



The JOURNAL

A Summit Ministries Publication

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. — I Corinthians 15:58

Happy New Millennium!

Happy New Century!

Happy New Decade!

Happy New Year!

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’

“O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?”

“The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the

“Teachers will have to instruct pupils aged 7 to 16 about the value of two-parent families and the responsibilities of bringing up children, while boys as young as 13 will be warned that they will be pursued by the Child Support Agency if they father babies.

“The prime minister put the drive to reduce the number of teen-age pregnancies in Britain at the heart of his campaign for a ‘new moral purpose in Britain.’

“Tory leader William Hague called the initiative a ‘load of hot air’ because the tax and benefits systems discriminate against married families.

“The prime minister’s office said Mr. Blair made ‘no apology’ for initiating a debate on social issues, particularly how to educate children and teen-agers to resist pressures to have sex. David Blunkett, education and employment secretary, denied that Mr. Blair’s moral crusade was an attempt to return to ‘Victorian sexual morality.’

“‘Morality is about the nature of our relationships to each other. It means people accepting that they have an obligation to go out to work to earn their own living,’ he told BBC Radio’s World at One.

“‘I see it day in, day out, where people’s lives are made a misery by the anti-social behavior of others who don’t accept the responsibility for their own actions.’”

Lord.”

—I Corinthians 15: 50-58

“When peace like a river
Attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea
Billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast
Taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.”

—Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888)

“The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the “gospel” or good news which the Christians brought: what we call the “gospels,” the narratives of Our Lord’s life and death, were composed later for the benefit of those who had already accepted the gospel. They were in no sense the basis of Christianity: they were written for those already converted. The miracle of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, come first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. Nothing could be more unhistorical than to pick out selected sayings of Christ from the gospels and to regard those as the datum and the rest of the New Testament as a construction upon it. The first fact in the history of Christendom is a number of people who say they have seen the Resurrection.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

“It is terrible to find how little progress one’s philosophy and charity have made when they are brought to the test of domestic life.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Letters of C.S. Lewis*

“Schoolchildren in Britain are to be taught the importance of marriage as part of Prime Minister Tony Blair’s new moral crusade.

—*The Daily Telegraph*, in *The Washington Times*,

October 22, 1999, p. A2

“A new index of ‘cultural indicators’ shows many positive changes in the 1990s, such as declines in crime, welfare, abortions and drunk driving.

“But other social problems, such as sexually transmitted diseases, cohabitation and teen drug use, have gotten worse, William J. Bennett says in ‘The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators: American Society at the End of the Twentieth Century.’

“The high rate of births to unwed mothers is most alarming, writes Mr. Bennet, a leader of Empower America and editor of ‘The Book of Virtues.’

“In 1990, 28 percent of births were outside marriage. By 1997, that rate rose to 32.4 percent.

“Federal data released last week shows that the unwed birthrate rose again in 1998, to a record high of 32.8 percent.

“The trends, then, are decidedly mixed, giving rise to opposing interpretations,’ Mr. Bennet says in the new index.

“One camp of observers is quite upbeat, even celebratory,’ he says. ‘In another camp, occupied mostly by social conservatives, the mood is one of resignation, even despair.’

“The 1990’s have shown that there are ‘well-conceived, well-executed reforms’ to learn from, says Mr. Bennet.

“The last 3½ decades, however, have ‘fractured’ many of the pillars American civilization stands on, and the nation remains ‘more violent and vulgar, coarse and cynical, rude and remorseless, deviant and depressed, than the one we once inhabited,’ he says.

“America’s ‘capacity for self-renewal is rare and real,’ he concludes. ‘We have relied on it in the past. . . . We must call on it again.’”

—*The Washington Times*, October 12, 1999, p A10

LAWFUL SCHIZOPHRENIA?

“She [Madalyn Murray O’Hair] immediately set to filing more lawsuits. She tried to remove the tax exemption of churches; when she couldn’t win that battle in court, she succeeded in getting her atheist organization declared tax-exempt.”

