

FUTURE NEWS

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CLEANNES OF HEART AND THOUGHT

“Already kingdom is rising against kingdom. There is not now a determined engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of our God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the power of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully should we improve the little remaining period of our probation. How earnestly should we examine ourselves. How [earnestly] should we consider and cherish faith before God. How [earnestly] should we eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, that is, carefully study the Word, eat it, digest it, make it a part of our being. We are to live the Word, not keep it apart from our lives. The character of Christ is to be our individual character. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our hearts. Here is our only safety. Nothing can prevail to separate a living Christian from God.

“It is discipline of spirit, cleanness of heart and thought, that is wanted. This is of more value than brilliant talent, than tact or knowledge. An ordinary mind, trained to obey a ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ is better qualified for the Lord’s work in all circumstances than are those who have capabilities and do not employ them rightly. Christ is truth. He is the truth of ancient types. He is the truth because he is the fulfillment of ancient prophecies.

“Men may suppose that they shall be saved, and yet they perish. They may take pride in great knowledge in worldly things, but if they have not a knowledge of the true God, of Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, they are deplorably ignorant, and their acquired knowledge will perish with them. Secular knowledge is power; but the knowledge of the Word, which has a transforming power upon the human mind, is imperishable; it is knowledge sanctified. It is life and peace and joy forever. The deeper knowledge men may have, sanctified wholly unto God, the more they will appreciate the value of Jesus Christ.” *Manuscript Release*, volume 18, 63–64.

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Future for America seeks to supply meat in due season for God's flock. It is present truth that the flock needs now:

"God cannot display the knowledge of His will and the wonders of His grace among the unbelieving world unless He has witnesses scattered all over the earth. It is His plan that those who are partakers of this great salvation through Jesus Christ should be His missionaries, bodies of light throughout the world, to be as signs to the people, living epistles, known and read of all men, their faith and works testifying to the near approach of the coming Saviour and showing that they have not received the grace of God in vain. The people must be warned to prepare for the coming judgment. To those who have been listening only to fables, God will give an opportunity to hear the sure word of prophecy, whereunto they do well that they take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. He will present the sure word of truth to the understanding of all who will take heed; all may contrast truth with the fables presented to them by men who claim to understand the word of God and to be qualified to instruct those in darkness." *Testimonies*, volume 2, 631-632.

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Future News

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Mission Statement

The ministry of **Future for America** is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future-for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, **Future for America** emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"-medical missionary work-must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. **Future for America** upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

Ministry Update



Dear *Future News*, Thank you for the much needed present truth. I thank God for your ministry, it seems I grow more from your tapes than anything else right now.



Dear Jeff and Kathy, I really love your ministry and monthly newsletter. God Bless your ministry. Thank you. This sum can be used for either Ukraine meeting or Ukraine church.



Dear *Future for America*: Just recently heard the interview tape by Jeff Pippenger of Robbins, the author of *Ecclesiastical Megalomania*. What an amazing tool for telling the public. Having heard the tape I have to have the book also. Enclosed is some funds to help the ministry. May God continue to bless your efforts. Sincerely, DB—FL



Thank you so much, I am starting a prophecy class using your tapes, if that is O with you?—God be with you and your family. Please pray for me and the **** family. I will be praying for you. Love in Christ, JM

[Editor's note: There are several using our materials for prophecy classes. If you could use a quantity to study in a group setting, we can help with special prices.]



HISTORICAL SHORTCOMINGS

Kiev, Ukraine—Pope John Paul II offered a prayer for Holocaust victims Monday under a statue of twisted and tormented figures at Babi Yar, where Nazi's unleashed the mass-scale systematic slaughter of Europe's Jews in WWII... Turning to the chief rabbi, Yaakov Dov Blicch, John Paul said, "God bless you."

"The Pope's role in promoting tolerance on the threshold of the 20th and 21st centuries cannot be diminished," said Josef Zissels, chairman of the Association of Jewish Organizations and communities of Ukraine. . . .

John Paul is the first pope to **apologize** for the church's historical shortcomings in relation with Jews. . . .

"Thanks to the great efforts of Pope John Paul II, there is hope that there will be no more Holocausts," Blicch said.

"When this grand work is to take place in the battle, prior to the last closing conflict, many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from cities and towns, and many will be martyrs for Christ's sake in standing in defense of the truth." *Maranatha*, 199.



EDITORIAL: COULD THE HOLOCAUST BE REPEATED IN THE US?

By Patrick Rampy

Is it possible that the US of today could repeat Hitler's Germany? What do you think? Reading the May 21, 2001 issue of *Newsweek* magazine, *The Roots of Evil*, made me think.

When I was a little boy, based on the happy-go-lucky, gregarious attitude of my father, I thought most people were just basically good-natured herd animals that generally were concerned about the right to happiness of the minority (at least close to that of the majority anyway). When we got a TV I saw World War II movies of Hitler's Germany, but I assumed (hoped) that that was just a fairly isolated incidence, some petty tyrant throwing his weight around, way **over there**, before I was born. When I read William Golding's book, *Lord of the Flies* in high school I could not accept his premise that people were foundationally evil. Later, when I read George Orwell's *1984* I was horrified to think that the whole world, full of naturally good-natured people, could turn into such a monstrous society, motivated only by fear and hate. However, when I became a Christian and learned about God's view of human nature, I realized that those authors really were correct; and the thought of such an awful future **society-of-earth** is more horrifying to me now than ever!

Exodus 23:2: Thou shalt not follow a multitude to *do* evil.

“In 1974, in a classic test of the power of conformity to lead us into evil, psychologist Stanley Milgram seated volunteers before a panel of (fake) electrical switches. They were connected, Milgram said, to someone (actually a Milgram colleague) on whom the volunteer would test the effects of electric shock on learning. Every time the **learner** got an answer wrong, Milgram told the volunteer he was to throw a more powerful switch. When the volunteers were seated alone, more than half administered the maximum (and potentially fatal) 450-volt shocks—even as their victims screamed in mock agony. Then Milgram seated the volunteers between two others (again, associates of his). If these two showed no qualms about torturing the learners, a full 92 percent of the volunteers administered potentially lethal jolts. They went along. They obeyed orders.” *Newsweek*, May 21, 2001.

It is written, “For the love of money is the root of all evil.” 1 Timothy 6:10, but back of that stands selfishness: self-centeredness.

“Evolutionary biologists say that it is normal, and adaptive to be self-centered. It keeps us alive. But if there is a single trait that allows a lack of empathy and compassion to rot into pure evil, argue many psychiatrists, it is the extreme form of self-centeredness called narcissism. ‘Narcissism is the huge multiplier,’ says Dr. Jeffrey M. Schwartz, a neuropsychiatrist at the University of California at Los Angeles. ‘Narcissism is what allows you to get evil acts from seemingly ordinary people. Grandiosity also allows a person to play God, deciding whose lives are dispensable in the service of which goals.’” *Ibid.*

I remember listening to a taped lecture in which the speaker told of the experience of a Jewish man during the horrors of the Holocaust. He said that when the locked doors of the standing-room-only railroad boxcar (that he had been in for days) were thrown open; and as they fell out on the ground; he looked up into the face of a man wearing tall, shiny, black, riding boots, and a crisp new Nazi uniform. He was the Commandant of the concentration camp there. He read in the man’s face pride, arrogance, and a sense of absolute power. With a flick of his wrist he could consign thousands of people to their deaths.

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Lord Acton.

