

40 YEARS LATER, PHIL KEAGGY STILL DAZZLES

WORLD

AUGUST 25, 2012

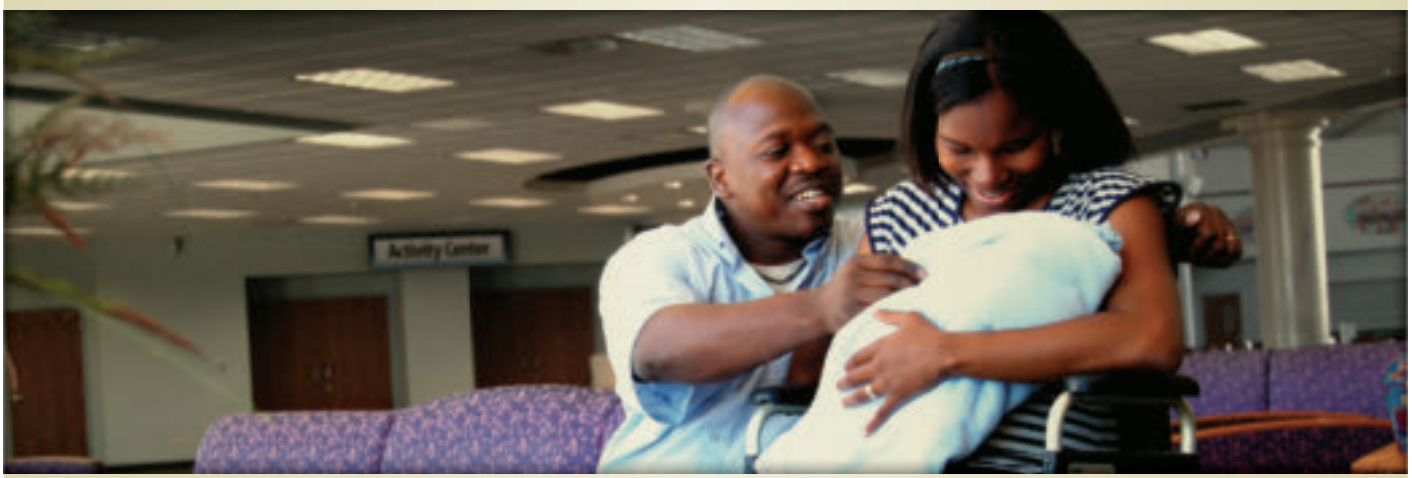
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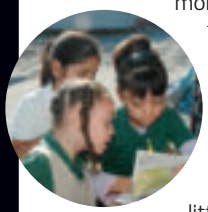
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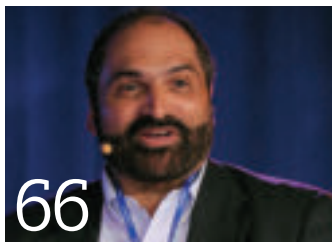


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WORLD (ISSN 0888-157X) (USPS 763-010) is published biweekly (26 issues) for $59.95 per year by God's World Publications, (no mail) 12 All Souls Crescent, Asheville, NC 28803; (828) 232-5260. Periodical postage paid at Asheville, NC, and additional mailing offices. Printed in the USA. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. © 2012 God's World Publications. All rights reserved.
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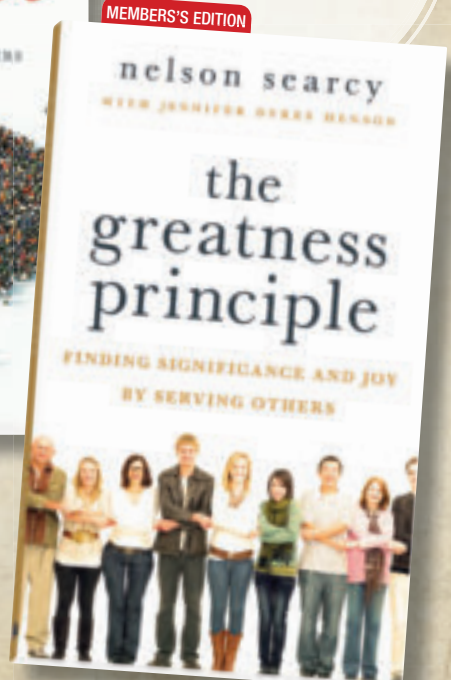
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WORLD

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WORLD is available on microfilm from Bell & Howell Information and Learning, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Indexing provided by the Christian Periodical Index.

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Joel Belz

He meant what he said

Don't let the president off the hook for "You didn't build that"

President Obama and his campaign staff would love for you to believe that his now famous "You-didn't-build-that" comment was taken brazenly out of context and made by his opponents to say something he never meant to express. Don't you believe it.

It doesn't matter whether you read the abbreviated version, which the Obama people say misrepresents his intent, or the full version of his speech on July 13 in Roanoke, Va. Either way, the meaning is inescapable. The president was arguing for a collectivist rather than an individualist view of political culture. Individual vision and enterprise, he was saying loud and clear, just don't count for as much as what we do together.

There's just enough truth wrapped into that package to make it attractive—and even a little bit compelling. It's a winsome argument in the same way that Hillary Clinton's assertion was winsome in the title of her book, *It Takes a Village*. There are, to be sure, lots of assignments in life that we simply can't achieve if we try to pull them off by ourselves. Only when we lock arms with others and join our hearts and voices with theirs can we generate the synergy and momentum necessary to win the day.

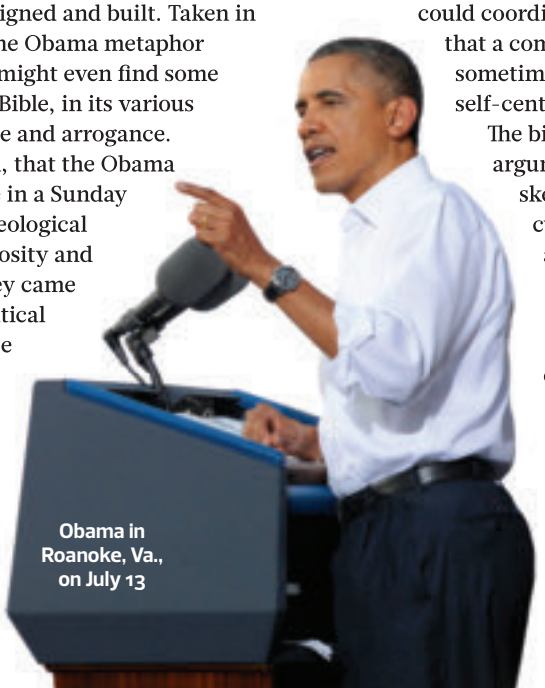
And so, our president warned, folks should never try to take credit for building enterprises of their own, pointing to the results and crowing, "Look what I built!" Posturing as something of a moral scold, Obama reminded his listeners that to get where you are, you had to use roads and bridges that someone else designed and built. Taken in that simple context, the Obama metaphor makes some sense. It might even find some justification from the Bible, in its various warnings against pride and arrogance.

Problem is, though, that the Obama warnings didn't come in a Sunday school class or as a theological treatise against pomposity and self-centeredness. They came in the middle of a political campaign for the office of president—a campaign where the very design of the political structure was up for grabs. "This is how our political bodies ought to be designed," the president was arguing—and in his optimum structural design, the individual is less important than the group.

You don't have to guess about that issue, or put words in the president's mouth. That's exactly what he was saying. "You didn't build that," he says demeaningly to the individual, or the small business owner, or the entrepreneur with a bright idea he'd like to develop. There's been a lot of discussion what the antecedent of the "that" in the president's assertion might have been—but the fact is that it doesn't matter. It might be the enterprise itself, that someone built and nurtured and brought to a high level of productivity. Or it might be the roads and bridges that everyone agrees stand for all the government services without which you would never be able to build your private enterprise. Either way, Obama suggests that you deserve no credit. The real reason your effort succeeded is that there was a beneficent government standing by that guaranteed everything would work for you.

The biggest problem with the president's argument is not that any of us in his or her right mind think we can do it all ourselves. We know that "no man is an island." We agree with the point famously made by essayist Leonard Read in his little book called *I, Pencil*—where he stresses how many varied things from all over the world have to come together in just the right way for something as simple as a pencil to be successfully manufactured. (Mr. Read notes that no human being, but only God, could coordinate such a process.) We know that a communitarian view of things is sometimes an important corrective to our self-centeredness and pride.

The big problem with the president's argument is instead its almost overt skepticism—bordering on cynicism—of a grass-roots-up approach to the building of our society, accompanied by an implied call for a coercive centralization of power and influence. And you don't have to guess if that's the shape this president thinks government should take. It's not just what he said in Roanoke. It's the whole way he's governed since he came to office in January 2009.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Obama in Roanoke, Va., on July 13

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Dispatches



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Trip to remember

Foreign trip sends signal that Romney wants a renewed commitment to three traditional allies that are on the outs with Obama

BY EDWARD LEE PITTS

IF YOU CAUGHT media coverage of Mitt Romney's late July seven-day foreign trip through three countries, then you probably read a narrative that proclaimed the tour a failure. According to the Media Research Center, 86 percent of the trip's coverage by the major television networks emphasized the perceived gaffes Romney committed while touring Great Britain, Israel and Poland.

Romney's U.S. media escort obsessed over largely trivial matters such as Romney questioning London's readiness for the Olympic games and the rebuke one of Romney's aides hurled at journalists for shouting questions at Romney while he visited Poland's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

But what the press largely overlooked are the hints the GOP candidate offered concerning the foreign policy posture he would take as president. While President Obama has created rifts by downplaying some long-standing allies of the United States, Romney's visit to three of America's most dependable partners signaled that he would reemphasize their importance in his foreign policy.

During his stop in Israel, Romney promised a harder stance against Iran's efforts to secure nuclear capabilities. "We must not delude ourselves into thinking that containment is an option," Romney said. He recognized "Israel's right to defend itself" and argued "no option should be excluded."

The comments offered reassurance to many Israelis who believe President Obama has been cool and distant towards Israel. Not only do many Israelis believe Obama has not done enough to curtail Iran's nuclear ambitions,

GOOD VISIT: Mitt and Ann Romney in Gdansk, Poland.

they also remain upset at Obama's call last year that Israel should return to its 1967 borders.

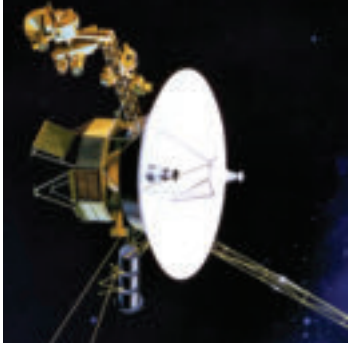
But most of the U.S. media spent their Israel coverage questioning Romney's comments about the strength of Israel's economy versus the lackluster Palestinian economy. Romney argued that cultural differences might play a part in Israel's economic success. "I am overwhelmingly impressed with the hand of providence, whenever it chooses to apply itself, and also the greatness of the human spirit, and how individuals who reach for greatness and have purpose above themselves are able to build and accomplish things that could only be done by a species created in the image of God," Romney said.

In Europe, Romney stopped at another country enduring strained relations with Obama. Polish leaders remain irate at the Obama administration's decision to cancel a planned Poland-based missile defense system.

Romney, who received a warm welcome from the Poles, revealed that he will be more willing to criticize Russia as he tries to strengthen ties with Central and Eastern European allies. Romney promised to review U.S. involvement in the START nuclear arms treaty and to challenge the Russian government over its authoritarian practices. "I can only guess what Vladimir Putin makes of the Obama administration," Romney said at a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Reno, Nev., the day before he left on his overseas trip. "He regained the Russian presidency in a corrupt election, and for that, he got a congratulatory call from the Oval Office."

The trip contained few policy specifics. But James Carafano, a foreign policy expert with the Heritage Foundation, said candidates should be reluctant to lock themselves into promises in a constantly shifting world. He said the biggest takeaway from the trip is Romney's message to the nation's allies that they would not be nudged aside in a Romney administration, as well as Romney's warning to the nearest threats of those allies.

"Romney's approach," Carafano said, "will be to state America's clear interests and then say, 'When you respect those interests then we will talk.'"



Voyagers at the limits It's now been 35 years since NASA's **Voyager** spacecrafts were launched to study the Solar System. Both probes carried golden records that carried greetings from Earth. But both Voyager II, which was launched 35 years ago on Aug. 20, and Voyager I, launched 16 days later, stand poised to escape the Solar System and enter interstellar space.

LOOKING AHEAD

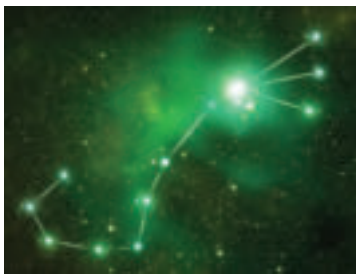


London fair The memorable summer of 2012 in London will, for practical purposes, end Aug. 26 as the popular street fair, **Notting Hill Carnival**, ends its three days of parades and celebrations of Caribbean culture. Europe's largest street fair has been overshadowed by the London Olympics. And Olympic fatigue could make it difficult for street fair organizers to secure volunteers and donations to properly entertain the expected 1 million visitors.

GOP convention ends By the time the four-day **Republican National Convention** wraps up on Aug. 30, GOP frontrunner Mitt Romney of Massachusetts should become the party's official contestant to challenge President Barack Obama in November. The convention, set in Tampa, Fla., should bring close to 50,000 to the purple state.



IAU meeting The International Astronomical Union, the group that demoted Pluto from planet to dwarf in 2006, could once again find itself back in the limelight if at its XXVIII General Assembly it removes **Scorpius** from its list of official constellations. Rumblings from the astronomy community indicate the IAU is prepared to ax Scorpius in favor of Ophiuchus at the meetings that will stretch from Aug. 20 to Aug. 31.





Goodbye penny Canada will stop production of new pennies beginning Sept. 1 in a move that should save the nation millions of dollars per year. Each Canadian **penny** costs about 1.6 cents to produce, despite having a value of just 1 cent. As the supply of pennies in Canada recedes, shopkeepers are expected to begin changing prices by rounding them to the nearest 5 cents.

VOYAGER: NASA · NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL: OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES · CONVENTION: BRIAN BLANCO/REUTERS/LANDOV · SCORPIUS: ISTOCK · CENT: ISTOCK

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Mandate begins

The federal contraceptive mandate kicked in for some religious groups Aug. 1, and a number announced they would not comply with the mandate. Wheaton College, the most prominent Protestant group to sue the federal government over the mandate, said it was subject to the mandate beginning Aug. 1 and it requested an emergency injunction against enforcement. If the federal government cracks down on Wheaton, the evangelical college could face $1.4 million in fines for not providing contraceptive coverage.

The Department of Health and Human Services may decline to enforce the mandate against such groups. Earlier this year the agency offered a one-year "safe harbor" from enforcement to religious nonprofits that object to the law and hadn't already been covering contraceptives. The safe harbor, however, doesn't apply to religious business owners, who are subject to the mandate if they have more than 50 employees.

At the end of July, just days before the mandate went into effect, one religious business owner in Colorado won a preliminary injunction against the mandate. Hercules Industries, which manufactures sheet metal, is under the ownership of a Catholic family, and the injunction only applies to that company. It was the first victory in court for mandate challengers. Two other challengers to the mandate lost initial rounds in district courts in July, with judges dismissing the cases on the grounds that the cases weren't ready for ruling.



STANDING UP: Hercules Industries leadership Jim Newland, Andy Newland, Paul Newland, and Bill Newland (from left).

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ABORTION BILL BLOCKED

The day before Arizona's ban on most late-term abortions was set to take effect on Aug. 2, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the measure.

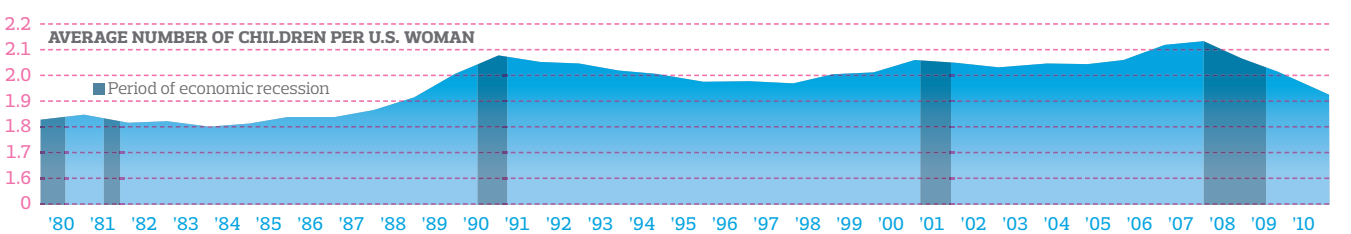
The Arizona legislature passed the law in April that bars doctors from performing abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases of a severe medical emergency for the mother. Penalties for physicians violating the ban include misdemeanor criminal charges and possible revocation of their medical licenses.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Reproductive Rights challenged the law in July. A U.S. district judge ruled on July 30 that the law was permissible, and said the state had provided "substantial and well documented evidence" that an unborn child can feel pain by 20 weeks of development. The San Francisco–based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals blocked that ruling two days later. But the battle isn't over: Both sides will present briefs to the court by mid-October, and wait for a new hearing.

BIRTH RECESSION

The number of babies born to the average U.S. woman over her lifetime could slide to its lowest level since the 1980s this year, likely due to the recession. Demographic Intelligence, a Virginia-based firm that forecasts birth rates for companies that make baby products, predicts a fertility rate of 1.87 for 2012. That's a 12 percent decline from 2007, when the rate was 2.12, which is about replacement level for a nation. The drop in births has been highest for teens and women under 25.

Sam Sturgeon, president of Demographic Intelligence, said the numbers show the sour economy is making young couples uncertain about having kids. The birth rate in the United States also declined sharply during the Great Depression and the 1970s oil crisis. Since 2009, U.S. population growth has been slower than at any time since the Depression.



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NIGHTMARE IN CHINA

Rural woman becomes a bloody victim of nation's anti-child crusade **BY ANGELA LU**

As the State Department raised concerns with China last month about its human-rights abuses—including the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities, forced abortions, and censorship—for many in China it is an everyday reality.

Zhong Xuexiang, 39, of Guangzhou, China, is currently in the hospital with deteriorating health after a botched forced sterilization earlier this year. Government officials have ignored her requests for help, according to Zhong's cousin, who spoke to me from China.

Her case comes as the latest in a string of publicized cases revealing abuses under the one-child policy. Forced sterilizations are common in certain parts of China, as government officials are required to keep the number of births low. But Zhong's cousin said he had never heard of abuse like this.

In February, a group of more than 10 government officials, including the party secretary of Jiaolin Village, forcibly took Zhong to the local family-planning office at 5 a.m. Family-planning officials had been threatening to sterilize Zhong after she gave birth to her seventh child five years ago. (Two of her children are disabled.) But in previous examinations, the doctors found that Zhong's poor health made the operation extremely risky.

Still, the officials called in a doctor to sterilize the woman. The doctor again advised against sterilization, but the officials forced the doctor to perform the procedure. The doctors ended up accidentally cutting into her large intestines.

The officials then called for an ambulance to take her to a nearby hospital. But instead of treating it as an emergency, hours passed before medical personnel took Zhong into the operation room, at which time she was vomiting blood and had abdominal swelling. After the surgery the doctors told her that her situation had been critical and she was lucky to be alive.



TAKEN: Cell phone image of officials detaining Zhong before forcibly sterilizing her.

Since then, Zhong's health has been failing, and she often goes in and out of hospitals. The family has tried contacting city officials for medical records (without which they have no legal proof of the abuse suffered by Zhong) and reimbursement for her medical bills, but the government has been unresponsive.

"Every time we call the city officials, they say we need to wait for the leader's approval, and now we don't know what to do," Zhong's cousin said in Chinese. "They've pushed it off for five months now." As a result, the government has only given her family 50 RMB ($7.84) for all their troubles.

Zhong's health condition worsened in June, and she is currently back in the hospital. She was admitted after she started coughing blood and could not walk. The government paid the hospital 3,000 RMB ($470.16) for the hospital stay, and her husband has had to borrow more money to pay for her care.

For now, Zhong can walk a little, but not far. She often feels dizzy and her sight goes dark. "She's not feeling very well, she has depression and anxiety. ... She worries a lot. She needs to take medicine for a long time, and will probably never be cured," her cousin said.

The family feels helpless—the government does nothing, TV stations won't report their situation, and they do not have money for a lawyer. Even if they could afford one, they do not know what a lawyer can do against the government.

"Her husband just wants justice and fairness," Zhong's cousin said. "The family is already struggling with children that need treatment, and adding on their mother's illness, they are going to have a breakdown."

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Crumbling from within

Opposition groups believe the end of Assad is near **BY MINDY BELZ**

When Syrian Prime Minister **Riad Hijab** announced his defection on Aug. 6, White House spokesman Jay Carney called it another sign "the Assad regime is crumbling from within." To date scores of diplomats and high-ranking military leaders have publicly abandoned their posts with the government in Syria. (The government claims it has recalled up to half its diplomatic corps—about 200 out of 400 officers—to stem the tide of inner revolt, but that could reflect the number of defections.)

Hijab, as the highest-level political figure to switch sides, is certain to encourage opposition leaders. "I announce today my defection from the killing and terrorist regime and I announce that I have joined the ranks of the freedom and dignity revolution," Hijab said in a statement read in his name by a spokesman and broadcast on Al Jazeera television. A Jordanian official said Hijab took refuge in Jordan.

"This looks like it might become a major turning point," said George Stifo, spokesman for Syrian Christians for Democracy, a pro-rebellion group. He hopes inner turmoil could lead to the regime losing the city of Aleppo, which he believes would cause President Assad to lose the entire country.

But by Aug. 7, the "crumbling from within" had not materialized, as Syrian forces seem determined to battle back every gain made by rebel groups in a conflict that began in March 2011. Already Assad's forces have retaken key parts of Damascus, the capital, once controlled by rebels. And the regime appears determined to escalate its use of force—bringing in helicopter gunships and missiles even over residential areas.

That's leading to an escalation of the humanitarian crisis as Syrians flee the country. Stifo told me his group is assisting up to 30,000 displaced residents from the largely Christian city of Homs, as well as refugees who have escaped to Turkey, where over 45,000 Syrians have registered as refugees. Tent camps for escaping Syrians also have sprung up at the borders with Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. No one knows when it will be safe enough to return home.



Bombed church in Nigeria

Ignored threats

When the State Department issued its annual International Religious Freedom Report on July 30, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the catalog of religious persecution "sends a signal to the worst offenders that the world is watching." But some religious freedom advocates wondered: Are we watching all of the worst offenders?

The report includes a list of countries of particular concern—nations that the State Department considers especially egregious offenders of religious freedom. But the list has remained the same since 2009: Burma, North Korea, Eritrea, Iran, China, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan.

Religious freedom advocates affirm that list, but call for additions, including places like Egypt, where thousands of Christians have fled the threat of religious oppression since last year. Meanwhile, Christians in Nigeria face weekly death threats: Since 2009, the Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram has killed hundreds of Christians across northern Nigeria—often while they gather for worship.

OUT OF POWER

The largest blackout in global history left 670 million people in India in the dark July 31, leading to fears that India's infrastructure cannot support its growing economy. A day earlier, another blackout wiped out power to 300 million in Northern India.

While officials could not name a cause for the outage, many blame the effects of a poor monsoon season on an already inadequate power system. With less rainfall, farmers pump more water out of wells, thereby overdrawing power from the grid. The lack of rainfall also cut the amount of power India's hydroelectric dams can produce. Others also point to India's policy of heavily subsidizing electricity—which factories often take advantage of—leaving the grid overburdened.

