

## MONTH IN REVIEW

❑ “Now everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced with the message about righteousness, because he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature—for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil.

“Therefore, leaving the elementary message about the Messiah, let us go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, faith in God, teaching about ritual washings, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And we will do this if God permits.

“Even though we are speaking this way, dear friends, in your case we are confident of the better things connected with salvation. For God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you showed for His name when you served the saints—and you continue to serve them. Now we want each of you to demonstrate the same diligence for the final realization of your hope, so that you won’t become lazy, but imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and perseverance.

“And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength after being weak, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead raised to life again. Some men were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection, and others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

“All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

“Therefore since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God’s throne.”

—Hebrews 5:13-14; 6:1-2; 6:9-12; 11:32-39; 12:1-2

❑ “How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns His face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

“Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders; ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was His love that held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life—I know that it is finished.

“I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom; but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Why

should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart—His wounds have paid my ransom.”

—Stuart Townsend

❑ “The best-known animal rights organization, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), funded by the best educated in our society, has launched an international campaign titled ‘Holocaust on your plate,’ which equates the barbecuing of millions of chickens with the cremating of millions of Jews in the Holocaust. To PETA and its supporters, there is no difference between chicken life and human life.

“Only a very morally confused age could produce so many people who do not recognize the immeasurable distance between human and animal worth. We live in that age.

“We do in large measure because values based on God and

## — UPCOMING EVENTS —

### WORLDVIEW WEEKEND

A Worldview Weekend is a wonderful worldview crash course. Don’t miss the opportunity to hear exciting speakers in your area.

April 1-2, Jackson, MS

April 8-9, Gettysburg, PA

April 22-23, Cedar Rapids, IA

April 29-May 1, Branson, MO

For a complete list of speakers and registration information, please visit [www.worldviewweekend.com](http://www.worldviewweekend.com).

### SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

It’s time for that college-bound teen in your life to sign up for the 2005 Summit Leadership Conferences. Remember there are 3 locations and ten different sessions to choose from this year. Go to [www.summit.org](http://www.summit.org) for all the details and a printable application.

### 2005 Summer Conference Schedule

Colorado	Session 1	May 22 - June 3
	Session 2	June 5 - June 17
	Session 3	June 19 - July 1
	Session 4	July 10 - 22
	Session 5	July 24 - August 5
	Session 6	August 7 - 19
	Session 7	August 21 - Sept 2
Ohio	Session 1	June 19 - July 1
Tennessee	Session 1	July 10 - 22
	Session 2	July 24 - Aug 5

All sessions are now open, but space is limited, so apply early. Priority consideration is given to graduating high school seniors and older.

the Bible have been replaced by secular values. The result was predicted by the British thinker G.K. Chesterton at the turn of the 20th century: ‘When people stop believing in God, they don’t believe in nothing — they believe in anything.’

“Yes, the moral record of Christian Europe is a mixed one — especially vis-à-vis its one continuous religious minority — Jews. And one has to be quite naive to believe that belief in God and the Bible guarantees moral clarity, let alone moral behavior.

“But Chesterton was right. The collapse of Christianity in Europe led to the horrors of Nazism and Communism.

“The oft-cited charge that religion has led to more wars and evil than anything else is a widely believed lie. Secular successors to Christianity have slaughtered and enslaved more people than all religions in history (though significant elements within a non-Judeo-Christian religion, Islam, slaughter and enslave today, and if not stopped in Sudan and elsewhere could match Nazism or Communism).”

—Dennis Prager, *www.Frontpagemagazine.com*, January 4, 2005

□ “Those who do not believe that moral values must come from the Bible or be based upon God’s moral instruction argue that they have a better source for values: human reason.

“In fact, the era that began the modern Western assault on Judeo-Christian values is known as the Age of Reason. That age ushered in the modern secular era, a time when the men of ‘the Enlightenment’ hoped they would be liberated from the superstitious shackles of religious faith and rely on reason alone. Reason, without God or the Bible, would guide them into an age of unprecedented moral greatness.

“As it happened, the era following the decline of religion in Europe led not to unprecedented moral greatness, but to unprecedented cruelty, superstition, mass murder and genocide. But believers in reason without God remain unfazed. Secularists have ignored the vast amount of evidence showing that evil on a grand scale follows the decline of Judeo-Christian religion.

