

» pg. 2 From the President's desk

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

» pg. 7 Summit alum creates award-winning documentary

» The Point: Daily one-minute world-view commentary

» Find us on Facebook

» Check our Twitter feed: @summitmn

Zombie Communism: Bad Ideas Back from the Dead

Cover Story

It's not a movie we'd recommend, but the opening sequence of *Shaun of the Dead*, a cult-classic zombie flick, is pretty revealing. Set to an upbeat carnival tune, each brief scene features people shuffling along, blankly staring ahead, checking their cell phones — just going through the motions. The filmmaker's argument is whimsically clear: if zombies invaded today we'd have a hard time picking them out because just about everyone seems disconnected, unthinking, and apathetic.

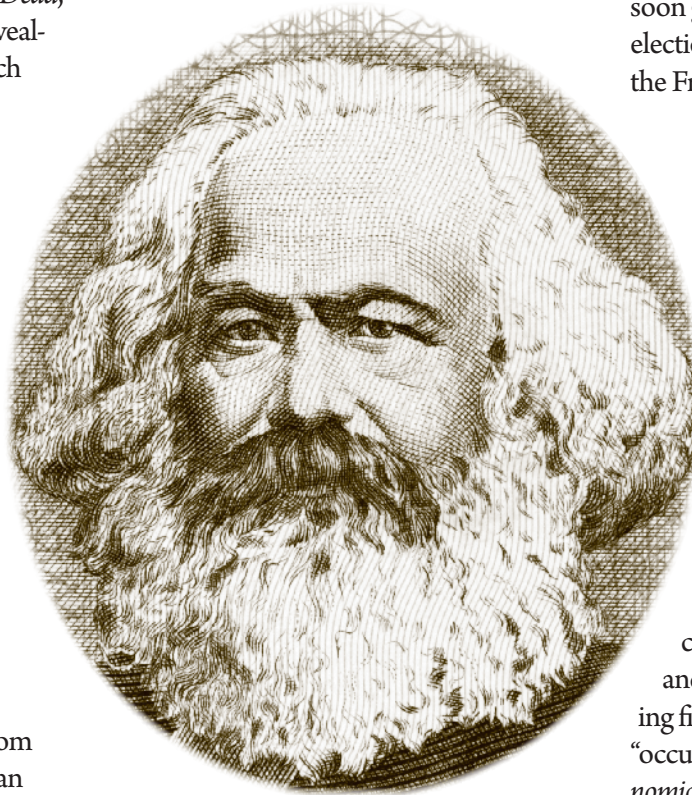
In human history, bad ideas can be like zombies; when you think they're dead, they come back around and are harder to kill because they're supposedly already dead. Such is the case with Marxism-Leninism and its political offshoot, communism. Communism is back from the dead, but now it's harder to kill than ever. And just like the zombie film, people might be too unaware or self-absorbed to understand what's happening until it's too late.

So at the risk of offending the eyerollers who think that we're beating a dead idea, we submit the concept of Zombie Communism.

To understand it, we need to look back in history, in the years just prior to the birth of the students we work with at Summit today.

When the Berlin Wall finally fell in 1989, many thought communism itself would crumble too. In quick succession,

the Soviet Union and its satellites either crumbled or rapidly changed their *modus operandi*. Today, despite countries such as



China, Cuba, and North Korea clinging to political communism, the term "communism" itself is largely discredited in the West, where very few genuinely consider themselves Marxists or Leninists. In a great historical irony, the horrors of Nazi Germany and its demise are far more familiar to Westerners than is the slaughter of an estimated 100 million people by communist regimes of the twentieth century.¹

Not recognizing where these ideas take a society leaves us vulnerable. Whether we call it socialism, progressivism, liberalism,

or something else, the ideas of Marx and Lenin are back from the dead and are just as false and just as dangerous as ever. We may soon get another example after the recent election of socialist Francois Hollande to the French presidency.

'Progressive' Economics Laden with Marxist Thought

The over-arching narrative postulated by communism was that economic revolution was needed to achieve class equality. As long as political and economic systems were in place that made some winners and others losers, one class would always oppress the others.

Today, the methods have changed, but the ideas are the same. Occupy Wall Street gained momentum last fall, amidst the ambiguous clamoring for "people before profits" and demands that the economic playing field be leveled. According to many "occupiers" and their cheerleaders, *economic equality* was tantamount to the first freedoms enumerated in the Bill of Rights. While much can be said of the dire need to improve Wall Street's ethics, protesters demanding the dismantling of the capitalist system were merely repeating talking points of Marxist agitators from a century ago — many doing so unwittingly. Slavoj Zizek, a New York University professor who addressed the Occupy crowd, is a devout Marxist who once wrote, "... one should shamelessly repeat the lesson of Lenin's *State and Revolution*."²

Perhaps even more startling is the fact

See **communism**, page 3

from the president's desk

a word from dr. jeff myers

"Why do you talk about communism? This isn't the 1950s anymore." It's a common refrain, even among students at Summit. In conservative gatherings the presence of "anti-communists" is a source of embarrassment, like a crazy uncle who sits on the front porch and hurls insults at passersby. To hear them tell it, many conservatives actually believe that the mere presence of these "conspiracy nuts" is what prevents liberals from taking conservative ideas seriously.

So, balancing the risks of mockery and oversimplification, we offer this issue of *The Summit Journal* as both an update on the Marxist-Leninist worldview as well as an explanation of why our students should still be prepared to respond intelligently to it.

1 The rising generation is ignorant of history, and that's dangerous.

In the pursuit of communism, blood-thirsty Marxist-Leninist dictators perpetrated the greatest mass murder in the history of humankind. R.J. Rummel estimates the total to be around 110 million, while *The Black Book of Communism* (published by Harvard University Press) says it's closer to 100 million. To young adults, though, this travesty barely registers. They've seen many movies about Hitler, but there is no parallel focus on the bloodlust of Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot, etc. This silence convinces many that the atrocities of communism are irrelevant. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

2 The rising generation is being led by pop culture images to believe that communism is harmless.

As Ravi Zacharias says, this is the generation that hears with its eyes and thinks with its feelings. They're deeply susceptible to the notion that image is everything. Today the images generated by communism are of silly propaganda post-

ers, clueless hippies wearing Che Guevara t-shirts, a bearded old man giving long-winded speeches while sporting a slouchy olive jumpsuit, and a strutting, baby-faced North Korean ruler who has no idea of how ridiculous his country appears in the eyes of the world. Many mistakenly believe that if a bad idea is laughable, it doesn't need to be taken seriously.

3 Communism still dominates the political landscape today.

Strictly speaking, there are only five communist countries in the world today: China, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea, and Cuba. But these countries account for 21 percent of the world's population. A governmental system that encompasses one out of every five people on the planet isn't irrelevant, especially in light of personal accounts that demonstrate that terror and misery are just as present today in those countries as they ever were.

