

**BEHOLD I COME
QUICKLY**

(TRILOGY)

BOOK III:

*INSIGHTS FROM RELIGIONS AND
SPIRITUAL EXPRESSIONS*

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FOREWORD

BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY is a trilogy which confirms with evidences from events around the globe the countdown to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In these books the author clearly showed that past and current events happening around the world are fulfillment and confirmation of bible prophecies.

The author in these trilogy showed how political, social, economic and scientific happenings around us are pointing to the sounding of the Trumpet that will herald events leading to the close of activities on planet earth.

The book is also a wake-up call on Christians not to take these events as ordinary as all these happenings impact on our preparedness for the soon-coming King.

The author has used evidences from political crisis, social upheavals, religious wars and scientific findings to support the biblical truth about the end times as detailed in scriptures.

Believers who find some secular books uninteresting, uninspiring and sometimes compromising will find these books not only interesting but also revealing as they clear some religious misrepresentations and misconceptions.

You will find in these books how subjects of evolution and other scientific fallacies are all falling apart even as proponents of these theories are making more findings to

contradict these theories.

The author also drew attention to the physical and other subtle persecution of Christians all over the world even in some so called secular nations. All these stories which touch the heart call for fervent prayers for the persecuted and passion for the lost.

These well researched trilogy are also useful materials for students and scholars of religion who may not have access to scientific discoveries as they relate to the bible.

Reading these books will not only help individuals in their Christian race, it will also awaken the church to arise for the great commission.

KOLA BOLANTA
RCCG BRAZIL
SOUTH AMERICA

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

“I will be with you always even to the end of the world”, was the last promise of the Lord recorded in the Gospel of Mathew (Math 28:20). It is clear that the time of the “end of the world” would be marked by intense spiritual battle. The Bible says there will be a complete polarization as the forces of Satan (in their various camouflages) congregate together on one side to confront the forces of the Lord Jesus – the true Church on the other side. The good will be purified and get much better while the bad will grow worse.

At Church Arise! we have followed and reported on these events continually for the past 15 years, basically because we are convinced that having correct information presented from the right perspective is a key ingredient to encouraging the Church on in the battle and getting Her to remain standing till the Lord comes.

In this third book of a Trilogy, we compile news items and commentaries published in the newsletter *Church Arise!* over a twelve year period, focusing on key religious or spiritual issues; and from these - both in terms of increasing intensity and frequency of key marker issues, we deduce that the returning Lord Jesus must indeed be close by, at the very doors!

For ease of reference, the materials are presented in seven sections:

SECTION 1: CHURCH - PERSECUTIONS

SECTION 2: CHURCH - APOSTASY AND DECAY

SECTION 3: CHURCH - PROGRESS AND COURAGE

SECTION 4: INTERFAITHISM

SECTION 5: ROMAN CATHOLICISM

SECTION 6: ISLAM

SECTION 7: OTHER RELIGIONS

SECTION II

Church – Persecutions

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECTION

Intensifying persecution of believers for their faith remains one of the very clear evidences that the return of the Lord Jesus is imminent. He told disciples that they should expect persecution that would worsen as the time of the end draws closer.

“For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?” (Luke 23:31)

“They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service” (John 16:2)

Despite the increasing acceptance of the modern doctrine of uncritical tolerance – used to push once-fringe ideas such as homosexuality, it is yet generally understood that authentic Christianity cannot be tolerated! The claims of Christianity hardly allow any option: Jesus is the ONLY way, and not just another way. The practice of Christianity also, even with the greatest benevolence and gentleness, still tend to provoke persecution. Holiness and commitment to Truth required is so absolute that it makes those on the other side uncomfortable – just like Peter declared to the Lord Jesus: “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (Luke 5:8). The Scriptures is very clear indeed, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).

Persecution ranges from psychological buffets from supposed friends to the worst kind of tortures and murders from declared die-hard foes. In this section we present *some* contemporary real life evidences of intensifying and widening persecution of the saints of Jesus all around the world - simply on account of their faith. The climax of all

persecutions, of course, will be at the manifestation of the Antichrist who will exercise absolute dictatorial powers on earth for a period of 3½ years and who will have zero tolerance for anything Christ-like. For ease of reference, the articles are arranged under the following chapters:

Distruption of Church services and destruction of Church buildings

Harrassment at the job - keep your lamp under the bushel!

Harrassment on the mission field - no proselytization allowed

Faith renouncement

Killings

De-Christianization and Secularization of Society

Top corporate culprits

1

CHAPTER ONE: Disruption of Church Services and Destruction of Church buildings

More violence against Church

Church officials in Sudan say Police have fired tear gas into a cathedral in Khartoum to break up a meeting being held inside. Hundreds of people are said to have fled from the building in panic. The Secretary General of the Sudan Council of Churches, Enock Tombe Stethen, said the meeting was to discuss drafting a letter of protest after Police broke up another religious gathering during the week. The Police had told the organisers not to hold this first meeting so as not to provoke clashes with Muslim groups. Reinhard Bonkke was present at one of the meetings. (Comet April 13, page 10) **Vol. 4 No. 3 (2001)**

Church Demolition again in Kano

The Kano State Environmental Protection Agency (KASEPA) has again begun the demolition of Churches located in and around the famous Bompai Road. According to a report in the Guardian (June 14, pg 3), eight Churches have already been demolished. CAN has called for 3 days fasting to counter the scourge, noting that 90% of the Churches in the State did not have C of O (authorities almost never give Churches!) which implied that all of them stood the risk of

being pulled down. God had used Bishop Wale Oke to diffuse a similar tension in Sokoto earlier in April. In a divinely-arranged chat with Governor Bafarawa in Sokoto, the Bishop had pointed out that most houses in the state have mosques attached to them. His rhetorical question, “Where are the papers for those mosques?” had convinced the Governor not to pursue the C of O business any further (see Guardian, April 8, 2001, page 36). Let’s pray for quick divine intervention in Kano before too much harm is inflicted. **Vol. 4, No 4 (2001)**

Killing in Church in Burundi

Rebels in Burundi killed 3 people, including 2 boys, and wounded 6 others when they attacked a Church where civilians had sought refuge, early Tuesday August 28. (Punch Aug. 30, pg 14). **Vol 4. No. 5 (2001)**

And in St. Petersburg,

Pastor Dimitri Shatrov Jr. told Assist News Service that he has received death threats from mobsters who want to seize the huge church he is building. Located in a prime spot in the city, the Good News Mission Church, when completed, will be the largest Protestant Church in Russia. The Mafia wants the prime spot for its own devilish activities. Please pray for Pastor Shatrov. **Vol 4. No 5 (2001)**

More Assaults on Christians in Church

A group of bearded men on motorcycles, suspected members of a notorious Islamic group, stormed the Church of Pakistan during Sunday service on Oct 28 in Bahawalpur, eastern Pakistan, killing no less than 16 people. Several others were critically wounded. The

CHURCH ATTACKS

obviously well-trained terrorists first killed the Policeman on security duty before barging into the Church “shooting indiscriminately with automatic weapons”. They were in the Church for a full 5 minutes. It wasn’t immediately clear whether or not the assault is related to anti-U.S., and anti-government sentiment over the airstrikes in Afghanistan (CNN). **Vol. 4 No 6 (2001)**

Demolition of Churches in Lagos

Demolition of Churches is no longer only a Northern-Nigeria affair, it appears. Of all places, Lagos is now reeling under the axe of overzealous government officials who appear to be uncomfortable with the number of Churches in the city. The latest of the churches to be brought down is the Victory Christian Centre, which despite having valid papers and a court injunction, was still brought down by officials of the Lagos State Government. The Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria is not allowing the matter lie low at all. (Details in Vanguard, Dec 13, pg 3) **Vol. 5 No 1 (2002)**

Massacres in Church

At the International Protestant Church, Islamabad, Pakistan, two men walked in to the Church, tossed 6 grenades and walked away, shutting the doors behind them. Only 3 of the grenades exploded, but it was enough to cause a massive number of casualty leaving at least 5 worshippers dead on the spot. 45 others were wounded, several of them critically (Comet March 18 pg 11). In a similar vein, Colombian catholic priest Juan Ramon Numez was shot dead while conducting mass in his La Argentina parish south of the capital, Bogota. He and a member of the congregation were killed while he

was administering Communion. He was an outspoken critic of the drug mafia. (Punch, April 8, pg 13) **Vol 5 No 3 (2002)**

Also, out of Church: Gunman kills 14

A gunman in police uniform stormed the local assembly of the Swiss Canton of Zug and opened fire, killing 14 people and wounding 14 others. It is the bloodiest in Switzerland, says a police officer. The lone gunman burst into the government building in the quiet town and fired around for several minutes. **Vol 5 No 3 (2002)**

Massacre of Christians continue in Pakistan

On Wednesday 26th September, two armed men entered the downtown office of the Institute for Peace and Justice, a 30-year old Church-backed charity organization working for the oppressed in the city of Karachi. There they tied up and gagged the staff. Eight of them were then shot in the head at close range with a single bullet each, and the ninth Christian person beaten to a pulp. The unidentified attackers escaped. Police described the chilling executions as “meticulous and methodical”. Since Pakistan gave support to US-led campaign against Al Qaeda, 38 Christians have been killed in 5 such attacks. (Punch Sept 27, pg 51) **Vol. 5 No 6 (2002)**

Moslems continue to massacre Christians at will in Pakistan

Christians in Pakistan continue to be sitting ducks for Islamic radicals to maim and murder at will - and the government seems completely helpless to intervene. Rather, according to Shahbaz Bhatti, chairman of the All Pakistan Minority Alliance, “The government has released the leaders and masterminds of banned militant organizations, who are involved in waging a holy war against non-Muslims. This is the

CHURCH ATTACKS

reason that terrorists are reorganizing and regrouping themselves in Pakistan"

