

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 476

Up Against Fanaticism

By Phil Lucas

If straight talk of savagery offends you, if you believe in ethnic and gender diversity but not diversity of thought or if you think there is an acceptable gray area between good and evil, then turn to the funny pages, and take the children, too.

This piece is not for you. We published pictures Thursday of burnt Ameri-

can corpses hanging from an Iraqi bridge behind a mob of grinning Muslims. Some readers didn't like it.

Mothers said it frightened their children. A woman who works with Muslim physicians thought it might offend or endanger them.

Well, we sure don't want to frighten, offend or endanger anybody, do we?

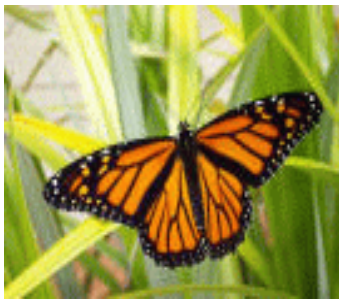
That's just too much diversity to handle. I mean, somebody might get hurt.

We could fill the newspaper every morning with mobs of fanatical Muslims. They can't get along with their neighbors on much of the planet: France, Chechnya, Bosnia, Indonesia, Spain, Morocco, India, Tunisia, Somalia, etc. etc. Can anybody name

three ongoing world conflicts in which Muslims are not involved? Today, where there is war, there are fanatical Muslims. We might quibble about who started what conflicts, but look at the sheer number of them.

One thing is sure. Muslim killers started the

(See **ISLAM** on page 24)



The Beautiful Monarch Butterfly

The following is Institute for Creation Research IMPACT No. 237, March 1993, by Jules Poirier and Kenneth B. Cumming

Perhaps the most familiar butterfly to nature lovers around the world is the orange-winged monarch butterfly. This beautiful creature reigns supreme because: (1) it lives longer, (2) travels farther, (3) has a wider distribution over the earth, and (4) has a more beautiful pupa than any

other butterfly.

Cycle

The four developmental stages in the life cycle of the monarch butterfly are the egg, the caterpillar (larva), the pupa (chrysalis), and finally, the emergence of one of the

most beautiful creatures on earth, the butterfly. Female butterflies begin the next cycle when one small, pin head sized, white egg is laid underneath the leaf of a milkweed plant — a plant which is poisonous to most creatures. Inside the egg the caterpillar begins to develop, drawing upon the

yolk material inside the egg for nutrition. After three to five days, this caterpillar eats a hole in the egg case and emerges onto the leaf surface.

At this stage, the caterpillar is about 0.1 inch long and weighs about 0.55

(See **BUTTER** on page 21)



Quiz The Pastor -- #28

“Slain In the Spirit”

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: Where is the verse in the Bible that speaks of being “slain in the Spirit?”

Answer: Search if you will, but you’ll not find a verse in the Bible that speaks of being “slain in the Spirit.” It’s one of those things that folks have repeated so many times as a Bible truth, that some folks without investigating, are convinced it is Bible truth. Like the old saying, “cleanliness is next to godliness.”

I was sincere at one time in believing there was such a statement to be found in the Bible, but I was sincerely wrong. There are sincere people who are convinced that being “slain in the Spirit” is a Biblical truth, a scriptural experience, but they are deceived

by their instructors who are pastors or evangelists. They demonstrate their “slayings” on TV often.

The demonstration that supposedly teaches this “doctrine of men” is when a preacher who feels an anointing come on him will either touch or blow his breath on someone, and they will then fall backward into the arms of a waiting attendant. Somehow, they always fall backward, never forward or sideways. It’s always backward, and conveniently, there is always someone there to catch them to seemingly keep them from being injured.

Once a person who was supposedly slain in the Spirit fell on an elderly woman, and this injury resulted in her death. The

elderly woman had come forward to be healed.

From my observation, these so-called “slayings” usually take place in church services or evangelistic meetings, after congregational emotions have reached their highest pitch. The “slain” ones are said to be benefited spiritually by the experience.

I once heard a preacher use Isaiah 66:16 to prove this “slain in the Spirit” doctrine. Would you please read this verse, and see if it even remotely resembles what we are seeing today? There is absolutely no connection at all. Christ was once confronted by a small army of His enemies in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of His betrayal, and He asked them, “Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I Am he ... they went backward, and fell to the ground” (Jn. 18:4-6). His boldness caused them to retreat backward, and they then fell to the ground. A careful reading of these verses will show there was no miraculous “slaying” that

knocked His enemies off their feet, and into unconsciousness.

Notice the next verse (vs. 7) shows they were still conscious, and spoke with Him again. Our Lord’s affirmation of His deity by using the words “I AM” stunned and shocked His adversaries into an unplanned momentary retreat, and “they went backward, and fell to the ground” (Vs. 6). But even this does not hint of being “slain in the Spirit.”

Let me again say that the Bible nowhere teaches this doctrine. Religion is famous for inventing new teachings outside the realm of the Bible. Sad to say, there doesn’t seem to be any difficulty in finding followers for these man-made teachings. “If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isa. 8:20). □

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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J. Albert Bengel, the famous commentator, author of the *Gromon*. “Even the words of Scripture are inspired by God. The Spirit does not speak without words.”

The Book of Revelation -- Message #6**John On The Isle of Patmos****By M. L. Moser, Editor**

(Preached February 11, 1979)

"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea" (Rev. 1:9-11).

We begin our study of the book proper with verse 9. The first eight verses are written as an introduction, giving us a background and telling us a few things that are to follow.

We are not going into it now, but the book is divided into three sections. The first three chapters form one section; chapters 4 through chapter 19:6 form the second section, and beginning with chapter 19 and verse 7 through the end of chapter 22, you have the third section.

This first section deals with Christ in His relationship with His New Testament churches here upon the earth, and it begins with a magnificent vision of the Lord. We will not get into the vision proper because this begins with verse 12. I suggest that you read Daniel chapter 7 in preparation for this study, and as you read about the vision that Daniel has of the Lord in heaven, compare it with the vision which John writes for us here in the first chapter of the book of Revelation. Following this vision you have the seven letters that are written to these seven churches in chapters 2 and 3. We enter now into the beginning of the book proper.

In verse 9 he says: *"I John."* We have already seen that this is the Apostle John, the same one who wrote the Gospel of John and who also wrote 1st, 2nd and 3rd John. At the time of the writing of this book, he is now the last living Apostle on the earth.

There are no successors to the Apostles. When John died, that ended the Apostles. There are no apostles today even though the head of the Mormon church claims to be an apostle. Even though the Roman Catholic church

claims that the Pope is the successor to the Apostles, and that there are a few other sects or cults that also claim to be apostles, there are no apostles today. John was the last living Apostle.

For that reason, he may have been one of the last few people who had had a personal conversation with the Lord Jesus Christ. At the writing of this book, if there were any survivors that had personal knowledge and acquaintance with the Lord Jesus Christ, they were very few, and it is possible that John may have been the only survivor. Because of this he probably was the most exalted and the most influential Christian that was upon the earth

There may have been those who held him in nearly reverential awe, but John would have been the last one to receive such worship. All of these apostles, any time anyone tried to bow down before them, they said, "Stand up, for I too am but a man." Not a time did Peter ever receive worship from any man. Never did any of these apostles ever receive for themselves titles that belong to God alone. Yet these who claim to be the descendants of the apostles today, claim this kind of respect; they claim this kind of awe; they expect you to bow down before them. They expect you to kiss their ring, their hand, or even to kiss their feet, but not any of the apostles

claimed any such prerogatives or rights. Any time anyone fell down as though to worship them, immediately they said, "Stand up. I too am but a man," and they would not allow anybody to call them any of the titles or names that belonged to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It has become common today to refer to preachers by a title, the name "Reverend." I do not use it. I do not want it used about me. The name "reverend" is a personal name of the Lord Jesus Christ and it should never be applied to an ordinary man (Psa. 111:9). It is a personal name that is applicable only to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now John does not make any special claims for himself even though he is an apostle. When he addresses this group of churches to identify himself, he simply refers to himself and says, "I John." He does not even say the Apostle John. He simply says "I John." How unlike the supposed successors of the Apostles today, for he was very humble and meek. He was just a brother. There was a common brotherhood among the believers, a common suffering for Christ, a common royalty and kingship, though not yet revealed, and a common hopeful and patient waiting for the coming of the Lord when He shall be

(See **REV** on page 12)



James Monroe

On March 4, 1817, James Monroe closed his first inaugural address with these words:

“Relying on the aid to be derived from the other departments of the Government, I enter on the trust to which I have been called by the suffrages of my fellow-citizens with my fervent prayers to the Almighty that He will be graciously pleased to continue to us that protection which He has already so conspicuously displayed in our favor.”

In his second inaugural address on March 5, 1821, he said: “That these

God In Our Government

powerful causes exist, and that they are permanent, is my fixed opinion; that they may produce a like accord in all questions touching, how-ever remotely, the liberty, prosperity, and happiness of our country will always be the object of my most fervent prayers to the Supreme Author of All Good.”

Significantly, he closed this second inaugural address with these words: “... with a firm reliance on the protection of Al-mighty God, I shall forth-with commence the duties of the high trust to which you have called me.” □

Odds & Ends

The person appreciated most by the average person is the person who talks the least!

* * *

Prayer is the hand, faith is the key that unlocks the door to God’s treasures. Use them and get the blessings.

* * *

An Indian said that in his preparation for the Sunday services he made his body very clean, from head to foot. “Then,” he added, “I sit down and think Jesus until it is time to go.”

How many of us “think Jesus” before we go to church?

Muslims Groom Candidates For 2004

A New Danger For America

A leading Islamic lobby group is on a nationwide tour to introduce Muslims to American politics. Building an influential voting bloc for the 2004 elections and eventually seeing Muslim candidates on ballots for everything from city council to congressional seats are two aims of the Virginia-based Muslim American Society (MAS), the St. Paul Pioneer press reported.

The MAS also wants to increase campaign donations for politicians who have represented Muslim interests, including civil-rights protections and immigrant issues.

