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Religious Liberty: A Reason to Get in the Fight

Cover Story

Summit Ministries has never shied away from the political sphere. David Noebel understood from the beginning that politics is one of the ten areas informed by worldviews and arguably the most consequential. The March issue of *The Journal* was devoted to discussing the importance of political involvement. Even in the last few months, however, the stakes have been raised regarding one critical political question: what is the extent of religious freedom?

The Obama administration's Health and Human Services mandate — requiring employers to pay for contraceptive, abortifacient, and sterilization services for employees — added a frightening new dimension to the religious freedom debate. Though Christian organizations like the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Alliance Defending Freedom (formerly known as the Alliance Defense Fund), the Manhattan Declaration, and the Conference of Catholic Bishops have joined with Summit in calling for the administration to walk back its mandate, the administration seems to believe that a woman's "right to choose" trumps the religious liberty of employers — even those that are churches or religious nonprofits. Administration officials have even brazenly attacked anyone who calls their judgment into question as being at "war against women's health."

We should have seen this coming — the warning signs were there. As of the summer of 2012, twenty-eight states



already had state-level mandates in place that are in many cases almost as bad as the federal mandate. Among these states is Colorado (where Summit is headquartered). These state mandates encompass a wide range of regulations, forcing everyone from individual businesses to insurance companies to offer various forms of contraception and abortifacient drugs. Some states — such as Colorado — offer no exemption at all for religious organizations.

Maybe we shouldn't be surprised that the mainstream media failed to blow the whistle for this stealthy assault on religious freedom. Then again, Christians were asleep at the wheel too. Not anymore. Summit joins a growing number of

organizations issuing a clarion call for all citizens who care about the Constitution to express their convictions by voting for religious liberty this November.

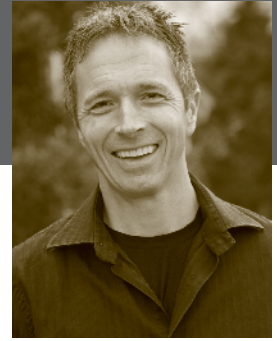
So what are these threats to religious liberty that desperately need to be addressed?

Religious Liberty Threat No. 1: Each State's Mandate Will Be Its Own Obstacle

Even though the Supreme Court's June ruling affirms Congress's power to use the commerce clause to mandate that citizens make certain purchases, numerous court battles will be fought over whether such federal and state mandates hamper the free exercise clause of

from the president's desk

a word from dr. jeff myers



2012 Summit Adult Conference — Opening Night

It is one of those moments where you realize that there is no turning back. The speaker: Eric Metaxas, best-selling author of *Bonhoeffer*, the biography of a minister who paid with his life for standing against Hitler's godless tyranny. More than 2,700 people have shown up to occupy the 1,500 seats. They're sitting in the aisles and packing into every available overflow space. Everyone knows this will be a defining evening.

Eric knocks it out of the park. He's funny and prophetic, self-deprecating and profound. As the audience rises to applaud, Eric and I head to the green room to sort through the question cards handed in by audience members.

"A lot of these are about ACA (better known as "Obamacare"). You good with that?" I ask.

"Yep," says Eric simply.

Five minutes later we head back on stage. I start out with a few softball questions, including "What is your favorite Veggie Tales character?" (Eric used to write for the show.)

Then I throw the curve ball. "Eric, a lot of people want to know what Christians should do about the Health and Human Services mandate that forces employers who provide health insurance to cover so-called contraceptives that can cause abortion. Is this a big enough deal to take a stand

on?"

Eric's reply stuns us all. He explains that in Nazi Germany the abuses against the Jews started out as small bureaucratic rule changes. When no one objected, the Nazis pushed harder, destroying more freedoms. He concludes by saying, "You can't sit this one out. This is where you have to draw the line."

Eternal Vigilance

Is the Price of Liberty

At Summit we're taking Metaxas' admonition to heart. Our leadership team is aggressively working with like-minded organizations to discern the best time, place, and manner to take our stand against shadowy bureaucracies chip-

ping away at religious liberty.

Here's the burning question,

though: where did we get the idea that we can sit out *any* of the battles of our day? As the 19th century abolitionist Wendell Phillips wrote, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

We know that only about 50 percent of registered voters actually cast a ballot. But David Barton says that 40 percent of Christians haven't even bothered to *register* to vote. They've chosen comfort over liberty, never realizing that such a choice spells death for both.

It is not just about the vote, though. The need to be informed

and hold public officials accountable is unceasing. Everything belongs to God, and failing to steward the political realm is to surrender God's territory to those who mock His name.

Having Done All, Stand

Our brand new *Political Animal* short course can help you stand strong and prepare others to stand with you. In these six 20-minute DVD videos I recount the astounding impact that godly people have had in politics throughout our history, debunk the myths that keep people uninvolved, and show how people of integrity can make a genuine difference in politics. The set includes a study guide you can use to get your Sunday school class or small group to move from political chatter to conviction-based action.

If you study one session per week between now and the election, you'll have just enough time to cover all six sessions, so don't delay. Our introductory price of \$37 for Summit friends is a \$12.99 savings off of the list price. If you want to order extra copies and have them sent to friends and family, we can take care of that for you as well.

In reference to putting on the whole armor of God, Ephesians 6:13 says, "Having done all, stand." Don't let this be one of those years where you're left wondering whether you did all you could to stand for what is right and true. Equip yourself. Train others. Let's stand together.

"You can't sit this one out. This is where you draw the line."

Eric Metaxas

You can view video of Eric Metaxas' presentation at:
<http://www.woodmenvalley.org/index.cfm/pageid/3312/index.html>

the First Amendment. Unless business and community leaders stand together in opposing these abuses, we could see the unraveling of religious freedom — and perhaps the whole Bill of Rights — in our lifetime.

Here in Colorado, several religious organizations — including Summit Ministries — are now trying to determine the most appropriate action to take in response to these burdensome laws. Colorado's restrictive mandate is quite different than the federal mandate. Because the law applies directly to insurance companies, it effectively gives customers in Colorado no choice but to buy insurance with the mandatory coverage of morally objectionable contraceptive and abortifacient drugs. While the Colorado law does not apply to self-insured organizations (typically only an option for larger employers), ministries similar in size to Summit have little choice but to buy insurance with morally objectionable coverage if they want to provide health insurance for employees.