We have had occasions to report several of the attacks on Christians in Pakistan. Again last Christmas, Islamic radicals launched a grenade attack on a tiny Protestant Church in eastern Punjab, killing 3 and wounding several others. One of the men later arrested for the attack was Maulvi Azhar, an Islamic cleric who had openly urged his congregation to kill Christians. However, within days, he was released, ostensibly based on Court injunctions. He then promptly disappeared from the country, leaving Christians outraged. According to Bhatti, "the ongoing attacks against them (Christians) prove that militants and terrorists are becoming stronger and more organized than even the government institutions". (Associated Press, 31/12/02) **Vol. 6 No 1 (2003)**

Muslim Rioters Burn 13 Churches in Jigawa

Islamic militants, on Tuesday 18th November, burned to the ground thirteen churches and several houses and shops belonging to Christians in Kazaure, Jigawa State. Their grouse, according to police sources, was that a Christian student of the F.G Girl's College in the town allegedly insulted the Prophet Mohammad in a discussion with another colleague; and the response of the school authorities was adjudged inadequate. (Reuters. Nov. 20, 2003)

Abubakar Sale, police commissioner in Jigawa state, told Reuters that the rioters attempted to invade the school but were repelled by the police. "The hoodlums then mobilized and went into town where they started looting and burning people's property." Punch specifically reported that the properties destroyed, estimated at millions of naira, were those "belonging to non-moslems and non-natives". (Punch Nov 20, 2003, pg 6) **Vol 7 No. 1, 2004**

Zamfara plans to demolish all Churches

Another wave of church demolition may be in the offing, if Sharia henchman Gov. Ahmed Sani has his way. According to PM News (April 29), Gov Sani has ordered the demolition of all churches in the state, as part of the launching of the second phase of his Sharia project. Speaking at Gusau, the state capital, the governor disclosed that the time was ripe for full implementation of sharia as enshrined in the Quran. He was quoted as declaring that the demolition of all places of worship of unbelievers in the state will be effected “in line with Islamic injunction to fight them wherever they are found”.

The governor also disclosed that a law to compel employers of labour in the state to give their employees "prayer breaks" five times daily would soon be enacted by the state House of Assembly while the retention of a long beard is now a condition for securing contracts from the state government. (PM News; allAfrica.com, April 29) **Vol 7 No. 3 (2004)**

Churches razed down in Dutse

On March 17, only prompt intervention by security forces prevented loss of lives and limited the damages to properties when “miscreants” poured out into the streets of Dutse in yet another Church-burning orgy. The Moslem youths were apparently protesting the ruling of a magistrate court in favour of the Living Faith Church against one Alhaji Ibrahim Adamu. Adamu had taken the Church to court for allegedly disturbing the neighbourhood by its activities, but it turned out that the charges were actually pre-emptive moves by the Alhaji who had connived with others to steal valuable property from the Church. When the court ordered that Adamu be remanded in prison custody, the youths went about their usual ‘thing’ razing to the

CHURCH ATTACKS

grounds the buildings of the Living Faith Church together with those of the RCCG and Calvary Church in the town. (Guardian, March 19, page 1) **Vol 7 No. 3 (2004)**

Gunman Kills Four in Texas Church

Four people were killed and another injured when a gunman opened fire in a rural church in Texas. The gunman knocked on the door of the Sash Assembly of God on the night of Sunday August 28, and when the door was opened, shot 3 people, including the Pastor. Two women in a car outside the church were also shot and killed. The gunman then fled to his home, near the Church where he shot himself after being surrounded by security operatives. (AP August 29; www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=25695) **Vol. 8 No 5 (2005)**

Anti-Christian rampage by 2,000 India Muslims

Sunday, November 13, 2005, some 2,000 organized Muslims invaded the small village of Sangla Hill in the Nankana district of Punjab, India. There they went about on an orgy of violence vandalizing and burning churches and private Christian properties. In Egypt, on Oct. 19, a Muslim student in his early 20s entered St George Church as a prayer service was finishing. He shouted "Allah akbar" and stabbed a novice nun in the chest with a knife. Thereafter he knelt and prayed "as if he was thanking God for finishing a task". **Vol. 8 No. 6 (2005)**

Church Burning in Alabama

Even in the United States, clearly the most Christianized of the free world and with strong conservative religious values, the Christian faith remains under constant stress and pressure. In the month of February alone, at least 12 churches (11 of them Baptist) in Alabama,

were set on fire by arsonists later identified as a group of young men steeped in Satanism. See details at www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=49226. In 1999, another self-sponsored Satanist, Jay Ballinger had gone around 11 states torching 26 Churches before he was arrested. **Vol 3 No. 5**

China: Police crush Christian church building

WorldnetDaily has reported that a nearly completed Christian modern church building in Xiaoshan district was demolished July 29 by government contractors and about 60 Christian leaders imprisoned “as China continues to battle unregulated Christianity.” The gathering of thousands of Christians at the building site did not deter the state agents who dispersed them and arrested the 60. Of these, about 50 still remain in custody, held incommunicado at unknown locations and under unknown conditions, without any formal charges. One woman, Wang Aizhen of Kanshan town, remained hospitalized with broken chest bones after being beaten by riot police. Furthermore, the local authority is threatening to force all Christian companies who had supported the church building to pay a heavy fine for their support of the project. www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=51393

Meanwhile, newly compiled statistics smuggled out of Eritrea indicate that at least 1,918 Eritrean citizens are imprisoned and being subjected to torture and forced labor because of their religious beliefs. **Vol. 9 No. 5 (2006)**

In Sokoto, Nigeria: Muslims Kidnap, Convert Christian Children

While, quite sadly, it is no news that young Christian people are routinely abducted and forcibly ‘converted’ to Islam in such ‘far

CHURCH ATTACKS

away' places like Egypt and Somalia (see for example, <http://www.persecution>), hardly could anyone have imagined such atrocity happening in 21st century Nigeria. The reality, however, is that according to Christian leaders who recently spoke with Compass Direct News, abductions "of boys and girls by Islamists" in Northern states of Nigeria have always happened and in fact are now becoming "increasingly common". In an on-going case (reported March 14 2007 by Compass Direct), 13 year old Victor Udo Usen, a member of the Christ Apostolic Church in Sokoto, who had suddenly gone missing in November last year, was spotted in a Muslim neighbour's house. That was on February 20.

On hearing the news, Victor's mother, Esther Udo Usen ran to the said house and indeed met her son, even as he was making frantic efforts to escape from the house where he has been held incommunicado for six months. A tearful Esther told Compass "I quickly held his hands and dragged him along with me towards our house, but within a twinkle of an eye, I heard shouts of '*Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar* [God is great]!' I was shocked as I saw a large number of Muslims rushing towards us." The mob surrounded them and snatched her son away from her. She was told that her son was now a Muslim and she and her husband were no longer his parents.

"They abducted him in November last year, and I only saw him today. How can someone force my son into his religion?" she lamented. On hearing the news, Victor's father, Udo Usen, rushed home, but was advised by his pastor and other Christian leaders to report the matter to the Police and State Security Service. According to Victor, "The police told us that they cannot do anything at the moment until the Sultan of Sokoto, the leader of Muslims in Nigeria, returns from his trip," he said. The current situation with Victor, who the Moslems

had already renamed Abdulkarim, is not known. (Compass Direct News, 14th March, 2007.)
www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=news&lang=en&length=long&idelement=4810 Vol. 10 No. 2 (2007)

Also in Sokoto, Moslems seek to take over Church buildings

With forced ‘conversions’ of Christian children into Islam on-going without anyone seeming to bat an eye, it is no surprise that Moslems in Sokoto are also seeking to convert Church buildings to Mosques. An on-going test-case affects the fast-growing Redeemed Christian Church of God, whose parish in Kokeri (Sokoto) is being asked to vacate their premises by an Islamic Shiite sect. According to Compass, the Islamic sect, called Izala, “has built a mosque near [RCCG’s] Kokeri parish and taken the church to court to force it relocate”. Izala is not making any legal pretext whatsoever, but is simply demanding to take over the Church’s property!

In Sokoto, as is the case in several other villages and cities in Northern Nigeria, it is far easier getting a camel through the proverbial eye of a needle than get a piece of land to build a Church on. Local government authorities expressly forbid any sale of land to any one with a Christian sounding name. Even where indigenous Church members turn over their landed property to the Church, no permission to build could be obtained. Rev Yaro of ECWA cited an example: “At Kadiji, our church members built a sanctuary on a property donated by a member, but in 2005 the Muslims there went and destroyed the building and pews, thereby, forcing us to vacate the land.” And just like the case in Nassarawa state, reported in the last edition of CA!, the state government has prohibited the rebuilding of the building.

Pastor Tayo Atiniku, state secretary of Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), recalled that the PFN (the very influential coalition of Pentecostal churches in the country), after waiting in vain for 10 years to get approval to develop the land acquired for its ministry centre, decided last November to begin the building - called the Goshen Project. According to Atiniku, Muslims promptly sacked the whole place, vandalizing and stealing some of the blocks on site.

Way back in 2001, Bishop Francis Wale Oke of the Sword of the Spirit Ministries had confronted Gov Attahiru Bafarawa of Sokoto State on the inconsistency in the policy that demanded that Churches get government approval to build Churches, while almost every other house in Sokoto has a Mosque built somewhere in the compound - without any papers (see **CA! Vol. 4 No. 3**). Unfortunately, there is no sign of things easing up for the Church in Pergamos. May the grace of the Lord continue to be sufficient for His people.

Meanwhile Mosques Take Over In Other ‘Christian Lands’

While the Christian Church continues to face tough times in countries with other religions in the majority [such as Saudi Arabia (Moslems), India (Hindi), Burma (Bhuddists), China (communists), etc], the Church in the traditionally “Christian lands” is apparently living disconnectedly in a stupor and is gradually being overrun by their minority religions, in particular Islam.