On Saturday (May 24) MAS will lead a civil rights march and rally in Washington, D.C. it touts as the largest gathering of Muslims ever in the nation’s capital.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, American Muslims, who traditionally focused on foreign policy, increasingly have made domestic policy their biggest concern, the St. Paul paper said. At a day-long workshop in Inver Grove Heights, Minn., participants discussed issues such as mosque expansions, Islamic slaughterhouses and racial profiling. The workshop

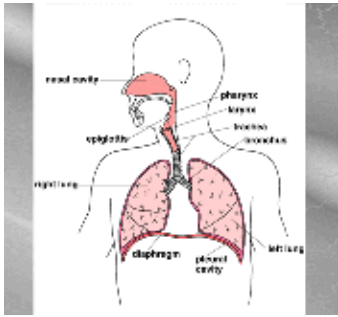
turned 60 eager participants into lobbyists and, possibly, potential candidates, the Pioneer Press said.

“It’s not just talking about issues that affect Muslims,” workshop organizer Jessi Frenzel told the paper. “It’s our duty as American residents to speak up on a lot of issues. To be a good citizen is to be a good Muslim.” Frenzel said he is considering a future in politics.

About 700 Muslims ran for public office in 2000, and 153 were elected, the St. Paul paper reported.

Rahma Farah, 18, who participated in the workshop, said the experience made her optimistic about the future of Islam and U.S. politics. One day, she told the St. Paul daily, there may even be a Muslim president of the United States. “Who knows?” Farah said. “Maybe in 2020.” —CNS

[Editor’s comment: According to news reports, the aim of the Muslims is to see the United States become a Muslim nation. There is no religious freedom in a country dominated by the Muslims. Just read the news reports in the World News Roundup Section of TBC.] □



God's Masterpiece — The Human Body #16

More Wonders of Respiration

By Arthur I Brown

I have been telling you some facts about respiration and the respiratory organs and in the preceding article dealt with the nose and its curious and interesting structure and uses. The pharynx is the space behind the nose, mouth, and larynx. Its use is to transmit air from the nose and food from the mouth. On either side of the pharynx, lying between two folds or pillars, are the tonsils, which I have already mentioned in a previous article. On the posterior pharyngeal wall are small collections of lymphoid tissue, known as the pharyngeal tonsil, commonly called adenoids.

The larynx is situated in front of the pharynx, below the hyoid bone, and projects slightly forward in the neck. It is constructed of fibro-cartilages connected with each other by ligaments and lined with mucous membrane. The largest of these fibro-cartilages is the thyroid, which forms the prominence of the larynx known as "Adam's Apple." Below the thyroid is another cartilage, the cricoid, shaped like a seal ring, and placed with the broad part at the back. There are

some other small cartilages which need not be mentioned.

The epiglottis or trap door is a leaf-shaped flexible cartilage extending up from the thyroid in front, and resting against the base of the tongue. During swallowing this remarkable little piece of cartilage is bent backward over the entrance into the larynx by the action of small muscles, as the larynx rises to meet it — altogether a miraculous device to prevent food from going the wrong way into the wind-pipe instead of into the gullet or esophagus.

The trachea is the continuation of the larynx, about one inch in diameter and four and one-half inches long. It is fibrous and elastic, stiffened with rings of cartilage, which are incomplete at the back, the cartilage being displaced by muscle — a most necessary alternation which makes the tracheal tube soft where the esophagus lies next to it, so that there can be no pressure on the gullet, and no interference with swallowing. You see again how God did not overlook anything.

Then the trachea

divides into two branches called bronchi. The right bronchus is one inch long, the left two inches, and as they pass into the lungs they divide into branches called bronchial tubes, which subdivide again and again, into the smallest tubes, called bronchioles. These lead to the small air-sacs in the lungs, numbering many millions always containing air which must be pushed out by the contraction of a set of muscles, and sucked in by the action of another set of muscles. You will remember that the entire tract from the trachea down to the air-cells is lined with mucous membrane, carrying the little hairs or cilia, waving always from the inside toward the outside, tending to expel mucus and other substances.

The lungs are two in number, right and left, situated in the right and left sides of the chest, occupying the space enclosed by the ribs — except that portion between the breastbone or sternum, and the spinal column. The bottom of the lungs rests on the diaphragm. The right lung is divided into three parts or lobes, and the left

into two.

The substance of the lung consists of branches of the bronchi and their divisions down to the bronchioles, and the spaces ending in air-cells, which are surrounded by blood vessels, nerves, and lymphatics, grouped together in small masses or lobules, supported by fine fibro-elastic tissue. The lungs are wrapped in a smooth membrane known as the pleura. This pleura is a thin transparent membrane or sac, one side of which is closely applied to the lung, while the other side fits closely to the ribs. Within the space thus formed is a small quantity of serous fluid (secreted by the cells of the pleura) the function of which is to prevent friction when the ribs move and the lungs expand or contract. Again, observe the evidence of forethought. Sometimes this pleura may become inflamed, causing the fluid to diminish so that the surfaces rub together with acute pain, and the doctor listening with the stethoscope hears a fine crackling sound which is quite diagnostic. Later the fluid may increase to considerable amounts, causing pressure on the lung, interference with breathing, and require tapping or removal of a portion of rib, and drainage. This condition is known as pleurisy.

The important process

(See **BODY** on page 6)

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 5)

of breathing is made possible by the movements of the chest, the muscles of which are constructed with this in mind. It could not be anything but planning which brought this to pass. In between the pairs of ribs are muscles, two sets of them, one outside and the other inside. They are called external intercostals and internal intercostals. When we breathe in air, the external muscles lift up the ribs and spread them apart, thus increasing the width of the chest; the big muscular diaphragm contracts, pulling down its central tendon, and thus increasing the depth of the chest. The lungs expand and receive the in-drawn air, because the little air-sacs are elastic and distensible. This active inspiratory phase of respiration is accomplished by the creation of a vacuum or negative pressure within the chest cavity.

In expiration the ribs fall back easily into place, assisted by the internal intercostals, and abdominal muscles; the diaphragm relaxes, returning to its dome shape, and the air is passed out. This is the passive phase of respiration.

How fortunate that God has ordered all the vital operations of our body to be automatic and outside the realm of the will! Respiration goes on, sleeping or waking, and we

do not have to pay much, if any, attention to the process. If it depended on our constant watchfulness, very few of us would live long. We shall notice in a moment the strange mechanism which takes this job off our hands. The newly born child breathes about forty times to the minute, while in adults the rate is eighteen times a minute. Normal respiration slows down when we are recumbent or sleeping; the rate is increased by physical exercise or emotion, by fevers generally, and by inflammation of organs, in pneumonia, peritonitis, etc.

Normal respiration is, then, a rhythmic process. The demand for oxygen is met by inspiration. This demand satisfied, the chest walls sink back into position and the lungs retract, but only for an instant; another demand is followed by another inspiration and so on and on. What is the controlling force or agent in this vital function of breathing?

In a portion of the hind-brain called the medulla oblongata, resting at the top of the spinal cord, is the center for respiration. Here is the G.H.Q. for breathing, receiving information and demands from the blood, and responding instantly to the needs of the body. The message which goes to this brain center concerns the amount of carbon dioxide in the blood. As the blood loses its oxygen to the cells

of the body and takes on the load of carbon dioxide, this latter poisonous waste product of combustion excites the brain center in the medulla, which sends down a hurried call to the inspiratory muscles to get busy, and we take an automatically governed inspiration. It is not difficult to realize the amazing intricacy and accuracy of this mechanism which is able to discern minute chemical changes in the blood and respond accordingly and instantly. Have you ever thought why a newly born infant that has never breathed suddenly takes a big inspiration in the form of a cry? If it had breathed before birth in the usual way, it would have drowned, because it is surrounded by amniotic fluid. Now it must breathe or die. It has no knowledge of this need, but the apparatus for measuring carbon dioxide in the blood has been perfected just for this emergency. The babe has been using the oxygen of mother's blood stream until born, and now cut off from this supply, the carbon dioxide rapidly fills the blood stream, the respiratory center is informed and becomes excited. An urgent call goes to the muscles which control the process of inspiration, the muscles between the ribs, the diaphragm contracts powerfully, the lung cells expand, and that wonderful first cry is heard! Father, who has been pacing up

and down outside, waiting anxiously for this moment, hears the sound of his first-born and there is great relief and rejoicing!

Whenever there are increased amounts of carbon dioxide thrown into the blood, there will be increased breathing, while slowing of respiration results from an accumulation of oxygen. Is it not rather wonderful that the Boss on the job sits quietly away up in the brain, always on the alert, receiving and sending messages, which must be instantly obeyed in order that life may survive? Who but our great Creator could account for this!

When Adam was created, as described in Gen. 2:7, we read "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." God has not revealed to us what method He adopted in this wonderful act of human creation. With the animal creation the language is different. Concerning them, commands were given to waters and earth to "bring forth." "He spake and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast." When animal creation is accomplished there seems to be in the Record a solemnity about the next and crowning act. What do we read? "Let us make man in *our* image, after *our* like-

(See **BODY** on page 7)

Misuse of “Love” To Cover Compromise

From the Calvary Contender
May 2004

New Evangelicals espouse an unbiblical view of “love,” divorced from doctrine and truth and from obedience and purity. In the 1950s Fuller Seminary President E. J. Carnell said, “the mark of a true disciple is *love*, not doctrine” (5/1/96 CC). But Jesus and John made obedience (doctrine) the defining mark of love (John 14:21; 1 Jn. 5:3). James 3:17 puts unity (holiness) first, then unity (love). New Evangelicals embrace a false view of love which allows them to disobey, in the name of “love,” separation commands and *unlovingly* excoriate undamentalists who expose their compromise

Biblical love operates in the bounds of doctrine and truth. New-evangelical “love” disregards separation commands, elevates unity above truth, and produces ungodly alliances and a diluted message. Jack Van Impe and others in recent years emphasized new-evangelical “love” as their ministries became ever more ecumenical. Yet they continued “unlovingly” criticizing fundamentalists for exposing their compromise, calling them “unloving,” “judgmental,”

etc.

We must “speak the truth in love,” but we must indeed speak the truth, exhort and livingly warn those deceived by error. □

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 6)

ness ... so God created man in *his own* image, in the *image of God* created he him.”

We would like more details, of course, but that would only partially satisfy our curiosity and we do not need it. However, we *are* given the suggestion of added care as if the Divine fingers moving in the dust were aware of the wonderful product of their skill and wisdom. The body was finished, every organ and tissue, and bone and muscle, every nerve, every blood vessel in its place, the precious fluid ready to circulate, but as yet no life. Then, *God breathed into man the breath of life*, and all the bodily functions began to operate. Adam opened his eyes for the first time. What a glorious moment! He had now become “a living soul,” his life, the life from God, created by the breath of God.

