



The JOURNAL

A Summit Ministries Publication

He [Jesus Christ our Lord] is able keep you from slipping and falling away, and to bring you, sinless and perfect, into his glorious presence with mighty shouts of everlasting joy. Amen.
Jude 25

From The President's Desk

The following letter from Summit student Leif G. was addressed to Brent Noebel regarding Summit's mission program to Sudan...a project that Summit students raised over \$75,000 for aid Christians in Sudan with Bibles, et.al.

"Dear Brent,

"I know this is quite late and I assume that you will not be able to include this money in the grand total for 2001, but I ask that you at least give Sess 7, 2001 full credit for the amount I was able to raise. If that is at all possible that would be great.

"You have been an incredible encouragement to me, Brent. I see that God has used you in a huge way there at the Summit. It is inspiring to me that He can use (and I borrow you're words) a bunch of teenagers and a blind man to raise thousands of dollars for Sudan every year. It goes to show that WE aren't in control but He is. I keep thinking of the last time I sang Amazing Grace with the other graduates of Summit; I knew at that minute that I would never sing Amazing Grace again without praying for Christians in Sudan. And I haven't! In fact...I was able to ask my entire church to sing Amazing Grace while keeping in mind those Christians in Sudan.

"When I first arrived home from Summit...I was on fire...and I didn't think anything could put out the fiery zeal that I had. A month or so later I discovered that while that original zeal

hadn't died, it was not as 'fiery' as before. I realize that something had to be done so I went to the Summit notebook and read it...the whole thing. Towards the end was a list of "one hundred and one things' a person could do to get started once armed with what we had learned at the Summit. One of the things on the list was, 'talk to your church' about what we learned. Well...I decided to try it, so I went to the men's prayer meeting that our church holds on Wednesday nights, and talked to them about Summit. "Once I finished what I had to say in the five minutes they gave me, they requested that I spend more time talking about it. I ended up spending the whole two hours of the meeting talking about what God had shown me and how He was using the Summit. They then asked me to share the same message and information on Sunday for the entire congregation. So on Sunday morning, feeling completely unprepared, I shared about worldviews, Sudan, and the Summit. It was received very well despite my shaky delivery and I knew that God would use it as He pleased so I left it at that.

"About a month after that I got the Summit Video in the mail. After I watched it I asked the men at the prayer meeting if they wanted to see it. Remembering how interested they were the last time I spoke about worldviews and the Summit they readily agreed. So, again I went to the men's meeting, this time with a video. Towards the end of the video you, Brent, spoke a little bit about Sudan at the graduation...The men responded really well to it and afterwards a suggestion was made that the church send money to the Christians in Sudan...and another was made to send money to the Summit. By the end of the evening they agreed on \$1000 for the Sudan project and \$500 for the Summit.

"My reason for telling you all of this is to encourage you and the Summit. I know how it can be hard to persevere in the face of so many obstacles...but I want to offer a reminder to all of us. GOD is in control...And when we give all of those 'obstacles' to Him, He can transform them into amazing things. Thank you for all you have done for the students of Summit...and thank you for all you have done for us.

"Sincerely His, Leif G. Summit Graduate from Session 7, 2001"



▣ **Month In Review**



Q "Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ told you, that in the last times there would come these scoffers whose whole purpose in life is to enjoy themselves in every evil way imaginable. They stir up arguments; they love the evil things of the world; they do not have the Holy Spirit living in them.

"But you, dear friends, must build up your lives ever more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.

"Stay always within the boundaries where God's love can reach and bless you. Wait patiently for the eternal life, that our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy is going to give you. Try to help those who argue against you. Be merciful to those who doubt. Save some by snatching them as from the very flames of hell itself. And as for others, help them to find the Lord by being kind to them, but be careful that you yourselves aren't pulled along into their sins. Hate every trace of their sin while being merciful to them as sinners."