To cite a few current examples, first, a Catholic church in Cologne, Germany, is actually raising fund from within its membership to offer an unsolicited support for the building of a big new mosque in the district. The mosque which will feature two 55-metre-high minarets, a dome, and room for more than 3,000 worshippers will be one of the biggest in Germany. When several parishioners asked if the financial support was really necessary - considering, for instance, that

four young Moslem Turks had beaten a family man into a coma earlier in the week, the priest, Rev Meurer responded, ‘Hey, people, think about it, will you? We’ll be supporting the sensible ones’. Any wonder why retired priest Rev. Weisselberg burned himself to death (as reported in CA! Vol. 9 No. 6) in protest of the helplessness of the Church to counter the gradual Islamic take-over of Germany? http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=egff96bab.0.rye896bab.azwev8bab.33&ts=S0231&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.expatica.com%2Factual%2Farticle.asp%3Fsubchannel_id%3D26%26story_id%3D37774

In a similar development, London is living up to its label of being the “Muslim capital of Europe” as it plans to build what will be the largest Mosque outside of the Middle East. Ostensibly as part of the coming Olympics, the gigantic mosque complex, the likes of which the West has never seen will, according to observers, be the biggest Islamic in-road into Christendom in 400 years. There is apparently no budget problem to the building of mosques in “infidel lands”, as the Hanbali school of Law in Saudi Arabia has reportedly provided hundreds of MILLIONS of dollars for that purpose.

In **Vol. 8 No. 4**, we reported how Prince Charles is insisting on including a large mosque in a new settlement being planned for Cornwall. Currently, of the over 22,000 residents of the area, only 33 are Moslems. Already, London has the most number of mosques in any western city. www.raidersnewsnetwork.com/articles/cbn-com-CBNnews-83805-asp, www.thisislondon.co.uk/poll/poll-18791-details/ques-18669-id/%C2%A3100m+mosque%3A+Vote+now/poll.do **Vol. 10 No. 2 (2007)**

Grenade in Church in Sudan

Six children have been reported killed when an unidentified military man walked into a church during evening service and tossed a

grenade. The event happened in Khorfullus, southern Sudan on October 1. www.assistnews.net/Stories/2007/s07100007.htm Vol. 10 No. 5 (2010)

10 Killed, 3 churches burnt in Bauchi

Two weeks to the end of the year 2007, the ubiquitous Islamic “hoodlums” in Nigeria, have struck again, this time in Bauchi killing ten persons and setting ablaze dozens of homes, and at least three Churches.

According to an eye-witness account related to Compass Direct News, the problem started at the Government Day Secondary School (also known as Baba Tanko Secondary School) Kagadama, in the Yelwa Tudu area. Muslim students at the 3,655-student school had noticed on Monday December 2, that 2 blocks had been removed from the foundation of the school Mosque which they had started building the previous day. Two days later, after the issue had appeared to have been resolved, hell was suddenly let loose as, according to the eye-witness, Muslim students started to spontaneously troop out from the classes in the middle of on-going end-of-term examinations. They converged at the site of the school mosque and “began chanting *Allahu Akbar*.” Thereafter, they returned to the classes and from destroying chairs and desks, moved on to attacking “their Christian colleagues with knives and daggers.”

The Rev. Ishaya Danyaya, pastor in charge of ECWA-3 Church in Yelwa, took up the account of the story as the riot snowballed into town. According to the 57 year old minister, as soon as the rioting began, Islamic and Christian leaders, along with security agents, met at the house of the Muslim village head of Yelwa, Sarkin Yelwa, to discuss how to prevent the riots from spreading further.

“We met and resolved that we should not allow this incident spread to us,” he said. “We were told to nominate six members to serve in a security committee, and Muslims too were asked to do so. Four policemen were also appointed into this committee, and they were all mandated to keep watch over our area.”

However, the arrangement was a sham, as Muslims in the Yelwa area began attacking Christians. According to Rev. Danyaya, right in front *“of the house of the Yelwa, the Muslim village head, Muslims cut the head of a female Christian student with a machete and injured the leg of a pastor.”* “It was in the presence of Sarkin Yelwa that the Assemblies of God Church here had fire set on it,” he added. Two other Churches, belonging to the Redeemed Christian Church of God and the Elim Church, were similarly set ablaze. Most of the houses burnt belonged to Pastors. One of them, Umaru Sule of ECWA-3 in Yelwa, barely managed to escape with his life, but he lost every other possession he had to the fire. Speaking to Compass, Sule said: *“Not even a Bible now do I have,”*

Official figures claim only one life was lost - that of a Christian security agent with the State Security Service. Identified by eyewitnesses only by his surname, Bogoro, he is a member of the Church of Christ in Nigeria, in Yelwa. Eyewitnesses however told Compass they saw nine other corpses thrown and buried together in a common grave on the morning of Friday 14th December.

Even when the targets have been clearly Christians, the governor of the State, Isa Yuguda, insists that the riot had nothing to do with religion. According to the governor and his officials, the disturbance was only an attempt by political adversaries to discredit his All Nigeria Peoples’ Party administration. It might be true of course that the fire of this riot was kindled by politicians to achieve their own ends [who removed those 2 blocks?], but no one can deny that the

perpetrators of the murders and maiming and wanton destruction have been Muslims; that the targets have been Christians, with clear identities; and sad to note, that most of the killings and destructions were witnessed by Moslem elders, including even the village head! Meanwhile nothing has been heard again from either the NIREC or the FG government about the last massacre of Christians in Kano (see last edition of CA!)

This report is compiled from reports from the Compass News Direct, ThisDay 12/12/07; Daily Champion 12/12/07, and Daily Trust. For details check
<http://www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=news&length=long&lang=en&idelement=5157> Vol 10. No. 6, 2007

Moslem Hatchet-men invade Church at Ethiopia

On Sunday March 2, while about 200 people were worshipping God at the Kale Hiwot Church, in Nensebo Chebi village, Ethiopia, a group of Muslim radicals surrounded the Church and barricaded the doors shut. They then broke in through the windows and started hacking at the worshippers with machetes. In the attacks, 45 year old Tula Mosisa lost his life, while 17 others were brutally wounded, many with permanently severed limbs. Some thought to be dead actually revived at the hospital.

The latest development about the incident is that the mastermind of the attack, one Hussein Beriso, house speaker of the Nesenbo District council, has now been released on bail while further hearing has been postponed to April 25. Berriso, after calling for local Muslims to resist any attempts to convince them to leave Islam, had bought and distributed machetes which were used in the attack. According to International Christian Concern, 150 machetes were discovered in his house after the attacks.

Furthermore, a week later (on March 10), the religious murderers visited and burnt down the house of a local evangelist who had helped to transport eight seriously wounded Christians to a local hospital thus saving their lives. Some of these Christians later spoke with the ICC at the hospital where they were recuperating. When asked if he knew his attackers, one of them said: ***“Our attackers are our neighbors, with whom we ate and drank.”***

From INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN, PRAYER POINTS APRIL 11, 2008. ICC is a Washington-DC based human rights organization that exists to help persecuted Christians worldwide. See also www.persecution Vol. 11 No. 2

Iran – House church raided; Elderly couple beaten to death

An Iranian Christian couple in their 60s have died from injuries sustained when secret police raided a house church service hosted at their house and severely beat them. *Compass* reported in August that the Police beat and arrested Amiri on July 17, along with seven other men, six women and two minors who were attending the service. Amiri died in a hospital on July 30 from injuries sustained from the beating while his wife Sakineh Rahnama, died on Sunday (Aug. 3) from stress-related causes.

Citing the Farsi Christian News Network (FCNN), *Compass* reported that violence against Amiri was reportedly intensified when the policemen discovered that he had taken a pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the five pillars of Islam required of all devout Muslims, before he had become a Christian. He was also a veteran of the Iran-Iraq War, a strong source of Iranian national pride, so his conversion further infuriated police, according to FCNN. All those arrested at the house meeting are reportedly still in custody, including Amiri’s daughter and the two minors.

Arrests and violence against Iranian Christians have intensified in recent weeks. Twelve Christians traveling to Armenia via Tehran were arrested on July 12 at the Kerman airport in south-central Iran. In February the Iranian parliament proposed a draft penal code that demands the death penalty for leaving Islam. Under current Iranian law, “apostasy” is considered a capital offense, but punishment is left to the discretion of the judge. The draft penal code is scheduled to be reviewed in the next parliamentary session. <http://www.onenewsnow.com/Persecution>. Vol. 11 No. 4

Saudi Arabia deports Christians for worshipping in their private homes

Fifteen Christians in Saudi Arabia who were accused by government officials of worshipping in their homes have been ordered deported. According to a report from [International](#) the Christians were scheduled for expulsion on Aug 5 “for their part in a home worship service in Taif .”

They were arrested at gun point, Gestapo-style, and ordered to hand over their resident permits and mobile phones. The worshippers initially faced accusations of preaching and singing, but the charges were later changed to holding a 'dance party' and collecting money to support terrorism,"

Details at

<http://wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=71498>. Vol 11 No 4

Muslims burn down Church in Ilorin

Sunday August 31, members of the Christ Apostolic Church, Baboko area in Ilorin were confronted by militant elements from the Moslem community who barred them from entering their Church. In order

to prevent any unnecessary breakdown of peace, the 300-strong congregation retired to a site on the outskirts of the city for their Sunday service. They returned only to find their 4-year old multi-million naira church building destroyed and gutted by fire in the hands of the muslim militants.

The Islamic grouse was that the church building, at half a kilometre from the Baboko mosque, was cited too close to the Mosque and must therefore be relocated. This is despite the fact that the Church duly got and paid for the land and all necessary papers and approvals required by the state government before it was built! What effrontery from a religion that would deafen whoever cares to listen, with pious statements about its unwavering commitment to peaceful co-existence with neighbours! Many will recall a not-too-different situation at the University of Ibadan several years ago, when Moslems demanded that a decades-old landmark Christian cross be relocated for being too close to their newly built mosque.

At Ilorin, the moslems had initially taken their case to the government-established Inter-Religious committee, which on examining the case ruled against the Islamists' claim. However, under further moslem pressure, the spineless panel reversed itself asking the church to relocate. Although the Christian Association of Nigeria promptly appealed against this second ruling, the state government promptly "offered church leaders" 3 million naira and ordered the congregation to relocate their building that had cost nearly 20 million naira to erect. Talk of adding salt to an injury!