Despite India's growing economy, 300 million Indians live without access to electricity.



HIJAB: LOUAI BESHARA/AFP/GETTYIMAGES · CHURCH: SUNDAY AGHAEZE/AP · INDIA: KEVIN FRAYER/AP

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Good deeds punished

Texas sociologist gets caught in an academic witch hunt **BY WARREN COLE SMITH**

An important component of pro-homosexual propaganda is the notion that children raised by homosexuals turn out as well as children raised by heterosexuals—but University of Texas at Austin (UT) professor **Mark Regnerus** undercut that notion with a study published in June in the journal *Social Science Research*. (See "Less than ideal," June 30.)

Regnerus used one of the largest data sets ever amassed for such a study. He found that children raised by homosexual parents have had more problems than children raised by married heterosexual parents in virtually every one of more than 40 categories examined. When the children grow up, they have problems with impulse control, depression, and thoughts of suicide. They are more likely to need mental health therapy and identify as homosexual themselves. Regnerus concluded, "The empirical claim that no notable differences exist must go."



The study received nationwide media attention, and an immediate backlash from pro-homosexual quarters. Activist blogger Scott Rose complained in a June 21 letter to UT President Bill Powers that Regnerus' study made "gay people look bad, through means plainly fraudulent and defamatory." He also said the Witherspoon Institute and the Bradley Foundation, which provided $750,000 to fund the study, are "anti-gay political organization[s]."

But Regnerus has defenders in the academic community. Byron Johnson, co-director of Baylor's Institute for Studies of Religion, decried the "witch hunt" and said, "Typically, when [academics] disagree with research, we do our own." Notre Dame sociologist Christian Smith argued in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "Whoever said inquisitions and witch hunts were things of the past? A big one is going on now. ... In today's political climate, and particularly in the discipline of sociology—dominated as it is by a progressive orthodoxy—what Regnerus did is unacceptable. It makes him a heretic, a traitor—and so he must be thrown under the bus."

Regnerus has a bus ticket—tenure—so he cannot readily be thrown under. Bob Woodberry, an untenured Christian professor also in the UT sociology department, did not have that protection, and last month he moved to Singapore: See p. 76.

Banner day

Drivers in Atlanta, Ga., discovered an unusual warning when they tuned into local traffic reports on Aug. 1: Watch for delays near Chick-fil-A restaurants.

That's because throngs of customers flooded Chick-fil-A restaurants in Atlanta (where the restaurant chain is headquartered) and around the country for what former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee dubbed "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day."

The event came after Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy faced a firestorm of criticism for expressing support for the biblical definition of marriage. Boston mayor Thomas Menino said the restaurant wasn't welcome in his city. Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel said, "Chick-fil-A's values aren't Chicago's values." And Washington, D.C., mayor Vincent Gray called the restaurant's product "hate chicken."

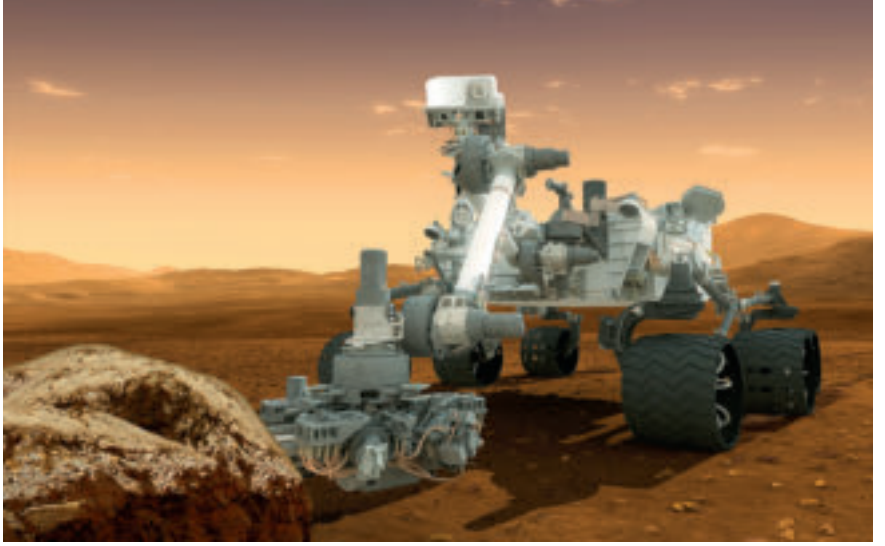
Huckabee and others responded by defending Cathy's right to free speech and called on customers to support the restaurant particularly on Aug. 1. Restaurant owners around the country reported traffic snarls and record sales.



On a Facebook page, Huckabee explained the effort: "Too often, those on the left make corporate statements to show support for same-sex marriage, abortion, or profanity, but if Christians affirm traditional values, we're considered homophobic, fundamentalists, hate-mongers, and intolerant."

Indeed, on July 27, Jeff Bezos—founder and CEO of Amazon.com—made an announcement that attracted far less attention: He and his wife donated $2.5 million to support same-sex marriage in Washington state.

REGNERUS: HANDOUT · CHICK-FIL-A: GLENN BAESKE/THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES/AP



Curious mission

After an eight-month spaceflight and a difficult, nail-biting landing maneuver, NASA's $2.5 billion ***Curiosity*** rover touched down on Mars a little after 1 a.m. (Eastern time) on Aug. 6. The safe landing seemed to indicate American space ingenuity still thrives: NASA engineers used a heat shield, a 51-foot-wide parachute, and eight rocket thrusters to slow the *Curiosity* spacecraft's 13,000 mph descent through the Martian atmosphere to a hovering standstill, from which the automobile-sized rover was lowered to the planet's surface using nylon cables.

Curiosity is equipped with a drill, a laser strong enough to vaporize stone, instruments for analyzing the chemical makeup of Martian rocks, and 17 cameras. During the plutonium-powered rover's two-year mission, it will explore sediment layers in 3-mile-high Mount Sharp and search for carbon, oxygen, phosphorous, sulfur, and nitrogen—elements NASA scientists think could have allowed Mars to host life in the past.

Winners' fee

Members of the House and Senate have filed bills aimed at exempting Olympic athletes from paying taxes on their medals and prize money. Reps. Mary Bono Mack, R-Calif., and G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., filed the House measure, saying in a joint statement that "only the U.S. tax code can turn the 'thrill of victory' into the agony of victory." Reps. Aaron Schock, R-Ill., and Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., filed similar bills.

The United States Olympic Committee pays athletes for each gold ($25,000), silver ($15,000), and bronze ($10,000) medal they win, and the Internal Revenue Service taxes those earnings at 35 percent. That means 17-year-old swimmer **Missy Franklin**—who won four golds and a bronze—will have a $38,500 tax bill when she gets home. Swimmer Michael Phelps won four golds and two silvers, giving him a record 22 lifetime Olympic medals. His tax bill for the London games: $45,500.

While it is unclear whether the idea of exempting Olympic medal winnings from taxes will have enough momentum to become law after the London games end, it was quickly endorsed by Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. The exemption would be retroactive to Dec. 31, 2011, to cover this year's Olympians.





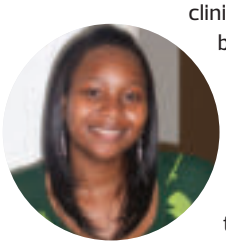
CRUZ TO VICTORY

Tea Party–backed **Ted Cruz** upset the Texas political establishment with a convincing win July 31 over Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst in the state's GOP primary runoff for an open U.S. Senate seat. The Tea Party already has enjoyed victories this year in Senate primaries in Indiana and Nebraska. But the come-from-behind underdog win in super-sized Texas, with its powerfully entrenched state Republican Party, provides an even greater boost for the Tea Party in its nationwide power struggle with traditional Republicans.

"Tonight is a victory for the grassroots," Cruz said at his victory rally. "This is how elections are supposed to be decided, by we the people." Dewhurst had the support of Texas Gov. Rick Perry while high-profile Tea Party figures like Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., and Sarah Palin campaigned for Cruz. A former Texas solicitor general who memorized the Constitution as a high-school student, Cruz would become the first Hispanic to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate. Texas has not elected a Democrat to statewide office since 1994.

CURIOSITY: NASA/JPL-CALTECH/REX FEATURES/AP · CRUZ: JOHNNY HANSON/HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP · FRANKLIN: PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES

BOTCHED Hospital records allegedly reveal that **Tonya Reaves**, 24, who died after a second trimester abortion at a Chicago Planned Parenthood clinic on July 20, bled for five hours before clinic personnel summoned an ambulance that delivered her to Northwestern Memorial Hospital. There doctors operated twice to repair a perforation and "an uncontrolled bleed" before pronouncing her dead at 11:20 p.m., 12 hours after the abortion.





Kim Jong Un with wife Ri Sol Ju



KILLED Ohio Mennonite businessman **Al Geiser**, 65, was shot and killed July 23 in rural Afghanistan. Two Afghan co-workers also were killed, and the Taliban claimed responsibility for their deaths in Parwan Province. Geiser, who has served in Afghanistan for more than a decade, was working on a hydroelectric project under International Assistance Mission (IAM), an organization which had 10 aid workers killed in 2010 by Taliban-affiliated gunmen in Badakhshan Province. In 2008 Geiser himself was kidnapped by an armed group and held 56 days.

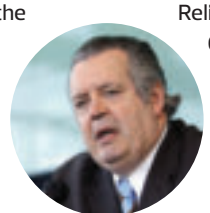
FREED Nearly a week after five armed terrorists kidnapped Ponnachan George from a Bible school campus in Assam, India, the gunmen freed the Gospel for Asia (GFA) pastor on July 30. GFA founder K.P. Yohannan said the terrorists let George go after telling him repeatedly they would kill him, and thinking they could force a ransom payment. George, who was hospitalized after the ordeal, oversees 200 churches, 26 Bridge of Hope centers that educate children, three radio broadcasts, and a Bible college in northeastern India.

WED North Korean leader Kim Jong Un married Ri Sol Ju, state media reported July 25. She made her first public appearance alongside the communist leader on July 5.

FIRED The board of deacons at First Baptist Church of Hammond, Ind., dismissed senior pastor **Jack Schaap** on July 31 after Schaap confessed to an improper relationship with a 16-year-old girl, now 17. The church, which has 15,000 weekly attendees, invited the Christian Law Association to investigate misconduct under Schaap's 11-year leadership. County and local FBI authorities also are investigating: Indiana's age of consent is 16, but a source said Schaap, 54, may have met with the girl in Michigan and Illinois, where the relationship could be illegal. Schaap is the son-in-law of the late Jack Hyles, whose fundamentalist preaching grew First Baptist into a megachurch boasting the "nation's largest Sunday school."



RESIGNING **Richard Land**, 65, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, announced July 31 he will retire from the post in 2013. Land, who also served until last year on the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom, lost his weekend radio program earlier this year over controversial statements he made concerning the Trayvon Martin case and over accusations of plagiarism. His retirement falls 25 years after his start in 1988.

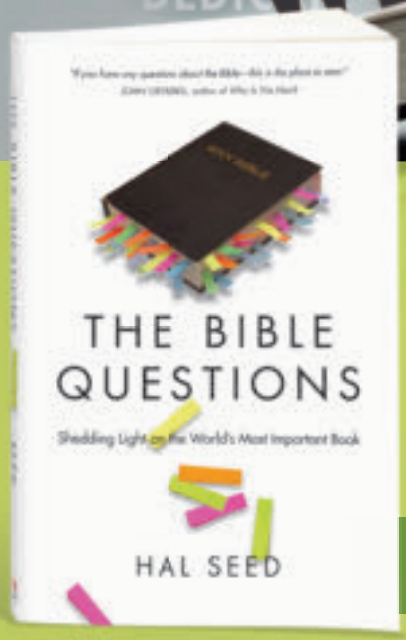


DIED Edward John "Buddy" Robeson, 91, a World War II veteran, businessman, and missionary, died Aug. 5. Robeson was one of the founding members of the Presbyterian Church in America, served as a church elder for 61 years, and helped to establish the early work of Colorado-based Summit Ministries.

REAVES: HANDOUT · GEISER: HANDOUT · SCHAAP: KYLE TELECHAN/THE TIMES/AP · LAND: ED REINKE/AP · RI SOL JU: KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY/AP



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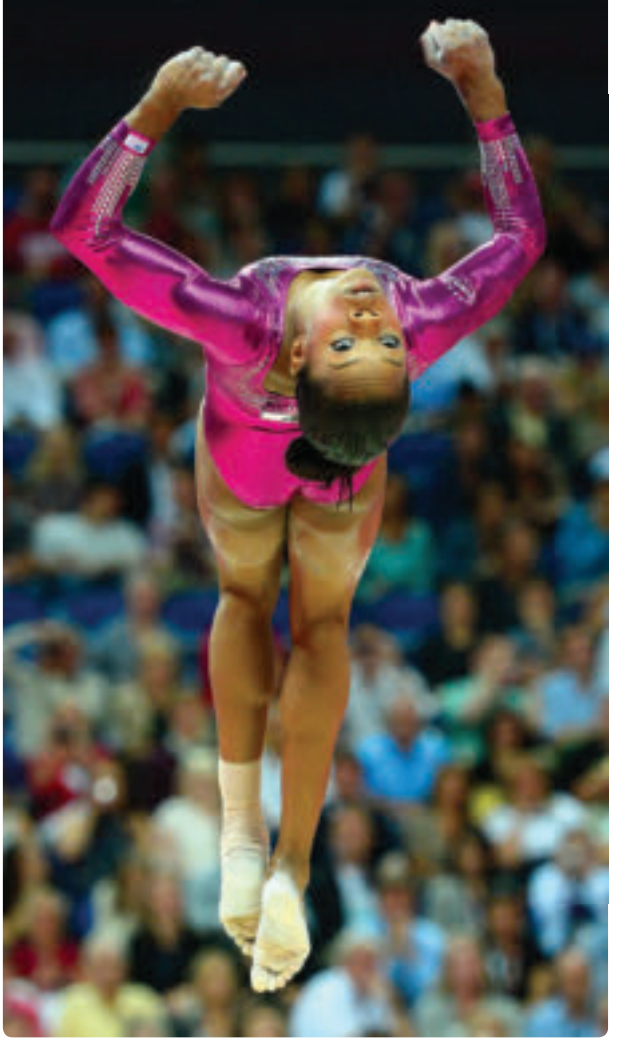


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‘Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me.’

American gymnast **GABRIELLE DOUGLAS** in her first tweet after winning the all-around gold medal at the London Olympics.





‘Your dad’s a hero.’

FBI AGENTS speaking to **Armadeep Singh Kaleka**, whose father was Sikh Temple of Wisconsin president Satwant Singh Kaleka. The elder Kaleka fought gunman Wade Michael Page with a butter knife before taking two fatal shots to the leg. Page killed six people at the temple on Aug. 5.

‘The greatest atrocity in the United States today.’

U.S. Rep. **TRENT FRANKS**, R-Ariz., on “the gruesome late-term abortion of unborn children who can feel pain.” Franks’ bill banning late-term abortions in the District of Columbia on July 31 failed to get the two-thirds majority needed to pass.

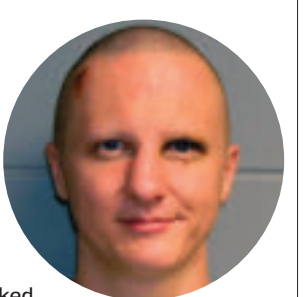




‘He is not someone who deserves to be spared the rigors of a reckoning.’

DAVID GREENBERG, in the online liberal magazine *Slate*, on leftist writer **Gore Vidal**, who died on July 31 and received glowing obituaries in the media. Describing Vidal as “a man whose worldview was fundamentally racist and elitist,” Greenberg also pointed out Vidal’s embrace of conspiracy theories ranging from Pearl Harbor to 9/11 and his embrace of domestic terrorist Timothy McVeigh.

‘I’m never gonna get out.’



A comment by **JARED LOUGHNER**, reportedly during a therapy session when asked what he would do if he ever left prison. Loughner on Aug. 7 pleaded guilty to 19 counts in relation to the killing of six people and the wounding of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords last year in Arizona.

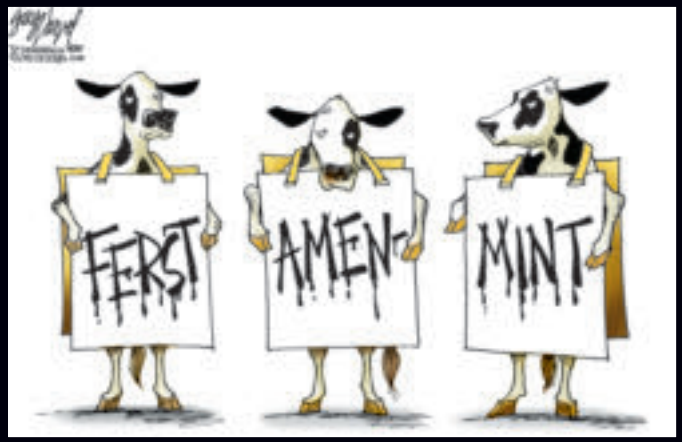
DOUGLAS: EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES · KALEKA: MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL/AP · FRANKS: ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP · VIDAL: JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES · SOLYNDRA: PAUL SAKUMA/AP · CUTTER: PETE SOUZA/WHITE HOUSE


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I'LL BE THERE IN 2016.


POSTAL SERVICE DEFAULTS
NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO USE THOSE "FOREVER" STAMPS THEY SOLD US...


FERST
AMEN-
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GRAY SHADOW

A general store in Rhode Island that dates back to pre-Constitution days closed its doors on Aug. 5 after 224 years in business. College student Jonah Waite, 21, inherited **Gray's Store** in Adamsville, R.I., earlier this year after his father died. The general store, believed to be the oldest, continuously running store of its kind in the nation, first opened for business in 1788—a year before the Constitution was to take effect—and has been in the Waite family for seven generations. According to Waite, a nearby grocery store that siphons business away and his studies at the University of Hartford in Connecticut made operating Gray's Store impractical. "Obviously, I understand the historical aspect of it," Waite said, "and I would really love to keep it the way it is, but it doesn't seem to me that that's the most feasible option."

WAY PAST DUE

The U.S. national debt stands at about $16 trillion. Some say the German capital of Berlin owes about six times that much—to one tiny German town. Back in the 16th century, the small town of Mittenwalde in what is today eastern Germany loaned 400 Rhenish guilders, a popular currency of the time, to Berlin to help the growing town meet its financial needs. According to the terms of the loan, Germany would someday pay back the **400 guilder note** with a 6 percent interest rate tacked on. But when authorities in Berlin failed to repay the note in a timely fashion, the debt slipped from the minds of Mittenwalde's inhabitants, only to be found hundreds of years later by a town clerk. Today, with the debt still collecting interest and with a Rhenish guilder still fetching .88 euros, the German capital owes the town of fewer than 9,000 residents more than $106 trillion. And just as they have in the decades since the note was uncovered, Berlin officials recently disavowed the debt.

Historian Vera Schmidt and Mittenwalde Mayor Uwe Pfeiffer





MAGNETIC INFRACTION

Fans of the rare earth magnets known as **Buckyballs** have two groups to blame for ruining their fun: the kids who kept swallowing the super-magnetic toys and the safety-cop agency that announced it will move to ban sales. The Consumer Product Safety Commission issued its first sale-stop order in 11 years when it filed a lawsuit to ban the sale of the popular toy known as Buckyballs on July 25, saying the toys "pose a substantial risk of injury to the public." In the suit, the CPSC cited about 20 cases in which children swallowed Buckyballs and required surgery after the BB-sized magnets stuck together in the coils of their intestines. Manufacturer Maxfield & Oberton responded to the CPSC suit by noting that its magnetic products are exclusively marketed to adults.

GREEN FEE

Never mind drought conditions and local watering restrictions, a Colorado homeowners association just wants green lawns. A Denver homeowner learned this the hard way when her HOA, Green Valley Ranch, fined her $200 for brown spots in her lawn. Lori Wortham said she's doing the best she can do with her lawn considering Colorado's Stage 1 drought and watering restrictions in the city. Wortham said she even attempted to reseed and hand water the area. The homeowners association said it stands by the fine, saying it had given Wortham nearly a year to fix the problem.



STORE: MARY MURPHY/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/AP · MITTENWALDE: ADAM BERRY/GETTY IMAGES · BUCKYBALLS: CPSC/AP · ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE

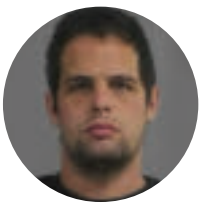
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RESCUE MISSION

A Niantic, Conn., man has made sure that one elderly lobster won't find itself in a boiling pot of water—at least for now. When **Don MacKenzie** heard a restaurant in the nearby town of Waterford, Conn., had acquired a **17-pound lobster** estimated to be about 80 years old, he set about to free the lobster with his pocketbook. "Let's just say that it's the most expensive lobster I never ate," MacKenzie told *The Day* of Connecticut. Instead of soaking the critter in butter, MacKenzie released the behemoth into an undisclosed part of Long Island Sound on July 24.

ISSUE RESOLVED



It's not so much *that* he stole—it's *what* he stole. University of Louisville Police in Kentucky have charged **Terry J. Davis** with misdemeanor shoplifting after they say officers caught him stealing a textbook on ethics from an on-campus library on July 25 and attempting to fence the text at a local bookstore. The book's full title: *Resolving Ethical Issues*.



JUST SAY NO

For the first time in a dozen years, South Koreans living near the Demilitarized Zone separating the free South from the Communist North saw enemy ordnance falling from the skies. But the North Koreans weren't dropping bombs, they were dropping propaganda leaflets. According to South Korean officials, more than 15,000 leaflets urging the free population of the South to defect across the DMZ were floated across the border by balloon between July 21 and July 24 and then dropped on villages nearby. South Korean officials say they expect the propaganda to be ineffectual.

TRAFFIC STOP

Good thing pilot Ken Gheysar is cool at crunch time. Otherwise he may have been in a lot more trouble when his single-engine **1968 Piper** ran out of gas while flying over Escondido, Calif., just after midnight on July 22. Unable to make it to a proper runway, Gheysar improvised. He found a gap in the vehicle traffic and landed the Piper on the southbound lanes of Interstate 15, saving his own life and those of his passengers, which included his wife and two cousins. Gheysar even managed to taxi the aircraft to the far right shoulder to avoid blocking the freeway, hoping to simply get a refill of fuel and take off again. But the departure plan was foiled by the driver of a Dodge Dakota pickup that clipped the plane's wing while passing by. Later that day, highway authorities towed the Piper to a lot for repairs.





SPOT REMOVER

It only took the mayor of a small Indiana town one time to learn after he was cited for parking in a police-only space outside of the Logansport, Ind., city hall. But rather than find a new parking space, Logansport Mayor Ted Franklin simply declared the spot to be his own. A rift between Franklin and his police department began months ago when Franklin refused to hire the former police chief's son for a position on the force. Tensions boiled over on July 27 when the mayor found a $20 parking ticket on his yellow Corvette that had been parked in a police parking spot outside the city building. Franklin paid the fine the next Monday, but also had a sign placed next to the parking spot that read, "Mayor Parking Only."

LOBSTER: ALEX NUNES, THE DAY/AP . DAVIS: LOUISVILLE METRO CORRECTIONS . ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE . AIRPLANE: JOHN GIBBINS/AP . PARKING: HANDOUT



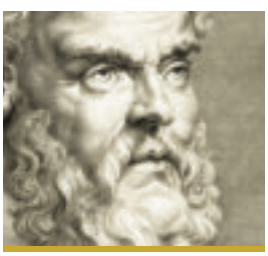
Janie B. Cheaney

Philosophical differences

Philosophy association approves a highly discriminatory nondiscrimination policy

Are you a Christian philosopher looking for gainful employment? If so, be advised that *Jobs For Philosophers*, the go-to publication of the American Philosophical Association (APA) won't supply you with a full range of options. That's because the APA has outlawed advertisements from institutions that don't comply with the association's nondiscrimination policy approved in 2009.

