

# •the journal



November 2010

Volume 10 Issue #11



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\* Christianity, Economics, Marriage, and Marxism

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“The eyes of the LORD are in every place,  
Keeping watch on the evil and the good.”—Proverbs 15:3 (NKJV)

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*a word from Dr. Noebel*

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## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Please read the following comments from former Summit students and their parents and then determine to influence Christian teens with some leadership potential to attend one of our Summit two week programs next summer.

Our son, David, attended Summit Session 3 this June and came back a changed young man. Enclosed please find one of two essays he wrote, as part of his application to Wheaton College, of which you are the subject. My husband and I attended his graduation and enjoyed your address very much. We can see how our son was enthralled with your informative talks, and how you impacted him like you did. We are very grateful for you and your wonderful ministry that prepares young people for kingdom work.

—Rachel A. H., Ransom Canyon

My school superintendent suggested I attend the Summit Ministries Student Conference in Manitou Springs, Colorado, the summer before my senior year. He said I would find it helpful as I considered colleges. I took his suggestion and enrolled. I arrived at Summit in mid-June along with 200 other eager teenage students from around the country. It was obvious from the beginning that we would learn a great deal about ourselves and the Christian worldview in a brief two weeks. The outstanding speakers challenged us to think, to apply, and to read. Yes, to read! The Summit library, a small area in the foyer of the lecture hall, was filled with books, some written by our great speakers. The library was always open and inviting, especially because of the one dollar Starbucks Frappuccinos sold inside. I purchased a few books, like everyone else, to read during the early morning hour before and after breakfast prior to the first lecture each day. I welcomed this time in the serene atmosphere of the picturesque, quiet mountain range and crisp, clean mountain air. As I relaxed in a corner of the expansive porch of our hotel with my book, my cup of coffee, and the loveliness of the early morning, something inside of me began to change. Reading and I began to click! By the end of the two-week conference I had finished one book and half of another. I surprised myself! At graduation, Dr. David Noebel, founder of Summit Ministries and the most illumined speaker we had the privilege of hearing challenged us graduates to read one good book a week. His quote, "Leaders are readers—of good books," was the sentence that changed my life. I took the challenge.

Upon my return from Summit, I began to read up to four hours a day. I was enjoying myself; and, surprisingly, I still had plenty of time for my friends and family, my track activities, my music, and my summer job! I had believed for

so long that I would have to sacrifice something I loved to invest time in reading. The truth is, I have become more relaxed and mentally sharper than I've ever been in my life due to reading good books! I believe reading has even accelerated my maturity. I had to pass along Dr. Noebel's challenge, so I created a Facebook Group called "Dr. David Noebel's 'One Good Book a Week'", and it now has 51 members and counting.

—D. H., Wheaton College



I wanted you and your staff to know the kind of folks Summit Ministries appeals to, and has ministered to, and strengthened morally, spiritually, and intellectually.

Your latest "Our look at our World highlight" reminded me of our kids—5 of them if we can count my youngest son's girlfriend—who all attended Summit. We are one of those uniquely "graced" families which heaven has poured its blessings on for reasons known only above. Please

permit me to mention a few of the blessings which continually humble our hearts.

In the past year, my youngest son's girlfriend went to Summit, Colorado. My youngest son has been to Summit there as well as our oldest son.

Our two girls went to Bryan College for the Seminar which is our (my wife and my own) Alma mater (poor English, I know!)

My oldest son just returned from his 3rd war tour where he commanded a Stryker (Inf) Company in Baghdad. (I also returned from there last year and saw him shortly before I left). He now goes to WDC for another command.

Our youngest son, Ben, attends USAFA, Colorado, Springs, for his second year. Once again, I think Summit has been an important part of his "formation".

My youngest girl is in her second year as a Vet student and she has witnessed God's grace opening up seemingly impossible circumstances to attend school.

My oldest girl, God-willing, will graduate from her doctoral course at O.S.U. in the spring, and has been honored to teach the course The Bible as Literature there.

We know where our blessings come from, and are acutely aware they are not from any earthly source.

I won't take any more of your time presently, but thanks for your ministry.

—M. Peterson, Chaplain, US Army

It's hard to believe it has been 21 years since I attended The Summit in the summer of 1989. Who knew after listening to Don McAlvany talk about the communist manifesto that we'd see the Berlin Wall fall only five months later? Talks of increasing liberalism in the press and the attack on Christianity met me at the newsstand on my departure from Colorado Springs Airport with the

*continued p. 3*



# A LOOK AT OUR WORLD

highlights from around the globe

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cover of *Time* depicting a crucifix of Christ in a beaker of urine. As I look back at what happened during that year, it seems like another world has been emplaced since then.

