

Women as warriors? | Assisted suicide fight

WORLD

MAY 28, 2016

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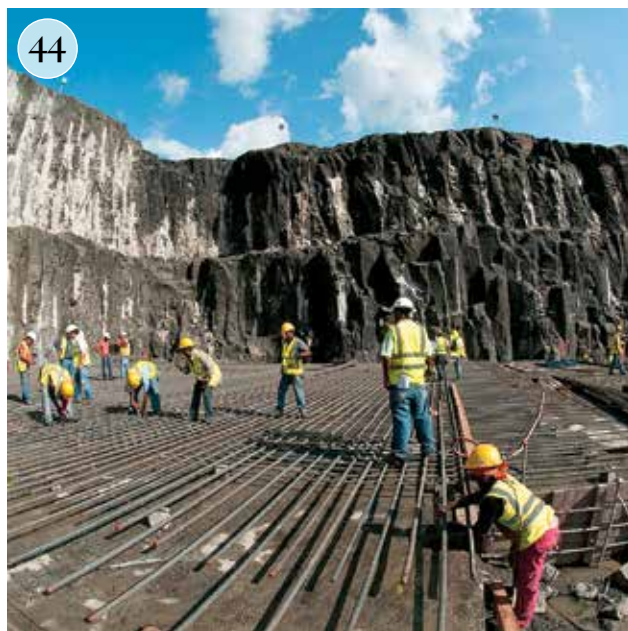
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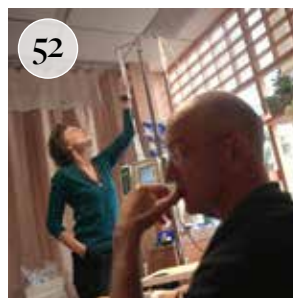
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ON THE COVER: Photo by James Gathany/Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention/AP

WORLD (ISSN 0888-157X) (USPS 763-010) is published biweekly (26 issues) for \$59.95 per year by God's World Publications, (no mail) 12 All Souls Crescent, Asheville, NC 28803; 828.232.5260. Periodical postage paid at Asheville, NC, and additional mailing offices. Printed in the USA. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. © 2015 WORLD News Group. All rights reserved.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WORLD, PO Box 20002, Asheville, NC 28802-9998.

NOTES FROM THE CEO

The years 1941 and 1942 loom large in America's story. Indeed, almost every nation in the world memorializes some event that occurred during this period of history, about 75 years ago.

Those years were important in WORLD's story, as well. And I mark two dates—Aug. 10, 1941, and June 19, 1942—as key in WORLD history.



The first date, Aug. 10, 1941, is the birthday of Joel Belz, the second of eight children born to Max and Jean Belz in Walker, Iowa.

The second date, June 19, 1942, is the day Nelson Bell incorporated our organization here in the state of North Carolina. At that time, only God knew that the little publisher of an ecclesiastical journal would become WORLD News Group. And only God knew that there was a 10-month-old boy in Iowa who four decades later would decide that the best way forward for that little publisher was to produce

“a Christian version of Weekly Reader,” what he'd call “God's World News.”

I recognize a providential symmetry, here in the WORLD's 30th year: It's also God's World News' 35th year and Joel's—as well as the organization's—75th year.

While I have been a part of WORLD's story for only a tiny part of that history, I am grateful for God's plan that brings us together all these years later in ways neither Nelson Bell, nor the baby Belz, ever envisioned.

Kevin
Kevin Martin
kevin@wng.org

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Monday-Friday (except holidays), 9 a.m.-7 p.m. ET

Write WORLD, PO Box 20002, Asheville, NC 28802-9998

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the world and those who dwell therein.”*

—PSALM 24:1

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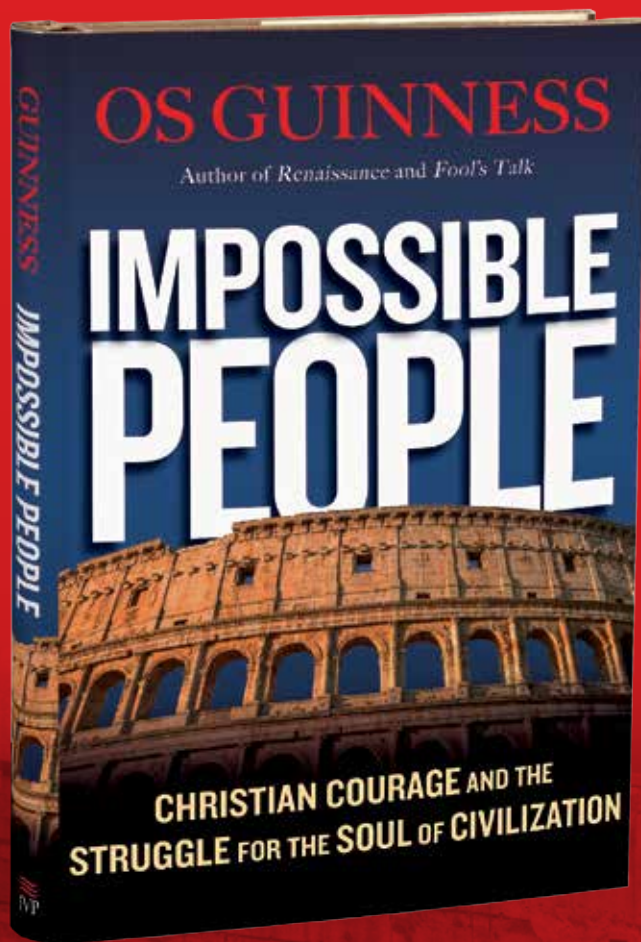
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RICK WARREN

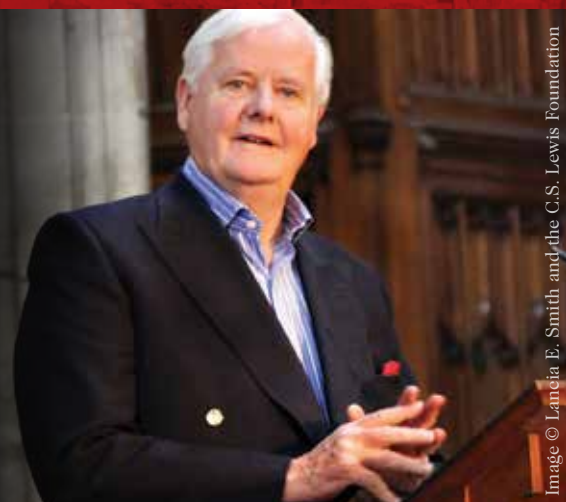
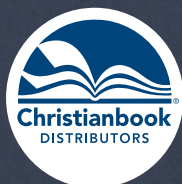


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Signage of the times

THE HANDWRITING IS LITERALLY ON THE WALLS—OUTSIDE RESTROOMS

→ If anyone had told me even last year that I'd be devoting two of my columns within an eight-week time frame to the signage just outside the nation's public restrooms, I would have suggested something like a giant leap into the nearest lake. But such is the state of our once great republic.

You'd think that just one quick discussion on the subject of how many choices we need to feel secure while relieving ourselves might be enough. And you'd think that a president with genuine crises on every side might tell everyone on his staff: "Whatever you do, don't get caught up in a foolish and trivial squabble. We've got enough real problems not to waste our time and resources in a discussion that is certain to make us all look silly."

But it's too late now. I guess those of us here in North Carolina are to blame for launching the debate some months back. But as April faded into May, the Obama Department of Justice seemed to be following the president's orders when it jumped into the fray with both feet. As a consequence, when I need a bathroom break, I'm not exactly sure which room just down the hall I'm supposed to head for.

This latest source of confusion comes from Washington in response to a straightforward bill approved a couple of months ago by the North Carolina state legislature, declaring simply that folks should use restrooms whose signs correspond to the gender indicated on their birth certificate. To be sure, most folks understood, there might be a few confused and troubled people, uncertain of their own sexual identity, who end up in the wrong place. But surely, a little common sense will get us through such challenges.

But no, say the Washington experts. Vanita Gupta, acting chief of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, said the state of North Carolina, through its simple new law, is engaging "in a pattern or practice of discrimi-



The real matter at stake is our culture's constant rejection of God's creation order.

nation against transgender people." In a typically obscure passage, the letter continues: "Denying such access to transgender individuals, whose gender identity is different from their gender assigned at birth, while affording it to similarly situated non-transgender employees, violates Title VII."

Don't think for a minute this is a tiny regional struggle for power and influence, limited to a single state. Across the nation, literal signs of the times are already in place—and the handwriting is literally on the wall. Walking through the big airport in Minneapolis-St. Paul last week, my wife and I were confused when we noticed brightly renovated new options including "MEN" and "WOMEN" on one side of the concourse, and something more broadly inclusive immediately across the hallway. Maybe that's just the way it's going to be, I thought.

More food for thought came from the classy Hudson's Bar & Grill in Vancouver, Wash., where we were visitors a couple of days later. The choices, in one way, were even starker. The sign for "WOMEN" seemed to have remained unchanged. But the sign for "MEN" had totally disappeared and had been replaced with a carefully matching "ALL GENDER" plaque. Was management at Hudson pursuing the debate, while staying aware that denying privacy to their female clientele would almost certainly produce a storm of protest?

Make no mistake. The debate in North Carolina and across the nation is not first and foremost about rights for sexually bewildered people. To a certain extent, the discussion is not even about sexual privacy—although there is an obvious connection between that colorful topic and the ultimate issues. As I stated in my March 19 column: The real matter at stake is our culture's constant rejection of God's creation order and its blatant denial that God created us male and female—and then called that very good.

And all that is not a trivial or sideline issue limited to a few public buildings in North Carolina, Minnesota, and Washington. Did any of us expect a decade ago the speed with which our culture would accept and then codify same-sex marriage? It is with the same lightning speed that our whole society is accepting new falsehoods about our sexual identity that a very short time ago would have seemed unimaginable. And now that movement enjoys the federal government's explicit support. ●

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- Ecclesiastes 4:12



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DISPATCHES

News / Human Race / Quotables / Quick Takes

Hope of passage

Refugees from war-ravaged Syria walk through fields at Greece's northern border point of Idomeni on May 7. Thousands of migrants seeking to reach Europe remain at Idomeni, unable to continue after the border with Macedonia closed in March.



PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/AP



No and maybe

A WORLD SURVEY SHOWS MOST 'NEVER TRUMP' EVANGELICAL INSIDERS REMAIN STAUNCHLY OPPOSED TO THE GOP CANDIDATE, BUT OTHERS COULD BE OPEN TO PERSUASION *by Jamie Dean*

➔ Three days after Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, dropped out of the Republican presidential primary following a resounding defeat in Indiana, WORLD asked several dozen evangelical insiders to share their thoughts on billionaire businessman Donald Trump's seemingly clear path to the GOP nomination.

The results: They're split down the middle, but two-thirds of the "never Trump" participants remain committed to that position.

Seventy-seven participants responded to our 10th online survey about the 2016 presidential contests, and while the questionnaire isn't scientific or representative of all evangelicals, it offers a glimpse into what some influential Christians think about the race for the White House.

About half of the latest survey's respondents (51 percent) said they would never vote for Trump "no matter

what." The other half could be open to voting for Trump depending on certain conditions, chiefly the candidate's choice of a Supreme Court nominee or a vice presidential running mate.

Forty-seven percent said they would consider voting for Trump if he pledged to appoint a strong pro-life justice to the Supreme Court, and 38 percent said a vice presidential pick could persuade them to vote for the candidate.

(Some write-in suggestions for a vice presidential candidate showed signs of voter apathy: Kanye West, Gary Busey, and Satan, because then Trump would be "honest in branding." Others gave serious recommendations, but no one candidate emerged as a choice of the majority.)

Respondents also identified the top three issues they consider when choosing a candidate: abortion, religious freedom in the United States, and Supreme Court nominations.

Notably, all three issues have a direct relation to the Supreme Court makeup, and they are not among the top issues Trump supporters often cite: the economy and immigration.

What about a third-party candidate? When asked if they would support a third-party candidate in a Clinton/Trump contest, 46 percent of respondents said, "Yes, on principle, even if the candidate had no chance to win." Nearly 29 percent said, "Yes, but only if the candidate had a chance to win." Twenty-one percent said they would vote for Trump, and 1 percent said they would vote for Clinton. Those numbers were close to survey results on the same question in mid-March.

Though some conservative pundits and at least one conservative lawmaker, Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., have pushed for a third-party option, no organized effort to mount such a long-shot bid has emerged yet in public. Still, the GOP faces an urgent task to push Republican voters dissatisfied with Trump to turn out and vote in other contests that will determine whether Congress remains in GOP hands.

For survey participants who identified as a "never Trump person," one data point was clear: The majority of them remain committed to that position, even if Trump is the presumptive nominee. Fifty-seven out of 77 respondents

identified as “never Trump,” and 68 percent of those said that means never “no matter what.”

(Another 18 percent said they were “never Trump” only during the primary, and 14 percent said they were never Trump “as long as he maintains his current positions/behavior.”)

The other clear point: The never-means-never Trump opponents are passionate in their objections, and many share a common concern: They don’t trust the candidate.

When WORLD invited participants to elaborate on the record about whether a Trump pledge of a pro-life Supreme Court pick could convince them to vote for the candidate, 16 responded. Only one said he would vote for Trump.

Jim Garlow, pastor of Skyline Church near San Diego and an active player in conservative politics, said he was adamantly opposed to Trump in the primary, but had always said he would vote for him if he became the nominee: “And I will.” Garlow said Supreme Court picks are “THE single most important issue.”

The other 15 respondents unanimously said they wouldn’t trust Trump to keep a pledge.

Karen Swallow Prior is an English professor at Liberty University, where President Jerry Falwell Jr. endorsed Trump for the GOP nomination in January. Prior said a Trump pledge on a Supreme Court pick wouldn’t persuade her to vote for Trump: “I haven’t seen any reason to believe any promises he makes.”

Luke Macias, a conservative political consultant in Texas, answered: “The question assumes you can take Trump at his word. The assumption requires naïveté.”

Will Trump make an effort to reach evangelicals in the coming months? Apparently not all of them. After Russell Moore of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention publicly criticized Trump, the candidate tweeted Moore was “a nasty guy with no heart.”

Moore agreed. “I am a nasty guy with no heart,” he told NBC’s *Meet the Press*. “Which is why I need forgiveness of sins and redemption through the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

BY THE NUMBERS

\$17 trillion

The 10-year funding shortfall—despite \$15 trillion in proposed new taxes—of Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders’ universal healthcare plan, according to an analysis by the Urban Institute.

21

The number of years Mary Ann Franco was blind before making an unexpected recovery. Franco lost her vision in a car accident in 1995, and this April she underwent spinal surgery to fix damage sustained during a fall last year. When the 70-year-old Florida woman awoke after four hours of surgery, she suddenly could see again.

328,000

The number of refugees estimated to be living in Kenya’s Dadaab refugee camp. Kenyan government officials announced in May they plan to close Dadaab, the largest such camp in the world. Most residents are Somali refugees who fled their war-torn nation over the last two decades.

5 million

The number of bees police say were stolen from a Canadian beekeeper in late April. Police arrested a man in connection with the theft on May 6, but say there’s no trace of the 180 stolen hives valued at \$200,000.

11

The number of elephants the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus retired on May 6, bringing the total number of pachyderms traveling with the circus to zero. The retired Asian elephants will live out their days at a 200-acre elephant conservation ranch in Florida.





Elected

Londoners on May 5 voted to install **Sadiq Khan** as the first Muslim mayor of a major Western capital. Khan received 57 percent of the vote as the Labour Party made decisive gains in London offices. Conservative rival Zac Goldsmith had pointed out that Khan, the son of immigrants from Pakistan, has appeared at events and conferences with Islamists and as a lawyer defended Muslim Brotherhood member Yusuf Al-Qaradawi. Khan now calls himself a

moderate Muslim, but in a 2009 video he called moderate Muslims “Uncle Toms.” London today has more than 1 million Muslims.

Died

The case of two U.S. missionaries found dead in Jamaica at the beginning of May remains a mystery to Jamaican authorities.

Harold Nichols (top), 53, and **Randy Hentzel**, 48,



worked with the mission group Teams for Medical Missions, which provides free healthcare and other services. The two were riding their motorbikes on a rural road toward a housing-building project when they were killed. The Caribbean island has a high violent crime rate, but police have no suspect or motive. Hentzel leaves behind five children.



Awarded

Local authorities in China’s Henan province have awarded a house church leader the land of his destroyed church. Workers in a land dispute buried alive pastor **Li Jiangong** and his wife, Ding Cuimei, on April 14 for protesting the church’s destruction (see “Human Race,” May 14, 2016). Ding died, leading to two arrests. Bob Fu, president of China Aid, said international pressure helped get swift justice for the church. Authorities designated the land as a religious site on April 25, allowing the congregation to rebuild the church.

Resigned

The executive committee of the Liberty University Board of Trustees forced out its longtime chairman, **Mark DeMoss**, after DeMoss criticized Jerry



Falwell Jr.’s endorsement of Donald Trump for president. Falwell endorsed Trump in January, and DeMoss criticized both Trump and the Liberty president in *The Washington Post* on March 1. DeMoss told Patheos blogger Warren Throckmorton that Falwell and others voiced “their disapproval of my speaking publicly about the

subject.” Rather than remain a trustee, DeMoss left the board.

Reinstated

The Army reversed course on April 28 and reinstated a Special Forces soldier who confronted an Afghan child rapist. In 2011, Sgt. 1st Class **Charles Martland** and Capt. Danny Quinn



assaulted an Afghan Local Police commander who laughed when confronted about repeatedly raping a boy. Both soldiers faced discipline, leading Quinn to resign. Martland’s career had been in limbo, facing involuntary discharge. Iraq War veteran Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., led the public pressure to reinstate Martland. Martland and his pregnant wife plan to name one of their twin boys after Hunter.

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God's Truth for Today's Youth

‘No.’

White House Press Secretary **JOSH EARNEST**, in answer to the question: “Can you state categorically that no senior official in this administration has ever lied publicly about any aspect of the Iran nuclear deal.” The question came from Fox News correspondent Kevin Corke.



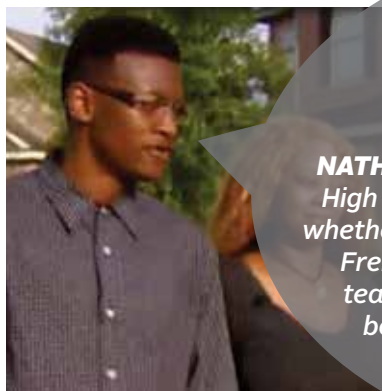
‘The average reporter we talk to is 27 years old, and their only reporting experience consists of being around political campaigns. That’s a sea change. They literally know nothing.’



BEN RHODES, President Obama's deputy national security adviser for strategic communications, on reporters in Washington who cover world events. Rhodes admitted to The New York Times that he manipulated media coverage of the Iran nuclear deal.

‘Bonjour, but everybody knows that.’

NATHANIAL WHITE, a student at Energy Institute High School, a public school in Houston, Texas, on whether he has ever heard his French teacher speak French. A local news team discovered that the teacher, Albert Moyer, had not studied French beyond one year in high school. White said students had to use Google to answer their questions.

**‘We are a dying breed.’**

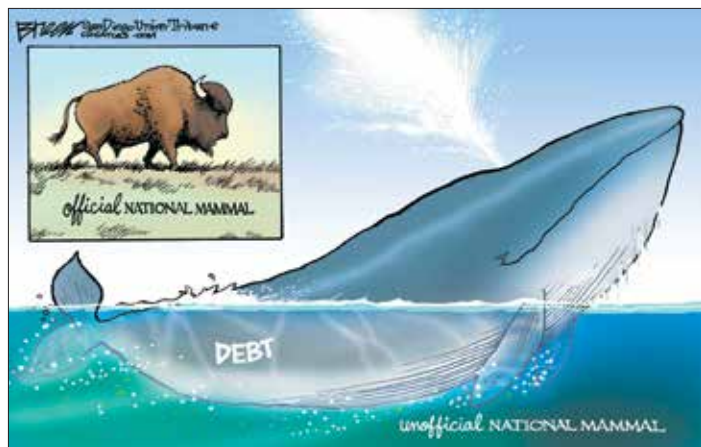
SHAUNA HECKERT, executive director of Women's Health Specialists of California, on the unwillingness of many new doctors to perform abortions and the trend toward abortion clinics closing across the country over the last several years.

**‘Some conduct is unforgivable no matter how old it is.’**

U.S. District Judge **THOMAS DURKIN** on April 27 while sentencing former House Speaker (1999-2007) Dennis Hastert to 15 months in prison. Hastert admitted to molesting boys as a high-school wrestling coach some four decades ago, but he was convicted only for illegal hush money transactions, because the statute of limitations had expired for the abuse allegations.



"VIRTUE or MORALITY is a NECESSARY SPRING of POPULAR GOVERNMENT"- GEORGE WASHINGTON





Tough customers

For the monks who run the Antoniano soup kitchen in Bologna, Italy, securing the services of an Italian celebrity chef seemed like an excellent way to improve the food they provide to the city's homeless. But after the first meal on April 20, **Simone Salvini** discovered Bologna's homeless don't have a palate for his specialty vegan cuisine. "Some told me that they need to eat meat, and would return to the streets [if they were fed vegan food]," the chef told a local paper. The TV chef said he will still aim for healthy fare, but that meat is officially back on the menu.

Fast cash

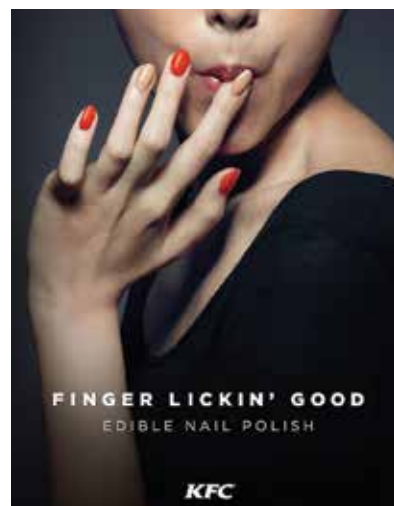
If you can't beat them, join them. That's the sentiment of Zimbabwean treasury officials who just announced they would soon be printing their own version of United States dollars.



After sustained hyperinflation, Zimbabwe ditched its own currency and began using the U.S. dollar as the nation's main money in 2009. Using U.S. currency has helped stabilize Zimbabwe's economy to an extent, but banks don't always have enough U.S. currency on hand to satisfy customer demands. To solve that problem, central bank governor John Mangudya said the nation would issue "bond notes" equal in value to U.S. \$2, \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills.

Chicken style

Would you be interested in keeping the savor of spicy fried chicken at your fingertips all day long? In an unusual marketing campaign, KFC has created edible nail polish designed to taste exactly like the fast food company's signature chicken. The polish comes in two flavors chicken lovers may lick to their tongue's content: Original or Hot and Spicy. So far, KFC is only selling the polish to customers in Hong Kong. Its campaign slogan: "Finger Lickin' Good."



Gross national cheddar

Time to break out the fondue pots. America has a bona fide cheese glut on its hands. According to an April Department of Agriculture report, the United States inventory of cheese has mounted to its highest level in 34 years. The country has nearly 1.2 billion pounds of cheese stored away. Analysts blame the dairy glut on overproduction in both Europe and North America. But while consumers may find it sweet, dairy farmers on both continents have soured on crashing cheese prices.





Hot box

In what could pass for a *Saturday Night Live* parody, Vinnie's Pizzeria in Brooklyn has unveiled its newest offering: a pizza delivered in a pizza box made from pizza. The restaurant announced the new creation, called the **Pizza Box Pizza**, from its Twitter account on April 27. According to the restaurant, the outer square-shaped pizza excellently insulates the inner circular pizza. The invention will cost hungry customers \$40 plus delivery fees.