“There are four primary problems with reason divorced from God as a guide to morality.

“The first is that reason is amoral. Reason is only a tool and, therefore, can just as easily argue for evil as for good. If you want to achieve good, reason is immensely helpful; if you want to do evil, reason is immensely helpful. But reason alone cannot determine which you choose. It is sometimes rational to do what is wrong and sometimes rational to do what is right.

“It is sheer nonsense — nonsense believed by the godless — that reason always suggests the good. Mother Teresa devoted her life to feeding and clothing the dying in Calcutta. Was this decision derived entirely from reason? To argue that it was derived from reason alone is to argue that every person whose actions are guided by reason will engage in similar self-sacrifice, and that anyone who doesn’t live a Mother Teresa-like life is acting irrationally.

“Another example of reason’s incapacity to lead to moral conclusions: On virtually any vexing moral question, there is no such a thing as a purely rational viewpoint. What is the purely rational view on the morality of abortion? Of public nudity? Of the value of an animal versus that of a human? Of the war in

Iraq? Of capital punishment for murder? On any of these issues, reason alone can argue effectively for almost any position. Therefore, what determines anyone’s moral views are, among other things, his values — and values are beyond reason alone (though one should be able to rationally explain and defend those values). If you value the human fetus, most abortions are immoral; if you only value the woman’s view of the value of the fetus, all abortions are moral.”

—Dennis Prager, *www.Frontpagemagazine.com*, January 18, 2005

□ “Would you first save the dog you love or a stranger if both were drowning? The answer depends on your value system.

“One of the most obvious and significant differences between secular and Judeo-Christian values concerns human worth. One of the great ironies of secular humanism is that it devalues the worth of human beings. As ironic as it may sound, the God-based Judeo-Christian value system renders man infinitely more valuable and significant than any humanistic value system.

“The reason is simple: Only if there is a God who created man is man worth anything beyond the chemicals of which he is composed. Judeo-Christian religions hold that human beings are created in the image of God. If we are not, we are created in the image of carbon dioxide. Which has a higher value is not difficult to determine.

“Contemporary secular society has rendered human beings less significant than at any time in Western history.

“First, the secular denial that human beings are created in God’s image has led to humans increasingly being equated with animals. That is why over the course of 30 years of asking high school seniors if they would first try to save their dog or a stranger, two-thirds have voted against the person. They either don’t know what they would do or actually vote for their dog. Many adults now vote similarly.”

—Dennis Prager, *www.Frontpagemagazine.com*, February 8, 2005

□ “I don’t believe in Santa Claus, but I’m not going to sue somebody for singing a Ho-Ho-Ho song in December.

“I don’t agree with Darwin, but I didn’t go out and hire a lawyer when my high school teacher taught his theory of evolution.

“Life, liberty or your pursuit of happiness will not be endangered because someone says a 30-second prayer before a football

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# From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

I was going to give a report on our Summit in Australia in January when Jeff Myers sent me an e-mail from someone who actually attended it. Much better to hear from one in attendance, but let me say that it was more than I had expected. Sometime in December I was told that 50-75 might attend. The first night we had over 400 with 250 in attendance for most of the week meeting in Toowoomba, Australia. With a few American professors (Michael Bauman and Greg Koukl), Darrell Furgason from Canada and yours truly we had one exciting, challenging, educational and spiritual awakening. But then hear about this wonderful week of study, inspiration and challenge from one who was actually there.

“Hi Jeff,

“I have been following your encouraging newsletters since May 2001 and have passed on your details to a number of others. I have enjoyed and been challenged by many of your writings. I love the focus of your ministry seeking to communicate to this, and the upcoming generation, the need to live an effective Christian life via your many practical strategies, e.g., developing mentoring, effective communication, etc.

“One of the items you have often mentioned, is the Summit, that you encouraged many to attend. Living in Australia, it was a little difficult to attend, and I often thought about procuring some of the Summit material from your website. However, I was not sure of what I would obtain for the price I would have to pay to have it shipped (prohibitive) to Australia so I did not arrange this.

