

• the journal



March 2009

Volume 09 Issue #03



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“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” — Jude 1:20-21

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BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ told you, that in the last times there would come these scoffers whose whole purpose in life is to enjoy themselves in every evil way imaginable. They stir up arguments; they love the evil things of the world; they do not have the Holy Spirit living in them. But you, dear friends, must build up your lives ever more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. Stay always within the boundaries where God's love can reach and bless you. Wait patiently for the eternal life, that our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy is going to give you. Try to help those who argue against you. Be merciful to those who doubt. Save some by snatching them as from the very flames of hell itself. And as for others, help them to find the Lord by being kind to them, but be careful that you yourselves aren't pulled along into their sins. Hate every trace of their sin while being merciful to them as sinners. And now—all glory to him who alone is God, who saves us through Jesus Christ our Lord; yes, splendor and majesty, all power and authority are his from the beginning; his they are and his they evermore shall be. And he is able to keep you from slipping and falling away, and to bring you, sinless and perfect, into his glorious presence with mighty shouts of everlasting joy. Amen.

—Jude 1:17–25, *The Living Bible*



Today's *Christian Post* is reporting that a majority of people in Britain do not believe in the historical truth of the nativity story about the birth of Jesus. A new poll by the British Marketing Research Bureau for St. Helen's Church in Bishopsgate, London, of 1,000 people, finds that seventy percent of Britons are skeptical about the birth of Jesus in a manger to his virgin mother, Mary.

For younger people, aged 16–24, a full 78 percent said that they did not believe the Bible's teaching on Jesus. Last year a similar survey by think tank Theos found that only twelve percent of adults in Britain even knew the elements of the Christmas story as told in the Bible. How has this state of affairs come about in the homeland of John Wesley, Charles Haddon Spurgeon and even C.S. Lewis?

A major reason seems to be that a full two-thirds of British people have no religious adherence at all. Among those who are religious, many are Muslim and not Christian. Even those people who say they are Christians do not completely believe the Bible's teachings on Jesus.

This is a depressing story to report on at Christmas time, because as the Rev. Charlie Skrine, curate of St. Helen's Church says, "[c]ombined with a general lack of understanding about the real meaning of Christmas, this leaves people without the hope that Jesus offers." People

living in this world without the hope of Jesus Christ and the love he has for them is truly sad.

However, I'm not giving up hope for the people in Britain just yet. Yesterday a story in *Time* entitled "Finding Jesus in London" talked about a spiritual awakening among the high society of London.

"...Long considered an aggressively secular city, London has quietly become one of Britain's most Christian areas, going from the least observant region in Britain in 1979 to the second most observant today. Much of that resurgence in piety is the result of the city's expanding and devout immigrant population. But there is also a growing number of young, highly educated and moneyed Londoners—people such as Mumford—who are turning to the church."

The centerpiece of this new resurgence in faith is Holy Trinity Brompton, an evangelical Anglican church in Kensington. The church's 4,000 member congregation has tripled in the past 15 years, and the average age of the congregation is 27 years old. In fact, the church has become so popular that it has begun encouraging its members to attend other dying churches in London.

I pray that this awakening in one small area of London will spread throughout the whole country, and bring with it the hope that only Jesus does offer.

—OneNewsNow.com, Dec. 30, 2008

ECONOMICS



To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.

It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one half the wars of the world.

My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.

—Thomas Jefferson



Congress is on a spending binge. With all the calls for bailouts, economic stimulus and other assorted handouts, there is a real risk of inflation in our future. If we do have a rapid inflation, it's likely that members of Congress, as they did in the financial meltdown, will blame it on everybody except themselves. Before Congress begins to shirk their responsibility, let's understand what an inflation is and is not.

Several prices rising are not inflation. Only when prices across the board rise is there inflation. But just as in the case of diseases, describing a symptom does not necessarily tell us the cause. That is the same with inflation; it is a symptom of something else. Nobel Laureate and noted

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from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

a word from Dr. Noebel

This month's column will highlight Summit's Student Worldview Conferences. These two-week conferences are structured to prepare Christian young people to be able to attend college and not be seduced by their liberal, leftist, humanistic professors!