Bored sick?

For seven months, a middle manager at a French perfume company refused to come to work, claiming to be ill. Now he says his health problems—insomnia, ulcers, and epilepsy—were because his company offered him too little work to perform. “I felt guilty and ashamed to earn a salary for nothing,” **Frédéric Desnard**, who made more than \$90,000 a year, told *Le Monde*. Interparfums finally fired Desnard after months of sick leave in September 2014, and now the 44-year-old Paris man wants a payday to make up for losing his job. On May 2, Desnard filed a lawsuit against his old company alleging that the job bored him to the point of serious depression. Desnard's lawsuit requests a payout of more than \$400,000 from Interparfums.

Swiped mail

Dogs and postal workers are known for being not always on friendly terms. But one British mailman is protesting what he describes as a dangerous cat. A resident of Patchway, U.K., received a notice from the Royal Mail requesting he either install a new mailbox or take action to restrain the “potential hazard” inside his house—his black-and-white cat **Bella**. Apparently the cat had made a game of clawing at letters as they come through the front door's letter receptacle. The Royal Mail said the mailman was worried the cat “put his fingers at risk of injury.”



Of strange tongues

A language group is asking U.S. District Court Judge Gary Klausner to go where no judge has gone before: to declare Klingon a real language. In Paramount Pictures' lawsuit against a group of Star Trek devotees making a fan-fiction film, the production company alleges it owns a copyright on the Klingon language. But, in an April 27 court brief filed on behalf of the defendants, lawyers for the Language Creation Society claim that since the publication of *The Klingon Dictionary*



in 1985, the language has become organic and cannot be the property of Paramount Pictures. For instance, the brief notes, literature from **Shakespeare** to the Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh has been translated into Klingon.



Heads in the clouds

Flush with oil wealth, one Arab nation is considering a colossal plan to bring rain to its desert. Officials in the United Arab Emirates are consulting with an American firm to research the possible impact of building a man-made mountain in the Persian Gulf nation. If the plan is adopted, Emirati officials hope the artificial mountain will cause moist air rolling in from the gulf to rise and develop into rain clouds. And if that happens, the U.A.E. could gradually turn areas of desert into farmable land. No stranger to major earthworks, the U.A.E. constructed a pair of man-made archipelagoes off the coast of Dubai last decade.



The real idiocracy

SMUG BUBBLES AND SNARL BUBBLES ARE NO BASES FOR CONVERSATION

➔ Because I write children's books, I meet a lot of children's book writers, especially at book festivals. During such an event last March, politics dominated the Monday night dinner conversation (as it had all weekend). I usually keep my mouth shut about politics, or offer only mild demurrals. But when one of my companions spared a good word for Donald Trump's declaration, on the debate stage, that we couldn't have people dying on the street (supposedly distinguishing himself from his opponents), I had to speak up.

"Nobody wants people to die in the street. Not even Republicans."

That led to a brief discussion of better ways than Obamacare to broaden medical coverage. I didn't think much about it until one of my tablemates apologized to me later: "A lot of us in academic fields, we just assume that everyone in the room has the same views." No need to apologize. I was a little testy about her assumption that Republicans love kicking sick grannies to the curb, but why can't we simply discuss ideas?

That's my most recent experience with the attitude Emmett Rensin, on the Vox website, describes as "the smug style in American liberalism." Rensin's main point is that his fellow liberal elites have adopted "a condescending, defensive sneer toward any person or movement outside of [their] consensus, dressed up as a monopoly on reason." Certain bromides are accepted as inarguable facts: "Real elites might recognize each other by their superior knowledge. The smug recognize one another by their mutual knowing." They "just know" that liberals are smarter, less biased, more evolved with better brains—the latest scientific study proves it!

To the smug, there's no such thing as alternate ideas, just bad facts vs. good facts, knowledge vs. ignorance, sensible solutions vs. reactionary hate. Ideology is a fiction; liberals simply favor what works, and conservatives



To the smug, there's no such thing as alternate ideas.

have no views worth arguing about. Rensin blames this attitude for alienating the white working class, once the Democrats' core constituency.

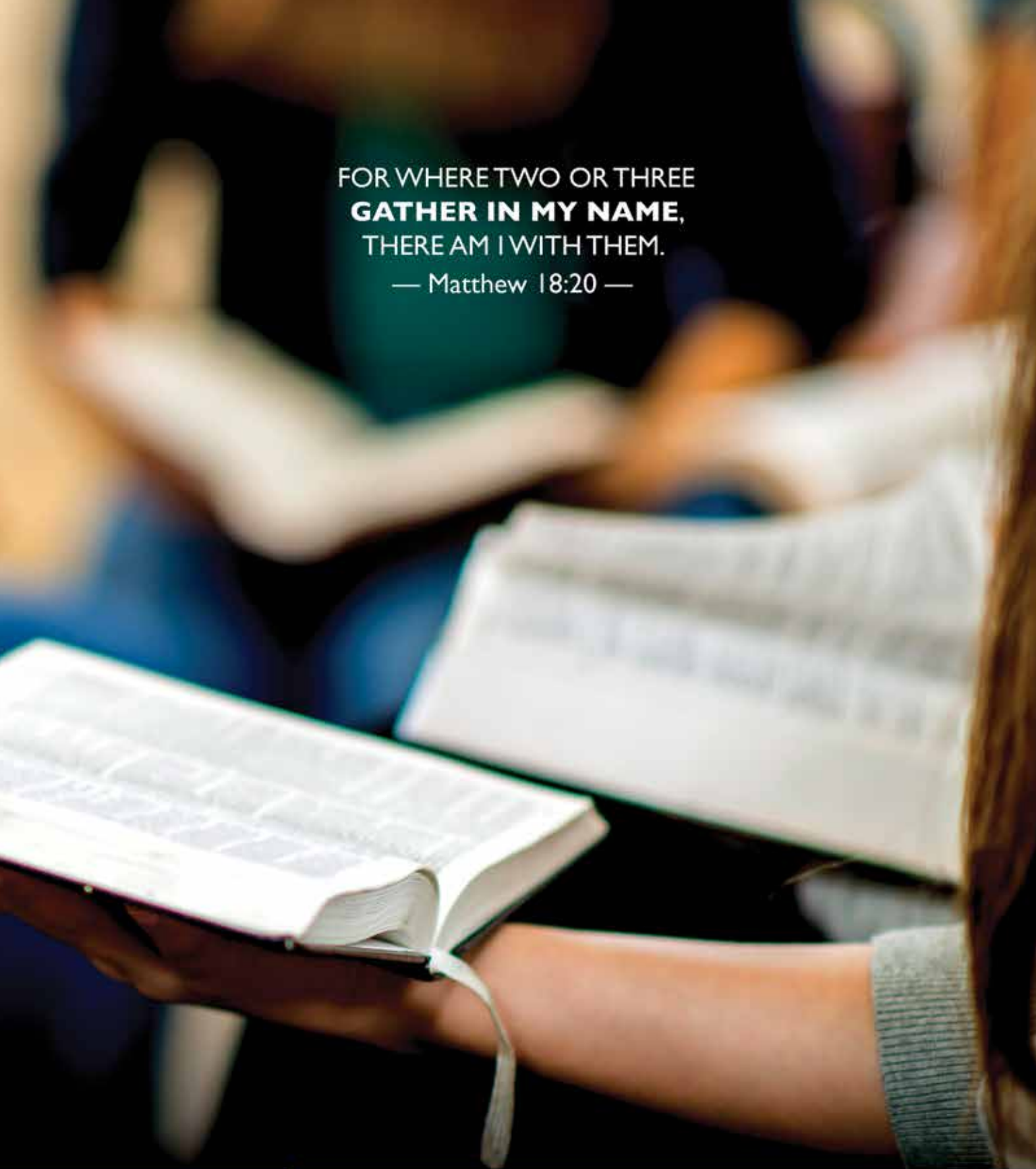
Meanwhile, on the right, instead of liberal sneers we hear conservative snarls. Ideology? The likely Republican nominee doesn't have one, other than winning. Conservative elites shake their heads at every Trumpian gaffe and make comparisons to *Idiocracy*, the 2006 movie about a thoroughly average Joe (named Joe) who volunteers for a government study that

puts him in hibernation for a year. Forgotten by the bureaucracy, Joe doesn't wake up until 2505, when he learns that human intelligence has declined so much he's now the smartest man in the world. Is this the United States today, five centuries early?

Idiocracy is an actual word, meaning "personal rule or government." The root form in Greek, *idio*, has an interesting pedigree. Originally it indicated a private person, as opposed to public citizen. Meaning expanded from "private" to "ignorant" or "unlearned"; Paul used *idiotes* to mean "one without understanding" (1 Corinthians 14:23-24), while the adjective form, *idios*, is usually translated in the New Testament as "personal" or "one's own" (carried over today in words like *idiosyncrasy*). By the late Middle Ages, an "idiot" was someone mentally deficient from birth—an actual medical term by the 19th century.

Now "idiot" is a tag for someone who doesn't agree with the speaker or writer, and in a way the meaning has come full circle. The path from "private person" to "mentally deficient person" isn't as disjointed as you might think. Both are cut off, from public life or from honest public debate. Both are outsiders, taking up residence in their own minds or with like minds, and can't or won't communicate with those outside the bubble. A true idiocracy is rule by the personal: each doing what is right in his own eyes and refusing to alter his view of the facts, or even admit there is another view.

No wonder we face the most polarizing election of our times. The public square is empty, or ignored, while armchair pundits retreat to their smug bubbles (or snarl bubbles) and launch snarky opinions into cyberspace. Let's hope the smoke clears in time to try some actual conversation. ☹



FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE
GATHER IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I WITH THEM.

— Matthew 18:20 —



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Sarandon (left) and Byrne

MOVIE

Mothering missteps

A HEARTWARMING MOTHER-DAUGHTER STORY GETS TOO MANY RELATIONSHIPS WRONG *by Megan Basham*

→ An unsettling contradiction runs like a fault line through Susan Sarandon's latest film, *The Meddler* (rated PG-13 for language and marijuana use), a quiet, often-charming story of a recently widowed woman who copes with grief by interfering in the lives of her daughter and her daughter's friends.

Like a lot of smaller, successful films of late, *The Meddler* is part of a welcome trend of counter-programming against loud summer blockbusters with modest romances between people past the age of starry eyes and angst. After losing her husband of 40 years, Marnie (Sarandon) confronts her transition

into singlehood with shifting layers of sorrow, hopefulness, and generosity. Her fortitude in trying to find new purpose by serving others should be a model for her adult daughter, Lori (Rose Byrne). Yet Lori's too wrapped up in her own problems, such as a broken heart and a ticking biological clock, to notice that the

brave face her mother puts on is simply that—a face. Underneath her plucky resilience, Marnie is trying to fill up the empty space in her heart with things—things from the Apple store, things from Crate & Barrel, things from LA's famed outdoor shopping center, The Grove—and with people who won't remind her of the past.

As Marnie drives around sunny Los Angeles leaving epic voicemails on Lori's phone and dropping by unannounced with advice and bagels Lori also doesn't want, her deceased husband, Joe, looms large in the



background. We can tell by the way Marnie and Lori speak of him that Joe was a good man; a loving, strong provider; faithful to his wife and devoted to his daughter. The protection he supplied to the women in his life—a protection that continues after his death—binds them together even as they try to navigate their grief alone.

And therein lies the film's major disconnect. As any modern fable set in an urban American environment apparently should, *The Meddler* celebrates all sorts of relationships and family arrangements as equally beneficial. One running joke centers on Marnie deciding to throw a belated wedding for Lori's friend Jillian (*SNL*'s Cecily Strong) and her "husband," Danny. Their 5-year-old daughter will be the ring bearer. When it turns out that Danny is really Jillian's lesbian partner, old-fashioned Marnie is a little surprised perhaps, but undaunted, and we are further assured of Marnie's virtue in that she sees no difference between her own marriage and theirs.

Somehow a story that otherwise honors the value of a man to his family fails to notice the irony of applauding arrangements that rob little girls of fathers.

Marnie shows a similar (almost pathological) unwillingness to offer even the slightest judgment against her daughter's choices. She says nothing when Lori announces that her mother needs to leave so Lori can have sex with someone she barely knows. She likewise stands by unsure and confused during

Lori's pregnancy scare—can she be happy? Dare she discourage the abortion of what may be her only grandchild? For a meddler, Marnie holds her tongue on life's biggest questions. In fact, she's more of a giver than a meddler, simply acting (as she puts it) as fairy godmother to Lori's friends.

This all sounds much harsher than the movie actually is, and certainly harsher than writer/director Lorene Scafaria seems to intend her acknowledged autobiographical script to be. The rest is simply a warm bath of maternal nurturing from a luminous Sarandon. Still, the disquieting disjointedness remains. It's impossible not to compare the mild anarchy of Lori's life—in her late 30s, professionally successful yet referring to her dogs as children while half-hoping to get accidentally pregnant by an ex-boyfriend she still loves—to the support and sanctuary Marnie enjoyed in marriage. And impossible not to judge it as infinitely inferior. ☹

MOVIE

Captain America: Civil War

➔ You're gonna hear a lot of whoops and claps among the audience while watching *Captain America: Civil War*. If you're a Marvel fan, you'll probably be cheering along, as the much-anticipated blockbuster rolls out a parade of familiar characters, insider jokes, and continuing storylines.

Civil War (rated PG-13 for extended violence and some language) trails in the wake of *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. The comparisons are inevitable: Both films feature a face-off between well-loved protagonists in fancy costumes. Both question whether superheroes cause more harm than good—even while rollicking in special-effects-heavy demolitions of buildings and bodies. But whereas DC Comics' *Batman v Superman* tanked its reviews, rival Marvel's *Civil War* is

earning raves. That stark distinction has ruffled feathers and sparked conspiracy theories among DC diehards, which is ridiculous because bluntly put, *Civil War* is just way more fun, from its zesty dialogue and eye-candy action sequences to its much more interesting and likable characters.

The movie begins with an Avengers mission in Nigeria that costs

hundreds of innocent lives as collateral damage. International outrage erupts: The U.S. secretary of state and 116 other nations demand that the Avengers bow under the jurisdiction of a United Nations panel. Among those concerned is Iron Man, or Tony Stark, now indistinguishable from the ever-charming Robert Downey Jr. In 2015's *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, the wise-cracking billionaire inventor almost pushed mankind into the brink of extinction, and now he's all dark and twisty from damaged ego and guilt. While Stark no longer trusts himself, another Avenger, Captain America/Steve Rogers (Chris Evans), refuses to trust government bodies (the previous *Captain America* movie explains why). The UN panel is "run by people with agendas, and agendas change."

This ideological disagreement results in a civil war. Though it's easy to draw philosophical inferences, *Civil War* isn't meant to be gritty, edge-pushing, or self-serious. It follows the tried and true recipe of a superhero classic: a dash of humor, a pinch of humanity, a drizzle of feel-good moments, a jug-load of artfully choreographed "POW"s and "WHAM"s—and there you have it, a tongue-tickling *amuse-bouche* until the next superhero dish.

—by SOPHIA LEE

BOX OFFICE TOP 10

FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 6-8
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

SVL

1	Captain America: Civil War*	PG-13	1	7	3
2	The Jungle Book*	PG	1	4	1
3	Mother's Day*	PG-13	4	3	5
4	The Huntsman: Winter's War*	PG-13	3	6	3
5	Keanu	R	6	7	10
6	Zootopia*	PG	1	3	2
7	Barbershop: The Next Cut	PG-13	4	4	5
8	The Boss*	R	5	5	9
9	Ratchet & Clank*	PG	1	3	1
10	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*	PG-13	3	6	3

*Reviewed by WORLD

MOVIE

Last Days in the Desert

➔ A high-octane artistic team is behind *Last Days in the Desert*, a limited-release film about Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. Director Rodrigo García, the son of author Gabriel García Márquez, has led several award-winning films. Ewan McGregor plays Jesus (or Yeshua, as the film calls Him). Emmanuel Lubezki directs the camerawork—he has won the cinematography Oscar for the past three years, for *The Revenant*, *Birdman*, and *Gravity*.

In terms of aesthetics, *Last Days* has no flaws. That's a welcome change from sometimes campy "Bible movies." Lubezki's naturally lit cinematography in the desert has the sand-scrubbed beauty of Georgia O'Keeffe's bone paintings.

And McGregor delivers a mesmerizing performance. Yeshua is a gritty (although Anglo-Saxon) man, crying out to a silent sky and hauling water. The first part of the film—where Yeshua is hungry, dirty, and praying alone—is excellent. Satan (also McGregor, but in different raiments) strikes up conversations with Him.

Soon Yeshua stumbles upon a husband,

wife, and child dwelling in a tent in the desert. He agrees to stay with them for a few days, helping the father and son build a stone house—and mediating their strained relationship.

The film personifies the temptations of Jesus, and in one moment it shows a brief vision of the wife baring her breasts (the film is rated PG-13 for this and a later image of a nude corpse). Though the film never veers into the level of controversy of *The Last Temptation of Christ*, it has plenty of edges that will provoke evangelicals.

This artistic edginess serves little discernible purpose. Art house films are often enigmatic, countering the pat storylines of studio films. This one is too enigmatic. Who knew a solitary desert journey could result in so many ambiguous conversations? García, who also wrote the film, succeeded in both good and bad ways in ensuring this was not another "Jesus movie." He brings a strong visual aesthetic, but wanders into theologically edgy territory for reasons that are unclear.

—by EMILY BELZ



McGregor



Longo and Ramos

MOVIE

Wildflower

➔ Chloe can't remember anything before her 8th birthday—learning to ride a bike, or her first day of school. And for the last 12 years, she has experienced blackouts, during which she sees flashes of a frightening, violent episode occurring between the indistinct figures of a man and a young woman near a remote country bridge. Chloe's visions manifest in her artwork: Blurry sketches of the attack and enigmatic scribbles of the phrase "Lost Soul" fill her canvases.

Chloe's blackouts also lead to reckless behavior that draws the attention of a police detective, Sgt. Stanford (Kevin McCorkle). After Stanford questions her, Chloe (Nathalia Ramos) begins to sense her visions might have something to do with a girl's disappearance 12 years earlier. But neither Stanford nor Chloe's mother, Nicole (Shari Rigby), believes a connection exists between Chloe's visions and the unsolved disappearance; Stanford and Nicole even urge Chloe to check into a mental hospital. Only Chloe's new friend, Josh (Cody Longo), supports her.

The thin layer of suspense (with a few brief violent images giving the film its PG-13 rating) affords only momentary impressions of a bona fide murder mystery. For the most part, *Wildflower* feels like a faith film—moody acoustic guitar soundtrack, hipster-pastor's informal counseling sessions in the pews, and all. It doesn't mean a Christian *Law and Order: SVU* can't be made, but *Wildflower* doesn't strike a compelling balance—as, for example, *October Baby* did—between message and gritty subject matter.

Despite the film's awkward tone, solid acting bolsters *Wildflower*. Christians do experience bad stuff, but the sub-90-minute film opens too many cans of worms—Chloe's coming to grips with her victimization, her strained relationship with her mother, the cold case investigation, and Josh's spiritual turmoil—all of which writer-director Nicholas DiBella closes out with unsatisfying platitudes: "Who taught you to see with your heart?" and "Sometimes you have to hit rock bottom before you can see the top."

—by BOB BROWN

Two lives

YOU'LL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUIT

by Marvin Olasky

➔ Leland Ryken's *J.I. Packer: An Evangelical Life* (Crossway, 2015) describes the "hard nosed and unsentimental" theologian as a man who loves detective stories and considers them "among the most moral fiction of our time." Packer says they "never have existed without the Christian gospel," since the detectives are "champions of the needy, bringers of merited judgment and merciful salvation. The gospel of Christ is the archetype of all such stories."

Packer turns 90 on July 22 and should receive as much celebration from evangelicals as Queen Elizabeth did on her 90th birthday in April. His *Knowing God* (IVP, 1973, republished 1993) is a

Christian classic, and his three-word definition of slow Christian progress that lasts a lifetime—"God saves sinners"—helped save evangelicals during the second half of the 20th century from the "cruel and tormenting unrealities of overheated holiness teaching."

Packer criticized theological liberals in his



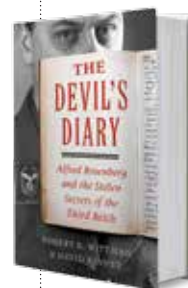
Packer

breakthrough book *"Fundamentalism" and the Word of God* (Eerdmans, 1958), which defended the authority of the Bible at a time when trendy theologians were battering it like a piñata. Packer also battled the Keswick movement that claimed true believers could totally conquer sin in their own lives if their faith was strong enough. He called "victorious Christian living" theology "false to Scripture and dishonoring to God."

Ryken vividly portrays a man who at 80 still climbed staircases two steps at a time, enjoyed jazz, and "played hooky for two evenings" at an academic conference because it "was boring [him] stiff." Sadly, few professors followed Packer's four rules for writing: "Have something to say... keep it simple... make it flow... be willing to redraft as often as is necessary to meet these requirements." Ryken explains well Packer's endorsement of inerrancy and his praise for the writings of Puritans like John Owen (who turned Packer into a five-point Calvinist).

By stark contrast, Robert Wittman and David Kinney's *The Devil's Diary* (Harper, 2016) fluently covers the career and foul thinking of Alfred Rosenberg, Adolf Hitler's "chief philosopher." Rosenberg's diary revealed the difference between Hitler's bland public statements about Christianity and the Führer's real fury: "More

than once he emphasized, laughing, that he had always been a heathen, and now the time has arrived for the Christian poison to



face its end." Hitler also told Rosenberg he wished he could return to the era before Jesus: He loved "the real head of Zeus" and despised "the agonized Christ."

Historians have commented on how the Germans wasted opportunities to enlist Stalin-hating Ukrainians in their cause, but that miss was inevitable given the Darwinian theories of racial superiority that Rosenberg propagated. Erich Koch, Ukraine's Nazi administrator, said "the lowliest German worker is racially and biologically a thousand times more valuable than the population here." Germans thought they were advancing evolution: Heinrich Himmler one night in Poland told SS leaders, "Most of you will know what it means when a hundred corpses are lying side by side, or five hundred or a thousand.... This is a glorious page in our history."

BOOKMARKS

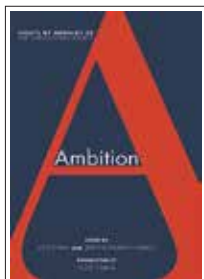
Ismael Hernandez's *Not Tragically Colored: Freedom, Personhood, and the Renewal of Black America* (Acton, 2016) brilliantly shows how the American experiment needs a recreation of the melting pot, which Hernandez calls "inclusive monoculturalism." Matthew Desmond's *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (Crown, 2016) is a well-reported, street-level view of people with messy lives who need compassionate

help. Sadly, Desmond's government-heavy policy prescriptions would help some but make things worse for most.

Roseanne Montillo's *The Wilderness of Ruin: A Tale of Madness, Fire, and the Hunt for America's Youngest Serial Killer* (William Morrow, 2015) shows Boston in the 1870s and offers glimpses of Herman Melville as well. Fawaz Gerges' *ISIS: A History* (Princeton, 2016) and Patrick Sookhdeo's *Unmasking Islamic State* (Isaac Publishing, 2015) both present well the basics about the new serial killer. —M.O.

