

Independent Evangelist

LE it's happening




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Vol. 3 Issue 2 Mary Conybear – Editor



*The first of April, some do say,
Is set apart for All Fools' Day.
But why the people call it so,
Nor I, nor they themselves do
know.*

*But on this day are people sent
On purpose for pure merriment.
Poor Robin's Almanac, 1790*

At long last, it's April. Spring weather may be erratic at best but the air is fresher leaving the mind clearer and things that troubled us, somehow just don't matter anymore.

TOO MANY SINGLE MOMS

It's no secret that I not only watch a variety of TV shows but recommend that parents do as well. It's not for entertainment value but rather as a way to safely see others that have ruined their lives for a variety of stupid reasons.

I've watched the **Jerry Springer show and the Maury Povich show** and one theme stands out the most on those two shows. There are way too many unwed mothers in this world and many of them choose to have babies when they were still in their early teens. Those girls all believed that was the quickest way to be thought of as a woman.

On Maury's show, they do endless DNA tests to determine who the father might be. One 15 year old girl had seven "boys" tested and none were found to be the "father". Another, older girl had over 20 unsuccessful such tests done and Maury promised to help her keep searching. Those little girls will be forced into the reality of adulthood and the so-called fathers, if they are ever found, will drop out of their lives.

One such show talked about the subject of "Prom Babies". The title means what you think; the girls have a lot of unprotected sex on the prom night so they have something to remember. How absurd is that?

Jerry Springer has taken his show to lower depths than before and he has given it a carnival atmosphere. I think he has become so numb to the absurd stories in his guests lives that he has turned to making fun of them. Still, you should be aware of the stories on his show. Whether or not they are real is irrelevant. They are a sea of lost souls and they believe their existence can be saved by an appearance with Jerry.

The Steve Wilkos Show shows another reason for single moms.

Steve Wilkos, a former Chicago cop, a Marine veteran and one-time security guard on the Jerry Springer Show now has his own show. He uses what he calls very tough love to deal with the guests on his show.

He squares off with wife beaters, child and drug abusers, deadbeat dads and other such dregs of society. The fact that he has so many worthless dads bothers me.

Women ask him to help them find the strength to face guys that beat them or their children. One guy on a recent show punched his ex-wife in the stomach while she was pregnant. One guy slapped his baby so hard the infant had a heart attack. One guy beat his ex-wife so hard that she lost control of her bladder and the only answer he could give Steve for his actions was that it "shut her up".

Personally, I like Steve's show because he has done some remarkable things to help people. The sad thing is that you see another reason for single moms; sadistic abuse.

I'm glad that people have Steve to help them see some kind of future. He really is a good man and one I'd be proud to know. But if you watch all three shows, you see a disturbing trend; a trend that shows what can happen to a life without Christ.

In the 70's there was a huge decline in church attendance. Those parents are giving us the children that are on those shows. I'm not saying that lack of church attendance is the only reason for the way things turned out but if you argue the fact that it's the biggest reason, you'd lose.

Children having babies with no concerns who the father is and so-called men beating woman and abusing children has to stop. These shows do a good service by bringing to light the plight of too many single moms. Every life is dictated by the choices we make. I don't have the answers but the Bible does. Share a Good book with your children and save the next generation; please!

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:12

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

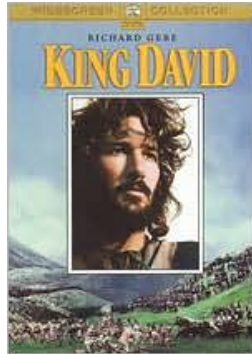
Proverbs 22:6



THE MOVIE CORNER

Richard Gere starred in the movie, **King David** in 1985. I never had the chance to see it while it was in the theaters and, after viewing the DVD, I regret that. Shot in a panoramic wide screen, it is stunning, to say the least.

The movie is a faithful adaptation of the life of David, from his start as a lowly shepherd boy to the King of ancient Israel. David is anointed as heir to the throne of Israel by Samuel who is disgusted with the weakness of Saul. When David brings the protracted war with the Philistines to an end by defeating their champion Goliath in battle, he is celebrated by his people but must flee the country to avoid being killed by Saul, whose jealousy he has aroused.



When Saul and his sons finally die in battle, David assumes the throne, but not without a sense that it is covered in blood. As time passes, he finds himself in vicious battles with neighboring tribes to ensure the survival of the Israelites. Despite David's many achievements, the exercise of power has a corrupting influence on the patriarch, along with a self-destructive desire for Bathsheba, and ultimately, even he is no longer favored by his God.

