



CHURCH ARISE!

Vol 3 No 4 July - August 2000

Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

Editorial: These people aren't joking, and neither should you.

Last year, in our article on the coming Interfaithism (Vol 2 No 6), we mentioned that the signing of the United Religions Initiative (URI) into action will come up on June 26 this year. This will be the major launch of the New Age, which is supposed to be ushered in by January 2001, the beginning of the 7th millennium since God created the earth.

Right on target, between 8.30-10.30 pm (Nigerian time) on June 26, the Global Signing Ceremony of the global charter of the URI was relayed to the world live, via the URI's first webcast from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. This was part of the Global Summit 2000. Actually, the signing of the URI global charter by several local communities around the world had started in May, and is ongoing, even right now..(probably in your own neighbourhood). The signing will continue till 31st December, when the United Religions hopes the expected "New Age of Aquarius" will be ushered in. In the months to come, when the impacts of the UR begin to be felt around the world, many will wonder where this Organization has sprung up from, but remember we kept you warned!

And more than ever before, this is the time for every Christian to develop a special interest in the activities of this body officially recognized by the UN. Its advertised next agenda in the new year will be the ratification and implementation of its New World Ethic (already completed – see vol 2 no 6). Once again, we strongly urge you not to think that this is some event far remote to you. It will certainly become one of the most powerful influences affecting your life in the months to come. With people like Pope John Paul II, Mikhail Gorbachev, Ted Turner, Bill Gates, Bill Clinton (and several of his predecessors), etc, including almost everybody in the top echelon of the UN totally united on a common issue, don't you ever think it is all mere child's play! Please do take time to understand the implications of each point we raise in our Topical Issue for this edition.

Indeed all news, local and international, seem to be rallying precisely round this Interfaithism business – if one looks below the surface. Sharia, anti-hatred laws (such as signed recently in the US), political unions (e.g African Union), economic unions (e.g. increasingly hard- pressure tactics to sell **microchip-based** cards) etc all point to the inevitability of the rise of the antichrist and his false prophet.

We will like to emphasize one point here though. It will be a grave mistake to begin to look at many of the men and women behind all these schemes as devilish people. As a matter of fact, most (but certainly not all!) are merely doing what is most expedient and most promising to bring the most benefits for mankind, or at worst merely self-seeking without realizing the full implications of their actions. Like King Darius, it will only be when the Daniels are to be thrown into the lions' den as a result of the decrees that these carnal men have signed, that they will realize that they have been deceived and manipulated all along! Christians, of course, also desire peace and progress for mankind. But we can see through Satan's lies, in the light of the Scriptures. Whatever it costs, we are determined to wait for the salvation of the Lord - the only peace that is genuine, complete and ever-lasting (eg. see Isaiah 11).

Most of us will find the contents of this edition of Church Arise! quite sobering. But then according to the Word of God, when events are such to lead to "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth," you are to "look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Lk 21:26ff). That is our message in every issue of Church Arise!

NEWS

Obasanjo between a Rock and a Hard Place!

Indications of the massive pressure upon Nigeria by globalist forces became manifested June 7 when President Obasanjo caved in to one of the IMF conditions - the hiking of fuel price. Apparently dragging his feet on the matter which has been pending since last year (see vol 3 no 1), Nigeria's debt forgiveness expectation and the yet-to-be-actualised loot recovery efforts would be one of the factors

that eventually compelled the President to take the unpopular decision (for which he later apologized). However as we also reported would happen, the Labour forces in Nigeria rose to mount a counter pressure that eventually has put petrol pump price at N22 per litre. In all, it was a big relief seeing such a momentous issue resolved without the traditional bloodshed and violence, both parties peacefully articulating their positions. That is why we are a bit bothered by the following news item (knowing that the IMF and the EU are in the same globalist camp).....

European Union signs Political lobbying deal with Nigerian Labour Congress (Tribune 29th May.. pg 32/33)

NLC's Adam Oshiomhole has said that the EU is financing a two-year project worth N100 million with the NLC. The project has seven areas of intervention - Strategic planning and agenda setting, Establishment of a pro-democracy network, Establishment of a political lobbying capacity, Establishment of research analysis and information capabilities, Trade Union Education, Internal Trade Union Democracy and Trade Union Management

It is difficult to believe that the incredible deal described here will not affect the operations of the NLC to some extent. After all there will be conditionalities on where and where not to shop etc, which will inevitably affect all the operations described. He who pays the piper will surely have a say in the tune.

