

» pg. 2 From the President's Desk

» pg. 5 News and commentary on today's top issues

» pg. 7 Summit alums respond to largest atheist rally in history

» Worldviews in the News: Ideas from the headlines

» Find us on Facebook

» Check our Twitter feed: @summitmn

Politics, Government, and Worldview



Cover Story

It's been said that the only two topics you can't talk about in polite company are religion and politics, so it must be doubly impolite when religious people talk about politics. Maybe that's why Christian leaders such as Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson are still regularly the butt of jokes in the popular culture. The confusion that results from those misrepresentations coupled with the increased complexity of the political, economic, and social reality in 21st century America almost certainly explain why many in the rising generation slink away from conservative positions and take up the rhetoric of Jim Wallis and other representatives of the religious left.

Examining Scripture and Reality

At Summit we start with scriptural principles to form a biblical worldview of politics. This critical task is one we undertake in all our programs, and it is all the more important as we approach the November elections. If the

biblical worldview correctly depicts how the world works, then Christians should consider it entirely valid to study the Bible to discern the proper role of the state, the government's relationship to other spheres of culture, and the nature of true justice.

Our task is sometimes complicated by having to counteract myths Christians on both ends of the political spectrum often believe:

Myth No. 1: Politics is evil. Politics is simply the management of the affairs of the state. We've had politics as long as we've had people groups. From a biblical viewpoint, politics is part of the cultural mandate to steward and exercise dominion over the created order. If creation made political culture prudent, the fall made it necessary; humans needed a system by which sin could be restrained.

According to Eric Teetsel of the American Enterprise Institute's Values and Capital-

ism project, "Government is ordained by God; it's a good thing. It's part of the way he has chosen to organize culture. We need to start from the fundamental place of saying, 'This is good.'" James Robison and Jay Richards explain in their new book *Indivisible* that government was also meant to foster a society with ordered liberty, pushing us toward a "freedom for excellence" and "rules that allow us to become what we're supposed to become — to do what we're supposed to do."

Myth No. 2: Jesus didn't deal with politics. Political commentator and MereOrthodoxy.com lead writer Matthew Lee Anderson counters this misconception by saying, "It's pretty much impossible to understand the message of Jesus without understanding the political context. . . . We have to understand the context into which Jesus proclaimed the Gospel and its deeply politicized idolatry." As the creator of all things, Jesus has a lot to say when it comes to our own governance.

Christ established distinctions as to where our allegiances should fall. "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God that which is God's," is unarguably an instructive political statement, as well as a general framework for life: everything is God's and God cares about everything. Three areas of concern come immediately to mind, as articulated in a recent document, The Manhattan Declaration: the protection of life, the biblical view of marriage, and religious liberty.

Myth No. 3: It is easy to discern a biblical view of politics. Yes, some biblical positions — such as the value of human life — are easy to discern. Others aren't quite so clear. Anderson thinks that in the past, the term *bib-*

from the president's desk

a word from dr. jeff myers



When Shane Claiborne walks on stage, what the audience sees is a skinny white guy with dreadlocks adorned in nerdy glasses and clothing several sizes too big. What they hear, though, is a hard-hitting social justice message delivered with winsomeness and humor. Young evangelicals flock to his presentations, clamoring for Claiborne's vision of a simple Christianity that is free from the complexities of modern life.

What Claiborne's hearers don't seem to realize is that Claiborne is a neo-Anabaptist separatist who thinks Christians should stay out of politics. "Jesus taught that his followers . . . should not attempt to 'run the world,'" he says. Of course, the argument is a straw man. Christians who take their citizenship seriously should not be accused of trying to 'run the world'; they should be applauded for recognizing that God's sovereignty extends to everything, including the often-sleazy world of politics.

Still, this pious-sounding "Christianity is above politics" message resonates with young people looking for a Get-Out-of-Thinking-Free card: after all, if we're above politics, then we're excused from having to rigorously study difficult issues or make

tough choices in an often contentious world.

When it comes to voting, the lack of a political "easy button" is causing more and more Americans to cede their citizenship responsibilities to others. Among civilized countries, U.S. citizens are the least involved when it comes to voting, and young adults are the worst offenders. It's not because they don't care; it's because they feel ignorant. According to an Indiana State University study, 61 percent of non-involved young adults said they don't vote because "they feel as though they lack the information necessary to make an informed choice about the issues and the candidates."

At Summit, we admonish young Christians to abandon childish ignorance and embrace the responsibility of honorable citizenship. Among the biblical warrants for this is 2 Corinthians 5:19-20, which says, "... in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."

This extraordinary teaching from the apostle Paul revolves around three powerful words:

- "Reconcile" comes from the Greek word *katallasso*, from which we get our word "catalyze," to be an agent that changes things forever.

- "World" comes from the Greek word *kosmos*, which means "the order of all things."

- "Ambassador" is the Greek word *presbeuos*,

which means "elder," someone who brings a mature perspective in the midst of confusion.

In other words, God, through Christ, is restoring everything to right and trusting us to represent him by bringing maturity to an immature culture. When others say hateful things and spew lies, we don't take personal offense — we just keep speaking the truth — boldly and lovingly.

At Summit, the perspective we give to students about politics is very simple:

- **Stop being ignorant.** Understand the truth, and then learn to articulate it.
- **Start being an ambassador of Christ in every aspect of culture** — including politics.

- **Don't expect it to be easy.** G.K. Chesterton said, "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."

Summit students embrace this message enthusiastically. Our recent study of 1,591 Summit graduates demonstrated that Summit inspires young adults to understand the Christian worldview, to understand other worldviews, to get a sense of direction in life, and to engage the culture. *If you know of a young person who could benefit from this kind of experience, what would you be willing to do to make sure he or she doesn't miss out on it this summer? Come to www.summit-student.org to find out more.*

"At Summit we admonish young Christians to abandon childish ignorance and embrace the responsibility of honorable citizenship."

Dr. Jeff Myers

lical has been applied to some policies too broadly. For example, determining what Jesus would cut from the budget, as Jim Wallis suggests, over-simplifies complex quandaries and extracts from Scripture what is not there; it's akin to cheap proof texting. Religious conservatives can be tempted to do that as well. "The biblical tax policy for America in 2012 doesn't exist," Teetsel contends. But what we ought to do is find policy that best points us toward scriptural ideals. In that sense, Anderson says we need to cite Scripture more "judiciously and sparingly" than we often do when defending or decrying public policy.

Myth No. 4: Government is the primary way to exercise biblical compassion. Some of the problems are so big that many assume only a big government could adequately solve them. Take poverty elimination, for example. Scripture does advocate compassion toward the impoverished, yet it delineates no strict public policy mandate for governments. Christians must carefully discern which policies are most grounded in truth revealed in Scripture. "Biblical virtue, whether you realize it or not, has clear implications," Teetsel exhorted. That's where studying economics, philosophy, history, and other crucial disciplines enlightens us. "For voting on things that aren't necessarily clear in Scripture, you really have to do your homework," Anderson added.

Regarding the poverty debate in particular, while the political parties argue over which entitlements get increased budget allotments and how to shrink the growing gap between the richest U.S. citizens and the poorest, Teetsel says we ought to focus on policies that affirm the biblical view of the person. If God designed us to order and create culture, shouldn't our

Party Identification by Religion (2011)

»Evangelical Protestant	Democrat 24% Republican 70%	»Jewish	Democrat 65% Republican 29%
»Mainline Protestant	Democrat 39% Republican 51%	»Atheist/Agnostic	Democrat 71% Republican 21%
»Catholic	Democrat 48% Republican 43%	»Unaffiliated	Democrat 61% Republican 27%
»Mormon	Democrat 17% Republican 80%	»All Voters	Democrat 48% Republican 43%

Source: Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

public policy reflect that? Do policies geared toward helping the poor affirm the *imago Dei* and encourage citizens to be producers of culture, not mere consumers waiting for a handout? And what policies will propel a society toward the prosperity and culture creation alluded to in Scripture? Robison and Richards add that we should also address another crucial question: what actually works? They argue that we should know "not just moral truth but economic truth as well." Teetsel agrees, saying, "Shrewdness is a biblical principle, and that means understanding how things work and responding in kind."

