



Messages from Jesus or Dad are denoted by bold type. Notes from the editors are either in italics or are preceded by "Editor." Short quotes from the Letters are preceded by a bullet and are followed by the reference.

Words that changed lives

BY MARLO THOMAS, *THE BOTTOM LINE*

When Marlo Thomas was a young actress, she was concerned that the media would compare her to her father, comedy giant Danny Thomas. When she told him that she wanted to change her name, her father replied, "I raised you to be a thoroughbred. When thoroughbreds run, they wear blinders to keep their eyes focused straight ahead. They hear the crowd, but they don't listen. That's what you have to do. Don't listen to anyone comparing you to me or to anyone else. You just run your own race."

Thomas has run her own race—becoming both a TV star and a best-selling author. Her father's words inspired her to ask other celebrities what words changed their lives.

Muhammad Ali, Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Not all words that inspire us are encouraging. Sometimes, it takes harsh words to motivate us. In Ali's case, they came when he was 12 years old, from a teacher.

Ali recalls, "To one teacher, I was just another loudmouth. She came up to me one day and said, 'You ain't never gonna be nuthin'.' But I won the Golden Gloves in Louisville when I was 17, and next year I won the gold medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics. First thing I did when I got home

was go straight to that teacher's classroom and show her that medal. That doubting schoolteacher gave me all the motivation I ever needed to become the greatest."

Lance Armstrong, Champion Cyclist. Armstrong's mother was 17 years old when Lance was born. Even as a teenage parent, she never lost her infectious optimism.

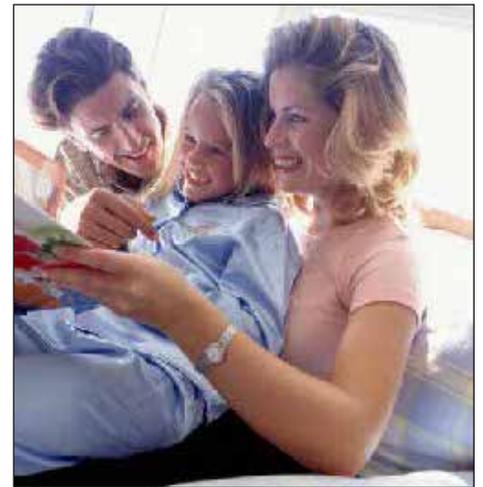
"When I wasn't happy about something, she used to say, 'Well, today is the first day of the rest of your life.' That may sound corny, but it's true. At every difficult time in my life, she helped me to focus on what I would do next, rather than obsessing over what happened yesterday." It was his mother's insistence that he focus on the future that helped Armstrong beat cancer at age 25 and become the world's best cyclist, winning the Tour de France five times.

Barbara Bush, Former First Lady. She is the wife of one president and the mother of another. The words that inspired her came from her father.

"When I was growing up, my father was the president of a major corporation. But long before that, he had been a waiter. He'd also tended furnaces as a young man. He always respected people who put their shoulder to a task. He used to tell me, 'It's nice to be natural, so be naturally nice.' He meant, Be yourself and don't be fake. Don't put on airs. Don't pretend to be something you are not."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. It was June 1954, and Ruth Bader was about to marry Marty Ginsburg.

"The morning of the wedding, Marty's mother said, 'In every good marriage, it pays sometimes to be a little deaf.' She placed in my hand a set of wax earplugs. My mother-in-law meant simply this: Sometimes, people say unkind or thoughtless things. When they do, it is best to be a little hard of hearing—to tune out and not snap back in anger or impatience. It's important to be a good listener—to pay attention to teachers,



co-workers and spouses. But it also pays, sometimes, to be a little deaf."

Al Pacino, Actor. He was on the verge of stardom in the mid-1970s—but at risk of losing everything to alcohol. The words came from Charlie, his acting teacher, who himself had stopped drinking the year before, as they were in a Greenwich Village bar.

"He looked at me in a way that I have never seen him look. He said, 'Al, please, be aware of what you're doing.' Somehow, those words rang. I saw to what degree this thing had taken over my life—how it owned me. I capped the bottle."

(Dad:) Do your words uplift and inspire others? Do you reach out to your friends, your relatives, your mate and your children with words of love, appreciation, encouragement, hope, and motivation? You never know what great results those seemingly little words can have in the life of another!

**"Great events, we often find,
On little things depend,
And very small beginnings
Oft have a mighty end."**

Let your words inspire others! Be filled with the Word and the Lord's Spirit, and call on the keys of inspiration and encouragement, and your words will change hearts and lives, because they'll be the Lord's Words through you.



Thots

"A succession of small deeds faithfully done demands no less than do heroic actions."—Rousseau (1712–1778), French philosopher and writer

"No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see the possibilities—always see them, for they're always there."—Norman Vincent Peale (1898–1993), American pastor and author

◆ Wars and rumors of war

Frankensteins in the Pentagon

BY CHERYL SEAL, *THE NEWS INSIDER*

Not long ago, the public was stunned by the Pentagon researcher John Poindexter, who proposed a “football pool” scheme for predicting terrorist attacks. However, this bit of lunacy was just the lightest ice in the tip of the very large, very dark iceberg that the Pentagon’s research program, better known as DARPA, has become.

Just a few weeks before the “terrorism gambling” project was exposed, a DARPA (which stands for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency)-sponsored conference was held in Washington, DC, that showcased the latest love child of the Pentagon: military bioengineering. The title of the conference was: “Harvesting Biology for Defense Technology,” while the subheading of the section on human bioengineering was entitled “Enhancing Human Performance.”

So how does the Bush DARPA seek to “enhance” human performance? Here are some examples:

The “Brain Interface Program” is aimed at developing ways to “integrate” soldiers into machines by wiring them (remotely or directly) to their planes, tanks, or computers. An implantable brain chip is now under development in this program, which has already proudly demonstrated how rats can be turned into living robots through the manipulation of stimulus-response signals in the brain via electrodes. That’s an important enhancement. After all, as an official at DARPA recently observed, “The human is becoming the weakest link in defense systems.”

Enhancement efforts at the Brain Interface Program are progressing nicely. The chief Frankenstein of the project, one Alan S. Rudolph, now wants to be able to transmit images or sound directly into the brains of rats—and of course, later, soldiers ... or prisoners of war (just imagine the torture potential here).

The “Persistence in Combat” program is a self-treatment scheme which would include pain-reducing and blood-stopping devices and techniques soldiers would apply to their own wounds, thereby bypassing the need for a medic and enabling a soldier to keep fighting. Yep, just keep on running through the jungle on that broken leg! Once that pain-obliterating electrode in your brain is activated, you won’t feel a thing!

The “Continuous Assisted Performance” program hopes to find biotechnological ways (implants, metabolic manipulation, etc.) to make it possible to push exhausted soldiers on without loss of performance for up to seven days without sleep.

What is in the works right now is a microprocessing chip that can be implanted beneath the skull and remotely

manipulated. In a June 19 *Nature* article, Rudolph estimated that a usable chip that could be field-tested in rats is about two years away.

With DARPA plunging forward with its Darth Vader research, the possibilities for horrific misuse and long-term consequences are staggering.

(Dad:) The military and mad scientists are uniting to cause more murder and mayhem in the world. It’s amazing the sorts of schemes these folks can dream up—many of them inspired by the AC and his agents, or even by the Enemy himself in his zeal to find new ways to destroy life and frustrate God’s plan.

In these various military research programs you can see the plan of the Antichrist, and what better place could there be to test and perfect his programs? Military research in the U.S. has billions of dollars to blow on any sort of program that sounds feasible in the wake of the 9-11 attacks. Scientists can often be persuaded to work on almost anything if the price is right and the persuasion is powerful enough.

And the military itself provides perfect guinea pigs for such research programs—like the U.S. soldiers who were exposed to nuclear blasts and fallout in the early days of the atomic bomb to see if it would harm them, or those who took part in tests of chemical weapons or nerve gas to see how far the gas would disperse and what sort of effect it would have on them! And the tests continue today in many a secret military lab, sometimes using soldiers who have little or no choice in the matter, or who are told, “It’s for the good of the country.” It’s rarely for the good of the poor soldier, though!

(AP) The Pentagon used potentially dangerous chemical and biological agents in 50 secret tests involving US military personnel in a decade-long project to measure the weapons’ combat capabilities, according to Pentagon findings.

The tests were done between 1962 and 1973 and involved 5,842 service members. Many were not told of the tests, some of which involved releases of deadly nerve agents in Alaska and Hawaii.