4 Communism's offspring are taken seriously in public policy today.

The economic philosophy of Marxism-Leninism, socialism, was defined by Karl Marx as the absence of private property. If we add to the list of communist

countries those that proclaim themselves socialist states, or which are ruled by socialist dictators (Venezuela), we're talking about a huge part of the world's population. And if we add to that list the countries with powerful socialist parties, or that pursue socialist policies as a matter of practice, or that are bent on destroying private property, it's easy to see that Karl Marx still rules the world from the grave.

5 Ideas have consequences and Marxism-Leninism persists as an influential idea.

In American universities Marxist ideas are still quite popular. Courses in revolutionary thought are common. Radical newspapers are still distributed on campus. And professors with Marxist sympathies have mentored many students who, in turn, have positioned themselves at the highest levels of government and society today. Need we say more about that?

Making Cowards of Us All

In spite of the evidence, if you were to imply in polite company that communism is bad, you'd endure a lot of smirking and eye-rolling. It's been said that the fear of being laughed at makes cowards of us all. Unfortunately it's true. Most choose to be quiet rather than compel the mockers and scorners to define their terms and provide actual arguments justifying their views.

No one knows better than Summit's founder, David Noebel — labeled by a hostile media as an 'anti-Communist propagandist' — that standing against unspeakable evil can be costly. As Ronald Reagan warned nearly 50 years ago, we live in a time of choosing. It's still the case. Where are those who will continue the work of dismantling the bad ideas that have inflicted so much misery and chaos on the world?



communism

continued from page one

that many Marxist-Leninist ideas are already accepted as common practice. *WORLD Magazine's* Warren Cole Smith has become acutely aware of that issue in his coverage of economics. In an interview with Summit, Smith referenced a special report published by *The Economist* earlier this year that chronicles the rise of what the publication calls "state capitalism." In a nutshell, it's the practice of federal governments taking ownership and management control of otherwise private businesses. Though the companies still operate in the private marketplace, they do so with inequitable backing of state capital and power. The tactics of each country differ, but the notion of state-backed companies doing business in the marketplace signals a huge red flag for Smith. "The Soviet Union has fallen, and socialism *per se* is dead there," Smith said. "If we're not careful, we'll end up with an entire industry certainly beholden to the government, essentially being run by the government and bureaucrats. That's a big problem."

The development is illustrated specifically in Russia, China, and Brazil, where state governments have taken ownership of oil companies, telecomm companies, and mining operations, respectively.

Though *The Economist* chose the moniker *state capitalism*, the ideas therein are inherently socialistic; means of production and distribution of products come under state control.

That the Obama administration is keenly interested in pursuing the above-

'State Capitalism' in China, Russia, and Brazil

»For 2011, Chinese government-run companies made up **80%** of the value of the MSCI national stockmarket index.

»Russian government-run companies made up **62%** of the value of the MSCI national stockmarket index.

»Brazilian government-run companies made up **38%** of the value of the MSCI national stockmarket index.

»In 2010, 4 of the 10 top revenue-earning companies in the world were state-run companies:

- **Sinopec Group (\$273 billion, China)**
- **China National Petroleum Corp. (\$240 billion, China)**
- **State Grid (\$226 billion, China)**
- **Japan Post Holdings (\$204 billion, Japan)**

»The Chinese government is the biggest shareholder for the country's biggest **150** companies.

Source: *The Economist*

mentioned kind of approach to economic management became clear with the so-called "contraception mandate" that forces companies to pay, through their health insurance plans, for employees' contraception, sterilization, and even abortifacient drugs. As the state steps in to take more control of the health care

sector, the rights of individuals, institutions (like churches), and private companies are crowded out.

Some might rationalize that

what was bad about communist and socialist theory wasn't the fundamental economic ideas, but the violent overthrows, labor camps, and systematic genocide. We don't have that now, so what's the harm? Smith responds, "What's wrong with it is that it robs human beings of their dignity. One of the implications of being made in the image

of God is that like God we are creative beings. We want and need to work and to make things: everything from planting gardens to building automobiles, to writing articles."

Even though Marx set out to improve the dignity of work, his unattainable utopian ideals were such that any iteration of communism ended up denying a proper view of work and private property. By reducing humans to their capacity to be *recipients* of the goods provided by others or the state, Marxism suppresses man's natural productivity. "Any system of government that teaches us that we can get something for nothing, that we can live off of the fruits of other people's labor — any government that encourages those things, to an extent, is an unjust government," Smith said.

Marxist Morality

Squelches Human Rights

Even if the ideas getting the most

See **communism**, page 4

“... it robs human beings of their dignity.”

Warren Cole Smith

communism

continued from page 3

Estimated Murders by Communist Regimes (until 1987)

» **Soviet Union: 61 million**

» **China: 38.6 million**

» **Khmer Rouge (Cambodia): 2 million**

» **North Korea: 1.6 million**

» **Yugoslavia: 1.2 million**

Source: R.J. Rummel (<http://www.hawaii.edu>)

media attention today aren't overtly called communist, they are nevertheless the fruits of Marxist-Leninist philosophies. Many in the Millennial generation flaunt the icons of communist revolutionaries. Case in point: the popularity of Che Guevara, Fidel Castro's most ruthless lieutenant and overseer of Cuba's first prison camp, La Cabaña. Films like *The Motorcycle Diaries* and t-shirts romanticize his lust for violent overthrow.³

Wherever Marxist ideas take hold, oppression follows. The economic policies made sacrosanct by Marxism require a strong state to enforce them, usually against the will of its citizens. Such policies and the resulting poverty inevitably lead to much death and suffering, which in turn lead to opposition to the state and attempts to escape the oppression and control. This is the kind of civil disobedience that led to Stalin's gulags, Mao's killing fields, North

Korea's famines, East Berlin's wall, and China's one-child policy, and its millions of missing girls. Though it sometimes takes decades to unfold, the line of cause-and-effect eventually becomes apparent. These ideas and their implementation have had murderous consequences throughout the last 100 years, but rising generations are ignorant of history and prone to repeating the same mistakes.

Communicating the Truth about Communism, Marxism, and Socialism

Summit founder and President Emeritus Dr. David Noebel knows a thing or two about fighting communism; it was one of the reasons Summit was founded. He knows firsthand that if you bring up the term *communism* the mainstream media attacks you and the intelligentsia sniffs in derision. For those wanting to communicate truth about communism and its intellectual descendants, Noebel encourages taking the worldview approach: educate others about communism's ideas and the consequences of those ideas. "Taking the worldview approach is more academic, whereas politics is emotional," he said. Noebel's sense is that much of today's troubles stem from the fact that people throw around terms like "socialism" while being ignorant of what Marxism and its various philosophies actually say. Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary who led Russia into civil war and communist rule in 1917, called those advocating for socialism but not outright communism "dupes" and "useful idiots." Noebel thinks there are plenty of dupes still around today. "A lot of these people have no idea," he said. "They don't even know

their own nation's history."