You and I were born once. Have you been born the second time? Has the breath of God brought you into the secret place where He dwells? Do you know the joy of sins forgiven through the atoning blood at Calvary? Can you call God your “Father” or is He simply “Creator” to you? Has Jesus Christ come into your life as Savior and Friend? Is He King of kings and Lord of lords? These

are vital questions today. To ask them is not fanaticism; to refuse to answer them is not a sign of intelligence. Will you come to grips with this tremendous issue? You must meet it some day. It may then be too late. Jesus Christ waits for you now. Take Him into your life and discover that HE’S WONDERFUL!

[Next month: “The Skin and Lord of lords? These You Love To Touch.”]

Calvary

By Elias Newman

I did not see Thee lifted high
Amid the savage mob;
I did not hear Thy rending cry,
“Forgive them, O my God!”
But, Lord, I know it was for me
Thy blood and tears were poured;
And now, through weeping eyes, I see
My wounded, precious Lord.

I did not see the awful sight
That hid Thee, O my Lord;
I did not see Jehovah smite
The Shepherd with the sword;
But now I know the judgment fell
Upon Thy sacred Head,
To save my guilty soul from hell
And raise me from the dead.

I did not hear Thy loud last sigh
When love’s great work was done,
That rent the veil, the earth and sky,
And told that life was won;
But, Lord, I know that Thou hast died
And tasted death for me;
Exalted at Thy Father’s side,
My Lord, my God I see.



Illegal in Canada To Oppose Homosexuality?

— Bill C-250, a repressive, anti-free-speech measure that is on the brink of becoming law in Canada, would add “sexual orientation” to the Canadian hate propaganda law, thus making public criticism of homosexuality a crime (4/19 *USN&WR*). It is sometimes called the “Bible as Hate Literature.” It could ban publicly expressed opposition to gay marriage, etc. The bill has a loophole for religious opposition to homosexuality, but few scholars think it will offer protection. As our northern neighbor liberalizes we’re usually not far behind.

Should we teach evolution to our children?

A: Absolutely! Sadly, some Christian parents say that their children were only going to learn about creation and hear nothing about evolution. But this is not a good idea! Our children should know more about evolution than most evolutionists. We’ve nothing to be worried about if we teach our children the *truth* about

evolution. In fact, it’s *imperative* that they learn it. Children need to be taught that evolution has no basis in science, that there are no facts that support it, and that it’s actually an evil philosophy. In fact, the men who popularized evolution wanted to stop people from believing the God of creation. The more our children know about evolution, the more they’ll see that it has no basis in truth whatsoever! We must obey the Scriptures and teach our children to distinguish good from evil, as the book of Hebrews tells us. And to do this, we must train them in the truth of creation and teach them the fallacy of evolution.

Church Court Sidesteps Lesbian Case.

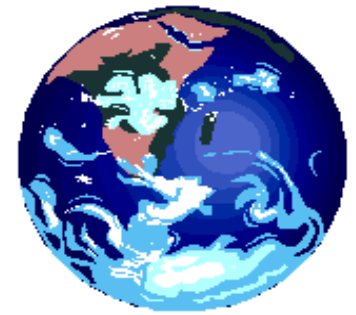
— The top United Methodist court ruled Tuesday that it does not have the authority to review the case of an openly lesbian pastor who was acquitted of violating church law. The ruling from the Judicial Council came in the case of the Rev. Karen Dammann, a Washington state minister who acknowledged she was in a committed relationship with a woman. A jury of 13 pastors outraged conservatives in March by acquitting Dammann of practices contrary to Christianity at her church

World News Roundup

trial in Bothell, Wash. The jurors effectively ruled that church law did not make it a chargeable offense for gay clergy to be sexually active.

What Would the First Man Say About Our Brain Power If He Were Here Today?

— We’d probably not like the answer! We tend to think that we’re far superior to people who lived before us. We live in an advanced age where we can put man on the moon. But the truth is that man’s intelligence has been decreasing over time. Why? Because sin entered the world — our brain power is not increasing, as evolutionists would expect. The Bible tells us that the first man and woman had children who went out and built cities and made musical instruments. They were the most intelligent people who ever lived. There’s a lot of evidence from archaeology that indicates that even after the Flood, people were able to carry out marvels of technology that we can’t duplicate today! Think of the pyramids for example. We’ve been indoctrinated by evolution to think that we are the most intelligent of all generations. Some will say, “Genesis was written in simplistic terms so people in the



prescientific age could understand it,’ but it might be better to say, ‘Our brains have suffered from over 6,000 years of the curse. Actually, Genesis was written in simplistic terms so you and I could understand it!’

Moore Loses Appeal To Save Job.

— Alabama’s controversial “Ten Commandments Judge” lost his final chance to keep his job April 30. In a unanimous opinion, a specially appointed temporary Alabama Supreme Court upheld a November decision by the state’s Court of the Judiciary removing former Chief Justice Roy Moore from office for violating the state’s judicial ethics code. The judge, long an outspoken advocate for displaying the Ten Commandments on government property, had been suspended since August, when he defied a federal judge’s order to remove a monument to the commandments. In 2001, without permission or knowledge of fellow justices, Moore had

(See **WNR** on page 15)

La Voz Del Desierto

¿Es “The Passion of the Christ” Fiel a Los Evangelios?

Por Felix M. González Bulgalá

Ninguna película, ningún sermón, ningún avivamiento, ningún evento, ni nada en la historia moderna, ha capturado tanta atención en el mundo cristiano, como la tan esperada película de Mel Gibson, “*The Passion of the Christ*,” la cual fue oficialmente abierta en los teatros de San Juan, Puerto Rico, el jueves 25 de marzo de 2004. Tanto la prensa como muchos líderes religiosos han proclamado que “*The Passion*” es fiel a los evangelios. Pero ¿es esto cierto? ¿Será posible que la inspiración y la escritura que se usó para la producción de esta película no fue la Biblia, sino otro libro?

Como cristianos estamos ordenados a “Examinadlo todo” (1ra Tesalonicenses 5:21). Tampoco nos olvidemos de nuestro adversario, Satanás es muy astuto. La Biblia dice en Mateo 24:24 que “levantarán falsos Cristos” y “engañarán, si es posible, aun a los escogidos.” Satanás desea ser Cristo. Su último papel será “actuar” como Jesús. Teniendo esto en mente, pongamos a prueba “*The Passion of the Christ*” y

sigamos el ejemplo de los bereanos en Hechos 17:11 quienes siempre estaban “escudriñando cada día las Escrituras si estas cosas eran así”

Hace unos cuantos años atrás mientras Mel Gibson estaba redescubriendo y renovando su fe católica, Mel Gibson compró una librería de un convento de monjas cerrado, con cientos de libros. Mel cuenta que mientras trataba de alcanzar un libro en uno de los anaqueles de la librería, una intervención sobrenatural causó que otro libro cayera “milagrosamente” en sus manos. Y que ese libro “milagroso,” no la Biblia, no los Evangelios, es la inspiración de “*The Passion*.” Ese libro era “*The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the meditations of Anne Catherine Emmerich*” (Mel, Mary, and Mothers, *Christianity Today*, March 2004). ¿Quién era Anne Catherine Ennerich, la misteriosa escritora de “*The Passion*”? Anne Catherine Emmerich era una famosa, mística, monja católica quien supuestamente po-

seña algunas habilidades muy inusuales.

Anne nació en septiembre 8 del 1774 en Westphalia, Alemania. Se convirtió en una monja de la Orden Agustina en Dulmen. Emmerich, quien dijo en cierta ocasión: “*La Iglesia es una sola, la Católica Romana*,” demandaba “haber visto” durante sus visiones sobrenaturales la creación del cielo, la caída de los ángeles, la creación de la tierra, el paraíso y la crucifixión real de Jesucristo. Según Mel Gibson, las visiones (demoníacas) de esta monja de la crucifixión, llamada “*The Dolorous Passion*,” se convirtieron en la inspiración y la escritura de “*The Passion of the Christ*,” y no los Evangelios.

Analicemos algunas escenas de la película “*The Passion of the Christ*” las cuales no se encuentran en la Biblia sino que fueron tomadas directamente de las visiones de Emmerich:

(1) En el huerto del Getsemani mientras Jesús está orando en agonía una mujer encapuchada (Satanás) aparece en la oscuridad para tentarlo.

(2) Jesús (quien es representado con cabello largo) es lanzado desde un puente.

(3) Después de Judas traicionar a Jesús, unos niños endemoniados atacan y

muerden a Judas.

(4) Después de negar tres veces a Jesús, Pedro se dirige a María llorando y llamándola, “Madre” (esto es para apoyar la idea de que María es Madre de Dios, de la Iglesia y de todos los hombres).

(5) Claudia, la esposa de Pilato, trae linos a María, la madre de Jesús, y a María Magdalena de modo que ellas puedan limpiar la sangre de Jesús.

(6) Jesús cae múltiples veces mientras carga la cruz (éstas corresponden las 3ra, 7ma, y 9na Estaciones de la Cruz, las cuales son un devocional católico muy popular).

(7) Verónica (una santa católica) limpia la cara de Jesús (6ta estación de la cruz); el paño con el rostro ensangrentado impreso en él, ahora es una reliquia.

(8) La cruz de Jesús empieza a levitarse por sí sola.

Estas y otras escenas extra-bíblicas de “*The Passion of the Christ*” son fuertemente condenadas por el Señor quien nos advierte: “No añadas a sus palabras, porque no te reprenda, y seas hallado mentiroso” (Proverbios 30:6; Apocalipsis 22:18-19). No hay duda de que “*The Passion*” no es fiel a los Evangelios. No hay duda de que “*The Passion*” añade y pervierte

(Vea **PASSION** en la pág. 10)
PASSION . . .
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la Palabra de Dios. Por lo cual nos hacemos eco de las palabras del apóstol Pablo: “Estoy maravillado de que tan pronto os hayáis traspasado del que os llamó á la gracia de Cristo, á otro evangelio: No que hay otro, sino que hay algunos que os inquietan, y queiren pervertir el evangelio de Cristo. Mas aun si nosotros ó un ángel del cielo os anunciare otro evangelio del que os hemos anunciado, sea anatema. Como antes hemos dicho, también ahora decimos otra vez: Si alguno os anunciare otro evangelio del que habéis recibido, sea anatema. Porque, ¿persuado yo ahora á hombres ó á Dios? ¿ó busco de agradar á hombres? Ciertamente, que si todavía agradara á los hombres, no sería de Cristo” (Gál. 1:6-10).

