



The

JOURNAL

A Summit Ministries Publication

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

From The President's Desk

Nancy Pearcey in Total Truth (p. 125) sets forth the need for Summit's existence and before quoting her let me express my thanks and appreciation to all our supporters, staff, faculty and students for a great 2004 season.

Says Pearcey, "A few months ago I saw a clever advertisement that featured a ruffled, tweedy college professor glaring out at the reader, while the copy said: 'Meet your son's first college professor. He is a Marxist, Atheist English professor who eats Christian freshman for lunch.' That's exactly the image that ought to pop up in the minds of Christian parents when they are preparing their teens to go off to secular universities. Today basic apologetics has become a crucial skill for sheer survival. Without the tools of apologetics young people can be solidly trained in Bible study and doctrine, yet still flounder helplessly when they leave home and face the secular world on their own. The tragedy is replayed over and over again, as Christian teenagers pack their bags, kiss their parents goodbye, and head off to secular universities, only to lose their faith before they graduate, falling prey to the latest intellectual fads."

Hence, Summit Ministries!

Month In Review

Q The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

“Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

“There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

“Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun...and there is nothing hidden from its heat.”

—Psalm 19:1-6

Q I asked God to take away my habit. God said, No.

It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, No.

His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No.

Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No.

I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No.

Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No.

You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No.

I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said...Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

Q We are taught from childhood to notice how the perfect oak grows from the acorn and to forget that the acorn itself was dropped by a perfect oak. We are reminded constantly that the adult human being was an embryo, never that the life of the embryo came from two adult human beings.”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

Q Hoping to increase the influence of homeschoolers within the Southern Baptist Convention, a group of home educators have begun a new organization in the wake of the denomination’s rejection of a resolution urging Baptists to pull their kids out of government schools.

“The Southern Baptist Church and Home Educators Association hopes to serve as a national voice for homeschoolers in the denomination.

“ ‘We have submitted our request to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to officially endorse us as a Southern Baptist ministry,’ said co-founder Elizabeth Watkins, who resides in Allen, Texas. ‘That would enable us to participate in any Southern Baptist function.’

“Watkins says it was obvious during the debate over the education resolution that Southern Baptist homeschoolers did not have a voice with policy-makers.

“ ‘No one asked us homeschoolers what our opinion of the resolution was,’ she told WND.

“The resolution, written by Baptist activists Bruce N. Shortt and T.C. Pinckney, called on the millions of members of the denomination to take their kids out of public schools and either homeschool them or send them to Christian schools. The SBC voted down the resolution at its annual convention in June.

“Watkins says though the group now is blossoming, she has been working for years putting it together.

“ ‘This is something I’ve been doing research on for almost two years. Because of the debate over the Christian education resolution, I wrote an essay,’ she explained.

“That essay got the attention of several homeschooling advocates who have helped and encouraged Watkins.

“ ‘God just really opened doors for us this summer,’ she commented.

“Watkins says her group hopes to exhort Baptist parents, even those who send their children to government schools, to home educate at some level—‘whether they do it after school, part-time, full-time...we want[the organization]to be open to anyone.’

“The greatest emphasis, however, is helping homeschool families with co-op learning, dual-enrollment situations with colleges, apprenticeships and internships.

“ ‘We are hoping to serve as a liaison between Baptist colleges and homeschool high-schoolers. As more homeschooled children come of age, colleges and universities have actively recruited high-school graduates who were educated at home.

“Watkins also noted the organization plans to establish a network of retired Christian teachers to provide a tutoring service for homeschooling families.

“So what is the organization’s message to Baptists who send their children to public school?

“ ‘We want to let them know of the dangers in government schools,’ Watkins said, ‘including the secular humanism and relativism being taught.’ ”

—WorldNetDaily.com, September 1, 2004

Q The Democratic National Committee’s new advisor for religious outreach was one of 32 signatories on a U.S. Supreme Court amicus brief backing an atheist who sought to remove the words ‘under God’ from the Pledge of Allegiance.