—*The Washington Times*, October 10, 1999, p. C6

“A school board has reversed its decision to post the Ten Commandments in district offices, saying it could not afford to fight a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

“The Val Verde Board of Education in Riverside County, east of Santa Ana, voted unanimously Monday to overturn votes it made in September and October to display the Commandments.

“The ACLU sued the board last week on behalf of several parents, referring to the 1980 Supreme Court ruling that posting the Ten Commandments in schools amounted to government promotion of religion.

“The school board is still concerned by ‘student lack of respect for parents, teachers and . . . fellow students,’ said its president, Robert Givens. But he said the district could not afford to defend its decision in court.

“‘We wouldn’t want to do anything to jeopardize the education of the children,’ he said. ‘We have to respect the Supreme Court decision, and we didn’t want to chance having to use public funds to take on this fight.’”

—*The Washington Times*, November 24, 1999, p. A8

Editor: The utter hypocrisy in this whole issue is that Secular Humanism, which is taught in these same schools, is as religious as Christianity or Judaism and, in fact, the American Humanist Association has a religious 501(c)3 tax-exemption.

“The National Clergy Council said its Ten Commandments Project has placed artwork stone tablets of the Commandments in more than 200 congressional and governmental offices since 1995.

“‘The Ten Commandments are the second-oldest legal code in the world, the foundation of Western civilization and followed by the world’s three great monotheistic religions. Perhaps this is unknown by the members of the 9th Circuit,’ he said.

“The Commandments were rejected for inclusion in September 1995 among 40 commercial ads at Downey High School, which had previously ruled out ads for alcohol, taverns and Planned Parenthood because students would be a ‘captive audience.’”

—*The Washington Times*, November 10, 1999, p. A3

NOW

“The National Organization for Women doesn’t want the government to promote marriage. Promoting marriage, the group says, ‘would place more women and children at risk.’

“Worse, NOW is alarmed because ‘right-wing religious groups’—which apparently have less claim to federal funds than left-wing religious groups—have ‘an agenda of promoting marriage at all costs, regardless of the risks some marriages would pose to the safety of women and children.’

“Thus, NOW is fighting hard to kill the Fathers Count Act in Congress, which would promote marriage and fathers’ involvement in their children’s upbringing, and provide job training for deadbeat dads so they can help with their kid’s financial support.

“NOW has also urged members to contact

“Fear that posting the Ten Commandments at a baseball field might disrupt ‘the school’s educational purpose’ can justify rejecting them, according to a federal appeals court.

“A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a California school district could use those grounds to refuse to sell billboard space to a private party seeking to post the Ten Commandments.

“‘We find that the district’s decision to exclude ads on certain subjects, including religion, was reasonable, given the district’s concerns regarding disruption and controversy,’ the panel ruled.

“The unanimous opinion came from a panel with two 1995 Clinton appointees—Circuit Judge Sidney R. Thomas and District Judge Alex Kozinski, a 1985 Reagan appointee who is one of the 9th Circuit’s most conservative judges.

“Religious activists criticized the decision as discrimination against religion.

“‘The 9th Circuit has been typically out on the fringe, but this decision beats most,’ said the Rev. Paul Chaim Schenck, chairman of the National Clergy Council, which includes Catholics, evangelicals, Protestants and Orthodox Christians.

Vice President Al Gore about their opposition to the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Nancy Johnson, Connecticut Republican. It’s hard to fathom why NOW is picking on Mr. Gore; he hasn’t endorsed the bill. He has a deadbeat-dad plan, but I’ve seen it, and it doesn’t even mention H.R. 3073. ‘I’ve been hearing this, but I couldn’t figure out what they were talking about,’ said Gore adviser Elaine Kamarck.