Catholics and Anglicans Meet in Canada on Unification

A very high-level meeting seeking to unify Roman Catholics and Anglicans into one denomination was held in May (Guardian June 4, page 23), in Toronto, Canada. The meeting jointly presided over by the leader of the Anglican Church worldwide, Rev George Carey, and Cardinal Edward Idris Cassidy, President of Vatican Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity, was attended by Catholic and Anglican Bishops from 13 regions of the world. The two remaining supposedly knotty issues were reported to be the role of the Pope (i.e. who will be the eventual head?) and the ordination of women into priesthood. It doesn't require much discernment to see that the issue is already a *fait accompli*!

2000 Templeton Prize. The Templeton Prize for religion is the equivalent of the Nobel Prize, in religious circles. It is also, the world's most lucrative award. This year's prize, awarded to prominent physicist, Prof Freeman Dyson is worth N100 million. (May 11, Guardian). The choice of the recipient this year underscores the fact that the coming One-World Religion is trying to reach out to, and merge, every idea, doctrine and knowledge – excepting Biblical Christianity.

Sharia Update: The Sharia issue is still much in the news. Indications are that all the 19 Northern states are under strong pressure to implement the criminal aspect of Sharia. Despite undertakings to maintain the status quo in all states, the issue for most of the so-called Northern states has become whether or not to include Christian areas under Sharia. The latest of them, Kano, has decided no area will be spared Sharia! The Tribune of June 27 gave an indication of the kind of pressure that is turning even otherwise reasonable people into something else. It was stated that an Arab nation is giving 80 billion naira for the states (every state?) that would adopt Sharia, and a million naira to every organization that undertakes to pressurise States to adopt Sharia. Hmm., Little wonder!

Obviously Southern states are not left behind, and Oyo's Alhaji Lamidi Adesina has in recent times been shouting he would not consider the introduction of Sharia for his state "no matter the amount of pressure" mounted on him.

Meanwhile in Zamfara, even though seven women, are already on the death row for prostitution. (their men patrons - who make the 'profession' lucrative for ladies- are apparently not breaking any law); prostitution together with its (→ page 2)

“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” – Mat 24:24

associates ('Cashi' gambling, wild partying etc have resurfaced once again, (Guardian, June 20)). However, this time around, these activities have shifted to affluent areas such as the GRA, Railway Quarters etc. where "government officials harbour women of easy virtue". Similarly, *Gov Sani Ahmed has been accused by other politicians of hiding inflated contracts under the garb of Sharia*. Indeed, legislators resorted to free-fighting recently following allegations of *forgery* in their rank. Will some limbs be severed off these legislators? As a matter of fact, one of *these highly religious men* who conscripted their state to Sharia is on the death row, having been found guilty of homosexual acts!

Aids Update: The US government has formally designated AIDS a "security threat that could topple sovereign governments, torch off ethnic wars and undo decades of work in building democracies abroad" (Washington Post April 30). This can hardly be called an exaggeration:

In Rwanda, more than 4 out of every 5 deaths are now AIDS related, and according to Feb-April 2000 data, 70% of the patients in the main hospital in Kigali had tested positive to HIV) (Guardian May 5. With over 5% incidence of HIV in Nigeria, Nigeria may, within the next few years, have the largest number of AIDS cases in the world. Even 5% of our current 100 million is more than the population of many African countries already! Reportedly, Nigerian lawmakers are including generous provision for treatment of AIDS for themselves in the on-going budgetary allocation face-off between the legislature and the presidency.

Meanwhile, an authoritative pronouncement on **Abalaka** has come at last. The expert committee set up by the Nigerian Medical Association has announced its finding on Dr Abalaka's AIDS cure claim: "inconsistent and of no scientific merit".

Cults Resist Anti-Secret Society bill.

In spite of the on-going debate in the National Assembly on a bill which seeks to ban secret societies and its members from holding public office (Cult and Secret Society prohibition Bill 1999), membership of such societies has continued to soar, even among the clergy according to a report by Dickson Adeyanju - Guardian June 4, pg 4. The presidential report on cult activities in educational institution had listed over 56 cults in operation - even in secondary schools, and a Task Force on cults in schools is underway.

