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OXFORD

“For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly.”

—Proverbs 2:6-7

SUMMIT OXFORD UPDATE:

a word from Summit's Oxford program

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Hilary Term began the first week of January and ran through mid-April. It started in the bitter cold and ended with sunshine and blooming flora and fauna. We had six lively students this term, capping off a wonderful first year at Summit Oxford.

It has been a great honor to work with our fellows. Each both dedicated and devout. Their diverse interests and strengths contributed to vigorous, enlightening, and encouraging discussions. Their tutorials ranged from ancient philosophy to postmodernism, from E.U. business culture to the nonfiction works of C.S. Lewis; from philosophy of science to military history.

As with students from our first term, our fellows achieved top marks from their tutors. Most received two offers of letters of reference from their tutors as well. This appears to be a tradition now, a bar set high for future students.

The Summit side of the program has been very successful. This term we began with only three days together before tutorials commenced. This led to relationship-building throughout the term. We concluded the term with nearly four weeks together at Lane House, focusing our attention on over 2000 pages of reading, sustained and challenging discussions, and a series of stimulating conference calls.

This term we read and discussed such books as *What's So Great about Christianity* by Dinesh D'Souza; *The Spirit of Churchill* by Deborah Brezina; *God's Undertaker* by John Lennox; *Tactics* by Greg Koukl; *Culture Matters* by T.M. Moore; *A Guide to Christian Ambition* by Hugh Hewitt; *Faith, Reason and the War against Jihadism* by George Weigel; as well as selections of writings by J.P. Moreland, Paul Copan, Francis Beckwith, C.S. Lewis, and many others. We also read the Qur'an in its entirety, wrote an exploratory essay on Islam, and had a two-hour conversation with Sheikh Ramzy from a prominent Oxford mosque.

We hear from most of our special speakers via conference calls—some being audio, others including video, thanks to a computer program called Skype. Most guests are authors whose works we have read, and most conversations last around 90 minutes. Conversations this term included: Deborah Brezina, Richard Abanes (*A New Earth, An Old Deception*), Nonie Darwish (*Cruel and Usual Punishment*), John Christy (former member of the IPCC), Steve Milloy (*Green Hell*), J.P. Moreland, Bruce Thornton (*Decline and Fall: Europe's Slow Motion Suicide*), Hugh Hewitt, Paul Copan

(*Loving Wisdom*), Jay Richards (*Money, Greed and God*), Greg Koukl, and George Weigel.

On April 17th we hosted Dr. Michael Ward, the author of

The Narnia Code. This was an event open to the public and broadcasted live online. Several friends from Eynsham (the village in which Lane House is located) attended. We had nineteen viewers online (ranging from Turkey to Scotland, England to New Hampshire, Colorado to California). This was our first broadcast. We plan to do more in the future.

Among the videos watched and discussed were *In the Face of Evil: Reagan's War in Word and Deed*, *Islam: What the West Needs to Know*, *Obsession: Radical Islam's War against the West*, *33 Minutes: Protecting America in the New Missile Age*, *Demographic Winter: The Decline of the Human Family*, *The Birth of Freedom*, *Atheism vs. Theism Debate* with Jay Richards and Christopher Hitchens.

In addition to our intensive studies, Kevin meets several times with each fellow to discuss plans, strategize about further education and future professions, and network with individuals who are mentors in various disciplines and professions.

"I believe it is an excellent program," notes Professor Robert Schuettinger (former fellow of Christ Church College; president of the Oxford Study Abroad Programme). "The very able students you have sent have benefited greatly." He further notes that Summit Oxford is "a program that has earned the respect of many."

It is not all head and heart; it is stomach as well! We enjoyed many meals together (some wondrously created by Kevin's wife, Angela), a myriad of informal conversations, and several evenings with the whole Bywater family, playing games, watching movies, and eating popcorn.

By the end of the term (15 weeks) abiding friendships and deep loyalties have taken root. Our prayer is that they will persist into the distant future as we encourage each other and combine our efforts as scholars for the sake of the church and our culture.

If you have partnered with us to pray or to help fund this ministry, please know that we are very grateful.

—Kevin Bywater, Director of Summit Oxford



Under the tutelage of Oxford University faculty and the guidance of the Summit Oxford Director, this program equips and encourages a new generation of Christian scholars to be salt and light in the academy and throughout the culture. If you know capable and committed university students who could profit from a term at Summit Oxford, 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*).