More troubling, unlike the federal mandate, Colorado law does not provide an exclusion for any type of church. Michael Francisco, Summit's attorney, said that puts Colorado in unique territory. "The Colorado mandate is one of the most burdensome state mandates in the nation. Even states like California and New York provide a statutory exclusion for churches, but not Colorado," he said.

Not everyone is passively standing by. At the moment, numerous Catholic and Protestant organizations are challenging the HHS mandate.

Should these lawsuits succeed, organizations will need to also fight the twenty-eight state mandates. Francisco explained that the federal mandate will almost certainly have to be ruled upon by the Supreme Court

and that the amount of legal action against the federal edict is unparalleled: there are now twenty-four separate suits against the HHS mandate, according to the Becket Fund. "I think it's an unprecedented show of the outrage felt by churches of all types over this particular law," Francisco said. "It really highlights how egregious this type of a moral cram-down is. We've never seen anything like this." For the first time, Protestant and Catholic organizations — Wheaton College and Catholic University of America — are co-plaintiffs in one lawsuit against the federal government. The cooperation between Protestants and Catholics on religious liberty issues like this should also be a lesson, Francisco said. "It's important for anybody who values religious liberty to stand with others whose religious liberties are being threatened," he continued. "This calls for solidarity."

Religious Liberty Threat No. 2: Bureaucratic Despotism

When we think of despotism or political suppression, we usually think of bombastic leaders whipping boisterous crowds into frenzy against their supposed enemies, or even official campaigns of terror on the part of government storm troopers. Today,

though, despotism more often comes in the form of a choking bureaucracy. These contraceptive mandates

“The truth is, though, there are no unimportant elections.”

serve as a case in point: both at the federal level and here in Colorado, taxpayer-funded rule-makers — unaccountable to

voters and shielded by layers of governmental bureaucracy — have made the rules with a higher regard for politically correct pro-abortion pressure groups than for the Constitution.

For the HHS mandate, it was Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius who approved of forcing employers to provide abortive drugs for employees at no charge through health insurance. When then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi told the press in 2010 that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act would have to be passed in order to find out what was in it, she never mentioned we'd also have to sit back and watch an idealistic czar, sniffing with leftist moral indignation, decide how far the legislation would reach.

In Colorado it was a different verse of the same song. In 2010, when the state mandate was passed, Democrats controlled both state houses and the governor's mansion. The opposing party wasn't able to mount much of a fight. "There was not much of a prolonged debate in Colorado because of the political dynamic," Francisco said.

When the House bill came up for a vote, Democratic leaders promised

See **liberty**, page 4

States with Contraception Mandates

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

*Statutes vary by state. For more information about laws in your state, check ncsl.org.

Republicans and the media that abortive drugs would not be mandated. Opponents of the bill took their word for it, even though the legislation failed to specify what counted as contraception, emergency contraception, or abortifacients. Once the law was safely passed and in effect on January 1, 2012, though, the Colorado Commissioner of Insurance finally told the truth: drugs that can destroy already-fertilized eggs would indeed be mandated. Check mate.

When it comes to protecting constitutional freedom, maybe we should worry less about the middle-of-the-night knock at the door and more about the middle-of-the-day click-clack of the power-drunk bureaucrat's keyboard. But this overreach could have a redeeming value: it has turned more people's attention to the way that bureaucratic rule-making can prove Lord Acton's dictum that "absolute power corrupts absolutely."

This higher level of scrutiny is "sort of the unintended consequences of the contraception mandate at the federal level," said Francisco.

Religious Liberty Threat No. 3: Politicians Will Stretch Constitutional Boundaries

The trend toward elected officials and un-elected bureaucrats ignoring constitutional boundaries shows no signs of abating. A recent example of this came during the dust-up over Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy's remarks affirming his support for the biblical view of marriage. Within days of Cathy's interview, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino had vowed to block any efforts by the fast food chain to move into his city (he later backtracked). Chicago Alderman Joe Moreno, with an attitude worthy of the Chicago bosses of old, promised to do all in his power to stop a Chick-fil-A from opening in his ward, even as one was in the licensing process to

do that very thing. The legal basis for the holdup? There wasn't one. Just a grown-up version of "If I can't beat you fair and square, I'm going to take my ball and go home."

Whether it's from behind a microphone or while casting a legislative vote, as the political rancor escalates, U.S. politicians will continue acting out. We have our work cut out for us. Will we be ready? Will we overcome our aversion to short-term criticism long enough to speak up? If the enemies of freedom prevail, we have only ourselves to blame. Our founders gave citizens an effective way of reining in such politicians: the ballot box. Every Christian must be actively engaged in discerning which candidates are worthy of our votes, give them the support they need to win, and hold them accountable once they're in office.

Political Engagement Is Our Responsibility

It's become cliché to claim that the next election will be the most important of a generation. The truth is, though, there are no unimportant elections. Presently we're seeing unprecedented attempts to demolish that great bedrock of all freedoms, religious liberty. Those trained in biblical worldview know better than to sit this one out. As Dutch theologian and statesman Abraham Kuyper once said, "When principles that run against your deepest convictions begin to win the day, then battle is your calling, and peace has become sin."

a look at our world

news and commentary



Editor's Note: Our President Emeritus, Dr. David Noebel, helps us with research by sending 20-30 pages of clippings of each month's news. To see the complete list of Doc's clippings, go to www.summit.org/resources/the-journal/, open the PDF, and scroll to page 9, or call us at 866.786.6483.

Religious Liberty

The Founding Fathers wrote the First Amendment to bequeath religious liberty to future generations. Yet it was people like Kevin Hasson who ensured the inheritance was actually delivered.

Hasson is the founder and driving force behind The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

The Becket Fund was a key player in the Supreme Court's extraordinary 9-0 verdict earlier this year in the *Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church v. EEOC* case, which recognized for the first time the constitutional right of religious organizations to choose their own ministers free from government interference.

Hasson was a Catholic altar boy. He later earned a master's degree in theology from Notre Dame, and later became one of the nation's leading guardians of religious liberty. "Faith answers the deepest longing of the human heart," Hasson says. "It is a quintessentially human act. And that is a point that even most devout atheists should be able to grant."

Hasson made his name in Washington circles at the powerhouse Williams & Connolly law firm focusing on religious liberty.