“Mrs. Johnson, whose sister is a single mother, pointed out that the bill’s purpose is not to bash single mothers, but to recognize an unpleasant reality. ‘NOW is ignoring what is not broadly accepted by liberals, conservatives and moderates, that children in single-parent families are far more likely to suffer abuse, do poorly in school, and have poorer prospects to live above the poverty line in their adult life.’ She added that her bill is designed to make men better fathers, whether they marry the mother or not.”

—Debra Saanders, *The Washington Times*,

November 2, 1999, p. A14

The Journal 3

From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

From the Editor:

Last summer the students at the Summit took as their project raising funds for Sudan for Bibles, Christian flags and lapel crosses. It was successful beyond imagination.

Since my son, Brent, was in charge of the project he wanted to give a final report which appears below. Because his health is continuing to deteriorate (he's been in and out of the hospital nearly a dozen times over the past 5 months) he wants the project to continue but with Justin Hotz in charge.

Pray for Brent, but rejoice over what, as he says "one blind guy and a ton of students can do for Christ."

Brent's Report

This is Brent Noebel with your Sudan project update. During the summer of 1999 at The Summit we had a project called "Christ to Sudan." This article will be an update on that project. Our goal when we started the project was to raise \$12,000 in order to purchase 300 Christian flags, 3,000 lapel crosses, and the rest would go to buy Bibles. We raised and spent over \$42,000. The 300 Christian flags and the 3,000 lapel crosses have been purchased, sent and are with Peter Hammond in South Africa and will be smuggled into Sudan. We ended up with \$34,500 to purchase Bibles. The cost of the 300 Christian flags was \$2,400.

A special thank you to Affordable Flags of Colorado Springs for giving us a good deal on the flags. The 3,000 lapel crosses cost \$1,188. A special thank you to The Hiding Place in Woodland Park, Colorado for giving us a great deal on the lapel crosses. The cost of shipping and insuring the Christian flags and lapel crosses to Peter Hammond in South Africa was about \$575, which was paid for with calling card funds. Thank you to my mom for giving money so that the Sudan account at the bank is kept open all year, and so that we could give an even \$12,500 in 1998 and an even \$34,500 for Bibles in 1999.

During Summit 2000, the project for Sudan will be called "Love to Sudan." The person that will be in charge of the project for the summer of 2000 is Justin Hotz. I want to thank everyone that was involved with "Christ To Sudan." It turned out to be an incredible project. Peter Hammond was amazed at the students at The Summit and that over \$42,000 was given for the project. A huge thank you to the 3rd session 1999 for giving a record for one session, \$8,500 and to an 18 year old young lady from Michigan for giving \$3,400. For the summers of 1998 and 1999, 100% of the money given for the projects to Sudan actually went to the Sudan. I want to thank Summit Ministries, Peter Hammond, Curtis Bowers and Jay Shows for making this possible. Please remember that your rewards for giving to "Christ To Sudan" will be in Heaven.

"1, 2, 3 – Amazing Grace How Sweet The Sound That Saved A Wretch Like Me. I Once Was Lost But Now I'm Found, Was Blind But Now I See."

“This negative view of marriage has yielded consequences across the entire culture. If people dare to say that marriage is superior to other arrangements, they are accused of ‘discrimination.’ Elayne Bennett, founder of ‘Best Friends,’ a program that teaches girls to delay sexual involvement until after high school, was once asked why she did not urge girls to delay sex until marriage. ‘If we talk about marriage,’ she said, ‘the schools won’t let us in.’ Let that sink in for a moment: Many public schools today *won’t even consider* a program that holds up marriage as an ideal. In addition, many public policies no longer protect marriage as a unique social good. In tax law, there’s the marriage penalty; in business, there are spousal benefits for people who are not married; in the courts, there are rulings that put homosexual unions on the same level as marriage. The family is treated as a loose collection of rights-bearing individuals who hook up with others in whatever ways they choose to for their own benefit.”

– Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey,
How Now Shall We Live, p. 322

4 The Journal

“How about a reality check here? Social science statistics show that divorced parents don’t generally become ‘better mommies and daddies.’ Few fathers even see their children regularly, and mothers spend less time with their children too, because of the emotional devastation they suffer and the increased responsibilities they bear. In fact, the negative consequences of divorce are being measured over and over again, and the findings are grim.

“Consider these statistics. Children in single-parent families are six times more likely to be poor, and half the single mothers in the United States live below the poverty line. Children of divorce suffer intense grief, which often lasts for many years. Even as young adults, they are nearly

“In a back room at the First Church of the Nazarene, eight couples – young and engaged – rise beside their metal chairs, lift their right hands and repeat their weekly pledge.

“‘I will never get divorced.’

“The tone is stout, almost soldierly. Aptly so, because their marriage preparation class in northwest Oklahoma City takes place along the front lines of the battle against pervasive divorce.

“Aside from the quickie-divorce mecca of Nevada, no region of the United States has a higher divorce rate than the Bible Belt. Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, and Oklahoma round out the Top Five in frequency of divorce. In a country where nearly half of all marriages break up, the divorce rates in these conservative states are roughly 50 percent above the national average.”

–*The Washington Times*, November 12, 1999, p. A3

“In her book, Ms. Patai says ‘heterophobia’ is the engine behind ‘some truly dreadful’ sexual-harassment laws and policies she says are sweeping the nation, on college campuses and in the workplace.

“‘Sexual-harassment legislation is an instrument by which the micromanagement of everyday life is being undertaken. The real aim is to change the relations between men and women in a fundamental way,’ she writes.”

– *The Washington Times*, November 8, 1999, p. A1

“Most girls in the Best Friends abstinence program do not have sexual intercourse or use

twice as likely to require psychological help. Children from disrupted families have more academic and behavioral problems at school and are nearly twice as likely to drop out of high school. Girls in single-parent homes are at much greater risk for precocious sexuality and are three times more likely to have a child out of wedlock.

“Crime and substance abuse are strongly linked to fatherless households. Studies show that 60 percent of rapists grew up in fatherless homes, as did 72 percent of adolescent murderers and 70 percent of all long-term prison inmates. In fact, most of the social pathologies disrupting American life today can be traced to fatherlessness.

“Surprisingly, when divorced parents marry again, their children are not any better off, and some studies actually show that the children develop increased pathologies. Preschool children in stepfamilies, for example, are forty times more likely to suffer physical or sexual abuse.

“Adults are also profoundly harmed by divorce. A study that examined the impact of divorce ten years after the divorce found that among two-thirds of divorced couples, one partner is still depressed and financially precarious. And among a quarter of all divorced couples, *both* former partners are worse off, suffering loneliness and depression.”

—Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey,
How Now Shall We Live?, p. 323

“A longtime feminist charges that ‘heterophobia’—which she defines as ‘fear and antagonism’ toward men and heterosexuality—is driving much of today’s sexual-harassment law and policy.

“Daphne Patai, author of the new book: ‘Heterophobia: Sexual Harassment and the Future of Feminism,’ says the roots of heterophobia lie in ‘extremist’ feminist literature, with which she became familiar when she was a professor of women’s studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

“‘Somewhere along the line, the feminist criticism of patriarchal institutions derailed into a

illegal drugs, cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, according to the latest survey of more than 2,600 girls.

“Ninety-seven percent of Best Friends girls said they had not had sex during the 1998-1999 school year – a finding consistent with previous surveys.

“This compares with national teen sexual activity studies, which in 1997 found that 48 percent of high school students have had sex.

“In the Washington, D.C., area, which has the highest rate of teen births, Best Friends girls are also significantly more abstinent. The 1997 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 30.3 percent of seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade girls attending D.C. public schools had had sex. Only 6.7 percent of Best Friends girls had had sex, even though they were in the same grades in the same public schools.

