

South Africa Renaissance

OR

Reformation

by Dr. Peter Hammond

South Africa - RENAISSANCE OR REFORMATION?

by Peter Hammond

Published by Frontline Fellowship Publishing at Smashwords

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Typesetting by Colin Newman

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the family of *Tom Barlow*

- his wife, *Ilse*,

their children *Priscilla, Charles* and *Thomas*

and grandchildren *Georgina, Victoria, James,*

Peter James, Charlotte and *Caroline*.

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Preface

Humanism or Christianity?

When the President of South Africa calls for “*An African Renaissance*”, what exactly does he mean? Is he calling us to the Humanism of the European Renaissance that culminated in the French Revolution and the Soviet Gulags? Or is he merely desiring a return to the pre-Christian paganism and animism that afflicted Africa prior to the spread of the Gospel?

But there is an alternative that South Africans should seriously consider: the Faith that successfully campaigned against human sacrifices, eradicated slavery and introduced hospitals. The Christian Faith has made more positive changes on earth than any other force or movement in history. Most of the languages of the world were first codified and put into writing by Christian missionaries. More schools and universities have been started by Christians than by any other group. Christianity gave birth to liberty. Constitutional republics, the separation of powers, limited government and freedom of conscience are a result of the Reformation.

South Africa is at a crossroads. One choice before us is “*the African Renaissance*” with witchdoctors jumping up and down at state events, legalised abortion, pornography, prostitution, gambling, social engineering in schools, racial quotas in the workplace, situation ethics, the disarmament of law abiding citizens and the resultant wave of crime and violence. When you start off with the basic premise of Humanism - that mankind is basically good - policy is no longer determined by “*what is right?*” but by “*what is popular?*” Anyone who advocates Humanism as the answer for South Africa should seriously consider the disastrous consequences of Socialism and Humanism for the Soviet Union, Red China, East Germany, North Korea, Cambodia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique and Zambia. In each of these countries, and in every other secular state, socialism failed to build the just, prosperous and free society that their Humanist leaders had so confidently promised. Instead of the promised dreams, Humanism has consistently produced nightmares of bureaucracy, corruption, incompetence and oppression. To build upon Humanism is to build upon the shifting sands (Matthew 7:26-27).

The other choice before us is for a Biblical Reformation. The Bible contains the Law of God, the absolute and unchanging principles by which all areas of life must be governed. History records that where nations are built upon the principles of God's Word true freedom and justice flourishes. Those nations that enjoy the most civil liberty are generally those lands where the Gospel of Christ has had the greatest impact. The Ten Commandments provide the foundation for all law. The Christian work ethic and the Biblical free enterprise system has produced the greatest creativity, ingenuity and prosperity in history. The Biblical principles of limited, decentralised government - with genuine separation of powers, serious checks and balances and consistent constitutional rule of law - have made possible unprecedented freedom.

"... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17

Ideas have consequences. The consequences that flow from atheism, evolutionism, situation ethics and other cardinal tenants of Humanism are very tangible and very tragic. The National Socialists (Nazis) of Germany in the 1930's began with euthanasia, abortion, gun control and humanist education in the schools. It was not very long before the concentration camps and wholesale slaughter of the totalitarian state followed. When you eradicate God and His Law from a society, you devalue human life and erode the only foundation for liberty and justice.

The choice is ours:

It is God's Law or God's judgement.

Reformation or Renaissance.

Revival or repression.

Christianity or Humanism?

"... proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants..." Leviticus 25:10

Dr. Peter Hammond

Director, United Christian Action

11 August 1999 Cape Town

Foreword

by Andre Pieterse & Dr Ted Baehr

This book began as a joint venture between Tom Barlow and Peter Hammond. Before the book could be completed, Tom died of a heart attack. Now, finally, co-author Peter Hammond has managed to complete the book that they had planned and discussed together.

Thomas Barlow was born on 17 May 1938. The son of Punch Barlow, founder of Barlows, a company listed in the top 500 by *Forbes* magazine, he attended Diocesan College in Cape Town and furthered his studies at Cambridge in England where he received a BA degree in English, History and Estate Management. He was a keen sportsman: he played polo for Cambridge, was on their ski team and later became one of the world's foremost croquet players. It was at Cambridge that Tom became a Christian. Upon his return to South Africa, he worked for some months in the Barlows company

before joining the Dorothea Mission in 1959 from where he did missionary work throughout Southern Africa. Tom remained a faithful child of God until his death in 1996.

Before his death, Tom had often told his wife, Ilse, that when he died, he didn't want her to be sad but rather that she should be filled with happiness. Speaking about happiness and death in the same sentence may seem to be a strange thing, but not for Tom. For him, it all revolved around the word hope - Biblical hope. And for Tom, that was an absolute certainty.

The following is an extract from the last sermon Tom preached from 2 Peter 3: 13 at St. Paul's Church in Stellenbosch entitled, "A New World":

"The great weakness of capitalism is that it doesn't have a philosophy of the future. Most people in a capitalistic world have very short-term objectives. Maybe their quarterly figures, their budgets. Maybe their degree at the end of the year. They have very, very short objectives. That is its great weakness. Capitalism has a very shallow view of the future. Why? Because when things start going wrong in your life as they invariably do... what then? When the dream starts to crack... what then? What happens in a capitalist, secularist society when things start coming apart?"

"Some people have described the world as the first world, the second world and the third world... I suggest to you that all three are built on sand. But there's another world - a New World."

"History has a beginning, it has a middle and it has an end - and this is what the entire New Testament is saying; that we as Christians have a purpose and a direction - not only in our society but within our personal, individual lives." "What are we looking for? Where are we going?"

"We are going towards the return of Jesus Christ. That is our expectation, that is our joy, that is our delight, that is our motivation... the coming of Jesus Christ. My friends, we live in a wonderful world - a world that God has created. And we have wonderful blessings - thank God for that. And we have wonderful joys that we can enjoy every day with thanks to our Heavenly Father... And we have wonderful friends. But it may not last... it probably won't... and your dreams, your desires, your expectations, may crumble in ruins. What then? Prepare now, by doing what Peter said - looking to the New Heavens and the New Earth."

At a time when peace appears to prosper, cultural critics will understand that there is the greater danger of the unravelling of civilisation. The roots of civilisation are only one generation deep, and if that generation forgets the truth and fails to understand the lessons of history, it can easily revert to the barbarism of yore, or perhaps an enhanced barbarism enhanced by the technological marvels of the age. So it was with Germany, when it went from being the most cultured and civilised society to one embracing National Socialism. So it was with Russia, when it went from being Holy Mother Russia to embracing International Socialism. Alexander Solzhenitsyn estranged his peers, the nomenclatura, when he stated that the reason Russia had become devastated by the plague of communism, which killed millions of people, was because *"people had forgotten God."*

Today we are facing a similar precarious situation, lulled into self-satisfaction by technological abundance. We are forgetting the lessons of history and are abandoning truth. "What difference does it make", one student asked me at an Ivy League college, "if a little girl is gunned down by her classmates? After all, she is just another animal!" And who is to say that it is wrong when this type of confused psychopathy invades the thinking of the best and the brightest?

As Francis Schaeffer has said: *"Man, beginning from himself alone and with no ultimate reference point outside of himself, has no way to arrive at absolutes which would give meaning to existence and values."* Without God, existence becomes meaningless and moral values become arbitrary.

We are well on the road to a massive debacle. Tom Barlow understood this well. This new book, *South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation?* poses the right questions and comes up with profound answers. It is a well-written cure to the malaise that pervades the land.

Andre Pieterse

Former Executive Vice President of *Metro Goldwyn Meyer*

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Dr Ted Baehr,

Chairman of the *Christian Film and Television Commission*

Editor of *Movieguide*

Los Angeles

Introduction

Foundations for Freedom

by Tom Barlow

For many, South Africa's peaceful transition from racial segregation to democracy was nothing short of miraculous. Ever since the fifties the world believed that the South African government's refusal to deviate from the policies of racial segregation made a catastrophe inevitable. For virtually half a century our country's historical clock has been frozen at one minute to midnight. We had been the object of more prophecies of doom than the rest of the world combined. And yet those prophecies have remained stubbornly unfulfilled.

For some the impending catastrophe would be nothing but the righteous anger of God unleashed against an evil, demonic "*Pretoria*" Still others cast South Africa in the role of the "*Old South*" as in "*Gone with the Wind*". Such a blood letting, they believed, was not only inevitable, but desirable. The sooner it happened the better. These sentiments were conveyed to me personally in the State Department in Washington in 1986. But the impossible happened! Apartheid, much to the relief of all but the most bigoted, disappeared and relative peace was restored to the land.

Undoubtedly the God of history has opened a new, wide open door of opportunity. I believe this to be true not only on the secular plain of socio-economics and politics, but for the Christian Church. The challenges and dangers that confront us as South Africa moves towards the twenty first century - and how best to confront them is the subject of this book.

Of all the Biblical figures that captured the imagination of the emergent African nations none has surpassed Moses. For many the transition from colonialism and racial segregation to the "*promised land*" of independence and democracy has become a religious experience, similar to that experienced by the Israelites as they walked through the Red Sea. Certainly there are similarities. The birth of a new nation is always a dramatic event. Without doubt Africa has for centuries been the Cinderella

continent, pillaged and plundered by East and West alike. As nation after nation in Africa passed through its own Red Sea to independence it seemed to many that a new era was dawning for an entire continent. Small wonder that the image of Moses and the Israelites seem too relevant. Certainly **Moses' achievements were remarkable.**

When the Israelites set foot on the East bank of the Red Sea they had no resources, no legal system, no economy, no educational system, no police force, and no army. Yet out of the rag-tag rabble that followed him out of Egypt Moses founded a nation that has endured for almost four thousand years. The most successful nation ever in the history of the human race. The nation of Israel has not only survived, but has directly influenced this planet as none other.

It therefore seems fitting that the people of our new born nation, the New South Africa should study this man Moses with a view to learning from him what made him so hugely successful - lest we languish in the wilderness as so many nations to the North of us seem to have done since their exodus. It is not sufficient simply to throw off the yoke of Pharaoh, a new nation has to be built. To this end we need to study the first constitution of the state of Israel, the Ten Commandments.

We shall study it on three different levels,

1. Its relevance to the individual believer,
2. Its relevance to the visible church,
3. Its relevance to civil government.

The purpose of our study will be to determine in broad terms God's plan and purpose with each individual believer, His outline for the responsibilities of the visible church, and His parameters for stable and effective government. Quite clearly our intentions cover a huge field, prohibiting us from tackling the problems in anything but the very broadest terms. But the questions need to be asked. And they need to be asked and urgently answered now. In short, we, the simple believers of South Africa wish to ask our ecclesiastical and political leaders: *Quo Vadis?* (Where are you going?)

A history is one of the greatest assets any nation can have. One can almost say a nation without a history is no nation at all. History gives a people pride in themselves, it gives them status. It gives them a position and a direction. Moses understood the importance of recounting the deeds of his ancestors and proceeded to write the annals of his people, the book of Genesis.

South Africa also has its chronicles of the past. The problem with history is that it has to be written by somebody, and that person is invariably biased. As a result one group is denigrated in order to glorify another. Nowhere is this more true than South Africa. Our history is not an asset at all. It is a national catastrophe. Traditionally our historians have busied themselves, in turn, belittling and insulting one group after another. They still are doing so. Black insulted Black, White insulted White, White insulted Black and now Black is in the process of, insulting White. How can we ever build a nation until this sub-adult process is brought to an end? It is not in the tradition of Moses whom so many pretend to emulate.

The wonder of Biblical history is that it does not humiliate one group in order to exalt another. It **presents God's view of events.** All its heroes are presented warts and all, including Moses himself. It is not a twisted rendition of events recounted in order to score political points, but a simple statement of **facts intended to help the people understand God's plan for their lives.** That fact alone should be sufficient demonstration of Biblical integrity and inspiration.

Surely what South Africa needs at this time is a sense of Divine destiny. Surely where we need to begin is where Moses began, that is by giving each man, woman and child self respect in the fact that we are all creatures of the Divine, with a Divine nature, a Divine value and a Divine destiny. There is not one individual, group, tribe, race or nation that can claim superior status or imply inferior status on another. That is what *“loving your neighbour as yourself”* means. It is this injunction that each Christian living in our country today is called upon to apply. In the conflict out of which our country is emerging neither side can claim a monopoly of honour, and neither side can be expected to shoulder the exclusive burden of shame. Playing politics with history is a dangerous game.

As Christian South Africans we need to study our history, not in order to apportion blame or credit, **but so that we can understand ourselves and our destiny in God’s terms.** For the believing Christian, history is not about the rise and fall of nations, it is about the expansion of the Kingdom of God. The spread of the Gospel was inhibited in Africa by two major factors, firstly the Sahara Desert and secondly the deadly disease, malaria. For millennia Africa South of the Sahara could have been on another planet. On the one hand Southern and Central Africa was insulated from the appalling wars that swept across Europe

- though she experienced her own ghastly conflicts quite unrelated to events to the North. Attempts to romanticise pre-colonial Africa are usually nothing but fantasy.

On the other hand Africa South of the Sahara was insulated from the explosion of knowledge that took place in the Northern Hemisphere largely as a result of the spread of the Christian Gospel. This insulation has been broken by modern modes of travel and modern medicine, particularly quinine. Whether Africa likes it or not the fact is that it is now part of the rest of the world.

Most of the Christian Church in Sub-Saharan Africa is barely one hundred and twenty years old. The evangelisation of the region is surely one of the greatest chapters in the history of the Church. Unfortunately it is a chapter that is seldom read. A few years ago it became politically fashionable to denigrate missionaries and missions. But as their graves litter the continent the fruit of their labours continue to multiply and will continue to do so. It is to these people that we dedicate this book. It is they who, by dedicating their lives to the preaching of the Gospel of grace, first brought the Ten Commandments to Southern Africa. It is they who are the true followers of Moses.

The late Arthur Bryant, famous British author and historian visited South Africa in the fifties. I recall overhearing him in conversation, following a trip through the then Transkei, making the point that his journey had seemed like a flight in a time machine back to pre-Roman England. And so it was. Southern Africa remained isolated from the rest of the world, deprived of the Christian Gospel for nearly two thousand years. It was a culture that had remained deep frozen in icy paganism until the sudden shock encounter with the Western world a few generations ago. This conflict of cultures is what modern Africa is all about.

Most of the colonisation of the continent by the European powers at the end of the last century did not take place out of idealistic motives, but primarily out of a need to supply their burgeoning industries with raw materials. Governments all over the world, including African governments today, act out of self-interest. To expect anything else is naive to say the least. The fact never the less remains that the Western world believed that it was in their own interest to stabilise the continent politically and to introduce Western culture and economics. They still do. Hence the vast aid programs that continue to proliferate. The trouble was that the traditional people of the continent found the process of colonisation deeply humiliating. Thus the whole process of decolonisation took place in an

atmosphere of acrimony. It also took place at a time when the Northern hemisphere was embroiled in the vicious power struggle that came to be known as the Cold War.

The new, emergent African nations became pawns in that struggle. The ubiquity of the AK47 bears stark testimony to that fact. The old colonial powers, with all their faults, had provided an umbrella under which the evangelisation of Africa took place and under which the Church could take root in relative peace. The umbrella has gone. The early Church of the first century grew under the "*Pax Romana*." I believe the God of history provided a similar "*pax coloniale*" under which the early church of Africa could take root and grow. That outside "*pax*" has gone. Africa is once again to be left to its own devices. The Church likewise has had to cut the apron strings and take its place in the big wide world. Will it die out as the early Church in China and India did, or will it flourish and live to dominate the cultures of the newly independent countries? That is the subject of our book.

The nineteenth century was a watershed century for the organised church of the Western world. On the one hand it was a century of unprecedented missionary activity and expansion. Huge evangelisation programs were launched in China, India, Africa and Asia largely this time under the protective care of the "*pax Britanica*".

It also became a century of tragic self-doubt. On the political front the ancient ruling families of Europe, began to crumble one after the other, starting in France in 1789 with the revolution against the "*ancient regime*", the Bourbons, Hapsburgs, Romanovs, etc. toppled one after the other. Maybe the Windsors (Battenburgs) are the last of the line.

Darwin published his "*Origin of the Species*" in 1859 creating the perception that religion and science were at variance with each other. Karl Marx published his "*Communist Manifesto*" in 1848, setting capital and labour at each others throats. But the greatest damage to the church was accomplished from inside. The German scholar Julius Wellhausen published in 1883 his "*History of Israel*" in which he attempted to show the book of Genesis as being nothing but scraps of folk-lore and mythology. In so doing he gave rise to a whole school of Biblical scholarship whose teachings swept through theological schools all over the world. The net effect was to tempt generations of clergy to doubt their faith in the written Scriptures. The church was cut loose from the one anchor that had held it firm through centuries of conflict. Liberalism/Higher criticism set the church adrift wherever the winds should waft. And drift it did, and it still is drifting, as the works of Wellhausen and his followers are still taught to this day to thousands of young, budding ordinands in spite of the fact that his theories have been disproved time after time by the combination of both archaeology and fulfilled prophecy.

However, the churches in both Russia and Germany had lost contact with the Scriptures through the influence of Wellhausen. Both Marxism and Nazism built their philosophical base from Darwin and both countries were responsible for plunging the world into the huge orgy of blood-letting that has smeared our century. Both have collapsed leaving a huge philosophical and religious vacuum right at the end of the twentieth century, and leaving no directions as to the future. The huge explosion of knowledge, the one achievement of our century, has, to a very large extent, been wasted by the two world wars, followed by the cold war and 150 other "*hotter*" conflicts. Unimaginable Billions of Rand have been squandered by modern man on devising more sophisticated methods of murder. Those countries who for millennia had been cut off from the Northern hemisphere find themselves at the end of this century locked into a bewildering and also a bewildered world.

The fact is that our modern world has cut itself loose from the traditional ethical past. It has no coherent plan, no consistent direction, no real purpose. Our world is plunging through space on a voyage to nowhere. We have churches which neglect the Bible, governments which fail to govern,

education systems that don't adequately prepare students for life. It is into this family of confused and muddled parents that our New South Africa has been born. Small wonder that we don't know whether to keep criminals in jail or let them out, teach children at school or simply push them through the system to get rid of them? Should we "*democratically*" admit illiterates to universities and push incompetents into positions of high responsibility, and then wonder why whole departments of state crumble into ruins? South Africa has become part of the muddle.

Our country has various options. It is plain that most of those in positions of influence at present have been trained in the Marxist mode. This is true not only of government and trade unions but of many churches as well. After the collapse of the Soviet block to proceed blandly down the socialist road, as some seem to want to do, is not only irresponsible but criminally irresponsible. It must be said to their credit that not a few in leadership positions have been willing publicly to admit they are reconsidering the matter. Their problem is to find an alternative. The United Nations at the moment is pushing the ideas of the "*universal brotherhood of man*".

The New Age religion fits in well here. Truth, we are told, is relative. Justice is relative. Morals and ethics are relative. No religion can claim a monopoly of truth. In fact the one overriding crime is to claim TRUTH. Religion is inclusive, not exclusive. This way of looking at things has one overriding disadvantage. It is 100% negative. It may have an attraction for those who are so lost themselves they wish to deny the possibility of truth to others. The fact is it has no appeal to ordinary people who want a FAITH in which they and their families can trust. Each TV set has an on/off switch, but what happens when from church pulpits one hears the same thing. My advice is, if you cannot change your congregation to be a Bible based church, go somewhere else. Support those ministers who are brave enough to proclaim Biblical Truth. The best cure for an unBiblical minister is an empty pew.

The philosophical problem with the NEW AGE religion is that it is based on the same Darwinian view of man that inspired both Marx and Hitler. Man is a product of nature and as such is no more responsible for his actions than a colobus ape. Mankind has to be trained, manipulated, educated, into behaving logically and responsibly. The one lesson learned from both Marx and Hitler in the Twentieth Century is that man, left to himself - with no external law to guide and restrain him - very quickly betrays his true nature as being extremely destructive. This dangerous, true nature of man is very simply what the Bible calls sin.

Sin cannot be removed from mankind by revolution as Marx taught, nor can it be bred out of mankind as Hitler believed. Sin cannot be educated out of mankind as the United Nations seems to believe. Until the intellectual liberal leaders of the Western world learn that cine basic lesson they will continue to chase their tails. Their programs will continue to fail. Until our government starts to realise that what they are dealing with in WHITE and BLACK is not simply the "*legacy of Apartheid*" but plain and simple Sin, we will achieve very little. Sin is the one thing all South Africans have in common. It knows no racial, financial, or religious boundaries. It is present in every member of every political party, it is the one common denominator. We all share a common fallen nature. However it is not popular or politically correct to say so.

The primary purpose behind the giving of the Ten Commandments was to restrain the sinful natures of the members of the new Israelite nation. Without that restraining influence the nation would simply destroy itself through internal conflict. While on the negative side restraint is absolutely necessary, on the positive side the Ten Commandments provided for the nation a common purpose and standard. It provided one focal point around which the nation could stand united. Small wonder the two stones took on an almost magical significance.

For South Africa, with so few unifying factors present, I suspect that unless we can find a similar common purpose our nation will self destruct. Why can we not adopt the Ten Commandments as the basic ethical norm of the nation? At least 80% of our people are nominally Christian, add to that the Jewish and Muslim populations who also accept the law of Moses and we have something around which we can all stand. The strange fact is that, even to the irreligious the tenets of the Ten Commandments seem to express conscience itself. They are non-controversial.

We shall see what this could mean in practise. I strongly suspect that the great bulk of our nation are not criminals, revolutionaries, or radicals, but are those whose characters and behaviour have been **long moderated by acquaintance with God's Laws, particularly the Ten Commandments** that have allowed our country to make the transition it has made in relative peace and calm. Why then do some of our leaders now want to reject the very principles that have allowed us to get as far as we have? We need to beware of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

The post-colonial history of Africa is replete with examples of nations which attempted, and failed, to create just such a unifying factor as I have described - usually based on a political party or on a man. With a fair degree of press and TV "*hype*" it is possible to elevate a relatively unknown individual of mediocre ability to almost "*Messianic*" status. We had President Nkrumah, otherwise known as "*Osagefyo*", the Saviour; Kenyatta, "*the light of Kenya*", the "*Ngwazi*" (Champion); Dr Kamuzu ("*Root of the Nation*") Banda, to mention but a few. The trouble with mortals is that they tend to die - when least expected to. God has one attribute with which no man can compete, He is immortal! A nation that bases it's unity on one man is building on sand.

"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. "

Practically all of Africa's "*Messiahs*" have, sooner or later, been shown up to be rather less than perfect and been toppled from their "*hyped up*" pedestals.

The whole purpose of constitutional democracy has been to create a political mechanism which makes leadership temporary. For to make it permanent is to invite corruption and oppression in huge measure and so endanger the future of the nation. Democracy cannot be built around an individual, or even a party. It has to build around a principle. This lesson is still to be learned in the New South Africa. Probably the prime reason why so many attempted democracies have failed in our generation is simply the fact that many of the countries that embraced them were encouraged to believe in the Messianic status of one man. When he failed, as inevitably he must, the whole system came crashing down. Democracy succeeds in countries where the bulk of the population realise their leaders have "*feet of clay*", and so replace them regularly, in a democratic fashion.

Which way is South Africa going? As our future hangs in the balance we dare not hang our hopes and destiny on one man as some are apparently doing.

Few have any confidence in the implementation of a Marxist, one party state. The most likely philosophy for those in positions of influence to take is that being promoted by the UN, namely secular humanism. However, this was not the philosophy that Moses chose. For the old, post-Christian countries and cultures of the West, disillusioned after a century of appalling wars, humanism might seem to be an attractive way to go. For a young, dynamic polyglot land emerging from millennia of paganism and the humiliation of racial segregation it can only be a disaster. Humanism gives no direction, has no moral norms, creates no direction or purpose for the people of the land. It is simply an "*every man for himself*" philosophy that leads nowhere. We must have more purpose and direction than that. ***"Without a vision a people perish."***

The Ten Commandments offer ideals for private and public morality around which the whole nation can stand. They are, after all, God's basic moral guidelines for His creatures to follow. Ignore them and our future can only lead into a morass.

Tom Barlow

Chapter 1

WHEN CHRISTIAN RESTRAINTS ARE REMOVED

Those countries that enjoy the most civil liberty are those societies where the Gospel of Christ has penetrated the most. The worst violence and oppression in the world today is raging where Biblical principles have been rejected or neglected.

Noah Webster, the statesman, educator, and author of Webster's Dictionary wrote: "*The Bible is the chief moral cause of all that is good and the best corrector of all that is evil, in human society, the best book for regulating the temporal concerns of men, and the only book that can serve as an infallible guide... The principles of genuine liberty and of wise laws and administrations are to be drawn from the Bible and sustained by its authority. The man, therefore, who (undermines) the divine authority of that Book may be accessory to all the public disorders which society is doomed to suffer.*"

The lawlessness, crime and violence which South Africans are suffering at this present time are the inevitable results of turning away from the Word of God. "*All the miseries and evils which men suffer from: vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.*" (Webster)

The frightening reality of atheism is that there is no higher authority beyond man to which one can make an appeal. If you came from nothing and you're going nowhere - then life is meaningless! As Dostoevsky said "*If God is dead then all things are permissible.*"

The humanist belief in evolutionism destroys the concept of all men being created equal and endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights.

In a secular state your rights, which the state so effortlessly grants you, can be as easily withdrawn or "*suspended.*" The humanist state inevitably leads to tyranny and despotism. When atheism takes hold of a society, moral relativism becomes the order of the day. Then nothing is sacred and human life becomes cheap.

When you devalue God, you devalue human life. Hence humanists who believe in evolutionism can regard man as "*a hairless ape*" (Schoenberg); "*a jest, a dream, a show, bubble, air...*" (Thornbury); "*an accidental twig*" (Gould); "*A mere insect, an ant...*" (Church); "*A rope stretched over an abyss*" (Nietzsche); "*A fungus on the surface of one of the minor planets*" (Du Maurier); "*I see no reason for attributing to man a significant difference from that which belongs to a grain of sand*" (Oliver Wendell Holmes).

Once this evolutionary view of mankind has been applied, the most appalling crimes against God's creation have been committed:

In Nazi Germany, Hitler's holocaust began with euthanasia (70 000 insane and incurable people were killed) and abortion.

In communist Russia, Stalin's attempt to liquidate the entire Christian church resulted in the slaughter of 40 million people.

In Mao's "*Great Proletariat Cultural Revolution*" in Red China over 60 million people were murdered.

Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, in Cambodia, wiped out over 2 million people in order to establish a "*socialist classless society*."

Mengistu's marxist regime in Ethiopia slaughtered millions more in a vain attempt to establish communism in that ancient Christian kingdom.

When one also considers the massacres perpetrated by secular states in Vietnam, Cuba, Romania, Mozambique, Angola, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Zaire and so many others it becomes clear why historian Paul Johnson has concluded that the secular state of the twentieth century has "*proved itself the greatest killer of all time*."

Just as terrible as these atrocities has been the hidden holocaust of abortion. Many hundreds of millions of innocent babies have been murdered in the womb in accordance with humanist situation ethics and the principles of evolutionism. When the restraining influence of Christianity is removed from a country or culture, then gross abuses of human rights will naturally follow.

Even historian Will Durant, in the Humanist Magazine (Feb. 77), had to admit: "*There is no significant example in history... of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion*."