Smith, paying obvious attention to media and journalism, cautions conservatives to not be so heavy-handed in their refutations of socialist thought. "It's important that we conservatives don't overstate the case," he said. Earlier this year, Florida Congressman Allen West gained scrutiny when he accused 80 members of Congress of being communists. Smith says that may have been too hard an accusation to be effective. "That's part of the problem these days: nobody is willing to say they are a communist. That's a discredited worldview," Smith said. "But plenty of people *act* like socialists. *That's* the problem."

When it comes to educating yourself, Noebel had simple suggestions: watch *Agenda*, a documentary exposing how Marxist thought is influencing the public today (see page 7 for a spotlight on the film's creator), and read *Understanding the Times*, which covers ten strands of Marxist thought in detail. "By that time they'll have a Ph.D. in understanding what the whole thing is about," he said.

Notes

1. Political scientist R.J. Rummel estimates that communism killed about 110 million people in the 20th century (<http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/COM.ART.HTM>), while *The Black Book of Communism*, published by Harvard University Press, estimates that nearly 100 million were killed by communist regimes in the 20th century. The total may never really be known.
2. Alan Johnson, "The New Communism: Rectifying the Utopian Delusion," *World Affairs Journal*, May/June 2012.
3. Alvaro Vargas Llosa, "The Killing Machine: Che Guevara, from Communist Firebrand to Capitalist Brand," *The New Republic*, July 11, 2005, <http://www.independent.org/newsroom/article.asp?id=1535>.

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. To see the complete list of Doc's clippings, go to www.summit.org/resources/the-journal/ and scroll to page 9, or call us at 866.786.6483.

Marxism

My country continues to be run by a brutal regime that oppresses the people, systematically violating our basic freedoms. That regime is a relic of the Cold War, and there's little hope for change without substantial international pressure.

Cuba is a police state. Government agents spy on and harass anyone advocating for human rights. They beat and imprison anyone seeking peaceful political change. They arbitrarily arrest and detain Cubans for Orwellian infractions like "disrespecting patriotic symbols" and "insulting symbols of the fatherland."

Cuban state security closely monitors citizens' daily life, including all of our incoming mail, telephone calls and emails. The only legal press and the only newspaper are run by the dictatorship. Independent journalists who seek to challenge state propaganda are threatened and jailed.

Cuban jails are living hells in which flagrant violations of human dignity occur daily. I've spent over 12 years incarcerated, most recently for "crimes against state security"—that is, asking the Cuban state to respect the fundamental human rights of every Cuban citizen.

— Dr. Oscar Biscet
Wall Street Journal
March 21, 2012, p. A13

Global Warming

Climate scientist Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute is by his own admission a liar and a thief, but whether he is a forger as well remains unknown. Posing as a member of the board of the Heartland Institute, a free-market think tank, he procured access to internal documents, which he then gleefully released to left-leaning blogs and the media. The documents included a damning strategy memo that is an apparent forgery, and a clumsy one at that. Gleick has owned up to the first two offenses but pleads not guilty to the third. Strange thing about the global warming alarmists: for a group of people certain that the facts are on their side, they lie rather often. As Jonah Goldberg has pointed out, a respected scientific journal published an article encouraging scientists to exaggerate the evidence for global warming, and when the Gleick scandal broke, the *Guardian's* James Garvey praised him: "If Gleick frustrates the efforts of Heartland, isn't his lie justified by the good that it does?"



Perhaps the evidence would be more compelling if it were not fabricated.

— *National Review*
March 19, 2012, p. 10

Economics

Our fiscal crisis is not some unfortunate bookkeeping accident that a bit of recalibration by a savvy technocrat can fix. In the United States as in Greece, it is a reflection of the character of a people. The problem isn't that Rick Santorum's weird, but that a government of record-breaking brokenness already bursting through its newest debt-ceiling increase even as it announces bazillions in new spending is entirely normal.

— Mark Steyn
National Review
March 19, 2012

In Sumeria about 2100 BC, the economy was organized by the State. Most of the arable land was the property of the crown; laborers received rations from the crops delivered to the royal storehouses ... records were kept of all deliveries and distributions of nations. Tens of thousands of clay tablets inscribed with such records were found in the capital Ur.

In Babylonia, (c. 1750 BC) the law code of Hammurabi fixed wages for the herdsmen and artisans, and the charges to be made by physicians for operations.

In Egypt under the Ptolemies (323-30 BC) the state owned the soil and managed the agriculture; the peasant was told what land to till, what crops to grow, his harvest was measured and registered by government scribes, was threshed on royal threshing floors, and was conveyed by a living chain of fellaheen into the granaries of the king. The government

continued on page 6

a look at our world

news and commentary, continued from page 5

owned the mines and appropriated the ore. It nationalized the production and sale of oil, salt, papyrus, and textiles. All commerce was controlled and regulated by the State . . . banking was a government monopoly. Taxes were laid upon every person, industry, process, product, sale, and legal document.

Roman Emperor Diocletian brought nearly all major industries and guilds under detailed control . . . taxation rose to such heights that men lost incentive to work or earn. . . . Thousands of Romans, to escape the tax gatherer, fled over the frontiers to seek refuge among the barbarians.

Chinese Szuma Ch'ien (c. 146 BC) informs us that to prevent individuals from "reserving to their sole use the riches of the mountains and the sea in order to gain a fortune, and from putting the lower class into subjection to themselves," the Emperor Wu Ti of the Han Dynasty (reigning 140-87 BC) nationalized the resources of the soil, extended government direction over transport and trade, laid a tax upon incomes, and established public works, including canals that bound the rivers together and irrigated the fields.

These stories recounted by Will and Ariel Durant [*The Lessons of History*] underscore the continual drive for States to control citizens' lives, and highlight the truly unusual alignment of circumstances

and beliefs which allowed for the formation of the United States of America.

— William J. Federer
Change to Chains
p. 81

Sociology

The only place in the Middle East where Christians aren't endangered but flourishing is Israel. Since Israel's founding in 1948, its Christian communities (including Russian and Greek Orthodox, Catholics, Armenians and Protestants) have expanded more than 1,000%.

Christians are prominent in all aspects of Israeli life, serving in the Knesset, the Foreign Ministry and on the Supreme Court. They are exempt from military service, but thousands have volunteered and been sworn in on special New Testaments printed in Hebrew. Israeli Arab Christians are on average more affluent than Israeli Jews and better-educated, even scoring higher on their SATs.

This does not mean that Israeli Christians do not occasionally encounter intolerance. But in contrast to elsewhere in the Middle East where hatred of Christians is ignored or encouraged, Israel remains committed to its Declaration of Independence pledge to "ensure the complete equality of all its citizens irrespective of religion."