The statement reads thus: "The American Philosophical Association rejects as unethical all forms of discrimination based on race, color, religion, political convictions, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identification or age ... [in all] professional activities in which APA members characteristically participate. This includes both discrimination on the basis of status and discrimination on the basis of conduct integrally connected to that status." The statement, which I don't have room to quote in full, goes on to define what "integrally connected" means—for example, "sexual conduct expressive of a sexual orientation."



If open inquiry is throttled in its own house, Socratic discussion will have no place to go.

A sharp-eyed reader will grasp both the central issue and the embedded fallacy. The issue: An institution (such as a Christian college) that refuses hiring on the basis of homosexual practice is thereby discriminatory. The fallacy: If a non-discrimination policy includes religion in its list of protected categories, then any institution *religiously* opposed to hiring a practicing homosexual is itself discriminated against when its ads are rejected.

The logical disconnect was noted, around virtual philosophical water coolers throughout academia, when the statement was proposed. A protest petition attracted luminaries like Alvin Plantinga, Robert George, and Roger Scruton, but totaled only 449 signatures (many of them bogus), as opposed to 1,486 on the pro-APA petition. In the spring of 2009 the policy went into effect. Christian institutions were allowed to advertise in APA publications, but if they refused to agree to the stronger anti-discrimination language they were flagged as "non-compliant"—placed on the naughty list, according to John Mark Reynolds of Houston Baptist University. The non-compliant status turned out to be a temporary measure; last May, with a vote of three to one, the Association agreed to ban advertisements from the naughty institutions outright.

Is this internal housekeeping, or a shot across the bow of Christian philosophy? Two years ago, during the Alvin Plantinga retirement conference at Notre Dame, the discipline Plantinga had done so much to revive was celebrated for its health and vigor. Nicholas Wolterstorff of Yale remains optimistic: "In general, I would say that the APA is considerably more open now to Christianity than it was when I entered the guild in the late 1950s." He acknowledges strong feelings about "discrimination," but he doesn't see a fatwa developing against Christians. Associate professor Alexander Pruss of Baylor cautions, "I think one needs to distinguish between academic discourse and academic politics, though of course the distinction is sometimes blurred. Christian philosophers are participants in all major areas of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology and ethics."

John Mark Reynolds acknowledges the participation by Christian professors of long standing, "but it would not be worth your life to be 'out of the closet' as a traditionalist during your program or before tenure." That is, a young academic aiming for tenure had better not teach, write, or act as though religion had anything to say about sexual ethics, much less mount a principled challenge to current mores.

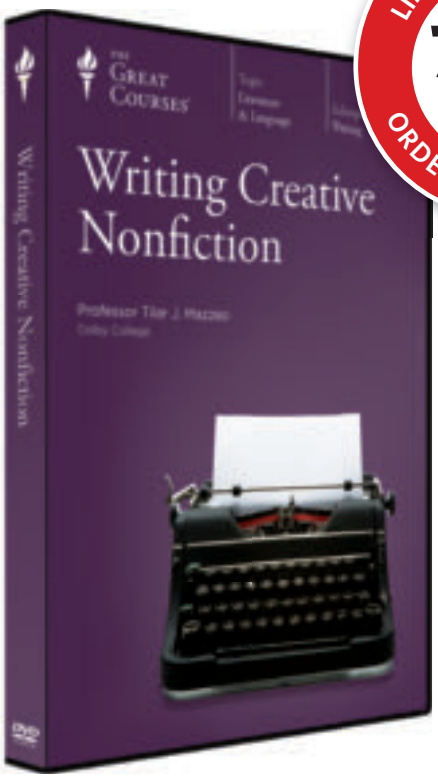
Fifty years ago, no philosopher would have questioned that opposition to homosexual activity is "integrally related" to the status of being a Christian. The relationship between professed belief and practical application (or how one lives out what one claims to be) is a ripe field for the kind of discussions we don't have much anymore—at least not in the marketplace. A Socrates who pares careless assumptions down to the bone would probably be more welcome on our streets today than he was in Athens, but open inquiry about ultimate questions is what philosophy is all about. If open inquiry is throttled in its own house, Socratic discussion will have no place to go.

Christian philosophy may be alive and well, but perhaps it had better watch its back.

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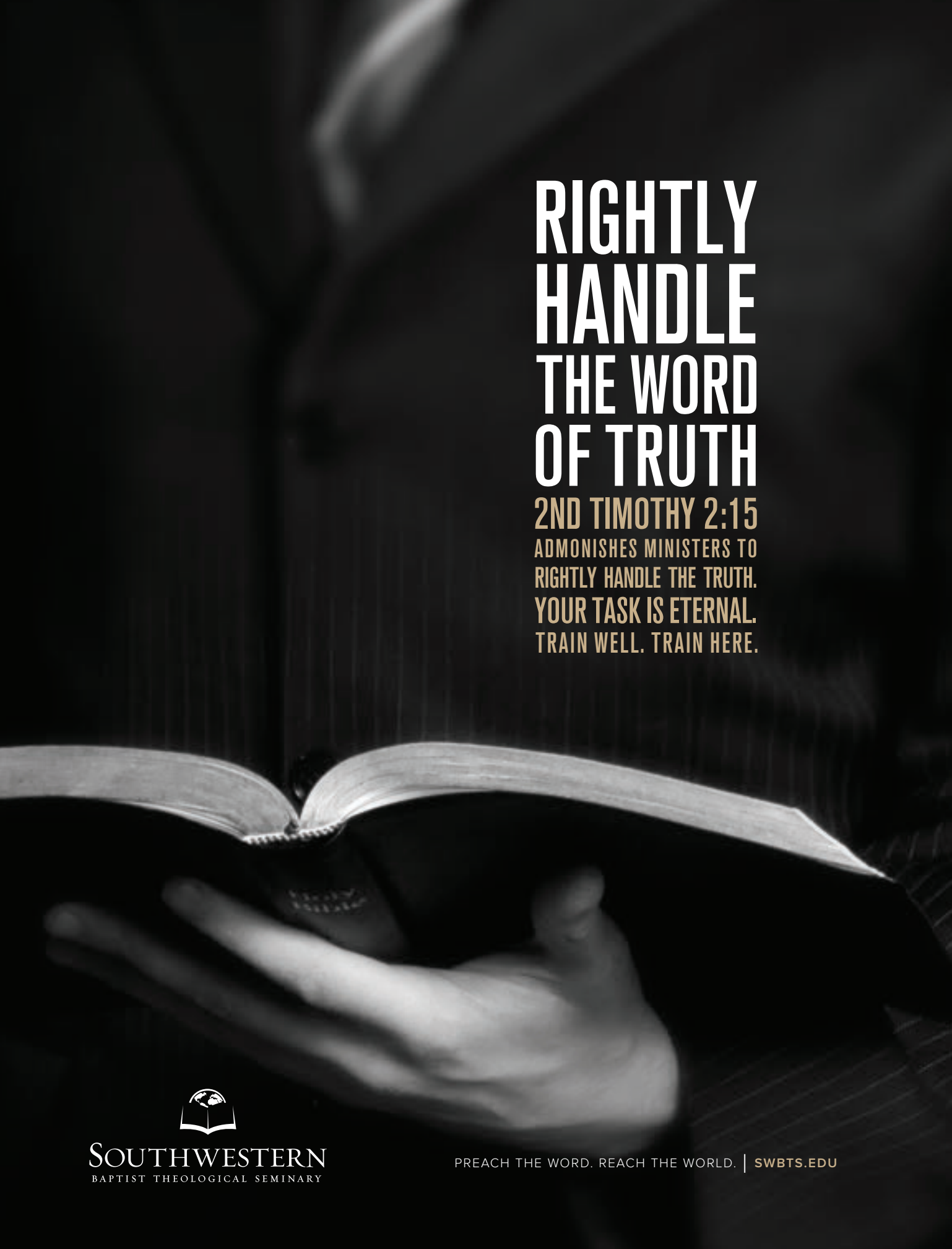
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Reviews



DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

Magical child

MOVIE: *The Odd Life of Timothy Green* has many hilarious moments but a garbled message about parents and children

BY ALICIA M. COHN

The Odd Life of Timothy Green has all the moments of laughter and tears that should add up to a winning family movie. But its message is so garbled, the unanswered questions mar the experience even as the credits roll.

Walt Disney is marketing this as a family movie, since it has almost no objectionable content. (The film is rated PG for mild thematic elements and brief language.) Writer and director Peter Hedges told WORLD he thinks families can enjoy it together and talk about it later, but since the movie is more about parenting than magical adventures, he acknowledged it's unlikely to hold the attention of younger viewers.

Hedges, who often makes films focused on the unique dysfunction of families, here tells a story of a couple named Jim and Cindy Green (Joel Edgerton and Jennifer Garner) who desperately want to start a family but cannot have a child.

So they write down their dreams of the child they will never create and bury them in a box in the garden. It is an act of grief, not seed sown in faith.

And yet from that seed they harvest a mysterious 10-year-old boy (played by the incredibly expressive **CJ Adams**). He appears in the middle of the night, covered in dirt, calling them mom and dad and declaring his name is Timothy. "When you plant something, it's such a hopeful act," Hedges said of Timothy's garden origins. "Making anything is an act of faith."

The movie seeks to mirror that "magic" with a subplot about a pencil factory closing, taking with it the tiny Pennsylvania town's sole industry. While Timothy completely revolutionizes the Greens—as children tend to do—he also directly changes the entire community.

But the connection between Timothy and the town's economy, a thin metaphor for believing in outside-the-box "possibilities," doesn't quite work. Instead, the movie's most concrete statement is that parents can pour all their hopes and dreams into a child, but in the end the result will surprise them.

"The concept was that he manifests the qualities they imagined, but those qualities don't necessarily lead to the results that they imagine," Hedges explained. "What happens if you get the kid of your dreams? You would learn that your kids aren't going to heal your holes, the wounds in your heart, that you can't use your kid to fix your childhood. That's not their job."

The movie does not take itself too seriously in explaining Timothy. There are plenty of earned, hilarious moments as the Greens attempt to integrate their new "son" into their lives, but the plot seems an afterthought to the existence of this inexplicable boy grown in a garden.

In fact, the movie takes a circular journey, as narrated by the Greens during an adoption agency interview. They explain they want a child because of their experience with Timothy, yet their story about Timothy begins with their intense desire for a child.

The movie is much more about how Jim and Cindy Green struggle to step into their roles as parents than about Timothy's "odd life." Along the way, they struggle with how involved they should be in Timothy's friendship with an older girl, how to encourage him in sports, and whether they should cover up his "differences" (such as the leaves growing out of his legs).

"The thing most important to me was that they not be idealized, that they be human," Hedges said of the Greens. "They commit parental crimes; most of them are misdemeanors, but a few felonies along the way."

The Greens confess toward the end that they expect to continue making mistakes as parents, just "different mistakes." The statement has a ring of truth to it that the rest of the movie does not, since in Timothy the Greens were dealing with an entirely self-contained child, seemingly immune to fear or baggage and untouched by whether or not they were good parents. Timothy taught the Greens a lesson, more than they taught him.


Hedges



MOVIE

Hope Springs

BY MEGAN BASHAM

THE FIRST THING TO KNOW about *Hope Springs* is that it is not, despite its published rating, a PG-13 movie. Though no indecent body parts are shown and only a few profanities are used, its subject matter of an older, married couple struggling to overcome their sexual inertia makes for plenty of material that would qualify as R in a sane world. However, with the exception of two scenes that could have gotten their points across without being so explicit, this isn't always a bad thing.

Kay (**Meryl Streep**) and Arnold (Tommy Lee Jones) have been married for 31 years, but haven't been physically intimate for the last five. Desperate to salvage their marriage, Kay books an intensive therapy retreat in Maine. At first, Arnold agrees to go only on the most grudging terms. When not railing about what a charlatan their therapist (Steve Carell) is, he's complaining about every dime the trip is costing them.

Gradually though, thanks to a staggeringly deft performance by Jones, we see that Arnold's stony waters run very, very deep and that husband and wife both contributed bricks to the wall that now separates them. To break it down, they each have to reach out to their partner in ways that speak most to the other's sense of sexual identity. For Kay, that means showing her husband she wants him; for Arnold, it means showing his wife that he loves her. The general theme coloring all their clumsy, shocking, and occasionally hilarious attempts to reignite the flame is that their tarnished union is a treasure worth saving.

This isn't to say that every bit of "homework" the therapist assigns the couple conforms to biblical principle (he suggests Kay and Arnold attempt a sex act in a public place, though they don't go through with it). But the heart of the movie is about sacrificing pride and risking embarrassment in order serve a spouse in love. The reward is the joy of one of God's greatest gifts in the only context in which mankind can fully and without shame enjoy it—marriage.

HOPE SPRINGS: COLUMBIA PICTURES · HEDGES: SCOTT KIRKLAND/PICTUREGROUP/AP

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DOCUMENTARY

Searching for Sugarman

BY EMILY WHITTEN



DESPITE OPENING in only 28 cities the first weekend of August, *Searching for Sugarman*, an indie film by Swedish director Malik Bendjelloul, quietly sneaked into the No. 7 spot at the American box office. And for good reason: Bendjelloul rightly describes the film as "like a fairytale, almost, like Cinderella or something."

Imagine a singer-songwriter comparable to early Bob Dylan—piercing lyrics and anti-establishment politics—with one difference: This artist never made good. Now imagine that halfway around the world, say in South Africa, a few kids heard his music and liked it. A lot. And from a few bootleg copies, the artist became a sensation bigger than Elvis or the Rolling Stones in their country, all without the artist knowing about it.

Despite how incredible that sounds, it's exactly what happened to **Sixto Diaz Rodriguez**. During the 1960s and '70s, South Africans were isolated by apartheid, and though Rodriguez's songs became the anthems of anti-apartheid revolution, his music was officially censored by the government. Once apartheid was over, Rodriguez's record label had gone under and rumors swirled that he had burned himself to death or shot himself in a final act of social conscience.

What was the real story behind his death? That question drives the documentary, as we retrace the detective work of fan Stephen "Sugar" Segerman from Cape Town to the studios of record execs in Detroit. The answer he finds is so wonderful that, in the director's words, it's "like learning that Elvis is alive."

The film stutter-steps at times, but the story is well-crafted and compelling. It is rated PG-13 for brief language and drug references, and conservative viewers won't appreciate Rodriguez's politics. However, Rodriguez is far deeper and more gentle than most rockers. And for Christians who feel unimportant by society's standards, the story of a man who lives without earthly fanfare, but who is more cherished than he could imagine may itself be a treasure worth searching out.

BOX OFFICE TOP 10

FOR THE WEEKEND OF AUG. 3-5
according to Box Office Mojo

CAUTIONS: Quantity of sexual (S), violent (V), and foul-language (L) content on a 0-10 scale, with 10 high, from kids-in-mind.com

		S	V	L
1	The Dark Knight Rises* PG-13	2	7	3
2	Total Recall* PG-13	5	7	5
3	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days PG	*not rated*		
4	Ice Age: Continental Drift* PG	1	3	2
5	The Watch R	8	8	10
6	Step Up: Revolution PG-13	4	3	4
7	Ted R	8	5	10
8	The Amazing Spider-Man* PG-13	3	6	4
9	Brave* PG	2	4	1
10	Magic Mike R	8	4	10

**Reviewed by WORLD*



MOVIE

Total Recall

BY STEPHANIE PERRAULT

SOME THINGS ARE WORTH FORGETTING. This summer's remake of the 1990 Arnold Schwarzenegger flick, *Total Recall*, is one of them. Director Len Wiseman's version is a boring rehash of the kooky original. Other than impressively dreary scenery and a cool chase scene, this film brings nothing new to the screen.

Schwarzenegger was able to pull off a sympathetic performance as a secret agent whose memory and identity were erased and replaced, but Colin Farrell wasn't able do the same. His portrayal of the identity-confused agent is more tormented, more pathetic, and far less likeable.

The story begins in 2084 with a world decimated by chemical warfare. The United Federation of Britain (UFB) and the Colony, a grungy, rainy version of Australia, are the only inhabitable areas on Earth. Enter Douglas Quaid (Farrell), a factory worker who dreams nightly about getting captured by drones.

Turns out, it's a memory, not a dream—and Quaid, fighting to save the Colony from the hegemony of the UFB, has had his memory stripped a new identity implanted.

Though it may be an intriguing concept, Farrell's tortured performance leaves us bored and in search of riveting characters. In this case, they're the women in his life—Lori (**Kate Beckinsale**) and Melina (Jessica Biel).

Though the violence isn't as gratuitous as in the original, a constant flow of profanity along with a weird scene of female nudity should have earned this pulp-fiction flick an R rating instead of its PG-13 label.

Quaid finds himself in the end, but it's too late: Killed by a poorly paced story, limp acting, and unnecessary smut, *Total Recall* by then is a film we're ready to forget.

SEARCHING FOR SUGARMAN: SONY PICTURES CLASSICS · TOTAL RECALL: COLUMBIA PICTURES


Kevin DeYoung


Darrow Miller


Nancy Bristow


John Stossel

Treadmill checklist

Catching up on a range of books, from holiness to history

BY MARVIN OLASKY

Kevin DeYoung's *The Hole in our Holiness* (Crossway) is out at the end of this month and worth reading by all of us who recognize how slowly we move toward sanctification. It's important to see that we all sin and deserve death at the hands of God, while recognizing that "the Bible teaches that some sins are worse than others": We should be "especially eager to put to death those sins most offensive to God."

Carl Trueman's *Fools Rush in Where Monkeys Fear to Tread* (P&R, 2012) has some delightful lines, starting with the title and continuing through his paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer's modest petitions: "Lord, keep me out of trouble and don't let me get in the way of the growth of your kingdom." Trueman prefers that to "the typical 'Lord, use me greatly to do this, that, or other thing I quite fancy doing'—usually prayed, of course, before or after the pious throat-clearing phrase, 'if it be your will.'"

Robert Spencer's *Did Muhammad Exist?* (ISI, 2012) raises good questions about the origins of Islam and its jihadist principles. Colonel Doner's *Christian Jihad* (Samizdat, 2012) is a mea culpa by a Christian right agitator of the 1970s and 1980s who, instead of learning from the mistakes he made, is now agitating against the Christian right. Darrow Miller's *Emancipating the World: A Christian Response to Radical Islam and Fundamentalist Atheism* (YWAM Publishing, 2012) is much better: Miller shows how Christians are fighting a war for both souls within Islam and the soul of America.

John Stossel's *No They Can't* (Threshold, 2012) shows us why government generally fails but individuals often succeed. He contrasts throughout what intuition tempts us to believe—for example, that "someone needs to plan, and the central planners know best"—with what reality teaches us: "No one knows enough to plan a society." Edward Conard's *Unintended Consequences* (Penguin, 2012) provides disaster stories with a similar theme: "The subprime mortgage fiasco demonstrates just how bad politically directed investment decisions can be."

Steven F. Hayward's *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Presidents from Wilson to Obama* (Regnery, 2012) is a quick guide to a century of dirty deeds. He gives Woodrow Wilson, Lyndon Johnson, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama "Constitutional grades" of F, Calvin Coolidge an A+, and Ronald Reagan an A-. John Guy's *Thomas Becket* (Random House, 2012) fluidly explains how the 12th century's most famous dirty deed came about.

Three new history books from Oxford University Press examine specific disasters: Nancy Bristow's *American Pandemic* describes well the mass-murdering 1918 flu epidemic. Sheila Skemp's *The Making of a Patriot* shows how Benjamin Franklin turned against the lords of London when they humiliated him in 1774. Samuel Zipp's *Manhattan Projects* (Oxford, 2012) shows how New York City's urban renewal, designed as "benevolent intervention," destroyed neighborhoods and hurt the city.

Heavy book of the month: *Population Decline and the Remaking of Great Power Politics*, edited by Susan Yoshihara and Douglas Sylva (Potomac, 2012), forecasts further conflict as Japan and Russia age, India becomes the most populous country, and non-native populations gain greater influence in Europe. Light book: J. Stephen Lang's *The Big Book of American Trivia: Over 3,000 Questions and Answers*, second edition (Tyndale, 2011).

AMERICAN HISTORY FOR MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS



If I were building a middle-school library, I'd start with the 122 Landmark books on American history. Produced by Random House during the 1950s and early 1960s, series authors included good writers such as Jim Kielgaard, Sterling North, and C.S. Forrester. In those days history writing for children wasn't relegated to a committee of "educators."

I still remember my sixth-grade joy as I raced through the first 10: *The Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, *The Landing of the Pilgrims*, *Pocahontas and Captain John Smith*, *Paul Revere and the Minute Men*, *Our Independence and the Constitution*, *The California Gold Rush*, *The Pony Express*, *Lee and Grant at Appomattox*, *The Building of the First Transcontinental Railroad*, and *The Wright Brothers*. —M.O.

Email: molasky@worldmag.com

DEYOUNG: HANDOUT · MILLER: HANDOUT · BRISTOW: ROSS MULHAUSEN · STOSSEL: STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

NOTABLE BOOKS

Four books on the Civil War ⟩ reviewed by EDWARD LEE PITTS



1861: The Civil War Awakening *Adam Goodheart*

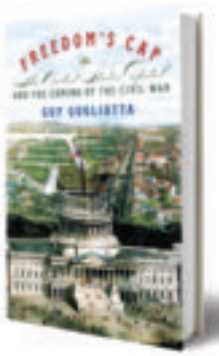
Adam Goodheart's account of the war's first year is a captivating introduction to the conflict that began 150 years ago. Goodheart takes us from Charleston Harbor and the war's first shots to the Nevada Territory, where some settlers said they didn't "care a straw" for the nation's disunion, while others headed back East to fight. Each chapter of *1861* has its own distinct drama that introduces readers to the famous, the soon-to-be-famous, and the never-to-be-famous. For example, 24-year-old Elmer Ellsworth emerged from obscurity to lead a group of rowdy New York firefighters on a night raid that brought Ellsworth death and national fame as the first Union officer to die in the war.

Abraham Lincoln and Treason in the Civil War

Jonathan W. White



Since some 15,000 books have been written about Abraham Lincoln, some think nothing new can be added, but White's book about how Lincoln battled the internal threat of traitors dispels that notion. White recreates the trials of John Merryman, a Baltimore farmer arrested on treason charges as Maryland tottered toward secession. When authorities held Merryman without granting him his right to see a judge, a legal clash erupted that pitted the chief justice of the Supreme Court against Lincoln. Jonathan White's work deftly explores how Lincoln used the courts as another front to fight the war, and also shows how the controversy still has ramifications today in the current debate over terrorist detainees.



Freedom's Cap *Guy Gugliotta*

With the coming of civil war, no place faced a more uncertain future than the city of Washington. A developing city often sneered at by foreign visitors for its "spacious avenues that begin in nothing and lead nowhere," Washington's fancy hotels stood near clapboard sheds and ramshackle shanties. The Washington Monument sat unfinished and surrounded by cows during the war, but officials kept going on the project to expand the United States Capitol and cap it with a 9-million-pound cast-iron dome. Guy Gugliotta chronicles the engineering feat required to construct one of the world's most famous symbols of freedom in the midst of one of history's bloodiest wars. He introduces us to a colorful cast of men who persisted through rivalries and clashes to finish a building that stood for the nation others were fighting to preserve.