The fact is virtually all federal and state poverty programs treat the problem as merely financial, they regard humans simply as consumers. Poverty in the U.S., where access to necessities is rarely the root problem, is typically caused by broken relational and vocational habits (not merely financial), spheres best addressed by entities other than the state that take into account a biblical view of the person.

What Is the Proper Role of Government?

A biblical view of politics and government starts with discerning the proper role of government itself. Scripture is clear that the most basic function of the state is to do justice — to protect its citizens and punish those who harm others (see Romans 13). The state must administer justice properly in order for a virtuous citizenry to flourish. But how is this done? In his Stone Lectures at Princeton University in 1899, Dutch theologian and statesman Abraham Kuyper theorized that society is ordered in spheres of culture. Kuyper argued that the cultural mandate God pronounced in Genesis positions human identity in more than just nationality or political affiliation; our identities are also bound up in our roles as children, siblings, spouses, parents, church members, workers, club members, athletes, local community citizens, etc. Most important of all, we are humans created in the image of God, owing allegiance

See **politics**, page 4

summit semester NOW OFFERING A **SUMMER TERM**

7 weeks
in the Colorado wilderness

earn up to 6 college
credit hours

small community of
compassionate
believers

SUMMIT
SEMESTER
summitsemester.org

to him. As such, each of these spheres of identity — or culture — falls under the authority of God, including our role as citizens of the state. Therefore, the state has no authority to usurp the sovereignty implied in each of those particular roles; in addition, the state's authority is subject to God's authority.

Kuyper's view, then, is that justice is done by properly ordering the spheres of family, church, and state and ensuring that none of them is institutionally permitted to usurp the authority of the others. As David T. Koyzis writes in *Political Vision and Illusions*:

[The state] properly adjudicates the claims of these authorities and acts so as to ensure that they are granted the opportunity to develop in accordance with their respective callings before God. To be sure, the state cannot enforce these callings as such, nor can it determine their substantive content. This is the responsibility of each of the spheres themselves. . . . It can protect the interest of consumers without assuming that consumption wholly defines them as persons. It balances the interests of the individuals and the multiplicity of communities found in a complex, differentiated society. It protects individual liberty without assuming that this necessarily trumps all communal interests.

In short, justice is not simply about protecting and advancing rights; it is more often about impartially adjudicating the interests of those making potentially conflicting rights claims.²

So What Do We Do

When We Disagree?

Even if everyone were to agree on the meaning of justice and the state's role,

bitter disagreements would still arise. Is there such a thing as a biblical worldview of disagreement and debate? Teetsel thinks there is: "You can enter a conversation firm in the conviction that you don't need to be afraid of what people on the other side may be saying that may be a threat to what we believe," he said. "We're talking about truth, and truth comes from God."

Anderson highlighted three important points to remember while engaging others: (1) We should be conducive to friendship. "Friendship is a civic good," he said. "It's part of what brings community to our nation." (2) If we are aiming to convince others with our arguments, we can't do it by misrepresenting others' arguments. (3) There is a foundational need in a democratic, pluralistic society for disagreement. "It's essential for our society's flourishing," he said.

Teetsel boiled the biblical approach down to one word: *love*. "It is quite clear that first and foremost, followers of Christ are to love others as Christ loved them. That means being generous to others." It also means taking our citizenship responsibilities seriously. Most of us love to criticize politicians, but as citizens of a republic we must remember that we are all responsible for the management of the affairs of state to some degree — if they aren't being managed well, we have only ourselves to blame. As Ronald Reagan said in his first inaugural address, "I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing."

Notes

1. James Robison and Jay W. Richards, *Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Before It's Too Late* (New York: FaithWords, 2012).

2. David T. Koyzis, *Political Visions & Illusions: A Survey & Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2003), p. 259.

a look at our world

news and commentary

Editor's Note: As you know, our President Emeritus, Dr. David Noebel, helps us with research by sending 20-30 pages of clippings of each month's news. Below is a look at that reading, along with an update on religious freedom by Dr. Jeff Myers. To see the complete list of Doc's clippings, go to www.summit.org/resources/the-journal/ and turn to page 9, or call us at 866.786.6483.

Religious Freedom Update

Supreme Court Justice William Douglas wrote in 1952, "We find no constitutional requirement which makes it necessary for government to be hostile to religion." The Obama administration must not have gotten the memo. As we've been chronicling for the last two months, the administration has determined that sexual freedom trumps religious freedom.

The inciting event was an indignant pronouncement by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius that religious organizations would be forced to provide contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs to their employees. Warned New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan, "Coercing religious ministries and citizens to pay directly for actions that violate their teaching is an unprecedented incursion into freedom of conscience" (*Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 25, 2012).

Most recently the administration tried to deflect criticism from a united front of Catholic and evangelical groups by forcing insurance companies rather than the organizations themselves to cover the costs of what

it termed "reproductive care." Presumably religious organizations won't mind paying for insurance that does something they see as abhorrent as long as they don't have to do it themselves.

This war on religious freedom is also doing violence to the English language. Consider the Orwellian tone of the administration's argument: if you don't support government providing free contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs to women, you're an enemy of "women's health." One wonders what's next — will failing to provide free driver's licenses be seen as denying people the right to drive, or failing to provide tax-free food be seen as denying people the right to eat?

When the government says it's just trying to help, be very, very wary. Within the last 100 years nearly half of the states carried out forced sterilization programs — all in the name of women's health and social progress. And the reason these programs went

on so long is because they had the enthusiastic support of the media and leading intellectuals (for more, see Daniel Flynn, *FrontPage Magazine*, Jan. 13, 2012).

Never forget that a government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take everything you have.

(by Dr. Jeff Myers)

Notes from Dr. David Noebel

Many who attended Summit from the 1970s through the 1990s would remember Dr. and Mrs. Jim Bowers as instructors. Dr. Bowers has just written an important book that is being published by our sister organization, the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade. The book's introduction describes exactly its focus:

"This book is an analysis of a specific section in the book *The Naked Communist* by W. Cleon Skousen, published in 1958. The section to be evaluated is entitled "Current Communist Goals." From his FBI background, Mr. Skousen lists what he considered to be the top forty-five goals of Communists, as of 1958. The progress and status of each of these Goals as of 2012 is carefully documented. Prepare to be shocked!"

More Americans need to understand the issues Dr. Bowers discusses in his book, *The Naked Truth: The Naked Communist — Revisited*. Our Dr. Noebel wrote the foreword. To order, go to SchwarzReport.org or call 719.685.9043. Volume pricing is available.



continued on page 6

a look at our world

news and commentary, continued from page 5

Biblical Christianity

"If we and our posterity . . . live always in the fear of God and shall respect His Commandments . . . we may have the highest hopes of the future fortunes of our country. . . . But if we . . . neglect religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

— Daniel Webster
in Bill Federer's *American Minute*
Jan. 17, 2012

Atheism

"Atheists have long criticized devout followers of faith. But now it seems that Atheism is stealing from that very religious tradition by erecting a temple of worship. Author Alain deBotton announced plans to build an Atheist temple in the U.K. . . . Dedicated to the idea of perspective, the black tower will scale 46 meters (150 feet),

with each centimeter honoring earth's age of 4.6 billion years."