— Michael Oren
Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.
Wall Street Journal
March 9,
2012, p. A13

What is the
alternative to
Bashar al-Assad's
regime in Syria?

A simple if indirect way to find out is to consider which groups in Syria are especially for or against Assad—and why.

Christian minorities, who, at 10 percent of the Syrian population, have the most to gain from a secular government and the most to suffer from a Sharia-state, have no choice but to prefer Assad. They are already seeing aspects of the alternative. A recent Barnabas Fund report titled "Christians in Syria Targeted in Series of Kidnappings and Killings; 100 Dead," tells of how "children were being especially targeted by the kidnappers, who, if they do not receive the ransom demanded, kill the victim." In one instance, kidnappers videotaped a Christian boy as they murdered him in an attempt to frame the government; one man "was cut into pieces and thrown in a river" and another "was found hanged with numerous injuries."

— Raymond Ibrahim
FrontPage Magazine
March 12, 2012

Same-Sex Marriage

The most-recent *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll suggests that views on gay marriage are shifting faster than for any other hot-button social issue in recent memory, pollsters say.

Forty-nine percent of Americans now say they approve of gay marriage, up from 40 percent shortly after Mr. Obama took office in 2009. Mr. Obama's stated stance makes him part of the 8 percent of respondents who are unsure how they feel about gay marriage, according to the poll released last week.

— Carol E. Lee
Wall Street Journal
March 12, 2012, p. A4

“My country continues to be run by a brutal regime that oppresses the people . . .”

Dr. Oscar Biscet

Summit Alum Creates Award-Winning Documentary



Curtis and Lauren Bowers and their family

The son of long-time Summit faculty members Dr. James and Carol Bowers, Curtis Bowers spent the summers of his youth in Manitou Springs, Colorado. After years of absorbing lectures by Dr. David Noebel and other instructors, worldview thinking was in Bowers' blood, but he never suspected how it would change his life years later.

In 2007, Idaho Governor Butch Otter appointed Bowers to a position as a state representative. While in that position, Bowers penned a regular column for his local newspaper in which he decried cultural, political, and societal changes in the U.S. In one column, he pointed out that socialist thought was rooted in the political philosophy of communism. The firestorm of criticism set off by the column convinced Bowers that something needed to be done.

When his term ended in 2008, Bowers took a bold plunge; with no prior experience in the film industry, he decided to make a documentary chronicling cul-

tural activists' success in keeping Marxist thought alive in the U.S. The result was *Agenda: Grinding America Down*, which took home the top award at the 2010 San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival and the accompanying \$101,000 prize — the highest of any film festival, Christian or otherwise.

The story of how Bowers even made the film is a testament to his determination and resourcefulness. After a few crash courses in film production from family and friends, he embarked on a 22-month journey of research, filming, and production.

Bowers' wife, Lauren, also a Summit grad, was drawn into the process, along with their nine children. Since *Agenda's* release, the Bowers family has criss-crossed the country together giving screenings and talks about the film. They'll be in 35 different states throughout the rest of the spring and summer. "It's been a great experience for them to see how you can make a big difference if you obey and make the sacrifices," Bowers said. "When you bite something off that's a little over your head, it's good for your prayer life."

When Bowers began reading and researching about current socialist trends — equipped with the worldview framework he had gained in his years at Summit — he was astounded at how terrible ideas keep reinventing themselves, a point that *Agenda* goes to great lengths to illustrate. "I didn't want to make a film that just discourages people," he said. "I hoped it would shake

people up."

Most audiences he interacts with are taken aback by what they learn. But there are those who accuse Bowers of being another Joseph McCarthy, the Wisconsin senator who was castigated in the 1950s for his aggressive anti-communist stance. "They don't even deal with the message because most times they can't," Bowers said. "Make [skeptics] footnote their evidence. We need to not let their meaningless attacks silence us."

As the saying goes, worldviews are as easy to catch as colds. Most people who promote socialism aren't communists, Bowers says, they are just "useful idiots," to use Vladimir Lenin's term, who are uninformed about where these ideas come from and, more importantly, what they lead to.

But those who are intent on perpetuating communism and socialism usually head toward positions where they can control the dissemination of information — like the film industry. That's why Bowers encourages Christians to use film to make their case. "Short YouTube videos can have a huge impact," he said.

Once Bowers and his family finish their *Agenda* tour, he plans to start working on a sequel. Whereas the first film traced the history of communistic thought, the sequel will look at how it affects policies and people today.

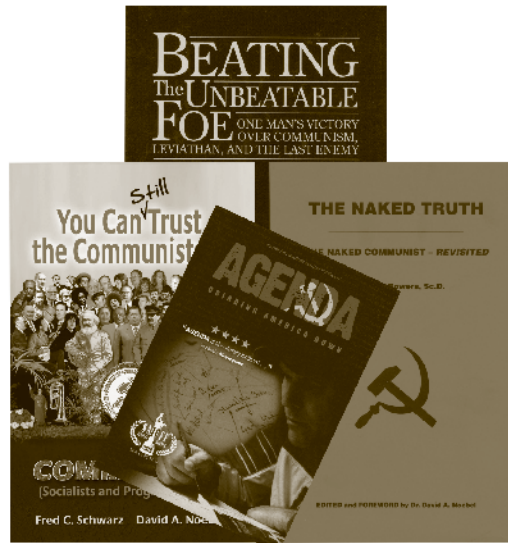
Though the implications of *Agenda* are unsettling and frightening, Bowers wants Christians to engage the culture in hope. "We shouldn't be discouraged because God is in complete control," he says. "But we need to realize God has chosen us to be alive for such a time as this."



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

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

INSIDE: The world's worst idea is back from the dead — and harder to kill than ever. Address Service Requested



Regularly \$80
Now \$40 (plus s/h)

summit.org/store/zombie-communism
866.786.6483

Thought Communism Was Dead?

Learn how the ideas of Marx and Lenin still persist today and why they've produced disastrous consequences through history.

The Zombie Communism Package includes:

Book: *Beating the Unbeatable Foe* (Fred Schwarz) gives a glimpse of the lifelong work of anti-communist activist Fred C. Schwarz.

Book: *You Can Still Trust the Communists...* (Fred Schwarz and David Noebel) shows how Marxism-Leninism is still Marxism-Leninism no matter what you call it.

Book: *The Naked Truth* (Jim Bowers) accounts for how communists have succeeded in implementing key goals outlined more than 50 years ago.

DVD: *Agenda* (produced by Summit grad Curtis Bowers) illustrates in striking detail how Marxist thought has infiltrated various levels of society in the 21st century.

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

Economics

A group of business leaders—including Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield of Ben & Jerry's ice cream and former Nirvana manager Danny Goldberg—are planning to pour substantial funds into the Occupy Wall Street movement in hopes of sustaining the protests and fostering political change.