The existentialist writer, Jean-Paul Sartre, realised what the consequences were of rejecting God (as he had done): "*Without God all activities are equivalent... Thus it amounts to the same thing whether one gets drunk alone, or is a leader of nations*."

Napoleon observed that he had seen men without God in the French Revolution: "*One does not govern such men; he shoots them down (they have descended to the level of beasts)*."

Nietzsche wrote in 1886: "*The greatest event of recent times - that 'God is dead', that the belief in the Christian God is no longer tenable - is beginning to cast its first shadows over Europe*." He predicted that the "*collapse of the religious impulse*" amongst the "*advanced races*" would leave "*a huge vacuum*." Modern history would be the story of how that vacuum was filled.

The tragic fact of twentieth century history is that the vacuum created by rejecting the Bible has been filled with totalitarian states, concentration camps, slave gulags, the abortion holocaust, the drug epidemic, terrorism, the pornography plague, increasing suicide, infanticide, euthanasia, the most savage wars in the history of the world and the explosion of crime. Those advocating pornography, abortion and euthanasia are not offering us progress at all - but a regression to pre-Christian paganism.

With atheism there are no objective moral absolutes. The humanist is in "*an unguided world adrift in a relativistic universe*" which has proved to be a "*summons*" for "*gangster statesmen*" like Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Amin, Mobutu and countless others (Paul Johnson, Modern Times).

"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good." Psalm 14:1

As Edmund Burke so eloquently phrased it: "***What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice and madness without restraint. Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own***

appetites... Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without...”

There has been much discussion about the violent crime wave which is plaguing South Africa. Some have pointed to economic or social conditions, others have questioned the judicial and legislative aspects. All of these are important, but underlying it all is the tragic fact that South Africa as a nation has turned away from God and His Law.

The foundations for a truly free and prosperous nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal from their neighbour. Lawlessness will increase unless our society returns to a consensus that our Creator exists and He has given us His eternal Law by which He will judge us.

That God actually holds both individuals and nations accountable to obey His Law is the cornerstone of civilisation. A nation which is made up of individuals, families and congregations which fear God as the eternal judge will be a nation which is stable, where property is respected and whose citizens are secure.

The Crisis of Crime in South Africa

The brutality and callous disregard of criminals for the lives and property of others in South Africa is horrific. In 1996 there were 334 301 cases of housebreaking, 118 755 robberies, 107 352 vehicles were stolen, 50 481 rapes and 25 782 murders. These statistics are a terrible indictment of our society, especially as each single number represents untold hardships, suffering and grief for individuals and families.

As Police Commissioner George Fivaz has observed: *“The culture in South Africa has become so deformed that we no longer have respect for the rights of others.”* Indeed there is something very wrong when the criminal is presumed to be innocent, but the policeman who arrested him is presumed to be guilty! The primary responsibility of civil government is to protect lives and property by punishing criminals. South African citizens are paying exorbitant taxes for safety, security, defence and justice. However, the SA government is patently failing to fulfill its duty. Only nine out of every 101 murders results in any kind of prison sentence at all.

Many cheerfully blame this anarchy on apartheid. However that oversimplification conveniently overlooks the ANC's own strategy of encouraging lawlessness, school boycotts, non-payment of rates and taxes, economic sanctions and general violence. The *“liberation before education”* policy was a completely unnecessary recipe for chaos. The burning down and vandalising of thousands of schools and the terrorising of teachers and pupils to enforce the class boycotts eroded the foundations for the future for five million uneducated and unemployable youths of the *“Lost Generation.”*

The ANC's strategy to make South Africa *“ungovernable”* was all too successful. The international sanctions and disinvestment campaign sabotaged the economy and ultimately put millions out of work. The religious justification of *“the armed struggle”* by the World Council of Churches and the subsequent assassination of hundreds of black town councillors, businessmen and policemen encouraged a culture of violence which still plagues SA today.

The previous National Party government is also much to blame for the current curse of criminality in SA. By promoting their own version of national socialism and racism which was humanistic to the core, the NP undermined the Christian values they sometimes claimed to adhere to. The disgraceful toleration and official encouragement given to pornographers to publish ever more explicit material further eroded moral standards. The farcical situation where the Appeal Board would unban virtually

everything that the Publications Board banned stimulated further lawlessness. Similarly by allowing prostitution and gambling to flourish whilst going through the charade of commissions to rewrite the legislation governing these vices was immoral, inept and incompetent. The abolition of the death penalty for murderers and the releasing of over 100 000 criminals (including murderers and rapists) from prison unleashed a tidal wave of crime and violence upon the long-suffering citizens of South Africa.

The shameful legacy of the present and previous governments is a *“human rights society”* where human life and private property is not respected by the hoard of criminals rampaging through this country. The main growth industries in the new South Africa have become pornography, prostitution, gambling, corruption, drugs, car theft, armed robbery, child abuse, abortion, rape and murder. All these are the inevitable results of rejecting God’s Law and accepting evolutionism and the other tenets of humanism.

The churches in South Africa must also acknowledge our responsibility in allowing this catastrophic crime wave to swamp our land. We are commanded by God to be *“salt and light”* (Matthew 5:13-16) in our society. We are to pray for God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). We are to stand up and oppose evil (Psalm 94:16); intercede for our land (Ezekiel 22:30); and *“make disciples of all nations”* (Matthew 28: 18-20).

If the pastors had consistently proclaimed the whole counsel of God and if church members had faithfully evangelised and served with integrity in the schools, shops and streets of SA then we would not have been engulfed by evil. The core solution to the current crime crisis in SA has to include spiritual revival and Biblical Reformation.

In an editorial of Firearm News, Gerald Hymns comments on the government threats to further restrict the rights of registered gun owners: *“Thus the legal firearm owner, who is law-abiding and therefore easy to control, becomes the scapegoat in a situation for which he is not responsible. The real failure in firearms control is not inadequate legislation but lack of law enforcement. We should stop wasting time and human resources in endless wrangling and tampering with the Arms and Ammunition Act, which, as it stands, is perfectly adequate to control the situation, if it is effectively enforced.”*

In an official letter to the Portfolio Committee of Safety and Security, UCA submitted the following:

“... Gun control deprives potential victims of their best means of protection. A free people need to be armed. Disarmed people can easily be exploited and oppressed. If the government doesn’t trust its citizens with weapons, then the citizens cannot trust the government with power. The government that fears its people is itself to be feared. No government should ever have a monopoly of force or weaponry.”

“During my missionary tours in East Africa, I have travelled across Rwanda and conducted extensive research into the horrific holocaust that occurred there in 1994. The killing fields of Rwanda provide another graphic warning against the dangers of gun control. As the Tutsi population had previously been disarmed, they were helpless to defend themselves against the mass murderers. The confiscation of weapons made the massacres possible by disarming the targeted victims. The first step in this process was the restricting of access to weapons and a whole host of completely unnecessary laws which ended up in disarming the potential victims, and making the working environment for mass murderers so much easier.” (The 65 page **“Holocaust in Rwanda”** book is available from UCA).

“For these and many other reasons, the members of United Christian Action would strongly urge that the government concentrates on controlling crime and not firearms, punishing criminals and not penalising law abiding citizens, on strengthening the police, rather than restricting the abilities of

citizens to defend themselves and bringing back the death penalty for murder rather than criminalising law abiding citizens for merely having means of self-protection.”

Chapter 2

CHANGING HISTORY THROUGH THE MEDIA

It was Karl Marx who declared that the first battlefield was the writing of history. As a philosophy student and journalist, Marx believed that he could use philosophy to change the world. To control a country or a culture, the first goal was to control the writing (or re-writing) of history.

If you can wrench from people their understanding of how events interconnect - then you can steal their heritage and deprive them of freedom. For most of Western history, the study of the past was connected to an ethical understanding of the causes and characters behind events. People studied history primarily to discern eternal values, practical wisdom and insights as to the individual moral character needed to produce a more positive future.

However, the modern humanistic trend is to forget the connection between the Word of God and history. By rejecting God, denying creation and refusing to accept the revealed Law of God - humanists are promoting a senseless existence in a chance universe where there is no objective standard of right and wrong. *“You came from nothing, you’re going nowhere, life is meaningless”*.

Perceptions of history can be changed by chaos - and then a new version of history can be imposed. **Marx’s 10 revolutionary demands were aimed at producing moral decay and emotional turmoil to lead to social chaos.** Marx promoted mob actions and terror in the streets in order to cause people to be willing to change, indeed to cry out for change. To be willing to give up their rights and freedoms for safety or for promises of *“Land, bread and peace!”*

History always was understood to be the learning of the lessons of history - not just a string of (apparently unconnected, meaningless) dates, facts and faces. Stripping the moral lessons from history has actually been the greatest achievement of Marxism. In doing so they have made society ripe for revolution. As Stalin declared: *“Evolution prepares for revolution and creates the ground for it...”* Stalin understood the vital importance of Darwin’s theory of evolution to Marxist revolution. By offering an alternative view to creation, evolutionism grants the illusion of freedom from God and eternal judgement. They can then redefine what is right and wrong and justify the ruthlessness of the revolutionaries as *“survival of the fittest”*.

Hence Stalin could observe that while the death of one person was a tragedy, the death of millions was *“merely a statistic”*.

History According to Hollywood

Even at church and missions conferences there is often a tendency to regurgitate a humanist or atheist view of history. The sovereign hand of God is practically ignored while great Christian leaders and reformers are vilified and attacked. Unfortunately most Christians today know little of history. For far too many, the Hollywood films and TV programmes (produced most often by atheists) are their primary source of knowledge about the past.

It is disturbing that at many missions conferences there is a tendency to treat Western Christians and missionaries as a football. There is a pervasive ignorance of history and particularly of our Christian heritage. Few today seem to want to hear of the incredible sacrifices of those pioneers who opened up Africa to the Gospel - often at the cost of their own lives.

The spirit of slandering our departed brothers is often accompanied by a kind of syncretism where it can even be said that *“most Christians won’t go to Heaven, but many Hindus and Muslims will”*. This is of course a half-truth. Many so-called, professing Christians will most certainly not go to Heaven, and many who today are Hindus and Muslims will go to Heaven - because many will still bow the knee to the Lord Jesus and be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit. But nobody will go to Heaven without submitting to the atonement and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

At a recent missions conference one professor claimed that Christians have a *“terrible history”*, that in Luther’s time thousands of peasants were slaughtered, that Cromwell’s *“hymn singing, Bible quoting, born again soldiers”* went to Ireland to kill Catholics *“just for fun”* and that Muslims have shown greater tolerance than Christians! He spoke about the Crusades and the Inquisition as typical of the Christian church and suggested that we should be more accepting of *“heretical groups”* if the church is to *“reach the world by the year 2000”*!

When I went to challenge him concerning his distortions of history, he made even more incredible claims - such as that Christians have killed more Muslims than the other way round and that the great Reformer, Martin Luther, was an anti-semitic who laid the foundations for the Nazi holocaust! This missionologist actually said to me that he blamed the Nazi holocaust on the Christian church!

(It seemed to me that if he truly believed these revisionist versions of history he should leave the church and choose another religion!) Yet, ridiculous as these claims are, they are all too commonly held and propagated amongst a population whose main source of *“history”* is Hollywood.

The Crusades

The fact is that the Crusades of the Middle Ages were a reaction to the Islamic invasion of the Holy Lands (those places where our Lord was born, lived and ministered, was crucified and raised from the dead). The Saracens (as the Muslim invaders were called) had desecrated Christian places of worship and were severely persecuting Christians. Pilgrims were being prevented from visiting those sites sacred to their faith.

Whatever we may believe about the Crusades, we have to admire the incredible devotion and steadfastness which inspired over 15 000 Crusaders (10% of whom were knights and 90% foot soldiers) to journey over 3 000kms and sacrifice life and limb to liberate Jerusalem. The first Crusaders were away from home for four years. Later Crusaders were away from home for up to 16 or more years. One widow sold the only thing she owned - her house - to pay for her only son to *“go and free Jerusalem”*.

Now I know that many will raise all kinds of protests and objections, but for myself, having studied the writings, prayers, and battles of many of the Crusaders - I am very impressed by the evident sincere devotion of many of the Crusaders. Many were real Christians. They deplored their sins. They longed to do something noble and lasting for their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Their prayers, fasting, sacrifices, courage and devotion make our faith look juvenile.

They saw a need and they rose up to meet that need. They committed themselves to liberating the Holy Land and they steadfastly persisted to overcome all obstacles, dangers and discomforts for years,

over thousands of miles - by foot or horseback - in inhospitable terrain until they reached their objective.

At incredible cost they sacrificed and suffered unbelievable deprivations - hunger, thirst, boiling heat, freezing cold, storms, floods, fire and vicious hand to hand combat - to honour their commitments, to fight for their Lord and to defend the religious liberties of their fellow believers. The average Crusader probably knew more about Christianity than our average complacent, pew-warming churchgoer of today.

The point is that the Crusades were a reaction to centuries of Islamic Jihad. An over-reaction to be sure. But excessive or not, we cannot condemn the crusaders alone - to this day many Muslims continue their holy war against Christians - most notably in Sudan. Millions of Christians have been slaughtered through the centuries by Islamic militants - such as the one and a half million Armenians murdered in Turkey in 1915.

To put the Crusades in their proper context one needs to study the rapid expansion of Islam, by the sword, across North Africa, into Spain throughout the Middle East and into the Balkans. The Islamic Jihad of the seventh to the tenth century wiped out more than half of the church worldwide.

Anti-Semitism

The accusation that Martin Luther was an anti-Semite responsible for massacres reveals an ignorance of history. Luther was pro-Christ and he was zealous in evangelism. For decades he lovingly and patiently reached out to the Jewish people in his area with the Gospel. At a certain point he reacted, in his typically outspoken way, to the persistent rejection of Christ and repeated blasphemies of those Jewish individuals in his community.

However, to quote these reactions of Luther without explaining their local context and then to project guilt for the continent-wide anti-Christian holocaust of World War II upon the great 16th century Reformer is ludicrous. How can anyone be blamed for evils perpetrated by those humanists (who clearly rejected his teachings) over four hundred years after his death! Hitler was a disciple of the atheist Nietzsche - not Luther.

Similarly, the slanderous suggestion that Luther had something to do with the violent suppression of the peasants in the 16th century is unjustified. Certainly Luther wrote against "*the murdering horde of peasants*" and encouraged the princes to carry out their Biblical responsibility to enforce law and order, protecting the innocent and punishing law breakers. However, it is just not accurate to imply that Luther was responsible for any massacres.

Furthermore, to suggest that Cromwell's troops went to Ireland to kill Catholics "*just for fun*" is a distortion of history. Cromwell's troops were responding to many decades of Catholic atrocities, persecution and suppression of the Protestant faith in Ireland. His harsh reaction was just that - a reaction. Cromwell laid the foundations for a free Parliament and for unprecedented freedom of religion in England - including for the Jews.

Early this century Count Heinrich Coudenhove-Kalergi wrote "*Anti-Semitism through the Ages*". In this book he wrote: "*It is one of the many successes of Christian teaching that gladiatorial contests, slavery, polygamy, torture, the slaughtering of prisoners of war, duelling and Hara-kiri, have disappeared from the surface of the earth. Anti-Semitism, too, is doomed, and its days are numbered*". In fact, far from being anti-Semitic, Evangelical Christians are surely the most pro-Israel group on earth.

The Inquisition

The church has never been perfect. Even amongst the twelve apostles there was a Judas Iscariot. Yet it would not be fair to make Judas representative of the twelve! The total record of the church needs to be examined, and the good far outweighs the bad. Besides of which, the Christian faith is centred in Christ - not in Christians.

However, one regularly hears people decrying Christian involvement in social or political issues because of "*the Inquisition*" and the "*Ayatollah Khomeini*"! Evidently, many people not only lack a basic grasp of history, but have trouble distinguishing between such divergent religions as the fanatical brand of Islam of the Ayatollah and the Biblical Christianity of David Livingstone.

Very few seem to be aware that Bible believing Christians were actually the victims who were tortured by the Inquisition. At a time of blatant corruption, when priesthoods, Bishoprics and even Papal seats were bought and sold, there were many ungodly men dominating all levels of leadership in the Medieval Roman church. This was the background to one of the darkest moments in church history. The Inquisition was a court set up in 1233 to "*persuade*" those accused of heresy to recant. Those who refused were turned over to the secular authorities which generally burnt such "*heretics*" at the stake.

Dr. David Barrett, one of the foremost authorities of church related statistics, has calculated that 12 000 were burned by the Spanish Inquisition. Herbert Lockyer estimates the total number of victims for all countries was 30 000. But is it accurate to portray this cruel, diabolical episode as Christians persecuting non-Christians? Not at all, in fact it was the very opposite.

To study the court records of the inquisitors makes it very clear that the inquisitors were by no means Christians at all. They vindictively condemned to death Christians who believed in, translated or taught the Scriptures. Often they **contemptuously tossed the victim's Bible into the fire to be burned with the martyr**. Anyone who has read "*Foxes Book of Martyrs*" or similar historical records of the vicious persecutions endured by the Waldensians, Huguenots and other Protestant reformers will know that the Inquisition was anti-Christian.

Yet, Russian author, Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn, pointed out that while there was 17 executions a year in pre-Revolutionary (Czarist) Russia and 10 people a month murdered by the Spanish Inquisition, under Lenin 1 000 people were executed a month. This slaughter rose to 40 000 people shot (without trial) **per month in Stalin's Soviet Union**. This is the kind of historical perspective that modern Marxists would prefer to ignore.

The fact is that those countries that enjoy the most civil liberty are those societies where the Gospel of Christ has penetrated the most. The worst violence and oppression in the world today is raging where Biblical principles have been rejected or neglected.

Our Christian Heritage

Before the advent of Christianity, almost every culture and religion practised slavery and human sacrifice - even the highly esteemed Greek and Roman civilisations. As a result of the tireless efforts of Christians, abortion, child-sacrifice, human sacrifice, widow burning and slavery was eradicated.

The unparalleled contributions made by Christians in the fields of science, art, education, economics, civil and human rights and in the works of compassion and mercy through the centuries are today being largely forgotten.

We need to continually remind those around us of the heroic efforts and great achievements of the reformers and missionaries of the past. Only those ignorant of history could fail to acknowledge that Christianity has made more positive changes on this earth than any other force or movement. The

teachings and example of Jesus Christ have inspired the greatest acts of generosity, hospitality, self-sacrifice and service for the sick, poor and needy.

To appreciate this we need to study afresh the great books that celebrate our Christian heritage. These are some of the most important, interesting, inspiring and easy to read history books that I would highly recommend that you acquire, read and share with others:

“What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?” by Dr. D. James Kennedy (Word).

“Sketches From Church History” by S.M. Houghton (Banner of Truth).

“The Great Christian Revolution -How Christianity Transformed the World” by Otto Scott (Reformer Library).

“Robespierre -Inside the French Revolution” by Otto Scott (Reformer Library).

“Streams of Civilizations - Volume Two” by Garry Moes (Christian Liberty Press).

“Foxes Book of Martyrs” by John Foxe.

Those who cannot remember the lessons of the past are condemned to repeat its mistakes.

As Winston Churchill observed: *“To test the present you must appeal to history.”*

John Hercus noted: *“History is just the accumulated stories of how God is working in the lives of all the individual people on earth.”*

True history begins with the Creation, man’s fall into sin and God’s plan of salvation. Since God has a plan, history has a goal and its meaning and purpose must be seen in the light of God’s Word, the Bible (particularly: Deuteronomy 28; Leviticus 26; Jeremiah 18: 7-10; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 2).

By His eternal Law, God rules the nations, holding people accountable for their actions - blessing obedience and judging wickedness. In the rise and fall of nations, we see both God’s mercy and justice, providing ample time for repentance and transforming even some of the most unpromising nations. All events must be viewed as under the sovereign rule of God, being directed towards the final victory of Christ. Truth will ultimately triumph. Evil will be destroyed!

“What are all histories but God manifesting Himself” declared Oliver Cromwell.

History is His story.

We therefore need to be faithful to His Word and His work and not take part in bearing false witness against our departed brothers and sisters in Christ.

Chapter 3

LIFE AND LIBERTY

The SA government’s determination to legalise abortion on demand in South Africa generated tremendous controversy. Debates between pro-lifers and those advocating abortion raged in the letters to the editor columns, on radio talk shows, on TV panels, on the streets, in homes, hospitals and churches and in Parliament. Unfortunately there was often far more heat generated than light.

Distinguishing between Debate and Disinformation

In all too many of these debates the objective facts were overwhelmed with subjective emotion. A disturbing trend was the tendency of many pro-abortionists to avoid the cut and thrust of public debate in the free market place of ideas. Numerous invitations to participate in panel discussions on community radio stations have been turned down by pro-abortionists leaders. Some radio presenters told us that they had tried to have the pro-abortionists in the studio, but they refused to debate pro-lifers. These pro-abortionists insisted on being able to propagate their views, unopposed, over the air.

Instead of participating in debate to clarify the central issues and implications of the legalisation of abortion, abortion advocates resorted to slanderous accusations and insinuations against anyone who dared to oppose abortion. One example of the kind of disinformation resorted to was in The Cape Times (10 Oct 1996). "**Abortion Terror Threat**" screamed the headline. "**Extremist Groups Target SA**" declared the sub-heading. What followed was more of a tirade against those who oppose abortion, than an attempt at serious journalism.

Packed with emotive, incendiary adjectives, yet lacking any facts or substance, the article attempted to portray those who respect the right to life of pre-born babies as vicious, violent extremists financed by foreigners. In fact, the truth is quite the converse.

The pro-life movement in South Africa has consisted of entirely indigenous organisations - founded, led and funded by South Africans. All surveys have shown that the vast majority of South Africans oppose abortion on demand. By way of contrast the pro-abortion advocates have the weight of public opinion against them. It is the pro-abortion agenda and the terminology of the "*Termination of Pregnancy*" Bill that clearly had American fingerprints all over it.

The abortion agenda was air-lifted from the USA and imported to South Africa. While many thousands of pro-lifers marched and protested and held pro-life rallies and prayer vigils for the right to life, the "*pro-choicers*" had yet to produce any substantial show of public support for their foreign agenda.

In fact, a survey by Mark Data showed that 78.7% of those who had voted for the ANC opposed the legislation of abortion. A survey by IDASA indicated that the ANC government was out of step with its own supporters on a number of major issues such as abortion, pornography and capital punishment. The ANC government had never been given any mandate from the citizens of South Africa to legalise the killing of pre-born babies.

As for the SA pro-life movement being "*bankrolled*" by US "*anti-abortion groups*", we are not aware of a single well funded pro-life group, let alone one, receiving any substantial support from overseas at all.

The most incredible insinuation of all is that the pro-life movement consists of "*extremists*" who represent a "*terror threat*"! The pro-life groups in South Africa have an impeccable record of peaceful and well behaved Life Chains, marches and placard demonstrations. What is so extreme and threatening about distributing educational literature and standing up for the right to life of the most innocent and helpless people of all - pre-born babies? In fact pro-lifers are seeking to stop violence against babies in the womb.

Considering that many in the present Government of National Unity in South Africa have been involved in the past in sabotage, the bombing of public places, planting landmines in roads, assassinations, kidnapping, riots and necklace murders - one wonders what our political leaders could be described as if peaceful, pamphlet distributing and placard carrying pro-lifers can be depicted as "*extremist*".?

Another example of pro-abortion bias in the media was Hugh Robertson's "*Hue & Cry*" article "***Let's get to the bottom of this surprising secret***" (Cape Argus, Wed. 16 Oct. 96). The ferociousness of his attack upon pro-lifers in this article was quite excessive. Such emotive and slanderous generalisations as "*not one*", "*nobody is going to lift a finger*", "*breath-taking hypocrisy*", "*self-righteous posturing*", "*they are not genuinely interested in preventing abortion at all*", etc. did not read like journalism at all. Upon what basis could Mr. Robertson have made such incredible judgements upon the entire pro-life movement? Not being God, it is impossible for Mr. Robertson to actually know the hearts and motives of every individual who opposes abortion.

The pro-life movement world-wide has an impressive record of love in action. There are over 3 000 Christian crisis pregnancy centres and hundreds of unwed mothers homes run by pro-lifers in the USA alone. Christians from the first Century on have led the world in opposing child sacrifice, infanticide and abortion, and in promoting and practising adoption as the loving option. Clearly many are truly sincere and have put feet to their faith.

What was particularly noticeable about the "*Hue and Cry*" article was that it completely evaded the central issues. While condemning everyone who dared to speak out against the killing of pre-born babies, the article neglected to deal with the foundational questions of: "***When does life begin?***" and "***What is abortion?***"

The scientific fact is that life begins at conception and abortion is the dismembering, poisoning or cutting into pieces of a helpless, innocent, living human being. When one has the honesty to face these facts then it becomes clear which agenda is extreme and violent. These articles were clumsy and unconvincing attempts to divert attention from the horrific reality of what the pro-abortion lobby was actually advocating.

What was particularly disconcerting, however, was that Dr. Abe Nkomo, the Chairman of the Health Portfolio Committee, was quoted as being the source of the spurious and slanderous accusations which were reported. In effect he was quoted as describing the pro-life movement in SA as vicious and violent extremists financed by foreigners. Even more outrageous was the veiled threat by Dr. Nkomo where he was quoted as saying that the matter "*might possibly warrant the monitoring of these groups by the National Intelligence Agency!*" This despite the fact that South Africans were solemnly promised that "*never again*" would SA citizens be spied upon by government agencies. The right to privacy (*Bill of Rights, clause 14*), freedom of religion, belief and opinion(15), freedom of expression(16), assembly(17) and association(18) would be violated if national intelligence services were used to spy upon or harass pro-lifers.

No government has the right to forbid Christians from loving their neighbours. Including our pre-born neighbours.

During the Parliamentary hearings on the "*Termination of Pregnancy*" Bill some incredible (in the literal meaning of the word) assertions were made by pro-abortion members of Parliament:

"Not one organisation has ever opposed the 1975 Bill which legalised abortion in the hard cases," exclaimed one MP. As the position of pro-lifers has been generally ignored by the mass media in the past it is not too surprising that there are even MPs who are unaware of the consistent opposition by Pro-Life and Human Life International to the 1975 Abortion Bill. *United Christian Action, Africa Christian Action, Christians for Truth* and *Doctors for Life* have also steadfastly opposed all abortion since their inception and petitioned the previous government for the right to life of all pre-born babies to be protected - without exception.

One MP advertised his ignorance by declaring that: *“There’s not a single verse in the whole Bible about abortion! I know because I’m theologically trained!”* In fact, whole books and doctorates have been written on the pro-life teaching of the Bible. In the Old Testament the same Hebrew word is used to describe children whether pre-born, babies or older children (Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:24; Isaiah 49:1, 5, 15). In the New Testament, the same Greek word that is used to describe children is used for John the Baptist while he was still in his mother’s womb (Luke 1:41-44). The person-hood of the pre-born is clearly taught in the Scriptures (Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15). The sanctity of all innocent life is a central tenant of the Christian faith (Exodus 20:13; 21:22-24; Proverbs 6:16-17; Numbers 35:33; Genesis 9:6; Matthew 18:5, 10, 14).

Some asserted that abortion had to be legalised because *“No-one is offering any solutions to the problems of unwanted pregnancies and street children.”* However, most of the submissions by pro-life individuals, congregations and organisations that I heard offered practical solutions. Promoting abstinence before marriage and faithfulness within marriage, such as is being done by the *“True Love Waits”* movement, definitely cuts down on teenage pregnancies.

