

# • the journal



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SUMMIT  
SEMESTER

**“Don’t worry about anything, but in everything through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” —Philippians 4:6-7**

# SUMMIT SEMESTER UPDATE:

*a word from Summit's Semester program*

Thanksgiving was a treat: Imagine tables sprawling thirty-two feet, filled with the finest family recipes of Summit Semester students and staff. Imagine sixty friends, family, and Semester alumni joining the current community of Summit Semester staff, students, and faculty—all celebrating God's goodness toward our country and His work in the lives of the twenty-eight students soon to graduate from Summit's extended college prep course.

The day after Thanksgiving, we graduated and said goodbye to Summit Semester's third class. It was simultaneously joyful and painful to see best friends, whom we had met for the first time only twelve weeks earlier, shed tears as the Semester ended. One of our students put it well when he said, "It feels like we've grown up together, because we have."

He said so because he understood well that Summit Semester is a time for growing up—theologically, spiritually, socially, and personally. Summit Semester is intended to help Christian students get ready—really ready—for college and for all the challenges it entails. This is no easy task; much work is required, both in the classroom and out. Toward that end, Summit Semester fills twelve weeks with demanding daily routine set in a close community environment. Colleen McElroy, a 2008 alumna, attests to the rigor: "It isn't at all unusual to read six books in six weeks and be working on four more." It also isn't unusual to spend three hours in class each morning, to do chores and to study all afternoon, to meet with a staff-led small group or chat with a faculty member after dinner, and to stay up late with roommates trying to define art. Such is life at Summit Semester. Our students experience a rigorous course of study in theology, English literature, politics, philosophy, and the arts. Dr. Michael Bauman, our Scholar in

Residence, challenges students to ask and to answer life's most important questions about existence, death, love, and human nature.

Summit Semester is aimed at helping students build a stable and enduring faith during their college years. Indeed, that is the impetus for all of Summit's ministries: Preparing Christian students for life in the academy and beyond, Summit Semester exists to equip a small group (about thirty) of bright, young Christians with a more thoughtful and well-reasoned faith, and with life-long friendships that provide rich companionship along the way.

The hard work pays off. Students connect ideas more quickly and communicate them with more confidence and precision. They deepen their relationship with God. They form life-long friendships with other young Christians desiring to make a difference for Christ.

We saw all this and celebrated it on Thanksgiving day. God willing, we'll do it again next Thanksgiving.

—Eric Smith, Director of Summit Semester



Summit Semester is a twelve-week academic course for bright, committed, young Christians. Intended as part of a gap-year between high school and college, Summit Semester provides broad and demanding academic studies with personal mentoring to enhance students' Christian walk. The program utilizes a small community of students, staff, and faculty to aid students' maturity and preparation for all the demands and opportunities associated with university life.

If you know capable and committed students who could profit from a term at Summit Semester, please let us know. If you desire to help finance this visionary program, please don't hesitate to contact us (see the reply device in this *Journal*).



# from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

a word from Dr. Noebel

Though it's a New Year, the world remains relatively the same. This is true even if our United States has decided to join Western Europe in its march toward atheism, humanism, socialism, and communism with a small "c" if the so-called Fairness Doctrine is reinstated. (Communism with a capital "c" involves firing squads and mass murder!) The Communist Party USA can hardly contain its jubilation as it celebrates America's plunge to the left.

In any case, we are living in perplexing times, but as an evangelical/fundamentalist/orthodox Christian, these times do not try my faith, but rather strengthen it. Any reading of the Bible (try Jeremiah for a week) reveals unequivocally that humanity has wallowed continually in the mire of sin, selfishness, and brutality.

The problem, as Rev. Joe Wright noted so well, is that we as a nation refuse to recognize that much of what we condone is outright sin. We euphemize instead. For example, we call killing our most defenseless members "pro-choice." God has another name for it (infanticide!), and we can be sure He will have the last word at the judgment. We are quite proficient at euphemizing others of our national sins as well. We pollute the airwaves with profanity and pornography and call it freedom of expression. We ridicule Christianity and call it enlightenment. The list is endless.