Midnight Rising *Tony Horwitz*



Tony Horwitz describes John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, a prelude to the Civil War, with details as vivid as those found in novels. In arguing that the raid served as a dress rehearsal for the sea of blood that soon followed, Horwitz claims that history should treat the deadly incident as more than a mere "speed bump" on the road to Gettysburg. He shows us how Brown went from a boy who wore buckskins, rambled in the woods, and tamed bobtail squirrels, to a man at "eternal war with slavery." We also learn about the widening chasm between North and South, how the nation braced for conflict after Brown's raid, and how Brown's raid, thanks to the telegraph, became one of America's first breaking news stories.



SANDOM: HANDOUT

SPOTLIGHT

Ways to avoid a different kind of civil war: In *Different by Design: God's Blueprint for Men and Women* (Christian Focus, 2012), London women's ministry leader Carrie Sandom brings a warm, biblical sensibility to her discussion of male and female roles, especially in the church and home. She's unapologetically complementarian, skillfully showing how God designed differences as part of a beautiful plan for His creation. Sandom makes her case by working through large chunks of Scripture, rather than pulling out of context an occasional verse. For example, when dealing with submission in Ephesians 5 she reminds her readers of context: The letter's first half deals with blessings the Ephesians have as Christians ("chosen, adopted, redeemed, and included in Christ") and its second half focuses on the practical outworking of these blessings, including marriage. —*Susan Olasky*



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Most likely to succee

From "dumbest kid" to school leader: an interview with Dr. BEN CARSON

BY MARVIN OLASKY

We ran on April 21 excerpts of an interview with Dr. Ben Carson, the brilliant Johns Hopkins director of pediatric neurosurgery. He is famous for pioneering operations such as separating Siamese twins with conjoined heads, and taking out the diseased half of a child's brain in a way that allows the healthy half to take over, with minimal changes in cognitive function. In our interview, though, he noted that for a long time fellow students and some teachers thought he was stupid. Here are some additional excerpts.

ART COX/PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

Your mom was 13 when she married your dad, who was 28. What happened when you were eight years old and he ran off? She had only a third-grade education and not a lot of skills, but she noticed that everybody she knew of who went on welfare never came off it. She really didn't want to adopt that lifestyle. She decided to work as long and as hard as necessary to keep us afloat: She would go from one housecleaning job to the next, to the next, leaving at 5 in the morning, getting home around midnight.

When did you see her? Sometimes, we wouldn't even see her for a week because we would already be in bed by the time she came home, and she would leave before we got up. Yet, we knew she was there. She would leave stuff out for us. She would leave food.

She avoided a victim's mentality? She wouldn't let us be victims either. Never felt sorry for herself or for us either. If you came up with an excuse, she would always say, "Do you have a brain?" If the answer to that was "yes" she would say, "Then you could have thought your way out of that. You didn't have to do what Robert or John or Mary or Susan did." After a while, if people don't accept your excuses, you stop looking for excuses and start looking for solutions. That was perhaps the most important thing she passed on to me and to my brother: Be responsible.

Were you really considered the dumbest kid in the class in the fifth grade? I was the safety net: No one had to worry about getting the lowest mark on a test as long as I was there. My nickname was Dummy. Once we were having an argument about who was the dumbest person in the school. It wasn't a big argument—everyone agreed it was me—but then someone tried to extend that argument to who was the dumbest person in the world. I said, "Wait a minute, there are billions of people in the world." They said, "Yeah, we know that, and you're the dumbest."

Your worst moments were after math quizzes? On that particular day, to make matters worse, we had a math quiz and you had to pass your paper to the person behind you. They would correct it and give it back to you. Teacher would call your name and you had to report your score out loud. Great if you got 100 or 95! Not so great if you got a zero and just had an argument about who's the dumbest person in the world.

What did you do? I started scheming: "When teacher calls my name, I will mumble and maybe she'll think I said something and write it down." The quiz had 30 questions. When she called my name I said, "neimnmm." She said, "Nine! Benjamin you got nine right? Oh, this is wonderful, I knew you could do it if you just applied yourself. Kids, I want you to understand what a significant day this is. Benjamin got nine right. If he can get nine right anybody can."

Did you get away with it? Finally the girl behind me couldn't take it any longer. She stood up and said, "He said none!" The kids were rolling in the aisles. If I could have disappeared into thin air never to be heard from again in the history of the world, I would gladly have done so. But, I couldn't. I had to sit there and act like it didn't bother me—but it did. Not enough to make me study but it did bother me.

What happened? My mother saw all these failing grades. She didn't know what to do, but she prayed and asked God to give her wisdom to know what to do to get her young sons to understand the importance of intellectual development. She then let us watch only two to three TV programs each week. With all that spare time we had to read two books apiece from the Detroit Public Library and submit to her written book reports. She couldn't read them but we didn't know that—she would put little checkmarks and highlights and underlines.

How did you react? I hated it in the beginning, but after a few weeks I began to enjoy it. We were desperately poor, but between the covers of those books I could go anywhere, be anybody, do anything. I began to imagine myself in the laboratory conducting experiments; discovering new galaxies, microcosms, knowing stuff that nobody else knew. Within a year and a half I went from the bottom of my class to the top, much to the consternation of all the students who used to call me dummy. The same ones who called me dummy in the fifth grade would come to me in the seventh grade, "Benny, Benny, Benny! How do you work this problem?"

Did you help them? I'd say, "Sit at my feet, youngster, while I instruct you." I was perhaps a little obnoxious but it sure felt good to say that to those turkeys. I had the same brain but a very, very different outlook. As I began to read about people of accomplishment, it dawned on me that the person who has the most to do with what happens to you in life is—you. It's not the environment. It's not somebody else. You can take control of your own life. I started having a very different philosophy than a lot of the people around me.

"As I began to read about people of accomplishment, it dawned on me that the person who has the most to do with what happens to you in life is—you."

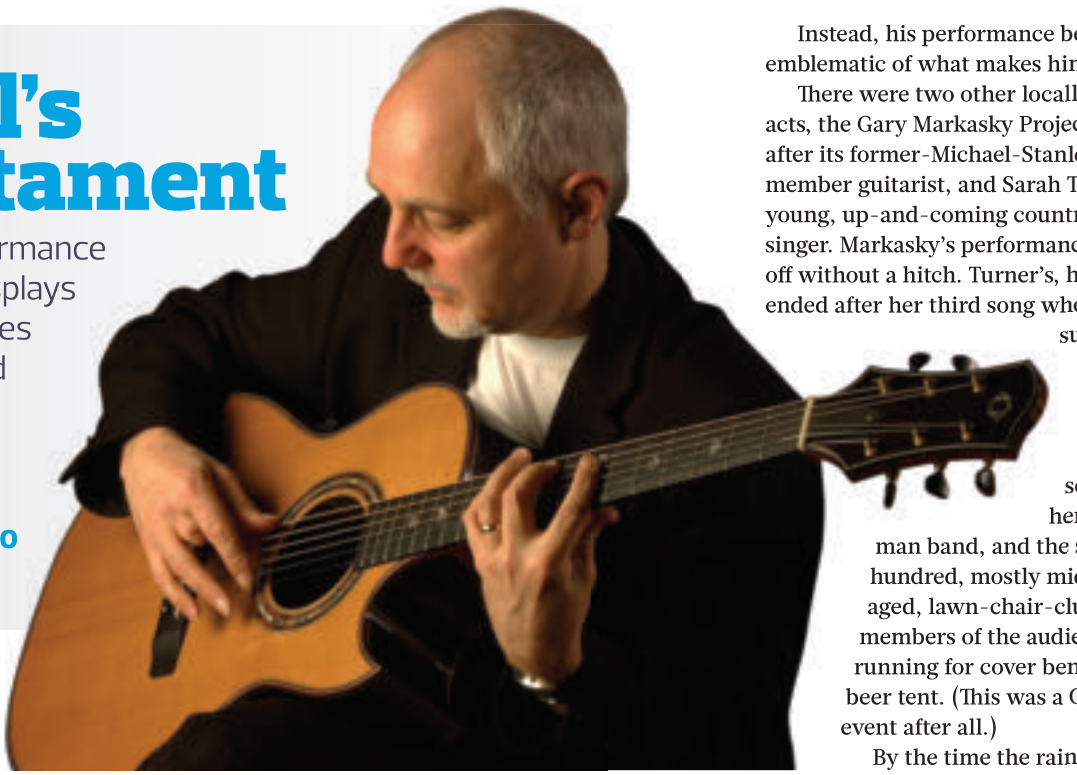
— Ben Carson

How did they react? A lot of them called me nerd, Uncle Tom, all kinds of things. I would shut them up by saying, "Let's see what I'm doing in 20 years and let's see what you're doing in 20 years." They must have believed me because when I graduated from high school they all voted me most likely to succeed—which means they knew what was necessary to succeed, but were too lazy and trifling to do it themselves. That's what negative peer pressure is all about. The more young people we can get to understand that, the more people of accomplishment we will see.

Phil's testament

Live performance in Ohio displays what makes celebrated Christian guitarist special

BY ARSENIO ORTEZA



IN *A THIRD TESTAMENT*, Malcolm Muggeridge argued that Augustine, Pascal, Blake, Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Bonhoeffer were uniquely instrumental in helping mankind "rediscover humility and, with it, hope" by calling it "back to God" during epochs particularly indifferent to Him.

Were Muggeridge still alive—and tolerant of rock 'n' roll—he might have also included **Phil Keaggy**.

At 61, the diminutive rocker has been composing and singing songs celebrating life in Christ for over 40 years, first with Glass Harp (who released three under-appreciated albums on MCA Records between 1970 and 1972), then as Contemporary Christian Music's most accomplished performer on both acoustic and electric guitars.

But a light as bright as Keaggy's isn't easily diminished by bushels or genre labels. His talents have been perennially recognized by poll-voting readers of mainstream guitar magazines. And in 2009 Hal Leonard published *The Best of Phil Keaggy*, transcriptions of 15 of his recorded performances that essentially said, "No matter what you may make of this man or his faith, you've gotta admit that he sure can play the guitar."

The funny thing is, as fascinating as Keaggy's performances unfailingly are, the man and his faith are more fascinating yet.

Or maybe "inspiring" is a better word. His marriage to the wife of his youth, Bernadette, turns 39 this summer, an accomplishment made even more impressive in our divorce-crazy age when one considers that the Keaggys lost their first five children to stillbirth, early-infant death, or miscarriage. If surviving that kind of tragedy won't help people "to rediscover humility and, with it, hope," nothing will.

But Muggeridge's point was that his *Third Testament* heroes inspired virtue by amplifying God's voice. And no one literally amplifies anything these days more than a rock 'n' roller.

Keaggy's most recent live performance, headlining "Summerfest 2012" on the outdoor grounds of St. Luke's Catholic Church in Boardman, Ohio, might just have been what its name and location sound like, a low-key gig in front of hometown locals. (Keaggy hails from nearby Youngstown.)

Instead, his performance became emblematic of what makes him special.

There were two other locally bred acts, the Gary Markasky Project, named after its former-Michael-Stanley-Band-member guitarist, and Sarah Turner, a young, up-and-coming country singer. Markasky's performance went off without a hitch. Turner's, however, ended after her third song when a sudden and fiercely windy rainstorm sent her, her five-man band, and the several hundred, mostly middle-aged, lawn-chair-clutching members of the audience running for cover beneath the beer tent. (This was a Catholic event after all.)

By the time the rain stopped and the sun came out, the stage had been rendered unusable. Then the word spread: The show was being "moved inside."

"Inside" turned out to be the church-school's auditorium—i.e., a cafeteria with a stage. As volunteers set up tables and chairs, the musicians (including Keaggy's two fellow Glass Harpers John Sferra and Daniel Pecchio) assembled a makeshift sound system. After the long and messy delay, the crowd would probably have settled for anything.

It didn't have to. Keaggy dazzled, whether acoustic and solo with technically impressive gadgetry ("The Answer," "Salvation Army Band"), electric with Glass Harp ("David and Goliath," "Do Lord"), or electric with Glass Harp and the Markasky band ("Crossroads," "People Get Ready").

And whether singing or speaking between songs, the message was clear: Jesus.

"There's a God who made us," Keaggy said at one point. "And we mean a lot to Him."

Even people without ears to hear would've had a hard time missing the point.

Email: aorteza@worldmag.com



PROFILE PRODUCTIONS

NOTABLE CDs

Five recent pop-rock releases ⟩ reviewed by ARSENIO ORTEZA



Gospel Plow *Elizabeth Cook*

This electric, country-gospel EP emerged from the afterglow of a gospel showcase in which Cook participated last year at the last minute. How did she happen to have 20 minutes of Southern-gospel staples at the ready? She'd grown up attending churches that sang them. And if she rocks them harder than the average Southern churchgoer might prefer, she also rolls them enough to keep them from gathering moss. As for Lou Reed's "Jesus," it would be more impressive if Glen Campbell hadn't beaten her to it.

The Nature of Things

The Daredevil Christopher Wright



Don't hold this Wisconsin band's association with Bon Iver's Justin Vernon against it. The falsetto-prone three-part vocal harmonies seem less like a ploy to validate the singers' sensitivity than an escape valve for their inner Bee Gees, and the abrupt syncopation and chord changes shouldn't throw anyone familiar with Danielson for a loop. Nor should the biblical allusions that proliferate or at least seem to. Is that "Jesus set me free" which one of the Sunde brothers is singing in "Ames, IA"? Enunciate, fellas, enunciate.



Grasshoppers in My Pillow

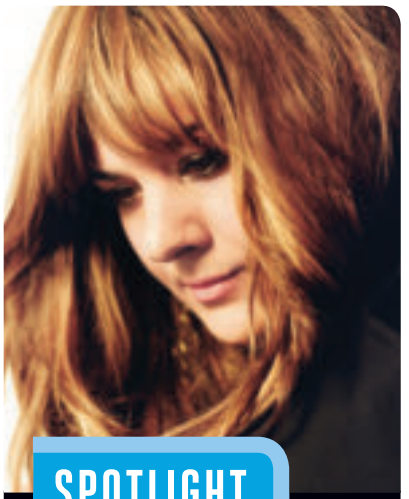
John Pearson

This 17-track album's subtitle—*Blues, Gospel, Ragtime & Beyond*—lets listeners know they're in for variety. It doesn't tell them that all of the genres this U.K. acoustic-guitarist touches sound more or less the same. Of course, given the James Tayloresque calm with which Pearson sings every song, aural syncretism representing an underlying unity of otherwise diverse traditions may be the whole point. He could've made the point more potently by doing so more succinctly. He would've made it less potently by eliminating Dylan's "Man of Peace."

Words and Music by Saint Etienne *Saint Etienne*



In 1990 this British trio set out to make pop music informed by affection for and intelligence about the form as they'd come to know and love it. They succeeded. That they'd make one of their richest and catchiest albums at this late date, however, was by no means a foregone conclusion. "Over the Border," in which Sarah Bracknell recalls the soundtrack of her life, establishes the fondly reminiscent tone. The other dozen should provide the band's fans with pleasant memories as well. Giving back, liberals call it.



RUMER: WMG

SPOTLIGHT

You'd never know it from the waves she isn't making in the States, but the dulcet-voiced U.K. singer Rumer is having a big year. First, Sudden Hunger Records released *Close to the Sun*, the excellent album of '60s-sounding lounge pop she recorded in 2008 with Rory Moore under the name Stereo Venus. Then, as a free download, she released her version of John Sebastian's hit 1976 television theme song, "Welcome Back."

It turned out to be a teaser for *Boys Don't Cry* (Atlantic), her second official album and the most flattering showcase of her retro sense and sensibility to date. Available in 12-track and 16-track editions, it highlights both her taste in '70s composers (one less-than-obvious song apiece from the likes of Jimmy Webb, Todd Rundgren, Gilbert O'Sullivan, and Neil Young) and her main weakness: a commitment to pretty melodies that's so wholehearted you sometimes can't help wondering whether she cares about the words.

See all our reviews at worldmag.com/music



Mindy Belz

Real policy vs. realpolitik

U.S. foreign policy should put ideals over ideas



I STUDIED ECONOMICS and political science at a leading university in Washington, D.C. But lately when asked about U.S. foreign policy, I've been going back not to my class notes but to one of my favorite thinkers on the subject, Michael Novak in his *Spirit of Democratic Capitalism* (1982). Not because I think democratic capitalism is the answer to all that ails the world—Novak doesn't claim that—but because the *spirit* at the formation of that socioeconomic structure is a spirit worth recapturing.

We stand on a precipice, with national elections before American voters and international chaos on the horizon. What's a proper U.S. role in the chaos sucking Europe into a financial black hole? What are we to do about U.S. productivity with annual GDP growth hovering at 1.5 percent when it has averaged 3.3 percent since 1947? What to do about militant jihadism, winding its way to our doorstep even as it grasps at political legitimacy in once stable countries of the Middle East?

Before you scratch your head to come up with the latest best idea, let me suggest that ideals should come first. Building nations that work is the work of many generations (or as Novak writes, "a journey of a thousand years"), so even the most devout realpolitik pragmatist needs transcendent values. As poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox put it, "Tis the set of sails,/ and not the gales/ That tells the way we go."

Ideals too serve as a bulwark against shortcuts. The most prominent shortcuts in U.S. foreign policy are those that see down the road just far enough to the next election. But shortcuts also plague clear thinking in Christian circles. Writing 30 years ago, Novak notes that Christians "demand jobs without comprehending how jobs are created" and "demand the distribution of the world's goods without insight in how the store of the world's goods may be expanded."

Too few of us grasp what a Cyprus investor, looking at his prospects in Western Europe, said recently: "People really have to run with their money because it is not about return *on* capital, it is about return *of* capital."

We also neglect the theological doctrines that once breathed life into our democratic capitalistic system. Consider the incarnation, God born of a woman into political chaos and socioeconomic oppression. The incarnation of Jesus gives us hope in every possible circumstance, but guards us against false hope and utopian promises. I like the way Novak phrases it: "One of the most poignant lessons of the Incarnation is the difficult teaching that one must learn to be humble, think concretely, face facts, train oneself to realism."

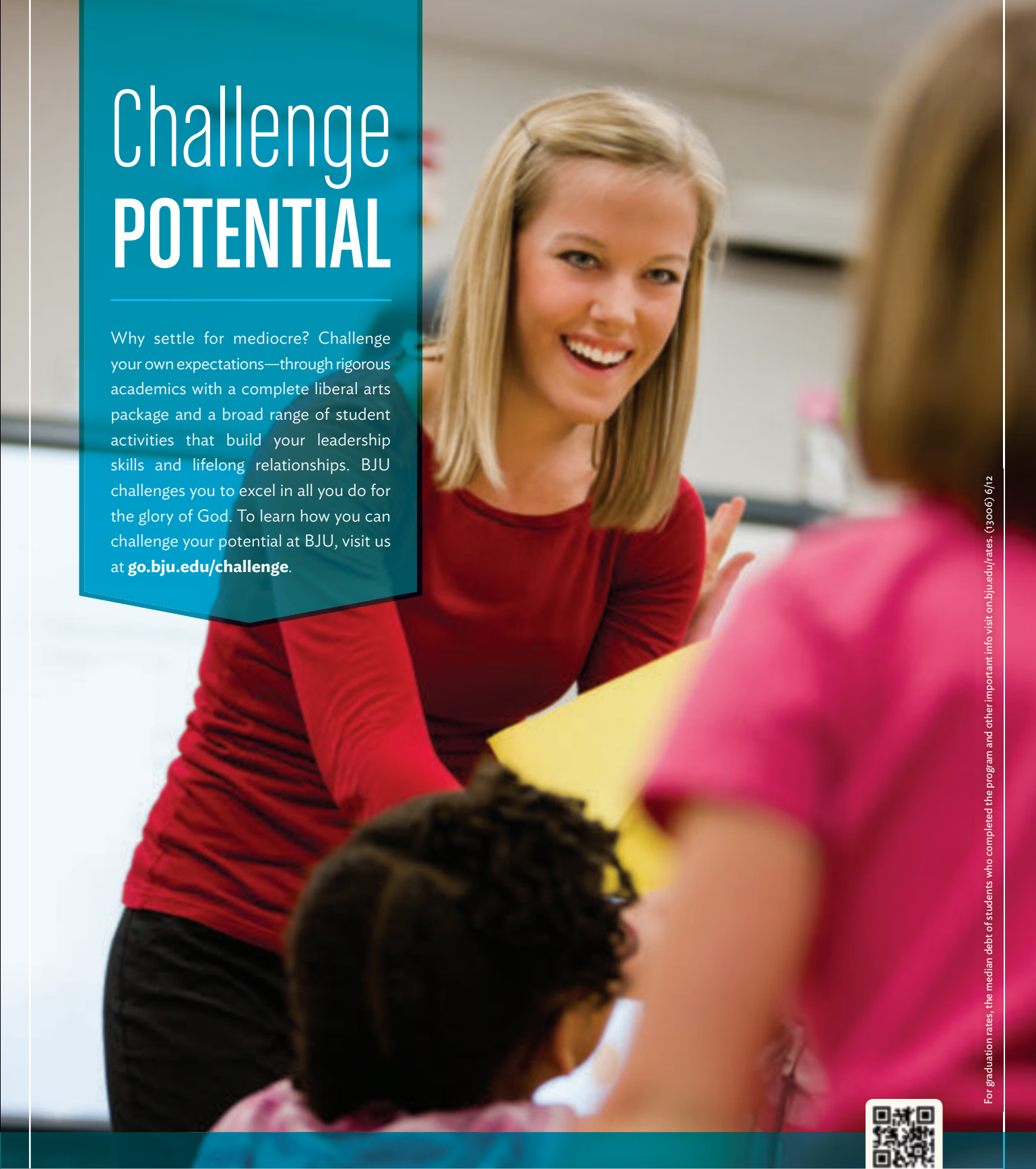
And what about realistic love, the sacrificial "God so loved the world that He gave His only son" love? Acted out on the world's stage it stifles ego and promotes the welfare of others—but without illusions. It's how our Founding Fathers crafted institutions for sinners, not saints, to serve the common good. And why they protected freedom for all. It's where the practice of realistic policy versus realpolitik should start.

How to apply ideals to, say, Syria? "Let's just bomb the place," something I hear often, and from Christians, is an idea without an ideal. But so are fanciful notions like carving out safe havens within Syria—even, as Sen. John McCain has suggested, when they are created and preserved using U.S. air power, as in Kosovo. Safe havens should recall the Jewish ghettos of 1930s Europe, or Srebrenica, which was a UN safe haven before a Bosnian massacre in 1995 that killed over 8,000 men and boys.

Ideals should drive us to act, but in ways that are more realistic than posturing, more humble than egotistical, acknowledging that outcomes are for us unknowable. Too often on both right and left we mouth the words of liberty but strategize like socialists, policymaking a planned society. Democratic capitalism has created "an arena of liberty" (Novak) not entirely unlike the non-coercive arena of the garden, and—for all its flaws—it has worked. That should give Americans hope—realistic, humble hope—to act decisively and responsibly for good in the world.

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VIVE LA DIFFÉRENCE

Despite pressures from the top to conform, American education is developing a healthy diversity

BY MARVIN OLASKY





WHILE WASHINGTON PUSHES for more centralization in schooling as in other areas, the exciting education story is that American education is becoming more of a kaleidoscope. Stories in the following pages show how:

> School choice, via state-level vouchers and tax credits, is finally breaking through after years of smashing up against brick walls.

> Christians teaching poor children in Nashville public schools are responding to their students' hunger for meaning amid misery.

> An elementary school and a business school in Austin teach young and older students that they can creatively learn from failure.

WE ALSO LOOK AT CHANGES affecting some of the spidery corners of American education:

> With charter schools getting good press, some standard California public schools are getting more money by merely adding "charter" to their names (and meanwhile, innovative charters continue to spring up).

