

• the journal



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IN THIS ISSUE:

- » Summit Alumni Spotlight | pg. 2
- » Highlights from around the Globe | pgs. 4-7
Biblical Christianity, Secularism, Politics, and Economics

“Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.” —Romans 1:20

SUMMIT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

2

a word about Summit Alum Jeff Myers

Dr. Jeff Myers is a published author, professor, leadership coach, speaker, debater, entrepreneur, and Chairman of the Board of Summit Ministries. He is also a loving husband to his wife, Danielle, and father to their four young children.

Dr. Myers credits much of who he is today to what he learned at Summit. "Summit has affected everything I've done. It gave me confidence to stand for my faith which translated into confidence as a leader. This moved me into positions of leadership and influence that affect my life every day."

Though he has been connected with Summit for over 25 years now, he was less than thrilled when he attended the summer program for the first time in 1983. Attending the Summit was a high school graduation gift from his father. Pulling up in front of the old hotel with his father, with no pristine lake, beautiful forest, or high ropes course, he admits to wondering, "What kind of camp is this anyway?"

However, he quickly changed his mind as he began to listen to the teaching of Dr. Noebel and the other speakers. He was challenged to engage his faith and the world around him intellectually. He was impressed that he was treated like an adult and expected to handle tough subjects.

Among his fondest memories is softball in the afternoons, devotions with Doc in the lobby in the evening, and the bumper sticker on the old bus that read, "If you don't like the way I drive, stay off the sidewalk."

Dr. Myers returned to the Summit to serve on summer staff, where he met his wife, Danielle. Shortly thereafter they were married at Summit in the classroom of the old hotel. They became full time staff members and worked with Summit Ministries from 1989 to 1995.

During that time, Dr. Myers earned his PhD at the University of Denver and oversaw the beginning of Summit East at Bryan College in 1995. He joined the teaching faculty of the college in 1997. He remains on the Bryan faculty,



teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in personal and organizational leadership.

In 2006, Dr. Myers founded Passing the Baton, a life-on-life mentoring and training organization equipping leadership coaches. Their goal is to equip one million leadership coaches by the year 2012. They are on track to reach that goal through a number of innovative training programs, including international work in Europe, Africa, South America, and Asia (see www.passingthebaton.org for more information).

In the midst of such a busy schedule, Dr. Myers still finds time to speak and work for Summit. He says he makes Summit a priority because "I want others to experience the same kind of life change that I experienced, and I think that training the next generation of leaders is the primary solution to America's problems."

Many thanks go to alumni and their parents who responded to Jeff Myers' recent letter. Your prayers, words of encouragement, and financial support during this economic crisis have made a big difference to Dr. Noebel and the rest of the staff. Over \$60,000 has been received from alumni and their parents over the last four weeks and continues to come in.

If you did not receive Jeff's letter but would like to send in a gift on behalf of someone you know whose life has been changed by Summit Ministries, please send a check in the enclosed envelope or call 719.685.9103 to make a contribution over the phone.

If you, a family member or friend is a Summit alum and did not get Jeff's letter, please let us know. You can use the reply device or call the above number to ensure you receive important alumni information in the future.

from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

a word from Dr. Noebel

As a reader of *The Journal*, you already know Summit's specialty is helping Christian teens understand the world (that they will inherit from us) in light of a biblical worldview.

As many of you also know, our high school textbook *Understanding the Times* is an in-depth study of today's major worldviews from the perspective of ten major disciplines or subject areas. One of the six worldviews covered is Secular Humanism, and one of the disciplines is economics. We identify a key word guiding the economic system of the Secular Humanist worldview as "interventionism." We define interventionism as "the belief that the state [government] has a responsibility to manage and direct some aspects of the economy in order to uphold certain moral values... in the form of a redistribution of the wealth" (p. 370).

Interventionism is the doorway to socialism—in which the central government elite essentially runs every aspect of the economic system—education, health care, housing, food, finances, media, business, etc. Socialism, by its very nature, leads to a variety of leftwing government structures and BIG government.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that this is exactly what we're seeing the U.S. government attempting to do—intervene in every way, shape, and form in the economic structure of our nation's economy.

It becomes even more important in this climate that Christian young people know and understand the difference between a Secular Humanist economic mindset and a Biblical Christian economic mindset. The book of Proverbs (just for starters) provides a clear picture of what a Biblical Christian economic mindset entails—honest work, honest money, private property, saving for the future, charitable giving to those in need, etc.

Unfortunately, some Christians are being misled by "evangelical" leftists, who somehow maintain that socialism provides the right answer for helping the poor and establishing "social justice."