When I arrived at camp I was a youngster, 15 years old, with my parents having just divorced after 22 years of marriage. I came to camp with a love of science and history and a heart gripped by Christ. I found many friends whom I would communicate with for the next several years, though I wonder now why I didn't keep in touch after another ten years. I would begin my junior year of high school the following fall not knowing that those next two years would carry me down what seemed like an alternate life to the one I thought I should have been living.

Revisiting my life while flying here over the desert of Iraq, I began with vivid memory to recount the things that have made me the man I have become. I have always revered that one of the greatest milestones in my Christian walk has been attending The Summit that summer. And like the leper healed by Christ who returned to Him to give thanks, I now return to you in this letter to say thank you for your obedience to Christ. Thank you for providing me and countless others a forum where our hearts and minds could be opened to the heart and mind of Christ; to learn that our minds are at enmity against God, and that armed with His knowledge, we could defeat the fiery darts that seek to destroy our faith in Him.

Dr. Noebel, not a single day has gone by since I left The Summit in which I have not used something I learned there, either to teach someone else, or combat a lie I was being taught. I still have all my notes and handouts. If the need for The Summit was great in 1989, how much more so now! The information I was taught there helped me to receive a B.S. in Biology without having my faith wrecked by evolution. My g.p.a. reflects I didn't tow the party line, but that didn't matter to me. More importantly, I was armed with the knowledge to see right through every world view that was trying desperately hard to be crammed down my throat. It was amusing to sit in class, and even now watching the evening news, and see and hear these views so ridiculously stated.

Please pass on to your staff and new lecturers my personal thanks for what they do and have done. I doubt this side of heaven they may ever grasp the impact they have had on men's and women's lives while teaching at The Summit. May they continue to teach and preach with great conviction and authority. I sincerely pray that the anointing of Christ and the manifestation of the presence of God would continually be found in the meeting places of The Summit; and that Scripture would be fulfilled, that as you lift up Christ there, men and women would be drawn to Him.

—Blessings in Christ. Semper Fidelis, Mike McC.

If these letters don't convince you of the importance of filling each session next year (8 in Colorado, 1 in Tennessee, 1 in Wisconsin), nothing I say will help!

## CHRISTIANITY

† A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent. In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble. The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness. Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die. Hell and Destruction are before the LORD; so how much more the hearts of the sons of men. A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise. A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

—Proverbs 15:1–13 (NKJV)

It was not for societies or states that Christ died, but for men.

—C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

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, unhasting, 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 laud we would render. O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

—Walter C. Smith, 1824–1908, Welch Melody, 1839

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In Saudi Arabia, there is a total blackout on anything Christian: one cannot carry a Bible on the street or have a Bible study in the privacy of one's own home. Even in our embassy, over which the American flag flies, Christian church services are banned. It is officially the death penalty in Saudi Arabia and some other Muslim countries (and enforced unofficially elsewhere) for a Muslim to convert to any other religion.

Only Muslims can be citizens of Saudi Arabia. Even in Arab countries where *shari'a* (Islamic law) is not enforced by the government, Islam's influence prevents freedom of speech, of the press, of religion, and of conscience. In PLO territories, Christian Arabs, who once had freedom under Israel, now suffer persecution, imprisonment, and death for their faith. Yet neither the UN nor our own government protests such oppression behind the Islamic curtain. Muslims build mosques and worship freely in the West, but in their own countries they deny such freedoms to others. Instead of reporting this hypocrisy, the world media covers it up.

Islam spread rapidly under Muhammad and his successors through *jihad* ("holy war"). Muhammad himself planned 65 campaigns and personally led 27 involving naked aggression and treachery. This incredible "evangelism" made "converts" by the millions at the point of a sword. At its peak, Islam had conquered all of North Africa and almost took over Europe.

Islam continues its conquest worldwide. Today's invaders are millions of immigrants who make converts to Islam through misrepresentation. One sees on TV well-coifed and fashionably dressed women who claim to be converts to Islam and testify to its joys and peace-loving ways. Yet in Saudi Arabia, they would have to be veiled with only their eyes showing, would have to wear plain, dark full-length robes, could not drive a car, could be one of four wives habitually mistreated by their husband, could be divorced by mere denunciation, and would be virtual slaves under *shari'a*.