— Tara Kelly
Huffington Post
Jan. 26, 2012

Economics

"The Buffett rule is rooted in the fairy tale that taxes on the wealthy are lower than on the middle-class. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office notes that the effective income tax rate of the richest 1 percent is about 29.5 percent when including all federal taxes such as the distribution of corporate taxes, or about twice the 15.1 percent paid by middle-class families. This is because wealthy tax filers make most of their income from investments. Such income is taxed once at the corporate rate of 35 percent and again when it is passed through to the individual as a capital gain or dividend at 15 percent, for a highest marginal taxation rate of about 44.75 percent."

— *Wall Street Journal*
Jan. 26, 2012, p. A16

"There's a very troubled company out there called the U.S. Government, Inc."

The Washington Times

"There's a very troubled company out there called U.S. Government, Inc. It's teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. And it badly needs to be taken over and turned around. It probably even needs the services of a good private-equity firm, with plenty of experience and a reasonably good track record in downsizing, modernizing, shrinking staff and making substantial changes in management. Yes, layoffs will be a necessary part of the restructuring. A quick look at the income statement of this troubled firm tells the story. Just in the past year (FY 2011), the firm

continued on page 8



ANNOUNCING a summer term
IN OXFORD

Live in Oxford, England, for eight weeks
Study with world-class Oxford tutors
Enjoy an advanced worldview intensive
Walk the paths of Lewis and Tolkien
Receive 6-9 university credit hours

www.summitoxford.org

Hardman Takes Apologetics to the 'Post-Christian Culture'

Two Summit alumni will be part of the response to the largest expected gathering of atheists in history: the Reason Rally in Washington, D.C., scheduled for March 24, and headlined by famed author Richard Dawkins. Randy Hardman and Sam Youngs will be at the rally with other Christians hoping to dialogue about Christianity, but they've also contributed chapters to an e-book responding to the rally: *True Reason: Christian Responses to the Challenge of Atheism* (now available at Amazon.com).

Hardman's chapter examines the reasonableness of the New Testament. Since most skeptics of Christianity take issue with the miracles described in the New Testament, Hardman assesses the rationality of the supernatural and the process by which New Testament manuscripts were discovered and preserved.

When Hardman finished high school six years ago, he had read only two books on his own that he enjoyed: *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *Mere Christianity*. Those are great books, but Hardman admits that at the time he viewed reading as a chore — tedious but necessary.

Six years later, after attending Summit East as a student and returning as staff for several years, Hardman has become a "learning junkie." He's now not only finishing up a master's degree, he's looking forward to starting work on a doctoral degree. "To stop learning or to stop reading books would just put me in a space of boredom and un-fulfillment," he said in a recent interview. It was hearing Summit lecturer Kevin Bywater's "Historical Jesus" talk that turned things around for Hardman. "In a lot of ways," he said, "that's been the source



Summit alumnus Randy Hardman of my reading. I read the stuff I enjoy, and I enjoy the stuff I read."

Hardman's work in *Reason Really* is characteristic of his past efforts and future hopes. "I'm not one who overtly caters to the conservative community," he said. "I am trying to dialogue here with skeptics on reasonable terms."

Eyeing a teaching career in the secular academy, Hardman has also combined a passion for proclaiming the biblical worldview, a knack for teaching others to defend it, and a get-it-done attitude to develop what could be called apologetics entrepreneurialism. He has started two organizations aimed at defending the biblical worldview: Ratio Christi and the Barra Initiative.

Ratio Christi grew from Hardman's time as an undergraduate at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. While numerous campus ministries aided students there, none of them helped students intelligently engage faculty who

told students that Christianity has no logical foundation. "We needed some sort of defense on campus," he said. "We needed someone to say, 'We believe these things are *subjectively* true and *objectively* true.' Summit sparked the idea." After watching the organization grow and gain national recognition, Hardman eventually passed the project on to others. As a catalyst for apologetics and biblical worldview discussions, the organization quickly expanded to other campuses across the country.

Hardman's new endeavor, though, is the Barra Initiative: a ministry on the video website YouTube. By posting brief, well-produced videos, Hardman and fellow Summit alumnus Todd LeBarge hope to challenge groups like the Amazing Atheists and Atheist Illusion that post videos deriding Christianity as nonsensical. "We're trying to approach it from an intellectual perspective," Hardman said. "Atheists are telling the world what Christianity is." He recently interviewed *New York Times* bestselling author Eric Metaxas (*Bonhoeffer*, *Amazing Grace*) for the project, and he encouraged readers to subscribe to the YouTube channel.

Hardman's aspiration to teach at a secular university is motivated by his assessment that many Christians don't pursue their faith intellectually, while others retreat from the culture at large. "It's the same problem we have with marriage," he said. "We divorce because we don't feel in love. But you have to continue to work through it; love doesn't just happen. When we retreat from the world, we lose the world."

Hardman and his family live in Wilmore, Kentucky.



American Christian College
dba Summit Ministries
PO Box 207
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Newton, KS
PERMIT 867

Address Service Requested

continued from page 6

spent \$3.7 trillion, but took in only \$2.2 trillion in sales revenues. Hence its deficit came to \$1.5 trillion."

— Larry Kudlow
The Washington Times
Jan. 23, 2012, p. 33

Global Warming

"On Jan. 16, the National Center for Science Education, a non-profit group that denounces intelligent design and supports an evolution-only curriculum in the classroom, expanded its mission. . . . It will mount an aggressive effort to teach the nation's schoolchildren that climate change is real and is being driven by human activity. . . . Textbooks and other materials geared toward the youngest students already are peddled to school

leaders. The University of California at Berkeley operates the website global-warmingkids.net, a subsection of its climatechangeeducation.org initiative. On the website, instructors can order 'Global Warming for Young Minds,' a handbook aimed at 6- to 10-year-olds. It also offers 'Let's Stop Climate Change' DVDs, in which a hippopotamus named Simon encourages children to take action against global warming."

— Ben Wolfgang
The Washington Times
Jan. 23, 2012, p. 18

Islam

"The sectarian violence that followed the U.S. invasion of Iraq and fall of Hussein in 2003 has been brutal for all Iraqis, including Muslim Shiites and Sunnis. But for the nation's

fragile Christian communities, it has been catastrophic. At least fifty-four Iraqi churches have been bombed and at least 905 Christians killed in various acts of violence since the U.S. invasion toppled Hussein in 2003, according to Archbishop Louis Sako of the Chaldean Catholic Church in the northern provinces of Kirkuk and Sulimaniya. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled. A report on Iraq released Tuesday by Minority Rights Group International said that about 500,000 Christians remain in Iraq, down from an estimated 800,000 to 1.4 million in 2003. 'It's a hemorrhage,' Archbishop Sako says. 'Iraq could be emptied of Christians.'"

— Sam Dagher
Wall Street Journal
Dec. 5, 2011, p. 1

The Journal is the monthly publication of American Christian College (dba Summit Ministries), a non-profit, educational, religious corporation operating under the laws of the states of Oklahoma and Colorado.

PO Box 207, Manitou Springs, Colorado 80829 | **Phone:** 866.786.6483 | **URL:** www.summit.org | **E-mail:** michael@summit.org

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel

Biblical Christianity

"If we and our posterity . . . live always in the fear of God and shall respect His Commandments . . . we may have the highest hopes of the future fortunes of our country. . . . But if we . . . neglect religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

— Daniel Webster

in Bill Federer's *American Minute*
Jan. 17, 2012

As a society we are losing touch with fundamental Christian values, as our leaders lean towards an agenda of political correctness to keep the minorities happy.

We live in a world of moral values. Even those without faith know what is right and what is wrong. We all have a conscience and so many people get trapped in the pattern of saying something is right when deep down they know it isn't.

It's that attitude that can harden hearts. People suddenly justify the immoralities around them. We have taken the easy way out. Minorities are now making it harder for the majority. They are increasingly taking everything that is good in society and pushing it to the side.