In 1994, he left the firm to found The Becket Fund, a non-profit defender of religious liberty.

Newsmax asked Hasson why the enemies of religion attack public expressions of

faith. His perspective: the secularists believe the West is free, and relatively peaceful, only because it is "untainted by fanatical devotion to absolute truths."

They therefore seek to marginalize religion as much as possible and foment a "synthetic, one-size-fits-all culture."

He tells *Newsmax*: "As we'll see, that's literally inhuman. It's also self-defeating. It doesn't resolve the culture war."

Hasson sees an even greater danger to American religious life, however: a culture that appears increasingly indifferent to religious pursuits. "Faith is seen as nothing more than a private pursuit roughly akin to sailing."

The cure, Hasson believes, is for religious expression to once again be welcomed in public life.

"And for that to happen," he adds, "people of all faiths must constantly remind Caesar that he is, after all, only Caesar. He may not demand what belongs to God."

— Dave Eberhart

Newsmax, July 2012, p. 57

Religious liberty has been in the headlines ever since the Department of Health and Human Services sought to redefine which types of faith-based organizations would be fully protected by the First Amendment. But many other crusades are under way against religion. Here is *Newsmax's* list of the top 10 other threats to religious freedom in America:

1. "All-Comers" Rules on Campuses

Colleges are so worried Christian groups expect their leaders and members to actually be, well, Christians that they have adopted "all-comers" policies. All comers must be allowed to join — or lead — all groups. When Vanderbilt University adopted an "all-comers" policy, state legislators were so alarmed they passed a bill to nix it.

2. Banning Crosses in the Mojave National Preserve That Honor Heroes

Despite a previous Supreme Court ruling that a cross erected on the Mojave National Preserve to honor World War I veterans could remain, anti-religious groups are challenging the placement of two 13-foot crosses atop a hill at Camp Pendleton in honor of Marines who died fighting the war on terror. The Thomas More Law Center is among those defending the cross.

3. Editing "God" Out of "God Bless the USA"

In Bellingham, Mass., fourth graders were rehearsing a popular Lee Greenwood song. But politically correct elementary-school officials changed the lyrics to "We love the USA." Parents complained, and school officials canceled the concert. The superintendent of schools later announced students would be allowed to sing the song unabridged.

4. Requiring Pharmacists to Stock "Morning After" Pills — Despite Their Moral Objections

The Becket Fund challenged a directive from Washington state ordering all pharmacists, regardless of their religious convictions, to stock morning-after pills, and won. But the verdict is under appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The American Center for Law and Justice has challenged a similar law in Illinois.

5. Revoking Christian Foster Care Programs

Who could possibly oppose faith-based adoption and foster care? The answer: Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and Illinois. The U.S. Confer-

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a look at our world

news and commentary, continued from page 5

ence of Catholic Bishops says these jurisdictions have revoked charities' licenses and contracts "because those charities refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabitate."

6. Air Force Takes Aim at the Bible

The American Family Association accuses Air Force leaders of anti-religious bias, and are sponsoring a letter-writing campaign. The Air Force has stopped providing Bibles at its lodging facilities, removed the word "God" from the logo of its Rapid Capabilities office, and backed off its support for the Operation Christmas Child charity at the Air Force Academy.

7. Blacklisting the 10 Commandments

The ACLU sued the Giles County School Board in Roanoke, Va., because it allowed the 10 Commandments to be displayed along with the Magna Carta, the Mayflower Compact, and the Declaration of Independence. It was part of a display on the foundations of American law and government. Matthew D. Staver's Liberty Counsel came to the board's defense, and has argued the case before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

8. Obscuring Small-Church Meetings

New York City has banned religious groups from renting the same public school auditoriums that are available to a host of secular groups. The Alliance Defense Fund represented one group, the Bronx Household of Faith, in a lawsuit. Sixty other ministries were also affected. After an initial injunction, the courts upheld the city's right to deny renting to church groups.

9. Secularizing Easter

Religious liberty pioneer Kevin J. "Seamus" Hasson reports the school system in Lansing, Mich., considered the Easter bunny too sectarian. So it hosted a

"Breakfast with the Special Bunny" event instead. The public library in Arlington, Va., renamed its annual Easter egg hunt "Spring Egg Roll." It relented when its decision became a laughingstock, Hasson says.

10. Stoking War on Christmas

New assaults on Christmas occur every year now. In 2011, three Christmas carolers dressed in Victorian garb were tossed out of a post office in Silver Spring, Md., for the offense of singing Christmas tunes on government property.

— David A. Patten

Newsmax, July 2012, p. 55

Emory University should have had bragging rights for this commencement season: Internationally renowned neurosurgeon and humanitarian Ben Carson delivered the keynote address at the university's 167th commencement on May 14.

Carson (see "Second Opinion," April 21) has directed pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center for more than 25 years. He overcame a hard childhood in inner-city Detroit and has become particularly famous for his work in separating twins with conjoined heads. In 2008 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. His fifth book, *America the Beautiful*, is now out.

In announcing the honorary degree and keynote speech that Carson would receive and give, Emory President Jim Wagner said, "Few men or women have demonstrated to so inspiring a degree the transformational effect of liberal learning and the humanities. Dr. Carson has transformed lives both inside the operating room and beyond."

But campus bragging about commencement stopped early in May once many faculty members and students

learned that Carson has faith in Christ and disdain for evolution. Four Emory biology professors complained to the school newspaper: "Carson argues that...there are no transitional fossils that provide evidence for the evolution of humans from a common ancestor with other apes...and that life is too complex to have originated by the natural process of evolution."

He's right on both counts, but the professors—joined by 160 other faculty members as well as many researchers and students—stated flatly that Carson is "incorrect.... The theory of evolution is as strongly supported as the theory of gravity and the theory that infectious diseases are caused by microorganisms. Dismissing evolution disregards the importance of science and critical thinking to society."

Carson has made enormous advances in medicine, and his disbelief in evolution has not hampered him. If he had a similar disbelief in gravity or germ theory, it's doubtful that he could have been such an innovator, since I suspect it's hard to operate when both doctors and patients are floating gravity-less—and I suspect patients don't survive if their surgeons don't scrub.