“In February, the Rev. Brenda Bartella Peterson was one of almost three dozen Christian and Jewish clergy who—along with the Unitarian Universalist Association—asked the Supreme Court to support Michael Newdow, the California plaintiff trying to change the Pledge’s wording.

“The Supreme Court restored the words ‘under God’ to the Pledge in June, ruling that Mr. Newdow had no standing or legal right to bring the case.

“Mrs. Peterson was already well-known in the District, where she was executive director for the Clergy Network for National Leadership Change, a group trying to oust President Bush and undermine religious conservatives.

“She is an ordained minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), an Indianapolis-based Protestant denomination.

“Her new appointment, announced July 23 by Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe as part of a Democratic effort to wrest America’s religious voters away from Mr. Bush, has delighted religious liberals.

“The Rev. Albert M. Pennybacker, a Disciples of Christ minister and chief executive officer for the Clergy Network, said Mrs. Peterson is ‘smart, a quick study, energetic and an attractive public presence.’

“ ‘She’s articulate with progressive religious views,’ he said.

“But the New York-based Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights sees her in a different light.

“ ‘This is the person the Democrats want to dispatch to meet with the heads of religious organizations?’ said the conservative group’s president, William Donohue. ‘Are they out of their minds? Would they hire a gay basher to reach out to homosexuals?’

“Two months ago, the league successfully slammed Sen. John Kerry’s religious advisor, Mara Vanderslice, into silence by bringing up her past connections with radical political groups.

“The selections of Miss Vanderslice and Mrs. Peterson ‘suggest that either no one bothers to vet candidates for religious outreach or the elites making the choices are anti-religious,’ said Mr. Donohue, who is registered as an independent.

“ ‘If the former is true, then this shows that the Democrats place no priority on appealing to people of faith. If the latter is true, then Kerry needs to bring in a big broom and clean house.’

“Mr. Pennybacker said, ‘It’d be a stretch to say Brenda is a compensation for Mara. Brenda’s job is really based in the ongoing life of the Democratic Party. Mara’s job was tied with the Kerry campaign.’

“Mrs. Peterson has been a point man for religious liberals since she took the Clergy Network post in November. Her husband, John Peterson is communications director for the Interfaith Alliance, a liberal ecumenical group.

“ ‘Religion has been manipulated by this administration to a new and disgusting level,’ she told Agence France-Presse after she was hired by the network. ‘We are a group of clergy that has come together to say things have gone so bad with this administration that we can no longer be silent.’

“Because her office was across South Capitol Street from the Democratic National

Committee, she quickly got the attention of Democrats who were looking for someone with some religious savvy.

“In a July 29 posting on www.democrats.org, she said her new job would entail strategies ‘about getting out the vote and letting people know John Kerry’s position on...moral issues.’

“Of her experiences with working with church liberals, ‘it’s like herding cats,’ she said in May in an interview with the Daily Camera in Boulder, Colo.

“ ‘Because we are such a diverse group of people from so many different faith organizations, it has been harder to get people to rally around a very focused cause.’

“Mrs. Peterson refused several requests from The Washington Times for an interview.

“A denominational spokesman said she received a master’s of divinity degree from Lexington (Ky.) Theological Seminary in 1999 and was ordained in May of that year.

“Mr. Pennybacker says she was pastor of Newtown Christian Church in Georgetown, Ky., until the sudden death of one of her sons, Mark Bartella, who was killed in a recreational vehicle accident in 2002. The other son, Sims Bartella, is stationed with the Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

“The family, he said, saw their move to Washington last fall as a welcome reprieve from sad memories.

“Mrs. Peterson told the PBS show ‘Religion & Ethics Newsweekly’ last week that her hiring ‘is a strong statement that the Democrats and John Kerry and John Edwards want to reach out to religious voters, want to hear what they have to say.