Islam's earnest goal, set forth in the Qur'an (references given herein are from three versions) and *Hadith* (Islamic written tradition), remains the same: to bring all mankind into submission (that's what "Islam" means) and to kill or enslave all "infidels" (i.e., unbelievers in Allah and Muhammad his prophet—Surah 2:190-92; 4:76; 5:33; 9:5,29,41; 47:4, etc.). Islam (in obedience to the Qur'an and Muhammad's example) is the driving force behind most terrorism today. According to the *Hadith*, Muhammad declared, "The last hour will not come before the Muslims fight the Jews and the Muslims kill them."

Many Westerners naïvely accept Allah, who inspired Muhammad, as the God of the Bible. Yet Allah has no son and rejects the Trinity (4:171), is unknowable, and was the pagan idol/god of Muhammad's tribe before he was born. Allah tells Muslims, "Take not the Jews and Christians for friends. . . . slay the idolaters [infidels] wherever ye find them. . . . Fight against those who. . . believe not in Allah nor the Last Day"

(5:51; 9:5,29,41). But the triune God of the Bible wants men to know Him (Jer. 9:24), a knowledge essential to salvation (Jn. 17:3). Jews are His "chosen people" (Ex. 6:7; Lv. 20:26; 1 Chr. 16:13; Ps. 105:6, etc.) and Christians are His dearly beloved children (Rom. 8:16,21; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:5; 5:1, etc.).

Instead of conversion by force, Christ said that His disciples did not fight because His kingdom was not of this world (Jn. 8:36). Indeed, He told His disciples, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you" (Mt. 5:44).

Christ gave His life to save sinners, and His followers must be willing to lay down their lives to bring this good news to the world. Biblical salvation is a free gift paid for by the death of Christ, who said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). That command includes today's one billion Muslims. They present a tremendous (and inescapable) challenge to every Christian. But how can we bring the gospel to those who may be killed for believing it, or who may kill us for offering it to them? To die fighting infidels is the only sure way for a Muslim to gain Paradise. Yet Christ also died for Muslims, and His love compels us to share the Good News.

—Dave Hunt, *The Berean Call*, July 2010

## ECONOMICS

\$ "The power to tax is the power to destroy," wrote John Marshall, 4th Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who was born September 24, 1755.

No one had a greater impact on Constitutional Law than John Marshall.

Sworn in February 4, 1801, Marshall served 34 years and helped write over 1,000 decisions, including supporting the Cherokee Indian nation to stay in Georgia.

During the Revolution, John Marshall fought under Washington and endured the freezing winter at Valley Forge.

The Liberty Bell, according to tradition, cracked tolling at Marshall's funeral, July 8, 1835.

Chief Justice John Marshall wrote to Jasper Adams, May 9, 1833:

The American population is entirely Christian, and with us Christianity and Religion are identified.

It would be strange indeed, if with such a people, our institutions did not presuppose Christianity and did not often refer to it and exhibit relations with it.

A hundred years after John Marshall's death, the Supreme Court Building was completed in 1935.

Herman A. MacNeil's marble relief above the east portico prominently features Moses in the center with two stone tablets.

Adolph A. Weiman's marble frieze on the south wall in-

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cludes Moses holding Hebrew tablets.

Every Supreme Court session opens with the invocation: "God save the United States and this Honorable Court."

—Bill Federer, *American Minute*, September 24, 2010



The actual figure of the US national debt is much higher than the official sum of \$13.4 trillion (\$14.3 trillion) given by the Congressional Budget Office, according to analysts cited by the *New York Post*.

"The Government is lying about the amount of debt. It is engaging in Enron accounting," said Laurence Kotlikoff, an economist at Boston University and co-author of *The Coming Generational Storm: What You Need to Know about America's Economic Future*.

"The problem is we're seeing an explosion in spending," added Andrew Moylan, director of government affairs for the National Taxpayers Union.

In 1980, the debt—the accumulated red ink incurred by the Federal Government—was \$909 billion.

This represented some 33 per cent of gross domestic product, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Thirty years later, based on this year's second-quarter numbers, the CBO said the debt was \$13.4 trillion, or 92 per cent of GDP.

The CBO estimates the debt will be at \$16.5 trillion in two years, or 100.6 per cent of GDP.

But these numbers are incomplete.

They do not count off-budget obligations such as required spending for Social Security and Medicare, whose programs represent a balloon payment for the Government as more Americans retire and collect benefits.

In the case of Social Security, beginning in 2016, the US Government will be paying out more than it is collecting in taxes.