Lord Acton saw clearly that only 20 or 30 ideas are on the front burner at any given time, and these are the ideas that rule the world. He also noted that these ideas are generally religious or substitutes for religion. How right he was! Darwin's idea of biological evolution (man from monkey, ape, or gorilla) still rules the world, and its implications are everywhere. (In fact, Spain is thinking of granting the great ape human rights of some kind!)

I contend that basically six worldviews define the world for its nearly 7 billion inhabitants—Christianity, Islam, Secular Humanism, Marxism, New Age, and Postmodernism. A person's worldview provides the ideas, beliefs, convictions, values, and passions that make his or her world go round.

Dennis Prager said a number of years ago that history presents a great clash of worldviews, but usually only two go at it at a time. Presently, however, three are in the tangle—Judeo-Christianity, Secular Humanism, and Islam. We have to acknowledge that in the U.S. and Western Europe, Secular Humanism and Islam are advancing while Christianity is retreating.

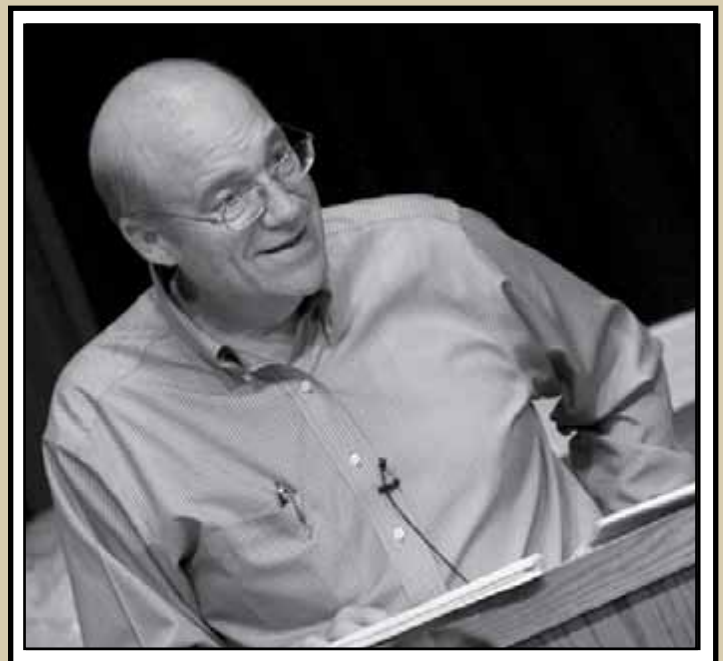
This brings me to a rather painful subject, but one I need to address. As you know, we are in the throes of difficult and perplexing economic realities. God calls us to be good stewards of the gifts He provides. Recently, contributions to Summit Ministries have fallen, and this has forced us to re-evaluate our policies of how we distribute *The Journal*.

Along those lines, here are the steps we need to take:

1. Give readers who have never supported the Summit a chance to support their journal subscription with a gift of \$20 or more. If you can help with your subscription, please respond using the attached envelope.
2. Give readers the choice of receiving *The Journal* via e-mail. Email subscribers will actually receive *The Journal* earlier than print subscribers. If you would like to receive *The Journal* via email, send an email to [info@summit.org](mailto:info@summit.org) with "Please send *The Journal* by Email" in the subject line. Or go to [www.summit.org](http://www.summit.org) to access the request form.

We don't want you to miss the kind of information that could guide you and your family safely through these very troubling times. *The Journal* is a small but important way Summit encourages, educates, and communicates a Christian worldview to alumni, parents, and other concerned Christians around the world.


Please help me keep this important publication alive during these difficult economic times. Please fill out the attached envelope to let me know if you want to continue receiving *The Journal*.



