



The JOURNAL

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Summit Semester, 2006

Front row from left to right: Lauren Ramsey, Charity Hutcherson, Sarah Morris, Bonnie Evans, Jody Byrnett, Melissa Sanders, Ashley Drayer. **Middle row:** Rebekah Barnes (staff), Rachel Garrison (staff), Micah Piller, Ian Hamilton, David Larson, Dr. Michael Bauman (scholar-in-residence), Paul Moores, Jeff McNabb, Eric Wenthe, Bob Branch (property manager). **Back row:** David Stubblefield (staff), Mary and Nate Schramm (staff), Adam Woodward, Thomas Rogers, Corey Morris, Eric (staff), Sara and Elsie Smith (prospective student). **Not Pictured:** Johnny Jack Jr. and Julia Garrison (staff)

God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still proclaim Your wonderful works. Even when I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me. Then I will proclaim Your power to another generation, Your strength to all who are to come.

Psalm 71:17, 18

MONTH IN REVIEW

❑ “O LORD, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth! You have covered the heavens with Your majesty. Because of Your adversaries, You have established a stronghold from the mouths of children and nursing infants, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You set in place, what is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him? You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him lord over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet: all the sheep and oxen, as well as animals in the wild, birds of the sky, and fish of the sea passing through the currents of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth!

—Psalm 8

❑ “The Christian idea of marriage is based on Christ’s words that a man and wife are to be regarded as a single organism.... The male and the female were made to be combined together in pairs, not simply on the sexual level, but totally combined. The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the sexual) from all the other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union. The Christian attitude does not mean that there is anything wrong about sexual pleasure, any more than about the pleasure of eating. It means that you must not isolate that pleasure and try to get it by itself, any more than you ought to try to get the pleasures of taste without swallowing and digesting, by chewing things and spitting them out again.

“As a consequence, Christianity teaches that marriage is for life.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

❑ “There is, hidden or flaunted, a sword between the sexes till an entire marriage reconciles them. It is arrogance in us to call frankness, fairness, and chivalry ‘masculine’ when we see them in a woman; it is arrogance in them, to describe a man’s sensitivity or tact or tenderness as ‘feminine.’ But also what poor, warped fragments of humanity most mere men and mere women must be to make the implications of that arrogance plausible. Marriage heals this. Jointly the two become fully human. ‘In the image of God created He them.’ Thus, by paradox, this carnival of sexuality leads us out beyond our sexes.”

—C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

❑ “Another wave of the future seems to be receding into the past. This year, United Methodists and Presbyterians are observing fifty years and Episcopalians are observing thirty years of ordaining women. But Adair Lummis, author of *Clergy Women: An Uphill Calling*, notes that the number of women clergy is sharply declining in other denominations. In 1908, 20 percent were women and today only 8.5 percent. The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, founded by Aimee Semple McPherson in 1927, has gone from 50 percent women to 36 percent. In the much larger Southern Baptist Convention, support for female pastors was widespread twenty years ago, but now the SBC

official position is that ‘while both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by scripture.’ For women in the liberal denominations, opportunities are limited. Says Lummis: ‘For the larger churches, the better-paying churches, they want a man in the pastorate. This is a problem.’ One likely reason for the change is that evangelicals have in recent years placed increasing emphasis on the differentiated and complementary roles of men and women in the church and the family. Plus, there is the wide-spread and perennial worry about the ‘feminization’ of church life, a development that is opposed by both men and women. Moreover, Wayne Grudem, author of *Evangelical Feminism: A New Path to Liberalism?* observes, ‘There’s an increasing realization that there’s a connection between the ordination of women and more liberal views of the authority of scripture.’”

—Richard J. Neuhaus, *First Things*, January 2007, p. 78

❑ “Speaking very generally, Christian apologists can go down one of two roads: Friedrich Schleiermacher’s or Blaise Pascal’s. According to Schleiermacher, man’s inchoate sense of absolute dependence can best be assuaged by following Jesus, who, more than any other human being, conducted his life not just sensing his absolute dependence on God (which Schleiermacher claims we all do) but actually living it out. In other words, man is thirsty for God, and Christianity offers the most limpid and salubrious water for slaking that thirst. But for Pascal, Christianity is not so much pleasing water for a thirsty but otherwise healthy traveler; rather, it is harsh chemotherapy for a desperately ill cancer patient.