> Some Christian colleges have followed the money, selected presidents who did not hold to biblical inerrancy, and devolved into Darwinism.

> Vanderbilt University has forced most Christian organizations to move off-campus.

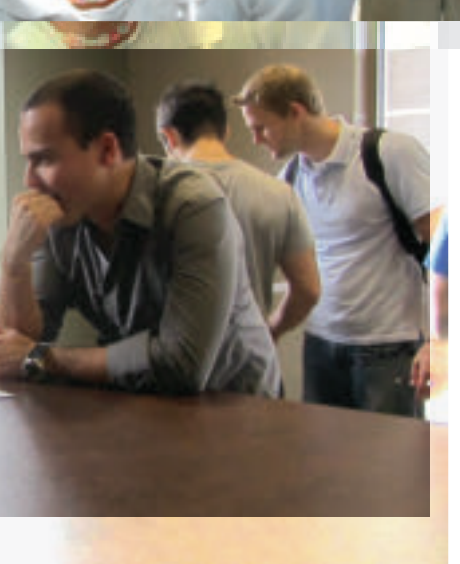
Earlier in this issue we featured Dr. Ben Carson's memories of how he went from worst to first in his class (see p. 28). On our last page my column tells of a superb Christian professor who failed in his bid for tenure, received 107 No's and one Maybe from American colleges, and found a haven only in ... Singapore.

Next month we'll look at how homeschools are pooling parental talents by setting up cooperatives, and how the National Education Association has lost 100,000 members since 2010, with bleeding continuing.


Reading is fun


BE
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SCHOOL CHOICE SURGE

New voucher and tax credit programs in several states are helping Christian students and schools turn corners BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE IN GARY, IND.



IN THE GRIFFIN HOUSE, even the dog is polite. At a command from dad Roman Griffin, the golden retriever/chow mix skitters to her cage without a whimper. When a visitor steps in the front door, six children ranging from 5 to 17—including twins and a nephew—sit beneath family photos in a red living room to offer their attention.

Naomi, 8, wears Hello Kitty slippers and a toothy grin. She says she'd like to be a preacher, teacher, fireman, policeman, scientist, and "play all the instruments." Her brother, 11-year-old Jailon, wants to "write fiction stories, mostly for kids and babies," and has learned at school that "anything is possible when you have God in your life."

Last year Naomi, Jailon, and an older brother, Roman Jr., left two public schools to attend Ambassador Christian Academy in Gary, Ind. They did so only because state-provided vouchers paid for the $4,300 in tuition and fees. Their parents, Roman and Sheila, support the household of eight with a combined $35,000 or so they net each year from jobs as a barber and receptionist.

Jailon and Naomi will attend Ambassador again this fall with vouchers. Roman Jr. will use one to attend a Catholic high school. Roman and Sheila Griffin aren't sure if they'll have the money to send their 5-year-old twin girls, ineligible for state vouchers, to Ambassador's kindergarten class this



JOE RAYMOND/AP

year. "If we could afford it they would have all been in a Christian school from the start," Sheila said.

As Indiana's path-breaking voucher program charts its second year, the Griffin children are among thousands of Hoosier students using state dollars to attend private schools. About 300 private, largely Christian schools in the state are accepting voucher students—and gaining a financial boost as they arrive. The boost once was rare, but the school choice movement is surging, thanks to Republican statehouse efforts with occasional Democratic support. The impact in Indiana could predict how Christian schools will benefit from new school choice programs in states such as Louisiana.

Inside Ambassador Academy on a recent summer day, day campers drew with crayons in art class and jumped to a pop song in gym class. The school, sponsored by a local nondenominational church, crouches in an area of Gary where most streets host boarded windows and overgrown lawns. Ambassador served about 300 students from pre-K to eighth grade during the last school year. A third of them used vouchers.

VOUCHER SCHOOL: Students enter Our Lady of Hungary Catholic School in South Bend, Ind.

Previously, enrollment was declining, school principal Vercena Stewart said—but

vouchers opened the door for Ambassador to attract families like the Griffins, who couldn't otherwise afford private school. The increased attendance has given Ambassador a financial leg up: As it aims to fill 396 seats this year—half of them with voucher students—the school has hired a new third-grade teacher and spent over $100,000 on textbooks.

At Trinity Academy, another Christian school a few blocks away, linoleum peeled off the floor in a blue boys' restroom one afternoon in late June. In George M. Howard Jr.'s office, formerly a storage room, wires hung from an empty fluorescent light fixture, and the bathroom sink was clogged. But Howard, the school's executive administrator, is all optimism: "We're planning on buying 28 computers this year." Voucher funds will make that possible.

Trinity will remodel the restrooms and make other improvements as part of a plan to jump its enrollment from 50 to 114 students from preschool to sixth grade. Gary public schools laid off a quarter of their teachers this summer to stem a budget crisis, but Trinity plans to hire two more.

Vouchers will even help Gary's first private middle school, Mosaic, open its doors on August 22. The school is nonreligious and will follow what executive director Andrea Coffer called an "expeditionary learning" style, with activities such as studying microorganisms from Lake Michigan. Mosaic was already considering opening before last year, but Coffer said, "Once the voucher program came about, we thought, this is a no-brainer."

The picture in Gary reflects what is occurring throughout Indiana. As years of recession squeezed family budgets, private schools in the state (as elsewhere in the nation) watched enrollment trickle away. But last year some accredited Christian schools picked up voucher students by the dozens.

Liberty Christian School in Anderson added almost 120 voucher students last year, increasing regular enrollment by one-fifth. In Fort Wayne, Blackhawk Christian School accepted 42 voucher students: This year it expects as many as 85. Of the 259 private schools approved to accept vouchers last year, 254 were Christian, one was Muslim, and four were secular. All the schools submitted to standardized testing, in accordance with state rules.

Enrollment at Indiana's Catholic schools had slipped over the course of a decade by several thousand students until last year, when—according to a *Wall Street Journal* analysis—Catholic school enrollment across the state jumped 2 percent. Another bump is likely this fall, as more parents are aware of voucher availability. As early as June, 5,000 students had already applied for Indiana vouchers, surpassing last year's total program participation.

Indiana's GOP-dominated legislature last year made the "Choice Scholarship" law the largest first-year voucher program in the nation with nearly 4,000 vouchers awarded. The vouchers aren't for just anybody, though: Children from high-income families may not receive them, and those who already attend private schools are ineligible. Kindergartners are also ineligible—voucher participants must have attended a public school for at least one year.

Most conservative legislators in Indiana voted for the voucher program, although a few were concerned it could pave the way for the state to regulate private schools, said Rep. Timothy Wesco, whose district includes portions of Elkhart. Wesco supports vouchers but shares long-term concerns: "I think eventually the schools are going to depend on that voucher money."

The average Indiana voucher was worth $4,150 last year. Since Indiana normally spends around $11,000 to educate a public-school student, the program saved the state millions of dollars. State officials returned $4.2



"ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHEN YOU HAVE GOD IN YOUR LIFE": Ambassador Academy Principal Vercena Stewart chats with Roman Griffin Sr.'s children Naomi, Sophia, Olivia, Jailon, and Roman Jr.

SCOTT STRAZZANTE/GENESIS

VOUCHERS OPENED THE DOOR FOR AMBASSADOR TO ATTRACT FAMILIES LIKE THE GRIFFINS, WHO COULDN'T OTHERWISE AFFORD PRIVATE SCHOOL.

million in savings to public schools. Even so, critics of the program argue that it steals money from public-school coffers, resulting in layoffs.

"The money doesn't belong to public schools," snaps Indiana's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Bennett, when he hears those complaints. The state's responsibility is to "fund the education of children, wherever they go," in an effort to supply the best education possible. Bennett, a Catholic school graduate, told me Indiana's voucher law wasn't intended to reverse Catholic school enrollment decline. But if those vouchers have enabled students to "leave public schools that didn't meet their needs, and go to private schools or Catholic schools that meet [them], I'm pretty agnostic about that."

If Bennett is agnostic, the Indiana State Teachers Association is devout: It has sued the state. In a case before the Indiana Supreme Court, the teachers union claims the vouchers violate the state's constitution, which, as in many other states, prohibits tax dollars from supporting religion. (Ten years ago the U.S. Supreme Court declared vouchers constitutionally valid.)

Local constitutional challenge is routine for school choice programs. In Oklahoma in March, a Tulsa County district judge struck down a voucher program created for special-needs students, saying it amounted to state support of religious institutions. Oklahoma's Supreme Court is hearing that case.

This fall, with over 5,000 vouchers worth up to $8,800 apiece available for low- and middle-income families hoping to escape failing schools, Louisiana is on track to outpace Indiana's first-year enrollment record. (The state's preeminent teachers union has, of course, taken the Louisiana board of education to court.)

About 120 private and Christian schools in the Bayou State scurried this summer to make room for new students and get the word out to parents. Old Bethel Christian Academy in Clarks had 59 seats available for voucher students and spent about $400 advertising them in local newspapers. According to Lynette Weeks, a school secretary, Old Bethel had only received about 20 voucher applications in time for a June 29 deadline, perhaps indicating parental apathy or misinformation. Some other Christian schools in Louisiana had made 100 or more seats available, hoping to boost enrollment.

Ten states offer vouchers of various kinds, and so does the District of Columbia. Mitt Romney, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, wants more: Romney's education reform plan, released in May, proposes expanding charter schools and making the D.C. program a "model for the nation." Romney promised, if elected, to "expand parental choice in an unprecedented way."

State-financed vouchers aren't the only door into private schools: Louisiana, Indiana, and nine other states have enacted "scholarship tax credit" programs, where individuals or corporations get a tax break if they fund student scholarships. In late June New Hampshire established such a scholarship program when the Republican-led legislature overrode a veto from Gov. John Lynch, a Democrat.

Overall, 19 states passed various school choice laws during the 2011/2012 state legislative sessions, according to the American Federation for Children, an advocacy group. By expanding programs or creating new ones, lawmakers across the United States have tripled the available funding for vouchers and tax credit scholarships during the past five school years.

Adam Emerson, a school choice expert at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, says the 2010 elections gave Republicans the edge they needed in many statehouses to vote up school choice policies. At the same time, some Democrats, for whom school choice has traditionally been a taboo subject, began throwing in their support, risking the ire of teachers unions. They may have realized that vouchers and scholarships are especially beneficial to disadvantaged kids disproportionately represented among a major Democratic constituency: minorities.

Emerson points to many African-American lawmakers not only backing educational choice bills but sponsoring them. In North Carolina, for example, Rep. Marcus Brandon, a black Democrat, joined a white Democrat and two white Republicans this year in sponsoring a bill that would have given tax credits to businesses that fund scholarships. In Florida, nearly half of Democrats, and most members of the black and Hispanic caucuses, have supported a similar scholarship program that 38,000 students used last year.

That unusual bipartisan cooperation doesn't hold everywhere. Not a single Democrat voted for Indiana's voucher law. Yet it's clear many minority students in the state are benefiting: At Ambassador and Trinity, about 95 percent of the students are African-American.

Stewart, the principal at Ambassador, sometimes gets pushback to her acceptance of vouchers: "Some of my colleagues in public schools feel that we have stolen children from their coffers." But opponents of school choice initiatives are having trouble gaining traction, apart from occasional judicial rulings citing constitutional roadblocks. No school choice programs have fallen into disfavor in states where they've taken root. Instead, enrollment has gone up.

That's good news for families like the Griffins. Roman and Sheila say Ambassador had a positive spiritual effect on their kids. "We are not anti–public school, necessarily," Sheila said, "but we are grateful to have our first choice, our first pick, which is [a] Christian school." ⊕

A READY HARVEST

Three Teach for America recruits say we don't have to travel far to discover a ripe mission field

BY MEGAN BASHAM IN NASHVILLE, TENN.

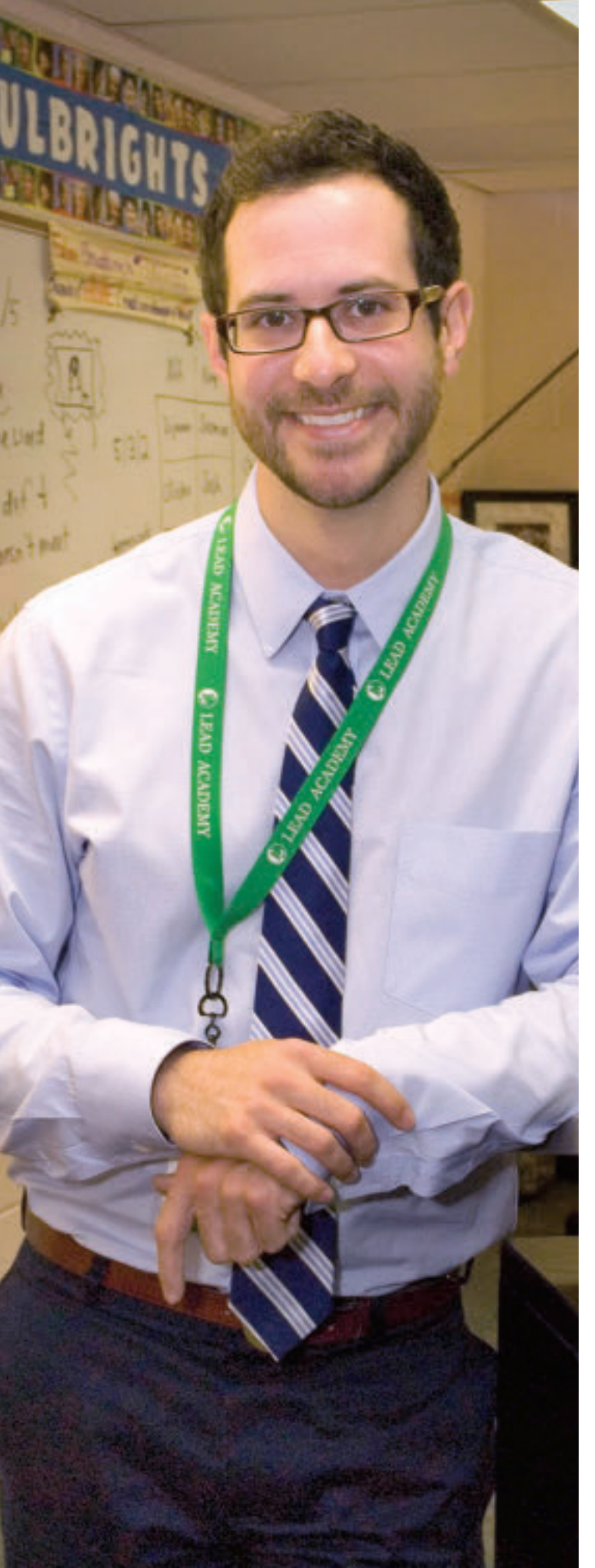
PHOTO BY RANDI ANGLIN/GENESIS

On a Thursday afternoon in early May, the freshmen in Will Fuller's world geography class are describing their ideal country for their end-of-year presentations. The teens fidget and smile at each other as they take turns stepping to the front of the room to explain their utopian country's government structure, majority religion, welfare policies, and ways to fight crime. Each time a presentation ends, students ask tough questions.

The presentations are part of an in-depth project requiring critical thinking and broad application of the concepts the students have learned throughout the year. They reflect the demanding yet encouraging posters papering the walls of Fuller's classroom. (One lists the qualities of a Fulbright Scholar. Another tracks the students' college admission goals.)

The questions, the posters, the students' quiet conduct as they file out when the bell rings—that's what we might expect at an expensive private school. Yet LEAD Academy is located in a small, somewhat rundown brick building in Elizabeth Park, a Nashville neighborhood. Nearly 40 percent of the residents have incomes below the government's poverty line, and the number of single-mother households is more than triple the state average.

Fuller teaches at LEAD through Teach for America (TFA), the nonprofit organization that sends recent college graduates and young professionals to teach in low-income areas. But he said that over the past two years, he has dealt with few problems—violence, gangs, classroom control—typically associated with low-income schools: "I've been fortunate that I was placed



THREE'S COMPANY: Will Fuller, Angela Reuter, Michelle Wright (from left).


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B8.


TWO RIVERS
STAFF





"WE NEED BELIEVERS HERE IN THE THICK OF WHERE THE HEARTACHE IS. ... WE NEED

in the charter school system where we're really set up for success." Across town, two of Fuller's fellow TFA recruits have very different tales to tell.

When walking onto the sprawling, state-of-the-art campus of Cane Ridge High School, one striking detail is how expensive everything looks. Another is how many police cars are out front.

Sophomore math teacher Angela Reuter said the school's $5 million price tag has done little to curb the problems inside its walls: "It's hard because people see this as a really nice school, and yet we have kids in gangs, kids walking around in ankle bracelets, police patrolling the hallways." Security tightened that day because of a fight that broke out the day before. Some of Reuter's students have "already cycled through"—meaning they had "cycled" their way from her class to jail and back again. Pregnancy and drugs, she said, are also common problems.

Though Reuter's students are only one grade ahead of Fuller's, their demeanor presents a stark contrast. No one responds to the questions Reuter poses until she prods them several times. She stops frequently to warn a loud group of boys. Toward the end of the lesson she discovers others had been listening to music through ear buds.

Michelle Wright, math teacher at Two Rivers Middle school, said even though her students are younger, she faces many of the same issues: Students tell her they will drop out and not attend high school. Already, many "apathetic" students are repeating grades. "They just get shuffled from one school to another," she said. "They'll have disciplinary problems and get expelled from one school and are then sent to our school for a couple of months until we expel them." The day I visited her classroom, the eighth-grade students were on lockdown because of a fight the previous day.

On the surface, the biggest difference between Fuller's experience with TFA and those of Reuter and Wright seems to be Fuller's charter school, which has more autonomy in terms of discipline and resource allocation. But all three said that's oversimplifying the problem—and taking the pressure off Christians to do the hard work Christ calls them to. The real difference they see is that the kids in the charter school have someone in their lives who loves them.

Fuller said up to 95 percent of his school's students qualify for free and reduced lunch based on their low income level. But students must apply to attend LEAD—a tremendous advantage LEAD has over other schools because it means that every student has at least one adult in his life who cared enough to enroll him in a charter school: "A lot of times, it's not even a parent. It's some other relative or family friend. But it is at least someone."

Compare that experience to Reuter's: Most of her students' families have no interest in hearing from the school. Or to Wright's: She describes a track meet that "was a pretty big event because the team had gone from district to regional to finally the city, and it was the last competition of the year. Out of 14 kids, only one had a parent show up. And this was something that they'd worked for the entire season."

Still, Fuller, Wright, and Reuter said working for TFA provided them an open field for evangelism.

Wright recalled the day several girls started crying one by one in her classroom: "I don't know how it started but one of the girls said, 'I hate my dad because he took away my phone,' or something like that. The next thing I know, I look over and one of our eighth-grade girls is sobbing. So I pull her aside to ask what's wrong, and she says, 'My parents are divorced and my dad just told me this morning he's moving away.' So we talked about it for a little bit, then I look over a couple seats away, and there's another student starting to cry. She says, 'My dad hasn't seen me since I was 6 because he doesn't want to be in my life.' And then the next girl starts crying and says, 'Well I don't even know who my dad is.' And I am not kidding you, I had seven girls crying at the same time. I don't know how you address that without God, because what other solution is there?"

Wright says she felt the Holy Spirit prompting her in that moment to tell the





A GENERATION OF PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO GO, YOU KNOW, HERE." —Will Fuller

girls that though they've been hurt by unfaithful men, they can be healed through a relationship with a faithful God: "I would never force my perspective on a kid, but I'm going to do what I feel God would want me to do. Even more than I desire my students to get on the right track academically, it is my deepest desire that they come to know the Lord." Later, after one student began coming to her room at lunch to ask Wright to explain Bible passages, more students began showing up with questions of their own.

Reuter, too, said once she made it known publicly that she was a Christian, students began flocking to her. She started a prayer board in her classroom to keep up with all her students' prayer requests, and when she offered to drive students to her church's Wednesday night youth service, she quickly realized she couldn't accommodate all the takers. She had to seek help from her pastor, who started a shuttle service for them. It started with 60 kids, and the number still grows. "I've had students tell me that the environment in our school has changed because of it."

Fuller, Wright, and Reuter all said the biggest challenge in helping students like theirs learn about Jesus is not a lack of interest from the kids, but a lack of Christians willing to go to the mission fields in their own backyards.

"The one thing people need to know," Fuller said, "is that we need believers here in the thick of where the heartache is. I think it's glamorous to say, I'm going to Nepal or I'm going to go to Japan to do a mission. But we need a generation of people who are willing to go, you know, here."

Fuller believes that local individualized ministry, in which Christians invest in young people long-term, is the key to overcoming not just the education gap, but many other societal problems.

"Teach for America comes at it from the point of view that if you just work really hard to provide yourself opportunities, you can overcome anything in your background," he says. "The problem with that is it still doesn't heal the emotional baggage. You just gloss over it with hard work and making a lot of money. So then you become successful and get to be an adult and wonder why you still have pain in your life and why your family's still dysfunctional." He compares it to putting a Band-Aid on an open wound.

Fuller says real change can only come to the inner city once missionaries interested in depth rather than breadth make a commitment to it: "Pick a couple of kids and pour your life into them. Because once Christians start to do that, that's when we'll start seeing a huge difference."

Wright believes one reason churches have done so little is because "a lot of Christians don't realize how valuable their commitment would be in inner cities, or even how much they have to offer because there's not a whole lot of attention directed to it from the church."

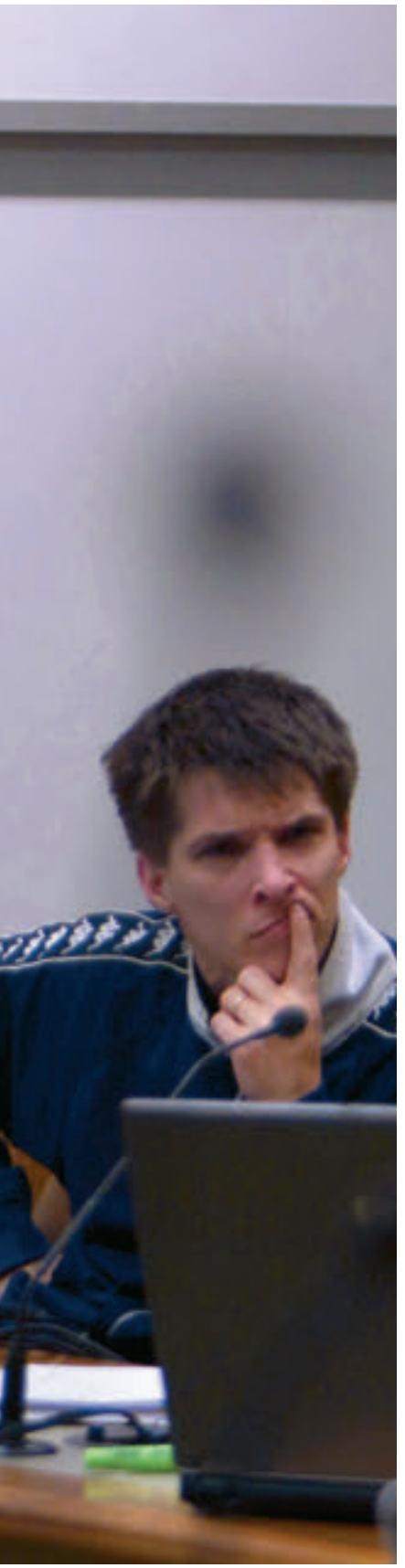
Due to worries over government regulation and fear of lawsuits regarding religion in public schools, this lack of church involvement isn't likely to change soon.