◆ Famine and drought

Hot summer sparks global food crisis

BY GEOFFREY LEAN, *THE INDEPENDENT*

This summer’s heat wave has drastically cut harvests across Europe,

plunging the world into an unprecedented food crisis, starting new official figures show.

Separate calculations by two leading institutions monitoring the global harvest show that the scorching weather has severely reduced European grain

production, ensuring that the world will not produce enough grain to feed itself for the fourth year in succession, and plunging stocks to the lowest level on record.

They say that, as a result, food prices will rise worldwide, and hunger will increase in the world’s poorest countries. And they warn that this is just a foretaste of what will happen as global warming takes hold.

Sunshine and warmth are, of course, good for plants and there were hopes that this year’s good summer would produce a bumper harvest. But excessive heat and lack of rain damage crops, and the heat wave—which brought temperatures of more than 100°F to Britain for the first time, and gave France 11 consecutive days above 95°F, killing more than 11,000 people—has done enormous damage.

The US Department of Agriculture has cut its forecast for this year’s grain harvest by 32 million tons, mainly because of the European crop reductions. The International Grains Council reduced its own prediction even further, by 36 million tons, as a result of “heat and drought, particularly in Europe.”

The damage has been most severe in Eastern Europe, which is now bringing in its worst wheat crop in three decades: in Ukraine, the harvest has been cut from 21 million tons last year to five million, while Romania has its worst crop on record. Germany is the worst-hit EU country: some farmers in the southeast have lost half their grain harvest.

The final tally of the summer’s damage is likely to be worse still. Lester Brown, the president of Washington’s authoritative Earth Policy Institute, predicts that it will cut another 20 million tons off the world harvest, making this a catastrophic year.

It has come at a time when world food supplies were already at their most precarious ever. The world has eaten more grain than it has produced every year so far this century, driving stocks well below the safety margin to their lowest levels in the 40 years that records have been



SUNFLOWERS WITHERING IN FRANCE: SCORCHING WEATHER IN EUROPE HAS BROUGHT ON A FOOD CRISIS

kept. The amount of grain produced for each person on earth is now less than at any time in more than three decades. Experts say that the crisis will deepen as global warming increases.

(Dad:) When I was there on Earth I told you that famine was coming, and you saw signs of it even then, in Africa and Asia and other places. And here you see yet another sign, as the Lord turns up the heat on Europe, affecting the worldwide grain supply. It's another turn of the millstone of His judgments upon the Earth in the Last Days, sometimes seeming to grind exceeding slow, but eventually grinding exceeding fine.

You'll see more of this in the time to come—more heat, more erratic weather, more crop failure, more malnutrition and even famine—to the point that some will shake their fists at God in anger at His withholding the rain, while others will turn to God in desperation, or be gathered unto Him in peace.



DRY CROATIAN LAKEBED: SCORCHING WEATHER IN EUROPE HAS BROUGHT ON A FOOD CRISIS

◆ Pests and pestilences

Rat diseases on the rise

REUTERS

With nearly four million rats born every day—ten for every human—experts have warned that rodents could spread more diseases.

Researchers from 39 countries at a conference in Australia said rats were already known to carry nearly 70 diseases, but there were fears they could harbor scores more.

“Rats are a reservoir of disease, the sleeping giants of disease in the world,” Dr. Lyn Hinds, of Australia’s



RAT IN SEWER: “RATS ARE A RESERVOIR OF DISEASE.”

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, told *Reuters*.

“It is more likely than ever that we will have greater levels of debilitating diseases caused by rats ... with the increased density of human populations,” she said at the start of the second International Rodent Biology and Management Conference.

◆ Disasters

A monster awakens?

BY IAN GURNEY, *THE DAILY EXPRESS* (UK)

On August 10 the *Denver Post* reported that Liz Morgan, a U.S. Geological Survey research geologist, had discovered a huge bulge underneath Yellowstone Lake that had risen 100 feet from the lake floor. The bulge is 2,000 feet long and has the potential to explode at any time.

This should be of little or no consequence to anyone apart from those planning to visit Yellowstone—except for one thing. Lurking beneath Yellowstone National Park is one of the most destructive natural phenomena in the world—a massive supervolcano. Only a handful exist in the world, but when one erupts, the explosion will be heard around the globe.

Bill McGuire, professor of geohazards at the Benfield Greig Hazard Research Center at University College London, says that America’s Yellowstone Park is one of the largest and most dangerous supervolcanoes in the world. “The Yellowstone volcano can be likened to a sleeping dragon,” says Professor McGuire, “whose slow breathing brings repeated swelling and sinking of the Earth’s crust in northern Wyoming and southern Montana.”

Professor McGuire went on to explain that: “Many supervolcanoes are not typical hill-shaped structures but huge, collapsed craters called ‘calderas’ that are filled with hot magma and are harder to detect. The Yellowstone supervolcano was detected in the Sixties when infra-red satellite photographs revealed a magma-filled caldera 85km long and 45km wide.

Volcanologists have been tracking the movement of magma under the park and have calculated that in parts of Yellowstone the ground has risen almost two and a half feet since 1923, indicating a massive swelling underneath the park.

“The impact of a Yellowstone eruption is terrifying to comprehend,” says Professor McGuire. “Magma would be flung 50 kilometers (30 miles) into the atmosphere. ... One thousand cubic kilometers of lava would pour out of the volcano, enough to coat the whole of the USA with a layer 5 inches thick.”

The long-term effects would be even more devastating. The thousands of cubic kilometers of ash that would shoot into the atmosphere would block out light from the sun, making global temperatures collapse. The resulting change in the world’s climate would devastate the planet, and scientists know that another eruption is due—they just don’t know when.



MT. PINATUBO ERUPTING. A SUPERVOLCANO WOULD THROW MAGMA 50 KILOMETERS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

Professor McGuire says “There’s nowhere to hide from the effects of a supervolcano. One day—perhaps tomorrow, perhaps in fifty years, perhaps in 10,000—it will erupt; once again wreaking devastation across the North American continent.”

(Dad:) The dear British have quite a knack for sensationalism, I must say, but in this case they are passing along a warning that people need to be aware of.—Not so much about this particular volcano, but about the fact that you never know what could happen or how quickly your life could change.

As I’ve said before, man lives in a house that’s on fire in the basement—on a planet with fiery lava beneath his feet, with many extinct volcanoes to mark the places where that lava once erupted. And in the Last Days, when there will be more and more geologic instability, there will be more and more volcanoes as well. You can see it happening even now. I saw some volcanoes in the dreams I had when I was there with you, and you can read what I had to say about them in the Letters. (See ML #616:62-70, Vol.5; #1472, GN Book 14; #1581:38, GN Book 13.)

So let those who live on the edge of volcanoes beware—whether it’s a physical volcano or a spiritual volcano of the Lord’s impending judgments on them for their sins, or their nation’s sins!

What was the strongest earthquake in recent times?

A 1960 Chilean earthquake, which occurred off the coast, had a magnitude of 9.6 and broke a fault more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) long. An earthquake like that under a major city would challenge the best construction techniques. (Robert Roy Britt, Space.com).

◆ Cloning

Human clone embryo ready for implantation

BY ANDY COGHLAN, *NEW SCIENTIST*

The first human cloned embryo could be implanted into a surrogate mother's womb before the end of the year, US fertility expert Panayiotis Zavos claimed.

The attempt follows months of "practicing" in the lab on hundreds of hybrid embryos made by fusing human cells with empty cow eggs, Zavos told a press conference in London.

"We've created the first human embryo for reproductive purposes," says Zavos, director of the Andrology Institute of America.

The embryo, which was frozen after growing to a ball of eight to 10 cells, was created after Zavos had experimented for months with hybrid embryos made by fusing human cells with empty cow oocytes [immature female reproductive cells].

He claims to have attempted this with 600 to 700 cow eggs, and successfully created around 200 human-cow embryos. He rejected any suggestion that the hybrids were unethical. "We're not interested in creating monsters," he says. "We have no intention of ... transferring any to term."

(Dad:) Disgusting. I can't do the subject justice when it comes to the warped, depraved, demented, degenerate, monstrous morality of these crazy cloners! What they're doing is the equivalent of bestiality, plain and simple, and they deserve the same punishment the Lord decreed for it in days of old. (See Leviticus 20:15.)

◆ Big Brother

Is America a police state?

BY REP. RON PAUL (EXCERPT OF SPEECH BEFORE U.S. CONGRESS)

Mr. Speaker, my subject today is whether America is a police state.