“Because C.S. Lewis—the most famous and influential of all Christian apologists in the twentieth century—adopted the avun-

— UPCOMING EVENTS —

SPRING CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar for the 2007 Spring Adult Conference. This year’s conference will be held at Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs, April 1-6. We would love to see you, your pastor, or your school administrator attend this conference. Call 719-685-9103 for registration information and a brochure or visit our website at www.summit.org.

SUMMER CONFERENCES

It’s time to plan to attend one of our summer conferences. The dates and locations are listed below. Call today for a student application and brochure or visit our website at www.summit.org.

Colorado	Session 1	May 20-June 1
	Session 2	June 3-15
	Session 3	June 17-29
	Session 4	July 8-20
	Session 5	July 22-August 3
	Session 6	August 5-17
	Session 7	August 19-31
Ohio	Session 1	June 17-29
Tennessee	Session 1	July 8-20
	Session 2	July 22-August 3

cular style of the fireside chat (indeed, his most famous books began as radio addresses during World War II), superficial readers often consider him to be vaguely Schleiermacherian. But a careful reading of his works, especially *Mere Christianity* and *The Abolition of Man*, puts him squarely in the Pascalian camp. His style might imitate the bedside manner of the kind physician, but his diagnosis is grim.”

—Edward T. Oakes, *First Things*, January 2007, p. 56

□ “Parents know all about university inputs. They put in as much as \$200,000 to get a child through college. Universities, however, are not much inclined to talk about outputs—meaning what a student actually learns. The public-policy department of the University of Connecticut has now done the largest study ever of what students learn about American history, government, and economics. They randomly selected fourteen thousand freshmen and seniors at fifty colleges and universities and asked them sixty multiple-choice questions. More than half the seniors could not identify the century when the first American colony was established in Jamestown. Fewer than half could name the source of ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’ More than 75 percent of seniors were not familiar with the Monroe Doctrine. And so forth. But here’s the interesting part: Across the board, seniors scored just 1.5 percent higher on average than freshmen, and at many colleges, including Brown, Georgetown, and Yale, seniors know less than freshmen about American history. In other words, they are not being educated; they are, if one may be permitted the term, being de-educated. A majority of the sixteen schools where senior scores were actually lower than freshman scores are usually rated as among the most prestigious institutions in the nation. In terms of teaching about our country, the top five schools are Rhodes College, Colorado State University, Calvin College, Grove City College, and University of Colorado, Boulder. Notable among those schools where seniors knew less than freshmen are University of Chicago, Williams College, University of Virginia, Yale, Duke, Cornell, and at the very bottom, in fiftieth place, Johns Hopkins.

—Richard J. Neuhaus, *First Things*, January 2007, p. 76

□ “Christians may be fleeing from the violence in war-torn Iraq to Syria, but their new home also holds ‘ruthless’ positions against Christianity which range from life in prison for talking about your beliefs to death for a Muslim who converts, according to ministries working there.

“‘It’s better than Iraq, but it’s no bed of roses there for sure,’ Jim Jacobson, president of Christian Freedom International, told WND. ‘The Christians (there) are stuck between a rock and a hard place.’

“While Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Iran and other Middle East nations are well-known for persecuting Christians, Syria’s actions are of a lower profile. But it is listed among those nations around the world that persecute Christians by everyone from Jacobson’s organization to the U.S. government.

“In Syria, the constitution requires the president to be a Muslim and specifies that Islamic jurisprudence is a principal source of legislation. And sharing your Christian faith with someone—anyone—is discouraged as ‘posing a threat to the relations among

religious groups’ and carries a penalty of up to life in prison, he said.

“‘For Christians, one of the core tenets is the ability to share your faith, but in Syria that can lead to arrest (and) persecution,’ Jacobson said. ‘We list Syria as one of the top ... countries where Christians are facing real persecution.’

