

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

❑ “The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

“But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.’

“Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated ‘God is with us.’

“When Joseph got up from sleeping, he did as the Lord’s angel had commanded him. He married her but did not know her intimately until she gave birth to a son. And he named Him Jesus.

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived unexpectedly in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.’

“When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.

“‘In Bethlehem of Judea,’ they told him, ‘because this is what was written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah: because out of you will come a leader who will shepherd My people Israel.’

“Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him.’

“After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen in the east! It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed beyond measure. Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

—Matthew 1:18-2:12, Christian Standard Bible

❑ “We will glorify the King of kings
We will glorify the Lamb
We will glorify the Lord of lords
Who is the great I AM.
“Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty
We will bow before His throne
We will worship Him in righteousness
We will worship Him alone.
“He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth
He is Lord of all who live

He is Lord above the universe
All praise to Him we give.
“Hallelujah to the King of kings
Hallelujah to the Lamb
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords
Who is the great I AM.”

—Twila Paris

❑ “No doubt they thought in Bethlehem
The world would never hear of them.
They had an inn where sometimes stayed
The wandering caravans of trade,
And near it was a stable kept
Wherein at night the cattle slept;
But lost to splendor and renown,
Theirs was a little wayside town.

“One night a man and woman worn
Asked to be sheltered till the morn.
The keeper of the inn replied:
‘My every room is occupied.
There is no space that I can spare.’
The man said: ‘We must rest somewhere.
What of the stable, yonder, sir?
There I can make a bed for her.’

“‘Yes,’ said the keeper, ‘go ahead!
Toss down some straw and make a bed.’
No doubt he was surprised at morn
To hear a baby had been born,
And shepherds wandering from afar,
Guided to Bethlehem by a star,
Had come that little Child to see,
As if important He could be.

“The caravans of trade moved on,
The great officials soon were gone.
Nor did it once occur to them
That fame had come to Bethlehem.
The poor innkeeper never knew
He should be long remembered, too,
Because on that first Christmas morn
‘Twas in his stable Christ was born.”

—Edgar A. Guest, *Bethlehem*

— UPCOMING EVENTS —

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❑ “He little knew the sorrow that was in his vacant chair;
He never guessed they’d miss him, or he’d surely have been
there;
He couldn’t see his mother or the lump that filled her throat,
Or the tears that started falling as she read his hasty note;
And he couldn’t see his father, sitting sorrowful and dumb,
Or he never would have written that he thought he couldn’t
come.

“He little knew the gladness that his presence would have
made,
And the joy it would have given, or he never would have
stayed.
He didn’t know how hungry had the little mother grown
Once again to see her baby and to claim him for her own.
He didn’t guess the meaning of his visit Christmas Day
Or he never would have written that he couldn’t get away.

“He couldn’t see the fading of the cheeks that once were
pink,
And the silver in the tresses; and he didn’t stop to think
How the years are passing swiftly, and next Christmas it
might be
There would be no home to visit and no mother dear to see.
He didn’t think about it—I’ll not say he didn’t care.
He was heedless and forgetful or he’d surely have been there.

“Are you going home for Christmas? Have you written you’ll
be there?
Going home to kiss the mother and to show her that you
care?
Going home to greet the father in a way to make him glad?
If you’re not I hope there’ll never come a time you’ll wish
you had.
Just sit down and write a letter—it will make their heart strings
hum
With a tune of perfect gladness—if you’ll tell them that you’ll
come.

—Edgar A. Guest, *Home For Christmas*

❑ “No woman ever conceived a child, no mare a foal, with-
out Him. But once, and for a special purpose, He dispensed
with that long line which is His instrument: once His life-giving
finger touched a woman without passing through the ages of
interlocked events. Once the great glove of Nature was taken
off His hand. His naked hand touched her. There was of course
a unique reason for it. That time He was creating not simply a
man but the Man who was to be Himself: was creating Man
anew: was beginning, at this divine and human point, the New
Creation of all things. The whole soiled and weary universe
quivered at this direct injection of essential life—direct, uncon-
taminated, not drained through all the crowded history of Na-
ture.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

❑ “Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such an
hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic.
—Dr. Scott Todd, Kansas State University, *Nature* 401
(6752):423, Sept. 30, 1999