# A LOOK AT OUR WORLD

highlights from this month's world news

## SECULAR HUMANISM

 The first threat to mass Faith [Christianity] is modern science, especially evolutionary theory, which made broad disbelief in the gods both possible and probable in nations whose socioeconomic environment favored widespread non theism.

—Gregory S. Paul, *Free Inquiry*, Dec 2008/Jan 2009, p.32



The Successful Societies Scale (SSS) can be compared to levels of popular religiosity as pressured by rates of absolute belief in God, belief in an after life, biblical literalism, frequency of prayer, attendance at religious services and (negatively) by rates of atheism and agnosticism and acceptance of evolution.

—Ibid. p.30



Americans' anomalous retention of mass piety has caused many to imagine that faith is integral to the American character and that the nation will always be pious. But indicators show that in fact, even America is rapidly secularizing. The population that accepts evolution has edged up. The population that tells pollsters they think the Bible is built on legends and fables has soared—from 1 in 10 to nearly 1 in 4 in just three decades. The number of atheists and agnostics rose from about two million in the 1950s to as many as sixty million (a fifth of the population), according to two Harris polls designed to overcome Americans' reluctance to admit nonbelief. The nonreligious population has doubled in the last decade and a half alone. Even the much-vaunted growth of Mormons is dwarfed by the unparalleled rise of disbelievers. The former is due primarily to rapid reproduction, and the latter is almost entirely due to spontaneous individual conversion.

The latest Pew mega-survey reveals that only half of Americans now believe absolutely in a personal God, a striking drop from historical levels and well below that found in many second- and third-world countries. U.S. church membership has steadily declined over the last half century; if anything, the drop accelerated after September 11, 2001. Only a fifth of the population turns up in church on a typical Sunday. Once making up almost the entire population, Christians now compose only about three quarters. Catholic numbers have held steady if only because of massive Hispanic immigration. It is well known that the once-dominant mainstream Protestant churches have dwindled almost to minority status. But more conservative Christian groups are losing ground, too. The population that views the Bible as the literal word of God has shrunk markedly, from 4 in 10 to less than a third over thirty years.


Even the once-mighty Southern Baptists are dwindling.

It is time to retire popular notions of a numerically resurgent religious Right—if current trends continue, biblical literalists should be outnumbered by Bible skeptics in a decade or two.

—Ibid., p.26

**Editor's Note:** These three quotes from *Free Inquiry* magazine (a major Secular Humanist publication) highlight one major truth viz., evolution is considered by the atheists to be a lodestone determining whether or not a society is moving toward secularism or toward a more traditional moral and spiritual stance. The lesson is obvious—our Christian young people need to be grounded in Creationism and exposed to the best material explaining and debunking the spontaneous generation to Carl Sagan's theory of evolution. They also need to be instructed in the reality that evolution itself is the religion of atheism. According to Gregory S. Paul's article, the next major move toward atheism will be "universal health coverage" (p. 31). Says Paul, "The advent of universal health care should in particular do more to promote further secularization of America than any other single item" (p. 35).

## ABORTION

 This is what the LORD says: stand by the roadways and look. Ask about the ancient paths: which is the way to what is good? Then take it and find rest for yourselves. But they protested: We won't listen!

—Jeremiah 6:16



They have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. They have built high places to Baal on which to burn their children in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, something I have never commanded or mentioned; I never entertained the thought.

—Jeremiah 19:4–5



Mr. Barack Obama wants to uphold an abortion policy that has a disproportionate impact on blacks. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit organization focused on sexual and reproductive health research, finds that 13 percent of the U.S. population is black, but 37 percent of all abortions are performed on black women and teens: Blacks are 4.8 times as likely as whites to have an abortion. A vote for Mr. Obama is, in effect, a vote that permits the disproportionate elimination of blacks in America.