Carson's problem is not a refusal to engage in critical thinking. His thought crime is critically thinking about an academic orthodoxy. The professors particularly complained about the connections Carson makes between evolutionary theory and ethics: If we're merely the result of evolution, he has said, "You don't have to abide by a set of moral codes, you determine your own conscience based on your own desires." But the history of the past century, and the lifestyle of many campuses, shows that he's right.

— Marvin Olasky

WORLD Magazine, June 2, 2012, p. 11

summit spotlight

a look into the lives of summit alumni

Francisco's Career Brings Him Full Circle with Summit

"When did you go to the Summit?" is the question most Summit alums ask one another, but there are actually more than 100,000 Summit graduates who've never participated in Summit's on-site or off-site programs but have still learned to become culture-shaping leaders through Summit's worldview studies curriculum. Michael Francisco's story is a case in point.

Francisco, an attorney with Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons, specializes in defending religious organizations' First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion. After taking a worldview class in high school that utilized Summit's *Understanding the Times* curriculum, Francisco has come full circle: he now advises Summit in relation to a Colorado law that forces all employers to provide abortifacient drugs for their employees (for more on this case, see the cover story on page 1) as well as the rights-trampling federal Health and Human Services mandate that took effect earlier this month.

Francisco credits the two-year *Understanding the Times* worldview course as a life-altering course of study, even more than any of his classes in college and law school. "It was the only comprehensive class, where [the study of] worldviews was tying everything together," Francisco said. "As I went to college, it provided the paradigm for what I was thinking. I've always said it was the most formative and impactful class I took."

"... it provided the paradigm for what I was thinking."

Michael Francisco



Michael Francisco with his wife, Christina, and daughters Geneva (right) and Clara (left). The Franciscos are also expecting a son in October.

Though Francisco's law school experience at Cornell University Law School was radically different than his undergraduate work at Hillsdale College, he says having foundational worldview training helped him effectively identify which law professors espoused faulty ideas. Life at an Ivy League law school can be isolating for Christians, but Francisco says that being strongly grounded in his faith enabled him to deal with the different perspectives he

was taught.

Francisco also completed the Alliance Defending Freedom's (formerly the Alliance Defense Fund) Blackstone Fellowship, which equips Christian attorneys in better understanding and arguing for the Constitution's robust religious liberties, especially as they pertain to the sanctity of life and the protection of historical definitions of marriage. "It's essentially the Summit Ministries for lawyers," according to Francisco.

The work Francisco does now is laden with opportunities to utilize the training he received with *Understanding the Times*. The religious institutions team at Francisco's law firm represents Christian organizations of all sorts, including several Catholic dioceses and archdioceses. Much of what Francisco focuses on has to do with connecting the worldview dots for Christian organizations: showing them that they needn't divorce their theology from their legal relations with the state, their employees, or other institutions. It's about integrating a church's or organization's worldview into the legal sphere. As someone with worldview training, Francisco feels able to "see the bigger picture" associated with many of the legal cases he works on.

The *Understanding the Times* course has had a profound impact on tens of thousands of students in the last 20 years, and that impact is growing as more and more Christian schools and homeschool co-ops adopt the curriculum. For more information on how you could use *Understanding the Times* to prepare godly, courageous leaders for the future, contact us at 719.685.9103.



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Blatant attacks on religious
freedom raise the question: is this
the end of the Bill of Rights?

celebrate 50 years of impact

OCTOBER 19-21, 2012

Join Summit Founder Dr. David Noebel and a host of others to celebrate the impact God has made through Summit Ministries.

“Summit has given me the confidence to face the secular world and share God’s love.”

— Rebecca, Summit Alumna

This story has echoed for half a century as Dr. Noebel and others have committed their lives to training young people to champion a biblical worldview. Join Summit faculty, alumni, and friends in times of remembrance, celebration, vision-casting, and worship.

Rejoice with us for what God has done over the years.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, October 19

Evening Reception and Sharing

Saturday, October 20

Afternoon Activities
Celebration Dinner

Sunday, October 21

Breakfast Send-off

More details forthcoming as speakers and activities are confirmed

Seating is limited for this special event! | Please RSVP to Aaron at aaron@summit.org as soon as possible

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a look at our world

from the desk of dr. david noebel

Biblical Christianity

God is wise and all-powerful . . . He performs great and unsearchable things, wonders without number.

— Job 9:4,10

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

— Psalm 33:12

My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ the righteous One. He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

— 1 John 2:1-2

This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, a man, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself — a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.

— 1 Timothy 2:3-6

That [God] would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do justice, to love mercy, and to demand ourselves with that Charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

— George Washington
Claremont Review of Books
Summer 2003, p. 29

The church-going classes, those who have come under the influence of evangelical Christianity . . . from the backbone of philanthropic social interest, of social

reform through political action, of pacifism, of popular education. They embody and express the spirit of kindly goodwill towards classes which are not an economic disadvantage and towards other nations. It has been the element responsive to appeals for the square deal and more nearly equal opportunities for all.

— John Dewey

The American Intellectual Frontier
(1922)

Quoted in *The Weekly Standard*, June 14, 1999, p. 33

Americans who help the religious congregations not only give more time and money than people working with secular caused, but provide three-quarters of secular charity as well.

— Larry Witham,

The Washington Times
June 27, 2002, p. A9

Altruism is seen as a virtue in many religious traditions, but the explanation for the enormous network of giving in the West—its breadth and depth and continuing vitality—has to be the Christian roots of the West. Though slowly eroding and almost completely hidden now in the public square, the vast collective Christian faith of the English-speaking peoples produced a culture in which service to and comfort of the poor and the sick and every other category of the needy is simply a given.

— Hugh Hewitt,

WORLD Magazine
March 25, 2006, p. 9

Origins

With apologies to philatelists—the Hall of Human Origins exhibits are little more than stamp collecting, because the evidence for humans arising from animals

is insufficient. While a big sign proclaimed “Our family tree,” small print on one exhibit acknowledged, “Unfortunately, hominid fossils from the crucial period between 200,000 and 100,000 years ago are quite rare.” Unfortunate for those who claim the evolution vs. creation argument is over, when recent discoveries of cell complexity mean that it’s just begun.

— Marvin Olasky

Townhall.com

June 27, 2012

In fact, molecular biologists have introduced a new “high-tech” teleology, taking expressions, often self-consciously, from communication theory, electrical engineering, and computer science. The vocabulary of modern molecular and cell biology includes apparently accurate descriptive terms that nevertheless seem laden with a “metaphysics of intention”: “genetic code,” “genetic information,” “transcription,” “translation,” “editing enzymes,” “signal-transduction circuitry,” “feedback loop,” and “information-processing system.”