❑ “Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary
biology tells us loud and clear....There are no gods, no purposes,
no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death.
When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead.
That’s the end for me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics,
no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either.”
—Dr. William B. Provine, Professor of Biological Sciences,
Cornell University, in *Evolution Exposed*, Roger Patterson, p. 82

❑ “Thousands of examples of creatures living today are virtu-
ally identical to their ancestors which supposedly lived hundreds
of millions of years ago. These include many insects, the Wollemi
pine, Ginkgo trees, crocodiles, coelacanths, and many marine
invertebrates. How can evolution explain that some creatures
have remained unchanged for such long periods of time while
others have changed relatively rapidly? There is no real consist-
ent answer. Some say it is due to long generation times, but that
doesn’t work for cockroaches and bacteria that reproduce in
days or minutes. Some say that it is just chance and luck, but
that is intellectually unsatisfying to others. Others say it is be-
cause of the lack of habitat change, but that only works in a few
examples. Ultimately, evolutionists can provide no clear explana-
tion of why these ‘living fossils’ are still with us today.”
—Roger Patterson, *Evolution Exposed*, p. 119, 120

❑ “Many of the dating techniques that can be used to deter-
mine the age of the universe and the earth point to a maximum
amount of time less than the billions of years required by natural-
istic evolution. Galaxies wind themselves up much too fast to be
billions of years old. There are too few visible supernova rem-
nants. Comets disintegrate too rapidly and have no mechanism
to reform. There is too little sediment on the sea floor to account
for erosion and not enough sodium in the sea to account for
billions of years. The earth’s magnetic field is decaying too rap-
idly. Rock layers are bent to extreme degrees, suggesting they
folded rapidly while still soft. DNA and other biologic materials
should decay and not be found in fossils—bacteria alleged to be
250 million years old should have no intact DNA left, yet they

continued on Page 4

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From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

Merry Christmas!

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

And Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough—because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. This will be the sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to people He favors!

When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told.

When the eight days were completed for His circumcision,

He was named JESUS—the name given by the angel before He was conceived. And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were finished, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (just as it is written in the law of the Lord: Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord) and to offer a sacrifice (according to what is stated in the law of the Lord: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons).

There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel’s consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple complex. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for Him what was customary under the law, Simeon took Him up in his arms, praised God, and said:

Now, Master, you can dismiss Your slave in peace, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation. You have prepared [it] in the presence of all peoples—a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Your people Israel.

His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Him. Then Simeon blessed them and told His mother Mary:

“Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed—and a sword will pierce your own soul—that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and was a widow for 84 years. She did not leave the temple complex, serving God night and day with fastings and prayers. At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about Him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had completed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God’s grace was on Him.

—Luke 2

continued from Page 3

were able to grow.

“Radioactive halos present in rocks show a time of rapid radioactive decay in the past. Too much helium resides in minerals that are supposed to be very old. Carbon-14 is found in diamonds and coal that are supposed to be millions or billions of years old. There are too few skeletons of Stone Age humans to

support the alleged 200,000-year timespan. Agriculture and historical writings have been around for too short a period. In combination, this short list demonstrates that many dating methods defy the billions of years needed to support evolution’s house of cards.”

—Roger Patterson, *Evolution Exposed*, p. 89, 90

□ “The single most important fact about the early 21st century is the rapid aging of almost every developed nation other than the United States: Canada, Europe, and Japan are getting old fast, older than any functioning society has ever been and faster than any has ever aged. A society ages when its birth rate falls and it finds itself with fewer children and more grandparents. For a stable population, you need a Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 live births per woman. That’s what America has: 2.1, give or take. Canada has 1.48, an all-time low and a more revealing difference between the Great Satan and the Great White North than any of the stuff (socialized health care, fewer handguns, more U.N. peacekeepers, etc.) that Canucks usually brag about. Europe as a whole has 1.38, Japan 1.32, Russia 1.14. These countries—or, more precisely, these people—are going out of business.

“True, birth rates are falling all over the world, and it may be that eventually every couple on the planet decides to opt for the Western yuppie model of one designer baby at the age of 39. But demographics is a game of last man standing. The groups that succumb to demographic apathy last will have a huge advantage—and those societies with expensive social programs dependent on mass immigration will be in the worst predicament. It’s no consolation for the European Union with its deathbed birth statistics if the Third World’s demographics are also falling: They’re your nursery, they’re the babies you couldn’t be bothered having; if their fertility rate goes the same way yours has, that will be a problem for you long before it’s a problem for them. Unless it corrects course within the next five to ten years, Europe by the end of this century will be a continent after the neutron bomb: The grand buildings will still be standing but the people who built them will be gone.