—*The Washington Times*, November 2, 2008, p. B8

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highlights from this month's world news

**Editor's Note:** Evangelical Christians who voted for Barack Obama, knowing his pro-abortion position, will face a God who already said "he never entertained the thought" that women would sacrifice their own children to the idols of pleasure and Baal!

## DARWINISM



As a matter of fact, there is no real scientific evidence for evolution anyhow. This has been amply demonstrated in the writings of many creationist scientists. No one has ever observed any genuine evolution taking place (macro-evolution, that is) in the thousands of years of recorded history—so it is certainly not a part of observational science (and real science should involve observation and repetition).

Furthermore, despite certain disputable claims, no one has ever demonstrated an authentic evolutionary transitional series among all the billions of fossils preserved in the sedimentary rocks of the earth's crust. So evolution did not occur in the past either, as far as the evidence shows.

In fact, evolution on any significant scale seems impossible scientifically. The law of entropy expresses the universal principle of decrease in organized complexity—certainly not molecules-to-man increase in complexity!

These truths are abundantly documented in the books and articles of many qualified scientists who are creationists. Theologians who think otherwise have not really studied these writings as they should.

In reality, evolutionism is a religion—not science at all. It is a belief system, attempting to explain the existence of all things without God. It might as well be called the religion of atheistic humanism, or the religion of the coming Antichrist. There is certainly no good reason for theologians or pastors or Bible teachers in general to defer to it or compromise with it any longer. "Preach the word" was Paul's closing admonition to young pastor Timothy (2 Tim. 4:2; KJV). The Word as it truly is, not some compromise with modern "science falsely so called" (1 Tim. 6:20; KJV).

—Henry M. Morris in *Coming to Grips With Genesis* by Terry Mortenson and Thane H. Ury, p. 7



In 2001, I wrote a book dealing with Genesis 1–3. I began that book's introduction by suggesting that naturalism has become the dominant religion of contemporary secular society. "Religion is exactly the right word to describe naturalism," I wrote. "The entire philosophy is built on a faith-based premise. Its basic presupposition—a rejection of everything supernatural—requires a giant leap of faith. And nearly all its supporting theories must be taken by faith as well." Here, then, is a classic example of what I was

talking about: the typical evolutionist's starting point is this notion that life arose spontaneously from inanimate matter sometime in eternity past. That requires not merely the willful suspension of what we know for certain about the origins of life and the impossibility of abiogenesis—but also enough deliberate gullibility to believe that moving-target estimates of the earth's antiquity can sufficiently answer all the problems and contradictions sheer naturalism poses.

—John MacArthur in *Ibid.*, p. 10

## POLITICS



After hearing about Barack Obama's ties to the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Bill Ayers, Bernardine Dohrn, Fr. Michael Pfleger, and the militant activists of ACORN (the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now), it should be clear to everyone that his extremist roots run deep. But the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee has yet another connection with the world of far-Left radicalism. Obama has long been linked—through foundation grants, shared political activism, collaboration on legislation and tactics, and mutual praise and support—with the Chicago-based Gamaliel Foundation, one of the least known yet most influential national umbrella groups for church-based "community organizers."

The same separatist, anti-American theology of liberation that was so boldly and bitterly proclaimed by Obama's pastor is shared, if more quietly, by Obama's Gamaliel colleagues. The operative word here is 'quietly.' Gamaliel specializes in ideological stealth, and Obama, a master student of Gamaliel strategy, shows disturbing signs of being a sub rosa radical himself. Obama's legislative tactics, as well as his persistent professions of non-ideological pragmatism, appear to be inspired by his radical mentors' most sophisticated tactics. Not only has Obama studied, taught, and apparently absorbed stealth techniques from radical groups like Gamaliel and ACORN, but in his position as a board member of Chicago's supposedly nonpartisan Woods Fund, he quietly funneled money to his radical allies—at the very moment he most needed their support to boost his political career. It's high time for these shadowy, perhaps improper, ties to receive a dose of sunlight.