Looking back, you can see that there has been a steep decline, especially when it comes to the issue of sexuality. There is so much scripture within the Bible that points to what we see happening now. We are losing that sense of discipline.

Let me be clear. I believe that a

person's sexuality is a choice. In the Bible it said that homosexuality is among sins that are works of the flesh. It is not something you are born with. My concern is that we are advocating to young people that it is OK to have these feelings. But I truly believe if you are told you are gay from a young age, soon enough it will start to impact your life and you will live it. If somebody is told they are gay they often start to believe it.

We are living in a society that takes the easy way out. But we have to work at life and make things better. You need to be disciplined. I became the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon because I trained hard and worked towards it.

It's why I believe so strongly in the sanctity of marriage. It takes hard work. Children need a mother and a father - stability from a male and a female - and I think we are losing sight of this.

We are led by politicians who lie and spread deceit. They no longer stand true to their word and that affects us all, as a nation. Lies just don't seem to matter much any more.

There is so much deception in the world and it's getting worse by the minute. The Book of Romans speaks of the people of Earth trading in God; of worshipping life and things within it instead of God who made us. By refusing Him, women no longer know how to be women and men no longer know how to be men. We have lost our way and have been convinced by the secular view that it's all OK.

It worries me because I fear our next generation will lose all direction and become more blinded than ever before.

I can't understand, if we are a blessed nation under a biblical Constitution, why

there is such a push to change it? We will only start to tear away at the rich fabric and sustained values. Then God will take his hand off our nation and the lights will go out.

That is why I believe we need to protect marriage because it has been God-ordained from the beginning.

God told man to be united with his wife and to multiply on earth.

I had fame and success and a great husband but I always knew something was missing in my life. I used to think there had to be more to it.

I knew He was there but I didn't know how to make the connection. I didn't understand how God could be real in my life. But then I accepted Jesus Christ, and believed that He came to Earth as the son of God, to die for our sins.

Even then I didn't understand the power of the Bible, his word. If I knew then what I knew now I could have won six Wimbledon's, not three. The New Testament is the greatest book on psychology. It shows you how to live victoriously. It's our TV guide to life. It has everything in there for every facet - even how to run a nation.

People think it's a book of fear but it is not. It's a book of love and a training manual for life that offers protection from sin. Life is but a wisp. So many turn to God on their deathbeds but if they accepted His love during life they would experience far more blessings. We will pass away, but the scriptures won't.

We need to turn our minds back to God and I still believe we have the capacity to make that change. Understand that there is a God and that He is real and that He can be part of your life.

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 9

A nun at my primary school once gave me the cane and it was one of the best lessons of my life. She could see the potential in me long before I did. She gave me a grounding for the future, for which I remain grateful. I didn't have an easy childhood but I had good families around me that sowed into my life. That's what our kids need right now. People who are willing to stand up for them, for our families, in a world where we have become far too scared.

— Margaret Court (former world No. 1 tennis player)
Australia Herald Sun
Jan. 25, 2012

Have you heard about the quarterback who won the Heisman trophy and led his University of Florida Gators to a national championship? The multisport athlete, Florida's USA Today Football Player of the Year as a high-schooler? The son of a pastor who always put his faith before football, even while playing in the National Football League?

Of course we're talking about Danny Wuerffel, who has served as a powerful role model for a certain Denver Broncos quarterback currently making news.

Mr. Wuerffel and Tim Tebow didn't know each other well growing up 13 years apart, but Mr. Tebow's parents made it a point to introduce the two more than a decade ago, while Mr. Wuerffel was still playing at Florida. Both players' families understood that football provided a platform that could be used to talk about the most important thing in their life—their faith. Their attitudes mirrored that of C.S. Lewis, who reasoned that "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance.

The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

Mr. Wuerffel was drafted by the New Orleans Saints in 1997 and played three years for the team. One day during that tenure he took a wrong turn leaving the city's Superdome and drove near the Desire Street Housing Project in the Upper Ninth Ward. Built on a garbage dump, the area was considered one of the worst in the nation for crime, drugs and poverty.

Several days later, he heard of something that would forever change his life: A family was chased from a burning house while the fire department showed up far too late in that seemingly forgotten neighborhood. The family's youngest child eventually died from smoke inhalation. Mr. Wuerffel began volunteering with Desire Street Ministries, which tries to improve the lives of families in the area by revitalizing neighborhoods—providing assistance to residents, tutoring children, supporting parents and schools.

After his tenure with the Saints, Mr. Wuerffel played for the Green Bay Packers, Chicago Bears and Washington Redskins. When the Redskins looked to re-sign him in 2003, he walked away. He and his wife, Jessica, found God calling them back to the Ninth Ward and into full-time ministry with Desire Street.

They say they were inspired by a passage from the book of Isaiah: "Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings." The Wuerffels felt this would be better accomplished through full-time ministry with underprivileged youth in New Orleans than by signing a million-dollar

contract to play football.

But Mr. Wuerffel remained a fan, particularly of the Florida Gators and their dynamic new quarterback, Tim Tebow. He was especially taken with Mr. Tebow's work at his own father's orphanage in the Philippines and in prison ministries in the U.S. Mr. Wuerffel also held great respect for the way Mr. Tebow handled the spotlight, always crediting God with his success, and always surrendering his disappointments to Him as well.

During one game, Mr. Wuerffel found himself on the Gator sidelines at Florida Field, watching Mr. Tebow against the rival LSU Tigers. As a Florida player returned a kickoff, the stadium went silent when an LSU player made a bone-crushing tackle on the return-man. Players on the Gator sideline were shocked to see Mr. Wuerffel jumping up and down in the middle of the Florida sideline, clapping and cheering on the player from LSU.

The player was Deangelo Peterson, one of the kids to come out of the Desire Street Ministries program in the Ninth Ward. Mr. Tebow probably didn't see any divided loyalties with Mr. Wuerffel's outburst. Faith and the friendships it creates transcend even the bitterest of worldly rivalries. As Mr. Wuerffel says, "When you care about someone, you don't care what jersey they're wearing."

Such mentoring by Christian men is one of the most inspiring and least understood stories in sports. Super Bowl-winning coach Tony Dungy has been lauded—and criticized—for his work with individuals like Michael Vick, the NFL quarterback jailed for running a dog-fighting ring. Yet Mr. Dungy, the

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 10

author of a book on mentoring, realizes that he gets just as much benefit from the experience. As the Proverb says, “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

This week all eyes will be on Tim Tebow in the AFC divisional playoffs. Few will be watching Danny Wuerffel, though, as he continues to fight for the disenfranchised in pockets of poverty in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida. But the crowds are irrelevant: Both men have always played for an audience of One.

— Michael Flaherty and Nathan Walker
Wall Street Journal
Jan. 13, 2012, p. A25

The plight of Iraqi Christians since the fall of Saddam Hussein has been agonizingly personal for Aram Butrus Matti.

Hanging on the wall in his parents’ home here in northern Iraq are photographs of his cousin Yonan, his cousin’s spouse and their three-month-old son, who were among some 50 worshippers killed by suicide bombers in a Baghdad church in October 2010.

There also is a photo of his older brother, Noel, a pharmacist. Six years ago, Aram and Noel were kidnapped together in the nearby city of Mosul. Noel, then 44, was murdered. Aram was released only after his parents paid a ransom.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Matti, now 27, fled Mosul with the rest of his family to their ancestral village. Bartella is now ringed with trenches, earthen berms and checkpoints manned by local security forces to ward off attacks.

Mr. Matti is eager to leave Iraq for good.