—Jude 17-23

Q "Human Death, according to the Christians, is a result of human sin; Man, as originally created, was immune from it: Man when redeemed, and recalled to a new life (which will in some undefined sense, be a bodily life) in the midst of a more organic and more fully obedient Nature, will be immune from it again. This doctrine is of course simply nonsense if a man is nothing but a Natural organism. But if he were, then, as we have seen, all thoughts would be equally nonsensical, for all would have irrational causes. Man must therefore be a composite being—a natural organism tenanted by, or in a state of symbiosis with, a supernatural spirit."

—C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

Q "It takes courage to stand up and be counted, but it takes more courage to keep standing up after you have been counted.

"He who loses wealth loses much; he who loses a friend loses more; but he who loses his courage loses all."

—Miguel Cervantes

Q "Thou shalt have no other God except Thyself; after all, it's thy self-esteem that counts. If thou doth not love thyself, who will?"

—Rush Limbaugh

Q "Television is the most powerful vehicle available for controlling the minds of a generation. Scientists tell us we remember 60 percent of what we see and only 10 percent of what we hear. Because television and movies combine these primary entries to the mind, they became principal targets for a humanist takeover.

"The year-by-year degeneration of television programming proves that the major broadcast and cable networks are controlled predominantly by secularists. A medium that once featured family-oriented programming and observed discretionary moral standards now makes jokes about such things and instead promotes homosexuality, incest, wife swapping, and depravity. One network seems bent on being not only immoral in its programming but anti-Christian.

"But as bad as television 'entertainment' is, its news reporting is sometimes even more dangerous. More people get their current-events information through television news than from any other source. Most cities have a local affiliate of one of the major networks, so consequently the networks control the slant of the news. Of course, not everyone who controls the news is a committed humanist, but most of them are.

"If you doubt that, then try to name a few nationally known commentators who are strong conservatives. Jot down the name of your favorite national television newscaster; then identify others you know. Likely you will find a few moderates, several liberals, and a few super-liberals. But rarely a conservative. (National Public Radio is so far left that even some liberals cannot locate it on the dial.)

"A truly free medium should equally represent both liberal and conservative points of view. But most of the news we get comes with a liberal slant. Why is this so, given the fact that those who call themselves liberal have never accounted for more than 32 percent of the population? If the majority of the population considers itself conservative, then why can we not have at least one conservative network?"

—Tim LaHaye, David Noebel, *Mind Siege*, p. 181-182

Q "Media bias is no longer news. Poll after poll has shown that the vast majority of

journalists vote for Democrats, even though the country as a whole is pretty evenly split between the two major parties.

"By itself, there is nothing wrong with this. It becomes a problem when media bias becomes media fraud. Media bias in editorials and columns is one thing. Media fraud in reporting 'facts' in news stories is something else.

"Three excellent and devastating new books on media fraud have been published this year, naming names and turning over rocks to show what is crawling underneath. These books are *Coloring the News* by William McGowan, *Bias* by Bernard Goldberg, and *It Ain't Necessarily So* by David Murray, Joel Schwartz and S. Robert Lichter.

"In even the best known and most prestigious media outlets—*The New York Times* and '60 Minutes,' for example—crucial facts have been left out of news stories when those facts would have undermined or destroyed a liberal argument. Conversely, false claims have been widely reported as facts in the media when those claims supported the liberal vision of the world.

"A classic media fraud was the 1996 story of a wave of arsons directed against black churches by racists. It made headlines across the country and was featured on network television news. It sparked indignant editorials and angry outbursts from black activists. The president of the United States recalled his own sadness as a child at the burning down of black churches in Arkansas.

"In the end, however, the whole thing turned out to be completely false. Those few journalist who bothered to check out the facts found that there were no facts to support this story and that what facts there were completely refuted it. Even a commission appointed by President Clinton reached the same conclusion. Moreover, not a single black church in Arkansas had burned down during Bill Clinton's childhood.

"When this front page fraud was finally exposed, the new story was buried on page 20 of *The New York Times*.

