



# The JOURNAL

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How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, Your God reigns. -Isaiah 52:7

## *Month In Review*

Q “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews

12:1,2

Q “The little house is not too small  
To shelter friends who come to call.  
Though low the roof and small its space  
It holds the Lord’s abounding grace,  
And every simple room may be  
Endowed with happy memory.

The little house, severely plain,  
A wealth of beauty may contain.  
Within it those who dwell may find  
High faith which makes for peace of mind,

declared a superstitious delusion. His reality and value was reduced to his biological organism, with all its imperfections. No wonder, therefore, that such a conception led to the previously described degradation of man both as a reality and as a value. Certainly there is nothing sacred in an imperfect human organism. In many respects it is more defective than the organisms of other species of creatures. If the value-reality of man is no more and no less than his organism, it is only consistent that he be treated just as other organisms are treated. If he is useful for a given moment, we can care for him, as we care for cows and horses. If he is unserviceable, we can eliminate him, as we eliminate snakes and mosquitoes, parasites and old animals.”

Pitirom A. Sorokin, *The Crisis of Our Age*, p. 254

Q “The National Geographic Society confirmed yesterday that a fossil hailed last year as important evidence of a relationship between birds and dinosaurs is really a composite of at least two different animals.

“The specimen, Archaeoraptor, was introduced by National Geographic last October, and paleontologists said they believed

And that sweet understanding which  
Can make the poorest cottage rich.

The little house can hold all things  
From which the soul's contentment springs.  
'Tis not too small for love to grow,  
For all the joys that mortals know,  
For mirth and song and that delight  
Which makes the humblest dwelling bright.  
Edgar A Guest, *The Little House*

Q “Earth, I think, will not be found by anyone to be in the end a very distinct place. I think earth, if chosen instead of Heaven, will turn out to have been, all along, only a region in Hell: and earth, if put second to Heaven, to have been from the beginning a part of Heaven itself.”

C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

Q “Heaven enters wherever Christ enters, even in this life.”

C. S. Lewis, *The Letters of C. S. Lewis*

Q “Contemporary art is primarily a museum of social and cultural pathology. It centres in the police morgue, the criminal's hide-out and the sex organs, operating mainly on the level of the social sewers. If we are forced to accept it as a faithful representation of human society, then man and his culture must certainly forfeit our respect and admiration. In so far as it is an art of man's debasement and vilification, it is paving the way for its own downfall as a cultural value.”

Pitirom A. Sorokin, *The Crisis of Our Age*, p. 55,6

Q “Man himself and his evaluation of himself could not escape the same [sensate] trend. Man as a bearer of the divine ray in

it was a key species in the transition from dinosaurs to birds.

“That was later questioned by Chinese paleontologist Xu Xing, and National Geographic convened a panel of scientists to study the question.

“The team, headed by Hans-Dieter Sues of the Royal Ontario Museum, reported yesterday that the specimen is made up of parts from at least two different animals.

“Scientists have other evidence that birds descended from small meat-eating dinosaurs, and the new reports doesn't change that.

“As for Archaeoraptor, however, the panel concluded that the skull, trunk, shoulder and forelimbs of the specimen represent a species new to science, the panel said.

“They said this new find may have implications for the early evolution of birds, but so far its relationship to other primitive birds has not been determined.

“The tail, on the other hand, belongs to a small predatory dinosaur known as a dromaeosaur, they concluded. The left and right upper leg bone – femur – go together, as do the other leg bones, but these bones may represent a combination of several animals, the panel said.

“The Chinese scientist had raised questions about the find after finding the supposed tail of Archaeoraptor matched the tail of the small dinosaur from the same type of rock where Archaeoraptor had been found.

“Besides Mr. Sues, other panel members were James Clark of George Washington University, Catherine Foster of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Mark Norell of the American Museum of Natural History in New York and Storrs Olson of the National Museum of Natural History in Washington. The results were announced by Stephen Czerkas of the Dinosaur Museum in Blanding, Utah, who originally had obtained

the sensory world, as an incarnation of the charismatic grace, was

the fossil at a gem and mineral show in Utah.”