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from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

a word from Dr. Noebel

By the time you read this, we'll be well into this summer's two-week student leadership conferences here in Colorado. Most of our students are planning to attend college. In fact, ninety-five percent of our student conference attendees do go on to college.

I believe (and with good reasons) that no Christian teenager should set foot on any college or university campus in America before spending at least two weeks at the Summit. This is reason number one why you should consider lending us your son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter for two weeks this summer!

So let's talk about this for a few minutes. In the world of higher education only a few viewpoints are discussed in the classroom. Some of the most important ideas are never addressed—for example, the deadly relationship between the ideas of Charles Darwin and the ideas of Adolph Hitler or Joseph Stalin.

At most, college students are confronted with the ideas behind possibly six major worldviews—Secular Humanism, Marxism, New Age or Cosmic Humanism, Postmodernism, and Islam. Unfortunately, the sixth—biblical Christianity—rarely, if ever, makes it in the front door of the academy.

Christian parents are losing their children to these alternative worldviews primarily because their children are so ill-prepared to face the intellectual and cultural forces arrayed against their Christian faith. My question, then, is quite simple—why not prepare them to safely attend any institution of higher education by alerting them beforehand to the true lay of the academic landscape?

That's precisely the purpose of Summit's two-week student conferences. Over the past 47 years we have challenged thousands of Christian young people to stand fast in their Christian faith and given them the tools to do it so they don't ship wreck on the humanistic/Marxist/New Age/postmodern/Islamic rocks.

So, if you're looking for a two-week academic adventure that is not afraid to defend the Christian worldview and expose the alternative worldviews that are flush on campus and are responsible for our Christian youth walking away from the faith—put Summit in your plans.

Let me close by sharing a portion of a letter I recently received that touched me deeply.

Our daughter, Jennifer, attended Summit Ministries the summer of 1997. This was the summer following her freshman year at Texas A & M University. What she was exposed to and learned at the Summit greatly impacted her belief system and thus her life. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in August 2000 and then attended the University of Tennessee Law School. After graduating there in 2005, she and her husband and baby moved to Steamboat Springs, Colorado. On March 19, 2006, Jennifer went to be with the Lord after they were involved in a traffic accident on icy roads. Each year on her birthday, which is also in March, our family makes a donation to an organization or ministry that impacted her. This year we have chosen Summit Ministries and hope this small donation could benefit someone attending your ministry."

—Dr. and Mrs. T.V., Jr.

We will do our part to make sure more young people like Jennifer maintain their Christian faith and thrive in college and beyond!



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BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the hill beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors: "To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart. Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things; for my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them. They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate."

—Proverbs 8:1–13



The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.

—C.S. Lewis, *Selected Literary Essays*



Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unshaking and silent as light, Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might; Thy justice like mountains high soaring above Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small; In all life Thou livest, the true life of all; We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; All praise we would render: O help us to see 'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

—Walter C. Smith

ETHICS IN POLITICS

First it was President Obama trying to break all precedent and run the 2010 census from within the White House; while the administration finally backed down from that politicization of the census, it clearly hasn't learned its lesson. Now it is having ACORN officially "partner" with the Census to help count the number of Americans in the

country. It's like Santa trusting a child to tell him how many times he or she has been good in the past year.

We could write a book on the false voter registrations submitted by ACORN. There are bizarre stories, such as one from Cleveland, where ACORN employees reregistered the same individual 77 times, even though the individual kept on telling the ACORN workers that he was already registered. But ACORN's people kept offering to bribe him with cigarettes or money to get him to fill out another form. Similar examples from across the United States are too numerous to count.

King County (Seattle) election officials were forced to remove 1,762 voter registrations submitted by one group of ACORN employees. Five employees were sentenced to jail. *The Delaware County Times* noted that out of 2,000 fraudulent voter registration forms in that Pennsylvania county, nearly every single one was filed by ACORN. Chicago had 10,000 false registrations. Criminal indictments and convictions have been leveled in numerous states.

Last year alone, voter fraud investigations took place in 12 states: Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

ACORN admits (how could it not?) that it has made mistakes in accurately registering people to vote. Brian Kettenring with ACORN told the *Times* that most of these concerns—and linking them to the census—were "right wing fantasies." He pointed out that he guessed that "fewer than three dozen" ACORN employees have been convicted of fraud, "but that is only a guess." Kettenring also claims that many individuals who said they were paid to register numerous times had "lied."

Yet the systematic problems year after year and in state after state make it impossible to blame ACORN's problems on a few rogue employees. There is a much deeper problem here.