“More immediately, Europe will be semi-Islamic in its politico-cultural character within a generation. In the 14th century, the Black Death wiped out a third of the Continent’s population; in the 21st, a larger proportion will disappear—in effect, by choice.

“Demography doesn’t explain everything, but it accounts for a good 90 percent—including the easy stuff, like why Jacques Chirac wasn’t amenable to Colin Powell’s schmoozing on Iraq: If the population of your cities were 30 percent Muslim and with spectacularly high youth unemployment rates and a bunch of other grievances, would you be so eager to send your troops into an Arab country fighting alongside the Great Satan?

“By 2050, Italy’s population will have fallen by 22 percent, Bulgaria’s by 36 percent, Estonia’s by 52 percent—or more. Seventeen European nations are now at what demographers call “lowest-low” fertility—1.3 births per woman, the point at which you’re so far down the death spiral you can’t pull out. As for America, demographic trends suggest that the blue states ought to apply for honorary membership in the EU.”

—Mark Steyn, *National Review*, October 23, 2006

□ “Ignoring judicial precedents, the University of Wisconsin at Superior ‘de-recognized’ the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) chapter earlier this year for requiring student leaders to be Christians—an alleged violation of the school’s anti-discriminatory policies for campus organizations.

“After university officials refused to budge from their position, IVCF this month took them to court. They want the chap-

ter, which has been on campus 40 years and currently numbers about 50 students, to be reinstated and its First Amendment rights observed.

“Alliance Defense Fund attorneys, who represent IVCF in the case, reminded school officials that they were going against precedents, including one in their own jurisdiction of the U.S. Court of Appeals. In July, a 7th Circuit appeals panel in similar circumstances ordered reinstatement of the Christian Legal Society chapter at Southern Illinois University pending trial in federal court. The panel said there were strong reasons to believe the group will prevail in court.

“Meanwhile, after barring evangelical student ministries from campus last month (‘Hoya crackdown,’ Sept. 16), Georgetown University was having second thoughts. Campus Ministry director Timothy Godfrey appointed an advisory committee to help the Jesuit school design ‘a more effective structure for serving our Protestant students.’

“However, many evangelical students (including some on the advisory commission) are having second thoughts, too. They like being free from the bureaucratic and ‘boring’ overhang of Godfrey’s Protestant division. They instead want to organize with GU’s Student Activities Commission, as the SAC-funded and Campus Ministry-free Muslim Students Association has done.

“University officials ruled out that option, saying they must be under the campus ministry’s Protestant umbrella. InterVarsity and other evangelical campus leaders objected, claiming discrimination. Their affiliated student groups continue to meet informally or off campus.”

—Edward E. Plowman, *World*, October 14, 2006, p. 32

□ “How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Besides the fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy.

“The effects are apparent in many countries. Improvident habits, slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist wherever the followers of the Prophet rule or live.

“A degraded sensualism deprives this life of its grace and refinement; the next of its dignity and sanctity. The fact that in Mohammedan law every woman must belong to some man as his absolute property, either as a child, a wife, or a concubine, must delay the final extinction of slavery until the faith of Islam has ceased to be a great power among men.

“Individual Moslems may show splendid qualities, but the influence of the religion paralyses the social development of those who follow it.

“No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith. It has already spread throughout Central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step; and were it not that Christianity is sheltered in the strong arms of science, the science against which it had vainly struggled, the civilization of modern Europe might fall, as fell the civilization of ancient Rome.”

—Sir Winston Churchill, *The River War*, 1899, Vol. 2, p. 248

□ “Among the multitude of facts and opinions in magazines and books and on television, I have never seen an analysis of whether or not global warming will be self-limiting due to the effect of the Stefan-Boltzmann law (see also Wien’s law). This law of blackbody radiation states that the energy, E , that is emitted by a body with temperature, T , is proportional to the fourth power of the temperature: $E = \sigma T^4$.