“Best Friends’ successes stem from its holistic approach, researcher Stan Weed told a recent training session for Best Friends program leaders.

“‘Best Friends doesn’t zero in on one problem and ignore the others,’ Mr. Weed said. ‘It deals with the many risks simultaneously.’

“The program emphasizes ‘the joys of the preteen and teen-age years’ free of the complications of sexual activity,’ said Elayne Bennett, the programs’ president and founder. ‘We tell the girls, “You will succeed in life if you set your goals and maintain your self-respect.”’

“Best Friends, founded in 1987, is an in-school, curriculum-based program for girls in the fifth to eighth grades. Teens learn about self-respect and self-restraint through classroom sessions, dance and exercise classes and regular meetings with mentors.

“When the girls enter the ninth grade, they can join the ‘Diamond Girls’ program, which focuses on academics and college preparation. The program claims a 100 percent graduation rate for Diamond Girls.

“The privately funded program now encompasses 4,000 girls in 90 public schools and one private school in 26 cities, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. Program leaders

real, visceral, and frightening antagonism toward men and a consequent intolerance toward women who insist on associating with them,' she writes.

estimate that it costs about \$25,000 a year or \$625 a girl to run the program.

“Best Friends routinely surveys its girls anonymously about their attitudes and behaviors. The most recent study of 2,631 girls found that during the 1998-1999 school year:

! Fifty-nine percent of girls were asked out on a date.

! Three percent had sexual intercourse.

! Less than 1 percent became pregnant.

! Seventy-seven percent say they plan to delay sex

until after high school, and 75 percent plan to delay sex until marriage.

! Fourteen percent were offered illegal drugs; 3 percent used drugs.

! Twenty-two percent drank beer, liquor or wine coolers.

! Eleven percent smoked cigarettes.

“Federal studies such as the National Survey of Family Growth and Youth Risk Behavior Surveys have found teen sexual activity has declined this decade from 55 percent of teens being sexually experienced to 48 percent.

“In September, however, the American Association of University Women released a national study of 2,100 teen girls, ages 11-17, in which the girls said their No. 1 problem was being pressured to have sex.”

—*The Washington Times*, November 27, 1999, p.A2

“However, ‘evidence is growing that the “great disruption” has run its course and that the process of renorming has already begun,’ he said, citing the popularity of ‘Dr. Laura’ Schlessinger’s radio show as a sign of this ‘renorming.’

“As for the future of traditional, monogamous marriage, Mr. Fukuyama told the forum that it depends on ‘human nature’. Which is why syndicated columnist Maggie Gallagher believes that life-long, monogamous marriage will rebound.

““The story that we’ll fall in love, go through a little ceremony and after awhile we will part is not the story that people want,’ said Miss Gallagher, who attended the forum. Instead, there is ‘amazing power’ to the story that says ‘two people meet, they fall in love, they make love, they make a family and they live together and take care of each other, happily.’

“Ms. Burchsted, who runs *Prospectiva* in Houston and is writing a book about marriage in the year 2100, doesn’t see such a fairy tale ending.

“Based on her research on current megatrends, she sees denizens of the next century moving through at least four kinds of marriages.

“The first union will be ‘the ice-breaker marriage,’ in which couples learn how to live together and become sexually experienced, says Ms. Burchsted, who spoke on the subject at a World Future Society conference in July.

“Icebreaker marriages are likely to last no more than five years and be somewhat ‘cut and dried,’ she says. Once disillusionment sets in, it will be ‘perfectly acceptable’ for couples to split up as divorce will not carry any stigma.

“The second marriage, known as ‘the parenting marriage,’ will last between 15 and 20

“One hundred years from now, says Houston futurist Sandy Burchsted, Americans will marry at least four times and have extramarital affairs with no public censure.

“Marriage, she adds, will be viewed as a ‘conscious, evolutionary process.’

“Does this mean that till-death-do-us-part, monogamous unions will become a thing of the past?