“‘Syria isn’t Saudi Arabia, but it’s one of the big untold stories out there,’ he said. For those who want to convert from Islam to Christianity, ‘you’re disowned by your family, if the local mosque issues a death threat, no one is going to do anything about it, you’ll just end up dead. Nothing is done, no police action, that’s just understood.

“‘If you convert you’d better leave the country,’ he said.

“For those who already are Christian, the government allows them to practice their religion—but within harsh and restrictive guidelines. A Christian is not allowed to proselytize—ever. And churches that want to hold an extra service must get a government permit. Sermons are routinely monitored, as is church fundraising.

“He said the issue for Iraqi Christians is the choice of being dead soon in Iraq, or taking your chance in Syria and so they are flooding into Syria. An Iraqi population of Christians estimated at 1.2 million before the war now is holding at about 500,000, he said, with a good many traveling to Syria.

“The status of Christianity in Syria reached the headlines recently as Pastor Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*, visited there and was quoted by Syrian media describing it as a ‘moderate’ nation.

“He said he saw Christians and Jews in a near-routine existence, enjoying some privileges even Muslims don’t receive within a governmental structure that formally allows for faith in Christ and adherence to the Torah.

“According to SANA, the Syrian government news service, Warren said ‘many Americans don’t realize that both Christianity and Judaism are legal in Syria. In addition, the government provides free electricity and water to all churches; allows pastors to purchase a car tax-free (a tax break not given to Muslim imams); appoints pastors as Christian judges to handle Christian cases; and allows Christians to create their own civil law instead of having to follow Muslim law.’

“Others, however, noted that his praise for Syria wasn’t proper.

“‘It’s a tragic, tragic, tragic situation. We’re very concerned

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From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

For the past few years I have been speaking on the subject "What's Right With America" which includes a section that I have entitled "Americans are the most generous people on earth." Americans give more of their wealth away to help others than any similar group of people or nation. What I also point out is that in America the most generous states are all in the Bible-belt (Mississippi being the most generous state in the U.S.) and the least generous states are all in the Northeast—in other words, the stingiest states in the United States are all liberal states.

There is a new book on this very subject titled *Who Really Cares* by Arthur C. Brooks. Brooks studied the actual behavior of liberals and conservatives regarding their time, money, and blood to help the less fortunate. What he found was exactly opposite the liberal cant that liberals are compassionate while conservatives are greedy and less caring.

Brooks found, according to Thomas Sowell, that "[c]onservatives not only donate more money to charity than liberals, conservatives also volunteer more time. More conservatives than liberals donate blood."

Says Brooks, "If liberals and moderates gave blood at the same rate as conservatives, the blood supply of the United States would jump about 45 percent."

Comments Sowell, "For at least two centuries, the vision of those on the left has included a belief they are morally superior, more caring and more compassionate. While both sides argue that their opponents are mistaken, those on the left have declared their opponents not merely in error but morally flawed too. So

the idea that liberals are more caring and compassionate goes with the territory, whether or not it fits the facts. Those on the left proclaimed their moral superiority in the 18th century and they continue to proclaim it in the 21st century."

The vision of the left, says Sowell, "exalts the young especially as idealists while the more conservative vision warns against the narrowness and shallowness of the inexperienced. This study found young liberals make the least charitable contributions of all—in money, time or blood. Idealism in words is not idealism in deed."

This book by Brooks and article by Thomas Sowell more than reinforces what I have been saying for the past five years and what Summit Ministries has experienced over these past 45 years! Christian conservatives especially are very generous folks. And for that I want to publicly thank (again and again) every supporter of this ministry. Thank you for making this work financially sound and allowing us to keep on helping our Christian young people "understand the times and know what to do" (I Chronicles 12:32).

As we project into this upcoming new year of opportunities and challenges, I would encourage everyone reading this column to consider making a charitable donation to Summit Ministries, P.O. Box 207, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 (or call in a gift to 719-685-9103) and show the world by action and deed that Brooks is right—conservatives are more generous than anyone else on earth! Thank you for making your editor's words ring true—Americans are the most generous people on earth!