It is probably the state government's position that emboldened the Islamists to rise up to enforce the relocation order by gutting down the Church building. Earlier on, on June 16, the moslem faithfuls had paid a warning visit to the church on which occasion "they broke into the church sanctuary, destroying musical instruments,

burning pews and pulling down part of a fence around the premises.” They also wrote Islamic inscriptions on the Church gate – an action which had it been done to the Moslems could have been sufficient to justify a wave of indiscriminate arson and killing of Christians state-wide. Please read the details of this story from Compass Direct at <http://www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=news&length=long&lang=en&idelement=5551>

As usual, moslem leaders are keeping mum, under the usual explanation that they can't speak for the “extremists” who choose to take the law into their own hands. As for the state government, it has gone as far as causing a statement to be issued by the secretary to the state government condemning the action purportedly carried out by “agents of destabilization and enemies of peace.”, and “warning“ it would “not tolerate or harbour any evil-doer.” You bet, that settles the whole matter. No arrests, no compensation.... Even, no more discussions! **Vol. 11 No. 5**

In Malaysia, Churches firebombed as Court grants that non-muslims may refer to God as Allah.

Several Churches (over 7 at the last count) are being firebombed by irate muslims who say they are protesting a Court ruling, on 31st December, that allows that non-muslims may use the Arabic word, Allah, to refer to God in the Malayan language. In 2007 the Government had banned such use, but the Catholic newspaper, the Herald, which has several publications in Malayan, challenged the government's order in court. Although the government immediately indicated it would appeal the Court verdict overturning its order, the ubiquitous “Islamic extremists” are already taking the law into their own hands.

Christian groups in Malaysia argue that Allah is an Arabic name for God which predates Islam whereas Malaysian Muslims contend that the word should only be used by Muslims. Their fear, as articulated by the government, is that “making Allah synonymous with God may confuse Muslims and ultimately mislead them into converting to Christianity”.

Ordinarily, the Allah ban is unusual in the Muslim world. The Arabic word is commonly used by Christians to describe God in many countries including Egypt, Syria and Indonesia. In fact, in countries like Nigeria, ironically, it is Christians that are suggesting that Allah is a proper name for the God of Islam and should not be used as a generic name for the God of the Bible, Jehovah. (See www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread188676/pg1 and also <http://churcharise.blogspot.com/2008/01/do-moslems-themselves-believe-they.html>, <http://churcharise.blogspot.com/2008/02/eminant-christian-signatories-back-out.html>)

Thankfully, many Muslims in Malaysia have condemned the firebombings, and Prime Minister Najib Razak, during a visit to one of the worst-hit churches, the Metro Tabernacle, announced a grant of \$147,000 for rebuilding it at a new location. This gesture has been described as a major concession in a country where permission is rarely given for building new churches or temples. (www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/09/AR2010010900345.html). The government of Nigeria can learn some lesson about sincerity from that! **Vol. 12 No. 6, 2009**

In Egypt, Christians mowed down by Muslims, right on Church lobby.

At least six Christians, coming from a midnight Church service, were mowed down by machine gunfire by three Moslem men who drove by and sprayed bullets into a crowd of churchgoers in the town of Nag Hamadi in Qena province of Egypt on Wednesday January 6, early in the New Year. Nine other Christians were wounded, three of them critically.

This drive-by shooting was the climax of a series of intensive hostilities against Christians in the town following rumours that a churchgoing man had raped a Moslem girl in November. "Muslim residents of Nag Hamadi and neighboring villages rioted for five days in November and torched and damaged Christian properties in the area after the rape." Bishop Kirolos of the Nag Hamadi Diocese told The Associated Press "This is a religious war about how they can finish off the Christians in Egypt, www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122299715

When Christians gathered at the church the next day and tried to protest this latest outrage, they were met with the full fury of the police who freely used teargas and also fired shots into the air to confine the peaceful assembly within church grounds. Meanwhile, compare the irony of this story with another that came out, also from Egypt, about the same time [**Forced Islamization via rape of Christian Girls Supported By Egyptian State See Section 1.**) www.nrguardiannews.com/africa/article01//indexn2.html?update=080110&ptitle=Egyptian%20policemen%20disperse%20Copts%20protesting%20fatal%20shooting **Vol. 12 No. 6**

ECWA Laments Attack on its Churches in Plateau State

Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) has again lamented the attack on its church and vehicles “by Muslim hoodlums”, without security intervention. During a violent protest supposedly against the recent ban on Okada, ECWA leaders claimed “we watched helplessly in the presence of armed soldiers of the military Special Task Force (STF)” as the hoodlums destroyed precious properties.

In a statement issued in June by the church’s General Secretary, Reverend Ezekiel Mipo Dadang, ECWA lamented that “since the wake of the November, 2008 and January, 2010 crises in Jos, our churches have suffered several attacks and destruction; the ECWA buildings in Gangere, Rikkos, Jos-Jarawa, Adebayo street, Ahmadu Bello Way and Bukuru areas have been attacked and destroyed.

The Church further alleges that “...we have keenly watched the massive security being provided by the Joint Military Task Force at the Jos Central Mosque and other mosques without any being provided for our churches.” In closing, the ECWA said “our patience is wearing out and we cannot continue to watch the Muslim hoodlums destroying our churches, killing our pastors and members without the security agents challenging them. The ECWA leadership has therefore demanded that these attacks must stop”.

www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=175550. Vol 13 no 3 [2009]

51 Iraqi worshippers

Fifty-one Christian worshippers (and later on, seven Iraqi commandos) were killed in an attack on an Assyrian Christian Church in Karrada, central Baghdad on Sunday October 31. Rev. Wasseem Sabeeh was delivering the sermon when blasting sounds were heard. Some heavily-armed men in military fatigues stepped in through the blasted door and calmly started to shoot the worshippers - beginning with the

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Priest. "They were well trained," Bassam Sami, 21, one of the survivors said. "They didn't say anything. It was like someone had cut out their tongues."

Sensing trouble with the initial blasting sounds, Rev Sabeeh had quietly begun ushering parishioners into a fortified room in the rear of the church. However, according to Sami, one of the assailants discovered the room and tossed in a grenade.

Shortly after 9 p.m., after realizing that hostages had been executed, a team of U.S.-trained Iraqi commandos stormed into the church from all sides. At least five suicide bombers detonated explosives, killing seven of the troops. The al-Qaeda in Iraq, in an internet message, claimed responsibility for the carnage. They believe they are fighting for God, and the zombified suicide bombers have been assured by their religion of a straight passage to heaven - with 70 virgins for each!

Details in www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/01/AR2010110104420_2.html?sid=ST2010110104430 **Vol. 13 No. 5**

Radical Muslims Razed Down Church Buildings In Zanzibar.

Typifying on-going assaults by radical Islam on Christianity in several regions of the world, two church buildings were razed down on the night of Sunday June 28 on the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar after worship services, according to Compass Direct News (June 30).

Radical Muslims set the church buildings on fire on the outskirts of Unguja Township, on the island off the coast of East Africa. Earlier they had dropped a flier at the door of Charles Odilo, who had donated the plot on which the Evangelical Assemblies of God in Tanzania (EAGT) building stood. "We don't want churches on our street," read the flier. "Today we are going to burn the church, and if

you continue we are going to burn your house also.”
www.jihadwatch.org/archives/026770.php. Vol. 12 No. 4

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www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=175550. Vol. 13 No. 2

Muslims in Kano: even indigenes can’t build churches here!

[Worthy News](#) has reported (May 21, 2010) that Muslim extremists destroyed several churches and a pastor's house in the latest religious violence to hit Nigeria's northern Kano state. One of

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the buildings and the pastors house were set ablaze on the premises of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) at Kwasam, in the Kiru Local Government area, while another building under construction was demolished, the church said. Over 100 Moslem youths were involved in the attacks, demanding that their area must be free from Church buildings!

The ECWA Church had earlier been dragged before the Sharia Court for this “great crime” of putting up Church building in a Moslem city; but the church argued that the land on which the Church stood was their inheritance, and that its members are indigenous to the area. Nevertheless, according to Christian Solidarity Worldwide CSW which has closely monitored the case, the Sharia court ruled in favor of the Moslem complainants. The rampaging youths then were the demolition squad effecting the orders of the religious court!

Earlier the Baptist Church in the area of Banaka, Takai LGA, was also destroyed on May 15, - the fourth time the Church would be demolished. "After the previous demolition, a group of Christians from Kastina State paid for the construction of a new building, and also drilled a well for church members to use. However, during the demolition, the well was blocked off completely," CSW said in a statement.

Meanwhile, while Moslems would not allow indigenous Christians to construct Churches in their own family properties, is it not incredible that they would sponsor transiting public officers to attempt to erect mosques in public institutions in parts of the same “northern Nigeria” where they (Moslems) are struggling to put the Christian majority under political subjugation? Read the next story please. **Vol. 13 No. 2**

Churches raided, Pastor and members killed by Jihadists at Borno.

Rev Bulus Marwa, and five members of his congregation at the Victory Baptist Church, Dala Alemderi, Maiduguri, were killed when the Church was attacked on Christmas' eve by an '*Allahu Akbar*' chanting mob of about 30. Despite clear advance information that Jihadists were set to attack churches in Maiduguri, in order to create the impression of an inter-religious fight (as part of making the nation ungovernable, apparently), the dastard act was still carried out. According to a survivor, the mob "hacked...two choir members using knives and petrol bomb before heading to the pastor's residence, where he was killed."

Also attacked was the Church of Christ in Nigeria in Sinimari, Maiduguri, where a sixty-year old security guard, Philip Sopso, was killed. All these happened around 7.30 pm on Christmas eve, even as the bombs were rocking Jos, decimating Christians.

In an interview with the Vanguard (December 26th) , Borno Police Commissioner, Mohammed Abubakar, said the armed sect members could have been arrested, if the Divisional Police Officers, DPOs had heeded his warnings on the planned attacks, and that the police divisions had enough patrol vehicles to have prevented the Christmas killings. Is the Police Commissioner admitting he can't control the DPOs under him?