In addition to chastity education, pro-life groups have consistently promoted adoption as the loving option, crisis pregnancy centres, unwed mothers homes, counselling services and practical support from local churches for mothers struggling with an unwanted pregnancy. The goal must be to help take the crisis out of the pregnancy - not to kill the baby.

By way of contrast the government policy of promoting sex education and distributing condoms to school children has been found to stimulate greater sexual experimentation amongst ever younger students. Similarly, allowing sexually exploitative magazines and videos to swamp the country has had the effect of pouring fuel on the flames of sexual irresponsibility. The legalisation of abortion on demand has had the further aggravating effect of encouraging promiscuity by offering a *“safety net”* to those engaging in sex outside of marriage. The inevitable results will be more teenage pregnancies, further increases in sexually transmitted diseases and, worst of all, the deaths of hundreds of thousands of babies.

Worldviews in Conflict

The war of words over the abortion issue are symptoms of an underlying ideological world war. By what standard are we to govern our lives? Upon whose ethical principles should South Africa base its civil law?

Do we base our society upon the Greek philosophies of Plato, Aristotle or Socrates? They lived in a culture which glorified paedophilia and practised slavery and human sacrifice.

Would you advocate the political system of Voltaire, Rousseau and Robespierre? Rousseau was a whoremonger who literally abandoned his own children to die in orphanages while he promoted revolution. The French Revolution, which was launched by bloody revolutionaries like Robespierre on the basis of Voltaire’s anti-Christian writings, executed over 40 000 people on the guillotine and 300 000 by firing squads and led to the Napoleonic wars which cost millions of lives.

Must we follow the militant atheism of the humanist *“prophet”* Nietzsche and his national socialist disciple Adolf Hitler? The legalisation of abortion and euthanasia by the Nazi’s and other humanists was inevitable once Nietzsche’s *“God is dead”* philosophy had been accepted.

There are many in our South African Parliament who publicly promote the policies of Marx and his disciple Vladimir Lenin. One has only to visit Russia to witness the impoverishment, lawlessness and

despair (in what was once called a superpower) to see what Marxism can do for a country. Approximately 130 million people have been killed by their own governments in Marxist countries this century.

We maintain that the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses and the teachings of Jesus Christ provide the very best ethical and legal foundation upon which any society can build. It is Jesus Christ, the greatest man who ever lived, that we can thank for the abolition of infanticide, slavery and human sacrifice. Almost every civilisation had slavery and human sacrifice before the Christian influence came in. Before Christ, benevolence to strangers was unknown. The whole concept of charity was a Biblical innovation. The church of Jesus Christ has done more than any other institution in history to alleviate poverty and suffering. Where the Bible has been studied, compassionate generosity and unselfish sacrifice has flourished.

It is no accident that the way we measure time is calculated from the coming of Christ (BC and AD), that hospitals are represented by the healing sign of a cross, and that the medical profession uses the Biblical image of the serpent lifted up on a pole (John 3: 14) as their symbol.

Appreciation for the positive impact of the Judea-Christian emphasis on the sanctity of life came from an unexpected quarter. Jerry Adler of Newsweek (6 November 1995) in *“The Gods Must Be Hungry”* was responding to the uncovering by archaeologists of a 12 year old girl sacrificed by the Incas - five hundred years ago.

He expressed outrage at the tendency amongst anthropologists to justify barbaric practices such as the ripping out of beating hearts from human offerings by Aztec priests. He quoted the following example of intellectual detachment: *“A Tulane University anthropologist has written about ritual killings: ‘within the context of [Aztec] culture, it all made sense. The sacrifice of human blood, and particularly the heart, was necessary to make the sun go around every day. It ties in to their stories of creation and myth. It was part of the cultural tradition.’”* Adler went on to note: *“‘The Highest Altar’ writer Patrick Tierney documented the prevalence of human sacrifice in cultures from almost every part of the world.”* Adler’s article concluded: *“The religious tradition of the West begins with a great renunciation of blood offering, when Abraham put down the knife and unbound Isaac. And it proceeds through the glorious sacrifice on Calvary, when God himself offered up His Son to redeem the world. Modern people know better than to think that the sun needs a fresh heart to rise each day, or that natural disasters can be bought off with corpses. Funny, though, we keep on killing one another.”*

The legalisation of abortion is not progress - it is a disgraceful regression back to pre-Christian paganism. It is the fundamental duty of any government to protect the lives of all its citizens - particularly the innocent and helpless. Abortion is nothing other than child sacrifice and it must be opposed.

Chapter 4

LIFE, LOGIC AND LOVE

While crime and violence continued to plague South Africa, and chase away foreign investors, the response of all too many in government had been counter-productive. Rather than fight crime, government policy seemed increasingly to legalise previous crimes (such as gambling, pornography, prostitution, perversion and abortion) and to criminalise law abiding citizens (such as pro-lifers and registered gun owners)!

We now have the ridiculous situation where even mass murderers have benefited from amnesties, yet someone who wants to prevent the murder of an innocent, helpless baby is threatened with a 10 year prison term! The right to life clause in the *Bill of Rights* is interpreted to mean that guilty murderers cannot be executed, yet innocent babies have no right to life and can be aborted.

The justice system seems incapable of effectively dealing with violent hardened criminals with illegal AK.47 assault rifles, yet they would like to deprive law abiding citizens of registered pistols!

Crime is a reality that affects every one of us. Burglaries, car break-ins, muggings, car theft, car hijacking, armed robberies, murder and rape are daily experiences for all too many South Africans. What makes this explosion of lawlessness particularly distressing is that so many of the crimes are being committed by convicted criminals who should have been behind bars - but who had been released early on parole or by the repeated amnesties!

“Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways and the way of peace they do not know...” Romans 3:15-17

The Scripture declares that God detests those who acquit the guilty (Proverbs 17:15).

“Whoever says to the guilty ‘You are innocent’ -peoples will curse him and nations denounce him. But it will go well with those who convict the guilty.” Proverbs 24:24-25

The Bible is very clear that the priority for civil government is ***“to punish those who do wrong”*** 1 Peter 2:14, protecting life and property as ***“an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer”*** Romans 13:4.

“Why do people commit crimes so readily? Because crime is not punished quickly enough.” Ecclesiastes 8:11

If South Africans sincerely want to restore law and order and respect for life and property, then we need to turn to God in repentance and humble prayer. And we need to return to the Biblical Law of restitution for all theft of, or damage to, property and execution for all premeditated murder (Exodus 21 and 22). This is the Law of God.

The taking of a murderer’s life is akin to the amputation of a diseased limb in order to save the rest of the body. The clause in the Bill of Rights which upholds the right to life is meaningless if law abiding citizens are not protected from such wholesale violence. Those who show contempt for the lives of others by willfully depriving another of their life forfeit their own right to life.

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.” Genesis 9:6

Capital punishment is necessary for justice, for the rule of law and for the protection of the innocent (Proverbs 11:10).

“When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.”
Proverbs 21:15

The shocking escalation of crime and violence since the death penalty was suspended (and later abolished) and over one hundred thousand criminals released, highlights the disastrous consequences of rejecting the Law of God. Even more outrageous is that those who have worked for the abolition of the death penalty for murderers have campaigned for the introduction of the death penalty for preborn babies! In other words: Kill the innocent, but protect the guilty!

*“They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters... the land was **desecrated by their blood.**”* Psalm 106:37-38

Abortion is a modern equivalent of child sacrifice. Just as God’s people opposed Pharaoh’s decree to murder new-born boys in Egypt (Exodus 1:15-22), so we need to protect preborn babies from abortion today. Just as King Herod sought to kill the babies in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16), so abortionists are attempting to butcher babies today.

*“**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.**”* Proverbs 31:8

It is a matter of Life and Death

The sanctity of human life is an essential article of the Christian Faith. The Bible makes it clear that life begins at conception (*Ps. 139:13-16; Isa. 44:2; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:41*). The unborn baby is then genetically, physiologically and organically, a distinct person. At that moment life begins. At about **three weeks after conception the baby’s heart beat can be detected. Six weeks after conception, the baby has its own life-long brain wave.**

If the absence of a brain wave is considered a sign of death, why then is the presence of this brain wave not accepted as a sign of life? Birth is not a magical act that turns a non-human into a person. Birth is only a change in environment for a life that began many months before. Every abortion stops a beating heart. Every abortion ends a brain wave. Every abortion is the murder of a helpless and innocent human being.

It is a matter of Logic

It is of the utmost hypocrisy for us to denounce the atrocities committed under apartheid, or to condemn those who stood by and allowed the Nazi and Communist holocausts to be perpetrated, if we allow the abortion holocaust to continue to be unleashed in our own country. How incredible that South Africa is replacing apartheid with abortion. In the name of Human Rights, “*pro-choicers*” are depriving pre-born babies of the right to life. Instead of discrimination based upon race, they advocate discrimination based upon age.

Can we condemn discrimination based on race, while allowing discrimination based on age?

Of what worth is human dignity if babies are denied the right to life? The right to life of preborn babies is one of the most urgent and important issues confronting society today (*Matt. 18:5, J O, 14; Isaiah 44:24; 49:15*).

What kind of convoluted logic and mental gymnastics can interpret the “*right to life*” clause in the Constitution to protect guilty murderers from execution, but not prevent innocent babies from receiving the death penalty through abortion?

If the right to life of the most helpless and innocent members of society - preborn babies - is not upheld then the Bill of Rights is a worthless piece of paper.

A society that is capable of burning, smothering, poisoning or dismembering little babies deserves the wrath of God.

How is it possible that a highly trained and experienced judge - after careful deliberation of all the evidences and arguments, presented by both prosecution and defence, in the calm, objective

environment of a court of law - cannot choose to impose the death sentence upon a duly convicted murderer. Yet a young teenager without the permission, or even the knowledge, of her parents can make an emotional and spur of the moment choice to have her innocent unborn baby killed through abortion! A tragic decision she may regret for the rest of her life.

By making the murder of pre-born babies legal, easy and tax-payer funded, the “*Choice of Termination of Pregnancy*” Bill defies all logic.

It is a matter of Love

The heart of Christianity is love. Love for God and love for our neighbour (Mark 12:30-31). The golden rule by which all believers must live is:

“In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...”

Matthew 7:12

If you as a mother would not like to be attacked and torn to pieces - then don't allow it to be done to your baby.

If you as a doctor would not like to be poisoned to death - then don't do it to a baby.

If you as a member of Parliament would not like to be snatched from your home and dismembered - then don't legalise and finance such violence against babies: ***“do to others what you would have them do to you.”***

If we do not stand up and oppose abortion then the blood of innocent babies will be upon our heads (Ezekiel 33:1-6).

Christians must love their neighbour - and this includes our pre-born neighbours. Caring for the fatherless, protecting the helpless, defending the innocent and speaking up for the voiceless is true Christian love in action.

“Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, ‘But we knew nothing about this, does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will not He repay each one according to what he has done?’” Proverbs 24: 11-12

South Africa needs to rebuild respect for life. Everyone is made in the image of God and has the right to life - irrespective of their degrees of awareness, health or development. Everyone has been endowed by the Creator with the right to enjoy and defend life and liberty - except where they have forfeited that right by unlawfully taking or posing an immediate threat to the life of another.

“Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts... let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” Amos 5:15,24

Chapter 5

SECULAR HUMANISM'S DEATH WISH

The clash in the Western world today is between those who hold to a God centred, Bible-based worldview and those who advocate a man centred humanist worldview. If a group of people had actually planned how to most effectively destroy a society, they could hardly

have done a more effective, or rather destructive, job than what the humanists have done. Every item on the secular humanist agenda is self-destructive:

By promoting the theory of evolution, humanists are promoting a senseless existence in a chance universe: *“You came, from nothing. You’re going nowhere, life is meaningless!”*

By legalising pornography and promoting permissiveness, humanists are undermining the essential foundation of society - the family. The exploitative industry of pornography (and the assorted sexually orientated businesses which flourish and fester around it) grows only at the expense of the general well being of society, as a whole. Pornography undermines the economy by wasting vast amounts of time, money, energy and productivity. It also erodes the essential foundation for any sound economy - the family. By glamourising adultery and encouraging promiscuity, pornography has played a key role in the break up of many families. As family men make up the overwhelming majority of law-abiding, hard working, tax paying, stable and productive citizens, it is economic suicide for any society to tolerate the spread of pornography.

Pornography is also a health issue. The flood of sexually exploitative magazines and videos which have been allowed to swamp South Africa has greatly aggravated the health crisis. By stimulating sexual promiscuity, pornography has had the effect of greatly accelerating the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) including HIV/AIDS. **If the Ministry of Health is really serious about combating the spread of AIDS, then it should do all in its power to persuade the Ministry of Home Affairs to ban pornography and shut down the disease factories (sex shops, “escort” agencies and “massage parlours”).**

Those who believe that legalised gambling will benefit the economy are woefully ill-informed. Gambling does not generate any real growth as it simply recirculates existing money. Like pornography, the gambling industry is parasitic. It drains the income of citizens who would normally spend the same money on food, clothing, home improvements and entertainment for his family.

It is a researched fact that disadvantaged socio-economic groups gamble disproportionately more of their income. The burden of lottery spending, for example, hits the poor eight times harder than the rich. The chances of winning a lottery are so cruelly weighed against the desperate poor that lottery is in effect theft by consent. (The odds of **winning the average lottery is 1 in 5 million. You’re more likely to be struck by lightning!**)

Yet, governments often legalise this blatant extortionist industry built upon greed because of the revenue (taxes) it can accrue. However, this always proves to be a most short sighted and irresponsible decision. There are volumes of exhaustive and conclusive evidences proving that: with legalised gambling comes a frightening increase in alcoholism, bankruptcies, wife battering, child abuse, divorces, bribery, fraud, theft, extortion, suicides and murders. The cost of gambling in terms of ruined lives, broken families, bankrupt individuals and businesses, increased crime and human suffering is so great - and the resultant increasing strain on the economy, police, judiciary, prisons and welfare agencies is so severe that no informed and principled government should ever legalise such an extortionist, parasitic industry. Yet it is as though secular humanists have a death wish!

Time and again secular humanists trot out tired superficial arguments in support of failed policies, such as in their promotion of the unworkable wastage of welfare and socialism. Instead of feeding the poor, socialism has consistently proven that its clumsy, top-heavy, inefficient system is only adept at feeding the bloated, bureaucratic structures they set up to administer the economy.

By campaigning for abortion, the “*pro-choicers*” are destroying their own descendants. They are in effect aborting their futures. Abortion is an economic disaster which deprives the economy of the productivity, wage earning, tax paying contributions of each life ended. In America it is calculated that each abortion costs the economy \$1.5 million in terms of the goods and services the average citizen would generate in their lifetime. In terms of economics, abortion kills long term growth.

By working to replace Bible education with sex education in government schools, humanists are sowing seeds of social suicide. By removing the essential foundation for producing young adults unselfishly devoted to duty, humanists are making rods for their own backs. Children raised on evolutionism, situation ethics, moral relativism, horror toys, occultic TV and pornography tend to grow up into rebellious, lawless and selfish adults. Whereas Bible education has inspired many who have sacrificially served others: providing medicine, literacy and the Gospel to desperately needy people in primitive conditions - humanist education has all too often led to selfish abuse of others.

Humanists regard criminals as “*victims of society*” who require “*treatment*” and “*rehabilitation*” - rather than punishment and deterrent. In so doing, humanist law makers have in effect punished society as a whole. Many of us can remember when we lived without burglar bars, security gates, high walls, razor wire, armed response security companies, immobilisers, steering locks and heavy bunches of keys. That was when murderers were executed and criminals were behind bars. Now murderers are constitutionally protected from execution (but babies in the womb are not) and it is law abiding citizens who are locked behind bars in our own homes. Dangerous, career criminals, are freely roaming the streets, if they’re not in Parliament that is.

The inevitable results of rejecting God’s eternal Law are written all over the pages of history and our local newspapers: the crime explosion, the pornography plague, increasing rape and child abuse, higher taxes, escalating inflation, rising unemployment, the break up of marriages, the breakdown of society, sexually transmitted diseases and the AIDS epidemic. Even more terrible have been the vicious massacres perpetrated by secular humanists such as Robespierre, Stalin, Hitler, Mao, Pol Pot, Mengistu and many others and the abortion holocaust promoted by the humanist founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger.

“The fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God.’ They are corrupt. They have done abominable_ works, there is none who does good.” Psalm 14:1

“Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practised deceit... whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and mercy are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no **fear of God before their eyes.**” Romans 3:13-18

By way of contrast, while Atheism offers no God, no future and no hope, obedience to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ offers purpose, meaning and hope - both now and for eternity. Those who live unselfish, moral and disciplined lives, remaining faithful to their marriage partner, will have the best chance of surviving STDs and the AIDS plague. Those who work hard, save wisely and spend their money carefully, will be blessed with financial security. Biblical free enterprise produces wealth and rewards hard work and ingenuity. Those who invest their lives in bringing up God fearing children, ensuring that they receive Bible based education, will build the future.

For these, and many other reasons, we should not be discouraged by the prevalence of evil today “*Evil will slay the wicked...*” Psalm 34:2.

Humanism carries within it the seeds of its own destruction. God alone is all powerful, all knowing and everywhere present. He is sovereign over the affairs of men. The enemies of God are destined for defeat.

Therefore, Christians need to diligently lay foundations for the future. The fight for faith and freedom will inevitably be won - but if we want to be part of what God is doing, we need to invest in literature and leadership training for the next generation. May God find us faithful.

Chapter 6

ENTERTAINMENT: ENJOYMENT OR EXPLOITATION?

Almost all of us have had this distressing experience. Perhaps you read a positive review of the film. Or the title and poster attracted you. You might have even seen the trailer advertising the film. It seemed to be a promising production. As a result you took your friend (or wife or children) to the nearby cinema and paid for the tickets. You may have even purchased the overpriced cold drinks or popcorn in the foyer.

The lights dim, the screen lights up and you settle back expecting some refreshing entertainment, emotional upliftment or at least some harmless diversion. Instead you find your ears assaulted by foul language and the profane use of the Lord's Name. And sexually arousing scenes assault the senses, followed by shocking depictions of graphic violence.

Your mind reels as though punch drunk as you ask yourself: Why did none of the reviews or previews warn us? And what should I do now? Do we walk out of the cinema? Should we complain? And how can I ensure that I don't subject my loved ones to this again?

To millions of people worldwide, Hollywood no longer represents family entertainment. An *Associated Press Media General* poll released in 1990 showed that 80% of Americans objected to the amount of foul language in motion pictures; 82% objected to the amount of violence; 72% objected to the amount of sexuality in films; and 75% felt that movies today are worse than ever before. In fact 40% of Americans reported that they hadn't seen a single film in the previous year.

The reason for this spreading disenchantment was described by film critic Michael Medved: "*Hollywood no longer reflects - or even respects - the values that most Americans cherish... it suffers from a sickness of the soul.*"

The Academy Awards

To illustrate this, Medved pointed out that, in just one memorable year, of the five actors nominated for the Best Actor of the year awards three of them portrayed murderous psychos (Robert De Niro as a tongues-speaking, Bible-carrying, Scripture-quoting murderer and rapist in *Cape Fear*; Anthony Hopkins as a cannibalistic serial killer in *The Silence of the Lambs*; and Warren Beatty as a gangster in *Bugsy*). The fourth Best Actor nominee was Robin Williams for playing a delusional homeless psycho in *The Fisher King*. The most wholesome character was Nick Nolte's manic-depressive-suicidal neurotic in *The Prince of Tides*. By concentrating almost exclusively on sordid and detestable characters for its coveted awards, the *Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences* has established a pattern of honouring ugliness.

These were all good actors, delivering splendid performances. **But isn't it sad when all this artistry is lavished on films that are so empty, so barren, so unfulfilling? Isn't it sad when at the Academy Awards** - the annual event that celebrates the highest achievements of which the film industry is capable - the best we can come up with are movies that are so hideous, perverse and shocking? Modern films are technically brilliant, but they are morally and spiritually empty.

Violence

Time magazine (June 12, 1989) reported that by the time the average child leaves high school he (or she) will have watched from 25 000 to 40 000 hours of television, and they will have seen at least 200 000 violent acts and 33 000 murders depicted on TV.

Prof. George Gerbner, the Dean of the University of Pennsylvania reported in his study "*Violence Profile 1967-1989*" that **90% of children's programmes are violent, with an average of 25 violent acts depicted per hour.**

A *US Senate Subcommittee* headed by Dr. Brandon Centerwall reported that there is a direct correlation between violence on television and in movies, and violent crime. The study maintained that television programmes are a major factor in 10 000 murders every year and in 50% of the rapes, assaults and other violent crimes in the USA. The Subcommittee documented how murder and property crime rates multiplied after the introduction of television. Areas that received TV earlier than others actually recorded earlier dramatic increases in murder and rape.

The *National Institute of Mental Health* (NIMH) concluded on the basis of an analysis of over 2500 studies on TV violence that "*there is overwhelming evidence that TV violence leads to aggressive behaviour in children and teens*".

Even film director David Puttnam has declared that the demand for more violence and gore has to be stopped. "*Someone has to say 'enough' because this is a disaster; we are destroying ourselves. We are untying the fabric of our society.*"

The *National Coalition on Television Violence* has documented numerous examples of the negative influences of violent films. After repeated viewing of *Taxi Driver*, John Hickley attempted to assassinate US president Ronald Reagan. (The main character in *Taxi Driver* wins the attention of a beautiful woman by an irrational and gory shooting rampage which resulted from a senseless attempt to assassinate a political figure). And at least 50 people have killed themselves playing Russian roulette in imitation of the Vietnam movie *The Deer Hunter*. After George Hennard had shot and killed 22 people in a cafeteria in Kilene, Texas, a cinema ticket to the *Fisher King* was found in his pocket. That film depicted a disturbed and frustrated individual shooting up a restaurant.

A *Cape Times* article (26/7/91) sub-titled "*Fears that real violence inspired by Cinema*" posed the question: "*Does art imitate life? Or vice-versa?*" The article noted that the Hungerford massacre was perpetrated by a man who claimed the *Rambo* movies as his inspiration. Numerous gangs had patterned rapes after *Clockwork Orange*. And Peter May, who abducted and imprisoned a 4-year old boy for 8 weeks, claimed that he was just acting out what he had seen in the TV film *I only know my name is Stephen*. They also noted the gruesome similarity between *The Silence of the Lambs* and Jeffrey Dahmer's real life serial cannibal murder spree.

There are those who erroneously claim that the film industry is only a mirror of society - and they just reflect reality. But the sad truth is that it is the other way around. The world is being conformed to

the image of Hollywood. At any rate Medved has calculated that TV and film characters are murdered at a rate 1 000 times higher than real world victims.

Immorality

Dr Ted Baehr, the chairman of the *Christian Film and Television Commission*, reported an incident where an intelligent 14 year old girl, who was at the top of her class at school, became a prostitute after seeing *Pretty Woman*. Now, to most adults *Pretty Woman* was an unrealistic fairy tale. But to most young people *Pretty Woman* conveyed the message that a prostitute leads a fun-filled, exciting life, and that men give her expensive clothes and beautiful gifts. This 14 year old girl got emotionally aroused by the film, got drunk and began a five week binge of prostitution before her distraught parents found her - in a hotel room with two men. The film which seduced her into this “*lifestyle*” did not prepare her for the psychological damage and venereal diseases which resulted from her attempt to fulfil a movie fantasy.

The *Children’s Defense Fund* has documented that since Hollywood abandoned the Motion Picture Code in 1966 and greatly increased the sexual scenes in films - teenage pregnancies have increased 500% (to 2 795 every day), teenage abortions have increased 1 100% (to 1 106 every day), teenagers infected by sexual transmitted diseases have increased 335% (to 4 219 every day), and teenage suicides have increased 300% (to six every day). Their conclusion is that while several factors have played a role in the breakdown of our society, “*the major factor, by far, is the mass media and the values that it teaches our young people. Many parents don’t understand how susceptible children are to the messages in movies because they have forgotten that children do not have the cognitive ability to differentiate between fact and fantasy.*”

Many movies aggravate the teenage susceptibility to sexual arousal by portraying nudity, fornication and an acceptance of premarital sex as perfectly natural and very desirable. By glamourising adultery, modern films are exploiting the lusts of the eyes and the lust of the flesh which adolescents with their newly awakened raging hormones are particularly vulnerable to. What is particularly dishonest is that movie characters are seemingly never shown to reap the consequences of their actions: “*the heroine rarely gets pregnant, nor do the fornicators come down with warts, Herpes, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis. and certainly not AIDS.*”

The harsh reality is that immorality is not at all glamorous. It generally leads to psychological problems, and often involves painful diseases and even death. In an age of epidemic sexually transmitted diseases and the AIDS plague it is the height of irresponsibility to promote promiscuity.

US Journalist Don Feder described the situation: “*like drug kingpins, TV executives are making a killing marketing poison. It matters not into whose veins it flows, or its corrosive impact on your society, as long as the blood money keeps on rolling in.*”

British media personality Malcom Muggeridge warned: “Western civilization is fast disintegrating and the media are playing a major role in the process.”

Professor Rea Christenson of Miami University noted that almost every prime time TV series which included teenagers in the story dealt with the theme of teen sex. He concluded: “*The entertainment industry is doing more to undermine absolutely essential moral values than any other force.*”

Anti-family

Cape Fear was a 1962 movie in which the hero and attorney, played by Gregory Peck, is a strong, stalwart and upright man who defends his family against the crazed killer, who just released from jail,

is bent on revenge. In Martin Scorsese's 1991 remake of *Cape Fear* the "hero" is an unfaithful, adulterous, and unpleasant man. That a happily married family-defending hero can be transformed into a sadistic, dishonest and bitter man speaks volumes about the direction of modern movies.

There have been very few films made in recent years about happily married couples. In fact marriage is invariably portrayed as a disastrous battleground. In *Sleeping with the Enemy*, the husband beats the wife so mercilessly that the wife eventually kills him. In *Mortal Thoughts* the husband beats up his wife and is killed by her best friend. In *Thelma and Louise* there is another horrible, brutal and insensitive husband to run away from. In *A Kiss Before Dying* the husband kills his wife, then tries to murder her twin sister. But she gets him first. In *She-Devil* the wife torments her unfaithful husband. In *Total Recall* the hero shoots his supposed wife through the forehead and says "*consider that a divorce.*" In *Deceived* the model husband turns out to be a murderous monster. Apparently Hollywood sees marriage as dangerous, oppressive and unhealthy.

Rarely do TV parents retain the control or respect of their children. Instead some obnoxious, smart-mouthed child dominates the home. Every authority figure and source of security known in real life to the child - whether parent, pastor, teacher or policeman - is either denigrated as foolish or depicted as frightening.

In modern soap operas, home is where the hate is. What then does Hollywood advocate in place of the traditional family?

Well, aside from promiscuity and adultery, it is as Elizabeth Taylor said in *Premiere* (Feb 93): "*Without homosexuals, there wouldn't be this town.*"

Anti-Christian

In the Martin Scorsese remake of *Cape Fear* the released convict is no-longer just an ordinary maniac, but a Bible-carrying, Scripture-quoting, tongues-speaking killer Christian! He has Bible verses and a gigantic cross tattooed on his body and, as he is about to rape the attorney's wife, he asks: "*Are you ready to be born again? After just one hour with me you'll be talking in tongues!*"

At Play in the Fields of the Lord, *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *Dracula* are other examples of Hollywood's hostility to Christianity. The average Christian has become so accustomed to the media's insulting stereotypes and caricatures of Christians that few seem to notice, fewer still object.