While there are many worldviews on campus tempting Christians, the one that causes the most damage is Secular Humanism! Its primary lure is Darwinian evolution although atheism, relativism, socialism, and a few other isms are also utilized to seduce the unprepared.

A few years ago, Ann Coulter noted that in all her years of secular education (12 in public schools, 4 in college, and 3 in law school) she was never confronted with the link between Darwin and Hitler. Now it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out why this was true. There is indeed a worm in the apple. But we must also acknowledge that students may likely encounter the same failures in Christian high schools and colleges.

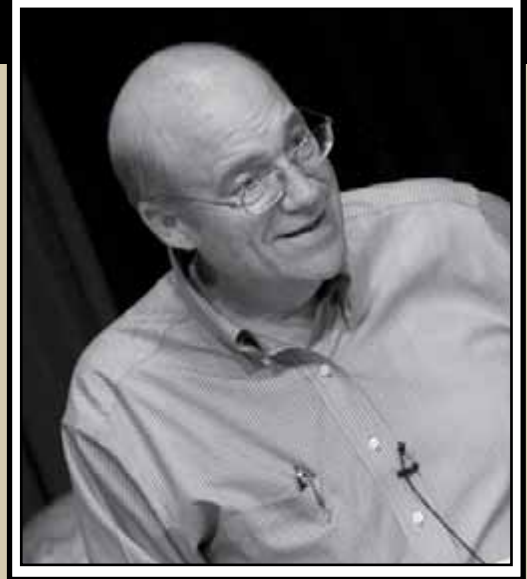
Koryn, a recent Summit graduate, acknowledged the following in a recent note: "This past semester at my college I realized how much Summit had truly impacted me. At the Southern Baptist University I attend, the Botany professor taught evolution and required we answer his questions accordingly. My friends and I questioned him after class one day about carbon dating and he told us not to believe religious 'mumbo jumbo.' I am thankful to have my Summit notebook filled with truthful information. God is using your mission. Summit is preparing students through its conferences, newsletters, etc. I appreciate all you do."

Summit's teaching is not "religious mumbo jumbo!" For example, we teach about Professor Richard Lenski of Michigan State University, and he's not even religious. He set out to prove evolution in his own classroom, "to follow evolution in real time." Lenski's experiment is cited in one of our recommended books, Michael Behe's *The Edge of Evolution* (pages 141–142).

In his experiment, Lenski cultured an E.coli bacterium until he had grown a population of hundreds of millions or "roughly the equivalent of a million years in the history of humans." After seeking—but failing—to observe his bugs evolve "something, anything," he concluded the following: "Nothing fundamentally new has been produced." In other words, no matter how many generations of this bacterium Lenski produced, absolutely no evolution resulted.

But there's more! For evolution to occur, mutations that are somewhat favorable must lead the process to produce something new or different than the original. But John C. Sanford tells us in his book *Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome*, "It is becoming increasingly clear that most, or all, of the genome is functional. Therefore, most, or all, mutations in the genome must be deleterious" (page 40).

In other words, there are no beneficial mutations that occur because new information has been added to the genome or the directory of the cell. Personally, I believe Sanford's



book spells the death of Darwin's theory of evolution.

But there's even more. Dr. Kurt P. Wise in an article entitled "Discontinuity of Life" (*Answers* magazine, January–March 2009) insists that the Creator has placed enough discontinuity in just the right places to forego the possibility that natural processes could have generated our diverse creation. For example, Wise says that "there is an enormous discontinuity between even the simplest known bacterium and the earth chemistry from which it is purported to have evolved." This discontinuity exists throughout the various biological groupings.

Regarding Koryn's question to her professor about carbon dating, the scientific truth is that carbon(14) can offer only thousands of years—not millions or billions. "With a half-life of 5,730 years, C(14) decays to levels undetectable by any currently available technique after only 100,000 years (17.5 half-lives)." Evolution, which needs hundreds of millions if not billions of years to get off the ground, will not find comfort in C(14) dating. (John R. Baumgardner's full article on C(14) begins on page 587 in Vardiman et al., *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth*.)