A news story earlier this week incorrectly reported that the Census would be paying ACORN workers to count people, but the voter registration problems have occurred even without any state secretaries of state paying ACORN. The concern is why the Census should be "partnering" with an organization that has so frequently bribed people to register voters.

—*The Washington Times*, March 20, 2009, p. A16



Under President Obama, it was expected that porn pushers might find a sympathetic ear, given the smut industry's generous support of liberal politicians and causes.

But the fox is no longer circling the henhouse. He's made it inside. On March 12, the "world's greatest deliberative body," the U.S. Senate, voted 65 to 28 to elevate porn attorney David Ogden to be deputy attorney general.

Eleven senators from the "Party of Family Values" (Lamar

Alexander, Kit Bond, Susan Collins, Lindsey Graham, Judd Gregg, Jon Kyl, Richard Lugar, presidential nominee John McCain, Olympia Snowe, Arlen Specter and George Voinovich) joined a nearly unanimous Democrat roster (minus Robert Casey of Pennsylvania) in deciding that a man who defended child pornography during the Clinton years, as well as hard-core porn producers, plus Playboy and Penthouse, is suited to be the No. 2 law enforcer in the nation.

The Senate also voted 70 to 20 to confirm Thomas Perelli as associate attorney general, the No. 3 Justice post. Mr. Perelli represented Michael Schiavo, who had remarried and had his brain-damaged ex-wife Terri Schiavo taken off life support against the wishes of her parents and brother.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, Vermont Democrat, who spoke on his behalf, said Mr. Ogden's legal work on behalf of the smut industry was just a "sliver" of his record and in any case did not reflect his "Personal" views or values. Would lawyers working for corporate polluters or pro-life groups get that kind of pass?

Mr. Ogden's elevation marks a major victory for pornographers, the abortion industry, and the homosexual movement, among others. It's hard to imagine a more radical nominee in terms of legal social engineering.

—Robert Knight, *The Washington Times*, Mar. 18, 2009, p.A19

ETHICS IN ECONOMICS

The bilked have provided numerous sound bites denouncing Bernie Madoff as "evil," a word whose true meaning is sometimes difficult to grasp in our "nonjudgmental" age.

The definition of evil can be imprecise. Dictionary.com makes a run at it: "morally wrong or bad." According to whom and according to what? Is evil something we see only in others when we define it according to our subjective standards, or is it so embedded in each of us that we work overtime to hide it, not only from ourselves, but from everyone else?

Here is the dirty secret about the Madoff tragedy. Bernard Madoff is us.

Yes, he is. Do not throw down your newspaper in disgust. We are all potential members of "Swindler's List." Do you know why our gut reaction is so strong and so hostile to Bernard Madoff ("I hope he rots in jail," said one of his victims)? It is because he mirrors the flaw in each of us. We instinctively react to such people because they strip away our façade and reveal what theologians used to call "sin," before we became "dysfunctional" and in need of medication, not salvation. In extreme circumstances, we have crucified people who exposed our darkness to the light.

"It takes two to tango," my mother used to say when someone's affair was exposed. Madoff could not have prospered without willing participants. People who otherwise exhibited intelligence in their business and personal affairs were seduced by the old get-rich-quick

scheme that has suckered humanity for millennia.

Everyone knows, don't they, that a guaranteed return on such investments is impossible? Everyone knows, don't they, that financial reports, with no audits or oversight, and coming from the one with whom you have invested is a prescription for fraud? And yet the partners in this "tango" were all too happy to dance because their leading man held them tightly and played music they loved to hear. But Madoff's crimes cut doubly deep because he robbed his own.

"No one since Julius Rosenberg has so damaged the image and self-respect of American Jews," said Mort Zuckerman, who runs a charitable trust that lost \$30 million to Madoff.

"It really is a shame we Jews don't believe in hell," writes Rob Eshman, *The Jewish Journal*. "What kind of world is it where Jews can't trust fellow Jews? . . . There's a name for that kind of world—hell."

"I'd like to believe someone raised in our community, imbued with Jewish values, would be better than this," said Rabbi David Wolpe of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles.

So would I, but greed is greed, immorality is immorality, and evil is evil.

—Cal Thomas, *The Washington Times*, Mar. 18, 2009, p.A19

SOCIALISM

Barack Obama is not a socialist, explained Eric Etheredge of *The New York Times*. He is a "social democrat." The administration's attempt to control private companies and the free market should not alarm us, according to Etheredge and other pundits. European nations do this all the time. It is simply an application of the European political and economic theory known as "social democracy."

