WORLD

SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

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SYRIA'S PAIN

As planes bomb Aleppo, most civilians remain unwilling participants in a widening civil war

After an airstrike north of Aleppo, a woman learns that her husband and baby are dead.



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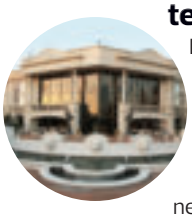
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WORLD

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Joel Belz

Fatal decisions

The 'death panel' issue isn't dying



There is plenty that is wrongheaded and even reprehensible about the Obamacare health plan being discussed every day during the current presidential campaign. But nothing is more objectionable than the aspect of the plan that vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin referred to in 2009 as its "death panels."

I know that big media have overwhelmingly tried to discredit the Palin charge. And you can argue if you want to be picky that Palin didn't help her case by framing the charge the way she did, drawing a grisly picture of a panel of bureaucrats issuing a Solomonic thumbs-up or a thumbs-down on whether her Down syndrome son would be allowed to live. If you're talking about a panel of cold-hearted men and women passing judgment on specific individuals, well then, yes—Palin's picture is theoretically overdrawn.

But, of course, that's not what the debate is about. The debate is about the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a presidentially appointed group of 15 experts charged with suppressing the cost of Medicare. Specifically, IPAB's task is to hold costs to the rate of inflation—plus 1 percent—in any given year.

To meet that goal, IPAB has to do what any management team must do: decide what to include as allowable costs, and what to exclude. Appendicitis gets included; a facelift doesn't. Injuries from a car wreck or even a skiing accident are included; a later model pacemaker than the one you got last year may not be. It's actually not that different from any typical insurance arrangement. You know full well that you can't get everything you want. Someone has to decide.

The difference with IPAB is that it's in effect the only insurance company in town. If you don't like the mix of coverage with IPAB, too bad. It sets the standard. To come back to Sarah Palin, if a board like IPAB says Down syndrome babies and the heart defects they frequently present aren't covered, that's the way it will be for the Palin family. No panel of judges ever sees little Trig Palin, face-to-face. Trig never hears an individual death sentence. But a panel of "experts" may well say in advance that someone with his condition just isn't eligible for coverage. That becomes the policy of little Trig Palin's government.

The evil in such an arrangement, mind you, isn't that somebody has to make those choices. That is life. The evil is in relegating responsibility for those choices to the federal government.

In real life, somebody indeed has to decide whether a 95-year-old should get a $100,000 heart transplant. Somebody indeed has to decide whether and when to turn off a ventilator for someone who's been in a coma for three months. The question is: Who makes those hard decisions? It should be that person, or that person's family, or that person's godly advisers, or God Himself—either through the working out of His actual providence or through trustworthy counsel. And maybe, just maybe, there should also be room for a person to elect, on his own volition, to allow the government to make the decisions for him.

But it should never be the government by unilateral edict.

To which some folks will say that the government makes all sorts of life-and-death decisions for its people. Starting with the military, moving on to air traffic safety, to the oversight and control of drugs and medicine—aren't life-and-death decisions precisely what government does?

To which we say: Too much so—already. But enough is enough. No government is smart and wise enough to do all that micromanaging well. We fully understand that no one's proposing a panel that will literally and personally evaluate Trig Palin—or any other American citizen. But when the president appoints 15 men and women to a commission that decides which medical issues will be supported under Obamacare, and which ones won't, don't be surprised if little Trig—and his family—worry a bit about something that to everyone in his right mind sounds very much like a death panel.

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Dispatches



ERIC THAYER/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

Game changer

The 2012 presidential campaign may be ending the Medicare debate as we know it

BY EDWARD LEE PITTS in Washington

President Barack Obama's campaign against **Paul Ryan** began back in 2011. At a speech at Washington, D.C.'s George Washington University on April 13 of that year, Obama said Ryan's budget plan would "end Medicare as we know it."

"I believe it paints a vision of our future that is deeply pessimistic," Obama said of a plan by Ryan that includes giving future Medicare recipients (Americans currently under 55) the option of buying private insurance with Medicare dollars.

Attending the speech that day at the president's own invitation: Ryan. From his front-row seat, the seven-term congressman often shook his head and jotted down notes as Obama attacked. When the speech ended, Ryan headed for the exit.

"What we heard today was a political broadside from our campaigner in chief," Ryan said later. He admitted that he thought Obama's invitation was an olive branch to begin bipartisan talks on deficit reduction. Instead Ryan ended up as a prop for Obama's campaign rhetoric.

Fast-forward to this year and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney's Aug. 11 announcement that Ryan would be his running mate: The Obama campaign, calling the pick "flawed" and "radical," echoed Obama's 16-month-old statement that Ryan's plan "would end Medicare as we know it."

Democrats thought the Ryan pick was a dream come true for them. It thrusts Medicare onto the campaign's center stage. Believing that it is a winning issue for them as long as they argue that Republicans want to abandon seniors, Democrats wasted no time launching their assault: Three days after the vice presidential announcement the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee released robocalls attaching 50 Republican House members and candidates to Ryan's budget plan.

But by selecting Ryan, the intellectual behind the Republicans' approach to slashing

deficits, Romney seems to be welcoming, even picking, this Medicare fight. Part of this confidence comes from the success Republicans had in a special House election last September in Nevada. There they field-tested a more aggressive approach to the Medicare issue. Republican Mark Amodei's victory, despite a heavy dose of Medicare scare tactics by the Democrats, has emboldened Republicans to take the strategy to the national level.

That strategy includes targeting Democrats on their healthcare overhaul and highlighting how it takes more than $700 billion from Medicare. Republicans will depict Democrats as the ones jeopardizing Medicare's future because of their healthcare law and because they have failed to come up with a viable counterproposal to Ryan's Medicare reforms. A Republican campaign committee has unleashed its own commercials, called "Mediscare," accusing Democrats of misleading voters by wrongly suggesting that Ryan's plan would affect current beneficiaries.

Danielle Doane, the director of government studies at the Heritage Foundation, said that, when 87 freshmen Republicans joined the House in 2010 (many after campaigning for entitlement reform), a growing number of lawmakers realized that the political landscape could be changing. Voters understand that Medicare, the leading driver of federal deficit growth, is on an unsustainable path. Republicans believe concerns over the national debt will trump Democratic attacks on the GOP's proposals.

If Republicans have indeed found a way to run on Medicare and win, that victory will hinge on Ryan's ability to make a valid case. "Having the one person who can articulate this view on the national stage is a great opportunity," Doane said. He has the ability to speak "reasonably, nicely, and positively" about the issue.

On the campaign trail, Ryan has been making his Medicare pitches with his own invited guest: his mother Betty Douglas Ryan, a Medicare recipient. "We want this debate," Ryan told a crowd of more than 1,000 in Oxford, Ohio, on Aug. 15. "We need this debate. And we will win this debate."



Indian protest march

Beginning on Sept. 2, perhaps as many as 100,000 poor, dispossessed Indians will begin a four-week, 170-mile march to New Delhi to support legally protected property rights for **rural farmers** who have been made landless under India's corrupt system. Activist group Ekta Parishad has organized the March for Justice.

LOOKING AHEAD



Labor Day Americans celebrate Labor Day on Sept. 3 at a time when the labor movement seems to be in serious peril. Since 1954, the percentage of Americans represented by labor unions has steadily fallen. Today, just 12 percent of American workers belong to a union, and only 7 percent of private-sector workers.

UN council meets

At the 21st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on Sept. 10, officials will try to draft language declaring a "Human Right to Peace." In June, Cuba proposed creating such a human right and the oft-maligned Human Rights Council agreed. Some in the democratic West worry that language preferred by other countries would justify terror attacks against nations engaged in "foreign occupation."

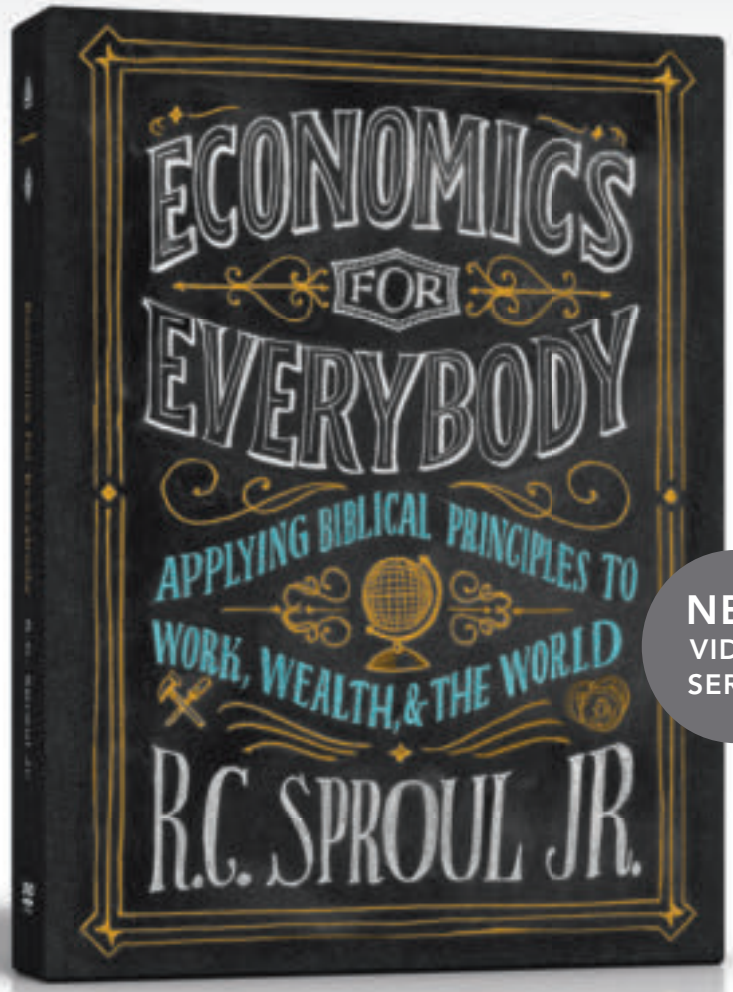
Pastor in court After being held prisoner for more than 1,000 days, Iranian pastor **Youcef Nadarkhani** has been ordered to appear in Iranian court on Sept. 8. Held prisoner since 2009, the Iranian pastor was convicted of apostasy—converting from Islam to Christianity. While Amnesty International and other supporters hope his court date will lead to his release, Nadarkhani faces possible execution.





Pope goes to Lebanon **Pope Benedict XVI will land in Lebanon on Sept. 14 to kick off a three-day tour of the largely Muslim nation. The 85-year-old pope has expressed concerns about the plight of Christians who live in the Muslim-dominated Middle East. At the end of the weekend trip, Benedict will conduct Mass in Beirut.**

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Help now wanted

Thousands of Iranian earthquake victims looked for help from an unexpected source in mid-August: outside countries. Two days after denying that the nation needed help after a pair of earthquakes killed 300 and injured more than 3,000 on Aug. 12, Iranian officials reversed course. "We would welcome help by any country," said parliament speaker Ali Larijani.

The 6.4 and 6.3 magnitude quakes left some 50,000 Iranians homeless in the country's rural northwestern region, and caused an estimated $600 million in damage. Iran sits on seismic fault lines that have led to far worse damage: A 2003 quake in the southeast killed some 26,000 people.

It wasn't immediately clear which countries Iran would ask for help. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the country hadn't accepted an American offer to help, but "our offer stands on the table."





Camp crisis

For refugees living in South Sudanese camps, a heavy rainy season has brought a deluge of misery. The UN estimates at least 160,000 refugees have fled bombing campaigns in northern Sudan since last year, and many have settled in camps just over the border in South Sudan.

WORLD reported on harsh conditions for some 20,000 refugees living in the **Yida camp** this spring (see "In the shadow of war," May 5, 2012). Since that report, the refugee population in Yida has more than doubled to nearly 55,000. Aid workers say bombing campaigns in the nearby Nuba Mountains are driving hundreds to the camp each day.

Heavy rains have restricted aid flow to the area, which was already running disastrously low on food and supplies. The World Food Program airdropped 32 metric tons of food to camps across the region in August, but the need continues to grow.

Meanwhile, Doctors Without Borders reports that child mortality rates have raced past emergency levels: An average of five children die every day in Yida from illnesses like diarrhea and infections.

The medical aid agency is one of several groups, including the Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse, working to offer aid in the camp. UN spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said the rising mortality rates and escalating number of refugees make the work an urgent task: "This is a race against time."

YIDA: WARTNER/SIPA/NEWSCOM · IRAN: YOUNES KHANI/MEHR NEWS AGENCY/AP · MORSI: MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP



POWER GRAB

How much power does newly elected Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi aim to amass? The Muslim Brotherhood stalwart offered a clear answer on Aug. 12: more than Hosni Mubarak—Egypt's former dictator.

After a militant attack killed 16 Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai Peninsula on Aug. 5, Morsi used the moment to overhaul the military and the government: The president ordered the retirement of the military's defense minister and chief of staff, and installed officials expected to support his agenda. Morsi also issued a constitutional declaration that gives him more power than Mubarak held during his 29-year authoritarian rule: The leader gains nearly complete control of both the executive and legislative branches until the next parliamentary elections, and asserts authority to appoint the writers of Egypt's new constitution. A week earlier, Muslim Brotherhood members of parliament appointed 50 new editors of state-owned publications.

Officials in the Obama administration downplayed the power grab that gives Morsi and the Brotherhood dramatic control over the country's military, laws, constitution, media, and foreign policy. Experts and writers in independent Egyptian newspapers were less optimistic. "We are now rid of a state run by the military," wrote columnist Mohammed Amin. "What is left for us to do is rid ourselves from the state of the Brotherhood."

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BEARING CONSEQUENCES

Pastor faces prison for helping mother keep her child from former lesbian partner **BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE**

A FEDERAL JURY IN VERMONT on Aug. 14 convicted Amish Mennonite pastor **Kenneth Miller** of aiding an international parental kidnapping. The 46-year-old pastor helped Lisa Miller, 44, flee to Nicaragua three years ago to prevent her former lesbian partner from gaining custody of Isabella, Lisa Miller's biological daughter. (The two Millers are unrelated.) Kenneth Miller, from Stuarts Draft, Va., faces up to three years in prison.

Lisa Miller became pregnant with Isabella in 2002 by artificial insemination. She and partner Janet Jenkins had traveled to Vermont two years earlier to enter into a civil union, and later moved there, but dissolved their union in 2004. Professing Christian faith and renouncing homosexuality, Lisa Miller tried to block Jenkins' court-ordered visitations with Isabella.

When an annoyed family court judge in Vermont threatened to transfer custody of the girl to Jenkins, Lisa Miller took up Kenneth Miller's offer to arrange for her and Isabella to hide with an Amish Mennonite community in Central America.

The community reportedly lost track of the mother and daughter last year, though authorities believe they are still in Nicaragua. Lisa Miller is wanted by the FBI and Interpol on kidnapping charges, and in Vermont, a judge has given Jenkins custody of the missing Isabella, now 10.

As Kenneth Miller listened to the verdict in the Burlington, Vt., courtroom, an attorney for Jenkins filed a new civil lawsuit against him and others who allegedly helped with the flight. Outside the building, where **fellow Mennonites sang hymns** such as "Amazing Grace," the pastor said afterward, "With the grace of God and by His help, we will bear the consequences."





MAKING IT LEGAL?

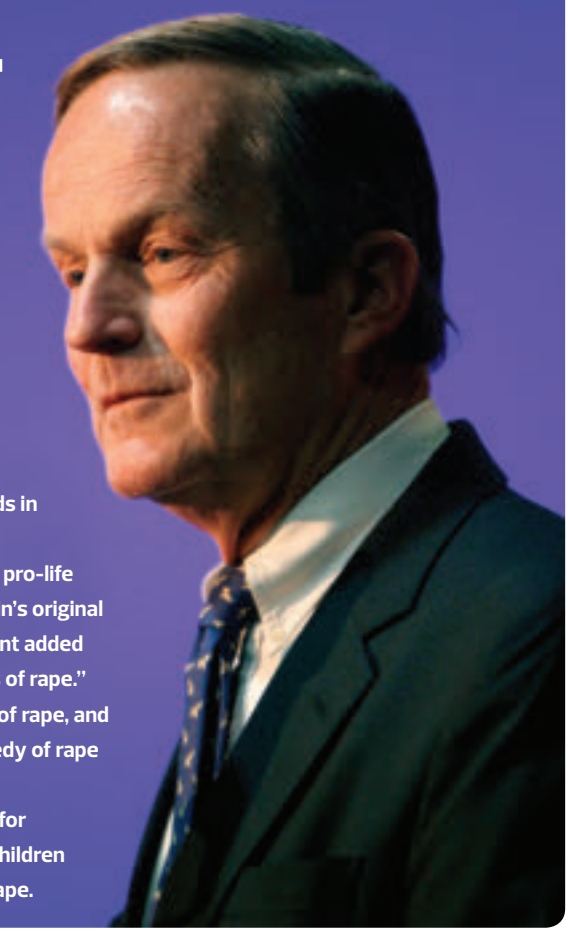
Thousands of illegal immigrants lined up with paperwork at **workshops** set up by immigration advocates around the country on Aug. 15, the first day the federal government would accept applications for a deferred deportation program created by President Obama. The new program implements many of the immigration policies Democrats have failed to pass through congressional legislation called the Dream Act. Obama in June bypassed Congress by issuing an executive order that accomplished many of the Democrats' immigration goals without a vote on Capitol Hill.

Illegal immigrants ages 15 to 31 who were brought to the United States as children are now eligible for temporary residency and work status if they have lived here continuously for five years or more. To qualify for the two-year deferment, applicants also cannot have serious criminal convictions and must be in school or have earned a high-school diploma or its equivalent. Officials estimate that about 1.7 million immigrants, or 15 percent of the nation's illegal immigrant population, are eligible for the program.

The move by the Obama administration comes as Obama is trying to shore up the growing Hispanic voting bloc ahead of this November's election. But not all states are complying fully with Obama's amnesty effort: Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican, on Aug. 15 issued an executive order of her own that prevents immigrants who are given the reprieve from getting public benefits or obtaining driver's licenses. Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, also a Republican, announced a similar policy on Aug. 17: "President Obama's deferred action program to issue employment authorization documents to illegal immigrants does not make them legal citizens."

MILLER: JUSTIN ALTMAN/THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS/AP · MENNONITES: WILSON RING/AP · IMMIGRANTS: JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Akin and abortion



If both presidential campaigns had hoped to avoid a pointed discussion of abortion, Rep. **Todd Akin**, R-Mo., changed their plans a week before the Republican National Convention was set to begin in Tampa.

The six-term congressman apologized for comments he made during a television interview on Aug. 19 when responding to a question about whether abortion should be legal in cases of rape. Akin said that scenario is rare, and that if it's "a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

A firestorm erupted, and top GOP leaders called for Akin to drop out of his Senate race against incumbent Democrat Claire McCaskill. They worried that if Akin lost in November, the Republican Party could lose a chance to regain the Senate. Akin apologized for his comments: "I used the wrong words in the wrong way and for that I apologize."

A handful of pro-life advocates supported Akin, and noted his impeccable pro-life voting record. Still, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney called Akin's original comments "insulting, inexcusable, and, frankly, wrong." A campaign statement added that "a Romney-Ryan administration would not oppose abortion in instances of rape."

Many pro-lifers have opposed Romney's support for abortion in the case of rape, and say what Akin could have stated succinctly in his interview: The violent tragedy of rape doesn't justify the violent tragedy of abortion.

Pro-lifers hope Republicans will continue to support compassionate care for victims of sexual violence, but also draw attention to the 1.2 million unborn children aborted in America every year—the vast majority outside of the context of rape.

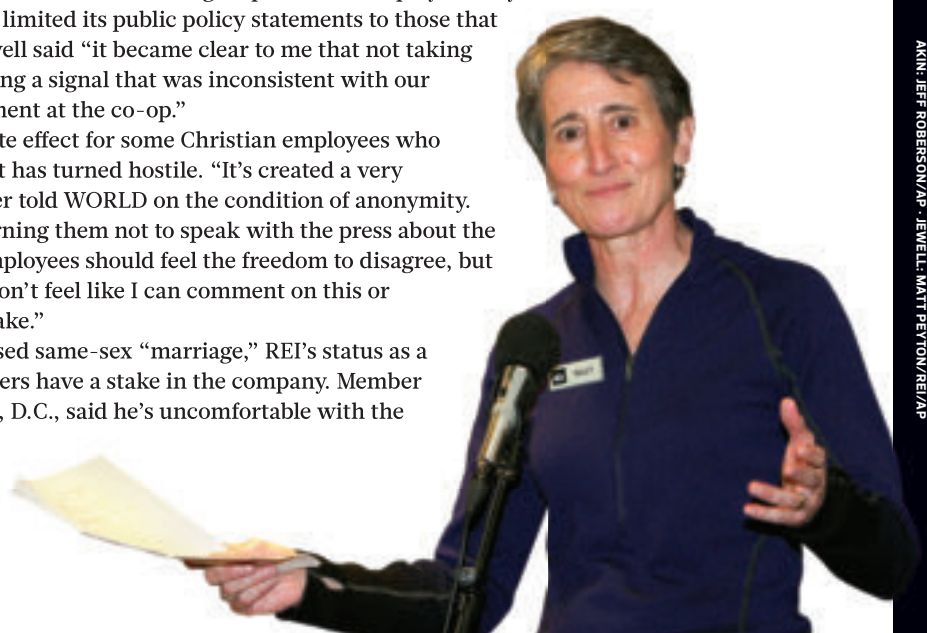
CO-OP POLITICS

Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), a large consumer cooperative and national outdoor recreation chain, has thrown its weight behind efforts to redefine marriage in a move that may prove divisive among its 4 million members.

REI posted its new policy in an obscure corner of its website (rei.com/content/dam/documents/pdf/Marriage_Equality_Policy.pdf), and CEO **Sally Jewell** announced the news to staff through a post on an employee-only blog on Aug. 13. The cooperative has in the past limited its public policy statements to those that deal with issues of interest to members, but Jewell said "it became clear to me that not taking any position would likely be construed as sending a signal that was inconsistent with our commitments to creating an inclusive environment at the co-op."

The new policy, however, has had the opposite effect for some Christian employees who feel their previously good working environment has turned hostile. "It's created a very uncomfortable situation," one REI store manager told WORLD on the condition of anonymity. (At least some employees received an email warning them not to speak with the press about the new policy.) Jewell said in her blog post that employees should feel the freedom to disagree, but the manager who spoke with WORLD said, "I don't feel like I can comment on this or respectfully disagree because my future is at stake."

Although other large companies have endorsed same-sex "marriage," REI's status as a cooperative renders it different, since its members have a stake in the company. Member Lance McCaskill, who lives outside Washington, D.C., said he's uncomfortable with the position because it is irrelevant to the company's mission and members had no say: "A position on either side is divisive."



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Going viral

West Nile virus is on track to have a record year in the United States, with about 700 cases reported by mid-August, and around 30 deaths. Nearly half the cases were in Texas: In Dallas, Mayor Mike Rawlings declared a state of emergency and twin-engine planes flew 300 feet above city neighborhoods to spray aerial pesticide for the first time since 1966.

Some residents worried about breathing the pesticide, called Duet, although the EPA has declared it safe for use in residential areas. Dallas resident Vanessa Van Gilder, who started a petition at Change.org to stop ground and air spraying (it had about 2,000 signatures by Aug. 20), told the *Los Angeles Times* she found some of her honeybees dead the morning after the first flights.

The virus spread in other states as well, including Pennsylvania, California, and Illinois. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, four out of five people infected with West Nile virus never develop symptoms. The rest usually experience mild symptoms such as headache, fever, or rash. In less than 1 percent of cases, the virus can cause tremors, coma, or death.

West Nile virus first appeared in the United States in 1999. This year, an early spring and hot summer made favorable breeding conditions for mosquitoes, which pass the virus to humans with their bites.