— Stephen Meyer

Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design
p. 21

Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.

— Richard Dawkins

The Blind Watchmaker
p.1

I am conscious that I am in an utterly hopeless muddle. I cannot think that the world, as we see it, is the result of chance, and yet I cannot look at each separate thing as the result of Design.

a look at our world

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

— Charles Darwin

1860 letter to Asa Gray, a defender of intelligent design

Same-Sex Marriage

Minister, theologian, speaker, and author John Piper “came out against gay marriage during a sermon Sunday but did not explicitly urge members of his Minneapolis church to vote for the amendment.

Leith Anderson, President of the National Association of Evangelicals and who served as senior pastor of Wooddale Church, in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, from 1977 to 2011 “also said this week he does not plan to take a public side on the amendment, which would change the state Constitution to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.”

Religious observers say the lack of formal backing from the two influential figures could signal that evangelical leaders in Minnesota are taking a less active role in supporting the amendment — a marked departure from evangelicals in dozens of other states where similar amendments have passed.

“Don’t press the organization of the church or her pastors into political activism,” Piper said during his sermon, posted on Bethlehem Baptist Church’s website. “Expect from your shepherds not that they would rally you behind political candidates or legislative mandates, but they would point you over and over again to God and to his word.”

How did we get like this? There are numerous Christians who believe that a personal, private faith is all the Bible requires. Os Guinness described this as “The Private-Zoo Factor,”[1] a religion that is caged so that it loses its wildness. When true Christianity is applied to any part of the world, it blossoms far more fully and colorfully than

we ever could have imagined.

Over time, Christianity ceased to be a comprehensive, world-changing religion. “[W]here religion still survives in the modern world, no matter how passionate or ‘committed’ the individual may be, it amounts to little more than a private preference, a spare-time hobby, a leisure pursuit.”[2] Theodore Roszak used an apt phrase to describe much of modern-day Christendom: “Socially irrelevant, even if privately engaging.”[3] Let’s apply the Piper-Veith methodology to slavery and Nazi Germany. There’s a real-world opportunity to put an end to slavery, avoid a civil war, social disruption, and the deaths of 600,000 Americans, and become a beacon to the world on how to handle a national sin and crime if the pastors stood up in their pulpits and encouraged their people to go to the polls and vote.

A similar scenario confronted the Christian people of Germany before the rise of Adolf Hitler. Richard V. Pierard comments:

In the nineteenth century . . . German Lutherans made a strong bifurcation [separation] between the realm of public and private concerns. . . Religion was the domain of the inner personal life, while the institutional and external, the public, so to speak, belonged to the worldly power. Redemption was exclusively the province of the church, while the law, determinative for external conduct of human affairs, was solely the province of the state. Religion was a private matter that concerned itself with the personal and moral development of the individual. The external order — nature, scientific knowledge, statecraft — operated on the basis of its own internal logic and discernable laws.[4]

For decades before the rise of Hitler,

Christians were subjected to arguments like the following from pastors and theologians based on a private-public, two-kingdom theory:

“The Gospel has absolutely nothing to do with outward existence but only with eternal life, not with external orders and institutions which could come in conflict with the secular orders but only with the heart and its relationship with God.”[5]

“The Gospel frees us from this world, frees us from all questions of this world, frees us inwardly, also from the questions of public life, also from the social question. Christianity has no answer to these questions.”[6]

Once the Christian understands the moral significance of the state, Wilhelm Hermann declared in 1913, “he will consider obedience to the government to be the highest vocation within the state. For the authority of the state on the whole, resting as it does upon authority of the government, is more important than the elimination of any shortcomings which it might have. . . . For the person who is inwardly free, it is more important [that] the state preserve its historical continuity than that he obtain justice for himself.”[7]

While many Germans might have been opposed to Nazi policies at a personal level, they had been conditioned to believe — because they were Christians living in two kingdoms operating with two sets of standards — that they could not do anything about these rapidly implemented policies at a political level.

The day may come when the State starts attacking you and me. While our churches might speak out against the action of the State, they might not intervene to save us.

— Gary DeMar

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Godfatherpolitics.com
June 23, 2012

A federal court struck down a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act, in part by invoking an opportunistic and incoherent theory of federalism increasingly favored by proponents of same-sex marriage. The act defines marriage, for purposes of federal law, as the union of a man and a woman. A state may choose to recognize other types of union as marriages in its own law. But a state may not force taxpayers everywhere else to give the parties to same-sex unions the Social Security benefits federal law reserves to spouses. The court claims that the act “intrudes extensively” into a state domain. But all the federal government is doing is defining the terms of its own laws. The absurd result of the court’s argument would be that the Constitution grants states a right to determine the flow of federal benefits to its citizens. Nobody can seriously believe that, and nobody will once this claim has finished being useful to the cause of redefining marriage.

— *National Review*
June 25, 2012, p. 6

An association of gays in the military has more than doubled its membership since last year, is setting up more on-base chapters, and plans to hold its next national conference at a Defense Department resort at Walt Disney World.

The expansion of the group OutServe in the five months since the repeal of the Pentagon’s ban on open gays shows how a steady stream of service members is coming out of the closet and becoming better organized to achieve demands for more benefits.

Air Force 1st Lt. Josh Seefried, OutServe’s co-director, said its current 4,900

members are more than double the number on Sept. 20, when the prohibition ended. There are now 42 local chapters at bases around the world.

“We’re about to become the largest [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender employee resource groups] in the world,” Lt. Seefried told *The Washington Times*. “We’re about to pass the major corporations such as IBM and Microsoft as the largest gay organization for employees.”

Local chapters are becoming more active.

The OutServe group at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, a nation at war, recently produced a video starring three enlisted personnel who give advice under the theme of “It Gets Better,” a slogan of the gay-rights movement.

“Don’t allow anyone to tell you you can’t do anything,” says Staff Sgt. Steven Procter.

“Life does get better, but it won’t get better until you start to accept yourself for who you are,” says Staff Sgt. Shelise Harmon.

The video concludes with scenes of military personnel across the base holding up makeshift “It Gets Better” signs.