*The Washington Times*, April 7, 2000, p. A11

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Q “Ed Vitagliano, News Editor of the American Family Association’s *Journal* (April, 2000) puts Hollywood’s culture of promiscuity in perspective: “Based on the John Irving novel of the same name, *The Cider House Rules*. . . . Focuses on Dr. Wilbur Larch, who cares for the children, and Homer Wells, the young man he has raised to help him.

“At the orphanage, Larch often delivers babies who are then put into the care of the orphanage staff. The doctor also frequently performs abortions and dumps the dead babies into an outside incinerator.

“The movie presents a clear, one-sided argument in favor of abortion. This is no surprise, since Irving intended such a message for his book, and was pleased to see the same message faithfully replicated in the film. In the novel, Larch says that abortion is as much ‘the Lord’s work’ as delivering babies.

“Enamored with the potential power of the movie to change people’s minds to a pro-abortion position, Irving has gone so far as to suggest that the two groups of people that most need to see *The Cider House Rules* are pro-life politicians ‘and 12-year-old girls’...

“In *The Cider House Rules*, Larch demonstrates no regret for the abortions he performs, and, in fact, the doctor is an unabashed evangelist for his trade.

“In this world, man needs not consult with God about how he should live – presumably because God ‘don’t live here.’ It is the occupants of the cider house – the humans

Would it have helped if among the things that the first graders had to learn to read were the Ten Commandments posted on the wall?

One of the most atrocious comments yet heard was the remark that the N.R.A. now has blood on its hands. Whatever its failings, the N.R.A. did not authorize the killing of the little girl, whereas President Clinton has repeatedly authorized partial birth abortions, which every year take the lives of many more little girls and little boys in the process of being born. Perhaps our president, like a well-known Roman procurator, should take the step of publicly washing his hands.”

Harold O. J. Brown, *The Religion and Society Report*, April 2000

Q “In the American Civil Liberties Union’s ongoing search for unlikely heroes, Nadine Strossen, President of the ACLU, recently praised porn stars and adult-film makers for their contribution to free speech and human rights. ‘I want to thank and applaud you for your fight and contribution for First Amendment freedom and to galvanize you to “keep it up,” so to speak,’ she said. Strossen enthused over porn stars’ ‘vital work’ in protecting ‘freedom of sexual expression.’ Her bizarre statement occurred in a bizarre setting—the World Pornography Conference, sponsored by the Center for Sex Research at California State University (Northridge). In addition to the ACLU, the conference featured academics, lawyers, and

living on planet earth – who have the right to decide which rules will be obeyed.

Consequently, man will decide who lives and who dies. . .

“The truly wicked core of this film’s message is that the butchery performed by the abortionist is an act of beneficence. Abortion becomes a noble endeavor. The wickedness of murder has been transformed into a sacred act, and the sacred act of defending the innocent becomes iniquity. In Larch’s mind, it is much more of a sin not to kill the unwanted, unborn child, than to kill.

“Only a devil could conceive of an ethic which insists that society spare children misery by killing them. Such logic, of course, is happily dreamt of in the minds of those who wield the butcher’s knife, rather than in the minds of those who find themselves under it. . . . The final stop for the dismembered remains of unwanted babies, the incinerator stands outside the orphanage like a ghastly sentinel of the grave. . . .

“Once the intrinsic, God-ordained value of innocent human life has been stripped away, man is free to begin the process of re-categorizing people into valuable and nonvaluable. Who will be tossed into the latter bin? It’s been done before – with Native Americans, slaves, and Jews – and it is done now with unborn children.”

Howard Phillips, *Issues and Strategy Bulletin*, March 31, 2000

Q “When a six-year-old boy shot his six-year-old first-grade classmate to death in school in Mt. Morris, Michigan, February 29, one did not have to have the gift of prophecy to know that President Clinton and the other usual suspects would use this terrible event as a springboard for new efforts at increasingly repressive gun control.

pornographers discussing such topics as ‘Spanking Stories: Straight Theories, Bent Practices,’ and ‘A Short History of Sex Toys.’ The only thing missing was Bill and Monica with their cigars and macadamia nuts.”