"William McGowan's *Coloring the News* offers the best explanation for such journalistic malpractice. Many news organizations have created special editorial office caucuses consisting exclusively of black, Hispanic, feminist, or homosexual journalists, who decide how the news about their respective constituencies will be reported—or whether it will be reported at all.

"For example, when a homosexual man was attacked and killed by anti-gay hoodlums, that was huge, front-page news across the country. But when two homosexuals lured a boy next door into their home and then raped and killed him, at about the same time, that was widely

ignored, as if it had never happened. Similarly biased treatment has appeared when it came to reporting on corrupt black politicians like D.C. Mayor Marion Barry or the dangerous double standards used for women in the military—standards which have already led to death in training and may cost still more lives in actual combat.

"While McGowan's book seems the most perceptive of these three, all are very valuable and each has its own special emphasis. *It Ain't Necessarily So* focuses on media irresponsibility when reporting on medical and scientific issues, while *Bias* focuses more on the actions and the cast of characters at CBS News, where its author worked for many years. But all three of those books provide a real education on media fraud, which is infinitely more important than media bias.

"Democratic nations are especially vulnerable to misinformation. The media in a totalitarian country may tell as many lies as it wants to, but that does not affect the decisions made for the country by its dictator or its ruling party, which has access to the truth, even if the masses do not. But, in a country where the masses choose their leaders and influence policies, a fraudulent press can mislead the voters into national disaster.

—Thomas Sowell, *The [Colorado Springs] Gazette*, December 16, 2001

Q "There are two new books out documenting the infuriating bias of the press. The first, *Bias* by CBS veteran Bernard Goldberg, is flying off the shelves. The second, *Coloring the News* by William McGowan, is equally deserving of best-seller status. Both books nail it precisely—and neither book is the work of a conservative.

"Goldberg's account is nothing if not spirited. He introduces the writer Hunter Thompson this way: 'Hunter Thompson...who only did drugs if they began with a letter of the alphabet...'

"The whole book is like that, so it's fun. And Goldberg provides telling examples of the press's bias on any number of subjects. The chapter titled 'How Bill Clinton Cured Homelessness' offers numerous examples of pious reporters staring into the lens after heart-breaking stories about homeless people (who were always blond, blue-eyed, and middle-class), lamenting that 'Reagan budget cuts' had brought the nation to this terrible pass.

"Goldberg also documents the factually false, but politically correct, picture the media painted of the AIDS threat to non-drug-abusing heterosexuals. The threat is minimal, but the press, obedient to the wishes of the AIDS lobby, said otherwise.

"Lewis cites many examples, but this excerpt from a 1996 CBS news broadcast was typical: 'Ten years ago, at age 14, Luna (Ortiz) was infected with the HIV virus, the very first time he

had sex—unprotected sex... At least one American teen-ager is becoming infected every hour of every day.’

"The story strongly implied that average teen-agers were contracting AIDS by having ‘unprotected’ heterosexual sex. In fact, as Goldberg reports, ‘almost all of these teen-age AIDS cases (and the press, he points out, wildly inflated the numbers) involve homosexual sex or IV drugs or tainted blood.’

"People tend to notice when the picture the press paints is wholly at odds with their own experience. Could it be, Goldberg asks, that this helps to explain the diminishing numbers of people who watch network news?

"Goldberg became a pariah at CBS for saying these things in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed. His longtime friend and boss Dan Rather became so frosty after Goldberg published his critique that Goldberg never again appeared on ‘Evening News.’ Senior producers, who were not above describing Gary Bauer as ‘the little Christian nut,’ told Goldberg that his sin was unforgivable. Goldberg quotes Reinhold Niebuhr: ‘Frantic orthodoxy is never rooted in faith, but in doubt.’

"William McGowan shows where the networks get their material—from the leading newspapers. And he illustrates, to devastating effect, just how corrupted the great newspapers of the country have become.