A bewildered governor Ali Modu Sheriff blurted out: "I have told the security services that they should do everything possible to secure all churches in Maiduguri..." With "everything possible" having failed to protect the lives of threatened law-abiding citizens, isn't that an admission of failure by the Sharia-embracing government of Borno state? According to the governor, "I have given all that is necessary to see that my Christian brothers and sisters have a hitch-free

Christmas but I don't know what went wrong..." According to the plan of action personally supervised by the governor himself, following the inundation of the state with the plan by Boko Haram to attack some Churches, more soldiers were deployed in the state and every church was supposed to be manned by security forces. Whatever happened to the soldiers deployed to the Victory Baptist Church! **Vol. 13 No. 6**

Killings continue in Plateau villages. Divine protection for churches

The killing of Christians by so-called Fulani marauders continue in Plateau state. The latest is the slaughter of five members of the Bitrus family at Kai Village, Barkin Ladi LGA on Monday 14th March. According to a bulletin issued by the state police command, apart from the killings, nothing was stolen or destroyed. The police said that on the receipt of the information, security personnel rushed to the scene but they could not get the attackers. Unfortunately, a story all too familiar. (http://www.compassnewspaper.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2347:-again-family-of-five-killed-in-jos-crisis&catid=308:headlines&Itemid=600)

Thank God however, for ultimate, unfailing divine security. As reported by the Sun newspaper (March 21, 2011): "Another major bloodshed was averted in Jos, the Plateau State capital, when two attempts to detonate bombs in two separate locations [on Sunday March 20] failed through divine intervention". It was gathered that two men, who were carrying bomb on a motor cycle heading for where to plant it had the device exploded on them around Dualla junction between ECWA and COCIN churches at about 9.45 am when Sunday morning services were in progress.

According to the Daily Sun, yet another bomb blast was averted at the Mountain of Fire and Miracle Church, off Murtala Muhammad Way in Jos, when men of the Special Task Force, who were going round the church during the service discovered a bomb, “which was capable of bringing down the whole building and even those around if it had detonated”

Immediately the bomb was discovered the church service was abruptly brought to an end and the area condoned off. Although the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, Abdulrahman Akano confirmed that four youths had been arrested in connection with the explosive found near the church, we are yet to see any prosecution so far.

Islamists continue to be readily available as tools to decimate local innocent Christians

In the last edition of CA! we reported on a minutes of the meeting of an Islamic group, the Jama’atul Nasril Islam, which gave details of the decision to attack Christians near election time, to the extent that the government will have no choice but declare a state of emergency in Plateau state. It was clear that some desperate politicians who have threatened to make the country ungovernable have found the perfect tool to achieve their dastard plans. Thank God for His sovereign power in overruling these wicked plots.

However, it seems the concept of using Islamists to attack Christians and so create political upheavals is an appealing strategy in many places all over the world, not just in Nigeria alone. Apparently there is no local shortage of easily ignitable Islamists ready to spring forth murdering Christians at the minimum mobilization. In the latest of such incidents, faced by an imminent popular uprising, the

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government of Ethiopia has successfully incited moslems in Asendabo Jimna Zone and other western Ethiopian towns to attack Christians. At the last count, the rioting Islamists have razed down 13 Churches, a bible school and over 150 houses belonging to Christians. The attacks, featuring about ten thousand muslims began after the Friday prayers on March 2, on the allegation that some Christians had desecrated the Qur'an. Federal security forces sent to quell the riot claimed they couldn't stop the crowd. And so for now, the government of Meles Zenawi has gotten some reprieve, like Nero did centuries ago – at the expense of followers of Jesus Christ. Read details about the Ethiopian attacks as reported by local Ethiopians, citing the International Christian Concern at www.ethiopianreview.com/content/32041

VOL 14 NO 1

Terror threat -- U.S. churches advised on standby emergency team

In United States, the Christian Emergency Network has issued a warning for churches to be on the alert for possible terror attacks. This follows the recent airing of an al-Qaeda video that encourages Muslims in that country to quickly obtain guns and to **"do major damage to the enemies of Islam, waging war on their religion, sacred places, and things and brethren."**

OneNewsNow further quoted Steve Amundson of the [Florida Security Council](#) as saying: "Churches, just like everybody, I tell them to be vigilant; be aware of your surroundings. Don't walk around like everything's okay, because we're in different times now, and it's time for Americans to be vigilant, be aware, [and] be alert because something could happen."

BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY – BOOK 3

Churches are also advised to have an emergency team ready and to regularly conduct emergency drills. We feel this is good advice not just for the Church in the US but also in Nigeria and elsewhere. OneNewsNow - 6/30/2011. **Vol. 14 No. 2**

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CHAPTER TWO: Harrassment at the Job - Keep Quiet on Your Faith!

Mentioning Jesus' name is offensive in US House

While men continue to wax bolder in mouthing what used to be considered obscene concepts and ideas, in *God's own country* even legislators are finding it increasingly difficult to mention the name of the Lord Jesus, or even 'God' in their official business!

Asked to lead the mandatory pledge before the House begins its business for the day, Democratic House member Mr McDermot refused to include the concluding words "under God" [Equivalent to the expression "so help me God" in Nigeria's pledge]; while in the Florida Senate, the president considered it important to issue a deep apology after the invited guest pastor had used the name of Jesus Christ in the daily opening prayer. According to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, "Senate President Jim King expressed his regret after Dr. Clayton Cloer, senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Central Florida, gave an invocation in which he gave thanks for, among other things, the "freedom for people to believe in Jesus Christ..." Cloer concluded his prayer by invoking the "name of Jesus," the paper said.

www.washingtontimes.com/national/20040427-105435-

[1862r.htm](#)

and

www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=38271

Vol. 7 No. 3 (2004)

At ABU, Christian Lecturer under fatwa, goes into hiding

For daring to implement the Dress Code prescribed by the Council of Legal Education of the Nigerian Law School, Commercial law guru, and notable Christian at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, Mr Andrew Akume has been sentenced to death by a group calling itself the Concerned Muslims Movement of that University. According to reports in ThisDay, "Akume who is a member of the University Senate as well as Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Law, allegedly walked out a female student from the class having failed to remove a *hijab* she was wearing which covered her entire face." In an undated fatwa issued in June, the Islamic group said an earlier death sentence pronounced against Akume (in May) was still valid and would be implemented "in a few days time", warning that "we are not a people who fight without due notice". What a way to fight!

Readers of CA!, (and certainly Mr Akume himself!) know just exactly what that means! Of the few reported and many more unreported incidences of similar fatwas in Northern Nigeria, and the callous cold-blooded murders that followed them, there has been no known case of any redress - judicial or political; and only few high profile ones make it to the national newspapers. Such incidences are usually soon forgotten in the face of other "pressing" national matters! For example, at the National Reform Conference, the Christian Association of Nigeria presented a paper documenting outrageous incidences of persecution against Christianity in recent years, but in the wake of issues such as resource control, and political tenure, such papers hardly get any serious attention! Even at press time, the three

Christian students who were expelled by the University authorities at the ATBU, Bauchi in the same incidence that led to the murder of Sunday Achi (**Vol 8 No 1**) are still fighting their expulsion at the law courts. They remain expelled to date!

Mr Akume fully understands the situation. He has therefore submitted a petition to the University authorities carefully denying the accusations made against him by the militant Muslim group, and thereafter, quietly gone underground. How long will such a situation persist on our Campuses? Is this situation any better than cultism? (<http://www.charismanow.com/a.php?ArticleID=11427>. See also This Day May 2, 2005 and Editorial of Sun News, May 10, 2005)

Meanwhile, the Voice of the Martyrs has opened a centre in Nigeria for the help of Christian widows who have lost their husbands at the hands of Muslim fanatics. The Centre, located at Jos, will help these ladies develop a trade in sewing or computers so they can support themselves and their children. What else can foreign sympathizers do? **Vol. 8 No. 4 (2005)**

In California, Christian Intern fired for sharing faith

For her internship during a Master's degree in social work at the California State University, Jacqueline Escobar was attached to the Department of Children and Family Services, or DCFS.

A straight-A student, Escobar was at first complimented regularly by the DCFS for her work. However it soon became well-known that she shared her faith with co-workers during lunch breaks and after-hours. She was consequently directed to stop such acts, even after work hours. The University further ordered her to sign a document admitting she had "an inability to separate her religious beliefs from her role" as an intern. For refusing to sign the damning document, Escobar was terminated from her internship and threatened with

expulsion from the graduate program. She is currently challenging this termination.
(www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=48954)
(Vol. 9 No. 2, 2006)

Faith on the firing-line

While Christians are increasingly being deterred from sharing the life-transforming gospel to a dying world (hatred laws either in place or being considered in Australia, Netherlands, UK, Canada, US, and many other Western countries) and would-be Christian converts are being prohibited by law from doing so; in other regions of the world where Christians are minority, they are actually being requested, under severe torture, to give up their faith! Just a few recent examples:

Eritrea: In the month of May, police raided a wedding in Asmara, and arrested all the guests. Around 70 of them still remain imprisoned and have been refused freedom until they recant their evangelical faith.
<http://www.christiantoday.com/news/missions/80.christian.high.school.students.arrested.in.eritrea/396.htm>

India: Seven of 13 Christians from the village of Chattisgarh territory, have been sent to jail for refusing the demand that they renounce their faith.
<http://www.christiantoday.com/news/missions/christians.in.india.fierce.persecution>. In Maharashtra state, for refusing the instruction by a Community court that they give up their faith, men from 11 Christian families were “severely beaten” and the women “sexually assaulted” on May 15.
www.compassdirect.org/en/newsen.php?idelement=3864

Saudi Arabia: Five Christians arrested in connection with a house church have been released, while three others remain in custody. According to sources with AsiaNews, the men were released after signing a document in which they renounced the prayer sessions and religious practices conducted privately in their homes. www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=44684