“Since the average ‘in-radiation’ from the sun at any given location and at the same time of the year is for all practical purposes a constant, any heating due to a greenhouse effect would be expected to reach a self-limiting equilibrium very quickly after only a modest rise in temperature. The reason is that the ‘out-radiation’ will overpower the greenhouse effect after a very small temperature rise because of the enormous countervailing effect of the Stefan-Boltzmann law.

—Oswald R. Bergman, *Chemical & Engineering News*, October 23, 2006, p. 4-9

□ “Rep. Henry Waxman’s (D-Calif.) Safe Climate Act proposes to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2°C, and Sen. James Jeffords (I-VT.) has introduced similar legislation (C&EN, June 26, page 8).

“While greenhouse gases may promote global warming, we must remember that our planet has gotten into and out of several ice ages with no human intervention whatsoever. New York’s Finger Lakes, for example, are lasting proof of just how far south the glaciers once were. Preindustrial Greenland, on the other hand, was sufficiently warm to invite Viking settlers. Waxman and Jeffords may well be arguing with the sun itself, as solar activity plays a major role in Earth’s climate. If so, their legislation will be about as effective as King Canute’s legendary command that the tide should not come in.

“Furthermore, given that places like China have no obligations whatsoever under the Kyoto treaty, expensive carbon dioxide regulations will not even get rid of the carbon dioxide, the CO₂ will simply move offshore (along with the jobs that go with it). American chemists who enjoy their white-collar jobs and take pride in the high wages of their chemical-worker employees should remember that most forms of chemical manufacture are energy-intensive and that the chemical engineers who design those processes are already trained to make them as efficient as possible.”

—William A. Levinson, *Chemical & Engineering News*, October 23, 2006, p. 4-9

□ “Global warming is a religion, not science. That’s why acolytes in the media attack global-warming critics not with scientific arguments, but for their apostasy. Then they laud global-warming believers not for reducing greenhouse gases, but simply for believing global warming is a coming catastrophe caused by man. The important thing is to have faith in those who warn: The end is near.

“So a *New York Times* editorial took after Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., not for being a Doubting Thomas, but as the headline read, a ‘Doubting Inhofe.’ The brunt of the editorial was not a scientific refutation of Inhofe’s arguments against the global-warming craze—other than to cite a National Academy of Sci-

ences report that warned that the Earth is approaching the warmest temperatures in 12,000 years—a short blip in time to your average geologist.

“The *Times*’ focus was on Inhofe’s refusal to bow to ‘the consensus among mainstream scientists and the governments of nearly every industrialized nation concerning manmade climate change.’ That is, Inhofe has had the effrontery to challenge elite orthodoxy. Or, as the editorial put it, Inhofe ‘has really buttressed himself with the will to disbelieve.’

“Get thee away, Satan.

“What does Inhofe make of the NAS finding? Inhofe recognizes that the Earth is warming, but sees this as part of the natural cycle. Inhofe mentioned the Medieval Warm Period—A.D. 1000 to 1270, when the Vikings grew crops in Greenland.

“His office referred me to a piece University of Oklahoma geology professor David Deming penned for the *Normal Transcript* that noted, ‘The fact that the thermometer wasn’t invented until the year 1714 ought to give us pause when evaluating this remarkable claim.’

“I remain agnostic on global warming, as I’ve seen good arguments on both sides. I know, however, that I never will be convinced that global warming is a scientific threat as long as believers put most of their energy into establishing orthodoxy and denying that reputable global-warming skeptics exist.

“The *Times*’ ‘mainstream scientists’ line undermines the editorial’s credibility, as it ignores the likes of MIT climate scientist Richard S. Lindzen, who argues that clouds and water vapor will counteract greenhouse gas emissions. Ditto the 60 Canadian scientists who wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper that there is no “‘consensus” among climate scientists.’

“Let me add the Copenhagen Consensus, a group of Nobel Prize-winning scientists and economists that looks at the best way to spend a hypothetical \$50 billion to benefit mankind, rated fighting global warming as a ‘bad’ use of money. That’s amazing, when you consider the pressure that is put upon scientists to conform.

“‘Consensus’ is another word for clique science. The good people are true believers, the bad people exhibit a ‘will to disbelieve.’ Editors used to salute healthy skepticism. Now some are global-warming Torquemadas.”

—Debra Saunders, *The [Colorado Springs] Gazette*, October 17, 2006, p. M6

□ “‘Scientists have an independent obligation to respect and present the truth as they see it,’ Al Gore sensibly asserts in his film *An Inconvenient Truth*. With that outlook in mind, what do world climate experts actually think about the science of his movie?