RECENT THEOLOGY BOOKS

reviewed by Caleb Nelson



AMBITION: ESSAYS BY MEMBERS OF THE CHRYSOSTOM SOCIETY

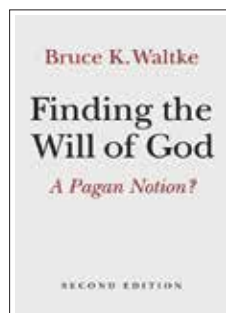
edited by Luci Shaw & Jeanne Murray Walker

Though perhaps not morbid, this book's relentless introspection is wearying. The nine essayists agree that ambition can be a bane as well as a boon. Discussion swirls around anecdotal accounts of ambition in the authors' lives—an ambitious move from Missouri to California; an Alzheimer's-suffering parent ambitious to remember something; an ambitious TV talk show appearance. The core question: Is ambition even safe, never mind good? No one really seems to be sure. Better avoid it. Or, as Eugene Peterson's essay concludes, quoting Peter Forsyth: "Humility is a better equipment than ambition, even the ambition of doing much good."

FINDING THE WILL OF GOD: A PAGAN NOTION?

Bruce K. Waltke

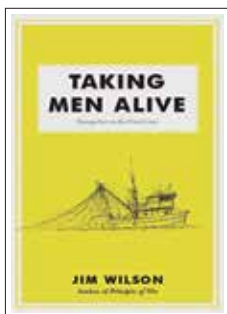
Waltke argues that "finding the will of God" is a pagan notion. It even has a name: divination. In the Old Testament era, God sometimes directed His people by special revelation. After Pentecost, though, He expects us to make our decisions based on familiarity with His Word, a heart protected from wicked influences and attuned to His wise counsel, and a correct reading of His providence. The New Testament never commands us to discover God's will; it tells us God's will, which is that we obey His law. Waltke's work, now revised and expanded, challenges much Christian thinking, but is nonetheless persuasive.



TAKING MEN ALIVE: EVANGELISM ON THE FRONT LINES

Jim Wilson

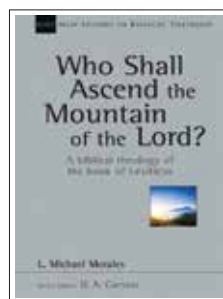
When your eyes are closed, you don't want light. Before evangelizing, get people to open their eyes. Then give them gospel light. That's how Jim Wilson reads Acts 26:18, and that's how he witnesses. The results have been amazing. Wilson's stories of people being converted motivate evangelism, and his strategies empower it. His advice: Don't prove God; proclaim Him. Turning the other cheek? That command is for the sake of witness. If you strike back, you won't see that person converted. Finally, when witnessing, don't be afraid to use Scripture. So what if the enemy doesn't believe in your sword?



WHO SHALL ASCEND THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD? A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

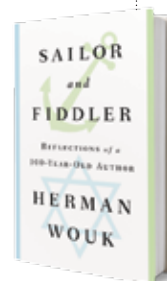
L. Michael Morales

Leviticus tells the story of how God's people, exiled from Eden, can return to His presence. Why all the rituals and regulations? They underscore God's holiness and the holiness His presence demands. Two problems arise: Moses' exclusion from God's presence (Exodus 40:35), and the deaths of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:2). Morales convincingly reads Leviticus as solving these problems through the Levitical approach to the house of God (Leviticus 1-10), cleansing of the house of God (11-16), and meeting with God (17-27). Levitical worship is obsolete today, but Morales demonstrates its significance to those entering God's presence through a better way.

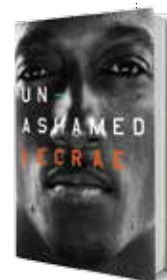


AFTERWORD

Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Herman Wouk** is 100, and his memoir *Sailor and Fiddler* (Simon & Schuster, 2016) examines his literary life, his spiritual journey in Judaism, and his love for Israel. Wouk fans will love this short book, but the uninitiated may be confused by his chronicling of decades of the circumstance and happenstance that shaped him as an author. Wouk's love for his wife, Betty Sarah, and their three sons shows the joy of marriage and fatherhood.

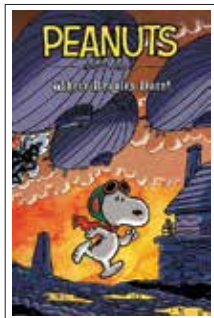


Lecrae Moore is 36, and his memoir *Unashamed* (B&H, 2016), written with Jonathan Merritt, has both good theology and the raw detail you'd anticipate in a Christian rap artist's memoir. Emotionally scarred from an absentee father, violence, abortion, and much else, he mourns his sinful desires and attempts to win God's favor through legalistic acts. Some Christians criticize him for appealing to secular audiences, but Lecrae sees all of life as God's sacred territory. —Naomi Inman and Joseph Kesler (*graduates of the World Journalism Institute mid-career course*)



Plots and pictures

FOUR RECENT GRAPHIC NOVELS *by Emily Whitten*

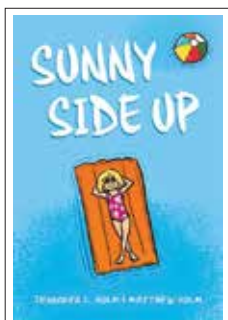
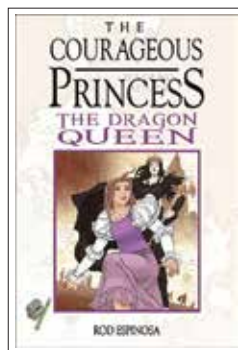


PEANUTS: WHERE BEAGLES DARE! *Jason Cooper*

Cooper and illustrator Vicki Scott collaborate on a graphic novel using Charles Schulz's *Peanuts* characters. Aimed at middle-graders, it focuses on Snoopy's secret mission to bring down the Red Baron. The book's movement back and forth from World War I to the present may confuse some readers, and the root beer stand-in for alcohol is overdone. Still, Charlie Brown, Lucy, and the rest of the gang all make appearances, ensuring that enough of Schulz's vision shines through to entertain and perhaps entice a new generation to seek out his superior original work. (Ages 7-10)

THE DRAGON QUEEN (THE COURAGEOUS PRINCESS) *Rod Espinosa*

Mabelrose may be a prisoner, but with freedom to explore the castle, she can still work to rescue her father from evil Aunt Ursula. This fairy tale mash-up includes familiar characters—including a Smaug-like dragon and a Puss in Boots—and new elements (a musical travel portal and a not-so-handsome prince with large ears). Even more atypical, this princess fights for justice without compromising her femininity. More than a decade in the making, Espinosa's final volume in this series includes faith in "the gods" but also a redemptive ending that will inspire Christians. (Ages 9-12)

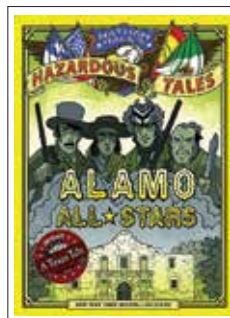


SUNNY SIDE UP *Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm*

When Sunny Lewin travels to Florida for the summer, her grandpa turns out to be a clueless host. Sunny makes one friend, Buzz, who loves comic books. Soon interesting connections (and illustrations!) emerge. For instance, the Hulk begins to look strangely like her teenage brother back home. As Sunny deals with alcohol and drug use (in others) and troubled family relationships, the story achieves the gravity of a coming-of-age novel. But the graphic novel format reads quickly and adds an extra layer of artistry. (Ages 12 and up)

ALAMO ALL-STARS (NATHAN HALE'S HAZARDOUS TALES) *Nathan Hale*

Nathan Hale's Alamo tale contains occasional cursing, scenes of drunken heroes, copious amounts of fighting, and a skull-headed dragon representing cholera—but the book is never overly graphic, and mature teens will find Hale's work entertaining and well-researched. He clearly delineates between history and legend, and well-conceived endpapers include a map of Texas and pictures of main characters. Despite wisecracking narrators, Hale contrasts noble (though flawed) characters like Stephen Austin with dictators like Santa Anna. (Ages 16 and up)



AFTERWORD

Jennifer and Matthew

Holm launched the Babymouse series in 2005. Since then its clever art and narrative style have won it numerous awards, including the Eisner Award for comic art. The series continues most recently with *Babymouse Goes for the Gold* (Random House Books for Young Readers, 2016). When Babymouse joins a swim team, she encounters numerous setbacks—including uncooperative swim caps and attack squids—which will have girl readers laughing out loud.

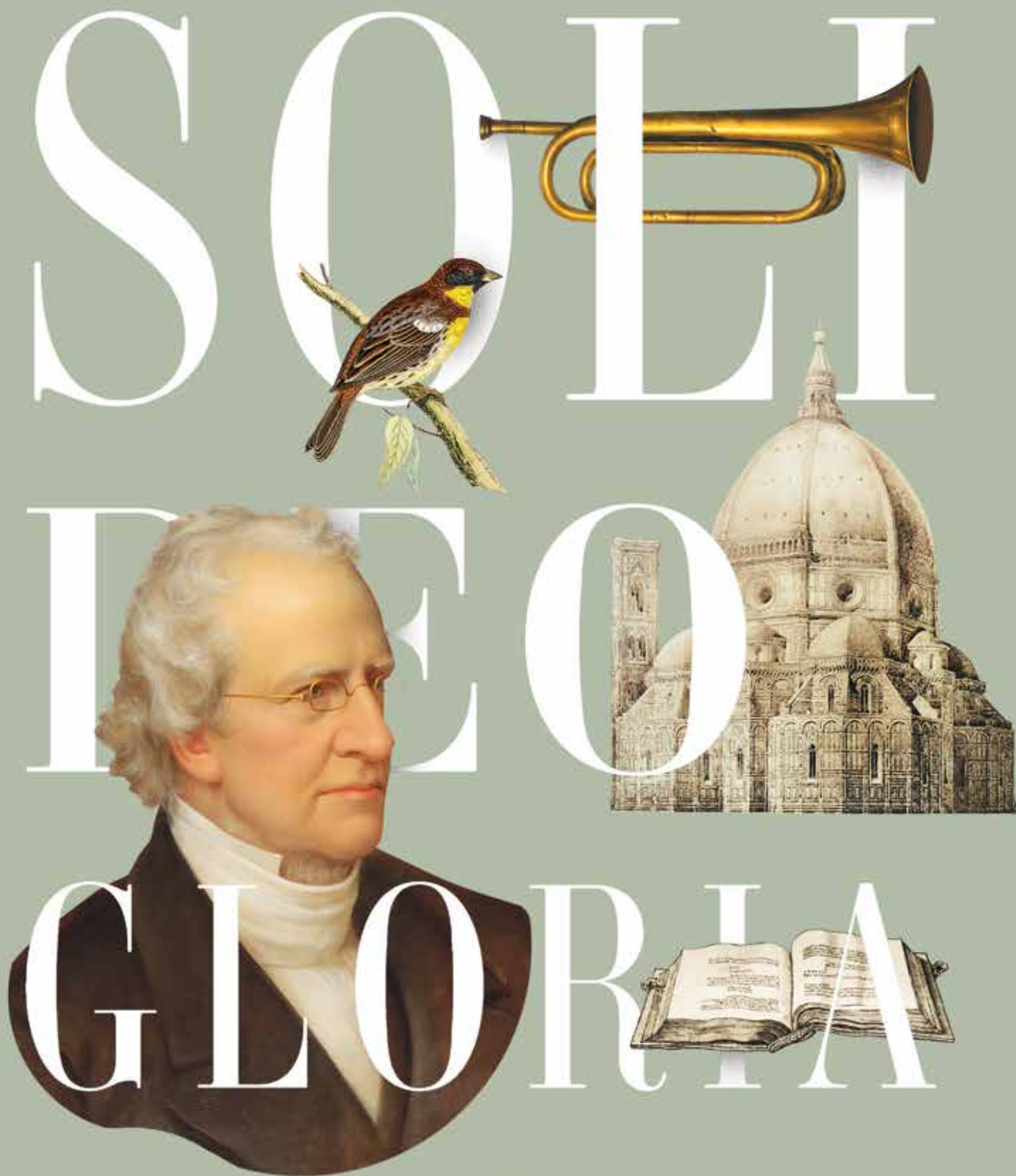


The Holms offer a similar series about Squish the amoeba for boys 7-10. In the most recent volume, *Deadly Disease of Doom* (2015), Squish catches a virus that—*gasp*—could be fatal... or even worse, mean the end of his Twinkie snacks! (One caution, parents: He does "barf.")



While I have not reviewed either series in its entirety (let the buyer beware), the Holms have proven themselves artists of note with these two age-appropriate books. —E.W.

SOLEMN REDO GLORIA

A composite image featuring a large, ornate golden trumpet, a small brown and yellow bird perched on a branch, a portrait of a man with white hair and glasses, a large stone dome of a cathedral, and an open book with musical notation.

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WANG YI

The long road

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE ON CHINESE HOUSE CHURCH OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

by June Cheng photos by Zhongming Jiang

→ Our April 30 cover story reported on the bravery of Pastor Wang Yi and his Chengdu Early Rain Reformed Church in Chengdu, China. I first interviewed him in 2014 one day after he was taken into a local police station for passing out brochures urging women not to abort their babies. Two years later, I visited the church again to see its progress in helping create the first complete Christian education system, expanding its ministries to reach political petitioners and women with unplanned pregnancies, and forming a local presbytery. Here are edited excerpts of Wang's thoughts, translated from Chinese: The first five

questions and answers are from 2014, and the rest are from this year.

What is Early Rain's goal? To become a completely open church. We believe the Chinese house church shouldn't stay underground, but should be a city on a hill. Our purpose isn't to avoid persecution but to bring both our faith and the persecution we face out into the open. If we are afraid, we shouldn't keep that fear in secret, but we should bring it into the light and ask God to help us.

How is the government responding? The government accepts house church worship services on Sunday morning across the country. It's

concerned about believers going out into the streets, such as holding a public evangelistic meeting. The officials want to keep expression of faith within the walls of the house church, much like they do with the [government-sanctioned] Three-Self church.

What is your church's next step?

Our church's vision is to expand and break down these restrictions—whether they are drawn by the government, or by our own fears. Urban churches are legally allowed to do many things but don't because they think it's illegal. Some people say we are looking for trouble because we take up causes that increase the likelihood of persecution. Yet we believe the gospel's mission is to break down man-made restrictions through peaceful means so we can share the gospel with those who need to hear it.

How do you respect authority in an anti-Christian country? Yesterday I told the police, "Out of all the groups you deal with—petitioners, rioters, protesters—is there any group that's as easy to bully as Christians? We never fight back, we endure suffering, we let you arrest us." The Bible tells us to

respect the authorities, but it doesn't tell us to go against our conscience or the message of the gospel. So the church uses peaceful means to display its faith and spread the gospel.

Where does that respect end?

When they arrest me, I allow them to take me in because I respect the authority of the officer arresting me. Yet in today's society, the government doesn't even follow its own laws. So if a law-abiding Christian is arrested by an official who disregards the law, it would be foolish to still try to follow the official's arbitrary "law." According

So you're emphasizing education.

For the Chinese church's revival of the last few decades to take root in China culturally and historically, the church must create an educational system that can teach the next generation, which can then teach generations to come. We want to create an entire Christian education system from elementary school to seminary. The quality of this first generation of Christian schools may not be the best, but we will do our best so the second and third generations can build something greater. We need the support of

the U.S. church and its experience in Christian education, for in the next 10 years, China will produce the world's largest Christian school movement.

How did the government demolition of crosses in Zhejiang province affect house churches? It minimized the differences between Three-Self churches and house churches.

Even though the

government mostly tore down crosses from Three-Self churches, they were crushing a symbol of Christianity, so we could all feel the pain and anger, the fear and worry. The government did this to show Christians that it can crush us. But some pastors left the Three-Self church because of this, and that is a good thing. The campaign also caused house churches to fear that they may be next in line. We are still waiting to see if this will happen.

Ironically, the Christians speaking out the loudest against the cross demolitions are house church leaders like lawyer Zhang Kai, who is from Shouwang Church. When Shouwang was persecuted [in 2011], you didn't

see the Three-Self church coming to help. But now when the government is oppressing them in Zhejiang, they put all their hope on a house church lawyer who has dealt with persecution. And now he is the one facing the penalty. [Zhang was imprisoned for seven months and criminally charged with "endangering state secrets" and "gathering a crowd to disturb the public."]

What are the biggest issues facing the Chinese house church? Within the church: the lack of theological education, the lack of church governance, and the lack of legitimacy. From a higher vantage point, you can see that the Chinese church has a great testimony: It suffered persecution and grew amid very adverse conditions. Yet the global church has an over-glorified view of the Chinese house church. In reality, our biggest problem is that we don't have enough faith and we are very afraid of becoming more open and evangelizing the community. Most churches are trying to stay undercover.

Does that fear show that communism still has an influence? Yes:

Communism is the most evil political system because it can control people at a deep level. China's past emperors were harsh, yet they did not have the ability to control all of China. The question now: Will this generation of urban churches take up the blood of the martyrs, walk the road of Calvary, and maintain the house church's tradition?

What can American churches do to help? After 200 years of Protestant missions in China, there is now a large number of Chinese Christians. China is no longer a place for Americans to evangelize: It's a place that needs assistance in building up its young church. Missionaries should not come to China to start churches, but should help existing churches, seminaries, and NGOs grow in maturity. We need about two more generations of help before we can do it on our own. Also in terms of financial assistance, many churches have enough to flourish, but one area where support is needed is in cultural engagement ministries, as most churches do not yet see the importance of influencing culture. ☉



'Our purpose isn't to avoid persecution but to bring both our faith and the persecution we face out into the open.'

to the Bible, the number one law we follow is the Bible. Next it's the Chinese Constitution, which is the country's law. If the government can't follow its own laws, then Christians can't respect them.

How does Christianity in China differ from Christianity in America?

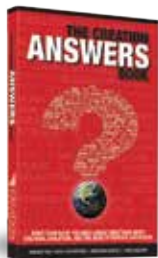
Christianity has influenced all aspects of American society, yet is declining in power. China is a pre-Christian society—Christianity has no influence on culture or society, and Christians are a minority. For future generations to maintain their Christian faith without being completely influenced by culture, it is very important for the church to create its own schools.



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Synthesized life

POP ICON PRINCE LEAVES A MEMORABLE, IF DISCORDANT, LEGACY *by Arsenio Orteza*

➔ Of the many popular musicians to have died so far in 2016, Prince was certainly the least likely candidate.

He was, after all, still touring, still recording and releasing albums, and, at 57, still relatively young. And he was, or at least he presented himself to be, a drug-and-alcohol-free vegan who followed the moral requirements of the Jehovah's Witness religion to which he converted in 2001.

Born Prince Rogers Nelson, he became notorious early on for bypassing common pop sexiness and plunging headlong into eroticism. Certainly, his most obvious stylistic forerunners—Little Richard, James Brown, Jimi Hendrix, Phil Lynott—never recorded anything as explicit as what Prince dared on his albums *Dirty Mind* (1980), *Controversy* (1981), or *Purple Rain* (1984), the most salacious track of which drove Tipper Gore to establish the indecency-battling Parents Music Resource Center.

But an awareness of God also occasionally reared its head. *Controversy's* title cut, for instance, included an irony-free recitation of the Lord's Prayer. And "The Cross," from Prince's 1987 double-album masterpiece *Sign o' the Times*, was straight-up gospel rock.

Sign o' the Times also contained the Top 10 hit "I Could Never Take the Place of Your Man," the song in which sensuality began assuming a more proportionate place in Prince's emotional palette.

In it, a recently abandoned woman, pregnant with her second child, encounters Prince in a nightclub and makes him an offer he can't refuse. But refuse it he does, seeing the woman as someone whose deeper needs outweigh his desire to make her another notch on his anti-chastity belt. The irrepressible melody and beat give every indication he meant what he sang.

Prince performs during halftime at the 2007 Super Bowl in Miami.

Shortly thereafter, he set out on what was to become a long and notorious battle with Warner Bros. in particular and the music industry in general. At stake was control not only over the ownership and the marketing of his music but also, Prince implied, control over himself.

He ultimately won, but in some ways his victory felt Pyrrhic. Bereft of corporate support, his last two decades of albums and singles went more or less unpromoted, making him often seem more like a cottage industry than what he really was: the most gifted pop-rock-funk-soul musician of his generation.

One notable exception was his triumphant halftime performance at Super Bowl XLI in 2007. Risking electrocution, he performed a 12-minute set before the largest audience of his career in a torrential downpour, concluding, appropriately enough, with "Purple Rain." At one point, his cocksure grin gave way to an expression of amazement, suggesting that even he

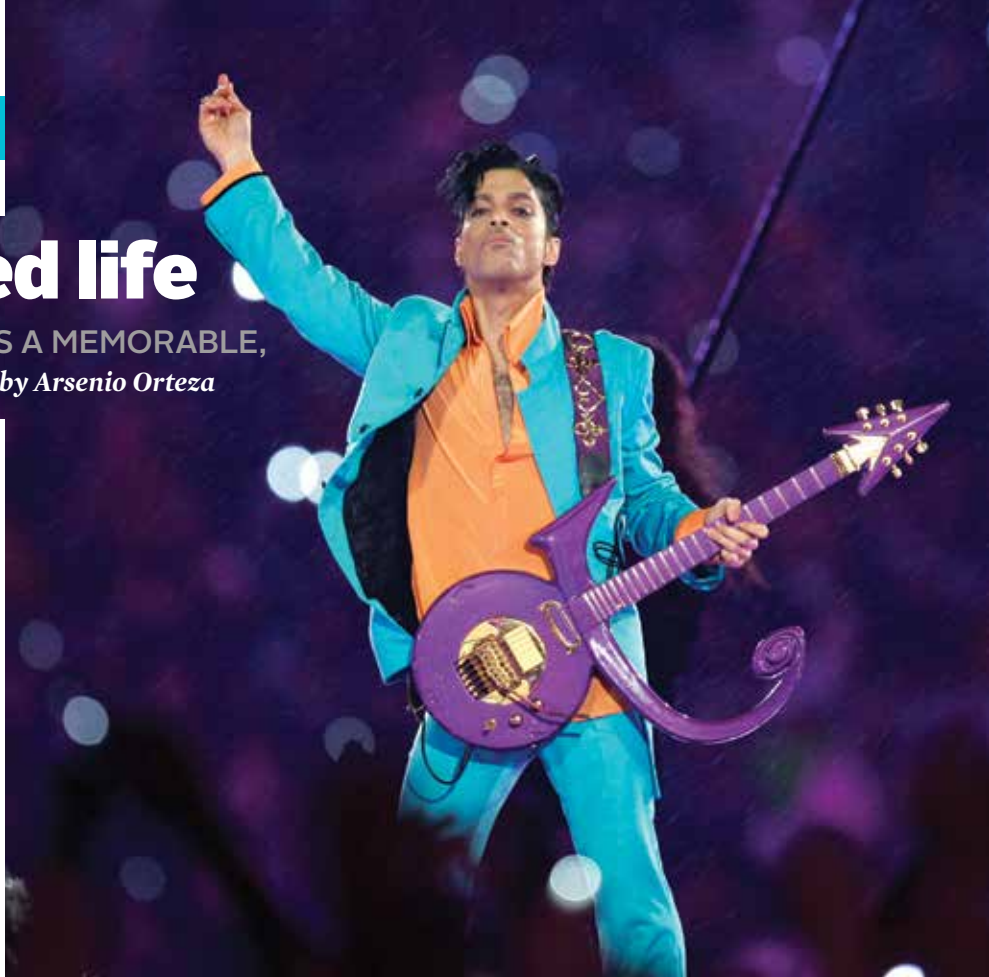
was unprepared for what the culmination of his rock-star dreams would feel like once he actually experienced them.

The cause of Prince's death was not immediately clear, giving rise to rumors and theories that will probably metastasize until the details of his autopsy become public.

What has become public are the six CDs Prince bought at a Minneapolis record store five days before he died: Stevie Wonder's *Talking Book* (classic rock-funk), Joni Mitchell's *Hejira* (semiclassic singer-songwriter confessionalism), The Chambers Brothers' *The Time Has Come* (psychedelic soul), *Santana IV* (Woodstock redux), *The Best of Missing Persons* (perky new wave), and The Swan Silvertones' *Timeless Gospel Classics* (timeless gospel classics).