Hey Dr. Noebel,

It's Devon from Session 8. I wanted to email you to say how much Summit has truly changed my life! It was a blessing! I have made some lifelong friends and learned so much. I can't say how much it has changed my life.

Also Summit has changed my life so much that I am applying for Summit Summer Staff and Summit Semester!! I'm telling everybody they need to go to Summit because it's definitely worth it! Caleb and myself are starting a Bible study about world-views and would like you to come speak sometime to our church.

I MISS SUMMIT AND BIBLE HOUR!

—Devon, Plant City, Florida

Without basic measures—such as payment cuts or higher payroll taxes—the system could be on the road to bankruptcy, according to officials.

"Without changes," wrote Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue, "by 2037 the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted. There will be enough money only to pay about \$0.76 for each dollar of benefits."

Mr. Kotlikoff and Mr. Moylan agree US national debt is much more than the official \$13.4 trillion number, but they disagree over how to add up the exact number.

Mr. Kotlikoff says the debt is actually \$200 trillion.

Mr. Moylan says the number is likely about \$60 trillion.

That is close to the figure quoted by David Walker, the US Comptroller General from 1998 to 2008.

He launched a campaign to convince Americans that the federal spending and debt is a greater threat than terrorism.

But whichever figure is accurate, all three agree that the problem has worsened in the last few years.

They say it is because Congress and the Administration, whether Republican or Democrat, consistently overspend.

—Gregory Bresiger, *News.com.au*, Sep. 20, 2010



"Every business day puts Americans \$2 billion further beholden to its mostly Asian creditors."

—William Bonner and Addison Wiggin, *The New Empire of Debt* (2009), p. 210



America's empire of debt rests on many huge deceptions that we have described in this book:

- That one generation can consume—and stick the next with the bill.
- That you can get something for nothing.
- That the rest of the world will take American IOUs forever—no questions asked.
- That house prices will forever go up.
- That American labor is inherently more valuable than foreign labor.
- That the American capitalist system is freer, more dynamic, and more productive than other systems.
- That other countries want to be more like America, even if it is forced on them.
- That the virtues [thrift, balanced budgets, work ethic] that made America rich and powerful are no longer required to keep it rich and powerful.
- That domestic savings and capital investment are no longer necessary.
- That the United States no longer needs to make things for export.

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In particular, deception that sent credit expansion soaring between 2001 and 2005 came eagerly from America's own central bank. By setting its key lending rate below the current inflation rate, the Fed misled almost everyone.

—*Ibid.*, p. 271



Around 2009, there is hardly a soul in the entire world who has not been corrupted by the *barbarie della riflessione* [the barbarism of reflection] of the late imperial period. Both patricians and plebes are for bailouts. Both business and labor back stimulus programs. The taxpayers and the politicians who rule them are of one mind. Liberal, conservative, rich, poor, Republican, Democrat all speak with a single voice: "Screw the next generation!"

The golden age is over, in other words. In the space of 40 years it passed from gold, to silver, to paper... and is now somewhere between plastic electronic digits and navel lint.

—*Ibid.*, p. 319

## MARRIAGE



So at the risk of awkwardness, we must talk about the facts of life. It is true that marriage is, in part, an emotional union, and it is also true that spouses often take care of each other to get married. People are more likely to ask nosy questions about whether and when children are coming to couples that have gotten married. And we have not at all outgrown the need to channel adult sexual behavior in ways conducive to the well-being of children: The rising percentage of children who are not being raised by their parents, and the negative outcomes associated with this trend, suggest that this need is as urgent as ever. Our culture already lays too much stress on marriage as an emotional union of adults and too little on it as the right environment for children. Same-sex marriage would not only sever the tie between marriage and procreation; it would, at least in our present cultural circumstances, place the law behind the proposition that believing that tie should exist is bigoted.

The third objection is that it is unfair to same-sex couples to tie marriage to procreation, as the traditional conception of marriage does. Harm, if any, to the feelings of same-sex couples is unintentional: Marriage, and its tie to procreation, did not arise as a way of slighting them. (In the tradition we are defending, the conviction that marriage is the union of a man and a woman is logically prior to any judgment about the morality of homosexual relationships.)