“Professor Bob Carter of the Marine Geophysical Laboratory at James Cook University in Australia gives what, for many Canadians, is a surprising assessment: ‘Gore’s circumstantial arguments are so weak that they are pathetic. It is simply incredible that they, and his film, are commanding public attention.’

“But surely Carter is merely part of what most people regard as a tiny cadre of ‘climate change skeptics’ who disagree with the ‘vast majority of scientists’ Gore cites?

“No; Carter is one of hundreds of highly qualified non-governmental, non-industry, non-lobby group climate experts who

contest the hypothesis that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) are causing significant global climate change. 'Climate experts' is the operative term here. Why? Because what Gore's 'majority of scientists' think is immaterial when only a very small fraction of them actually work in the climate field.

"Even among that fraction, many focus their studies on the impacts of climate change; biologists, for example, who study everything from insects to polar bears to poison ivy. 'While many are highly skilled researchers, they generally do not have special knowledge about the causes of global climate change,' explains former University of Winnipeg climatology professor Dr. Tim Ball. 'They usually can tell us only about the effects of changes in the local environment where they conduct their studies.'

"This is highly valuable knowledge, but doesn't make them climate change cause experts, only climate impact experts.

'So we have a smaller fraction.

"But it becomes smaller still. Among experts who actually examine the causes of change on a global scale, many concentrate their research on designing and enhancing computer models of hypothetical futures. 'These models have been consistently wrong in all their scenarios,' asserts Ball. 'Since modelers concede computer outputs are not 'predictions' but are in fact merely scenarios, they are negligent in letting policy-makers and the public think they are actually making forecasts.'

"We should listen most to scientists who use real data to try to understand what nature is actually telling us about the causes and extent of global climate change. In this relatively small community, there is no consensus, despite what Gore and others would suggest.

"Here is a small sample of the side of the debate we almost never hear: Appearing before the Commons Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development last year, Carleton University paleoclimatologist Professor Tim Patterson testified, 'There is no meaningful correlation between CO₂ levels and Earth's temperature over this [geologic] time frame. In fact, when CO₂ levels were over ten times higher than they are now, about 450 million years ago, the planet was in the depths of the absolute coldest period in the last half billion years.' Patterson asked the committee, 'On the basis of this evidence, how could anyone still believe that the recent relatively small increase in CO₂ levels would be the major cause of the past century's modest warming?'

"Patterson concluded his testimony by explaining what his research and 'hundreds of other studies' reveal: on all time scales, there is very good correlation between Earth's temperature and natural celestial phenomena such [as] changes in the brightness of the Sun.

"Dr. Boris Winterhalter, former marine researcher at the Geological Survey of Finland and professor in marine geology, University of Helsinki, takes apart Gore's dramatic display of Antarctic glaciers collapsing into the sea. 'The breaking glacier wall is a normally occurring phenomenon which is due to the normal advance of a glacier,' says Winterhalter. 'In Antarctica the temperature is low enough to prohibit melting of the ice front, so if the ice is grounded, it has to break off in beautiful ice cascades. If the water is deep enough icebergs will form.'

"Dr. Wibjorn Karlen, emeritus professor, Dept. of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology, Stockholm University, Swe-

den, admits, 'Some small areas in the Antarctic Peninsula have broken up recently, just like it has done back in time. The temperature in this part of Antarctica has increased recently, probably because of a small change in the position of the low pressure systems.'

"But Karlen clarifies that the 'mass balance' of Antarctica is positive—more snow is accumulating than melting off. As a result, Ball explains, there is an increase in the 'calving' of icebergs as the ice dome of Antarctica is growing and flowing to the oceans. When Greenland and Antarctica are assessed together 'their mass balance is considered to possibly increase the sea level by 0.03 mm/year—not much of an effect,' Karlen concludes.

"The Antarctica has survived warm and cold events over millions of years. A meltdown is simply not a realistic scenario in the foreseeable future.

"Gore tells us in the film, 'Starting in 1970, there was a precipitous drop-off in the amount and extent and thickness of the Arctic ice cap.' This is misleading, according to Ball: 'The survey that Gore cites was a single transect across one part of the Arctic basin in the month of October during the 1960s when we were in the middle of the cooling period. The 1990 runs were done in the warmer month of September using a wholly different technology.'