At least 54 Iraqi churches have been bombed and at least 905 Christians killed in acts of violence since the fall of Saddam Hussein. In the wake of a series of attacks, Iraqi police, pictured, guard St. Barbara Church in the Nineveh Plain in northern Iraq, a region to which Christians are being encouraged to relocate.

With the Arab Spring now bringing political turbulence to many other countries in the region, Christians throughout the Middle East are worried that what happened in Iraq may be a harbinger of misfortune to come in their own communities. While many remain supporters of the uprisings, others fear that the toppling of their autocratic rulers could uncork sectarian violence against Christians and other minority groups in their own nations.

The sectarian violence that followed the U.S. invasion of Iraq and fall of Hussein in 2003 has been brutal for all Iraqis, including Muslim Shiites and Sunnis. But for the nation’s fragile Christian communities, it has been catastrophic.

At least 54 Iraqi churches have been bombed and at least 905 Christians killed in various acts of violence since the U.S. invasion toppled Hussein in 2003, according to Archbishop Louis Sako of the Chaldean Catholic Church in the northern provinces of Kirkuk and Sulimaniya. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled. A report on Iraq released Tuesday by Minority Rights Group International said that about 500,000 Christians remain in Iraq, down from an estimated 800,000 to 1.4 million in 2003.

“It’s a hemorrhage,” Archbishop

Sako says. “Iraq could be emptied of Christians.”

— Sam Dagher
Wall Street Journal
Dec. 5, 2011, p. 1

British Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks visited with Pope Benedict XVI last month in Rome and defended Europe’s Judeo-Christian heritage, including the “religious roots of the market economy and of democratic capitalism.” In a speech there, he urged that Jews and Christians to work together to “help Europe recover its soul.”

Separately, in a speech to the British House of Lords, Sacks denounced increasing persecution of Christians by radical Islam, warning that the “fate of Christians in the Middle East today is the litmus test of the Arab Spring.” In Rome and in London, he was more outspoken than are many of Europe’s often muted church officials, who typically fear to defend their faith, their culture, or their persecuted brethren.

“If Europe loses the Judeo-Christian heritage that gave it its historic identity and its greatest achievements in literature, art, music, education, politics, and economics, it will lose its identity and its greatness,” Sacks warned during his Rome speech. “When a civilization loses its faith, it loses its future. When it recovers its faith, it recovers its future. For the sake of our children ... we – Jews and Christians, side-by-side – must renew our faith and its prophetic voice.”

Sacks admired and was encouraged by the warm response the Pope received during his 2010 visit to mostly non-religious Britain, when “everyone was amazed that the interest was so acute and

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 11

so widespread.” The Chief Rabbi’s visit to Rome clearly was an attempt to strengthen Jewish and Christian voices in defense of historic Western cultural, political and economic principles.

Unlike left-leaning church officials in the West who simplistically equate free markets with sterile materialism, Sacks offered a more balanced perspective. He critiqued Europe’s secularism and materialism while pointing out that biblical religion created the foundations of prosperous market economies. “When Europe recovers its soul, it will recover its wealth-creating energies,” he said. “But first it must remember: humanity was not created to serve markets. Markets were created to serve humankind.” In contrast, the Religious Left, both in Europe and America, prefers to believe that markets are innately wicked and must be usurped by coercive national and international regulation.

Of course, much of the Religious Left is itself deeply materialist, preoccupied by the redistribution of wealth but unconcerned about the transcendence and timeless principles that facilitate justice and prosperity. But appropriately for a spiritual leader, Sacks pointed to the primacy of the “soul” of Europe.

— Mark D. Tooley
FrontPage Magazine
Jan. 17, 2012

Atheism

“Atheists have long criticized devout followers of faith. But now it seems that Atheism is stealing from that very religious tradition by erecting a temple of worship. Author Alain deBotton announced plans to build an Atheist temple in the U.K. . . . Dedicated to the idea of

perspective, the black tower will scale 46 meters (150 feet), with each centimeter honoring earth’s age of 4.6 billion years.”

— Tara Kelly
Huffington Post
Jan. 26, 2012

Economics

“The Buffett rule is rooted in the fairy tale that taxes on the wealthy are lower than on the middle-class. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office notes that the effective income tax rate of the richest 1 percent is about 29.5 percent when including all federal taxes such as the distribution of corporate taxes, or about twice the 15.1 percent paid by middle-class families. This is because wealthy tax filers make most of their income from investments. Such income is taxed once at the corporate rate of 35 percent and again when it is passed through to the individual as a capital gain or dividend at 15 percent, for a highest marginal taxation rate of about 44.75 percent.”

— *Wall Street Journal*
Jan. 26, 2012, p. A16

“There’s a very troubled company out there called U.S. Government, Inc. It’s teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. And it badly needs to be taken over and turned around. It probably even needs the services of a good private-equity firm, with plenty of experience and a reasonably good track record in downsizing, modernizing, shrinking staff and making substantial changes in management. Yes, layoffs will be a necessary part of the restructuring. A quick look at the income statement of this troubled firm tells the story. Just in the past year (FY 2011), the firm spent \$3.7 trillion, but took in only

\$2.2 trillion in sales revenues. Hence its deficit came to \$1.5 trillion.”

— Larry Kudlow
The Washington Times
Jan. 23, 2012, p. 33

Global Warming

“On Jan. 16, the National Center for Science Education, a non-profit group that denounces intelligent design and supports an evolution-only curriculum in the classroom, expanded its mission. . . . It will mount an aggressive effort to teach the nation’s schoolchildren that climate change is real and is being driven by human activity. . . . Textbooks and other materials geared toward the youngest students already are peddled to school leaders. The University of California at Berkeley operates the website globalwarmingkids.net, a subsection of its climatechangeeducation.org initiative. On the website, instructors can order ‘Global Warming for Young Minds,’ a handbook aimed at 6- to 10-year-olds. It also offers ‘Let’s Stop Climate Change’ DVDs, in which a hippopotamus named Simon encourages children to take action against global warming.”

— Ben Wolfgang
The Washington Times
Jan. 23, 2012, p. 18

Islam

“The sectarian violence that followed the U.S. invasion of Iraq and fall of Hussein in 2003 has been brutal for all Iraqis, including Muslim Shiites and Sunnis. But for the nation’s fragile Christian communities, it has been catastrophic. At least fifty-four Iraqi churches have been bombed and at least 905 Christians killed in various acts of violence since the U.S. invasion toppled Hussein in 2003, according to Archbishop Louis

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 12

Sako of the Chaldean Catholic Church in the northern provinces of Kirkuk and Sulimaniya. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled. A report on Iraq released Tuesday by Minority Rights Group International said that about 500,000 Christians remain in Iraq, down from an estimated 800,000 to 1.4 million in 2003. 'It's a hemorrhage,' Archbishop Sako says. 'Iraq could be emptied of Christians.'"

— Sam Dagher
Wall Street Journal
Dec. 5, 2011, p. 1

Government

Religious freedom is the lifeblood of the American people, the cornerstone of American government. When the Founding Fathers determined that the innate rights of men and women should be enshrined in our Constitution, they so esteemed religious liberty that they made it the first freedom in the Bill of Rights.

In particular, the Founding Fathers fiercely defended the right of conscience. George Washington himself declared: "The conscientious scruples of all men should be treated with great delicacy and tenderness; and it is my wish and desire, that the laws may always be extensively accommodated to them." James Madison, a key defender of religious freedom and author of the First Amendment, said: "Conscience is the most sacred of all property."

Scarcely two weeks ago, in its Hosanna-Tabor decision upholding the right of churches to make ministerial hiring decisions, the Supreme Court unanimously and enthusiastically reaffirmed these longstanding and foundational principles of religious freedom. The court made clear that they include the

right of religious institutions to control their internal affairs.