And does marriage really need to be redefined? The legal "benefits" of marriage—such as the right to pay extra taxes, and to go through a legal process to sever the relationship?—are overstated. Almost all the benefits that the law still grants could easily be extended to unmarried couples, including same-sex couples, without redefining

marriage. The campaign for same-sex marriage is primarily motivated by one specific benefit: the symbolic statement by the government that committed same-sex relationships are equivalent to marriages. But with respect to the purposes of marriages, they're not equivalent; and so this psychic benefit cannot be granted without telling a lie about what marriage is and why a society and legal system should recognize and support it.

—*National Review*, September 20, 2010, p. 18, 20

**Editor's Note:** We highly recommend the complete article "The Case for Marriage" by the editors of *National Review*, September 20, 2010, p. 18–22

## MARXISM



Obama is a Marxist-Christian syncretist, blending elements of the incompatible: That can work in an election campaign when a lapdog press doesn't dig deep, but the little sister in the combination usually ends up frustrated, as many evangelicals who backed Obama in 2008 now are.

—Marvin Olasky, *World* magazine, Sep. 25, 2010, p. 10



An old joke from the Soviet era had it that "We pretend to work and they pretend to pay us." Most Cubans stopped pretending to work a long time ago, and this week the Castro regime announced that it will now stop pretending to pay them.

That might be the best way to think about the news, reportedly contained in an August 24 internal document, that Cuba's Communist Party is proposing to lay off more than 500,000 workers by March 2011 because it can no longer afford to maintain its "bloated payrolls." If nothing else, this is an historic acknowledgment that the revolution has failed—and from its own architects.

But the news may be less momentous than the headlines. Raúl Castro, who took over as president from his ailing brother Fidel in 2006, has given numerous speeches bemoaning the low productivity of Cuban workers and the government's fiscal straits. Two hurricanes last year and the global recession have hit revenues from tourism and nickel mining. The government and the country—once the third richest in Latin America—are as decrepit as the '57 Chevys on Havana's streets.

This is also not the first such bow in the direction of market reform. After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of Soviet subsidies, Castro courted foreign investment and allowed Cubans to open small restaurants, ferry foreigners as taxis and use the U.S. dollar.

But as the state recovered financially and Hugo Chávez appeared as a new source of subsidy, Cuban *perestroika* was put on ice. The limited privileges of small entrepreneurs



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were withdrawn. Not coincidentally, a crackdown on political dissidents began in 2003.

Now the regime claims it will again allow entrepreneurship. Cubans will be allowed to raise rabbits, make bricks, collect garbage, and grow vegetables, among other things. And the state will again welcome foreign investment.

Is Cuba moving in a new direction? Surely it wants the world to think so. But the lack of property rights remains. Foreign investors from the likes of Chile and Spain have learned the hard way that Fidel's inner circle has the ultimate control over profits. That reality will deter foreign investment until it changes.

The lesson of economic reform in China, Vietnam, and other Communist regimes is that they must include the genuine freedom to make and trade goods, earn money, and keep the profits. Cubans can only do that now on the black market. The dual currency system, in which they can earn money only in non-convertible pesos but must shop for most items priced in the dollar-linked peso, condemns most Cubans to poverty.

The talk of reform is also an attempt to encourage the U.S. Congress to drop the travel ban on Cuba. We long ago supported dropping the entire embargo on Cuba, but the U.S. ought to at least get something for this concession if the Castros are so eager for it. The deal could include releasing political prisoners, repealing the laws that landed them in jail, and allowing foreign investors to directly hire and pay workers. Meanwhile, we doubt Cuba will really change until Fidel finally goes to his eternal punishment.

—*The Wall Street Journal*, Sep. 18–19, 2010, p. A14

Fidel Castro told a visiting American journalist that Cuba's communist economic model doesn't work, a rare comment on domestic affairs from a man who has conspicuously steered clear of local issues since stepping down four years ago.

The fact that things are not working efficiently on this cash-strapped Caribbean island is hardly news. Fidel's brother Raul, the country's president, has said the same thing repeatedly. But the blunt assessment by the father of Cuba's 1959 revolution is sure to raise eyebrows.

Jeffrey Goldberg, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* magazine, asked if Cuba's economic system was still worth exporting to other countries, and Castro replied: "The Cuban model doesn't even work for us anymore" Goldberg wrote in a post on his Atlantic blog.

He said Castro made the comment casually over lunch following a long talk about the Middle East, and did not elaborate. The Cuban government had no immediate comment on

Goldberg's account.

—Paul Haven, *Associated Press Online*, Sep. 8, 2010

Cuba will lay off more than half a million state workers and try to create hundreds of thousands of private-sector jobs, a dramatic attempt by the hemisphere's only Communist country to shift its nearly bankrupt economy toward a more market-oriented system.