“Through an Answers in Genesis email, I came across an ad for a 6 day Summit in Australia a few months ago. Curious, I followed the link, and was pleasantly surprised to see the inaugural Australian conference in Queensland planned for January. Straight away I knew that I had to be there, and made the necessary arrangements to attend.

“It was one of the best conferences of my life, and I have attended many Christian and professional conferences over the years. I have long been interested in world views and how they influence people's actions. I had a three-fold prayer to the Lord

for the conference. Firstly, to be refreshed and brought up to date on the whole worldview issue. Secondly, to network with other Christians so disposed. Thirdly, to come back with many practical things that I could do, to not only better defend my faith, but to also be on the offensive without being offensive! I really wanted to be better equipped to engage the world at large, and answer the postmodernistic retort of ‘who's to say,’ ‘that may be true for you,’ etc. All of these prayers were answered beyond what I could possibly have hoped for!

“Not only did we have the excellent insight of David Noebel and his band of merry professors messing with our minds and challenging our assumptions, and solidifying foundations, but giving practical strategies for how to engage the world at large. In particular, I found the material and strategies shared by Greg Koukl via his Stand to Reason ministry particularly useful for this.

“I believe that the Summit conference was indeed a summit for many of us Australian Christians, and has equipped us to be better at focusing on what the real strategy of the enemy's various ‘-ism's’ is and to do a better job at presenting the Christian worldview in the marketplace of ideas. I believe that great things will come from this first inaugural Summit and that our nation, just like the US and other western nations, requires that we Christians arise from our comfortable niches and show how the Christian message is relevant for all areas of life. It is not for the portrayal of individual sectarian interests but a lifting up of the central message of Christianity: that true freedom for man can only come from living under a Christian worldview, and that we respond to this with a yielded life to our Saviour and Lord, and seek to serve him in the areas of our calling.

“So once again, Jeff, thank you, thank you, thank you for your advocacy of Summit and your faithfulness in your ministry. Who knows, we may even see you at the next Aussie Summit in Canberra next year!

“God Bless. Regards”, Aldis P., February 2, 2005

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game.

“So what's the big deal? It's not like somebody is up there reading the entire book of Acts. They're just talking to a God they believe in and asking him to grant safety to the players on the field and the fans going home from the game.

“‘But it's a Christian prayer,’ some will argue. Yes, and this is the United States of America, a country founded on Christian principles. According to our very own phone book, Christian churches outnumber all others better than 200-to-1. So what would you expect—somebody chanting Hare Krishna? If I went to a football

game in Jerusalem, I would expect to hear a Jewish prayer.

“If I went to a soccer game in Baghdad, I would expect to hear a Muslim prayer. If I went to a ping pong match in China, I would expect to hear someone pray to Buddha. And I wouldn't be offended. It wouldn't bother me one bit. When in Rome...

“‘But what about the atheists,’ is another argument. What about them? Nobody is asking them to be baptized. We're not going to pass the collection plate. Just humor us for 30 seconds. If that's asking too much, bring a Walkman or a pair of ear plugs. Go to the bathroom. Visit the concession stand. Call your law-



yer! Unfortunately, one or two will make that call. One or two will tell thousands what they can and cannot do. I don't think a short prayer at a football game is going to shake the world's foundations.

"Christians are just sick and tired of turning the other cheek while our courts strip us of all our rights. Our parents and grandparents taught us to pray before eating, to pray before we go to sleep.

"Our Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. Now a handful of people and their lawyers are telling us to cease praying. God, help us. And if that last sentence offends you, well...just sue me.

"The silent majority has been silent too long. It's time we let that one or two who scream loud enough to be heard, that the vast majority don't care what they want. It is time the majority rules! It's time we tell them, you don't have to pray. You don't have to say the pledge of allegiance, you don't have to believe in God or attend services that honor Him. That is your right, and we will honor your right...but by golly, you are no longer going to take our rights away. We are fighting back...and we WILL WIN!

"God bless us one and all, especially those who denounce Him... God bless America, despite all her faults, she is still the greatest nation of all....

"God bless our service men who are fighting to protect our right to pray and worship God....

"May 2005 be the year the silent majority is heard and we put God back as the foundation of our families and institutions.

"Keep looking up.... In God WE Trust."