Koryn need not apologize to her botany professor at all. She is correct and used no "religious mumbo jumbo" to make her point.

Allow me to share another excerpt from a letter from a mother whose daughter attended a recent Summit Student Conference: "She found it to be 'amazing!' She came home enthused, encouraged and equipped. She wants desperately to go back. We pray for continuation of this vital ministry for years to come and for its blessing, expansion and protection. . . . Summit was one of the best decisions/investments we ever made."

May this mother's and daughter's sentiments ring true to the whole Summit family. And if they do, please help us fill our 2009 Student Conferences with the best students in the nation! We are holding seven conferences in Colorado, two in Tennessee, and one in Virginia. Help us find and recruit worthy Christian young people to fill these sessions.

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Just a little note to say hi and let you know that my first term teaching *Understanding the Times* went well! It was tough at first but by the end of the term my students were identifying various worldviews. It was cool! It is becoming so relevant! Just in the last three months I have had two parents come to me and share with me their heartbreak as their children, who have grown up in the church, have denied their faith. Former students have come back and shared with me how they have been challenged at college and had to give an answer for what they believed. It is great to hear that the majority of them are standing tall and confident in their worldview. We just got done with our Worldview Questionnaire Video Project, and it was great to see my students come back with a passion to learn more about their worldview and how to defend it. They saw first hand how many people do not know what they believe and how lost our culture is. I have had parents come to me and share how this project opened the door to share their faith with their kids. Keep up the great work! The church is hungry for this! What a great time to live in!

—Ed L.

monetary theorist Milton Friedman explained, “[I]nflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon, in the sense that it cannot occur without a more rapid increase in the quantity of money than in output.” Put another way, inflation results from an increase in the supply of money relative to the demand for money.

That being the case, who is responsible for inflation? It’s not you or I because if we privately increased the supply of money to finance profligate spending, we would be charged with counterfeiting and go to prison. The Federal Reserve Bank, our central bank, is the only entity legally permitted to increase the supply of money, to finance Congress’ profligate spending. The Federal Reserve Bank is supposed to be independent but it typically accommodates the wishes of Congress and the White House.

Central banks are villains in most countries; ours is just not as bad as others. In 1946, Hungary’s central bank gave it the world’s highest inflation rate. Prices doubled every 16 hours creating an annual inflation rate of 13 quadrillion percent. Last October, Zimbabwe’s central bank produced history’s second highest rate of inflation. Prices doubled every 25 hours, giving it an annual inflation rate of 80 billion percent. By comparison, Germany’s inflation rate, which brought about the social disruption responsible for Hitler’s rise to power, was a mere 30,000 percent that saw prices doubling every four days. You say, “Williams, that couldn’t happen here.” Except during the Revolutionary War and the

War of 1861, our inflation has never exceeded 20 percent, but keep in mind that any hyperinflation was once 20 percent.

Knowing the dangers posed by central banks, we might ask whether our country needs the Federal Reserve Bank. Whenever I’m told that we need this or that government program, I always ask what we did before. It turns out that we did without a central bank from 1836, when President Andrew Jackson closed the Second Bank of the United States, to 1913 when the Federal Reserve Act was written. During that interval, we prospered and became one of the world’s major economic powers.

The justifications for the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 was to prevent bank failure and maintain price stability. Simple before and after analysis demonstrates that the Federal Reserve Bank has been a failure. In the century before the Federal Reserve Act, wholesale prices fell by 6 percent; in the century after they rose by 1,300 percent. Maximum bank failures in one year before 1913 were 496 and afterward, 4,400. During the 1930s, inept money supply management by the Federal Reserve Bank was partially responsible for both the depth and duration of the Great Depression.

It is not wise for us to permit a few people on the Federal Reserve Board to have life and death power over our economy. My recommendation for reducing some of that power is to repeal legal tender laws and eliminate all taxes on gold, silver and platinum transactions. That way there would be money substitutes and the government money monopoly would be reduced and hence the ability to tax—some people would say steal from—us through inflation.