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about the future of Christians in the region. When people are choosing to go to Syria, which certainly is no friend of Christians at all, it's a pretty bad situation,' said Jacobson.

"He said one project his organization has been developing is to encourage the United States and other nations to be willing to accept as refugees many of those fleeing Iraq, Syria and other Mideast nations.

"If you're going to a place like Syria, it's really because you've got no place to go,' he said.

"He said the government in Syria uses a lot of 'window dressing' such as formal recognitions of Easter and Christmas and the like, to give the impression of an open and tolerant atmosphere.

"However, that's common from a lot of the 'brutal regimes' whose agendas include the destruction of Christians. For example, North Korea offers tours of 'Christian' churches operating within its borders.

"The treatment on the ground is far different,' Jacobson said. 'If you're a Christian, you don't talk about it. If you try to

share your faith, distribute Christian literature, distribute a Bible—something any religion should be allowed to do—you're going to get arrested and asked to leave the country. You can't do that there.'

"A number of reports put the population of Syria at about 18 million, with the Christian population at about 10 percent of that. A report in *The Guardian* estimated 350,000 Christians have fled Iraq for Syria, and they now are living with extended families in one-room apartments on leftover savings or charity.

"Few would deny that Syria has much to reform,' that report said. 'It is a one-party...state, where political activists are suppressed and an extensive network of secret police fills the prisons with political prisoners.'"

—Bob Unruh, *WorldNetDaily.com*, December 29, 2006

□ "While Western Europe is turning Muslim, its Christian churches are committing suicide,' wrote Paul Belien in the *Brussels Journal* this past May. That may be putting it too strongly,

but something odd is going on. In Belgium, as noted here earlier, dozens of churches have been taken over by squatters, mainly illegal Muslim immigrants. Altars and statues are covered to eliminate Christian symbols that might give offense. ‘Solidarity cannot be limited to one’s own nation,’ said Godfried Cardinal Danneels, archbishop of Brussels. The Church is leading a campaign to have the government legalize thousands of immigrants. In Amsterdam, Fr. Herwig Arts, a popular author, describes the scene at a Jesuit chapel in Antwerp. ‘They removed the tabernacle and installed a television set and radios, depriving us of the opportunity to pray in our own chapel and say Mass....For me, the place has been desecrated. I feel I cannot enter it any more.’ The *Brussels Journal* reports, ‘Father Arts was severely criticized for his comments. Today he remains silent, as do other Catholic priests.’ In Glasgow, Scotland, a spokesman for St. Albert’s School told *The Scotsman*, ‘We support faith schools across the board. In the case of St. Albert’s, we see a school in which for 95 percent of the children the festival of Eid has more significance than Christmas or Easter. It is de facto not a Catholic school.’ Never mind that Muslim organizations may be virulently anti-Semitic and anti-Christian. The Christian teachings of compassion and solidarity trump Christian survival.”

—Richard J. Neuhaus, *First Things*, January 2007, p. 72

□ “Traditional materialism, in fact, asks us to believe in a world of objects without subjects, and—since we ourselves are subjects, being asked to do the believing—that proposal makes no sense....Physicists, in fact, now find the seventeenth-century vision of matter unusable for their current purposes and they want to devise a new conceptual scheme to replace it. As we shall see, in attempting this they tend now to reject terms such as materialism altogether.

“Many biologists and social scientists, however, do not seem to have yet heard news of this change in physics. They still vigorously promote traditional mechanism, atomism and materialism, along with the determinism that went with them. They still view these as ‘hard’ and clear doctrines, indispensable elements of rationality. Difficulties have long been obvious about this position. But on top of these familiar troubles, such defenders now face the new obstacle raised by debates about the status of subjectivity itself. *Homo sapiens scientificus* has started to admit that he is himself conscious and even that some other animals may be so too. This presents traditional-minded biologists and social scientists with serious problems. They are trying to confront them in a number of remarkable ways that will concern us throughout this book.”