—Paul Harvey, Montana Family Policy Update, January 18, 2005

□ "As a great public service, someone should send a copy of Michael Crichton's new book *State of Fear* to the chief executive officer of every Fortune 500 company in America. Mr. Crichton is not a scientist, but he understands science and how to separate out fact from fiction.

"His book undresses the environmental alarmists for a lack of evidence to support their apocalyptic claims of global warming and does so with impressive documentation.

"*State of Fear* has become a best-seller precisely at the time business leaders across the nation are capitulating to an environmentalist global warming agenda that could severely cripple the U.S. economy and cost hundreds of thousands of jobs—to say nothing of denting corporate profits.

"In recent months, dozens of major Fortune 500 companies have waved the white flag of surrender to radical environmental groups by signing on to the antigrowth agenda on global climate policy. Like prisoners who have come to admire their captors, many corporate leaders have agreed to lobby beside the very interest groups that would put them out of business.

"In August, the Conference Board—an organization of hundreds of major corporations in the United States and around the world—issued a self-righteous and scientifically dubious statement insisting there is an 'increasing scientific consensus that humans are contributing to the warming of the planet' and that government and corporate boards must take action.

"Meanwhile, dozens of major Fortune 500 firms have signed on and started donating to the radical left-wing lobbying and re-

search activities of the Pew Research Center on Climate Research. Pew has been about the most apocalyptic and irrational of any organization in the country about the coming catastrophe of melting ice caps, massive flooding and soaring temperatures.

"Here is how the racket works: environmental groups relentlessly attack firms, such as Exxon, that have refused to be bullied into submission. This in turn empowers radical environmental organizations with even more money and more credibility, which they then use to bludgeon and isolate corporate holdouts, which forces more capitulations, which leads us ever closer to an anti-industry policy agenda that will puncture a hole in the American economy.

"The corporate shells for the environmental groups, have essentially agreed to two highly questionable finds about the science of global warming:

"(1) Global warming is a major environmental threat to the future of the planet.

"(2) And global warming is a direct result of man's imprint on the globe.

"Both propositions—particularly the second—have been heartily disputed by leading scientists. Though it is true *most* climatologists believe in global warming, these are hardly disinterested parties: Billions of dollars in funding for these researchers would evaporate if they concluded there was no impending catastrophe.

"Mr. Crichton has fun noting that 30 years ago the *New York Times* and *Science* magazine warned of a coming ice age because of falling global temperatures.

"This is about fear, not facts. For a climatologist to say there is no global warming problem is as unlikely as a dermatologists' convention announcing acne has been forever cured.

"But supposed remedies to global warming are pretty frightening too. The business groups essentially have agreed drastic steps are needed to combat the coming eco-catastrophe.

"Those steps, as outlined in the Kyoto Treaty and the McCain-Lieberman antiglobal-warming legislation, would involve strangulating governmental regulations on business activity and economic growth. Environmentalists are promoting dramatic reductions in fossil fuels and mandatory cutbacks in Carbon dioxide emissions (the so-called greenhouse gases).

"No one knows for sure just *how* damaging to growth these emission reductions would be. But one recent report by Charles Rivers Associates calculates as many as 600,000 jobs could be put at risk by 2010. The Energy Information Administration estimates energy costs could rise by 21 percent by the end of the decade if the McCain-Feingold legislation were approved—which would be like an 18-cent per gallon global warming tax. And because the Kyoto Treaty requires the greatest emissions reductions from developed nations, the United States if it signed on would be placed in a significant competitive hole.

"The cures to the greenhouse effect are all about stunting economic growth—not environmental progress. The global warming agenda brings with it the mother of all anti-growth regulatory regimes. It's not a stretch to say the Kyoto Treaty would be the largest threat to our financial well-being and personal freedoms since Hillary Clinton unveiled her plan to socialize the American health care system a decade ago. Hillary might have succeeded if

the business community had rallied to her plan the way it is embracing global warming fanaticism.

“Global warming really does pose a clear and present danger to America. But the principal danger is not a warmer planet, which many in the North would view as a good thing, but rather draconian remedies that would stifle our productivity, prosperity and economic development.

“CEO’s who would bring us closer to that future are bad corporate citizens. They are robber barons of growth. They should be held accountable for the dangers their political cowardice imposes on workers and shareholders.”