Bangladesh: Dulal Sarkar, 35, a Baptist lay pastor, was beheaded by a group of assailants reportedly tied to a Muslim political party as he returned home from discussing his faith with villagers near Jalalpur. (www.baptiststandard.com/postnuke/index.php?module=htmlpages&func=display&pid=3412)

In Italy, Alberto Iturbe who died on May 25 is being persecuted even in death! His family has been denied the permission to bury him because “they were evangelical Christians, not traditional Catholics”. Madero University professor Marjorie Hord Mendez commented, “It seems unthinkable that such things happen in the 21st century. This is a flagrant violation of human rights.” www.compassdirect.org/en/newsen.php?idelement=3857

On a happier note, Gaser Mahmoud the Egyptian man we mentioned in our last edition as being consigned to a Mental Hospital till he recants his Christian faith has now been released (June 9), *without acceding to the requests of his captors* - thanks to prayers and intense pressure from Christians all over the world. (http://www.islamreview.com/news/2005_newsc.htm). **Vol. 8 No. 4 (2005)**

Saying “God bless” at work prohibited in the UK

Also from the UK came the news that an employee with the London Borough Council has been suspended from work for nearly two months because he encouraged a homeless woman with an incurable

medical condition to look to God for help - after doctors told her they had given up hope. Duke Amachree (53) is a Homelessness Prevention officer with Windsworth Council and has been on the job for almost 18 years. He is also a member of the UK World Evangelism Church in London. In an investigatory interview on March 17, Mr Amachree was told he should not raise the issue of religion at work. He was told it was inappropriate to “ever talk about God” or even say “God bless”. (News from Assist News Service ANS, 31/03/09) **Vol. 12 No. 3**

Moroccan jailed 15years for Christian Faith

The International Christian Concern, ICC, has reported that a Moroccan Christian named Jamaa Ait Bakrim is currently serving a 15 year term, simply on account of his faith. Jamaa became a Christian in the 1990's while travelling through Europe. When he returned to Morocco he was ostracized and later imprisoned for refusing to stop talking about his faith. In 2005 Brother Jamaa was jailed for 15 years for “proselytization”, as according to the judge, “the fact that Jamaa denies accusations of proselytization is inconsistent with the confession during which he proclaimed he was a son of Christ and he wanted Moroccans to become Christians...”

Jamaa is currently serving out this sentence, and is located in Prison Centrale of Kenitra, Morocco. In order to advocate for Jamaa and other Christian prisoners, ICC is launching a prisoner focus page at: www.persecution. Please visit this site and remember to pray for God’s blessing on ICC’s efforts. **Vol. 13 No. 3**

Asia Bibi, Pakistani Christian woman faces death for blasphemy

In vol 13 no 3, we reported the cruel murder of a Pakistani Christian housewife Razia Jamshed and her four children on the allegation that they had blasphemed the Islamic prophet. In the same edition, we also reported another story, also from Pakistan, of two Christian evangelists also accused of blasphemy, who were shot dead by Islamic zealots, even while in police custody.

The gravity of the situation with Asia Bibi, another Pakistani Christian now sentenced to death by hanging under the same blasphemy laws, can then be imagined. Despite pleas by Asia's husband that she was framed up only to settle old scores, and a government's panel of inquiry apparently exonerating her of any wrong doing, she apparently is receiving little sympathy from her blood-thirsty compatriots.

International pressure has been tremendous, requesting the government of Pakistan to overturn the verdict and amend the country's blasphemy laws; but it would require nothing short of divine intervention to secure Asia's release. This is because hard-line Islamic groups are threatening fire and brimstone if she is released. This is no idle threat. There have been large-scale riots and demonstrations demanding that the blasphemy law must not be touched (<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2010/12/anti-human-rights-riots-in-pakistan-during-nationwide-strike-to-uphold-blasphemy-law.html>); and on January 4 no less a personality than the governor of Punjab province, Salman Taseer, was machine-gunned dead by one of his own moslem security details – for his asking pardon for Asia Bibi, and for his comments which were deemed unfavourable to the existing blasphemy law! (www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12111831)

One of the hardliners is Maulana Yousef Qureshi. This supposed holy man of God is insisting that the illiterate mother of

four, Asia, must be killed by all means. Just in case the government upturns the death verdict, Qureshi is offering \$6,000 to any person who kills Asia Bibi. "We expect her to be hanged and if she is not hanged then we will ask mujahideen and Taliban to kill her" Qureshi boasted

Bibi's husband, 48-year-old Ashiq Masih, has gone into hiding, along with his children, sheltered inside a Christian colony. **Vol. 13 No. 6**

Persecuted Christians in Mexico

Every year, Christians in Mexico are attacked, evicted, threatened, and discriminated against for their beliefs. That's right, Mexico. Last May in the rural town of San Jose de Axuxco, in Puebla State, the members of a small Baptist church had their crops devastated after the town's authorities cut off the water supply, throwing many of the church members into severe financial difficulties. In August, the town authorities decided to cut off their drinking water as well. The only "crime" the church members had committed was refusing to contribute to a local religious festival they didn't believe in. When Christians in the village of San Rafael de Tlanalapan planned to hold a few days of meetings of their own kind, much of the village rose up and threatened to lynch and crucify them. Seventy of them had to prudently flee their homes when it became clear the mayor was not in any position to intervene. The ICC is spearheading a petition to the Mexican authority on these cases. Check details at <http://www.persecution>. **Vol 14 No 6**

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CHAPTER THREE: Harrassment on the Mission Field - No Proselytization Allowed

Indian PM puts Christians on the spot

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has recently (18th August) accused unnamed Christian groups of carrying out “forced conversions”. While praising the groups for their work in neglected regions of the country, the PM said it amounts to abuse of position when these groups explain to their benefactors what motivates them to their sacrificial self-giving! Thankfully, Indian’s main opposition Congress Party are taking up issues with the PM on the potentially inflammatory statement. “How can the Prime Minister make such a comment?” asked Mr Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi the opposition leader, adding that the remarks threatened to fray “the secular religious fabric of India”. (The Punch Aug 22, pg 11) **Vol 4. No. 5 (2001)**

Meanwhile Christians face real “forceful conversion” elsewhere

In Laos, Police have been arresting several church leaders on trumped-up charges of involvement in religious activities and foreign political movements. Jubilee Campaign said police was using threats and intense pressure to get the leaders and also members of their

families to renounce their faith, but so far none has yielded. The report concluded that “recently, the police have been unsuccessful in using a variety of tactics to frighten believers in the Muang Songkhone district, Savannakhet province, to renounce Christianity. (Christian Hotline Weekly July 25, pg 16). **Vol. 4 No. 5 (2001)**

Campaign stepped up AGAINST Christian proselytization

Many of us take for granted the opportunity to be able to share the Gospel without anything more than a few inconveniences and perhaps some molestation. However even before the Sept 11 bombing, Afghanistan has been in the news for its more violent and aggressive attitude to Christianity. For instance Guardian of Sept 9 (pg 5) reported the case of 8 members of Shelter Now International who faced death sentence for preaching the Gospel; and also on the same page, the expulsion of members of another NGO, the International Assistance Mission, and confiscation of Gospel materials found with them. **Vol. 4 No. 6 (2001)**

Tough times for Missionaries in Islamic Countries

Men and women totally committed to the Lord Jesus and His gospel continue to pay the ultimate price, in demonstration of their love. In Yemen, 3 American Medical Missionaries serving at the Jibla Baptist Hospital were shot dead by an Islamic militant with Al Qaeda links, on December 30. The Muslim gunman had burst into the Baptist hospital cradling a rifle hidden inside his coat as if it were a baby. He opened fire, shooting 60-year-old William Koehn of Texas, 53-year-old Kathleen Gariety of Wisconsin and 57-year-old Dr. Martha Myers of Alabama, each in the head. A fourth missionary, 49-year-old Donald Caswell of Texas, was seriously wounded.

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=30321

Earlier, on November 21, an alumnus of the Moody Bible Institute and Medical Missionary in Southern Lebanon, Bonni Penner (31), was similarly shot dead - with 3 bullets to her head. The killing occurred shortly after the opening of her clinic at the evangelical Unity Centre. Husband Gary says he has already forgiven the man who did the killing, saying it is part of his faith to forgive. Meanwhile, were these attacks directed at some other groups, say 'gays and lesbians', then we can expect a more indignant coverage by the Press than is currently the case.

While reflecting on these sad situations, perhaps our primary response should be to ask ourselves what we are willing to do for our Lord and Saviour, while we still have the opportunity. For truly as He has said, "I come quickly, and my reward is with me". **Vol. 6 No. 1 (2003)**

In the US, Evangelists arrested at 'Gay Games'

Three members of Repent America, a Philadelphia-based Christian ministry were handcuffed and arrested on July 22 for sharing their faith with homosexuals during the "Gay Games", an Olympics-style sports event held in Chicago. The Christians offered Christian literature to passerbys and held up signs with Bible verses near the city's popular Navy Pier. The arrests were carried out even though the evangelists had restricted their activities to the designated "free-speech zones".

www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=51187

Vol. 9 No 5 (2006)

Perilous days for Missionaries

The on-going saga of 23 South Korean missionaries kidnapped in Afghanistan is another glaring reminder of the perilous nature of our days. On Thursday July 19, the church workers (18 of whom were women) were seized by the Islamic extremist group known as the Taliban while traveling on a public bus along the Kabul_Kandahar highway. A week later, leader of the group, Pastor Bae Hyung-kyu, was shot dead by the abductors, while 29 year old Shim Sung-min was killed (also in cold blood) on Monday July 30. As at Press time, the fate of the remaining 21 still hangs in the balance, as it were. The Taliban commanders have threatened to kill more of the hostages, unless their soldiers captured by the Afghan government are immediately released and all foreign troops backing up the government is withdrawn. Both requests have very slim chances of being granted. Nevertheless, prayer is being mobilized in the Church worldwide for the safety of these children of God. The devil is really making no further efforts to hide his unappeasable hatred for soul-winning and evangelical efforts. The stakes must be really high!