—Walter E. Williams, *The Washington Times*, Dec. 18, 2008, p.A20

ETHICS

Planned Parenthood has reached a new low. Planned Parenthood-Indiana is giving the “gift of death” to the unborn this holiday season. The organization has announced that gift certificates in \$25 increments can be purchased for exams, insurance copays and medication at its 35 clinics in Indiana. The certificates can also be used to pay for abortions, adding to the 5,000 it says it performs each year in Indiana. This means that girls and women will be given another means and economic incentive to choose death rather than to choose life.

Planned Parenthood is trying to cast the certificates as benevolent, the usual tactic used to mask their heinous agenda. The vouchers are merely intended to assist the uninsured or those who are delaying their health care due to its costs, said Betty Cockrum, CEO and president of Planned Parenthood-Indiana. She said the vouchers provide potentially lifesaving care and can help prevent abortion. “Birth control is the best way to avoid unintended pregnancy. Avoiding unintended pregnancy is the best way to reduce abortion,” she said. Chrystal Struben-Hall, vice

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president of Planned Parenthood-Indiana, also tried to cast the certificates in a benign light: “People are making really tough decisions about putting gas in their car and food on their table, so we know that many women especially put health care at the bottom of their to do list.”

These justifications are disingenuous. Women do not need Planned Parenthood for their basic health care. And the vouchers are not lifesaving, they are political instruments of the pro-choice movement. More importantly, contraception and abortions are not forms of “health care”: They are lifestyle choices with life-altering consequences.

The gift certificates rile pro-life supporters, as they should. Indiana Family Institute President Curt Smith told WISH-TV in Indianapolis that there is a better way to help women: “I think the way to help family planning is to give the money where there’s no agenda. So if somebody wants to help a woman at a time of crisis, they can support the life centers throughout Indiana.”

Shame on Planned Parenthood for granting death certificates. The organization fails to grasp the meaning of life, let alone the spirit of the holiday season.

—*The Washington Times*, Dec. 1, 2008, p. A18



On abortion, Obama is the complete man, his support so ingrained that even his carefully controlled public speaking can’t help revealing it. He’s not a fanatic about abortion; he’s what lies beyond fanaticism. He’s the end product of hard-line support for abortion: a man for whom the very question of abortion seems unreal. The opponents of abortion are, for Obama, not to be compromised with or even fought with, in a certain sense. They are, rather, to be explained away as a sociological phenomenon—their pro-life view something that will wither away as they gradually come to understand the true causes of the economic and social bitterness they have, in their undereducated and intolerant way, attached to abortion.

The result is already clear, with an announcement from Obama’s transition team, only days after the election, that the new president will remove all restrictions on federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research immediately on taking office. The Mexico City policy (which requires all groups that receive federal funds not to perform or promote abortion abroad) will disappear the first day, as well. Back in 1992, the Clinton administration gave social policy at the United Nations and other treaty organizations—all the minor jobs in international affairs—to the far left as part of its spoils in the Democratic victory, and the fist signs suggest that the Obama administration will do the same.

The Freedom of Choice Act currently before Congress is as extreme a measure as the nation has ever seen, invalidating for the entire country all restrictions on

STUDENT WORLDVIEW CONFERENCES

MANITOU SPRINGS, CO

- Session 1: May 17 – May 29
- Session 2: May 31 – June 12
- Session 3: June 14 – June 26
- Session 4: June 28 – July 10

- Session 5: July 19 – July 31
- Session 6: Aug 02 – Aug 14
- Session 7: Aug 16 – Aug 28

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY, VA

- Session: June 21 – July 03

BRYAN COLLEGE, TN

- Session 1: July 05 – July 17
- Session 2: July 19 – July 31

abortion before viability, including parental notification, waiting periods, and partial-birth abortion bans. Obama was one of its sponsors in the Senate, and in July he announced at a Planned Parenthood event that “the first thing I’d do, as president, is sign the Freedom of Choice Act. That’s the first thing that I’d do.”

— Joseph Bottum, *First Things*, Jan. 2009, p. 13

Editors Note: It is important to remember that the right to be born is the first, basic human right. The right to speak or vote is meaningless if an abortion ends one’s life before birth. Every Christian who voted for a pro-abortion candidate will answer some day at the final judgment of God. To reason that there were more important issues to consider is just whistling in the graveyard. There are no issues more important than the issue of a human’s right to be born. Period. Read Jeremiah 7 and discover what activity not even the Lord could comprehend.