OutServe attracted more than 200 people to its first national conference in Las Vegas last fall, when Douglas B. Wilson, assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, spoke to the group.

It expects to double that number Oct. 25-28, when the second conference opens at Shades of Green, a 586-room resort in Orlando, Fla., owned by the Defense Department.

Lt. Seefried said OutServe sent solicitations to about 40 cities, including Orlando, whose tourism department contacted Shades of Green, which then sought the

booking.

“One thing we like about the military property is it gives a very low hotel rate for your younger troops who attend,” he said. “You can’t beat the hotel rates there, and that’s a big driver.”

Shades of Green is one of three Armed Forces Recreation Centers in the U.S.; others are in Hawaii and Virginia Beach.

“This resort is designed to provide R&R for our nation’s brave servicemembers, their families and certain other eligible persons,” the website states.

“Imagine a peaceful wooded setting surrounding 586 oversized guest rooms, cascading waterfalls, lush tropical gardens, spectacular views from private patios and balconies amid stunning sunrises. With diverse dining options, championship golf, plenty of kids’ activities and a premier location on Walt Disney World Resort, Shades of Green has all you are looking for in a totally relaxing vacation destination.”

The name reflects the camouflage battle uniforms of four military branches.

Elaine Donnelly, who heads the Center for Military Readiness and worked to keep the ban on gays in the military, said OutServe is showing itself to be divisive.

“OutServe is a gay activist group using provocative tactics to advance their agenda in the military, and to establish themselves as a special-interest group pushing self-serving demands,” Mrs. Donnelly said. “Special-interest advocacy groups, which are inherently divisive, are not permitted for any other cohort in the military.”

Gay-rights groups have listed a number of demands since the end of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” including allowing cross-dressers and transsexuals to serve openly, and providing benefits for the spouses of gays.

The Pentagon said it cannot provide

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such benefits because of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as the partnership of one man and one woman.

— Rowan Scarborough
The Washington Times
February 27, 2012, p. 24

Theology

Debate over Calvinism continues within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). On May 31 a group of SBC leaders published a statement titled the “Traditional Southern Baptist Understanding of God’s Plan of Salvation,” which expresses concern about Baptist “New Calvinists” and their goal of “making Calvinism the central Southern Baptist position on God’s plan of salvation.”

The statement acknowledges that Calvinism, with its emphasis on predestination and God’s sovereignty, has played a role in Baptist theology from its 17th-century origins, and that not all SBC Calvinists have “demanded the adoption of their view as the standard.” But it suggests that some radical Calvinists are trying to force their theology on their non-Calvinist Baptist brethren.

A number of Baptists, both Calvinists and non-Calvinists, have criticized the statement for fostering unnecessary division and unfairly representing Calvinism. Surveys indicate that a minority of SBC clergy are Calvinists but that larger numbers of young pastors promote the theology. Although two current SBC seminary presidents signed the document, Frank Page, the president of the SBC’s executive committee, did not, saying that the denomination needed to focus on areas of agreement.

— Thomas Kidd
WORLD Magazine
June 30, 2012, p. 68

Religious Liberty

New York City public schools continue to rent religious facilities for classroom space, even though they have prohibited churches from using their school buildings. Earlier this year, city officials banned and evicted most churches meeting in public schools, saying they wished to avoid unnecessary entanglements between religion and the state. Opponents of the policy ask why Sunday church meetings at schools (when no students are there) represent more of an entanglement than requiring public-school students to enter religious buildings, where they must occasionally view sacred symbols.

As *The New York Times* recently reported, space limitations force the city to rent space at approximately 50 religious institutions, including Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Protestant, and Jewish facilities. Alliance Defense Fund lawyer Jordan Lorence, who has represented some evicted churches, says, “The school district is in the weird and strange and contradictory situation of: schools meeting in former church schools, OK; churches meeting in schools, not OK. And I just don’t see a whole lot of difference there.” School officials note that they require all religious iconography to be covered, if feasible. Even so, the New York Civil Liberties Union argues that the city should not force students to attend class in a place that looks at all like a church.

— Thomas Kidd
WORLD Magazine
June 30, 2012, p. 68

Editor’s Note: Jordan Lorence is a Summit faculty member.

Law

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Federal Communications Commission v. Fox* was a mixed bag for families. Broadcasters had challenged several FCC decisions on

“fleeting” instances of indecent speech and nudity. In the narrowly written, unanimous opinion, the justices overturned the FCC’s enforcement actions on the grounds that it had acted without giving broadcasters “fair notice” that fleeting expletives and nudity violated indecency rules.

I am disappointed by this aspect of the ruling. Any adult who broadcasts on the public airwaves should be able to figure out what shouldn’t be shown or said in other people’s homes.

However, the big story was that the Supreme Court affirmed the indecency rules by ignoring, as it had in the past, broadcaster entreaties to declare them unconstitutional. It also vacated a far-out appeals court decision that did strike down the indecency rules. In fact, going forward the FCC will be able to impose fines on the networks, with the court’s blessing, if they broadcast fleeting expletives or brief nude shots.

The broadcasters’ position is something akin to a person who wants to shout obscenities or walk partially clad down a public sidewalk or in front of a school. To be sure, there are important First Amendment interests to protect, but reasonable people can agree there have to be boundaries.

The public airwaves are just that — public. The networks are licensed to use them with a moral and legal obligation to provide the public with decent content. The American people overwhelmingly agree.

In January, a Rasmussen Reports poll of 1,000 Americans showed that 64% favored FCC regulations of “profanity, violence and sexual content on TV and radio.” Only 24% were opposed, and 11% were undecided.

And a little over a year ago, a survey for the Parents Television Council showed 75% of adults agree “that there is too much sex,

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violence and coarse language on television.”

Keeping the public airwaves clean is not a heavy burden for those whose television and radio licenses provide them with substantial profits.

— Tony Perkins

USA TODAY

June 22, 2012, p. 8A

Bio-Ethics

When Gallup began asking Americans in 1995 whether they identified as “pro-life” or “pro-choice,” respondents called themselves “pro-choice” by a margin of 56 percent to 33 percent. Since then, despite handwringing from some quarters over the futility of the “culture wars,” the country has been moving in a decidedly pro-life direction. According to the latest results released in late May, only 41 percent of Americans now identify as “pro-choice” — a record low — while 50 percent call themselves “pro-life.” Just 25 percent believe that abortion should be “legal under any circumstances,” which is the position held by President Obama and the Nancy Pelosi wing of the Democratic party. Obama might want to keep this number in mind the next time he’s tempted to decry legislative attempts to restrict abortion as “extremism.”