Nothing could be further from the truth! I encourage you to visit Summit's website (summit.org) and read two of my latest blog entries on this topic: "The Socialization of America" and "Barak Obama's Red Spiritual Advisor." Both are too lengthy to include in *The Journal*, but if you don't have access to our website and would like a copy of one or both articles, please let us know on the reply device and we'll mail them to you.

Christian teens (and adults, too!) need to know that John Maynard Keynes was a member of the British Fabian Society—a socialist organization that today reaches right into our very own U.S. House of Representatives. They need to know what Keynes is all about, including his attitudes toward the family, savings, gold, free enterprise, etc.

Be assured Summit will address this important topic with our students in this summer's two-week conferences.

If you know Christian teens, please let them know that Summit's Student Worldview Conferences will go a long way in helping them understand the worldviews that will undoubtedly attempt to weaken their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Let me share parts of a letter I just received from a grateful father:

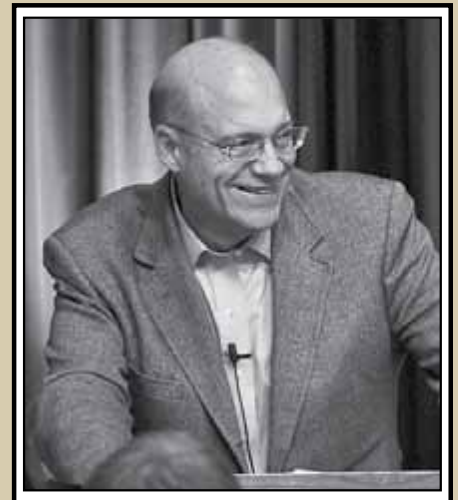
About 18 years ago we first heard about Summit Ministries on the James Dobson radio show. My wife and I and our son attended an eye-opening two-week session with you. We have always regretted not finding out about the ministry before our three daughters went off to college. But God has been so good to our family because His truth is secure in our four kids, their spouses, and our twelve young grandchildren. Our oldest grandson is starting at the University of Illinois this fall.

My wife and I kept preaching the viewpoint of Summit to make sure our children understood and were able to defend the Christian worldview and were prepared for the liberal indoctrination they faced at the university. In fact, last week our son asked a prominent citizen in our community what his son was studying at a very respectable, liberal private school. He answered, "He's studying to be a communist."

We are writing to thank you for your commitment to educating our children and to tell you how encouraged we are in your efforts to make your curriculum available more broadly. Our grandchildren know they each have a scholarship from us to attend a summer session at Summit... God bless you and your family and Summit Ministries.

—Dr. and Mrs. D.R.M.

Please pray with us as we prepare for our 2-week conferences in Colorado, Tennessee, and Virginia that will begin in mid May. Pray that the students who will be attending this summer will learn just the right information to keep them from being misled by all the foolishness they'll face in the days ahead from every direction.



“Dear Dr. Noebel and Summit Faculty, thank you for your enduring impact on our family as three of our six (so far) have attended your powerful two week session in Colorado. They all consider Summit the “peak” of life preparation experiences. One of our sons began analyzing the worldviews of the producers of various hit movies and television shows within 24 hours of his return home (programs that he USED TO enjoy and endorse). Our daughter used her training to help equip her high school church friends and to engage faculty and fellow students in college. She regrets the sparse Christian maturity among believers her age, remembering Summit as one place not suffering such a spiritual drought. Thank you from a grateful Mom who wishes we could inspire more families to lend you their young people!”

—A Grateful Mom, January 14, 2009

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

✠ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

—Romans 1:18–23

Man is now a horror to God and to himself and a creature ill-adapted to the universe not because God made him so but because he has made himself so by the abuse of his free will.

—C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

Evil comes from the abuse of free will.

—C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

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

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

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom; But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

—Stuart Townend

Less than one percent of the youngest adult generation in America has a biblical worldview, found a new study examining the changes in worldview among Christians and the overall U.S. population.

The Mosaic generation, those between the ages of 18 and 23, “rarely” have a biblical worldview as defined by the Barna Group. The research data found that less than one-half of one percent of Mosaiques have a biblical worldview.

A biblical worldview, as defined by the Barna study, is believing that absolute moral truth exists; the Bible is completely accurate in all of the principles it teaches; Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic; a person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works; Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; and God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.

Only if someone held all the above beliefs did the research consider the person as having a biblical worldview.

George Barna, who directed the research, commented on the “troubling” generational pattern that suggests “parents are not focused on guiding their children to have a biblical worldview.”