But Wright said Christians aren't off the hook, given how great the need is. "Can you send a single email and find the perfect way for you to get involved? Probably not. But if, for example, a bunch of Christian college guys came over from Vanderbilt and said, 'We really want to help with your football program,' our coach would say in a heartbeat, 'Please do!' Or if a group of Christians came to our school and said 'We'd like to help with afterschool tutoring,' I have a hard time believing any of our schools would turn them away."

Fuller said this type of high-commitment ministry not only changes the culture of inner cities but also leads to spiritual growth in churches. He said teaching pushes him to live out the Scripture in a "raw" way to the kids: "It's such a different feeling of dependence on God, and I just think not only are [Christians] needed in these places, but we are missing out by not being there."

Wright agreed: "I spent six months on a mission in India, and a summer living in an orphanage in Mexico. But I have never seen a harvest so ready as it is today with our kids." ⊕


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TIMELY TEACHING

Texas business school teaches that leading a meaningful life is more important than dollar signs

BY MARVIN OLASKY IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

TIME. In the fine movie *Gettysburg* (1993), Robert E. Lee is making decisions that will make the difference between life and death for thousands of soldiers and for the future of the Confederacy itself. Meanwhile, cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart is conforming to traditions involving personal honor, and Lee four times has to tell him, with increasing urgency, "There is no time for that!"

Jeff Sandefer, founder of (and master teacher within) the Acton School of Business, tells the same to applicants to his highly rated MBA program in Austin, Texas. When one prospective student asks, "Am I able to work while enrolled in Acton?" Sandefer replies, "There is no time for students to work while attending Acton. Students work 80 to 100 hours or more a week attending class, meeting in peer groups, and preparing cases." The Acton website states, "Time—entrepreneurs don't insult each other by wasting it. ... Here you'll get a transformational experience in less [than] half the time of other business programs—your time's way too valuable to waste."

Sandefer made his first entrepreneurial dollars by seeing undervalued time: After a company hired him to paint storage tanks, he saw paid-by-the-hour painters moving slowly in the west Texas heat and set up his own business that paid by work done. Individuals who worked quickly could earn a lot, so Sandefer (still in high school) was hiring football coaches and their players, and making a lot of money himself. He went on to gain a Harvard MBA and to found Sandefer Offshore (a highly profitable oil and gas company) and Sandefer Capital Partners (a half-billion-dollar energy investment fund).

In recent years he has been influential in Texas policy discussions by zeroing in on students wasting time in college—often taking six or seven years to graduate, when they do, and often showing little or no increase in critical-thinking skills. He wants to zero out college personnel who don't contribute to the education of students. He critiques liberal arts professors paid $150,000 or more to teach three small classes, who waste much of their time writing journal articles on trivial subjects that only a handful of colleagues read.

But Sandefer hasn't set up his own college yet, partly because he believes lots of small, non-distinctive colleges will go out of business over the next decade, and big ones will either change or flounder. We talked near where the University of Texas at Austin is constructing more buildings, a pursuit Sandefer thinks is "insane. The bureaucracy is serving itself. It's like in the Soviet Union, which built walls to protect it from the outside while it was imploding on the inside."

DOWN TO BUSINESS: Sandefer teaching at Acton. HANDOUT

Sandefer taught part-time at UT and helped to build a top entrepreneurship program, but left 10 years ago after the university persisted in emphasizing research over teaching and preferring professors who write journal articles over those who build successful businesses. He didn't back off then and hasn't since in his critique of conventional higher education, noting that it's built on exploiting taxpayers and playing on the sentiments of alumni.

Sandefer then did more than criticize: He created an MBA program that reflects business reality. Grading is on a forced





LIFE LESSONS: Sandefer with Acton students (above); Acton Academy teacher Kaylie Dienelt Reed works with her class.

curve, which means the lower-ranked students flunk out. Teaching is on a forced curve as well, with student evaluations of professors taken so seriously that the lowest-ranked loses his job. (The professors are part-timers with business careers of their own, and poor evaluations show a teacher that he should moonlight in a different trade.)

What the survivors get are classes appropriately low on the ladder of abstraction. Sandefer learned the case method approach while getting an MBA from Harvard, and uses it in his school to focus students' minds on business realities rather than abstract theories. At the same time, Acton recognizes that dollar signs can also become one of the abstractions, so statements about "meaning" abound: "We believe in building profitable businesses, but know leading a meaningful life is much more important," and "Learn how to make money. Learn how to live a life of meaning."

Sandefer's "Life of Meaning" course is required for all students, and he says three kinds are common. Some have already survived life-threatening crises and know how to remain unshaken during tough times. (They generally do well.) Some are angry because of "unresolved father issues." (To do well, they need to address their pasts.) Some come from prestige colleges, have had 4.0 grade point averages, have captained football teams. Sandefer says they may be unwilling to risk their successful self-images and need to get their noses bloodied.

One message to Acton MBA students: Don't worry about getting your noses bloodied. Be willing to experiment. Following unproductive practices unthinkingly: There is no time for that. Getting caught up in ego and image-burnishing: There is no time for that. The world is such an interesting place that our eyes should be looking outward and upward.

Strikingly, that's also the message to much younger students at the Acton Academy, a private elementary school—this fall expanding to middle school as well—founded by Sandefer and his wife, Laura. That's where students first learn a statement on one wall of the Acton complex that displays Sandefer's sense of how education, and life, ought to be pursued: "I am on a hero's journey." ⊕

LEFT: HANDOUT · RIGHT: RICARDO B. BRAZZIELL /AMERICAN-STATESMAN/WPN

Comfortable with failure

BY SUSAN OLASKY

THE ACTON ACADEMY'S BUILDING is next to the Acton MBA's. Both inhabit a beautiful site, with a panoramic view of downtown Austin. In good weather, students take blankets and sit on the hillside, backdropped by trees and the city skyline.

Natural light pours through the windows of the spacious elementary classroom. Colorful rugs create islands on which groupings of desks sit. The room has a Montessori aesthetic: Light wooden pegs hold backpacks. Nets slung over chair-backs corral folders. Red and gold beanbags invite kids to curl up with a book. Only a dark suit of armor seems out of place.

In one corner, 30 students—first through fifth grade—form a semi-circle. Their teacher, Anna Blabey Smith, leads them in a Socratic discussion based on two short video clips. In one, John Sealy Brown explains how people learn real problem-solving skills by figuring out how to fix things. He peppers his talk with phrases about innovation, thinking outside the box, and improvisation. In the other, Zig Engellman extols the benefits of teaching directly, offering students new information in small bites, guaranteeing success.



"I want to ask if you agree or disagree with that," Smith says. "Raise your hand if you agree. ... Why do you agree with that?" Smith calls on one student and lets him call on the next. Students politely disagree with each other: "That's a good point, Charlie, but ..." After more questions and more discussion, the teacher asks, "Would you rather go to a school run by John Seely Brown or Zig Engelmann?"

The kids mostly agree that Engelmann's school "wouldn't be much of a challenge. It might be boring too." "It might be helping you in school, but hurting you in life." Smith then brings the discussion down to a practical choice. She holds up a small paperclip machine and asks, "Do you want to make it by reading and following instructions?" Or by "tinkering, playing around with it, and trying to figure it out yourself?"

More than half raise their hand to show they want to tinker and figure out how to make the paper clip machine. They line up to receive wire cutters and a paper clip bending jig, a wooden base, and a handful of paper clips. Spontaneous groups form around the room. Some children bend their paper clips right away, as though speed were the object. Others carefully study their tools and the model before starting. Teacher Smith tells those who wanted to follow written instructions where to find them on the internet. She tells both groups they can change their minds anytime.

Lead teacher Kaylie Dienelt Reed describes one of Acton Academy's unusual attributes: "We think it's important that our students become comfortable with failure. If you ask them what that means, most of them will say there's no such thing as failure." Projects like the paper clip machine grow out of that philosophy: "Built into every project are opportunities not to succeed. That's part of life when you're trying things."

The kids embrace the idea. One child disagreed with Engelmann's definition of success: "If it's that easy to succeed, when you put them in the real world, where they have to grow a business or have to be an employee, they'll think, 'There's no way I can lose. There's no way I can lose money. No way I can go bankrupt. I'm just going to win, win, win, like I did at school.'"

That may sound precocious coming from a fifth-grader, but it reflects the school's risk-taking ethos. Reed says parents choose Acton because they want a school where children learn how to teach themselves: "From the beginning the children understand that they are on a hero's journey, and they will change the world. They're not just coming to learn information but they are coming to learn how to do things."

Beyond that, Acton wants each child to see himself on a hero's journey, where a person of character uses his unique gifts and passions and discovers, with the help of guides and fellow-travelers, that area of need in the world where he can make a difference.

Daily projects, Socratic dialogues, and independent work on core subjects—reading, writing, and math—help students discover their talents and passions. So does art and PE, and visits by successful entrepreneurs.

Students do well when they come from families where they've already had lots of freedom and responsibility: "If they have direct instruction at home, they won't be able to adjust. It's so different from what is happening here," Reed said.

Acton Academy uses the term "zone" to describe the sweet spot where maximum learning takes place. Picture a donut. The hole represents the comfort zone, where kids might retreat to rest and regroup. It's a fine place to visit but not to camp. The donut itself represents the challenge zone, where most learning occurs. By stretching, it can grow. Most of the school day should be spent in that challenge zone, but sometimes kids undertake a challenge that's a bit too big. They can hit the panic zone (outside the donut).

Reed says the projects provide "a great opportunity to get to that border between challenge and panic." And talking about zones gives students the vocabulary to describe their inner state when they go from learning to frustrated overload.

Acton is not a Christian school, but its goals and purposes express a commitment to "cherish the arts, the wonders of the physical world and the mystery of life." It's committed to "economic, political, and religious freedom." Its website states without embarrassment: "We believe that the American Experiment, with all its faults, is the best hope on earth for protecting human liberty."

NAME GAME

Los Angeles public schools opt for rebranding—but little change—in a battle against budget cuts

BY ANGELA LU & MARY JACKSON
IN LOS ANGELES & SAN JOSE

Some school reformers hold up charter schools as a great educational hope. Yes, those schools are government-funded and operating within public-school constraints on religious expression, but they are free from many creativity-stifling restraints and from teachers unions' defense of the status quo—or so the story goes. Los Angeles, though, has a growing "affiliated charter" category that allows schools to maintain the status quo while adding "charter" to their school name. They have more flexible budgets and greater freedom of governance but still hold onto their buildings, keep their ties to the school district, and maintain the teachers union in the style to which it is accustomed.

Example: When Hale Middle School in Los Angeles became Hale Charter Academy last fall, all it did was put on a shiny new hat and coat. Underneath that garment, the Los Angeles school is still very much the same: Teachers stay under union contracts and students follow the same curriculum. "I thought I would see change," said Margaret Goldbaum,



WALKING THE LINE: Students walk to class at Grimmway Academy, a charter school started in 2011, in Arvin, Calif.



HENRY A. BARRIOS/THE CALIFORNIAN/ZUMA PRESS/NEWSCOM

who works at the school's student store: "So far I don't see anything different."

Unlike typical charter school conversions, Hale and the 17 other affiliated charters in Los Angeles were not failing schools looking for change—before converting, Hale received a California Distinguished School award, honoring the top 5 percent of California schools. This fall, 23 more high-performing schools in the well-to-do San Fernando Valley plan to convert. It's a way to deal with budget cuts: Affiliated charters receive unrestricted block grants that allow for more flexibility in spending than traditional public schools. "That is the only reason they went charter," said Larry Sand, a retired teacher and president of California Teachers Empowerment Network. "I don't blame them, they are doing something legal to get some money. If I was a principal, I'd do it too."

Schools that had to lay off teachers can get the money to rehire them by becoming an affiliated charter. Charter status does allow some improvements besides financial ones. Affiliated charters also have some autonomy with their staff, governance, and curriculum. Community members can create advisory boards, schools can choose which texts to use, and teachers can skip some district-required standardized tests. But the big thing that remains the same is the teachers union label—and as Sand said, "If you are bound by a union contract, you are tethered to a rock."

Nationally, only 12 percent—or 184—of all charter schools are unionized, and affiliated charters are unique to Los Angeles. The California Charter Schools Association doesn't know exactly what to make of the growing number of affiliated charters. "As an association we are supportive of conventional charter schools that are autonomous, able and free to make their own governance and decisions," said CCSA media relations director Vicky Waters. "Affiliated charters are more tied to the district, they seem to not have as many freedoms as truly independent charters." The number of such "charter schools" may continue to grow as budget cuts in Los Angeles continue.

Real charters in California differ from those loved by unions more interested in preserving well-paid jobs than improving education.

When Daniella Rodriguez struggled to read in the third grade, teachers at her San Jose, Calif., public school thought she had autism and recommended special-needs classes. Her parents, Angel and Karen Rodriguez, began reading with Daniella more at home, while also hiring a tutor and looking at other schooling options.

Halfway through the school year, they enrolled Daniella in Mateo Sheedy Elementary School, one of five charter schools run by the Palo Alto-based nonprofit Rocketship Education. Situated in the Silicon Valley, these K-5 schools blend traditional classroom instruction with online learning. Students spend two extra hours a day working on math and reading programs in a room tightly packed with over 100 computer cubicles.

Daniella began working one-on-one with teachers who pinpointed her difficulties. In the lab, she enjoyed identifying letter





CALIFORNIA LEARNIN': Students at Rocketship's Mateo Sheedy school.

ROCKETSHIP EDUCATION

Saving Catholic schools



JUST NORTH OF SAN JOSE, a San Francisco investment group started a blended learning initiative to help revive Catholic education. Since 2000, over 1,800 Catholic schools in the United States have closed. "We want to reverse that trend by using technology to increase results and make our schools more economically viable," said Scott Hamilton, a managing partner at Seton Education Partners.

To start, Seton garnered over half a million dollars in funding from private donors to help merge two San Francisco Catholic schools on the brink of closure. Mission Dolores Academy (MDA) joined Megan Furth Academy last fall and reopened with a blended learning platform to 225 K-8 students.

MDA, a school originally established in the 19th century, has high ceilings, large windows, and floor heaters. Desks and chairs face whiteboards, but in the back of each classroom, over a dozen sleek, flat-screen computers line two rows of tables.

Teacher Michelle Escobar has 27 eighth-graders in her language arts class. She starts her first-period class instructing 14 students on how to write persuasive essays. The other 13 students read and identify similes, metaphors, and the main plots from poems and short stories online. The school tests students at the beginning of the year, so they each work at different grade levels based on their proficiency. After 30 minutes, Escobar has them switch. "I am able to always have small group instruction while teaching," she said, while admitting to occasional difficulties in keeping students quiet at the computers.

One of her students, Manuel Mora, appreciates Escobar's individualized instruction: "In the past years ... if we asked a question, [our teachers] would try to help, but if they couldn't, they would just move on."

After its first year, MDA saw overall math scores go up 16 percent. Reading scores went up 6 percent. With the split class, teachers say they can handle a few more students per grade—and MDA predicts operating costs will go down from $15,000 per student to $7,000 by the fall of 2013.

Now, Seton is helping St. Therese Catholic Academy in Seattle reopen this fall using the same model. The task for teachers is to communicate concepts, and the software programs then help students improve their proficiency and test them on what they know and whether they're ready to move to the next topic.

—Mary Jackson

sounds and reading short stories at a first-grade level, enabling her to "see her own progress and gain confidence," Karen says. Within five months she jumped to a fourth-grade reading level.

Rocketship is producing results with struggling students like Daniella. Their first two schools to open in 2007 outperformed other elementary schools in Silicon Valley, and now rank among California's 15 top-performing high-poverty schools. Rocketship will open its first out-of-state charter in Milwaukee, Wis., in the fall of 2013, with expansion plans underway in Louisiana, Indiana, and Tennessee. Rocketship schools are among those using a blended learning model in an effort to improve classroom efficiency amid the rapidly growing sector of online learning.

At Rocketship schools, a non-certified aide supervises students in the computer lab, while teachers instruct other classes. This system allows one fewer teacher per grade, saving each charter $500,000 annually. This money is reinvested into paying teachers 20 percent more and hiring an academic dean.

"Our approach gets attention because it is cost-saving, but we like to focus on how it allows the teacher a higher level of assessment on each student. Teachers are freed up to do what they do best, which is to develop students," says Kristoffer Haines, Rocketship's senior director of national development.

At Mateo Sheedy, fourth-grade math teacher Rodney Lynk introduces concepts of perimeter, area, and volume. Later, students will work in the lab on problems using formulas for these concepts. But in class, they are drawing architectural blueprints for a house they call "project dream house." Sketching from an eagle-eye view, students plan the space and depth of each room, while figuring out how much would fit in the rooms.

"I am able to look at their work from the lab to see if they are doing the problems correctly, but with this project, I wanted to press them to understand these principles conceptually," says Lynk, 25, a Teach for America member.

Still, Haines admits online learning tools could be better: "It's a young, fledgling industry. We're seeing results when it's functioning at 20 percent. As technology improves, the benefits to students will be even greater." ⊕

SETON EDUCATION PARTNERS





SOAPING THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

Two books document the decline of once-Christian colleges into bastions of unbelief

BY MARVIN OLASKY ILLUSTRATION BY KRIEG BARRIE

WHAT HAPPENED to so many once-Christian colleges in the United States? Two fine books describe the decline. George Marsden's 462-page *The Soul of the American University* shows how once-Protestant universities became secular look-alikes. James Burtchaell's *The Dying of the Light: The Disengagement of Colleges and Universities from Their Christian Churches* uses 868 pages to show not only how schools moved from liberal theism to secularism but how, before that, they moved from theologically conservative to liberal stances.

I'll try to give the high points of 1,330 pages in fewer than 1,330 words: Three central messages are (1) Follow the money, (2) Watch the college president, (3) See what the college does with Darwin.

FOLLOW THE MONEY: Andrew Carnegie, antagonistic toward Christianity, established in 1905 the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which the following year began giving matching grants to fund the retirement of professors—but it excluded colleges and universities under denominational control. During the first four years of Carnegie grant-making, 20 schools changed their boards, statement of faith requirements, or hiring requirements so as to get Carnegie money for professors who might otherwise fall into poverty.

For example, Beloit College quickly sent Carnegie a message that suggested the board's resolve to have trustees from any denomination or no denomination. In the 1920s the trustees selected as Beloit's new president Irving Maurer, who said in one talk, "What does God mean to me? He means doing my duty, being good, allying myself with the right things." Maurer decried "the doctrine of the Virgin birth" and said, "I believe in the divinity of Jesus because I believe in the divinity of man. I believe that man and Christ have the moral characteristics of God."

Occasionally college leaders pushed back. Syracuse University chancellor James Day defended his Methodist school in 1910 and said, "Other colleges may do as they please. If they wish to crawl in the dirt for such a price, that is their privilege. But no university can teach young people lofty ideals of manhood and forget itself respect and honor, or sell its loyalty and faith for money that Judas flung away when in remorse he went out and hung himself. It is an insult for such a proposition to be made to a Christian institution."

Most colleges, Carnegie found out, welcomed such insult—and Syracuse eventually succumbed to other blandishments.

The love of money was the root of all kinds of evil. New presidents loved to find new money sources but often in the process abandoned a biblical focus—because no money came without strings of some sort. Burtchaell shows how the Lafayette College board with its Presbyterian trustees, "terrified of a sudden insolvency," hired a president who objected, "as all right-minded people do, to being thought sectarian." Boards at Millsaps, Davidson, and Wake Forest moved away from denominational influence upon receiving "a sudden, large benefaction."

WATCH THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT. Burtchaell shows that many college presidents cared more about respectability in the eyes of materialists than they did about Christ. These presidents were "attractive, and trusted," but at critical moments they helped their colleges gain money and students by abandoning the original Christian mission. Some were not even conscious of what they were doing: "All change was supposed to be gain, without a sense of loss." But losses there were: In college after college "the critical turn away from Christian accountability was taken under the clear initiative of a single president."

Marsden shows how decade by decade, college after college, presidents led trustees in making small accommodations, often with little understanding of the ultimate import of such moves. Boards of trustees assumed that Christian principles and objectives, often encrusted like fossils in mission statements, were still operative, but in practice they were increasingly marginalized.

Burtchaell shows how the presidents often got their way because the colleges were tired of being poor and often tired of "doctrinal preoccupations that spoiled the religious, devotional, and behavioral commonplaces which the modernists took as cultural lozenges." For example, James Kirkland, who became chancellor of Vanderbilt in 1893, spoke less about the Bible and more about the "'upbuilding of Christ's kingdom,' a phrase that could encompass everything constructive in modern civilization." Kirkland spent 20 years reducing the role of Southern Methodist leaders on his board of trustees.

The largest Northern Methodist university, Northwestern, dismissed in 1902 an English professor who attacked biblical inerrancy in a local newspaper. The firing brought some negative national publicity, and Northwestern's new president told its board in 1908 that Northwestern should offend neither "the denomination which gave it birth or the great community which is becoming interested in it without respect to denominational considerations." No school can serve two masters, and Northwestern was soon playing to the "great community."











PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS: Irving Maurer, president of Beloit College from 1924 to 1942; William Jewett Tucker, president of Dartmouth from 1893 to 1909; James Day, chancellor of Syracuse University from 1893 to 1922; Ernest Hopkins, president of Dartmouth from 1916 to 1945 (clockwise from top left).

MAURER: BELOIT COLLEGE · TUCKER: DARTMOUTH COLLEGE RAUNER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY · DAY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS · HOPKINS: DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Burtchaell writes about William Jewett Tucker, president of Dartmouth from 1893 to 1909, who took difficult parts of Scripture as metaphorical and called for "a Bible set free from the last bondage to literalism." As conviction of the Bible's truth disappeared, all that was left was "vague moralizing," and in time "the purge of Christian purpose" became evident to all. Tucker changed the board of trustees so that in 1906, near the end of his incumbency, a majority of board members were not active members of any church.

Tucker's comments as he left office showed why Dartmouth was on its way to becoming indistinguishable from secular counterparts: He did not want to discuss "distinctive tenets" of the Bible but only "those fundamental obligations and incentives of religion in which we are all substantially agreed." Then he proclaimed, "Formerly the distinction was, Is a man orthodox or heterodox? Today the distinction is, Is a man an optimist or a pessimist?" Tucker's successor as president, Ernest Hopkins, said in 1921 that "friendliness and good will [are] the essence of the religion Jesus taught." Churches, in other words, were clubs.

Watch the treatment of Darwin. At Dartmouth during Tucker's reign, chapel became voluntary but a course on evolution compulsory. Wake Forest's president from 1905 to 1927, William Poteat, tried to meld Christianity and evolution, and oversaw religious drift. When Ohio Wesleyan President James Bashford interviewed zoologist Edward Rice for a faculty position, Rice said he would teach evolution and Bashford replied, "I wouldn't want you if you didn't."

Francis Patton, Princeton's president from 1888 to 1902, hired Woodrow Wilson to be a professor but told him he should teach "under theistic and Christian presuppositions." Patton complained, "In your discussion of the origin of the State, you minimize the supernatural & make such unqualified application of the doctrine of naturalistic evolution & the genesis of the State as to leave the reader of your pages in a state of uncertainty as to your own position & the place you give to Divine Providence." In 1902 the trustees made Wilson president, and Wilson over the next 10 years undermined what was left of Princeton's biblical base (see sidebar).

Marsden quotes at length an article *Cosmopolitan* magazine published in 1909—Harold Bolce's "Blasting at the Rock of Ages"—that summarized a national tragedy: "Those who are not in close touch with the great colleges of the country, will be astonished to learn the creeds being foisted by the faculties of our great universities. In hundreds of classrooms it is being taught daily that the Decalogue is no more sacred than a syllabus; that the home as an institution is doomed; that there are no absolute evils; that immorality is simply an act in contravention of society's accepted standards."

How the mighty had fallen.