—Stephen Moore, *The Washington Times*, January 10, 2005, p. A15

□ “Malaria and dengue fever, both carried by mosquitoes, are already endemic in many of the affected areas and disease levels could dramatically increase as they breed in the countless pools of stagnant water left behind by the waves. Mosquitoes that carry malaria come out at night, those that carry dengue by day. They thus kill round the clock.

“Draining the pools would be terribly laborious, especially since mosquitoes can breed in nothing more than a footprint. The best answer would be spraying with DDT. Unfortunately, environmentalists have demonized DDT based essentially on unfounded accusations in a 1962 book, *Silent Spring*.

“Yet notes Paul Driessen, author of *Eco-Imperialism* and a senior fellow with the Center for Defense of Free Enterprise, ‘DDT is not only probably the most effective mosquito killer on Earth, it has also been tested for literally decades and has never been shown to harm people.’

“It’s questionable whether DDT even has an effect on the environment. There are other insecticides available, Mr. Driessen observes, but ‘they don’t have the repellency of DDT and a single DDT spraying lasts six months.’

“He says DDT should be sprayed on water pools, tents and on people—as indeed was once commonly done in Sri Lanka and most of the world: ‘We need to ignore the environmentalists and concentrate on immediate health dangers.’ Incidentally, by and large, environmental groups also oppose water chlorination.

“Typhus, spread by fleas and lice, could also become epidemic, and DDT has an excellent track record in preventing it since it was first dusted on Italian war refugees in 1943.”

—Michael Fumento, *The Washington Times*, January 2, 2005, p. B1

□ “Americans will be denounced for greed and materialism by people from countries where individuals do not donate nearly as high a percentage of their incomes as Americans do, nor volunteer a fraction as much time to philanthropic causes as Americans do. Moreover, a chorus of Americans on the left will echo the foreign charges.

“Politicians who give away the taxpayers’ money to social programs will be lionized in the media for their ‘compassion.’ But many businessmen across the country, who each donate millions of dollars of their own money to help the less fortunate, get no such praise, if they are mentioned at all.

“Facts don’t matter to those for whom principles don’t mat-

ter, however loudly those principles may be proclaimed. Many so-called ‘thinking people’ do remarkable little thinking.

“Much ingenuity may go into articulating and rationalizing their attitudes toward business, the police, American society, etc., but these are still attitudes rather than principles.

“This is not to say there is no consistency in their behavior. There is great consistency but it is consistency with a particular vision of the world rather than consistency with proclaimed principles of safety, equality or morality.

“That vision casts them in the role of wiser and nobler people—defenders of the downtrodden, protectors of the environment, advocates of peace and opponents of war. There is always some crusade that requires their superior wisdom and virtue to be imposed on others.

“Particular attitudes toward particular things that are in vogue among those who wrap themselves in the mantle of chic virtue serve as a badge of identity, showing who is one of the special ‘Us’ rather than the more ordinary ‘Them.’

“This is heady stuff, and they won’t give it up for anything so mundane as fact or logic or principles. The best the rest of us can do is to stop calling their ego trips idealism.”

—Thomas Sowell, *The Washington Times*, January 2, 2005, p. B4

□ “George W. Bush and the Asian tsunami have put religion back on the front page. Exit polls revealed that a majority of religious folk voted to re-elect the president; after tens of thousands died under the waves, millions turned to religion for answers to the question that men and women have asked wise men for millennia.

“A headline in the *New York Observer* puts it bluntly: ‘Disaster Ignites Debate: “Was God in the Tsunami?”’

“If so, how can such things happen? If not, how can such things happen?

“Some of the answers seek to exploit tragedy. *Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin* reports that one Palestinian imam told his congregation that the tsunami was the result of ‘Jewish American corruption and destruction.’ Other imams blamed Christians.

“Every Sunday-school scholar is familiar with the teaching that God rewards righteousness, as seen in the flood that spared Noah, the endless suffering of Job, the New Testament presentation of the Gospel. But skeptics have forever mocked religious exhortations in politics and religious explanations of natural disasters. After the Lisbon earthquake of 1755, Voltaire’s *Candide* ridiculed the idea that ‘this is the best of all possible worlds.’ Marx jeered that religion was ‘the opium of the people,’ and Freud suggested that neurotics sought a ‘Heavenly father’ as protector to replace the biological father.