Spraying for West Nile virus in Dallas

CARBON CONTRACTION

The amount of carbon dioxide the United States releases into the atmosphere dropped to a two-decade low earlier this year, thanks to warm weather, the sluggish economy, and an evolving energy sector. The Energy Information Administration, tallying CO_2 output from electricity generation, residential and commercial heating, transportation, and industry, reported that January through March 2012 saw fewer emissions (1.3 billion metric tons) than any first-quarter period since 1992.

Natural gas played the main role: With hydraulic fracturing technology making the gas abundant and cheap, many electric companies have switched to natural gas for power generation. Natural gas releases less CO_2 than other fossil fuels.

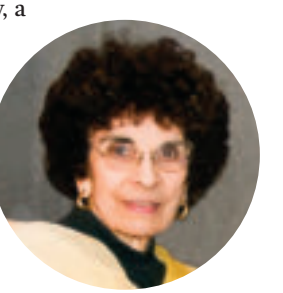
The EPA is a player, too: The regulator set rules last year requiring coal plants to install expensive pollution scrubbers. Power companies have opted to shut down dozens of plants instead. Coal generated about half the nation's electricity in 2005, but this year has produced only a third.



A coal-fired power plant in Chicago that will close by the end of 2014

Tireless fighter

Nellie Gray, tireless pro-life advocate and founder of the annual March for Life, died of natural causes on Aug. 13 in her Capitol Hill home at age 88. Gray, a Catholic, was a lawyer who worked for the State Department and then the Labor Department until 1973, the year the Supreme Court issued its *Roe v. Wade* decision forcing states to legalize abortion. Gray left her government job and organized the first March for Life in 1974: The first march drew thousands and she used a pickup truck as a platform and spoke through a bullhorn.



Gray continued to organize the annual marches, and every year on the January anniversary of the *Roe* decision the marchers have gathered on the National Mall and walked to the steps of the Supreme Court. The March for Life has become the largest annual protest in Washington.

Gray, who was found dead the same day as female sexual liberation icon Helen Gurley Brown, became an important female leader for a movement depicted as "anti-women." Gray's motto on outlawing abortion was "no exception, no compromise," but in one of her last emails to Father Frank Pavone, the head of Priests for Life, she expressed the need for unity among pro-life Americans: "We shall unify and stop the evil of abortion because it is evil."

DALLAS: TOM FOX/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP · COAL PLANT: M. SPENCER GREEN/AP · GRAY: MARCH FOR LIFE EDUCATION & DEFENSE FUND/AP

Label makers

Family Research Council shooting spotlights activists who demonized advocacy organization as 'hate group'

BY J.C. DERRICK in Washington, D.C.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

A PUBLIC-RELATIONS war has broken out in the wake of the August shooting at the Family Research Council. FRC President Tony Perkins laid blame on alleged shooter Floyd Lee Corkins II, but also argued that groups like the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) had given the 28-year-old a "license to shoot an unarmed man" by labeling FRC a "hate group."

SPLC, which equates FRC with groups such as the Ku Klux Klan because of FRC's opposition to same-sex "marriage," immediately called the Perkins claim "outrageous" and denied any culpability in the matter.

On Aug. 15, Corkins allegedly started an altercation in the lobby of FRC's Washington headquarters, shooting Leo Johnson in the arm before Johnson, the building manager, gained control of the weapon and wrestled Corkins to the ground. Law enforcement officials hailed Johnson as a hero for preventing a more deadly situation.

Corkins, a homosexual activist, has been charged with assault with intent to kill. He reportedly had 50 rounds of ammunition in his backpack, and said, "I don't like your politics," during the incident. Authorities found 15 Chick-fil-A sandwiches in the suspect's backpack. Perkins has been an outspoken supporter of Chick-fil-A, which was recently embroiled in controversy after Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy publicly affirmed traditional marriage.

SPLC WAS "RECKLESS": Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, speaks at a press conference.

A group of homosexual activist organizations released a statement condemning the shooting, saying they "utterly reject and condemn such violence." Perkins expressed gratitude for the statement, but asked the groups to join the effort to end "reckless rhetoric." Perkins went on to say he believes "the Southern Poverty Law Center should be held accountable for their reckless use of terminology that is leading to intimidation and what the FBI has termed here as an act of domestic terrorism."

The call for civility in the public debate surrounding marriage came not only from the political right. *Washington Post* columnist Dana Milbank noted the Human Rights Campaign also calls FRC a "hate group" and said the inflammatory labels should stop: Both the Human Rights Campaign and SPLC, he wrote, "are reckless in labeling as a 'hate group' a policy shop that advocates for a full range of conservative Christian positions, on issues from stem cells to euthanasia."

'A PRETTY NORMAL STUDENT'

Online rumors were flying in the wake of the FRC shooting, including one that claimed Floyd Lee Corkins II was expelled from a Christian high school after compiling a "teacher hit list." George Hornickel, director of Grace Brethren Christian School in Clinton, Md., said those rumors were unfounded, but confirmed that Corkins graduated from the school in 2002.

"Obviously if there was a hit list he wouldn't have graduated," Hornickel said. "Lee was a pretty normal student."

Hornickel said that during Corkins' time at the school, located 15 miles outside Washington, D.C., the events of 9/11 and the Columbine tragedy were causing heightened awareness of potential threats. He said some students were expelled, but not Corkins.

Hornickel expressed regret over Corkins' recent activities, adding that the school teaches from a biblical worldview with a traditional view of marriage: "We realize we don't reach all our kids, nor do other ministries reach all their kids. All we can do is steer them in the right direction and let the Holy Spirit work on their hearts." *—J.C.D.*

DIED Award-winning composer **Marvin Hamlisch** died Aug. 6 at the age of 68. Hamlisch, famous for scores such as *The Way We Were*, *The Sting*, and *A Chorus Line*, was 6 years old when he auditioned for the Juilliard School of Music and became at the time the youngest student in the elite institution's history. He is one of only 11 individuals considered an EGOT—a winner of Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards. Hamlisch also served as the principal pops conductor for several symphony orchestras, including in Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, and Dallas.



BORN Missionary couple **Carrie**, 34, and Gavin Jones, 35, are testifying to God's "mercy and love" following the successful delivery of their quintuplets Aug. 9 at Dallas' UT Southwestern Medical Center. The three boys and two girls, born at 27 weeks weighing between 1 lb. 12 oz. and 2 lbs. 11 oz., join brother Isaac, 8. The Joneses have worked for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea since 2007 and hope to return to their missionary work in the fall of 2013.



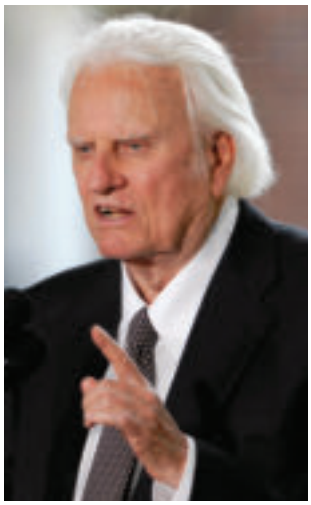


CONFINED Ecuador says it will grant WikiLeaks founder **Julian Assange** political asylum—but he'll have to find a way to get there first. Assange fled to the Latin American nation's embassy in London two months ago to avoid extradition to Sweden, where the former hacker faces allegations of rape and sexual assault. But the U.K. says it will not grant him safe passage to Ecuador, and British authorities are poised to arrest the Australian if he steps outside the embassy.

RELEASED The nation's longest-serving female inmate emerged from behind bars Aug. 13 after a parole board approved her release. **Betty Smithey**, 69, had served 49 years for strangling a toddler to death in 1963. Smithey, whose first years in prison were marked by rebellion and four prison breaks, said she began to turn her life around after the child's mother wrote her a 1983 letter saying she forgave Smithey for the crime. "She made me feel that I wasn't a monster," Smithey said. "I felt if she could forgive me for taking her child's life, I could forgive myself. It was my responsibility to try to become a better person than I was."



RECOVERING Evangelist **Billy Graham** left a North Carolina hospital Aug. 14 after a two-day stay due to bronchitis. Graham, who was also hospitalized in November, had a quick recovery and according to his doctor Daniel Fertel is "remarkably healthy for a 93-year-old man."



ADDED The U.S. State Department has added a senior al-Qaeda leader to the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Azzam Abdullah Zureik Al Maulid Al Subhi, a Saudi also known as Mansur al Harbi, is reportedly working at a militant training camp in Afghanistan and has ties to other senior al-Qaeda leaders.

HAMLISCH: GARY GERSHOFF/GETTY IMAGES · QUINTUPLETS: HANDOUT · ASSANGE: ROSIE HALLAM/GETTY IMAGES · SMITHEY: NICK OZA/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP · GRAHAM: DAVIS TURNER/AP

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‘Our Lutheran morality, if you will.’

ERKKI TUOMIOJA, foreign minister of Finland, on the reason his nation adhered to the fiscal discipline required for EU membership while other nations hid their problems. Tuomioja has said his country needs to be prepared for a potential end of the single European currency: “We have to face openly the possibility of a euro-break up.”



‘Regrettably I jumped into the water without a swimsuit.’

U.S. Rep. **KEVIN YODER**, R-Kan., on reports that he swam naked in the Sea of Galilee during a trip with other congressmen to Israel last year. Yoder, who does not have a Democratic opponent in his run for reelection this year, apologized to his constituents and said that it was dark enough that he didn't think anyone would see him and that he was in the water for 10 seconds.



‘The budget that he came forward with is just like Paul Ryan. It is a sensible, straightforward, honest, serious budget.’

ERSKINE BOWLES, former chief of staff in the Clinton White House and co-chairman of President Obama’s Deficit Commission, on Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and his work with Bowles’ commission. Bowles made his statement at a 2011 event in North Carolina. Ryan is now Mitt Romney’s running mate.

‘Everyone who came in with a pulse left with a pulse.’

BECKY DAVIS, the University of Colorado Hospital emergency room charge nurse who oversaw the immediate care for the victims of the Aurora shooting. All of the 22 injured who arrived at the hospital survived. Only one remains in the hospital.



‘Government didn’t build my business, I DID.’

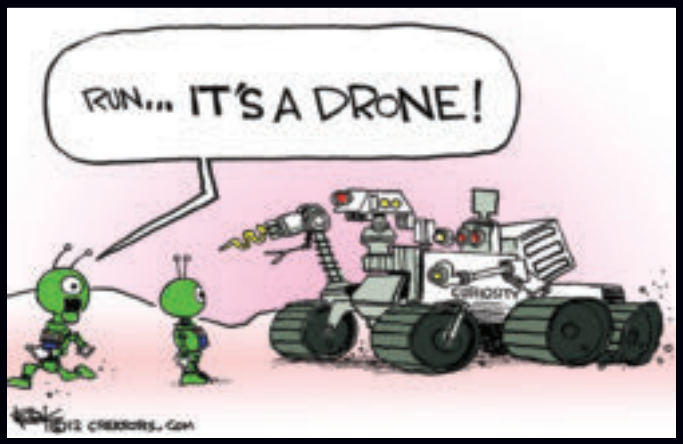
The message on the T-shirt of Davenport, Iowa, deli co-owner **ROSS MURTY**, on Aug. 15—as he served food to reporters traveling with President Obama during a trip to the battleground state. The message is a reference to President Obama’s statement at a rally arguing that entrepreneurs rely on government infrastructure for success: “If you’ve got a business—you didn’t build that.”

TUOMIOJA: MAURI RATILAINEN/EPA/NEWSCOM · YODER: DAVID EULITT/THE KANSAS CITY STAR/AP · BOWLES: MICHAEL DWYER/AP · MURTY: NIKKI KAHN/THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES

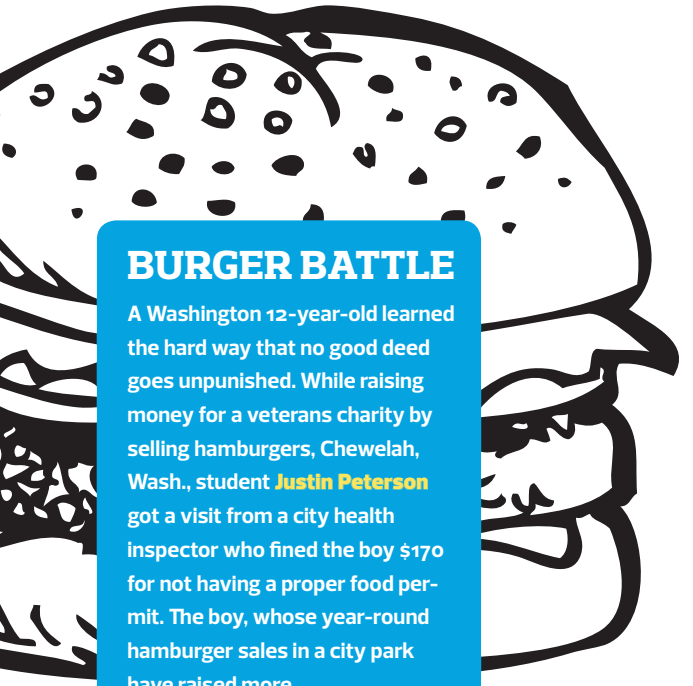

LOOK! ROMNEY'S TAX RETURNS!


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UNABLE TO MEET ITS PENSION AND HEALTH CARE OBLIGATIONS...
NEWS
THE US POSTAL SERVICE INSISTS IT MUST IMPLEMENT SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC CHANGES TO SAVE ITS OPERATION...
NEWS
OR RISK BECOMING...
NEWS
A CITY IN CALIFORNIA.
NEWS


RUN... IT'S A DRONE!


THIS FALL, I'M GOING TO TRADE SCHOOL TO BE A WELDER.
Starting salary upon graduation $50,000
LOSER.
Starting salary upon graduation from a pricey, 4-year school with a liberal arts degree $25,000 (if lucky)



BURGER BATTLE

A Washington 12-year-old learned the hard way that no good deed goes unpunished. While raising money for a veterans charity by selling hamburgers, Chewelah, Wash., student **Justin Peterson** got a visit from a city health inspector who fined the boy $170 for not having a proper food permit. The boy, whose year-round hamburger sales in a city park have raised more than $25,000 for the Honor Flight program for World War II veterans, said he was disappointed he had to shut down. But he won't have to worry about the fine: Board members for the Northeast Tri County Health District agreed to cover the $170 penalty out of their own pockets.



SPACE CAMP

The opportunity is out of this world. A Dutch company says it wants to transport four private astronauts on a one-way trip to Mars. The company, which calls itself Mars One, proposes to use a reality television show to cull potential astronauts down to four, and use the show's proceeds to pay the cost of creating a permanent habitable base on the Red Planet by 2023—a cost the company estimates at around $6 billion for the first seven-month flight. NASA scientists have said they could land astronauts on Mars by 2030.



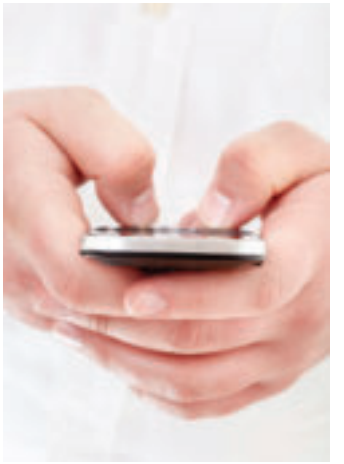
TOUGH OF TURF

A wealthy North Texas enclave has banned the use of artificial grass after a handful of residents installed the faux turf to brighten up their front yards. Highland Park, Texas, city council members passed an ordinance banning the fake lawns on Aug. 13 after officials noticed three of them in the city. A familiar sight at football stadiums, artificial turf lawns have grown in popularity due to the low maintenance and water requirements. "Plastic grass is not in keeping with the design and quality of design we want to have in our town," Councilman Andrew Barr told the *Dallas Morning News* after voting for the ban. The newspaper reported that Highland Park residents use three times more water on average than their neighbors in nearby cities.



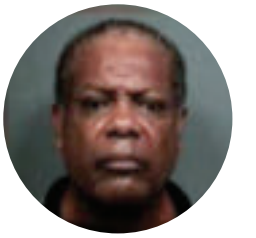
THUMBS DOWN

Always texting? Doctors are now warning that excessive texting on your mobile phone could eventually lead to a condition called "texting thumb." The repetitive stress of texting, according to doctors at Philadelphia's Jefferson University Hospital, is causing an increasing number of cases of thumb tendonitis. And while some severe cases may require surgery to cure, in most instances sufferers need simply to take a break from their iPhone or BlackBerry.



BEER EMERGENCY

Police in Columbia, Tenn., would like to remind you: Law enforcement does not exist to take you on a beer run. Police arrested 67-year-old **Allen Brooks** after he made repeated phone calls to 911 requesting that officers go buy him beer. "[Go to] the store and get me a beer," Brooks told a 911 dispatcher on Aug. 4. "I'll pay you." Brooks phoned the emergency number nine times in a 12-hour period asking for dispatchers or police to fetch him alcohol. Eventually, police did stop by his residence. But instead of dropping off a six-pack, officers arrested the man for abusing the 911 phone system.



HAMBURGER: ISTOCK · PETERSON: HANDOUT · TURF: HANDOUT · TEXTING: ISTOCK · BROOKS: MAURY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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KILLER PETS

In the superiority debate between cat and dog owners, those who own felines just got a fresh argument. Sometimes derided by dog owners as aloof and useless furballs, cats—according to new research from the University of Georgia—are actually slaughter-minded killing machines. Researchers at the Athens, Ga., university discovered that about 30 percent of roaming house cats kill prey, with an average kill count of two animals per week. That may not sound like a lot, but considering the estimated 74 million house cats in the United States, the carnage adds up. "Cat predation is one of the reasons why one in three American birds species are in decline," American Bird Conservancy President George Fenwick told *USA Today*. According to the research, house cats bring home less than a quarter of their prey, either eating their victims or leaving them to rot.

PORK CHOPPED

Cafeteria chefs at Paul Quinn College won't be bringing home the bacon any time soon. Or the pork chops or the pork tenderloin. In a policy announced by college President Michael Sorrell, the Dallas school is banning all pork from its campus cafeterias. Sorrell said the ban isn't based on any religious tradition, but rather on health concerns. "When you come to college, you come to be educated," Sorrell said on Aug. 7. "We thought we could do more in the area of promoting healthy lifestyle choices and healthy eating habits." The pork ban is just the latest in Sorrell's push toward healthy eating on campus. When Paul Quinn College ended its football program in 2006, Sorrell converted the school's football field into an urban farm.



PAPER WEIGHT

How bad is bureaucratic paperwork at the Department of Veterans Affairs? Bad enough to make one of the agency's buildings in North Carolina structurally unsound, according to the inspector general. An Aug. 9 report said stacks of paperwork and forms piled on top of already-filled filing cabinets in a VA office in Winston-Salem, N.C., were heavy enough to have "the potential to compromise the structural integrity" of the building. According to the report, the papers' weight bowed the floors, and the stacked files also represented a serious fire hazard: "We estimated that approximately 37,000 claims folders were stored on top of file cabinets."



MAKING ITSELF AT HOME

When Florida wildlife officials found an enormous Burmese python in the Everglades National Park in April, they knew it might be a record-setter. The snake, at 17 feet, 7 inches long, turned out to be the largest ever captured in Florida. "It was huge," Paul Ramey of the Florida Natural History Museum told the Reuters news service. Researchers, he said, "had to put three tables together and it took at least four people to pick it up and get it on the tables." But on Aug. 10, they discovered the 165-pound snake had produced 87 eggs, topping another state record. Burmese pythons are not native to Florida, but researchers say pet owners introduced the snakes to the Everglades by dumping them there when they became too large to manage.



CATS: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC REMOTE IMAGING . BACON: ISTOCK . VA: VAOIG . PYTHON: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA/AP



Janie B. Cheaney

Literary bondage

A hugely popular paperback series crosses a new and disturbing cultural line

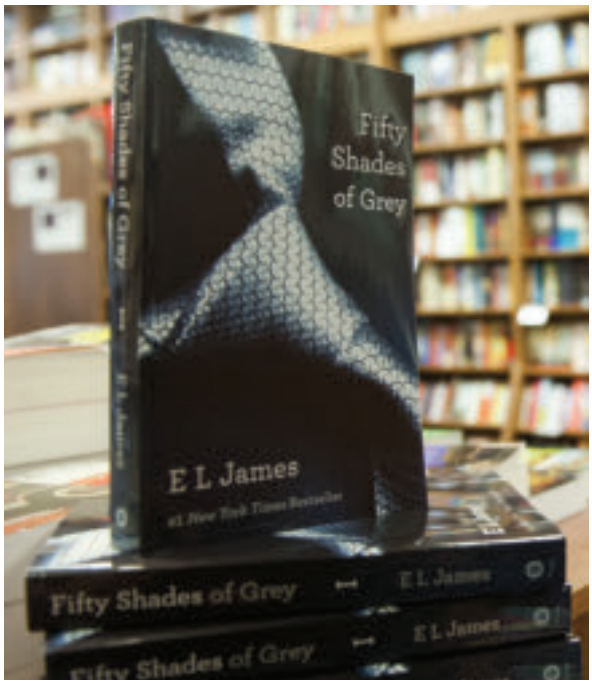
What does it mean that the fastest-selling paperback in history is a trilogy of soft-porn novels that wallow in sadomasochism? Culture-watchers have been asking that question since last spring, when *Fifty Shades of Grey* and its two sequels, all by a previously unknown and minimally talented author, started smashing records on every bestseller list and every bookseller's inventory.

The series has a unique history. About three years ago, author Erika Leonard, calling herself "Snowqueens Icedragon," began contributing to a fanfiction web page. Fanfiction is an internet phenomenon: websites devoted to amateur authors writing themselves into their favorite novels or movies. Snowqueens was obsessed with the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer; her web novel *Masters of the Universe* took protagonists Edward and Bella through scenarios that would have made Meyer blush.

That's not unusual for fanfiction, which is often an outlet for women (almost always women) to indulge in sexual fantasies with fictional characters. But Snowqueens' fantasies included bondage, whips, and other instruments of torture, which set the books apart, to put it delicately. Her novel was so explicit the website asked her to remove it, but not before it attracted thousands of fans. One of them, an Australian publisher, persuaded the author that she'd missed her calling as a romance novelist. In May 2011 the three books of the series under the author's pseudonym E.L. James appeared simultaneously—a smart marketing move, because the growing buzz allowed readers to go straight from one installment to the next.

The plot, such as it is, follows a 22-year-old coed who meets an impossibly handsome and rich entrepreneur when he grants an interview for her college newspaper. Their mutual attraction explodes, after a few teasing chapters, into a steamy affair—but before they do anything physical he insists she sign papers giving him permission to dominate her, not only sexually, but in all her choices and decisions.

Our heroine is conflicted—and so is the feminist world, with some women condemning this jaunt back to the dark ages and others shrugging that everybody needs to lighten up. *Fifty Shades* is so popular among young-to-middle marrieds that journalists have dubbed it "mommy porn." BabyCenter.com reports that roughly nine months after it hit the best-seller lists, *Fifty Shades* babies are making their appearance. Some are being named for the two protagonists, Christian and Anastasia.



In spite of the inevitable imitators, *Fifty Shades* is probably not a trend. Still, it crosses a line, as several local librarians discovered when patrons and free-speech groups (including the American Library Association) pressured them to buy the books for their libraries in spite of the incongruity with community standards. Though soft-core, the subject matter is hard, indicating that basic intercourse (dismissed by connoisseurs as "vanilla sex") isn't pushing buttons anymore. It also indicates something that shouldn't be a surprise: Women express their sexual nature differently than men. A man's inclination toward the visual is well-known, but women live inside their own heads. A man objectifies both himself and the object of his lust, but a woman recreates herself at the center of an erotic universe.

That's why fanfiction is almost entirely a female preserve: There women can deck their fantasies in words, cheered on by other women. There the hunky, domineering man with the mocking eyebrow (who plays piano like a virtuoso) is ultimately undone by the virginal girl with unruly hair. And there we betray our brokenness. We want to rule, but play at being ruled. We put our heroines (and ourselves?) in slavish postures that are supposed to be somehow liberating. We live in the freest society in history but daydream about being tied up and physically hurt. We resort to role-playing where we should be most honestly ourselves.