Later, the Jewish man was to appear as a witness before a war-crimes tribunal to testify about the unspeakable acts of cruelty that the captured Commandant had committed. As he entered the courtroom, and saw the former Commandant sitting there on a bench, the Jewish man collapsed on the floor crying and wailing in apparent agony. It was assumed that at the sight of his former persecutor he was reminded of the horrible torture he and others had endured in the prison camp, but the Jewish man explained that that was not the cause of his outburst of grief at all. As he saw the former Commandant sitting there he was surprised at how ordinary he looked, and he realized that he really was just an ordinary man, just like himself. They were both just ordinary men, caught on opposite sides of extraordinary circumstances. What had caused the Jewish man’s sudden grief was the realization that the potential to commit the monstrous cruelties that the former Nazi did, was a latent potential within himself.

“In their search for the nature and the roots of evil, scholars from fields as diverse as sociology, psychology, philosophy and theology are reaching a far more chilling conclusion. Most people do have the capacity for horrific evil, they say: the traits of temperament and character from which evil springs are as common as flies on carrion. ‘The capacity for evil is a human universal,’ says psychiatrist Robert I. Simon, director of the program in Psychiatry and Law at Georgetown University School of Medicine.

“History’s collective acts of great evil required the complicity of men and women who showed up at work [regularly every day], processed papers [regularly every day]—(that sent people to the gulag or crematorium), and who even participated directly in ethnic cleansing and gang rape—and who in their spare time played with their children and had a soft spot for animals. Most of those who carried out the Holocaust were ordinary Germans ‘who rationalized the atrocities that they were committing’ by viewing Jewish lives as worthless, argued Simon in the fall 2000 issue of *Phi Kappa Phi Journal*. ‘The unmistakable lesson is that ordinary, **good** people, devoted to their families, their religion and their country, are capable of inflicting horrific harm on those whom they dehumanize and demonize. As Hannah Arendt noted, it is the banality of evil that is so horrific.” *Newsweek*, May 21, 2001.

Yes, it can, and will happen, even in free America.

Notice that the dates in the following Spirit of Prophecy references range from 1906 to 1911, when the final

version of *The Great Controversy* was published, just before the world was rocked by two World Wars.

“The signs in the sun, moon, and stars have been fulfilled. Since that time earthquakes, tempests, tidal waves, pestilence, and famine have multiplied. The most awful destructions, by fire and flood, are following one another in quick succession. The terrible disasters that are taking place from week to week speak to us in earnest tones of warning, declaring that the end is near, that something great and decisive will soon of necessity take place. Probationary time will not continue much longer. Now God is withdrawing his restraining hand from the earth. Long has he been speaking to men and women through the agency of his Holy Spirit; but they have not heeded the call. Now he is speaking to his people, and to the world, by his judgments.” *Review and Herald*, November 22, 1906.

“The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God’s commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.” *The Great Controversy*, 590.

“History will repeat itself. In this age the test will be on the point of Sabbath observance. The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past, is now at work to gain control of the falling churches, that through them he may condemn and put to death all who will not worship the idol sabbath.” *Signs of the Times*, February 22, 1910.

“As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. Like the Christians of the Piedmont valleys, they will make the high places of the earth their sanctuaries and will thank God for ‘the munitions of rocks.’ Isaiah 33:16. But many of all nations and of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, black and white, will be cast into the most unjust and cruel bondage.” *The Great Controversy*, 626.

“The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet’s words: ‘The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Revelation 12:17.” *The Great Controversy*, 592.

“As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 18, 1900.



TESTING THE FAITH

Antichrist billboard ignites Catholic outrage, death threats

July 28, Central Point, Oregon—A billboard proclaiming the pope is the Antichrist has unleashed the wrath of the Catholic community, sparked a debate over First Amendment rights, and led to death threats against the man behind the message.

The red, white and blue sign, located along Interstate-5 just north of Medford, Oregon reads, ***The POPE Is The ANTICHRIST, Free Proof*** and provides a website address for more information. The billboard along I-5 in southern Oregon is sparking outrage, and even death threats.

“It was like, ‘Oh my God, why would anyone want to do that?’” exclaims Rose Khng describing her initial reaction to the billboard. “It was very offensive, extremely.”

Larry Weathers, a 50-year-old barber from the small town of Talent, sponsored the sign. He says he has no intention of taking it down, despite a flurry of death threats.

“As long as they’re threatening this and not shooting,” Weathers tells *WorldNetDaily*. ‘And they’ve got to go through God [to kill me]. If He says it’s all right, then I can’t argue with that.’

Weathers has been flooded with reaction—both negative and positive—since an editorial published this week in the *Catholic Sentinel* urged the public to call for the sign’s removal. The Portland-based publication bills itself as the oldest Catholic newspaper on the West Coast.

“It’s just about 50-50,” Weathers says of the nature of the calls. “Many people tell me what my mother is for bringing me into this world.”

Meanwhile, officials with the Catholic Church are by no means turning the other cheek, and are encouraging the public to become more vocal about the billboard. “By saying the pope is the personage of Satan, that really grates off on Catholics,” says Bud Bunce, director of communications for the Archdiocese of Portland. Bunce is also critical of the company allowing it to be posted, *Outdoor Media Dimensions*.

“This is not a First Amendment issue; it’s not a free-speech issue,” Bunce tells *WorldNetDaily*. “It’s a matter of what kind of advertising that a media outlet will accept. . . [a billboard] is not a media outlet you can turn off like a car radio.”

When visitors log onto the website referenced on the billboard, they are greeted by a well-known piece of classical music, *Toccata and Fugue*, by Johann Sebastian Bach. Viewers are encouraged to leave their name and address to be sent a book at no charge.

The book, *National Sunday Law* by Jan Marcussen, is an examination of biblical prophecy, and makes the case that the pope is the Antichrist and a key figure in world events heralding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It purports that the American public may even expect laws to be passed enforcing the sanctity of Sunday, including possible bans on working on that day. Weathers contends any examination of end-time prophecy will clearly demonstrate that the pope is identified in the Bible as the *man of sin, son of perdition* and *whore of Babylon*.

Despite the harsh rhetoric and threats against his life, Weathers insists he’s neither hateful nor bigoted in any manner. In fact, he believes he’s acting out of love for Catholics and the public at large. He likens himself to Noah of the Old Testament who warned of coming catastrophe unless people repented and followed God.

“I can’t see Noah saying ‘Forget about all those raindrops!’ as he’s shutting the door to the ark,” laughs Weathers. “Noah warned them and that’s what we’re doing.” *WorldNetDaily.com*.



SCENES OF HITLER

After fierce criticism from Jewish groups, Taiwan’s ruling party said it will halt a TV ad aimed at **drumming up youth involvement** that included an image of Adolf Hitler. The Democratic Progressive Party said it will pull the ad “out of respect for the Holocaust victims.” The ad, designed to encourage young people to be bold and share their ideas with the party, shows scenes of Hitler along with other famous orators, including John F. Kennedy and Fidel Castro. But it was quickly denounced by Taiwan’s small Jewish community. Menashe Zipori, head of the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan, called the ad *a monstrosity*. *WorldNetDaily.com*.



SABBATH-KEEPER WINS DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT

Denver, Colorado, ANN—A United States federal jury has awarded \$2.25 million to a man fired by the Federal Aviation Administration for refusing to work on Sabbath, or Saturday. Don Reed was the victim of religious discrimination, said the Denver jury, rejecting the FAA’s argument that accommodation of Reed’s beliefs would have left the agency dangerously short-staffed.