Business leaders are planning to give substantial funds to the Occupy Wall Street movement in hopes of sustaining the protests, Jessica Firger reports on Lunch Break. Photo: Daniella Zalcman for The Wall Street Journal.

Their goal is to provide some ballast to an amorphous movement that captured the world's attention with nonstop, overnight protests in dozens of cities but has had trouble regaining momentum since most of those encampments were broken up by police in the past few months.

The latest Occupy supporters call themselves the Movement Resource Group and have raised about \$300,000 so far to parcel out in grants to protesters, said Mr. Cohen. Their goal is to raise \$1.8 million.

— Jessica Firger
Wall Street Journal
February 28, 2012, p. A6

Who are the poor? To qualify, a family of four in 2010 needed to earn less than \$22,314. Some 46 million Americans, 15 percent of the population qualified. And in what squalor were America's poor forced to live? Well, 99 percent had a refrigerator and stove, two-thirds had a plasma TV, a DVD player and access to cable or satellite, 43 percent were on the Internet, half had a

video game system like Xbox or Playstation. Three-fourths of the poor had a car or truck, nine in 10 a microwave, 80 percent had air conditioning. In 1970, only 36 percent of the U.S. population enjoyed air conditioning. . . . Of the real poor, fewer than 10 percent live in trailers, 40 percent live in townhouses or single-family homes. Forty-one percent of poor families own their own home. The average poor person's home in America has 1,400 square feet—more living space than do Europeans in 23 of the 25 wealthiest countries on the continent.

— Patrick J. Buchanan
The Washington Times
March 5, 2012, p. 33

The shambles of an economy [in Greece] is dominated by big government, with 151 ministries and money-losing state enterprises that have 3.1 million people on the payroll. Almost all Greek government activities are inefficiently and corruptly run, with high salaries rewarding chronic overstaffing that qualifies the 700,000 bureaucrats and 600,000 employees of state enterprises for lavish and early retirement.

The ever-more destructive riots that seem to accompany every attempt to rein in absurdly lavish spending underscore the precarious financial footing of the welfare state. People who are used to generous benefits, free medicines, and long vacations won't give them up graciously. The hissy fits in Greece are hints to the wise that even after 16 summits to resolve the Greek debt crisis, nothing has been resolved. One way or another, a Greek default looms ahead.

That could be a lot more serious

than any of the permabulls let on. As John Paulson puts it: "We believe a Greek payment default could be a greater shock to the system than Lehman's failure, immediately causing global economies to contract and markets to decline. [The euro is] structurally flawed and will likely unravel."

— John Dale Davidson
Financial Intelligence Report
March 2, 2012, p. 2

Sociology

The pattern of anti-Israel attack, administrative embarrassment, Jewish confusion, and media exploitation of the story will continue until all parties realize that the war against Israel is fundamentally different from biases to which it is often compared. Once Americans acknowledged the evils of their discrimination against African-Americans, they abjured their racism and tried through affirmative action to compensate for past injustice. Arab and Muslim leaders have done the opposite. Having attempted to deny Jews their right to their one country, they accused Jews of denying Arabs their 22nd. After losing wars on the battlefield, they prosecuted the war by other means.

Students who are inculcated with hatred of Israel may want to express their national, religious or political identity by urging its annihilation. But universities that condone their efforts are triple offenders—against their mission, against the Jewish people, and perhaps most especially against the maligners themselves. Smoking is less fatal to smokers than anti-Jewish politics is to its users. Remember Hitler's bunker.

— Ruth Wisse
Wall Street Journal

a look at our world

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

February 29, 2012, p. A19

Bio-Ethics

[Alberto Giubilini and Francesca Minerva] have simply made a pronouncement based on their secular utilitarian worldview. They have not established their case, and they have not proved in any sense of the term that the unborn and others are in fact non-persons. But by lending more intellectual and professional credibility to the case for baby killing, they make it seem all the more acceptable, and will undoubtedly sway many.

This is a great abuse of medical ethics and the academic community. Using the classroom and scholarly journals to make the case – coolly and calmly – for baby killing is not an indication of professionalism and progress. It is a sign of barbarism and regress. And we have seen it happen all before.

— Bill Muehlenberg
Culture Watch

February 28, 2012

Global Warming

During a fundraiser in Atlanta earlier this month, President Obama is reported to have said: “It gets you a little nervous about what is happening to global temperatures. When it is 75 degrees in Chicago in the beginning of March, you start thinking. On the other hand, I really have enjoyed nice weather.”

What is happening to global temperatures in reality? The answer is: almost nothing for more than 10 years. Monthly values of the global temperature anomaly of the lower atmosphere, compiled at the University of Alabama from NASA satellite data, can be found at the website <http://www.drroyspen->

cer.com/latest-global-temperatures/. The latest (February 2012) monthly global temperature anomaly for the lower atmosphere was minus 0.12 degrees Celsius, slightly less than the average since the satellite record of temperatures began in 1979.

The lack of any statistically significant warming for over a decade has made it more difficult for the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its supporters to demonize the atmospheric gas CO₂ which is released when fossil fuels are burned. The burning of fossil fuels has been one reason for an increase of CO₂ levels in the atmosphere to around 395 ppm (or parts per million), up from preindustrial levels of about 280 ppm.

CO₂ is not a pollutant. Life on earth flourished for hundreds of millions of years at much higher CO₂ levels than we see today. Increasing CO₂ levels will be a net benefit because cultivated plants grow better and are more resistant to drought at higher CO₂ levels, and because warming and other supposedly harmful effects of CO₂ have been greatly exaggerated. Nations with affordable energy from fossil fuels are more prosperous and healthy than those without.

The direct warming due to doubling CO₂ levels in the atmosphere can be calculated to cause a warming of about one degree Celsius. The IPCC computer models predict a much larger warming, three degrees Celsius or even more, because they assume changes in water vapor or clouds that supposedly amplify the direct warming from CO₂. Many lines of observational evidence

suggest that this “positive feedback” also has been greatly exaggerated.

There has indeed been some warming, perhaps about 0.8 degrees Celsius, since the end of the so-called Little Ice Age in the early 1800s. Some of that warming has probably come from increased amounts of CO₂, but the timing of the warming—much of it before CO₂ levels had increased appreciably—suggests that a substantial fraction of the warming is from natural causes that have nothing to do with mankind.

Frustrated by the lack of computer-predicted warming over the past decade, some IPCC supporters have been claiming that “extreme weather” has become more common because of more CO₂. But there is no hard evidence this is true. After an unusually cold winter in 2011 (December 2010-February 2011) the winter of 2012 was unusually warm in the continental United States. But the winter of 2012 was bitter in Europe, Asia and Alaska.

Weather conditions similar to 2012 occurred in the winter of 1942, when the U.S. Midwest was unusually warm, and when the Wehrmacht encountered the formidable forces of “General Frost” in a Russian winter not unlike the one Russians just had.