Meanwhile cultists unleash Mayhem on Benin residents (Tribune, May 5 pg 3). while the Vice Chancellor of the Uniben was fortunate to escape an assassination attempt related to cult activities (NTA 14/6/00). A similar story on University of Calabar was circulating at press time. One of the groups openly opposing the anti-secret society/cults bill is the Rosicrucian Amorc (Guardian May 12).

Hello Nigeria, Here comes Mondex Smartcard (Guardian, May 2)

Many readers will recall our article on Mondex smart cards (vol 2 No 3). Mondex is the apparent global leader in smart cards tech, and it is based on (bio-implantable) microchip and satellite technology. The system already operates in over 75 countries and can be loaded with 5 different currencies at the same time. This card is being brought into Nigeria by an indigeneous IT firm - Khombined Technology Limited. As we suggested in our earlier article (vol 2 No 3), any existing/competing card system in Nigeria will probably be collapsed and merged with Mondex when its time comes. A clear advantage of Mondex over others, such as the ValuCard for example, is that it enables transactions between individuals without the need for "banks or other third parties", made possible, apparently, only by satellite technology.

We re-iterate yet again our stand on chip-based technologies. While it clearly shows the imminence of the government of the anti-christ (and an even more imminent rapture, we believe), the only time involvement with the technology will become an 'irreversible death sentence' will be when the bio-chip currently on the card is transferred directly unto the human body (for more security, versatility, etc). The mind of any individual so chip-fitted can be likened to a PC hooked to the internet, and can be easily accessed by the controllers of the technology. Not only will your minutest thoughts or emotional feelings be monitored (see Vol 2 no 6), they can even be controlled. Your preparation today is your resolution never to become dependent on (i.e. addicted to) these emerging technologies. In simple Biblical term: **Love Not The World**

Pope beatifies Fatima children: Mid May, as part of the celebration of the 1917 alleged appearance of 'Virgin Mary' in the Portuguese village of Fatima, two of the three girls (then) who reported the apparition were 'beatified' by the Pope. That's one of the steps to

formally declaring them saints. By the grace of God, we will bring you the story of Fatima in the next history-flavour edition (Vol 3 No 6).

Human Trafficking in Nigerians: A Nigerian Women Consortium, WOCON, is stepping up its campaign against the international trafficking of Nigerian women, particularly in Europe. The group alleged that hundreds of Nigerian girls are trafficked into prostitution every year and mostly to Italy, Belgium, Holland and Germany. "These girls are in conditions similar to slavery". This sad trade is growing at faster rate. (Tribune May 15, and May 17, pg 15.). Meanwhile, a back-page report in the Tribune of 26th May indicated that 6 human traffickers have been nabbed by Edo Police Command.

Earthquake in Indonesia's Sumatra Island Indonesia was in the news, June 4 concerning a devastating earthquake that left about 100 dead. Predominantly Moslem Indonesia is more usually in the news for vicious religious persecution and genocide directed against Christians, especially in a place like Ambon. (Please see some details in Guardian June 8. 2000 or our news item 2 years ago (vol 2 No 2). Meanwhile, scientists say Nigeria is now prone to earthquakes (Guardian, May 2, pg 6).

In brief..

Catholic Church to pay African debts owed Italy: The catholic church in Italy has set up a charitable fund to pay off **10%** of the total debt **owed to Italy** by two of the poorest African countries, Guinea and Zambia. The details and conditions are not known

Kleptomania: A German police chief in charge of about 300 police officers in the state of Hesse, was caught, in his uniform, shoplifting a small bottle of ant poison worth a few deutchmarks. "I didn't know what I was doing", he was quoted as saying. "A blood vessel in my brain must have burst". He was arrested only after a hot chase and with the assistance of other police officers. (June 8 pg 11)

He who is holy,(Rev 22:11): Mr Okon Uway, a banker, picked up a N20 million cheque belonging to a multi-national oil firm on the street; and *promptly* returned it. Uway, 36 year old **premises maintenance officer** at Citibank is a born-again Christian.(Guardian May 4, pg 13). Last year, another Christian airport **taxi driver** returned six thousand dollars **cash** which a passenger had forgotten in his cab. Let's face fact, no one has any excuse for unrighteousness.