The connections are numerous. Gregory Galluzzo, Gamaliel's co-founder and executive director, served as a trainer and mentor during Obama's mid-1980s organizing days in Chicago. The Developing Communities Project, which first hired Obama, is part of the Gamaliel network. Obama became a consultant and eventually a trainer of community organizers for Gamaliel. (He also served as a trainer for ACORN.) And he has kept up his ties with Gamaliel during his time in the U.S. Senate.

The Gamaliel connection appears to supply a solution to the riddle of Obama's mysterious political persona. On one hand, he likes to highlight his days as a community

organizer—a profession with proudly radical roots in the teachings of Chicago's Saul Alinsky, author of the highly influential text *Rules for Radicals*. Obama even goes so far as to make the community-organizer image a metaphor for his distinctive conception of elective office. On the other hand, Obama presents himself as a post-ideological, consensus-minded politician who favors pragmatic, common-sense solutions to the issues of the day. How can Obama be radical and post-radical at the same time?

—Stanley Kurtz, *National Review*, Sep 1, 2008, p. 32



## SUMMIT SPEAKERS

### SUMMIT STAFF

**March 01–06:** Summit Adult Conference. Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, CO.

### DAVID NOEBEL

**Jan 08–18:** Australia Summit. Perth, Australia.

**Feb 07:** Phyllis Schlafly Interview.

**Feb 22:** Woodmen Valley Chapel. Colorado Springs, CO.

### CHUCK EDWARDS

**Feb. 17:** "Worldviews in Film," Homeschool Conference, Peninsula Baptist Church. Mooresville, NC.

### JOHN STONESTREET

**Jan 05–09:** Moody Broadcasting Network's Summit feature on Prime Time America.

**Jan 18–25:** Compass Conference. Brisbane, Australia.

**Jan 25:** Parachute Musical Festival. New Zealand.

**Jan 29:** World Changers Summit. Minneapolis, MN.

**Jan 30–Feb. 01:** Worldview and Life Senior Retreat. Bryan College, Dayton, TN.

**Feb 06:** Moody Bible Institute Founder's Week. Chicago, IL.

**Feb 07:** LifeAbove Conference. Denver, CO.

**Feb 27–28:** The Fish Weekend. Signal Mountain Pres. Church, Signal Mountain, TN.

**March 13–15:** Breakpoint Centurions Program Conference, Lansdowne, VA.

**March 16–18:** Impact 360. Pine Mountain, GA.

Among the many wonders to be expected from an Obama administration, if Nicholas D. Kristof of the *New York Times* is to be believed, is ending "the anti-intellectualism that has long been a strain in American life."

He cited Adlai Stevenson, the suave and debonair governor of Illinois, who twice ran for president against Eisenhower in the 1950s, as an example of an intellectual in politics.

Intellectuals, according to Mr. Kristof, are people who are "interested in ideas and comfortable with complexity," people who "read the classics."

It is hard to know whether to laugh or cry.

Adlai Stevenson was certainly regarded as an intellectual by intellectuals in the 1950s. But, half a century later, facts paint a very different picture.

Historian Michael Beschloss, among others, has noted that Stevenson "could go quite happily for months or years without picking up a book." But Stevenson had the airs of an intellectual—the form, rather than the substance.

What is more telling, form was enough to impress the intellectuals, not only then but even now, years after the facts have been revealed, though apparently not to Mr. Kristof. That is the one of many reasons intellectuals are not taken as seriously by others as they take themselves.

As for reading the classics, President Harry Truman, whom no one thought of as an intellectual, was a voracious reader of heavyweight stuff like Thucydides and read Cicero in the original Latin. When Chief Justice Carl Vinson quoted in Latin, Truman was able to correct him. Yet intellectuals tended to think of the unpretentious and plain-spoken Truman as little more than a country bumpkin.

Similarly, no one ever thought of President Calvin Coolidge as an intellectual. Yet Coolidge also read the classics in the White House. He read both Latin and Greek, and read Dante in the original Italian, since he spoke several languages. It was said the taciturn Coolidge could be silent in five different languages.