"About a decade and a half ago, the major papers declared that what ailed the news business was a lack of ‘diversity.’ Accordingly, with utterly unsubtle measures like hiring bonuses for bringing in women, Latinos, blacks, gays and other favored groups, they set about transforming the look of the newsroom.

"McGowan thinks hiring more minorities was a good thing. What he doesn’t like is the political homogeneity the policy has wrought. McGowan’s examples of biased reporting are meticulously documented. There is the contrast in coverage, for example, between the Matthew Shepherd murder case in 1998 and the Jesse Dirkhising murder case of 1999.

"The whole world knows of the Shepherd case. In the month after the murder, there were 3,007 stories in press. But few know of the Dirkhising murder. Jesse Dirkhising was a 13-year-old Arkansas boy who was gagged, tied down, raped and left to slowly suffocate by two homosexuals who lived next door.

"In the month after Dirkhising’s murder, the national press ran only 46 stories about it. *The New York Times*, which had run 195 stories about Shepherd, the *Los Angeles Times*, CNN, ABC, NBC and CBS ignored the story entirely. When McGowan asked these news organizations for an explanation of the disparity, they claimed that Dirkhising’s was only ‘a

local crime story.’

"The truth, of course, is that they would rather not air or print stories that do not reflect well on homosexuals. This is pure bias, and it infects the news business up and down on a number of key issues. Goldberg and McGowan have both adduced enough hard evidence to close the debate over press bias definitively. And both raise important and pressing concerns about the damage that persistent bias works on our society."

—Mona Charen, *The [Colorado Springs] Gazette*, December 25, 2001, p. M6

Q "Let me tell you about a *BreakPoint* listener who sneaked Christian thinking past the secular lions and lived to tell about it. It’s one of the stories that, frankly, keeps me committed to doing these *BreakPoint* broadcasts.

□ "A Michigan teacher named Carl wrote to tell me that he especially enjoyed *BreakPoint* commentaries on evolution. Carl wrote: ‘I teach high school history, and [*BreakPoint*]...has helped me become bolder and stand up for what I believe.’

"For example, many of his kids accept Darwin’s teachings about natural selection and the survival of the fittest. So recently Carl had his students read excerpts from Thomas Malthus, an eighteenth-century English cleric who believed that population growth would outstrip food production and bring about mass starvation. Carl says his class was outraged that a Christian minister could be so heartless as to want to allow the world’s poor to die.

"Then Carl had them read Charles Darwin’s autobiography. Lo and behold, the major premise for Darwin’s survival of the fittest philosophy came from his reading of Malthus.

" ‘The kids were amazed,’ Carl writes. ‘The philosophy they had adopted—evolution—is based on concepts the kids are outraged about.’ It made them think about Darwin in a very different light."

—Chuck Colson, *BreakPoint*, December 26, 2001

Q Summit Ministries is also in the business of sneaking Christian truth past secular humanist lions in the public square. Following are a few comments from former Summit students or their parents. May God bless our Summit grads willing to stand for Christ and the Christian worldview.

Q "I praise the Lord for the ministry of the Summit. My daughter attended your summer program last year and will never be the same. Your ministry has had a profound impact in her life as a young woman following Jesus Christ. She will be attending a Christian university in the fall and she couldn't imagine going to school without the training and leadership skills she received while at the Summit. As a parent training our children in the way they should go, I thank you for your time, effort and energy so many of you poured into my daughter. To God be the glory!

—Janice C.

Q "Hello—you probably don't remember me... I was a part of Summit Session Seven two years ago. But I just wanted to say that 'The Summit was such a WONDERFUL and LIFE CHANGING experience for me. Looking through this website, it just brings tears to my eyes because I want to attend again SO MUCH. It's like drinking from a fire hydrant...I just can't seem to get enough. I just wanted to say "Thank you" for being such a wonderful influence on my life...and on countless other lives. I think I'll be joining you again next year, due to the fact that this year, my summer is packed with my college summer classes...I hope to see you again.

—Joanna K.