Women, even Christian women, report that these books have sparked up their marriages. Sparks are notoriously short-lived, and what they leave is ash. Reading comparisons of *Masters of the Universe* and *Fifty Shades* is enough for me. I won't be reading *Fifty Shades* because that place I like to regard as my own—my imagination—is already too cluttered with trash. More and more, I need to find Jesus there, making Himself at home. *This is mine, too*, He says.

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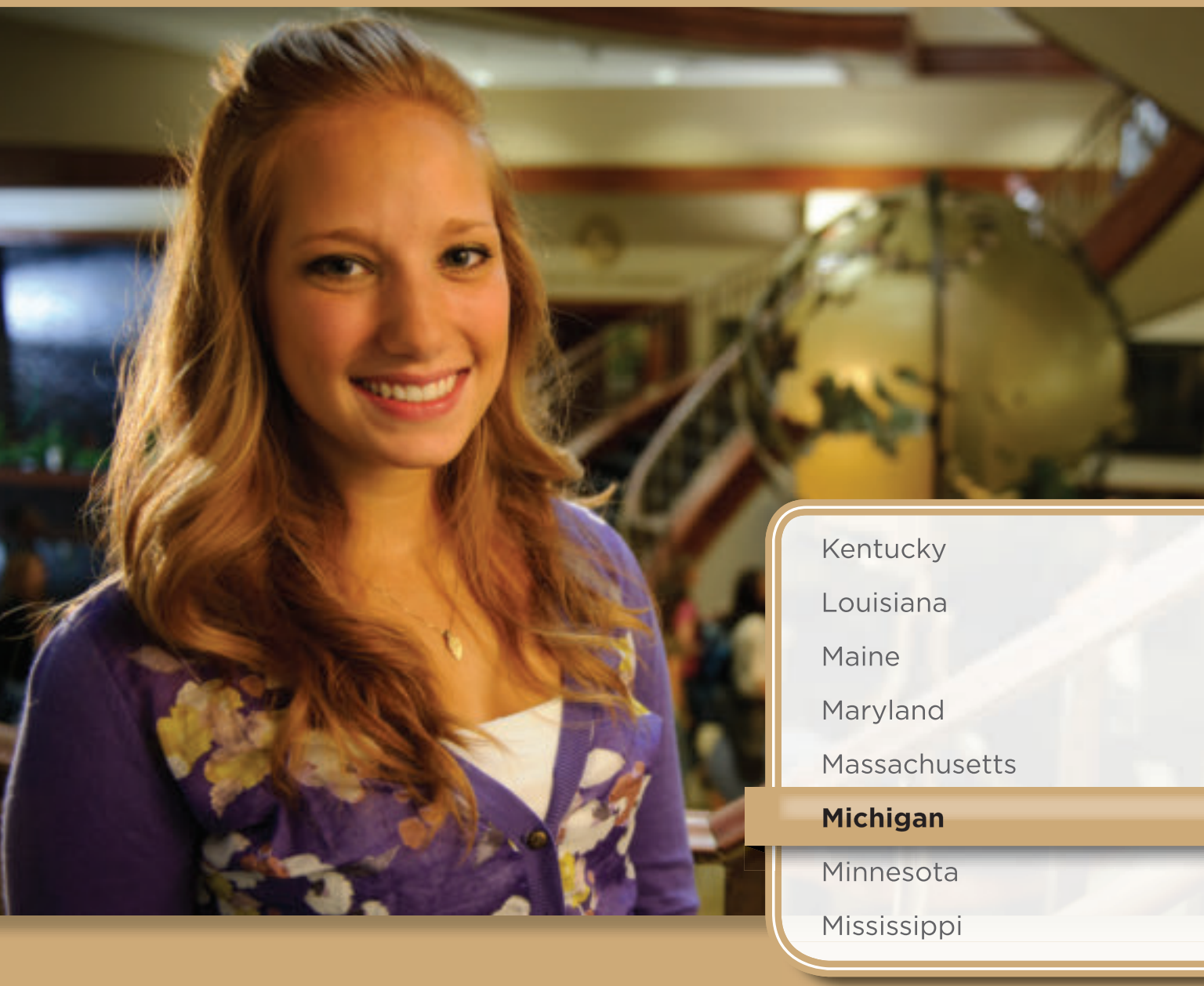
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Reviews



ALICIA GBUR/STAGE SIX FILMS

Gift exchange

MOVIE: *Sparkle* raises valid questions about Christians and their talents, but it also presents a misguided view of our callings

BY STEPHANIE PERRAULT

"Why would the Lord give me this gift if I wasn't supposed to use it?" Sparkle Anderson tearfully asks when her mother discovers her daughters' secret lives as Motown singing sensations. "Sparkle," Mrs. Anderson replies firmly, "you can have a gift. It's how you use it that matters."

Sparkle, played by *American Idol*–winner **Jordin Sparks**, spends the movie learning the truth her mother, played by **Whitney Houston**, learned the hard way.

A long-time fan of the original 1976 musical drama inspired by The Supremes, Houston acquired the rights to *Sparkle* in 2000 and set out to recreate the story of three sisters whose rise to fame from the church choir was fraught with pain and heartache.

Filmed last year before Houston died, Houston's version (rated PG-13 for sensuality, mild language, and drug use) is set in 1960s Motown, where budding singer-songwriter Sparkle Anderson lives with her sisters and strict, religious mother.

Mrs. Anderson, whose career as a professional singer nearly destroyed her, keeps a tight rein on her daughters, volunteers at her church, and hosts a youth Bible study in the effort to redeem her shattered life.

Redemption has only one Author and though referenced often, His grace and joy are notably absent from Mrs. Anderson's religiosity.

Believing that fame will lead to happiness, Sparkle's older sister—Sister—played to the T by Carmen Egojo, is willing to market not only her voice but her sexual allure to achieve her goal. Personal and relational decay result.

Though Sparkle won't grovel before the fickle idol of fame, she struggles between obeying her mother and following her dream—an unnecessary dichotomy if both Sparkle and Mrs. Anderson properly understood God's giftings, God's callings, and God's sovereignty.

A cautionary tale that bears some parallels to Houston's own life, Sparkle's question of how to use God-ordained talents is a valid one. It's a question all Christians, called to be ambassadors of redemption in this sin-sodden world, must answer.



Bourne for action

The Bourne Legacy (PG-13 for language and violence), fourth installment in the popular Bourne espionage series, introduces audiences to a new super agent: Aaron Cross (**Jeremy Renner**), an all-American outdoorsman who leaps cliffs, wrestles wolves, and is a mean motorcycle rider.

Renner plays the super-spy role with wry wit and a quick smile, making Cross a more relatable and believable character than Matt Damon's dementia-stricken assassin. Genetic doping has given Cross unusual strength and mental prowess: He saves the life of myopic virologist Dr. Marta Sheering (**Rachel Weisz**), then challenges her thinking, and convinces her to embark on an international quest for freedom.

Well-paced action, flying bullets, and speeding motorcycles leave a little room for flashes of tenderness between the two protagonists, which hint at the possibility of future romance while leaving the on-screen interaction surprisingly pure. *—S.P.*



DOCUMENTARY

The Queen of Versailles

BY EMILY WHITTEN

When photographer/director Lauren Greenfield met billionaire Jackie Siegel during an *Elle* magazine shoot, Greenfield was already preparing a long-term photographic work on "wealth, consumerism, and the international influence of the values of the American Dream." As Greenfield got to know **Jackie** and her husband, **David**, they must have seemed easy targets for a consumerism exposé.

The Siegels live in a 26,000-square-foot "starter mansion," which they hope to leave behind for their new home—a 90,000-square-foot Vegas-style replica of Versailles with 30 bathrooms, two movie theaters, a bowling alley, an ice-skating/roller rink, and a health spa, making it the largest home in America. Jackie, a former model and beauty queen, regularly flaunts her shiny purses, blonde hair, and super-sized chest implants. David—basically, Donald Trump with less hair—is founder and CEO of the world's largest time-share company, and his ego is as large as Jackie's, er, personality.

But even early in Greenfield's vision, Jackie shows a depth that the Kardashians don't. "I found her refreshingly friendly and candid," Greenfield later wrote, "with a combination of chutzpah, self-effacing humor, and lack of pretense, qualities that are sometimes obscured by the protective veil of great wealth." Jackie's life doesn't only revolve around material things. She and David have had seven children together and raised another child they "inherited."

But when the 2008 financial meltdown hit, Greenfield had to change her template. No longer uber-rich, Jackie shopped at Walmart, they let go their hired help, and they put their dream house, Versailles, up for sale.

Although the documentary is rated PG for thematic elements and language, its raw portrayal of two individuals suffering the death of their idols is the most distressing part (save Jackie's immodest dress). David loses his empire, and Jackie loses David's adoration. Without treasure in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroy, it's a painful dethroning.

THE QUEEN OF VERSAILLES: LAUREN GREENFIELD/MAGNOLIA PICTURES · THE BOURNE LEGACY: MARY CYBULSKI/UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

See all our movie reviews at worldmag.com/movies

TELEVISION

American Bible Challenge

BY MEGAN BASHAM



I'VE NEVER BEEN A HUGE FAN of **Jeff Foxworthy**'s stand-up act. He seemed like a devoted family man who appreciates his fans, but the Southern-fried redneck routine isn't my style of comedy. Yet when that comedian persona was transferred to a new stage—FOX's game show *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?*—Foxworthy won over one more admirer.

It's not just that as a host he displays the common touch of a regular Joe, it's that he seems to display a love of regular Joes. He jokes with them, asks questions as if genuinely interested in their personal stories, and appears truly to root for them. His latest venture, an hour-long Bible knowledge competition on the Game Show Network, may reveal the source of that affection for his fellow man.

American Bible Challenge is nothing like the Sunday school quizzes you may have endured as a child. It's more like the sort of free-spirited fellowship event your church might put on some special Saturday night—if, that is, your church could get one of the most popular comedians in the world to host it. The show is as much fun as *5th Grader*, and perhaps more so for Christian viewers who suddenly get to use that daily Bible study time not only to grow spiritually, but also to lord fact-retention capabilities over your significant other (or maybe that's just me.)

Foxworthy and contestants who compete for money for their favorite charities are what give the show heart. A professing Christian, he doesn't shy away from asking fellow believers about their testimonies: Their background videos present the love of Christ's church with an authenticity all but alien to television. Likewise, Foxworthy doesn't betray even a whiff of what would be death to a show like this—reticence to talk freely and casually about his own faith.

BOX OFFICE TOP 10

FOR THE WEEKEND OF AUG. 17-19
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 Expendables 2	R	2	8	4
2	The Bourne Legacy*	PG-13	2	7	5
3	ParaNorman*	PG	2	5	3
4	The Campaign	R	7	5	7
5	Sparkle*	PG-13	4	5	5
6	The Dark Knight Rises*	PG-13	2	7	3
7	The Odd Life of Timothy Green*	PG	2	3	1
8	Hope Springs*	PG-13	7	1	4
9	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days	PG	2	3	2
10	Total Recall*	PG-13	5	7	5

*Reviewed by WORLD

MOVIE

ParaNorman

BY ALICIA M. COHN

DON'T LET THE PG RATING and stop-motion animation fool you. *ParaNorman* is not a kid's movie.

Norman (voiced by Kodi Smit-McPhee) is a boy who communicates with the dead. He sees them as spirits lurking around the witch-cursed town where his family lives. Norman discovers that he's the only one who can save the town from a girl once executed there for witchcraft, and in the process the community will learn to appreciate as a gift the ability that has made him a "freak" to his family and classmates.



Some adult fans of the curious subgenre of spooky animated movies might enjoy the movie's sly puns and visual jokes, but its vivid images are a problem particularly for children. The movie is rated PG "for scary action and images, thematic elements, some rude humor and language," but if it were a live action film it would deserve a PG-13 for scary imagery alone. The climactic battle between the witch and Norman is particularly intense. The film also contains references to pornography.

PG means "parental guidance." Guide your kids away from *ParaNorman*.

Heretics here and there

Authors analyze challenges for American Christianity from within and without

BY MARVIN OLASKY



ROSS DOUTHAT'S *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics* (Free Press, 2012) notes rightly that heresy often comes from intensifying one Christian teaching and ignoring those that temper it. For example, we need to keep in mind that we are both made in God's image and fatally corrupted by original sin. Douthat writes that "absent the latter emphasis, religion becomes a license for egotism and selfishness," with adultery becoming "following your heart" and vanity becoming "self-improvement."

Douthat writes well about contemporary heresies, including the "pray and grow rich" and the "God within" schools. While he seems overly fond of the 1950s, the decade that ended two decades before he was born, he does note that Americans planted then the seeds of today's misemphases: Norman Vincent Peale was an early Oprah Winfrey, Oral Roberts led to Joel Osteen, and W. Cleon Skousen was a proto–Glenn Beck.

(Douthat includes a telling observation from Dean Hoge, Benton Johnson, and Donald Luidens, authors of *Vanishing Boundaries: The Religion of Mainline Protestant Baby Boomers* [1994]: "The mainline churches made few demands on those who flocked into its ranks during the 1950s. In effect, many members acquired only a thin gloss or 'veneer' of religiosity. … To some of their children, even the weak requirements of church membership seemed too burdensome or too pointless to assume. The church 'boom' of the 1950s was an ephemeral one.")

The tough question now is whether American Christianity has hope for recovery. Douthat shows that some comes from abroad, as Koreans improve Presbyterian churches, Hispanics animate Catholic churches (and also evangelical ones), and American Anglicans put themselves under the authority of African churches. But much needs to come from within, with Christians understanding the biblical tapestry and not just one strand.

Douthat writes well and analyzes thoughtfully what needs to change. One example: "The Christian case for fidelity and chastity will inevitably seem partial and hypocritical if it trains most of its attention on the minority of cases—on homosexual wedlock and the slippery slope to polygamy beyond. It is the heterosexual divorce rate, the heterosexual retreat from marriage, and the heterosexual out-of-wedlock birthrates that should command the most attention from Christian moralists."

Douthat cares about what's true and is critical of much contemporary religious practice. Other writers have emphasized the attacks on Christianity. Michael Coren's *Heresy* (Signal, 2012) concentrates on 10 sets of lies, including those promulgated in *The Da Vinci Code* and broader statements like "Christians oppose progress and change."

Jeffrey Russell's *Exposing Myths About Christianity* (IVP, 2012) is a useful guide to answering 145 viral lies and legends ranging from "The New Testament was composed long after the death of Jesus" to "Hitler was a Christian." (Russell notes Hitler's hostility toward Christ but also mentions that German churches "were dupes of salami tactics, acquiescing in the gradual slicing away of their liberties.")

Those two writers defend truth and expose lies, but Jonathan Haidt, a University of Virginia psychology professor and an atheist since his teens, has a different goal: He wants to know what works, so he focuses on the unifying power of faith in his new book, *The Righteous Mind* (Pantheon, 2012).

Haidt cites research showing that a fear of God may make a society more ethical and harmonious. For example, one study found that people were less likely to cheat if they were first given a puzzle that prompted thoughts of God. Haidt also notes that of 200 communes founded in the 19th century, only 6 percent of the secular communes survived two decades, compared with 39 percent of the religious ones.

Those that survived longest were those that demanded sacrifices of members, like fasting, daily prayer, abstaining from alcohol or tobacco, or adopting new forms of clothing or hairstyle: "The very ritual practices that the New Atheists dismiss as costly, inefficient, and irrational turn out to be a solution to one of the hardest problems humans face: cooperation without kinship."

CARRIE DEVORAH/WENN/NEWSCOM

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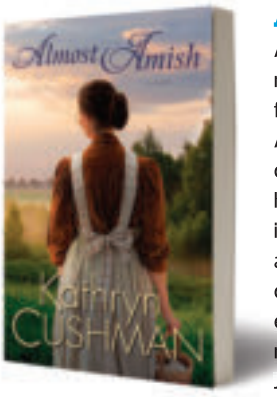
NOTABLE BOOKS

Four "bonnet novels" ⟩ reviewed by SUSAN OLASKY

The Captive Heart *Dale Cramer*



Cramer pushes the envelope of Amish fiction by setting his stories in Mexico, where an Amish community relocates in the 1920s. At the heart of this Amish romance/Western mash-up that fans of both will enjoy: The Bender family's struggle to live according to strict Amish convictions when the surrounding culture threatens everything they hold dear. Among the problems: Pancho Villa's revolutionaries intimidate the settlers, testing Caleb Bender's pacifist beliefs. Caleb's daughter Miriam tries to forget her attraction to hired hand Domingo, knowing if she acts on it she will lose her family. A diphtheria epidemic sweeps through the colony. Bandits kidnap Caleb's daughter Rachel.



Almost Amish *Kathryn Cushman*

A daytime TV host decides to goose ratings by introducing a reality TV segment on her show. She sends a suburban family—dad stays home—to experience simple living near an Amish community in Tennessee. As hidden microphones and cameras capture family interactions, cooking disasters, and housework without modern conveniences, the family—including three teenage children—learns important lessons about busyness and our modern culture's definition of success. Among the characters: Perfectionist Susan hopes the exposure will lead to her own TV show, but she struggles to maintain her high standards. Her easy-going sister-in-law, Julie, is eager to escape the stresses of her suburban life.

The Fiddler *Beverly Lewis*



Violinist Amelia Devries and Michael Hostetler have something in common even though one is "English" and the other Amish. Both struggle to meet parental expectations, which clash with their own ambitions. Amelia's parents expect her to sacrifice everything for her concert career, forcing her to hide her forays into country fiddling. Michael's parents want him to join the Amish church and settle down in the community, but he wants an education. The two meet and feel an immediate friendship—but can the relationship develop into something more? Lewis fills the novel with one-dimensional characters—a wise woman, demanding fathers, sympathetic mothers, a heartless music agent, and a wayward teen.



The Keeper *Suzanne Woods Fisher*

The Lapp family struggles when Amos Lapp becomes too frail from heart disease to keep up the family farm. His eldest daughter Julia tries to hold things together, but she suffers disappointment when her beau postpones their wedding for a second time. She blames his pre-wedding jitters on the mysterious "bee man" who wanders from farm to farm, using his bees to pollinate orchards. A no-nonsense housekeeper arrives to establish order, helping the Lapps learn more about themselves and each other. This traditional romance focuses more on family and romantic misunderstandings than on clashes between Amish customs and those of the surrounding community.

SPOTLIGHT

With *Upended: How Following Jesus Remakes Your Words and World* (Passio, 2012), **Jedd Medefind** and Erik Lokkesmoe have provided a study in discipleship that rejects abstractions and polemics. They emphasize Jesus' lessons in vivid, concrete, and provocative language, showing how when we take to heart His teachings "our small, delegated kingdom becomes an outpost of the kingdom of God and a foretaste of what is to be."

Upended brims with stories and anecdotes—from history, culture, and the authors' personal and professional lives—to drive home its message. We learn, for example, that British abolitionist Thomas Clarkson displayed the tools of torture used in the slave trade, such as leg shackles and branding irons, right alongside beautiful objects from Africa, such as fine cloth and jewelry. By underscoring the humanity of African slaves, Clarkson challenged prejudices and helped turn public opinion against the slave trade.

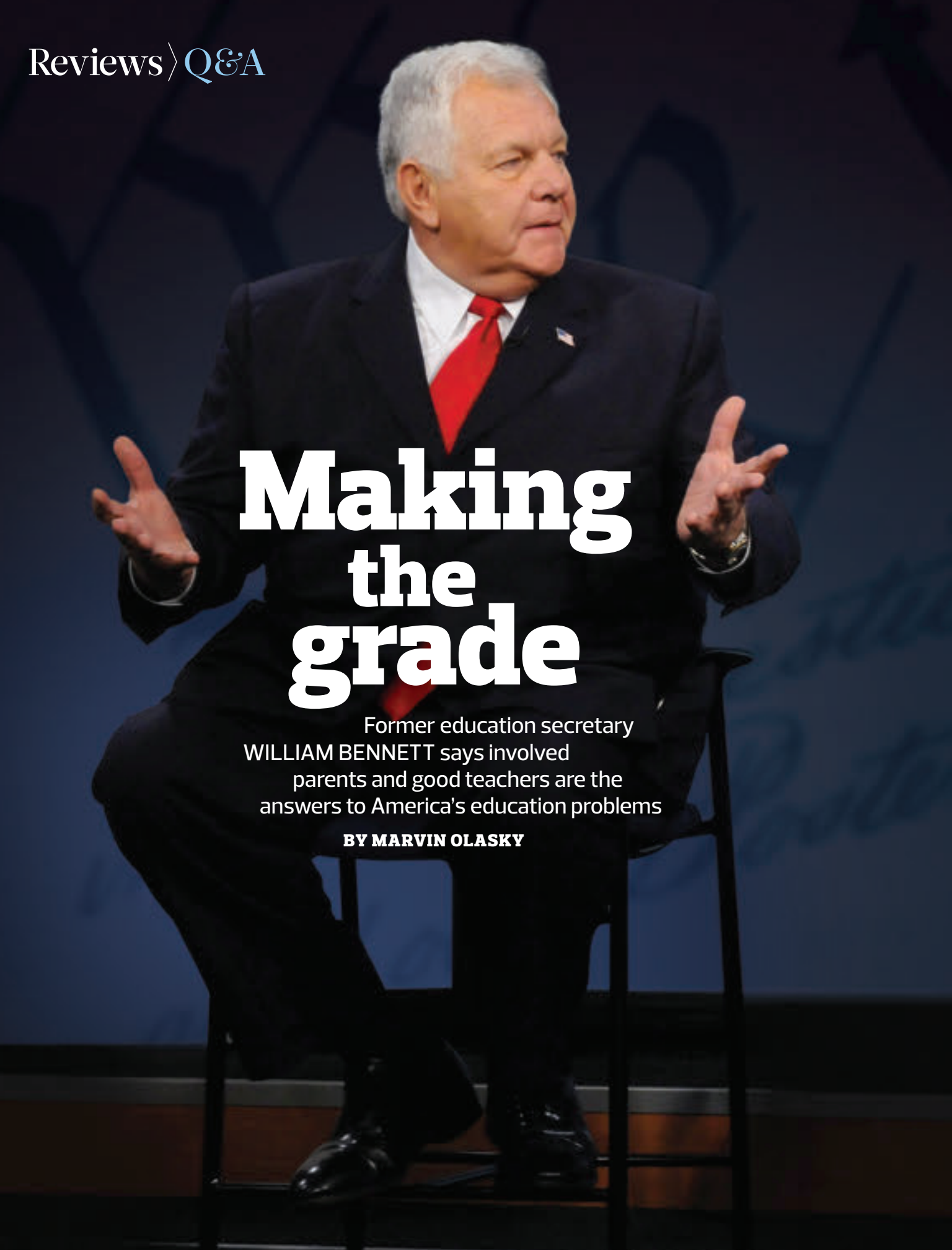
Upended's guide to discipleship softly draws us back to deep truths about attentive, authentic, and courageous life with Christ.

—Joseph Loconte is the author of The Searchers: A Quest for Faith in the Valley of Doubt



HANDOUT

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Making the grade

Former education secretary WILLIAM BENNETT says involved parents and good teachers are the answers to America's education problems

BY MARVIN OLASKY

THE SCHOOL YEAR is beginning with orations by educrats, but William Bennett, secretary of education in the Reagan administration and now a national radio talk show host, sees things differently. Bennett earned a Ph.D. in philosophy at The University of Texas at Austin and has written or edited 20 books, including *The Book of Virtues* and *The Book of Man: Readings on the Path to Manhood* (Thomas Nelson, 2011). Here are edited excerpts of his remarks on education before a noontime gathering at Patrick Henry College.

Do we need a Department of Education? We don't need a Department of Education. Our test scores are lower since the department has been established than before. I don't think it's primarily because of the Department of Education—watch out for *post hoc ergo propter hoc*—but it certainly hasn't helped.