Meanwhile, in Cambodia, an outright ban has been placed on door-to-door evangelism. According to a government spokesman, such an activity “disrupts society” and “also causes other insecurities”. Even the distribution of tracts and religious literature must now be restricted to the premises of officially designated church buildings.

Vol. 10 No. 4 (2010)

Persecution of Christians On-going in Other Lands

Of course, satan-inspired persecution of the church is a mark of the endtimes, and is on-going either subtly or openly in every nation on earth (Rev 12). Recent examples include the burning in the Asian country of North Sumatra, of two Protestant churches by a Moslem crowd of not less than 1000 in the city of Sibuhuan. Asia News

HARRASMENT ON THE MISSION FIELD

reported that the local Islamic community, had complained of being tired of seeing " too many faithful and too many prayers " in a place not registered as a church. According to police, neither of the two buildings .had a building permit and had to be considered "places of prayer" and not "churches". (<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/North-Sumatra,-two-Protestant-churches-burnt:-too-many-faithful-and-too-many-prayers-17427.html>)

Morocco is at least more liberal as it merely expelled five Christian evangelists for the crime of "unauthorised gathering and sharing of the gospel. " Twelve Moroccans who were taking part in the meeting were arrested but eventually released after being questioned. (<http://www.ansamed.info/>).

With Church buildings already established in strategic places all over the United Kingdoms for decades, persecution of the Church in that country has to come in more unconventional forms – many of which have been reported in past editions of Church Arise! The latest ingenuous weapon is the so-called "Noise ordinances" whereby governmental bodies demand that Christian groups essentially be silent - so that no one can hear their worship. In one highly publicized case, the Lambeth Council issued a noise abatement notice to the All Nations Centre in Kennington which prevented the church from using any amplification for its worship music and its pastor's preaching. Following the intervention of the UK based Christian Legal Centre (CLC), an out-of-court settlement favouring the Church was agreed upon. The noise abatement order was issued without warning or discussion, shortly after the church, which has been in the same location for more than 45 years, began to publicize its services in its own neighborhood.

Onn Sein Kon, case manager at the Christian Legal Centre, said the organization has noticed an increasing number of attacks on

churches because someone can hear the worship. "What is really going on here is action by secularists to try and restrict Christian freedom and expression in this country. .." Kon explained (www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=121972)

And in the United States, the fabled land of lady liberty, even though it is not official government policy to torment Christians, as Tite and Stephen found out (see page 1), believers are increasingly not faring any better than their fellows in Arabia or communist nations! At least 11 Christian Churches were torched by arsonists across Texas in the first two months of this year alone. Two Satan-inspired men, steeped in the new religion of "atheism" have been finally arrested for these crimes - thankfully. According to the Dallas Morning News, the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms lists 90 houses of worship set on fire last year nationwide, with an average loss of about \$250,000 per fire. (www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?pageId=124615, www.getreligion.org/?p=27341). **Vol. 13 No. 1**

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Iranian Pastor sentenced to death

For objecting to Christian school students (including his own children) being forced by the Iranian state to read the Qu'ran, Rev Youcef Nadarkhani has been sentenced to death! According to Worthy News, Rev Nadarkhani, who led the largest church network in Rasht, Iran, was arrested on Oct. 13. Following a kangaroo trial, he was originally sentenced to be executed on Oct. 24. But this has now been temporarily deferred; while intensive pressure is being mounted on him to recant his Christianity and return to Islam. Nadarkhani is the father of two children, both under the age of ten.

(More details at www.worthynews.com/9716-execution) Vol. 13
No. 5

Death sentence still hanging on Iranian Pastor charged with apostasy

Iran's Supreme Court has upheld a lower court ruling that Youcef Nadarkhani, a 32 year-old Iranian evangelical pastor, must renounce his Christian faith or be put to death. It's the latest incident in the Islamist Republic's continuous and increased assault on its small Christian population. An unofficial translation of the Iranian Supreme Court's decision to execute Pastor Youcef Nadakhani has been provided by [Present Truth Ministries](#) and is published here <http://www.worthynews.com/10672-unofficial-translation-of-pastor-youcef-nadakhani-death-sentence>.

The background to the case reads, in parts: "Mr. Youcef Nadarkhani, son of Byrom, 32 years old, married, born in Rasht in the state of Gilan is convicted of turning his back on Islam, the greatest religion the prophesy of Mohammad, at the age of 19.

"He has often participated in Christian worship and organized home church services, evangelizing and has been baptized and baptized others, converting Muslims to Christianity. He has been accused of breaking Islamic Law that from puberty (15 years according to Islamic law) until the age of 19 the year 1996, he was raised a Muslim in a Muslim home. During court trials, he denied the prophecy of Mohammad and the authority of Islam. He has stated that he is a Christian and no longer Muslim.

"During many sessions in court with the presence of his attorney and a judge, he has been sentenced to execution by hanging according to article 8 of Tahrir -olvasileh (one of Khomeni's books about Sharia Law and Khamenie's and Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi's

fatwa) His sentence was appealed by his attorney and sent to the supreme court.

The Supreme Courts Response of June 12, 2011 now states: “We know that Mr. Nadarkhani has confessed that in his heart and in his actions he has denied being Muslim and converted to Christianity and has advertised and encouraged other Muslims to convert to Christianity. And because of advertising and pastoring a church repeatedly professed his Christian faith and denied the prophet Mohammad and the 12th Imam and denied the entire Koran and truth of the Koran.

The ruling, signed by Morteza Fazeli and Azizollah Razaghi, was that: “this case ... must be returned [to] the state court of Gilan Section 11, and further investigated to prove that from puberty (15 years) to 19 he [Nadarkhani] was not Muslim by his acquaintances, relatives, local elders, and Muslims he frequented. He must repent his Christian faith if this is the case., if it can be proved that he was a practicing Muslim as an adult **and has not repented**, the execution will be carried out.”

Clearly, the state of Iran is stalling on the case, reluctant to kill Pastor Nadarkhani on account of the enormous publicity the case has already generated worldwide; but nevertheless trying to break his resolve by legal rigmarole and various deprivations and harassment. The last known Christian to be officially hanged for his faith in Iran was Assemblies of God Pastor Hossein Soodmand, in 1990. <http://www.worthynews.com/10672-unofficial-translation-of-pastor-youcef-nadakhani-death-sentence>

Raymond Ibrahim: Muslim

A recent article by Raymond Ibrahim in support of a petition by the [Christian](#), urging US President Obama to take steps to “prevent

the eradication of the endangered Christian communities and other religious minorities of the Islamic Middle East” provides a concise compilation of recent Christian persecution around the globe. We present part of it here, and urge readers to check the rest on the internet .“When the major media reported a few months ago that Iranian Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani was set to be executed for leaving Islam, many Western people were shocked, finding it hard to believe that in the 21st century people are still being persecuted—by their governments no less—simply for being Christian.

“The fact is, Muslim persecution of Christians in the modern era has been consistently growing worse. Yet, because only one out of every few hundred or so cases ever receives major attention, few in the West have any idea that it exists.

“For instance, around the same time that the case of Pastor Nadarkhani made headlines, 129 Christians in Sudan were imprisoned, and one in Somalia was beheaded—like the pastor, simply for converting to Christianity.

“ Dozens of other documented cases of persecution were occurring at the same time, none of which received much media attention. These include Christians imprisoned, tortured, and killed for allegedly “blaspheming” Islam; Christian girls abducted and raped because they are “infidels”; churches burned, Bibles confiscated, and crucifixes destroyed—and in one instance, a Christian boy killed for refusing to conceal his crucifix.

To anyone familiar with Islam’s history and traditional teachings, none of this is surprising. Instead, all of these accounts demonstrate 14 centuries of continuity. With Islam’s resurgence and the concomitant upsurge of anti-Christian violence, however, the very existence of Christian and other non-Muslim communities is under

threat. The process of religious cleansing could lead to their eradication within a generation [see CSI's Genocide Warning].

“So why is there such a lack of awareness concerning this matter in the otherwise “humanitarian” West?...

Read the rest of the article [here](#), and be sure to sign the CSI petition.

[www.jihadwatch.org/2011/12/raymond-ibrahim-muslim-](http://www.jihadwatch.org/2011/12/raymond-ibrahim-muslim-persecution)

[persecution](#) Vol. 14 No. 5

Islamic anti-conversion War hots up in Uganda

Unlike in Nigeria where the Muslim minority has consistently and ferociously defended the falsehood that it is numerically at par with the Christian populace, Uganda makes no such pretension. (In Nigeria, this myth is why it has been impossible to have accurate census or national identity database over the years; and why when it finally became imperative, and with a Moslem Northerner in charge, to have a credible voters' registration database, inclusion of religious affiliation was a touchy and seriously contended issue. It finally was dropped). In any case, in Uganda, the undisputed Moslem to Christian population ratio is 12% vs 84%. Yet Uganda is no different from Northern Nigeria or Pakistan for that matter, in the treatment of Moslems who convert to Christianity.

One of the recent horrifying cases was that of Bishop Umar Mulinde of the Gospel Life Church International. On Christmas eve, Bishop Mulinde received one of the worst attacks that had consistently been meted on him by furious Muslim fanatics since his conversion as an Islamic Sheik to Christianity some eighteen years ago. This time around, it was a horrific acid bath. Speaking with Compas News on his hospital bed, he recounted how he was approached from behind by an assailant: “I heard him say in a loud voice, ‘Pastor, pastor,’ and as I made a turn and looked at him, he poured the liquid onto my face

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as others poured more liquid on my back and then fled away shouting, ‘*Allahu akbar* [God is greater],’”

The attack led to continuous excruciating pain for Pastor Mulinde with the right eye completely eaten away and blinded by the acid. His face, neck and arms bore deep black scars from the acid, and his lips were swollen. Doctors in Israel are currently battling to save the other eye. (see picture at http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/uganda/article_1314828.html)

“I have to continue fighting this pain – it is too much,” Mulinde told Compass. Pain described by a man like Bishop Mulinde as “too much” is certainly not your regular idea of pain. Much like the Apostle Paul, Mulinde knows firsthand what it means to suffer pain for the sake of the Gospel. When he converted into Christianity in 1993 his family drove him away with clubs and machetes. In 1994, he survived a gun attack with a bullet narrowly missing him. His Muslim assailants left with shouts of Allah akbar as he fell into muddy waters, thinking they had killed him. Over the years he had been consistently attacked with clubs and stones, but in the year 2000, Muslims stormed into one of his revival meetings, dragged him out, and mauled him till he became unconscious. A year later, a Muslim extremist narrowly missed killing him with a sword. Mulinde avers that he does not set out to offend Muslims. “Although I decided to become a Christian, I have been financially assisting many Muslims, as well as my relatives who are Muslims,” he said. “I have been conducting a peaceful evangelism campaign.”