One thing should be noted; the PG-13 rating is a little deceiving. Most of it would be acceptable for all viewers, however the battle scenes had some tough moments and there is some very brief nudity. That said, this movie is really quite an experience. The acting, directing and photography are superb and the story is very well portrayed. Make time for this one. You won't regret it.

Another movie I regretfully missed on the big screen, **The Final Inquiry** is a rather intriguing post Easter movie well worth your time. In 33 A.D., following the crucifixion of Christ, earthquakes tear apart the Roman Empire and the sky turns black midday. Emperor Tiberias sends his General, Tito Valerio Tauro to investigate the cause of this upheaval. Tauro interviews treacherous governor Pontius Pilate, an insane man named Judas and poor fisherman Simon Peter and soon discovers that the strange phenomena may be linked to Christ's execution.



During his quest to uncover the truth about Jesus of Nazareth, he becomes enamored with an Israeli beauty, Tabitha after rescuing her from a violent mugger. But Tabitha is forbidden to look at Romans, much less speak to them. However, during his quest to learn more about Jesus, he crosses paths with her

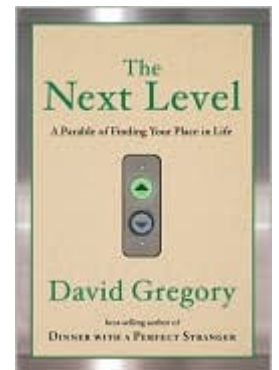
several times and they enter a forbidden romance as the end of an era approaches.

The battle scenes don't exceed the PG-13 rating and it is a very thought provoking movie. After all, the Romans believed their King was immortal and all powerful. Seeing the panic of sorts by Tiberius and the treachery of Pontius Pilate make you realize how the "mighty" can fall. Yet Christ lives on and Christianity grows against all odds. How cool is that.

THE BOOK CORNER

I usually don't review books and movies in the same newsletter but I couldn't ignore this book or wait and take a chance on forgetting it. David Gregory, author of *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* has a new book. **The Next Level** is a spiritual parable that will help you answer some of life's most perplexing and vital questions.

With his business degree in hand, Logan enters the immense Universal Systems building and is hired as an organizational analyst, or a trouble-shooter. His job: evaluate the company's five divisions, each on a separate level and each operating on startlingly unique principles.



Which set of principles is successful? Why is most of the company's profit generated by one tiny division? What is real profit, anyway? And who is the enigmatic executive that Logan ends up reporting to?

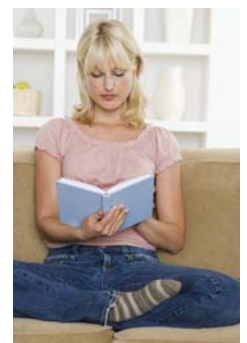
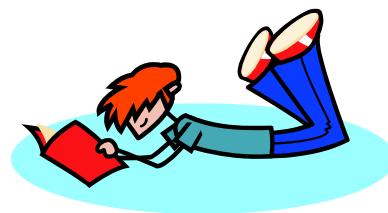
As Logan evaluates each level's approach, you'll be inspired to consider the big picture of your own life from an entirely different perspective; one that holds the key to life's ultimate purpose. He may start out thinking of management principles but he learns much more. In fact, this brief book casts new light on who we are and where we should go.

I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Psalms 77:6

How many a man has dated a new era in his life from the reading of a book.

Henry David Thoreau, (1817 - 1862)



WHEN DREAMS GO BAD

Two young men are offered a great deal of money to board a plane to Venezuela to smuggle cocaine back home. The money is a small amount to the cartel but it's more than they ever had in their young lives.

They go to this vacation paradise and take in the tropical scenery they never dreamed of before. They check into a luxury suite that was part of the deal. Soon, they gorge themselves on tropical food and drinks and then decide to go to a popular nightclub.

The money given up front is more than enough to buy all the pleasures they can handle. They pair off with beautiful young girls who also bring a stash of coke into the mix.

Neither had experienced cocaine before but they dive into the experience head first. One of them however overdoses and has to be hospitalized overnight. He nearly died but after being released he feels like he's ready for anything.

That next day, their contacts take them to pick up the stuff they are required to smuggle back home. The fact that they get into the back of a car driven by people with guns and they go to a place littered with souls wasting away on drugs starts to unnerve them.