I'm sure the large majority of Americans would answer this in the negative. ... However, those with knowledge of Ruby Ridge, Mount Carmel, and other such incidents may have a different opinion.

Most police states, surprisingly, come about through the democratic process with majority support. Promised benefits initially seem to exceed the cost in lost freedom.

When people face terrorism or great fear—from whatever source—the tendency to demand economic and physical security over liberty and self-reliance proves irresistible. The masses are easily led to believe that security and liberty are mutually exclusive, and demand for security far exceeds that for liberty.

Once it's discovered that the desire for both economic and physical security that prompted the sacrifice of liberty inevitably led to the loss of prosperity and no real safety, it's too late. Reversing the trend from authoritarian rule toward



We the peephole

a freer society becomes very difficult, takes a long time, and entails much suffering. Although dissolution of the Soviet empire was relatively nonviolent at the end, millions suffered from police suppression and economic deprivation in the decades prior to 1989.

But what about here in the United States? With respect to a police state, where are we and where are we going?

Let me make a few observations:

Our government already keeps close tabs on just about everything we do and requires official permission for nearly all of our activities.

One might take a look at our Capitol for any evidence of a police state. We see barricades, metal detectors, police, soldiers at times, dogs, ID badges required for every move, vehicles checked at airports and throughout the Capitol. Surveillance cameras in Washington are everywhere to ensure our safety. Cameras are used to spy on our kids at school, on subway travelers, and on visitors to every government building or park. There's not much evidence of an open society in Washington, DC, yet most folks do not complain—anything goes if it's for government-provided safety and security.

If this huge amount of information and technology is placed in the hands of the government to catch the bad guys, one naturally asks, What's the big deal? But it should be a big deal, because it eliminates the enjoyment of privacy that a free society holds dear. The personal information of law-abiding citizens can be used for reasons other than safety.

Social Security numbers are used to monitor our daily activities. This allows government record-keeping of monstrous proportions, and accommodates the thugs who would steal others' identities for criminal purposes. This invasion of privacy has been compounded by the technology now available to those in government who enjoy monitoring and directing the activities of others.

Centralized control and regulations are required in a police state. Almost all of our economic activities depend upon receiving the proper permits from the federal government. Transactions involving food, medicine, smoking, drinking, hiring, firing, wages, politically correct speech, land use, fishing, hunting, buying a house, and farming all require approval and strict regulation from our federal government. If this is not done properly and in a timely fashion, economic penalties and even imprisonment are likely consequences.

Over 80,000 federal bureaucrats now carry guns to make us toe the line and to enforce the thousands of laws and tens of thousands of regulations that no one can possibly understand.

All 18-year-old males must register to be ready for the next undeclared war. If they don't, men with guns will appear and enforce this congressional mandate. "Involuntary servitude" was banned by the 13th Amendment, but courts don't apply this prohibition to the servitude of draftees or those citizens required to follow the dictates of the IRS. Fear is the tool used to intimidate most Americans to comply with the tax code by making examples of celebrities.

One of the most onerous controls placed on American citizens is the control of speech through politically correct legislation. Derogatory remarks or off-color jokes are justification for firings, demonstrations, and the destruction of careers.

All our financial activities are subject to "legal" searches without warrants and without probable cause. Tax collection and possible terrorist activities "justify" the endless accumulation of information on all Americans.

Government control of medicine has prompted the establishment of the National Medical Data Bank. For efficiency reasons, it is said, the government keeps our medical records for our benefit. This, of course, is done with vague and useless promises that this information will always remain confidential—just like all the FBI information in the past.

Personal privacy no longer exists in the United States. Ruthless and abusive use of all this information accumulated by the government is yet to come. The Patriot Act has given unbelievable power to listen, read, and monitor all our transactions without a search warrant being issued after affirmation of probable cause. "Sneak and peak" and blanket searches are now becoming more frequent every day.

It may be true that the average American does not feel intimidated by the encroachment of the police state. I'm sure our citizens are more tolerant of what they see as mere nuisances because they have been deluded into believing all this government supervision is necessary and helpful—and besides, they are living quite comfortably. However, the reaction will be different once all this new legislation we're passing comes into full force and the material comforts that soften our concerns for government regulations are decreased. But the trend toward the authoritarian state will be difficult to reverse.

I'm sure all my concerns are unconvincing to the vast majority of Americans, who not only are seeking but also are demanding they be made safe from any possible attack from anybody, ever.

The argument made for more government controls here at home and expansionism overseas to combat terrorism is simple and goes like this: "If we're not made safe from potential terrorists, property and freedom have no meaning." It is argued that first we must have life and physical and economic security, with continued abundance, then we'll talk about freedom.

Freedom does not preclude security. Making security the highest priority can deny prosperity and still fail to provide the safety we all want.

The Congress would never agree that we are a police state. But we are all obligated to decide in which direction we are going. If we're moving toward a system that enhances individual liberty and justice for all, my concerns about a police state should be reduced or totally ignored. Yet, if, by chance, we're moving toward more authoritarian control than is good for us, we should not ignore the dangers.

We are told that preemptive strikes, torture, military tribunals, suspension of habeas corpus, executive orders to wage war, and sacrificing privacy are the minimum required to save our country from the threat of terrorism.

To get popular support for these serious violations of our traditional rule of law requires that people be kept in a state of fear. I'm concerned that the excess fear is driving us to do to ourselves what al-Qaeda could never do to us by force.

America is not now a ruthless authoritarian police state. But our concerns ought to be whether we have laid the foundation of a more docile police state. The love of liberty has been so diminished that we tolerate intrusions into our privacies

today that would have been abhorred just a few years ago. The sacrifices being made to our liberties will surely usher in a system of government that will please only those who enjoy being in charge of running other people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, what, then, is the answer to the question: "Is America a Police State?" My answer is: "Maybe not yet, but it is fast approaching."

(Ron Paul, M.D., represents the 14th Congressional District of Texas in the United States House of Representatives.)

(Dad:) Sounds to me like the American police state is almost here—I say "almost" because I think it will get even worse in the future, because the American government has manipulated its people so thoroughly by fear. There's the fear of terrorism, of being attacked by anyone at any time, that's played up by the U.S. government and media in so many ways, and that has ordinary Americans terrified. And since they're scared, they're willing to give up many of their liberties so the government can "protect" them.

Of course, most ordinary Americans don't feel the pain of giving up these liberties—at least not yet. It's only the Muslims and Mideasterners and a few others in the States who have felt the wrath of the police state, either being locked up or deported. There are a few American dissidents, of course, but they're mostly handled by being called "unpatriotic" at the least or "traitors" at the worst, and are often harassed by the authorities in one way or another. Meanwhile, their dissents and outcries are almost never heard in the mainstream media—God forbid that they should ever appear on the evening news! They just crop up in a few places on the Internet, as well as in publications like the *END*, ha!

So Americans are moving toward a police state, and not being dragged along kicking and screaming, but docilely following their leaders, like sheep to the slaughter!

Fliers to be rated for risk

BY SARA KEHAULANI GOO, WASHINGTON POST

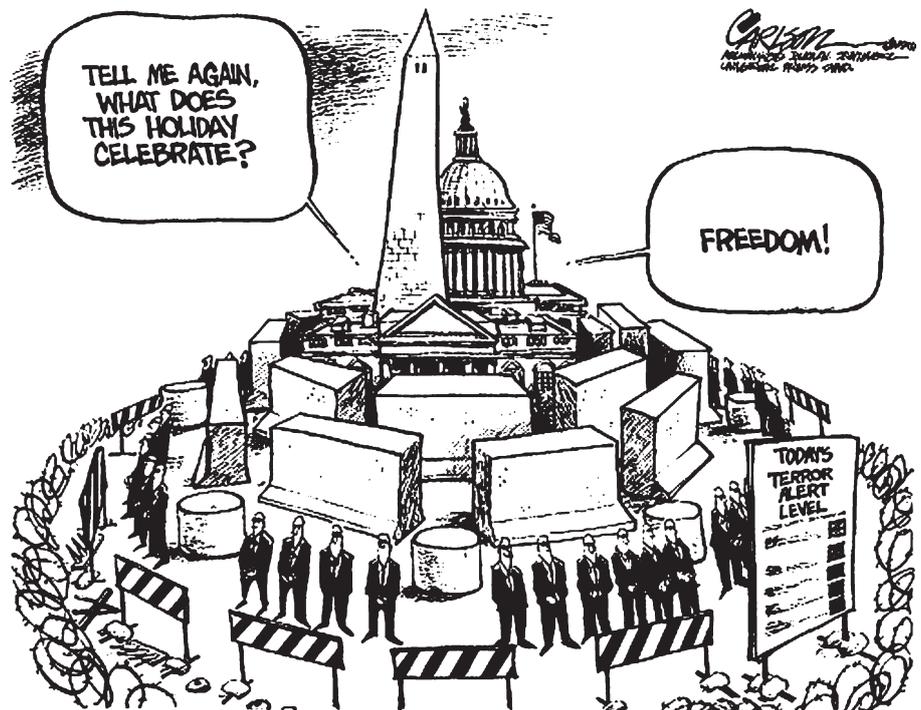
In the most aggressive—and, some say, invasive—step yet to protect air travelers, the federal government and the airlines will phase in a computer system next year to measure the risk posed by every passenger on every flight in the United States.