From one perspective, they have little in common. From another, they sound like everything Prince was trying to synthesize during his remarkable 38-year career.

Hearing them as anything other than his epitaph will, for a while anyway, take some doing. ☹

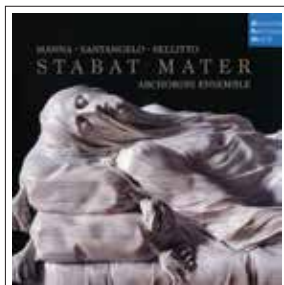


CHRIS O'MEARA/AP



RECENT CLASSICAL ALBUMS

reviewed by *Arsenio Orteza*



STABAT MATER: MANNA, SANTANGELO, SELLITTO *Abchordis Ensemble*

It's a shame that, as of this writing, the awkwardly titled (and awkwardly punctuated) YouTube video "Abchordis—"making of" *Stabat Mater* CD—Sony Music—DHM" has only been viewed 1,336 times. It provides not only an overview of the inspiration behind this magnificent collection of previously unpublished 18th-century sacred music but also glimpses of the recording process itself, glimpses accompanied by sounds. Created by nine period-instrument virtuosos and four world-class singers, those sounds evoke nothing so much

as the radiant beauty of holy devotion.

FLOURISHES, TALES AND SYMPHONIES: MUSIC FOR BRASS AND ORGAN

Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble

The title promises flourishes, and to that end a Carlyle Sharpe wake-up call called "Flourishes" kick-starts the program. The title also promises tales, hence the excerpts from operas by Verdi (*La Traviata*) and by Jaromír Weinberger (*Schwanda the Bagpiper*). Last but not least, the title promises symphonies, which explains Craig Garner's arrangements of Saint-Saëns and maybe William White's five-movement *The Dwarf Planets*. The parts cohere into a whole that feels big without ever feeling heavy. Why, Peter Meehan's "Velvet Blue" could almost pass for jazz.



BRUCKNER: SYMPHONY NO. 9

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Mariss Jansons

Yet another version of the great Austrian Romantic's final, and unfinished, symphony, and yet another reason to hope that there will be more. Not that this one fails, but the ways in which it succeeds enliven rather than settle the ongoing argument about the meaning of the music Bruckner considered (to quote Aad van der Ven's erudite liner notes) the "very apotheosis of his art." A devout Catholic, he dedicated it to the "beloved God." A gifted composer, he imbued it with a complexity commensurate with his

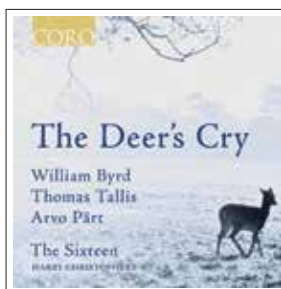


Dedicatee's infinitely complex nature.

THE DEER'S CRY: WILLIAM BYRD, THOMAS TALLIS, ARVO PÄRT

The Sixteen, Harry Christophers

This album's primary aesthetic accomplishment is that The Sixteen's a cappella perfectionism never seems like an end in itself but like ground zero of a great adventure, which is certainly one way to describe any genuine experience of Christian worship. Acutely, yea intensely, sensitive to dynamics, the singers do emotional justice to both the Latin and the English texts. This album's secondary aesthetic accomplishment: an eternity-simulating timelessness resulting from its masterly sequencing of Tallis' and Byrd's Renaissance compositions with those of Pärt circa 1997, 2001, and 2008.



ENCORE

One can acquaint himself with the early 20th-century upheavals in perception through various means: by studying its psychology (Freud), its science (Einstein), or its paintings (Picasso). But the musically inclined will gravitate toward Arnold Schoenberg and his pupils Alban Berg and Anton Webern, revolutionaries who used atonality and the 12-tone technique to give the early 20th-century perception upheavals a voice. And no better contemporary interpreter than the French ensemble

Quatuor Diotima exists to provide ready access.

Schoenberg/Berg/Webern: Complete Works for String Quartet (Naïve Classique) is

a five-disc compilation of Quatuor Diotima's dedication to guaranteeing that what Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern set out to do remains as vibrant and as viscerally affecting now as it was a century ago. Specifically, to demonstrate that the tensions arising from mankind's belonging both to time and to eternity can be ordered in such a way as to produce a mysterious beauty, the fathoming of which can reward a lifetime. —A.O.





War without a map

THE BATTLE AGAINST ISIS WON'T WAIT FOR U.S. ELECTION THEATRICALS HERE

➔ Before long Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and her Republican counterpart, Donald Trump, will begin receiving regular intelligence briefings. And those briefings are likely to include classified information about the planning of a U.S. military offensive against Islamic State in Iraq.

The United States begins a season of political transition at a critical moment of national security—and with too many questions about how the United States plans to fight ISIS. Deeds undone and decisions made or unmade by the Obama administration will come due, perhaps before the summer is out or the elections results are in. Enemies like ISIS will be alert to take advantage of America's unmoored ship of state. The high cost of choosing tainted candidates, in both parties, suddenly becomes a high-stakes gamble. Lives, it turns out, are on the line.

James Clapper, the director of national intelligence, confirmed at a May breakfast classified national intelligence briefings could begin soon, but definitely by July when candidates are formally nominated at party conventions. "We have already established a plan for briefing both candidates when they are named," he said. "We already have a team set up to do that and a designated lead."

At the same time, U.S. forces appear destined to be part of a planned assault on Mosul and surrounding areas held by ISIS. Reports of additional deployments to Iraq suggest military action will escalate by late summer or fall. Iraqi forces are massed 40 miles south of the city, while to the north Kurdish peshmerga fighters hold a nearly 600-mile front against ISIS. The May 3 firefight in Iraq that resulted in the death of U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Keating IV was the clearest indication of expanded U.S. involvement close to enemy lines in the heart of Iraq.

Keating was part of a quick-reaction force sent to reinforce a team of U.S. advisers working



The high cost of choosing tainted candidates, in both parties, suddenly becomes a high-stakes gamble. Lives, it turns out, are on the line.

U.S. Marines, located about 50 miles southeast of Mosul, fire on ISIS in March.

alongside the peshmerga. The Americans and the Kurds faced a gun battle with Islamic State after an estimated 125 or more ISIS fighters, with vehicles, broke through the front lines undetected.

ISIS has used similar probing missions to determine weak spots in Iraq defenses. This time the weak spot was a bare 10 miles north of Mosul, near the now-abandoned Christian town of Telskuf. ISIS penetrated the Kurdish-held line despite U.S. airstrikes and helicopter support. For the Islamic militants, the assault revealed

the presence of elite American forces embedded at the front line.

"Kurdistan right here is fighting on behalf of the whole world," an Iraqi patrolling Telskuf told me when I visited there in 2015.

Captured by ISIS in 2014, Telskuf was retaken by Kurds and held by Christian militias (see "Battle ready," April

18, 2015). In the distance, Islamic State fighters dug fortification trenches around Mosul. Such stasis, now going on two years, can't last much longer. If we've grown accustomed to ISIS atrocities, though, a bloodier battle over Mosul, a city that currently numbers about 1 million, is likely ahead. We fiddle. They behead.

President Barack Obama has by increments committed the United States to a renewed war in Iraq—all the while telling Americans the growing U.S. force is serving "non-combat" roles. Video footage capturing the Telskuf gun battle shows that clearly is not the case.

Obama's decision in 2011 to withdraw all troops from Iraq rather than continue negotiations toward a status of forces agreement—allowing a contingency force to remain in Iraq—stands as the chief reason for the rising threat of ISIS in the region and beyond. Making good on so colossal a mistake at the rump end of his presidency means Obama must turn over the military operation to a successor. One candidate showed feckless inattentiveness when it came to rescuing Americans in Benghazi. The other's idea of an Iraq policy is to "bomb the [expletive] out of ISIS." American voters who confused politics with entertainment, who opted for the weakest of candidates, in the end will make Americans pay with their lives for their choices. ☹

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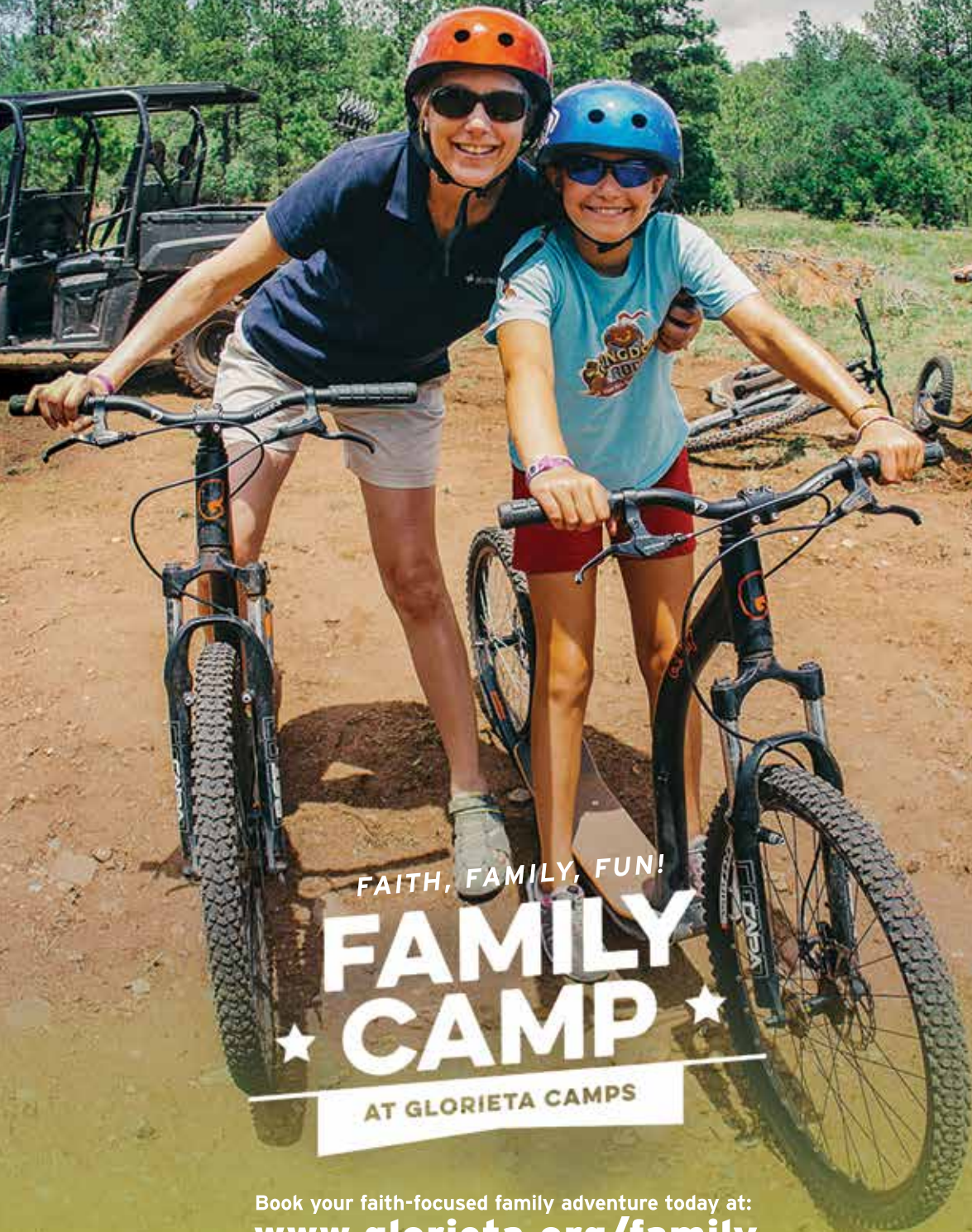
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FEATURES

A MAN, A PLAN, PANA



A CANAL, MA

The Panama Canal is an engineering marvel because it was first a public health marvel. To beat Zika today, we need the same determination

by MARVIN OLASKY in Panama



The Gatun Locks of the Panama Canal

MARIAN STOEV/EYEEM/GETTY IMAGES

W

hen the U.S.-built Panama Canal opened on Aug. 15, 1914, some newspapers called it Western civilization's greatest triumph. Last month, inching through a canal lock on a ship with about a foot of room on either side, I could see why.

Canal walls seemed familiar in some ways, featuring subway tiles like those of the New York underground, but they are as spectacular as the Great Wall of China, and maybe more so because Americans engineered them in a hot jungle flush with snakes, scorpions, and yellow fever mosquitoes.

But here's the irony: As the press celebrated man's god-like engineering skill, the rebellion against God led by Darwin, Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud was already underway, and the world war that augured the downfall of Western civilization was starting its third week.

One month from now, on June 26, a \$7 billion expansion of the Panama Canal is scheduled to open. Ships as long as three football fields will push through it. We'll again see a celebration of man's technical prowess.

But here's the new irony. This spring the "Panama Papers" showed how leaders of many countries misused billions of dollars entrusted to them. This spring Panama, along with Brazil, had the first documented microcephaly cases linked to the Zika virus, which leaves babies with unusually small heads and without part of their brains. We can build higher and stronger, but the corruption of man and nature resulting from original sin always brings us low.

This story has several threads. One (spun out in our sidebar) concerns Zika, which is devastating thousands of families in Central and South America and will take billions from the economies of their countries. It's already affecting the lives of missionaries such as Matt and Mindy Hedspeth, who moved to Panama in 2008 and founded an orphanage here: They are "praying and asking the Lord to protect us all." Zika may spread through the southern United States as well, unless we take aggressive action against the mosquitoes that carry the virus.

The press is likely to miss an even more interesting story, because it involves connecting several dots from different decades. Dot 1: Scientists and doctors in the 19th century thought yellow fever arose from "miasma," the unhealthy night air wafting out of marshy places or filthy slums. They held to that belief as firmly as their counterparts today stick to theories of global warming and macroevolution.

Dot 2: The reality was different, since a particular species of mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, was the culprit in spreading yellow fever

throughout Panama in the 1880s. *A. aegypti* killed thousands of French workers and destroyed that country's decadelong attempt to build a canal through 50 miles of ridges and mountains that separate the Atlantic and Pacific here.

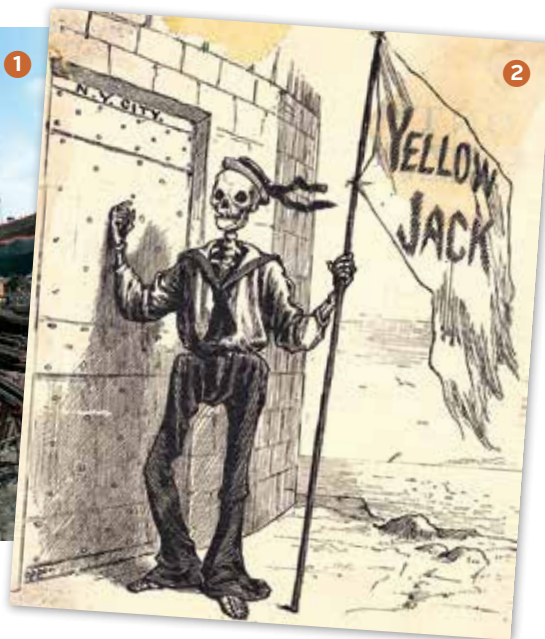
Moving to the 20th century, Dot 3: When the United States took over the building effort, American leaders also blamed yellow fever—they called it Yellow Jack—on miasma rather than mosquitoes. After a series of deaths, Yellow Jack panic in 1905 prompted three-fourths of Americans in Panama to flee the country.

Dot 4: Just when the U.S. effort seemed doomed, an army doctor known as a Christian and willing to buck conventional wisdom went to war against *A. aegypti* and beat it in a \$30 million effort.

And here's the 21st century's Dot 5: The mosquito that mainly carries Zika today is none other than our old enemy, *A. aegypti*—but to this point we're waging only a halfhearted effort against it.

The hero of this story is a military doctor, William Crawford Gorgas, who had survived Yellow Jack when stationed at Fort Brown at the southernmost tip of Texas. His soon-to-be-wife Marie also caught the disease: They convalesced together and fell in love. Marie later wrote, "It would be untrue to say Yellow Jack was the best man at our wedding—but it would be perfectly true to say that in a sense he was an usher."

David McCullough, in his readable history *The Path Between the Seas*, notes, "Classmates at the Bellevue Medical College in



New York would remember ‘Billy’ Gorgas as a devout Christian ... and ‘imperturbable.’” Since Yellow Jack survivors have immunity to it thereafter, Gorgas asked for and often received postings to places where the disease ravaged cities.

He knew “miasma” settled science and was frustrated to see that cleanup campaigns often didn’t work. For example, when U.S. soldiers sent to Cuba for the Spanish-American War were dying of the disease, he led a brilliant cleanup-Havana campaign which had officials toasting his success—until one of the city’s worst Yellow Jack epidemics hit.

(Oddly, Gorgas owed his existence to the prevailing theory: His mother in 1853 had moved from the “miasma” of Mobile, Ala., to high ground and there met her future husband. Oddly, the doctor who delivered him, Joseph C. Nott, was probably the only American in the 19th century to publish a paper challenging the “miasma” theory. He bizarrely suggested an insect or animal origin for the disease. Everyone scoffed at this crackpot notion.)

Gorgas in Havana in 1898 became friends with a Cuban doctor, Carlos Findlay, who for 17 years had observed that people got Yellow Jack when *Aedes aegypti* (at that time often called *Stegomyia*) bit them. But Findlay’s theory seemed easy to disprove: Some bitten people became sick, but most did not. Gorgas first thought Findlay wrong: “I was

constantly bringing to his notice instances in the past which could not be accounted for on the mosquito theory.”

After the Havana cleanup failed, Gorgas and another desperate doctor, Walter Reed, subjected Findlay’s theory to careful experimentation. They learned something strange but true: Only the female *A. aegypti* spread the disease, and only if she bit and swallowed the blood of a yellow fever patient during the first three days after he became ill, and only if she bit someone else at least 12 days later—not four, not eight, but 12.

Gorgas and Reed also dramatically knocked down the miasma/filth theory by having volunteers sleep for a week in pajamas and on mattresses covered with the noxious excretions of yellow fever sufferers. The volunteers vomited—but not one died.

Gorgas and Reed (who later gave his name to Washington’s famous Army hospital) then studied the habits of the murderer. It turned out that *A. aegypti* never traveled more than 200 yards from the place of its birth and only laid eggs in a man-made vessel that contained fresh water. The cure presented itself: To stop Yellow Jack epidemics, destroy the breeding places.

When Gorgas in 1904 became chief medical officer for the huge project of building the Panama Canal, he visited the beautiful hospital France had built in its aborted canal effort. He saw the French way to keep ants from crawling up the legs of hospital beds: Set each leg in a little cup of fresh water. He saw the hospital’s beautiful grounds: To protect several thousand tropical plants from ants chewing their leaves, the French had set each plant in a pottery ring filled with fresh water.

- (1)** Workers on duty at excavations of the Panama Canal expansion project. **(2)** A political cartoon about yellow fever. **(3)** Gorgas at the Panama Canal.





Gorgas then commented wryly, “A more perfect arrangement for the propagation of yellow fever could not have been adopted if the authorities had had this object in view.”

Malaria was also a huge problem. Its fatality rate was lower than Yellow Jack’s, but survivors did not gain immunity: Malaria is the anti-gift that keeps on giving. Between Yellow Jack and malaria, 85 percent of canal workers were hospitalized. To fight both diseases, Gorgas wanted thousands of workers to fumigate every private home in Panama: They were to empty pools of standing water, spray with oil all cesspools and drains, and put wire mesh on windows and doors.

That’s what Gorgas requested, but U.S. authorities, committed to settled science’s miasma theory, said no. Rear Admiral John G. Walker, chairman of the Canal Commission, flatly informed Gorgas that he was wrong. The next chairman, Theodore Shonts, with similar faith in the scientific consensus, also said the problem was filth, not a little *Aedes*. Gorgas received for his anti-*Aedes* campaign only 5 percent of what he asked for. Workers kept dying.

The roadblock remained until Alexander Lambert, Theodore Roosevelt’s personal physician, told the president: “If you fall back on the old methods you will fail, just as the French failed. If you back Gorgas you will get your canal.” Roosevelt dumped the miasma theory and got Gorgas what he asked for: 120 tons of pyrethrum powder, 300 tons of sulfur, 50,000 gallons of kerosene oil per month, 8,500 garbage cans/buckets/brooms/scrub brushes—and workers to carry on the war.

In the largest public health project in world history to that time, those workers killed mosquitoes by fumigating houses. They put screens on windows of rooms with patients, so mosquitoes could not bite them and spread the disease to others. They put lids on cisterns. They poured oil on any standing water to smother the mosquito larvae. They fined residents with larvae in their homes.

The war succeeded. The canal project’s last yellow fever victim died in November 1906. Gorgas temporarily became famous. Journalists asked why he was willing to fight settled science and keep fighting. His wife Marie said he “manifested two traits that might at first seem antagonistic—a genuine

(1) Luana Vitoria, who was born with microcephaly, cries during a physical therapy session in Recife, Brazil. **(2)** An *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in the Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies lab in Panama City. **(3)** A city worker fumigates at a school in Bolivia.

feeling for religion and a zest for the military life.” Songs like “Onward, Christian Soldiers” were real to him. He idolized his father, who had been a Confederate general. He believed apparently lost causes are worth fighting for.

Once the health war ended, the focus became engineering. Even today, a trip through the canal shows what engineers made in God’s image can do with the raw materials He supplies. Locks function like elevators, moving huge ships up and down: They raise the vessels 85 feet from the Atlantic so they can cross the Continental Divide, then lower them to the Pacific.

A man, a plan, a canal, Panama. That famous palindrome celebrates Theodore Roosevelt, who made the right executive decision, but Gorgas truly was the man with the plan on the scene. For several decades Americans remembered his feat: *Yellow Jack* became the name of a 1934 Broadway play in which Jimmy Stewart had his first dramatic role.

Few Americans today remember Gorgas. But we need his spirit now, because the mosquito species he fought, *Aedes aegypti*, is the primary carrier of the Zika virus. Those mosquitoes still do not venture more than 200 yards from their birthplaces. We can beat them, and Gorgas taught us how. Embattled Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said in January, “We need to eliminate all standing water spots where *Aedes* lives and reproduces.”

A big problem in accomplishing that: Poorer cities often do not have good water systems, so residents collect rainwater in buckets for daily use. They resist getting rid of standing water in the same way affluent Americans would not want their faucets turned off. But the Gorgas solution—lids, oil, fines—would still work.

One complication: At the end of April researchers announced they had detected the Zika virus in a second species, *Aedes albopictus*. The species ranges into the northern half of the



United States—*Aedes aegypti* is a southern curse—and can reproduce in a variety of environments. The good news of sorts is that *albopictus* stays on one human or warm-blooded animal until it has finished its blood meal, unlike *aegypti*, which promiscuously jumps from person to person, often biting ankles, and thus spreads infection widely. So *aegypti* still is the overwhelming threat, and to fight it we have two weapons (and maybe four) Gorgas did not have.

One is DDT, which the National Academy of Sciences in 1970 said had “prevented 500 million deaths due to malaria.” The following year the newly formed Environmental Protection Agency banned its use in the United States, even though seven months of investigative hearings gave DDT’s careful use a clean bill of health in regard to both humans and animals. Smartly targeted use today could save many lives.

We also have a second weapon: genetic engineering, a fearful concept when applied to humans but appropriate for mosquitoes. A British company has introduced among male *Aedes aegypti* a mutation that makes their offspring die before they reach murderous maturity. Brazil has improved the process, and it has made a difference in the city of Piracicaba. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has now approved field testing of the mosquitoes in one small area of south Florida: The government should fast-track that process.