“One of the challenges for parents, though, is that you cannot give what you do not have, and most parents do not possess such a perspective on life,” he noted.

The research shows that only nine percent of all American adults have a biblical worldview, which although significantly higher than that of the Mosaic generation is still a small proportion of the total population.

Among “born again Christians,” the study found that they are twice as likely as the average adult to have a biblical worldview. However, that still amounted to no more than about one out of five (19 percent) born again Christians, a small minority, the study pointed out.

A born again Christian is defined by Barna as those who

A LOOK AT OUR WORLD

highlights from around the globe


said they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is important in their life today and that they are sure they will go to Heaven after they die only because they confessed their sins and accepted Christ as their savior.

Some of the problems American adults and born again Christians have with the biblical worldview definition include believing that moral truth is absolute and unaffected by the circumstances.

Only one third of all adults (34 percent) hold this worldview, and while more born again adults believe in absolute moral truth, still less than the majority possess this outlook (46 percent).

—Christianpost.com, Mar. 12, 2009

SECULARISM

 Secularism seems to be on the march in America. This week, a new study from the Program on Public Values at Trinity College found that the number of Americans claiming no religion now stands at 15%, up from 8% in 1990 and 2% in 1962.

The secular tide appears to be running strongest among young Americans. Religious attendance among those 21 to 45 years old is at its lowest level in decades, according to Princeton sociologist Robert Wuthnow. Only 25% of young adults now attend services regularly, compared with about one-third in the early 1970s.

The most powerful force driving religious participation down is the nation's recent retreat from marriage, Mr. Wuthnow notes. Nothing brings women and especially men into the pews like marriage and parenthood, as they seek out the religious, moral and social support provided by a congregation upon starting a family of their own. But because growing numbers of young adults are now postponing or avoiding marriage and childbearing, they are also much less likely to end up in church on any given Sunday. Mr. Wuthnow estimates that America's houses of worship would have about six million more regularly attending young adults if today's young men and women started families at the rate they did three decades ago.

Now, President Barack Obama seems poised to give secularism in America another boost, however inadvertently. This may come as a surprise to some, given Mr. Obama's outreach to religious voters last fall, his strong showing among them in the election and his eagerness to cultivate the faithful since. The White House has even been opening many of Mr. Obama's public appearances with a prayer, sometimes surpassing presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton in displays of public piety.


Nevertheless, the president's audacious plans for the expansion of the government—from the stimulus to health-care reform to a larger role in education—are likely to spell trouble for the vitality of American religion. His \$3.6 trillion budget for fiscal 2010 would bring federal, state and local

spending to about 40% of the gross domestic product—within hailing distance of Europe, where state spending runs about 46% of GDP. The European experience suggests that the growth of the welfare state goes hand in hand with declines in personal religiosity.

A recent study of 33 countries by Anthony Gill and Erik Lundsgaarde found an inverse relationship between religious observance and welfare spending. Countries with larger welfare states, such as Sweden, Norway and Denmark, had markedly lower levels of religious attendance, affiliation and trust in God than countries with a history of limited government, such as the U.S., the Philippines and Brazil. Public spending amounts to more than one half of the GDP in Sweden, where only 4% of the population regularly attends church. By contrast, public spending amounts to 18% of the Philippines' GDP, and 68% of Filipinos regularly attend church.

—W. Bradford Wilcox, *The Wall Street Journal*, Mar. 13, 2009

POLITICS

 This year, according to the Heritage Foundation, the federal government will spend \$25,117 per household. The excuse one hears most often is that there is no place legislators can cut spending.

Really?

Last year, says Heritage, the government made at least \$55 billion in overpayments; the Pentagon spent almost \$1 million shipping two 19-cent washers from South Carolina to Texas and \$293,451 sending an 89-cent washer from South Carolina to Florida. Even the coming postal rate increases aren't that high.

Washington spends \$60 billion per year on corporate welfare compared to \$50 billion on homeland security. Suburban families are receiving large farm subsidies for the grass in their back yards, subsidies that many of these families never requested and do not want. More than half of all farm subsidies go to corporate farms with average household incomes of \$200,000.

And then there is my personal favorite: government auditors spent the last five years examining all federal programs and found that 22 percent of them—costing taxpayers \$123 billion per year—fail to show any positive impact on the populations they serve.

This is outrageous. That our elected officials participate in this sham and then claim they can't afford to cut anything ought to disgust us all, especially when some are planning to spend even more. It demonstrates that a government program is proof of eternal life in Washington.