The new Transportation Security Administration system seeks to probe deeper into each passenger's identity than is currently possible, comparing personal information against criminal records and intelligence information. Passengers will be assigned a color code—green, yellow or red—based in part on their city of departure, destination, traveling companions and date of ticket purchase.

Most people will be coded green and sail through. But up to 8 percent of passengers who board the nation's 26,000 daily flights will be coded "yellow" and will undergo additional screening at the checkpoint. An estimated 1 to 2 percent will be labeled "red" and will be prohibited from boarding. These passengers also will face police questioning and may be arrested.

The new system, called Computer Assisted Passenger Pre-screening System II (CAPPS II), has sparked so much controversy that the TSA has struggled to get it going.

"This system is going to be replete with errors," said Barry Steinhardt, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's technology and liberty program. "You could be falsely arrested. You could be delayed. You could lose your ability to travel."



In the two years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist hijackings, air security has taken a high priority, and the government has spent \$9 billion on improvements. The government says the most significant change in security is still to come in the form of CAPPS II.

The existing system identifies certain passengers as risky based on a set of assumptions about how terrorists travel. For instance, passengers are flagged for additional screening if they bought a one-way airline ticket, or if they paid with cash instead of a credit card. Passengers who present a threat under these and other criteria are issued boarding passes that bear a coding of "SSS" or "****."

Under the new program, the airline will send information about everyone who books a flight to the TSA, including full name, home address, home telephone number, date of birth and travel itinerary. If the computer system identifies a threat, the TSA will notify federal or local law enforcement authorities.

(Paul Harris, *The Observer*)

Two years after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, many think America is in the grip of a frightening extension of state power.

Ask Sister Virgine Lawinger, a 74-year-old Milwaukee nun, who was traveling to an anti-war rally last year. But she was on a list of people considered too dangerous to fly, and was stopped from boarding her plane. She believes her politics were to blame.

Jan Adams, a journalist on the anti-war San Francisco newspaper *War Times*, has also been stopped at airports, as has her colleague Rebecca Gordon. New York lawyer Barbara Olshansky, who is involved in several anti-Patriot Act suits, is stopped almost every time she flies. She is frequently subjected to strip and full body searches. She now fears to leave the US, despite being an American citizen, out of concern she will not be allowed back. "It is becoming an awful witch-hunt. At first I didn't believe it, but now it is just horrifying to me," she said.

Big Brother Briefs

Next-generation bar code could tag "every grain of rice." (Alorie Gilbert, *CNET News*) A new product numbering system has the potential to give every individual item in the world its own ID code. The so-called EPC Network, which has been under development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for nearly five years, made its debut in Chicago on September 15.

EPC stands for electronic product code, which is the new product numbering scheme that's at the heart of the system. EPC is designed to provide a unique serial number for every item in the system. By



contrast, bar codes only identify groups of products. So, all cans of Diet Coke within a country have the same bar code. Under EPC, every can of Coke would have a one-of-a-kind identifier.

"Put tags on every can of Coke and every car axle, and suddenly the world changes," boasts the Web site of the Auto-ID Center, the research group at MIT leading the charge on the project. Another feature of the EPC is its 96-bit format, which some say is large enough to generate a unique code for every grain of rice on the planet—or for "every molecule on Earth," according to MIT researchers.

(Dad:) It's not grains of rice or cans of Coke that will end up being tracked the most, however. It's people who'll ultimately be the targets.

Spy gadget leaves nowhere to hide.

(Robert Uhlig, *Electronic Telegraph*) A Swedish moose hunter has invented a matchbox-sized device that can trace just about anything that moves. Using mobile phone text messages and satellite navigation technology, the surveillance gadget can reveal its location to an accuracy of 10 feet in 140 countries.



THE FOLLOWIT MODULE: A SURVEILLANCE DEVICE THAT CAN TRACK OBJECTS TO AN ACCURACY OF 10 FEET IN 140 COUNTRIES

Called Followit, the £700 (\$1,100) device was invented by Olaf Lundberg, a Swede who lost his dog while moose hunting. Mr. Lundberg found a way of squeezing the workings of a GPS satellite navigation receiver and a mobile phone with a battery and two aerials into a box that he could strap to his dog's collar.

In a demonstration, the device tracked the position of a car to the street in Winchester where the car was parked, even giving details of the nearest house number.

Japan launches national ID system. (AP) A national computerized ID system

that was criticized for its big-brother overtones when launched last year has now become fully operational, allowing Japan's 126 million citizens to cut through red tape with an 11-digit number.

Eye scanner tracks students' lunch habits. (Paul Stokes, *Electronic Telegraph*) Time spent waiting in line for lunch was cut when pupils used an eye recognition system for the first time in a British school.

The iris scanner allows children's individual needs to be catered to. Parents can also use it to check that their children are eating sensibly. Blocks can be put on unhealthy snacks.

The machine is similar to those seen in science fiction films such as *Mission Impossible*. Pupils stand six inches away while it scans the iris, reading the unique image in seconds.

It is linked to a database holding personal details, including what pupils can and cannot eat. The pupils then choose a meal. Another iris scanner is being planned for the library to store information about pupils who have books on loan.

DNA tests sought for every Briton.

(BBC) Every single person in the UK should be compelled to have their DNA on the national database in an effort to prevent crime, a senior police officer has argued.

Currently about two million people who have been charged with criminal offences have their DNA profiles on the national database.

But Kevin Morris, chairman of the Police Superintendents Association, told the *Times* newspaper opposition to extending the scheme to every man, woman and child was overstated.

Civil liberties campaigners have always opposed the suggestion, arguing it is intrusive to make such demands of people who have done nothing wrong. They also fear that data could eventually be used by insurers looking for genetic predispositions towards certain serious illnesses. They also argue that any such move would make all people feel like suspects.

(Dad:) The shape of things to come—a world where everyday products and goods are chipped, where school kids undergo iris scans to get their lunch or check out books, where vehicles or people or animals can be tracked anywhere at any time, and where the government keeps a record of your DNA and analyzes your genes! What was once considered far-out science fiction is now becoming an awful reality. Thank God it won't last long before the Lord replaces it with His reality, a bright and shining one which He rules and reigns over forever!

◆ Techno Topics

Smart chips to make daily life easier?

BBC

"Your medicine is out of date" is not what you would usually expect to hear from your bathroom cabinet, but it could be very soon.

It is all thanks to what is being called "ubiquitous computing," which means sticking programmable microchip sensors onto everyday household objects to make them a little bit smarter.

The Smart-Its Project—a collaboration between Lancaster University and several other institutions in Switzerland, Germany, Sweden and Finland—has a vision to tag almost any object in the home with the microchips to make peoples' daily lives easier.

Bookshelves could start complaining if they are dangerously overloaded and water bottles could tell you if their contents need cooling. That chatty, smart medicine cabinet could track and guide you through your medicine taking.

(Dad:) Sounds like heaven—except Heaven is much more wonderful and infinitely more high-tech! Earthly reality as nagging talking chips move in is likely to be quite a bit more like hell!

Japan seeks smarter ideas for smart cards

ASSOCIATED PRESS

On-the-go commuters stream through Tokyo train stations, carrying "smart cards" instead of stopping to pull out tickets. Some 5.6 million people—or roughly half the possible users—have the green-and-silver Suica cards.

A play on the Japanese expression "sui-sui," which means "zip on by," Suica stands for "super urban intelligent card."

These smart cards work from up to four inches away. Most Japanese don't bother to take their Suica out of their wallets or coat pockets as they zip on by the turnstiles.

Sony Corp., which developed the Suica technology, also runs its own smart card service called Edy, short for "euro, dollar, yen." About 2,100 stores in Japan accept the 650,000 or so Edy cards in circulation.

The Edy cards can be used at a convenience store or for lunch at a restaurant. Instead of fumbling for cash, customers just place the card next to a display at the cash register.