Reed, a nondenominational Sabbath-keeper, observes a day of rest from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. An FAA employee since 1990, Reed says his Sabbath-keeping was accommodated by two successive managers. In 1995, however, a new manager called Reed’s belief a “scam” and a “religion of convenience,” firing Reed after he failed to show for work on six Saturdays.

Mitchell Tyner, an associate general counsel for the Adventist Church worldwide, welcomed the jury’s verdict, saying that employees should rarely be forced to choose between their faith and their job, and only then when accom-

modation would cause genuine hardship to the employer. Each year, Tyner participates in as many as 30 lawsuits involving on-the-job religious discrimination—usually related to Sabbath-keeping. He says the scope of the problem is much larger than most people realize.

Every day, on average, two or three Adventist Church members in the United States lose their jobs or are denied jobs because employers will not accommodate Sabbath observance, says Tyner.

“Free exercise of religion is a fundamental legal principle,” Tyner adds. “But in practice, legal protection for people of faith in the workplace is simply not adequate.”



BUSH COURTS CATHOLIC VOTE— A METICULOUS OUTREACH

WASHINGTON (AP)—It was more than a social call: Five days after taking office, President Bush paid a visit to Washington Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, foreshadowing what has become a **meticulous outreach [Editor’s: When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power.]** to the nation’s Roman Catholics—a bloc he sees as vital if he is to have a prayer of re-election.

In Miami, Bush dropped in on Archbishop John Favalora. In Pittsburgh, he saw Bishop Donald Wuerl, and in Philadelphia, Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua. Swinging through St. Louis, he stopped to see Archbishop Justin Rigali.

Bush’s first trip to New York will be to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late Cardinal John O’Connor on Tuesday. When he goes to Italy later this month, Bush will meet with Pope John Paul II.

Bush, a Methodist, is lavishing attention on Catholic leaders and their flocks. **[Editor’s: When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power.]** He and Democrat Al Gore essentially split the Catholic vote last year—a big gain for the Republican side after Bill Clinton captured the Catholic vote by a 16 point margin in 1996 and 9 points in 1992, according to exit polling by the *Voter News Service*.

Advisers believe Catholics, about one-quarter of the November electorate, are particularly receptive to Bush’s initiative to bring religious groups into government-funded charity efforts.

“Their core values fit with his agenda,” said White House spokesman Tucker Eskew. “The man has an abiding sense of compassion, and that value is a tenet of the active Catholic’s faith, as is defense of the family, defense of life. Those issues all ring true with this president’s character and that faith’s values.”

Bush offended many Catholics during the presidential campaign by making a campaign stop at Bob Jones University, a South Carolina school whose leader called the Catholic Church a “Satanic cult.” **[Editor’s: The protest of Bible truth will be no longer tolerated by those who have not made the law of God their rule of action.]**

Ever since, Bush has gone out of his way to court Catholics, both on the road and at home.

On March 21, Bush entertained more than 120 Catholic leaders in the East Room of the White House. The next day, he surrounded himself with cardinals and reaffirmed his opposition to abortion as he presided over the ribbon-cutting at a museum named for Pope John Paul II.

Today, Catholics wield special clout in the Bush White House. Aides mull issues and strategy every week with Catholics from around the country. The Republican National Committee has named Catholic teams in more than a dozen cities to bring more Catholics into the GOP and stir political activism among the faithful. “This is a group of swing voters that is very influential, especially in many battleground states,” RNC spokesman Trent Duffy said.



O’CONNOR REMEMBERED WITH CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

President George Bush posthumously awarded Cardinal John O’Connor the Congressional Gold Medal July 10 at a New York ceremony.

Bush stated: “Future generations will know at least this about the 11th leader of the archdiocese: He was a man who left a mark on his time. A moral leader not only in title, but in truth. A defender of the faith, the very kind who have kept the faith alive for two millennia.”

Previous recipients of the medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by congress, include Pope John Paul II, evangelist Billy Graham and Mother Teresa. *The Christian Times, July 23, 2001.*



BILLY GRAHAM'S "MOST AMAZING CONFUSION"

Life magazine recently printed a 128-page tribute to [Editor's: 'the man of sin'] Pope John Paul II. The foreword is written by, Billy Graham. Graham speaks of the "warm friendship" he has had with the pope since the 70's and refers to the pope's "morality and faith". This is most amazing confusion. Graham preaches that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone because of the finished atonement of Christ. The pope denounces all of that and has a different "faith." Beware of New Evangelicals like Billy Graham who break down the walls between truth and error. *The Christian News*, July 9, 2001.



MCVEIGH NOW IN HEAVEN

Timothy McVeigh received the Last Rites of the Catholic Church, the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, just hours before his execution He had repented and saved his soul. He is now in Heaven." *The Wanderer*, June 28, 2001, a Roman Catholic weekly newspaper.



BUSH TO WEIGH POPE'S ADVICE

Gandolfo, Italy, July 23—Pope John Paul II and President Bush talk during their first meeting at the pontiff's summer residence in Gandolfo near Rome on Monday. The meeting with Pope John Paul II comes as President Bush is grappling with the issue of stem cell research.

Pope John Paul II urged President Bush to bar using human embryos for medical research, saying Monday that the United States has a moral responsibility to reject actions that "devalue and violate human life." Bush said later that he was not surprised by the pope's admonition and would take it into account as he weighs whether to allow federal funding for such research.

John Paul II, read a statement to Bush and his entourage after their private meeting. "Experience is already showing how a tragic coarsening of consciences accompanies the assault on innocent human life in the world," the pope lamented, "leading to accommodation and acquiescence in the face of other related evils such as euthanasia, infanticide, and, most recently, proposals for the creation for research purposes of human embryos destined to destruction in the process.

"A free and virtuous society, which America aspires to be, must reject practices that devalue and violate human life at any stage from conception to natural death," the pope added.

Bush, for his part, read his own statement, thanking the pope for his messages reminding Americans that their prosperity "must be matched with compassion and moral purpose."

"And always to all, you have carried the gospel of life, which welcomes the stranger and protects the weak and the innocent," said Bush, who also read from a prepared statement. **"Every nation—including my own—benefits from hearing and heeding this message of conscience."**

In a joint press conference with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi following his visit with the pope, Bush said he would take the pontiff's opinion into consideration as he makes his decision. "He's sent a consistent word throughout the (Catholic) church and society that we ought to take into account the preciousness of life," Bush said of the pope.

Bush added that his decision would revolve around "the need to balance value and respect for life with the promise of science in the hope of saving life." He emphasized that he would take his time in making a decision given its importance.

In what was his first meeting with the pope, Bush sat ramrod straight in his chair, hands folded in his lap. Bush has more in common with the pope than former President Clinton ever did—primarily because Bush shares John Paul's opposition to abortion rights.

In an unusually sharp attack, the Vatican had condemned Clinton's veto of a bill banning certain late-term abortions as "shameful." In contrast, the Vatican welcomed the new administration's move to bar US funds to international family planning groups involved in abortion. **And it would certainly be receptive to Bush's initiative to bring religious groups into government-funded charity efforts.** *MSNBC STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS.*



ECHOING POPE JOHN PAUL II

WASHINGTON—On the eve of a European mission that faces discord around the conference table and in the streets, President Bush on Tuesday offered his broadest assessment of the United States' global role and set a mandate for fighting poverty by promoting trade.

He proposed that the World Bank and other lending agencies assigned to aid the developing world “dramatically shift” the money they devote to the poorest nations from loans to grants that would not have to be repaid.