The People’s Republic of China is to human rights what Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is to world peace. The Communist Party has a monopoly on political power, which it will do anything to maintain.

Freedom of protests? Think Tiananmen Square. Freedom from arbitrary arrest? Ask the Falun Gong practitioners consigned to China’s brutal penal system. Freedom of religion? Consider the fate of the home church movement.

The courts are controlled by the party, which directs verdicts and sentences in political cases. Beijing even periodically cracks down on the Internet.

Among other horrors, there’s a brisk trade in organs from executed prisoners. In some cases, removal of organs reportedly is the method of execution.

The foregoing notwithstanding, China is an honored

member of the United Nations. It's a permanent member of the Security Council. In perhaps the ultimate irony, China sits on the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Taiwan is a virtual pariah. Of 192 U.N. members, only 24 have diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Though a founding member of the United Nations, Taiwan was expelled in 1971 when the People's Barbed-Wire Enclosure was admitted. Taiwan has tried to regain membership in the world body, in some form or fashion, since 1993. Only one thing stands in its way—China.

Thus, one of the world's worst human-rights abusers has kept a country that scrupulously respects human rights out of the body that promulgated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In light of warming relations with the mainland, Taiwan hoped this year it could at least get a consideration of its participation in the specialized U.N. bodies—like the World Health Organization.

This modest request was brusquely rebuffed. Under pressure from Beijing, on Sept. 17, the chairman of the

General Committee (which sets the agenda for the General Assembly) ruled that because of a "lack of consensus," Taiwan's participation in the United Nations would not be considered at the General Assembly's 63rd session.

While the Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not explicitly include the right of people to participate in international organizations, such a right is surely implied.

And such a right has consistently been denied to Taiwan's 23 million people. On Dec. 10, what's to celebrate?

—Don Feder, *The Washington Times*, Dec. 10, 2008, p.A17



The latest manifestation of Che-worship is a film by Steven Soderbergh called simply, *Che*. It was screened in Havana, of course, under the approving gaze of the Communist dictatorship. The actor playing Guevara, Benicio Del Toro, was there, partying with party members—Cuban officials. It must have been very cozy. And who was Che Guevara, the real one? He was Castro's number-one thug, presiding over summary executions at La Cabaña. That was the fortress that served as his abattoir. He would administer the coup de grâce—a bullet to the back of the neck—while his victims cried, "Vivo Cristo Rey!" or "Viva Cuba libre!" He liked to show off El Paredón, the killing wall turned red with blood. Furthermore, he established the labor-camp system in which countless citizens—dissidents, democrats, artists, homosexuals—would suffer and die. This is the Cuban gulag. Anthony Daniels once remarked that the difference between Guevara and Pol Pot is that Guevara never studied in Paris.

—*National Review*, Dec. 29, 2008, p. 12

SUMMIT SPEAKERS

DAVID NOEBEL

Apr 04: Code Blue Rally. Lexington, KY.

Apr 05: Code Blue Rally. Louisville, KY.

Apr 17–19: Seattle Apologetics Conference. Redmond, VA.

Apr 24–26: Worldview Weekend Reunion. Branson, MO.

May 15: Faith and Law Lecture. Washington, DC.

JOHN STONESTREET

Apr 03–04: Indiana Association of Homeschoolers Convention. Indianapolis, IN.

Apr 16–18: Midwest Homeschool Convention. Cincinnati, OH.

Apr 26: Signal Mountain Bible Church. Signal Mountain, TN.

Apr 27: McCallie Christian School. Chattanooga, TN.

Apr 27: Moody Pastor's Conference. Moody Bible College. Chicago, IL.

May 21–23: North Carolinians Home Education Conference. Raleigh, NC.

May 29–30: Christian Home Educators of West Virginia Conference. Marathana Fellowship Church. St. Albans, WV.

MORE INFO AT WWW.SUMMIT.ORG/CALENDAR/

ENVIRONMENTALISM



NASA warming scientist James Hansen, one of former Vice President Al Gore's closet allies in the promotion of man-made global-warming fears, is being publicly rebuked by his former supervisor at NASA.