(Dad:) Japan is one gadget-crazy technological nation. They produce a lot of good gadgets too, God bless'm, things that make life and work easier, quicker and more pleasant.

But I think in the end, unless more of them turn to the Lord, they'll turn to the Antichrist instead. He'll be a high-tech wonder worker as well, but without God—in fact, saying he is God—and will seduce and deceive many.

So keep leading Japanese to the Lord, and keep winning those wonderful Japanese disciples to the Family! They can be real labor leaders for the Lord!

◆ Men's Corner

The question that could save your marriage before it begins

BY DR. LES PARROTT, CHRISTIANITY TODAY

The odds-makers say the chances are five in ten that a marriage will end in divorce.

Well, regardless of your marriage "odds," we have a soul-searching question that will help you beat them. Ask yourself this: How would I like to be married to me?

Think about it. How would you rate you as a partner? Are you easy to live with? What are the positive qualities you bring to a relationship?

Every relationship is unique, and while there is no definitive list of qualities that describe good partners, consider some of the traits that show up again and again in studies of lifelong love.

Research has shown that people who make good lifelong marriage partners have a way of passing over minor offenses and injustices (see Proverbs 17:9; Romans 14:19). They're quick to forgive (Ephesians 4:32).

Partners who are easy to live with are cooperative. They get along. They understand what the psalmist meant in saying, "How good and how pleasant it is to live together in unity" (Psalm 133:1; see also Acts 4:32). They also have an even and stable emotional tone. Nobody is attracted to an uncontrollable temper (see James 1:19-20). Good spouses communicate their needs openly and honestly (see Ephesians 4:15). What they say is in sync with how they feel and what they want. They share their innermost thoughts (see Colossians 3:12-14).

You may not have every advantage for a successful marriage; few do. But you can pray with the psalmist: "Search me, O God, and know my heart" (Psalm 139:23). By searching your soul, by questioning your character, and by becoming easy to live with, you will exponentially increase the probability of building a relationship that will last.

(Dad:) Success in marriage is more than finding the right person—it's being the right person as well. If you really love someone, you'll be willing to become—and remain—lovable yourself by following these Biblical principles. You'll want to love your wife as yourself, and although that principle of the Law of Love sounds simple and we often talk about it, it's sometimes hard to put into practice.

Well, do all you can, men, all that you should do. Remember, the marriage union is symbolic of the Lord's union with His Bride, the Church, so you're to "be Jesus" to your dear mate. Love her as He loves the Church, lay down your life for her as He lays down His life for His Bride, care for her and cherish her as the Lord cares for us and cherishes us, and you'll have a marriage truly made in Heaven!

Dirty thoughts lead to cleaner clothes?

BY DAVE BARRY, MIAMI HERALD

I have here a shocking letter from a person named "Julia," who openly admits to being a woman. It concerns laundry.

As you men know, laundry is a key area in which we have long enjoyed a tactical advantage over women, thanks to the fact that, through a combination of genetics and instinct, we are pigs.

A man can live happily in a confined space with a mass of unwashed garments so funky that his shirts wrap their sleeves around his ankles as he walks

past, hoping he will drag them to a laundromat; and his undershorts, which have developed primitive bacterial feet, crawl around and arrange themselves on the floor to form the words FOR GOD'S SAKE WASH US. Every year, thousands of pedestrians collapse while walking past male-occupied college dormitories, overcome by sock fumes.

So in most relationships, women wind up doing the laundry. To compensate, we men assume full responsibility

for more masculine, but equally necessary, household tasks, such as making sure that the TV channel is changed regularly.

This traditional division of labor is now threatened by Julia, who reveals that she has developed a shocking tactic—a tactic that threatens to undermine the very fabric that underlies the foundation for the infrastructure of our way of life as we know it in terms of metaphors. Julia uses SEX to get her husband to do laundry.

"I tell him it gets me hot," she writes. "Every time I need laundry done, I put my arms around him and tell him how excited I get just watching him. I tell him if he folds it and puts it away, I am beside myself. I make love to him right by the washing machine. I have found that he folds laundry better than I do."

Men, we must ask ourselves: What if other women start using their wiles this way? Would it work? Are we, as a gender, so easily manipulated, so mindlessly lust-crazed? Are we willing to trade our independence—and, yes, our dignity—for a few seconds of cheap physical gratification? Are we that weak, that pathetic?

Let's remember to hand-wash those delicates.



ARE MEN SO EASILY MANIPULATED?

◆ Ask Dad!—No.19

Subject: Current Comments

■ Anarchy in Liberia

Poor Liberia is really a mess!

After 14 years of war, aid workers say the country is just a hollow shell now, with no food, no drinking water, no medicine, no health care, no schools, no shelter, no electricity, and no government! About the only things they have much of are refugees, chaos, and rebels and government militias with guns who keep trying to loot anything that's not tied down.

Liberia used to be a pretty stable place, by African standards. It was established by freed American slaves right before the U.S. Civil War, and for a long time it was fairly peaceful and prosperous because it was America's "colony" in Africa. But then back in the 1980s there was a bloody coup and the military took over, and as so often happens in Africa, that coup was followed by an even bloodier war in which a more murderous criminal took over! That was a fellow named Charles Taylor, the president, who was recently pressured to leave by the UN and U.S. and who flew into exile in Nigeria, taking an estimated \$100 million of Liberia's money with him!

So Liberia is in a pitiful state, and can hardly even be helped because the aid and reconstruction supplies are often stolen soon after they arrive. Diplomats call places like Liberia "failed states" nowadays, but the archbishop of Liberia got to the root of the problem when he said it was a failed state because of failed people. The problem began in people's hearts and then spread to the nation as a whole (Jeremiah 17:9).

They had crooks and criminals running the government and they wrecked the country, and now it's hard to find anyone who wants to fix it. The U.S. isn't interested in running things there, unlike Iraq—no oil. And most African nations have plenty of problems of their own. The UN could probably do it, if they were to send in peacekeepers and establish order, but most nations in the UN figure that the U.S. ought to take responsibility for that, which it hasn't been willing to do. So Liberia is struggling along, just trying to avoid national disaster.

Please pray for the poor Liberian people who are caught in the midst of that anarchy, struggling to survive, much less to rebuild their country. Pray for peace to return, and for the protection of our national Family members and all God's children there, the "meek of the Earth," who are so often pushed around by the gangs with guns these days. But it's those same meek who will inherit the Earth one of these days, while the warmongers and oppressors will either pass away or get a good taste of the rod of iron the Lord will rule the world with during the Millennium!

■ India's living dead

Bureaucracy can be pretty bizarre, as well as pretty corrupt. In India, one ploy that people use to grab their relatives' wealth or property is to go down to the local equivalent of city hall and get them declared dead! Then they seize their land or their house or their bank account or property, or all of them, because after all, they're dead! And naturally, the official who declared them dead either gets a hefty bribe or a share of the proceeds for collaborating in the scheme.

Meanwhile, the poor victim is still walking around, as alive as can be, but he can't get the officials to declare him "alive" again, so he's also often penniless as can be—and he can't bribe anyone to annul his death certificate. There are 35,000 people in that "living dead" category in some Indian states, and probably hundreds of thousands in the country as a whole.

That's just one example of how crazy or corrupt bureaucracy can be, and not only in developing countries. Even in so-called developed or civilized ones, there are crooked or authoritarian bureaucrats and officials. Not all, but they do exist. Some people just seem to enjoy wielding their power over others, or they see it as a way to get rich or get even in some way. Well, when faced with such folks, it's a good chance to pray and put the keys to the test, and if nothing else works, take it as being from the Lord and consider it an object lesson in what not to do when you're acting as judges and rulers yourselves in the world to come!

■ September 11 in Chile

September 11 is more than the day that terrorists attacked the World Trade

Center and the Pentagon; it's also the day in 1973 when the American government overthrew Allende in Chile. They're finally declassifying some of the documents that detail the U.S. involvement, the CIA scheming,

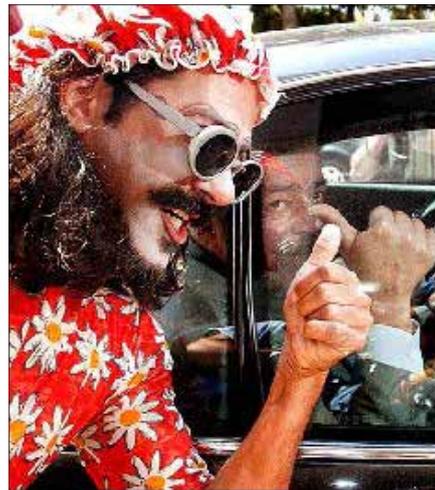
the bribes paid, the way they tried to destabilize Chile beforehand and the way that U.S. companies profited after the coup. People have known about it for years, of course, but it's never been confirmed so officially. A bunch of reporters and activists have synthesized all these declassified documents and it really paints a horrible picture of American meddling in Chile's affairs. America has a long tradition of overthrowing governments it doesn't like to replace them with ones it does! And yet Americans wonder, "Why do these foreigners hate us? What have we ever done to them?"