What's the department's most popular program? When I was there we polled all the people who got our grants. The most popular program we ran was the block grant to the states. We take your money, take 10 percent out, and send it back to you. Why don't we not take it in the first place?

What about the Department of Education's grantmaking? The department has messed things up by requiring ridiculous amounts of paperwork from schools and colleges, and by creating disincentives through complicated programmatic decisions. Example: One school district has many students with learning disabilities who are way behind in math and reading, so it gets a lot more money. I say to that district's superintendent, "You've got a struggling district here, huh?" He says. "No, we're doing great. We just lie about how many students we have so we can get more money." Not the highest ethical standards, but the incentives are all in the wrong place.

No Child Left Behind is a decade old. It was essentially a deal between George W. Bush and Ted Kennedy: Bush wanted testing, Kennedy wanted money. They agreed that each could have what he wanted, but now that the tests have shown so many schools failing, we're throwing out the tests. Were Republicans and President Bush snookered? Yeah, they were snookered. I gave it mediocre support because at least it said there is no federal entitlement.

Did you like the testing component? No Child Left Behind said: If you are getting federal money we want to know how your students are doing. That's perfectly reasonable: We give you money so children can succeed and we want to know if the children are succeeding. The problem is that the standard of measurement was all wrong: We let the states pretty much pick their own devices. As a result you ended up with this Lake Wobegon business where every state has 85 percent of its students testing above the median.

A mathematical miracle. Everybody's good looking, everybody's smart, everybody's testing well until we go to the NAEP, the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Then we find out we haven't improved since 1963. We're 25th in the industrialized world.

How can American education improve? Education gets better locally. The single most important adult in a child's life is the parent. The single most important thing about the education of the child needs to be the parent, and the parent's attitude toward education: Not how much he or she knows, but attitude. The parent can be illiterate, not able to do any of the homework with the kid, but still saying, "This is important. You turn off the TV. You do your work. You listen to the teacher."

And does that teacher need to be good? The research on this is fascinating: There's a ton. It's not class size. It's certainly not facilities. It's not technology. It's the quality of the adult in front of the classroom. The research is clear: You are much better off in a bad school with a good teacher than a supposedly really good school with a bad teacher. If you take kids from the 50th percentile in the third grade, and you give them a teacher everyone regards as excellent, in two years they'll be at the 85 percentile. You give them a teacher everyone regards as not very good, in two years they'll be in the 35th percentile. What more do you need to know about evaluating teachers and rewarding excellence?

Much better to have an excellent teacher with a large class than mediocre teachers with small classes? Absolutely. Class size makes no difference. Parents like it. Kids sometimes don't like it because they can't get away with as much. Class size is loved by the teachers unions and loved by parents, but it makes no difference educationally.

If we reduce class size by hiring bad teachers, we make things worse. Eric Hanushek at Stanford has estimated that if you could remove the bottom 10 percent, in terms of quality, from the American elementary and secondary school teaching force, America would go from 25th to 10th in the world. That's the drag the bottom 10 percent puts on. Now the people in the 30th and 40th percentile aren't rocket scientists and maybe aren't even very bright, but they can get it done through the drills and the homework. We need to get rid of the people who get everything wrong in the classroom and demotivate the kids.

A decade ago we had two major conservative positions on fixing education. One emphasized mandatory testing. The second emphasized decentralizing mechanisms like tax credits and vouchers. The first didn't work. Is it time to take another shot at the second? Yes, decentralize as much as possible. Put the money or the voucher in the backpack of the student. Let the student go wherever the parent wants the child to go: private school, public school, religious school, homeschool. Full scale choice all the way.

Can we improve K-12 education funding by following the funding model for higher education? There are a lot of things wrong with American higher education, but choice isn't one of them. You can take a guaranteed student loan or Pell grant and study at a Baptist college your first year, a Catholic one your second, and Hindu and Jewish ones your third and fourth years. You'll be theologically confused, but you'll be entirely within the Constitution because, when it comes to federal student aid for higher education, we don't care where you take it.

That's not the case at the elementary and secondary levels. Where it's much more needed. As important as college is, kindergarten and grades 1-3 are more important, and much more formative.

WILLIAM B. PLOWMAN/HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT & HISTORY CHANNEL/AP



Second act

Documentary brings '70s folk singer SIXTO RODRIGUEZ and his music back into the spotlight

BY ARSENIO ORTEZA

In 1970 and 1971, respectively, a long-haired, sunglasses-wearing Detroit folk-protest singer named Sixto Rodriguez released the only two studio albums he would ever record. The first was called *Cold Fact*, the second *Coming from Reality*.

Sung in a voice recalling Arlo Guthrie and Donovan, anticipating Jim Croce, and augmented with everything from squalling guitars to flutes and strings, the bluntness and cleverness of his verbally meandering songs proved a tough sell to U.S. radio. By the time his label, Sussex Records, folded in 1975, he'd been doing for four years what he'd be doing for most of the next decade: supporting his family as a construction worker and pursuing a B.A. in philosophy. Aside from a revival of interest in his music in Australia and New Zealand, where he toured from 1979 to 1981, Rodriguez had resigned himself to being a footnote in the history of Motor City music.

Fast-forward to 1998. Unbeknownst to him, his music had become popular in South Africa, serving as a de facto soundtrack to the anti-Apartheid movement. He had also become, due to the lack of easily accessible Rodriguez info, a mysterious legend about whom rumors (including his having killed himself onstage) swirled.

Searching for Sugar Man (Sony Pictures Classics) is a new documentary about the attempts of two South African Rodriguez fans to locate their hero (see "Searching for Sugarman," Aug. 25, 2012). The film and its 14-song soundtrack have finally made Rodriguez, who recently turned 70, a prophet with honor in his own country.

"When they say I was 'lost,' I wasn't lost," the singer-songwriter told me. "I knew where I was."

Where he was, was where he'd always been and still lives: Detroit. As for where he's going, he has international and North American tour dates scheduled throughout November, with a performance on the *Late Show with David Letterman* a special concern.

"They want me to do one [song] in particular," he says, "but it's too long and too brooding. I think when you watch light TV, you want to be up instead of saying, 'Oh, God!' So I'm trying to think of something more uptempo."

Rodriguez doesn't often take God's name in vain. "Oh, jeez!," which he says a lot, is about as edgy as his banter gets. Some of his lyrics, however, still retain shock value, from anti-papal rhetoric ("Cause") to the sort of frank epithet slinging that, were he a conservative talk-show host, would have advertisers bailing in droves ("A Most Disgusting Song").

But mostly his songs deal with socio-political topics long common to the protest palette. Did Rodriguez think, when he wrote about "taxation," unprotected "women," "politicians," "pollution," "gun sales," "adultery," desperate "housewives," "population," and "divorce" in "This Is Not a Song It's an Outburst: or the Establishment Blues" 41 years ago, that such issues would still be in the news?

"Here's how I frame it," he says. "In the '60s and '70s, I thought there was going to be a revolution. But today I don't think we're going to have that revolution. [The system] is going to cave in on its own. And what's going to bring it down is nepotism—that cronyism, that favoritism, that corruption, and just greed."

Rodriguez is not a conservative. When he observes of Sweden that "they take care of people cradle to grave," for instance, he's envious. But he also acknowledges that "the government money, that's ours."

And most of all he's grateful for his belated second chance. "There's no blueprint for how it happens," he says. "I'm a lucky man that this happened at all." ⊕



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NOTABLE CDs

Five new or recent classical CDs ⟩ reviewed by ARSENIO ORTEZA



Cool of the Day

Choir of St. Ignatius of Loyola

No matter how many accolades its members and conductor have, no a cappella choir distinguishes itself merely by excellent execution. Its repertoire has to have something going for it too—eclecticism if nothing else. These 19 sacred songs manage that well enough: Protestant hymns, Catholic Latin, African-American spirituals. But even that mix feels pro forma. What doesn't is Eric Whitacre's setting of E.E. Cummings' "I thank You God for most this amazing day," a sonnet of praise that even most English majors don't know Cummings wrote.

Ernst Krenek: Piano Works

Stanislav Khristenko

The Krenek piano composition that became famous because Glenn Gould performed it during his last live performance is the fourth of this album's six works. And if its four movements totaling 21 minutes don't suggest why Krenek continues to fascinate even now, two decades after his death, nothing will. "Krenek's works could not be assigned to one particular stylistic direction," read the liner notes. "He moved flexibly between the old and the new." Khristenko seems particularly attuned to this aesthetic multiplicity. One might even say he unifies it.





Martyrs for the Faith: American Saxophone Concertos *Kenneth Tse*

The concerto for alto saxophone and symphonic winds that lends this four-concerto recording its title was composed by David DeBoor Canfield to enshrine in sound the martyrdoms of Polycarp (A.D. 155), Gaspard de Coligny (1572), and Jim Elliot (1956) respectively. That it succeeds becomes apparent when you realize you're enjoying it apart from any knowledge of Canfield's source material; that Tse succeeds becomes apparent when you realize his saxophone is chiefly responsible for your enjoyment. If you thought jazz sax was something, you ain't heard nothin' yet.

The Complete Harpsichord Works of Rameau *Jory Vinikour*

Disc One is everything a fan of the harpsichord, the greatest French composer for the harpsichord (Rameau), and one of the greatest living performers on the harpsichord (Vinikour) could want. Precise and sensitive, it dazzles from the beginning to the end of its 78 minutes. But it's the *Suite in A Minor*, the first of Rameau's two *Nouvelles suites de pièces de clavecin*, at the start of Disc Two that will move listeners to awe. The "Sarabande" and "Fanfarinette" alone justify the $19.99 new-copy price.





SPOTLIGHT

"He is considered not only the greatest French composer who ever lived," wrote Harold Schonberg of Claude Debussy's evolving posthumous status. "He is considered the revolutionary who, with the *Prélude à L'Après-midi d'un faune* of 1894, set 20th-century music on its way." Whether that particular prelude did, in fact, launch a revolution, there are worse ways to begin considering the possibility than to listen to the version transcribed for two pianos by Debussy himself on Alexei Lubimov's latest album, *Claude Debussy: Préludes* (ECM New Series).



That prelude and three nocturnes (transcribed for two pianos by Maurice Ravel) join solo performances of Debussy's two books of preludes (24 in all). Lubimov's duet partner is his fellow Russian Alexei Zuev. Their instruments are a 1925 Bechstein and a 1913 Steinway that Lubimov painstakingly chose for the occasion. The resulting sounds, if not revolutionary, are certainly faithful to the spirit if not always the laws of what continues to make Debussy unique.

BETTMANN/CORBIS/AP IMAGES

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Mindy Belz

Metaphysically deceived

A generation that grew up with Helen Gurley Brown has lost 'the experience of plenitude'



Helen Gurley Brown may be dead, but the spirit animating her sexual revolution ("Good girls go to heaven, bad girls go everywhere.") is alive. The author of *Sex and the Single Girl* popularized infidelity and demolished virtue in the guise of frank discussions about sex. I, like many entering teen years then, came of age soaking in the sexual revolution exploding from the covers of *Cosmopolitan* and its spawn. I imbibed the new narcissism scarcely knowing it. Then spent years shedding it, honestly, after Christ in His spirit took hold of me. So it shouldn't surprise me—despite the documented wreckage from the Gurley Brown ethos—that its forceful brew of selfishness and self-destruction courses on.

The latest campaign launched under the label of women's choice: the choice to be childless. "Brewing under the radar," claims a headline in the August issue of *Vogue*, is "the right not to have children."

The article describes the plight of a 27-year-old who at age 20 began asking doctors for a tubal ligation, unmarried and sexually active yet convinced she never wanted to have children. Five different doctors over five years refused to do the procedure.

"That women are denied access to tubal ligations is another form of reproductive injustice," Vanessa Cullins, an OB-GYN and vice president at Planned Parenthood, declares. "This is a choice issue." According to *Vogue*, it may become "a growing issue" because of the number of women in America who are childless today—one in five compared to one in 10 in the 1970s.

That statistic somehow implies that women are choosing to be childless, yet in my encounters with women of childbearing age, some see it as their calling to be childless but most long to be mothers. In line with that, the final paragraphs of the *Vogue* article include other statistics: that 10 percent of women who have tubal ligations decide to have them undone, and that women who get their tubes tied before they're 30 are twice as likely to regret it and eight times as likely to have a reversal or an evaluation for in vitro fertilization.

So let's recite the history of the sexual revolution: Having secured the right to all kinds of birth control, having won in the courts the right to abort an unwanted baby, having liberalized the divorce laws into meaninglessness in most states, having broken the cultural barriers to having sex and babies outside of marriage, the neo-feminists now want young women to be guaranteed the right to surgery to prevent them from ever having children *and* the right to reverse that procedure should they change their minds. Never mind that under a national healthcare law these decisions have public costs; the great irony is that the liberation of women from children sounds an awful lot like it's turned women into children.

We older women fool ourselves to think that younger women, and women in our churches, and we ourselves, aren't infected still with false ideas about "choice." Over years of childbearing and parenting and all that's in between, I've fled repeatedly to the wonderful 1993 essay by theologian and ethicist Gilbert Meilaender, "The Meaning of the Presence of Children":

That something rather than nothing exists is a mystery that lies buried in the heart of God, whose creative power and plenitude of being are the ground of our life. That life should have come into existence is in no way our doing. Within this life we can exercise a modest degree of control, but we deceive ourselves if we forget the mystery of creation that grounds our being.

To form a family cannot, therefore, be only an act of planning and control—unless we are metaphysically deceived. It must also be an act of faith and hope … "a fundamental generosity."

Meilaender dethrones the idea of "choice" that has defined a Gurley Brown generation and elevates the "fundamental generosity" of family life, of committed relationships—i.e., marriage—in which husband and wife are pledged to see the callings of the other thrive, and of "the 'experience of plenitude,' from which procreation, at its best, springs."

KRIEG BARRIE

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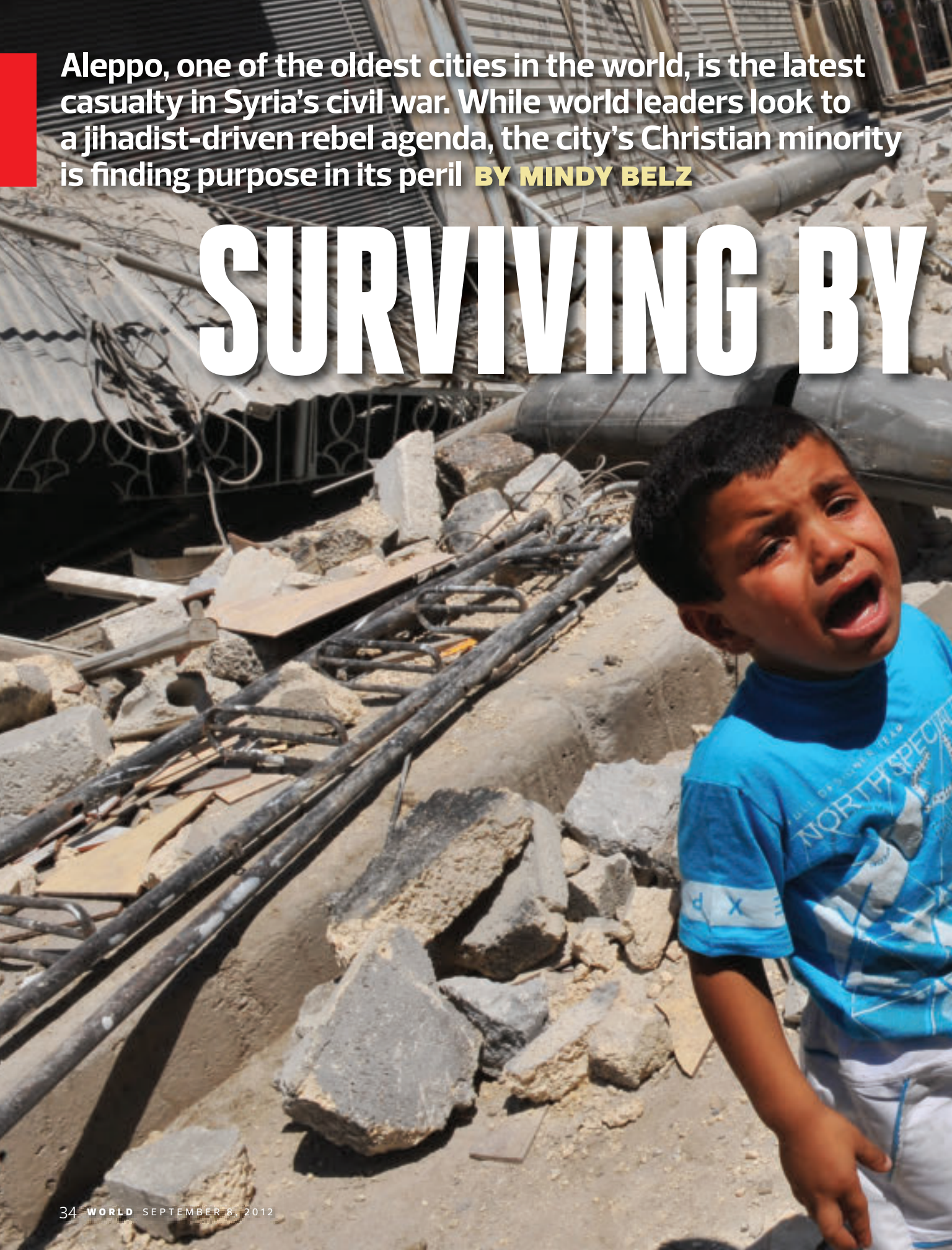




Liberty University Online Academy is an extension of Liberty University, the nation's largest, private, nonprofit university.

Aleppo, one of the oldest cities in the world, is the latest casualty in Syria's civil war. While world leaders look to a jihadist-driven rebel agenda, the city's Christian minority is finding purpose in its peril **BY MINDY BELZ**

SURVIVING BY



SERVING



CRITICAL SITUATION: A Syrian boy cries in front of a damaged building in Aleppo.

BULENT KILICBULENT KILIC/ AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ON ANOTHER SUMMER DAY the ice cream sellers in Aleppo would be busy, handing out cones from their bicycles stationed in a pedestrian square beside the central Citadel. Inside the Old City's covered walkways, juice sellers would be working feverishly on street corners, pumping fresh pomegranate juice sold in thin paper cups. As the pulp would fall in thick crimson clumps on the stone walkways, the spicy aroma of falafel and meat grilling on a spit would rise from the tiny restaurants tucked inside the old souk.

But Aleppo is shuttered, a city of 2.5 million reduced to a shell of its former bustling self after a siege that began just over a month ago.

Like Damascus, Homs, and other urban centers before it, Syria's largest city has become the fortress for rebel groups fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad. In return, its inhabitants are the target of government retaliation—with some of the heaviest weapons yet used in the civil war that first began with street protests 17 months ago.

Nationwide the fighting has killed an estimated 20,000, but numbers in Aleppo are hard to come by. One Syrian monitoring group, the Violations Documentation Center, reports that between July 19 and Aug. 9 over 400 civilians were killed in the Aleppo governorate—either by shelling or by gunfire.

As street-by-street combat spreads from Aleppo's outskirts and working-class neighborhoods into the city's ancient center, the fighting is destroying what was once a cultural and commercial hub in the Middle East. Government forces have used tanks, helicopter gunships, and warplanes to fire on rebel strongholds, destroying homes, schools, and businesses in the process. On Aug. 11 eyewitnesses reported that bombing had damaged the city's 13th-century Citadel, listed as the largest castle in the world and part of a World Heritage site located in the heart of the city.

"The situation here is getting very hard and critical," reports one local physician who runs a relief organization. "Bread is a dream. Gasoline is a supernatural finding. ... Many families are in bad need."

On a typical day there would be more taxis than people on Aleppo's streets. But gasoline has shot up from less than $1 to more than $5 per liter—and little is available. Electricity, once commonplace 24 hours a day, is now turned on only two hours a day in the late evenings.

One of the oldest cities in the world, Aleppo survived conquest by the Assyrians and then the Persians before its capture by the Greeks. It became part of the Roman Empire in A.D. 64 but under Byzantine rule became a center for Christianity. Persians pillaged the city before Arab Muslims conquered it in A.D. 637. Then it survived two Crusades and Ottoman rule, and







HOW IT WAS: An ice cream vendor (top), the Citadel (middle), and the Armenian 40 Martyrs Church prior to the siege of Aleppo.

VENDOR AND CHURCH: MINDY BELZ. CITADEL: PATRICK KOVARIK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



SEIZED: Rebel fighters in Aleppo march a captured policeman who they allege is a *Shabiha*, or pro-regime militiaman.

EMIN OZMEN/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

came under the French Mandate before becoming an independent republic in 1930.

The destruction of Aleppo, noted Al-Jazeera reporter Anita McNaught, "would be like the destruction of Rome or Paris."

Despite its serial conquests, Aleppo historically has been a refuge for victims of other conflicts. During the Armenian Genocide of 1915, thousands of Armenians fled there, the closest city across the border from Turkey. During both Gulf wars, Iraqi refugees took shelter in Aleppo. In 2008, as insurgency took its toll on those living in Mosul and the Nineveh Plains of Iraq, especially Christians, Aleppo took in about 25,000 Iraqi refugees a month. City churches with outside aid were feeding hundreds of them each week (see "Stalked," Nov. 29, 2008).

It's not uncommon to find church leaders in Aleppo born in Turkey or Iraq or Lebanon. "We are the sons of martyrs," a Turkish-born Chaldean priest told me. "We understand what others are going through because we have been there. Our parents did not teach us to hate, and so we help other refugees."

It's that melting-pot aspect of Aleppo that makes more tragic the current street battles. Unlike Cairo, where millions poured into the street to protest the rule of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Aleppo—like many parts of Syria—by comparison saw subdued street-level demonstrations before armed conflict erupted.

When the Qatar Foundation this year conducted an extensive poll of Syrians, it found 55 percent still on Assad's side and 68 percent disapproving of Arab League and other sanctions. It makes sense, notes Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin editor Elizabeth Kendal: Most Syrians would prefer an authoritarian but largely secular regime to an Islamist one, given the country's makeup. At least 25 percent of the population are religious minorities (Christians make up about 10 percent of that segment) and at least a third of the country's Sunni Muslims live in urban areas with one of the highest standards of living in the Middle East. Prior to 2011 disturbances that launched the civil war, Syria had a GDP growth rate of 3.4 percent, unemployment stood at 8.3 percent, and under economic reforms the country launched its own stock exchange in 2009.

"So the main division in Syria is not between Assad and the rest, but between Sunni fundmen-



HUNGRY: Syrians wait for bread at a bakery in Aleppo.



talists (including foreign Salafi jihadists) and the rest, i.e., the majority of Syrians," notes Kendal.

Yossef Bodansky, who as director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism became one of the first U.S. analysts to document al-Qaeda's structure and the role of Osama bin Laden, also believes that siding with the rebels is the wrong stance for the United States and its allies. "The international community has been blindly following a jihadist-driven agenda for Syria; a solution the majority of Syrians reject, but which Turkey and Qatar have been driving. It begs the question: Why are analysts in Washington—or Paris or London—not digging more deeply into what is really happening, given that the solution they have endorsed is so profoundly anti-Western?"

Bodansky says that the Syrian National Council, the lead political opposition to Assad, "has always been a front of the more militant-jihadist wing of the Muslim Brothers." Left to battle for control of the country, he and other analysts argue, these rebel groups are likely to send Syria into political chaos and militant insurgency, and likely to take Lebanon with them.

The humanitarian toll of that trajectory already is evident: Across Syria tens of thousands have been killed and almost 3 million, according to the UN, are displaced or in dire need of food and other essentials. Meanwhile, fighting this month has spread to Tripoli and other areas across the Syria-Lebanon border.

Ultimately, the battle for Aleppo, and all Syria, may represent an opportunity for the United States—with Iran and Russia, no less—to agree on a transitional regime that could lead to a move away from Assad's brutality. "Regional stability and moral considerations both require a transitional phase in Syria, not cold-turkey democracy," argues STRATFOR analyst Robert D. Kaplan. "Syria's situation is dire. From both a moral and geopolitical point of view, fighting a proxy war with Iran and Russia there is less desirable for the United States than reaching out to them."