Holy Ghost Festival 2000 and million-man march for God has been announced for Dec 14-16 at Redemption Camp. The announcement was made at the recent Fund Raising for the Programme by Pastor E.A. Adeboye. This will be third in the highly successful and anointed series

> **Write for Church Arise!** Your articles will be acknowledged, but may be edited as appropriate. Details at back page.

> **In case you don't know,** our Lending Library is now operational.

- To borrow materials from the Library, you need to register. Registration is free, but you must have a sponsorship from a Christian of good standing – preferably your Pastor.
- Books may be checked out for one week, cassettes for 3 days
- For now, our operational hour for lending is 3 – 5 pm (Mon – Friday; and 12.00 – 5pm, Saturday).

There is no charge whatsoever as the Lord takes care of the bills!

> **Book of the Month:** Let us Make Man (Ben Anderson)

* Meanwhile Library Defaulters are requested to kindly return materials in their possession. It is very expensive (time and costs) running after you; and the material you are withholding might be what another child of God requires at this moment to move forward!

REVIEW: A book to beware of: God Chasers by Tommy Tenney

It is not our usual practice to comment on books we have not ourselves read. But in this case, the issue involved is urgent as it is important. And in any case, we have the witnesses of two trusted servants of God, Dr **Joseph Chambers** and **Bill Randles**, making direct quotes from the book that is already on the top ten best-selling book list in the USA (see full articles at www.pawcreek.org).

The Book's thrust is that there is a difference between God's Truth and God's revelation; and that God's revelation is superior. According to **Tommy Tenney**: "The difference between the truth of God and revelation is very simple. Truth is where God's been. Revelation is where God is". A major application of this teaching by the author then follows: "Unfortunately, the Church today spends countless hours and much energy debating where God has been, how heavy He was when He was there, and even His gender. To true God chasers, all these things are immaterial". This is pure New Age doctrine! Finally hitting the point, Tenney concluded in his introduction, "A true God chaser is not

happy with just past truth; he must have present truth. God chasers don't want to just study from **the moldy pages of what God has done**; they're anxious to see what God is doing."

It is thus clear what this teaching actually seeks to achieve: the destruction of the Scriptures as the final, unchanging and complete Revelation of God to man. As long as the Bible (blasphemously referred to as 'moldy pages') remains the standard among the people of God, there is no way all these efforts to forge a one-world religion that would include genuine Christians will ever meet with any success. Books such as Tenney's clearly show that the departure of Christianity (both of Christians and the primacy of Scriptures) is imminent. We predict this book (and its teaching) is about to flood Nigeria soon. Are you ready for the Rapture?

CALM: AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

Appointments for Mission Engagements (Speaking and Video Shows) may be made at our Secretariat or by phone/e-mail. Please endeavour to give a month's notice.

Also available, a 7 Lesson New Convert's course (Going For the Gold) and a 10-Lesson Discipleship Course (Following The Master). Materials available free of any charge and you may adapt to fit your Church's particular needs. Church Arise! also has access to a pool of anointed teachers of the Word who will be willing to teach these materials free of charge (but for their traveling expenses) at your Church. Contact us for more details.

FAMILY

A CALM Counsel

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Pro. 22:6)

Parent, have you ever sat down to REALLY ponder upon the above piece of advice? Ever meditated on this before? A parent once remarked, "he will never listen to me, even if I try teaching him, he will run away. That is why I dislike him".

As a parent, do you in anyway dislike your child or his/her behaviour? Be careful how you handle it, because the devil is there roaming around and looking for an opportunity - a loophole to access the life of your child. The moment you 'disown' your child (consciously or otherwise), you have already made a doorway to the devil in your child!

The word to you now, is that you should take the time to find out what is wrong with the child - after all he is your child, an expression of your very self and what you could have become had you been in his shoes. Moreover there he is, desperately crying out for the help only you have been ordained to give. *The problem might be something physical, medical or psychological, but usually, care and understanding from you do go a very long way.* In any case, Prayer opens many doors that seem to have been tightly and securely locked.