*Heterodoxy*, September 1998

Q “Every day for weeks on end, beginning before they were born, four groups of rats in a small university lab in Oshkosh, Wis., were subjected to the relentless discipline of scientific research.

“For 12 hours a day, each group was immersed in a different environment: either silence, white noise (a sort of constant hissing sound), the music of minimalist composer Philip Glass, or Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s ‘Sonata in D Major for Two Pianos.’

“More than two months later, the rats were placed in a maze to run the race of their lives. The Mozart rats won hands down. What’s more, they made fewer mistakes.

“What researcher Frances Rauscher discovered in her University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh lab could help reveal how the brain works in young children and others.

“‘It points out how powerful the effect of music is on the brain,’ said Miss Rauscher, an experimental psychologist and professor in the psychology department. ‘We are born with an ability to appreciate music.’

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# From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

From the Editor

While the following article was dated to the Easter season it is in many ways a timeless piece. Written by Rush Limbaugh's brother, David, it sounds like Josh McDowell in every respect. In fact, if you enjoy this article you'll enjoy Josh's latest book – *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. David Limbaugh's article appeared in WorldNetDaily for April 21, 2000.

“One of the unfortunate myths of our popular culture is that Christianity is a superstition whose beliefs are incompatible with reason and will not stand up to scrutiny. As Easter approaches, let's take a look.

“To begin, let's dispel this notion that Jesus never asserted His own Deity. He claimed to be God in the flesh, not merely a great prophet. ‘Before Abraham was born I am.’ Jesus didn't simply say that he knew what the truth was. He boldly asserted that He was Truth. He claimed He had the authority to forgive sins. He accepted worship. He said He had the power to answer prayer.

“C. S. Lewis told us not to listen to revisionists who said Christ was simply a great moral teacher. If He claimed to be God and wasn't, then He was the worst sort of liar, or a lunatic. Hardly a moral teacher. ‘You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.’

But New Testament accounts testify that Jesus did die and that His corpse was placed in a tomb.

“Roman soldiers were so sure of His death that they didn't even break His legs to hasten His death, as was their usual practice. When they pierced his side, blood and water flowed out, which is said to be a medical sign of death. Pilate inquired to make sure that Jesus was dead before he gave the body to Joseph of Arimathea for burial. Dr. Norman Geisler states there is more evidence that Jesus died than there is that most important people from the ancient world ever lived.

“There were many and diverse witnesses to the resurrection. Christ appeared over seven weeks on different days at different times of the day in different places and to different people. One of His appearances was witnessed by 500 people. And we must remember that all the Romans needed to do to nip Christianity in the bud was to produce the body of Jesus, dead or alive.

“But the disciples had no motive to concoct this story. By proclaiming His resurrection they were putting their own lives at risk. Not one of them ever recanted his account despite being variously tortured, hated, scorned, persecuted, imprisoned, exiled, crucified, boiled alive, roasted, beheaded, disemboweled and fed to lions. One of the greatest proofs of the truth of Christianity is the radical transformation of the disciples from a terrified bunch into a fearless group ready to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

“Most of our evidence about these matters

“Christ’s disciples also claimed that He was God. He lived a sinless life. He performed many miracles. He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah made hundreds of years before He was born.

“His moral teaching was simple enough to be understood by anyone, yet so profound that no human being can ever completely fathom its depths. In fact, when the temple guards returned without arresting Him they gave this as their reason for not doing so, ‘No one ever spoke the way this man does.’

“Yet, none of this would matter if Christ had not been physically resurrected. The evidence of this most pivotal historical event is powerful, but many theories have been advanced to refute it. Some say the He never died on the cross but just appeared dead (swooning).

comes from the New Testament. Is it historically reliable? Scholarship demonstrates that there is more abundant and accurate manuscript evidence for the New Testament than for any other book from the ancient world. There are also numerous early secular writings (Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian, Suetonius, Pliny the Younger, Thallus, Mara BarSerapion) attesting to Jesus and to many of the essential claims of the New Testament concerning His life, death and resurrection.