Specifically, he proposed that up to half of the \$6 billion a year the bank lends the poorest countries be provided as grants for education, health, nutrition, water supply, sanitation and other human needs. The speech to the World Bank was the most focused look at foreign policy, international poverty and the responsibilities of wealthy nations that Bush has given as president. It reflected a recognition, often central to his predecessor' diplomacy, that trade holds the promise in the post-Cold War era of expanding democracy and wealth.

Echoing Pope John Paul II, with whom he will meet at the pontiff's summer residence, Bush said that “the great moral challenge” of the era is “placing the freedom of the market in the service of human freedom.”

“Our willingness to recognize that with freedom comes great responsibility, especially for the least among us, may take the measure of the 21st century,” Bush declared, setting a marker of US policy before the protests begin.

“**To all nations** promoting democratic government and the rule of law so that trade and aid can succeed, you're not alone. **To all nations** tearing down the walls of suspicion and isolation, and building ties of trade and trust, you're not alone. And **to all nations** who are willing to stake their future on the global progress of liberty, you will never be alone,” the president said.

Bush presented a defense of what has come to be known as globalization—the ever-tighter weave of economies, **both rich and poor**, around the world—and put it at “the heart of human liberty stretching across national borders.”

“It holds the promise of delivering billions of the world's citizens from disease and hunger and want,” he said. The world's needs “are a challenge to our conscience and to complacency.”

But, framing his argument as much in terms of geopolitical health as in morality, Bush said, “A world where some live in comfort and plenty, while half of the human race lives on less than \$2 a day is neither just, nor stable.”

Bush said that in the past, strong nations sought weakened neighbors; now, they seek strong partners to which they can “export their products, not their problems.”

“Conquering poverty creates new customers. And a world that is more free and more prosperous is also a world much more likely to remain at peace,” the president said.

The chief spokesman for the World Bank, Caroline Anstey, said that it lends \$6 billion a year to the poorest nations. Overall, the US annually contributes \$803 million to the bank. The decision to give the money away, she said, was one not for the bank's officials but for “the shareholders,” in effect the major lenders **or, specifically, the US** and its wealthiest partners.

[Editor's note: Have you read *Ecclesiastical Megalomania*?]



Dear Jeff: I really appreciate the tape I received from you a few months ago, *Ecclesiastical Megalomania*, in which you interview John Robbins. Unfortunately, I do not have the second part of that interview, and the first seems to stop rather abruptly. Could you please send me the second part of that interview? I transcribed the first tape in typewritten form so I could send it into jails and prisons, as there are some tight restrictions about taking in or sending cassettes to the inmates. We have SDA inmates and others who are studying with us, and some of them are eager students of eschatological events. I made a few comments in the right margin of the transcript, as readers without backgrounds in political science and economics might not fully understand the implications of some of the events being discussed. Since I have a degree in political science with an emphasis in economics, I thought the notations might help them. I will send you or email you a copy of the transcript if you like.

A small group of us have a very active ministry in Mexico, particularly Tijuana and a few other areas next to the border. Adventism is growing at an astounding rate among Mexican people (40 plus churches in Tijuana!), and they are

avid students of prophecy. Unfortunately there is a wealth of material in English that has not been translated. By any chance would you have the interview available in Spanish, either on a cassette or in written form? If not, I will get some of my bilingual friends to begin the project, as they would surely love to have this information. For the past year we have also been giving vegan health-food cooking classes, and the Mexicans are enthusiastically receiving these, too!

Enclosed is a small donation to help continue your vital ministry. Please pray for our efforts here, as we pray for yours. There is a world to warn! Sincerely, GE—CA



PROGRESS OF US FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE BILL

Washington, DC, ANN—The Faith-Based Initiatives bill, a proposed law aimed at expanding federal government funding of faith-based welfare programs, has passed its first legislative hurdle, gaining approval of the United States House of Representatives July 20 by a vote of 233 to 198.

Public debate surrounding the bill has centered on two main issues: first, whether direct funding of religious groups would create an unconstitutional relationship between church and state; and second, whether faith groups receiving government money under the legislation should continue to have the right to hire only members of their own religion to administer their welfare programs. Supporters of the program argue that government funding will flow only to the secular, or welfare, enterprises of religious groups. Critics of the bill argue that tax funds, which are raised from all United States citizens, should not be disbursed to groups that would discriminate on the basis of religion or sexual orientation in their hiring and firing practices.



FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

A 'REBUKE CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION'

House Majority Whip Tom DeLay told an audience yesterday that President George W. Bush's "faith-based initiative" represents "a great opportunity to bring God back into the public institutions of the country" and attacked church-state separation, asserting that it is not in the Constitution.

DeLay, the third ranking Republican in the House, appeared at an invitation-only luncheon gathering for congressional staff organized by TV preacher D. James Kennedy's Center for Christian Statesmanship.

Barry W. Lynn, executive director of *Americans United for Separation of Church and State*, charged that DeLay's comments prove that **the real intent of the "faith-based initiative" is to weaken or perhaps do away with church-state separation entirely.**

"DeLay has removed the sugar coating from this initiative," Lynn said. **"At its core lies an ugly and mean-spirited attack on the separation of church and state, the very principle that under girds religious freedom in America."** Lynn noted that Bush has asserted that his initiative will not fund religion or weaken the separation of church and state. DeLay's observations, Lynn asserted, sharply undermine those claims.

During the luncheon address at a House office building, DeLay was asked about the "faith-based initiative." He replied, "I know there are some people that are worried about the faith-based initiative that the president supports. And most of the distress is about that, 'We don't want the federal government coming into our business.' Well, my answer to that is, don't accept the money. But I see it as a great opportunity to bring God back into the public institutions of the country. God has been removed from all of our public institutions."

DeLay then added that the initiative would be a way of **"standing up and rebuking this notion of separation of church and state that has been imposed upon us over the last 40 or 50 years.** You see, **I don't believe there is a separation of church and state.** I think the Constitution is very clear. We have the right and the freedom to exercise our religion no matter what it is anywhere we choose to do it. We have an opportunity to once again get back into the public arena."

AU's Lynn said DeLay could not be more wrong. **"Contrary to DeLay's misguided comments, the principle of church-state separation has not held religion back in this country,"** Lynn said. **"Just the opposite is true; the First**

Amendment has created an environment where religion can flourish without aid or interference from the government. DeLay claims separation of church and state is a recent invention,” Lynn added. “In fact, as long ago as 1879, a unanimous Supreme Court agreed with the writings of Thomas Jefferson and ruled that the First Amendment created a ‘wall of separation between church and state.’ It’s a tragedy that the House Majority Whip denigrates the very freedoms he has sworn to uphold.”


The Texas Republican went on to say that the reason some social programs have failed is because they do not recognize “that man is sinful and the redemption of man is through Jesus Christ or if you’re Jewish through practicing your religion.”

Concluded Lynn, “In an unguarded moment, Tom DeLay has ripped the mask off the Bush initiative. He wants to use it to launch a crusade to force government-sponsored religion onto the American people and demolish the wall of separation between church and state. Nothing could be more inappropriate or dangerous.”

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.” *The Great Controversy*, 443.

Benjamin Franklin: “When religion is good it will take care of itself; when it is not able to take care of itself, and God does not see fit to take care of it, so that it has to appeal to civil power for support, **it is evidence in my opinion that its cause is a bad one.**”

**“Rome’s
Arraignment
Of Sabbath-
Breakers”**



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ADVENTIST COLLEGE CAN RECEIVE STATE FUNDS, UNITED STATES COURT RULES

Takoma Park, Maryland, ANN—A Seventh-day Adventist college in Maryland is eligible to receive state government funding, a United States court ruled June 26. The decision comes after an 11-year quest by Columbia Union College to gain funding under the Sellinger Program, a state program that distributes grants to private colleges in Maryland.