If social democracy is America's new governmental principle, we should know a little about it. To avoid biased spins and inflammatory rhetoric, let us consult basic, objective sources such as dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Here is the definition of "social democracy" from Merriam-Webster's online dictionary: "1: a political movement advocating a gradual and peaceful transition from capitalism to socialism by democratic means 2: a democratic welfare state that incorporates both capitalist and socialist practices."

So this political and economic system either moves from capitalism to socialism or incorporates both capitalism and socialism at the same time, so as to form a welfare state.

We need to know more. Here is the first paragraph of the entry for "social democracy" in *The Encyclopedia Britannica*: "A political ideology that advocates a peaceful, evolutionary transition of society from capitalism to socialism using established political processes. Based on 19th-century socialism and the tenets of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, social democracy shares common ideological roots with communism but eschews its militancy and totalitarianism. Social democracy was originally known as revisionism because it represented a change in basic

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Marxist doctrine, primarily in the former's repudiation of the use of revolution to establish a socialist society."

The article goes on to chronicle the development of this theory, which was crystallized by the German Marxist Eduard Bernstein in an 1899 essay titled "Evolutionary Socialism." He noted that the horrible conditions for workers that characterized the early stages of the industrial revolution had, in fact, improved greatly. "Whereas Marx had declared that the subjugation of the working class would inevitably culminate in socialist revolution," says the article, "Bernstein argued that success for socialism depended not on the continued and intensifying misery of the working class but rather on eliminating that misery. He further noted that social conditions were improving and that with universal suffrage the working class could establish socialism by electing socialist representatives."

After World War II, social democratic political parties arose throughout Europe, including Great Britain's Labour Party, often forming governments in Germany and becoming dominant in Scandinavia. "In addition to abandoning violence and revolution as tools of social change," continues the encyclopedia, "social democracy took a stand in opposition to totalitarianism. The Marxist view of democracy as a 'bourgeois' façade for class rule was abandoned, and democracy was proclaimed essential for socialist ideals. Increasingly, social democracy adopted the goal of state regulation, but not state ownership, of business and industry as sufficient to further economic growth and equitable income."

So "social democracy" is a variety of Marxism that rejects revolution in favor of democracy and that preserves certain elements of capitalism, though under strict state control.

Social democrats are not communists, but their Marxism is evident in their belief in class struggle. Thus the vilification of "the rich" over against "working Americans." Also Marxist is the project of redistributing wealth, the use of state power to seize control of private property, and the overarching secularism that rejects the past in favor of a materialistic progress.

When Americans cast their votes for Barack Obama and a Democratic Congress, did they also intend their country to adopt this kinder and gentler form of Marxism?

If we are going to change our entire economic system and our entire philosophy of government, shouldn't we at least think this through? This would surely be a good topic for a congressional hearing. If we are going to throw out the traditional American model of a limited government in favor of a social democracy, we should hold a constitutional convention to come up with a different founding document.

Instead, we are embracing social democracy without questioning the Marxist worldview and without even realizing what we are doing.

—Gene Edward Veith, *World*, May 9, 2009

President Obama showed his hand this week when *The New York Times* wrote that he is considering converting the stock the government owns in our country's banks from preferred stock, which it now holds, to common stock.

This seemingly insignificant change is momentous. It means that the federal government will control all of the major banks and financial institutions in the nation. It means socialism.

The *Times* dutifully dressed up the Obama plan as a way to avoid asking Congress for more money for failing banks. But the implications of the proposal are obvious to anyone who cares to look.

When the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) intervention was first outlined by the Bush administration, it did not call for any transfer of stock, of any sort, to the government. The Democrats demanded, as a price for their support, that the taxpayers "get something back" for the money they were lending to the banks. House Republicans, wise to what was going on, rejected the administration's proposal and sought, instead, to provide insurance to banks, rather than outright cash. Their plan would, of course, not involve any transfer of stock. But Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) undercut his own party's conservatives and went along with the Democratic plan, ensuring its passage.

But to avoid the issue of a potential for government control of the banks, everybody agreed that the stock the feds would take back in return for their money would be preferred stock, not common stock. "Preferred" means that these stockholders get the first crack at dividends, but only common stockholders can actually vote on company management or policy. Now, by changing this fundamental element of the TARP plan, Obama will give Washington a voting majority among the common stockholders of these banks and other financial institutions. The almost 500 companies receiving TARP money will be, in effect, run by Washington.

And whoever controls the banks controls the credit and, therefore, the economy. That's called socialism.