SALVADOR ALLENDE

■ Brazil's Lula, a politician who speaks his mind

The Brazilian president, Lula (Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva), has a little problem—he says what he thinks and can sometimes be blunt and honest, which isn't always a very good survival trait among heads of state, ha!



LULA SPEAKING WITH SUPPORTER IN RIO. A BLUNT AND HONEST PRESIDENT.

He's been a radical for years, of course—a socialist, a union leader, a poor boy who made good and made it all the way up to the presidency of Brazil, despite the dislike or horror of some American officials, or even of many wealthy Brazilians. But when he got elected, he sort of toned things down a bit, became a little more moderate, and the U.S. has warmed up to him and worked together with him. After all, he needs U.S. aid, trade and loans, and the U.S. needs Brazil's support and stability in Latin America.

But every once in a while Lula comes out with off-the-cuff remarks that are real zingers and send American officials into a tailspin. He was addressing an audience in London and he said, "If there is one thing I admire about the United States, it is that the first thing they think about is themselves, the second thing is themselves, and the third one themselves. And if they still have some extra time left, they think a little more about themselves." Ha!

It went over well in London but not so well in Washington, so afterwards Brazilian aides and diplomats had to apologize and soothe all the ruffled feathers. Heads of state are rarely allowed to say what they feel. And if they do, that's why they have the diplomatic corps to bow and scrape and say they were misquoted or didn't mean it that way, or that their remarks need to be "clarified."

Thank God we can just tell it like it is and speak our mind—or speak the Lord's mind! Tact is a wonderful trait, of course, and love is a very necessary component of honesty in personal relations. But when it comes to relations between nations, there's very little honesty and way too much hypocrisy! So it's refreshing to hear a world leader speak his mind occasionally.

■ **Israel's threats against Arafat**

Speaking of hypocrisy among nations, Israel's now threatening to either exile or assassinate Arafat because he can't control the militants who are attacking Israel with suicide bombings. Of course, Israel doesn't mention a few little relevant details—the fact that Israeli forces generally provoke the militants into attacking by bombing or assassinating their leaders, that the Israeli military makes special targets of Palestinian policemen who might have stopped the militants (not only killing dozens of police but also turning them fully against Israel), that militants who are arrested and jailed by Palestinian forces often wind up dead after Israeli jets or helicopters bomb the jails and places where they're held, etc.

So Israel has worked hard to make it nearly impossible for Arafat to stop the attacks and arrest the perpetrators, while they're condemning him for not doing so. And if he did try it, it might result in a civil war among the Palestinians. But then Israel wouldn't mind that too much, either. I think they figure the Palestinians would just be killing each other then, and that's no skin off the Israeli nose. They also figure that with Arafat gone in exile and maybe even dead in an "accident" while he's being transported there, they'll not only be rid of a thorn in their flesh but they'll get their Palestinian civil war anyway.



ARAFAT: FACING "REMOVAL" BY ISRAEL

The U.S. hasn't gone along with the Israelis so far in wanting to get rid of Arafat, but they haven't exactly been wholeheartedly against it either. Arab nations were horrified that Israel was talking openly about killing Arafat, so they tried to push a resolution through the UN Security Council saying that Israel shouldn't do it. Guess who vetoed it? The U.S. did, saying it was "unbalanced" and didn't say the Palestinians should be doing more to rein in the militants! Naturally, the U.S. isn't helping matters by its all-out support for the Israelis and by Bush's own dislike of Arafat. Bush won't even meet with Arafat, while Sharon has been one of the most frequent visitors to the Oval Office! Some commentators have joked that not only the West Bank and Gaza are Israeli-occupied territory, but the White House is too!

Please do continue to pray for Arafat's survival and his wisdom, and

for the Lord to protect and preserve the poor Palestinians. You may not think your prayers make a difference, but they do! They avail much, and if you weren't praying, even worse things would be happening!

■ **The U.S. goes back to the UN over Iraq**

When the U.S. invaded Iraq back in March, it did so without a specific Security Council resolution authorizing the attack. It went to the UN, but when it saw it was going to be difficult to get enough international support for its unprovoked attack, it basically said, "Forget it! We're gonna do it anyway, and who cares what the rest of the world thinks!"

Well, now it's six months later and half the U.S. Army is in Iraq, where they're losing a soldier every day, suffering several wounded every day, and spending a billion dollars every week occupying Iraq. They need more soldiers there, which they don't have available, and they need more money to support the ones they have, much less rebuild what they destroyed in Iraq. So now the U.S. has gone back to the UN, hat in hand, with a proposition: "Hey, world, how'd you like to help us occupy Iraq? You can send us troops and help us bear the costs and rebuild Iraq and make it a stable, functioning country again. Wouldn't that be nice?"

Other nations haven't exactly leaped at the prospect, of course, because they'd be exposing their own troops to death and danger, while paying for the privilege of doing so, and not getting anything out of it but a thank-you from the U.S.! They'd have no say-so in any decisions the Americans make in Iraq. They'd only get to share in the burdens and the costs and the danger, not the decisions! So, for some reason the U.S. is having a hard time finding allies to help it out in any substantial way. It goes to

show once again that you reap what you sow! The U.S. said it didn't need allies and now it can't get them!

Well, the funny thing is—or rather the sad thing—a lot of ordinary Americans won't see it that way! If Bush can't get the UN to help him and back him up, he'll probably tell Americans, "That just goes to show again how irrelevant the UN is. We tried to get them to help us eliminate the threat that Iraq posed to the world"—ho ho—"and they weren't willing, and now they won't help us bring peace and democracy to that troubled land!" And many people will nod their head and agree with him.

So it's a crazy world, filled with darkness and hypocrisy. Thank you, dear Family, for working so hard to bring peace and light and truth to the hearts of millions! Great is your reward in Heaven!

◆ **Religion in the News**

Battle over the role of the Bible—in religion

BY TED OLSEN, CHRISTIANITY TODAY

"For all of the fuss over the Episcopalians choosing a gay bishop, what should have been an even bigger scandal has received scant attention," writes Gene Edward Veith in *World* magazine. "For decades, the Episcopal Church and other Anglican bodies have been electing bishops who are not even Christians. ... Choosing a bishop who is gay is bad enough, but choosing a bishop who rejects Christianity is surely even worse."

In an *Associated Press* article, Richard Ostling says the debate over gay bishops is divisive because of a larger battle—that over the role of the Bible.

"Until very recently, all Christian branches agreed that same-sex activity was immoral because of their age-old understanding of God's will taught in the Scriptures," Ostling writes.



Most of the world's Christian bodies maintain that belief. But in the last quarter-century, liberal scholars from some so-called "mainline" Protestant denominations in Europe and North America have argued against traditional Bible interpretations, often in books from church publishing houses. They say the Bible's overwhelming overall message is loving acceptance and justice for all people.

This has gradually influenced leadership circles in the Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Methodist Church.

Indeed, it has led to folks like the Rev. V. Gene Robinson [now bishop-elect of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, who dissolved his marriage, left his wife and two little girls, and moved in with another man] simply dismissing the Bible in favor of doing what they feel.

"Just simply to say that it goes against tradition and the teaching of the church and scripture does not necessarily make it wrong," Robinson told *The Washington Post*. "We worship a living God, and that living God leads us into truth."

But God is still on the throne, and those who still trust the Bible are still at work. Which leads us to one more story. In Denmark, 158 priests and theologians have denounced a decision to lift the suspension of Thorkild Grosboel, the Lutheran pastor who told a magazine, "There is no heavenly God, there is no eternal life, there is no resurrection." Allowing someone with those beliefs to continue operating in the state Lutheran Church damages the church's credibility and is unacceptable, they said.

(Jesus:) These men who say and do such things, while acting as shepherds of My lost sheep, lead them astray and reap even greater condemnation to themselves. These are they who profess to know Me, but in their works they deny Me, being abominable and disobedient.

How can they help those seeking Me if they do not know Me? How can they lead them down the straight and narrow path of My truth if they are not traveling it themselves? How can they teach them My Word if they deny it and flout its principles?