“Columbia Union College is pleased and satisfied with the results of the decision,” said Randal Wisbey, president of CUC, in a statement released June 28.

Columbia Union College cannot be excluded from the Sellinger Program solely because of its religious nature, said a three-member panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. By denying a grant only on the basis of religion, “the government risks discriminating against a class of citizens solely because of faith,” the court said.

Direct state funding of CUC would not violate the United States Constitution’s Establishment Clause “[b]ecause state aid is allocated on a neutral basis to an institution of higher education which will not use the funds for any sectarian purpose,” wrote Chief Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson.

Charles Spurgeon: “I am ashamed of some Christians because they have so much dependence on Parliament

and the law of the land. Much good may Parliament ever do to true religion, except by mistake! As to getting the law of the land to touch our religion, we earnestly cry, 'Hands off! Leave us alone!' Your Sunday bills and all other forms of act-of-Parliament religion seem to me to be all wrong. Give us a fair field and **no favor**, and our faith has no cause to fear. **Christ wants no help from Caesar.**"



THE POPE SHOULD BECOME "THE GLOBAL SPOKESPERSON"

Ishmael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Fellowship, said in March that "**Lutherans can certainly look to the pope**" as "one of the world's spiritual leaders today." He went on to say that the ecumenical movement requires Christians to look into the possibility that the Pope should become "the global spokesperson for all Christians." *The Christian News*, July 16, 2001.

"When enemies appealed to custom and tradition, or to the assertions and authority of the pope, **Luther** met them with the Bible and the Bible only." *The Great Controversy*, 133.



POPE GETS BOOST FROM PUTIN

Associated Press, July 18, AOSTA, Italy—While still waiting for the go-ahead to visit Moscow, Pope John Paul II received an unexpected boost from Russian President Vladimir Putin for his forays into the former Soviet Union. Vatican officials accompanying John Paul on a 12-day vacation in the Italian Alps confirmed this week that the pope will travel September 22–27 to the former Soviet republics of Kazakstan and Armenia. The trip is part of John Paul's efforts for better relations with Orthodox Christians, as well as to pay tribute to a tiny Roman Catholic community deported to central Asia during the Stalinist years. In an interview published Monday in the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, Putin praised John Paul and said his trips to eastern Europe—including Ukraine—"have a positive element."

"I would be truly happy if relations between the Russian Orthodox church and the Holy See developed positively, opening new horizons," Putin said.



CANADA' LUTHERANS AND ANGLICANS FORGE AGREEMENT

Waterloo, Canada ANN—Anglicans and Evangelical Lutherans in Canada have signed an agreement of full communion, allowing for mutual recognition of each denomination's clergy and sacraments. The agreement, approved July 6, is similar to the accord between Lutherans and Episcopalians in the United States, which came into effect this year. The agreement is not a merger, say leaders of both groups, but will allow members of each church to "reely communicate at the altar of the other." Ordained ministers will also be able to officiate at churches of either denomination.

The move was unanimously approved by delegates from both groups meeting in Waterloo, Canada. Anglicans and Lutherans have a combined church membership of around 880,000 in Canada.



Dear Brother Pippenger, I have been listening to your sermons for many years now. Sometimes in person but more frequently by audio-tapes. It is not often that I sit down to write a letter but after reading your last newsletter, and the comment that WC from TN made regarding your #8 tape from the London series, I am impressed to write. As soon as I read his comment the following comment by Sister White came to my mind:

"The rabbis spoke with doubt and hesitancy, as if the Scriptures might be interpreted to mean one thing or exactly the opposite. The hearers were daily involved in greater uncertainty. But Jesus taught the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority. Whatever His subject, it was presented with power, as if His words could not be controverted.

"Yet He was earnest, rather than vehement. He spoke as one who had a definite purpose to fulfill." *The Desire of Ages*, 253.

On Sabbath afternoon I was going through some references that were in the tape you sent with this same newsletter. The following statement was in one of the references in the tape that is also very applicable to WC's comment:

"In presenting the word to others, never make it a 'suppose so,' a 'guess,' or a 'may be.' Speak as one who has authority from God through his word. Declare with Peter, 'We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye-witnesses of his majesty. . . . We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts.'" *Review and Herald*, February 11, 1896.

A continuation of the passage in the Scripture that Sister White was quoting 2 Peter 1:20.

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

WC said the tone of your #8 tape was strident and dogmatic and that this was the reason that he wanted his name taken off your mailing list, even though he has no argument with the content. The definition of dogmatic is: asserted proof; stating opinion in a positive or arrogant manner. And the definition of strident is: harsh sounding, shrill, grating. If WC has no argument with the content, does he accept your assertions without proof and believe that they are only your opinions? I would like to encourage WC to read *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*. This may help him to understand that you are not preaching opinions. When I listened to the #8 tape, I did not hear arrogant, harsh sounding, shrill tones. I heard a man preach with conviction and in earnest pleading for Seventh-day Adventists to wake up and see where we are in history, (on the verge of the Sunday law) by comparing prophecy with world events. This is in harmony with how Jesus taught the people.

Sister White says that God intended that the *Testimonies* should always have a setting in "the framework of truth". I looked up and read the entire article that WC quoted from in *Signs of the Times*, June 8, 1882. This article was dealing with the miracle that Jesus did in healing the impotent man at Bethesda. The text WC quoted, "We meet with men of the same spirit today, who are blinded by error, and yet flatter themselves that they are right, and all who differ from them are wrong," was referring to the Pharisees. If WC agrees with the content of your message, how can he compare you to the Pharisees who were opposing truth? I would quote a little more from that same text to give a clearer picture of the content:

"As the restored one went on his way with quick, elastic step, his pulses bounding with the vigor of renewed health, his countenance glowing with hope and joy, he was met by the Pharisees, who told him, with an air of great sanctity, that it was not lawful to carry his bed on the Sabbath day. There was no rejoicing at the deliverance of that long-imprisoned captive, no grateful praise that One was among them who could heal all manner of disease. Their traditions had been disregarded, and this closed their eyes to all the evidence of divine power.

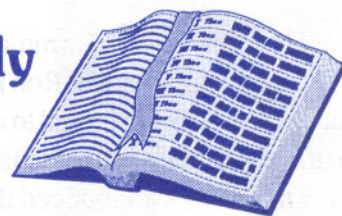
"Bigoted and self-righteous, they would not admit that they could have misapprehended the true design of the Sabbath. Instead of criticising themselves, they chose to condemn Christ. We meet with men of the same spirit today, who are blinded by error, and yet flatter themselves that they are right, and all who differ from them are in the wrong." *Ibid.*

I pray that the Holy Spirit would help WC understand he used this statement out of context and wrongly applied it to you. May he have spiritual discernment and wisdom to know the difference between preaching with conviction and arrogance.

Let's press together and encourage each other in the faith. Sincerely, PN—OR

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HOUSE RESOLUTION OPPOSES UN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The International Criminal Court is an unprecedented assault on American sovereignty.

Texas Congressman Ron Paul has introduced a resolution (HCR 23) calling for President Bush to publicly declare that the US does not intend to ratify or assent to the ICC treaty signed by former president Clinton during his final days in office—even after the Senate had refused to consider it!