“Not if ‘human nature’ has its way, said marriage-watchers who spoke at a Capitol Hill forum on the future of marriage held last week. The new Beverly LaHaye Institute, named for the founder of Concerned Women for America, sponsored the forum, which included social analyst Francis Fukuyama as one of the two keynote speakers.

“Mr. Fukuyama, a professor at George Mason University, said there is ‘some bedrock point’ beneath which humans will not go in reordering their relationships. But due to ‘the different technological and economic conditions of our age,’ he added, it is ‘extremely unlikely that anything like a return to Victorian values will take place.’

“The author of ‘The Great Disruption: Human Nature and the Reconstitution of Social Order’ said the introduction of the birth-control pill and women moving into the paid labor force are key forces behind social upheaval and family breakdown that began in America in the mid-1960s.

“Neither of these watershed events is likely to be reversed and the family will not ‘roll back to the 1950s,’ he told the Capitol Hill forum.

years.

“These couples will view raising children as their primary purpose, although child-rearing in the future will be in communal settings, not nuclear families, she says.

“After the second marriage ends, couples may enter a third union, called a ‘self-marriage,’ in which they seek self-discovery and self-actualization.

“‘We see marriage as a conscious, evolutionary process,’ says Ms. Burchsted, ‘so this marriage will be about consciously evolving yourself.’ Finally, because people will be living until age 120, many couples will reach for a late-in-life ‘soul mate connection.’”

– *The Washington Times*, October 28, 1999, p. A2

HOW NOW SHALL WE LIVE?

“The book [How Now Shall We Live?] is also illuminating on the origins of the sexual revolution, laying bare the crackpot mystical utopianism of Margaret Sanger, Alfred Kinsey, Wilhelm Reich, and other apostles of salvation through promiscuity. Simply quoting these people in their own words should be enough to keep anyone from taking their ideas seriously, yet their ideas continue to ruin lives today.

“One by one, point by point, Colson and Pearcey demonstrate how the secular versions of salvation have failed. The utopian dreams of socialism led to the Gulag. Scientific materialism has led to frank, open despair. Reich’s gospel of the orgasm as ‘man’s only salvation, leading to the Kingdom of Heaven on earth,’ has given us AIDS, single mothers, abortion on demand, and severely dysfunctional relationships.

“‘In recent years,’ the authors observe, ‘all the grand propositions advanced over the past century have fallen, one by one, like toy soldiers. The twentieth century was the age of ideology, of the great “isms”: Communism, socialism, Nazism, liberalism, scientism. Everywhere, ideologues nursed visions of creating the ideal society by some utopian scheme. But today all the major ideological constructions are being tossed on the ash heap of history. All that remains is the cynicism of postmodernism, with its bankrupt assertions that there *is* no objective truth or meaning, that we are free to create our own truth as long as we understand that it is nothing more than a subjective dream, a comforting illusion’ (emphasis in original).

“This is no time for Christians to abandon the culture war, they maintain. The competing ideologies have all failed, and our cultural problems are just proof of their failure. The time is ripe for Christians to press their advantage, to apply their faith in the cultural arena in a way that will breathe life back into the culture.

“Pearcey and Colson trace the way Christianity has historically had a salutary impact on society. The Biblical emphasis on a transcendent moral law above the state led to political liberties, social reform and individual rights. Biblical ideas played a key role in the development of Western art and science. Rehearsing how the Irish church saved civilization through the dark ages, the authors show how even today the solutions that are working—to rehabilitate criminals, bring the poor up from welfare, cure drug addiction, and improve academic performance in our schools—are growing out of the life-changing power of faith based on that which is objectively true.

“The Biblical worldview affirms the intrinsic value of every human being as having been created in the image of God, yet is also has a realistic view of human sinfulness. It affirms the order of the created universe, yet recognizes that nature is not ultimate. Above all, it recognizes that human beings, for all of their pretensions and grandiose schemes to do so, cannot save themselves.”