Large fluctuations from warm to cold winters have been the rule for the U.S., as one can see from records kept by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA. For example, the winters of 1932 and 1934 were as warm as or warmer than the 2011-2012 one and the winter of 1936 was much colder.

Nightly television pictures of the tragic destruction from tornadoes over

a look at our world

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

the past months might make one wonder if the frequency of tornadoes is increasing, perhaps due to the increasing levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere. But as one can read at Andrew Revkin's New York Times blog, *dotearth*, "There is no evidence of any trend in the number of potent tornadoes (category F2 and up) over the past 50 years in the United States, even as global temperatures have risen markedly."

Like winter temperatures, the numbers, severity and geographical locations of tornadoes fluctuate from year-to-year in ways that are correlated with the complicated fluid flow patterns of the oceans and atmosphere, the location of the jet stream, El Niño or La Niña conditions of the tropical Pacific Oceans, etc.

As long as the laws of nature exist, we will have tornadoes. But we can save many more lives by addressing the threat of tornadoes directly—for example, with improved and more widely dispersed weather radars, and with better means for warning the people of endangered areas—than by credulous support of schemes to reduce "carbon footprints," or by funding even more computer centers to predict global warming.

It is easy to be confused about climate, because we are constantly being warned about the horrible things that will happen or are already happening as a result of mankind's use of fossil fuels. But these ominous predictions are based on computer models. It is important to distinguish between what the climate is actually doing and what computer models predict. The observed response of the climate to more CO₂

is not in good agreement with model predictions.

We need high-quality climate science because of the importance of climate to mankind. But we should also remember the description of how science works by the late, great physicist, Richard Feynman:

"In general we look for a new law by the following process. First we guess it. Then we compute the consequences of the guess to see what would be implied if this law that we guessed is right. Then we compare the result of the computation to nature, with experiment or experience; compare it directly with observation, to see if it works. If it disagrees with experiment it is wrong."

The most important component of climate science is careful, long-term observations of climate-related phenomena, from space, from land, and in the oceans. If observations do not support code predictions—like more extreme weather, or rapidly rising global temperatures—Feynman has told us what conclusions to draw about the theory.

— William Happer
Princeton University
Professor of Physics
Wall Street Journal
March 27, 2012, p. A13

After many years in which evolution was the most contentious issue in science education, climate change is now the battle du jour in school districts across the country.

The fight could heat up further in April, when several national bodies are set to release a draft of new science standards that include detailed instruction on climate change.

Science teacher Loris Chen, left, said teachers should introduce students to the consensus on climate change.

The groups preparing the standards include the National Research Council, which is part of the congressionally chartered National Academies. They are working from a document they drew up last year that says climate change is caused in part by manmade events, such as the burning of fossil fuels. The document says rising temperatures could have "large consequences" for the planet.

Most climate experts accept those notions as settled science. But they are still debated by some scientists, helping to fuel conflicts between parents and teachers.

When Treena Joi, a teacher at Corte Madera School in Portola Valley, Calif., last year showed her sixth-grade students the global-warming movie "An Inconvenient Truth"—a documentary in which former Vice President Al Gore issues dire warnings about climate change—the drama quickly spread beyond the classroom.

A father filed a formal complaint accusing Ms. Joi of "brainwashing" the students. He demanded that she apologize to her students or be fired, according to the complaint. The local school superintendent settled the matter by requiring parental permission before students viewed the movie in the future and prohibiting teachers from talking about ways to address climate change.

Ms. Joi said she knew the movie had stirred controversy but was surprised by the extent of the response. "I've taught other subjects—evolution and sex-ed—without as much push-

a look at our world

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

back,” she said.

Attorney Rose Pugliese wants schools to encourage their students to reach their own conclusions on climate change.

Skeptics say students are getting a one-sided picture when teachers unveil scary scenarios and blame human activities for global warming. “At this point, I think there is no evidence to support alarm,” said Richard Lindzen, a professor of meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a vocal critic of climate-change theories.

The battle over climate change is reminiscent of the debate over evolution, which first began decades ago, in which parents and outside groups, usually coming from a Christian perspective, object to teaching Darwin’s theory as scientific fact.

Parents on both sides are sensitive to perceived slights in the classroom. Kimberly Danforth, a 50-year-old mother in Clifton Park, N.Y., said she complained to a school science adviser when she learned that her daughter’s ninth-grade teacher faked a gagging motion while talking about climate change.

The teacher explained he was playing devil’s advocate and actually believed in mainstream climate-change theories, but Ms. Danforth, who believes children should be taught about global warming, wasn’t persuaded. “He seemed to be thumbing his nose at our values,” she said.

The National Center for Science Education, an advocacy group that has defended the teaching of evolution, now has an initiative to support climate-change education. Like evolution, climate change is “settled science,” said

the center’s executive director, Eugenie Scott. “We shouldn’t fight the culture wars in the high-school classroom.”

A conservative think tank, the Heartland Institute, is pursuing a competing effort to develop a K-12 curriculum that questions the idea of manmade global warming, according to David Wojick, a consultant who is designing the plan.

An online search about climate-change education shows “a vast and expensive array of... teaching materials” backing the view that manmade events contribute to climate change, Mr. Wojick said. “Teaching the scientific debate instead is a grand challenge,” he added.

The new science standards, which are being updated for the first time since the mid-1990s, are set to be made final by year end. They will teach students graduating from eighth grade that human activities are “major factors” in global warming, according to the document adopted last year. Students graduating from 12th grade would be taught that future warming predictions are based on models that inform “decisions about how to slow its rate and consequences.”

Loris Chen, a science teacher at Eisenhower Middle School in Wyckoff, N.J., said teachers have a responsibility to introduce young people to the scientific consensus. “There are some students who, for various reasons, come into class with a belief against climate change or global warming,” she said. “I try to tell them, ‘Keep an open mind and see where the data leads you.’”

While states set their own educa-

tional curriculum, many are likely to use the scientific standards as guidelines. But the approach to climate change could be a sticking point for some states. In one, South Dakota, the state House has already passed a resolution saying climate change should be taught as a “theory rather than a proven fact.”

Rose Pugliese, a lawyer in western Colorado who has asked her local school board to prevent teachers from presenting climate change as fact, said schools should encourage students to reach their own conclusions.

“Unless we’ve got conclusive evidence one way or another—and I don’t think we’ll have that for hundreds of years—I think both sides should be taught,” Ms. Pugliese said. “Allow the kids to figure it out for themselves.”

That approach would mislead students, contends Martin Storksdieck, a director at the National Research Council who is helping to develop the new science standards. “What would be conveyed to them is not how science works—it’s how politics works,” Mr. Storksdieck said.