The intellectual levels of politicians are just one of the many things that intellectuals have grossly misjudged for years on end.

During the 1930s, some of America's leading intellectuals condemned our economic system and pointed to the centrally planned Soviet economy as a model—all this at a time when literally millions of people were starving to death in the Soviet Union, from a famine in a country with some of the richest farmland in Europe and historically a large food exporter.

*New York Times* Moscow correspondent Walter Duranty won a Pulitzer Prize for telling the intelligentsia what they wanted to hear—that claims of starvation in the Ukraine were false. When British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge reported from the Ukraine on the massive deaths from starvation there, he was ostracized on returning to England

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and was unable to find a job. More than a half-century later when the archives of the Soviet Union were finally opened up under Mikhail Gorbachev, it turned out that about 6 million people had died in that famine—about the same number as the people killed in Hitler's Holocaust.

In the 1930s, it was the intellectuals who pooh-poohed the dangers from the rise of Adolf Hitler and urged Western disarmament.

It would be no feat to fill a big book with all the things on which intellectuals were grossly mistaken, just in the 20th century—far more so than ordinary people. History fully vindicates the late William F. Buckley's view that he would rather be ruled by people represented by the first 100 names in the Boston phone book than by the faculty of Harvard.

How have intellectuals managed to be so wrong, so often? By thinking that because they are knowledgeable—or even expert—within some narrow band out of the vast spectrum of human concerns, they are wise guides to the masses and to the rulers of the nation.

But the ignorance of Ph.D.s is still ignorance and high-IQ groupthink is still groupthink, which is the antithesis of real thinking."

—Thomas Sowell, *Washington Times*, Nov 16, 2008, p. B5

"When Obama first visited Kenya, his father's country, in 1988, he was greeted by his aunt Zeituni Onyango. "Welcome home," Zeituni said, kissing me on both cheeks," wrote Obama in his autobiography. Our president-elect has been somewhat less effusive in welcoming Miss Onyango to the U.S. The lady came here eight years ago on a temporary visa and obtained a Social Security card in 2001. When her visa expired, she applied for political asylum, but the application was rejected in 2004 and a judge ordered her to leave the country. Onyango chose not to comply, and is now a fugitive alien. Since 2003 she has been living in public housing in Boston and receiving a stipend from that city's Housing Authority for being a part-time 'health advocate'—yet another one of those jobs, apparently, that Americans will not do. Her straitened circumstances notwithstanding, Onyango managed to donate \$260 to her nephew's presidential campaign—illegally, as she is not a citizen. The president-elect returned the donations (after they were publicized) and says that his aunt should obey the law. Wait a minute—you mean we have laws on immigration? For how much longer?

—National Review, Dec 1, 2008, p. 12

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, standing on a site believed to be that of Christ's Resurrection, is managed by six different Christian sects under a complex set of protocols dating from the Ottoman Empire. Each sect guards its rights very jealously, and there are frequent petty conflicts. The keys to the main entrance of the church have been held by a Muslim family since the 12th century because the Christians do not trust one another. In 2002 a Coptic monk placed his chair in a section of the church claimed by Ethiopians: The resulting fracas put some dozen monks in the hospital. On November 9 this year things got nasty yet again, when a rumble between Greek Orthodox and American monks had to be broken up by Israeli police. One of the Greeks, having perhaps been too slow to turn the other cheek, had a nasty gash on his forehead. "This is my commandment," said the Prince of Peace to His followers, "that ye love one another, as I have loved you." It seems to be taking a while to sink in.

—National Review, Dec 1, 2008, p. 14

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# UPCOMING CONFERENCES

## *Adult Worldview Conferences*



**ADULT CONFERENCE:** March 01–06, 2009  
Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, CO

**PASTOR CONFERENCE:** June 21–26, 2009  
Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

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