“ ‘We plan to go all over the nation,’ she said. ‘We plan to have a religious Web page on the DNC site and to let people of faith be heard. To let them know that their voice can say, “We think the federal budget is a moral document. We think that there are issues in this campaign that have a theological underpinning.” ’ ’ ”

—The Washington Times, August 4, 2004, p. 1

Q A parade of Democratic leaders and Hollywood stars, including Ben Affleck, yesterday reassured homosexual delegates and advocates that they have a lot to gain by defeating the Bush administration and electing a Kerry administration.

“ ‘If nothing else, you will have a mom in the White House,’ Teresa Heinz Kerry said before the packed hotel room of homosexual delegates and advocates.

“ ‘You’re pushing the envelope, and we, as a country, have to respond with policies and cultural acceptance,’ said Mrs. Kerry, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry.

“Dignity and respect are paramount qualities, she said. If any of the Kerry children were to say they were homosexual and wanted to marry their partner, she said, ‘I would...share my joy and my pride with all my friends,’ just as if they were marrying someone of the opposite sex.

“One of her better-known qualities, Mrs. Kerry added, is ‘that I like to nurture people, and family members and friends sometimes call her ‘Dr. T’ or ‘Momma T.’ As she departed, the crowd chanted, ‘Momma T, Momma T!’

“Boston-born Mr. Affleck joked about his famous marriage woes, but quickly attacked political efforts to block same-sex ‘marriage.’

“ ‘As somebody, to be perfectly frank, who has enough trouble figuring out who to get married [to], I don’t need the state or federal government telling me who I can or can’t marry,’ said the star of ‘Good Will Hunting’ and ‘Armageddon.’

“Hollywood actor and director Rob Reiner said the Bush administration’s support for the Federal Marriage Amendment was just one more ‘irrefutable’ reason to defeat him in November.

“ ‘This, in fact, is the most important election in our lifetime,’ said Mr. Reiner, whose sentiments were echoed by actors Robert Gant of Showtime’s ‘Queer as Folk’ and Steve Buscemi, formerly of HBO’s ‘The Sopranos.’

“About a dozen Democratic politicians said they would work to advance homosexual interests, including passing laws to allow domestic partners to share Social Security benefits, expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to include domestic partners and defeating a recently passed House bill that disallows federal courts to rule on the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act.

“Instead of pushing for a federal marriage amendment, lawmakers should reverse course and push for a ‘gay rights constitutional amendment,’ said Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, New York Democrat.

“ ‘Let’s go on the offensive,’ she yelled to the crowd. ‘I’m tired of being on the defensive.’

“ ‘The stakes have never been higher,’ said Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin Democrat and

the first openly lesbian official elected to Congress.

“ ‘We have an extraordinary presence at this conference,’ she said, noting she was appointed conference vice chairman and gave a prime-time speech. Homosexuals should support the Democratic ticket because ‘our nominee for president is the most pro-gay nominee in U.S. history.’

“The homosexual community ‘is no longer put on the sidelines,’ said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. ‘You’re an essential part of the Democratic family.’”

—The Washington Times, July 29, 2004, p. A 16

Q It appears to this editor that the Democratic Party USA has become the Sodomy Party USA. Since your editor is open to contrary opinion, I would enjoy hearing from any of our readership who disagree.

Q For those interested to know who the Communist Party USA is backing for President of the United States, check their website www.cpusa.org.

Q The local Democratic Party is supporting an Internal Revenue Service investigation of an Arkansas pastor who is accused of delivering a pro-Bush sermon July 4.

“The Washington County Democratic Committee issued a statement affirming a complaint filed by Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, against Ronnie Floyd, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Springdale.

“The Democrats say the sermon should be ‘investigated thoroughly.’

“The party, the statement said, ‘looks forward to the day when all citizens may vote their conscience without their political beliefs being dictated to them by politically involved religious leaders, regardless of denomination.’

“Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service against the pastor’s July 4 sermon, suggesting it endorsed the re-election of President Bush and therefore violated the conditions of the church’s tax-exempt status.