A third potential solution is a vaccine, but that looks to be slow in coming, as is a fourth possibility: Researchers have learned that injecting *A. aegypti* mosquito eggs with a bacterium, *Wolbachia*, makes the adult mosquitoes Zika-resistant. If officials release the bacterium carriers into *Aedes* areas, the newcomers will breed and their descendants could replace the Zika-carriers.

Meanwhile, worldviews have consequences. Federal researchers are working with companies to develop a test to determine quickly whether a pregnant woman has contracted Zika. Even though at that point we still would not know the effect on that particular child, the next piece of government advice will clearly be: Get an abortion. That’s a horrible “solution,” especially since we know the way to a good one: Abort *Aedes*. ☹

Zika and missions

Missionaries often operate like New York City firefighters. They rush in as others rush out. But what about their unborn children?

This winter and spring Carrie Himes was pregnant in northeastern Brazil, epicenter of the Zika virus outbreak that’s been linked with microcephaly in unborn babies, so ultrasounds were causes for suspense.

In February she wrote: “We had another ultrasound done today at 30 weeks. Our doctors have assured us that Lucas’ brain development and head size are normal, and that he is very healthy. We ... use precautions against mosquito bites as recommended by the CDC, but are confident that God is in control of all things!” Lucas was born on

April 18, and on April 30 Himes reported that he was “healthy and happy.” Never were statistics so important: “All his measurements were taken the day after he was born and are in metric: weight: 2.725 kg; length: 51.5 cm; head circumference: 33 cm.” Perfect.

Will there be more happy births or more sad ones? Earlier



Carrie and Lucas

this year some doubted the Zika-microcephaly connection, but Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Thomas Frieden said last month: “There is no longer any doubt that Zika causes microcephaly. ... Never before in history has there been a situation where a bite from a mosquito can result in a devastating malformation.” All infants with microcephaly have small heads and some brain abnormalities, but Zika damage is particularly severe: The virus eats away parts of the brain that enable thought and vision, and stops the growth of other parts.

Medical authorities in Brazil and other Latin American countries are now discussing the long-term question of caring for infants with “Congenital Zika Syndrome.” Some doctors say adults are also at risk and could contract via Zika a nerve disorder, Guillain-Barré syndrome—but that is unproven. Some missionaries, like Joe Boyd in Colombia, have come down with the virus and had a tremendous urge to itch, but nothing worse. —M.O.



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UNEQUAL PROTECTION

Assisted suicide advocates have pressed their cause in state legislatures this year, and now they're trying to enlist the courts

BY EMILY BELZ IN ALBANY, N.Y.

J.J. Hanson, 35, is a tall former Marine from New York's Hudson Valley who did a tour in Iraq. He speaks so quickly and sharply that someone meeting him for the first time wouldn't know that two years ago he couldn't talk, walk, read, or write.

The loss of Hanson's basic functions came shortly after a shattering diagnosis for a man with a wife and a young son. In 2014, out of the blue, Hanson had a seizure while he was at work. Doctors discovered he had stage 4 glioblastoma (GBM), one of the deadliest forms of brain cancer—and the same kind of cancer that assisted suicide advocate Brittany Maynard had when she ended her life in late 2014.

Three different doctors told Hanson his case was terminal and said he had four months to live. But he was determined to do aggressive treatment anyway. Doctors operated on his brain, which led to nine seizures in a day and his “cognitive loss” of basic functions. He joined a clinical trial. In order to recover from his cognitive loss, Hanson read children's books, slowly working back up to adult reading.

Now he has survived two years—walking, talking, reading, and writing—and he is in what he calls remission, although he calmly admits that with GBM, there is really no such thing as remission.

Hanson, who worked in New York state government before turning to the private sector, had not given much thought to the issue of assisted suicide until he had a terminal disease. Now he is leading efforts against physician-assisted suicide legislation around the country with the organization Patients' Rights Action Fund. New York is currently considering two bills to legalize the practice. California, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington have already made it legal.

Many people confuse physician-assisted suicide with the debate over keeping someone on a ventilator or feeding tube. Indeed, that's partly due to proponents of assisted suicide, who characterize it as just another option in the menu of end-of-life palliative care. Physician-assisted suicide is in an entirely different category, allowing doctors to prescribe lethal drugs, which the patients then self-administer when they wish.

Opponents believe the laws will coerce the elderly, the poor, and the disabled who feel like





Youssef Cohen, 68, undergoes cancer treatment as his wife, Lindsay Wright, checks his medication drip in New York City. Cohen is an advocate of physician-assisted suicide.

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES



Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, D-Scarsdale, speaks about her assisted suicide legislation at the Capitol in Albany, N.Y.

economic and emotional burdens on their families to take these lethal drugs. The Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland allow assisted suicides for those with psychiatric problems, and a recent study in the journal *JAMA Psychiatry* showed that most of those obtaining the drugs in those countries were depressed and lonely.

Since Maynard so publicly ended her life in 2014, a number of states have considered legalizing the practice. Most bills have not passed—in Connecticut, Tennessee, Maryland, Colorado, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, and Minnesota among others. California legalized the practice last year.

Assisted suicide advocates are trying to overturn state laws via the courts as well. The courts could be a faster track to legalization than the legislatures, perhaps following a similar path as the legalization of gay marriage that came through the U.S. Supreme Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Backers of assisted suicide are basing their legal arguments on the same basic principle as in the gay marriage cases: individual rights and equal protection under the law.

This already happened in Canada. Last year the Canadian Supreme Court overturned the country's ban on the practice. Last month, Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau introduced legislation to legalize the practice formally. The legislation allows for assisted suicide of non-terminal patients, and also requires objecting doctors to refer their patients to another doctor who would prescribe the drugs. The Liberal Parliament will likely pass the legislation in the coming weeks.

The same process is underway in U.S. courts. The Montana Supreme Court legalized assisted suicide there in 2009. In New Mexico a lawsuit

'That's the strategy of the advocates. They're going to try to chip away state by state.... There's significant concern that the courts will lose sight of the limits of individual autonomy.'

ED MECHMANN

against the state ban on assisted suicide is ongoing. A state district judge initially ruled that the suicide ban violates individual rights "to choose aid in dying." The state appeals court reversed that ruling last August, but assisted suicide advocates—led by the American Civil Liberties Union—appealed to the state Supreme Court.

And last year in New York, a group of terminally ill patients, a few doctors, and pro-assisted suicide group End of Life Choices filed a lawsuit against the state ban, on the grounds that it violates the equal protection clause of the state constitution. Ed Mechmann, a lawyer and the director of public policy for the archdiocese of New York, worked on the archdiocese's amicus brief in the New York case.

Mechmann says the equal protection argument, after *Obergefell*, is gaining traction: "That's the strategy of the advocates. They're going to try to chip away state by state.... There's significant concern that the courts will lose sight of the limits of individual autonomy."

A state judge threw out the New York lawsuit, citing the controlling U.S. Supreme Court opinion, *Vacco v. Quill*, where the high court unanimously upheld New York's law against assisted suicide in 1997. But the state judge threw the assisted suicide crew a bone in the closing paragraph of her opinion, saying she was "baffled" that confusion existed over "the right of every individual to the possession and control of his own person."

"It was almost a signal from the judge, 'Oh I wish I could rule the other way,'" said Mechmann. He said judges did this in the rulings leading up to *Obergefell*, dropping "Easter eggs" in decisions that other judges could use to issue different rulings.

On May 3, a unanimous New York Supreme Court appeals panel again threw out the case; but the plaintiffs can appeal again, so the case is likely ongoing. Mechmann felt a "boost" from the unanimous ruling in a jurisdiction as liberal as New York.

Though the U.S. Supreme Court was unanimous on the question of assisted suicide two decades ago, Mechmann thinks the court has since moved to the left on unbridled individual autonomy, especially with the loss of Justice Antonin Scalia. He thinks his side could still win a case on assisted suicide at the high court, but he doubts he could get a unanimous ruling anymore.

Assisted suicide advocates, led by the group called Compassion & Choices, emphasize the words "autonomy" and "individual choice." One of the two bills in the New York legislature is titled "The Patient Self-Determination Act." A

group of 39 New York physicians signed a letter to lawmakers supporting the legislation: “As physicians, our sacred promise is to respect autonomy and relieve suffering,” they wrote.

Doctors who work with the poor, mentally ill, elderly, and terminal patients argue such measures would result in the opposite of self-determination. At the beginning of May, a couple dozen New York doctors traveled to Albany to lobby legislators against the measure, citing the “potential for coercion” among the most vulnerable patients.

The group included physicians like Dr. Michael Brescia, who is the medical director of Calvary Hospital in the Bronx; Dr. Wen Dombrowski, who works in geriatrics in New York City; and Dr. David Kim, the New York director for the American Academy of Medical Ethics, who also operates Beacon Christian Community Health Center, a clinic in a low-income area of Staten Island.

“[The assisted suicide advocates’] approach is not achieving the end they’re aiming for,” said Kim. “They’re not increasing personal autonomy. They’re not increasing options; they’re decreasing options.”

For now, the New York coalition against assisted suicide (which also includes local Catholic and evangelical groups) has a strong ally: the American Medical Association (AMA), considered the country’s pre-eminent medical association. The AMA opposes assisted suicide in its code of medical ethics: “Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician’s role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks.” Courts often side with the AMA.

Medical associations could change their positions against the practice. The California Medical

Association lobbied against assisted suicide back when the state was considering a measure in 2007. But then last year the group withdrew its opposition, saying that doctors should individually decide whether they supported the measure. The legislature passed the measure.

At month five of his treatment, the normally irrepressible Hanson became depressed. He says he lay in his bed and asked himself if he should give up, if it would make things easier for everyone if he were gone. He decided to continue—but then he imagined what others in his position might do.

Under the current New York proposals, a patient like Hanson could go to a doctor when he received a terminal prognosis and, if he were in a good mental state, receive a prescription for the lethal drugs. Then the patient could go home and put the drugs on his nightstand for whenever he might reach that desperate moment.

“When you were the sickest in your life, how well were you thinking at that time?” Hanson asked. “Not good, right? Now multiply that exponentially. ... Put [the drugs] in a glass of beer, done. In that moment of weakness and difficulty and stress, done. ... I don’t think I would have done that, but there’s many people who could’ve or would’ve in that situation.”

At the state Capitol Hanson walked the halls with a black binder under his arm, filled with articles and notes about assisted suicide data. He needs the binder to remember things after the surgery nicked certain circuits in his brain. Before cancer, he says, he could remember the specific details of almost every person he met. Now, sometimes he forgets the names of family members, though he is still quick to recall most information.

Speaking helps him speak, so he speaks with legislators. He emphasizes how legalizing assisted suicide will change social norms, legitimizing the general practice of suicide. A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a 24 percent increase in suicides over the last 15 years, after 15 years of declines. The rate of increase is also higher in recent years.

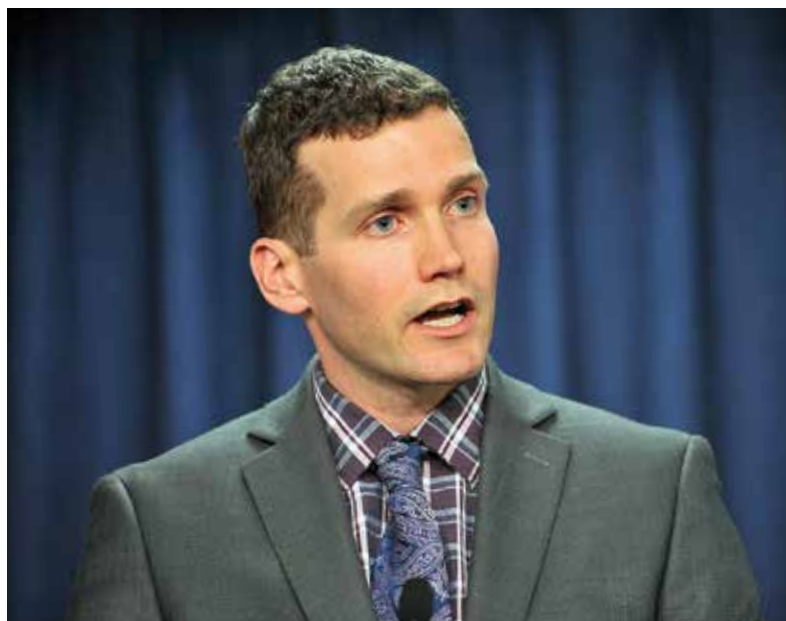
Hanson also emphasizes to legislators how assisted suicide will shrink an already small pool of terminal patients willing to participate in clinical trials. As it is, glioblastoma patients rarely live long enough to participate in a trial, so the pool of those who can participate in research that might help future patients is tiny. This session at least, it looks as if Hanson’s arguments are helping to keep the legislation from passing.

“I think we will be fighting this bill for 20 years,” said Hanson. “I don’t think it’s going away.” ☹

‘When you were the sickest in your life, how well were you thinking at that time? Not good, right?’

J.J. HANSON

Hanson speaks at a press conference in Albany, N.Y.



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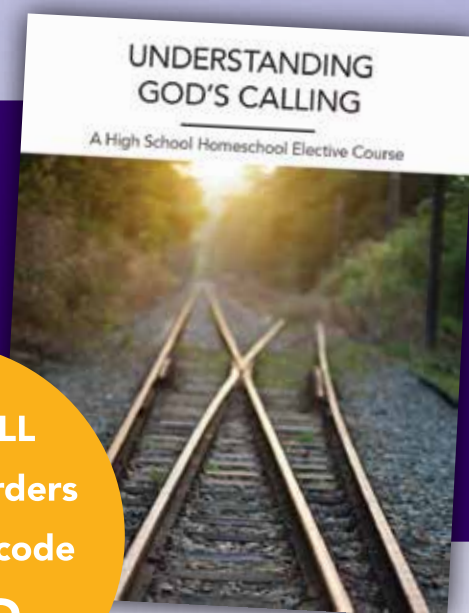
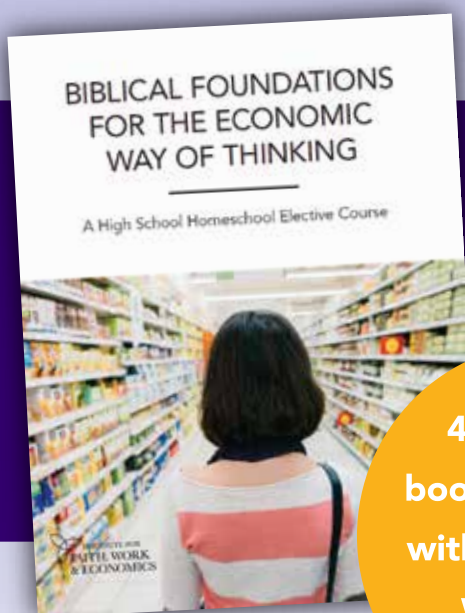


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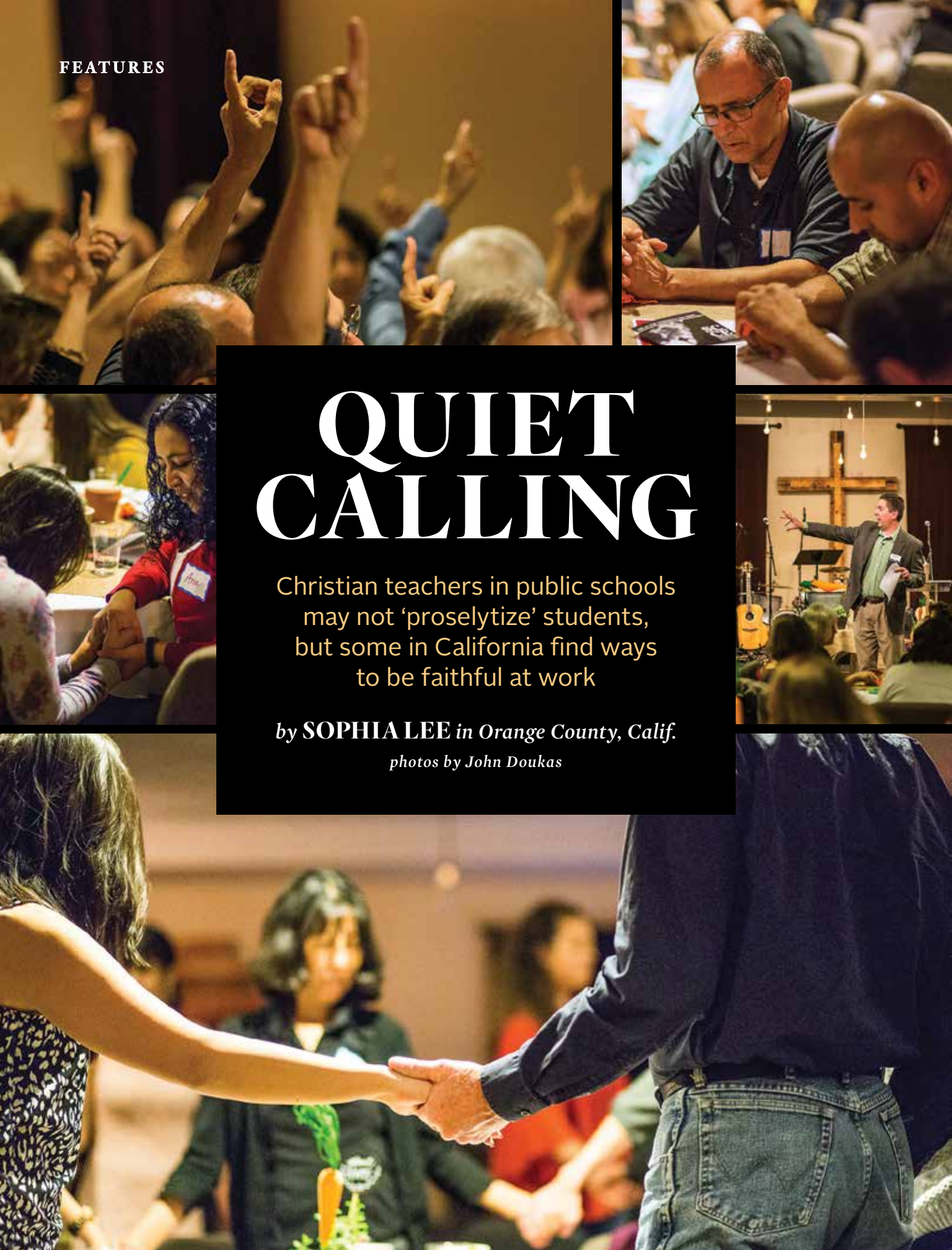
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FEATURES

QUIET CALLING

Christian teachers in public schools
may not 'proselytize' students,
but some in California find ways
to be faithful at work

by **SOPHIA LEE** in Orange County, Calif.

photos by John Doukas

■ ON A RECENT SATURDAY EVENING, hundreds gathered at an Orange County, Calif., church to testify, worship, and pray for one another. Nothing surprising about that. More surprising—they came from public school districts from across Southern California: K-12 teachers, principals, administrators, custodians, college professors, and parents.

A solemn-looking Latino man in a suit stood next to a vivacious black woman with a silvery shawl. Across from them, a balding, elderly white man in flannel and khakis worshipped beside a young Asian woman with red-dyed hair and a chic blazer. Some have decades of classroom experience. Others carry still-fresh teacher's certificates. And they all share a common desire to transform their schools through God's loving truth—despite hostility, their own ignorance and timidity, and the often overwhelming demands of the job.

More than 50 million children attend public elementary and secondary schools in the United States, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics. That means roughly 90 percent of K-12 students spend their most impressionable years in an environment that is largely hostile to Christianity. The gathering in California, sponsored by Biola University, Azusa Pacific University, and Christian Education Association International (CEAI), a professional association of Christian educators, hoped to change that by empowering the educators.

Andrea Brannam, a second-grade teacher in a dual-language immersion school in San Clemente, Calif., was teary after a 76-year-old man at the gathering prayed out loud for her. The 11-year public school veteran described the “strong resistance” she'd experienced after posting a notice on the whiteboard in the teachers' lounge inviting staff to an after-school prayer meeting for the gravely ill father of one of her students. A teacher complained to the local union, and the union president relayed the complaint to the principal (both professing Christians), citing separation of church and state. That's when Brannam realized she didn't know her legal rights as a public school teacher—and that she wasn't the only one. So she spent all lunch period doing research on her right to pray on campus.

That night at the gathering, Brannam discovered another opportunity she didn't know she had as a teacher: She could legally start and teach a Bible study in her own school, so long

as it wasn't held during school hours and the students had parents' permission to attend. Immediately she began texting parents who'd been asking to launch a Good News Club, a weekly Bible study program for 5- to 12-year-old children.

But even amid that excitement, Brannam remembers her own daughter, a high-school senior who Brannam says has “hardened” her heart toward her childhood faith. When a speaker at the gathering warned that “the souls of our children are being stolen right before our eyes,” Brannam thought of the “very liberal” education system both her daughter and students are in, where she has learned not to be surprised when her

students ask: “What's church?” “What's God?” “What's that ‘T’ on top of those buildings mean?”

Secular humanist John Dunphy once wrote in *The Humanist* magazine that “the battleground for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers” of what he called “the new faith of humanism.” Teachers tell me this new faith now dictates the rules and customs in public education: One California teacher told students to write a persuasive essay on why religion promotes ignorance. A teacher in another school who's also head of her high school's English department listed the Bible as mythology. Some school districts have tried to shut down Christian-related clubs.

Teachers tell me they constantly feel the tension against their freedom of

religious expression. For example, Brannam remembers some teachers telling her that wearing a cross necklace to school was illegal (not true). High school ASL teacher Cheryl Perez remembers receiving email complaints from teachers when she and her Christian club students partnered with Chick-fil-A for a fundraiser, calling the fast food company anti-gay. When she tried to tack fliers announcing Christian club activities, the activities director kept insisting she get approval first, even though he didn't require that from any other clubs. During the National Day of Prayer, in which Perez and several other teachers and students gathered before school to pray, a teacher stood nearby wielding a sign of protest against praying on public grounds.

At a recent CEAI conference, a woman stood up and asked with a shaking voice how she can help students who are struggling with homosexuality. She said several have come to



CEAI teacher demonstrates love and truth (above); Christian educators are encouraged and equipped at the CEAI conference (left).



(1, 4, 6) The first session of the Good News Club at Las Palmas Elementary School in San Clemente, Calif. **(2)** Andrea Brannam. **(3)** The Good News Club leaders. **(5)** Monica Lewis (right) registers a child for Good News Club.

her confused and hungry for adult guidance, but even as her heart breaks for them, she doesn't know how to give them the answer they need without dunking into legal hot waters. When is the right time to stand up and oppose? How to best honor God when schools mandate transgender bathroom access, shove pro-LGBT topics into the curriculum, and downplay the health risks of AIDS in sex education?

Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, a non-profit legal defense organization, said those are the most common questions he gets from Christian teachers. But teachers can still be influential on campus, he said: It's not the absence of legal opportunities that impede evangelism in public schools, but the ignorance of legal opportunities.

Sometimes, teachers' own timidity creates a barrier. Two years into Brannam's teaching career, she was strolling with a fellow teacher who revealed with great anguish that she was having difficulties getting pregnant. At that instant Brannam felt a strong conviction that she needed to pray with this teacher, but she was too afraid and embarrassed—they were out in public, the teacher's an unbeliever, and what if she rejects her? So Brannam kept quiet. But guilt and regret plagued her all day, and she quickly repented. "I learned my lesson that I just have to obey. That feeling [of disobedience] was awful, and I didn't want to feel that way ever again."

She got her second chance when she passed that same teacher in the school halls one day and spotted the downcast look on her face. Brannam immediately asked, "Hey, is everything OK?" The teacher later visited her classroom after school and cried as she unloaded her personal burdens. At that moment, Brannam felt the same conviction to pray out loud for her again, and this time she did not hesitate. After the prayer, the teacher thanked Brannam, saying, "There's something you have, something special." Since then, Brannam encourages other teachers not to go "undercover" with their faith.