Amanda Donahue, star of *LA Law*, described her motivation in an interview with TV, etc.: "*I am an atheist, so it was actually a joy. Spitting on Christ was a great deal of fun, especially for me, being a woman. I can't embrace a male god who has persecuted female sexuality...*"

Ted Turner, the owner of CNN, has described Christianity as "*a religion for losers*". The vast majority of Hollywood producers describe themselves as atheists or agnostics, pro-abortion, pro-homosexual rights and for the right to promote pornography. Considering this imbalance it should not be surprising that the films produced by these people reflect these prejudices.

Although most people believe in God and almost half of all Americans go to church every week, the entertainment industry has virtually eliminated the Christian faith from the characters which it depicts as "*a mirror*" of society. Even in medical melodramas such as *Dying Young*, *Regarding Henry* and *The Doctor* all the characters go into the operating room without a word of prayer, and without even asking to pray with the hospital chaplain. Those familiar with hospital life know that this seldom happens in real life.

The impression being created by Hollywood is that God is irrelevant. *“Essentially, God has been censored in prime-time television, except in a profane sentence”*

A 1989 Associated Press-Media General poll reported that over 80% of Americans believe there is too much profanity in films and 69% of women and 44% of men said that they would be less likely to see a film if they knew that it contained profanity. Yet Hollywood continues to inject offensive dialogue and blasphemy into their films claiming that this is what the people want. But, when did you last hear someone complaining that there was too little profanity in a film?!!

As Dr. Ted Baehr has repeatedly said: Christians put up with a lot, but what upsets them the most is the profanity. God is Holy, our Lord and Saviour and He deserves respect.

Leviticus 24:16 shows us how seriously God views profanity - the blasphemer deserves to be put to death. **The pervasive taking of the Lord's Name in vain reflects “a general antagonism, a sort of deep-seated, almost reflexive antagonism to Christianity.”**

Stephen Lawhead put it this way: *“If TV were utterly realistic, true Christian values would occasionally be aired without compromise. If TV were depicting life as it really is, the place of faith in the lives of believers would be recognised and shown for what it is, just as in real-life.”*

Redefining Reality

As few people read history books and most depend entirely on Hollywood films for their understanding of history, the potential for exploitation is enormous. **Oliver Stone's breathless full colour guided tour of the fetid fever swamps of his paranoid imagination in *JFK* is one example of the persuasive power of even the most ridiculous conspiracy theory. *Ghandi, Malcom X, Havana, Power of One, Cry Freedom, Platoon, Born on the Fourth of July* and *Shoot Down* are other examples of selective focus, distortion and discredited falsehood dressed up as “*this is a true story.*”** Sure, only the facts have been changed to protect the guilty. And why have major films never been made of great Christian explorers such as David Livingstone and heroes such as George Washington, or events such as the Reformation?

The Bible has a great deal to say about our vulnerability to influence and the dangers of an incomplete portrayal of reality. Acts 19:29-34 describes a riot in Ephesus in which the rioters had no real idea why they were rioting. But they had been whipped up to hysteria by an inaccurate report. In Genesis 3 the **serpent persuaded Eve to accept a version of reality that just wasn't true. But the persuasive manner in which the half truth was presented led Eve to make a disastrous decision.** When Ananias and Sapphira lied before the church it resulted in death (Acts 5: 1-11). **In the same way Gehazi's deception of Naaman brought a terrible judgement upon himself (2 Kings 5).** In the Bible half truths and incomplete truths are shown to be the enemies of truth.

As William Shakespeare said: *“The pen is mightier than the sword.”*

“Whoever defines the word, defines the world.” - John Locke

“Whoever controls the media, controls the culture.” - Ted Baehr

The Media elite have constructed the most prominent and entertaining pulpits of celluloid and electronics to capture the hearts and minds of the audience... and have re-defined the rules of the game from a Biblical to a humanistic basis.

Now even the major media mouthpieces: *Premiere Magazine, The Television Quarterly* and *The Hollywood Reporter* have effectively renounced their previous denials of responsibility for the

influence of their programmes and movies. In their November 1992 editions each of these three publications accepted that the entertainment producers are responsible for the social and political consequences of their films.

The questions each one of us need to be asking ourselves are these: Who determines how I think, what I believe and what I do? Is it a group of atheists in Hollywood? Or the Word of God? And can we do anything to redeem the media and transform it into a positive family-friendly influence where God is honoured?

Clean The Screen

Dr. Ted Baehr points out that, in fact, Christians are partly to blame for the prevalence of profanity, immorality and graphic violence in films. From 1933 to 1966 the churches exerted a powerful influence in Hollywood through the *Protestant Film Office* and the *Roman Catholic Legion of Decency* by developing and enforcing The Motion Picture Code. The church offices ensured that films did not lower the moral standards of the audience.

In 1966, the churches closed down these offices and abdicated the responsibility to be salt and light to the world. This left a moral vacuum which was soon filled by the *Gay and Lesbian Alliance*, the *Church of Satan* and other special interest groups who presently influence Hollywood. Since 1966 one can catalogue the dramatic moral decline in the content of movies. And a corresponding decline in ticket sales.

During the Golden Age of Hollywood (1933-1966) 90% of people went to Hollywood movies. Today Hollywood's share of the worldwide box office has decreased to less than 40%. And American ticket sales have never equalled or exceeded the 1966 record of 44 million weekly cinema tickets. In 1992 nine Hollywood companies filed for bankruptcy including MGM, Orion and Carolco. The result is that media giants are beginning to listen to the concerns of Christians and media groups such as the *Christian Film and Television Commission* (CFTVC) led by Ted Baehr. The CFTVC have produced a new Motion Picture Production Code and have presented it to the heads of many film and TV producers. In addition the CFTVC aims to educate moral film goers to be more discerning through the monthly MOVIEGUIDE magazine and their Movieguide reviews which are now aired on 1200 radio stations and 800 TV stations. Over 250 000 signatures have been collected for their *Concerned Americans for Moral Entertainment Pledges*.

After years of patiently informing Christian viewers and persuading Hollywood producers, some progress is being made. So much so that *Playboy* wrote that Ted Baehr had to be stopped because he was on a mission from God. Some media people and a major pornographer were converted, an increase in family films was reported and some media executives began to reflect moral concerns in recent policy speeches. Walt Disney Studios chairman, Jeffrey Katzenberg told 4000 delegates at the Video Software Dealers Association that: *"Each of us in Hollywood has the opportunity to assume individual responsibility to create films that educate rather than dwell in darkness, to aim for the highest denominator rather than the lowest."*

We need to learn from Ted Baehr and his successes with the CFTVC. If possible subscribe to Movieguide. Encourage your local Christian radio station to carry the Movieguide film reviews from Ted Baehr.

Sign the Pledge for Moral Entertainment - and send a copy to SATV, Nu Metro, Ster Kinekor and other entertainment producers in South Africa.

Get informed. Be discerning. And speak up for moral entertainment. There are still some good films out there for the discerning to select. And with a lot of hard work, prayer and co-ordinated action we may yet see another golden era of God-honouring family entertainment-such as produced *The Ten Commandments*, *South Africa -Renaissance or Reformation?* and *Ben Hur*. The recent release of *The Prince of Egypt* represents an encouraging victory for Christian values in Hollywood and a return to quality family entertainment.

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -think about such things.” Philippians 4:8

Chapter 7

REDEFINING REALITY

The extra-ordinary true story of the two man eating lions of Tsavo was dramatised by the Paramount Pictures film ***“The Ghost and the Darkness.”***

In the advertisements for the film the claim was made: *“Only the most incredible parts of the story are true.”* A careful comparison of the 1996 film with the original 1907 book upon which the film is based makes that clear.

It is a fact that two powerful 200 kg lions (one with a blonde mane, the other with a black mane) terrorised the railway construction workers at Tsavo in Kenya throughout 1898. They indeed were the lions who stopped a railway - bringing all construction work to a standstill for over four months. They defied all attempts to trap and kill them. They attacked **by night and day**. They came into people’s tents and even railway carriages and carried off their victims leaping over 8 foot *bomas* (fences made of thorn bushes). The lions outwitted some of the finest hunters and marksmen the British could field in Kenya.

One lion did indeed walk straight into the elaborately set up railway box car trap. The door came down behind him and the 3 riflemen positioned as bait safely behind bars on the other end of the box car opened fire. Yet the lion evaded the 12 rounds fired at point blank range and smashed through the **door, escaping unharmed!** And Patterson’s first clear shot of one of the lions did misfire. He anathematised the day that he accepted a borrowed rifle and took an unproven weapon into the field.

These and many other aspects of the incredible story are true and are documented in Lt. Col. John Patterson ‘s book ***“The Man Eaters of Tsavo”*** published in 1907.

However, much of the Paramount film is pure Hollywood invention. There were only 2 man eating lions and it took 4 months of stalking them before Patterson even saw one. The first *“lucky shot”* on the first night of the first man eating lion - never happened.

There was actually no American game hunter involved at all. The Remington character played by Michael Douglas was fictitious. No doubt Hollywood scriptwriters believe they must insert an American character as central to any plot - even such an obvious misfit as the anachronistic **Remington who might fit in the 1990’s in Los Angeles but certainly not the 1890’s in Africa**. The British engineer Patterson actually shot both of the man eaters.

The headman Samuel who plays such a key part in the film was another Hollywood invention. The only headman in the book had a far less honourable role.

More seriously the reason for the unprecedented killing spree of these lions is just ignored in the film. The horrible fact is that the local tribes had the practise of laying out their elderly, sick and infirmed people by the riverside to be eaten by wild animals. The lions apparently developed a taste for human **flesh and a contempt for these frail human beings who couldn't even run very fast.** Euthanasia led to the reign of terror by these man eaters.

For some reason in the film, John Patterson is depicted as a secular humanist who claims that he is "*beyond conversion.*" In fact Col. Patterson was a Bible believing Christian who was a faithful member of the Church of England. In the First World War, Patterson founded the first Jewish Regiment since the Maccabees. He led the Zion Regiment in battle against the Turks at Gallipoli and in Palestine. For the rest of his life, from 1915 to 1947 Patterson dedicated his life to seeing their homeland Israel restored to the Jewish people.

Why do so many scriptwriters in Hollywood find the need to distort history and delete any positive references to Christianity? Instead of accepting Patterson's Christian faith and the role that it played in his courageous lone struggle to protect his workers, "*The Ghost and the Darkness*" invents another weaker character who is made out to be a "*Bible thumper*" - yet who is killed by a lion. That too is fiction. In fact no Christian was killed by these lions.

And of course a thoroughly pagan American character, Remington, who declares "*I am the devil!*" has centre stage in this film version. Why change history when the real story is even more incredible and exciting than Hollywood's predictable cliché's of the 1990's?

Obviously Patterson never started a veld fire and never fired aimlessly into the air to bring the lion into the open! That never happened and it would have been counter productive.

Actually there were many great scenes in the book which would have made the film more effective. Like the time when so many people scrambled up a tree to escape the lions that the whole tree fell over spilling the people directly towards the lion!

There were two attempts on Patterson's life by murderous mobs of his workers - which he only escaped by the skin of his teeth.

On another occasion the trolley Patterson was travelling in, raced downhill towards the river - without a working brake. The trolley jumped the rails, he flew through the air, just missing a projecting beam and crashed into a sand bank by the side of the river with the trolley landing next to him.

In the book there is also an excruciating description of a time when three men sleeping in a railway carriage were woken up by a lion pushing open the sliding door and pinning down one man, mauling another. The third man on the top bunk ran over the head and back of the lion to escape, but the local workers were holding the door shut to keep the lion inside. The poor trapped man had great difficulty wrenching the door open to escape. The lion then leapt out, crashing through one of the windows carrying his victim with him while the man who had been pinned down dived through another window and escaped! That true account would have made a far more harrowing film sequence than the fictitious, and highly irresponsible, veld fire scene.

So, what is actually behind Hollywood's "*This is a true story*" (Sure, but only the facts have been changed - as well as some fictitious characters thrown in and history distorted) films? They cannot say they are "*improving upon the original story*" because, as with so many of their films, the book is actually far better. The truth is not only stranger than fiction - it is also often more visually impressive as well.

The whole reason for the horrifying man eaters of Tsavo was man's inhumanity to man - the callous practise of forced euthanasia - condemning the elderly and infirmed to be killed. The breaking of God's commands to honour the aged, to care for the sick and not to commit murder have terrible consequences. "*A man reaps what he sows.*" (Galatians 6: 7). And his Christian faith inspired Patterson's extraordinary courage and persistence.

The bias of all too many scriptwriters and film producers against Christianity is leading to a dangerous distortion of reality in the minds of those many people for whom Hollywood is their primary source of knowledge about the past.

We need to re-discover the importance and enjoyment of reading some of the great classics and history books - about what really happened. A correct understanding of the past is an indispensable aid in making a better future.

Chapter 8

JUST HOW GULLIBLE CAN ONE BE?

During a speaking tour around South Africa I was intrigued to hear repeated rumours of a Christian conversion undergone by Communist Party leader Chris Hanani just before his demise. In each province I heard different versions of the supposed sensational salvation of Hanani. This was interesting because Hanani was scheduled to present a message at UCT on "*My journey from faith to atheism*".

According to one story he had been led to Christ by Elijah Masungu, in another it was Ray McCauley who counselled him. Yet another claimed that Erlo Stegen had prayed with him. Other individuals were also cited as being responsible for this hitherto unheard of conversion of Hanani.

My initial reaction was to laugh at the ludicrous legend. Later I became disturbed at the widespread gullibility of so many Christians. The implications are very serious.

Is there so little spiritual discernment in our churches that every fad and fantasy can be so easily accepted? Just what constitutes a true testimony to the saving grace of Christ? What evidence of salvation can we expect to witness in one regenerated by the Holy Spirit?

Deception, Decadence and Disaster

In recent years I have heard a spate of such claims of conversions of celebrities. Shortly after my conversion in 1977 I heard the story that Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin had been saved shortly before his death in 1953. At the time I had wondered if it was plausible that a vicious persecutor accredited with the closure of 48 000 churches and the deaths of over 30 million people could have escaped judgement by merely verbally calling out for forgiveness on his death bed.

Could one persistently sow in the flesh, yet reap in the Spirit? Can a person spend his whole life serving Satan, yet somehow escape hell? Does the physical act of saying certain words out loud constitute saving faith? In essence: Can God be mocked? "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*" Galatians 6:7.

Then I heard that Zimbabwe's president, self proclaimed marxist and atheist - Robert Mugabe and his wife Sally, had been converted in 1982. We waited in vain for "*fruit in keeping with repentance*"

(Matt. 3:8), yet no evidence was forthcoming. Instead when Sally Mugabe died her personal wealth was reported to be US \$8 Billion. Robert Mugabe was calculated to own US

\$10 Billion (Almost enough to settle Zimbabwe's vast national debt!). A head of state hardly accumulates Billions of dollars by being an honest and generous tithing Christian.

Next we were expected to believe that the Zambian dictator Kenneth Kaunda was a born again believer. Christian publications boldly printed full front-page pictures of Kaunda meeting their mission leaders, opening prayer breakfasts, etc. In *"The Passing Summer"* Michael Cassidy described Kaunda as *"a gentleman and a Christian"* (page 6). Yet Kaunda's obsession with the occult was well known. His residence at State House was so filled with satanic symbols and occultic paraphernalia that his successor, president Frederick Chiluba, refused to move in until pastors had removed the pagan idols and occultic symbols which pervaded the State House.

When I told several previous cabinet ministers in Zambia, that many South Africans thought that Kaunda was a Christian they roared with laughter. ***"You have a problem when your people can't tell the difference between an occultist and a Christian"*** was the conclusion of one cabinet minister.

In 1989, reports that ANC leader Nelson Mandela had been converted to Christ spread like wildfire. Imaginative details of how he had come to Christ were eagerly recounted. Yet after his release from prison in 1990 no testimony was forthcoming. Despite hundreds of media opportunities and at countless public meetings the supposed convert failed to give any glory to God, nor did he challenge his hearers to come to Christ. Instead he espoused views consistent with that of a humanist.

Those who had eagerly proclaimed Mandela's salvation were clearly embarrassed. Billy Graham's organisation maintained that they had no evidence to support their earlier claim that Mandela had been converted. Africa Enterprise also professed ignorance. So too did Rhema.

Another in this series of unlikely conversions was that the late S.A. Communist party leader Joe Slovo had been saved. Yet the Scripture says:

"Of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person -such a man is an idolater -has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them." Ephesians 5:5-7

Such spurious stories of communist conversions seem to make a mockery of Christians. They expose a lack of discernment. They neutralise the potential opposition of Christians by planting seeds of doubt into their minds. And those who believe such unproven speculation display a dangerous degree of gullibility and an inadequate understanding of redemption.

The Scripture warns us to beware of deception:

"By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."
Romans 16:18

"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ." 2 Cor 11:13

"Evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." 2 Tim 3:13

Those who delight to hear and enjoy recounting such testimonies of famous people need to examine their hearts. Are you not displaying partiality towards the powerful? (*James 2:1-8*). Is it not favouritism for the famous that causes us to esteem their “*salvation*” as far more valuable than that of a poor or unknown brother? (*1 Cor 1:26-31*).

“Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save.” Psalm 146:3

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength.” Jeremiah 17:5

“For what hope has the godless when he is cut off, when God takes away his life?” Job 27:8

By unquestioningly embracing every politician who pays lip service to a Christian profession we dishonour the cause of Christ. Our Lord has warned us that:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matt 7:21

Jesus spoke of those who **“honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”** Mark 7:6.

Of many prominent politicians who profess faith in Christ it could accurately be said: **“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.”** Titus 1:16

Of course that verse could just as fairly be applied to those Christian officials who tolerate or allow pornography, prostitution or abortion to flourish. **“When the wicked thrive so does sin”** Prov 29:16. What can one say of those Christians who sat on the board of *Republican Press* when it was responsible for the publication of 300 000 copies of *Scope* every 2 weeks? How is it possible that other Christians were responsible for the distribution or sale of such pornographic magazines? How did Christian government officials, for example in the *Publications Control Board* and the *Appeal Board*, reconcile legalising or unbanning films and magazines which included the taking of the Lord’s Name in vain and blasphemy with their Christian faith?

“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” Ephesians 5:11

The rampant deterioration of moral standards in South Africa stands as an indictment of a lukewarm and neutralised church (Rev 3:15-19). Of what worth is the Christian faith of those church members who help distribute and sell the pornographic poison which pollutes minds, morals and marriages (Luke 17:1-3)?

And what can one say of those innumerable pastors, elders, deacons and church members who never make a stand for Christian principles (Matt 5:13-16)? Dare we claim that the love of Christ motivates us if we pass by on the other side of the road, passive and neutral, while pornography destroys our neighbour (Luke 10:27-37)? Can we be satisfied with reading the newspaper while our children are being brainwashed by occultic cartoons and TV programmes (Col 2:8)? Will we just watch TV while evil men work to legalise the murder of unborn babies through abortion (Prov 24:11)?

What will it take to mobilise the vast bulk of uninvolved pew warmers into action - for evangelism and discipleship and as salt and light?

The fact is that 77% of South Africans claim to be Christian. Most are in church each Sunday. Yet the prevalent decadence in South Africa testifies to the painful ineffectiveness of most churches. Every Lord's Day is desecrated by Sunday trading, pornography is openly displayed on magazine racks, prostitution flourishes in the main cities and rape and child abuse have escalated. National events such as the National Peace Accord, CODESA and the inauguration of the president have been opened with polytheistic multi-faith prayers. The National Party has consulted sangomas (witchdoctors) to advise them on "*culturally relevant symbols*" and strategies to attract more supporters.

South Africa's most respected heart surgeon Dr. Chris Barnard published a book wherein he boasted of numerous adulterous affairs and claimed to have hired a witchdoctor to place a curse on his offending domestic servants. In spite of this he still claimed on SATV to be a Christian. Is such "*Christianity*" worth anything?

"What good is it, my brother, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?.. faith by itself if it is not accompanied by action, is dead... faith without deeds is useless... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." James 2:14-26

By way of further rebuke we can note that pornography is banned in Zambia. In fact in Zambia abortion is illegal, the death penalty is mandatory for murder and rape and Christian education is now part of the curriculum in the schools. If a country which had been wrecked by 27 years of socialist mismanagement could enforce such Biblical principles then surely a nation with a rich Christian heritage can do so as well.

The real problem that confronts us today is that most South African Christians are neutralised. They have forgotten God. They have neglected God's Word, the Bible. They have forgotten the whole reason we are here - to glorify God by making disciples of the nations... teaching them to obey everything that He has commanded (Matt 28:18-20). Very few truly fear God. Instead most are paralysed by the fear of man (Luke 12:4-5). The majority seem to have succumbed to a negative and defeatist view of the future. Paralysed by pessimism these passive pew-warmers pray for the rapture to rescue them out of their responsibilities.

Yet if we were to rightly divide the Word of truth and correctly understand the signs of the times we would return to the fight of faith with renewed vigour and a revitalised vision.

God is all powerful, all knowing and everywhere present. He is sovereign over the affairs of men. He has not predestined defeat for His people. The ultimate victory of the kingdom of God is inevitable (Daniel 2:34-44). Christians are not doomed to defeat but called to conquest (Psalm 2:8-9).

"All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations." Psalm 22:27-28

In fact it should be obvious that it is the enemies of God who are destined for defeat. Humanism is a self-destructive ideology. Those who believe the lie of "*safe sex*", those who sow sex education and promote promiscuity will reap the inevitable consequences of sexually transmitted diseases - gonorrhoea, herpes and AIDS.

Those who worship the idol of chance by squandering their earnings in gambling will end up as bankrupt as those who engage in the unworkable wastage of welfare and socialism.

By removing the Bible from schools and purging all moral values from education, humanist schools inevitably end up with an illiterate, incompetent, incapable and immoral generation. By abandoning the enforcement of discipline of children, humanists make rods for their own backs as those children grow up into rebellious, lawless and selfish adults.

When the humanists advocate “*alternative lifestyles*” and promote homosexuality, lesbianism and bisexuality they are undermining the essential foundation of society - the family.

By campaigning for abortion the “*pro-choicers*” are destroying their descendants. They are aborting their own futures. In short, atheism offers no God, no future and no hope.

On the other hand obedience to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ results in the joy of sins forgiven, peace of heart and mind and a restored relationship of love with God as our Father. Jesus Christ gives His people spiritual life now, eternal life after death and abundant life always.

Those who live clean and moral lives and remain faithful to their marriage partner will have the best chance of surviving the AIDS plague.

Those who work hard, save wisely and spend their money carefully will be blessed with financial security. Biblical free enterprise produces wealth and rewards hard work and ingenuity.

Those who invest their lives in bringing up God-fearing children, ensuring that they receive Bible based education, will build the future.

As Christians we need to believe in tomorrow. Because we believe in the God who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He controls the future. And He answers the prayers of His people.

Which brings us back to the point that what we sow is what we reap. We need to sow the Word of God in our hearts, minds and lives - **then we will reap the fruit of God’s Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control** (Galatians 5:22 and 6:7).

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love: we will in all things grow...” Ephesians 4:14-15

How then can we tell who is a true Christian or not? Jesus said that you would know them by their fruit:

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognise them.”
Matthew 7:15-16

Our Lord specified the fruit which would be seen in a true believer’s life - love for God (Mark 12:30), love for God’s people (John 13:35), obedience to God’s commands (John 14:15) and the fruit of the Spirit (John 15:5, 8).

In Eastern Europe, Christian friends of mine who have come through the terrible decades of persecution have said that it was always easy for them to spot the false brethren - the infiltrators and spies. “*How?*” I asked.

In reply they explained: ***“You can always tell who a true Christian is. A true Christian loves God. A true Christian loves to read and study the Bible. A true Christian loves to pray and a true Christian hates sin.”***

Chapter 9

REDISCOVERING THE CHRISTIAN WORK ETHIC

Laziness! Lethargy! Absenteeism! Corruption! Embezzlement! Theft! Go-slows! Strikes!

These are some of the now familiar words which describe the crisis in all too many of the work places of our country. Unless this disastrous trend is dramatically reversed, the economy will eventually collapse. The inevitable results of undermining the productivity of the economy are seen in the increasing poverty and widespread unemployment. What is needed is for our country to rediscover the Christian work ethic.

At the very dawn of history God called man to work. God ordained work before the fall. Work is not a part of the curse. Adam was commanded to tend the garden before he fell into sin (Gen. 2:15). Labour is a God-given responsibility. Work is not a curse to be avoided, nor is it an undesirable activity only to be pursued when necessary. In the Bible we are commanded to:

“be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed...” 2 Tim 2:15

Before the coming of Christ, the heathen nations despised honest work and consigned it to slaves. When Christ was born, half of the population of the Roman Empire were slaves. Three-fourths of the population of Athens were slaves.

When Luke visited Athens he noted that *“all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.”* Acts 17:21

But Jesus revolutionised labour. By taking up the axe, the saw, the hammer and the plane, our Lord imbued labour with a new dignity. Christianity undercut slavery by giving dignity to work. By reforming work Christianity transformed the entire social order. In time this gave birth to the free enterprise system which brought unparalleled prosperity and progress to billions of people.

“The hand of the diligent makes one rich.” Proverbs 10:4

God is a worker. God worked to create the world and He works to sustain it. He is also constantly at work fulfilling His purposes in history and in the life of every person (Phil 2:13). As our Lord Jesus declared *“My Father has been working until now, and I have been working”* John 5:17. God called His work *“good”*, confirming that work has intrinsic worth. Work is no disgrace - the disgrace is idleness. *“He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.”* Proverbs 18:9

God created man in His image as a worker. Before the fall, God assigned to men and women the task of caring for His earthly creation and cultivating the garden they lived in (Gen 1:26 - 29; 2:8,15). Work is a gift to us. By assigning responsibilities to Adam and Eve, God was making them significant and valuable. By working diligently **they reflected God’s image. This was the first. partnership.** Adam and Eve were created as co-workers with God. God planted the garden and man cultivated it. All legitimate work is an extension of God’s work.

“Therefore... whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Unfortunately, many Christians seem to have lost this Christian work ethic. Most people labour under the illusion that God is merely concerned with our purely spiritual pursuits. This misunderstanding is based upon these four false assumptions:

1. That God is only interested in people's souls, rather than their bodies.
2. The things of eternity are of such overriding importance, as to exclude all concern with the things of time.
3. Life is divided into the secular and the sacred.
4. Becoming a minister, evangelist or missionary is the only way to serve God.

However, the Bible shows that God is interested in whole people, not in disembodied souls. Many of Amy Carmichael's fellow missionaries in India considered her effort to build an orphanage and school was actually a "*worldly activity*" that distracted her from "*saving souls*", to which she replied: "*Souls are more or less firmly attached to bodies.*"

The manufacturer who provides the goods, the transporter who ensures distribution and the shopkeeper who makes the item accessible to us are as vital to our lives as those who provide electricity, plumbing and roadworks. We need the teachers, nurses, policemen, firemen, postmen, businessmen, secretaries, mechanics and other workers.