Retired senior NASA atmospheric scientist Dr. John S. Theon, the former supervisor of James Hansen—NASA's vocal man-made global warming fears soothsayer—has publicly declared himself a skeptic and declared that Hansen "embarrassed NASA" with his alarming climate claims and said Hansen "was never muzzled." Theon joins the rapidly growing ranks of international scientists abandoning the promotion of anthropogenic global-warming fears.

"I appreciate the opportunity to add my name to those who disagree that global warming is man-made," Theon wrote to the Minority Office at the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Jan. 15, 2009. "I was, in effect, Hansen's supervisor because I had to justify his funding, allocate his resources, and evaluate his results. I did not have the authority to give him his annual performance evaluation."

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“Hansen was never muzzled even though he violated NASA’s official agency position on climate forecasting (i.e., we did not know enough to forecast climate change or mankind’s effect on it). Hansen thus embarrassed NASA by coming out with his claims of global warming in 1988 in his testimony before Congress,” said Theon, the former chief of the Climate Processes Research Program at NASA.

—Marc Morano, *Human Events*, Feb. 2, 2009, p. 10



After the wet and cold centuries of the Little Ice Age (around 1550–1850 A.D.), the world’s climate recuperated some warmth, but did not replicate the balmy period known as the Middle Age Warm Period (around 800–1300 A.D.), when the margins of Greenland were green and England had vineyards.

Climate began to cool again after World War II, for about 30 years. This is undisputed. The cooling occurred at a time when emissions of CO₂ were rising sharply from the reconstruction effort and from unprecedented development. It is important to realize that.

By 1978 it had started to warm again, to everybody’s relief. But two decades later, after the temperature peaked in 1998 under the influence of El Niño, climate stopped warming for eight years; and in 2007 entered a cooling phase marked by lower solar radiation and a reversal of the cycles of warm ocean temperature in the Atlantic and the Pacific. And here again, it is important to note that this new cooling period is occurring concurrently with an acceleration in CO₂ emissions, caused by the emergence of two industrial giants: China and India.

To anyone’s analyzing this data with common sense, it is obvious that factors other than CO₂ emissions are ruling the climate. And the same applies to other periods of the planet’s history. Al Gore, in his famous movie “The Inconvenient Truth,” had simply omitted to say that for the past 420,000 years that he cited as an example, rises in CO₂ levels in the atmosphere always followed increase in global temperature by at least 800 years. It means that CO₂ can’t possibly be the cause of the warming cycles.

So, if it’s not CO₂, what is it that makes the world’s temperature periodically rise and fall? The obvious answer is the sun, and sea currents in a subsidiary manner.

The tilt of the earth, the shape of the earth’s orbit (distance to the sun), and the earth’s “wobble” as it turns around the sun are all important factors in the cyclical recurrence of ice ages and interglacial periods. It has been observed that ice ages last about 100,000 years, and warm interglacial only 12,000. years And within these warm periods, variations in solar activity cause shorter periods of less-pronounced warming and cooling.

There is no way to know for sure if the present cooling

period will last several decades or 100,000 years. Russian scientists have just warned that a fully-blown ice age is not to be ruled out, as about 12,000 years have elapsed since the end of the last one.

Entering a new ice age would be a disaster for humanity: billions of people could die from lack of food, from the cold, and from the collapse of the world economy, social strife, war, etc.

And if what’s ahead of us is only a little ice age, the consequences would still be pretty dire. World food reserves are already low, and we can barely feed the current population of the planet. Surfaces of arable land used for bio-fuels and biomass are increasing. Cool and wet summers would cause crop failures as they did in the Little Ice Age (as a result, starving Parisians had taken to the streets, soon sending their king to the guillotine). Winter frost would also bring its share of misery, destroying fruits and vegetables on a large scale.

Let’s just hope we’ll only have a few years of cooling, and that another warming period will follow. But it may be wishful thinking. In any case, there will be hardship during the cold cycle, whatever its length.

—David J. Bellamy and Mark Duchamp, *The Washington Times*, Jan. 30, 2009, p.A23



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