The UN has announced that it needs only signatures, not treaty ratification, from [only!] 60 countries to begin implementing and enforcing this abomination around the world! Nothing else is needed, in their minds, for it to become international law! This alone clearly reveals the dictatorial designs of the treaty's UN architects. Their claim that only UN approval is required for a treaty to become binding on the entire globe destroys the very idea of national sovereignty!

Moreover, this court does not allow trial by jury. The case is heard and the verdict rendered by a three-judge panel, and the judges can be from anywhere—even America's staunchest enemies! **Defendants are not permitted to confront the accusers, and can be held indefinitely because there is no bail, and there is no appeal—their verdict is final!**

Furthermore, jail times would be served in a [foreign] state designated by the court from a list of states that have indicated their willingness to accept sentenced persons. So an American would likely serve time in tyrannical states like Cuba, Cambodia, Russia, or Rwanda.

In 1998, delegates from 160 countries **met in Rome** to plan the creation of the International Criminal Court. The treaty's language gives a frightening view of what the "rule of law" under an unrestrained International Criminal Court will mean. For example, the treaty declares "no reservations may be made to this statute." In other words, countries may not opt out of any part of the ICC's regime. Yet sections of the treaty are so vaguely worded that ICC judges can just make up new "law" however they see fit! "Global crimes" could come to include: unapproved religious activity: spanking your child: failure to register your children or send them to a government-approved educational institution: displaying inappropriate patriotism: any "pro-life" activity: failure to receive permission to move to a new residence: or even using your air-conditioning or vehicle without authorization!

A recent example of the totalitarian mindset promoting this court just surfaced in Europe. The European Court of Justice recently decreed that the new European Union can lawfully suppress political criticism of its institutions and leadership. The ruling went on to state that the European Commission could restrict dissent to "protect the rights of others" and punish individuals who "damaged the institution's image."

The United States representative to the 1998 International Criminal Court Conference admitted that "American citizens, under the theory of the Court, would be exposed to the possibility of (international) prosecution," and one of the chief architects of the ICC testified bluntly to the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "Traditional sovereignty-based arguments against the recognition or application of internationally protected human rights are no longer valid." In other words, the ICC treaty trumps the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. From Alan Keyes' *The Declaration Foundation solicitation letter, June 2001.*



EDUCATION: GOOD OR EVIL?

Education is good or evil depending on the content. An educational system designed to graduate semiliterate, young socialists who are atheistic and hostile to their own country, to capitalism and to liberty is not a system sensible Americans would want their children involved in. Most educational bureaucrats take the position that they are the high priests and that peasant parents should not interfere or ask too many questions. Just supply kids and money and keep your mouth shut.

State-controlled education is a high priority of every totalitarian state now, or in the past. V.I. Lenin said it plainly: "Give me four years to teach the children, and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted." The point is simply this: Government schools are by design established and run to serve government purposes. These purposes will change as the people who control the government change.

As opponents of the government school system argued in the 1800's, if you remove Christianity from the schools, then inevitably it will be replaced by the state religion of secular humanism. History has proven them correct. **The Conservative Chronicle, May 23, 2001.**

"The true higher education is gained by studying and obeying the word of God. But when God's word is laid aside for books that do not lead to God and the kingdom of heaven, the education acquired is a perversion of the name.

"There are wonderful truths in nature. The earth, the sea, and the sky are full of truth. They are our teachers. Nature utters her voice in lessons of heavenly wisdom and eternal truth. But fallen man will not understand. Sin has obscured his vision, and he cannot of himself interpret nature without placing it above God. Correct lessons cannot impress the minds of those who reject the word of God. The teaching of nature is by them so perverted that it turns the mind away from the Creator.

"By many, man's wisdom is thought to be higher than the wisdom of the divine Teacher, and God's lesson book is looked upon as old-fashioned, stale, and uninteresting. But by those who have been vivified by the Holy Spirit it is not so regarded. They see the priceless treasure, and would sell all to buy the field that contains it. Instead of books containing the suppositions of reputedly great authors, they choose the word of Him who is the greatest author and the greatest teacher the world has ever known, who gave His life for us, that through Him we might have everlasting life." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 107.



GOVERNMENT TRADE UNION

Prior to the 1960's, government employees were not allowed to organize unions. Some warned that the unionization of government employees would set up a clear conflict of interest between them and taxpayers.

Today, government schools operate under the booted heel of the National Education Association (NEA), the largest and most powerful trade union in America. It is a partisan left-wing organization and a dominant force in the Democratic Party.

The NEA is not a neutral organization devoted to education. Its leaders oppose merit pay and the competency testing of teachers. They are desperately afraid of competition. They fear parents will desert government schools if given a choice. They value equality over academic excellence and have a condom orientation toward morality.

The NEA is protected by politicians, bought and paid for, fair and square. Corrupt politicians protect the union's education monopoly from accountability and competition, insulate it from reform and reward its academic failures with increased funding. This union is deeply entrenched, and is prepared to do whatever is necessary to protect the lucrative white-collar racket it is running.

The incredible hypocrisy is this: According to a survey by the Heritage Foundation, 40 percent of the parents in the House Representatives and 49 percent of those in the Senate have sent their own children to private schools. Surveys also confirm that teachers are much more likely than other parents to put their own children in private school. **The Conservative Chronicle, May 23, 2001.**

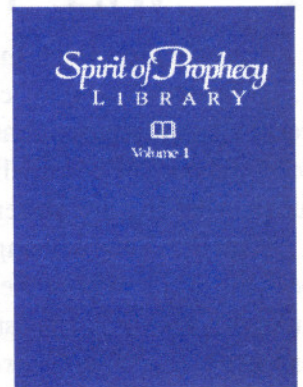
"The trades unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began." *Country Living*, 10.

"The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force. In the world gigantic monopolies will be formed. Men will bind themselves together in unions that will wrap them in the folds of the enemy. A few men will combine to grasp all the means to be obtained in certain lines of business. Trades unions will be formed, and those who refuse to join these unions will be marked men." *Ibid.*

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WILL THE UNITED STATES REMAIN A SUPERPOWER?

Many readers think that the United Nations is less an instrument for the good than an organization where [the U.S.A.'s] opponents can leverage their otherwise insignificant individual weights against us. A prime example is the recent vote by tyrant nations and European Union countries to evict the US from membership on the UN Human Rights Commission. The world's human rights are now safely in the hands of China, Cuba, Vietnam, Libya, Algeria, Syria and Sudan, where human slavery is still rife.

With the dollar serving as the world's reserve currency, the US trade deficit reflects a high demand for dollars. Does the dollar remain the reserve currency when our manufacturing base completes its move offshore? When the American economy consists of the marketing and distribution of foreign made products, will the United States remain a superpower? *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 23, 2001.

[Editor's note: The answer is YES!]

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:12–17.



MURDER MOST CASUAL

For the second time in one year, Florida is trying a child as an adult in a first-degree murder case. On May 26, 2000, a 13-year-old seventh-grader, brought a gun to school, aimed it at his favorite teacher and shot him dead. This is undisputed. A school video camera caught the shooting on tape. The only question for the jury is whether the boy intended to kill his teacher. His father said the shooting was an accident.

An accident. The boy acquired the gun, showed it off to his classmates, proved to a doubting female friend that it was real by showing her the bullets, and boasted that he was going to "[mess up] this school" and that his face would be on national television.

On the last day of classes the boy was throwing water balloons. He was ordered to stop by his teacher but he continued, so his teacher suspended him from the school. The boy went home, got the gun and returned to the school two hours later. He went to the classroom, pulled the gun from his pocket, spread his legs apart as he had doubtless seen on a thousand television programs, and pointed the gun straight at the teacher's face, holding it with two hands, and pulled the trigger, hitting the teacher between the eyes, killing him. Some accident.