“It is impossible to do more than scratch the surface of this subject in a short column but suffice it to say that there exists a mountain of evidence affirming the truth of Christianity. Easter is an appropriate time for skeptics, such as I used to be, to investigate that evidence and for believers to celebrate the risen Lord.”

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“In the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh experiment, the Mozart rats needed only 34.7 seconds to get through the maze, compared with 44.3 seconds for the white noise rats, 47.4 for the silence rats and 50.1 seconds for the Philip Glass rats.

“The Mozart rats also made fewer mistakes (2.0) in getting through the maze than the Glass rats (2.9), the silence rats (3.3) and the white-noise rats (3.4).

“But despite being smarter, the Mozart rats were killed by injection and their brains were removed and sliced into thin wafers that will be studied under a microscope in coming months.

“If Miss Rauscher’s theory is correct, their

“More dramatic has been the effect of a particular Mozart sonata on 40 patients with severe epilepsy under the care of John Hughes, a professor of neurology and director of the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago. After hearing about the Mozart Effect at a conference last November, Mr. Hughes returned to Chicago and played Mozart’s ‘Sonata in D Major for Two Pianos’ for one of his patients.

“‘I was just amazed,’ he said.

“The amount of time the patient was in seizure dropped dramatically. And even when the patient was in a comatose or semicomatose state, his epileptic brain-wave activity declined dramatically, Mr. Hughes said.



brains should have a noticeably greater network of certain nerve cells and connections between those cells than the other rats.

“It is believed that we are born with nearly all of the neurons, or nerve cells, that we will ever have. At birth, the connections, known as synapses, between those nerve cells are sparse and unstable. But through the first several years of life, neural circuitry increases dramatically and trillions of synapses are created.

“It is the connections between those nerve cells that actually determines intelligence,” Miss Rauscher said. ‘Over time, if you don’t use those connections, the brain gets rid of them.’

“Miss Raucher and others believe that stimulating experiences such as listening to Mozart and, better yet, receiving musical training at a very young age, can improve so-called spatial-temporal reasoning. That is used for math problems, playing chess and manipulating images in the mind.

“As a researcher at the University of California at Irvine and, more recently, at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, Miss Rauscher has worked on several studies in which young children were given musical instruction.

“In all of those studies, the children who received music training performed significantly better on spatial-temporal intelligence tests than children who did not get music training.”

*The Washington Times*, November 28, 1998, p. A5

Q “Mozart’s music seems to have an inherent ability to tap into the structure of the brain, said Gordon Shaw, Miss Rauscher’s mentor. He is a professor emeritus of physics and astronomy at the University of California at Irvine and a pioneer in the field of music and

“There were similar changes in 39 other patients.

“Mr. Hughes believes the structure of Mozart’s music has a direct effect on the brain. Two other types of music that he tried did not produce the effect.

“‘Mozart’s music is highly organized,’ Mr. Hughes said. ‘It resonates with the superorganization of the cerebral cortex.’”

*The Washington Times*, November 28, 1998, p. A5

Q “This good news—that is the meaning of ‘gospel’—from science suggests, Easterbrook says, ‘a buoyant view of our being.’ Life is so improbable it must somehow be favored by something. By some First Cause, ‘to which,’ said Aquinas, ‘everyone gives the name of God.’

“The idea of purposefulness, an idea that science seemed, for a while, to drain from life, may be making a comeback. Science no longer suggests a meaningless mechanics of mere genes and whirling atoms. If the universe seems to desire life, it is odd to say that life is an automated artifice arising from an accidental cataclysm that was full of sound and fury but signified nothing.

“Science increasingly validates a heartfelt—and rational—‘Eureka!’ in response to the (literally) cosmic surprise of life. As playwright Tom Stoppard puts it, ‘The idea of God is slightly more plausible than the alternative proposition that, given enough time, some green slime could write Shakespeare’s sonnets.’ To say no more (but this is saying a lot) what *is* is staggeringly implausible, and that is theologically suggestive.”

George F. Will, *Newsweek*, November 9, 1998, p. 88

Q “When it was first pulled from South African waters in 1938, the primitive

brain development.