What goes on in both time and for eternity are equally real and important to our Sovereign God. Being co-labourers with God in making His physical, temporal world run smoothly is important, as is co-labouring with Him in evangelism. Eternity is our ultimate destiny and we will each have to give an account of our lives before Almighty God. In the light of eternity we need to work diligently on earth. If God has designed you to be an architect, a carpenter or a builder, then build buildings to the glory of God. The quality of our daily work should witness to our faith in Christ. As Martin Luther declared: "*A dairymaid can milk cows to the glory of God.*"

For Fulfillment of the Great Commission

Good work well done is an essential part of fulfilling the Great Commission. God has commanded all Christians to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Our witness is not only to be carried out by our talk, but also by our walk. It is not only what we say that proclaims our faith - it is by what we do. Our words mean nothing if they are not backed up by our work.

The great commandments of Christ are that we are to love God and that we are to love other people (Mark 12:30,31). One of the ways we show love for God is by caring for His creation - reflecting the image of God in useful work. And one of the primary ways we show love for people is by doing productive work which contributes to their well being.

One of the best sermon illustrations is the daily testimony of a Christian doing his work with integrity and diligence. When others see our concern for both people and products we earn their respect and their interest in what motivates us.

For most Christians our workplace is our main mission field. Our job is not secondary to the making of friends and proclaiming the Gospel. In fact, completing our "*secular*" work in a God honouring way is one of the most powerful demonstrations of the Gospel. Through meaningful work we can reveal our love for God, His Word and His people by: serving people; meeting our own needs; meeting our family's needs; earning enough money to be generous to others, practise hospitality and support our local churches, charities and missions. As John Wesley taught: "*religion must necessarily produce both*

industry and frugality.” When we realise that God has placed us in our job to co-labour with Him, contributing to His creation, it leads to a sense of dignity and destiny in our work.

The Scripture declares that an industrious housewife and hard working mother pleases the Lord and delights her husband (Proverbs 31:10 - 31). A man who fails to provide for his family *“has denied the Faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”* 1 Tim 5:8. Christians are commanded to learn to devote themselves *“to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”* Titus 3:14

In the parable of the talents, Jesus teaches us to serve Him faithfully with the talents He has entrusted into our care (Matt 25:14 - 30). Christians must work in order to give to others: *“Let him who stole, steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need”* Ephesians 4:28. Being a faithful worker is a powerful testimony to outsiders: *“... aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly towards those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.”* Thess 4:11 - 12

The Scriptures are scathing in recording God’s denunciation of laziness:

“Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep - so shall your poverty come on you like a robber...” Proverbs 6:6 - 11

“Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks.” Eccl 10:18

“Why have you been standing here idle all day?” Matthew 20:6

It is a disgrace to be lazy (Prov 10:5). Lazy people always find excuses not to work (Prov 15:19; 26:13 - 16). Those who love sleep will grow poor (Prov 19:15;20:13). *“I went by the field of the slothful, by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles, its stone wall was broken down... a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; So your poverty will come like a prowler...”* Proverbs 24:30 - 34

Therefore, the Apostle Paul taught:

“For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you... but worked with labour and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.. to make ourselves an example... We command you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.” 2 Thess 3: 7 - 10

On the day of judgement *“each one’s work will become manifest”* 1 Cor 3:13. Jesus taught that *“whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”* Matt 20:26.

The Economic Fruit of Faith

Dr. James Kennedy in *“What if Jesus had never been born?”* made the following observations on the role of faith in economics: *“Why has America - and for the most part, the West - enjoyed such material abundance? Why have some of the Asian countries also prospered after they adopted economic ideas from the West? If you look at the poor nations around the world, you will find that what the Bible says is true: they are what they are because of what they believe. ‘As a man thinketh in his heart so is he’ (Prov 23:7). Look at India, a nation that has stagnated in its poverty for several millennia. Why? Because of what its people believe. Its Hindu religion teaches that there is no reality to matter. The external, visible world is unreal; therefore, you do not try to correct an unreal world; you try to escape from it.*

Consequently, progress dies. And the belief in reincarnation has also had a devastating effect on the nation's poverty. Or consider North Africa, which for centuries has been sunk in poverty, superstition and ignorance. Why? Because of what its people believe. The fatalism of Islam has kept the Muslims from progress because human initiative can accomplish absolutely nothing, and all that is, Allah has fated; therefore they are left in perpetual stagnation. Or consider the many nations of the East (prior to Western influence), whose religion is Buddhism, which teaches that life is irreparably evil and cannot be changed. Man's only hope is to rid himself of all desire for any improvement in this life. The goal is not a more abundant life, but it's extinction - absorption into the world-soul - and so the very roots of social amelioration are severed. No so with the nations that have had a Christian base, especially when they have applied a more Biblical interpretation of economics."

Many would be surprised to learn that there are over 700 references to money in the Bible. Nearly two-thirds of the recorded parables of Christ deal with the use and handling of money. In the Ten Commandments God laid the foundation for all good economics - private ownership of property. The right to life, liberty and property and the importance of the family unit as the basic building block of society are all spelled out in *Exodus 20*.

The commandments, "*Thou shalt not steal... Thou shalt not covet*" have inspired millions of believers to work hard, show up on time and to be honest. The free enterprise system has generated the highest standards of living on the face of the earth since the creation of the world. Many Christians can testify to the fact that when they became Christians they began to prosper. Firstly, this is because they stopped wasting their money on alcohol, gambling, cigarettes, drugs, prostitutes, pornography or other vices. (1 Peter 4:2-3)

Secondly, they began to have a purpose for their lives and work. "*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*" (Col 3:17)

Thirdly, Christians have new wisdom, inspiration and strength from God (James 1:5, Phil 4:13).

Fourthly, Christians are freed from many of the anxieties, worries and fears which so frustrate and limit one (Phil 4:6).

The Effects of Sin on Work

When man rebelled against God, the ground that man had to cultivate was cursed, but the task of cultivating it was not a punishment (Gen 3:14-19). Granting sinful man the responsibility to undertake some constructive work was actually a gift of grace. The devil finds evil work for idle hands, so productive employment is actually a protection from falling into even worse sins.

Inaction speaks louder than words. **Idleness is an enemy of the soul. Our idle days are Satan's busy days.** As C.H. Spurgeon said: "*Some temptations come to the industrious, but all temptations come to the idle.*"

Sin, however, made work harder. The burdensomeness of work is a result of the Fall. The sinfulness of man leads to the deception, dishonesties and degeneration which affect the business world. People lie, cheat, steal, overcharge, waste valuable time and money, engage in corruption and produce shoddy workmanship. Often Christians who sincerely want to work with integrity are forced to deal with unethical suppliers. Even Christians of integrity often need to battle their own sinful temptations to laziness, selfish ambition or pride.

Many in our culture have made an idol out of their work. Instead of seeking to glorify God by co-labouring with Him and serving others, many workaholics and overly ambitious individuals try to

climb the corporate ladder at any cost. Instead of finding their worth as a child of the Living God they seek to prove their worth by financial prosperity or career success.

However, success in life is measured by how faithfully we love God, our family and our neighbours - not by work status. God is more interested in the heart motivations, attitudes and integrity of a person than by his outward appearance and position. While careful planning, efficiency and hard work are commendable, nothing justifies unethical work practices or hurting people. “*Success*” at any price is a sure recipe for failure. A man whose children are on drugs, whose marriage is on the rocks and whose employees despise his morals is a failure in God’s eyes - even if he is “*successful*” in business.

“For what advantage is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?” Luke 9:25

To the Glory of God

It would be worthwhile for each of us to prayerfully examine our motives for working. Sinful motivations and attitudes would include: a lust for wealth, status, respect or power, to avoid responsibilities at home, or to just collect our pay cheque without due concern for the quality of our work. Selfish ambition, greed or careless indolence are equally wicked in the sight of God. On the other hand God-honouring motives include: the desire to meet people’s needs, to serve and honour Christ and to glorify our Creator. Our responsibility is to do our work to the very best of our ability, out of love for Christ and to the Glory of God. As the great inventor Thomas Edison said: “*There is no substitute for hard work... I never did anything worth doing by accident nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by work.*”

A dictionary is the only place where you will find success before work. An idle life and a holy heart are a contradiction in terms. Salvation is a helmet - not a nightcap. Our work should be an overflow of our devotion to God.

The foundation for a truly free and prosperous nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal; diligent people who are hard working and productive; compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours and responsible workers who will fulfil their obligations and be faithful stewards of public resources.

For nations to be strong their families need to be strong. For governments to be good their citizens need to be good. Those who cannot control themselves are not capable of ruling over a city (Proverbs 16:32). Those who cannot manage their household well are not qualified to lead others (1 Timothy 3:4-5). For this reason, the message of “*repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached... to all nations.*” Luke 24:47

The Church is to “*make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you*” Matt 28: 19 - 20.

Each one of us need to “*be transformed by the renewing of your mind; that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” Romans 12:2

Chapter 10

POVERTY - ITS CAUSES AND CURE

From the squatter camps, to the rundown ghettos, to the refugee camps, Christians are struggling to respond to suffering with practical love.

The difference of productivity and income per person in the Western world compared to the so called “*developing*” or “*third*” world was 2 to 1 last century. Now it is 70 to 1. This escalating disparity, along with the impact of natural and man-made disasters, has greatly increased the flow of refugees and “*illegal aliens*” into Western nations. It has also greatly aggravated the spread of diseases, environmental degradation, the escalation of crime and the possibilities of conflict.

One of the main responses of the industrial nations has been to supply generous amounts of foreign aid to the poorer nations. However, foreign aid has been accused of denying the poorer nations the chance to develop their economies to viability. Most aid does not encourage self sufficiency and growth. The dumping of food-surplus aid has damaged local agriculture in the long term. It is hard for farmers to sell what is being given away.

While we must most certainly love our neighbour, especially the deserving poor, we need to be wise and discerning in our aid so as to encourage responsibility and rehabilitation.

The Abuse of Relief Aid

Since 1954 the USA has shipped millions of tonnes of food aid to India - to the Indian government (not private businesses or agencies). Rats have consumed more than half of this food at the docks and storage facilities! **Because of Hinduism’s belief in reincarnation, rats and sacred cows may not be killed!** It would take a train 3 000 miles long to haul the grain eaten by Indian rats in a single year! Also, the sacred cows in India eat enough food to feed most of Asia!

And the Hindu temples contain a vast fortune of gold, rubies, sapphires and other precious stones in their statues - which are worshipped as idols.

It is actually Hinduism’s re-incarnation beliefs, its’ sacred cows, protected rats, idols made of gold and jewels, wasted resources and superstition that are causing the poverty and starvation in India.

Ethiopia in the 1980’s was a classic example of a man-made famine. Socialism, confiscations and nationalisations, the abolishment of incentive, the punishment of productivity and subsidising of irresponsibility caused the starvation in what used to be called “*the breadbasket of Africa.*” The “*Red Terror*” mass executions, forced removals of millions of people and destruction of crops by the government further aggravated the famine.

The corruption and abuse of the relief aid in Ethiopia was the ultimate scandal: 100% import tax was charged on all free relief aid! Brand new Mercedes Benz trucks were required with 100% import tax imposed on all these trucks for transporting the food. All these trucks had to be signed over to the marxist government of Ethiopia! (And all this while US\$70 million was spent on the “*Anniversary of the Revolution*” celebrations in 1984 - ½ for alcohol!). In fact, much of the relief aid and food was used for the many Cuban, Soviet and East German military who were involved in causing the famine. Some of the food was actually exported in payment for weapons!

In the 1980’s Mozambique was another example of a man-made famine in a country which used to export food. After the marxist revolution of 1975 a socialist economy was imposed upon the people. Farms were confiscated. Factories were nationalised. Hundreds of thousands of people were incarcerated in concentrated camps. Over 75 000 people were accused of being “*black marketeers*”, “*reactionaries*” and “*counter revolutionaries*” and publically executed. Food was exported to the Soviet bloc in exchange for weapons. A scorched earth policy was later launched to starve out the resistance

to the Frelimo government by burning down crops and villages. Bureaucratic wastage and corruption became a growth industry. Economic poverty and social chaos resulted.

However, in Mozambique it was not only marxism that caused the starvation but also animism. The widespread practise of ancestral worship led many poor families to sacrifice their last goat or chicken to appease the *“ancestral spirits”*!

In Albania and Romania I have come across Gypsies deliberately starving their babies and then laying these malnourished infants out on sidewalks with a hat next to them to beg for money. Any money received was used for cigarettes and alcohol. In India some street people have actually maimed or mutilated their own children to make them more pitiful, and therefore effective, in begging.

In South Africa, having spent many months on the streets of Hillbrow and Durban doing street evangelism, I have seen professional beggars at work. I have seen *“cripples”* letting down their strapped leg and **stretching and walking unaided without their crutches; and I’ve seen the “blind”** lift up their dark glasses to count the money in their hat. Some street children have told me that they can make an average of R200 a day from begging! In all too many cases our casual and spontaneous handing over of some coins to strangers begging on the streets does more harm than good. Giving to beggars on the streets often goes to subsidising drunkenness, smoking, drugs, prostitution and gambling. Some of the beggars are child prostitutes and thieves using begging as a cover while looking for opportunities.

Then there are the *“religious”* con-men who know the terminology and can deceive and manipulate the unsuspecting into handing over large quantities of cash for spurious causes. I have also been one of those deceived by professional *“converts”* who let themselves be counselled to Christ only to *“borrow”* money from the well meaning evangelist.

Multiple millions of rands are squandered by guilt-manipulated Christians giving to beggars at traffic lights, at their front door and on the streets. At the same time good ministries like the Salvation Army, the Docks Mission, the Ark, Cape Town City Mission, Love in Action and others are struggling for lack of support.

There is a desperate need for good stewardship of our limited resources. It would be more responsible to channel our compassion to supporting Christian ministries which have proven their effectiveness in reaching out in love to help the poor. Biblical charity does not subsidise sin nor should it encourage irresponsibility.

So before we get down to practical strategies to care for the poor, and to eradicate poverty, let us define poverty and consider what causes poverty.

What Causes Poverty?

A definition of poverty could be: *“an insufficiency of the material necessities of life.”*

The poor could be described as: *“Persons who do not have, and are unable to obtain, the means for sustaining life. If they are to survive they are thus dependent upon the resources of other people.”*

The Biblical definition of the poor could be: *“Those who cannot sustain themselves because they are too old, too young or too handicapped to work.”*

There are four broad categories under which all causes of poverty could be grouped: Personal sacrifice, slothfulness, calamity (earthquakes, floods, wars, etc.), or exploitation.

Self-imposed Poverty

The lazy and indolent (slothful) inevitably suffer the consequences of their sin:

“He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer”
Proverbs 18:9.

“How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep - so shall your poverty come on you like a robber...” Proverbs 6:9-11.

“Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands, the house leaks...” Ecclesiastes 10:18.

It is a disgrace to be lazy (Prov 10:5). Lazy people always find excuses not to work. (Prov 15:19; 26:13-16). Those who love sleep will grow poor (Prov 19:15; 20:13). ***“If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat”*** 2 Thess 3:10.

Moral poverty often dooms its people to ongoing material poverty. Selfishness, greed, laziness, immorality, short-sightedness, gambling, alcohol abuse, addiction to pornography, indulging in prostitution, drug abuse and other sins are symptoms of rebellion against the Law of God. Such evils inevitably lead to poverty.

Victims of self imposed poverty need the Gospel and discipleship to free them from their lifestyle of sin.

Imposed Poverty

The main causes of imposed poverty are: oppression and religious error. Oppression consists in **governments or individuals violating others ‘God given rights’ to life, property and liberty**. This takes the forms of fraud, theft and violence. (Inflation/unbacked currencies/counterfeiting; socialism; excessive taxation; corruption; wastage; inefficiency; etc.).

UnBiblical worldviews underlie the poverty of the third world. The fatalism and re-incarnation beliefs of Hinduism and Buddhism, where the material world is not perceived as real and difficulties are understood as a result of the deeds of a previous life (***“my Karma is bad”***) are paralysing to progress. The Animist worldview which sees man at the mercy of outside forces - the spirits - lead people to be shackled by superstition and fear. The fatalism of Islam is also not conducive to productive planning and innovation.

The poor-by-exploitation need both direct charity to meet immediate needs and justice in the form of restitution from those who exploited them, and freedom from false religions.

The poor-by-calamity (victims of floods, earthquakes, wars, etc.) are the most appropriate recipients of charity - though the aim is always to help them become self-supporting again.

Poverty in History

The key question when faced by the disparity between rich and poor individuals and societies is not ***“How did this man/society become poor?”*** Poverty is the natural condition of man. The question is: ***“How did anyone become rich?”***

Poverty is a consequence of the Fall (Gen 3:17-19). Famines were commonplace before the Industrial Revolution. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, England suffered famines an average of 7 times per century. A third of the population died in the province of Bengal in the great Indian famine of 1769-1770. Similar losses were experienced in India in 1783 and 1790-1792. India suffered a further 8

famines from 1838 to 1901 with well over 9 million dying of starvation. In a single famine in North China from 1877 to 1878 over 9,5 million died.

Only the Christian work ethic and the resultant industrial revolution brought the West out of the recurring horror of famine. A wooden plough drawn by oxen can provide food for one large family. By the 18th Century, the new iron plough drawn by a horse could provide food for 3 families. By the 1940's a tractor pulling a plough could feed 14 families. Now advanced tractors, tools and techniques can enable one farmer to produce enough food for 60 families.

It is an observable fact that the most efficient economies in the world are based upon private ownership of property, honest money, free enterprise and a Christian work ethic.

Is Colonialism Responsible?

Much of the Third World is definitely in a shocking mess. One-party dictatorships, economic chaos, malnutrition, famines, civil wars, massacres and abject poverty are the norm in most of Africa. But who is responsible?

The notion that colonialism is the major cause of world poverty was popularised by Vladimir Lenin, and his disciples have faithfully repeated it ever since. However, contrary to the historical mumblings of the coloniphobics, some of the most poverty-stricken and backward lands imaginable - Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nepal, Tibet and Liberia - never fell under Western colonial control. Some colonies - like Hong Kong - became very prosperous. And some of the richest and most advanced Western lands, such as Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, never controlled any colonies. Other advanced countries such as the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada were themselves colonies. Actually, contact with the West brought far more benefits than disadvantages. Tea and rubber trees, for example, were foreign to Asia, as was mealie meal in Africa. Such blessings were the results of colonialism.

Some of the main **"Scars of Colonialism"** include roads, railways, schools, hospitals, the wheel, written languages, the Bible and churches.

The ancestor-worshipping and idolatrous religions have rendered whole civilisations powerless in the face of *"nature"*. *"Unquestioning acceptance of nature and its vagaries is widespread in Africa"*, declares Bishop Bududira of Burundi, who maintains that local cultures obstruct material progress by wrong mental attitudes, seeing themselves as suffering history rather than in making it. He concludes that: *"The message of Christ frees people from the shackles of tribal thinking, and leads to a greater sense of personal responsibility."* - *Reality and Rhetoric*, Lord Bauer

The tribalistic philosophies inhibit productivity, penalise accomplishment and confiscate what little is produced. Animism teaches its adherents to regard themselves as helpless in the face of their surroundings - assuming *"that the opportunities and the resources for the economic advance of oneself or one's family have to be provided by someone else - by the state, by one's superiors, by richer people, or from abroad. This attitude is in turn an aspect of the belief of the efficacy of external forces over one's destiny... It is an attitude plainly unfavourable to material progress."* - *Dissent on Development*, P. T. Bauer

"The idea that it is evil to make personal economic progress takes hold of the people and fear of being envied prohibits growth and encourages poverty." - *Productive Christians in an Age of Guilt Manipulators*, David Chilton

“One of the decisive factors in understanding development or non-development is the ‘envy barrier’ or institutionalised envy among the population.” - Envy: A Theory of Social Behaviour, Helmut Schoeck

Into this unhealthy situation comes Foreign Aid, which only increases dependence, corruption and greed, rather than developing responsibility.

The problems in the Third World are not primarily political or economic. The problem is false religion and the resultant pagan philosophies/worldview. The solution is therefore also primarily religious - the world needs to be converted to and disciplined in the Christian Faith. Church and mission based relief would not only be more efficient but would inspire greater personal responsibility and economic productivity.

Is Socialism Biblical?

Despite exhaustive and imaginative efforts by so-called “*Christian Socialists*” to promote socialism as “*true Christian love and sharing*” - the Ten Commandments still stand: “*Thou shalt not steal*” and “*Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s goods.*”

Socialism is legalised theft. It is institutionalised envy. It is the use of envy and guilt to manipulate productive Christians into committing economic suicide. The socialist doctrine of economic equality requires the stealing of property and the prohibition of economic freedoms. - *Productive Christians in an Age of Guilt Manipulators* - David Chilton

“Socialism is not the pioneer of a better and finer world, but the spoiler of what thousands of years of civilisation have created. It does not build; it destroys. For destruction is the essence of it. It produces nothing, it only consumes what the social order based on private ownership of the means of production has created...” - Socialism: An Economic and Sociological Analysis - Ludwig von Mises

To almost every problem in the world, Socialism advocates state intervention. In this way socialists insist on unBiblical powers for the government to interfere with, or control, prices, markets, wages, jobs, profits, population control, education, movement, etc. The inevitable end of increasing government intervention is the erosion of personal freedom.

Socialism destroys incentive, initiative and productivity. Socialists are parasites who consume what others have earned by hard work and ingenuity. Socialists try to cut up “*the pie*” to the advantage of their supporters, free enterprise just makes more pies for everyone.

Price controls create an imbalanced, chaotic market, minimum wage laws result in unemployment, profit restrictions increase consumer costs, enforced economic equality leads to stagnation, destruction of initiative and more poverty.

Concern for the poor has long been used as a justification for all sorts of crime - Judas Iscariot, who was a thief, is a prime example (John 12:4-6).

Envy is the greatest disease of our age. Envy is the feeling that because someone else has something he is to blame for my not having it! The main motive behind envy is not so much to take as to destroy. Envy and malice are inseparable. “*Peace of mind makes the body healthy, but jealousy is like a cancer.*” Proverbs 14:30

“Rather than wealth causing poverty, it is far more true to say that what causes poverty is the widespread belief that wealth does!” - Wealth and Poverty - George Gilder

If we have needs, the Bible commands us to: Pray (Phil 4:6-7), to Work (1 Thess 4:11), to Trust God (Phil 4:19) and to Be Content (Phil 4:12).

The only thing Socialism has ever been able to provide its adherents with is the “*guaranteed income*” of Romans 6:23: “*The wages of sin is death.*”

Biblical Principles for Economics

1. HONEST MONEY. Throughout the Bible money is spoken of by weight. God’s Law requires that financial transactions be made in terms of honest measures. God hates and forbids unjust weights and measures, inflation, fractional reserve banking, unbacked currencies, and multiple indebtedness (Lev 19:35-36; Prov 11:1;20:10; 20:23; Amos 8:5-7; Micah 6:11-12). In 1982 you could post a letter in South Africa for 4 cents. In 1970 you could buy a new car for R1 000. The devastating impact of unbacked currency/inflation on pensions and savings is criminal. Biblical Law requires honest money backed up by real constant value.

2. FREE ENTERPRISE. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s goods. God blesses productivity, incentive, initiative and hard work (Ex 20:15-17; 30:14-15; Lev 19:15; 1 Sam 8:10-18; 1 Kings 21:3; Ezra 7:23-24; Prov 10:2-4; 12:24; 13:4,11). Private ownership of property and of the means of production is Biblical. It is also foundational for freedom and prosperity.

3. LIMITED (CONSTITUTIONAL) GOVERNMENT. Any taxation of 10% or higher is defined in the Bible as oppression. And any taxation of property or inheritance is strictly forbidden. Institutions and individuals involved in the fulltime service of the Lord may not be taxed. All their income comes from free will offerings made unto the Lord by people who have already paid tax on their incomes (Ezra 7:23-24). Less government means more freedom and more personal responsibility (1 Pet 2:13-14; Rom 13:3-4; Eccl 8:11; Ps 19:7-9; Prov 14:34; Ps 9:17).

4. GOD HONOURING CHARITY. The Biblical principle is that we are responsible to care for our family first and then through the church, community and missionary organisations express love for our neighbour in action. Person to person, church to church, mission to community direct aid based upon evangelism and discipleship. All this is aimed to encourage responsibility and productivity. It is short term aid aimed at long term (eternal) benefits. The goal is to help the victims of poverty back onto their own two feet - where they can, in turn, help others (Isaiah 58: 7; James 1:27).

Matthew 25:35-36 and Ezekiel 34:2-4 teach us to: Strengthen the weak, bind up the injured, care for the sick, share your food with the hungry, clothe the naked, invite in the stranger and look after widows and orphans.

The Christian Foundations for prosperity are laid with these basic principles: Christians must respect **one another’s** property, never steal or cheat, always abide by contracts, be industrious in earning money, be disciplined in saving money, be wise in investing money, be obedient to God in tithing to Christian ministries, be discerning in sharing with those in need. Work all you can, earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.

Biblical charity is to be primarily directed to widows, orphans and the handicapped - the deserving poor (1 Tim 5:3-16). Biblical methods of charity include: gleaning, lending, labour and tithes through the local church. Are you supporting a Biblical ministry to the poor?

We are our brother’s keeper (Genesis 4:9). Don’t just give food or money - also give of your time to share the love and Gospel of Christ personally.

Love is something you do, not just something you feel. Regardless of what the government does, regardless of what the church does, families and individuals have a responsibility to obey God. Since charity is primarily a function of the Christian family, working in concert with other Christian

families, it is essential that each of those Christian families begin to implement the love of God practically.

Charity begins at home: educating children, caring for the helpless, and strengthening the weak. It begins as we encourage others, co-ordinate resources, network with existing programs, and spearhead new efforts - *Bringing in the Sheaves*, George Grant.

- Every South African cent has the *sparrows* to remind us that God cares for the very least (Matthew 10:29).

- And every Rand coin has inscribed: *Soli Deo Gloria* - every Rand we spend should be to the glory of God alone!

- God cares about every cent. Every rand we spend must be to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Pray (Phil 4:6-7), Work (1 Thess 4:11), Trust God (Phil 4:19), Be content (Phil 4: 12), Be generous (2 Cor 9:6-12).

“God loves a cheerful giver, and God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Cor 9:7-8

Chapter 11

THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENCE

South Africa is suffering from a terrible crime wave. Approximately 25 000 people are murdered and 50 000 are raped every year in our country. Each year police record over 330 000 cases of housebreaking, over 110 000 robberies and over 100 000 vehicles stolen.

The horrific reality is that each single number represents untold hardships, heartache, suffering and grief for individuals and families.

United Christian Action has campaigned for years - through articles, letters, meetings, seminars, radio programmes and deputations to government officials - for a comprehensive response to the lawlessness and violence in our country. The legalisation of vices such as pornography, prostitution and gambling have certainly aggravated the crime wave. The abolition of the death penalty for murder has removed the main deterrent for violent crime. The proliferation of ever more violent films and videos - even on national TV - is encouraging a culture of violence. The expanding drug culture has further fueled the flames of crime. The amnesties and early releases of over 100 000 criminals (including murderers and rapists) unleashed a tidal wave of crime and violence upon the long suffering citizens of South Africa.

The desecration of the Lord's Day, the abolition of prayer in Parliament and the deliberate removal of “In humble submission to Almighty God...” from the Preamble to the Constitution have not helped either! The promotion of evolutionism, situation ethics, homosexuality, abortion, euthanasia, the New Age movement, inter-faith and occultism have further eroded the Christian foundation of our society, aggravating the crime wave.