—Mary Midgley, *Science and Poetry*, p. 17, 18

□ “U.S. government officials are enthusiastically endorsing and funding the use of DDT in sub-Saharan Africa after years of resisting calls from scientists who said the insecticide would be the best weapon for fighting malaria, despite lingering objections by some environmentalists.

“‘We’re really pretty aggressive’ about supporting DDT use against the mosquitoes that spread malaria, said Michael Miller, deputy assistant administrator of the Bureau of Global Health for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

“Added Richard Green, director of the Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition in USAID’s global health bureau: ‘We think DDT is an excellent insecticide and that, in some circumstances, it has some advantages over some other insecticides that are available.’

“The insecticide credited with eliminating malaria in the Western world years ago was outlawed in the United States in 1972 and is banned in most countries because of environmental concerns and unsubstantiated fears it can harm humans.

“‘We think DDT is safe when used correctly and are not aware of any human health risks,’ Mr. Green said.”

—*The Washington Times*, May 3, 2006, p. 1

□ “A new report released by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council pointed to the high cost of [hospital-acquired] infections in both dollars and lives.

“The report—the first of its kind in the nation—identified the actual number of infections reported by Pennsylvania’s 168 hospitals, as well as other related quality-of-care measures, in 2005. The hospitals studied reported 19,154 cases in which patients contracted hospital-acquired infections. The hospitalizations resulting from these infections amounted to 394,129 hospital days and \$3.5 billion in hospital charges.

“The average hospital charge for patients with a hospital-acquired infection was \$185,260, while the average charge for patients without hospital-acquired infections was \$31,389. The average length of stay for patients with hospital-acquired infections was also longer at 20.6 days, compared with 4.5 days, for those who didn’t contract hospital infections.

“Most telling, though, were the figures on patient deaths. The report said that while 2.3 percent of patients who didn’t acquire infections died, the mortality rate for those who did contract infections was 12.9 percent—more than 5½ times as high.

“‘This report is a first. We are no longer looking at statistics based on estimates or extrapolated data,’ said Lisa McGiffert, director of Consumers Union’s Stop Hospital Infections campaign. ‘These are real people who suffered from real infections. The personal and financial costs of hospital infections are staggering.’

“The Pennsylvania study did offer a few solutions. It said that doctors and other hospital workers should wash their hands more regularly, use gloves and properly sterilized equipment, and routinely follow established ‘best practices.’ The report also suggested that patients should follow the same guidelines and insist that not only health care providers but visitors wash their hands too.

“What adds to the problem, though, according to health officials, is that most states are not required to report infections or provide such information to the public.

“‘It’s time to shine the light on this important and costly issue,’ said Marc Volavka, executive director of Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. ‘This will save thousands of Americans from the devastating effects of hospital-acquired infections.’ Volavka said the report is a first step toward greater transparency.

“‘It’s time that hospitals, patients and those who pay the bill

know how many patients develop hospital-acquired infections, the type of infections they develop and the quality and cost implications,' Volavka said. "The more information that becomes available, the better the focus will be on preventing these infections."

"Until now, consumers have been completely in the dark about their hospital's record on infecting patients,' said Beth McConnell, director of the Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group Education Fund. "This report sheds light on a very serious problem and will help the public hold hospitals accountable for patient safety."

—ABC News Medical Unit, November 14, 2006

□ "The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, a leftist homosexual organization, honored Frank Kameny at its 2006 Creating Change conference Nov. 8-12 in Kansas City, Missouri. At the event, Kameny referred to Christians with venom, calling them 'Christianofascists' and 'nutty fundamentalists,' according to an *Americans For Truth* reporter who attended the conference and heard his acceptance speech.

"The author of the 'gay is good' slogan, Kameny—whose papers have just been accepted by the Library of Congress and the National Museum of American History—also told conference attendees that 'gay is moral and virtuous,' as part of his ongoing crusade to redefine ancient moral truths through catchy activist slogans.