The mass layoffs will take place between now and the end of March, according to a statement issued Monday by the Cuban Workers Federation, the island nation's only official labor union. Workers will be encouraged to find jobs in Cuba's tiny private sector instead.

"Our state can't keep maintaining... bloated payrolls," the union's statement said. More than 85% of Cuba's 5.5 million workers are employed by the state.

Cuba's effort to reorient its labor force represents the country's biggest step toward a freer economy since the early 1990s, when Havana embarked on a brief attempt to make changes in a bid to survive without subsidies after the collapse of the Soviet Union, its main benefactor.

The revamp is also the most drastic effort to revive the country's flagging economy since President Raul Castro, the brother of retired dictator Fidel Castro, took the helm of the Communist country more than four years ago after his brother fell gravely ill.

Cuba's government has a list of 124 "authorized" activities for people who want to employ themselves. Among them: Toy repairman, music teacher, piñata salesman, and carpenter. Carpenters are allowed only to "repair existing furniture or make new furniture upon the direct request of a customer." They cannot make "furniture to sell to the general public."

—*The Wall Street Journal*, Sep. 14, 2010



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## HISTORY

Fisher Ames helped ratify the U.S. Constitution.

He sat beside George Washington during the service at St. Paul's Chapel following Washington's Inauguration.

Fisher Ames authored the final House language of the First Amendment.

At age 46, Fisher Ames was elected Harvard's president, but declined due to an illness which led to his death on July 4, 1808.

An orator, Fisher Ames stated no one could be eloquent "without being a constant reader of the Bible and an admirer of the purity and sublimity of its language."

In January 1788, Fisher Ames stated: "The known propensity of a democracy is to licentiousness which the . . . ignorant believe to be liberty."

In his *Dangers of American Liberty*, February 1805, Fisher Ames warned that democracy without morals would eventually reduce the nation to the basest of human passions, swallowing freedom:

"A democracy is a volcano which conceals the fiery materials of its own destruction."

In *Palladium Magazine*, September 20, 1789, Fisher Ames wrote: "We have a dangerous trend beginning to take place in our education. We're starting to put more textbooks into our schools...containing fables and moral lessons. . . . We are spending less time in the classroom on the Bible, which should be the principal text in our schools."

Fischer Ames concluded: "The Bible states these great moral lessons better than any other manmade book."

—Bill Federer, *American Minute*, Sep. 20, 2010



"And what is the meaning of 'pro-Western' today, when the United States is fighting a losing battle against Marxist reforms by its own government? Can we still seriously say that the free world has won the Cold War?"

—Pavel Stroilor, *FrontPage Magazine*, Sep. 23, 2010



If you go back to the early 1920s, a \$20 gold piece worked exactly the same in our economy. It used to be that you could go down to a local men's shop and buy a beautiful three-piece suit with either a \$20 bill or a \$20 gold piece. Now let's accelerate ahead in history. You walk into a shop with a \$20 gold piece and a \$20 bill, and what happens? Well, with a \$20 paper bill, you'd be lucky to find a nice tie, but a \$20 gold piece is still ample enough money to buy a nice three-piece suit.

—David Bradshaw, *Swiss America*, Sep. 15, 2010



"There were more self-declared communists on the Harvard faculty than there were Republicans."

—Ted Cruz, *World magazine*, Nov. 7, 2009, p. 25

## POLITICS

Whatever else can be said about this White House, it isn't afraid to poke a stick in the eye of its critics. How else to explain President Obama's decision Friday to put Elizabeth Warren in charge of the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau while avoiding Senate confirmation and, for that matter, any political supervision.

The chutzpah here is something to behold. The pride of Harvard Law School, Ms. Warren is a hero to the political left for proposing a new bureaucracy to micromanage the services that banks can offer consumers. But she is also so politically controversial that no less a liberal lion than Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd has warned the White House that she probably isn't confirmable. A President with more political and Constitutional scruple would have nominated someone else. Mr. Obama's choice is to appoint her anyway and dare the Senate to do something about it.

—*The Wall Street Journal*, Sep. 18-19, p. A14

## THE FIRST AMENDMENT

A mission group sued a Florida district school board for banning Bible distribution on public school campuses on Religious Freedom Day. For years, the Collier County School District allowed World Changers to offer Bibles to interested students during non-school hours on January 16 in honor of Religious Freedom Day. But since last year, the superintendent and the Community Request Committee have refused to grant permission for the group to do so. School officials claim Bibles do not provide any educational benefit to the students and thus distribution should stop.