—Dick Morris, *The Hill*, April 21, 2009

The markets are speaking loud and clear, signaling a palpable fear that we are at a tipping point: that the capitalist system that has served us so well is threatened by creeping socialism and the road to serfdom.

Socializing failure and expanding government intrusion into the private sector is harmful because of the political effect, which distorts efficient and rational pricing and thwarts efficient allocation of resources and industry reorganization. The primary reason for Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's failure was politicization and socialization, which created a false sense of security, abrogated market

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signals, and prevented the rational calculation and pricing of risk. The political and economic bailout of the U.S. auto industry is delaying and interfering with reorganization that market forces would bring about sooner.

The political effect of government ownership of banks and insurance companies that has visibly interfered with management and resulted in capping compensation will surely drive talent out of those institutions, thereby undermining their ability to recover. Thus, the present course of government action increases the likelihood of failure—threatening to further cripple established institutions, waste scarce taxpayer resources, and irresponsibly burden future generations not only with yet more debt, but also with the double stealth tax of inflation and bracket creep.

We do not have the luxury of experimentation when the stakes are so high and the record of government solutions and stewardship is so thin. Perhaps all that is required at this hour is to remember that government can create nothing without first having taken it from the people. It is time for everyone who has children, grandchildren, a 401(k), savings or other property to rise up and just say “No. Go no further down this road to serfdom.”

—Scott S. Powell, *The Washington Times*,
Mar. 26, 2009, p.A 17

ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Lord Christopher Monckton, former adviser to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, has set himself apart as one of the few voices in Europe disagreeing with the need for climate-change policy. He insists, in fact, that climate-change policies, like President Obama’s proposed cap-and-trade system, deeply hurt economies.

Cap-and-trade, a system used in Europe, requires businesses to pay for carbon emissions over a certain predetermined level. Utility companies and coal industries would incur significant new costs, inevitably passing on higher energy costs to their customers, but proponents of the system say those higher costs will drive companies to more emissions-conscious innovations. Critics say it penalizes industrial parts of the United States—especially the Midwest—and raises basic costs of living at a time when wallets are already pinched.

Monckton came to testify before a committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, urging lawmakers to avoid climate-change legislation of any kind, which he said was a costly mistake for Europe. After his testimony, which caused eye-rolling among some Democrats, he spoke to WORLD.

WORLD: What’s the problem here?

MONCKTON: The private sector is imploding under the waste and cost of regulatory intrusiveness of government. Climate change, if you believe in it, on any view is not going to cause economic recovery. If it’s all true, then it’s going to be terrible and we’re going to get storms and plagues of locusts and boils and pustules and all the other

10 plagues of Egypt.

There is a sort of apocalypticism on the left in politics worldwide at the moment, where they like to say, like some sort of itinerant preacher of old, oh it’s all going to be terrible, fire and brimstone raining down upon you. Um, it isn’t.

WORLD: But the administration has said it’s going to do something about climate change?

MONCKTON: If you are worried about carbon emissions, then the one thing you do not do is cap-and-trade in the United States—thereby transferring jobs and industries to China, where the carbon emissions per unit of production are sometimes three or four or even five times higher than they are here. You want to keep as many jobs as possible in this country, where methods of production, methods of energy generation are so much more efficient than they are in say China or India.

WORLD: You’ve seen that happen in Europe?

MONCKTON: We’ve seen factories shipping out—one major steel company shipped out from Europe and came to Ohio because of cap-and-trade in Europe. Even a relatively small premium on the electricity price is enough to drive them overseas. So yes, your industries will one by one drain away if you go for cap-and-trade.

It’s a way of trying to persuade the people to endure a substantial extra taxation. You lose not just some jobs, you lose a catastrophic number of jobs.

WORLD: What’s a good alternative?

MONCKTON: Nuclear energy is inherently the safest form of electricity generation that has yet been devised by man, and that’s an objective calculation—you can just look at how many people it’s killed over the years, per kilowatt hour generated. If you want to have an economy in which we have lights on, you’re going to need nuclear.

—Emily Belz, *World*, April 25, 2009, p. 35

Hi. Thanks for this lovely message. About 4 or 5 years back, one of the members of your organization gave me a book called *Mind Siege* by Tim LaHaye and David Noebel.

At that time I was in grade 10. I read it and became really equipped to deal with the challenges I now face at university. I have seen many young Christians fall after coming to university into non believers in Jesus. I would really like to thank you for that book. It really touched my heart and your ministry has also guided me in many ways. I am studying law now and I can clearly see what is missing. Keep up the good work and be blessed always.

—Kamen D., South Africa

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