"Karlen explains that a paper published in 2003 by University of Alaska professor Igor Polyakov shows that the region of the Arctic where rising temperature is supposedly endangering polar bears showed fluctuations since 1940 but no overall temperature rise. 'For several published records it is a decrease for the last 50 years,' says Karlen.

"Dr. Dick Morgan, former advisor to the World Meteorological Organization and climatology researcher at University of Exeter, U.K. gives the details, 'There has been some decrease in ice thickness in the Canadian Arctic over the past 30 years but no melt down. The Canadian Ice Service records show that from 1971-1981 there was average, to above average, ice thickness. From 1981-1982 there was a sharp decrease of 15% but there was a quick recovery to average, to slightly above average, values from 1983-1995. A sharp drop of 30% occurred again 1996-1998 and since then there has been a steady increase to reach near normal conditions since 2001.'

"Concerning Gore's beliefs about worldwide warming, Morgan points out that, in addition to the cooling in the NW Atlantic, massive areas of cooling are found in the North and South Pacific Ocean; the whole of the Amazon Valley; the north coast of South America and the Caribbean; the eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea, Caucasus and Red Sea; New Zealand and even the Ganges Valley in India. Morgan explains, 'Had the IPCC used the standard parameter for climate change (the 30 year average) and used an equal area projection, instead of the Mercator (which doubled the area of warming in Alaska, Siberia and the Antarctic Ocean) warming and cooling would have been almost in balance.'

"Gore's point that 200 cities and towns in the American West set all time high temperature records is also misleading according to Dr. Roy Spencer, Principal Research Scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. 'It is not unusual for some loca-



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tions, out of the thousands of cities and towns in the U.S., to set all-time records,' he says. 'The actual data shows that overall, recent temperatures in the U.S. were not unusual.'

'Carter does not pull his punches about Gore's activism, 'The man is an embarrassment to US science and its many fine practitioners, a lot of whom know (but feel unable to state publicly) that his propaganda crusade is mostly based on junk science.'

'In April, sixty of the world's leading experts in the field asked Prime Minister Harper to order a thorough public review of the science of climate change, something that has never happened in Canada. Considering what's at stake—either the end of civilization, if you believe Gore, or a waste of billions of dollars, if you believe his opponents—it seems like a reasonable request.'

—Tom Harris, June 12, 2006

□ 'For a reason I will explain toward the end of this article, I will tell you the story of Armando Valladares, who spent 22 years as a political prisoner in Fidel Castro's Cuban jails. He was, of course, one of many such prisoners. Mr. Valladares was guilty of opposing the adoption of communist ideology after the anti-Batista Cuban revolution.

'Because he would not compromise his opposition to communism, Mr. Valladares was not only jailed but tortured as well. He was subjected to brutal beatings, isolation and guinea pig biological and psychological experiments that only a sadist could dream up.

'Mr. Valladares was locked away in so-called tiger cages. The steel mesh ceiling was easily punctured by the guards who prodded and poked him with their clubs so he could not sleep.

He was regularly doused from above by the guards with buckets of excrement and urine collected from the other prisoners.

'Steel plates were welded on the cell windows and door so no light would enter his cell. According to his memoir, he lived mired in his own waste and went for years without a bath. In his 22 years as a prisoner of conscience, he was allowed 13 visits. Mr. Valladares survived years of solitary confinement.

'In 1963, he was given a blue uniform to wear, which would distinguish common criminals from political prisoners, he refused to wear it and went naked. Since Mr. Valladares refused to participate in any political rehab programs, the Fidelistas tried to starve him into submission: No food for 46 days. That didn't work.

'By now his plight had become known worldwide: Mr. Valladares had become a symbol of resistance to the Castro dictatorship. An international campaign for his release was led by then French President Francois Mitterrand who made a personal appeal to Mr. Castro to release Mr. Valladares. Upon his release, Mr. Valladares published a memoir, *Against All Hope*, which became an international best-seller.

'Why this long story? Because the last Human Rights Commission had such a disgraceful collection of violators of human rights that Kofi Annan created a new commission. And guess what? Cuba is a member of the new commission.

'Has the United Nations no shame?'

—Arnold Beichman, *The Washington Times*, July 9, 2006, p. B3