Yet, as Kaplan and others point out, the Obama administration has shown little flair for back-channel, hard-boiled diplomacy. Increasingly it appears that the United States, along with Great Britain, is content to provide tacit support for the rebels, to arm them without direct aerial or naval support, on the premise that civil war in Syria distracts Iran from its nuclear ambitions and Russia from its own military buildup. Republicans in Congress are content to go along because in principle they would like Assad to go and "democracy," whatever it may look like, to replace him.

CHRISTIANS, WHO FORM A SIGNIFICANT part of the "Fertile Crescent of minorities" standing between the Sunni Arab majority in the Middle East and the Shiite extremists of Iran, face the largest threat from jihadist groups within the

BULENT KILIC/AFP/GETTYIMAGES



GORAN TOMASEVIC/REUTERS/LANDOV

CASUALTY OF WAR: Parents cry over the body of their son in Aleppo Aug. 12. A sniper shot the son in the Salaheddine district of Aleppo, where fighting has raged for almost two weeks.

opposition. Despite Assad's reputation for brutal mistreatment of opponents, in the past he's shown favor to Syria's Christian minority, allowing protection for ancient Christian sites and religious liberty unlike most of the Middle East. Assad personally has relied on Christians as his bodyguards and as caretakers for his children.

Since war broke out, Christians increasingly have been targeted by rebels. Over 138,000 Christians fled Homs, where they were terrorized and churches looted by occupying rebels. While the UN claims that pro-government militias were behind the May massacre in Houla that killed 108, local Christians insist that the killers were part of rebel groups.

A report from a local priest in Qaraa, near Houla, provided to WORLD in French, describes in detail "rebel armies" attacking a police station and killing 35 officers, then proceeding to a hospital where 25 patients, their family members who were present, and medical personnel were killed. "The gangs massacred all the people there and then burned the hospital after having moved the corpses," reads the report.

In Aleppo, Christians are surviving by serving. As street battles and strafing from helicopter gunships have moved from outer neighborhoods into central Aleppo, where most of the Christian population lives, displaced residents are living in parks, churches, or school shelters run by local Christians.

"The churches and our people are doing a tremendous work among the IDPs [internally displaced persons] all over Aleppo," reports the physician, who is not named for security reasons. Sunday schools are distributing bread and canned goods to "hundreds and thousands" of the displaced, he said. "The church is having a very good testimony in Aleppo."

In addition, churches in the city continue to work with about 495 Iraqi families who remain as refugees. Many have returned to Iraq since fighting broke out, and at least 12 Iraqi refugees have been killed this month.



BATTLE WEARY: Civilians walk past a destroyed tank in Aleppo.

Church leaders are quick to acknowledge that the situation is tense and subject to change. "People are terrified," reported Chaldean Archbishop of all Syria **Antoine Audo**. He spoke to reporters by telephone after conducting a service at Aleppo's St. Joseph's Church earlier this month while explosions and gunfire sounded in the distance. "They fear a situation that is becoming more and more violent and uncertain."



"When I'm asked about Syria, the first thing I say, generally, is that we don't want to become like Iraq," said the archbishop, who was born in Iraq's Nineveh Plains. "That fear is very present with us. That would mean the destruction of a Christian presence in Syria that has been here since the beginning of Christianity."

In 2008 I sat with Audo outside a church in Aleppo's city center as young boys and girls from a church "Scouts" group played basketball and other games under olive trees. With the approach of darkness on a Friday evening, all around us began the Muslim call to prayer, and we watched as hundreds began filing into the expansive mosque built between the old Chaldean and Greek Catholic churches. From across the street came persistent car honking—the sign of a wedding procession passing by headed to one of the churches, its cars polished and bedecked in flowers.

"Even the Muslims need historical references, even if they are in opposition," Audo said from our bench. "Christians represent something that comes before them. In Syria we have a tradition of living together. There is respect for us here, even though we have this fanaticism growing."

More and more Muslim women in Aleppo were wearing hijab, I had noticed, and the archbishop acknowledged, "It is a sign. But we must stay ... in a step of confidence. Unfortunately the Muslim feels himself very strong. They want to have opposition, and they want to have war, even if they say they want peace and reconciliation."

I felt his foreboding, plus the weight of caring then for thousands of newly arrived Iraqi refugees. "How do you keep going, and committed to ministry in Aleppo when you could be somewhere else?" I asked.

"Day by day," he said. "It is a stress every day. But this is a church of Mesopotamia now for 2,000 years. The call is to continue with a presence to give a taste of faith to Kurdish and Arabic peoples, and others. So we are doing our duty as witnesses, praying, attending to the Eucharist, showing the presence of the Lord, and serving Him with joy." ⊕

CIVILIANS: AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP/GETTYIMAGES; AUDO: HANDOUT

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Onward Chri

Our international division winner provides biblical worldview teaching as the link—often missing—between evangelism and economic development

by MARVIN OLASKY in Pokuase, Ghana

THE NAMES THEY CARRY: Anointed Hands Hair Salon, Jesus Saves Barbering Shop, Christ in You Chemicals, Thy Will Be Done Electronics, New Jerusalem Engineering, God Rules Internet Café, No One Is Perfect Except the Lord Shop, Try Jesus Digital Photos, Showers of Blessings Metalworker ...

Journalists refer to Ghana as a highly Christianized country: 69 percent of the country's 25 million people profess Christ, surveys say, and the names of small businesses are one evidence of that. But to Chris Ampadu, coordinator of the Samaritan Strategy ministry in West Africa, that statistic raises questions. Why does Christian belief have so little impact in Ghana from Monday through Saturday? Why so much corruption? With all of Ghana's natural resources—gold, fertile soil, newly discovered oil—why are the people so poor?

Many Christians in Ghana, Ampadu says, have five-hour services on Sunday filled with singing, dancing, and drumming, but little teaching about discipleship. Some attend all-night prayer and fasting vigils but do not work hard or love their neighbors. Ampadu is working to change that.

Driving a Toyota Land Cruiser that has logged more than 220,000 miles, he took my wife and me out into the bush, northwest of the capital city of Accra, to show us grinding poverty and potential alternatives. We drove over deep-pitted dirt highways and turned onto lowways sporting thigh-high brush. Praying for axles not to break and spines not to creak, we stopped at small clearings in the bush—bare areas of dirt



SHOWING LOVE TO NEIGHBORS: Beuty Amazu turned a fruit stand into a corner grocery store.

EMMANUEL QUAYE

Fifth in a series

stian workers



READERS' CHOICE

This is the seventh year of WORLD's Hope Awards for Effective Compassion, but the first in which we have an international finalist.

This year's final five are all different—and are all good. From the West comes Wyoming-based Fathers in the Field, which pairs fatherless kids with men who take them hunting, fishing, and bonding. Down East is The Root Cellar, a Maine group that shows refugees how to make it in America. In the Midwest sits Hope Academy, a classical Christian school in inner-city Minneapolis. The Southern winner is WorkFaith Connection, which helps some of Houston's least-employable men and women to find jobs.

The international winner, Samaritan Strategy Africa, also helps the poor in ways that are challenging, personal, and spiritual. We look for Christian, nongovernmental poverty-fighting programs that are not just evangelical and not just economic, but unite body and soul. We started this year with 200 recommendations from readers and initial research by internet and phone, and followed with journalistic visits that allowed us to eyeball 10 programs. Each of the five finalists will receive $4,000.

NOW IT'S UP TO YOU. Please go to WORLDmag.com, read the stories, and look at the videos and photographs. Between now and Sept. 30, please vote online for the program that moves you the most. The ministry that receives the most votes will receive an additional $21,000. You may get ideas about what you can start or help in your own communities. You'll surely get a sense of how God is using His people. *—M.O.*

swept clean and baked by the sun—surrounded by mud-brick houses.

Those homes have neither electricity nor the blessing and curse frequent in poor areas of India or South America: television antennas (and sometimes satellite dishes). Outside, scrawny goats and dogs search for scraps, while women balance on their heads huge loads of clothes for washing or water for drinking. Children have to walk three miles through dense brush to publicly funded schools, past poisonous snakes and—occasionally—human antagonists. Little had changed for decades, but two new options are now emerging.

One is evident along the dirt roads: Small villages now have mosques, often paid for by Iran or Saudi Arabia. One of every six Ghanians identifies with Islam, and we saw not one but four mosques in Asamankese, a town of 39,000 nearly 50 miles northwest of Accra. Muslims in Ghana often are poor, and so far the religion attracts few converts, but that could change with funding from outside the country. Some trucks on their back windshields display stenciled slogans like "Is Allah not sufficient for you?" and "Does God have a son?"

Part of another option appears a few hundred potholes past Asamankese. (Countryside driving in Ghana is like whitewater rafting in a rock-filled stream.) There we visited a farm with 18 acres of palm nut and orange trees owned by the Hour of Deliverance network of churches. (Victor Owiredu, a 64-year-old Ghanian trained at Dallas Theological Seminary, founded the church network, and Ampadu has now influenced his thinking.) The farm employs villagers at a palm oil factory, a labor intensive set-up that presses palm oil out of palm nuts. Farm profits help to support schools in small villages like Nsontra and Wawase.

In Nsontra we visited 60 children, ages 3-15, and their parents who sweated to build the cement-block school. In the Wawase school two young men teach 85 young students: A scarred blackboard displayed sentences like "A fat cat sat on the bed" and one that pointed to crucial self-definition in the image of God: "Am I a cat? No, I am a boy." When Wawase residents saw the need for a well and school, they didn't wait for the government to build them. Instead they raised money and contributed their labor, while the Hour of Deliverance partnered with them to drill the well and provide building materials.

The names Accra-area businesses carry: Lord of Life Bakery, God Is Able Food Joint, Living Bread Bus Stop, Blessed Assurance Computers, For Christ Boutique, The Lord Is My Shepherd Beauty Salon, If God Say Yes Barbering Shop, God Is Able Hardware ...

Ampadu, 50, didn't see such names when he grew up in a Ghanian village 400 miles north of Accra. His mother was a fetish priestess known as a prophetess who sometimes became possessed. His father was a poor farmer who wanted his eldest son to gain an education, so Chris woke up at 5 a.m., three times carried water from the river Asukawkaw to his home, and washed in the river. Then he walked to school and sometimes 10 miles more to work at the farm, and came home carrying food on his head.

Ampadu recalls two leaps in his understanding. First, at age 17 with the help of Scripture Union, he professed faith in Christ. The second leap came when he attended in 1999 the first conference of Disciple Nations Alliance (see "Godly endeavors," WORLD, Dec. 5, 2009): DNA sees Christian worldview teaching as the missing link between evangelism and economic development. Without that understanding, Africa's Christianity takes a gnostic form, with extravagant worship on Sunday but no connection between that and their lives the rest of the week, or between the spiritual and the material.

Ampadu became part of the Samaritan Strategy Africa team that DNA helped form. Now Samaritan Strategy Africa has six regional offices, and Ampadu from Accra coordinates work in 13 West African countries. He and others teach Christian worldview classes that emphasize the importance of hard work, integrity, and caring for others. At first

TOP: EMMANUEL QUAYE · BOTTOM: SUSAN OLASKY





INTEGRITY AND COMPASSION: Chris Ampadu (above); Wholistic Club members (from left) Esther Gyemfi, Regina Teye, and Emma Dwarko.

Ampadu focused on teaching pastors, but then he realized it would take too long for the teaching to trickle down to ordinary Africans. So he took the message to laypeople and encouraged the formation of "Wholistic Clubs" that deal with both spiritual and material needs.

To see what this looked like, we went with three older women—schoolteachers Emma Dwarko and Regina Teye, and egg-seller Esther Gyemfi—to their homes in Pokuase, a suburb of Accra. We walked on rutted dirt paths near small houses where women had built businesses with seed money given by the Wholistic Clubs: Mary Chiasi works as a seamstress, Elizabeth Soglo as a hairdresser, and Beuty Amazu turned a fruit stand into a corner grocery store. Esther Bawa sells charcoal and takes care of six children not her own.

The clubs teach about showing love to neighbors in concrete ways. For instance, young Esther Wood received business start-up money that allowed her to buy a small bowl and fill it with plastic containers to sell. When she reported back to the older women, she was discouraged: I'm selling, yet I have no money. They asked what she did with the money she earned, and she said: Whatever my eyes saw, I bought, items like ice cream and meat pies. So the club leaders talked with her about resisting the temptation to fritter away her earnings.

The next time Wood reported to them, she was so successful that she had traded in her small bowl of plastic wares for a big one filled with attractive cooking pots. She gave her small bowl and a few plastic items to another woman starting out. Now, when Dwarko, Teye, or Gyemfi walk through Pokuase, residents come to them with job problems and hear from them messages like those Ampadu vigorously proclaims: "We have no excuse for our poverty. ... We will not advance without integrity and compassion."

The Hour of Deliverance church network has set up a vocational school that has success stories such as that of Paulina Suuri: She started her own business with a manual sewing machine provided by the church, then used her profits to buy an electric one as well as a serger to finish seams. Now she finishes seams for other seamstresses, charging 50 cents per item. She buys fabric for $4 and sells it for $5, and charges another $10 for a custom-made garment.

Ampadu also teaches freshmen at two Accra colleges, where students discuss the ethics of bribes and expense

To learn more about Samaritan Strategy go to WORLDmag.com for more photos and a short video.

padding. Some have set up Wholistic Clubs that encourage students to show love to their communities. Ampadu has support from others like Peter Ohene Kyei, the head of Pentecost University College, who speaks about transformational leadership and sounds like Booker T. Washington: "Work in the corner where you are." Kwei emphasizes practical projects such as improving personal hygiene and cleaning up neighborhoods.

Ampadu emphasizes the need for Africans themselves to help their neighbors, and shows schools and wells and other projects produced by the savings and sweat of Ghanians themselves: "Western money will not solve our problem."

THE NAMES VEHICLES CARRY on their back and side windows: King Jesus Van, By the Power of God Taxi, Blood of Jesus Bus, In God We Trust Motors, Nearer My God Construction, No Food for Lazy Man, By the Power of God, In God We Trust Farm, Surely Justice and Mercy Will Follow Me ...

We saw many of these during a 97-mile trip from Accra to Elmina, a coastal town of 33,000 that began as a Portuguese slave trading post in 1482. There we met Pastor Joshua Lamptey, 41, who attended a Samaritan Strategy conference in 2009 and caught the vision of teaching people to "fish for the glory of God" and practice the "discipline of loving our neighbors."

Before that Lamptey believed church work the only real work. (Some Americans make the same mistake by thinking that only pastors and missionaries are engaged in "full-time Christian service.") He learned to appreciate the efforts of men like burly Kojo Sortoh Mensah, awarded a blue Ford Ranger when experts in 2008 named him Ghana's best fisherman. Mensah, now in a Wholistic Club, helps others start small businesses, pay hospital bills, and leave prostitution: He speaks with an earthy vigor like that of another fisher of men, Peter the apostle, displayed.

Ampadu's teaching has also activated Emilie Hasford, 70, who runs a small business that employs 10 women cooking for schools, and David Kweku Danso, who teaches young men to persevere in a key making shop. Ghana officially has 11 percent unemployment, according to *The CIA Factbook*, but that number doesn't include the thousands of people walking between cars during Accra traffic jams trying to sell everything from batteries to clothes, and rarely finding a taker. The real rate, in terms of people productively employed, is as much as 40 percent.



SUCCESS STORY: Paulina Suuri.

That's a huge problem for Ghana, but Ampadu points to positives such as Ghanian interest in education: Learning centers have names like Brainbirds, Wisebirds, and The Intellectuals School. Ghana's divisions—more than 100 different linguistic and cultural groups groupable into seven tribal families—may be an advantage, in that no particular faction is dominant. (Civil wars are more likely to arise when a country has only two major contenders: Look at Rwanda, with its Hutus and Tutsis, or Nigeria, evenly divided between Christians and Muslims.)

Three U.S. presidents in a row have come to Accra—in 1998, 2008, and 2009—and made the country a poster child for African success: Barack Obama earlier this year called Ghana "a good news story." Ampadu, though, sees success dependent on whether Ghanians understand the Bible's good news story as one in which Christ empowers His followers not merely to sing and dance, but to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

After all, the name Christians claim, disciple, involves disciplined following of the command to love God and love our neighbors. ⊕

—with appreciation for Tim O'Brien's 1990 book of short stories about soldiers in Vietnam, The Things They Carried

MONEY BOX

Samaritan Strategy Africa budget in 2011: $822,157

Western Africa region budget in 2011: $95,736

West Africa volunteer count: 67+

2011 budget for Ghana: $53,218

Chris Ampadu salary in 2011: $23,760



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SEX, LIES & TELEVISION

Lawsuits involving the world's largest Christian broadcasting network may hang by a flash drive

by Warren Cole Smith

"IT JUST DIDN'T MAKE SENSE."

That's what Jonathan Rovetto thought when he heard his employer, Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), fired Brittany Koper last fall, alleging embezzlement and fraud. After all, Koper is the granddaughter of TBN founders Paul and Jan Crouch. Brittany and her husband Michael, also a TBN employee, made more than $200,000 a year and did not live extravagantly. Brittany was a rising star on track, some people thought, to take over the network one day. Why would she embezzle?

Rovetto had done work for the Trinity Broadcasting Network for nine years, seven as a freelancer and two years full-time as an assistant engineer, so he knew Koper. She had helped orient him when he came on full-time. Soon she became director of finance and saw for the first time, she says, "the unlawful distribution of the TBN Companies' charitable assets to Trinity Broadcasting's directors," including Paul and Jan Crouch and other Crouch family members.

This language comes from a lawsuit Koper filed in February that describes—in sensational detail—claims of financial mismanagement, fraud, physical intimidation, and sexual harassment. Koper's lawsuit says the "unlawful financial transactions" exceed $50 million. Trinity has since filed at least five lawsuits of its own. Even though TBN spokesman Colby May says Koper is attempting to create a "media circus" to distract from the real issues, May has also taken an aggressive stand in the media.

That's why Rovetto was confused: "My employer was telling me one thing, and I wanted to believe them." But he says he trusted Brittany and had seen newspaper accounts of spending by the Crouches on mansions, private jets, and luxury hotels. He knew that lawsuits against TBN or its employees and affiliates seemed to crop up regularly. Then, on June 18, Brittany's sister Carra Crouch, now 19 years old, filed a suit saying a 30-year-old TBN employee had raped her when she was 13. Carra's lawsuit says TBN "deliberately covered up the incident to protect Trinity Broadcasting from negative publicity."

ONCE A RISING STAR: Brittany Koper; TBN headquarters (above).

KOPER: MICHAL CZERWONKA/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX · TBN: JERZY DABROWSKI/ONS/ZUMA PRESS/NEWSCOM

For Rovetto, this was the last straw. So he began to support Koper on his Facebook profile: "All I wanted to do was to help my friend." On June 28, TBN fired him. Rovetto told me that when he was a kid he stood up to a bully who was harassing a smaller girl on a playground. The bully backed off and the little girl gave him a kiss on the cheek. "It was my first kiss," Rovetto said.

KOPER FACES A PHALANX of lawyers, including TBN's in-house counsel and at least two outside law firms. In addition, TBN's Colby May is affiliated with the American Center for Law and Justice, which has a major presence on TBN's airwaves. In contrast, Koper has been without an attorney ever since the one who filed her lawsuits quit. Koper recently hired Tulsa-based attorney Gary Richardson, a former U.S. Attorney best known in religious circles for representing clients in lawsuits against televangelist Robert Tilton in the 1990s.

Complicating the matter: Koper does not deny she and her husband Michael took money from TBN, but they say it was a loan, fully documented and approved by the board of TBN. They allege that other family members just took money from the ministry, often by charging personal items to ministry credit cards or by having the ministry pay for homes, cars, and other big-ticket items.

The technical term for using ministry money for private purposes is "private inurement." A copy of a 2011 letter that Koper gave to WORLD, if authentic, supports at least a part of Koper's allegations. The letter, an "IRS compliance review" by Dallas-based accounting firm Guinn, Smith & Co. and signed by Donald Guinn, warned TBN that its record-keeping and procedures were at best sloppy and at worst could be construed by the IRS as "noncompliance" with tax law.

The letter identified "areas with the greatest exposure" for TBN as "unreasonable compensation, personal use of the organization's assets, use of the church's credit card for personal expenses, and excessive spending." To make the case, the letter identified one three-month period in 2009 when "one of the American Express cardholders charged items for over $60,000 and no receipts for these 57 items were included in the documentation." Guinn's letter noted a $15,328 credit card purchase at Harley Davidson Orlando for which there was "no business purpose indicated." The Harley Davidson purchase is on a list Guinn called a "small sample representative of expenditures that might be considered extravagant."

Guinn concluded, "Obviously, TBN accepts as true that these items had ... ministry purpose since the charges were not disputed, but the IRS would treat them as inurring [sic] to the benefit of the purchaser." In other words, without proper documentation, tax law treats the $60,000 as income on which taxes should be paid. Koper says this list is just the tip of the iceberg. Her February lawsuit says that over many years the Crouch family and close associates siphoned as much as $50 million out of the ministry for personal purposes.

TBN spokesman May vigorously denies Koper's allegations. May says Koper and her husband took money from TBN and International Christian Broadcasting (one of more than a dozen organizations related to TBN and its parent organization, Trinity Christian Center of Santa Ana, Inc.) to purchase a home and for other personal purposes.

But if Brittany Koper is guilty of embezzlement and fraud, why is she not facing criminal charges? May said TBN turned over documents supporting its claims of criminal wrong-doing to the Tustin (Calif.) Police Department. A spokesman for the department confirmed that, but told WORLD it was up



HAPPIER TIMES: Brittany and Michael with Jan and Paul Crouch.

BRITTANY KOPER/AP

Unequally yoked?

TBN took in more than $78 million in donations in 2010 and made $60 million more by selling airtime to other ministries. Ministries on TBN at least weekly include those of Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, Kirk Cameron/Ray Comfort, Pat Robertson/The 700 Club, David Jeremiah, Joel Osteen, Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland, Ron Luce/Acquire The Fire, Charles Stanley/In Touch Ministries, Adrian Rogers/Love Worth Finding, Jack Graham, and Michael Youssef.

The Trinity Foundation's Ole Anthony argues, "The majority of TBN's programming is from 'prosperity theology' preachers," and advocates of that view "use reputable ministries such as Billy Graham and Charles Stanley to give the 'seal of approval' to their theology and practices." He says theologically sound ministries have no business on TBN: "They claim that TBN is just a delivery mechanism for them, and that they don't alter their message for them. But they're being used." *—W.C.S.*

to the Orange County District Attorney to bring charges. Farrah Emami, a spokeswoman for the district attorney, said so far there have been no charges. She would not say when the investigation would be complete, and she would not comment specifically on the Koper case except to add that "embezzlement investigations are complicated and often take months."

The case could well hang on the authenticity of documents Brittany Koper says she has in her possession. Koper has stopped talking to the press and has named as spokesman Ole Anthony, founder of the Trinity Foundation. (Despite the confusing similarity of their names, the Trinity Foundation and Trinity Broadcasting Network are completely unrelated, and the Trinity Foundation has for years been an outspoken critic of TBN and many of the televangelists on the network.) Anthony said Brittany Koper had scanned hundreds of pages of documents and put them on a flash drive.

Colby May rejected Anthony's assertions: "If they have documents, they're altered documents or fakes."

Anthony fired back: "If Brittany's documents are fakes, let them prove that in court."

TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTER of Santa Ana, TBN's parent, has not only filed five lawsuits against Brittany or Michael Koper since October 2011, but has specifically asked the court to prevent Brittany Koper from using the documents on her flash drive that May claims are "fakes."