—Cal Thomas, *The Washington Times*, Mar. 21, 2008, p. A19



A LOOK AT OUR WORLD

highlights from around the globe

And now we have Barack Obama, who is constantly compared to both Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt, and who relentlessly invokes Lincoln's "investment" in railroads and FDR's New Deal as precedents for his ambitious agenda. We certainly haven't had a president more rhetorically antagonistic to corporate power since FDR. But just because Obama talks dirty to big business doesn't mean he dislikes it. For starters, the supposedly anti-corporate community organizer has been working tirelessly to save the auto industry. His debt to big labor is obviously a major factor, but it sure does seem that while Democrats have problems with successful corporations, they will do anything to save dying ones.

Or take his energy plan, which is meant to liberate the American people from the stranglehold of something or other. Timothy Carney, author of the indispensable book *The Big Ripoff*, recently recounted the ways in which Obama's cap-and-trade plan will enrich General Electric. "Reviewing their lobbying filings, you might think you were looking at Al Gore's agenda," Carney writes in the *DC Examiner*. GE spent nearly \$20 billion on lobbying in 2008 on such action items as the "Climate Stewardship Act," "Electric Utility Cap and Trade Act," and the "Global Warming Reduction Act." Why? Because GE has set up a business to sell carbon credits.

There's only one possible hitch: They might as well have set up a pixie-dust commodity exchange if Obama doesn't suddenly start charging Americans for their CO₂. So it's worth remembering that in 2007 GE's subsidiary NBC devoted more than 150 hours of programming to "Green Week," in which every program in its line-up from *Sunday Night Football* to *The Biggest Loser* (no, not the taxpayer, the weight-loss reality show), incorporated anti-climate-change messages into its scripts. On *Days of Our Lives* a couple had a lovely green wedding. GE wasn't being leftwing, mind you; it was merely being a "good corporate citizen." One shudders to think what the Left would say if Fox dedicated 150 hours to pro-life messages in its programming.

—Jonah Goldberg, *National Review*, April 6, 2009, p. 33



ECONOMICS

\$ The idea that even the brightest person or group of bright people, much less the U.S. Congress, can wisely manage an economy has to be the height of arrogance and conceit. Why? It is impossible for anyone to process the knowledge that would be necessary for such an undertaking. At the risk of boring you, let's go through a small example that proves such knowledge is impossible.

Imagine you are trying to understand a system consisting of six elements. That means there would be 30, or $n(n-1)$, possible relationships between these elements. Now

suppose each element can be characterized by being either on or off. That means the number of possible relationships among those elements grows to the number 2 raised to the 30th power; that's well over a billion possible relationships among those six elements.

Our economic system consists of billions of different elements that include members of our population, businesses, schools, parcels of land and homes. A list of possible relationships defies imagination and even more so if we include international relationships. Miraculously, there is a tendency for all these relationships to operate smoothly without congressional meddling. Let's think about it.

The average well-stocked supermarket carries over 60,000 different items. Because those items are so routinely available to us, the fact that it is a near miracle goes unnoticed and unappreciated. Take just one of those items—canned tuna. Pretend that Congress appoints you tuna czar; that's not totally out of the picture in light of the fact that Congress has recently proposed a car czar for our auto industry. My question to you as tuna czar is: Can you identify and tell us how to organize all of the inputs necessary to get tuna out of the sea and into a supermarket? The most obvious inputs are fishermen, ships, nets, canning factories and trucks. But how do you organize the inputs necessary to build a ship, to provide the fuel, and what about the compass? The trucks need tires, seats and windshields. It is not a stretch of the imagination to suggest that millions of inputs and people cooperate with one another to get canned tuna to your supermarket.

But what is the driving force that explains how millions of people manage to cooperate to get 60,000 different items to your supermarket? Most of them don't give a hoot about you and me, some of them might hate Americans, but they serve us well and they do so voluntarily. The bottom line motivation for the cooperation is people are in it for themselves; they want more profits, wages, interest and rent, or to use today's silly talk—people are greedy.

Adam Smith, the father of economics, captured the essence of this wonderful human cooperation when he said, "He (the businessman) generally, indeed, neither intends to promote the public interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it.... He intends only his own security; and by directing that industry in such a manner as its produce may be of the greatest value, he intends only his own gain." Adam Smith continues, "He is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention.... By pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it." And later he adds, "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest."

If you have doubts about Adam Smith's prediction, ask yourself which area of our lives are we the most satisfied

A LOOK AT OUR WORLD

highlights from around the globe

and those with most complaints. Would they be profit-motivated arenas such as supermarkets, video or clothing stores, or be nonprofit-motivated, government-operated arenas such as public schools, postal delivery or motor vehicle registration? By the way, how many of you would be in favor of Congress running our supermarkets?