They see people so terribly addicted that they are nearly dead and they have given up on life. Still, the pickup goes okay and they are paid the rest of their money and driven back to the hotel.

They wait quietly for the time of their return flight. Suddenly the seriousness of the trip is starting to set in. They are bringing home a bag of broken dreams that has no other purpose than to kill and destroy lives.

In one night they learned first-hand that this is a drug that can kill and they will be bringing it home where it will be available to their friends. They are starting to feel guilty about what they will be doing to lives of others and they wish they could get out of the deal, but it's too late.

They decide to go ahead they go to the airport as planned. After all, they have innocent faces and all they have to do is stay calm and do as they were told and they will get through customs okay. Somehow though the customs agents think these young men are too nervous and decide to do a more thorough search.

Soon, they find themselves in a Venezuelan prison which for all intents and purposes is the gateway to hell.

The prison is the most sadistic and cruel place they ever saw. It is truly Satan's playground and they spend many years learning about beatings, food borne illnesses and gang rape.

95% of the money earned from cocaine goes to the cartel. The rest trickles down to dealers and their muscle. Some smugglers get through and some make it home. Those that are caught go to foreign prisons that are so medieval they have to be seen to be believed.

Those that get through okay are targeted for another trip. After all, the dealers aren't stupid enough to go themselves. After enough trips the customs agents recognize your face and your successful days are numbered which makes an opening for the next innocent face to go in your stead.

These scenes go on every day. Dealers roll the dice on the future of smugglers and if they never get caught now, they *will* in the end. They have done a great service to the cartel scum and the forever damned dealer man. And, in place of clothes on their back and food on their plates, users can run a line of a vial powder up their nose until they are dead.

The war on drugs has seen a few victories but it will never end. Now there are drugs more deadly than coke being filtered across the border of Mexico and the Caribbean islands. The need for a fix is greater and dreams are shattered daily with no end in sight because the demand is too great.

None of us are talented enough or have enough resources to save the advanced addicts. So why is getting high such an attractive dream when the reward of an everlasting life in paradise is no dream, but a promise from Jesus? Why have so many people drifted so far, in pursuit of a dream that has no hope but to go bad, when the reality of a Christian life is no dream; it's a fact with a happy ending.

Dreams go bad when we make the wrong choices. The words on this page are my own but they were taken from a true story from the files of the National Geographic. I shortened it for space and softened it because what happened to the smugglers was too cruel to tell. When God gave His only son to die for us was the hell of drug trafficking and subsequent abuse what He intended to save us for?

The government fights the war on drugs and the ACLU fights the government to protect the criminal creating an endless loop of madness. Who will protect the children that are the future of our nation? God only gave one son to die for us. Make the right choice and pursue the truth of God rather than a broken dream.



Dream



Broken Promise



Truth

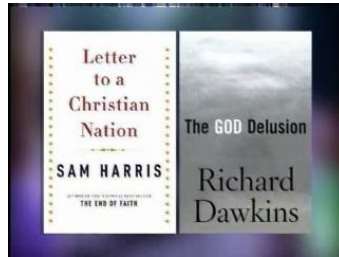
Choose Wisely

Is Atheism Getting a Free Pass?

CBNNews.com March 19, 2008

CBNNews.com -Does broadcast and print media give atheism the same degree of scrutiny as Christianity and other religious faiths? The Media Research Center's Culture and Media Institute says no.

The Institute examined the apparent "rise in atheism," subject covered in broadcast news programs, three leading weekly news magazines, and four programs on taxpayer-funded National Public Radio, all shown during 2007.



Gospel of Godlessness

Although only eight percent of Americans call themselves atheists, the report found that not only is the news media hostile toward religion, particularly Christianity, but the media may be spreading a "Gospel of Godlessness" on the American public.

"Whether deliberately or not, the news media did not subject atheism or atheists to the same skepticism to which they subject Christians and Christianity," the report said. "Journalists who look at America's majority religion through a skeptical prism should equally apply their critical faculties to atheism."

In their report, CMI details their discovery of imbalances in the media's coverage of the religion. Among the findings:

- Eighty percent of feature stories about atheism or atheists had a positive tone, 20 percent were neutral. No feature stories were negative.

- Atheists were used to challenge religious viewpoints more than journalists used religious viewpoints to challenge atheism. Fifty-four percent of atheist-themed stories included a religious counterpoint, but 71 percent of the Christian-themed stories included atheist counterpoints or were written from an atheistic perspective.