One judge didn't buy TBN's arguments. David O. Carter, a judge in the U.S. District Court in the Central District of California, on July 25 issued several rulings—some related to the documents—that mostly favored the Kopers. Judge Carter concluded: "Trinity's several lawsuits, incessant demands for injunctive relief, and insistence on expedited rulings suggest that Plaintiff Trinity's strategy is to overwhelm the courts as well as Michael and Brittany so as to avoid a rational decision on the merits. Thus, Plaintiff Trinity's litigation strategy only lends credence to Michael and Brittany's contention that these lawsuits are retaliation for whistleblowing about Plaintiff Trinity's extensive fraud."

Judge Carter then gave TBN's lawyers until July 30 to explain why "Plaintiff Trinity" should not be "designated a vexatious litigant" and be "enjoined from filing future lawsuits against Michael and Brittany." Lawyers for "Plaintiff Trinity" met this deadline, saying it is "not a vexatious litigant and has violated no laws in accessing the Courts." They further claim that the "Kopers have feigned their whistle blowing claims ... to divert attention from their substantial criminal and civil wrongs." At press time, Judge Carter has not made a final determination in this matter.



STOOD UP: Jonathan Rovetto.

SO WILL THIS CASE ever get to court? Will we ever know the truth? As to the first question, both Ole Anthony, speaking for the Kopers, and Colby May, speaking for TBN, say it will and they both welcome that opportunity, though both agree that the case could go on for months if not years. It will likely consume hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees.

Jonathan Rovetto, who lost his job for sticking up for Brittany Koper on Facebook, has made up his mind: He said Koper "had nothing to gain and everything to lose." Others are waiting to see what the courts decide, mindful of what both the Bible and Charles Dickens teach: Most parties tend to lose money, reputation, or both during protracted legal battles.

A HISTORY OF GROWTH—AND CONTROVERSY

1973 TBN founded in Santa Ana, Calif.

1974 Purchases first television station: KLXA, now KTBN, in Santa Ana.

1991 TBN leaves the National Religious Broadcasters following a year-long ethics investigation.

1994-1996 TBN spends $13.7 million to acquire Nashville's Twitty City, changing its name to Trinity Music City USA, a Christian entertainment park with TV studios, a church, a concert hall, and a movie theater.

1998 Former TBN employee Enoch Lonnie Ford receives $425,000 to keep quiet about his claims of a homosexual tryst with televangelist Paul Crouch.

2000 Sylvia Fleener sues TBN for $40 million, claiming TBN plagiarized her book for its movie *The Omega Code*. The movie earned $13 million at the box office and sold more than 1 million DVDs and videos. TBN settles for an undisclosed sum.

2006 A multimillion-dollar hospital construction project in Haiti halts when Archbishop Joel Jeune of Haiti's Charismatic Church accuses a TBN missionary of making homosexual advances toward Haitian boys hired at the construction site.

2007 TBN buys Orlando-based Holy Land Experience, a religion-based theme park.

2009 Nashville-based TBN minister Stephen Eugene Galiher, on a business trip to TBN's California headquarters, strikes a vehicle carrying David Rhodes and his wife. Rhodes dies Nov. 3 of pneumonia as a result of his injuries. Galiher pleads guilty to felony charges of driving under the influence and causing injury. Sentenced in April 2010 to five years probation, 120 days jail time, fines, and restitution. Rhodes' family files a civil lawsuit saying TBN "turned a blind eye" to Galiher's drinking problem and continued to employ him and provide him with a car.

2011 TBN fires Director of Finance Brittany Koper, the granddaughter of Paul and Jan Crouch. TBN claims she embezzled money from the organization.

2012 In February Brittany Koper files lawsuit claiming TBN has diverted at least $50 million in ministry funds to personal purposes. In June, Carra Crouch, Koper's sister, files lawsuit against TBN alleging she was raped by a TBN employee and TBN covered up the incident to avoid negative publicity.

Sources: Court records, Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register

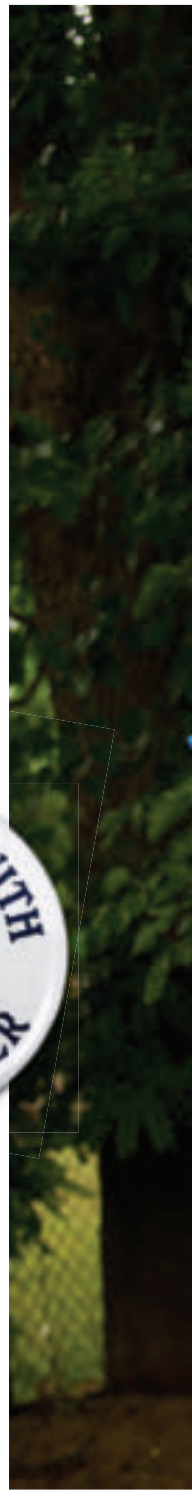
JEFFREY PHELPS/GENESIS PHOTOS

Teacher walkout

As conservative reforms gain momentum, teachers unions find themselves losing money and members

BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE

PHOTO BY JEFFREY PHELPS/GENESIS





BUTTON: HANDOUT

Wisconsin public high-school teacher Kristi Lacroix has endured yells, curses, laughs, derision, and threats to her face.

It isn't students who give her grief, though. It's the other adults. One woman spit on Lacroix while she shopped for groceries at Pick'n Save. At Capt. Mike's Beer & Burger Bar, a table of teachers moved when she sat nearby, while another patron suggested someone should assassinate her.

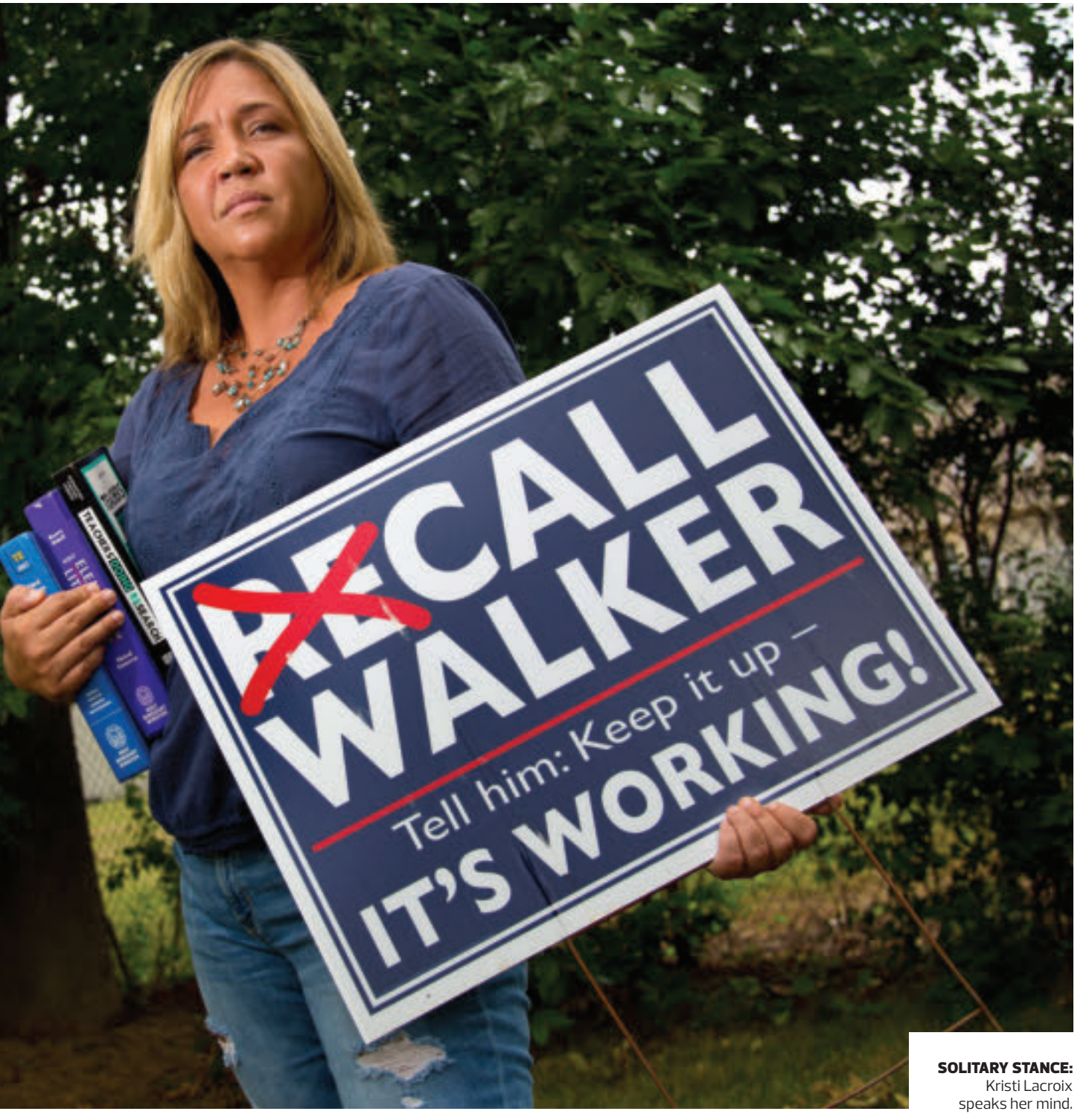
Her sin? Being a teachers union member who opposed the recall of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

As a political conservative, Lacroix had become frustrated when she learned her union supported liberal candidates and agendas. But the Kenosha, Wis., teacher was legally obligated to pay over $100 a month in dues—until Walker brought reforms last year. That November, Lacroix, a member of the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC), appeared in a 30-second television ad endorsing Walker. The governor had done the right thing for Wisconsin, she told the camera. The recall attempt felt "a little like sour grapes."

After the commercial aired, Lacroix received a stream of hate mail calling her "idiot," "Judas," and worse. "You support Walker," read one: "Hope you share a jail cell with him."

Some of the vitriol came from Lacroix's own colleagues, which she says is "embarrassing and makes me feel sad." But dozens of others wrote to offer support or say they'd also like to leave their union: "I'm certainly not alone. I'm just the only one willing to be vocal."

Lacroix seems to be one of many teachers fed up with union dues and politics. Since Walker pushed through legislation last year making public-sector union membership voluntary, WEAC (it's pronounced *WHEE-ack*) has lost a fifth of its members. Last year the union laid off 40 percent



SOLITARY STANCE: Kristi Lacroix speaks her mind.

of its staff as it dealt with budget cuts and engaged in what executive director Dan Burkhalter called a "membership continuation" campaign.

WEAC's parent, the National Education Association, is in the throes of a crisis itself: It has lost over 100,000 members since 2010, and expects the bleeding to continue.

NEA, the nation's largest union, represents one out of every 100 Americans through its state affiliates, such as WEAC. Since 2009, several affiliates have reported declining income and membership. Income from dues at the Arizona Education Association, for instance, dropped from $7.5 million to $5.4 million in one year. NEA had to bail out the group's Indiana affiliate in 2009 after it reported a four-year, multimillion-dollar budget deficit.

The bailout followed a mass exodus from public worker unions in Indiana. Gov. Mitch Daniels triggered the exodus in 2005 when he eliminated government-sector bargaining power by executive order. This February, four days before

crowds descended on Indianapolis for Super Bowl XLVI, Daniels braved crowds of protesters in the Statehouse to sign legislation, making Indiana the nation's 23rd "right-to-work" state by outlawing forced union membership in the private sector. It was the first state to do so in over a decade.

NEA officials say collective bargaining attacks in Indiana and elsewhere, like Idaho, Ohio, and Wisconsin, have squeezed state and national budgets. In Wisconsin, Walker's reform last year angered some public-sector union members by increasing their contributions to retirement and health plans, and restraining bargaining power. Demonstrators at the Wisconsin Capitol did not intimidate Republicans into scuttling the bill, which Walker signed in March that year. Union leaders then helped organize 50,000 volunteers in a battle to recall the governor.

Meanwhile, since the law also made union membership voluntary for state workers, thousands of them, including teachers, stopped paying dues. In the time between Walker's signing of the union reform bill and his recall election, WEAC lost 20,000 of its 90,000 members. The Wisconsin chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, a WEAC rival, lost 6,000 of 17,000.

On June 5, Walker won the recall election by 7 percentage points. His victory suggested to some pundits that unions were weakening in political clout.

Some 7,403 union member delegates spent the Fourth of July at NEA's four-day leadership summit in Washington, D.C. Local unions appoint representatives to attend the annual summit, where they vote union policy changes up or down. This July, delegates used markers to scribble notes of support to President Barack Obama on a large banner titled "NEA Educators for Obama." The NEA has already voted to endorse Obama's reelection—and has never supported a Republican presidential candidate.

NEA President Dennis Van Roekel tried to rally kindred spirits during a speech: "We must do everything we can to reelect President Obama. ... The other side will outspend us, but we can't let them outwork us." The crowd responded with cheers and applause. When one Republican teacher spoke up at the conference, attendees booed.

The obvious bias doesn't make things easier for NEA secretary-treasurer Rebecca Pringle, who showed a daunting series of charts and budget figures. NEA expects to lose another 140,000 members over the next year, amounting to $27 million in lost dues. If projections prove correct, the union will have lost 308,000 active teachers and education professionals between 2010 and 2014—a 14 percent chunk of its workforce. "We have to change," Pringle told delegates.

Change already occurred in NEA offices this year, where leadership reportedly dismissed several executives, downsized 401(k) benefits, and convinced 56 staffers to accept an early retirement buyout. The cuts were serious enough that NEA's own staff, unhappy with negotiations for a new three-year contract, picketed NEA's Washington headquarters. The staff members are organized within the NEA—a union within a union.

At the summit, Pringle blamed the budget problems partly on "a recession that just won't end" and "political attacks that have turned brutal." The union did manage to scrabble together $5 million to create an "Affiliate Defense Fund," apparently intended to stop attacks on collective bargaining power in various states.

To some conservatives, the widespread membership losses, added to the events in Wisconsin, spell doom for public-sector unions. "The abject failure of the unions to recall Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker ... marks the Icarus moment of government-union power," wrote columnist Charles Krauthammer. "Wax wings melted, there's nowhere to go but down."

Not all are convinced, though. "Wisconsin is not representative of what's happening in the rest of the country," said Terry Moe, a Hoover Institution senior fellow and the author of *Special Interests: Teachers Unions and America's Public Schools*. Although education reformers have gained a few Democratic allies, unions remain a "political juggernaut" positioned to defend job-related interests, he said. One example is in Ohio, where union forces used a referendum last November to overturn Republican curbs on public-sector collective bargaining.

But Tim Farmer, a former NEA member, said "teachers are fed up and frustrated." Though some member losses are due to layoffs, he said, more teachers are becoming exasperated at paying high dues to bloated organizations that offer little in return. Farmer belonged to NEA from 2008 to 2010 while he taught a seventh-grade class in Florida. He paid around $56 a month in dues to four local and national organizational levels.



ORGANIZED FIGHT: Recall efforts were heavily supported by unions.

JOHN HART/WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL/AP

"I just joined because I wanted liability insurance," said Farmer. (Teachers need the protection in case parents of students sue.) But after he saw the union opposing charters and promoting policies he didn't support, he left teaching and became a recruiter for the Professional Educators Network of Florida, a nonunion teachers association. During six months on the job, the group's membership jumped from 70 to 315. Half of the recruits were former union members.

Today, Farmer is the policy director of the Professional Association of Colorado Educators, another nonunion association that does not bargain collectively, but provides $2 million in liability insurance (twice as much as NEA provides) for $15 a month.

HOME INVASION

Union gains millions of dollars by forcing some parents caring for children to "join" as healthcare workers

BY LAURA EDGHILL



A QUESTION OF CAREGIVING: Ashley Waldorf (center) surrounded by family.

KEN AND BARBARA WALDORF of Warren, Mich., are good union folks. A telecommunications fiber splicer for the past 34 years, Ken spends his time climbing poles, ducking in manholes, and faithfully providing for his family. They appreciate the benefits his industry union provides. Surprisingly, though, they currently find themselves at odds with another union in their lives.

That union is the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), of which Barbara is a member for one simple reason: She is the primary caregiver for Ashley, the Waldorfs' 25-year-old special needs daughter.

Ashley—a sweetheart whose days consist of shuffling quietly about their modest bungalow and seeking strokes of affection from her family—is unaware that she is part of an ongoing controversy. Birth trauma and ensuing oxygen deprivation mean that Ashley requires a variety of therapies and special education programs. Even though she technically qualifies for one more year of school under Michigan state law, the Waldorfs have opted to keep her at home. The quiet environment is soothing for her.

"I can't work," Waldorf states matter-of-factly. "This is my job."

Diaper changes, doctor visits, errands, and phone calls consume much of Waldorf's day—along with whatever else she can squeeze in as she juggles the jobs of mother, United Way volunteer, church ministry leader, and primary caregiver for Ashley. That last role is the crux of a legal question in Michigan.

Because of her role as Ashley's caregiver, the Michigan Quality Community Care Council (MQC3), a subsidiary of the SEIU, classified her as an "employee." She never applied for a job and doesn't receive a paycheck, yet the union deducts "dues" every month from Ashley's state Medicaid check. The union also deducts dues from the paychecks of home healthcare workers, but Waldorf questions how that applies to parents taking care of their children: "The crazy thing is I'm classified as an employee. They take union dues out, but no taxes. How does that work?"

It works like this: In 2005 (under previous Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm) the state allowed the SEIU to classify home healthcare workers as public employees. The union began automatically deducting union dues from the paychecks of approximately 43,000 "home healthcare workers." Their employer was supposedly the MQC3, although many were not even aware they worked for the organization. In addition, many individuals counted as "employees" are people like Ken and Barbara Waldorf—parents taking care of their disabled children.

Caregivers who learned about their classification pushed the state legislature to stop the automatic union deductions. In 2011, the Michigan legislature voted to defund the MQC3, but MQC3 cobbled together a shoestring budget (including a $12,000 donation from the SEIU) to continue operations. In April 2012, Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation to stop the practice. In May, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette ordered the payments to stop.

Then the SEIU sued. On June 20, U.S. District Court Judge Nancy G. Edmunds ordered the state to continue deducting the dues because the SEIU and MQC3 are under contract until February 2013. The parties signed a six-month contract extension the same day that Gov. Snyder signed the legislation banning the questionable payments.

Now the SEIU has collected enough signatures to put an innocuous-sounding proposal on the November ballot. Called "Keep Home Care Safe," the ballot initiative does nothing to ensure safe home care. Instead, it embeds into the state constitution the current union scheme.

As the state ponders its next move, the SEIU continues to collect dues from family members who care for their disabled relatives. So far the SEIU has collected more than $30 million under this arrangement.

The Colorado organization, with a little less than 1,000 members, is a chapter of the Association of American Educators (AAE) a larger national group. Heather Reams, the group's associate director, said 300,000 teachers are in nonunion associations throughout the country. One of AAE's biggest obstacles is letting teachers know it exists: Unions often try to block its recruiters from making presentations in schools, she said. And when they do get in, they face heckling, snide comments, and hallway confrontations.

Although a contract prevents Lacroix, the Kenosha teacher, from leaving WEAC for another year, she has already joined AAE. She's excited at the prospect of being union-free, and predicts that others will join her and force unions to tone down political activity or become obsolete: "If you're not creating a product that people want, they're not going to join you. They're not going to give you their money."

HANDOUT

Brian Brenberg

Serving like Stephen

Most Christians don't understand the godly significance of their 9 to 5 jobs



On Labor Day, we should honor those who serve the Lord 9 to 5. But if you think I'm talking only about pastors and preachers, then you need to meet a man named Stephen.

Acts 6 opens with the Greeks complaining that their widows aren't getting enough to eat in the daily distribution. The apostles, meanwhile, are working so hard to feed the widows that they can't find time to preach. And as the church grows, the problem gets worse. So, like good economists, the apostles propose a division of labor: They'll stick to preaching and let the disciples find somebody else to serve tables.

When we talk about "full-time" ministry today, it's the apostles we usually have in mind—people whose daily work is devoted to preaching and teaching. The problem is that most of us aren't preachers, and probably shouldn't be. Most of us are much better at jobs that fall into the "non-preaching" category. To put it in the language of Acts 6, most of us are table servers. And most of us have no idea if this work matters to God.

So does it?

Consider the apostles' job description for table servers. They're looking for "men of good repute, full of the spirit and of wisdom." Men like Stephen, "full of grace and power." A man so full of the Holy Spirit that he saw the heavens opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. This is the kind of man the early church had in mind to serve tables.

Now, the Bible is pretty clear about feeding the hungry and caring for widows. But what does serving tables have to do with investment banking? How is Stephen's story of any encouragement to the guy selling sprinkler systems? Feed, clothe, heal—that makes sense. But bond trading and landscaping?

Most of us in the pews don't understand the significance of our work because most of us in the pulpit don't know how to explain what it means to serve tables in a modern economic context. The Bible says feed the hungry. The pastor says volunteer at a food pantry. The small business owner goes on believing that Monday through Friday has nothing to do with Sunday.

Food pantries are important, but they're not the reason far fewer of us go hungry today than ever before. Most of us have jobs in which we never hand food to anyone. And, strange as it may sound, that's exactly why so many more people have plenty to eat. Fewer go hungry today because some of us lend money to farmers so they can buy new tractors. Fewer go hungry today because some of us design even better tractors, or tinker in workshops to keep the old ones running. Fewer go hungry today because some of us look at spreadsheets to figure out how companies could spend less money on tractors and produce even more food.

Jesus told us to feed the hungry. That's what bankers, engineers, mechanics, and consultants do every day. They're table servers.

We live in a world where many people, often unknown to one another and devoted to all sorts of specialized tasks, work together in vast networks to feed and clothe and heal in ways nobody ever thought possible. When we participate in one of these networks—however remote our job may be from the hand that administers the bread or medicine—we help to fulfill God's creation mandate. Acts 6 offers an incredibly encouraging message about the significance of our daily work. But we won't see it until we learn to see beyond superficial understandings of what it means to serve tables.

On Labor Day, when I remember those who serve the Lord 9 to 5, I'll think of pastors, but also table servers. That means Stephen. That means store clerks, CEOs, stay-at-home moms, lawyers, accountants, plumbers, graphic designers, authors, civil servants, and computer programmers. That means thousands of other laborers whose contributions to advancing God's Kingdom are no less real for being less visible. And, chances are, that means you.

—Brian Brenberg is an economics and business professor at The King's College, New York City

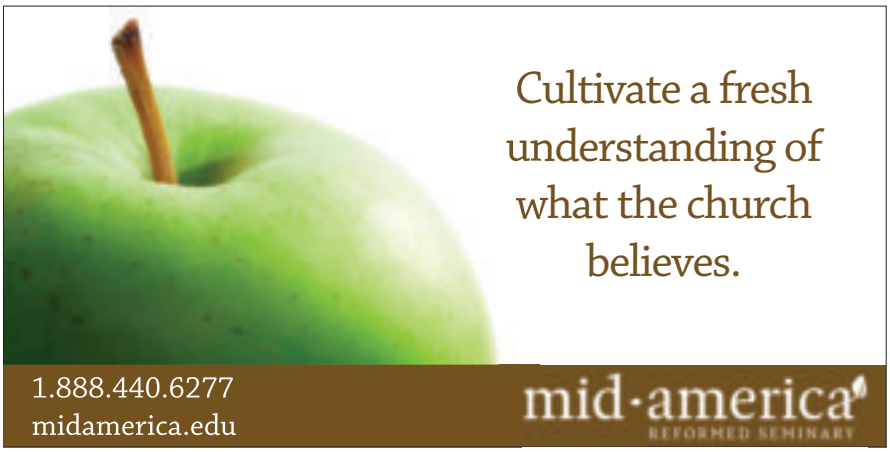
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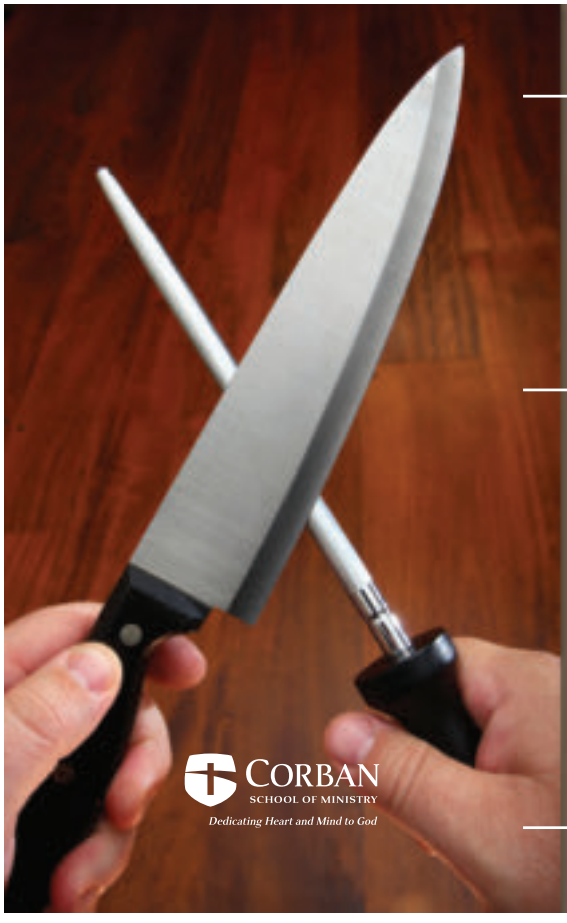
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Life-saving 60s

A postponed retirement saved lives on the mission field

BY CHELSEA KOLZ PHOTOS BY MATT ROSE

IN HER TWO-ROOM CLINIC in Gundo Meskel, Ethiopia, with cement floors and walls of corrugated tin nailed to a tree, nurse **Kathleen Byrd**—or "Kitty"—never lost a mother in childbirth.