But it is reasonable to hope that, in clarifying an idea that in its misunderstanding had catastrophic consequences, the signing on October 31, 1999, has contributed to the mending of a gravely wounded world.”

– *National Review*, November 22, 1999, pp. 15, 16.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

– Ephesians 2:8-10

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

– Titus 3:5

“And he [Abram] believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

– Genesis 15:6

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So the [Paul and Silas] said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

– Acts 16:30, 31

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith.”

– Romans 1:16,17

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I

– Gene Edward Veith, *Human Events*,
November 5, 1999, p. 16

ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS

“The maxim that ideas have consequences is illustrated with a vengeance by the Protestant Reformation, conventionally dated from Martin Luther’s posting of his ‘95 Theses’ on the Wittenberg church door on October 31, 1517. On the same date 482 years later, the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation signed a ‘Joint Declaration of Justification,’ the doctrine that was at the heart of the division of Christendom. The Reformation and the subsequent wars of religion in the 16th and 17th centuries almost destroyed the civil fabric of Europe, opening the way to the Enlightenment and its rigorous exclusion of religion from the public square, with the attendant divorce of faith and reason. In short, we are all living in a world that was largely shaped, albeit in maddeningly confused ways, by the protest of an Augustinian monk 482 years ago. The Joint Declaration is signed on the eve of a new millennium that Pope John Paul II has said must be the millennium of Christian unity, as the millennium past has been the millennium of Christian division. In the declaration, Catholics and Lutherans affirm that justification, which is simply another word for salvation, is entirely the gift of God bestowed by grace alone (*sole gratia*), received by faith alone (*sola fide*), because Christ alone (*sole Christus*) is the one mediator. The sticking point for centuries was over ‘faith alone.’ After the more than 30 years of theological dialogue that produced the declaration, Catholics agree that ‘faith alone’ is not a problem, if it is a living faith that transforms the life of the believer; and Lutherans agree that a transformed life is indeed God’s purpose for those who are saved by faith alone.

“Secularists may snicker at what they view as theological quibbling, but they and all of us are embroiled in the questions of human nature, what has gone wrong with it, and whether there is reason to hope for the future—which is to say, we are all embroiled in the questions of salvation.

delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

– I Corinthians 15:1-4

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE NEW YEAR

“During my undergraduate years, I majored in sociology—that’s until I saw the light. But I took a few psychology classes. Thus, I am just as qualified as any Ph.D. psychologist to psychoanalyze the American people. This expertise will be applied to the new millennium issue.

“Americans can’t wait for this New Year’s Eve; after all the stroke of midnight starts the first day of the third millennium. People are booking hotels and cruises, and making airplane reservations just to be at their favorite place when the new millennium dawns. Champagne sales, along with champagne prices are skyrocketing. Cities are spending billions of dollars to celebrate. Even the White House has a Web site with a clock counting down the remaining hours, minutes and seconds to the start of the 21st century at 12:01 a.m. 2000.

“The only problem is the new millennium does not begin 12:01 a.m. 2000. The stroke of 12 only signals the last year of the millennium that we’ve been living in for the past 999 years. The new millennium starts 12:01 a.m. 2001. The U.S. Naval Observatory has a site that you might want to consult (that reads: ‘Years of the Gregorian calendar, which is currently in use today, are counted from A.D. 1. Thus, the first century comprised the years A.D. 1 through A.D.100. The second century began with A.D. 101 and continued through A.D. 200. By extrapolation, we find that the 20th century comprises the years A. D. 1901-2000. Therefore, the 21st century will begin with 1 January 2001 and continue through 31 December 2100.”

—Walter Williams, *The Washington Times*,

The Joint Declaration does not establish complete unity between Catholics and Lutherans, never mind all the other Protestants, and it certainly does not restore the Christendom that was, which is just as well.

October 31, 1999, p. B3

The Journal 7