En una entrevista, el director y productor del largo metraje “*The Passion of the Christ*,” Mel Gibson, admite con orgullo: “No hay salvación para aquellos que están fuera de la Iglesia (Católica), yo lo creo” (The Herald Sun). Hasta el actor que hace el papel de “Jesús,” Jim Caviezel, dijo en una entrevista: “Le pido a María que me guíe y a mi carrera ... Este filme es algo que yo creo que fue hecho por María para su Hijo. Porque fue hecho por ella, será, atacado por el enemigo.”

No es sorpresa que tanto Gibson y Caviezel recibieran la Misa y la Comunión, cada mañana, para sentirse preparados durante la filmación. Mel también dijo que María “es una tremenda coreodora y mediadora,” (Mel,

Mary and Mothers. *Christianity Today*, March 2004). Pero la Biblia es clara cuando enseña que “solo hay un mediador entre Dios y los hombres” y no es María. “Porque hay un Dios, asimismo un mediador entre Dios y los hombres, Jesucristo hombre” (1ra Timoteo 2:5).

Mel Gibson le ofrece a la Iglesia Católica la versión que ellos pueden amar. Obispos y sacerdotes han recomendado “*The Passion of the Christ*” a los fieles católicos como una gran oportunidad para esparcir, fortalecer y compartir su fe católica con sus familiares y amigos. Mientras que hay otros que ofrecen folletos de esta película para convertir a los curiosos expectadores al catolicismo. Por tal razón nos preguntamos ¿qué hacen millares de cristianos promocionando con tanto entusiasmo “*The Passion*” lo cual es una película católica de principio a fin y basada en las visiones espeluznantes de una monja endemoniada de la época medieval? Esto no sólo nos sorprende a nosotros sino hasta el mismo Mel Gibson quien dijo: “realmente me sorprende la manera en que la audiencia evangélica ha respondido a esta película más que cualquier otro grupo, sobre todo cuando la película es tan Mariana (la adoración católica a María)” (Mel, Mary and Mothers, *Christianity Today*, March 2004).

Sin duda “*The Passion*” ha recibido más aplausos evangélicos que cualquier otro evento cristiano en estos últimos 100 años. Sólo hay un problema (grande en efecto), “*The Passion*” no es una película para niños. “*The Passion*” está clasificada “R” que significa no apto para menores de 17 años. Aquellos padres que llevan a sus niños a este filme religioso deberían preguntarse si de verdad quieren que sus niños vean cómo se parece la piel cuando es arrancada hacia fuera por un latigazo lleno de púas o cómo se parece cuando un brazo es dislocado para

adaptarse a los largos clavos de una cruz. Deberían preguntarse si de verdad quieren que sus niños vean a un hombre colgarse y oír la presión de la soga partir su cuello de la forma más realista posible. Juzgando por los muchos adultos que han dejado traumatizados el teatro, y de las muertes de ataque cardíaco por el impacto de la violencia extrema de “*The Passion*,” me parece irresponsable y deprimente exponer a nuestros niños y adolescentes a las imágenes de esta película. Jesús no dijo: “Dejad a los niños verme sufrir”, sino: “Dejad los niños venir a mí” (Lucas 18:16).

No hay duda de que el Señor Jesús fue torturado sin misericordia antes de ser crucificado. Pero hermanos, no fue algo para ser visto gráficamente en una pantalla enorme y a todo color. Cuando el Señor Jesucristo fue crucificado no fueron ocho horas de maquillaje con sangre falsificada y efectos especiales. Fue su verdadera y preciosa sangre sin pecado la que fue derramada en la cruz del Calvario. Tampoco había un teatro con millones de personas mirando le sangre y la tortura. No. Él murió totalmente solo. La Biblia dice: “Entonces dejándole todos sus discipulos, huyeron” (Marcos 14:50).

La cruz de Jesucristo fue el momento más oscuro, más vergonzoso, más deshonroso en la historia del universo (Gálatas 3:13). Fue tan vergonzoso que Su propio Padre no pudo ni siquiera ver a Su Hijo por lo que “Jesús exclamó con grande voz, diciendo: Eli, Eli, ¿la sabachtani? Esto es: Dios mío, ¿por qué me has desamparado?” (Mateo 27:46). Fue un día en que el sol rehusó resplandecer. Fue un día en que la tinieblas cubrieron al Hijo de Dios en la cruz para ocultar la vergüenza. “Y desde la hora de sexta fueron tinieblas sobre toda la tierra hasta la hora de nona” (Mateo 27:45). Sin embargo millones de cristianos están abarrotando los teatros para ver la escena.

Ciertamente “*The Passion*” esta “seduciendo” a la mayoría de los cristianos por su deseo de

saber más acerca del Señor Jesús. Como el discípulo Tomás, creen que si “ven” con lujo de detalles, los azotes, los golpes, el dolor y la angustia, lo pueden amar más. Creen que si “ven” la sangre, la carne rasgada, y lo que el Señor pasó por ellos lo pueden servir mejor. Suena lógico y sus motivos pueden ser sinceros. Pero, ¿realmente cree usted que una cruda y polémica cinta de Hollywood puede espiritualmente hacer algo mejor, o “mostrar” algo más, que la Palabra inspirada de Dios? ¿Tendrá el Espíritu Santo de Dios, la necesidad de ser ayudado por una película, para poder convencer a las personas de sus pecados? (Juan 14:26; 16:7-14).

Es la palabra escrita de Dios la que trae salvación, fe y crecimiento espiritual (Romanos 10:17; 2da Timoteo 3:14-17; 1ra Pedro 1:23; 2:2; 2da Pedro 1:19-21). El diablo sabe, que si de alguna manera puede debilitar el apetito por la Palabra de Dios, su batalla se hará más fácil de ganar, y lamentablemente, como Esaú muchos cristianos están vendiendo su primo-genitura (la Palabra de Dios), por la comida que ofrece el mundo.

En fin, la decisión de ver o no ver esta película, es de cada persona. Mi objetivo al escribir este artículo NO es herir los sentimientos, ni altercar con ningún creyente o persona que haya visto o vea en el futuro, con buenas intenciones, la película “*The Passion of the Christ*,” de Mel Gibson. Mi objetivo ES, sacar a la luz la verdadera inspiración que sirve como base de la película, y que cada persona tenga unos elementos de juicios, que le ayuden a hacer una evaluación más real y objetiva de esta película. Respeto las opiniones de cada cual. Pero recordemos que: “Porque por fe andamos, no por vista” (2da Corintios 5:7).

Darwin and the Mind of Man

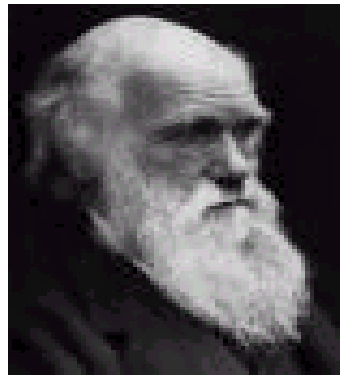
By Bolton Davidheiser, Ph.D.

About a year and a half before he died, Charles Darwin wrote to Thomas Henry Farrer, "I cannot put much or any faith in the so-called intuitions of the human mind, which has been developed, as I cannot doubt, from such a mind as animals possess; and what would their convictions or intuitions be worth?"

In his autobiography, which he wrote in his old age for his children, Darwin said, "But then arises the doubt — can the mind of man, which has, as I fully believe, been developed from a mind as low as that possessed by the lowest animal, be trusted when it draws such grand conclusions? May not these be the result of the connection between cause and effect which strikes us as a necessary one, but probably depends merely on inherited experience? Nor must we overlook the probability of the constant inculcation in a belief in God on the minds of children producing so strong and perhaps an inherited effect on their brains not yet fully developed, that it would be as difficult for them to throw off their belief in God, as for a monkey to throw off its instinctive hatred of a snake."

Darwin strongly disagreed with Alfred Russell Wallace, considered the co-

discoverer with him of the principle of evolution by natural selection, that the human brain did not evolve according to their theory because savage or so-called primitive peoples have better brains than the need or use in their culture. But Darwin himself had a



Charles Darwin

better brain than he used, as is illustrated in a letter he wrote to H. N. Moseley in 1876.

Darwin's letter concerned a peculiar tropical worm called *peripatus*. This worm did emit its viscid fluid from the posterior end of its body, it would not necessarily follow that some of these worms had evolved into spiders. But the fact that they secrete it at the anterior end shows that these glands did not evolve into the spinnerets of spiders. Yet Darwin says that if only *peripatus* did its secreting from the posterior end instead of from the anterior end he could make a

beautiful case for the evolution of the spinnerets of spiders. This is something like saying it is too bad that the Emperor Nero lived in the wrong country and in the wrong century, for other-wise we might make out a good case that he started the great Chicago fire instead of Mrs. O'leary's cow.

Darwin's desire to find evolution even where he knew there was no evolution was so great that he allowed it to have more influence upon his thinking

than he allowed to his rational brain. Since Darwin allowed his desires and emotions to have such control over his reasoning, it appears very unwise for others to put their confidence in his conclusions. Darwin did not trust the human brain because he believed -it evolved from the brains of irrational animals. Christians should be wary in trusting the reasoning of the brains of unregenerate men in matters related to religion, Scripture, and God. □ □

"There Always Will Be God"

By Albert Leonard Murray

They cannot shell His temple,
Nor dynamite His throne;
They cannot bomb His city,
Nor rob Him of His own.

They cannot take Him captive,
Nor strike Him deaf and blind,
Nor starve Him to surrender,
Nor make Him change His mind.

They cannot cause Him panic,
Nor cut off His supplies,
They cannot take His kingdom,
Nor hurt Him with their lies.

Though all the world be shattered,
His truth remains the same,
His righteous laws still potent,
And "Father" still His name.

Though we face war and struggle
And feel their goad and rod,
We know above confusion

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crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. We too are brethren with these apostles.

At the time John is writing he is on the isle that is called Patmos. I suppose that if we were to try to think about something similar to the Isle of Patmos, it would be the prison Alcatraz, though it is no longer used. There was also another place, Elba, an island used as a prison for Napoleon.