Yet the Obama administration has veered in the opposite direction. It has refused to exempt religious institutions that serve the common good—including Catholic schools, charities and hospitals—from its sweeping new health-care mandate that requires employers to purchase contraception, including abortion-producing drugs, and sterilization coverage for their employees.

Last August, when the administration first proposed this nationwide mandate for contraception and sterilization coverage, it also proposed a "religious employer" exemption. But this was so narrow that it would apply only to religious organizations engaged primarily in serving people of the same religion. As Catholic Charities USA's president, the Rev. Larry Snyder, notes, even Jesus and His disciples would not qualify for the exemption in that case, because they were committed to serve those of other faiths.

Since then, hundreds of religious institutions, and hundreds of thousands of individual citizens, have raised their voices in principled opposition to this requirement that religious institutions and individuals violate their own basic moral teaching in their health plans. Certainly many of these good people and groups were Catholic, but many were Americans of other faiths, or no faith at all, who recognize that their beliefs could be next on the block. They also recognize that the cleverest way for the government to erode the broader principle of religious freedom is to target unpopular beliefs first.

Now we have learned that those

loud and strong appeals were ignored. On Friday, the administration reaffirmed the mandate, and offered only a one-year delay in enforcement in some cases—as if we might suddenly be more willing to violate our consciences 12 months from now. As a result, all but a few employers will be forced to purchase coverage for contraception, abortion drugs and sterilization services even when they seriously object to them. All who share the cost of health plans that include such services will be forced to pay for them as well. Surely it violates freedom of religion to force religious ministries and citizens to buy health coverage to which they object as a matter of conscience and religious principle.

The rule forces insurance companies to provide these services without a co-pay, suggesting they are "free"—but it is naïve to believe that. There is no free lunch, and you can be sure there's no free abortion, sterilization or contraception. There will be a source of funding: you.

Coercing religious ministries and citizens to pay directly for actions that violate their teaching is an unprecedented incursion into freedom of conscience. Organizations fear that this unjust rule will force them to take one horn or the other of an unacceptable dilemma: Stop serving people of all faiths in their ministries—so that they will fall under the narrow exemption—or stop providing health-care coverage to their own employees.

— Timothy Dolan
Wall Street Journal
Jan. 25, 2011, p. A17

In January 2009, Julea Ward was

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 13

wrongfully expelled from Eastern Michigan University's counseling program for holding to her Christian beliefs. She had been assigned a potential client seeking assistance regarding a sexual relationship that violated her religious beliefs. Knowing she could not affirm the relationship without violating her religious convictions, Julea followed the counseling code of ethics (and her adviser's instructions) and had the clinic assign the client to another counselor. "I explained that I was a Christian, and I could not [endorse] homosexual behavior," said Julea.

Shortly afterward, EMU informed Julea that she would need to undergo a "remediation" program in order to stay in the counseling program. Its purpose was to help her "see the error of her ways" and change her "belief system." At a formal review hearing, EMU faculty belittled her Christian views and asked her several inappropriate questions concerning her faith. A few days later, Julea was notified by letter she had been dismissed from EMU's graduate program.

Julea turned to ADF, who filed suit against EMU for violating her rights of conscience and for punishing her because of her sincerely held Christian beliefs. Initially, a district court upheld EMU's expulsion of Julea. But ADF appealed her case, and a federal court ruled in favor of Julea today, sending the case back for trial. "A university cannot compel a student to alter or violate her belief system . . . as the price for obtaining a degree," the 6th circuit wrote. "Tolerance is a two-way street."

We praise God for this encouraging victory!

— Alan Sears
Alliance Defense Fund

Only three months ago, we would have violated U.S. secrecy laws by sharing what we write here—even though, as a former director of national intelligence, secretary of homeland security, and deputy secretary of defense, we have long known it to be true. The Chinese government has a national policy of economic espionage in cyberspace. In fact, the Chinese are the world's most active and persistent practitioners of cyber espionage today.

Evidence of China's economically devastating theft of proprietary technologies and other intellectual property from U.S. companies is growing. Only in October 2011 were details declassified in a report to Congress by the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive. Each of us has been speaking publicly for years about the ability of cyber terrorists to cripple our critical infrastructure, including financial networks and the power grid. Now this report finally reveals what we couldn't say before: The threat of economic cyber espionage looms even more ominously.

The report is a summation of the catastrophic impact cyber espionage could have on the U.S. economy and global competitiveness over the next decade. Evidence indicates that China intends to help build its economy by intellectual-property theft rather than by innovation and investment in research and development (two strong suits of the U.S. economy). The nature of the Chinese economy offers a powerful motive to do so.

According to 2009 estimates by the United Nations, China has a population of 1.3 billion, with 468 million (about 36% of the population) living on less

than \$2 a day. While Chinese poverty has declined dramatically in the last 30 years, income inequality has increased, with much greater benefits going to the relatively small portion of educated people in urban areas, where about 25% of the population lives.

The bottom line is this: China has a massive, inexpensive work force ravenous for economic growth. It is much more efficient for the Chinese to steal innovations and intellectual property—the source code of advanced economies—than to incur the cost and time of creating their own. They turn those stolen ideas directly into production, creating products faster and cheaper than the U.S. and others.

Cyberspace is an ideal medium for stealing intellectual capital. Hackers can easily penetrate systems that transfer large amounts of data, while corporations and governments have a very hard time identifying specific perpetrators.

Unfortunately, it is also difficult to estimate the economic cost of these thefts to the U.S. economy. The report to Congress calls the cost "large" and notes that this includes corporate revenues, jobs, innovation and impacts to national security. Although a rigorous assessment has not been done, we think it is safe to say that "large" easily means billions of dollars and millions of jobs.

So how to protect ourselves from this economic threat? First, we must acknowledge its severity and understand that its impacts are more long-term than immediate. And we need to respond with all of the diplomatic, trade, economic and technological tools at our disposal.

— Michael Chertoff, Michael McConnell, William Lynn

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 14

Wall Street Journal
Jan. 27, 2012, p. A15

Sociology

This headline caught my eye today: “America is drunk.” Psychiatrist Keith Ablow cites new data from the Centers for Disease Control that reveals the crisis: One in six Americans downs eight mixed drinks within a few hours, four times a month. Twenty-eight percent of young people between the ages of 18 and 24 binge-drink five times every month. Thirteen percent of those between the ages of 45 and 65 do the same.

According to Dr. Ablow, this is equivalent to news that a quarter of our young people were abusing cocaine or injecting heroin more than once a week. He warns: “The psychological/cognitive effects of seven or eight drinks are no less intense, and, possibly, even more dramatic.”

What is behind this horrific trend? His answer: “My theory is that Americans are on a flight from reality” as we face “the precarious state of the economy, the gathering storm represented by militant Muslims, in general, and Iran, in particular, the crumbling state of marriage in this country, the fact that our borders are being overrun, and the fact that our health care insurance is in shambles (to name just a smattering of the troubles we desperately need to address).”

What are we doing in response? “We as a nation are drinking, drug-ging, gambling, smoking, Facebooking, YouTubing, Marijuaning, Kardashianing, Adderalling, Bono-ing (as in thinking of Chaz’s flight from reality as good), Prozacking, Twittering, and Sexting ourselves into oblivion.” Then the psychiatrist makes this claim: “The fact that

we are doing this as a culture is the single most ominous psychological trend we have ever faced. I am not exaggerating.” What is the answer? According to Dr. Ablow, “The only antidote is the decisiveness of individuals to live their lives, to be present and to count--for real.”

The threat is very real and it is indeed ominous. But let’s think about his prescription that we become more self-reliant. Reread his list of the issues that have driven our nation into such a perilous state. What has produced them? How is self-dependence working for us?