“ ‘American democracy is rooted in the principle of the separation of church and state,’ the Democratic committee’s statement said. ‘The Washington County Democratic Party remains committed to maintaining this value and belief if only in our small corner of the state.’

“Associate Pastor Alan Damron of First Baptist replied in a prepared statement: ‘Contrary to

the statement by the Washington County Democratic Party, “separation of church and state” is not in the United States Constitution. Our Constitution guarantees the right for all to speak on political, social, moral, and biblical issues. The Constitution includes pastors and churches. There have been American religious leaders past and present who did not and have not withheld their opinions about social issues or moral issues and/or politicians who supported or opposed various American rights. If the pastors or churches are not protected by the First Amendment, then neither are professors, or non-profit, tax-exempt educational institutions. The July 4th sermon of Pastor Ronnie Floyd exemplifies the best of our American tradition of freedom and democracy. The message did not violate any IRS provision by any stretch of the imagination, and is most assuredly protected by the First Amendment, that protects us all, even those who may disagree with us.”

—WorldNetDaily.com, July 24, 2004

Q Leaders of two groups within the National Education Association objected yesterday to plans of union leaders to confer a human rights award tonight on the founder of a homosexual network in schools.

“Heads of the NEA Republican Educators Caucus and NEA Ex-Gay Educators Caucus formally protested plans to give the award to Kevin Jennings of the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), whose stated goals ‘extend to incorporating homosexual concepts into all curriculum.’

“NEA President Reg Weaver was given a tape recording of a GLSEN conference in 2000 at Tufts University, where Mr. Jennings was keynote speaker and Massachusetts Department of Education HIV/AIDS coordinator discussed with teenage students ways to perform various homosexual acts.

“The recording, made by a participant and publicly distributed, caused a public outcry and led to the dismissal of state education department employees and the state-funded GLSEN contractor.

“Mr. Weaver did not respond to requests for comment.

“Mr. Jennings, who also did not respond to interview requests, is slated to receive the 2004 Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights tonight at the NEA’s annual human rights dinner, which precedes the union’s yearly convention that starts tomorrow at the D.C. Convention Center.

“The award is named for Virginia Uribe, a teacher and counselor at Fairfax High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 42 years, who developed a program to help address problems faced by homosexual students. The program was called Project 10 in honor

of sex researcher Alfred Kinsey's disputed theory that 10 percent of the population is homosexual.

"In her protest letter, Diane Lenning of Huntington Beach, Calif., chairwoman of the NEA Republican Educators Caucus, asked Mr. Weaver: 'Is it a good idea for NEA to honor as exemplary a teacher who engages in unethical practice?'

"Mrs. Lenning said Mr. Jennings' 1994 book, *One Teacher in 10*, shows that he 'did not report sexual victimization of a student to the proper authorities.'

"In the book, Mr. Jennings related advice and sympathy he gave in 1988 to a sophomore student in Concord, Mass., named Brewster, who confided emotional difficulty over his homosexual involvement 'with an older man he had met in Boston.'

"Child protection laws in Massachusetts required a teacher to notify child welfare authorities within 48 hours if a child under 19 'is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from abuses inflicted upon him ...including sexual abuse.'

"State authorities said Mr. Jennings filed no report in 1988. 'As mandatory reporters, teachers must uphold the legal requirements and report student sexual involvement with adults,' Mrs. Lenning wrote.

"In a separate letter personally presented to the union president yesterday, Jeralee Smith of Riverside, Calif., head of the NEA Ex-Gay Educators Caucus, objected that 'Mr. Jennings has also singled out ex-gays for particular scorn and discrimination in his public statements and writings,' which she submitted.

" 'Ex-gay messages have no place in our nation's public schools,' Mr. Jennings said in one GLSEN publication. 'A line has been drawn. There is no "other side" when you're talking about lesbian, gay and bisexual students.'

"Mrs. Smith said: 'This hostility is inconsistent with the NEA's commitment to create a safe environment for all and is very intolerant toward those who have decided not to embrace a homosexual life.'