“But religious faith thrives. ‘Almost everywhere you look around the world, with the glaring exception of Western Europe, religion is now a rising force,’ reports the *New York Times*. ‘The tsunami in Asia could spur religious revival as well, as victims and onlookers turn to mosques, temples and churches both to help them fathom the catastrophe and to provide humanitarian assistance.’

“In Washington, humanitarian assistance is discussed in pragmatic terms, suggesting (probably a triumph of hope over actual

expectation) that our generosity will show Muslims, whose radical extremists seek to persuade with terrorism, that Christians and Jews are not so bad, after all.

“But generosity needs no political analysis. You don’t have to be religious to be charitable to the victims of ‘acts of God,’ but it’s the religious impulse that has guided American idealism and benevolence through our finest hours.

“G.K. Chesterton, the English writer, called America ‘the nation with the soul of a church.’

“David Gelernter, writing in *Commentary* magazine, demonstrates how American democracy was built on a Biblical foundation. ‘The Bible is not merely the fertile soil that brought Americanism birth. It is the energy source that makes it live and thrive; that makes believing Americans willing to prescribe freedom, equality, and democracy even for a place like Afghanistan, once regarded as perhaps the remotest region on the face of the globe.’

“American history is rich in allusions to America as the New Eden, as if we are a chosen people fulfilling biblical destiny in the New World. Presidential inaugural speeches abound with biblical phrases and references that are not meant solely for inspiration, though they are that, but to embody the driving force for spreading American values of democracy. Abraham Lincoln called us God’s ‘almost chosen people.’ In his inaugural address, John F. Kennedy said our revolutionary beliefs ‘come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God.’

“Abraham Lincoln never joined a church, but said he would if he could find one with a creed fulfilling ‘what our Lord said were the two great commandments, to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and mind and soul and strength, and my neighbor as myself.’

“Woodrow Wilson, the son and grandson of Presbyterian ministers, sounded in his inaugural like a Biblical prophet, albeit with more optimism than most: ‘The feelings with which we face this new age of right and opportunity sweep across our heartstrings, like some air out of God’s own presence, where justice and mercy are reconciled and the judge and the brother are one.’

“Americans are firm in their belief in the separation of church and state, so that men and women of different faiths and of no faith are equal before the law. Anyone who talks to President Bush, a born-again Methodist, hears this echoed today. ‘The president’s job is not to pick a religion,’ he told me this week in an interview in the Oval Office. ‘The president’s job is not to say you’ve got to be religious. The president’s job is to say you’re free to choose. It’s very important for that to be even clearer today, given the world in which we live. If you’re a Sikh or a Muslim you’re equally an American as if you’re a Methodist—or anyone else.’

“Harry Truman, a plain-spoken Baptist, captured in his memoirs the firm belief of most of us: ‘What came about in 1776 really had its beginning in Hebrew times.’”

—Suzanne Fields, *The Washington Times*, January 13, 2005, p. A19

□ “A Lutheran task force handed a victory to homosexual rights groups yesterday by recommending that although the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America should not change its policy against ordaining homosexual clergy, it should not censure

churches that break the rule.

“But ‘those who feel conscience-bound to call people [as pastors] in committed same-sex unions should refrain from making the call a media event either as an act of defiance or with the presumption of being prophetic,’ the task force warned.

“The 14-member task force pronounced itself conflicted and unable to agree about how the ELCA should proceed.

“What emerged in their report—released at church headquarters in Chicago—was a compromise in which congregations could hire homosexual clergy without making this the official policy in the 4.9-million-member denomination.”

—Julia Duin, *The Washington Times*, January 14, 2005, p.1

□ “Jack O’Dell, a former aide to Martin Luther King and a central figure in accusations of communist influence in the 1960s civil rights movement, yesterday commemorated King’s birthday in an event held at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

“Speaking on ‘the complexity of new human rights challenges in the United States and abroad,’ Mr. O’Dell, 81, was the ‘featured scholar’ at the museum’s 20<sup>th</sup> annual observance of King’s birthday.

“In 1963, Mr. O’Dell was dismissed from the staff of King’s Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) after a White House meeting during which President Kennedy urged the civil rights leader to purge communists from his organization.