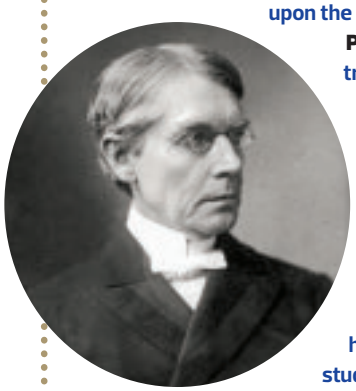
WILSON: BETTMANN/CORBIS/AP . PATTON: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Woodrow Wilson and the 'evolution' of government

ONCE UPON A TIME—no, let's give the exact year, 1888—critics of seminary professor James Woodrow outed him as a Darwinist and ousted him from his professorship. The Southern Presbyterian General Assembly, meeting in Baltimore, reviewed and upheld the dismissal. That would be a minor historical footnote except that a 32-year-old future president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, attended the convention and became "unorthodox in my reading of the standards of the faith." In essence, he became a theistic evolutionist.



In the late 19th century Princeton President James McCosh emphasized biblical teaching. His successor, Francis Patton, rated eloquence above biblical orthodoxy when recruiting professors, so he hired Wilson but expressed concern that the new professor emphasized the influences of Roman law in shaping Western civilization yet was "silent with respect to the forming & reforming influences of Christianity." Patton told Wilson that Princeton trustees "would not regard with favor such a conception of academic freedom or teaching as would leave in doubt the very direct bearing of historical Christianity as a revealed religion upon the great problems of civilization."



Patton's prediction was incorrect. The trustees in 1902 also chose a good talker rather than a solidly biblical thinker. Wilson as Princeton president announced what many had come to believe: Princeton "is a Presbyterian college only because the Presbyterians of New Jersey were wise and progressive enough to found it." Wilson quickly eliminated Bible classes (under pressure, he partly relented) and made sure that students received indoctrination in evolution. Ten years later Wilson ran for president and suggested that the real candidates were not Taft, Roosevelt, and himself, but Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin. America was in trouble, Wilson declared, because some people had the "Newtonian" view that the government should have an unchanging constitutional foundation, somewhat like "the law of gravitation." He argued that government "falls under the theory of organic life. ... Living political constitutions must be Darwinian in structure and in practice. Society is a living organism and must obey the laws of Life."

Wilson's summary: "All that progressives ask or desire is permission—in an era when 'development,' 'evolution,' is the scientific word—to interpret the Constitution according to the Darwinian principle." In other words, forget about the text of the Bible or the Constitution: As society rapidly evolves we must have "a living constitution" open to judicial reinterpretation, regardless of the words on the page. Just as colleges were on a slippery slope, so was government. *—M.O.*

VANDERBILT SQUEEZE

Christian ministries plan their futures under university's new policy against religious groups

BY LEIGH JONES IN NASHVILLE, TENN. PHOTO BY RANDI ANGLIN/GENESIS



TWENTY GRADUATE STUDENTS sat in Tish Warren's living room in May 2011. Finished with final exams, they had gathered, bleary-eyed, for the annual Graduate Christian Fellowship (GCF) end-of-year party. Normally, they spent the gathering reminiscing about the previous semester and listening to new graduates talk about their future plans. But as Warren, 33, cleaned up after dinner and listened to the conversation from the other room, she detected worry rather than relief.

A week earlier, an email from Vanderbilt University's Office of Religious Life had arrived in Warren's inbox. She expected the message to contain the annual acknowledgement that GCF, which is affiliated with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, was welcome to operate on campus again in the fall. But the email announced that GCF was now on provisional status because GCF's constitution, which requires student leaders to sign a statement of faith, violated Vanderbilt's nondiscrimination policy.

Warren knew that GCF hadn't made any changes to its constitution or application in more than 10 years. She hadn't received any notice that the school had changed policies. This must be a mistake, she thought. After all, what did the school plan to do, kick all the orthodox Christian groups off campus? The idea seemed absurd. (A Methodist bishop founded Vanderbilt in 1873.) She told the graduate students at the end-of-the-year party that she would have the misunderstanding cleared up by the start of the fall semester.

But almost a year later, Warren slumped in her chair at a crowded coffee shop on the edge of campus. She slowly spun her cup around in its saucer, dissolving the frothy design in the top of her latte as she explained the previous year's struggle.

It had started when a member of Christian fraternity Beta Upsilon Chi accused the group of forcing him out of leadership because he is gay. The student's complaint prompted administrators to reconsider whether religious groups should be able to restrict membership or leadership based on faith. Administrators decided that requiring students to share certain beliefs in order to join a group amounted to discrimination. When Christian groups protested, administrators compared them to racists who opposed desegregation in the 1960s.

Through many meetings Warren was patient, but finally she asked, "Do you really think that if I want our Bible study leaders to affirm the resurrection of Jesus, that's the same as saying that I don't want black people in my group? Do you really think that's the same thing?" Their response—creedal discrimination is still discrimination—ended the discussion.

Three months later, on Jan. 20, Vanderbilt administrators publicly announced the school's nondiscrimination policy. They described it as an "all-comers" policy, requiring all groups to be open to all students. They demanded that four Christian groups—GCF, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Christian Legal Society, and Beta Upsilon Chi—remove clauses in their constitutions requiring leaders to sign statements of faith. Student groups would also have to sign an affirmation of the nondiscrimination policy in order to retain official status.

By May, 14 Christian groups announced they could not abide by the policy and would operate as unofficial organizations for the 2012-13 school year.

Warren sighed heavily as she contemplated Vanderbilt's future: "If what we're calling pluralism is really a post-Christian, militant relativism, then what does it mean for a Christian to be a redemptive force in culture? If our ideology isn't welcomed as another idea at the table, do we need to be a little more Amish, a little more separate?"

AT ANOTHER COFFEE SHOP on the other side of campus, three members of the Christian Legal Society (CLS) squeezed around a table, talking about their plans for next year. Justin Gunter and Beth Roper, both rotating off the group's leadership team, looked tired after a year-long fight with administrators. In addition to his role as CLS president, Gunter served as spokesman for the coalition of Christian groups opposing the school's new policy. Although they weren't happy with the outcome, they were glad the fight was over, at least for now.

Incoming CLS president Parker Hancock said he was not giving up on holding events on campus, despite the group's renegade status. Professors have offered to use their status to help CLS reserve campus space for events. He planned to strengthen relations with Nashville churches and use Facebook and Twitter instead of weekly law school emails to publicize events: "I think we'll probably, ultimately be OK. ... It's just a matter of what does that look like? To



WARREN: "...what does it mean for a Christian to be a redemptive force in culture?"

what extent is this going to be a combination of restriction versus renewal?"

Most of the Christian groups "moving off campus" aren't really going anywhere. Ministry for many of them won't look much different this year than it did last year. Without official recognition, the groups can't apply for student fee funding, reserve school facilities for meetings, advertise events on the school's website, or participate in the student organization fair at the beginning of the school year.

But only a few groups held meetings in classrooms and lecture halls. Vanderbilt Catholic and Baptist Collegiate Ministries even own buildings on campus, giving them a regular meeting place. The school said it doesn't intend to keep groups from gathering in public places like the student center for Bible study or prayer meetings. The groups seem confident they can share information about their ministry the old-fashioned way—word of mouth.

One group, Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), chose to affirm the nondiscrimination policy and retain its official status. Chaplain Stacy Croft, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America, said the policy won't hinder him from preaching the gospel. RUF doesn't rely as heavily on student leaders and Croft has a hand in choosing those who lead Bible studies and small group meetings.

Some Christian leaders said the controversy had forced formerly apathetic or marginal members to become bolder about declaring their beliefs. Tish Warren said before Vanderbilt accused them of discrimination, many Christians on campus didn't think much about doctrine. Suddenly, the Nicene Creed was relevant on a college campus.

Last spring, 90 students attended a GCF-hosted panel on the role of creeds in Christian belief. Listening to them talk about creedal orthodoxy filled Warren with hope for Vanderbilt Christians: "Christians over the years have literally died for the notion of creedal orthodoxy. ... Christianity isn't just a void that we can pour whatever cultural hopes and dreams into, but there's actually a structure to our faith that we hold to, regardless of the trends of whatever is popular culturally, or not." ⊕

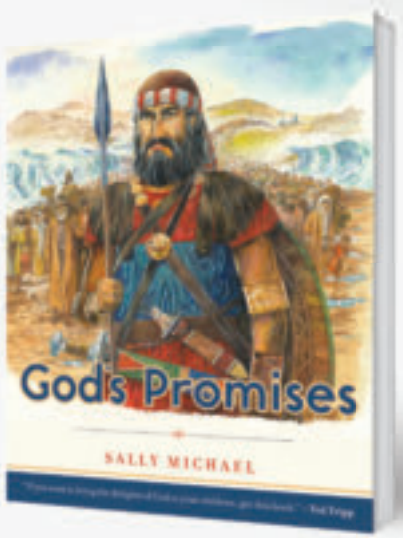
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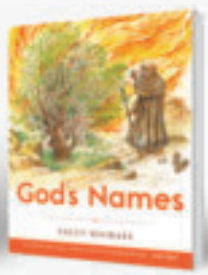


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Notebook



A better way

Ministry mentors use relatability to reach hardened hearts

BY MARY JACKSON

PHOTOS BY GARY FONG/GENESIS

When he was just 12 years old, Viliami Lauti began selling drugs outside a rundown East Oakland liquor store. At first, it was easy money for new tennis shoes and clothes, but soon he became hooked on drugs and the steady flow of cash. By age 24, Lauti was a fixture on the corner of Coolidge Avenue and North MacArthur Boulevard.

Then, two years ago, he began running into Anthony Del Toro, an old high-school friend. They had lost touch after Lauti's expulsion from school. Del Toro, a third-generation Norteño gang member, graduated—but then spent more than three years in the county jail for dealing drugs.

Del Toro was back on the streets—for a different reason. He told Lauti he'd come out of the gang life with the help of Christian-based California Youth Outreach (CYO), where he works as a team leader. Each time Del Toro ran into Lauti, he would encourage him to make the change too. He even asked Lauti to join CYO's outreach team.

At first, Lauti resisted: "I told him I could never be a role model. I told him I was cool with the life I was living. But really, I wasn't cool with it. I carried a gun. I have been shot at. I knew I was either going to die or go to jail for a long time."

Del Toro persisted until Lauti finally went for an interview at CYO. He told his interviewer, "The only job I've ever had is selling drugs," but that wasn't a bar to the program. Soon he was studying the Bible, working with CYO mentors, and attending weekly

COMEBACK KID: Anthony Del Toro is back on the streets—for a different reason.

meetings on topics like leadership, life skills, and accountability. During his training, Lauti realized "no man can serve two masters." He left drugs behind, and more than a year ago went to work as a street outreach worker.

In 1980, ex-gang-member-turned-pastor Tony Ortiz of San Jose founded CYO as a prison ministry. Since then it has expanded into a street outreach and mentoring program operating in five Bay-area cities. In Oakland, more than 20 former gang members and drug dealers regularly walk the streets in blighted neighborhoods, visiting schools, playing pick-up games of basketball, hosting block barbecues, and driving young men to job interviews.



A DIFFERENT APPROACH: Kevin Grant (center) advocates inclusion without violence.

"We know how to talk to our community because we look like our community," says Del Toro, 26, who wears a flat-billed San Jose Sharks hat and a baggy white T-shirt covering his tattooed arms. "We're out there as walking resources, as living proof, that there's a way out."

Kevin Grant is Oakland's coordinator for violence prevention groups under Measure Y, an anti-violence effort twice approved by voters. At least half of Measure Y's violence prevention funds go to CYO and other faith-based organizations. Grant, who grew up in Oakland as an "OG" (original gangster), cycled through 11 federal prisons in 17 years. He says, "A lot of people come into this town with their Harvard degrees and their cookie-cutter approaches, but we've got 500 degrees in street knowledge."

On a sunny Wednesday morning outside Oakland's parole office, Grant energetically greets 30 young men just released from state prisons. He knows many of them by name. Even those he doesn't, he's hugging, high-fiving, and referring to them as his "loved ones."

Inside, wearing a white Oakland A's hat, baggy gray jeans, and an extra-large T-shirt, Grant paces back and forth and tells stories about his time in federal prison, including the time in an Indiana prison when he held his newborn son. Within minutes, the guard said, "Now give him back." Grant didn't see his son again for 17 years. He doesn't want these parolees to suffer like that. He points them to sign-up sheets on tables lining both sides of the room: "Try something different. We've got people who can help you and opportunities for employment. This is your opportunity to get your life together."

Grant calls the work he does a slow dance: "We're working on re-messaging that violence is not the only way. While we're doing that, we're lining up some steady opportunities for them."

Grant's "loved one" approach is one way to fight crime. Some people in Oakland want to pursue "Operation Ceasefire," an approach based on a homicide reduction method developed by New York criminologist David Kennedy. Kennedy emphasizes town-hall-style meetings or "call-ins" between violent perpetrators, community leaders, and police who offer assistance and then present an ultimatum: Stop shooting, or your group will face targeted police response.

Even in the most crime-ridden neighborhoods, Kennedy—a professor at New York City's John Jay College of Criminal Justice—says most violence is the work of "a remarkably small group of criminals. ... If you can affect the behavior of these groups, in a very immediate way it is possible to see results." Operation Ceasefire helped to reduce youth homicide rates in Boston during the 1990s, and sometimes worked in other cities, but it failed completely in Baltimore and elsewhere. Kennedy blames the failures on bureaucratic politics in his 2011 memoir, *Don't Shoot: One Man, A Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America*.

CYO founder Tony Ortiz says Kennedy's Ceasefire model "tries to pump a little fear into gangsters," but what they really need is a change of heart: "Most of these guys, you can't scare them out of violence. You have to earn their respect and show them a better way to live."

Viliami Lauti is modeling that better way. He recently received a message from a young man who had lived with him for two months before disappearing. "Meet me at Wing Stop," the message said. When Lauti showed up, the young man bought him lunch and told him that he had a job. He showed Lauti his check stubs and the car he'd bought: "He wanted to thank me and tell me he was getting his life together." ⊕

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Education en masse

Major universities jump onto the online-class juggernaut **BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE**



ACCESSIBLE LEARNING: The University of Edinburgh is one of many universities to join Coursera, set up to provide web-based undergraduate-level courses to anyone who wants them.

"Introduction to Logic." "Artificial Intelligence Planning." "Greek and Roman Mythology." "Algorithms, Part 1."

Those are just a few of the online courses you can now take—for free—from Stanford, Princeton, Duke, and other big-name universities. This spring and summer more than a dozen schools teamed up with Coursera, a company that runs a web-based education platform, to provide more than 100 internet-based classes. Co-founded by two Stanford professors, Coursera enrolled more than 600,000 students in its initial classes, most of them from outside the United States. The free courses don't provide credit (students get a certificate of completion instead), although the University of Washington plans to offer credit for a fee.

The classes are what educators have dubbed "massive open online courses." The acronym MOOC is a new buzzword among those who believe online learning will reinvent 21st-century education.

In Coursera classes, reinvention looks like this: Thousands of students enroll in a single class, such as "Introduction to Astronomy," and access media and homework assignments on the web. A professor explains concepts in online videos, which automatically pause about every 10 minutes so software can quiz students and gauge retention. Students interact and ask questions of each other online, and in some cases will even grade one another's work, using guidelines created by the professor.

Some professors are excited about increasing their "class" size to tens of thousands of students. But others believe online teaching is inferior to a classroom setting, and point out that online students are prone to drop out (only a fraction of students who enrolled in a pilot MOOC last year went on to finish).

Coursera, along with competitors like edX and Udacity, still needs to prove the MOOC experiment can succeed. Coursera currently has no revenue stream—yet universities are jumping into the game, sensing an inevitable trend toward online education.

The board of the University of Virginia forced school president Teresa Sullivan to resign in June partly because, board emails suggested, she hadn't done enough to adapt the school to online learning. After students and faculty protested, Sullivan got her job back, but within three weeks she gave approval for four university classes to be offered through Coursera.

"There are still many unknowns for us to study concerning the long-term impact of this form of online teaching," she said. "But it's critical for [our school] to be in on the ground floor so that we can learn along with our peers what the future holds."



Browsing for votes

In the first national poll examining political "microtargeting," researchers from the University of Pennsylvania found that 86 percent of Americans disapproved of "political advertising tailored to your interests." Two-thirds said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who buys information about their online activities.

In fact, both presidential candidates do so, though they won't say to what extent. Specialists from both campaigns likely buy digital profiles from Microsoft, Yahoo, and internet advertisers to learn individual computer users' voter registration status, donation history, age, or browsing habits. They might then display an online ad about a candidate's energy policy to one person, for instance, and an ad about reproductive rights to another. *—D.J.D.*

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Change in the weather

Upcoming national science standards squelch alternate views on climate and Darwinism

BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE

As kindergartners and high-school students return to public schools this fall, a team of 41 writers will be busy editing national curriculum standards that, as early as next year, could change how science teachers instruct their classes. The so-called "Next Generation Science Standards," which all 50 states will have the option of adopting or not, are intended to provide a universal framework for science education. They explicitly emphasize Darwinism and climate change.

Based on recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, the standards reflect consensus (that is, majority) views. For instance, according to an 87-page draft the writing team presented for public comment in May, middle-school students are supposed to learn "how human activities significantly impact the geosphere, the hydrosphere, the atmosphere, the biosphere, and global temperatures," such as by the "release of greenhouse gases." They're supposed to learn about the effects of "increases in human population," and about "evidence" supporting the Big Bang.

High-school students will be taught that fossil and DNA discoveries support common ancestry, and that one species can evolve into two. Not only will they learn that human activities have increased "the frequency and intensity" of natural hazards like "floods, droughts, forest fires, [and] landslides," they'll study the "feasibility of geoengineering" projects to slow global climate change.

Even young students will learn principals of environmentalism. Fifth-graders will learn about "conducting an energy audit and developing a plan to reduce energy use." Kindergartners will learn how human activity like "cutting trees for lumber and paper products" impacts animal habitats.

Teaching about conservation and natural selection within a species has merit, but teaching uncritically the theoretical aspects of evolution and man-made climate change doesn't sit well with many teachers and parents: A 2008 poll found that only a quarter of public high-school biology teachers claim to be strong advocates of Darwinism, and in an online poll last year, half of science teachers said they faced skepticism about climate change teaching from parents.

Some states are skeptical, too. Officials from Texas, Virginia, and South Carolina suggested they won't adopt the new science standards, which are likely to be finished early next year. (Texas adopted state standards in 2009 requiring students to learn the strengths and weaknesses of evolutionary theory.)

But elsewhere, 26 states already have representatives on the Next Generation standards writing team. These states and others are likely to replace their own science standards with the national ones—leaving teachers and parents with little room to be skeptical.

JELLYFISH COPYCAT



Four scientists reported they made a synthetic "jellyfish" that swims freely, propelling itself through a salty fluid with only the prodding of an electrical current. The centimeter-wide creation, named a medusoid, is composed of a layer of rat heart muscle cells embedded on flexible silicone rubber. When the scientists apply electric pulses to the fluid suspending the medusoid, it expands and contracts like a real jellyfish.

The bioengineered device isn't alive, though: It can't eat, reproduce, or swim in any particular direction. Its creators, who reported their work in *Nature Biotechnology*, said they want to create more sophisticated medusoids using human heart cells. An ultimate goal of such experiments is learning how to design replacement valves for human hearts. —*D.J.D.*

ILLUSTRATION: RICHARD COWDRAY · JELLYFISH: CALTECH AND HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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Christian Surfers International five years ago founded the **Surf Church Hossegor** near the beach in Biarritz—France's surfing "capital." The church, which brings together Christian surfers from around the world, meets for worship on Sunday evenings under the leadership of pastor Christophe Parenty.

COLLET GUILLAUME/SIPA/NEWSCOM

Declawed Lions

Critics differ on whether the NCAA's punishment of Penn State fits the crime

BY MARK BERGIN

The NCAA levied stiff penalties last month against the Penn State football program for its failure to properly police former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, a homosexual pedophile found guilty of sexually abusing 10 boys over a period of more than a decade. A report commissioned by the school found that top staffers, including head coach Joe Paterno, concealed allegations against Sandusky, allowing his despicable behavior to go on unchecked.

Citing a desire to change the Penn State culture that apparently valued preserving football over protecting the innocent, the NCAA crippled the college's football program past and future with 13 years of nullified victories, reduced scholarships, four years of bowl ineligibility, and amnesty for any current players desiring to transfer elsewhere. The punishment ensures Penn State will field a losing team for many years to come. A chorus of criticism and praise followed the NCAA's announcement. Here's a sample:



I don't understand why the NCAA would get involved with a situation that is really criminal and doesn't involve the athletic department. —Franco Harris, Penn State alumnus and Hall of Fame running back



The NCAA action for Penn State may give the NCAA and its council of presidents a brief moment of moral superiority. They have punished and humiliated a bad actor—and they may think they don't have to hold a mirror to themselves. —Anne D. Neal, president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni



I applaud the NCAA for standing up and doing the right thing. There have to be consequences to this type of behavior. ... No consequence cuts out all wrongdoing, but this makes people think. —Fran Tarkenton, Hall of Fame quarterback



Sadly, in our experience, which has been mostly with church organizations, monetary fines have little impact with decision-makers. These are long-standing attitudes and practices that can't be fined out of existence. —David Clohessy, director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests



In truth, the scandal at Penn State is only incidentally about football. Mostly it is about the collapse of authority. There was a day when our colleges held themselves to higher standards than the society around them. Today they look to police, the courts, and outside institutions such as the NCAA to do a job they are clearly unwilling or unable to do. —Bill McGurn, *Wall Street Journal* columnist



I think all members of the NCAA should be worried about what this means down the road. This is clearly a precedent that expands the NCAA's authority over member institutions. —Gary Roberts, dean of Indiana University's School of Law



The genius of the sanctions is that they speak directly to the coaches in the most powerful football programs in the country and say your records are at stake. That will deter these kinds of cover-ups in the future. —Marci Hamilton, attorney representing an Ohio man in a sex-abuse lawsuit against Sandusky and Penn State



[T]o eliminate those wins, I think, is idiotic. What the hell did those kids have to do with it? They're not punishing Paterno. Paterno's dead. They're punishing these kids that graduated, that played the game. I think that is ridiculous, that part of it. —Bobby Knight, the second-winningest basketball coach in NCAA history



What's important in the Penn State case is that this be seen as a wake-up call for people in charge of institutions that they will be held accountable for what they do to human beings, especially the most vulnerable in our midst. —Rev. Thomas Doyle, a Catholic priest who has testified about church cover-ups in hundreds of sex-abuse trials

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In the red zone

Markets react to government interventions but recession fears remain

BY WARREN COLE SMITH

Feeble second-quarter-earnings reports poured out of Wall Street in July and early August. In the midst of earnings season, the Commerce Department announced that the gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an annual rate of just 1.5 percent, less than last year's 1.8 percent growth. First-quarter growth was a barely better 2 percent, and both numbers make a mockery of White House predictions earlier this year of 3 percent growth.

Even Apple, a Wall Street darling, disappointed this quarter. Apple is far from moribund. Revenue rose 23 percent to $35 billion, and the company earned a massive $8.8 billion—but both numbers fell short of expectations. That caused Apple and the entire technology sector to drop.

Then a strange thing happened. In the week following Apple's announcement, the Dow went up 500 points and Apple rebounded. So why are earnings playing so little role in the movements of the market? In part, says Rusty Leonard of Stewardship Partners, because short-term speculators and "government interventions," including the "double whammy" of both a Fed and a European Central Bank intervention on Aug. 1 and 2, have overwhelmed normal market forces. One result: Publicly traded corporations continue to sit on trillions of dollars they are afraid to invest, further retarding economic growth. Their balance sheets and share prices may remain temporarily strong, but the economy continues to slide downward. That's a condition that can't last indefinitely, and the shift may come soon: September is historically the worst month for the stock market.