Obviously, other economic, social and legislative factors have also contributed to the explosion of lawlessness: the **“no education before liberation”** campaign of school boycotts, arson and vandalism;

the non-payment of rates and taxes; the strategy of forcing disinvestment and economic sanctions; the hit squads, necklacings, riots and bombings. All of these and other acts of terrorism, sabotage or repression - by both opposition and government - have played a role in producing the high levels of unemployment, inflation, economic problems, social instability and the violent situation now prevailing.

“Gun Free” is No Guarantee

Yet in this complex and very dangerous situation, a well-funded, and well- publicised, organisation called *Gun Free South Africa* continues to campaign for the handing in of all privately owned firearms. In times of violence, crime and instability it makes sense to obtain firearms and training in the safe use of a firearm, for personal and family defence. But spokesmen for Gun Free South Africa (GFSA) claim that those who do so are “*paranoid,*” “*social deviants*” and a “*menace*”! There are officially over 2 million legal, registered firearm owners in South Africa who apparently qualify for those insults. GFSA claims that “*annual renewals*” of licences, a raised minimum age for owning firearms, more stringent criteria for licensing, voluntary handing in of registered weapons and ultimately complete confiscation of all registered weapons - will bring down the crime rate.

However, no less an authority than the Minister of Safety and Security has reported, in Parliament, that incidents of crimes committed by registered firearm owners are “*statistically insignificant*”. The vast majority of murders (where firearms are used), over 98%, are committed with illegal, unregistered firearms. And the vast majority of those illegal weapons were smuggled into South Africa from neighbouring countries like Mozambique. The South African Police Service estimates that there are over 4 million illegal firearms in the country. Every year, despite the most vigorous efforts, the SAPS only succeeds in recovering/confiscating about 20 000 illegal or _stolen weapons, hardly a dent in the vast pool of 4 million illegal weapons.

The GFSA campaign ignores these facts. Nor can they explain how disarming the law-abiding citizens (which by definition the registered gun owners are) will solve the problem of four million illegal firearms in the hands of criminals!

Limiting the ability of law abiding citizens to defend themselves and their families does not lead to a decrease in crime. Instead “*gun control*” deprives potential victims of their best means of protection. Disarming the law-abiding only serves the purposes of the criminal by making his “*working environment*” safer - for crime. Instead of firearm control we need crime control - by instituting mandatory capital punishment for all first degree murder and rape, restitution for theft, and full recognition of the right of citizens to obtain, own, carry and use firearms for personal and family defence.

The GFSA advocates regularly claim that “*a person who uses a gun in self-defence is more likely to be shot than someone who does not*” (Loaded Issues, GFSA leaflet). This same leaflet asserted that criminals are more likely to attack armed victims! These incredible assertions are decisively refuted by the facts: a U.S. Department of Justice report, “*A Survey of Incarcerated Felons*” (1985), found that the greatest deterrent to crime is armed citizens. 60% of convicts agreed that they would never attempt to rob a victim if they thought he or she might be armed. 74% declared that their greatest fear was being shot by a victim. 57% stated that they feared armed citizens more than the police. Every year, armed citizens legally shoot 4 times more criminals than do policemen.

A South African study in 1994 by John Mann of SAGA researched 206 cases of *Armed Private Defence* (not including police or military personnel) reported in the Gauteng area. In summary, he calculated:

- 677 attackers to 246 defenders/victims (ratio of 2.75 to 1).
- 81% of attackers had weapons, 71% had firearms.
- 36% of attackers were killed or arrested by the defenders.
- 64% of attackers fled.
- Only 8 armed defenders/victims died (confrontational survival rate of 31 to 1).
- No bystanders/innocent parties were injured by actions taken by defenders.

In his conclusion, Mann noted:

- Potential victims can expect multiple attackers.
- When an intended victim has used a firearm in defence, 4 out of 10 attackers were killed or arrested, 6 out of 10 attackers have run away.
- When an armed victim resists, the chances of surviving the attack are increased by 31 times.

In the light of these facts, it is inexplicable how GFSA leaders can claim

“The cases of people attacked, and robbed of their guns - and often shot with their own guns - far outnumber the occasions when somebody successfully defends themselves with a gun”!!!

An American study, *“Crime Control”* by Gary Kleck (published in *Social Problems* 1988) reported that a million times a year, US citizens use firearms to defend themselves against criminals and prevent a crime (2 740 times a day). In 98% of these cases the mere brandishing of the firearm proved sufficient to deter the attacker. Only in 2% of the cases did the citizen find it necessary to kill or wound the criminal. Gary Kleck began as a gun control advocate, yet after his study became convinced that it was counter-productive. He now opposes government interference in the rights of citizens to obtain and use firearms for self-defence.

A U.S. Justice Department study (of more than 32 000 rapes or attempted rapes) found that the best protection against rape is for a woman to be armed. When a potential victim of rape was armed with a firearm or knife, only 3% of the attempted rapes succeeded (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *Rape Victimization*, 1979).

On 25 July 1993, five APLA terrorists attacked the congregation at *St James Church* of England in Cape Town, South Africa. In about 8 seconds, the terrorists had killed 11 people and wounded or crippled 55 as they fired directly into the packed congregation and hurtled hand-grenades into the middle of the church. Only the prompt action of Charl van Wyk ended the bloodshed. Drawing his .38 revolver, this church member fired back at the terrorists, wounding one. The heavily armed terrorists **immediately fled**. **The police publicly praised Chart’s prompt action, declaring that many more would have died had he not returned fire so quickly and accurately.**

Do Firearms Cause Violence?

GFSA advocates often point to the shocking tragedy where Thomas Hamilton shot dead 16 school children and their teacher in Dunblane, Scotland, before killing himself. However, it is not mentioned that Hamilton was a known pornography addict and paedophile (child abuser). Similarly, the vast

majority of other mass-murderers have been found to be addicted to pornography and violent videos. Often drug abuse and occultism are a major factor as well. Yet instead of calling for legislation mandating the death penalty for murder and banning pornography and excessive violence in videos, the cry is all too often to ban firearms. It is illogical to blame an inanimate metal object, a tool, for the evil that people do.

The underlying argument for gun control seems to be that the availability of weapons causes crime. This has not been the Biblical position. Genesis 4 records the first murder when Cain killed Abel. **God's response was not to ban rocks, knives, clubs, or whatever the murder weapon may have been, but to banish the murderer. It is the murderers' heart that is the problem, not the weapon used.** In Genesis 9:5-6, God instituted capital punishment for murder: "*Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.*" This death penalty for murder was repeatedly restated (Exodus 21:12-15; Leviticus 24:17-22; Numbers 35:33, Matthew 5: 17-18; Acts 25: 11; Romans 13:1-4; Revelation 13:10). But nowhere does the Bible advocate weapon control. The Bible does record the control of weapons by the Amalekites and Philistines (Judges 5:8 and 1 Samuel 13:19-22), but condemns these restrictions on individual defence as a pagan attempt to centralise excessive power.

If firearms cause crime then Switzerland would be a violent, lawless country, because every citizen has weapons of war stored in his home. Yet despite having over 2 million military type rifles and a great many other firearms and weapons of war in private homes, overall firearm abuse is so low as to be significant and Switzerland has the lowest burglary and murder rates in the industrialised world.

Also in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, when ten million soldiers returned to America with millions of surplus firearms sold on the open market and hundreds of thousands of captured souvenir weapons, there was actually a sharp decline of violent crime in the USA. This trend was comparable in Britain and South Africa. However, later, with the advent of the "*permissive society*" and as church attendance decreased, along with the explosion of the drug culture and the sexual revolution - violent crime increased. Clearly **guns don't cause crime, people in rebellion against the Laws of God cause crime.**

GFSA has also yet to adequately explain why previous gun control campaigns have such a poor track record. Washington DC **has the most restrictive gun control laws in the USA, yet it is the nation's murder capital** with 77.8 murders per 100 000 inhabitants each year. Arlington, Virginia - where guns are freely available just across the river from DC - has 7 murders per 100 000.

States where firearms are easily available have the lowest incidence of burglary, assault, rape or murder. For example: Virginia Beach; Boise, Idaho and Colorado Springs, which have well armed populations and minimal restrictions on firearm ownership, have the lowest murder rates in the country.

GFSA advocates have imaginatively promoted the "*dream... of a country where there are no guns*". The suggestion is that violence would cease if only we could have gun control. Of course history records that violence was prevalent prior to the invention of firearms in the 15th Century! In fact, contrary to the impression created by GFSA, murders involving firearms do not constitute the majority of murders in South Africa. Knives and other sharp objects and clubs are used to murder more South Africans than firearms are. Does GFSA suggest we ban all knives, sticks and rocks?

- More people are killed in vehicle accidents than by firearms in South Africa each year. Should we ban motor vehicles?

- Alcohol abuse accounts for most vehicle accidents. Should we ban alcohol?
- More children drown in pools than are shot each year. Should we ban swimming pools?

It is true that each year, tragically, individuals are wounded or killed in firearm accidents and in impulsive *“crimes of passion.”* Should we ban all firearms in reaction? No, it would be better for all concerned if we encouraged more responsible firearm ownership and severely punish abuses. Why do **we tolerate traffic deaths? Why don't we just outlaw all motor vehicles?** Because motorised transport provides tremendous freedom and convenience. The solution to the horrific carnage on the roads is not to ban motor vehicles, but to improve safety features in vehicles, educate drivers, promote the use of seat belts, and severely punish drunken or reckless driving. As with motor vehicles; it **would not be right to take away everyone's freedom because of the criminal** activities or carelessness of some.

More Guns - Less Crime

John Lott of the University of Chicago Law School recently completed an exhaustive study on the relationship of firearm ownership to crime. His thorough analysis of the data for all 3 054 counties in the United States during the 18 years from 1977 to 1994 has been published under the title: *“More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun Control Laws.”*

Lott's scholarly study exposes the falsehood and folly of many Gun Free SA guesstimates, claims and assertions. For example the GFSA claim that most people are killed by a friend, family member or someone they know. The often quoted statistic is that 58% of murder victims are killed by an acquaintance. What most people don't realise is that this *“acquaintance murder”* category includes gang members killing other gang members, drug buyers killing drug pushers, taxi drivers being killed by customers they picked up for the first time, prostitutes and their clients and so on.

The vast majority of murders are not committed by previously law-abiding citizens. Ninety percent of adult murderers have had previous criminal records as adults. It is this fact that led the New York police commissioner to institute the successful *“Zero Tolerance”* campaign that has dramatically decreased the incidence of crime in New York City. They observed that serious violent crime was committed by people who had committed a wide variety of minor crimes first. To counteract this early contempt for the law, New York police now deal severely with all breaches of the law - to instill an early respect for the law and for the rights of others.

Lott documents in his comprehensive study that states with the largest increases in gun ownership also have the largest drops in violent crimes. Those 31 states which now allow adults the right to carry concealed handguns (if they do not have a criminal record or a history of serious mental illness) have seen a consistent annual decrease in murders, rapes and robberies. As more people obtain concealed carry permits there is a greater decline in violent crime rates. This he attributes to the fact that criminals are deterred by higher penalties. The most significant deterrent for a criminal is the possibility of being shot by a victim. Concealed handgun laws have brought about a reduction of violent crime because victims who have guns are in a much better position to defend themselves and because criminals are uncertain which potential victims can defend themselves.

Lott also documents that each additional woman carrying a concealed handgun reduces the murder rate for women by about 3 to 4 times more than an additional man carrying a concealed handgun reduces the murder rate for men.

Similarly, children's lives are protected when law abiding adults are allowed to carry concealed handguns. The horrific shooting at a school in Jonesboro, Arkansas occurred in one of the *“gun free”*

zones. The laws against firearms being carried anywhere on school property have created a situation where teachers are helpless to defend children from such an attack.

When states have passed “*shall issue*” concealed handgun carry laws incidents of multiple victim public shootings have declined by 84 percent. Deaths from these shootings have plummeted by 90 percent and injuries by 82 percent.

Tragically, each year an average of 200 children die from firearm related accidents in the USA. However, many more children die each year in bicycle accidents, drownings and fires. Even though there are over 200 million firearms privately owned by about 80 million people, children are 14,5 times more likely to die from a car accident than from a firearm accident.

Some people do use firearms in horrible ways, but far more people use firearms to prevent horrible things from happening to them. These facts are incontrovertible: allowing law-abiding citizens to own and carry firearms saves lives. There are many anecdotal stories illustrating both good and bad uses of firearms. But we need to look objectively at the whole picture - in the light of all the facts and statistics.

Many countries, such as Switzerland, New Zealand, Finland and Israel have high firearm ownership rates and low crime rates. Other countries have low firearm ownership rates and either low or high crime rates, but the facts confirm that blaming firearms for crime is overly simplistic and just not justified by the facts.

Case Studies in Gun Control

Australia

GFSA have pointed to Australia as a country whose gun control laws we should emulate. Yet since the latest extremely restrictive anti-gun laws were enforced, robbery with a firearm has increased more than 13 percent in New South Wales and the numbers of people murdered has increased almost 300% in Victoria.

Of the estimated 7 million firearms in Australia, only 640 000 have been handed in or confiscated. The gun-free laws in Australia have, at exorbitant cost (over 500 million), utterly failed to remove the now prohibited firearms from the community, nor have the initially optimistic official predictions that the crime rate would drop by 20% materialised. In fact, violent crime has sharply increased since the **introduction of tighter gun control laws in Australia. The Attorney General’s Department has in fact publicly stated that the new federal gun laws and confiscations will have no bearing on criminal activity! “This will never prevent criminals from possessing firearms and we never said it would.”**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics published data shows that the number of firearms in the country, whether registered or not, has practically had no bearing upon the crime and murder rates. Australians have about 7 million firearms in private hands. Yet in 1995, for example, 7 464 people died from “*external causes.*” Of these, 2 029 were from motor vehicle accidents, 995 from accidental falls, 259 from drowning, 298 from poisons/drugs, 2 367 from suicide and 333 from homicide (murder). Of the homicides, only 67 were committed with a firearm. Of the suicides, 388 were committed with a firearm. Of the accidental deaths, 15 were from firearms.

As far as suicides go, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists have concluded that: “*because of the low rate of firearm deaths compared with firearm ownership, screening of all people applying for a firearms licence would waste resources.*” In fact, Japan with heavy restrictions on firearms has far higher suicide rates.

Ireland

In Northern Ireland firearm ownership is severely restricted under some of the most serious gun control laws in the world. However, despite martial law, house searches, roadblocks and other high profile intrusions by the British military, gun control measures in Northern Ireland have failed to prevent the paramilitary and terrorist groups from obtaining all the weapons they need. The seemingly never ending atrocities and murders committed in Northern Ireland, including the horrific practice of "*kneecapping*," demonstrate the futility of gun control legislation. In the neighbouring Republic of Ireland, handguns are totally prohibited and long rifles almost so. Yet the IRA has still managed to obtain and transport all the weapons it needs in and through the Republic.

United Kingdom

The first minor controls on firearms were imposed in 1920, although smooth bore guns and shotguns were exempted from all control. Shotguns could be purchased without restrictions from hardware stores or sports shops. Restrictions against all firearms owners in Britain were enacted in 1968 following the public outcry over the shocking murder of three policemen by three hardened career criminals. Despite the British Home Secretary having repeatedly stated in Parliament that gun control laws were unnecessary and counter productive, he introduced gun control legislation to divert public demands for the reintroduction of the death penalty - which had recently been abolished.

The effect of the 1968 gun control laws in the UK was that registered rifle and handgun owners were reduced by 32½% over the 26 years from 1968 (when 256 061 were registered) to 1994 (when 172 644 were licenced). (Shotgun owners actually increased, however from 701 562 in 1969 to 971 102 in 1988. However, after 1988 the number of shotgun owners in the UK decreased to 740 441.)

Along with the increasingly restrictive gun control laws in Britain, and the decreasing number of registered firearms in law abiding citizens' hands, has come an explosion of violent crime. Since 1968 armed robberies have increased by 1 275% (almost 13 times) from 464 in 1969 to 5 918 in 1994. Scotland Yard estimates that the number of illegal firearms in Britain numbers in the many millions. Clearly most British gun owners are not willing to part with their firearms. Yet sharp instruments kill 3 to 4 times more victims than firearms do each year. Iron bars have also proven to be more lethal than shotguns when used in robberies.

Germany

In Germany, gun control was first introduced by the Nazis in 1935. Celebrating this innovative legislation, as the first in the Western World, Adolf Hitler declared that gun control would make the streets of Germany safer, it would enable the police to better do their work and other nations in the world would soon follow the National Socialist example by also limiting gun ownership to government officials! Today there are approximately 17 to 20 million firearms in private hands in Germany. Of these only about 3 million are registered. Over 80% of the firearms in Germany are illegally held and a series of police raids have failed to find them.

Foundations for Freedom

English legal tradition and Roman Dutch law upon which our legal system in South Africa is based, have always recognised the right of free citizens to possess and carry weapons for self defence. King Alfred the Great (871 - 899) laid the foundation for English law. *The Ten Commandments of Exodus 20* formed the Preamble for these laws. While abuses, such as disturbing a public meeting by drawing a weapon, were prohibited - the basic right to bear arms was entrenched. The Laws of Cnut (1020 - 1023) declared self-defence to not only be a right, but a duty. Those who failed to assist a person under attack were to be fined. Similarly anyone who "*illegally disarms a man*" was to be fined.

The *Magna Carta* of 1215 - considered to be foundational to the later American Bill of Rights - guaranteed the right of all free men to bear arms. The *English Declaration of Rights* of 1689 recognised “*the right of having and using arms for self-preservation and defence.*” Other free states entrenched this right to obtain, own, carry and use weapons for self-defence, including most notably the United States of America in its *Bill of Rights*. So important and basic was this considered by the American founding fathers that they placed it in the *Second Amendment* - straight after Religious Freedom! The first President of the United States, George Washington, declared:

“Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself They are the American people ‘s liberty teeth and keystone under independence. To secure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable. The very atmosphere of firearms everywhere restrains evil interference - they deserve a place of honour with all that is good.”

Gun Control Precedes Genocide

If these foundational principles for freedom seem extreme or outdated, then consider recent history:

On 6 April 1994, one of the most dreadful campaigns of mass murder was unleashed upon the Tutsi people of Rwanda. In just 100 days more people had been killed with machetes and clubs than had died from atomic weapons in all of history. The MRND Hutu government of Rwanda instigated, organised and launched this systematic slaughter of the Christian Tutsi minority after enforcing a vigorous gun control. As the population had been previously disarmed they were helpless to defend themselves against the state which had a monopoly of weapons. Over 500 000 Tutsi Christians were murdered in less than 6 weeks.

The confiscation of weapons made the massacres possible by disarming the targeted victims. The holocaust in Rwanda again confirmed that limiting the ability of law abiding citizens to defend themselves and their families is an open invitation to criminals to attack the innocent.

The genocides perpetrated upon the Christian Armenians in Ottoman Turkey from 1915-1917; upon the Christian peasants in the Soviet Union from 1929-1953; against Jews and Christians in Nazi occupied Europe from 1939-1945; against Christians and anti-Communists in Red China from 1949-1976; against Christians in Uganda from 1971-1979; against anti-Communists and educated people in Cambodia from 1975-1979; and Christian Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994 - were all preceded by gun control legislation which disarmed the targeted victims. (For further documentation on the genocide in Rwanda obtain the book “**Holocaust in Rwanda**” from UCA).

GUN CONTROL PRECEDES GENOCIDE

Case studies of major 20th century genocide

PERPETRATOR GOVERNMENT	DATE	TARGETS	MURDERED (Estimated)	DATE OF GUN CONTROL LAW	SOURCE DOCUMENTS
Ottoman Turkey	1915-1917	Christian Armenians	1.5 million	1866 1911	Art 166, Penal Code Art 166, Penal Code
Soviet Union	1929-1953	Christians, Peasants	36 million	1929	Art 182, Penal Code
Nazi Germany and Occupied Europe	1933-1945	Jews, Gypsies, Christians, Anti-Nazis	13 million	1928 1938	Law on Firearms & Ammunition, April 12 Weapons Law, Mar 18
China	1949-1952 1966-1976	Christians, Anti-Communists Pro-Reformers	60 million	1935 1957	Arts. 186-7, Penal Code Art. 9, Security Law, Oct 22
Uganda	1971-1979	Christians, Political rivals	600 000	1955 1970	Firearms Ordinance Firearms Act
Cambodia	1975-1979	Educated persons	3 million	1956	Arts. 322-8, Penal Code
Rwanda	1990-1994	Christian Tutsis	500 000	1964	Law of 21 November 1964 on the Control of Firearms
		Total Victims:	114.6 million		

A “*gun-free*” sticker would not have helped these people, because the greatest threat to life is not from firearm accidents, nor even from criminals! The greatest killer in the 20th century has been secular governments, who have disarmed their own citizens. Approximately 160 million people have been killed, so far, by their own governments in over 40 Communist states, just in the 20th Century alone! This doesn’t even take into account the death toll from the National Socialist (Nazi) holocaust, or the repression and persecution in Muslim lands such as Sudan. In these countries gun control also preceded the genocide.

Gun control deprives potential victims of their best means of protection. A free people need to be armed. Disarmed people can easily be exploited and oppressed. If a government doesn’t trust its citizens with weapons then the citizens cannot trust the government with power. A government that

fears its people is itself to be feared. No government should ever have a monopoly of force or weaponry.

Biblical Principles for Self Defence

In Exodus 22:2 the Law of God established the basic right of self-defence. Any person is justified in defending himself whenever he is attacked or his life endangered. Any weapon is permissible for use in self-defence. The Law of God does not say that the home owner is guilty if he uses a sword, but innocent if he uses a club. The issue is not one of weapons, but the right of self-defence.

To limit a person's access to lethal weapons is to limit his ability for self and family defence. Weapons control interferes with our basic right and responsibility for self defence. Ultimately gun control can deprive you of your right to life. The right of citizens to use lethal force to defend themselves is a great deterrent to thieves and attackers. Those who choose not to have firearms still benefit from those who do. If only one in twenty people are armed, it still acts as a restraint on potential attackers who are not certain who is armed, and who is not. The deterrence value of armed citizens against crime cannot be over estimated.

The Westminster Catechism, considered one of the greatest expressions of Biblical teaching, states in its commentary on the Sixth Commandment (*"You shall not murder,"* Exodus 20: 13) *"The Sixth Commandment requires all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life and the life of others."* Because murder is evil, so too are any actions that allow murders to be committed. This would include **refusing, or failing, to defend oneself or one's family or neighbours. And any governmental restrictions on the right to self defence would similarly be a breach of the Sixth Commandment.**

"Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, Who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." Nehemiah 4:14

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8

From these and other Scriptures we can see that the man is responsible for being armed and prepared to protect his household (see also: Luke 22:36; Numbers 32:20; Judges 5:8; 1 Sam. 13:19-22). God is not a pacifist (Ezekiel 14:21; Dan. 5:23; Deut. 32:39-43); neither is Jesus a pacifist (Matt. 21:12-13; Rev. 14:19-20; 19:11-16); nor is the Bible a pacifist document (Numbers 1:2-3; Judges 3:2; Deut. 20:1-4; Psalm 144:1-2). (For further reading on this subject obtain: *"The Christian at War"* and *"Security and Survival in Unstable Times"* from UCA.)

"Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked." Proverbs 25:26

The Tragic Consequences of Gun Control

When these Scriptural principles are ignored the results can be tragic:

The Christians at the *Elim Mission Station* in Rhodesia were such convinced pacifists that, even within a few kilometres of Marxist Mozambique during a vicious war, they refused to be armed. They had neither a fence nor dogs to protect them. They refused to allow the security forces to station some guards for their protection. When terrorists visited Elim the missionaries provided them with food and medical supplies. On one fateful night, in 1979, ZANLA guerillas herded the 9 missionaries and 4

children onto one of the fields. In front of the parents they hacked the children to death. Then, in front of the husbands, they raped and tortured the women to death. Finally, they brutally murdered the men. Yet so effectively had their pacifist doctrine neutralised them that there was no attempt at resistance. The men stood by and watched ruthless terrorists butcher their loved ones.

In November 1987 a similar massacre took place at New Adams Farm in Zimbabwe. Their sincere belief in pacifism disarmed these 16 precious Christians and made them helpless victims to a frightful slaughter.

Oct. 16, 1991, George Hennard drove his truck through a cafeteria window in Kilene, Texas. He then **shot and killed 23 people (including himself), in the 4 minutes before the police could respond.** It's tragic that the massacre could have been prevented if just one citizen had had a gun. Instead, Hennard found a cafeteria full of one hundred unarmed, helpless people. One of them was Dr. Susanne Gratia. She is upset with restrictions on carrying a gun with good reason. On that day Dr. Gratia was in the cafeteria eating lunch with her parents. She had carried a gun in the past, but had now been forced by Texas anti-gun laws to leave her gun in the car. So when Hennard walked by her table, there was nothing she could do. She was forced to watch her parents get shot. *"We were sitting ducks,"* Gratia later said: *"Someone legislated me out of the right to protect myself and my loved ones."*

By way of contrast to the massacre of 22 unarmed citizens in the Kilene, Texas restaurant, when 3 PLO terrorists opened fire on a cafe in Jerusalem they were promptly shot by armed bystanders. The one wounded surviving terrorist was recorded as complaining: *"We were never told that the civilians were armed in Israel!"*

For these and many other reasons, United Christian Action would challenge GFSA to concentrate on persuading the criminals to hand in their illegal weapons and leave the law abiding registered gun owners alone. In addition we would encourage GFSA to join us in seeking to persuade the government to concentrate on controlling crime (and not registered firearms), punishing criminals (and not penalising law abiding citizens), on strengthening the police (rather than restricting the abilities of citizens to defend themselves), and enforcing mandatory capital punishment for all pre-meditated murder (rather than criminalising law abiding citizens for merely having means of self protection).

Chapter 12

RIGHTEOUSNESS, TRUTH AND LIFE

"Can South Africa be made to really work?" Feeling almost punch drunk after years of vicious terrorism and violent crime, many South Africans are wondering if the political predictions of peace and prosperity are really possible.

Can a government which includes so many socialists and marxists really produce the promised prosperity which their socialist namesakes have so monumentally failed to build in Eastern Europe and elsewhere? Can a just and free society be developed by a government which includes such a large number of ex-car bombers, assassins, necklace murderers, concentration camp commissars, kidnappers and corrupt politicians?

Can justice and stability flow out of so much violence and chaos?

“Hear, O earth: I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have not listened to My words and have rejected My Law.” Jeremiah 6:19

“Will God bless this New South Africa?” While desperately hoping that God will now pour out His blessings on our country, many Christians fear that we are inviting His judgement instead. The polytheistic parade of inter-faith prayers from a witchdoctor, Muslim imam, Hindu priest, Jewish rabbi and an Anglican Archbishop at the presidential inauguration in 1994 was hardly the Biblical way to seek God’s blessings.

Neither was the abolition of the traditional prayer at the opening of parliament. The proliferation of pornography, gambling and the desecration of the Lord’s Day has fueled the accelerating moral downslide in South Africa. The legalisation the killing of pre-born babies through abortion has quenched all hopes that this government would seek the blessing of Almighty God upon our troubled land.