“‘Mozart was composing at age 3,’ Mr. Shaw said. ‘He wrote down whole compositions without changing a note. It just poured out.’

“The Mozart Effect can be both short-term, such as in adults, and long-lasting, such as in young children, whose brains still are developing.

“In at least two of Miss Rauscher’s studies, adults did significantly better on intelligence tests after listening to Mozart than after listening to other music, following relaxation instructions or just observing silence.

“But that enhanced ability lasted only for about 10 minutes. Miss Rauscher said that with adults, the Mozart sonata probably only ‘primes’ the neural pathways – warming up the brain – providing just a brief advantage.

coelacanth became an instant celebrity.

Scientists, after all, thought the fish had been extinct for 80 million years.

“Now, the ‘living fossil’ has surprised the world yet again.

“A biologist strolling through an Indonesian fish market on his honeymoon last year sighted one of the fish for sale – more than 6,000 miles from the African waters long thought to be its only home.

“That brief sighting led to a scientific scramble, interviews with dozens of local fishermen and finally, the extraordinary capture of a second, live coelacanth (pronounced see-la-kanth).

“Those findings, reported in today’s issue of the scientific journal *Nature*, provide the first proof of a second population of coelacanths. They suggest that the reclusive fish may be far more widespread than anyone imagined. The research underscores just how little we know about the sea.

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“‘It was definitely quite a shock,’ recalled Mark Erdmann, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California at Berkeley who saw the coelacanth after his wife, Arnaz Mehta, pointed out the striking, fleshy finned fish. ‘It looked like something from an “Alien” movie,’ she said.

“Erdmann, a reef ecologist, hadn’t thought much about coelacanths since he’d read about them as a boy. Not realizing he’d stumbled onto a scientific treasure, he didn’t buy the fish. Then there were the practical considerations: Where do you keep a 50-pound fish on a honeymoon?

“When Erdmann later realized what he’d

“In their third year, the Pollys are awarded on or near April Fools’ Day to highlight ‘the zany, bizarre, and noxious tendencies of radical faculty and students on the nation’s college campuses,’ said institute officials, who announced the winners yesterday.

“T. Kenneth Cribb Jr., institute president, said the awards were created ‘to widely disseminate instances of outrageous totalitarianism, politicization of the curriculum and left-wing bigotry on college campuses.’

“‘Many university deans and presidents decry the idea that political correctness exists and claim that critics of PC use exaggerated or outdated anecdotes,’ he said. ‘Here’s proof to



missed, he got a second chance. He contacted the National Geographic Society for emergency funding to interview fisherman in hopes of finding another fish.

“I said, “Get the check out this afternoon,”” said George Stuart, a spokesman for the society. ‘It was like a triceratops walking out of the woods, one of those situations where if anyone paused it would be too late to do anything about it.’

“So why didn’t any biologists know about it? Well, the fish isn’t exactly edible. Locals also call it something that translates roughly into ‘The fish that makes oil come out of you’ and, because of this laxative effect, it is not a big seller at market.”

*The [Colorado Springs] Gazette,*  
September 24, 1998, p. A16

Q “As for Nietzsche, who eventually went insane and died from syphilis . . . his arrogant vision of man harnessing all powers and ascending to ‘superman’ status pervaded the Nazi movement. Springing from pagan roots, Nazism was at bottom an attempt to overthrow the Christian order of Europe. . . . Nietzsche was thrilled by Wagner’s musical passion, seeing it as an antidote for what he considered the impossible, manmade requirements of Christianity and, indeed, of Western civilization. . . .

“By mixing politics with the sensual power of the revolt against order, Nietzsche and Wagner unleashed an unholy force that would sweep Europe both culturally and politically.

““It was Nietzsche’s evil genius to see that no social revolution can proceed in the presence of a stable sexual morality,’ writes social critic E. Michael Jones. ‘Wagner wanted social revolution because he wanted sexual liberation; Nietzsche wanted sexual liberation because he wanted social revolution. Wagner’s sin was primarily

the contrary.’

“The institute, a conservative think tank in Wilmington, Del., solicits Polly nominations from students on campuses nationwide.