The Isle of Patmos is a small rocky island located in the Aegean Sea not far off the coast of what is known as Miletus with neither trees or rivers, and practically no land cultivation. A small dingy cave is said to be the place where John lived and received his vision. For those who are acquainted with the island and who have been there, they say it is mostly just a rocky, barren island, with very little vegetation. There are some small mines on the island, most of them salt mines. These men placed upon this island, were placed there as prisoners. They were completely isolated from all civilization and all friends. They were completely separated and isolated from everybody except their prison guards. It is a little, small island, no more than 10 miles long and six miles wide. Tradition says that this was a place

used to exile those of the upper class of society because it was considered to be a place of great and severe punishment. John was placed upon this island. Perhaps he was required to work in the salt mines. Most of them did. Most of them were forced to do so.

But why was John placed upon this island. John tells us: *"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ"* (Rev. 1:9). So we see that John was exiled to this island because of his faithful witness to the Word of God and to the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, not for any crimes. He was not a criminal. The only crime that caused him to be placed upon this island was his crime of preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and for his refusal to bow down and worship the emperor. In reading the New Testament, we see that it is an account of the sufferings of God's people (1:9).

Nero, Domitian, and others demanded Emperor worship. The emperor was the god. They would build images of themselves, and demand that all subjects bow down and worship their image. If the emperor should happen to be there, then you bow down and give obeisance and worship

unto the emperor himself.

You did not have to quit your own religion. If you were a follower of Diana of the Ephesians, that was all right; you could still continue to bow down and worship her, just as long as you would bow down and worship the emperor also. In other words it was a polytheistic kind of religion, many gods. They didn't mind you having your own god, just as long as you recognized their god as well, and the Christians could not agree with that. That corresponds to our modern-day ecumenical movement. Because they all had their own religions, and each one would recognize the right of the other to have their religion and as long as you did this, this was perfectly all right. Just bow down to my god, I'll bow down to your god, and we'll all be fine.

This was fine for those who worshiped gods of stone, wood, gold and silver, the emperor or the heavenly bodies; that wouldn't be any problem for them. For Christians, they were unable to do that, because they believed in only one God, could not with a clear conscience bow down and worship any other god. They could never accept God as the true God on one day, and then turn around and bow down to the emperor or any other god on the next day. Because of the nature of Christianity, we recognize there is only one God;

that there is only one Lord; and we cannot bow down nor recognize those who are competing gods to be equal with the God of the Bible that we worship. So when the order came out and the demands were made, John refused to offer a sacrifice unto this statue of the emperor and repeat the words saying he believed in Lord Caesar which was required of all. Because of his refusal to do this, he was exiled into this place of hard labor on the Isle of Patmos.

Now the Lord caused this to happen to him. I am sure that he was crying; weeping; wishing that he had never become an apostle. He was wishing that the Lord had never called him to preach. He was wishing that he could have stayed home like everybody else and had a 40-hour job, never having to do that kind of thing. *Not on your life!*

These men and women who were persecuted were not allowed to have what we think of as, enjoyments and pleasures, rather counted it joy to suffer for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. We read in First Peter 3:14: *"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye."* So don't think of John sitting on the Isle of Patmos working in the salt mines, under all of this kind of labor, feeling sorry for himself. He didn't involve

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himself in having a “pity party.” Really, he was happy, in that he counted it joy to be able to suffer for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John knew that he wasn’t the only one. At this time in history, this was occurring to all believers, all Christians. This was a time of very intense persecution by the Roman government upon all Christians. So he says, “I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation.” He recognizes that all of these to whom he is writing are undergoing all kinds of tribulation as well.

What did this tribulation involve? First, it involved persecution, we know this, but this is just one part of tribulation. The tribulation not only involved persecution, but it also involved the loss of property. Many of these believers lost their businesses, their homes, and their lands. They lost everything they had. Perhaps they had a farm that had been given to them by their parents. Maybe it had been in their family for several generations, but because of their being believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, not only would they be physically persecuted, they would also lose their home, their land, their property, their farm. They would lose everything.

Maybe they had built up a small business, and if so, they would have lost even their very livelihood. They would lose their position in society. They may have been influential; but whatever position they had, they would lose it, and finally, it would lead to social ostracism whereby they were completely expelled from all society. Nobody would have anything to do with them. “Why you’re a believer. You’re a Christian.” This is what believers were having to undergo in that day and time.

How different it is for us today. You can become a Christian, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and not have to worry about persecution, the loss of your home or your land. You don’t have to worry about the loss of your business. You don’t even have to worry about being ostracized, snooted, ignored, or snubbed. But they did! They *all* did.

John writes to these others as a “fellow sufferer” undergoing the tribulation and the persecution that all were going through at that time. “*I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation.*” I am sure that this was a comfort to those who were believers. Knowing that here was this great man of God, an apostle, one who knew the Lord personally, one who had talked with the Lord, who had received personal instructions from the Lord,

one that God had used to write several books of the New Testament, and here was this great man of God in a worse place than they were, yet his faith remains true, and that would be an encouragement to them to maintain their faith, not to be discouraged, but to take John as the example. If John can take it, so can we. If John, as an apostle, one of the men that God had called out and had separated and had been one of the “inner three”, Peter, James, and John, if he had to undergo persecution, we can too, and they were willing. So this letter that John writes to them would serve as a letter of real comfort to these people because they were all in this thing together.

They had certain things all in common, John and all of these other believers. First, they had a common brotherhood in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jude writing about it refers to it as “the common salvation”, “*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation*” (Jude 3). They knew Jesus Christ as their Savior also.

Secondly, they had this common suffering, a suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul writes: “*And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together*” (Rom. 8:17). So they had a

suffering with the Lord and because of the Lord. In Second Timothy we read: “*If we suffer, we shall also reign with him*” (2 Tim. 2:12). So they had a common salvation or a common brotherhood, because they knew the Lord. They were now experiencing a common suffering, because it had become the part of all believers to suffer for the Lord at that time.

Thirdly, they had a promise of royalty and a kingship; a kingdom that was soon to be revealed. In the eighth chapter of the book of Romans we read: “*And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*” (Rom. 8:17-18). They recognized that in their sufferings, it was just a foretaste to the things that God had in store for them that was much greater. We also read, “*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.*” (Rev. 1:5). They knew that He was the “prince of the kings of the earth,” and that one day He was going to return and establish and set up His

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kingdom.

In the book of James we find this, *“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh”* (Jas. 5:7-8). They knew their suffering was simply preparatory to their being received into that kingdom which the Lord was going to establish. They knew that they were to be both kings and priests within that kingdom for he says: *“And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen”* (Rev. 1:6).

So John and his companions, these fellow believers that were also suffering, enjoyed four things in common, so John says, *“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation.”* They had a common brotherhood in the Lord Jesus Christ, a common suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ, a common royalty and kingship that was yet to be revealed, and then they had a common hope and a patient waiting for the time when the Lord was going to return to this earth

to establish and set up His kingdom.

I ask you, do you possess these common traits that they possessed? Do you, as a believer, as a Christian, as a child of God, do you have any of these things in common with those believers of that first century? What were they?

First, they had the common salvation as Jude refers to it. They had companionship “in tribulation and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.” Are you saved? That’s number one. Do you know this salvation to be yours personally. Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Secondly, what about your suffering for the cause of Christ. I know we don’t live in a generation that has to undergo persecution as they did in that day or as they have even in other days, but sometimes, we ourselves, will have to undergo some personal ridicule. There may be times that somebody may make remarks about you; they may make all kinds of hateful remarks about you because of your efforts and your attempts to serve the Lord. Have you ever been in a position that you had to suffer a little bit of ridicule because of the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ? It’s not pleasant. It’s not something that you go out and look for. Remember that Peter says when we suffer persecution for the cause of

Christ, “happy are we.” You should be able to serve the Lord, even if it means ridicule or mockery. Or perhaps somebody may make fun of you, maybe they will ostracize you or not have anything to do with you. If so, the Lord says “rejoice in tribulation,” or as Peter says, “happy are we.” Are you experiencing this kind of companionship with John and with the other disciples? It all depends on whether you serve and live for the Lord, for Jesus says, that if you live for the Lord, you will suffer persecution.

In the book of Matthew He tells us that those who live godly will suffer persecution, and in verse eleven He says: *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you.”* That’s talk-ing about ridicule, mockery, making hateful remarks about you, and Jesus says *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake”* (Mt. 5:11). So they are going to slander you. Slander is to make remarks that are not true and are intended to harm somebody, and believers who live for the Lord must expect to have slander against them. *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”*

Notice what He says next, “Rejoice,” in the midst of persecution. “Rejoice” in

the midst of them reviling you. “Rejoice” as they say all manner of evil against you. “Rejoice, and be glad,” but He doesn’t just say “Rejoice and be glad,” but He says “Rejoice and be exceeding glad.” Now that’s not the easiest thing in the world to do, but that is what He says do. “Rejoice, and be exceeding glad,” and then He tells you why. *“For great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”* (Mt. 5:12).

You’re not the first one. In fact, all of them have had to undergo that type of reaction from the world. If you’re not, it’s because you’re not living as those prophets did. If you never have anybody revile you; if you never have anybody persecute you; if you never have anybody say all manner of evil against you falsely for the Lord’s sake, then it’s because you’re not living for the Lord as they lived for the Lord. “For they that live godly, shall suffer persecution” so the Lord says. He also tells us: “so persecuted they the prophets” which were before them. So then you can expect this kind of treatment if you serve the Lord as they served the Lord.

Are you willing? Do you possess these kinds of traits that will enable you to serve the Lord regard-

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Did You Know?

As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view — it is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments.

Did you know? As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door.

Did you know? As you sit inside the courtroom, you can see the wall, right above where the Supreme Court judges sit, a display of the Ten Commandments!

Did you know? There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington, D.C.

Did you know? James Madison, the fourth president, known as “The

Father of Our Constitution” made the following statement “We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain



ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

Did you know? Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but

display violated the First Amendment's ban on government support for religion. When the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Thompson's decision, the judge ordered Moore to remove the sculpture from the public area of the building. When

on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Did you know? Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayers since 1777.

Did you know? Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution were members of the established orthodox churches in the colonies.

Did you know? Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin making law ... an oligarchy ... the rule of few over many.

Did you know? The very first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, said, “Americans should select and prefer Christians as their rulers.”

How then have we gotten to the point that everything we have done for 228 years in this country is now suddenly wrong and unconstitutional? □ □

Moore refused, his fellow justices on the Alabama Supreme Court overruled him, and the 5,280-lb granite monument was removed.