Children of 13 ought not to be held to adult standards of accountability. But what else can you do when society has drifted so far into the state of nature that children are committing the most heinous crimes with scarcely a second thought?

The reason to dwell on the normal-looking boy is that he is representative of thousands or perhaps millions of American kids. Outwardly, like characters from some science-fiction thriller, they seem completely human. To listen to them speak of ordinary things—as the boy spoke of his interest in a movie or of doing his English homework—is disorienting. He seems just like a regular kid, but there is a missing part. He has no conscience.

In past decades and centuries, society as a whole taught the basics of right and wrong. Everywhere a child turned, whether the school, the church or the community, he was trained to know and to do what was right. Did this eliminate sin? Hardly. But did ordinary children go around murdering their playmates and teachers? No. We have other problems too, but our most urgent national problem is the children walking among us, hollow souls who look perfectly normal. *The Conservative Chronicle*, May 23, 2001.



A BAD INFLUENCE

At the June 21, Ozzfestrock concert in Denver Satanist Marilyn Manson cursed the Bible and Christians and claimed God is a bad influence. Manson held up a Bible and cursed it and led the crowd of 23,000 young people in cursing the Christians who had tried to stop his appearance at the concert. Manson read from the book of Psalms and then asked, "Now, I ask you, who is a worse influence, God or Marilyn Manson?" The rock crowd screamed out, "God". *Fundamentalist Baptist Information Service.*



POPE ENTRUSTS WHOLE CHURCH TO MARY

On June 3, Pope John Paul II entrusted the whole church to the intercession of Mary and placed in her hands "the expectations of peace of peace and justice of the world". He called her the "Queen of Heaven".

This is the same pope who has been praised by evangelicals like Billy Graham, Jack Van Impe, Bill Bright, and Chuch Colson. *Calvary Contender, July 1, 2001.*



SOMETHING BRIGHT, HIGH IN THE SKY

Carteret, N.J., July 17—Something dazzled the people of New Jersey this weekend. Something bright. High in the sky. "It was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen," said eyewitness Joe Malvasio. "They were just hovering, and then they just disappeared. One at a time, each one started to fade until they were gone."

Some witnesses thought the phenomenon may have been a sign of an alien presence. Others called it a miracle. But no one knows just what it was; all they can do is attempt to describe it. "I saw 16 golden-orange colored lights, several in a V-type formation," said officer Daniel Tarrant of the Carteret Police Department. "Others were scattered around the V."

At Least 15 Report Lights to Police

At least 15 people contacted Tarrant's department to report the strange lights. But Tarrant and other police officials are at a loss to explain just what it was hovering in their skies. Most callers described the same scenario: golden-orange lights moving quietly, some say beautifully, across the night sky over the Arthur Kill river. They described how the lights flickered and how they seemed to vanish into the night, one-by-one. Some drivers even pulled off the New Jersey Turnpike for a better look.

But even more amazing is the explanation: there is none, not as of yet. According to the *Associated Press*, nearby Newark Airport reported no unusual flight patterns, and a National Weather Service meteorologist could find nothing in the weather to explain the lights.

Peaceful, Easy Feeling

"It's really amazing," said Veronica Bagley, whose family captured the lights on video. Paulette Holmes said whatever it was, she was unafraid. "I wasn't alarmed because it was peaceful," she said. Patty Ercallino, another witness, took it a step further. "Very peaceful, very serene, very beautiful," she said. "I think we witnessed some type of miracle." WABC, New York.

Theological Beliefs, By Denomination

The chart below shows the percentage in each denomination who say they:

- A) Strongly agree the Bible is totally accurate in all it teaches;
- B) Strongly agree that they have a personal responsibility to tell others about their religious beliefs;
- C) Strongly agree that their religious faith is very important;
- D) Strongly disagree that Satan is just a symbol of evil;
- E) Strongly disagree that if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others, he or she will earn a place in Heaven;
- F) Strongly disagree that Jesus Christ committed sins;
- G) Believe that God is the all-powerful, all-knowing perfect Creator of the universe who rules the world today;
- H) Are absolutely committed to Christianity.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Aug.	Rank
All Adults	41	32	68	27	30	40	69	41	43.8	
Adventist	64	42	73	37	32	45	76	53	52.7	7
Assembly of God	77	61	86	56	64	70	96	66	72.8	2
Baptist*	66	51	81	34	43	55	85	58	59.3	4
Catholics	26	17	68	17	9	33	70	43	34.3	11
Church of Christ	57	51	81	36	42	54	80	59	57.3	6
Episcopal	22	12	60	20	26	28	59	46	32.4	12
Lutheran*	34	27	63	21	27	33	72	55	39.6	10
Methodist*	38	28	74	18	24	33	73	47	41.1	9
Mormon/LDS**	29	55	90	59	15	70	84	#	57.4	5
Nondenominational	70	59	86	48	60	63	89	67	67.9	3
Pentecostal/Foursquare	81	73	94	47	62	73	90	66	74.3	1
Presbyterian	40	33	71	22	31	45	75	60	45.4	8

*= All denomination within a faith tradition. For example "Lutheran" would include ELCA, LCMS, WELS and other denominations.

**= Latter Day Saints

#= Not Asked



SEA OF GALILEE DRYING UP

Israel's Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) has been steadily decreasing in volume since 1992 and is now at its lowest point in recorded history, creating a 53 billion-gallon fresh water deficit. Israel's farmers face catastrophic water quota cuts of 70%. Amos Epstein of Mekorot, the company managing Israel's water resources says, "The situation is dire, we have dipped below all the redlines. We are in serious distress." *US News and World Report*, June 4, 2001.



WHAT IS KILLING THE WHALES?

In the past five years the Puget Sound [Seattle, killer whale] population has plummeted from 98 to 81 whales. Whales of every age class are dying at unprecedented rates. When they wash up dead on shore, the orcas are so polluted they qualify as hazardous waste. More than 120 types of PCB chemicals have been found in their bodies. If that weren't enough, the orca's main food supply, chinook salmon, has been listed as an endangered species. The salmon's food supply, herring, is also declining. And the herring's habitat, eel grass, is disappearing as well. Newsletter from the Center for Biological Diversity, May 2001.

CHRIST IS COMING SOON; PROCLAIM THE THREE ANGEL'S MESSAGES

"A crisis has arrived in the government of God on earth. The enmity to God has struck its roots deep in human hearts. It has become widespread, both in the world and in the professed churches of Christ.

"The world and the professed people of God are united by the all-pervading principle of aversion to God's government. Their opposition to the law of God is sufficient to bind them together, to bear together the burden of their accumulated guilt. Any indication of returning to loyalty and obedience to God is denounced as treachery against the confederacy of disloyalty. A wakeful impiety is quickened into an instinctive vigilance, and rouses to demonstration of hatred against the testing truth for this time. Whenever the truth shall be proclaimed, it will be opposed in a decided manner, for men possess the attributes which Jesus charged upon the Jews when He said, 'Ye are of your father the devil,' and 'ye do the deeds of your father.'

"Everything has been moving on just as the Lord has revealed in prophecy that it would. **Something great and decisive is soon to take place, else no flesh would be saved.** The character of God will not be compromised. Under the wrath of God universal desolation will soon reach all parts of the known world. There have been lightnings and earthquakes, fires and floods, calamities by sea and by land; but who reads these warnings? What impression is made upon the world? What change in their attitude is seen?