“San Diego State student Megan Ike took the ‘Introduction to Multicultural Education’ class last summer. She told an institute researcher she was surprised by the first day’s exercises, which required her to wear a tag identifying her as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

“Members of the school’s Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Student Union spoke to the class and had each student affirm out loud his status as a homosexual, the institute said.

“The students in the class were later asked lifestyle questions.

“Miss Ike got: ‘If you were walking with your lesbian lover on campus and a couple of guys jumped out and started harassing you, how would you feel?’

““They were trying to get us in the frame of mind of what it felt like to be gay,’ said Miss Ike, who is not homosexual.”

*The Washington Times,* March 31, 2000, p. 1

Q “Some have turned the other cheek and failed, but Aimee Liddell refuses to surrender.

“For the past two years, Aimee and about 30 of her Stafford County classmates have tried without success to form a school-sanctioned Fellowship of Christian Athletes club.

“Brooke Point High School allows the group to gather on campus before and after classes, but the students say they are prohibited from posting meeting notices, handing out fliers and announcing activities on the school’s public address system.

““Our principal told us anything with the word “Christian” in it isn’t allowed,’ Aimee, a 17-year-old senior at Brooke Point High said.

sensual, Nietzsche's intellectual. "In Adolf Hitler, both temptations took root to create an emotion so intense that it swept an entire world into war."

—Robert H. Knight, *The Washington Times*, June 24, 1998, p. A2

Q "Students entering the teacher education program at San Diego State University must take a course on multicultural education that requires them to take 'cultural plunges,' rather than tests.

"Those include taking trips to homosexual bars, visiting black churches if they are white and identifying themselves publicly as gay or lesbian – even if they are not – to better understand what it feels like to be different.

"For their efforts at training new teachers, San Diego State has been named the top winner of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute's Polly Awards, handed out each year for outrageous examples of political correctness on college campuses.

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"Brook Point High Principal Kerrington Tillery said the school only sanctions clubs that are related to the school's courses of study. Students interested in chess gather at the school, she said, but are not officially recognized as a club.

"An animal rights club and one for students opposed to substance abuse are related to curriculum, she said, the former to science and the latter to driver education.

"Stuart Roth, a lawyer with the Virginia Beach-based American Center for Liberty and Justice, said other schools have tried unsuccessfully to claim as much.

'It's kind of like disabling us. We can't get the word out.'

"The Brook Point High students, however, believe the law is on their side. Under the federal Equal Access Act, a school that allows creation of at least one non-curricular club must allow the formation of all others, including religious ones, and treat them in the same manner.

"Last month, the students and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Fredericksburg-area representative took their case to the Stafford County Board of Supervisors which told the group to take the matter up with the county's School Board.

"As of last week, the group and school officials were talking but had not reached an agreement.

sermons are discouraged. At the funeral of someone whose relationship to God has been 'unclear' or even hostile, for example, the report cautions against 'explicit pronouncement on that person's eternal destiny.'

"The 140-page report, 'The Nature of Hell,' was drawn up under the aegis of the Evangelical Alliance, which represents 1 million Christians, including many Anglicans.

"Its working party included an Anglican theologian from Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, a Baptist academic and a senior lecturer at the London Bible College.

“For school officials not to understand this is very shocking. This is a very, very easy case,’ said Mr. Roth, whose public-interest group handles First Amendment cases relating to religious expression.

“Aimee’s parents have contacted the center, but the organization is not formally involved in the dispute at this point.

“The Liddells’ pastor, the Rev. Clive Beer of Victory Baptist Church, said school officials should welcome the students and their efforts, especially given school violence elsewhere.

“‘With everything else that’s going on, why stand in the way of something like this?’ Mr. Beer asked.”

*The Washington Times*, April 2, 2000. p. C15

Q “Four years after states were urged to adopt national science standards, all but one has required the teaching of biological evolution, the nation’s science teachers heard yesterday.

“Only four states, however, mandate material on human evolution, Texas Tech University professor Gerald Skoog told the annual National Science Teachers Association assembly in Orlando, Fla.

“‘The emphasis on evolution in these standards varies greatly,’ he said. ‘But clearly the century-long struggle to have evolution emphasized in the science classrooms of this nation has reached a significant and new stage.’