— Tennille Tracy
Wall Street Journal

March 12, 2012, p. A6

Media

The Reverend Franklin Graham, on a recent session of *Morning Joe*, commented on Obama: “He has said he’s a Christian, so I just have to assume that he is.” This remark generated scare headlines — “Franklin Graham Questions Obama’s Christian Faith” (Yahoo! News) — but Graham is not alone in his doubts. A year ago Bill Maher called Obama “a centrist the way he’s a Christian. He’s pretending to be a centrist.”

a look at our world

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

Conservative Christians should know the rules of the game: If they question the president's Christianity, they are yobs who think he is a Kenyan Marxist Muslim. A liberal atheist such as Maher will be passed over in silence: He is talking in sign language to the cognoscenti. The Reverend Graham eventually apologized. But it's a free country. A believer can say anything he thinks about a pol's faith or practice, and Americans have been doing it for a long time (George Washington's enemies called him a "horrid blasphemer"). Politics tends to get better, though, when the chattering class chatters about politics.

— *National Review*
March 19, 2012, p. 6

Politics

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, has gone to the United Nations — specifically the U.N. Human Rights Council — for, in the words of USA Today, "help battling what the organization views as forces attempting to push back voting rights."

Those "forces" are laws being passed by various states that require a photo ID for voting.

The NAACP move is so absurd and so self-destructive that one has to wonder why the organization has done this. According to the Freedom House 2011 assessment of freedom in the world, of the 41 members of the U.N. Human Rights Council, fewer than half are free countries. Ten are ranked "Not Free," and 12 "Partly Free." Among the "Not Free" members are Angola, China, Congo, Cuba, Jordan, Russia and Saudi Arabia. Those countries' elections, if they have them, are rigged, and promi-

nent opponents are jailed, tortured and killed.

To bring a human rights complaint before countries in which there are almost no human rights is truly absurd. That the alleged human rights violation takes place in the freest country in the world further elevates the level of absurdity. And when the alleged violation is a law that requires all voters, irrespective of race, creed or color, to show photo identification before voting, we have gone beyond the absurd and entered a modern Twilight Zone.

The absurdity explains why what the NAACP doing is also self-destructive. It's one thing for a prominent individual or organization to make a mistake. But it is quite another to seem ludicrous, which is how the NAACP appears to everyone who is not on the left — and perhaps even to thoughtful leftists.

Why, then, would the NAACP open itself to ridicule?

According to NAACP President Ben Jealous, the reason is that "We are here today because in the past 12 months, more U.S. states have passed more laws pushing more U.S. citizens out of the ballot box than in any year in the past century."

One can only say that if in the past 100 years, fewer blacks were disenfranchised than in the past 12 months, all the claims about Jim Crow laws disenfranchising blacks must have been wildly exaggerated. But, of course, this, too, is absurd.

As South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley pointed out, one needs a photo ID in order to obtain Sudafed. One therefore might as well argue that blacks

and other minorities are disproportionately denied the right to purchase Sudafed because a photo ID is required. The counter argument that there is no comparison between the two because there is no constitutional right to Sudafed completely misses the point. The Sudafed example does not argue constitutionality; it argues against the claim that great numbers of people will not vote if a photo ID is necessary. If few members of racial minorities have been prevented from getting a cold pill because of the need for a photo ID, it stands to reason that the need for a photo ID won't prevent blacks and others from voting.

The truth is that it insults the intelligence of blacks and Hispanics to claim that getting an official photo ID is too laborious, too demanding, and ultimately disenfranchising.

So, why is the NAACP going to the U.N.?

Because the wonderful fact of American life is that most American civil liberties and civil rights organizations have little reason for their continued existence. The NAACP, therefore, has to justify its existence. Which it does by manufacturing crises (and hopefully garnering media attention). Without major eruptions of racism, its *raison d'être* disappears — along with its funding.

That is the real reason something as utterly innocuous as requiring a person to show a photo in order to vote is taken to the United Nations. It gets attention and makes supporters of the NAACP think their money is being used for the greatest electoral rights battle in a hundred years.

a look at our world

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

— Dennis Prager
FrontPage Magazine
March 20, 2012

Islam

Half of Iraq's indigenous Christians are gone due to the unleashed forces of jihad, many of them fleeing to nearby Syria; yet, as the Assad regime comes under attack by al-Qaeda and others, the jihad now seeps into Syria, where Christians are experiencing a level of persecution unprecedented in the nation's modern history. Likewise, some 100,000 Christian Copts have fled their native Egypt since the overthrow of the Mubarak regime; and in northern regions of Nigeria, where the jihadi group Boko Haram has been slaughtering Christians, up to 95 % of the Christian population has fled.

Meanwhile, the "big news" concerning the Muslim world in the month of February—the news that flooded the mainstream media and had U.S. politicians, beginning with President Obama, flustered, angry, and full of regret—was that copies of the Koran in Afghanistan were burned by U.S. soldiers because imprisoned Muslim inmates were using them "to facilitate extremist communications."

Categorized by theme, February's batch of Muslim persecution of Christians around the world includes (but is not limited to) the following accounts, listed in alphabetical order by country, not severity.

Church Attacks

Algeria: Armed men raided and ransacked a church formally recognized since 1958, dismantling the crucifix above the premises. The pastor and his family, trapped inside, feared that "they

could kill us." The pastor "has been repeatedly threatened and attacked since being ordained as pastor in 2007. In the summer of 2009 his wife was beaten and seriously injured by a group of unknown men. Then, in late 2011, heaps of trash were thrown over the compound walls while an angry mob shouted death threats."

Egypt: Thousands of Muslims attacked a Coptic church, demanding the death of its pastor, who, along with "nearly 100 terrorized Copts sought refuge inside the church, while Muslim rioters were pelting the church with stones in an effort to break into the church, assault the Copts and torch the building." They did this because a Christian girl who, according to Islamic law, automatically became a Muslim when her father converted to Islam, fled and was rumored to be hiding in the church.

Iran: Iran's Ministry of Intelligence has ordered the last two officially registered churches holding Friday Farsi-language services in Tehran—Farsi being the nation's language—to discontinue the language: "Friday services in Tehran attracted the city's converts to Christianity as well as Muslims interested in Christianity, as Friday is most Iranians' day off during the week." Banning church use of Farsi prevents most Iranians from hearing the Gospel.

Kazakhstan: A new report notes that "Churches are being raided, leaders fined and Christian literature confiscated as the Kazakh authorities enforce new laws intended further to restrict religious freedom in the country."

Kuwait: A parliamentarian is set to submit a draft law banning the construction of churches. Originally,

Osama al-Munawer announced on Twitter his plans on submitting a draft law calling for the removal of all churches in Kuwait. However, he later "clarified," saying that existing churches can remain, but the construction of new ones must be banned.

Macedonia: A two-century-old Christian church famed for its valuable icons was set on fire in response to "a carnival in which Orthodox Christian men dressed as women in burkas and mocked the Koran." Earlier, "perpetrators attacked a[nother] church in the nearby village of Labunista, destroying a cross standing outside" and "also defaced a Macedonian flag outside Struga's municipal building, replacing it with a green flag representing Islam."