“During the June 1963 meeting, as described by King biographer Taylor Branch, Kennedy put his hand on King’s shoulder and urged him to ‘get rid of’ Mr. O’Dell and another SCLC aide, Stanley Levinson. Both men, the president said, had been identified as communist officials by the FBI, which named Mr. O’Dell as the fifth-ranking member of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA).

“The Smithsonian’s choice of Mr. O’Dell for the event is ‘a joke,’ historian Ronald Radosh said.

“O’Dell has always been identified with the far pro-communist left of the ‘50s,’ said Mr. Radosh, an adjunct senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. ‘It’s a poor choice for the Smithsonian with those beliefs to represent a heroic movement to realize the American dream.’

“One academic expressed surprise at the Smithsonian’s ‘featured scholar’ designation of Mr. O’Dell.

“I’ve never heard him described as a scholar—he’s a left-wing activist,’ said Harvey Klehr, professor of political science at Emory University in Atlanta. ‘He’s been pretty far on the left for many, many years.’

“Attempts to reach Smithsonian officials for comment were unsuccessful.

“Mr. O’Dell was a district organizer for the CPUSA in the 1950s, said Mr. Klehr, author of several books on Soviet espionage in the United States. Mr. O’Dell remained a staunch defender of communism for decades, involved in such Soviet-backed groups as the World Peace Council.

“At a 1985 meeting in Berkeley, Calif., to celebrate the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, Mr. O’Dell called U.S. opposition to the Soviet Union ‘an integral part of the belief system of racism and Western national chauvinism.’



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“After his dismissal from the SCLC, Mr. O’Dell became an associate of the Rev. Jesse Jackson in Operation PUSH and the National Rainbow Coalition.

“A press release from the Smithsonian announcing last night’s event described Mr. O’Dell as a ‘consultant on international affairs to the National Rainbow Coalition.’”

—Robert S. McCain, *The Washington Times*, January 14, 2005, p. A3

□ “A federal judge yesterday ordered a suburban Atlanta school system to remove stickers from its high school biology textbooks that call evolution ‘a theory, not a fact,’ saying the disclaimers were an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

“By denigrating evolution, the school board appears to be endorsing the well-known prevailing alternative theory, creationism or variations thereof, even though the sticker does not specifically reference any alternative theories,’ U.S. District Judge Clarence Cooper said.

“The stickers were put in the books by school officials in Cobb County in 2002. They read: ‘This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered.’

“‘This is a great day for Cobb County students,’ said Michael Manely, an attorney for the parents who sued over the stickers. ‘They’re going to be permitted to learn science unadulterated by religious dogma.’

“Doug Goodwin, a spokesman for Cobb County schools, had no comment.

“The schools added the stickers after more than 2,000 parents complained that the text-books presented evolution as fact,

without mentioning rival ideas about the beginnings of life. Six parents of students and the American Civil Liberties Union then sued, contending that the disclaimers violated the separation of church and state.

“At a trial in federal court in November, the school system defended the stickers as a show of tolerance, not religious activism.

“‘Science and religion are related, and they’re not mutually exclusive,’ said Linwood Gunn, attorney for the school district. ‘This sticker was an effort to get past that conflict and to teach good science.’

“But the judge disagreed: ‘While evolution is subject to criticism, particularly with respect to the mechanism by which it occurred, the sticker misleads students regarding the significance and value of evolution in the scientific community.’

“The case is one of several battles waged in recent years in the Bible Belt over what role evolution should play in science books.

“Last year, Georgia’s education chief proposed a science curriculum that dropped the word ‘evolution’ in favor of ‘changes over time.’ That plan was dropped amid protests by teachers.”

—*The Washington Times*, January 14, 2005, p. A6

□ “Evolution is promoted by its practitioners as more than mere science. Evolution is promulgated as an ideology, a secular religion, a full-fledged alternative to Christianity, with meaning and morality. I am an ardent evolutionist and an ex-Christian, but I must admit that in this one complaint – and Mr. Gish is but one of many to make it – the literalists are absolutely right. Evolution is a religion. This was true of evolution in the beginning, and it is true of evolution still today.”

—Dr. Michael Ruse, (Canadian) *National Post*, May 13, 2000