“Mr. Skoog reviewed the science standards for every state except Iowa, which has not adopted such a scheme. He found that basic concepts in evolution were set down for what students should learn by way of textbooks, curriculum and instruction by teachers.

“‘Most standards have some emphasis on evolution, natural selection, and the diversity of life,’ Mr. Skoog reported. Some 17,000 science teachers and professionals were gathered in Orlando for the assembly.

“Its conclusions are in sharp contrast to a Church of England report approved by the General Synod in 1996 that criticized traditional images of hellfire and damnation and said annihilation was a more accurate picture than eternal torment.

“The new study, which was welcomed by spokesmen for the Roman Catholic Church Saturday, concedes that many find the doctrine of Hell ‘indefensible and obsolete,’ but it was an uncomfortable truth.

“‘Hell is more than mere annihilation at the point of death,’ the report said.

“‘As well as separation from God, Hell involves severe punishment. Scripture depicts this punishment in various ways, using both psychological and physical terminology.

“‘Although this terminology is often metaphorical and we should be wary of inferring more details about Hell than Scripture itself affords, Hell is a conscious experience of rejection and torment.

“‘There are degrees of punishment and suffering in Hell related to the severity of sins committed on Earth.

“‘We should, however, be wary of speculating on how exactly the correlation between sins committed and the penalties imposed will operate.’

“But the report does concede that there are differences among evangelicals over whether those in Hell suffer eternally, or whether the unrighteous are ‘destroyed’ after a period of torment.

“The Rev. David Hilborn, the convener of the working group, said that from the Christian group’s perspective, the Church of England’s report was ‘lacking in fullness.’

“He said Hell consisted of three elements – privation, separation from God and punishment – and the Church of England’s report failed to emphasize the punitive nature of Hell.

“‘When people talk about the likes of Ian

“More than 30 states tie their science standards to statewide assessment tests, which means schools must teach the standards’ content for students to score well.

“‘Only four states include human evolution,’ Mr. Skoog added, and all of them were small. If they were big states such as Texas or California, where textbook sales are great, publishers would emphasize more human evolution in new editions.

“That only four states have human evolution, Mr. Skoog said, ‘is obvious evidence that policy-makers and educators continue to be intimidated by anti-evolutionists.’”

*The Washington Times*, April 8, 2000, p. A3

Q “Hell, recently downgraded to a state of ‘nothingness’ by the Church of England, will make a comeback this week with a group representing millions of British Christians claiming that it is all too real, and that sinners consigned there face unimaginable torment.

“The strongly worded report by a working party of five – including an Oxford theologian – argues that the level of punishment meted out to the wicked will be linked to the severity of their sins in life.

“And while it warns against a literal interpretation of biblical images of lakes of fire, undying worms and the wailing and gnashing of teeth, it says that they are symbolic of the true horrors awaiting those who reject the teachings of Christ.

“It urges Church leaders not to shy away from teaching the realities of Hell to their congregations, though ‘fire and brimstone’

Brady, the Moors murderer, they often say they want him to “rot in Hell,”” said Mr. Hillborn.

““That shows how deep the idea of divine justice is in our language. The same is true of people such as Hitler, Stalin and Attila the Hun.

““From all the evidence of their lives, it is possible to infer that they will be in for a pretty rough time.’

““There are indications in the Bible that there are gradations of punishment but no one can second guess God.’

“He criticized popular visions of Hell, such as the paintings of Hieronymous Bosch, for going far beyond scripture and taking an ‘almost pornographic delight’ in suffering, as if it was public entertainment.

““Christians should approach the subject of Hell with tears and a heavy heart,’ he said.”

*The Washington Times*, April 3, 2000, p. 1

Q Before accepting all the propaganda about Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings see Wallbuilders web site at [www.wallbuilders.com](http://www.wallbuilders.com) and the article entitled “Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: A Search for Truth.”

Q Peter Hammond, president of Frontline Fellowship in South Africa, is looking for a few dedicated Christian young people for mission service in South Africa. Contact Summit Ministries if interested for details.