" 'If we are to be truly democratic in our support of each person's right to pursue their own happiness, then there would be no stigmatizing of any individual for choosing to leave a homosexual life or, for that matter, in choosing to reverse such a decision,' she told Mr. Weaver.

"A former teacher at Concord Academy in Concord, Mass., Mr. Jennings founded GLSEN in 1990 to fight harassment and bullying of homosexuals by forming 'gay-straight alliances' in

schools.

“According to the group’s publications, GLSEN’s mission ‘is about changing schools and school culture around [homosexual-bisexual-transgender] issues and people.’

“Its goals ‘extend to...holding diversity seminars for teachers and students and ensuring that only positive discussions about homosexuality are allowed into elementary school classrooms, including kindergarten,’ according to the GLSEN Web site.”

—The Washington Times, July 3, 2004, p. A4

Q June 3, 2004

“A pride proclamation from Senator John Kerry

“As the nation celebrates Pride Month, I am excited to join the LGBT [Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transgender] community in fighting for equal rights for gay Americans. I believe that Americans should embrace the diversity that makes our nation strong and recommit ourselves to ensuring that all Americans are guaranteed equal rights.

“The LGBT community contributes to our nation in so many ways, in every corner of this country. And in return, you ask only for equal treatment. LGBT Americans deserve the right to make medical decisions for one another in times of crisis, the right to inherit a house purchased together and equal access to health insurance, social security and retirement benefits. Together we can provide this simple justice.

“The Bush administration repeatedly uses gay rights as a political tool to divide the nation. That’s just wrong. I am committed to using the power of the White House to advance equal rights for all Americans, including gay Americans. We don’t need a Constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. We need to find a way to provide all American families with full and equal rights. We don’t need opposition to hate crime legislation. We need to reject hate and embrace acceptance. And we don’t need a President who plays politics with gay adoption. We need a President who works everyday to protect and support all children and families.

“I want to lead an America where the inscription ‘Equal Justice Under the Law’ has both meaning and value for all Americans, not just some Americans. And I need your help to make that happen. Let’s work to make a stronger America where all Americans are treated with dignity and fairness and celebrated with pride.

“With best wishes, John Kerry.”

—Bob Knight, bknight@cwfa.org

Q I go to CU Boulder and have emailed questions a few times this past year. I just want to say that I really appreciate all of the personal answers and what you do with Summit. I got to school this year, and found out my roommate was raised Southern Baptist, like me. It wasn't long though before she started to doubt. We argued and discussed and debated and searched for so much...many of my emailed questions were questions we both had, or even ones that were mostly hers. Because we talked so much, and about such important things, we grew very close, open, honest, etc. We learned sooo much from each other, and I made one of the best friends I have ever had in my life. I was able to discuss things with her, from homosexuality to abortion to evolution to faith to feminism to over-population to mythology to denominations to relativism to missions to evangelism to reason and logic to...who know what all. Without this, she would have left her faith. She was already angry and rebellious. But so honest. Anyway, she got back home after the school year, and got reinvolved with her church. She told her mom that when she had questions, I would listen and understand them, then answer them. If I didn't know them, I would find them...that's where you and the Summit website and books and stuff like that came into play. I couldn't have done it by myself, and I would have been at a loss without going to Summit Ministries last summer. She wrote me a few weeks ago saying that she still wasn't sure what she believed, but she was still considering faith and God and christianity. Anyway, she just died in a car accident last Wednesday evening. It's still in shock and haven't stopped shaking since Friday when I found out, and my eyes are puffy from crying. I don't even know if she is in heaven right now. But I have no regrets because of not sharing and searching for the truth with her. A large part of that is because of you and Summit. I just thought I should thank you. I don't know if she is in heaven right now or not...but I know it is very possible, because someone showed me how real christianity is, how defensible it is, how reasonable it is; and I was able to pass along the information. Thanks. In Him, Michelle"