Churches go for compulsory medical Pre-marital testing

In Abuja, the Catholic cathedral's administrator, Monsignor Kenneth Enang has directed that intending couples must first undergo HIV test. In addition they are to undergo pregnancy and genotype tests. Reason cited for this is "to protect such marriages, the couples and their offspring" (Guardian May 1, page 3) The Anglican Church in its own case is reported to be seriously considering barring expectant brides from the Church - as a way of "restoring chastity into the fold". (Guardian May 2). Although the House of Bishops has not decided, the new primate, Rev Peter Akinola is said to regard the issue as one of his priorities.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Interfaithism Initiative in Osun State.: If anyone will make just a little effort to discern their environment, they will certainly find the tell-tale gearing up activities of the Interfaith movement. In Osun state, for instance, an Interfaith prayer meeting was held at the Osogbo Stadium on June 20 to pray for the state. Islam, Traditional religion and Christianity were jointly involved. **Attendance was by no means voluntary** for most of the participants. Announcements on the State's radio and TV had instructed all officers on Grade Level 7 and above to be present "as a matter of duty". Traditionally, each religion was encouraged to pray for the state at their own separate meetings. It is the several thousands of initiatives such as this that is now melting together to form the global monster of United Religions. If you find it difficult to refuse to comply with a summon to attend an interfaith meeting, such as the one at Osogbo, or even find this article somehow uncomfortable/embarrassing, then you are beginning to understand the coming awesome power and influence the United Religions will soon begin to exert worldwide.

Refuse ValuCard lose USAID patronage: Yet another significant step was taken in the direction that would eventually ensure all inhabitants of the earth get themselves microchipped in order to

participate in the world economy (Rev 13:17). The USAID (Guardian, June 1, page 39); has endorsed the ValuCard as the instrument to be "used for the implementation and disbursement of substantial amount of micro-credit facilities to Non-Governmental and Non-Profit Agencies who are playing a major role in providing essential agricultural and business services to rural communities in Nigeria". "NGO members will be using ValuCard to make purchases on a daily basis instead of cash thereby reducing the risk of attack, fraud and insecurity in the rural areas". Some 25,000 people currently carry the ValuCard introduced into the country last year.

It goes without saying, that any NGO that would not use the card can not do business with the USAID. It doesn't require much imagination to see, in the near future, most of the world's fund being managed in this "stay-out lose-out" way. And as we, based on clear statements in the Bible, always say, it's only a matter of time before the chip on the card be transferred directly to human bodies - specifically the forehead and the right hand. (Rev 13:16) This is already happening. (see for example vol 2 no 5).

The Charter of the African Union, prelude to the economical and political integration of Africa much like the European Union has been adopted by the Foreign ministers of African nations (June 5, Guardian) over the weekend June 2-4 at Tripoli Libya.

World government plans for forming a one world global government involves first a "regionization" of the world -into ten regions (e.g. see How Democracy will elect the antichrist). Most Bible students will have no problem relating this development to Daniel 2.

Satellite Surveillance System arrives Nigeria

The FG has procured surveillance equipment for the 6000 km off oil installations in the Niger Delta area. "Prime beneficiaries of the multi-billion naira worth of infra-red satellite equipment include Lagos, Port Harcourt, Eket and Warri" Of course, the need for such equipment is clearly understood in the Nigerian context where vandalism of oil installations threatens to shut down the entire country. However, in the same vein it is also quite clear that such satellite equipment can of course monitor more than only oil installations. (please refer to our article Bye Bye Privacy in vol 3 no 2).

Human Genome Mapping 97% Complete

The same evening the URI charter was being signed to formally launch United Religions (26th June), a joint announcement was made in London and Washington DC that scientists from 16 centers around the globe had virtually completed (97%) the mapping of the human genome - the genetic makeup of the human body. This achievement of humanity is at least as significant as man's splitting the atom, or the landing on the moon.

The potential benefits are huge: drugs tailor-made for individuals, predictive testing (of much value in counselling), improved understanding of disease along with possibility of correcting defective genes for example in most cancer, heart diseases, sickle cell anaemia, etc. However while considerable further research must still be done to get the benefits of the now opened "Book of Life", virtually no further research is needed to begin to use it to discriminate against people who are "potentially liable" to develop some disease. Many people fear that a Pandora box has been opened and all the problems associated with "eugenics", (a strong influence on Hitler, for example) are again all possibilities. - see our book of the month, Let's make Man, for more insight (Based on article contributed by **Mr Laja Osoniyi**, Biochemistry dept, OAU)

- **Has the speed of Light been broken?** For a review of several claims by eminent scientists to have achieved this once-unimaginable feat, check pg 29, Guardian June 8.