"I've known Kameny for years. I respect his zeal, but loathe his ideology, just as he loathes mine. He is brilliant but wasted his considerable intellect and talents on homosexual activism, which is a shame. Like others in the pro-family movement, I have been on the receiving end of Kameny's angry and pointed letters, or should I say screeds, in which—if my memory serves—he would repeat his patented slogan, 'Gay is good,' followed by, 'Gay is godly. You are neither.' Kameny is a feisty old bird who agreed to sit down with me and Ken Ervin for an extended interview back when Ken and I were both working at Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. One of the things we learned in that interview is that Kameny is an atheist, which makes his 'gay is godly' assertion a tad disingenuous. But hey, anything to advance the homosexual cause, right?"

—Peter La Barbera, *Americans For Truth*, November 16, 2006

□ "The authors 'analyzed 1.2×10^8 European remote sensing satellite altimeter echoes to determine the changes in volume of the Antarctic ice sheet from 1992 to 2003.' This survey, in their words, 'covers 85% of the East Antarctic ice sheet and 51% of the West Antarctic ice sheet,' which together comprise '72% of the grounded ice sheet.'"

"Wingham *et al.* report that 'overall, the data, corrected for isostatic rebound, show the ice sheet growing at 5 ± 1 mm year⁻¹.' To calculate the ice sheet's change in mass, however, 'requires knowledge of the density at which the volume changes have occurred,' and when the researchers' best estimates of regional differences in this parameter are used, they find that '72% of the Antarctic ice sheet is gaining 27 ± 29 Gt year⁻¹, a sink of ocean mass sufficient to lower [authors' italics] global sea levels by 0.08 mm year⁻¹.' This net extraction of water from the global

ocean, according to Wingham *et al.*, occurs because 'mass gains from accumulating snow, particularly on the Antarctic Peninsula and within East Antarctica, exceed the ice dynamic mass loss from West Antarctica.'

"Contrary to all the horror stories one hears about global warming-induced mass wastage of the Antarctic ice sheet leading to rising sea levels that gobble up coastal lowlands worldwide, the most recent decade of pertinent real-world data suggest that forces leading to just the *opposite* effect are apparently prevailing, even in the face of what climate alarmists typically describe as the greatest warming of the world in the past two millennia or more."

—D.J. Wingham, A. Shepherd, A. Muir, and G.J. Marshall, "Mass balance of the Antarctic ice sheet," *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A*, 364 (2006): 1627-1635.

□ "Our planet is again warming slightly, and the weather keeps taking unexpected turns. Many scientists say this is hardly unprecedented, cause for alarm, or proof that humans are now the dominant factor in climate change. Others disagree strongly, and point to every snowstorm, hurricane, deluge or drought as proof that urgent action is needed to avoid imminent climate catastrophe.

"Climate change is real,' say the latter. True, but it's always been real.

"Four times, mile-thick ice sheets smothered Europe and North America. A thousand years ago, Vikings raised crops and cattle in Greenland. Four centuries later, the Norsemen were frozen out by the Little Ice Age, and priests performed exorcisms on glaciers advancing toward Swiss villages. The globe warmed in 1850-1940, cooled for the next 35 years, then warmed slightly again.

"Detroit experienced six snow storms in April 1868, frosts in August 1869, a 98-degree heat wave in June 1874, and ice-free lakes in January 1877. Wisconsin's record high of 114 degrees in July 1936 was followed five years later by a record July low of 46. In 1980, five years after *Newsweek's* 'new little ice age' cover story, Washington, D.C. endured 67 days above 90 degrees.

"Studies by National Academy of Sciences, NOAA, Danish and other scientists raise additional inconvenient truths that contradict catastrophic climate change hypotheses, computer models and predictions. The 'hockey stick' temperature graph (which claimed 1990-2000 was the hottest decade in 1,000 years) broke under scrutiny.

"The Southern Hemisphere has not warmed in the past 25 years. Interior Greenland and Antarctica are gaining ice mass, not losing it. Gulf Stream circulation has not slowed. And the U.S. is yet to be hit by a major hurricane in 2006.

"Simply put, nothing suggests that predominantly human influences have suddenly supplanted the actual forces that clearly caused climate and weather cycles in past centuries. Yet, many still demand immediate action to prevent future climate change."