Q "Thank you so much for the wonderful experience at Summit Ministries 2001 (May 13-26) session 1! It was fantastic and absolutely life-changing. I view the world in a whole new light, and I am well on my way to overcoming the 'Christian weenie syndrome'. I was also given a vision for my life after being there—much beyond *career* vision—*ministry* vision. I believe that God is calling me to Sudan. I am not sure exactly when, but I know it will be in the near future. He has also given me vision for my 'ministry work' that needs to be accomplished here in Minnesota first. I am so excited to have a goal to work towards and a greater purpose in God's kingdom.

"Summit has allowed me to grow immensely in my faith in Christ Jesus and encouraged me not to be afraid to show it. I am also learning how to step out in faith and witness to others, letting the Holy Spirit guide my words and being sensitive to Him. I learned that while being immersed with other Christians and encouraging one another, we are much more in-tune with the Holy Spirit. I was also encouraged to be much more diligent with my daily Bible reading and quiet time. God never disappoints me when I truly take time to spend with Him.

—Heather L.

Q "Liberals, who once characterized George W. Bush as a hopeless dim-bulb, now praise him as a bold commander in chief. Conservatives, who reckoned moral decay was the defining characteristic of America at the beginning of the new millennium are awed by the outpouring of patriotism and appreciation of family values and heroism of the common man and woman, as demonstrated in the streets of New York and Washington.

"Ideology still shapes personal and political points of view, but circumstances change. It's no longer chic to hate America. The professors of political correctness sometimes speak loud, but the sticks they carry are puny indeed. Jane Fonda became a campus heroine when she went to North Vietnam to bash the country that made her rich and a star, but there are no student marches in behalf of John Walker Lindh, the Taliban fighter from multicultural Marin County, Calif. The hero for America, circa 2001, is Johnny Spann, the CIA officer slain interrogating Taliban prisoners.

—Suzanne Fields, *The Washington Times*, December 13, 2001, p. A 21

Q "For years Patricia Ireland's National Organization for Women (NOW) has trumpeted that it runs on an annual \$10 million budget and has 250,000 members. As a result of that membership and budget it claims to be the pre-eminent women's group in the country. But it would seem that NOW's financial claims are phony, according to the organization's tax returns since 1996.

"Thanks to the breakaway Dulles, Va., NOW chapter, which applied to the IRS for NOW's 501 (c) filings, the grossly inflated budget figures are being exposed. The filings revealed that NOW never has enjoyed a \$10 million budget and that in 1999 its revenue was less than \$5 million—to be precise, \$4,492,112. Its best recent year was in 1996 when annual revenue stood at \$5,555,851.

"Furthermore, the filings reveal that the Monica Lewinsky scandal—NOW sided with then-president Bill Clinton—was not good for the organization.

—*Insight*, May 28, 2001, p. 6

Q "High school students in Jacksonville, Fla., can keep religious content in their graduation ceremonies. The Supreme Court last week decided not to hear a case that challenged the practice as unconstitutional.

"The school district allows seniors to choose someone from their class to act as a chaplain and give an inspirational address at graduation, and school officials do not screen the two-minute speeches. A group of students and parents sued to stop the activity, but the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals twice ruled against them.

"Both rulings stated that a lack of censorship does not mean an endorsement of private religious speech. 'We emphasize that under Duval County's policy school officials have no power to direct that a message (let alone a religious message) be delivered at graduation ceremonies, or control in any way the content of any message actually to be delivered,' wrote Judge Stanley Marcus in the majority opinion last May."

— *World* magazine, December 22, 2001, p. 12

Q "Adult-onset, ideologically-caused homosexuality—an increasingly important type which therapists rarely see and psychotherapists have largely ignored—is described in the January 2, 2001 *New York Times*. In a science section 'conversation with Anne Fausto-Sterling,' Anne is a formerly-married, now lesbian, professor of biology and women's studies at Brown University who works on human 'sexual plasticity.' She describes how her interest in gender issues, which began while she was married, led to her involvement in feminism, whose views about the relationship between the sexes—that men oppress women— 'did what they did to lots of women in the 1970's: they infuriated me. My poor husband, who was a very decent guy, tried as hard as he could to be sympathetic. But he was shut out of what I was doing. The women's movement opened up the feminine in a way that was new to me, and so my involvement made possible my becoming a lesbian.' Her new status probably helped get her a 'women's studies' position at Brown. But she also added, 'I don't think loving a man is unimaginable.'