"Should we send her home to die?" asked the family of the first mother Kitty saved, whose baby had turned sideways in the womb. "Or should she die here?"

"She's not going to die," said Kitty, and began to turn the baby.

As she worked, Kitty felt a commotion around her feet. "They are kissing your feet, Kitty," her helper said. Eager to keep working, Kitty answered, "Please tell them to stop!"

Before Kitty arrived in Gundo Meskel, the local people lost six to eight mothers in childbirth every month.

You know when a baby's already dead in the womb, she says. You can smell it. The trouble was that the Ethiopians didn't know that if you squeezed the soft spot on the baby's head you could cause the baby to emerge and save the mother's life.

Kathleen Byrd saved the lives of those mothers when she was in her 60s. Kitty began traveling following the death of her husband who worked in groceries and privately called her "Kitten." She could have gotten remarried, she guesses, but she traveled instead.

She's always been adventurous: As a little girl Kitty tightrope-walked the family

clothesline, and a few years ago she performed as a clown at the Billy Graham training center—decked in face paint and big shoes. "When someone says 'Let's go,'" says Kitty, "I do."

Kitty wanted to become a doctor, but her West Virginia family—her mother a hospital worker and her father a dynamiter—didn't have the money. Dr. Buxton, the 6-foot-2 surgeon who owned the local hospital, believed the 18-year-old, 4-foot-11 Kitty was too little to go into nurse's training. "I talked my way in," Kitty said. While observing Dr. Buxton in surgery, Kitty asked him many questions. Soon, instead of disregarding her, Dr. Buxton became eager to teach her.



After a lifetime in nursing, she felt God calling her to Ethiopia. She was driving her car and felt an impression so strong she turned around to see if someone had touched her shoulder. She immediately called the Baptist Mission Board, which directed her to Kenya instead. Kitty and her mother collected and sent the required supplies for the Kenya trip. Then the mission board redirected Kitty to Ethiopia, where she felt she was supposed to go all along.

In Ethiopia Kitty lived on a plateau 9,000 feet above sea level. She kept the mice out of her tin home by shoving plastic grain bags into the cracks in the building's perimeter. She took five-minute helicopter rides to assist in medical emergencies, and sifted mud out of the drinking water. In her clinic she averaged 130 patients a day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. She set bones, and fed milk to starving babies through nose tubes. She taught a 19-year-old native boy, Haptam, to change dressings.

After Ethiopia she went to Kazakhstan. "We fed the Kazakhs," she says, showing a photograph of beans, then one of Kazakh boys with twisted legs whom she treated but who would still never be allowed to be seen in public. "But they weren't starving to death."

Now Kitty is 83 and lives in a condominium in Asheville, N.C. She wears all pink today, with a headband to push back her thinning hair and bright red lipstick. She pads around her rosy-carpeted museum of a house in rubber shoes and describes her treasures, beginning with several charcoal drawings of Ethiopians on the first wall. She can't choose her favorite of the 41 countries she's visited. Australia, where she ate the long white worm that tasted exactly like peanut butter? Kazakhstan, where the cab driver gave her the sassy foxtail tam? Often, natives would give Kitty gifts but not the other missionaries in her team—all because she walked right up to people and kissed them on the cheek. ⊕



HEART MINISTRY: Kitty with two women from Ethiopia (left); a 1988 issue of *The Commission* (above).



SHEETS: HANDOUT

CHAPTER TWO

They aren't really having a mid-life crisis—but Travis and Gina Sheets want to put their farming skills to work on the African mission field in a nontraditional way.

Gina, 44, is a top economic development official in Indiana state government. Travis, 43, is a county councilman in central Indiana, where they have a small farm. Next year they plan to be in Liberia, offering their farming skills through the Liberian International Christian College.

Earlier this year they heard Liberian social activist Leymah Gbowee speak about the peace and reconciliation movement that helped end a 1990s civil war that devastated the country founded by freed American slaves in the 1840s. Through the Indianapolis-based Sagamore Institute they have also caught the vision of Sagamore fellow Amy Sherman, author of *Vocational Stewardship*.

Working in the farm extension tradition, the Sheets duo would like to see the country move from importing 90 percent of its food to exporting. They hope that their agricultural skills can open doors to share Christ, similar to the way doctors and nurses have traditionally taken their skills to the mission field.

"There's so much there in terms of natural resources," says Gina Sheets. "The people are willing, but they have lost so much." The couple will live without electricity or running water. They are physically ready. Travis competes in Iron Man triathlons, and Gina runs even farther in ultra races—80 miles. They've sold their livestock. Not having children, they are committed to their complex challenge—economic development and simple farming techniques blended with the gospel—for at least five years.

Travis and Gina Sheets are part of a wave of believers trying to do significant work in the second half of their lives, after vocational and financial success in the first half. *—Russell Pulliam*

Sights unseen

A new app highlights smartphone and tablet possibilities for the blind

BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE

A BLIND COUPLE in England is proving you don't need eyesight to enlist in the smartphone revolution.

Roger and Margaret Wilson-Hinds, both blind since childhood and now gray-haired, founded in 2006 a nonprofit called Screenreader.net to help the blind stay connected to family, friends, and news in a fast-paced world. Their latest project, which they helped design and test, is an Android phone app called "Georgie" (named after Margaret's first guide dog). To use Georgie, a person with poor or no eyesight need only run a finger across the screen: The phone audibly speaks button functions or contact list names. The user can send a text or publish a blog post simply by talking. The phone's camera can tell the user what color shirt he's about to put on, or it can scan a sign, restaurant menu, or printed letter and read it aloud.

Since Georgie uses GPS, a blind user can plan out sidewalk routes. "An overhead branch to us is dangerous," Roger says in a promo video. "As I walk along, I get [swiped] on the head, or in the face or the nose." Roger has marked branch locations on his regular routes using Georgie, and now his phone alerts him when he approaches one. The app can also tell Roger when to get off a bus, or where to find a nearby restaurant. Should he take a wrong turn, Georgie has an "Assistance" button that alerts a family member or caretaker to his location.

In the United States, federal telecommunications law requires mobile phone manufacturers to make devices accessible to the more than 11 million blind and visually impaired Americans. Android phones, the iPhone, and iPad have built-in or downloadable screen readers that allow the blind to navigate menu



lists, emails, and websites—sometimes clumsily. (Amazon's Kindle Fire e-reader doesn't, and earned a denunciation last year from the American Council of the Blind.) Georgie has the advantage of pulling together several vision-free functions in one simple-to-use interface. At 149 British pounds (about $230), it's expensive—and premium features cost extra.

Soon, tablet computers could offer their own advantages: Last year researchers at Stanford University created an experimental app that would allow the blind to write and take notes in Braille, using a tablet computer. Lying flat, the tablet touch screen mimics the eight keys of a traditional Braille typewriter, and the keys automatically arrange themselves beneath the user's fingers as soon as she touches the screen. Such an app would almost certainly be a money saver: Other electronic Braille note-taking devices cost $1,000 to $7,000.



STOP ORDER

Along with anti-lock brakes and airbags, automatic brakes could be the next standard auto safety feature. Beginning in 2014, the European Union will require new passenger vehicles to have autonomous emergency braking (AEB) systems if they want to earn Europe's five-star safety rating. Autonomous braking uses a windshield-mounted camera to detect other cars or pedestrians ahead. If the driver is approaching too quickly, the system applies the brakes automatically, avoiding or reducing impact. One study found that AEB systems reduced collisions by 27 percent. They can increase the car price by $2,000 or more. *—D.J.D.*

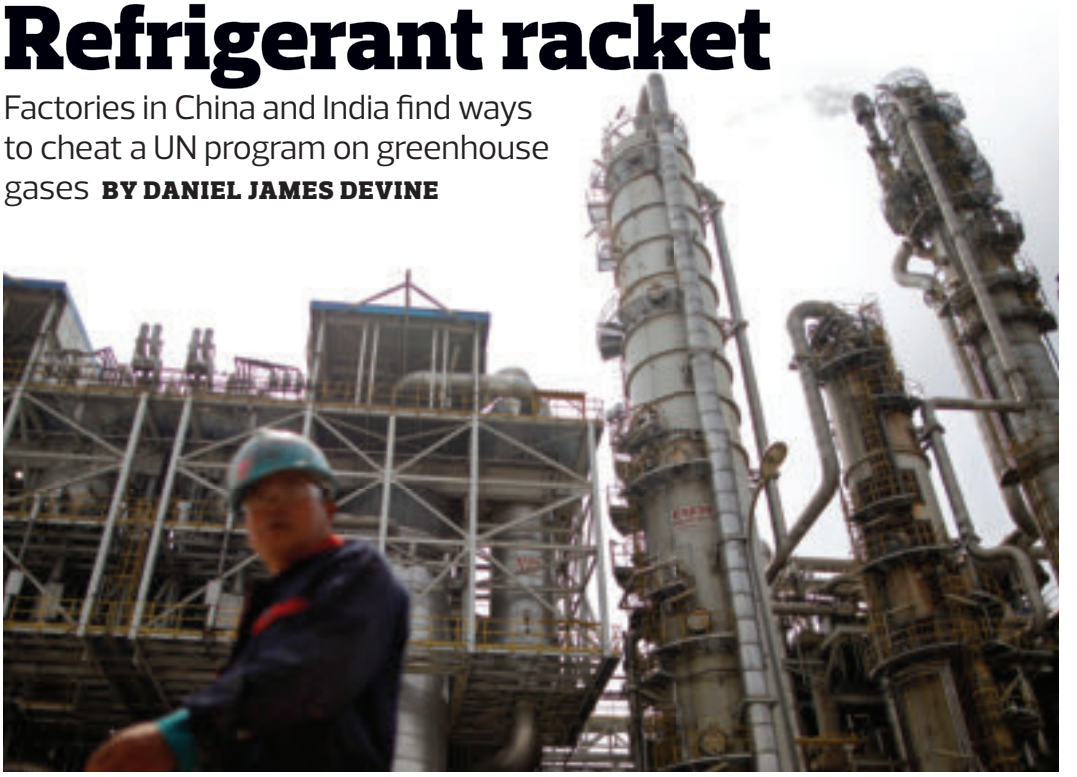


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GEORGIE: SLASH GEAR · BRAKES: TOMM L/ISTOCK

Refrigerant racket

Factories in China and India find ways to cheat a UN program on greenhouse gases **BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE**



GROWING CONCERNS: China boasts mammoth chemical plants including BASF-YPC Co. Ltd. in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, China.

The United Nations is tightening rules on a costly program to reduce greenhouse gases through the buying and selling of carbon credits. Since 2006, the Clean Development Mechanism has encouraged businesses in less developed countries to sell credits for each metric ton of greenhouse gas (such as carbon dioxide and methane) they prevent from escaping into the atmosphere. The companies that buy the credits can then emit more greenhouse gases.

Since more potent greenhouse gases are worth more credits, 19 factories (mostly Chinese and Indian) that make refrigerator and air-conditioning coolants have focused on destroying HFC-23, a "super" greenhouse gas generated as a byproduct of the coolant manufacturing process. It's 11,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Critics, including the Environmental Investigation Agency and *The New York Times*, discovered that factories in China and India have earned tens of millions of dollars from the program. Worse, they have increased production of greenhouse gas chemicals in order to sell more credits to the West.

By cheaply destroying HFC-23 and selling credits for doing so, the coolant factories have made a killing—probably $20 million to $40 million a year on average, according to one analyst. In some cases the factories made more money selling credits than they did selling coolant, and even increased coolant production in order to generate—and then eliminate—more HFC-23 waste gas.

That defeats the purpose of the UN program, because the coolant is also a greenhouse gas that destroys ozone. Parties to the UN are supposed to be phasing the coolant out. Instead, the UN's emission-credit scheme encouraged its production, with nearly half of the program's total credits generated by the same 19 coolant plants.

The main buyers of the credits are plants and factories in developed nations that are attempting to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals set by the Kyoto Protocol. (The United States is not a ratified member of that treaty.)

Next year the EU will ban HFC-23 from its own carbon trading market. The UN is barring new factories from selling waste gas credits, and will reduce the amount existing factories can sell by two-thirds. Even so, the *Times* reported the 19 coolant factories could make another $1 billion in credit sales over the next eight years.

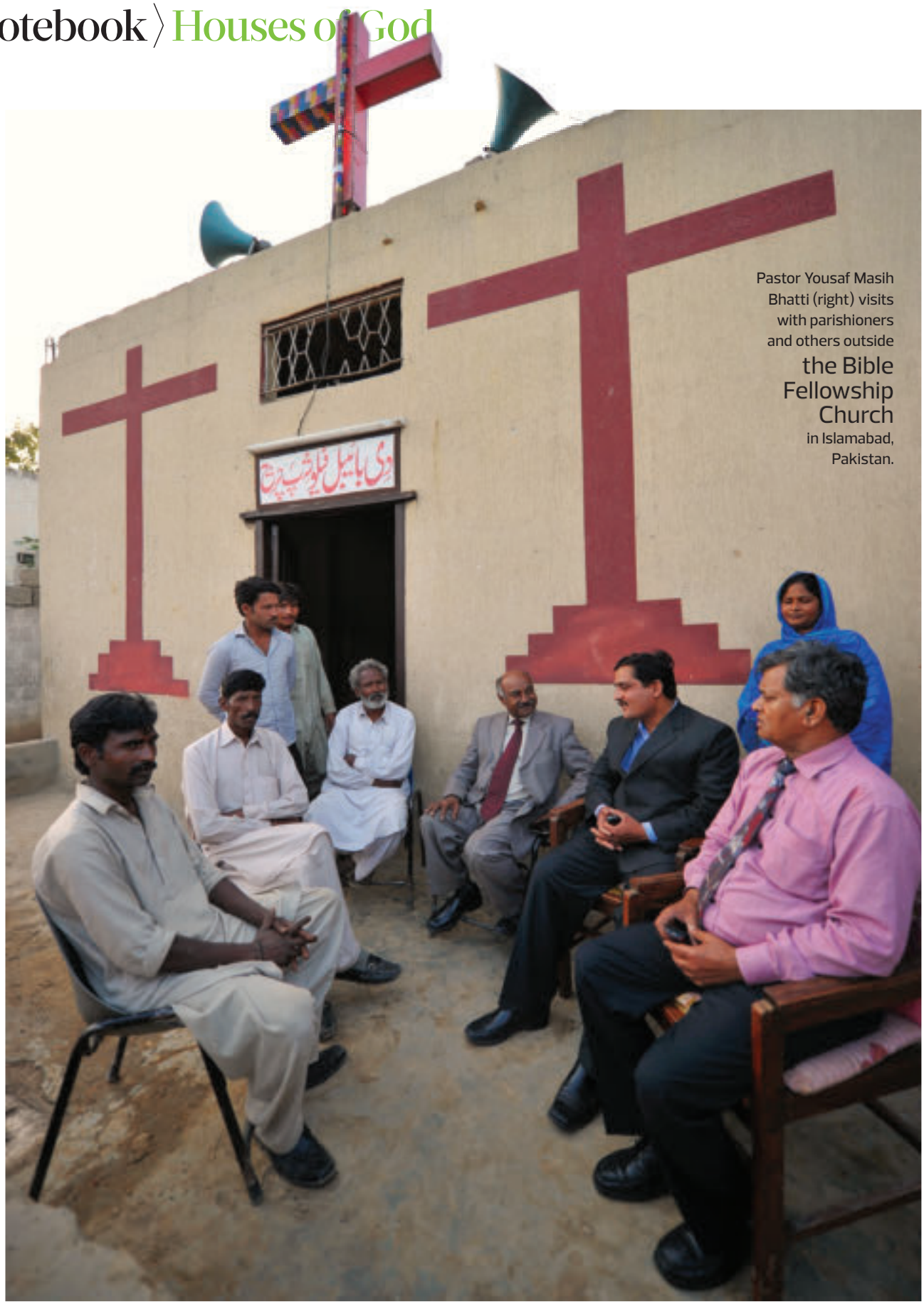


Abortion with a T

According to a new study in *Fertility and Sterility*, more American women are choosing to use intrauterine devices for contraception. The study found that the proportion of women using IUDs doubled between 2007 and 2009, rising to 8.5 percent from about 4 percent. The small, T-shaped devices, which a doctor inserts into the uterus, use copper or hormones to interfere with sperm and prevent implantation of a fertilized egg on the uterine wall—qualifying them as abortifacients. *—D.J.D.*

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Pastor Yousaf Masih Bhatti (right) visits with parishioners and others outside the Bible Fellowship Church in Islamabad, Pakistan.

BAY ISMOYO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Thin to win

In the pass-happy NFL, players are trading pounds for speed

BY MARK BERGIN

In 1970, just one player in the NFL tipped the scales at 300 pounds or more. By 1980, 94 players had reached that threshold, and the race was on to fill rosters with behemoths. Coaches drooled over 300-pounders like fat men in a burger joint. That demand produced supply—500 such heavyweights reported for training camp in 2010.

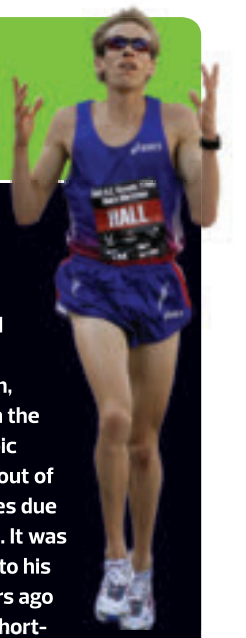
Just two years later, as teams prepare for their season-opening games, the NFL is on a diet. Many of the largest players have shed their former bellies. Arizona Cardinals defensive end **Vonnie Holliday**, who once maintained a playing weight of 320, now holds steady at 270. His reason for dropping the pounds is now shared throughout the league: "The game is getting faster."

That speed stems from new philosophies of offense. The old ground-and-pound style of moving the ball three yards at a time has given way to exotic passing attacks requiring speed at every position. Passing has increased 60 yards per game over the past decade. Coaches now ask defensive players to drop into pass coverage rather than clog running lanes. Coaches also ask them to shed the extra pounds.

Many linemen are happy to oblige. Doctors have long warned NFL players that carrying excessive fat increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. A 1994 study from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health found that former NFL linemen had a 52 percent higher rate of death from cardiovascular disease than the general population. Plus, what professional athlete wants to look like a fat slob?

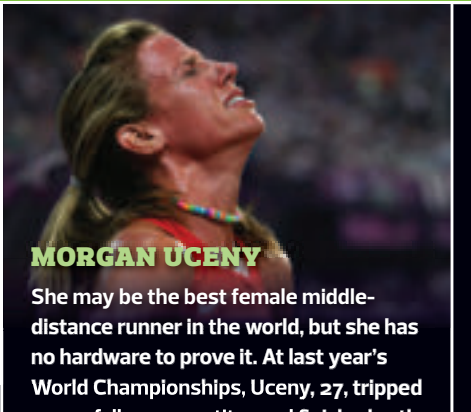
FOUR-YEAR WAIT

In the wake of defeat, many athletes find consolation in that old refrain, "There's always next year." Not so Olympians, whose four-year wait between golden opportunities can prove physically or emotionally insurmountable. Here's a look at a few American athletes who fell short in London and may never get another chance.



LOLO JONES

Four years ago in Beijing, the 100-meter hurdler tripped over the penultimate hurdle and did not medal. The long road back to the games in London ended bitterly when Jones finished fourth. A *New York Times* article bashing her as all hype made things worse. But Jones, 30, is planning a possible third try at the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro: "I didn't walk away with the medal or run away with the medal, but I think there's lessons to be learned when you win and there's lessons to be learned when you lose."



MORGAN UCENY

She may be the best female middle-distance runner in the world, but she has no hardware to prove it. At last year's World Championships, Uceny, 27, tripped over a fallen competitor and finished 10th. One year later in the Olympic final, Uceny tangled feet with another competitor and tripped again. This time, she didn't finish, smacking both palms on the track and sobbing. "It's been a lot more difficult dealing with the fall at the games than from worlds last year," she said.



RYAN HALL

In London in 2007, running only the third marathon of his life, Hall posted the fastest time ever by a U.S.-born American citizen, 2:06:17. Five years later, in the same city and with Olympic glory at stake, Hall pulled out of the marathon after 10 miles due to a right hamstring strain. It was a disappointing follow-up to his 10th-place finish four years ago in Beijing. Hall's Olympic shortcomings have critics questioning his training practices. The 29-year-old left the prestigious Mammoth Track Club and coach Terence Mahon two years ago, moving to Redding, Calif., to join Bethel Church, a faith-healing ministry. Hall believes his Christian faith and self-awareness preclude his need for a coach.



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Market discipline

Competition and embarrassing predictions may bring greater realism to business journalism

BY WARREN COLE SMITH



THROWING THE BULL: CNBC's Jim Cramer, David Faber, Melissa Lee, Carl Quintanilla (from left) on the floor of the NYSE.

On March 11, 2008, Jim Cramer, host of the CNBC program *Mad Money*, said this about Wall Street giant Bear Stearns: "Bear Stearns is fine. Bear Stearns is not in trouble. Don't be silly. Don't move your money."

Less than a week later, the 85-year-old firm was essentially gone. JPMorgan Chase announced it would buy the firm for a stock swap of $2 per share, less than 10 percent of its value on the day Cramer declared it "fine" and its nay-sayers "silly."

The marketplace punished Bear Stearns for its mistakes. Did it do the same to Jim Cramer? A full year later, he went on Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show* and admitted he had made mistakes, but neither Cramer nor his show left the air or issued a formal apology.

Cramer's fate is typical in the world of market prognosticating, which has become a staple of business journalism. Books abound on the subject—from 1999's *Dow 36,000* to 2011's *Super Boom: Why the Dow Jones Will Hit 38,820 and How You Can Profit From It*. Many of these books predicting economic boom (and, more rarely, bust) are bestsellers and appear as often as quarterly earnings reports—and they're almost always wrong. Why?

Brian Solis, president of Wealth Preservation Strategies of New Jersey, says there's a bias for optimism in the markets. "Most people are hopeful and truly want to see our economy flourish," he said, so they make predictions based on hope rather than data. "Another major factor for Wall Street analysts and Washington politicians is that their livelihood often depends on them being positive, hopeful, and ultimately bullish." He said expressions such as "now is a great time to buy" and "you've got to be in it to win it" are drilled into stockbrokers and have found their way into the culture of business journalism.