Is there another way forward? The prophet could testify, “The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like a deer, he enables me to go on to the heights” (Habakkuk 3:19). The Apostle Paul, after describing his decision to submit himself completely to the authority and power of his Lord, could say in the face of life-threatening challenges, “Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

Peter could walk on the Sea of Galilee until he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and the waves (Matthew 14:29-30). Are you looking at the Savior or the storms this morning?

— Jim Denison
Denison Forum
Jan. 18, 2012

Marxism

The top act at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas this week featured Mercedes Benz’ Chairman Dieter Zetsche peddling his company’s

new gadgetry under a huge picture of Che Guevara, who sported the Mercedes logo on his beret. “Viva la Revolucion!” beamed the cheeky Herr Zetsche while unveiling his brilliant ad campaign.

In other words: to sell cars in the U.S., Mercedes Benz is relying on the mass appeal in the U.S. of the mass-murdering Stalinist who craved to destroy the U.S.

“The U.S. is the great enemy of mankind!” raved Mercedes Benz new U.S. sales icon. “Against those hyenas there is no option but extermination! We will bring the war to the imperialist enemies’ (Americans) very home, to his places of work and recreation. The imperialist enemy (Americans) must feel like a hunted animal wherever he moves. Thus we’ll destroy him! We must keep our hatred (against the U.S.) alive and fan it to paroxysm! If the nuclear missiles had remained (in Cuba) we would have fired them against the heart of the U.S. including New York City. The solutions to the world’s problems lie behind the Iron Curtain. The victory of socialism is well worth millions of atomic victims!”

No doubt Mercedes-Benz chuckles at the ironic cheekiness of using a Communist “man of the people” to tout a luxury product. After all, Time magazine’s encomium to Che Guevara in 1999 as “Hero and Icon of the Century” asserted that: “Nothing could be more vicariously gratifying than Che Guevara’s disdain for material comfort and everyday desires.”

Alas Time’s (and Mercedes’) “research” overlooked some important details. In fact, quite unwittingly, Mercedes-Benz has chosen an ideal sales emblem—and one utterly devoid of

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 15

irony. To wit:

Che's mansion was among the most luxurious in Cuba," wrote Cuban journalist Antonio Llano Montes in 1960. After a hard day at the office signing firing-squad murder warrants and blasting defenseless teen-agers' skulls apart with the coup-de-grace, Che Guevara repaired to his new domicile just outside Havana on the pristine beachfront (today reserved exclusively for tourists and regime apparatchiks.) Until a few weeks prior, it had belonged to Cuba's most successful building contractor, who escaped Cuba just ahead of a Guevara firing squad. "The mansion had a boat dock, a huge swimming pool, seven bathrooms, a sauna, a massage salon and several television sets," continues Llano Montes. "One TV had been specially designed in the U.S. and had a screen ten feet wide and was operated by remote control (remember, this was 1959.) This was thought to be the only TV of its kind in Latin America. The mansion's garden had a veritable jungle of imported plants, a pool with waterfall, ponds filled with exotic tropical fish and several bird houses filled with parrots and other exotic birds.

— Humberto Fontova
Townhall.com
Jan. 12, 2012

The U.S. Peace Council (USPC) describes itself as a "multi-racial, pro-working class, anti-imperialist organization committed to peace, economic and social justice, and ... international solidarity with the peoples of the world." The organization was launched as the official American section of the World Peace Council (WPC), a known Soviet front, at a November 12-13, 1979 conference at the University of Pennsylvania.

That same month, the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), in its newspaper *Daily World*, credited three of its own veteran operatives—Pauline Royce Rosen of the National Center to Slash Military Spending, Sylvia Kushner of the Chicago Peace Council, and Elsie Monjar of the Los Angeles Peace Council—for having methodically laid USPC's organizational foundation over a period of years. Moreover, former USPC executive director Michael Myerson was a longtime functionary of the New York State Communist Party.

Assisting the aforementioned individuals in establishing USPC were some 100+ founding sponsors, including John Conyers (who twice addressed the November 1979 founding conference), David Cortright, Angela Davis, and Mike Farrell.

In 1980, David McReynolds of the War Resisters League affirmed that USPC was "effectively dominated by the Communist Party" and "substantially aligned with the Soviet Bloc." Because of that alliance, the Council consistently sided with the United States' Communist adversaries throughout the Cold War era. In January 1980, for instance, USPC characterized America's objections to the recent Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as a contrived "frenzied cry" against a nonexistent "Russian expansionist threat," all for the purpose of "conceal[ing] shameless U.S. interventionism in behalf of the oil monopolies." Further, the Council publicly derided the "ignorance" of those American pacifists (such as singer Joan Baez) who had begun to criticize the atrocities of the Communists who had recently overrun South Vietnam.

Among USPC's noteworthy officers

and executive board members during the early to mid-1980s were Barbara Lee and Alice Palmer. Throughout the eighties, the Council called for the United States to dramatically slash its defense spending and to redirect those funds toward social-welfare and government-job programs.

In November 1989, USPC held its Tenth Anniversary National Conference in Boston, where the featured speakers included such notables as John Conyers, Manning Marable, Bernie Sanders, Dessima Williams, and Leslie Cagan. Cagan, for her part, went on to serve as the Council's official coordinator in the early 1990s.

— DiscovertheNetwork.org

Dec. 8, 2012

Bio-Ethics

North Carolina offered reparations on Tuesday to victims of its nearly-half-century sterilization campaign. Starting with Indiana in 1907, more than half of the states codified eugenics programs of varying degrees of fervor during the twentieth century. But North Carolina is thus far the only state to offer to compensate the victims.

"We are attempting to achieve a level of financial compensation and other services that can provide meaningful assistance," explained Dr. Laura Gerald, chair of the state's Eugenics Task Force. "Compensation also serves a collective purpose for the state and sends a clear message that we in North Carolina are a people who pay for our mistakes and that we do not tolerate bureaucracies that trample on basic human rights."

But the state tolerated trampling on "basic human rights" under the guise of progress between 1929 and 1974. The task force's recommendations have the endorsement of Governor Bev Perdue and

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 16

await the approval of the state legislature. Support in the legislature appears both wide and bipartisan.

The Tarheel State's press has been instrumental in exposing decades-long legislative and bureaucratic malfeasance. The role of their journalistic forebears in propagandizing for eugenics hasn't piqued their curiosity as much. The editorial page editor of the Durham Morning Herald, for instance, was a member of the Human Betterment League as late as the 1960s. The same Charlotte Observer, Winston Salem Journal, and Raleigh News and Observer that inveigh against the state's eugenic past also played a role in creating that past.

Joseph L. Morrison, a longtime professor in the University of North Carolina's journalism department, defended the state's eugenics laws as late as 1965. "If compulsory sterilization of unwed mothers could be seriously debated in two successive General Assemblies of North Carolina, reputedly the most progressive southern state, it is well to study the forces underlying such punitive proposals," he wrote in the *Social Service Review*. "What could have induced the legislators to think of altering their state's enlightened Eugenic Sterilization Law to subserve a vengeful purpose?" But the law wasn't particularly "enlightened," even though preferable to the alternatives introduced. Morrison criticized the racist intent of the proposed laws as he overlooked the racist effect of the existing law.

The late Tom Wicker, long a political reporter and columnist for the *New York Times*, launched his career in journalism as a propagandist for North Carolina's department of public welfare. "I wrote, in

effect, press releases—and hoped for the best. I didn't make any distinction in my own mind between the eugenics program and feeding the hungry," Wicker told the *Winston Salem Journal*. "I feel very badly about it in retrospect." Wicker, who died at 85 last year, spoke to the *Journal* in 2002. What he terms "press releases" wound up as copy in newspapers around the state. "We [journalists] were all kind of convinced that what our government was doing was right—that it wouldn't lie to you."