—Paul Driessen, *The Washington Times*, November 5, 2006, p. B4

□ "Let not your eyes go MEGA ('my eyes glaze over') on me as I recite some eye-popping statistics about the continent of

Africa. In fact when you read this report you'll ask: 'Why, for heaven's sake, is Africa South of the Sahara (SSH) the world's Number One Basket Case?' (Obviously, the African tragedy stops at the border of South Africa, which has a successful economy and the stirrings of a successful democracy.)

"Look, here is what is below ground in the African continent: 90 percent of the world's cobalt; 90 percent of its platinum; 50 percent of its gold; 98 percent of its chromium; 64 percent of its manganese, one-third of its uranium. Africa is rich in diamonds. And get this: Africa has more oil reserves than all of North America.

"Great, wonderful. So why is Africa SSH the world's Number One Basket Case?

"It would be a logical fallacy to ascribe a single causal explanation for Africa SSH but there could be a hierarchy of causes. At the top of the list, I would put corruption among African elites as a major reason why Africa SSH has become a latter day Death Valley. One simple corroborative example: Zimbabwe, a one-time land of milk and honey, is now an abyss of tyranny and starvation, except, of course, for dictator Robert Mugabe, his family and friends.

"Says Professor George Ayittey, a native of Ghana, an economist at the American University in Washington, D.C.:

"Africa has been totally mismanaged and misruled in the past decade. Nobody wants to talk about that because of political correctness. But Africa's begging bowl leaks, horribly."

"And how it leaks. The African Union's own estimate, according to Peter Goodspeed of the *Toronto National Post*, loses \$148 billion a year to corruption. While Prime Minister Tony Blair wants to increase aid to Africa by an extra \$25 billion a year, British taxpayers are unaware of the grand larceny being committed by crooked African leaders.

"The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of Nigeria last year said that a series of Nigerian military dictators had squandered—hold your hat—\$500 billion, a sum equivalent to all Western aid to Africa in the past four decades. In Kenya, \$4 billion disappeared during the presidency of Daniel Arap Moi's 24 years in power. This is how the *National Post* describes the Kenya larceny:

"The Country's Central Bank was looted, money was stolen by making fictitious payments on foreign debt, kickbacks were collected on all public contracts and when that didn't supply enough cash, politicians awarded themselves phony contracts."

"And all this looting was going on in a country with 70 percent unemployment and while nearly two-thirds of Kenya's population of almost 30 million were living below the poverty line. Said Tunde Obadina, economics editor of *Africa Today* magazine: 'The failure of democracy and economic development in Africa are due to a large part to the scramble for wealth by predator elites who have dominated African politics since independence ... Africa's tragedy is not that its nations are poor. That is a condition that is a product of history. The tragedy is that it lacks ruling classes that are committed to overcoming the state of poverty.'

"But that's not all of the problem. Says Jerome Pope, director of Transparency International: 'The international banks, the western businessmen who bribe to get the contract, those who are in cahoots with all the millionaires, they are all up to their

eyeballs in what is taking place. When it comes to moral standing, everybody belongs in the gutter together.'

"Africa SSH is poor, its people starving, its children malnourished and unschooled—but there's cash on the barrelhead for guns and bullets, for civil wars, tribal-ethnic wars, territorial wars. Is it possible, as a Nigerian newspaper editor once wrote, that Africa was better off under colonialism?"

"Someday one hopes Africa will come into its own. But when?"

—Arnold Beichman, *The Washington Times*, November 5, 2006, p. B3

□ "The majority of us don't envy the luxury life, dream of money or even begrudge those who have it. Only 37 percent of us, in fact, say we would be happier if we were wealthy, according to a new Gallup survey released yesterday.

"Most Americans don't have a strong desire to be rich,' said Jeffrey M. Jones, a Gallup analyst. 'The public tends to think that those who make a lot of money deserve it, but not to think the poor deserve their lot in life.'