■ **AS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**, public school teachers cannot proselytize or do anything that establishes or promotes any particular religion during school time. But those who are well-versed in their legal boundaries find careful ways to express their faith—even while following a curriculum that opposes their beliefs.



High-school biology teacher Mike Hicks says he loves teaching the theory of evolution, since he figures his students will likely never encounter another academic authority willing to point out its flaws. He presents the view of Darwinists, but he will also present views from other scientists who don't agree with Darwinism. His students almost always ask, "Well, what do you believe?" Hicks replies that he believes in intelligent design. Then someone will ring out, "Mr. Hicks, are you a Christian?" while another will gasp, "But he's teaching biology!" and Hicks will watch the shock, disorientation, and curiosity in his students' expressions. At times, he glimpses relieved smiles from students who also believe in a Creator.

But teachers tell me it's not easy staying focused and enthusiastic about teaching, let alone sharing their faith in an increasingly hostile environment. The stress of meeting the expectations of parents and school districts, the frustration in

motivating apathetic students, the ever-swelling class sizes—all these responsibilities squeeze the joy and passion out of even the youngest, most energetic teachers.

Perez, the ASL teacher, has been teaching at James Logan High School in Fremont, Calif., for 27 years, and she says she's never seen teachers as stressed out as they are today: "It gets so busy and crazy with the demands. ... Sometimes I'm just trying to get my stuff done rather than talk to the kids." And sometimes, it's spiritual fatigue that weighs her down when she cannot see the fruits she wants to see.

For decades Perez has prayed for a revival in her school, for teachers, administrators, and students to be radically transformed by the gospel. She "prayer-walks" around the campus every Monday during lunch break and participates in a staff prayer group. A recent church-sponsored campus event attracted

a large group of students for free pizza and games, and 80 of them repeated the sinner's prayer. However, few seem to graduate beyond their verbal commitment to Christ. In a 4,000-student school, only four students currently attend the Christian club that Perez leads.

But at least one former student says her prayers have not fallen to waste. Gilbert Gonzalez Jr. was a senior when he took Perez's class. The very first day of the semester, Perez performed "Wind Beneath My Wings" by Bette Midler in sign language in honor of a friend who had died from cancer. "She performed so passionately, there was not a dry eye in the class," Gonzalez recalled, and he began to feel drawn to something inside her. Every lunch period, every opportunity he had, Gonzalez visited Perez in her classroom. There, he told her whatever issues

he was going through: the physical beatings and hurtful names he says his mother lashed on him, the taunts and bullying he endured for his homosexuality. Meanwhile, Perez constantly prayed for his salvation.

At the time, Gonzalez was a Roman Catholic—raised "borderline atheist," but he saw "this warmth and glow about her. ... I felt protected, that if I was around Mrs. Perez, I will be safe even if the world came crashing down." After he graduated in 1999, they continued to keep in touch. One day over the phone, Gonzalez agreed to profess faith in Jesus Christ. He visited her church several times, but held back because a voice kept telling him, "This is not your God. This is a God of 'straight' people. If these people knew you were gay, they wouldn't want you here."

Although at times Perez felt discouraged to see little change in her former student, she kept inviting him to dinner with her family, comforting him when he was down, and praying for him. She prayed seven more years until one night, Gonzalez bawled



on his knees after reading Romans and professed faith in Christ. After eight years of cold silence, Gonzalez called his mother and told her he forgave her. He now teaches a weekly Bible study to a group comprised mostly of the LGBT community—social outcasts, homeless youth, porn stars, and prostitutes.

Gonzalez, now a 34-year-old ASL interpreter, said if not for Perez, he would have swallowed whole the media's portrayal of Christians as racist, sexist, gay-hating bigots. "Mrs. Perez broke that stereotype for me," he said. "She was my first model of what the Bible taught about the fruits of the Spirit." He still calls her every Mother's Day, and on other days too.

Perez knows not every student will turn out like Gonzalez, but she struggles with her desire to "save them all." Every day students haul their anger, despair, and confusion into her classroom, "looking for love in all the wrong places," and Perez bites down the urge to hug them and declare, "Christ is the answer!" During her most discouraged moments, she cries out to God, "When? When is it going to happen?" "That's when God says to me, 'You just do what I tell you to do.'" 🌐



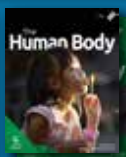
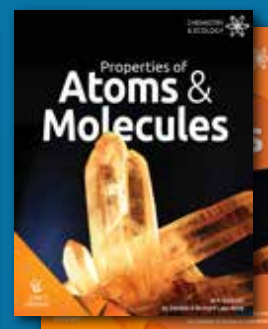
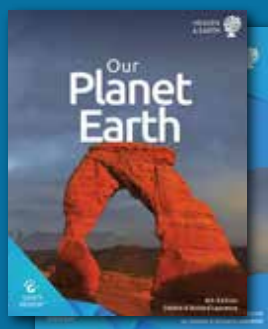


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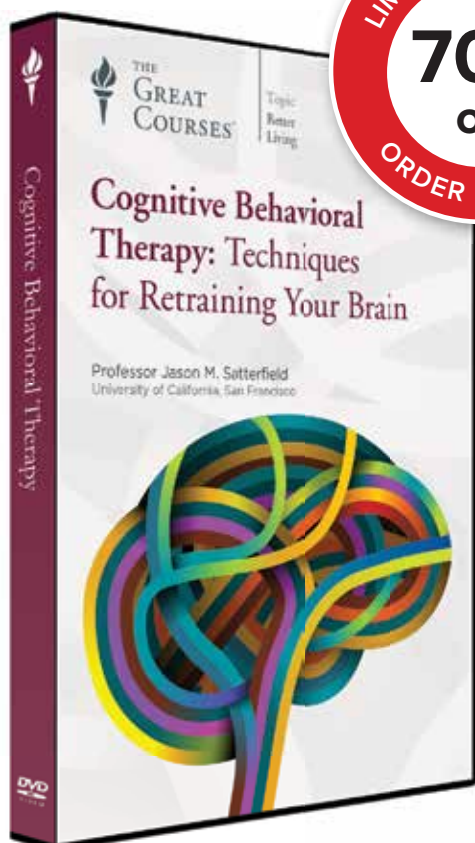


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Into the fight?

Proposals in Congress to make women register for Selective Service sharpen the debate over women in combat

by **LAURA FINCH**

photo by Adek Berry/AFP/Getty Images

U.S. Marine Capt. Katie Petronio was a dynamo upon graduation from Bowdoin College in 2007. Standing 5 feet 3 inches, she could squat 200 pounds, and she seemed as ready for a combat role as many men were.

But just five years later, her body had figuratively started crumbling under the stress of service in Iraq and Afghanistan as a combat engineer officer. Her spine had compressed her nerves to the point of causing neuropathy. Her thigh muscles started to atrophy. She lost 17 pounds and was diagnosed with polycystic ovarian syndrome, which led to infertility. The experience prompted her to write a 2012 article for the *Marine Corps Gazette*. Its title: "Get Over It! We Are Not All Created Equal."

Still, the Pentagon moved ahead to change U.S. history in December when it opened all combat roles to women. The issue then took on a sharper edge in April when a Republican-led congressional committee passed an amendment that would require all women ages 18 to 25 to register for Selective Service. The question now: Will the government, if it ever reinstitutes a draft, force women into the combat roles that are now open to them on a volunteer basis?

The issue of drafting women emerged in February when the top generals of the Army and Marine Corps told members of Congress they believed women should register with Selective Service, and U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., introduced the cheekily named "Draft America's Daughters Act." Hunter said he

U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Michelle Hill, a member of a Female Engagement Team, takes part in a patrol in Afghanistan in 2012.



might vote against his own bill if it advanced through Congress but that the American people “deserve to have this discussion through their elected representatives.”

Hunter’s bill became an amendment to the annual defense appropriations bill, and Hunter did indeed vote against it last month. However, several other Republicans voted for it. Their support pushed the vote count over the edge, allowing it to pass 32-30. (Many conservatives were not amused by Hunter’s ploy. “This is the Republicans being the stupid party,” said Penny Nance, president of Concerned Women for America. “This is a Republican congressman who wanted to make a point but unfortunately betrayed women.”)

Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., one of the handful of Republicans who voted for the amendment, pointed out that some of the American men drafted to serve in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam served in non-combat positions. She said in the event of another draft, the military would put people in positions that they are qualified to fill.

The distinction between combat and support roles is an important one for those opposed to women in combat, as it implies an admission that men and women have different

Capt. Kristen Griest (center) participates in training at the U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga., in April 2015. Griest, one of the first two women to graduate from the Army’s elite Ranger School, recently became the first woman eligible to lead an infantry unit into combat.

physical capabilities—differences policymakers should acknowledge. Army statistics show that women are injured at twice the rate of men in combat training, and these injuries are mainly musculoskeletal in nature.

Even the strongest military women are still susceptible to these. Terri Christiansen of Tallahassee, Fla., served five years in the Army and eight years in the Reserves before taking a 13-year break to raise her children. She then returned to the Florida National Guard and served two deployments: one to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. These days, she’s a chief warrant officer 2 with the National Guard. She attends the 5:45 a.m. “boot camp” class at her local gym.

Had combat roles been an option for her in 1984, Christiansen would have advised her enthusiastic, 20-year-old self this way: “Do what you’re passionate about, but

really think about consequences and if you are suited for that. ... Women’s bodies are different than men’s. In some ways we’re really strong, like we can usually road march for longer than men. We’re tough. We can carry a lot. But I’m starting to already have back and shoulder

‘Can women endure the physical and physiological rigors of sustained combat operations, and are we willing to accept the attrition and medical issues that go along with integration?’ —Petronio

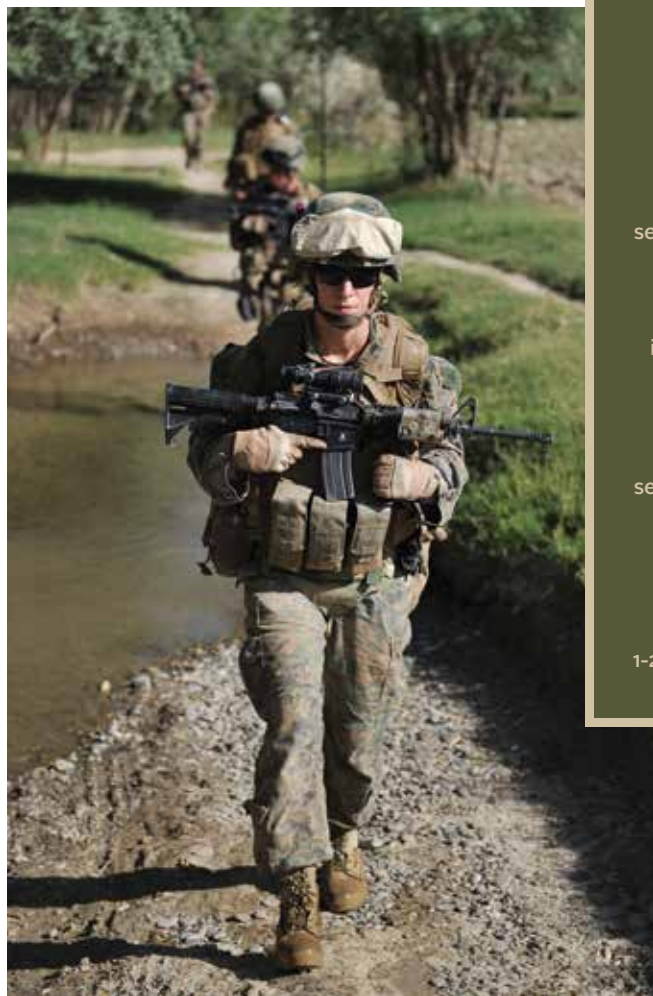


problems. ... Our bodies distribute weight differently.”

Marine Capt. Petronio, in her *Marine Corps Gazette* article, wrote that the issue is not whether women are capable of conducting combat operations, but for how long: “My main concern is a question of longevity. Can women endure the physical and physiological rigors of sustained combat operations, and are we willing to accept the attrition and medical issues that go along with integration?”

Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness, points to Marine Corps tests of infantry trainees in which women were injured at six times the rate of men: “Not a single study has shown that training can overcome significant load-carriage and endurance gaps between men and women,” she wrote in a September 2015 memo to Navy secretary Ray Mabus. She also raises concerns about cost: Although thousands of women could be selected in a draft, likely only a select few would meet the high standards required to serve in combat, she said, and

U.S. Marine Cpl. Reagan Odhner, assigned in a Female Engagement Team, takes part in a night patrol in Afghanistan with Baker Company of the 1st Battalion 7th Marines Regiment in 2012.



training so many individuals who ultimately could not serve would be costly. Donnelly has requested estimates about just how costly it might be.

But concerns about women in combat go beyond physical limitations and monetary costs. Some also have theological problems. Bentley Rayburn, a retired Air Force major general, served on a commission of chaplains convened to address the issue in the 1990s. He and others speak of a biblical basis for women to request exemptions from the draft as conscientious objectors, but only if their churches have taken a public stand on the issue. (He’s skeptical that a draft involving women would limit drafted women to non-combat roles: “I assume liberals wouldn’t put up with that.”)

“There has to be something that [a female draftee] could point to where her church says it is not a good, proper, biblical role or position for her to take,” he said. “We don’t see women in the biblical accounts in combat. There’s the obvious example that’s drug out every time about Deborah, but she wasn’t in a combat role and she did it because the men didn’t step up to their responsibilities.” The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood similarly proclaims in a post from February that “Christian dads should never let their daughters die for them.”

One such Christian dad has grappled with the issue and is at peace with where God has called his daughter. Glenn Kosirog owns a pharmacy in Chicago. In a 2012 court case, he successfully won the right not to stock the morning-after pill. Kosirog’s 29-year-old daughter, Hannah, is a captain in the Air Force and a contracting officer at the National Reconnaissance Office.

While Hannah attended high school in a quiet suburb, Glenn grappled with whether to allow her to enroll in the Air Force Academy. But he now says he knows that the Air Force is where

she belongs and that she thrives in high-pressure situations: “She’s a sharp thinker. She’s really been able to impulsively process things and make a decision beyond my pay grade.”

Glenn said he also had a conversation with Hannah at one point about the possibility of her serving on the front lines. He asked, “We do not believe in women in combat, do we?”

Hannah’s answer: “No, we do not.” —Laura Finch is a graduate of the World Journalism Institute’s mid-career course

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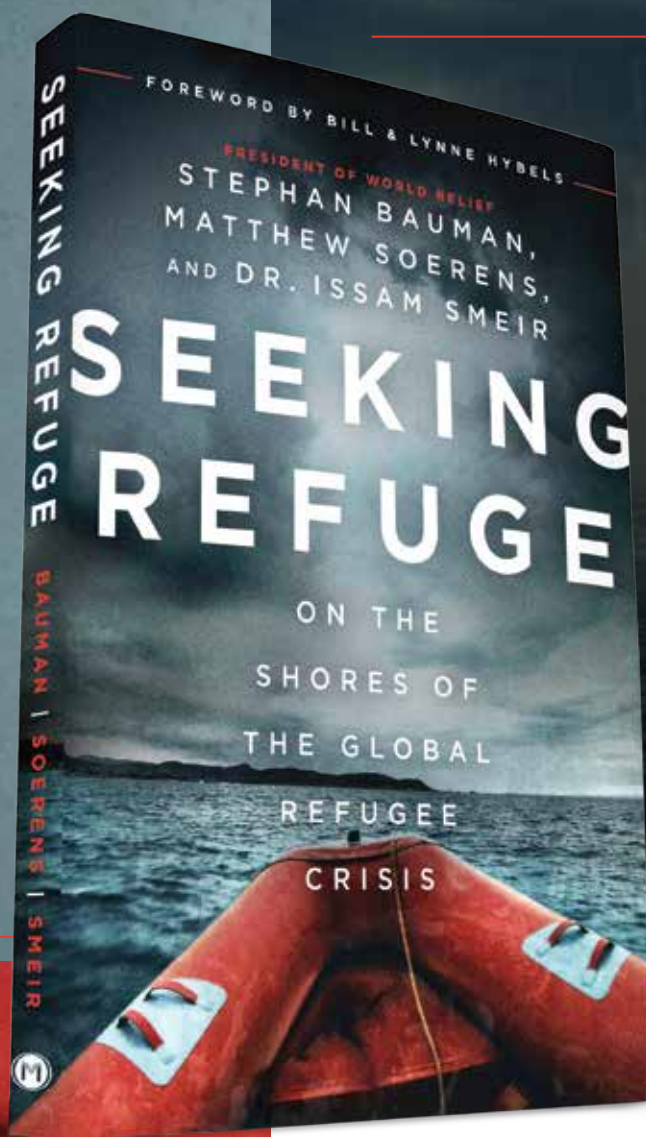
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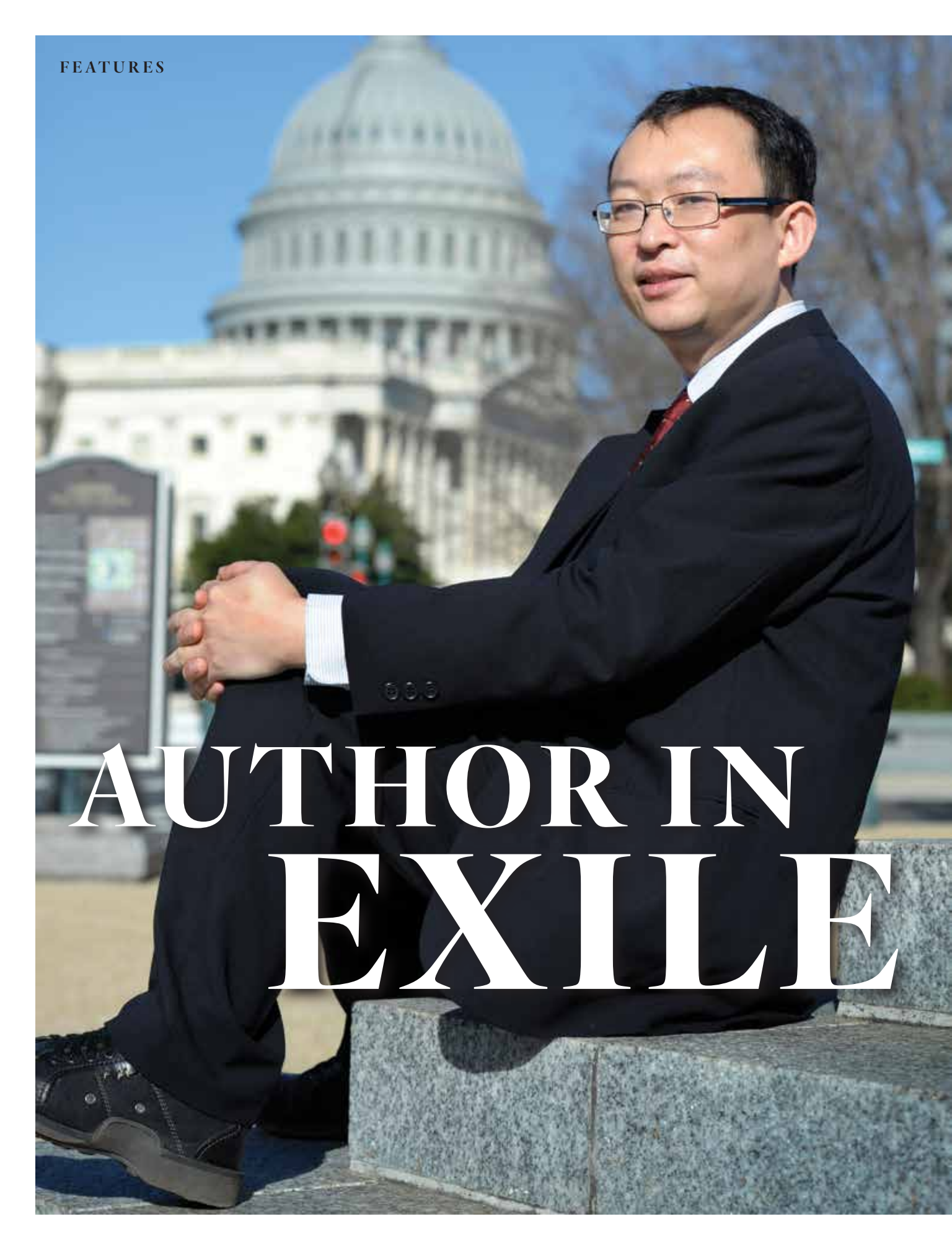
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FEATURES

A man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie, is sitting on a stone ledge. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. His hands are clasped together. In the background, the large, white, domed structure of the United States Capitol building is visible under a clear blue sky. The scene is outdoors, and the lighting suggests it is daytime.

AUTHOR IN EXILE

Writer and political activist **Yu Jie** has discovered Chinese censorship reaching even outside the mainland *by June Cheng*

On Dec. 10, 2010, the striking image of an empty chair at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway, reverberated around the globe. The chair represented the absence of the prize's imprisoned recipient, Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo.

Back in Beijing, another chair stood empty that night—the chair of Liu's close friend and fellow democracy activist Yu Jie, the target of an outraged Chinese government lashing out against the Nobel winner's closest associates.

The day before the ceremony, Chinese security officials had dragged Yu out of his home with a black bag over his head and taken him to a detention cell. There, Yu says, they tortured him—bending his fingers backward, burning his skin with lit cigarette butts, and kicking and beating him until he passed out.

During the torture, the head state security officer ticked off Yu's crimes: working with Liu on projects such as the drafting of the Charter 08, a human rights manifesto; criticizing China's former premier in his book *China's Best Actor: Wen Jiabao*; and writing a biography on Liu's life and work. Yu, who professed Christ in 2003 and became a founding elder of the prominent Beijing Ark House Church, had also stoked the government's ire by fighting for religious freedoms.

That night, as medics scrambled to revive him, Yu recalled in his semi-conscious state verses from Matthew Chapter 10: "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.... Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground



Yu's book *China's Best Actor: Wen Jiabao* on display at a Hong Kong bookstore

apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered."

"God didn't allow me to become a martyr that night," Yu recalled recently. Officials released him a few days after his arrest but closely monitored him and his family for a year. During that time, Yu threatened to seek asylum at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing unless the government allowed him to move to America. The government finally conceded, and on Jan. 9, 2012, officials escorted Yu, his wife, and their son to the Beijing airport, where they boarded a plane and set out for a new life in Fairfax, Va.

In the ensuing four years, the 42-year-old dissident has filled his schedule

with travel, speaking engagements, and writing. Without the distraction of government harassment, he's become an even more prolific author: Each year he averages three new books on topics ranging from politics to modern Chinese history to Christian faith, adding to the 45 titles he's already written. While Yu and his writings are physically banned from China, he's able to influence his homeland with the help of the internet—digital books and articles are accessible to tech-savvy Chinese citizens who scramble over the Great Firewall of China.

Yet in the past few years, Yu has found resistance to his work not just in mainland China but in the free world: Hong Kong's freedom of the press is nearly nonexistent as China continues to encroach into the semiautonomous region, and even some publishers in



Yu poses for a picture in front of a poster of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo.

democracies like Taiwan and the United States appear swayed by China's clout and control over a colossal market.

I met with Yu at a hip coffee shop in Taipei as his wife and 8-year-old son sat at a nearby table, browsing through magazines. The family had traveled to Taiwan—the closest they can get to returning home—in order to promote Yu's latest book, a collection of stories about Christians influencing society in Taiwan, and to interview eight more prominent Christians for his next book in the series.

A Taiwanese publishing house had published the book, *Man Is Dust Illuminated by Light: A Series on Christ and Life*. Across the Taiwan Strait, in Hong Kong, publishers currently refuse to print any book with Yu's name on the cover. That wasn't always the case: In 2014, the Hong Kong publishing house Open published Yu's book *China's Godfather, Xi Jinping*, a critical take on the country's current president.