— *National Review*

June 25, 2012, p. 6

Politics

The decline of the Christian Coalition and other religious-political groups does not mean people who worship an authority higher than the state should return to the political catacombs. They should vote intelligently, take an active role in the party of their choice, even run for office. Mr. [Pat] Robertson and others have done a good job awakening Christians to their civic opportunities and privileges. But Christians should realize that while political power is limited,

and often disappoints, the power of God is unlimited and ultimately pleases the one who taps into it.

In redirecting their energies, conservative Christians would do well to re-read the Bible and stop relying on the “spin” others put on it for their own temporal purposes. There is no biblical mandate, or expectation, for reforming the world through government. Government can, and usually does, reflect the moral attitudes of its people. However, government cannot heal broken marriages (the primary cause of most social ills), nor can it force parents to invest the time necessary to properly rear a child. These things are personal, not political.

There never has been a “coalition” of Christians, because Christians don’t agree on all things, especially politics. Neither was there ever a majority of Americans who were “moral” (“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” writes Paul in Romans 3:23).

Where should the legions of people go who are disappointed, even disenchanted, with politics’ inability to redeem the country from its collective sins?

In our 1999 book, “Blinded by Might,” Edward Dobson and I quote former Sen. Sam Nunn, Georgia Democrat: “The human inclination to seek political solutions for problems of the heart is nothing new. It is natural. Two thousand years ago, another society found itself in deeper trouble than our own. An oppressive empire strangled liberties. Violence and corruption were pervasive. Many of the people of the day hoped for the triumphant coming of a political savior, a long-expected king to establish a new, righteous government. Instead, God sent his Son, a baby, born in a stable. Jesus grew up to become a peasant carpenter in a backwater town called Nazareth. He condemned sin

but made it clear that he loved the sinner. He befriended beggars, prostitutes and even tax collectors while condemning the hypocrisy of those in power. He treated every individual with love and dignity and taught that we should do the same. He also put the role of government in proper perspective when he said, ‘Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s and unto God that which is God’s.’”

The time is ripe for conservative Christians to spend less time trying to influence Caesar, to consider what it means to render unto God, and to start rendering.

— Cal Thomas

The Washington Times

December 12, 2001, p. A18

The quotation of the week last week had to be that of Harvard professor Daniel E. Lieberman in an opinion piece for the *New York Times*.

Lieberman, a professor of human evolutionary biology, was among those who publicly defended New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s plan to ban the sale of sugared soft drinks in cups larger than 16 ounces.

And he did so using, of all things, evolution.

Now, we all know that humans have always needed — or evolved to need — carbohydrates for energy. So how could evolution argue for Mayor Bloomberg’s ban on sugar, a pure carbohydrate?

“We have evolved,” the professor concluded his piece, “to need coercion.”

In order to understand both how silly and dangerous this comment is, one must first understand the role evolutionary explanations play in academic life — and in left-wing life generally. The left has always sought single, non-values based explanations for human behavior. It was originally

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economics. Man is homo economicus, the creature whose behavior can be explained by economics.

Rather than dividing the world between good and evil, the left divided the world in terms of economics. Economic classes, not moral values, explain human behavior. Therefore, to cite a widespread example, poverty, not one's moral value system, or lack of it, causes crime.

Recently, however, the economic explanation for human behavior has lost some of its appeal. Even many liberal professors and editorial writers have had to grapple with the "surprising" fact that violent crime has declined, not increased, in the current recession.

In the words of "Scientific American," "Homo economicus is extinct."

But the biggest reason for the declining popularity of economic man is that science has displaced economics — which is not widely regarded as a science — as the left's real religion. Increasingly, therefore, something held to be indisputably scientific — evolution — is offered as the left's explanation for virtually everything.

Evolution explains love, altruism, morality, economic behavior, God, religion, intelligence. Indeed, it explains everything but music. For some reason, the evolutionists have not come up with an evolution-based explanation for why human beings react so powerfully to music.

But surely they will.

Now, along comes Professor Lieberman, not merely to use evolution to explain human behavior but to justify coercive left-wing social policy. In other words, the left is not only progressive when it coerces citizens to act in ways the left deems appropriate but also science itself — through evolution — inexorably leads to government coercion on

behalf of such policies.

Whereas until now, the democratic left has attempted to persuade humanity that left-wing policies are inherently progressive, this Harvard professor has gone a huge step further. Left-wing policies are scientifically based. This is exactly how the Soviet Communists defended their totalitarian system. Everything they advocated was "naochni," "scientific."

To differ with the left is not only definitionally sexist, intolerant, xenophobic, homophobic, Islamophobic, racist, and bigoted (SIXHIRB, as I have labeled it) — it is now against science itself.

Those who oppose Mayor Bloomberg's law in the name of liberty are therefore missing the point. Not only does another left-wing god — health — demand government coercion, so does evolution itself. Those Americans who place liberty above other considerations and oppose Mayor Bloomberg's proposal to ban large sodas might as well argue against the earth's tilt because they don't like winter.

That is the logical upshot of Professor Lieberman's position.

But there is an even more foolish and dangerous upshot to "we have evolved to need coercion."

If we take this claim seriously and use evolution to guide social policy, little that is truly decent will survive. Is there anything less prescribed by evolution than, let us say, hospices? Professor Lieberman writes that humans have evolved into cooperating with one another. But he cannot deny that the basic evolutionary proposition is survival of the fittest. How, then, can an evolutionary perspective demand the expending of energy and resources to take care of those who are dying? And if evolution demands the survival of the species, wouldn't evolution

call for other "coercion" — against abortion, for example?

Which all proves that what the professor really means to say — and more and more college graduates will be taught — is this: "We have evolved to vote Democrat."

— Dennis Prager

FrontPageMagazine.com

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Economics

While the Senate Banking Committee last week spun its wheels trying to get JP Morgan chief Jamie Dimon to admit to something nefarious during testimony about his "London Whale" trading loss, executives at the big bank were concealing a far bigger scandal.