To the world they may seem good men, or nice or sweet or considerate, or have other attributes that the world considers goodness or godliness—especially in contrast to their accusers, who can be prone to severe self-righteousness, condemning not just the sin but the sinner as well.

I do not condemn them as sinners, for all have sinned, but I do condemn them for being false samples of My shepherds and for flaunting their unbelief or their ungodly lusts before all. By knowingly disobeying and defying My Word and setting an example for others to do the same, they sculpt their own millstones.

Yes, I am a living God, and I am love as well. I love even such wayward children as these. And I say to them, as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten and ask to repent of their wrongdoings, lest I come quickly and remove them from their places.

◆ Words for the wise

The travails of travel

BY NANCY M. KENDALL, *THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR*

The hardships and difficulties of travel during the Middle Ages is reflected in the etymology of the word "travel." Today, we may complain about delayed departures, lost luggage, and late arrivals. But back then, travelers often had to contend with very long and dangerous journeys, and the weariness that accompanied it.

Travel comes from the French *travail*, meaning work or labor, as in the labor of childbirth. And *travail* derives from the Latin *tripalium*—a kind of rack for torture purposes. One would hope that no journey could have been that uncomfortable, but the root of the word suggests it. Once accepted into the English language, travel came to mean a journey.

◆ Tip for "professionals"

A secret of success

BY HAL URBAN, PH.D., *THE BOTTOM LINE*

Bring out the best in others. Successful people actively build strong relationships. They do it by bringing out the best in others. Consider Benjamin Franklin. Though often thought of as a natural diplomat, he wasn't born that way. Franklin wrote that he had to work hard to overcome his tendency to fault others. As an experiment, he vowed to look for the good in others instead of judging or criticizing them—and to say only kind things about people. The experience affected him profoundly, and he credited these efforts for much of his diplomatic skill.

Don't just *look* for the good in people—*tell* them about it. Make a point of affirming at least two people every day. And say thank you at every opportunity. Showing appreciation is one of the surest ways to nurture strong relationships.

(Dad:) If you look for the good in others, you can always find it, even in people you might consider some of the most irritating or unlovable. And in changing your attitude toward them, you'll often change their attitude toward you and even toward many others. So think the best and bring out the best in both yourself and others!

◆ Tidbits

Canada bans passport smiles. (AFP) Canada has banned the public from smiling or frowning for passport photos, the foreign ministry announced. Canadians must send a photo with "a neutral expression—that means no laughing, smiles, frowning," said ministry spokeswoman Suzanne Meunier. "The mouth must be closed," she added. She said it had become necessary because of a recommendation by the International Civil Aviation Organization, and to make it easier to recognize passport holders. Still, she said that those who had already sent in pictures showing a toothy smile should not worry. But the smile amnesty will run out on November 3. From then on, only serious passport photos will be allowed.

Orwell on politicians. (William Falk, *The Week*) Our last [U.S.] president insisted that he never had "sex with that woman" on the grounds that oral sex, strictly speaking, was not sex. Our current president insists that when he said Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, he meant that Iraq had a weapons of mass destruction *program*. Same difference, right? What a fitting time to mark the 100th birthday of the late George Orwell, who would be perfectly at home amid today's political discourse. What Orwell taught us, says linguist Geoffrey Nunberg in *The New York Times*, was how powerfully political language can shape public perception. The words of politicians, Orwell wrote, are "designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind." **(Dad:) In Orwell's book 1984, the main character worked for the "Ministry of Truth," dedicated to eliminating every vestige of the truth and replacing it with what the government said was truth. Sounds just like some governments today, and like many politicians!**

The new \$200 bill. (The Smoking Gun) North Carolina police are searching for a man who successfully passed a \$200 bill bearing George W. Bush's portrait and a drawing of the White House complete with lawn signs reading "We like ice cream" and "USA deserves a tax cut." The phony Bush bill was presented to a



cashier at a store in Roanoke Rapids on September 6 by an unidentified male who was seeking to pay for \$150 in groceries. Remarkably, the cashier accepted the counterfeit note and gave the man \$50 change. **(Dad:) Ha! What a hilarious counterfeit! Of course, a counterfeit is an imitation of the real thing, and paper money isn't real money at all. It's just money because the government says it is, not because it has any intrinsic value.**

British scientist puts odds for apocalypse at 50-50. (*Reuters*) The demise of civilization has long been predicted, but the odds of keeping Planet Earth alive and well are getting worse amid a breakneck pace of scientific advances, according to Martin Rees, Britain's honorary astronomer royal.

Rees calculates that the odds of an apocalyptic disaster striking Earth have risen to about 50 percent from 20 percent a hundred years ago. The 60-year-old scientist, author of the recently published *Our Final Hour*, says science is advancing in a far more unpredictable and potentially dangerous pattern than ever before.

He lists as mankind's biggest threats nuclear terrorism, deadly engineered viruses, rogue machines, and genetic engineering that could alter human character. All of those could result from innocent error or the action of a single malevolent individual. **(Dad:) Actually, the odds on apocalypse are 100 percent, but they won't come from unforeseen events or unexpected causes. They were described nearly 2,000 years ago in the book of Revelation!**

Soda rots kids' teeth. (*WebMD Medical News*) New evidence backs up what you already know: Soda pop rots kids' teeth. The study is based on 640 Iowa kids followed since they were born. The kids who drank the most soda, had the most cavities, reports Teresa A. Marshall, PhD, RD, and her University of Iowa colleagues.

American church reverts to pre-9-11 apathy. (*AgapePress*) Christian researcher George Barna says the church in America is no different from the days immediately before the terrorist attacks of two years ago. Barna says he cannot help but think that God may have been using the attacks as a wake-up call to the Church.

"In many ways, the church in America has become like the Church of Laodicea that's described in Revelation 3," the researcher says. "We're a church that's very complacent, very satisfied with ourselves."

He believes that, to a large extent, the church in America has lost its focus, apparently preferring to be prideful of all the "stuff" surrounding it.

"When we try to gauge how successful we are, we don't look at personal transformation as much as we look at numbers. Really, [such concerns are

found] nowhere in scripture—that's not what Jesus died for," he says.

According to Barna, American Christians are simply too comfortable. "When you look at our hearts, there are very few broken hearts [and] there are very few surrendered Christians in America today."

(Dad:) Yes, the American church system has been a mess for many years. I gave up on it a long time ago, after trying to salvage it myself, and that's one reason the Family exists today. Too bad George couldn't mention some of the verses describing the Church of Laodicea, which are very fitting: "Lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot," saying they're "rich and increased with goods," but not realizing they're actually "wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked" (Rev.3:16-17).

Young and miserable workers. (*Geraldine Sealey, ABC News*) Meet the employed, educated "quarterlifers" in crisis. They're 20- and 30-somethings who might appear to have it made in this cruel economy, but are still asking themselves, "Is that all there is?"

"If someone took a poll and asked Americans where there was more stress and anxiety in their lives and where their biggest fears for the future lie, they would say their job," said Stephen Pollan, author of *Second Acts: Creating the Life You Really Want, Building the Career You Truly Desire*. "This is endemic in America."

For those roughly 21 to 35 years of age, Pollan said, there's a special brand of discontent. They're looking to their work for fulfillment—and more often than not, it's not happening.

Anne Robinson, 32, of Charlotte, N.C., seems to be one of America's golden children. Ivy League-educated with multiple degrees, she has a job in corporate communications.

Yet after years of pursuing education with blazing idealism, she's found that the reality of post-college life did not meet her expectations.

"What a rude awakening on your first day in the cubicle," she said. "I'd like to work at a job that sends me home at night proud of what I did for the day."

Quarterlife Crisis: The Unique Challenges of Life in Your Twenties was published two years ago, but the book has so resonated with readers—100,000 copies later—that it spawned a network for disgruntled young adults seeking relief.

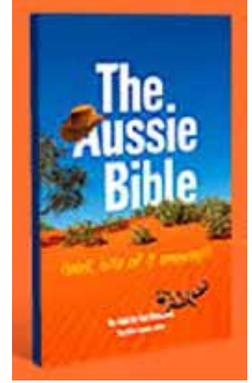
(Dad:) Poor young folks, looking for fleshly satisfaction and fulfillment and never finding it. Please help them to find real satisfaction, Family, just as that old hymn says:

**"I have found no satisfaction
In the fleeting joys of Earth,
I have built me broken cisterns
That have mocked me by their
death.**

Every spring my soul has tested

**Failed to meet my deepest need,
Christ alone has filled my longing,
He has satisfied indeed!"**

A Bible full of blokes and sheilas. (*NZ Herald*) Australians who struggle with the somewhat obtuse language of the King James Bible now have their own vernacular version to turn to, complete with pretty sheilas, good blokes and dusty, down-at-heel pubs.