Nigeria: A Muslim suicide bomber forced his way into the grounds of a major church, killing two women and an 18-month-old child during Sunday morning service; some 50 people were injured in the blast. In a separate incident, Muslims detonated a bomb outside a church building, injuring five, one critically: "The bomb, planted in a parked car, was left by suspected members of Boko Haram, which seeks to impose sharia (Islamic law) throughout Nigeria."

Pakistan: A dozen armed Muslims stormed a church, seriously wounding two Christians: one man was shot and is in critical condition, the other risks having his arm amputated; another church member was thrown from the roof, after being struck repeatedly with a rifle butt. "The extremist raid was sparked by charges that [the] church was trying to evangelize Muslims in an attempt to convert them to Christian-

a look at our world

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

ity. The community several times in the past has been the subject of assault and the pastor and his family the subject of death threats.” As usual, the police, instead of pursuing the perpetrators, have opened an investigation against the pastor and 20 other church members.

Syria: Some 30 armed and masked jihadis attacked a Catholic monastery—unprecedented in Syria’s modern history—demanding money. According to the Catholic Archbishop of Damascus, “the situation in the country is spiraling out of control as the armed opposition spreads its influence to different regions of the state.”

Dhimmitude

[General Abuse, Debasement, and Suppression of non-Muslims as “Tolerated” Citizens]

Bangladesh: Three American Christians were injured after their car was attacked by a Muslim mob that suspected they were converting Muslims into Christians: at least 200 angry locals chased the missionaries’ car and threw stones at it, leaving three with cuts from broken glass.

Egypt: Rather than punishing the perpetrators who opened fire on and ran tanks over Christians protesting the constant destruction of their churches, the government arrested and is trying two priests in connection to the Maspero massacre. And although Egypt’s new parliament has 498 seats, only six are Copts, though Copts make up at the very least 10% of the population, and so should have approximately 50 seats. Finally, evincing how bad the situation is, Coptic protesters organized a demonstration in front of Parliament to protest “the disappearance and abduc-

tion of Coptic girls.”

Indonesia: The Islamist Prosperous Justice Party complained about the Red Cross’ symbol of a cross, saying it is too identifiable with Christian culture and traditions. Red Cross volunteers and activists rejected the claim, saying that any changes to the logo would be “tantamount to giving in to the extremists.”

Iran: A pastor of a major house church movement began serving a five-year prison sentence for “crimes against the order.” According to one activist, “His ‘crimes’ were being a pastor and possessing Christian materials.” He is being beat in jail and getting sick, to the point that his hair has “turned fully gray.”

Israel: A mob of some 50 Palestinian Muslims stoned a group of Christian tourists atop Jerusalem’s Temple Mount, wounding three Israeli police officers in the process. The attack is believed to have been instigated by the former Muslim mufti of Jerusalem.

Pakistan: Yet another Christian woman, a teacher, has been targeted by Muslims due to allegations that she burned a Koran. A mob stormed her school in an attempt to abduct her, but police took her into custody. Also, a Christian student who missed the grade to get into medical school by less than 0.1% would have earned 20 extra points if he had memorized the Koran—though no bonus points for having similar knowledge of the Bible.

Turkey: A new report notes that “Christians in Turkey continue to suffer attacks from private citizens, discrimination by lower-level government officials and vilification in both school textbooks and news media,” adding that

there is a “root of intolerance” in Turkish society toward adherents of non-Islamic faiths: “The removal of this root of intolerance is an urgent problem that still awaits to be dealt with.”

Turkmenistan: A 77-year-old Christian man was detained and questioned by police for six hours after he tried to print copies of a small book of Christian poetry. He was forced to write a statement and banned from travelling outside his home region while the case is being investigated.

Uganda: Not long after a pastor was attacked with acid and blinded by “Allahu-Akbar” screaming Muslims, his friend, another pastor, was shot at by “Islamic extremists,” in what is being described as “a new wave of persecution against Christians in Uganda.”

Murder, Apostasy Issues, and More

Egypt: Two Christians were killed “after a Muslim racketeer opened fire on them for refusing to pay him extortion money.” The local bishop “hold[s] security forces and local Muslims fully responsible for terrorizing the Copts living there, who are continuously being subjected to terror and kidnapping.”

Iran: After enduring five months of uncertainty in a prison, a Christian convert who was arrested in her home by security authorities has been sentenced to two years in prison by the Revolutionary Court in Tehran. Authorities further arrested six to ten Christian converts from Islam while they were meeting for worship at a home in the southern city of Shiraz.

And Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani awaits execution for refusing to renounce Christianity.

Nigeria: A 79-year-old Christian

a look at our world

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

woman and choir singer was found dead at her home, her throat slit with a note in Arabic left on her chest reading: “We will get you soon,” a message believed to be directed at her son, a pastor at a local church.

Somalia: Al-Shabaab Muslims beheaded a 26-year-old Muslim convert to Christianity who had worked for a Christian humanitarian organization that the terrorist organization had banned. He is at least the third apostate to Christianity to be beheaded in Somalia in recent months.

Turkey: A 12-year-old boy, Hussein, publicly professed his Christian faith by wearing a silver cross necklace in school. Accordingly, Muslim classmates began taunting and spitting on him. When the boy threatened to report one of the bullies, the bully’s father threatened to kill him. His religion teacher beat him severely: “Like in most Islamic countries, students of all faiths are required to attend Islamic studies in school. Those who refuse to recite the Koran and Islamic prayers are often beaten by the teacher. And so it was for Hussein. He said he was punished regularly with a two-foot long rod because he wouldn’t say the Islamic Shahada.”

About this Series

Because the persecution of Christians in the Islamic world is on its way to reaching epidemic proportions, “Muslim Persecution of Christians” was developed to collate some—by no means all—of the instances of Muslim persecution of Christians that surface each month. It serves two purposes:

Intrinsically, to document that which the mainstream media does not: the habitual, if not chronic, Muslim

persecution of Christians.

Instrumentally, to show that such persecution is not “random,” but systematic and interrelated—that it is rooted in a worldview inspired by Sharia.

Accordingly, whatever the anecdote of persecution, it typically fits under a specific theme, including hatred for churches and other Christian symbols; sexual abuse of Christian women; forced conversions to Islam; apostasy and blasphemy laws; theft and plunder in lieu of jizya (tribute); overall expectations for Christians to behave like cowed “dhimmis” (barely tolerated citizens); and simple violence and murder. Oftentimes it is a combination thereof.

Because these accounts of persecution span different ethnicities, languages, and locales—from Morocco in the west, to India in the east, and throughout the West, wherever there are Muslims—it should be clear that one thing alone binds them: Islam—whether the strict application of Islamic Sharia law, or the supremacist culture born of it.

— Raymond Ibrahim
FrontPage Magazine
March 21, 2012