Last year, Open agreed to publish another of Yu's works, titled *Xi Jinping's Nightmare*, and intended to release it in early 2016. Yet on Jan. 3, Jin Zhong, the chief editor of Open, told Yu the publishing house had suspended those plans. "The difficulty of publishing political books in Hong Kong is already in the international spotlight," Jin wrote to Yu

in an email. "People in the industry are feeling great fear and pressure; they want to stay out of trouble so that they won't be the next one [to disappear]."

Jin's fears were not unfounded. Late last year five Hong Kong booksellers

connected with Mighty Current Media went missing ahead of the planned publication of a book on President Xi's love life. First, Gui Minhui, the owner of the publishing house and a Swedish passport holder, was taken by Chinese agents from his vacation home in Thailand. Then three staff workers disappeared while visiting the mainland. Finally, British citizen Paul Lee, the manager of Causeway Bay Bookstore, went missing from Hong Kong.

Gui resurfaced in January on Chinese state television, claiming he had turned himself in for a hit-and-run he committed in China 12 years ago. In February, Lee also appeared on Chinese television, renouncing his British citizenship and claiming he had traveled to China of his own volition to "cooperate in a judicial investigation." Weeks later Lee ended up back in Hong Kong, where he refused to change his story.

Although many believe the confessions were made under duress, China accomplished its aim—to strike fear into the hearts of once-daring publishers and writers. Trading in gossipy books on China's leaders was lucrative in Hong Kong, as Chinese tourists scrambled to buy items otherwise banned on the mainland.

But in recent days the atmosphere has shifted—about 16 bookstores in the Hong Kong International Airport have been shuttered, some replaced by luxury retailers or China-owned bookstores. The bookstores say they've closed for

SOJOURNING IN AMERICA

As a lifelong advocate for democracy, Yu Jie spent years studying how Christianity informed the creation of America's government. When he came to America in early 2012, he was surprised to find how far society had strayed from its roots. As he closely followed the 2012 presidential election, he found himself in a dilemma. "Up until that point I had never voted before, even for a local official," said Yu, who is not yet a U.S. citizen. "But I felt very sorrowful because I realized that even if I could vote [in America], I wouldn't want to choose either candidate."

This year, Yu said, the options seem even worse, as he believes that neither of the front-runners upholds biblical principles: "This makes my heart heavy and reminds me that I need to pray for America often."

Yu said his Christian faith has sustained him through government pressure as well as his exile from China. He's seen many activist friends compromise their values as officials offer them cushy jobs and prestige as long as they vow to stop criticizing the government. He's watched as friends "in the struggle" turn to tactics employed by the Communist Party—refusing to listen to dissenting opinions and squelching opposing ideas.

For Yu, the Bible reminds him that all men—including intellectuals and human rights activists—are sinful and in need of a Savior.

His faith also bolsters him as he continues writing, spending time with his family, and worshipping at a Chinese church in the suburbs of Virginia, far from the clamor of Beijing: "Most Chinese people feel homesick about China, but I know that on this earth I am a sojourner. So in Beijing I was a sojourner, and in America I am also a sojourner." —J.C.

economic reasons, as more customers turn to e-books.

Yu sees it as the death of an era. The former British colony, he said, “has already lost [its] freedom of press.”

Yu later published his book on Xi in Taiwan, which he called “the last light-house of publishing freedom in Chinese society” in an op-ed in the Hong Kong newspaper *Apple Daily*. Yet he found that larger Taiwanese publishers were also reluctant to publish the book, fearing that such a sensitive title would jeopardize their relationships in China and cost them the opportunity to tap into China’s mammoth market. And although bookstores in Taiwan are willing to carry his book, Yu said he’s faced difficulties arranging book signings or talks at Taiwanese bookstore chains that also have locations in China.

China’s influence isn’t limited to Hong Kong and Taiwan. Recently *Foreign Policy* reported that in early 2015, the American Bar Association (ABA) rescinded its offer to publish a book by Chinese human rights lawyer Teng Biao, telling Teng in an email ABA leaders worried they would “run the risk of upsetting the Chinese government by publishing your book.” The email went on to say the organization feared publishing the book would put “commissions working in China” at risk.

In response, the ABA claimed it had decided not to publish the book because of economic considerations, and that the reasons were miscommunicated to Teng. The lawyer told *Foreign Policy* he was surprised to see such an influential American organization seemingly bowing to Chinese pressure: “Even if there is a little bit of influence on [the ABA’s] programs in China, sacrificing press freedom for this kind of self-censorship isn’t worth it.”

In spite of the obstacles, Yu has still been able to reach the Chinese people with his writings. German broadcaster Deutsche Welle made an audiobook version of Yu’s *China’s Best Actor: Wen Jiabao* available for free online in 2012, and since then the book has been downloaded 3 million times, Yu said.

“I don’t think any book nowadays could sell 3 million copies,” Yu said. “I feel very optimistic that even though I’m overseas, I can still influence the younger generation through these means.” ☺

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FEATURES



AFTER A FIERY TRIAL

Intelligent design proponent **David Coppedge** reflects on his wrongful termination lawsuit and walking through the valleys of life

BY **SOPHIA LEE** • PHOTO BY **GREG SCHNEIDER/GENESIS**



DAVID COPPEDGE WAS WORKING HIS JOB as a system administrator at the prestigious Jet Propulsion Laboratory one day when a shadow overcast his cubicle. It was his deputy section manager, who stood over him with a grave face and said, “I need you to stop what you’re doing and come with me.”

Then, in a private office, the manager told him he was being laid off, effective immediately. Coppedge was stunned. But there was little he could do except silently gather his personal belongings—framed pictures of nature, work memorabilia, notebooks—and follow an escort off the premises. In his mind, he stuttered, “This can’t be real. Is this really happening?”

That was Jan. 24, 2011—almost two years after the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), a NASA-contracted, federally funded research and development center in Southern California, demoted Coppedge from his “team lead” position of nine years. The demotion came after a colleague complained Coppedge was “harassing” her with his religious viewpoints at work.

Here’s what happened: Coppedge had offered his co-worker a DVD by Illustra Media (he’s a board member there) called *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*. The documentary uses biological arguments to poke holes in evolutionary theory: It supports intelligent design but doesn’t mention religion or God. That

co-worker later testified in court she had fast-forwarded through the film instead of watching it, yet she somehow still became alarmed by its “religious” content.

Her alarm was enough to spark an investigation that revealed Coppedge had also offended her and a second co-worker by handing them information fliers supporting California’s Proposition 8, a measure that temporarily banned same-sex marriage in the state. In April 2009, JPL sent Coppedge a written warning and demoted him. He filed a wrongful demotion case against JPL. Then eight months after his lawsuit, JPL abruptly terminated his employment.

That day, Coppedge called his lawyer before leaving the JPL parking lot. They discussed what to do next in court, and then Coppedge drove the 28 miles back home in a daze, wondering what was next in life. He remembers praying: “Lord, You’re in control. I don’t know what’s happening, but this is for Your purpose, so help me do my best and learn from it.”

For the next two years, Coppedge learned suffering: He lost his lawsuit against JPL after spending about \$70,000 on legal fees and shouldering a financial loss of more than \$800,000 in lost salary and benefits. Six days before the trial concluded, he discovered he had cancer. Meanwhile, his mother was dying. It was a season of stumbling through “deep valleys,” Coppedge says. But he also calls it a “story of God’s mercy and grace.”

ON MARCH 21, COPPEDGE TURNED 65. A

fit-looking, self-possessed man with a neat salt-and-pepper beard, he’s also a stargazing, note-taking nerd whose blue eyes light up over his favorite topics: God, nature, science, music (he plays the French horn and trumpet and composes electronic music, mostly orchestral). In 2013, four months after surgery to remove cancerous tumors, Coppedge trekked across the Grand Canyon with a 45-pound backpack and a 12-inch abdominal scar, then dived 55 feet into a deep pool. Last year, he surpassed his goal of walking 1,000 miles in 12 months. With every step, he marveled at the miraculous human body.

Coppedge never married, but he’s close to his sister Judy (his oldest sister, Jeanne, died of cancer in 2000), and he keeps himself busy with people. Once, immediately after being discharged from the hospital after a near-fatal bee sting, he showed up at the fire station to thank the paramedics who rescued him. And then, not satisfied with verbal thank-you’s and teary bear hugs, he returned with Life Savers candy, chips, and a giant sheet cake decorated with red icing: “To the Life Savers of Station 150.” Despite losing the case against JPL, he scrounged up more than \$50,000 from his retirement savings for his attorney out of gratitude for his unpaid work.

Ever since Sputnik launched in 1957 and astronaut Buzz Aldrin quoted Psalm 8 after the Apollo 11 mission, Coppedge was fascinated with space. His father, James, a nature-loving youth minister and an advocate of intelligent design,

instilled in him a great awe for creation and science. His biology teacher, a staunch evolutionist, demonstrated how pervasively the belief (or disbelief) in a Creator shapes worldviews, something that later inspired Coppedge to call Darwin the “Bearded Buddha,” since “people offer sacrifices by taking their brain out and offering it at his feet.”

Like his father, Coppedge loves extolling the wonders of creation. He founded Creation Safaris in 1984 after realizing his church’s social events were all urban activities such as bowling and concerts. Since then, he’s been leading outdoor nature trips to gaze at fossils, galaxies, sunsets, flowers, and birds in mountains, rivers, and canyons, always giving full credit to the Creator.

The idea for his second project resulted from a work lecture discussing how one of Jupiter’s moons produces too much heat for an apparently multibillion-year-old satellite. Coppedge wrote about the topic on his Creation Safaris website, attracting enough readers to spawn a separate website called “Creation-Evolution Headlines,” where he spends hours each day penning commentaries on the latest scientific news.





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(1) Coppedge (left) and Becker in court. (2) Copies of the DVDs Coppedge shared with JPL co-workers. (3) Diving at Havasupai Canyon. (4) Coppedge at work in his home studio. (5) Suffering a headache in the courthouse.

WHEN JPL HIRED COPPEDGE IN 1996 as a computer system administrator to help with the Cassini mission to Saturn (described by NASA as “the most ambitious effort in planetary space exploration ever mounted”), he was thrilled to land his dream job: Here he was, at the heart of cutting-edge science—probing the heavens, discovering the great unknown, making history. As team lead, he constantly tried to excite his team members with the awareness they were part of something extraordinary.

He also occasionally offered DVDs about intelligent design to co-workers whom he knew. His goal wasn’t to proselytize, he says, but to stir conversations, because “if the Darwinian picture is flawed, people ought to know the facts.” He had one co-worker who would talk frequently about his interest in photography—so why not share his own interest in the origin of life? If anyone expressed disinterest, he says, he immediately backed down. So Coppedge was flabbergasted when his supervisor told him “a number of people” had complained that he was “pushing religion” during work hours. His demotion came a month later.

Coppedge called the Alliance Defense Fund (now known as Alliance Defending Freedom) for help. ADF-affiliate attorney Bill Becker, now president of nonprofit public policy firm Freedom X, volunteered to take the case pro bono. He and Coppedge filed suit in April 2010. Since it’s illegal for employers to retaliate, Coppedge thought his job was safe while litigation pending. JPL found another way to boot him off: They said he was let go for performance reasons as part of a larger cutback of staff. (Coppedge’s performance reviews abruptly began tanking soon after the DVD incident.)

Because Becker had no staff, Coppedge acted as his paralegal, analyzing hundreds of documents for evidence. Altogether, Becker estimates they spent about 2,500 hours over three years working on the case. Meanwhile, Coppedge was suffering from chronic headaches that increased in pain and frequency. During the intense five-week trial, the headaches became so



5

unbearable Coppedge sometimes had to lie down on courtroom benches. After meals, his face flushed beet-red and he had recurring diarrhea and abdominal pain, which he blamed on emotional stress and food poisoning.

Then one day, Coppedge’s endocrinologist called him in and told him he had neuroendocrine cancer. A large tumor was pressing on his small intestine, and tumors “too numerous to count” were spreading in his liver. Coppedge took the doctor’s news stoically, but once alone at home, he bawled like a baby. Six days later, on Jan. 16, 2013, the judge ruled against him on all counts without explanation. JPL then threatened to make him pay its court costs of \$51,000.

For days, devastation came in waves. Tears surged out without warning. Coppedge couldn’t shake what seemed like the devil perched on his shoulder, whispering, “Dave, you’re a sinner. This is why this is happening to you.” Discouraged, he cried, “God, please show me a sign that this is not punishment for something I did.”

The next morning, he walked into church for the Sunday service just in time to hear the congregation sing “How Firm a Foundation.” The hymn’s lyrics—“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie / My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply”—overwhelmed him to tears, this time from relief and comfort. Then the pastor preached on suffering through life’s trials and quoted Psalm 23, saying, “The fact that you walk through the valley of the shadow of death does not necessarily mean you will leave it, just that He will be with you.” Coppedge, feeling his prayer had been answered, faced surgery the following day with confidence and peace.

Today, Coppedge’s cancer is in remission and his legal battle with his former employer is over (he did not have to pay JPL’s legal fees). He now makes one-fourth of the income he earned at JPL, but he’s still doing what he loves: leading nature groups, combing through hundreds of scientific articles for his website, serving as a board member and researcher for creation-related organizations, taking nature photography, and debating foul-mouthed atheists on Twitter.

At least one thing is helping him face the future, whatever it may hold: prayer. Coppedge says the last three years have fortified his prayers with more intentional thanksgiving, which he calls a “terrific healer and sustainer.” His prayer list has also lengthened with the names of other people who are suffering, particularly those with cancer: “That was one of the good things reinforced to me during my trials: the power of prayer. ... My prayer life is deeper and richer than it’s ever been.” ☹

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHURCHES REACH THE UNEMPLOYED THROUGH JOB FAIRS

by Sophia Lee in Covina, Calif.

➔ It wasn't Easter, Christmas, or soup kitchen day at Christ First Baptist Church in Covina, Calif., but a hot Thursday morning. A line of about 200 men and women—of all ages and ethnicities—stood in the church courtyard, fanning themselves with resumé folders. Some had dressed in blouse

and slacks or suit and tie, while others wore jeans and sneakers. All were locals looking for jobs—and many were unchurched.

The April job fair at Christ First was the church's first partnership with Church Job Fairs, a faith-based organization that helps churches plan and

promote job recruitment events. Unlike the massive, crowded job fairs typically held in hotels or convention centers downtown, Church Job Fairs events take place in local churches for the local community. The idea is simple: A church is meant to be a place of hope, encouragement, and love to its community. So why not host a job fair in a church and meet both physical and spiritual needs?

Christ First senior pastor James Laing said his church regularly serves the homeless but also wanted a ministry that “doesn't just give people handouts.” Hosting a job fair in his church, Laing said, is a way to bless the community with no strings attached—while also building relationships: “I can't think of

anywhere else where I as a pastor get to talk to 20 people in a room who are unchurched. And they're all coming to us."

That morning, Laing gave multiple five-minute welcome speeches to groups of about 20 job seekers. "Put up your hand if you're nervous," he told one group. Most people raised their hands. Laing nodded sympathetically and told them he'd been in their spot numerous times. He shared his story: "The only thing I didn't like more than searching for a job was Christians.... I would probably jump off a bridge as a 16-year-old teenager if I knew I would one day become a 'professional Christian.'" He then concluded, "I believe in a God who loves you. Even if there's a slightest chance that there's a God, wouldn't you want Him on your side?"

After the speech, Laing and his youth pastor prayed for the group and directed it to the main sanctuary, where recruiters from about 15 local companies were waiting at their booths. As the group shuffled out and a new group entered the room, one woman lingered to ask about the church's youth group for her 16-year-old daughter.

Gerhard Kramer founded Church Job Fairs two years ago after his church in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., held a job fair to reach the community. At that fair, 40 recruiters and hundreds of job seekers showed up.

Kramer ultimately quit his job as a salesman for the *Los Angeles Times* to promote Church Job Fairs full time. Since 2014, about 10,000 people have attended 60 Church Job Fairs events held in churches all across Southern California. Kramer estimates about 80 percent of those job seekers have never been inside church doors. He can name at least 20 people who have professed Christ through the job fairs.

About 9 out of 10 employers return after first participating in one of the events. Recruiters told me they like Church Job Fairs for its "personal touch": Instead of packing everyone into the room at once—usually resulting in several job seekers queuing up



Job seekers talk to recruiters from local companies (above); volunteers pray over job seekers (left) at a recent church job fair in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

Laing said hosting a job fair in his church is a way to bless the community with no strings attached—while also building relationships.

to speak with one frazzled recruiter—job seekers enter in groups of about 20. First they meet in a separate room with the church pastor, who welcomes them with a brief gospel presentation and prayer. Next they receive a bottle of water and breath-freshening mints before meeting the recruiters from local companies. Then as job seekers leave the fair, swinging bags stuffed

with company brochures and job application forms, church volunteers ask if they can pray for them.

That day at Christ First, nearly everybody said yes to offers of prayer. Volunteers laid their hands on shoulders or held hands as they prayed aloud for God's love and provision. One job seeker, a gray-bearded man of 57, said he recently lost his job of 37 years at a food plant. Another man, 32-year-old Michael Dixon, lost his dishwashing job and has been looking for stable work for 18 months.

Mike Ulrich, a lean, 55-year-old former carpenter who's now homeless, said he's been to many job fairs but liked this one because "they took the anxiety away." Though he doesn't attend church, Ulrich said he appreciated the prayers. Already, he feels them working: He had just talked to the recruiters of Heavy Equipment College of California, a training school in heavy equipment operations, and was pumped about applying. "I'm going to school!" he said with a grin. "One day I'll be able to go down a freeway I helped build, and my kids will say, 'My daddy did that!'" ☪



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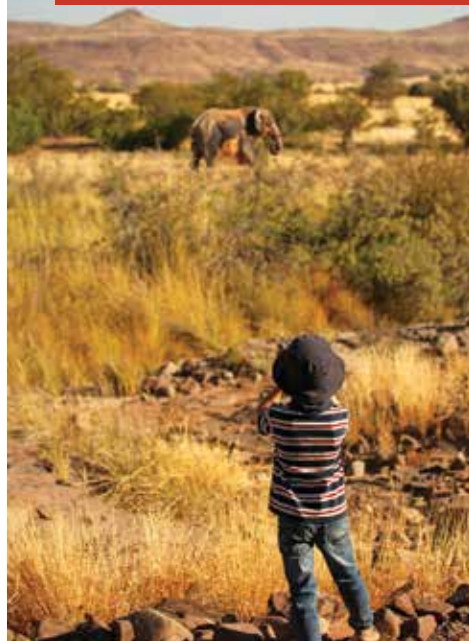
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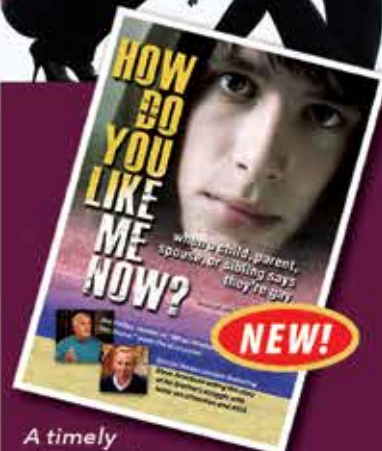
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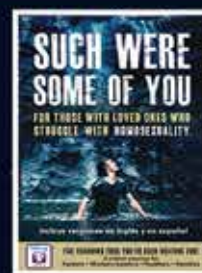
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Life with Lyme

FOR LONG-TERM LYME PATIENTS, TREATMENT IS A MATTER OF DISPUTE *by Julie Borg*

➔ Over four years ago, Joe and Melissa Heath and at least one of their three children contracted Lyme disease. The Heaths, from San Diego, spent more than a year trying to pin down a diagnosis: The symptoms of each family member varied, none was aware of being bitten by a tick, and none had the telltale bull's-eye rash. Joe, Melissa, and 17-year-old Hannah all eventually tested positive for Lyme disease. Tests for 13-year-old James were inconclusive.

Like up to a third of all Lyme victims, the Heaths did not experience relief of symptoms after standard antibiotic treatments. They also didn't realize the controversy surrounding cases like theirs: Many doctors insist long-term Lyme patients no longer have an active bacterial infection.

After eight months of long-term treatment, the Heaths still struggle with symptoms: Joe, a middle-school teacher, suffers musculoskeletal pain that makes it difficult to get through the school day or do much else on weekends. Hannah's surfboard rests unused, and she sometimes has to use voice-activated software for schoolwork because writing aggravates the pain in her hands. James suffers severe bouts of gastrointestinal problems. Melissa has improved, but during the worst of her painful symptoms she had to cut back on homeschooling her daughter and supplement her coursework with online classes.

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month: The Lyme bacterium is transmitted by ticks as small as a poppy seed, and if doctors catch the infection

early enough, it can often be cured with a short course of antibiotics. But early diagnosis is tricky. Lyme disease symptoms mimic a variety of disorders, and lab tests can be unreliable.

One tick can carry several bacteria or parasites that may infect a Lyme patient. Altogether, the Heaths were diagnosed with eight different infections.

Some medical organizations, like the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, do not believe long-term Lyme sufferers

syndrome" to describe residual damage to tissues and the immune system that may occur during infection and persist afterward—much like a strep infection can lead to rheumatic heart disease that continues even after the strep bacteria are long dead.

"We are not precisely sure why these symptoms are persisting, but fairly careful studies have not been able to document still-active infection," said Paul Auwaerter, an infectious disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a member of IDSA. In addition, studies of long-term treatment of Lyme with antibiotics showed they worked no better than placebos, he said.

But other medical professionals believe these patients still battle an active infection resistant to initial treatment. They favor the term "chronic Lyme disease" and often advocate ongoing antibiotics.

The Lyme Disease Association and the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society argue the most current research supports the existence of chronic Lyme disease.

Scientists are working to develop better diagnostic tests. For example, researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, may have discovered a way to diagnose Lyme disease based on a distinctive gene pattern in the white blood cells of patients.

Although Melissa Heath's symptoms have improved, doctors give her little hope for a full recovery. The rest of her

family is re-evaluating whether to continue expensive treatments (totaling about \$100,000 so far) that haven't helped and aren't covered by their insurance. Melissa, in the meantime, says she's carrying around notecards with Bible verses that encourage her, such as Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." ☉

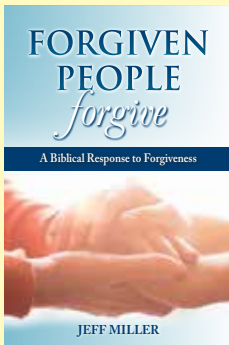


Melissa and James with the family's collection of medicine, supplements, and herbal remedies

are still infected with live bacteria. They advise against prolonged antibiotic treatment,

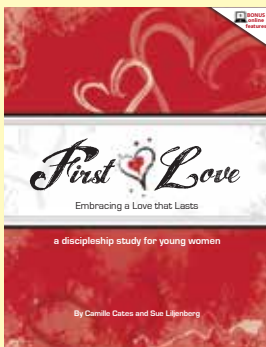
which they believe is unhelpful and increases the risk of serious antibiotic complications. They use the term "post-treatment Lyme disease

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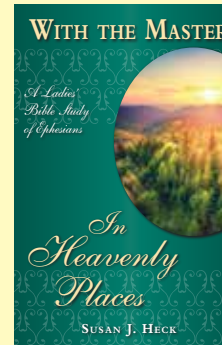


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Liam Flint and Ollie Baines (left to right) chat to Premier Christian Radio; Leicester City celebrates with the Premier League trophy (below).

What were the odds?

