them because they were made in his image—and, equally important, that God expects them to act honorably and help others. It’s a powerful, two-edged message.

“The question as to whether religion truly inhibits deviance has been around forever. Dennis Prager, the radio philosopher and Jewish scholar, has summed up the commonsense response this way: ‘Suppose you see a gang of young men heading toward you in a dark alley. Would it affect your mental state to know that they were on their way home from a Bible study?’

“Yes, agrees John J. DiIulio, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, but we still need data. Mr. DiIulio is a rare creature: an Ivy League academic who also is a professing Catholic. He is a man with the heart of a crusader and the mind of a skeptic. It’s quite a combination.

“Mr. DiIulio, the criminologist who rang the bell loudly about the coming generation of ‘super-predators,’ is devoting much of his free time these days to helping the ministry of the Rev. Eugene Rivers, a black Pentecostal preacher from Boston. Charismatic, intelligent and passionate, Mr. Rivers (a gang member himself before a cleric rescued him body and soul) ministers to the most dangerous and seemingly lost young men on Boston’s streets. His influence is profound – Boston has had only one gun-related youth homicide since 1995.

“But Mr DiIulio and partner Bill Bennett cannot rest on hope or faith alone. And so, with a grant from Manhattan Institute, they commissioned David B. Larson of Duke and Byron Johnson of Vanderbilt to systematically review the literature. They found that while religion has been slighted in social-science studies over the past several decades its effects are overwhelmingly positive. Religious kids are less likely than their non-religious peers to take illegal drugs, engage in violence or flunk out of school. On nearly every measure of well-being, religion improves the chances of poor and disadvantaged children.

“Why? Well, to belabor the obvious, churches tend to offer better adult role models (though the Fisher School is careful to encourage filial piety—the school’s creed reads, ‘I promise to honor God, honor my parents and guardians, wherever they are and whatever they do’), better peers and more wholesome activities than the streets provide. Further, one cannot measure, but neither can one discount, the influence of you-know-Who.

“The danger is that politicians will get hold of this data and spoil everything. Faith-based charities are suddenly all the rage. Both Al Gore and George W. Bush have made supporting them part of their political agendas. But it’s easy to imagine government looking over the shoulders of people like Mr. Rivers and Mr. Lewis, and insisting upon watered-down religion that would vitiate the effectiveness of these ministries. What they need is private money, and lots of it.”

Mona Charen, *The Washington Times*, July 19, 1999, p. A14

“Some truly credible experts believe that the lack of morals has left youths wide open to unchecked deviant and criminal behavior. ‘Schools don’t have much of moral center anymore,’ Keith Ryan, head of Boston University’s Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character, said a day after the Columbine killings. ‘There was a time a school was a place where a child really had society’s values and they had to lie by them, or they were told to leave. We’ve tried to make our schools all things to all people, and we’ve let kids create the culture and the moral system of the school. And now we’re just reaping what we’ve sown.’”

“So there you have it. The experts, the educators and the adults all agree that today’s youths are splurging on antisocial behavior, joining gangs or even creating their own subcultures. A morally charged school atmosphere would prove to be powerful antidote.”

*The Washington Times*, July 14, 1999, p. A 18