Double Standard

"By airing unchallenged interviews and reporting predominantly positive-toned features, the news organizations in this study effectively promoted atheism and held it in higher regard than other religions," the report said. "While the media are not obligated to treat all religions and belief systems equally, their failure to subject atheism to the levels of skepticism directed at Christianity and other religions suggests a deplorable double standard.

The study also found that atheism stories or commentaries by atheists were present in 51 percent of the issues of Newsweek, and 35 percent of the issues of Time. This included features, mentions in stories on other issues, and groupings of letters to the editor from atheists. In contrast, only one issue of U.S. News and World Report referred to atheism.

Of all of the broadcast networks, the Institute found that **ABC provided the most enthusiastic television network coverage of atheism.** The network ran features on an atheist Web site called Blasphemy Challenge and an atheist convention held in Baltimore, Md.

ABC addressed atheism 24 times in five of its six news programs, whereas CBS and NBC only addressed it 16 and 11 times, respectively. In addition to airing more stories on the subject than CBS and NBC, ABC's Nightline devoted an entire program to a live debate between atheists and Christians.

Even the presidential race has been touched by atheism. Six out of seven news organizations considered in this study addressed the concerns and interests of atheists in the upcoming presidential election. Yet, only Republican candidates were asked how they would treat atheists.

*The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, [there is] none that doeth good.
Psalms 14:1*

*Don't you wish there was a knob on the TV to turn up the intelligence? There's one marked 'Brightness,' but it doesn't work.
Gallagher*

*The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank.
Dante Gabriel Rossetti
English painter & poet (1828 - 1882)*

The next story amazed me when I heard it. ABC news and WGN sensationalized it and gave it a carnival like atmosphere giving the criminals and their antics a noble slant.

It seems that anti-war protesters through fake blood on themselves and nearby church goers during the Easter Mass at Holy Name Cathedral. It made no sense what so ever to me. This is an appalling act that should be looked upon in disgust by anyone.

As you read it, please note that they called themselves, Catholic schoolgirls against the war although there were 4 men and 2 women arrested. They also had a member of a radical left organization on the scene to be their mouthpiece.

Chicago Police Arrest Six Iraq War Protesters for Squirting Fake Blood on Easter Churchgoers

Monday, March 24, 2008

CHICAGO — Six Iraq war protesters disrupted an Easter Mass on Sunday, shouting and squirting fake blood on themselves and parishioners in a packed auditorium.

Chicago police say four men and two women entered Holy Name Cathedral during East Mass and spilled fake blood on themselves and parishioners during Iraq War protest.

They startled the crowd during Cardinal Francis George's homily, yelling "Even the Pope calls for peace" as they were removed from the Mass by security guards and ushers.

One Mass attendee, Mike Wainscott of Chicago, yelled at the anti-war protesters.

"Are you happy with yourselves?" he said. "There were kids in there. You scared little kids with your selfish act. Are you happy now?"

The group, which calls itself **Catholic Schoolgirls Against the War**, said in a statement after the arrests that they targeted the Holy Name Cathedral on Easter to reach a large audience, including Chicago's most prominent Catholic citizens and the press, which usually covers the services.

Kevin Clark of **International Solidarity Movement** told the **Chicago Tribune** that he **attended the Mass to serve as a witness for the protesters.**

"If Cardinal George is a man of peace and is walking the walk and talking the talk, he should have confronted George Bush and demanded an immediate end to the war," Clark said.

Speaking after the service, George said, "We should all work for peace, but not by interrupting the worship of God."

Police charged each of the six protesters with one count of felony criminal damage to property and two counts each of misdemeanor simple battery.

The six were scheduled to appear in bond court on Monday to face the felony charge, police said. They have court date set for March 31 on the misdemeanors

*A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.
Ecclesiastes 3:8*

The most perfidious way of harming a cause consists of defending it deliberately with faulty arguments.

*Friedrich Nietzsche,
German philosopher (1844 - 1900)*

IF WE NEVER MEET AGAIN THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN

There's a song that's been done by many country artists, though I've heard jazz and blues versions as well. All I know is that it's a very old song. My favorite version was done by Leon Redbone. It's titled, If We Never Meet Again This Side of Heaven and I'd like to include it here. It has good words to reflect upon when you're relaxing at night.