A RAGTAG SOCCER TEAM AND AN UPSTART SOCCER WEBSITE FIND UNEXPECTED SUCCESS

by Andrew Branch

➔ Perhaps Elvis is alive. Those odds are 2,000-to-1. And despite 5,000-to-1 odds, Leicester City players on May 2 became champions of England in their second year in the UK's top soccer league.

"They've got no real history, no pedigree, on the face of it," baffled Englishman Liam Flint said of the ragtag champions of the Barclays Premier League.

The same could be said of Flint, 23, and friend Ollie Baines, 22. Two of England's newest sports journalists, Flint and Baines are in their second year combining authentic soccer news and the biblical gospel at the website Cross the Line. Baines and Flint now have followers on virtually every continent, all from seeing a need in the British evangelical community.

"There's not many young guys—not enough for our liking anyway—who are on fire for God," Flint told me. "I think there need to be more men raised up, more leaders, and actually just normal guys."

The two normal guys who enjoy writing and soccer decided to build a

bridge to their demographic, combining basic news and faith-based content. But if told in December 2014 their website would get more than 1 million unique visitors in its first year and Leicester would win the title, laughter might have been the response.

"When we first started it up, we didn't have all the gifts, talents, and qualifications to actually do this," Flint told me. "We had to rely on God to kind of provide for us."

Messaging lower-league English Christians on social media led to an expanding network and reputation, to

"players recommending other players." Today, Baines and Flint are compiling into a book interviews from top European leagues and virtually every Major League Soccer locker room in North America. They have a team of web writers they vet and coach, one of whom is 16.

"Obviously, we believe the reason we've been able to contact these clubs and to actually get their approval is because God has given us massive favor," Flint said. Professed Christians they contact don't always have a strong or well-lived faith. But they see themselves as encouragers. "We're about building them up," Baines said.

Cross the Line's simultaneous foray into straight soccer news allows them to speak the truly global languages of English and soccer.

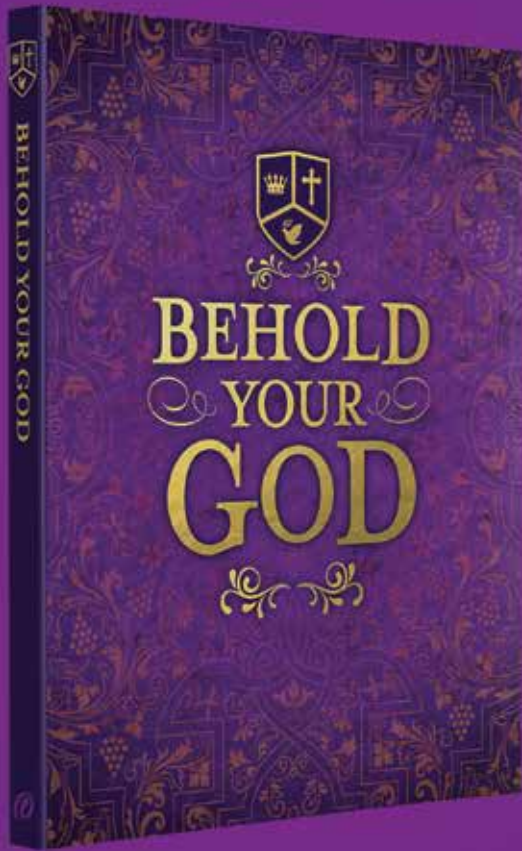
Leicester City also took an unusual path to the top. Imagine a AAA baseball team in the United States taking the Atlanta Braves' place and winning the World Series by 2018. Just last April, Leicester sat in last place and barely escaped relegation, or demotion back to a lower league. This year, new manager Claudio Ranieri bolstered his team not with top players, but with the promise of pizza for holding opponents scoreless.

"They're all basically rejects from higher clubs," said Flint, who along with most of England expected Leicester to "implode" or "choke"

under pressure. "Their team ethos has just been incredible."

Cross the Line's team ethos is growing, too. Baines said they see themselves growing in the biblical skills of leadership and encouragement: "We're just [God's] stewards of this, so we're kind of just going along with the flow and seeing what God's got planned." ☺

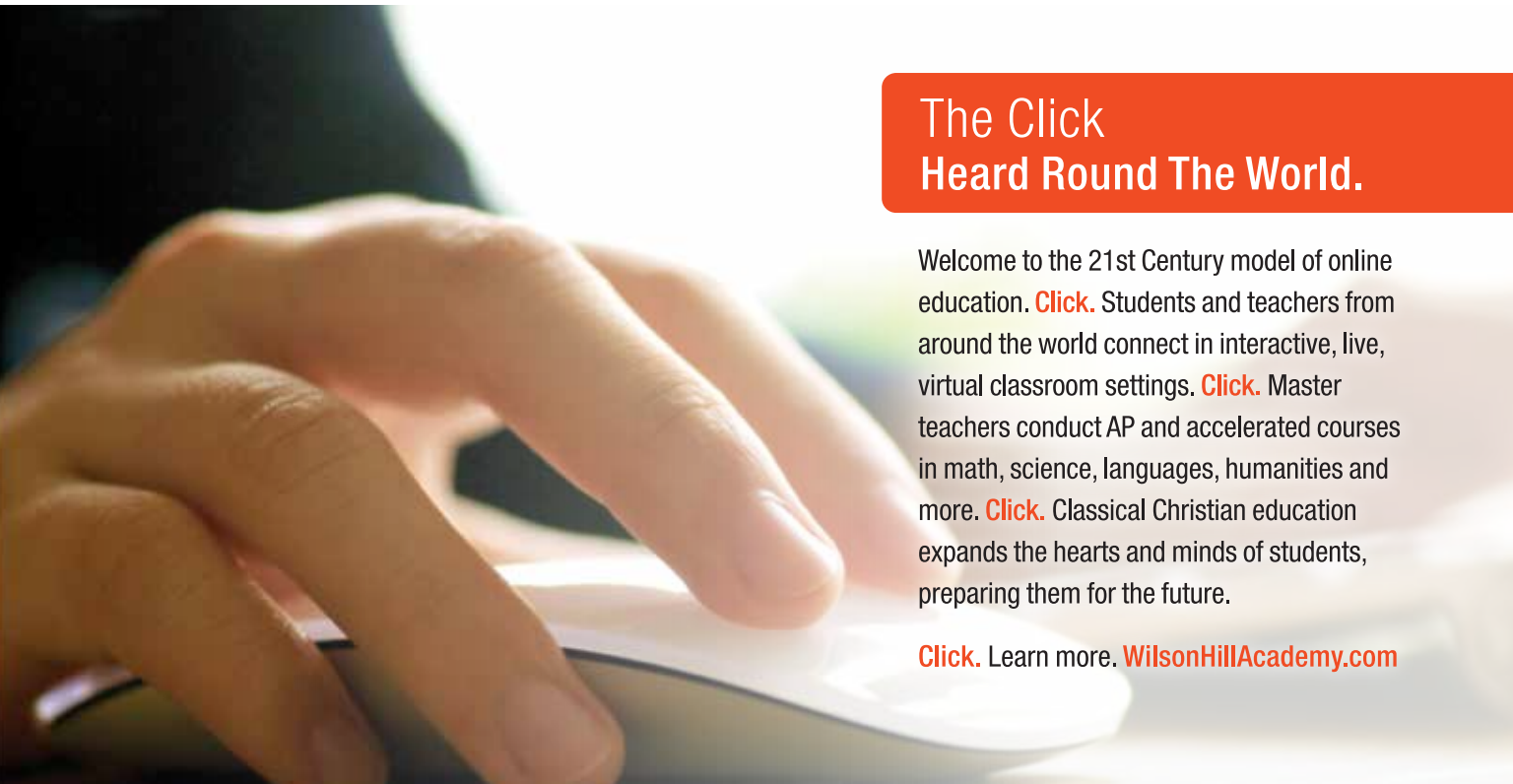




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A Financial Stability Oversight Council meeting at the Treasury Department

Wrangled rule-makers

COURTS FINALLY BEGIN TO REIN IN FINANCIAL REGULATORS *by David Skeel*

➔ For the past six years, Washington bureaucrats have been rolling out tens of thousands of pages of new regulations implementing the 2010 financial reforms known as the Dodd-Frank Act. By one estimate, their handiwork had inflicted \$24 billion in costs on American businesses as of last summer.

But the first hints are emerging that enough is finally enough. In recent weeks, several federal courts have chastised regulators for trying to grab even more power than the Dodd-Frank Act gave them.

In late March, a federal judge rebuked the Financial Stability Oversight Council (known as FSOC), one of the two new regulatory bodies created in 2010. Under Dodd-Frank, banks that have at least \$50 billion in assets—as well as any other financial institution that FSOC decides is “systemically important” (that is, whose failure could harm the financial system)—are subject to a battery of additional regulatory requirements. After FSOC “designated” MetLife as systemically important, the big insurance company sued.

It turned out FSOC hadn’t even bothered to follow its own rules,

which required it to consider whether there is a realistic chance a company will fail. FSOC also simply assumed that MetLife’s failure would threaten the nation’s financial stability, without explaining how or why. The judge rejected the designation, finding it “arbitrary and capricious.”

In April, another federal judge swatted down the other new regulator, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Evidently concluding its existing powers are not broad enough, the consumer bureau had intervened in the college accreditation business, opening an investigation into a nonprofit organization that accredits many for-profit colleges and schools.

Asked what college accreditation has to do with consumer finance, the consumer bureau claimed it was probing to see if there is a connection between accreditation and student loans. The judge criticized that justification as “a bridge too far.”

Even bigger problems may loom for the consumer bureau, as suggested by yet another new case, in which a mortgage lender challenged bureau Director **Richard Cordray’s**

unilateral decision to increase the fine assessed by an administrative law judge from \$6 million

to \$109 million. During oral arguments in the case, a federal appellate judge called the director’s power to rewrite judicial rulings “very problematic,” hinting that the structure of the consumer bureau may be unconstitutional.

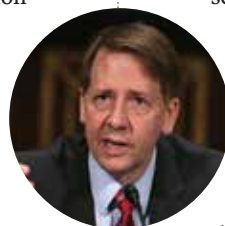
It’s too early to proclaim that regulatory sanity has returned. So far, the recent cases rein in only the worst examples of regulatory imperialism. Simply by being a little more careful next time, for instance, FSOC will still be able to subject nearly any financial institution it wishes to additional regulation.

Another problem: Over the past seven years, President Barack Obama has packed the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., with left-leaning judges. Because most challenges to regulatory overreach are brought in Washington (including all three cases described here), regulators are much more likely to win on appeal than they were a few years ago.

Still, the wave of recent cases is a promising sign. For the first few years after the 2008 financial crisis, courts seemed unwilling to second-guess even the most egregious overreaching by regulators. The government got a pass for violating corporate and banking law with its financial institution bailouts and for flouting bankruptcy law when it bailed out carmaker Chrysler.

As the economy returns to something approaching normalcy, courts seem willing to take a closer

look at what the regulators are up to. It would be even better if Congress rolled back the excesses of the Dodd-Frank Act. But if that isn’t a realistic possibility anytime soon, at least courts are finally setting some limits on the new regulatory imperialism. ☉



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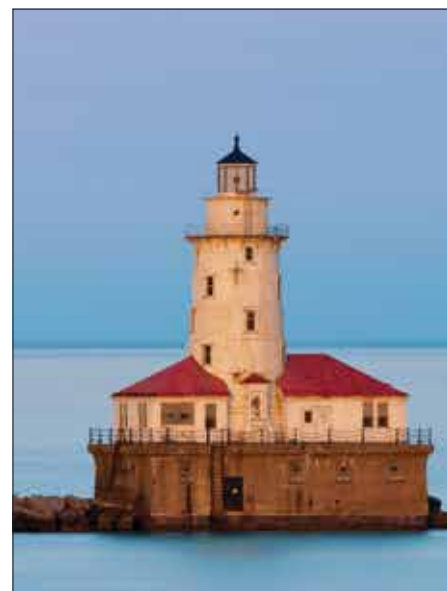
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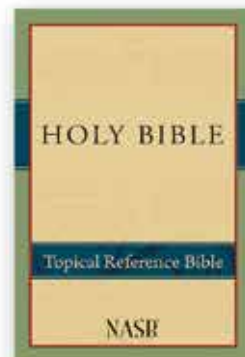
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R A Z I E M A H

'Friends of Ted'

APRIL 16 It seems to me Ted Cruz has plenty of friends: those he has befriended to encourage their ideals, and those who see in him worth to be encouraged. Best of all, his friendship with Jesus seems strong.

—MARY GLAESMAN / Fallon, Nev.



You failed to mention that from 2006 to 2010, the Cruzes made millions yet gave far less than 1 percent to charity. Cruz refused to release his charitable giving for years 2011 to 2014. I don't trust him.

—ROGER MINASSIAN / Fresno, Calif.

Friends, what is it with the "anybody but Trump" theme? Give it a rest.

—JOHN SNIVELY / Eustis, Fla.

'Underdog moment'

APRIL 16 You referred to Gov. John Kasich as pro-life, yet he has stated he is pro-abortion in cases of rape and incest. The answer to these rare pregnancies is counseling and grace, not murder.

—MATT ECKMAN / Hartland, Mich.

You mentioned Kasich's support for Common Core and his lack of support for protecting religious liberty, but it seemed treated too briskly. Kasich may be a Christian, but he is betraying Christians with such positions.

—BRUCE HENNE / Salem, Wis.

Notable Books

APRIL 16 Thank you for your book reviews. I often recommend to my library books that WORLD has recommended. One librarian encouraged me to continue, saying, "We get enough requests from the other side."

—PATTY NEVINS / Sacramento, Calif.

'Society of stakeholders'

APRIL 16 Joel Belz rightly calls American

healthcare financing "a mess." In a better system, everybody would have coverage, and everybody would pay a percentage of the actual cost. Actual costs would be transparent, and the financing would be disconnected from employment.

—IAN H. COOK / Madison, Wis.

'Buffet of belief'

APRIL 16 Joel Belz awakened me to the brutal fact that we live in a "once-great country," a truth I have tried to ignore. I then read the sections on presidential candidates and National Geographic Channel's failed attempt to find the only true God, finally arriving at Marvin Olasky's column ("Halls of power") that concluded, "Christ is our only hope." This issue was great.

—JIM SCHULTZ / Decatur, Ill.

The "buffet line" approach to faith is nothing new; the Bible calls it idolatry to determine for ourselves what our god will be like, and then worshipping it. Our culture appears to be running headlong with its fingers in its collective ears, into a new age of Judges, a time when everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

—BOB RENCKLY on wng.org

'A massive and immoral scheme'

APRIL 16 The premiums (that is, taxes) for Social Security are too low, the income from investments is too small,

and the benefits are too generous for it to stay solvent. It probably would not pass the fiduciary standards most states set for annuities.

—HEINRICH ERBES / McLean, Va.

So far, Washington's "answer" is to hike workers' FICA contributions every so often and claim that it has "saved" Social Security. The government has reached the limit on that ploy, however; a Ponzi scheme is still a Ponzi scheme.

—RICH ASPER / Menomonie, Wis.

'God's Not Dead 2'

APRIL 16 This movie will harden the hearts of nonbelievers while making a quick buck off religious conservatives.

—ETHAN HANSON on Facebook

We recommend highly this movie to any who need encouragement to stand for their Christian beliefs whatever the cost. Both films in this series are excellent.

—RUTH WAGGENER on wng.org

'Not yet missed'

APRIL 16 Mindy Belz was far too charitable toward the 44th president. Barack Obama has been an unapologetic defender of Planned Parenthood, the Walmart of the abortion industry and a provider of baby parts. He has also supported homosexuality and homosexual marriage. We have reached the stage where "evil is called good and good evil."

—JIM IRISH / Bastrop, Texas

'Work and family time'

APRIL 16 To your enjoyable article I would add that Adam LaRoche recently cited a trip with The Exodus Road, which helps rescue sex slaves, as a major part of his decision to retire. He weighed playing baseball against what he hoped he might accomplish by a return visit to Asia. What a delight to hear the rest of the story.

—**BILL DOERFEL** / *Norman, Okla.*

'Way out there'

APRIL 16 I wonder if those at the

Southwest Research Institute, who wouldn't have thought that tiny Pluto could "hold on to an atmosphere over the age of the solar system," had considered whether the universe is much younger than they thought possible.

—**FRANK BROWN** / *Port Republic, N.J.*

'Reinventing the wheel'

APRIL 16 The task for self-driving vehicles is not to come up with an operating system that does not crash, but one that crashes less often than people. In

a few years, I imagine people will consider manual driving to be an unnecessarily dangerous activity.

—**DANA DAVIS** on wng.org

LETTERS and COMMENTS

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BATHROOMS AND TOWEL DISPENSERS CAN MAKE FOR CHALLENGING WORK

➔ I started a new job. You may remember my brief employment at Rocky's, a local eatery. This present line of work does not involve money or people, so I should be good.

The position had to meet my stringent requirements: part time, flexible hours, at least minimum wage, and totally disassociated from the world of HOV lanes ("High-occupancy vehicle"), a term I learned last week on the parking lot that is I-75 in Atlanta from 4 to 6 p.m. Preferably, it should be mindless labor.

Of that last goal I shall have to repent (which in the Bible means to turn and walk in the other direction). Barbara J. once told me she prays while she vacuums her house because there is nothing else to do anyway. My work will be bathrooms, 10 of them, and a commercial kitchen, which could be a veritable ministry if I allow it. As Paul said about his job of preaching, "If I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship" (1 Corinthians 9:17). May as well go for the reward.

Part of my stewardship is the Hillyard automatic hand towel dispensers (about which more later). The first day of any new routine is always the worst, isn't it? I'll bet that's when most people quit. I made umpteen trips back and forth to the supply closet for things I forgot, found out how potent one drop of Vani-Sol is on the skin, and while emptying the bucket-on-wheels off the second floor landing near the dumpster, locked myself out of the building. Buildings didn't used to lock behind you in the daytime when I was a kid, so it's very annoying.

The Hillyard Paper Towel situation deserves its own paragraph because it was the black hole of my afternoon. I knew it would be the moment I laid eyes on it. It wasn't the placing of the first towel roll that troubled me but the manual requirement of dropping the diminished roll into the well to place a second full one



The first day of any new routine is always the worst, isn't it? I'll bet that's when most people quit.

above it. My boss demonstrated the operation, but he went too fast.

Ashamed, I didn't tell him. I texted him later, and he came back. While struggling to mimic the motions in front of him, I made small talk, asking if he had ever seen the movie *Charly*, about a mentally disabled man chosen to test out a serum that ends up tripling his IQ, so that he amazes his fellow workers at the factory where he sweeps. This evening I brought my husband after hours (I have keys)

to be shown the trick a third time.

He just looks at things and knows how they work.

In this regard I am like C.S. Lewis and my husband is not, aha! For the renowned author admits in his autobiographical *Surprised by Joy* a deficiency from childhood that is close to my own heart: "I had very definitely formed the opinion that the universe was, in the main, a rather regrettable institution.... As to the sources of my pessimism... Perhaps I had better call it a settled expectation that everything would do what you did not want it to do. Whatever you

wanted to remain straight, would bend; whatever you tried to bend would fly back to the straight; all knots which you wished to be firm would come untied; all knots you wanted to untie would remain firm."

Notwithstanding this initial setback, what I like about my new career is results. As a professional counselor, you may or may not be much help to your counselee, and even the value of a CEO is hard to truly quantify—but you know when you have washed a bathroom floor.

There are other perks. I, for the first time in life, possess authority to enter the Men's Room and see what a Men's Room looks like, without being a man, or transsexual, or a woman with male-like leanings.

By the time of my next filed report, I intend to be as streamlined and efficient as a Mario Andretti pit stop crew or a Waldorf Astoria maid. And all Soli Deo Gloria. ☺



Golden opportunity

DON'T LOSE YOUR HISTORY TO THE GRAVE

→ The weeks between Mother's Day and Father's Day are also the time for high-school and college graduations, which often involve visits from grandparents. That makes this a time for generations to get together so they don't make the mistake I made.

Here's my error: From the time I turned an arrogant 13, my father and I didn't talk much. Looking back now, it seems unbelievable that when I flew from Texas to Massachusetts in 1984 to visit my parents for a week as he was dying of cancer, we didn't talk for more than minutes about anything important, and I didn't ask him questions about his own past.

Oh, I did try a couple of times to evangelize him, but he was proud of his Jewishness, even though he did not revere the Bible. So why didn't I ask about growing up in the 1930s?

Why didn't I ask [my father] whether the Nazis murdered his grandparents?



Why didn't I ask whether the Nazis murdered his grandparents? Looking back, it seems bizarre that while visiting home in 1984 I spent a day near Harvard questioning an old public relations pioneer, Edward Bernays, for a history book I was writing, but didn't do the same with my own father.

My wife was much wiser: When her father was also dying of cancer, he gave her the family genealogy and his own reminiscences. That's something his descendants will have. So, if you have time to sit down with grandparents during graduation festivities, or if you're living with or close to your parents, this column is for you:

Don't miss a great opportunity. Get the family stories while you still can. Use a smartphone or tape recorder. Helpful apps are now available. Lots of good questions to ask are at legacy-project.org/guides/lifeintquestions.

html. Remember to label photographs.

Parents and grandparents, you might send this column to your children or grandchildren. If that seems too direct, leave it lying on a coffee table when the kids come to visit, the way my father left on the coffee table for me a book entitled *How to Tell Your Children About Sex*. ☹

WHO WANTS TO BE A REPORTER?

Several times a year I receive emails from men and women who majored in journalism or worked on college newspapers but then headed in different directions. The notes typically begin this way: "I like business but I miss journalism." No surprise: Reporters are often dollar-poor but stimulation-rich from encountering interesting people and places. Since full-time and fully paid reporters' jobs are hard to find, an ex-newsroom diaspora has grown, along with considerable discontent.

The good news: Generous donors make it possible for

the World Journalism Institute to train each year 14 college juniors or seniors—and we're thinking of expanding that program. My wife and I personally train in our home each year 10-20 adults who have succeeded in non-journalism careers but want new adventures. WJI graduates, younger and older, produce 70 percent of what you read in our magazine and on our website, and some of what you hear on our daily radio program. We have placed grads in roughly 250 print, radio, television, and digital newsrooms, both secular and Christian,

ranging from small-town weeklies to *The Washington Post*.

Among the mid-career adults, we've learned that applicants with previous reporting experience and enjoyment are the most likely to succeed. Those wanting to write opinion columns or devotional material are the least likely. So, if you once pounded the pavement in pursuit of stories, stopped to take on more remunerative employment or to grow a family, but are now in position to be a once-a-week, poorly paid but highly stimulated WORLD correspondent, go to worldji.com and apply. If I've turned you

down in previous years but you really want to do some reporting and now have examples to show, please email me again.

One other request: We teach high-potential college students during the second half of this month and offer several of them paid WORLD internships, but we can't do that for every good student (and some anyway want to try working in secular newsrooms). If you work at a newspaper, website, or radio station, small or large, and have an internship to offer, preferably with a little pay, please let me know. We need Christians everywhere.



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THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

my Samaritan story

Bethany's story:

Member for ten years

College student

Torn ACL & Meniscus

Go to: mysamaritanstory.org

Bethany

"This is how God works! Just to show how mighty He is, He can use anybody. It can be just a normal person—like me!"

For more than twenty years, Samaritan Ministries' members have been sharing one another's medical needs, without using health insurance, through a Biblical model of community among believers. Samaritan members share directly with each other and do not share in abortions and other unbiblical practices.

Come see what our members are saying and start your own Samaritan story today at: mysamaritanstory.org

- More than 60,000 families (over 196,000 individuals)*
- Sharing over \$17 million* in medical needs each month
- The monthly share has never exceeded \$405 for a family of any size*



Biblical community
applied to health care

samaritanministries.org 888.268.4377



facebook.com/samaritanministries

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* As of April 2016