Jim Pethokoukis of the American Enterprise Institute has looked at data from the Federal Reserve going back to 1947. He says when year-over-year real GDP growth falls below 2 percent, recession follows within a year 70 percent of the time. He also says that for the past three years, the White House has consistently overestimated the impact of its "interventions." "In August of 2009, the White House—after having a half year to view the economy and its $800 billion stimulus response—predicted that GDP would rise 4.3 percent in 2011, followed by 4.3 percent growth in 2012," Pethokoukis said. All of these numbers were way off, and even with downward revisions every year since, GDP growth has not come close to White House projections.

"The U.S. economy remains in the Recession Red Zone," he concludes. That fact will have a significant influence on the fall election and on share prices in the months to come.

SUPER-SIZE SPENDING

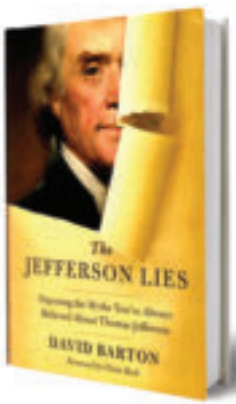
Thanks to political action committees (PACs) and so-called "super-PACs," the 2012 presidential election campaigns have already surpassed the record-high amount of $515 million spent on advertising four years ago. With the election now less than 100 days away and still up for grabs, the spending figures will likely accelerate through October. *Advertising Age* magazine said in March that $9.8 billion would be spent on advertising by all campaigns in this election cycle, but that estimate now appears to be low.

Porter Bibb, managing partner of MediaTech Capital Partners, believes media companies will be flush with cash as a result of the campaign spending. He says third-quarter earnings for Comcast, News Corp, and CBS could approach records, though he said the "big winners are local television." In Charlotte, N.C., for example, television spending by the presidential candidates approaches $2 million a week. In Charlotte and other markets in battleground states, advertising slots between now and the election are virtually sold out. *—W.C.S.*



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The David Barton controversy

Christian critics challenge WallBuilders president on America's founders

BY THOMAS KIDD

David Barton, president of the WallBuilders organization and a frequent guest on Glenn Beck's broadcasts, is one of America's most popular Christian history writers. Liberal critics have long accused Barton of misinterpretations and errors, and readers of the History News Network recently voted a new Barton book, *The Jefferson Lies*, as the "Least Credible History Book in Print." But now some conservative Christian scholars are publicly questioning Barton's work, too.

Jay W. Richards, senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, and author with James Robison of *Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Before It's Too Late*, spoke alongside Barton at Christian conferences as recently as last month. Richards says in recent months he has grown increasingly troubled about Barton's writings, so he asked 10 conservative Christian professors to assess Barton's work.

Their response was negative. Some examples: Glenn Moots of Northwood University wrote that Barton in *The Jefferson Lies* is so eager to portray Jefferson as sympathetic to Christianity that he misses or omits obvious signs that Jefferson stood outside "orthodox, creedal, confessional Christianity." A second professor, Glenn Sunshine of Central Connecticut State University, said that Barton's characterization of Jefferson's religious views is "unsupportable." A third, Gregg Frazer of The Master's College, evaluated Barton's video *America's Godly Heritage* and found many of its factual claims dubious, such as a statement that "52 of the 55 delegates at the Constitutional Convention were 'orthodox, evangelical Christians.'" Barton told me he found that number in M.E. Bradford's *A Worthy Company*.

Barton has received support from Mike Huckabee, Newt Gingrich, Michele Bachmann, and other political leaders. He questions how many of his new critics have actually read his work, especially *The Jefferson Lies*. Barton concedes that Jefferson doubted some traditional Christian doctrines, but argues that these doubts did not emerge until the last couple of decades of his life. He says that all of his books, including his latest, are fully documented with footnotes, and that critics who look at the original sources he is using often change their minds.

A full-scale, newly published critique of Barton is coming from Professors Warren Throckmorton and Michael Coulter of Grove City College, a largely conservative Christian school in Pennsylvania. Their book *Getting Jefferson Right: Fact Checking Claims about Our Third President* (Salem Grove Press), argues that Barton "is guilty of taking statements and actions out of context and simplifying historical circumstances." For example, they charge that Barton, in explaining why Jefferson did not free his slaves, "seriously misrepresents or misunderstands (or both) the legal environment related to slavery."

In a response posted on the WallBuilders website, Barton says that Throckmorton and Coulter's book typifies attacks by "academic elitists" who position themselves as the "sole caretakers of historical knowledge." He contends that Throckmorton and Coulter are hostile toward his "personal religious beliefs." Barton also disputes several of their specific arguments. For instance, contrary to *Getting Jefferson Right*, Barton insists that Jefferson did not merely buy a copy but was an investor in a 1798 edition of the Bible, which reveals Jefferson's philosophical support for the sacred text.

Richards emphasizes that he and the scholars he consulted about Barton are politically conservative evangelicals or Catholics. They largely agree with Barton's belief that Christian principles played a major role in America's founding, but Richards argues that Barton's books and videos are full of "embarrassing factual errors, suspiciously selective quotes, and highly misleading claims."



After receiving a bachelor's degree in religious education from Oral Roberts University in 1976, Barton worked for a time as a pastor and schoolteacher. In the late 1980s he began building a following among evangelicals and Republicans by tirelessly speaking on America's founding at churches and political conferences. WallBuilders has published most of Barton's books, but Thomas Nelson published *The Jefferson Lies*.

Barton gained new exposure in 2005 when *Time* named him as one of the 25 most influential American evangelicals. Then came his appearances on Glenn Beck, a May 2011 profile in *The New York Times*, and multiple interviews on Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show*. —T.K.

HARRY CABLUCK/AP

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Mailbag



'2012 books issue'

July 14 I really appreciated the articles by Marvin Olasky and Randy Alcorn about Christian fiction. I boycotted the Beijing Olympics because I had just read Alcorn's *Safely Home*. A lifetime sports fan, I did not watch a minute of the opening and closing ceremonies or even Michael Phelps' medal-winning races because of the suffering of the Chinese people. That was one of the most moving novels I have ever read.

—*Margaret Duncan, Jackson, Tenn.*

Alcorn's novels have long been the favorite books of my two older sons and myself. He makes one long for heaven.

—*Rebecca Orlowski, San Diego, Calif.*

My enjoyment of Alcorn's fiction prompted me to purchase his nonfiction *Heaven* several years ago. Both genres have been great reading, but my favorite is *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*. God is certainly using this author.

—*Tom Herzog, Broadus, Mont.*

'A religion on the move'

July 14 As a huge fan of WORLD, I was surprised and disappointed to read that the "Book of the Year" has "one major weakness." You note that in *The Triumph of Christianity* Rodney Stark "criticizes commitment to biblical inerrancy." That disqualifies it for me. I believe WORLD could have found a more deserving book.

—*Joel DeKoning, Wausau, Wis.*

'Strange bedfellows'

July 14 I fully agree with your recent exposé of the National Association of Evangelicals. Its advocacy of contraceptives for unmarried Christians is grievous and clearly contrary to biblical orthodoxy. Your report made the necessary distinctions about what is at stake and was delivered in a God-pleasing tone.

—*George A. Damoff, Farmers Branch, Texas*

Thank you for an excellent article about the NAE promoting the wrong message to Christian young people and taking money from a pro-abortion organization. To promote sin is to promote a bondage that quenches the Spirit and starves people of His grace.

—*Daniel L. Cox, Frederick, Md.*

It disgusts me whenever churches bring out the "inevitability" argument. My wife and I were virgins in our 20s when we stood at the marriage altar, and we are far from alone. For me, knowing what was expected was a strong deterrent to sin. We rejoice in forgiveness for those who fail, but let's not make provision for sin.

—*Bryan Dawson, Jackson, Tenn.*

My heart broke as I read of the path we have blindly followed. We say we are pro-life, but we so dread the possibility of our sons and daughters conceiving a child without the blessing of marriage that we will team up with those who destroy.

—*Adria Davis, Ralph, Ala.*

While I get the NAE's position and genuine care for unmarried 20-somethings, we need Christian role models who can get in the face of 20-somethings and tell them the way it really is from a biblical perspective. How I wish a strong Christian man had smacked me upside the head when I was 24 and foolish. My life might have turned out to be very different.

—*Phillip Woeckener, Tallahassee, Fla.*

Should Christians recommend that anyone use contraceptives? If we claim to be pro-life, why do we prevent conception? If children are a gift from the Lord, why do we act like they are burdens to our lifestyles? I don't claim to have the answers, but I'm surprised we're not even having the discussion.

—*Janet Circenis, League City, Texas*

Recent NAE decisions are shocking. Many thanks to Marvin Olasky for his timely alert.

—*Char Pulliam, Stevensville, Mont.*

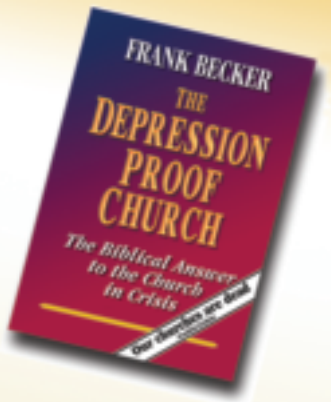
We need to clean our own house first. Often, someone or some business identifies itself as "Christian" or "evangelical," but it is important to look at where they get their support.

—*Edie Greenip, Crofton, Md.*

'The Mormon challenge'

July 14 Excellent column. I do not at all agree with Romney's Mormonism

The Church is at risk... –2 Tim 3:1



but there is hope

Dr. Paige Patterson
President, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
"In a day of 'how to' manuals on church growth and effectiveness, to find a man who tells the truth...is a breath of fresh air. We have to recover the New Testament pattern...."

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Mailbag



BHOUDA, NEPAL *submitted by Yvonne Brandon*

but the choice between him and the socialist and pro-abortion President Obama is no choice at all.

—*David Albertsen, Arvada, Colo.*

We must not cast a vote that could enhance the spread of Mormonism at home and abroad. Yes, if Obama is reelected, it will be detrimental for our nation. However, although I cherish America, it is merely a kingdom of man. We must instead place priority on the kingdom of God.

—*Jim Lasche, Albuquerque, N.M.*

How can a person, elected to be leader of the free world, determine what is true while accepting wholeheartedly what is certainly not true?

—*Gary Fitzgerald, Caldwell, Ohio*

'A covering'

July 14 As I crocheted a crib blanket for a grandson scheduled to arrive in October, I prayed a "covering" over him with every symbolic stitch. As God is even now knitting him in his mother's womb, I pray that He will knit into this precious one faith, goodness, love, courage, generosity, wisdom, and creativity. Working the blanket with Andrée Seu Peterson's words in my mind brought a warm smile.

—*Geri Scarpa, Midland Park, N.J.*

As a full time hat-wearer myself (because of the angels), I appreciated Seu Peterson's column. As a messianic Jew, I cover my head to show deference to my godly husband, which reflects to the world his deference to our Messiah and God, whenever I leave my home. I too am very thankful to have a husband who provides a covering.

—*Elishiva Cook, Russellville, Ark.*

'Vacation idea'

July 14 I was very disappointed with the comments about the NOAA. It's impossible to account for all the variables in predicting the next hurricane. In the weather community, we are very pleased to have short-term forecasting tools like Doppler radar that have helped to greatly reduce the death toll from severe storms. Without NOAA, these systems might not be available.

—*Marguerite Rousseau, O'Fallon, Ill.*

'Help for the hurting'

June 30 Dan Allender's book was an integral part of my healing process from childhood abuse. It is a great

resource for those traveling from unthinkable pain and shame to forgiveness though the power of Jesus Christ.

—Dawn Summers, *Pine Mountain, Ga.*

'Oaks of righteousness'

June 30 Andrée Seu Peterson suggested that staking young trees can do more harm than good, but small trees need stout support while young or the tiny root hairs will be ripped away as winds move the tree. Young trees without support can die before they have a chance to grow. Similarly, young Christians should not be thrown to the winds of the world until they have had support from the church. After they are well rooted, trees may grow strong while weathering the storms.

—Jon H. Allen, *Winslow, Ark.*

'Fracking: fact or fiction?'

June 16 Thanks for the article about the natural gas extraction technique called fracking. I just read elsewhere how a bean grown in India is used in the water used in fracking. Because the fracking business is growing, the price of guar bean is rising, helping the poor in India. I love it when markets work, and God's resources are used well.

—Joy Chavez, *Hilo, Hawaii*

Clarification

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., was "married" last month only under an anti-biblical Massachusetts law that has legalized "gay marriage" (Human Race, July 28, p. 14).

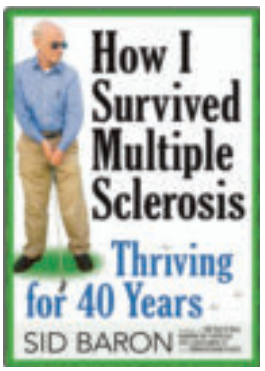
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Andrée Seu Peterson

Integrity test

Big opportunities sometimes come with nagging details

Aaron Sorkin shared this anecdote in a commencement address at Syracuse University:

"When we were casting my first movie, *A Few Good Men*, we saw an actor just 10 months removed from the theater training program at UCLA. We liked him very much and we cast him in a small but featured role as an endearingly dim-witted Marine corporal. The actor had been working as a Domino's Pizza delivery boy for 10 months, so the news that he just landed his first professional job ... was met with happiness.

"But as is often the case in show business, success begets success, before you've even done anything, and a week later the actor's agent called. The actor had been offered the lead role in a new, as yet untitled, Milos Forman film. He was beside himself. He felt loyalty to the first offer but Forman was, after all, offering him the lead. We said we understood: No problem, good luck, we'll go with our second choice.

"Which we did. And two weeks later the Milos Forman film was scrapped. Our second choice, who was also making his professional debut, was an actor named Noah Wyle. Noah would go on to be one of the stars of the television series *ER*, and hasn't stopped working since. I don't know what the first actor is doing and I can't remember his name. Sometimes when you think you have the ball safely in the end zone, you're back to delivering pizzas for Domino's."

I am not going to take the position as a Christian that the aspiring actor's story isn't tragic because worldly success is unimportant. No, this stinks. Let us not be ambiguous: The kid blew it. And that is the moral Mr. Sorkin is at pains to underline for his starry-eyed 21-year-old audience: "There are some screw-ups headed your way. ... It's a combination of life being unpredictable and you being super dumb."



KRIEG BARRIE

Every once in a while it is worthwhile to read through Proverbs because it reminds you that success, hard work, and prosperity are good things and not shameful. God has no problem with personal financial wealth, being the One who made Abraham and King David fabulously wealthy (Proverbs 10:4, 22).

The pizza deliverer's story is chilling not because it is unusual but because it is so very usual. How many times have opportunities seemed handed to us from God on a silver platter—but with a teeny little integrity test attached? Ninety percent of the signals for your move are a "go"; there's just this one little nagging detail: I will have to welsh on a commitment.

This is true Christianity when we are not fooling ourselves: going for broke in trusting God and eschewing all rationalizations. It is what David did in the cave in En Gedi when his men told him God had delivered Saul over to him, but David rejected the compelling circumstantial evidence and even a convenient verse in favor of a better word of God—that it was not right to lay a hand on God's anointed (1 Samuel 24).

Integrity of commitment to God is what King Saul did *not* do on the day he justified self-will and performed animal sacrifice in disobedience to Samuel's express order (1 Samuel 15). Our heart at once breaks and is appalled at the unswerving demands of God.

Paul Miller tells in *A Praying Life* of the time when he began writing a book but felt God was directing him to take care of certain personal family business first. He set aside his plans in order to do that, and a year later, happy "coincidences" started falling into place—a class on writing that he profited from; a fortuitous connection with a major publisher through a fellow pastor he was ministering to; a friendship with an Oxford-trained writer who agreed to edit his manuscript. The moral of this story: "The integrity of the upright guides them" (Proverbs 11:3).

"O Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tent? Who shall dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right. ... Who swears to his own hurt and does not change" (Psalm 15:1-4). And "courage is not simply one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point" (C.S. Lewis).

Email: aseupeterson@worldmag.com



Marvin Olasky

Into exile

What happens to a professor who does everything right but has wrong ideas?



FELLOW PROMOTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Let's go through the checklist on Assistant Professor of Sociology Bob Woodberry's request to receive tenure at the University of Texas at Austin.

Educational background: Check. Ph.D. from the highly regarded University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Caution: Undergraduate degree from evangelical Wheaton College, but he's probably outgrown that.

Publications: Check. Numerous articles in refereed journals such as the *American Sociological Review*. Chapters in books published by the Oxford University Press and other prestige outlets. Caution: Some odd publishing choices—why would anyone write for the *Encyclopedia of Missions and Missionaries*?—but I guess it's important to document how missionaries exploited natives.

Grants received: Check. Brought to UT a lot of money from both private foundations and government payers. With Rick Perry and legislators saying professors are overpaid and underworked, this is big.

Teaching (not that this matters all that much in promotion): Check. Outstanding student appraisals and awards. Caution: High ratings probably mean Woodberry is wasting time on students that he could use to publish even more journal articles, but some professors have twisted priorities.

Multicultural? Check. Grew up in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia. Worked in China and Japan and traveled to more than 50 countries.

OK, due diligence time: Gotta read a couple of his articles, instead of just weighing them.

Let's see: Woodberry's data show how Protestant missionaries created schools and had mass literacy campaigns in British colonies because they wanted people to read the Bible in their own language. Hmm. He acknowledges that some missionaries did harm. Good. But wait—he shows with multiple regression analyses that "evangelism by 1900 is by far the most consistent predictor of modern elementary education." He's FOR evangelism?!?

At least he has lots of statistics. How about these tables in his *American Political Science Review* article? Wait, they show a positive association between years of exposure to Protestant missions and the growth of democracy—and it's consistent across continents and world regions, even when controlled for geography, climate, disease prevalence, and many other factors.

Ah, this part of Woodberry's research is better: He shows how British imperialists disrespected multiculturalism. British gunboats forced the Muslim sultan of Zanzibar ... oh, to end the slave trade. Wait a minute: Woodberry shows that Muslims enslaved East Africans until evangelical pressure pushed Britain to deploy its fleet to stop slavery in non-Western societies. Not good, not good. But he documents everything so well.

Dean, you don't have to stare at me like that: Woodberry's not convincing me, no sir. I know the missionaries tried to hook the natives on drugs. Oh oh, Woodberry quotes an 1888 missionary conference's declaration that the opium trade is "a standing reproach to Christianity. ... We are responsible in the sight of God for this culminating wickedness. ... We have to reckon with Divine Judgment if we neglect this matter."

Dean, I know we'll have to reckon with our colleagues' judgment if we offer Woodberry tenure. But this is interesting stuff: From the 1820s to the 1850s missionaries in India campaigned to protect Indians from landowner abuses. They brought cases to court on behalf of low caste believers. In 1865, when Jamaica's royal governor killed a black leader, missionaries mobilized a campaign that led to the governor being recalled to England and put on trial for murder. Kind of interesting.

Dean, you're right: I can't let my mind start wandering. You're right: Even if those Protestant missionaries taught people to read and pioneered efforts to educate women and poor people, they did it because they wanted to proselytize. And this idea that when missionaries come, standards of living improve dramatically? No way that could be true.

Those words are imaginary. The result is real: The University of Texas denied Woodberry tenure. He then applied to 108 other schools. No U.S. institution offered him tenure. One Christian college interviewed him and made a tentative offer, but it did not make a formal offer. No other school invited him for an in-person interview or made him a job offer.

To get a job, Bob Woodberry last month moved nearly 10,000 miles. The National University of Singapore is giving him a 50 percent increase in salary, free housing for up to nine years, the first semester off, and $85,000 for his research.

MARSHA MILLER/COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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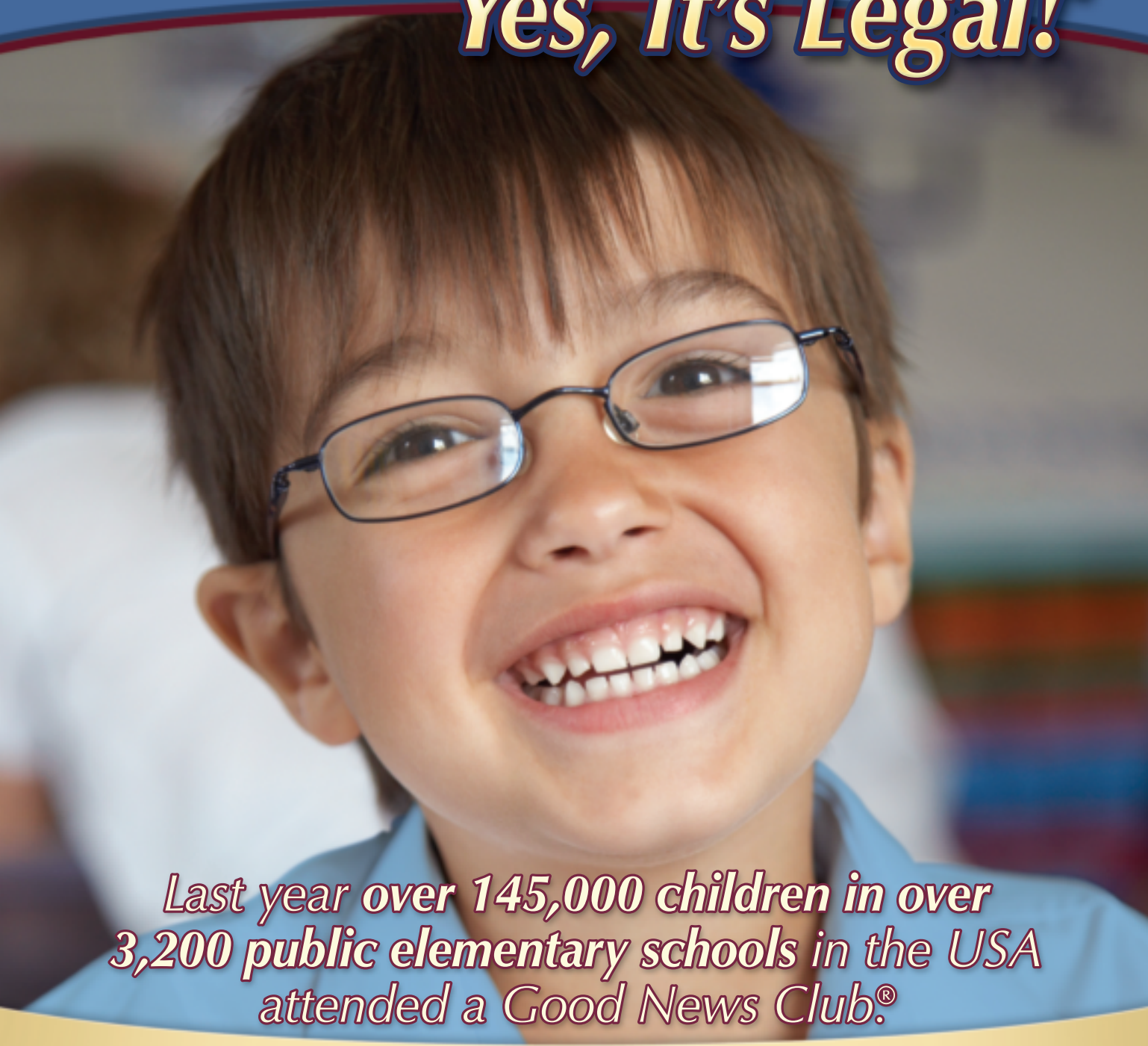
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