But Mathew Staver, founder of Liberty Counsel, the legal group representing World Changers, pointed out that many of the founding fathers learned to read using the Bible. "We are compelled to sue to protect the right simply to make free Bibles available to students in public schools," said Staver. "The distribution of religious literature in a forum opened for secular literature is constitutionally protected."

World Changers, Staver noted, makes it clear to students that its activities are not endorsed by the school and that receiving a Bible is voluntary. The School district has misunderstood the First Amendment, he said.

—*Church Around the World*, Oct. 2010

## HOMOSEXUALITY

The Church of England may be on the verge of promoting a gay priest to bishop, a step that would widen the split over sexuality in the global Anglican Communion. According to newspaper reports, archbishop of Canterbury

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Rowan Williams, spiritual leader of the Church of England and the world's Anglicans, is finally prepared to back the elevation of the Very Reverend Jeffrey John, who withdrew from an appointment as a suffragan (assistant) bishop seven years ago in the face of heated controversy about his homosexuality. "I think the strength of the opposition is much weaker this time," said Reverend Canon Giles Goddard, the chairman of Inclusive Church. His group was founded by people disappointed by John's failure to become a bishop in 2003. John, who is dean of St. Albans Cathedral, has declared that he is celibate and therefore not in violation of church teaching.

—Church Around the World, Oct. 2010



More than 480,000 people or one per cent of the UK's adult population regard themselves as gay or lesbian while a further 245,000 or 0.5 percent say they are bisexual, according to a study published by the Office for National Statistics.

The data has been collected by the new Integrated Household Survey (IHS), which is the largest social report ever produced for the ONS.

The 450,000 individual respondents to the survey provided the biggest pool of UK social data after the national census, the statistics service said.

The IHS data shows that 95 per cent of adults identify themselves as heterosexual/straight while just one percent of adults see themselves as gay or lesbian.

Another 0.5 per cent of adults said they are bisexual and a similar proportion described their sexuality as "other."

Just under 3 per cent of adults responded "don't know" or refused to answer the question. Fewer than one percent of respondents provided no response.

The highest proportion of adults who identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual were in London with the lowest found in Northern Ireland.

The IHS survey also incorporates questions relating to a wide variety of themes including religious affiliation, ethnicity and personal health.

The responses indicate that 71 percent of people in Great Britain identify with the Christian religion and 89 percent of people see themselves as belonging to the white ethnic group.

Across the UK, 80 percent of men and 78 percent of women reported said they regarded themselves as being in good health.

—Breitbart.com, Sep. 24, 2010

## RELIGIOUS LEFT

Jim Wallis has been the subject of some recent blogosphere humor. Hugh Hewitt wrote, "Most folks who receive do-

nations from billionaires tend not to forget them, so pray for Jim Wallis's memory." Scholar William Voegeli wondered whether Sojourners "is drowning in money," since Wallis didn't remember that megabucks leftist George Soros gave \$325,000 to his organization. With Jim's denial appearing Clintonian, Baylor's Francis Beckwith imagined Wallis saying, *I did not have financial relations with that Soros.*

This all grew out of my mention halfway through a July 17 *WORLD* column that Soros gave money to Sojourners. It didn't seem like a big deal. Of course, Soros would find the religious left useful in drawing evangelical votes from conservatives and electing candidates who support abortion, same-sex marriage, socialism, and other unbiblical causes. Nor was it surprising that Jim, trying to keep his organization afloat, would take the cash. Yet Jim last month told an interviewer twice, "We don't receive money from George Soros."

As more evidence emerged, Sojourners communications manager Tim King acknowledged that his organization had received funding from Soros. King released a statement from Wallis in which Jim says he "should have declined to comment" until he had checked the facts. Once he checked, he saw grants "from the Open Society Institute that made up the tiniest fraction of Sojourners' funding during that decade—so small that I hadn't remembered them."

That seems unlikely on the face of it, and thus the blogosphere humor. The first of Soros' three grants, for \$200,000, came at a crucial time: Sojourners, according to its 2003 audited financial statement, had "incurred a significant amount of net losses" leading to "a negative asset balance" of \$57,324. But we're willing to give Jim Wallis the benefit of the doubt concerning his memory. We'll take him up on his statement that "our books are totally open." We'll welcome the opportunity to examine Sojourners' financial records.