OK, it's no secret that nation's public pension funds are in big trouble, holding large "unfunded" liabilities owed to public workers once they retire. But most politicians (New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is an exception) will tell you the problem is fairly containable, that there are simple fixes — such as raising taxes on the rich or pruning benefits.

Not so, warns a "strictly confidential" report JP Morgan issued last year. It describes in straightforward, frightening detail how underfunded pensions are huge ticking timebombs for many of the nation's big cities and states.

The scandal isn't simply that most public officials are misleading the public about the enormity of the problem and what steps must be taken to address the matter. As the Morgan report notes, many of the real liabilities are located "off balance sheet," hidden from the public's eye, and lax accounting standards let cities and states minimize their enormity.

It's also that JP Morgan itself kept the report's findings a secret except for a few

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big clients, mostly hedge funds and large institutional investors, who got the inside tip on which states and cities are most likely to default on their debt as their pension liabilities fester.

Yes: Default is a very real possibility, because the solutions are far from easy.

Nationwide, the actual size of unfunded public pension liabilities is four times larger than the \$900-plus billion that officials are 'fessing up to. That's right, the bank sees a \$3.9 trillion hole; to plug that, states and cities will need large tax hikes, massive budget cuts or both. Plus, public-sector unions will have to accept smaller retirement packages, and later retirement ages, to keep the pension systems going.

Without these steps, states and cities with the biggest holes face possible insolvency and default, though the bank believes the risk of default "is greater for municipalities than for states."

Many of the places facing the biggest pension liabilities are right here in the Northeast, where big government rules and public unions are such a potent political force that officeholders dish out gold-plated benefits.

But the classic big-government answer, taxing the rich, won't solve this problem. Nor can these municipalites simply count on high returns on investments bailing them out, the report warned, since markets don't always go up.

In New York, for example, JP Morgan said state officials would have to immediately cut spending by 12.3 percent or raise taxes on everyone by 7.4 percent. And they'd need to make these tax hikes and budget cuts permanent for the next two decades to fully fund public-employee pensions.

New Jersey faces an even bigger hole. Even after Christie's reforms, it would still

have to cut spending 30.8 percent or raise taxes another 17.2 percent, keeping them in place for two decades, to solve the problem.

I got my hands on the report not from an disgruntled employee looking to even up the score with his old firm, but from someone who believed the reason JP Morgan kept it a secret stinks to high heaven: Bankers there are afraid of upsetting state and city officials who hand them large fees to underwrite municipal bonds.

Keep in mind, JP Morgan is Wall Street's leading underwriter of municipal debt. A public release of the report might anger big Morgan muni clients such as Massachusetts, which has a large pension liability.

And why draw attention to an issue that might spook investors, cut off funding for municipal governments and for the fees the bank collects on that funding? A muni-market panic could land the bank in far hotter water than its current London Whale travails.

But Morgan's discretion may have broken the law: The report's dire predictions didn't make it into investor-disclosure documents on at least some bond deals that Morgan underwrote for states with the biggest liabilities. Legal experts say that could violate federal anti-fraud statutes.

All of which sounds like far more onerous than anything the Senate Banking Committee could come up with last week: It grilled Dimon over \$2 billion trading loss at his London office, while his firm was hiding evidence of a \$4 trillion pension disaster.

— Charles Gasparino
New York Post
June 18, 2012

Islam

Walid Shoebat is the son of an American mother and a Palestinian Arab father.

He was raised as a Muslim and eventually became a militant involved in terrorism. He spent time in a Jerusalem jail and planted a bomb in Bethlehem. In 1978, his parents sent him to the US where he went to school in Chicago. While in Chicago, he got involved with Jamal Said, an imam at one of the largest mosques in Chicago and founder of the Islamic Association of Palestine, which many consider to be a forerunner to today's terrorist organization known as Hamas.

Shoebat was heavily involved in Jihadist activities in the United States and says that he was willing to die for the Muslim cause. However, in 1994, Shoebat converted to Christianity and gave up his Muslim militancy. Today, he spends his time watching and reporting dangers and concerns he sees connected with the Muslim world.

In one of his recent posts, Shoebat revealed a close connection of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to the Muslim Brotherhood which just took control of Egypt. In his report, Clinton's closest advisor is her Deputy Chief of Staff Huma Abedin. A year ago, Shoebat learned about the women leadership of the Muslim Sisterhood, which is the female version of the Muslim Brotherhood. Among the 63 names of Muslim women leaders was the name Saleha Mahmoud Abedin, the mother of Clinton's advisor Huma Abedin.

Another name on the leadership list for the Muslim Sisterhood was Najla Ali Mahmoud, who just happens to be the wife of the newly elected Egyptian President Mohammed Mursi and leader in the militant Muslim Brotherhood. Mursi has made it known that he intends to make Jerusalem the capital of the next caliphate and that people in Egypt must either convert to Islam, pay a non-Muslim tax or leave the

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country.

Saleha Mahmoud Abedin is a professor and dean at Dar El-Hekma College in Saudi Arabia and according to Shoebat, has been heavily involved in organizations tied to terrorism. He claims to have found numerous accounts in Arab news sources 'that implicated Huma's mother as being part of a plot reminiscent of Hitler's Nazi Germany.' However, he says that with the rise of Huma Abedin, that much of the information on Saleha has been efficiently cleansed.

Have you ever heard of the term Muruna? It's a Muslim policy that allows someone to lie and deceive in order to gain someone's complete trust so as to place themselves in a position to gain information useful to the cause. Hamas has used Muruna in a number of ways, one of which is getting a Muslim woman to marry a non-Muslim person of influence in order to learn or gain access to valuable information and secrets.

Walid Shoebat suggests that Huma Abedin may in fact be part of a Hamas Muruna plot. He points out that against all Muslim tradition, she married Anthony Weiner, a Jew and the former democratic congressman from New York who resigned in disgrace after his sex scandal. Shoebat tries to support his possible case against Huma by pointing out that she is still a practicing Muslim and as such, was never disavowed by her very Muslim family for marrying a Jew. Additionally, he mentioned that when Weiner resigned he reportedly told a friend, "My problem is that I have three women I have to convince that I'm cured: Huma, her mother — and Hillary."

Now, Huma is the closest person to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and is in a position that gives her access to highly classified documents and information that could prove to be very useful to Hamas and

her mother.

— Da Tagliare
Godfatherpolitics.com
June 28, 2012