Soon we'll come to the end of life's journey
And perhaps we'll never meet anymore
'Til we gather in heaven's bright city
Far away on that beautiful shore



If we never meet again this side of heaven
As we struggle through this world and its strife
There's another meeting place somewhere in
heaven

By the river of life



Where the charming roses bloom forever
And where separation come no more
If we never meet again this side of heaven
I will meet you on that beautiful shore



Oh so often we are parted with sorrow
And action often quietens our pain
But we never shall sorrow in heaven
God be with you till we meet again



NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

As a medic in Vietnam, I lived with the motto, “No one left behind”. Looking back, it seemed risky to run into enemy fire to retrieve a wounded soldier or a dead body. Some may say it was love for a “brother” or perhaps blind devotion to duty and others said I was just plain “nuts” with a capital “N”. Those that know me would go with the capital “N”.

I was 19 then and I never thought of my own safety. After all, what 19 year old does? I believe my faith got me through those tough times and all tough times since. It wasn’t luck because if I was that lucky, I’d have won the Lotto by now. It wasn’t brute strength because nobody is that strong without the Lord. Maybe it was all three things I mentioned; love for a “brother”, devotion to duty and being somewhat nuts.

Well at 19 I was on a battlefield and now I’m an old man on a new battlefield of sorts. We live in a world that seems to be set against Christianity and I think we need to live by that old motto, “No one left behind”, and bring others to Christ.

I was just listening to a college radio station. They were playing a program called, “Mountain Stage” which is all live music. The people that produce that show are very liberal and very anti-Christian and anti-American. When the show stays off politics the music can be fun though, so I give it a chance from time to time.

Tonight there was a woman from West Virginia singing a song that ripped apart “Bible thumpers” and she followed it with a war protest song. Now, I’m not knocking her opinions of God or of any war; that’s how she makes her money. However she followed those songs with a Gospel song and a Christian song and the crowd cheered just as well as they did with the other songs.

However, after the first songs, the producer came out and said a disclaimer that those words weren’t necessarily the same opinion as the stations. Then he paused and said, “In this case they were” much to the delight of the audience. He owns the “open mike” after all and what he says goes.

After the Gospel and Christian song however, he went to the mike and immediately brought out another act, cutting her set short. He didn’t need a disclaimer; Christian music wasn’t part of his agenda.

The next act was a man who never served his country and he sang the most vial words about God and country and the crowd went wild with delight.

My first thoughts were that the audience paid a lot of money to be told they were fools if they served their country or if they gave their lives to Christ. They *paid* to be told how to think by people with an agenda other than music.

TV and radio stations have a right to their opinion and I respect that, but bullying tactics need to be ignored. The media

“bullying” is silly but effective in making people afraid of looking “stupid”.

Tell someone you’ve known for a long time that you’ve given your life to Christ and somehow they will see you in a negative light. Perhaps so many of the liberal media have told them that “Bible Thumpers” are mindless or some such thing and that media person is a celebrity after all, so they “know” everything and their words should be taken as gospel. Your friend can’t take the chance of looking wrong in the eyes of people that don’t really matter so they remain polite but steer the subject away from religion.

I’ve taken a lot of flak for being openly Christian and for questioning the agenda of those with the “open mike”. I just feel that the Christian voice is grossly slighted in this world. When you send your children to college or they get a job, what “voice” will they be their main influence?

We live in a secular world but we don’t have to give up our faith to fit in with that world. Oddly, though, I find there are a surprising number of Christians in this world still and I find them in the most unlikely places. They are just looking for someone to talk with.

I was talking to the manager of a gas station who used to live in Iraq. He saw the cross I wear and he pointed to it and said, “We need more of that in this world”. He grew up Christian in a predominately Muslim world and was happy to see a cross around another man’s neck, like the one he was wearing. He enjoyed being able to voice his opinion about religion and things going on in the world, with someone who wouldn’t be offended.

In a coffee shop, a young lady working behind the counter saw my cross and started talking about her faith journey. She was searching for a church and asked my opinion about a few local churches. She was grateful for my input and even opened up about a few problems she was having.

I get a lot of positive comments about the cross I wear and I think it’s because I don’t start the conversation. I believe there are a great many people that want to be openly Christian but they are told it’s not cool by people they don’t even know and, sadly they listen to those people. They need to be given an opening to talk and they will.

It’s time to do something visual such as wearing a cross or quietly saying Grace in a restaurant and people will open up because seeing is believing. When you openly admit you are a Christian by living as such, you have taken away the “open mike” from those with the “voice” in this world. Soon, no one will be left behind.

Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.
Acts 5:20

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass.
Psalms 37:5

THE LIGHTER SIDE

People are strange, Part 2.