None of this says that Sojourners is beholden to secular leftists and pro-abortionists. Grants from Soros, Barbara Streisand, the Ford Foundation, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund—Jay Richards has recently discovered these other donors—are evidence that individuals and organizations supporting abortion and other unbiblical goals find Sojourners useful. As a person who has worked to keep alive financially some small Christian groups, I know the difficult decisions Jim Wallis has to make about whether to accept such funds.

—Marvin Olasky, *World* magazine, Sep. 11, 2010, p. 104

## CREATION

What to make of Young-Earth Creationists? As former fashion marketer Pennington observed, they have been out of fashion for a century—but that's not entirely bad when we review the frequently changing hermeneutics of science. Some producers within Contemporary Christian Music

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(CCM) have garnered some dollars but much sarcasm by trying to find a baptized singer who “sounds like” whatever is hot in secular pop. Contemporary Christian Science should not imitate that.

We should also recognize what philosopher Alvin Plantinga points out: Untested assumptions lie behind all knowledge claims. This is particularly true about historical science, which is different from operational science. Scientists can observe laboratory experiments, but the only eyewitness to creation was God. The rest of us are detectives, scrutinizing sticks and stones and interpreting data based on beliefs that are outside of science. Calling a theory a “fact” does not make it so.

We should be particularly skeptical about science hype. Just 10 years ago the Human Genome Project declared gene sequencing victory and prophesied that individuals would soon be able to get medical treatment based on their genetic makeup. Now, biologist/entrepreneur J. Craig Venter calls that “one of these silly naïve notions” and *Fortune* describes “the great DNA letdown.”

This is not to say that we should readily accept young-earth theories, which even young-earth scientists acknowledge need much work. Young-earthers argue that the accepted radiometric ages of rock samples are wrong. They argue that radioactive decay rates were different in the past—but they acknowledge that they don’t yet fully understand how that could be so. Critics of young-earth Grand Canyon geology contend that caverns and sinkholes in some layers indicate their formation over long periods of time, that the limestone and Coconino sandstone layers took a long time to develop, etc.

And yet, conventional theories have numerous holes as well, as author Ranney and others admit. Besides, the difference between operational science that concerns present-day processes, and historical science that attempts to figure out the past, is huge: Scientists collect data but the data do not interpret themselves, and presuppositions play a huge role.

Ranney’s *Carving Grand Canyon*, from its secular perspective, takes issue with some 80-million-year estimates and exults, “The Grand Canyon has certainly been an exciting place in the last 630,000 years!” Could it have been that exciting a place in the last 6,300 years, with Noah’s flood propelling huge amounts of water at 100 miles per hour against rock walls that would come tumbling down? And if so, could the world really be only thousands of years old?

My bottom line: We need investigation, not arbitrary exclusion of what is scientifically unfashionable. In particular, Christian colleges, funding sources, and fellow scientists should not excommunicate young-earthers. We should encourage debate among all those who see the Bible as God’s Word but have differences in interpretation. We should criticize those who make Science their god.

—Marvin Olasky, *World* magazine,  
September 11, 2010, p. 44, 45



Having defied and publically denied God via bestselling books, the New Atheists feel a sense of self-importance unknown to the relatively few atheists there were in the days of Newton, Boyle, Pasteur, Mendel, et al. Their current status emboldens them to defy not only God but to disregard long-established natural law. Feeling invincible, the Four Horsemen are riding the crest of a wave of newly found popularity. As mentioned before, Christopher Hitchens boasted, “I’ve just made a lot of money with a God-bashing book.”

A tsunami of truth is about to wipe out their seemingly invincible kingdom. Richard Dawkins is the master storyteller, with George Wald not far behind. Recognizing the fact that the law of biogenesis makes evolution and natural selection impossible, the latter proclaimed, “One exception [to this law] is all that was needed, and it happened right here on earth.” How does he know this?

How many millions or billions of years ago did this alleged exception occur? How did Wald learn about it? Has he any scientific proof? What verification has there been from witnesses? Such simple logic bounces off the atheists; armor like rounds of tiny BB shot.

This alleged exception to established scientific law is worse than wishful thinking. One might as well wish for just one momentary suspension of the law of gravity. Of course, in that nanosecond, the universe would fly apart. Nor would a momentary suspension of the law of biogenesis have less disastrous consequences. Who knows what monsters might be conceived during that brief time? Wald says that only one exception was needed and that it occurred here on Earth. Dawkins must get his genetics from a different source. He says that this law has been violated billions of times all over the universe.

—Dave Hunt, *Cosmos, Creator and Human Destiny*,  
p. 343, 344