North Carolina's most well-known journalistic name was also the name most heavily involved in its crusade to mutilate the reproductive organs of those deemed "unfit." Wallace Kurlalt, made famous by his CBS newsman son Charles before he was posthumously made infamous by the sterilization scandal, served as director of public welfare in the county most zealously imposing North Carolina's eugenics law. "I suppose," he boasted of Mecklenburg County, "no comparable population in the world has ever received more eugenic sterilizations." A doctor, an employee, and a daughter stressed his liberal credentials to the *Charlotte Observer*. "He was a hero with women's reproductive rights." "He was a forward-thinking person for that time, particularly in the welfare business." "He was certainly concerned about the underprivileged." They talk as though Kurlalt's progressivism mitigates, rather than explains, his paternalistic trespass of others' bodily organs.

The proponents of sterilization represented science and the future. Its opponents represented reaction against reason. An embrace of eugenics presumed a blind faith in science and the

state. Eugenics demanded what modern progressives willingly give on any number of issues. But no decent progressive in 2012 embraces that particular idea. Few progressives would even concede eugenics showing up within their ideological lineage. For those who acknowledge the past mistakes of those sharing a political label, the historical reality of state sterilization is humbling. The voices of *laissez faire* against interventionism and tradition against modernization shouldn't be so easily shouted down.

"While no amount of money will ever make up for the fact that government officials deprived North Carolinians, mostly women, of the possibility of having children, and officials did so, in most cases, without the victims' consent or against their will," Governor Bev Perdue announced Tuesday, "we must do something."

That "something" amounts to less than .005 percent of its state budget. With just 72 living victims identified—almost one percent of the total—the state stands to pay out \$3.6 million. Alas, that's \$3.6 million more than that awarded by California, Washington, Kansas, and every other state once caught up in one of the Left's most monstrous endeavors. North Carolina didn't stand alone in taking away its citizens' rights to reproduce. It does stand alone in attempting to make amends.

Financial restitution is but one means to right a wrong. A method demanding more from individuals is to beware of the flattering conceits of righteousness that led to past wrongs.

— Daniel Flynn
FrontPage Magazine
Jan. 13, 2012

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 17

When our sweet little neighbor in her brown camp uniform came knocking on our door this year, we had to say no. I told her mother that I didn't want to hurt Katie's feelings, but I couldn't support the Girl Scout cookie sale anymore because I'd learned too much about the organizers' agenda, primarily their support for abortion and partnership with Planned Parenthood.

I worried that my "political" stand would cause uneasiness between us, but her response put me at ease: "Well," she said, "they do use unpaid child labor to make their sales, and the troop only gets 10 percent of the revenues anyway."

True. According to the Girl Scouts' website, the lion's share of the money goes not to the troop but to bureaucrats up the chain of command in multicounty councils. The national office gets a piece of the pie, too, in the form of royalties based on gross annual sales volume - about 200 million boxes per year.

It's a sacrifice, because I love the cookies and the cuties who sell them, but enough is enough.

I remember the Girl Scouts being flaky way back in the early 1970s. When I was a Brownie, I was told to recite some chant and step over a mirror. If I had known the word, I would have called it "pagan." Even an unchurched girl of 7 could smell a rat.

Last year, the Girl Scouts decided to admit boys who dress as girls. When asked to admit a cross-dressing 7-year-old boy, a Colorado troop leader demurred, explaining to his mother, with tact and irrefutable logic, that her son couldn't be a Girl Scout because he has "boy parts."

The troop leader was chastised

by the mom as being insensitive and promptly was overruled by the Girl Scout top brass, who, in a statement said, "If a child identifies as a girl and the child's family presents her as a girl, Girl Scouts of Colorado welcomes her as a Girl Scout." Perpetuating this cruel charade on the little boy and forcing little girls to participate in it is "inclusiveness" to the Girl Scouts. To others, it's child abuse.

But it shouldn't be surprising: The Girl Scouts have a cross-dresser in the front office.

Ten years ago, Girl Scouts media relations officer Joshua Ackley was frontman for the "homopunk" band the Dead Betties. In publicity shots, he's dressed in women's clothing, and in music videos, he appears to be naked and feigning masturbation. The video for "Hellevator" portrays a woman being strangled in an elevator shaft while Mr. Ackley flashes a menacing grin.

Today he issues press releases, posts news and views on the Girl Scouts' blog, and tries to mollify moms who are concerned about Girl Scout ties with Planned Parenthood. In fact, it was Mr. Ackley who facilitated the Girl Scouts' "no adults allowed" workshop at the United Nations - the workshop in which the Planned Parenthood sex brochure "Healthy, Happy, and Hot" was offered, although part of Mr. Ackley's job is to deny it.

It wouldn't be a surprise if someone like Mr. Ackley was behind the Girl Scouts' recent scandal: a guidebook that tells girls to check with the leftist, George Soros-funded Media Matters before believing what they read in the news.

As boys send in their orders for

Brownie beanies and tights, the Girl Scouts have declared 2012 to be "The Year of the Girl," announcing that they will be "working to break down societal barriers that prevent girls from leading in their own lives." What barriers? What does "leading in their own lives" even mean? Forgive me for thinking it has something to do with sex or abortion.

Several years ago, a quarter of the Girl Scout councils nationwide admitted to partnering with Planned Parenthood, the nation's abortion giant. When questioned about the affiliation on NBC's "Today Show," Girl Scout CEO Kathy Cloninger had no compunction in confirming it.

The Girl Scouts have been "pro-choice" for years, but now they've been caught supporting promiscuous sex for girls. The Planned Parenthood sex guide offered at that "girls only" U.N. meeting offered this advice on Page 11: "Some people have sex when they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs. This is your choice. ... If you want to have sex and think you might get drunk or high, plan ahead by bringing condoms and lube or putting them close to where you usually have sex."

Heard enough? There's a lot more at 100questionsforthegirlscouts.org.

Earlier this month, a young Girl Scout employee, Renise Rodriguez, made the mistake of stopping by the office to do extra work on her own time in a T-shirt bearing the words: "Pray to End Abortion." A supervisor ordered her to turn the shirt inside out or leave the office. She left, for good.

So should we all.

— Cathy Ruse

The Washington Times

a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel, continued from page 18

Jan. 23, 2012

Homosexuality

“The implementation of the repeal [of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell] is proceeding smoothly across the Department of Defense,” said Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez.

“We attribute this success to our comprehensive pre-repeal training program, combined with the continued close monitoring and enforcement of standards by our military leaders at all levels.”

The gay-rights movement is not satisfied with simply removing the ban.

OutServe, the once-secretive fraternity of gay troops that held its first convention in October in Las Vegas, is urging the Obama administration to provide the same types of benefits for gay partners that straight married couples receive.

The Pentagon said most benefits may not be granted to gay troops because of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

The gay-rights movement also wants the military to admit cross-dressers and transsexuals.

OutServe’s magazine set out its goals for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBT) in an article, “Repeal Watch: What’s Next.”

“As the interviews for this post-repeal issue commenced, it became clear that while gays and lesbians can serve openly within the military, they have not yet escaped the limelight,” the article said.

“LGBT service members will remain central to two key issues to the greater fight for LGBT equality: The quest to

seek marriage equality and nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation.”

OutServe spokeswoman Sue Fulton, a former Army captain, said the ban has been well-received among heterosexual troops.

“At OutServe, we have been pleased at how well the repeal has been implemented. Reports from our network, which includes active military from Afghanistan, Iraq and Okinawa to the continental U.S., have been overwhelmingly positive,” she said.

Ms. Fulton said some gay troops reported that they were urged to come out of the closet by straight colleagues and that the military has set up a chain-of-command reporting system to track the effects of the repeal on “readiness, unit cohesion, effectiveness, recruiting and retention.”

— Rowan Scarbrough
The Washington Times
Jan. 2, 2012, p. 27