“See, the storm of the Lord will burst out in wrath, a driving wind swirling down on the heads of the wicked.” Jeremiah 30:23

Hope and Direction for the Future

In the face of the cold facts of reality, how should we as Christians respond? It is far more constructive to light a candle rather than to curse the darkness. Diagnosing the problem may be important, but it is the Biblical prescription that should be our main concern.

Throughout the country I find two extremes that need to be dealt with. The one is the naive reaction: ***“There’s no problem!”*** These people place such faith in the opinions and abilities of sinful man that they apparently even believe that the humanist agenda of atheists will be blessed by God. Such gullibility reflects terminal naivety.

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength.” Jeremiah 17:5

The other reaction is the pessimistic conclusion: ***“There’s no hope!”*** These defeatists ignore the reality of God. No one who believes in the sovereignty of our all-knowing and all-powerful God dare suggest that faith in and obedience to God is futile. On the contrary, as Christians, we know that with God there always is hope and the certainty of ultimate victory.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

This book is written for those who are not satisfied with sitting on the sidelines with a *“wait and see”* mentality. You want to make a difference in this world for Jesus Christ. You don’t want to be a *“useful idiot”* gullibly serving the humanist agenda. Nor do you want to be an armchair pessimist, passively watching things deteriorate before your eyes. You want to take initiative, find Biblical solutions and step out in faith to honour God.

“I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.” Ezekiel 22:30

What is needed is for you to experience spiritual renewal, to strengthen your devotional life and revive your love for our Lord Jesus Christ. Then you need to rekindle the hope and vision of those Christian friends with whom you have contact. Help them to revive their faith and renew their sense of mission. We all need our spiritual perspective to be restored. God is still the sovereign ruler of the universe! And the Great Commission still is in force! We have a world to win and much work to do.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:18-20

Instead of sitting on the sidelines, we need to be pro-active, taking the initiative in obedience to the Scriptures. The following chapter deals with some of the issues in which we can wholeheartedly get involved and the battles which we can realistically hope to win.

Chapter 13

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Parents can delegate the task, but not the responsibility, for the education of their children. Children do not belong to the state. Children are made in the image of God. Children belong to God and He entrusts parents to **“bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”** Parents are responsible under God to oversee the teachers and **textbooks which will shape and fill their children’s minds.**

The control of education should be in the hands of parents and the content of education must be Bible based. Christian parents should be aware of the efforts to replace Biblical education with humanistic syllabuses, inter-faith religious education, evolution and sex education in the government schools. All parents should be involved in the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) of their local school and take an active role in the education of their young according to the Biblical principles.

“I am much afraid that schools will prove to be wide gates to hell unless they diligently labour in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not constantly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt.” Martin Luther

“Children are a gift from the Lord” Psalm 127:3 and parents are commanded to **“bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”** Ephesians 6:4. **“So that your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God... by keeping all His decrees and commands... Impress them on your children...”** Deuteronomy 6:2-7

Educating the next generation is the single most important priority confronting the Christian Church today. **“Make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”** Matthew 28:19-20. Yet all too often the day-to-day education of our children has been relinquished by Christians and handed over to secular governments. Whereas Christians had historically given priority to establishing and running Bible based schools as part of the Great Commission, most modern churches have relegated education to a secondary or tertiary concern.

God commanded His people in Jeremiah 10:2 **“Learn not the way of the heathen.”** Yet many of our children are being taught the ways of humanism, situation ethics, sex education, promiscuity and inter-faith worship - not only through TV - but also in school.

The Scripture commands us to: **“take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”** 2 Cor 10:5. But how can every thought be brought into obedience to Christ in a secular school where God and His Word are deemed irrelevant? An educational programme without Christ and a Christian philosophy of education is a recipe for disaster.

“See to it no-one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

If we are to truly **“seek first the Kingdom of God”** Matt 6:33 then we need to be committed to Bible based education for the next generation. In the Lord’s Prayer (Matt 6:9-13) we pray: **“Hallowed be Your Name”** - this requires an education programme which honours the Lord in every subject. **“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**, requires that we pray and labour for God’s will to be done in the education of our young as well. It would be hypocritical to pray **“lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,”** if we continue to send our children to those schools where they will be confronted with evolutionism, atheism, sex education and pagan peer pressure. **“Don’t be deceived: Bad company ruins good character.”** 1 Cor 15:33

If you believe: - that **“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”** Psalm 111:10

- that the education of children is essentially the duty of the parent and not the state (Psalm 78:3-7; Deut 11:19; Eph 6:4).

- that the foundation of all education should be the Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17; Isaiah 8:20; Col 2:3; Matt 4:4; Phil 4:8-9).

then you should be committed to the establishment of private Christian schools.

However, opening up Christian schools will not be much of a solution if the teachers are merely sincere Christians with humanist training using humanist textbooks!

The goal of education must be to prepare each student to glorify God, to enjoy Him in worship and to serve the Lord in their chosen calling. A Christian education is not a curriculum with the Bible added to it. Rather the Word of God must inspire, inform and govern every subject in the curriculum.

As George Orwell stated: **“If people cannot write well”** (or read well) **“they cannot think well. If they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them.”** Reading and writing are the most important skills anyone can learn at school. Language is thought expressed. But thoughts are never neutral. Therefore students need to learn how to test all literature by Biblical standards.

In mathematics we learn God’s constant principles for studying, measuring and evaluating God’s universe. Mathematics is limitless and unchanging, but its principles never vary. The study of maths is an exercise in perseverance. It teaches us to keep-on-keeping-on when we encounter a difficult task. All callings in life demand planning, doing and evaluating in order to carry out our God given responsibilities. Numbers are an expression of God’s orderliness. The decimal system itself is based on God’s creation. (We have 10 toes and 10 fingers. The tithe is the tenth part of our income which God requires). Not to follow the correct mathematical formula or solution is to fail. To neglect God’s spiritual formulae for life produces the same failure.

In science we study God's physical laws in His government over creation. History is the study of God's moral laws in His government over men and nations.

In physical education we learn the importance of a balanced diet and lifestyle and we learn to develop self discipline. Physical education can teach the importance of playing by the rules, accepting direction from those in authority, using our skills in harmony with our team mates, developing our potential and being gracious in victory as well as defeat.

“All your sons will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children's peace.” Isaiah 54:13

The greater the influence of such constructive Christian principles upon a system of education, the greater the moral, spiritual and academic potential of the students will be realised.

“We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord... He commanded our forefathers to teach their children... and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God.” Psalm 78:4-7

Christian parents and church leaders must give priority to the establishment of Christian schools. Teaching is an integral part of the Great Commission and therefore an indispensable part of our mission.

The Battle for the Family

“Another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done...” Judges 2:10

Families are the basic building block of society. For nations to be strong their families need to be strong. The foundation for a truly free and prosperous nation can only be laid in young lives brought up in God honouring homes.

However, in all too many homes it is not the parents who are bringing up their children - but Hollywood! In most homes the TV has replaced the Bible as the family altar. While none of us would tolerate a stranger coming into our homes to teach or influence our children, most parents allow strangers to be the single greatest influence on the mental and emotional development of their children - through TV! And the “*electronic parent*” seems obsessed with adultery, violence and occultism.

By the time the average child leaves high school he, or she, will have watched from 25 000 to 40 000 hours of television. They will have seen about 200 000 violent acts and 33 000 murders depicted on TV. In addition, they will have seen approximately 26 000 sexual acts and heard as many as 400 000 sexual references. They also will have been bombarded with about 900 000 advertisements through radio, TV, newspapers, billboards and at cinemas.

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

In the battle for the Faith - the family is in the frontline. And in the battle for the family, it is the hearts and minds of the next generation which is the battlefield. What we see influences what we think and what we think influences what we become and what we do. Ideas have consequences. Actions flow from thought patterns (Romans 12:1-2; Phil 4:8).

Pick up the average newspaper. The whole back page - often several pages - is devoted to sport. A whole section is dedicated to entertainment - **what's on at the movies**, on TV, the radio - **and what's new in music**. Most of the front section of the paper is filled with politics, scandals and crime. Most of the adverts are materialistic panderings to our greed, pride and covetousness. And how much space is the Creator of the universe given, the Sovereign Lord who sustains all life, the eternal Judge before whom each one of us must stand? Well, in most newspapers on any average day, one verse of the Bible is printed. Is that indicative of the priorities of our society? (Proverbs 1:29-32)

Sadly, that illustrates the problem with most of our families as well. Sports, entertainment, politics and material goods are the real priorities and focus of most in our country. These are the idols we serve. And these are the gods that the next generation is being brought up to respect and serve.

“... My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as My priests; because you have ignored the Law of your God, I will also ignore your children.” Hosea 4:6

The only hope for the next generation is God honouring homes where the Word of God is the central focus and foundation of the family. Parents need to rediscover the joy of reading. Control needs to be exercised over the television **“off”** button. Children need to be encouraged to read good Christian and historical books and novels. Family devotions need to be restored. The Bible must again be read at the dinner table.

*“... so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands **that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.**” Deuteronomy 6:2*

The Winnable War Against Pornography

*“**Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to the person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves. If your brother sins rebuke him.**” Luke 17:1-3*

When the police found the bloodstained body of 7 year old Raymonde Jacobs, of Mitchells Plain, they discovered the pornography saturated room of the rapist who had murdered her. The walls were covered with pin-ups from *Scope, Stag and Bunny Girl* (*Cape Times, June 1991*).

Nineteen year old Elvis Jotamo testified in court that it was while paging through a *Scope* magazine that he visualised a sexual fantasy with an acquaintance. Over a six week period his fantasy developed into an obsession. He testified of how he had strangled her and then had sex with her corpse (*Die Burger 5/8/93*). He was sentenced to life imprisonment for rape and murder (*Argus 21/9/93*).

Convicted serial killer and Norwood rapist, Jacobus Geldenhuys, 26, testified that he was relieved when police arrested him as he knew he was incapable of stopping himself from committing further similar crimes. Geldenhuys was convicted of 15 charges including five counts of murder and three of rape. His constant obsession with violent and pornographic videos could also have played an indirect role in the happenings, the Rand Supreme Court heard. (*Citizen, 21/9/93*).

*“**Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**” James 1:15*

Along with the proliferation of the once banned “*soft-core*” pornography in South Africa has come an explosion of rape and child abuse. Yet the legislators in Parliament and the *Publications Control Board* continue to allow ever more explicit materials to be distributed or screened in South Africa. “*Family stores*” such as the CNA continue to stock anti-family publications. And most Christian consumers continue to allow these outrageous threats to their children to proliferate without protest!

“Let those who love the Lord hate evil.” Psalm 97:10

Pornography is addictive, it desensitizes, removes inhibitions and undermines moral restraint. Pornography is destructive. It destroys morals, minds, minors and marriages. Yet this exploitive industry can be defeated. The war against pornography is a winnable war.

The *National Coalition Against Pornography* (NCAP) in America has so mobilised public opinion against the pornography industry that they have succeeded in cleaning up over 26 cities. NCAP attributes their victories in Cincinnati, Oklahoma City, Dallas and other cities to building up community support and developing co-operation with the local police vice squad and the state prosecutor. This triangle of public, police and prosecutor is a proven strategy to defeat pornography.

In South Africa, *Africa Christian Action* (ACA) and *Christians For Truth* (CFT) have succeeded in mobilising sufficient consumers to persuade over 9 000 stores to stop selling offensive publications. And their pressure succeeded in bankrupting and closing down *Scope*, *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and several other pornographic publications in South Africa. Prayer and pressure work. What is needed is for one concerned individual to inform and involve others in a campaign to clean up their local stores.

To fight any fire you need to break the triangle of fuel, heat and oxygen. Therefore fire fighting concentrates on either: starving the fire by depriving it of fuel; or cooling it and thereby depriving it of heat, or smothering it by depriving it of oxygen. In the same way the war against porn can aim to persuade our legislators and the Publications Control Board to effectively ban the distribution of pornography, and pressure the various retail outlets to stop stocking the offensive materials and educate consumers as to the dangers of pornography. In addition one should boycott those companies who support the pornography industry by advertising in the magazines.

Vitally important would also be supporting and encouraging the local police and prosecutors who must deal with illegal pornographic materials and sexually orientated businesses.

“Who will rise up for Me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for Me against evildoers?” Psalm 94:16

The Fight for the Right to Life

“They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters... the land was desecrated by their blood.” Psalm 106:37-38

Abortion is a modern equivalent of child sacrifice. Just as God’s people opposed Pharaoh’s decree to murder newborn Hebrew boys in Egypt (Ex 1:15-22), so we need to protect pre-born babies from abortion today. Just as King Herod sought to kill the babies in Bethlehem (Matt 2:16), so abortionists are attempting to butcher our babies today. The Bible makes it clear that life begins at conception (Ps 139:13-16; Is 44:2; Jer 1:5; Luke 1:41). All life is precious (Ex 21:22-24, Prov 6:16-17).

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.” Proverbs 31:8

If we do not stand up and oppose legalised abortion, then the blood of those innocent babies will be upon our heads (Ezekiel 33:1-6). Some will despair of even trying. They will say that it is impossible to stop abortion now that it has been legalised. But such a defeatist attitude is irresponsible and serves the cause of the abortionists.

Even in Namibia, which has had a pro-abortion government since 1990, the pro-life convictions of the population has succeeded in maintaining the laws against abortion. In Poland, abortion had been available on demand since 1956. However in 1992 legislation was introduced outlawing abortion in all but the 3 *“hard cases”* of when the mother’s life is in danger, rape/incest and serious deformity. In Ireland, North and South, abortion remains illegal. In Zambia, after 27 years of socialism, the new Christian government ensured that the right to life of pre-born babies was protected by law.

If the right to life of the most helpless and innocent members of society - preborn babies - is not upheld then the much vaunted Bill of Rights is a worthless piece of paper. A society that is capable of burning, smothering, poisoning or dismembering little babies deserves the wrath of God. It is of the utmost hypocrisy to condemn those who stood by and allowed the Nazi and Communist holocausts to be perpetrated if we allow the abortion holocaust to continue in our own country without vigorous opposition..

How can those who fought against apartheid support abortion? The worst apartheid is that which separates a mother from her own baby. Can we condemn discrimination based on race, while allowing discrimination based on age? Of what worth is human dignity if babies are denied the right to life? The right to life of preborn babies is one of the most urgent and important issues confronting the Church today (Matt 18:5,10,14; Isaiah 44:24; 49:15).

“If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength! Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering towards slaughter. If you say, ‘But we knew nothing about this,’ does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?” Proverbs 24:10-12

Unto the Least of These

“The King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me’... The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’” Matthew 25:34-36, 40

Christian compassion and concern must lead us to care for those whom the world regards as the least. Every church must maintain, as its priority, ministry to the suffering. We need to pray for, speak up for and, where possible, practically help abandoned and abused children, battered wives, the handicapped, the forgotten elderly, refugees, prisoners and those persecuted for their faith.

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoner, and those who are mistreated as if yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews 13:3

The Great Commission

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16

We must never allow distractions to deter us from obeying Christ’s Great Commission. Our purpose on earth is to *“make disciples... teaching obedience”* Matt 28:19-20. The lifeblood of the church is its evangelistic zeal. No matter what the situation is, or how adverse the circumstances seem to be, the Lord commands us to: *“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction”* (2 Tim 4:2).

We are not called to make converts - but disciples. Not just disciples of individuals - but of nations. All nations! This involves teaching obedience to everything that the Lord has commanded - including for education, entertainment, economics, judicial and political institutions. Those involved in this great mission of world evangelisation can rejoice that this task will be accomplished. One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.(Phil 2:10-11)

“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.” Psalm 22:27-28

No Excuses, Get Involved!

“Blessed... are those who hear the Word of God and obey it.” Luke 11:28

There is the danger that we will respond to the desperate needs, the challenging situations and the clear commands of Scripture with excuses and procrastination. *“Here am I Lord, send my sister!”*

In *Exodus 4:14* we read that the Lord’s anger burned against Moses when he tried to excuse himself from God’s call to action. On the Day of Judgement we will be called to account, not so much for the bad things we have done, as much as for the good things we have failed to do! (Matt 25:41-46)

“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.”
James 4:17

To pray the Lord’s Prayer demands action. We cannot pray *“hallowed be Your Name...”* if we allow blasphemous films to permeate our entertainment industry. We cannot pray *“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”* if we do nothing to see that God’s will is done - in our families, in our schools, law courts, hospitals, parliament - in every area of life.

“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22

Chapter 14

A VISION FOR SOUTH AFRICA

“Where there is no revelation the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law” Proverbs 29:18

The fact that so many are recklessly casting off moral restraint is a clear testimony that God’s revelation is being neglected. A lack of Biblical direction and purpose inevitably results in a lack of discipline and moral order. Those who ignore God’s law become aimless, selfish and fearful.

We need a positive and practical vision from the Word of God for our personal lives, for our churches, for our nation and for our world.

The clear teachings of the Bible enable us to squarely face the great moral challenges of our day including the symptoms of our moral sickness: pornography, homosexuality, AIDS, deception in the news media, degenerate entertainment, dishonesty in business, decadence in government, the escalating crime wave and abortion.

What is even more important is that the Bible deals with the root causes: ineffective churches, insipid preaching, irresponsible leaders, the rejection of God's Law as the foundation for our families, churches and nation, neglect of the Bible, prayerlessness, selfishness, confusion, compromise, cowardice and at the very core - a lack of wholehearted love for God.

If our churches are motivated primarily by growth in members, finance, buildings and community prestige then issue evasion, a policy of non-confrontation and compromise, is inevitable. Building our own empire doesn't allow for serving the Kingdom of God.

In the demands for greater and more spectacular crusades, churches have concentrated on how to get converts - **not on what they're supposed to get converted for** (to love, worship, serve, obey and honour God).

This is because:

- escapism sells better than service,
- forgiveness attracts more members than teaching obedience, and
- blessings are far more popular than sacrifice.

We have produced churches that primarily stand for escape and offer forgiveness to those who neither want to obey nor serve. Churches which are obsessed with growth cannot afford to upset the peace and affluence of their members or prospective members.

For many it is a choice between:

Popularity or Principle,
Prestige or Persecution,
Prosperity or Powerful Christianity,
Sensationalism or Spirituality,
Success or Sacrifice,
Serving man or Serving God,
Church growth or Church depth,
Respectability before man or Revival from God

The result is that all too many churches entertain their members - rather than educate with expository preaching of God's Word. They comfort their members - rather than challenging them and confronting sin. They prefer ritual instead of preaching repentance.

What is needed is for our churches of South Africa to return to the Biblical vision of righteousness, justice, love and compassion.

Righteousness and Justice

“The Lord loves righteousness and justice” Ps 33:5. ***“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; love and faithfulness go before you”*** Ps 89:14.

“It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness” Prov 16:12.

Christ’s government is built upon “justice and righteousness” Isaiah 9:7.

“Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts” Amos 5:15.

“I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies... Away with the noise of your songs!... But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream!” Amos 5:21-24

Love and Compassion

Along with a zeal for righteousness and Biblical justice we need to: *“clothe yourselves with compassion.”*(Col 3:12)

A Vision of Tragedy - The Victims

We need to show compassion to the victims of tragedy ; to the victims of our sexual ethics/lack of moral standards:

- abused children - victims of pornography and our use and abuse mentality;
- abandoned children - victims of our selfish, materialistic, throw-away culture;
- victims of divorce - victims of the self-centredness, and lack of loyalty of many;
- victims of rape - victims of the pornography industry and those porn addicts who see women as objects;
- victims of AIDS - victims of prevalence of promiscuity; and
- aborted babies - victims of the callous indifference of selfish people who view life as disposable.

We need to be compassionate to the victims of our selfish and materialistic society: the unlovely, the failures, the poor, the homeless, the handicapped, the unwanted children and the forgotten elderly.

We need to compassionately pray for, speak up for and where possible practically help the victims of political betrayal and exploitation: those Christians who are persecuted for their faith (for example in Red China, Cuba, Pakistan, North Korea, Sudan, etc.); refugees (eg. from Vietnam, Yugoslavia, the Kurds and others); victims of racial hatred and strife (such as in Los Angeles, Bosnia, South Africa, Nigeria, etc.); victims of man-made famines (such as in Somalia and Sudan); victims of communism (in Eastern Europe, China, Serbia, Angola, and many other lands); victims of crime, especially those committed by released murderers, thieves, rapists and terrorists; and victims of terrorism (in Peru, the Philippines, Lebanon, Israel, South Africa and other parts of the world).

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did it for Me.” Matt 25:40

The Vision of Treachery - The Villains

Through prayer, counselling, teaching, fellowship, encouragement and practical support we need to show Christian love and compassion for these victims of tragedy. We also need to hold accountable those who are responsible for the tragedies. By boldly proclaiming God's eternal standards of righteousness and justice, with the preaching of the Gospel of repentance, and through praying the Psalms against the unrepentant, the church needs to lovingly but firmly confront:

- humanist educators, entertainers and editors, who promote man-centred, anti-Christian standards;
- evolutionists, who deny the existence of our Creator and promote an accidental and meaningless origin of life;
- pornographers, who exploit women for profit and fuel the incidence of rape and child abuse;
- criminals, who steal from and abuse the property of others causing immense suffering;
- perverts, who rebel against the God ordained family structure and sin against their own bodies;
- rapists, who torment and violate people to satisfy their own twisted and perverted lusts;
- abortionists, who transform the mother's womb into a murderous tomb;
- bleeding heart liberals, whose humanist views fuel all these atrocities;
- the effective judicial system, whose soft judges are producing hardened criminals;
- unprincipled politicians, who betray what is right for what is expedient;
- spineless citizens, who passively sit by, inactive and neutral, allowing such evil to flourish;
- and cowardly Christians, who refuse to stand up for righteousness, speak out for the truth and fight for faith and freedom.

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight... who acquit the guilty for a bribe and deny justice to the innocent... for they have rejected the Law of the Lord Almighty and spurned the Word of the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 5:20-24

A Vision of Triumph - The Victor

Ultimate victory belongs to Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of lords and King of kings (Rev 17:14). In all hardships, troubles, persecutions and dangers we are more than conquerors through Christ (Rom 8:35-37). He leads justice to victory (Matt 12:20). He overcomes the world (John 16:33).

“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.” Psalm 22:27-28

“All kings will bow down to Him and all nations will serve Him.” Psalm 72:11

“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure forever.”
Daniel 2:44

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2:14

Tenderhearted - The Vision

“Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.” Isaiah 40:1

It is our Christian duty to comfort the afflicted, and to afflict the comfortable. A true Christian loves God, a true Christian loves God’s Word, a true Christian loves to pray and a true Christian hates sin.

“And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” 1 Thessalonians 5:14

This is the message of the Good Samaritan:

“Love your neighbour as yourself.. Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:27-37

This then is our mission and message. *United Christian Action* will continue to promote: renewed vision, revitalised leadership and a restored nation through: returning to God in repentance, rediscovering the Biblical agenda, rebuilding the walls of our society, resisting the demands for national suicide, resolutely working for reformation and praying for revival.

“But thanks to be God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Cor 15:57-58

Chapter 15

OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

When it comes to Christian faithfulness in witnessing and work it is often a case of - **if you’re not being criticised then you’re not doing your job!** Those who steadfastly seek to promote Biblical principles will inevitably find themselves accused of being *“intolerant”, “bigoted”, “narrow-minded”, “hypocritical”,* and of *“seeking to force your own views upon others”!* Zambia in particular has come under severe criticism for committing itself to being a Christian nation.

Are we being *“intolerant”*? No, it is the secular humanists who are intolerant of Christians. The real bigots are those atheists who are seeking to infringe on the religious liberties of Christians. We are not *“narrow-minded”,* we stand for freedom of religion. It is the proponents of the Secular State who are restricting all public views - including the schools - to the narrow humanistic view. We believe in **God’s creation encompassing far more than we can ever see, understand and touch. It is the atheist who refuses to believe in anything other than what their narrow materialistic perspective can see, handle and understand.**

Christians are not being *“hypocritical”* when we stand up for our sincerely held beliefs and seek to be consistent with the Biblical injunction to love our neighbours and protect their lives, liberties and property. Rather, it is those secular humanists, who claim to be democratic, who are being hypocritical by ignoring the clear opposition of the majority of citizens to abortion, pornography and perversion.

Are we seeking to *“force our views on others”*? No, we believe that God has entrusted man with personal responsibility. We will never seek to force anyone to become a Christian. We use evangelism

and education - not force. What we want is for our Christian convictions to be respected and recognised. In secular states it is always a very small percentage of atheists who impose their will on the rest of the nation through dictatorship (e.g. Soviet Union, Red China, Cuba).

Time and again we have heard the accusation that a state which recognises Christian principles would result in "*oppression*". Some have tried to suggest that "*more evil has been done in the name of religion*"! This accusation is completely unjustified by the record of history! The Church has never been perfect, but its track record in history should be remembered for its good achievements as well as its bad failures. The sins of the Church should not be taken out of their context, blown out of proportion and remembered forevermore as if this has been the only activity of the Church. People have always done evil and this had included many who have claimed to be Christians. However, such evil has never been done because of the Christian Faith, but despite it - in violation of God's Holy Laws.

Before the advent of Christianity almost every culture practised *slavery* and *human sacrifice* - even the highly esteemed Greek and Roman civilisations.

In the great Roman Empire abortion was rampant and abandonment of unwanted babies was commonplace. In Ancient Rome, unwanted infants were (legally) abandoned outside the city walls to die of starvation or exposure or from wild animals. Infanticide was not only legal, it was applauded. A father had the legal right to kill his children, to marry them to whomsoever he pleased, or to sell them as slaves. The Greek philosophers Plato, Aristotle and Socrates lived in, and accepted, a culture which practised slavery and human sacrifice and glorified paedophilia (sexual abuse of children).

When missionaries went to nineteenth century China they discovered that baby girls were routinely disposed of by being put out as food for wild dogs and wolves. "*Baby towers*" were common, where unwanted babies were left out to die of exposure and starvation, or to be eaten alive by birds of prey. Some towns had "*baby ponds*" where unfortunate infants were thrown. Tragically this pagan practice of infanticide has made a comeback under Communism. In Red China today every family is restricted to one child. Abortions have been forced upon women when they conceived any more children after their quota of one. China also has had a record number of stillbirths. Often baby girls have been drowned in a bucket of water or strangled at birth by parents who would prefer to have a son.

Child sacrifice was common amongst the pagan religions. Fertility cults such as those who worshipped Baal and Asherah, the Ammonites who worshipped Malech and the Phoenicians who worshipped Kronos all practised child sacrifice.

The Aztec Empire in Mexico and the Inca Empire in Peru engaged in slavery, ritual rapes and mass sacrifice. Slaves were marched up the stairs of the pyramid-type Inca temples in the Aztec Empire. At the top a priest would rip out their beating hearts - one by one.

"*Suttee*" - the burning of widows on the funeral pyre of their husbands -was common when missionary William Carey arrived in India. Yet with perseverance he succeeded in having that vile practice outlawed. It was the tireless work of Christian missionaries like Anna Bowden, Nan Mullins, Mary Slessor and Amy Carmichael which saved tens of thousands of abandoned children. They raised them in their own homes or orphanages. And it was the persistent work of Christians which outlawed abortion, abandonment and infanticide, first in the Roman Empire, then throughout Europe and America.

Similarly, slavery was eradicated as a result of the tireless efforts of Christians such as William Wilberforce, David Livingstone and General Charles Gordon. Respect for life and liberty are a fruit

of Christianity. Those promoting abortion, euthanasia and pornography are not offering us progress, but only a return to pre-Christian paganism.