Called The Aussie Bible, it provides a uniquely Australian spin on the Virgin birth, the Good Samaritan and other well-known parables.

There is not a thee, thou or yea verily in sight. Jesus' father, Joseph, becomes simply Joe, the Three Wise Men are The Wise Guys, and the baby Christ sleeps in a feed trough instead of a manger (the local pub was "full to bursting").

The Good Samaritan, in which Jesus tells the story of a man attacked by robbers who is ignored by a priest and a Levite before being helped by a Samaritan, is translated into the sort of language found in any Outback pub.

"A bunch of bushrangers attacked him, stole his dough, and left him as good as dead. A big wig from the Temple happened to pass by, took one look at the bloke, crossed the road, and hurried off. Another official who was on the road that day did the same.

"Then a really ordinary bloke (a grubby old street sweeper you wouldn't look twice at) passed by and felt really sorry for him. So he used his first-aid kit to patch him up, and then put him on his old nag, took him to the nearest pub and took care of him."

Homelessness for the fun of it. (*Ekaterina Zaleskaya, Vecherny Novosibirsk*) Look twice before you toss your spare change at that raggedy beggar, said Ekaterina Zaleskaya in the Novosibirsk daily *Vecherny Novosibirsk*. He may be a wealthy businessman in disguise. Believe it or not, some of our nouveau capitalists have become so rich and spoiled that they crave the excitement that comes with living on the margins of society. This new trend is a booming business for entrepreneurs, who arrange for their clients to dress down and spend three or four hours among genuine homeless people. They drink vodka, panhandle, and hide from the police—while being watched discreetly so nothing can really go wrong. For people who have become too comfortable, it's the only way to feel truly alive, one psychologist explained.

The power of a believing mother. (*The Week*) When Victoria Bingham of East Northport, NY, was born with severe

brain damage seven years ago, doctors said she would never walk. Her mother, Anne, refused to accept that. She assembled a makeshift harness from bungee cords, an old rowing machine, and other household items that allowed her daughter to dangle while her feet touched the floor. Today, Victoria is taking her first unaided steps and her mother is marketing a patented version of her invention. "I had to do it," she said. "I wanted to be able to say, 'Mommy tried her very best.'" (Dad:) **God bless all you mothers! There are so many times when you believe the impossible and expect the miraculous for your children, and the Lord honors your faith!**

News making us dumb? (Charles Colson, BreakPoint) In his book *How the News Makes Us Dumb*, author C. John Sommerville observes that people used to exchange news only when something really important happened. But what are we given as "breaking news" today?

On the typical morning news program we may find out that the president has a new dog or see what celebrities are wearing, or discover what some film critic thinks of Hollywood's latest flick.

In other words, most of what's called "news" today is really just a flood of trivia—mostly inconsequential data that will be soon forgotten.

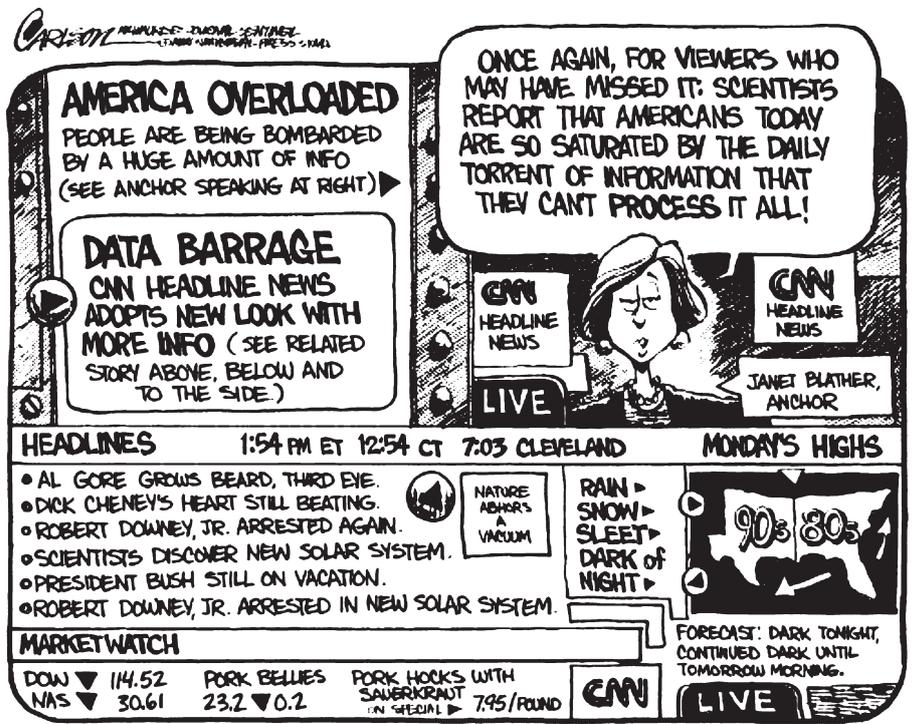
We're subjected to this daily avalanche of data because the very definition of news has changed. No longer is it focused on the occasional life-changing event. It's excitement, entertainment, and above all, constant change. Sommerville says news is whatever publishers and broadcasters "think they can get us interested in and get us to pay for."

This is why he says the news is making us dumb. The very daily-ness of the news makes us lose perspective. And when every story has equal value, we lose the ability to distinguish what is truly important from what is merely sensational.

All of this makes the news industry a natural antagonist to biblical wisdom. As Sommerville puts it, "News is only aware of change, while religion tries to concentrate on the eternal." (Dad:) **Man's news has already happened—it's history, soon to pass away, with few regrets—whereas God's news in the Bible and in prophecy predicts what will happen both now and in the future, and will endure forever!**

Revealing ourselves. (Zig Ziglar, Creators Syndicate) There's an old saying that who you are speaks much louder than what you say. We reveal ourselves by the way we deal with people who are less fortunate mentally, physically, financially or socially. The smile or frown on our face, as well as that look of compassion or of anger, reveals much of who we are and what we believe. In short, we are walking encyclopedias.

However, once we become aware that everything we do is a showcase of who we are, we can make necessary



changes and begin to work toward becoming more other-person centered and less self-centered.

The words of **C. S. Lewis** speak volumes in one simple sentence: "If you live for the next world, you get this one in the deal; but if you live only for this world, you lose them both." When we start living for the next world, by the way we treat people, by what we believe, the way we conduct ourselves in our personal, family and career lives, whether we genuinely care and are concerned about friends, relatives, neighbors and associates, it says a lot.

As **Margaret Thatcher** said, "The Good Samaritan story would never have been told had he not stopped to render aid." All of us have the potential to be a

Good Samaritan by the care we feel and give to others.

Stephen Arterburn put it this way: "Commit to excellence in whatever you do; and, at the same time, commit to service. Those who succeed in order to serve find fulfillment and meaning that others who seek only power will never have." In short, he's saying we need to think about others as the Good Samaritan did, and that way we will enjoy a better life here and an eternal life that will be beyond comprehension. (Dad:) **Live for others now and you'll be happy forever, whereas if you merely live to make yourself happy now, you'll only wind up shedding tears that the Lord has to wipe away later, while you lament, "If I only had!"**

◆ **A few for fun**

Relations break down between U.S. and Them

THE ONION

After decades of antagonism, the U.S. has officially severed relations with Them, Bush administration officials announced.

"They have refused to comply with the U.S. time and time again," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said. He added: "If They're not with us, They're against us."

"We've tried reasoning, but Their agendas are in direct opposition to ours," Vice-President Dick Cheney said. "They stand in stark defiance of stated U.S. policy. We cannot and will not allow Them to dictate global policy."

According to State Department documents, the standoff is a result of Their continued economic encroachment, Their ongoing reluctance to allow U.S. military bases on Their lands, and the refusal of many of Them to speak English.

Another key factor in the standoff is U.S. dependence on Them-controlled resources.

"They only think about what's good for Them, but we're concerned with the needs of all Americans," National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice said.

Experts remain unsure how long the current U.S.-Them rift will last, but President Bush said that the U.S. will stand tall.

"We're Americans and They are not," Bush said. "We will not, under any circumstances, allow some alien, foreign one-of-Them to dictate how we're going to run our, or Their, lives. It's us and Them now, people."