Topical Issue concluded - from the back page

Many of us will certainly stand guilty of having a 'superior attitude' (soon to be otherwise known as 'hatred'/'intolerance') towards other religions - as long as verses such as Jhn 14:6, Jhn 10: 1-10, Mat 28:18, 1 Jhn 5:5, 1 Pet 2:9, 2 Cor 6:14ff etc remain in the Bible! Surely, the Mother of all deception is having to agree that deception does not exist!

We have shown before (vol 2 no 6) that the demons ('spiritual guides') inspiring the principal human authors of the UR Charter consider Bible-believing Christians as cancerous cells in humanity, that must be mercilessly destroyed, for the 'common good'. At Church Arise! we believe the best preparation is for Christians to draw very close to God in fellowship. This is our own opportunity (and a very unique one at that) to begin operating at the supernatural. The Church of God will remain on earth, triumphant, till it pleases the Lord to come take us away. The Gates of Hell can never prevail!

"Behold, I am coming quickly! ." Rev 3:11

Exhortation: The King's Business

Our God is the King of kings. Whenever you are doing business that belongs to someone who is very important, you do not do it anyhow. God has a business for us, that is why when we became born again we were not taken to Heaven immediately. Because of the possibility of backsliding, God could have taken us home immediately we became born again. However, there is work for us to be done. Our major job is to win other souls to Himself. The way we testify and go about our Christian life will draw other people to God. Someone brought you to Christ and God wants you to bring others to Him.

You have to do the business of the King in a certain manner for it to be acceptable. We will list here 7 ways in which we can do the work of God.

1. **You must do the work.** James 1:22 says you must not be hearers only but be doers of the work. In other words, you have a choice either to do the work or not to do the work. God expects you to do His work. I will do God's business.

2. **You must do God's work well.** In Matthew 25:21 we are told that when God wants to greet those who have done His job, He normally says, **"Well done, good and faithful servant."** You must not do God's work shoddily.

3. **You must do God's work lawfully.** You must do it thoroughly. Some people claim that they can do the work of God with any method. I have heard of men of God who use charms to bring people into their churches, claiming that there is nothing wrong in it as long as their objective is winning souls. How can you stand on the devil's charm and preach Jesus Christ? **Light and darkness do not go together.** In 2 Timothy 2:5, the Bible says anyone that is going to be crowned will not be crowned until we can prove that the person is tried lawfully. In other words, before God can reward you for any business that you have done for Him, He would check whether you did it according to His plans. As far as God is concerned, you cannot say that the end justifies the means. You cannot go and steal and say you will pay your tithes out of it. God is not interested in blood money.

4. **You must do God's work urgently.** You must do the work of God the moment He says He wants it done. John 9:4 says: **"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."** Witnessing must be done instantly.

5. **The work of God must be done heartily.** Ecc. 9:10 admonishes us that whatsoever our hands find to do, we must do it with all our might. For example, when you praise God, praise Him with all your heart. Witness with all your heart.

6. **Do the work of God cheerfully.** God has no interest in those who do His work, grumbling. 2 Cor. 9:7 says God loves a cheerful giver. If you cannot do the work of God cheerfully, do not bother to do it at all so that you will not be wasting your time.

7. **You must do the work of God as an act of love.** Do whatever you are doing for God because you love Him. It is only if you do this that the reward will endure.

Pastor Enoch A. Adeboye (Taken from his book David volume 2)
Topical Issue Continued:

But more than mere social ostracism, we can be sure physical persecution will follow, if the Lord tarries! If you are serious with your Christian faith, you need to be prepared to be as one of the three Hebrew boys living in Babylon. It certainly is more reasonable and expedient preparing for the inevitable fall-outs (including loss of citizenship rights and outright physical elimination); rather than some unrealistic decade-long economic programme!