* * *

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Keep Sweet

By W. Lee Rector

It is hard to keep sweet under grave provocations. While such is admittedly true, it is wise to keep sweet under all circumstances. Courage is a choice virtue. Bravery is not necessarily revealed in the application of brute force — it is more perfectly revealed in the subjection of brute force to charity, for charity covers a multitude of sins.

When God's children are called upon to bear affronts and smile, to bear jeers and speak kindly, we understand the better the Beatitudes of Matthew. All ever rejoice in graciousness and fineness and nobleness. With love for all and hatred for none, let's go on and on unto larger and larger things, winning battles in Christ's name and forbearing as we go.

Keep sweet — that's the way of wisdom. Keep sweet — that's the way of worth. Keep sweet — that's the way of the Lord. “Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before.” □ □

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

the monument installed in the rotunda of the building that houses the court as well as the state's judicial headquarters. Federal District Judge Myron Thompson ruled in 2002 that the

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

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Southern Baptists Join Hands With Jews.

— In April some 2,000 Christians and Jews met to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. The syncretistic service was held at the First Baptist Church of Raytown, Missouri, the largest Southern Baptist congregation in the state (Baptist Press, April 6). This is open disobedience to the Scriptures. God forbids believers to join hands with unbelievers. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14). There will be no peace in Jerusalem until the nation Israel repents of its rejection of Jesus the Messiah. The First Baptist Church of Raytown should be preaching the gospel both to Jews and Gentiles rather than pursuing their unscriptural peace program.

* * *

New Law In Canada Adds Sexual Orientation To Hate Crimes.

— A dangerous new law in Canada adds “sexual orientation” to the nation’s

“hate crimes.” Bill C-205 passed the Senate by a vote of 55-11. It will now be possible to charge preachers with a “hate crime” if they condemn homosexuality, and the courts have already shown their humanistic bias against Bible-believing Christians. Brian Wilkie of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada observes: “With these new provisions, which include not only what somebody says about an issue to incite hatred, but also include provisions to seize literature that was used in the promotion of hatred, we have had a very strong concern that the Bible might become guilty by association. And in fact at one point, a human rights commission did judge portions of scripture to actually promote hatred against homosexuals” (AgapePress, May 3). It is also important to understand that though the hate crimes bill has been in effect in Canada for many years (excepting the new addition of homosexuality), fundamentalist churches have not been charged under this law.

* * *

Contemporary Chris-

tian Music’s Ecumenical Theme. — One of the themes of Contemporary Christian Music is ecumenical unity, and this is one reason why contemporary music changes the philosophy of churches. It is not music only; it is a loose, judge not, emphasize the positive philosophy of Christianity. A current example of this is the Paul Coleman Trio. Someone wrote recently to say: “Just thought I would mention to you a new CCM band that I heard the other day (someone I work with has a CD by them). The band is called The Paul Coleman Trio, and the name of the CD is ‘One.’ This band is really gaining popularity. The entire CD is nothing but a huge ecumenical message, as you may already guess by the name of the CD. On it they sing about separation and ‘walls’ being a man-made religion, and on one song they sing over and over ‘it’s not our place to judge ... it’s not our place to judge.’ ... The band’s music is on the softer side of rock, and I can see their music making inroads into homes of lesser discerning Christian parents.”

* * *

Hollywood Riled Up Over Sanitized Movies.

— The May 6 issue of USA Today observed that Hollywood is riled up over various efforts to sanitize its filthy movies. There are several approaches to this

currently available, including Clear-Play, a DVD player that allows the user to activate filters designed to skip over violence and nudity and to mute vile language. Another approach is MovieMask, which filters movies that play on a personal computer. The Directors Guild of America and eight of the large movie studios have sued to have such devices declared illegal, claiming that they create unauthorized versions of the movies. The studios are Disney, MGM, Warner Bros, Sony, DreamWorks, Universal, Fox, and Paramount. Thus we see that Hollywood truly loves its moral filth, even more than money! Though the creation of sanitized movies will doubtless result in broader distribution and therefore more income for Hollywood, the producers are standing staunchly for their godless filth.

* * *

World Council Will Continue To Deepen Relations With The Roman Catholic Church.

— Sam Kobia, the new general secretary of the World Council of Churches, says the WCC will continue to deepen its relations with the Roman Catholic Church. Kobia, the first African to head the WCC, is from the

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FBIS . . .

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Methodist Church in Kenya. In an interview on April 8 Kobia observed that “bilateral attempts at church unity are growing” (ENI, April 8). He said that he was encouraged by a meeting with representatives of the RCC in March. Though the RCC is not a formal member of the World Council, it works closely with the WCC on many levels.

* * *

More Violence Against Christians In Indonesia. — The following is from Religion Today, May 4, 2004: “Muslim mobs last week set fire to buildings at a Christian-run university in the Maluku Islands, where at least 36 people died and more than 150 wounded in clashes between Christians and Muslims. Police rushed reinforcements to the provincial capital Ambon to stem the fighting, the bloodiest outbreak of violence in the Malukus since a peace deal in 2002 ended two years of religious violence in which 9,000 people perished, the Associated Press (AP) reported. According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), the university was burned down on April 26, and Silo Church, the main Protestant congregation in Ambon, which was nearly rebuilt from

previous violence, was also set ablaze. Additionally, Muslim groups burned several Christian homes in the city...”

* * *

China Cracking Down On Churches. —

The following is from Calvary Contender, May, 2004: “Red China’s public security bureau has launched a new crackdown on unregistered churches, arresting several top leaders following the release of a new video and book that document huge growth among Christians outside the officially permitted church (4/4 *Chr. Today*). China’s constitution guarantees freedom of religious belief, but requires all religious organizations to register with the government. It brands those groups that do not register as illegal or cults.”

* * *

Survey Reveals Sharp Upturn In Unchurched Americans. —

The following is from Agape Press, May 10: “Although many preachers and television evangelists talk of a revival sweeping the U.S., a new survey show that’s not the case. The survey conducted by the Barna Research Group shows the number of unchurched adults has nearly doubled since 1991. While the adult population in the U.S. has grown by 15 percent since then, the

number of adults who do not attend church has nearly doubled, rising from 39 million to 75 million — a 92 percent increase. According to the survey, men dominate the ranks of the unchurched. While men comprise slightly less than half of the national population, men constitute 55 percent of the unchurched. ... Also, the survey found that while about half of the church population has accepted Christ as Savior and Lord, one out of every six unchurched adults has done so as well.”

* * *

CONCLUSION:

Friends in Christ, do not be discouraged by any of this. It is God’s will that we know the times and that we be as wise as serpents and

harmless as doves. These things remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ day by day? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14).

Death of Herbert Spencer

Herbet Spencer, the great thinker, philosophized about himself, philosophized about this world, philosophized about everything; then in his dying moment asked that only one word might be cut on his tombstone, and that word, “*Infelicissimus*” -- most unhappy. If our faith is not in a crucified, risen Christ, “then are we of all men most miserable” (1 Cor. 15:19).

Death of Aristotle

Aristotle was a great philosopher. He proclaimed, “Happiness is man’s greatest good.” What did he say in the face of death? “I was born in sin. I have lived unhappily. I die in doubt. Cause of causes pity me!” How different to Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, “I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

WNR...

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Marriage Amendment Defeated In Kansas.

— After seeing a state constitutional marriage amendment suffer a loss, pro-family supporters in Kansas said May 5 they would work to defeat the legislators who voted against it. “This is not a sprint race for us. This is a marathon,” said Terry Fox, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Wichita, Kansas. Needing 84 votes in the Kansas House to reach the required two-thirds majority the amendment received only 79. Forty-five representatives voted against it. If it had passed the House, Kansas citizens would have voted on the amendment this fall. It had already passed the state Senate, 27-13. “They have basically said to Kansas voters, ‘You don’t have a right to vote on this,’” Fox said. “People are angry — Christians and non-Christians.” Five state legislatures already have sent marriage amendments to voters: Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Utah. Arkansans are working hard to collect 80,570 signatures of registered voters by July 2 in order to place the amendment on the Nov. 2 general election ballot. Arkansas Baptists wishing to help can contact Larry Page, executive director of the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council, at (501) 228-0432. “We’re

pleased now the representatives and senators are on record about how they feel about gay ‘marriage,’” Fox said. He said pro-family representatives will be meeting across Kansas in the coming weeks to plan their strategy for the fall election. He estimates it could take three election cycles to change the makeup of the legislature.

Iraq’s Constitution Unclear On Religious Freedom.

— A British-based organization that supports persecuted Christians says that Iraq’s interim constitution is not clear on religious freedom. One article of the Iraqi constitution says that all Iraqis have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religious belief. However, another article says that no law may run contradictory to the tenets of Islam, and all streams of Islamic law call for the death of any adult male Muslim who converts to another religion. Paul Cooke, advocacy manager for the Barnabas Fund, says that the key point missing in the interim constitution was the freedom to proselytize and change one’s religion. Cooke says that Iraqi Christians are still very nervous, but their situation is better than it could have been” (AgapePress)

If Gays Can’t Marry, No One Can.

— At least that is the ruling in one Oregon county.”The last marriage licenses were handed out in Benton County Tuesday. As of Wednesday, officials in the county of 79,000 people will begin telling couples applying for licenses to go elsewhere until the gay marriage debate is settled.” The reason given by one county commissioner was that “we need to treat everyone in our county equally,” Oregon’s state attorney general said he was “very pleased” with the county’s decision.

Muslims Worship False God.

— “Allah is not the same as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Allah is not a Trinity, first of all. Allah happens to be the name of the moon god — the chief idol in the Ka’abah in Mecca where they go now for their pilgrimages. They had over 300 idols there, and Allah was the name of the chief idol. So, although Muham-med smashed the idols, he still maintained the name of the chief idol — the moon god — which is why they have the crescent moon as their symbol (for Islam). Allah is not the God of the Bible. The Vatican Council recently declared that Muslims worship the same God as Christians

Christian Wins Case Against AT&T.

— A federal judge has awarded nearly \$150,000 to a man who was fired by AT&T Broadband for refusing to sign a diversity policy requiring him to value the beliefs of others, including homosexuals. In a ruling, Judge Marcia S. Krieger of the U.S. District Court in Colorado directed the company to recompense former employee Albert Buonanno of Denver for lost salary, 401k matching contributions, and emotional distress.” The judge came short of ruling AT&T guilty of religious discrimination.