Most in our society do not seem to realise how much we owe to the advent of Jesus Christ. Hospitals as we know them were an innovation of Christianity (hence the universal healing symbol of a cross to represent hospitals). The nursing profession was founded by Florence Nightingale out of devotion for Christ. **One of history's greatest humanitarian movements, the International Red Cross, was founded by Christians in response to the Scriptural injunction to care for the sick and suffering.** Christians, such as Dr. Louis Pasteur, have fueled some of the greatest practical advances in medicine. More hospitals and schools have been founded by Christians than by all other religions combined. **The Christian Church has been the supreme (and often the only) force restraining man's inhumanity towards man.**

The whole concept of charity was a Christian innovation. The Church of Christ has done more than any other institution in history to alleviate poverty and suffering. Before Christ, benevolence to strangers was unknown. Where the Bible became known, compassionate and unselfish sacrifice flourished. Dr. James Kennedy's book *"What if Jesus Had Never Been Born.?"* documents a wide range of the unparalleled contributions of the Christian Church.

Some time ago I led a march of over 20 000 South African Christians to the gates of our Parliament in Cape Town to protest the legalisation of abortion and pornography and the establishment of a *"Secular State"*. I was invited to articulate our concerns before a select committee of our Constitutional Assembly and to answer their questions. Their main argument for the legalisation of abortion seemed to be the street children. *"Who will look after these unwanted street children?"* they demanded.

To this I responded that every day and night some Christian is picking up the casualties of society and giving them a bath, a meal or a bed for the night. Christians have always been in the very forefront of relief aid, caring for widows, orphans and refugees.

"Sir", I declared, "I have spent many accumulated months ministering on the streets to the victims of the laws you pass - those impoverished by gambling, alcoholism, drug addiction and prostitution. When Crossroads (a squatter camp) was burning, we were there the very next day with soup kitchens and blankets. When the refugees were fleeing from Marxist Mozambique we took food, clothing and blankets to them. I've had drunkards vomit down my back while I carried them from the gutter to a place of shelter and a bath. I know that humanist politicians and socialists like to talk about caring for the poor - but it is us Christians who actually do the work. What I would like to know is this: What have any of you ladies and gentlemen ever done -personally -for the poor and needy?"

Even as I boldly challenged them, my heart missed a beat and I felt that I had overstated my case. Surely one or two of them must have actually been involved in works of mercy? However, I was astounded that all 50 Members of Parliament present averted their eyes, looked down and started scratching the back of their head, shuffling the papers in front of them or squirming in their seats with discomfort. Not one answered my question! Humanists often talk about caring for the poor - but it is the Christians who normally do the work.

The Christian Church has made more positive changes on earth than any other force or movement in history. Most of the languages of the world were first codified and put into writing by Christian missionaries. More schools and universities have been started by Christians than by any other group. The elevation of women (from the second class status they were kept in by other religions) was a Christian achievement; as was the abolition of slavery, cannibalism, child sacrifice and widow

burning. The Christian Church has been the supreme (and often the only) force in restraining man's inhumanity towards man. Almost every civilisation and culture had slavery and human sacrifice before the Christian influence came in. Those countries which enjoy the most civil liberties are generally those lands where the Gospel of Christ has penetrated the most.

As Noah Webster, the statesman, educator, and author of Webster's Dictionary, wrote: *"The Bible is the chief moral cause of all that is good and the best corrector of all that is evil, in human society, the best book for regulating the temporal concerns of men, and the only book that can serve as an infallible guide... The principles of genuine liberty and of wise laws and administrations are to be drawn from the Bible and sustained by its authority. The man, therefore, who (undermines) the Divine authority of that Book may be accessory to all the public disorders which society is doomed to suffer."*

Christianity gave birth to liberty. Constitutional republics, the separation of powers, limited government and freedom of conscience are a result of the Reformation.

It is the secular humanists who have a heritage of oppression. The 44 secular or atheistic states have caused the deaths of over 160 million people in this century alone. The abuses of human rights, atrocities and massacres in the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, Red China, North Korea, Eastern Europe, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique and Cuba were the inevitable results of rejecting God's Law. **Either men will be governed by God's Law or they will be ruled by tyrants.**

"All the miseries and evils which men suffer from: vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." (Webster)

We could also recount the unparalleled contributions made by Christians in the fields of science, art, education, economics, civil and human rights and in works of compassion and mercy. Only those ignorant of history could fail to acknowledge that Christianity has made more positive changes on earth than any other force or movement. The teachings and example of Jesus Christ have inspired the greatest acts of generosity, hospitality, self-sacrifice and service for the sick, poor and needy.

It's easy for opponents of Christianity to criticise, but - what are our critics doing for the lonely, the widows, the orphans, the sick, the aged and the refugees?

We need to rediscover our Christian heritage and renew our commitment to applying the Lordship of Christ to every area of life. South Africa is engaged in an ideological war between Humanism and Christianity. What will the future hold - a renaissance of pre-Christian paganism or a Reformation of Biblical principles?

Which are you going to work for?

Appendix 1

THE LUSAKA CONCORD

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they who labour, labour in vain." Psalm 127:1

Poised at the brink of the third millennium since the incarnation of the King of kings and Lord of lords, the assembled delegates at the *International Conference on Biblical Reformation and*

Christian Culture, convening in Lusaka, Zambia, at the Pamodzi Conference Centre, the 26-28th of June, in the year of our Lord, 1997, unanimously adopted the following Concord:

Whereas the first commandment is to have no other God, but the living and true God and all of life must be submitted to His authority (Exodus 20-3);

And whereas Christ has declared that all authority has been given unto Him, and that He is the reigning King of kings and Lord of lords (Jude 25);

And whereas all of the Holy Scriptures are infallibly and inerrantly inspired by God and given to direct every area of life (2 Timothy 3: 16-17);

And whereas, there can be no neutrality in religion, ethics, science, economics, art, civil government or indeed any other area of life, and that an authentic Christian faith requires the subordination of every sphere of government (personal, family, church and state) to the Lordship of Christ as revealed in the Bible (Luke 11:23);

Therefore, we unreservedly commit ourselves afresh to the comprehensive fulfilment of the Great Commission to disciple the nations, teaching them to observe everything that the Lord Jesus has commanded (Matthew 28: 18-20); specifically requiring:

A genuine and heartfelt repentance for the sin of failing to teach the whole counsel of God, substituting for a world-conquering Faith, an escapist theology of defeat and thereby surrendering our nations to the world, the flesh and the devil (2 Chronicles 7:14);

And that parents must reclaim their God given responsibility for the education and admonition of their children, recognising that a consistent Biblical education is crucial to the development and advancement of Christian civilization (Ephesians 6: 1-4, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78, etc);

And that the primary role of civil government is to act as God's minister of justice to punish law-breakers and to protect law abiders (as defined by the Word of God) and that the government's usurpation of education and social welfare is destructive to the family, business, church, and therefore the nation (Romans 13: 1-7; I Peter 2:13-14);

And that the Church, as the whole assembly of God's people, must reclaim their responsibility to live self governed lives under God's Law and to heed Christ's commands to minister God's grace to the needy and oppressed. (Isaiah 1:17).

We eagerly anticipate and pledge to work for that Day in which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father Almighty.

***"For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Law giver, the Lord is our King;
He will save us."*** Isaiah 33:22

Appendix 2

THE CAPE TOWN DECLARATION ON FREEDOM

From 31 December to 9 January 1994 Christian delegates from all over South Africa and from Ciskei, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Germany and the United States of America gathered in Cape Town for the Biblical Worldview Seminar. Uniting under the theme of ***"The Lordship of Christ in all areas of Life"***, the seminar dealt with Biblical principles for education, entertainment, economics, morals, marriage, missions, defence, government, justice and law and order.

The delegates re-affirmed their commitment to the “*Manifesto for Christians in Southern Africa*” document and to the principles expounded in the “*Biblical Principles for Southern Africa*.” They called upon all political and civil leaders to adhere to the God honouring Biblical principles contained within these documents.

In addition the delegates adopted the following Declaration on Freedom:

1. In the Bible freedom always means the liberty to obey God. It is the freedom to **know God’s will** and to do it. Biblical freedom is therefore within the safe boundaries of the Law of God.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21 (John 8:32; Romans 8:2; Genesis 1:28).

2. To the Christian, freedom is more of a responsibility than a right. This would involve doing unto others what we would want done to us.

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’” Galatians 5:13-14 (1 Corinthians 8:9)

3. We are warned to beware of those who promise freedom, but are themselves slaves of depravity. In the Bible, God forbids state interference outside of the realms of national defence, law and order and justice. For example: The Word of God forbids any taxation over 10% and excludes the taxation of property and inheritance.

“They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.” 2 Peter 2:19

(John 8:34; Acts 8:23; Romans 6:16; 1 Samuel 8:15-18; 1 Kings 21:3.)

4. True freedom can only come where Jesus Christ is obeyed as Lord.

“Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Corinthians 3:17

5. Freedom has to be based upon, and in accordance with, the Ten Commandments. Adherence to the Ten Commandments would ensure true religious freedom - freedom to worship and serve the only true God, the Creator and sovereign Lord of the universe - the only source of freedom. And it would protect worship, speech, time, families, life, love, morality, property, truth, reputation and conscience.

“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19: 7 (Exodus 20:3-17)

6. It is not acceptable to justify evil in the name of freedom. There can be no freedom for blasphemy, perversion, sodomy, cruelty to animals, rape and child abuse (such as occur in Satanism) in any civilised country. Nor can the murder of human life in the womb (abortion) or the exploitation of women’s bodies for profit (pornography and or prostitution) be tolerated. We affirm the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1 (Proverbs 6:16-19; Colossians 3:5-10.)

7. Religious freedom must include freedom for parents to educate their children according to the Bible - whether through state schools, independent Christian schools or home schooling.

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

(Deuteronomy 6: 1-7; Matthew 28: 19-20; 2 Tim. 3: 16; Colossians 2:8.)

8. Religious freedom must include the freedom to proclaim the God of the Bible to be the only true and living God, and to objectively point out the errors in other religions.

“Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6

(Acts 4:12; 1 Tim 2:4, 5; Deuteronomy 30; 1 Kings 18:21.)

9. Any attempt by the state to register or regulate churches, missions or Christian organisations would be an intolerable breach of freedom. Proposals to establish a department of religious affairs or the taxation of Christian ministries must therefore be rejected as unacceptable interference by the state in religious matters and as a step towards state control of the Church.

“Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’” Acts 5:29 (1 Peter 2:13-16; Ezra 7:23-24.)

10. True freedom comes from within. The foundation for a truly free nation can only be laid in characters, hearts, minds, lives and families changed by the grace of God.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

(Proverbs 16:32; Matthew 15:19; Psalm 1; Ezekiel 36:26; John 3:3.)

Appendix 3

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO THE ELECTIONS

On each election day South Africans will have the opportunity to vote for the party of their choice - for both regional government and central government. These elections present Christians with a clear challenge.

Concerning the role of Christians in social and political matters, the Bible instructs us to:

Pray “I urge, then, first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for... all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all Godliness and holiness.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Repent “If, My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Corinthians 7:14

Expose evil “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” Ephesians 5:11

Improve the community “See the trouble we are in: Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and we will no longer be in disgrace.” Nehemiah 2:17

Seek justice “Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice...” Isaiah 1:17

Oppose ungodly rulers “You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.” Daniel 5:27

Uphold Christian standards “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” Matthew 5:13

Disciple the nations “... Make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded...” Matthew 28:19-20

Select God-fearing leaders “But select capable men from all the people - men who fear God; trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain - and appoint them as officials...” Exodus 18:21

The Biblical Issues

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”

Psalm 9:17

As responsible citizens, Christians must strive to honour God in all areas of life (Matthew 5:14-20). We are to oppose evil (Isaiah 59) and work for righteousness.

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.”

Proverbs 14:34

Amidst all the inevitable electioneering, unrealistic promises, media performances, slogan shouting and empty rhetoric, it is very difficult to maintain an objective perspective on reality. Many even find it difficult to discern between what is right and what is wrong.

“See to it that no-one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

Accordingly United Christian Action has each election, since 1992, conducted a policy survey on the various political parties. UCA has faxed and mailed out Policy Surveys containing questions on various Biblical, moral, family and educational issues. These surveys were then followed up with telephone calls, and where possible, personal interviews, painstakingly wading through piles of policy statements, speeches, newspaper cuttings and publications from the different political parties in order to produce the ***Biblical Issues Voter’s Guide***.

At any time you can evaluate any political party by asking the following questions:

1. Does the party acknowledge the authority of Almighty God? (Exodus 20:3; 2 Chron 7:14; Psalms 127:1; Isaiah 33:22; Matt. 28:18)
2. Does the party permit a free and open market based on private ownership and individual enterprise or does it hold to the discredited · socialist strategies of state interference, central control and nationalisation (theft)?(Exodus 20:15-17; Leviticus 19:15; Proverbs 10:2-4; Matt 25:14-27; 2 Thess 3:10)
3. Does the party discriminate on the basis of race? (Numbers 15:15; Leviticus 19:15; Luke 10:27; Galatians 3:28)
4. Does the party uphold the right to life of pre-born children? (Exodus 20:13; 21:22-24; Psalm 139:13-16; Proverbs 6:16-17; 24:11; 31:8; Matt. 18:14-18)

5. Does the party uphold the sanctity of human life by punishing all murderers with the Biblical sentence of capital punishment? (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 21:12-16; Leviticus 24:17-22; Numbers 35:33; Romans 13:4)
6. Does the party uphold the principle that education - including teachers and textbooks - must be controlled by parents? (Deuteronomy 6:2-7; Psalm 78:4-7; 111:10; Proverbs 22:4; Ephesians 6:4)
7. Does the party oppose the granting of special privilege to perverts (otherwise known as "*homosexual rights*")? (Genesis 19; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 21:8)
8. Does the party uphold Biblical publications control to protect society from the exploitative pornography industry? (Psalm 101:3; Prov 14:34; Luke 17:1-2; Mark 12:31; Galatians 5:13; Colossians 3:5-8; 1 Peter 2: 16)

There are of course other important issues such as the honouring of the Lord's Day, the right of law abiding citizens to own firearms for personal and family defence, the exploitative and anti-family gambling industry, law and order, a fair and equal taxation system, etc. Nevertheless we have found that a party's response to the 8 chosen issues tends to be representative of their response to other Biblical concerns. This Voter's Guide is based upon the "*KwaSizabantu Affirmation 1991*" which was endorsed by over a thousand ministers; the "*Cape Town Declaration on Freedom*" which was adopted at the Biblical Worldview Seminar in Cape Town, 1994; and "*The Christian Voice of Southern Africa*".

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it..." Ezekiel 22:30

"If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, then I am not confessing Christ, however boldy I may be professing Him. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is merely flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point." – Martin Luther

Appendix 4

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR EVERYDAY ISSUES

"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death." Philippians 1:20

Abortion

“If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.” Exodus 21:22-25

“For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your Book before one of them came to be.” Psalm 139:13-16

“This is what the LORD says -your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, Who has made all things, Who alone stretched out the heavens, Who spread out the earth by Myself.” Isaiah 44:24.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart, I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.’” Luke 1:41-44

Capital Punishment

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.” Genesis 9:6

“Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death... if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from My altar and put him to death. Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death. Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death.” Exodus 21:12-16

“If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death.” Leviticus 24: 17

“For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” Romans 13:4

Child Abuse

“Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Malech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.” Leviticus 18:21

“When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” Mark 10:14

“And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My Name welcomes Me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea... See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven.” Matthew 18:5-6, 10

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.”
Matthew 25:40

Crime and Punishment

“If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he must pay back five head of cattle... If a thief is caught breaking in and is struck so that he dies, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed...

A thief must certainly make restitution, but if he has nothing, he must be sold to pay for his theft.

If the stolen animal is found alive in his possession - whether ox or donkey or sheep - he must pay back double.

If a man grazes his livestock in a field or vineyard and lets them stray and they graze in another man's field, he must make restitution from the best of his own

field or vineyard.

If a fire breaks out and spreads into thorn bushes so that it burns shocks of grain or standing corn or the whole field, the one who started the fire must make restitution.” Exodus 22:1-6

“The LORD said... ‘If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the LORD by deceiving his neighbour about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him, or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin that people may do - when he thus sins and becomes guilty, he must return what he has stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to him, or the lost property he found, or whatever it was he swore falsely about. He must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner.” Leviticus 6:1-5

“When a man or woman wrongs another in any way... He must make full restitution for his wrong, add one fifth to it and give it all to the person he has wronged.” Numbers 5:6-7

“When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong.” Ecclesiastes 8:11

Education

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:6-9

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:19

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:2

Evolution

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

“... but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.” Hebrews 1:2

“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:16-17

Families

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” Matthew 19:5

“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” Ephesians 5:33

“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5:8

“Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12

“... children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.” 2 Corinthians 12:14

Gambling

“You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.” Exodus 20:17

“The sluggard’s craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.” Proverbs 21:25-26

“But as for you who forsake the LORD and forget My holy mountain, who spread a table for Fortune (Gad - Babylonian god of Fortune worshipped by Israelites) and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny (Meni - Babylonian god of fate or fortune worshipped by Israelites).” Isaiah 65:11

“that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.” 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5

“What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:26

“For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” Ephesians 5:5

“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.” Colossians 3:4-5

Home Schools

(See Proverbs 22:6 and Deuteronomy 6:6-9 under Education)

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children: instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

“Fix these words of Mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many...” Deuteronomy 11:18-21

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Humanism

“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised. Amen.” Romans 1:22-25

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no-one who does good.” Psalm 14:1

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.” 2 Timothy 3:1-5

“Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:10

“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves.” 2 Peter 2:1

Inflation

“Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another.” Leviticus 19:11

“Your silver has become dross, your choice wine is diluted with water. Your rulers are rebels, companions of thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts. They do not defend the cause of the fatherless; the widow’s case does not come before them. Therefore the Lord, the LORD Almighty, the Mighty One of Israel, declares: ‘Ah, I will get relief from My foes and avenge Myself on My enemies. I will

turn My hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities.”
Isaiah 1:22-25

“Do not have two differing weights in your bag - one heavy, one light. Do not have two differing measures in your house - one large, one small. You must have accurate and honest weights and measures, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. For the LORD your God detests anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly.” Deuteronomy 25:13-16

Justice

“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is He who will save us.”
Isaiah 33:22

“Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.” Deuteronomy 16:18-19

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” Proverbs 14:34

“Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent - the LORD detests them both.” Proverbs 17:15

“Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless...” Proverbs 23:10

“To show partiality in judging is not good: Whoever says to the guilty, ‘You are innocent’ - peoples will curse him and nations denounce him. But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come upon them.” Proverbs 24:23-26

Making Covenants with God’s Enemies

“Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, the wrath of the LORD is upon you.” 2 Chronicles 19:2

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent.” Isaiah 5:20-24

“You boast, ‘We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place. ‘ So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb-line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place. Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the grave will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it.” Isaiah 28:15-18

“With God we shall gain the victory, and He will trample down our enemies.” Psalm 108:13

National Defence

“Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows... ‘Don’t be afraid of them: Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” Nehemiah 4:13

“Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.” Psalm 144:1-2

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot... a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build... a time for war and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Perversion and Homosexuality

“Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom - both young and old - surrounded the house. They called to Lot, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.’ ... But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door. The two men said to Lot, ‘Do you have anyone else here - sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.’ ... Then the LORD rained down burning sulphur on Sodom and Gomorrah - from the LORD out of the heavens.” Genesis 19:4-24

“If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.” Leviticus 20:13

“Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even the women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practise them.” Romans 1:24-32

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Pornography

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no-one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.” Ephesians 5:3-7

“But she carried her prostitution still farther. She saw men portrayed on a wall, figures of Chaldeans portrayed in red, with belts around their waists and flowing turbans on their heads; all of them... she lusted after them and sent messengers to them in Chaldea. Then the Babylonians came to her, to the bed of love, and in their lust they defiled her. After she had been defiled by them, she turned away from them in disgust. When she carried on her prostitution openly and exposed her nakedness, I turned away from her in disgust, just as I had turned away from her sister. Yet she became more and more promiscuous as she recalled the days of her youth, when she was a prostitute in Egypt. There she lusted after her lovers, whose genitals were like those of donkeys and whose emission was like that of horses.” Ezekiel 23:14-20

“... Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.” Matthew 5:27-30

“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21

Religious Liberty

“But Peter and John replied, ‘Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God.’” Acts 4:19

“He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:11-12

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Corinthians 3:17

“Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.” 1 Peter 2:16

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery... You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:1, 13

Satanism

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:3

“When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no-one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive off those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God.” Deuteronomy 18:9-13

“The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze stone and wood - idols that cannot see or hear or walk.” Revelation 9:20

“Men worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?’” Revelation 13:4

“A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or his name.’” Revelation 14:9-11

Sex Education and Values Manipulation

“Be holy, because I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:16

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.” Ephesians 5:1-6

Sunday Observance, Keeping the Lord’s Day

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.” Exodus 20:8-10

“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD’s holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 58:13-14

“Observe My Sabbaths and have reverence for My sanctuary. I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:30

Taxation

“You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.” Exodus 20:15-17

“All who cross over, those twenty years old or more, are to give an offering to the LORD. The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives.” Exodus 30:14-15

“The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” 1 Kings 21:3

“You are also to know that you have no authority to impose taxes, tribute or duty on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants or other workers at this house of God.” Ezra 7:24

Television

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:2

“If anybody comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.” 2 John 10

“For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a licence for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our Sovereign and Lord.” Jude 4

“You must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love Him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD your God you must follow, and Him you must revere. Keep His commands and obey Him, serve Him and hold fast to Him.”
Deuteronomy 13:3-4

United Nations and World Peace

“Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.” Psalm 127:1

“In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains, it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths. ‘The Law will go out from Zion, the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.’” Isaiah 2:2-4

“these I will bring to My holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”
Isaiah 56:7

“Then I heard another voice from heaven say: ‘Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues.’” Revelation 18:4

Witchcraft

“When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no-one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God.” Deuteronomy 18:9-13

“Do not allow a sorceress to live.” Exodus 22:18

“Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 19:31

“I will set My face against the person who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute himself by following them, and I will cut him off from his people.” Leviticus 20:6

“For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the Word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king.” 1 Samuel 15:23

“Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD; he did not keep the Word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance.” 1 Chronicles 10:13

“When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?” Isaiah 8:19

“I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells.” Micah 5:12

“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21

All Scriptures are from the New International Version
of the Holy Bible.

Appendix 5

THE GREAT DIVIDE



BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RECOMMENDED READING

By This Standard - *The Authority of God 's Law Today* - Greg Bahnsen, ICE, 1985.

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The Lie -Evolution - Ken Ham, Master Books, 1998.

The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail - Dr. D. James Kennedy & Jerry Newcombe, 1996.

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The Christian Manifesto - Francis Schaeffer, Crossway Books, 1981.

Idols For Destruction - Herbert Schlossberg, Crossway Books, 1990.

Why Does a Nice Guy Like Me Keep Getting Thrown in Jail? - Randall Terry, Resistance, 1993.

Most of these books are available from:
Christian Liberty Books,
PO Box 358, Howard Place 7450,
South Africa.
Tel: (021) 689-7478
admin@christianlibertybooks.co.za

Other Resources

Books

Answering Skeptics

Biblical Principles for Africa (Also in Afrikaans and French)

Biblical Worldview Manual

Character Assassins - Dealing with Ecclesiastical Tyrants & Terrorists

Church History Manual

Discipleship Handbook

Discipleship Training Manual

Faith Under Fire in Sudan (in both hard cover and soft cover)

Going Through - Even if the Door is Closed
Great Commission Manual
Greatest Century of Missions (In both hard cover and soft cover)
Greatest Century of Reformation (In both hard cover and soft cover)
Holocaust in Rwanda (also available in French)
In the Killing Fields of Mozambique
Make a Difference - A Christian Action Handbook for Southern Africa
Pink Agenda - Sexual Revolution and the Ruin of the Family
Pornademic - How the Pornography Plague Affects You
Practical Discipleship
Putting Feet to Your Faith
Reforming Our Families
Security and Survival in Unstable Times
Slavery, Terrorism and Islam - The Historical Roots and Contemporary Threat
South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation?
The Apostles Creed - Firm Foundations for your Faith
The Christian at War (also in Afrikaans, German and Spanish)
The Ten Commandments - God's Perfect Law of Liberty
Victorious Christians Who Changed the World

MP3s

Biblical Worldview Summit
Great Commission Course
Heroes of the Faith

The Reformation

DVDs

3 Days in Sudan (25min)
Sudan the Hidden Holocaust (55 min)
Terrorism and Persecution - Understanding Islamic Jihad (55 min)
Evangelising in the War Zones (35 min)

AUDIO CDs, boxsets and MP3s

Answering Skeptics
Biblical Character Studies
Biblical Worldview Summit

Great Commission Course
Heroes of the Faith
Hunger for Revival
Muslim Evangelism Workshop
The Adventure of Discipleship
The Great Reformation

About the Author

Dr. Peter Hammond is a missionary who has pioneered evangelistic outreaches in the war zones of Mozambique, Angola and Sudan. Often travelling by off road motorbike, Dr. Hammond has travelled hundreds of thousands of kilometres to deliver Bibles to persecuted Christians in Africa and Eastern Europe. In the course of his missionary activities Peter has been ambushed, come under aerial and artillery bombardments, been stabbed, shot at, beaten by mobs, arrested and imprisoned. On some mission trips he has flown far behind enemy lines to the beleaguered Nuba Mountains in Central Sudan with tonnes of Bibles, books and relief aid. He has then walked throughout the war devastated Nuba Mountains showing the Jesus film in Arabic, proclaiming the Gospel, training pastors and evading enemy patrols.

Rev. Peter Hammond is the Founder and Director of *Frontline Fellowship* the Chairman of *Africa Christian Action* and of *The Reformation Society*. He is the author of *Victorious Christians - Who Changed the World*, *Answering Skeptics*, *Practical Discipleship*, *Faith in Action*, *Faith Under Fire in Sudan*, *Holocaust in Rwanda*, *the Great Commission Manual*, *Putting Feet to Your Faith*, *In the Killing Fields of Mozambique*, *The Greatest Century of Missions*, *Slavery, Terrorism and Islam*, *The Greatest Century of Reformation* and *The Power of Prayer Handbook*. He has co-authored or contributed to: *Fight for Life*, *Make a Difference*, *The Pink Agenda* and *South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation?* He is also the Editor of both *Frontline Fellowship News* and *Christian Action Magazine* and a Contributing Editor of *JOY! magazine*.

For over 33 years, Peter has been dedicated to assisting persecuted Christians and to working for Reformation and Revival in Africa. Peter has developed the Biblical Worldview Seminar and Great Commission Course to mobilise Christians to comprehensively apply the Lordship of Christ to all areas of life and to effectively fulfil the Great Commission.

Peter was born in Cape Town (in 1960) and brought up in Bulawayo (in what was then war torn Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe). He was converted to Christ in 1977, worked in Scripture Union and Hospital Christian Fellowship, served in the South African Defence Force and studied at Baptist Theological College, Cape Town. He earned a Doctorate in Missiology and has been Awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity. Peter is married to Lenora (whose missionary parents Rev. Bill and Harriett Bathman, have pioneered missionary work into Eastern Europe for over 60 years). Peter and Lenora have been blessed with four children: Andrea, Daniela, Christopher and Calvin.