"No more than was seen in the inhabitants of the

Noachic world. The people are just as ardent today in their games, in the horse racing, in their love of amusement, as were the antediluvians, who 'knew not until the flood came, and took them all away.' They had heaven-sent warnings, but refused to listen. By their attitude they declared, 'We want not Thy way, O God; we want our own way, our own will.'

"Today the world is mad; an insanity is upon them, which is hurrying them on to eternal ruin. Every species of indulgence prevails, and men become so infatuated with vice that they will not listen to warnings or appeals. The Lord declares to the people of the earth, 'Choose you this day whom ye will serve.' All are now deciding their eternal destiny. Men need to be aroused to realize the solemnity of the time and the nearness of the day when human probation shall be ended.

"God gives no man a message that it will be ten years or twenty years before this earth's history shall close. If it were forty or one hundred years, the Lord would not authorize men to proclaim it. He would not give any living being an excuse for delaying the preparation for His appearing. He would have no one say, as did the unfaithful servant, 'My Lord delayeth His coming,' for this leads to reckless neglect of opportunities and privileges to prepare for that great day. Every soul who claims to be a servant of God is called to do his service as if every day might be the last.

“Let all who would cooperate with God unite in proclaiming the present truth, the message of the third angel: ‘If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation, and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever, and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.’ Then the eyes of John rest upon God’s people, and he exclaims, ‘Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’

“‘And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.’ **Read the following verses, 16–20; also chapter 15. Let all these things be the subject of meditation.**

“The words of Christ have a direct application to this time. ‘Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you. That he shall make him ruler over all his goods’ Matthew 24:42–47.

“Then let everyone to whom the Lord has given light from His Word be sure that he makes a right use of that light. Let him be guarded that he does not presume to feed the flock of God with food that is not appropriate for the time.

“‘Lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins.’ Talk of the speedy appearing of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Put not off

that day. God has given no man light to say, ‘My Lord delayeth His coming.’ Let the inquiry be made, Shall I stand at the right hand or at the left hand of the Judge at that day? ‘Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.’

“‘But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, my lord delayeth his coming, and shall begin to smite his fellow servants’; how?—by his words, by expressing suspicion, by his evil thinking and evil speaking. It is thus that confidence is changed to doubt and unbelief—‘and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of. And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“It is essential that all shall know what atmosphere surrounds their own souls, whether they are in copartnership with the enemy of righteousness, and unconsciously doing his work, or whether they are linked up with Christ, doing His work, and seeking to establish souls more firmly in the truth.

“Satan would be pleased to have anyone and everyone become his allies to weaken the confidence of brother in brother, and to sow discord among those who profess to believe the truth. Satan can accomplish his purposes most successfully through professed friends of Christ who are not walking and working in Christ’s lines. Those who in mind and heart are turning away from the Lord’s special work for this time, those who do not cooperate with Him in establishing souls in the faith by leading them to heed His words of warning, are doing the work of the enemy of Christ.

“It is a most serious matter to go from house to house, and under pretense of doing missionary work, cast in the seed of mistrust and suspicion. Each one speedily germinates, and there is created a distrust of God’s servants who have His message to bear to the people. When God speaks through His servants, the seed [of mistrust and suspicion] sown has developed into a root of bitterness. The word falls upon hearts that will not hear, on hearts that will not respond. No earthly or heavenly power can find access to the soul.

“Who is accountable for these souls? Who shall eradicate the poisonous root of bitterness that has prevented them from receiving the word of the Lord? A good sister or a brother planted the evil seed, but how can that one restore the soul thus imperiled? The tongue that should have been used to the glory of God in speaking words of hope

and faith and confidence in God's workmen has turned away a soul from Jesus Christ. Those who themselves despised the words of Christ, and refused to hear His voice and to be converted, have leavened other minds with the leaven of evil surmisings and evil speaking.

"This is the day of the Lord's preparation. We have no time now to talk unbelief and to gossip, no time now to do the devil's work. Let everyone beware of unsettling the faith of others by sowing seeds of envy, jealousy, disunion; for God hears the words, and judges, not by assertions, which are yea and nay, but by the fruit one's course of action produces. 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' The seed sown will determine the character of the harvest.

"So long as the people of God are in this world they will have to meet conflict and trouble and deception, because men choose the attributes of Satan instead of the attributes of God. There is a conscience that is not good. There are those whose words are 'yea' and 'nay' in regard to the same thing. How are we to deal with those who make these false statements? We should not try to deal with them. The Lord God of Israel will deal with minds according to His knowledge, for He reads the heart. The less we have to do with untruthful elements the better it will be for the church.

"Bear in mind always that the human brotherhood are not sin-bearers. Jesus alone can bear the sins of the transgressor. We are to leave them with Him. The conscience needs to be converted. The heart that is not true needs to be renewed, but we cannot do this work. We must leave the sinner with God. He has borne long with the false tongue. He does not force men to forsake evil, and we must let men falsify if they will. The Lord is our only trust. We are to rest in Him, and be still.

"We may feel that the Lord's work is in jeopardy through the deceptions of those who deal falsely, but we should not feel thus. We are not to think that the issue of the conflict is in our hands. There will be a glorious victory. Our duty is to walk by faith. In His own time God will deal with the deceiver, and He will reward every man according to his work.

"Jesus says, 'Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame' Revelation 16:15. Here is the great burden to be carried away by every individual. Are my sins forgiven? Has Christ, the Burden-bearer, taken away my guilt? Have I a clean heart, the righteousness of Jesus Christ, by faith? Woe be to any soul who is not seeking a refuge in Christ, and conforming the character to the character of Christ. Woe be [to] all who shall in anywise divert the mind from this work, and cause any soul to be

less vigilant now.

"The Lord wants all to understand His providential dealings now, just now, in the time in which we live. There must be no long discussions presenting new theories in regard to prophecies which God has already made plain. Now the great work from which the mind should not be diverted is the consideration of our personal safety in the sight of God. Are our feet on the Rock of ages? Are we hiding ourselves in our only Refuge? The storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father? Are we heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ? Are we working in co-partnership with Christ?

"Already kingdom is rising against kingdom. There is not now a determined engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of our God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the power of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully should we improve the little remaining period of our probation. How earnestly should we examine ourselves. How [earnestly] should we consider and cherish faith before God. How [earnestly] should we eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, that is, carefully study the Word, eat it, digest it, make it a part of our being. We are to live the Word, not keep it apart from our lives. The character of Christ is to be our individual character. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our hearts. Here is our only safety. Nothing can prevail to separate a living Christian from God.

"It is discipline of spirit, cleanness of heart and thought, that is wanted. This is of more value than brilliant talent, than tact or knowledge. An ordinary mind, trained to obey a 'Thus saith the Lord,' is better qualified for the Lord's work in all circumstances than are those who have capabilities and do not employ them rightly. Christ is truth. He is the truth of ancient types. He is the truth because he is the fulfillment of ancient prophecies.

"Men may suppose that they shall be saved, and yet they perish. They may take pride in great knowledge in worldly things, but if they have not a knowledge of the true God, of Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, they are deplorably ignorant, and their acquired knowledge will perish with them. Secular knowledge is power; but the knowledge of the Word, which has a transforming power upon the human mind, is imperishable; it is knowledge sanctified. It is life and peace and joy forever. The deeper knowledge men may have, sanctified wholly unto God, the more they will appreciate the value of Jesus Christ." *Manuscript Release*, volume 18, 57-64.