A Prayer of George Washington.

— “O most glorious God ... Direct my thoughts, words and work, wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by thy Holy Spirit ... Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of thy Son Jesus Christ ... Thou gavest thy Son to die for me, and hast given me assurance of salvation.” (George Washington (Federalist, 4/8/04).

United Way Continues To Support Homosexuals.

— This week, yet another United Way chapter cut off fund-

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Some "Ifs" Of the Christian Ministry

If you have put your trust in Christ alone,
And made His precious life your very own,
If you now put Him first in all your plans,
And stand for everything for which He stands,
If you have heard His call to preach His Word,
(The sweetest call that mortal ever heard),

If you have put your hand unto the plow,
And will not toward the world look backward now,
If you love God's people all the while,
And, for their sakes, go on the second mile,
If you can labor patiently all day,
And see no fruits to cheer you on your way,

If you can smile in Christian love divine,
When everything against you would combine,
If you can stand alone for God and right,
Depending simply, solely, on His might,
If you can face the world in hope and cheer,
When other men would falter, dread, or fear,

If you can preach the Word to sinful man,
And show him from the Book the Gospel plan,
If you can hold your course amidst confusion,
And never take for truth a mere illusion,
If you can live the truth just as you preach it,
And yet show how in justice it is founded,

If you can weep with those who are in sorrow,
And yet rejoice with others on the morrow,
If you can comfort hearts that grief has broken,
And heal a wound—by Scriptures aptly spoken,
If you can help the weaker ones that stumble,
And yet the haughty bigots you can humble,

If you can preach to self more than to others,
And never lord it o'er your Christian brothers,
If you, your flesh can keep in prone subjection,
And on the things above set your affection—
THEN your life's greatest service will have rendered,
And, furthermore, you'll be a Man SURRENDERED

Discouragement

There are many discouraged people in the world among whom are some even who are saved, who know the Lord but are looking away from Him.

But remember, no matter what the cause of our discouragement is, "there is a God in heaven" who can help us and encourage us, a God who loves us, a God who desires our highest good and wants to give us anything necessary to our happiness.

He has opened wide the gates of heaven and from His throne comes the invitation to every discouraged one to come to Him and have all his needs supplied. The death of His Son, Jesus Christ, has purchased all these privileges for us. To reject them is a slight, an injustice, an ingratitude. □

WNR . . .

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ing to the Boy Scouts of America. United Way of Northwestern Michigan in Traverse City, Michigan will entirely remove the Scenic Trails Boy Scouts Council from its charitable giving campaign. Since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that the Scouts have the right to exclude homo-sexuals from leadership and membership the anti-Scout backlash has been most vicious at the hands of the United Way. □ □

Saved Or Unserved?

It is hard to believe, and inconsistent to conclude that a person living within reach of a church and that person habitually refuse or otherwise fail to attend church, is saved. Perhaps the least of the things a person can possibly do to manifest the trait of a saved soul is to attend and support the church of which they are members. Having failed in the least of the things necessary to be done, one must conclude that such a person is void of any inner work of grace, the essence of which is the indwelling Spirit of God.

It is my deliberate opinion that people who ignore the church of which they are members, or of which they should be members, are no more saved than heathen Hottentots who never heard that Jesus died, and that before the undertaker gets their devil-serving bodies, their sin-cursed souls will be in the flames of hell. This may seem rather plain talk, but it is time for plainness of speech, else unsaved church members blindly go on their way to hell thinking they are saved, but disillusioned by a false hope. □ □

His path on earth was
lowly,
He was a working man,
Who knows the poor
man's sorrow,
So well as Jesus can?

Psalm of the New Testament

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the gospels do
 proclaim,
 That Jesus died — was crucified, to bear His people's
 shame.
 And these are facts as found in Acts, Christ did His
 church empower; (Baptist)
 To bind and loose, to preach the truth, and be a mighty
 sower.
 In Romans nine, the Word Divine, says man is saved by
 grace;
 And not of him that wills or runneth, in the human
 race.
 We find the First Corinthians rebukes, instructs,
 reproveth;
 Corinthians two in words so true, tells what the Father
 loves.
 Galatians says they of the faith are the seed of
 Abraham;
 Now we that be in Christ shall see, Jehovah God,
 I AM!
 Ephesians tell of the elect — the ones by grace He
 calleth;
 This is that truth where the uncouth arminian
 preacher falleth
 Philippians counsels of the time when men shall bow
 the knee;
 Confessing Jesus Christ is Lord, and will forever
 be!
 Colossians bids us live to God, forsaking worldly
 leaven;
 Thessalonians One declares the Son of God shall come
 from heaven.
 The Second Thessalonians doth Anti-Christ
 foretell;
 Who truth denies with monstrous lies — He's ordained
 into hell.
 In Timothy One, Paul says, My Son, through faith in
 Christ our Lord;
 Refuse profane and old wives tales and preach God's
 Holy Word.

Second Timothy says in the latter days, men shall be
 boasters, proud;
 Having a form of godliness, but not by the spirit
 endowed.
 Titus tells of that blessed hope, and he gives us a
 bishop's rule;
 "For a bishop must be blameless," lest he be the Devil's
 tool.
 Philemon marks a Christian's love, as only Christians
 know it;
 Hebrews reveals the gospel, as the old time law did
 show it.
 James insists that without works, our faith is vain and
 dead;
 First Peter points us to the way the saints of God are
 led.
 Second Peter tells of times ahead — false prophets are
 not few;
 While in First John the theme is on, the love of God so
 true.
 In the Second and the Third of John, we learn about
 false teachers;
 And Jude doth tell the wrath of hell upon unfaithful
 preachers.
 The Revelation speaks to us of that great judgment
 day;
 When Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, will have the final
 say!
 Glory to God, All Highest! in Jesus' name we pray.
 Amen!

Kerry & McCain Alike?

Kerry, McCain Alleged to be 'Fast Friends' of Vietnamese Communists. — The Washington, D.C. human rights group. International Christian Concern President Jeff King also alleges that he's heard complaints about Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat currently running for president, and McCain, an Arizona Republican who ran for president in 2000, from some of their congressional colleagues on the issue of Vietnam abuses. — CNS

BUTTERFLY . . .

(Continued from page 1)

milligrams. Nine chocolate-colored rings encircle its grayish body; it has a black head, three pairs of front true legs with claws, and five pairs of prolegs extending backwards, adding a unique and functional form to the body. It also has a mouth, stomach, and silk gland, among other parts characteristic of a full-grown caterpillar. The caterpillar usually eats more of its egg case, and then the milkweed leaf. Rapid growth leads to four or five molts — the shedding of its external skin.

In about 20 days, the butterfly's weight has increased to 1.5 grams, or 2700 times its weight when it emerged from the egg. At about two inches long, with yellow, white, and black stripes on its body, it stops eating and spins a white silk pad on a stiff object, attaching itself by its two rear prolegs to the silk pad. It then hangs head down in a J-shape position in a seemingly inactive stage for approximately 12 hours.

At the end of this period in its cycle, the caterpillar begins to convulse in rhythmic jerks, breaking off its outer skin. During this stage in its development, its 16 legs and head capsule (with 6 eye lenses) are shed in about 60 seconds, giving rise to a pupa, or chrysalis, about 1 inch long and about 0.4 inches in diameter. The

chrysalis, at this point, is jade green, with about 24 metallic appearing gold spots (the gold crown) surrounding half of its upper abdomen. There are 12 metallic-like gold spots on the remaining parts of the chrysalis, all of which are necessary for the normal development of the butterfly.

The caterpillar enters the chrysalis stage without vision, because the head

**The Pupa**

capsule was discarded with its six simple eyes, so it can now only distinguish light from darkness. The inside portion of the chrysalis, below the gold crown, turns to a jade green liquid within the first 16 hours, as the caterpillar's stomach, intestines, and most all of the other internal parts disintegrate. In the center portion of the gold crown area is a red heart, about 0.1 inches in diameter, surrounded by a yellowish substance. This heart pulsates at about 40 to 60 beats per minute. The thin outer chrysalis layer contains cells which later develop into the wings of the butterfly. One can see the outline of the beginning

wings through the some what transparent outer shell. This thin outer shell has a pattern of lines which mark the position of the future butterfly proboscis, first and second pair of legs, and two antennae. These lines are clearly seen from the outside, but they never really become part of the butterfly, remaining, instead, on the transparent shell after the emergence of the butterfly, and are apparently used only as a guide for building the butterfly proboscis, legs, and antennae. The proboscis is the tubular sucking organ, used to suck sweet nectar from the flowers it feeds upon.

After 8 to 14 days, the caterpillar emerges from the chrysalis in as rapidly as from 15 to 30 seconds. It extends its wings by pumping fluid from its abdomen into the wing veins, and is ready to fly in about 15 minutes. Once the wings dry, which takes approximately 2 hours, the butterfly is full grown, having been transformed into an entirely different creature from the caterpillar. It now has only six legs and four beautiful orange wings, which are surrounded by a narrow black border studded with white spots. The wingspread at the two forward wings is about 4 inches. Its body is about 1.3 inches long, 0.15 inches wide, and weighs about 0.41 grams. It has two compound eyes, each having 6000 lenses

which are sensitive to all the colors of the rainbow, and even to ultraviolet light. It can see objects as small as a pin-head, because the female monarch butterfly won't lay an egg on a milkweed leaf if it sees another egg on it. It has a brain that can decipher 72,000 nerve fiber electrical pulses coming from the two eyes, into meaningful images. The very idea that such an intricate and complex system could have developed by natural selection or any other evolutionary mechanism is absurd.

Migration

The monarch butterfly can fly thousands of miles to its wintering location, and some tagged monarchs have been known to travel from Canada to the Neovolcanic Mountains of Mexico, a distance of 3000 miles. During autumn, the Eastern population of monarch butterflies (east of the Rocky Mountains) migrates southwest for two months to the Neovolcanic Mountains of Mexico.

These monarchs cluster in trees from 9000 to 11,000 feet elevation for approximately 4 months, in freezing temperatures, from November to March. This wintering period allows them to hibernate, thus conserving their energy. During this interval they eat and drink little, thus enab-

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BUTTERFLY . . .