"Adolescent-onset, ideologically-caused homosexuality produces what Dr. Charles W. Socarides calls 'the Thanksgiving Massacre.' That's when youngsters come home in the middle of their first college semesters to announce, often at the holiday dinner table, 'Hey, mom, hey dad! Be thankful! I have something to tell you. I'm gay!' This murders the hopes found in every family that their children be happily married with children of their own. These youngsters, away from home for the first time, have been seduced by a homosexual crowd 'that has taken on all the respects of a cult.' And psychotherapy won't help them because, like the rest of that huge majority of homosexuals whom the therapists never see, they do not want to change.

"Many colleges actively assist recruitment into homosexuality. At Harvard, for example, of which Dr. Socarides and I are both alumni ('43 and '42 respectively), a Presbyterian minister, unaware of the fluidity of adolescent sexual feelings (whose changeability later in life Prof. Fausto-Sterling demonstrated), proclaimed his pride in helping 'those who are discovering that they are gay or lesbian, to help them understand that that's not an obstacle to their blessedness in God's eyes.'

"The university's chief minister (and Plummer Professor of Christian [sic] Morality), Rev. Peter Gomes, maintaining that God made him homosexual—although being celibate is his own choice—describes those opposing the legitimization of homosexuality as neurotic, religious bigots or stupid.

"Each Harvard dormitory had a designated gay tutor in 1995, when Dr. Socarides wrote his book. But the university's high point in legitimizing homosexuality was *Harvard Magazine's* January-February, 1998, cover article "Gay Like Me," by Andrew Tobias ('68, M.B.A. '72), currently treasurer of the Democratic Party National Committee. Denying the fluidity of adolescent sexual feelings, Tobias celebrated (and the *Magazine* published) his claim that the homosexual feelings he had agonized over throughout his college years are 'the most natural thing in the world'—if you are born gay.

"The LUG phenomenon'—lesbian until graduation—is another example of the post-childhood college road to homosexuality. Co-eds date and have sex with other women, but only for four years. But after four years of same-sex sex, how ready will they be for a heterosexual marriage? And having moved so often from one relationship to another, what's to make them stick with their men when they encounter the inevitable problems that come with any marriage?

"The ideological recruitment of college students and other adults into homosexuality is far more prevalent, and far more dangerous, than most people, including relatively conservative psychiatrists, realize. That's why those who consider sex as serious and even sacred, rather than trivial, who support passionate, faithful marriage and oppose promiscuity and homosexuality, must actively enter the political and media arena to proclaim the superior sexual joys of marriage and energetically rebut the lies about genetics and childhood experience by those who self-servingly claim that homosexuality is predetermined and inevitable."

—Nataniel S. Lehrman, M.D., *Family Research Report*, Jan-Feb 2001, p. 1

Q "Nine months after this writer's *The Ascent of Racism* appeared presenting strong evidence

that Hitler was an evolutionist, Harvard's Stephen Jay Gould published an article which provides still more support for the thesis. There he introduces Benjamin Kidd, 'an English commentator highly respected by both academic and lay circles.' Kidd believed, according to Gould, that in Germany, 'Darwin's doctrine became a justification of war' and is quoted by Gould as follows:

Darwin's theories came to be openly set out in political and military textbooks as the full justification for war and highly organized schemes of national policy in which the doctrine of force became the doctrine of Right.

"In the light of this association of evolution with Nazism, we seek to see if Hitler's agenda met with Christian opposition. Evidence would suggest that the resistance was in fact substantial.