That's why there are so many bulls and so few bears on Wall Street. One of the few consistent bears has been Gluskin Sheff's **David Rosenberg**. Even during the markets' October 2011 to April 2012 bull run, when the Dow went up 2,500 points, Rosenberg has remained stubbornly bearish, saying government stimulus will not produce sustained economic growth. In May the Dow fell 1,000 points, giving up all of its 2012 gains.

Rosenberg was not surprised. "Over the past two years, the American public's reliance on public funds (housing goodies, expanded welfare, food stamps, extended jobless benefits, and other subsidies) has surged 7.5 percent to 23 percent," he told *The Wall Street Journal*. "This metric usually goes down after recessions end—but not this time. And to put it all in perspective, in the severe 1981-82 recession, there was only a 6 percent increase (and then it fell sharply). So you may want to call the economy 'resilient,' but keep in mind that it is still heavily medicated."

The American people are resilient, too, and they make changes when necessary. That may be why Cramer and CNBC have experienced significant ratings declines since his Bear Stearns predictions. CNBC's relentless corporate cheerleading has also spawned competition. Fox Business News debuted in 2007 and is now in 50 million households. A revamped Bloomberg News is also providing competition and taking market share.



CNBC, in more than 90 million households, still leads the ratings race. But media analyst Bud Fox, writing for the website Benzinga.com, said CNBC needs a dose of marketplace reality.

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Doubting Thomas

Scholars call Jefferson a skeptic as David Barton finds a new publisher for his controversial book

BY THOMAS KIDD

THE CONTROVERSY OVER David Barton's *The Jefferson Lies* (see "The David Barton Controversy," Aug. 25) led Thomas Nelson to stop publishing the book—but Glenn Beck's Mercury Ink plans to publish a new edition.

Beck wrote the foreword to *The Jefferson Lies*, and Mercury Ink's announced goal is to "publish and promote books and authors that Glenn is passionate about." Mercury Ink partners with Simon & Schuster. *Publishers Weekly* reported that Barton in the new edition "will rephrase some things to remove any potential confusion."

Meanwhile, let's look at one of the key points in contention. Most historians prior to Barton described Thomas Jefferson as a life-long religious skeptic, but Barton writes in *The Jefferson Lies* that there "never was a time when [Jefferson] was anti-Jesus or when he rejected Christianity." Barton states that for much of Jefferson's adult life his faith was "nothing less than orthodox."

The Jefferson Lies commends Daniel Dreisbach, an American University professor, calling him one of the few Jefferson scholars who employs a "sound historical approach," so I asked Dreisbach whether he agreed with Barton. Dreisbach replied that he has a "very hard time" accepting the notion that Jefferson was ever an orthodox Christian, or that Jefferson ever embraced Christianity's "transcendent claims."

Barton told me that he does not necessarily disagree with Dreisbach. *The Jefferson Lies* states that by 1813, when Jefferson was 70, he had rejected the doctrine of the Trinity. Barton said he mainly wants to emphasize that Jefferson was no atheist or secularist.

That's not sufficient for Barton critics Warren Throckmorton and Michael Coulter, authors of *Getting Jefferson Right*, who state that Barton misinterprets historical evidence in portraying Jefferson as consistently orthodox before 1813, and leaves out essential points that would contradict that portrayal.

For example, in a 1788 letter Jefferson declined to become a child's godfather because he thought doing so would have required him to affirm publicly a belief in the Trinity. Jefferson wrote that the "difficulty of reconciling the ideas of Unity and Trinity, have, from a very early part of my life," kept him making such an affirmation. *The Jefferson Lies* does not address this statement.


Barton

Similarly, in Jefferson's 1803 unpublished "Syllabus," he commended Jesus' philosophy as "the most perfect and sublime" taught by man, but also characterized Jesus' teachings as "defective." Jefferson argued that only "fragments" of Jesus' actual life have survived, and have "come to us mutilated, misstated, and often unintelligible" in the New Testament.

Barton cites another part of the "Syllabus" in *The Jefferson Lies*, but not these passages. He does quote at length from a 1787 letter from Jefferson to his nephew, in which Jefferson tells him simply to read the Bible as you would other ancient documents, and to "question with boldness even the existence of a god." Barton argues that Jefferson was merely instructing his nephew in Christian "apologetics."

Barton says his critics are exaggerating *The Jefferson Lies*' claims about Jefferson's faith. Barton insists he never called Jefferson a "robust Christian," and says Thomas Nelson editors cut out sections of the book that might have answered some objections.

Barton also offers evidence that Jefferson affirmed traditional beliefs prior to age 70. In a 1776 document, Barton writes, Jefferson "affirmed that Jesus was the Savior, the Scriptures were inspired, and that the Apostles' Creed 'contain[ed] all things necessary to salvation.'" (According to *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, this statement is in Jefferson's notes on John Locke's religious writings.)

Who is right—Barton, or Throckmorton and Coulter? Louisiana State University professor James Stoner, one of Glenn Beck's "Beck University" lecturers, says Throckmorton and Coulter's book seems "entirely in line" with what he knows about Jefferson's faith. Stoner describes Jefferson as a "rationalist skeptic."

Professor Kevin Gutzman, who has appeared both on WallBuilders radio and the Glenn Beck program, argues that "Jefferson was not a Christian, if the word 'Christian' has any meaning," because he rejected the Bible's "supernatural content." Gutzman thinks Jefferson's skepticism certainly predated 1813.

Does all this matter? To those who want to understand more about the founding of the United States, it does.

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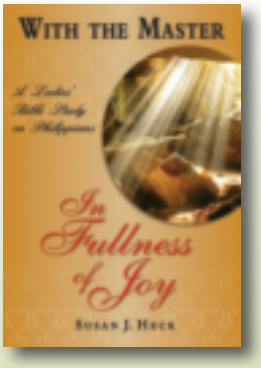
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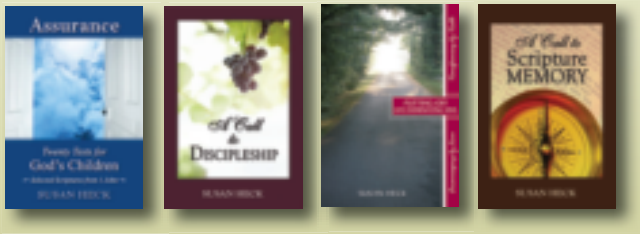
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Mailbag



'Outside the camp'

July 28 Thank you for this reminder about the Muslim world. The difficulty with the "Common Word" documents and Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi's words, "a genuine democracy and stability," is that for Muslims the rest of us are simply dhimmis, protected people. Our protection would be on their terms and would not last long. I do not believe that Western secular leadership will ever understand this.

—John Monroe, Carrollton, Texas

As a scholar of Islamic history, I reject the Salafist doctrine of the "uncreated Quran," which forbids the use of reason to understand its origins. I withdrew my signature from the "Christian Response to the 'Common Word'" because I am alarmed that influential evangelical leaders refuse to have a realistic view of Islamism. The Muslim Brotherhood seeks to re-establish the Caliphate, make the Quran its constitution, and jihad its domestic and foreign policy. But some Muslims are fighting for the reformation of Sunni Islam and political freedom in the Muslim world. We in the West must continue to support them.

—Judith Rood, La Mirada, Calif.

The photo with the victim's spilled blood was a graphic reminder of the inherent evil we see in this world. The press in America seldom shows the tremendous evil of innocent slaughter. This is true evil and we must never forget it.

—Neil Johnston, Grand Prairie, Texas

'Democracy and dualism'

July 28 Thank you for laying out the plight of persecuted Christians in Egypt and for warning about radical Islam. If our government leaders would study the foundational documents of Islam (including the Quran and Hadith), note what they say about Muslim attitudes and policies toward us "infidels," and study the history of the spread of Islam by the sword, we all would be more secure.

—K. Spevacek, Avondale, Ariz.

I'm not surprised. Islam demands its adherents convert or conquer the whole world. Our lack of response to this threat is speeding its fulfillment, both from wars outside our borders and from the spread of Islam within. Thank God He is in control.

—Rich Thorne, Bettles, Alaska

'Path to destruction'

July 28 In her excellent column Andrée Seu Peterson says, "Things are moving at breakneck speed now," and that pretty much sums it up. So often we hear of some celebrity "coming out" as a homosexual or some politician endorsing homosexual "marriage."

—Dick Dickerson, Mechanicsville, Va.

Borrowing a page from the comic books, Peterson portrays homosexual activists as crafty and malevolent super-villains. But healthy Christian engagement with homosexuals must begin with truth-telling, not caricature.

—Andrew Needham, Durham, N.C.

This was the best synopsis I have read on the state we are in now. Mothers like me have been trying to hold up the dike so our children would have a society that was morally "normal" and biblical, but the dike burst. I have very deep dread for current and future generations, but the Lord knows what is happening and He is faithful.

—Janet Mulvanny, Shoreline, Wash.

Sometimes I have Elijah moments where I feel that so many, even in the church, seem to be blind to how rebellion against God has infiltrated every part of our society. But this column reminded me that God has preserved many who have not bowed the knee to Baal.

—Sharon Henning, Longview, Texas

'Heaven and earth'

July 28 Janie B. Cheaney reminded me to lift my eyes up past the hills of earth's troubles to see the Lord, whence cometh our help. Her faithful words rekindled hope for me both about our world situation and my own health as I recover from cancer surgery.

—Rick Porter, Yarmouth Port, Mass.

Cheaney quotes the saying that "we don't want to be too heavenly-minded for any earthly good, do we?" But as C.S. Lewis noted, it is only as we are heavenly-minded that we are any earthly good: "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did

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Mailbag



LAKE GENEVA, WIS. *submitted by Brian Smith*

most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next," from the apostles to the Christians who abolished the slave trade.

—*Paul Enns, Tampa, Fla.*

Dispatches

July 28 I know that WORLD is opposed to the idea of same-sex marriage, but in reporting on Barney Frank you appeared to have accepted the redefinition of marriage. Whatever Frank and Jim Ready did, they were not "married" or "wed," not according to the correct definition of the words.

—*Ben Firth, Anchor Point, Alaska*

'Faceburglary'

July 28 It's good basic advice not to share photos and updates via Facebook while on vacation but that may not be enough. If others traveling with you or people you're visiting post a picture and "tag" you, it's going to appear for your friends and acquaintances to see that you're away.

—*Sally Foisey, Blair, Neb.*

Looking Ahead

July 28 President Obama certainly is dialing back the wattage of star power for his 51st birthday celebration—he's even giving us ordinary folk a chance to celebrate with him. For a mere $3 donation to his campaign, "you'll be automatically entered to join me for my birthday in Chicago." I joined his mailing list and the solicitations have been very entertaining.

—*Gerri Hawes, Allen, Texas*

'The organization man'

July 28 Maybe I'm connecting the wrong dots, but it sounds like Chief Justice John Roberts made a political decision in the Obamacare case to make the Supreme Court a less politically charged institution. But was the attempt politically correct, or incorrectly political?

—*Mark Anderson, Wilmington, N.C.*

'Innocence IDed'

July 28 Jurors also need to improve their game and not be intimated by prosecutors, judges, or other jurors. They must base their vote on hard evidence. Have we forgotten that we start with the presumption of innocence?

—*Larry Marsh, Colton, Ore.*

'Identity kept'

July 28 Regarding the controversy over a recent SBC resolution, some

have misconstrued the remarks of Pastor David Platt, who is also head of our parachurch ministry, Radical. He does not advocate throwing out the "Sinner's Prayer" but has expressed concern over authentic conversion. He also voted in favor of the resolution that declared the prayer a "biblical expression of faith."

—Angelia Stewart, *Radical, Birmingham, Ala.*

Books issue

July 14 As a fourth-grade teacher, I encourage my students to read, read, and read during their summers. I try to do the same. How wonderful to see your regular reading recommendations. From them I purchased *We the People*, *Gospel Powered Humility*, and *The Intolerance of Tolerance*. Also I found your Randy Alcorn recommendations to be pure gold. All in all, I have found a delightful month of reading.

—Patrick Davis, *Sacramento, Calif.*

Being constantly bombarded with bad news, worrisome news, and prospects of a disastrous future, it's refreshing to read in WORLD of the many excellent and good things that are going on in the world. Your articles give hope for the future that, after all, not all is lost.

—Roger A. Faber, *Westminster, Colo.*

Correction

The NAE received $1 million from the National Campaign for the Prevention of Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy; Proverbs 5:18 begins, "Let your fountain be blessed" ("Cashed out," Aug. 11, p. 39).

LETTERS AND PHOTOS

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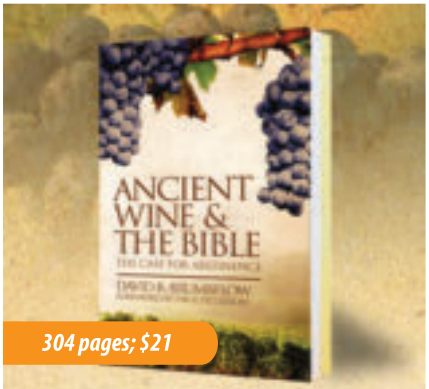

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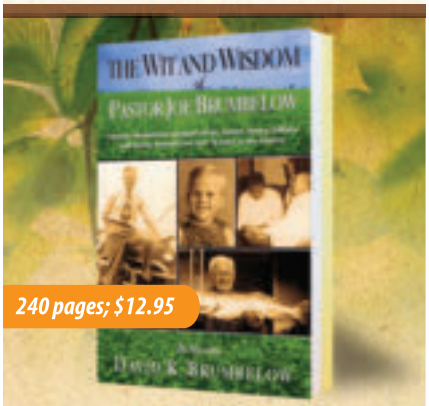
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God out of the box

Be open and ready for the Lord to be marvelous



In *Annie Hall* a Columbia University professor standing behind Woody Allen in a movie queue, pontificating to his date on the views of Marshall McLuhan, is brought up short when out of the shadows (and Allen's fantasy) steps the real McLuhan to pronounce the professor full of hogwash.

When I read my Bible in the morning I have a choice: I can come as an expert, or I can come as a child. If I come as an expert, I had better watch out that the Author doesn't step out of the shadows like McLuhan and put me to shame for thinking I had Him wrapped up and tied with a bow.

Some PowerPoint academics slice and dice, quantify, reduce, and put God in His box. But God's Presence is in His Word and He resists it. He reveals Himself not to the Box people but to children (Matthew 11:25) and to those who not only hear but keep what He says (Revelation 1:3).

Many WORLD readers aren't familiar with "grammatical-historical" Bible interpretation, but I was weaned on it: It was new and scientific. We were proud to have found in our day the key to Scripture—objective, rule-based, heresy-resistant—that had eluded centuries of saints. We could stop asking of a passage, "What is God saying to me here?" and would ask instead the more empirical and controllable "What would the word or event in this passage have meant to Adam and Eve in their time?"

The verse "Fear not … for your Maker is your husband" (Isaiah 54:4-5) elated an unmarried woman I know. In some circles she would be sat in a chair and made to watch a mind-numbing blackboard demonstration of hermeneutical hoops to jump through. She would finally come around to tepid permission for her joy—but what an ordeal to get there.

An inmate named Christopher Yuan read words written under the mattress of the top bunk above him: "If you're bored, read Jeremiah 29:11." He went and read it: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'" He believed the words—and they became his, by faith.

Yuan experienced a real encounter with the God who is present in His Word—that unbridled, brimming, breathing, uncontainable Presence that is ever waiting to be unleashed wherever hearing is mixed with faith (Hebrews 4:2). This is not to say we do not read the Word with common sense and listen to those who have done thorough exegesis—but it means we are open and ready for the Lord to be marvelous.

How should we read the Old Testament? God has not made any of us His Dean of Homiletics to tell others not to mine it for good examples. Hebrews 11 tells us to emulate the faith of Noah, Abraham, and others. Romans 15:4 tells us, "Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction." First Corinthians 10:11 says the same. Does this undermine "preaching Christ from the Old Testament"? Nay, it enhances it.

As professor Vern Poythress of Westminster Theological Seminary writes, Christians before the rise of modern scientific skepticism "saw the Old Testament as a book in which God continues to speak today," and we should do the same. He goes on to say: "I wonder whether evangelical scholarship, for the sake of dialog with the mainstream of scholarship, has absorbed the influence of the Enlightenment. In practice do we have a model of objectivistic grammatical-historical interpretation of human meaning, a model that is at odds not only with the tradition of the church, not only with the fact of divine authorship, but at odds with God himself …?"

Besides, we don't know for sure what Adam and Eve *could* have been thinking when God addressed the serpent. How do we know they were incapable, in their imaginations, of peering down the corridors of time to our redemption?

So take heart, Christian: "All things are yours" (1 Corinthians 3:21). Read the Word with confidence and expectation, for you have "been anointed by the Holy One" (1 John 2:20). Say to the Lord, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears."

KRIEG BARRIE

Email: aseupeterson@worldmag.com



Marvin Olasky

Psychology today

What should Christians make of neuroscience?

Octavious Bishop, 37, did not need a television to learn about gangsters, pimps, and prostitutes: He only had to look out his window. Growing up without a dad in poor areas of Milwaukee, Memphis, and Houston, with gangs all around him, prisons or coffins were his likely resting places.

But he had two things going for him: a belief in a big God and a coach who believed in a big player. Bishop grew up going to church and kept growing, hitting 6 feet 5 inches and 320 pounds by his senior year in high school. He became an offensive tackle on The University of Texas Longhorns and had brief stints with the Oakland Raiders and the Atlanta Falcons, until a broken leg cut short his career.

Now he has an NFL alumni plaque at his office in a suite of the Austin-based NeuroSensory Centers of America, where he is doing research that will be the basis of his Ph.D. dissertation. Here he faces a different kind of challenge: How to integrate his strong Christian beliefs and his sharp scientific inclinations.

Bishop introduced me to Kendal Stewart, chairman and chief medical officer of the company. Stewart has been looking at neuro-immune disorders that include migraines, anxiety, depression, ADD, and post-concussion syndrome. He believes that methyl folate, dopamine, and other chemical deficiencies are major culprits. Other researchers have different explanations, but Stewart provides evidence that if we get the right pharmaceutical combination, we can go far.

Stewart's theories are one indication of how psychology has changed over the years. In the 18th century Jonathan Edwards preached about anxious adults rightfully depressed about their sin. In the 19th century Dwight Moody evangelized depressed adults who needed a spiritual boost. In the 20th century Sigmund Freud and his pupil Carl Jung emphasized the need to confront the negative thoughts embedded in us early on.

As Jung put it, "It is not by looking in the light that we become luminous, but by plunging into the darkness." Freud asked patients to look into the darkest reaches of their childhoods and discern why they felt guilt or shame. Those who were too obstinate or lazy to pump out the darkness would drown in it as they projected their own faults onto others.

Later in the century, Erich Fromm, Carl Rogers, Abraham Maslow, and Rollo May further developed humanistic psychology. Fromm studied the Talmud but moved away from Orthodox Judaism when he was 26. Rogers, once an altar boy with a Pentecostal mom, emerged at 20 with a degree in doubt. May graduated from Union Theological Seminary. Paul Vitz's *Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship* (1977) critiqued those theorists and the way their beliefs functioned as alternative religions.

But by the mid-1990s a new ideological sheriff had come to town: neuroscience. The Society for Neuroscience jumped from 1,000 members in 1970 to 26,000 in 1996, the year Tom Wolfe published an essay that would become famous, "Sorry, But Your Soul Just Died." The idea he reported was the essence of materialism: The thoughts that concerned Christians as well as Freudians were merely the product of brainwaves that could be pharmaceutically adjusted. The brain is a piece of machinery, and neurosensory experts have the reset button.

The battle of various theories may seem ... well, theoretical, but they become concrete when it comes to helping depressed individuals. Depression over the centuries has often led to spiritual breakthrough, as God turns our wondering about what's wrong into a search for what's right. One example: Martin Luther, depressed about issues of salvation, broke through to an understanding of how the just shall live by faith. One question: What if a pharmaceutical adjustment provides the temporary fix so that the individual doesn't get the benefits of depression?



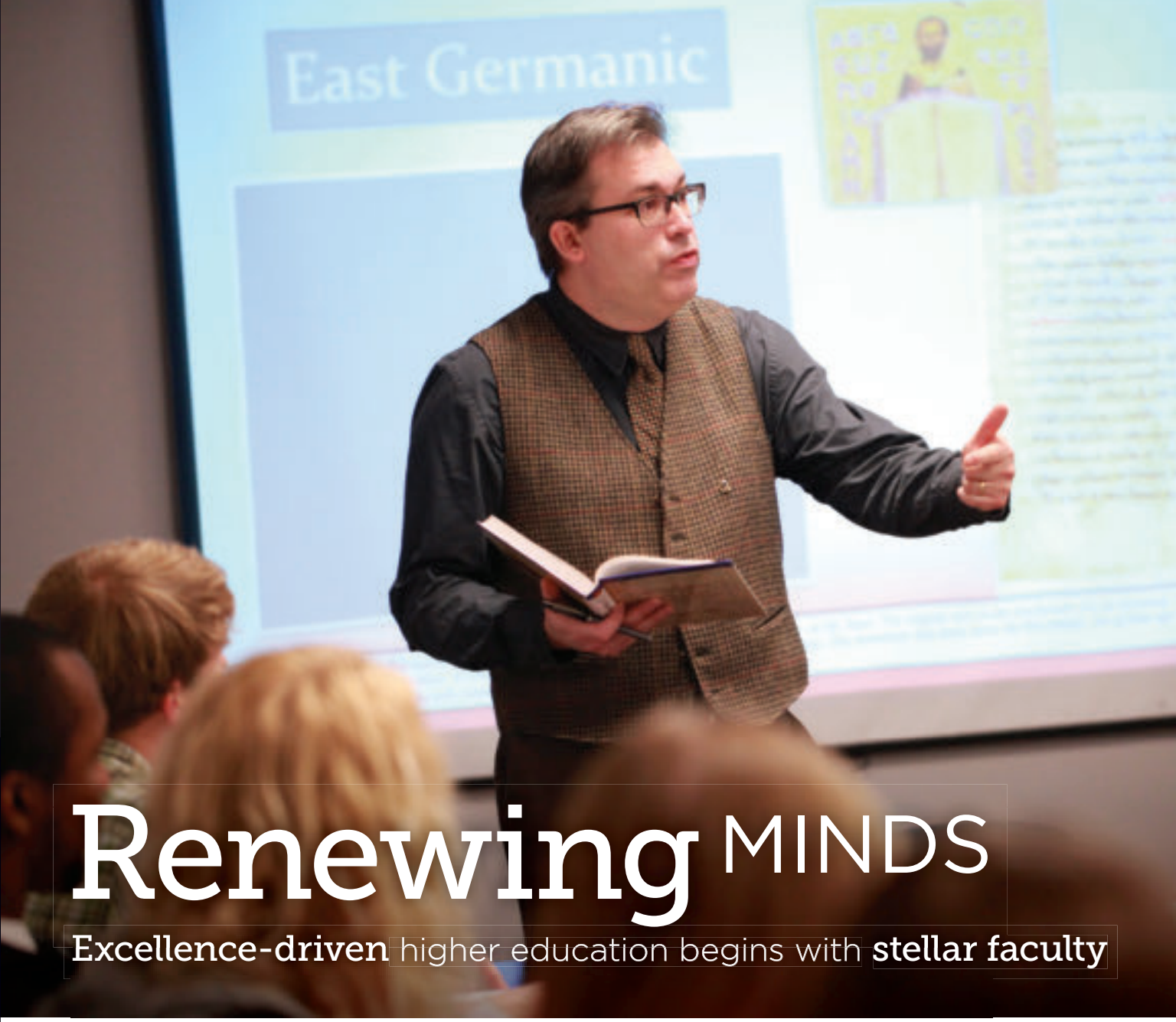
And yet, what if some people are so sunk into clinical depression—so closed in on themselves—that they are unable to think. This doesn't mean God can't break through—He always can—but what if neuroscience can help bring a prone person to a place where he can sit up?

Octavious Bishop has to sort all this out. It's a hard task, with pressures on the one hand to be unnecessarily separationist, and on the other hand to accommodate Scripture to current scientific theory.

Pray for graduate students at secular universities.

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