—Walter Williams, *The Washington Times*, Feb. 22, 2209, p. B5



Among the most important lessons that can be learned from Zimbabwe's economic and social crisis is that too much government will destroy both prosperity and freedom.

Zimbabwe is an example of an unrestrained socialist economy gone completely out of control. But socialism comes in many forms; some move quickly—communism can be described as “socialism in a hurry”—and others at a slower pace. But socialism invariably leads to the growth of government, which must be financed by higher taxes, borrowing, and/or inflation of the nation's currency. Generally, because to rely on one of these methods produces too much resistance from the population, the government employs all three methods.

However, for a government to inflate a nation's money supply, it must divorce the nation's money from fixed assets, such as gold, and turn to fiat paper currency. This requires a central bank, such as Zimbabwe's RBZ, the Reichsbank (the central bank of Germany from 1876 until 1945), or our own Federal Reserve System. So essential is this feature to the socialization of a nation that the fifth plank of the *Communist Manifesto* called for the “centralization of credit in the hands of the state, by means of a national bank with state capital and an exclusive monopoly.”

Zimbabwe's hyperinflation was an extreme case that we may never see in the United States, but even the relatively more restrained inflation of the German Weimar Republic in the 1920s was bad enough to devastate the economy and set the stage for the rise of Adolf Hitler.

In today's troubled economic times, Americans can follow the example of Germany or Zimbabwe and spend trillions of dollars to “stimulate” the economy, keeping the printing presses running day and night to pay the bills. Over time, the result will be hyperinflation and a ruined economy.

Or Americans can return to fiscal sanity, balance the budget, abolish the Federal Reserve, restore sound currency, and return to the prosperous economy and free political system our nation enjoyed during much of the 19th century.

The choice should be clear. But those who are undecided might consider Zimbabwe for their next vacation.

—*The New American*, Mar. 30, 2009 p. 17



We have a national ponzi scheme where Congress collects about \$785 billion in Social Security taxes from about 163 million workers to send out \$585 billion to 50 million Social Security recipients. Social Security's trustees tell us the surplus goes into a \$2.2 trillion trust fund to meet future obligations. The problem is whatever difference between Social Security taxes and benefits paid out is spent by Congress. What the Treasury Department does is give the Social Security Trust Fund nonmarketable “special issue government securities” that are simply bookkeeping entries or IOUs.

According to Social Security trustee estimates, around 2016 the amount of Social Security benefits paid will exceed taxes collected. That means one of two things, or both, must happen: Congress will raise taxes and/or slash promised Social Security benefits. Each year the situation will worsen since the number of retirees is predicted to increase relative to the number in the work force paying taxes. In 1940, there were 42 workers per retiree, in 1950 there were 16, today there are 3 and in 20 or 30 years there will be 2 or fewer workers per retiree.

Social Security is unsustainable because it is not meeting the first order condition of a Ponzi scheme, namely expanding the pool of suckers. Social Security has been one congressional lie after another since its inception. Here's what a 1936 Social Security pamphlet said: “After the first 3 years—that is to say, beginning in 1940 – you will pay, and your employer will pay, 1.5 cents for each dollar you earn, up to \$3,000 a year. ... beginning in 1943, you will pay 2 cents, and so will your employer, for every dollar you earn for the next 3 years. ... And finally, beginning in 1949, twelve years from now, you and your employer will each pay 3 cents on each dollar you earn, up to \$3,000 a year. That is the most you will ever pay.” The pamphlet also said, “Beginning November 24, 1936, the United States government will set up a Social Security account for you. ... The checks will come to you as a right.”

That's another lie. In *Flemming v. Nestor* (1960), the U.S. Supreme Court held that you have no “accrued property rights” to a Social Security check. That means Congress can do anything it wishes with Social Security. There is little or nothing that can be done to prevent the economic and political chaos that will result from the collapse of Social Security.

Today's recipients of Social Security, along with their powerful AARP lobby, represent a powerful political force. Few politicians are willing to risk their careers alienating today's senior citizens for the benefit of Americans in 2040. After all, what do today's seniors and politicians care about a 2040 calamity? They will be dead by then.

—William E. Williams, *The Washington Times*, Feb. 4, 2009, p.

A18

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To register, visit our website or call us at 719.685.9103.



In a world of constant crises and change, Christians must be able to explain how God's word speaks to current ideas and issues. Come and be equipped to successfully engage the battle for hearts and minds at one of our Summit Ministries' Adult Conferences.

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