"More than half of the respondents—54 percent—said those with the big bucks were entitled to their status. The old rags-to-riches ideal is still alive as well: Another 53 percent said that anyone can be rich if they put their mind to it. We don't blame money for our ills either. Overall, four out of 10 said that 'money is the root of all evil.'

"It's a little more evil to some, however.

"In a breakdown of responses by income, Gallup found that 52 percent of those whose annual income was under \$35,000 said that money was the source of evil, compared with 48 percent of those with middle-class income (up to \$75,000) and 34 percent of those with higher incomes—more than \$75,000.

"Low incomes did not signal softer hearts, though.

"People with lesser economic means are actually less sympathetic to the plight of the poor than those with greater means,' Mr. Jones said.

"The poll found that 23 percent of lower-income respondents say 'poor people deserve to be poor,' compared with the 12 percent among middle-income respondents and just 5 percent of those with high incomes.

"There was some disagreement about money between the sexes as well.

"Being rich seems to have more appeal to men than women,' Mr. Jones said.

"Indeed, almost half the male respondents—45 percent—said they would be happier rich, and that they 'dream' of becoming wealthy, compared with 30 percent of the women. Sentiments, however, are more pronounced among the young.

"Fifty-nine percent of men ages 18 to 49 dream of wealth, but the number drops to 27 percent older than 50. Among younger women, 35 percent dream of money, dropping to 23 percent over age 50.

"Six out of 10 men said the rich deserved their money; women, at 47 percent, were less sure of the idea. Another 57 percent of the men said making money was a personal goal, compared with 44 percent of women.

"The survey of 1,003 adults was conducted Nov. 27-29 and



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has a margin of error of 3 percent.

“Meanwhile, the rich keep spending. A poll released Dec. 4 by *Elite Traveler* magazine of 1,027 ‘super-rich’ adults—each with net worth of at least \$10 million—found their holiday spending on luxury items is up this year across 14 categories.

“A few examples: Each spent an average of \$91,100 on jewelry, \$52,000 on watches, \$36,400 on fashion, \$34,600 on their personal holiday entertaining, \$25,700 on electronics and \$22,300 for wine and liquor for their parties—up from \$14,200 last year, a rise of more than 57 percent. The survey also found that the rich are getting more generous, with charitable donations rising to \$94,200, a gain of 52 percent from last year.”

—Jennifer Harper, *The Washington Times*, December 13, 2006, p. A9

□ “The University of California and an association of fundamentalist Christian schools are heading for a showdown over their competing views of academic freedom.

“The conflict erupted over a decision by university admissions officers a couple of years ago to reject future proposals for high school curricula based on certain Christian textbooks published by Bob Jones University Press of South Carolina and A Beka Books of Florida.

“The Christian schools sued the university, asserting a right to teach the viewpoints they choose.

“In their lawsuit, the Christian schools say their students score better on standardized tests than students overall. They say that should be enough to satisfy university admissions officers, who should not be ‘parsing through the viewpoints and con-

tent of Christian school instruction and texts to ferret out disapproved religious views.’

“A federal judge in Los Angeles has refused to throw out the lawsuit, ruling in August that the schools should have a chance to prove that religious discrimination was behind the university’s decision. A two- or three-week trial is expected next year.

“Among the books are a physics text that treats the Bible as infallible truth and a biology text that calls evolution ‘a retreat from science.’ American history, government and literature texts also are at issue.

“The 4,000-member Association of Christian Schools International has been joined in the lawsuit by current and former high school students in Riverside County and their alma mater, Calvary Chapel Christian School of Murrieta.

“In its response to the lawsuit, the university has said it is not stopping the Christian schools from teaching or studying anything, but that the schools ‘have no right to freedom from academic evaluation.’

“Robert Tyler, who represents the Christian schools, said the university has been turning down Christian school courses at the same time it has accepted secular school courses based on viewpoints such as feminism or Buddhism or ‘the influence of nearly every imaginable group on history’ except Christians.

“The university should admit students solely on the basis of their ability to succeed, said Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, a Republican who is also co-founder and board member of Desert Christian Schools.”

—*The Washington Times*, November 1, 2006, p. A2