"In *The Church's Confession under Hitler*, author Arthur Cochrane presents the not sufficiently well-known statement of exiled Albert Einstein, the great physicist, cited by Wilhelm Niemoller in *Kampf und Zeugnis der bekennenden Kirche - Struggle and Testimony of the Confessing Church*, p. 526:

Being a lover of freedom, when the (Nazi) revolution came, I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but no, the universities were immediately silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers, whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom; but they, like the universities, were silenced in a few short weeks...

Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration for it because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual and moral freedom. I am forced to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly.

"Roland H. Bainton reflects part of this, adding substantiation of its truth:

Some four thousand Protestant ministers, led by Karl Barth and Hans Asmussen, formed the Confessing Church, which at Barmen in 1934 declared that no human *Fuhrer* could stand above the Word of God. The Confessing Church lost its properties, its seminary was suppressed, its journals were prohibited, and when war came the members of its clergy of military age and not in prison were assigned to positions of greatest danger, while the older leaders were sent to concentration camps. Among them was Martin Niemoller, a Lutheran pastor who after more than half a year in solitary confinement was brought to trial under Hitler's law against 'treacherous attacks upon state and party.' His refusal to capitulate and his persistent resistance to Nazism made him the symbolic figure of the Protestant opposition

until the downfall of the Nazis.

"Cochrane had magnified the significance of affirming that 'by January 15, 1934, there were 7,036 members' of the *pfarrernotbund*, Pastor's Emergency League, which was organized by Martin Niemoller, the courageous Berlin pastor. Cochrane added that in 'spite of heavy losses and in spite of the imprisonment of its founder on July 1, 1937, the League was never dissolved or banned, and it rendered service until as late as Christmas, 1944.'"

—Paul G. Humber, *Impact*, July 1988, p. 1, 2

Q "Teens who did abstinence-education homework with a parent became more dedicated to postponing sex than teens who didn't do such homework, says a study published this month by the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

"The study is one of the first to demonstrate that a program that focuses on parent-child communication can make a difference in the child's sexual attitudes, said Susan M. Blake, associate research professor at George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services.

"There's abundant evidence that parents have a lot of influence over children, she said, but very few studies look at whether certain parent-child intervention programs work.

" 'So that's what makes this [study] a step in the right direction,' Ms. Blake said.

"The study, published in the March/April issue of *Family Planning Perspectives*, found that teens who did abstinence-education homework assignments with their parents developed better communication with their parents than teens who weren't given homework assignments.

"The teens who did the homework were also significantly more informed about the risks of substance abuse, and had stronger intentions to remain abstinent through high school than other teens, the study said.

"The study was conducted with the 'Bright Futures' abstinence-only program, with 351 students, ages 12 to 14, in several suburban middle schools around Rochester, N.Y.

"A pre-study survey showed that around 95 percent of the students were not sexually active.

"All the students were given five classroom sessions, using the 'Managing the Pressures Before Marriage' abstinence curriculum.

"About 190 students were also given five homework assignments to do with a parent.

" 'For example, the first homework activity was as simple as agreeing to a general set of ground rules,' with parent and child taking turns talking, respecting the other person's feelings, and trying to learn how the other thinks or feels, said co-author Cheryl Perkins, a program director with Prevention Partners in Rochester, N.Y., which helped coordinate the study.

"Subsequent homework assignments asked questions about such things as choosing a best friend, reasons to postpone sex, what to look for in dating partners and how to handle pressures to have sex.

"At the conclusion of the abstinence program, Ms. Blake and her co-authors interviewed all the teens.

"They found that the teens who had the homework assignments had more confidence that they could reject substance abuse and sexual activity. They were also 'less likely to intend to have sex before completing high school,' said the study.

"In addition, many parents and teens said they were 'delighted' with the way the homework changed their communication patterns, said Linda Simkin, an official with Academy for Educational Development in New York and a co-author of the study."

—Cheryl Wetzstein, *The Washington Times*, April 24, 2001, p. A 4