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ling some of them to live as long as one year. During the spring, the eastern population of monarch butterflies migrate from Mexico northeastward towards the U.S. Some return the long distances to where they were born, while others fly only part of the distance to Texas or

**To Mexico**

the lower southern states (first-generation monarchs), living and dying in approximately six weeks. The eggs that have been laid hatch into a second generation which continue the flight farther north, taking as many as four generations to fly as far north as Ontario, Canada. The last generation does not develop its reproductive organs, and therefore begins its autumn migration back to Mexico. When the female lays her last egg, her process of dying begins, so those in the 5th generation sustain the greatest longevity. The monarch butterflies are the only insects on Earth to migrate annually over continental distances, and it

is estimated that over 300 million of these fantastic creatures migrate to Mexico every year. Their navigational systems are extremely complex to direct them as far as 3000 miles to a wintering site they have never seen, and then to guide them in the spring on their northeast travel to different parts of the U.S. and Canada. Evolutionism provides no believable explanation for such remarkable abilities.

Monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains, considered those of the western population, travel to the west coast from Baja California to north of San Francisco, while others of them come from British Columbia in the autumn to winter in California — these, again, with life spans of approximately only six weeks.¹

Design

Two polar-opposite views are put forward to explain the order in the universe: the “chance” theory and the “design” theory of creation. The chance theory grew out of Greek philosophy as the Epicurean Hypothesis in about 400 B.C.² It received its strongest support from Darwin’s theory of evolution, and is acclaimed today by materialists such as David L. Hull, who said: “Darwin’s theory was one of the chief instruments in the final trivialization of teleology.”³

Design theory had its foundation in Scripture (Nehemiah 9:6), and has been championed by many scholars over time, including William Paley,⁴ with his “Natural Theology” in the 18th century.

At least eight categories of design are put forward as evidence for a designer: order, purpose, simplicity, complexity, beauty, sense and cognition, information, and cosmic constants. “The design argument in analogy form is empirical or a posteriori. It makes an appeal to evidence in the form of generalizations.”⁵ An empirically based design statement by itself is unable to “prove” a designed universe with certainty.⁶ But, as Denton says, “It is the sheer universality of perfection, the fact that everywhere we look, to whatever depth we look, we find an elegance and ingenuity of an absolutely transcending quality, which so mitigates against the idea of chance.”⁷

Conclusion

When one examines the life and migration cycles of the monarch butterfly, it is easy to see design features which point back to a Designer. There is inexorable order in the repeatable progress of developmental stages. An incredible plan unfolds in the transforming pupal stage, through larval disintegration and reinte-

gration to the miracle and beauty of a winged insect. Simplicity in feeding, complexity in navigation, beauty in coloration all speak of incredibly packed information in its genetic message. By whatever means it is drawn or directed to make such Herculean flights to its wintering grounds, there must be some type of implanted foreknowledge in its very being that makes it all possible.

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* Jules Poirier is a retired Design Electronics Engineer who has made extensive studies on the monarch butterfly. Dr. Kenneth Cumming is Professor of Biology and Dean at the ICR Graduate School. □ □

REVELATION . . .

(Continued from page 14)

less of the reaction of the people round you? John, and those people did. Therefore when John wrote, he said: *"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the"* [prison] or on the *"isle that is called Patmos."* Why? *"For the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."* He had done nothing wrong. He had broken no laws. The only laws that he had broken had been the laws that were given to them by the Roman emperor demanding that everyone bow down and worship him.

Here he was now in prison and he wasn't the first man that had to go to prison because of his faith. You remember Joseph? Joseph while he was in Egypt had been placed in prison, but his prison turned out to be a great blessing unto him, for it was in that prison that Joseph learned courage, patience, and how to interpret dreams. The Lord made that prison a place of great blessing.

Daniel, because of his refusal to worship according to the orders of the king, was placed in a den with lions, but what Daniel learned was all about God's great sovereignty and God's great power. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, not placed in

prison, but placed in a fiery furnace, but it all became a blessing unto them, because in the midst of the burning fiery furnace, the old king looked in there and said, *"Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God"* (Dan. 3:25). Jesus was right there with them. They experienced and learned that God could preserve them even in the midst of the fiery furnace.

Paul and Silas. How many times were they beaten? Then they were placed in prison. Yet all the time they were in that prison at Phillipi they sang praises unto the Lord. The jailor listened to them sing praises, and apparently those songs had gospel messages, because when that earthquake came, the jailor was scared to death, and fell on his knees and said "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas learned that even in the midst of bonds in prison, God's gospel cannot be stopped. The jailor had been saved. The Lord made that prison a place of great blessing.

John Bunyan. Many of us know about him because of his book **"Pilgrim's Progress"** along with other books that he wrote, all of these things he learned while he was in prison. Prison in reality became a blessing not only to them, but a blessing to us as well. So the Lord

says, "Rejoice, rejoice" if you're counted worthy to suffer for the cause of Christ.

Are you a fellow companion with John and with these of New Testament days who rejoiced in their suffering for Christ? If not, it's because you're not living as you should. If you live as God wants you to live He says you will suffer persecution. What kind of life are you living, Christian?

If you're not saved, you don't even know what it's all about. You're trying to figure out how in the world one can be happy in the midst of persecution. When you know the Lord you'll find out. But first you've got to know the Lord.

John had refused to participate in the demands of emperor worship. History or tradition says he was released after Domitian's death and later thrown alive into a flaming cauldron of oil. John had refused to offer a sacrifice before a statue of the emperor and utter

the words "Lord Caesar" so forced to work in the salt mines on Patmos (1 Pet. 3:14). Though being banned and exiled, this did not terminate his ministry but became the occasion for the writing of this book.

First, in writing this letter, John gives comfort and courage to all other fellow-sufferers so that they might see that though now they are in the midst of very severe tribulation and persecution, yet when it's all over, God is going to be victorious. It will be worth it all. Will you participate and share in those rewards?

The second thing is faithfulness in living and serving Him. Have you done it? Are you living for Him now? Are you serving Him now? If not, it's time to start. It's time to begin. If you're not saved, then as you read through this book, you see how John talks about the fact that the coming of the Lord is not far away, and you need to be saved now. □

Why Is Heaven Silent?

A silent Heaven! Yes, but it is not the silence of callous indifference or helpless weakness. The silence is the pledge and proof that the way is open for the guiltiest of mankind to draw nearer to God. When that silence is broken one day it will mean the withdrawal of the amnesty; the end of the sign of

grace; and the dawning of the day of wrath foretold in Scripture. God is silent now because He has spoken His last word of love and mercy in Christ. He is beseeching men to be reconciled (2 Cor. 5:20). The One to whom all judgment has been committed, and who will appear one day as the Judge of all, is now the Savior and is seated upon the Father's throne of grace. □ □

ISLAM . . .

(Continued from page 1)

one we are in now when they slaughtered more than 3,000 people, including fellow Muslims, in New York City.

Madeleine Albright, the former secretary of state and feckless appeaser who helped get us into this mess, said last week Muslims still resented the Crusades. Well, Madame Albright, if Westerners were not such a forgiving people, we might resent them too.

Let's recap the Crusades. Muslims invaded

The Grace of God

Henry Broadhurst, M.P., who died at Cromer, 11th October, 1911, at the age of seventy-one, worked in his early days as a stonemason, and helped to build the Houses of Parliament. He remembered being high up in the clock tower in cold weather with scarcely enough clothing to protect him, yet he afterwards sat in the House as Under Secretary for the Home Department.

An interesting piece of furniture in his home was a cabinet with the mallet and chisels which he used as a mason, ever reminding him of what he was.

Each spiritual builder would do well to remember his origin, "by nature children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3), and continually say, "but by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10). □ □

Europe, and when they reached sufficient numbers, they imposed their intolerant religion upon Westerners by force. Christian monarchs drove them back and took the battle to their homeland. The fight lasted a couple of centuries, and we bottled them up for 1,000 years.

Now, a millennium later, Muslims have expanded forth again. Ask France. Ask England. Ask Manhattan. Two-and-a-half years ago fanatical Muslims laid siege to us. We woke up to the obvious. Our president announced it would be a very long war, then took the battle to the Islamic homeland. Sound familiar?

Let's consider the concept of a "long war." Last time it was 200 years, give or take.

Anybody catch Lord of the Rings? You know, the good part, the part that wasn't fiction, the part that drew us to the books and movies because it was the truest part: the titanic struggle between good and evil, between freedom and enslavement, between the individual and the state, between the celebration of life and the worshipping of death.

That's the fight we are in, and it never ends. It just has peaks and valleys.

There may be a silent majority of peaceful Muslims — some live here — but that did not save 3,000 people in the World Trade Center, the millions

gassed and butchered in the Middle East, the tens of thousands slain in Eastern Europe and Asia, the hundreds blown to bits in the West Bank and Spain, or the four Americans shot, burned and hung like sausage over the Euphrates as a fanatical minority of Muslims did the joyful dance of death.

Maybe we are so tolerant, we are so bent on "diversity," we are so nonjudgmental, we are so wrapped up in our six-packs and ballgames that our brains have drained to our bulbous behinds. Maybe we're so addled on Ritalin we wouldn't know which end of a gun to hold. Maybe we need a new drug advertised on TV every three minutes, one that would help us grow a backbone.

It doesn't take a Darwin to figure out that in this world the smartest, the fastest, the strongest, and the most committed always win. No exceptions.

Look at your spouse and children. Look at yourself in the mirror. Then look at the pictures from the paper last Thursday. You better look at them. Those are the people out to kill you.

Who do you think will win? You? Or them? Think you can take your ball and go home and they will leave you alone? Read a little history. Start with last week, last month, last year, and every other year back for half a century. Then go

back a thousand years. Nobody hides from this fight.

Like it or not, that's the way it was and that's the way it is. But many Americans don't get it.

That's why I made the case to my boss and fellow editors to publish those pictures.

If they jarred you off the sofa, if they offended you, if they scared your children and sent you into a rage at mass murderers or heartless editors, then I say, it's a start.

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Just That Difference

Charles Garrett said "I was at a railway station with a friend, and looking at a couple of engines. As we were talking the engineer came up, and I remarked, 'We have just been admiring the engines; very splendid ones they are. I should think they are just alike.'"

The man looked at me significantly. "Yes, they are much alike outside; but that one there has no fire burning, and it cannot even move itself; but this one here has the fire burning and the steam up, and I am just going to jump upon it, and you will see it run away with the whole train behind it."

Well, I thought, there is just that difference between the formalist and the true Christian" (Mt. 25:10) □