Indeed the much-talked about "anti-hatred bill" which was finally passed in the US senate about the same time as the signing of the UR charter, already provides legal grounds for potential stiff penalties for anyone who, in the United States, would dare condemn other people's way of living, such as homosexuality, or practices such as abortion. → pg 3

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Questions, comments and substantiated information of relevance to this newsletter are most welcome. We thank you for your continued interests.

TOPICAL ISSUE:

United Religions and The Coming Ban on Proselytization

Sometime in 1993 at Colorado Springs (USA), with the influx of new Christian ministries and associated intensive evangelism efforts, many young Jews and Catholics started giving their lives to Jesus, receiving Him as their personal Lord and ONLY hope of escaping the world and its lusts. The Jewish and Catholic establishments reacted furiously and threatened breakdown of peace if proselytization (i.e. soul-winning) efforts targeted at their youths were not curtailed. The Catholic Bishop bluntly said in a newspaper that "the effort to evangelize by some communities was creating an atmosphere of animosity". Such was the pressure and obvious blackmail that the evangelical/protestant Christian elders had to sign a 'Covenant of mutual respect' with these 'aggrieved parties', pledging to "learn from each other in a spirit of goodwill and mutual respect"

This is not some remote event in far away United States. It is nothing more than a refined (for now) version of the action taken by the Islamic establishments about the same time here in Nigeria (Kano, 1991), when they chose to cause mayhem rather than allow the man of God, Reinhard Bonnke to preach and heal in the name of Jesus. It does not matter that hardened criminals are repenting, that the depressed and hopeless are receiving new leases of life, that the physically blind, lame etc, are being healed, the only condition for peace is that the claims and offers of Jesus for the world must not be made known to the world! Today, things are decidedly much worse with the reign of 'political sharia' being fostered on parts of the country. Elsewhere, some of our old readers will recall that in our very first edition (vol 1 no 1) we mentioned the then anti-proselytization bill sponsored at the Israeli Knesset, but which thankfully did not succeed in becoming a law.

All these will help us understand the significance of the June 26 formal signing of the United Religion Initiative's Charter. The sales pitch of the UR is peace, tolerance and brotherhood of all mankind. An attractive package, no doubt, at first glance. But what is the price? There is no ambiguity in the URI's expression of this: no more "soul winning". Let's hear directly from the horse's mouth. The opening words in the UR charter gives the package:

"We, people of diverse religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions throughout the world hereby establish the United Religions Initiative to promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings... We unite in responsible cooperative action to bring the wisdom and values of our religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions to bear on the economic, environmental, political and social challenges facing our Earth community....."

And under its principles, UR quite clearly states the price: **"(there should be) no attempts to convert followers of other faiths; but, rather, they should be urged to rediscover the internal significance of their beliefs and rituals without forsaking their chosen paths"**. Imagine Paul trying to do that at Athens! Furthermore, article 16 of the Principles of the UR goes on to state in part,

" We (each part of the URI) shall relinquish ... such autonomy and resources as are essential to the pursuit of the preamble, purpose and principles".

The real issue is that these are not mere rantings of some layabouts; but carefully set agenda of several of the most influential people in the world today. A prudent person will not trivialize this kind of development! Indications already are that of all religions in the world, only the few of us evangelicals/protestants (cited in URI article on who Christians are as constituting only 38%, nominally) will find the above price unacceptable. Even that figure may further significantly drop should any trial arise concerning it – after all, how many of us have bothered to witness to a single soul since this year began, for instance! Even though the statistics are discouraging, true children of God will never seek to ignore the very last command left by their Lord (the Great Commission), just for the sake of compromise. Because we truly love the people of the world, and we know the TRUTH that only in turning to Jesus can there be true peace for any one, we will never agree to shirk our responsibility of providing light for the world, and salting it.. Without Jesus, life is hollow and meaningless as the statistics on suicide in the Eastern Religion countries clearly show. The issue is simply whether Truth is absolute (Christianity) or relative (all other religions)!

So, what do all these lead us into? The clear, inevitable fact is that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3:12). Jesus warned about people who would be ashamed of His words (Mark 8:38). The emerging world is certainly not going to applaud a 'narrow-minded, divisive, separatist, religious extremist', who insists that all who don't share his view are to be consigned to hell!

→ (Continued under Exhortation column on this page)