But the true Gospel is implicitly offensive to the Islamic religion, evidently! Apart from his outstanding successes in helping multitudes of Muslims come out of their miseries, which no religion has any solution for – except the Lord Jesus, Mulinde also was a vocal leader

in the opposition to the institution of Sharia law into Uganda. Such a law would have formalised the treatments muslim converts are presently receiving, illegally so far, from the hands of their former co-religionists. The current saga began on Oct. 15 when area Muslim leaders officially declared a *fatwa* against Mulinde, making it a religious obligation for any Muslim faithful who has the opportunity or means, to kill Mulinde in the name of Allah. Mulinde doesn't count himself as a fearless hero, but he says with stoic determination: "I have bore the marks of Jesus."

Raymond Ibrahim reports on other outrageous muslim actions against converts to Christianity in Uganda. These include the muslim father, who in accordance with Sharia law, locked up and starved his teenage daughter Susan Ithungu for upwards 6 months as the young lady refused to renounce her new-found faith in Jesus. Raymond reports that when Susan was finally rescued from her prison room, she "was bony, very weak, and not able to talk or walk. Her hair had turned yellow, she had long fingernails and sunken eyes, and she looked very slim, less than 20 kilograms [44 pounds]," requiring over a year of hospitalization

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/11231/uganda-muslim-apostate>)

This is how Raymond summed up the troubling development in Uganda: "While all these apostasy-related cases are intrinsically troubling, they further suggest that Uganda's 12% Muslim minority is increasingly "radicalizing." For wherever Muslims persecute apostates—which some "multiculturalists" dismiss as an in-house matter of no concern to non-Muslims—rest assured that all those "out-house" things, such as jihad and subjugation of the infidel, are not far behind, and a matter of time and numbers.

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He believes that “the persecution of Christians in the Islamic world, inspired by Sharia and ignored by the mainstream media, “is on its way to reaching epidemic proportions,” He has therefore commenced, since July 2011 a monthly compilation of persecution of Christians in the hand of Muslims. His introduction to the series sums up various aspects of persecution of Christians:

“Whatever the anecdote of persecution, it typically fits under a specific theme, including hatred for churches and other Christian symbols; sexual abuse of Christian women; forced conversions to Islam; apostasy and blasphemy laws; theft and plunder in lieu of jizya (tribute); overall expectations for Christians to behave like cowed "dhimmis" (second-class citizens); and simple violence and murder. Oftentimes it is a combination thereof.

Check out this highly recommended compilation, with monthly updates, at <http://www.raymondibrahim.com/11152/muslim-persecution> **Vol 14 No 6**

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CHAPTER FOUR: Faith Renouncement

In Nigeria, Death Penalty sought for Moslems who converted to Christianity

Moslem prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for 2 men accused of converting from Islam to Christianity. Lawali Yakubu and Ali Jafaru, both in their 30s, were accused in the Sharia Court of Mada town Zamfara state of recently abandoning the Islamic faith and joining the Great Commission Movement, a Christian missionary group. However, Judge Auwal Jabaka is not sure whether the state's 2-year-old Sharia penal code permits the execution of these "offenders" according to the Koran. He has therefore called on the Zamfara State government to help clarify which is supreme: Sharia or the Nigerian Constitution that allows freedom to choose one's religion. However the Judge leaves no doubt about his personal disposition: "If the law empowers me to (execute the two for converting from Islam to Christianity), I will have no hesitation in doing that..." he was quoted as saying. In the meantime, the honorable judge gave the two young Christian converts 3 days to "re-convert" back to Islam. (AP, April 24) Vol. 5 No 3 (2002)

In Pakistan, death penalty for new Christian convert

25 year old Aslam Masih is the latest among scores of Christians (and other non-moslems) to be jailed for blasphemy in Pakistan. Any Moslem who decides to change his religious conviction is already guilty of the charge of blasphemy, by definition. Although no death sentence has yet been implemented in Pakistan, many young Christian converts are languishing in jail, simply because they believe Jesus is the son of God. Under Pakistani law, only the word of a Moslem accuser is needed to prosecute a non-moslem for blasphemy, a situation which has led to religious persecution and settlement of personal scores. This, of course, provides a good excuse for New World advocates call for ban on religious proselytization and 'intolerance'. Christianity is the ultimate target for all these manouvres. **Vol. 5 No. 4 (2002)**

Anti-Conversion Legislation in India, Cambodia

Mission News Service has reported that the government of Western India's Gujarat state is introducing an anti-conversion legislation ironically called the Freedom of Religion Bill. The proposed law integrates the strongest provisions of similar bills enacted in 4 other states. Under the new law, Police will have to begin to monitor all conversions, and converts to Christianity for example will have to prove to the police they are not being forced to do so. A Christian missionary told Missions News Service that he is unsure the exact impact the law would have on his Missions outreach. "It's very much in the hands of The Lord. We only know that when you persecute Christians, the Church grows like weeds" (Guardian, Jan 19, pg 27). Also in Cambodia, Christian proselytization has been declared illegal. Undersecretary of state for cults and religious affairs Dok Nari declared that "these actions infringe on the rights of the Cambodian people" (Christianity Today, Feb 28)

Meanwhile, the Bulgarian Parliament has adopted a new law requiring Churches to register (Guardian Jan. 12, pg 27). There we go again!
Vol. 6 No. 2 (2003)

Ordered to Renounce Faith in Laos, and in Nigeria

About 35 Christian families in the village of Nam Thuam, Luang Prabang Province, Laos, have been ordered to renounce their Christian faith by district government officials. Government agents have been sent to stay right in the homes of these Christians to enforce compliance. (CFI Apr 26)

Despite such hardship these faithful brethren are however having a much better deal than their fellow Christians in Kano, Nigeria, who during another of the perennial outburst of religious crisis in May were identified on the streets by their refusal to recite Koranic verses affirming Islamic faith and denouncing Christianity. Dozens were simply stabbed or hacked to death for such refusal. **Vol. 7 No 4 (2004)**

Christians in Crucibles in Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia

Vietnamese authorities burned more than 10 homes of tribal Christians who refused to deny their faith. The victims, members of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam in Suoi Rut hamlet, Doi Sau village, Quang Ngai province, were forced to flee their village July 21 and now are searching for a new place to live, according to International Christian Concern.
www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=46306.

Identical persecution is on-going too in Laos (www.bosnewslife.com) and in Indonesia where 35 Churches have recently closed within 3 weeks

(www.christianpost.com/article/asia/776/section/csw.warns.of.ma

[ssive.church.closures.in.indonesia.under.threats.of.extremists/1.htm](#)

) Vol. 8 No. 5 (2005)

Anti-Conversion Law spreads all over India, Sri Lanka

Under the guise of maintaining “harmony amongst persons of various religions”, various states in India are promulgating laws making it an offence to attempt to get people to change their religions of birth “by use of force or by allurement or by fraudulent means”. The Rajasthan Dharma Swatantraya (Freedom of Religion) which is already in place 5 states is being considered in the western region of Rajasthan and specifies a prison term of "not less than two years" or a fine of up to 50,000 rupees (approximately \$1,100) for offenders. With the law defining a "person's religion as that of their forefathers”, it particularly means in India that Dalits - who are born into a very strict caste system - must remain in their position of the caste system.

www.christianpost.com/article/missions/2012/section/sixth.indian.state.introduces.anti-conversion.law/1.htm

In Sri Lanka, a similar bill, stipulating prison sentences of up to five years and/or a stiff fine for anyone found guilty of converting others “by allurement or by any fraudulent means” is under consideration.

www.crosswalk.com/news/religiontoday/1397016.html

Meanwhile, the Vatican together with the World Council of Churches is seeking a middle ground between the Lord’s Great Commission and the Devil’s no-conversions positions. Together with members of other faiths, including Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims, but excluding evangelicals and protestants, a 4-day meeting has been scheduled for Velletri, about 25 miles southeast of Rome, with a view “to sketch out the broad outlines toward an eventual ‘code of conduct’ on Christian conversions”. www.washingtonpost.com/wp-

dyn/content/article/2006/05/10/AR2006051001308.html Vol. 9
No. 3 (2006)

Opposition against the Gospel unabating

Even in the so-called developed Christian cultures, opposition to the Gospel is getting crude, blatant and fierce. For instance, it took the intervention of the Attorney General before the owners of an apartment complex in Spartanburg, S.C. [US] would reverse their ban on residents holding their weekly Bible studies in a common area of the complex.

(www.beaufortgazette.com/state_news/regional/story/5727948p-5127533c.html). Also, while the city of San Diego (US) allows many governmental and community groups to use its Kearny Mesa Recreation Center at no cost or for a nominal fee, religious organizations (read Churches) are being charged the highest rates payable - up to 21 times higher than what other groups pay. (www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=28764)

Last November, it took a court ruling, after a 10-year fight, before the city of New York's board of education would allow a Bronx church to hold worship meetings on school grounds as other groups do.

www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=47458

Meanwhile it is the turn of Australia to wage war against Gideons bibles at hospital beds. According to a news report, "Almost all Melbourne's major hospitals have withdrawn the Holy Book from rooms and several schools have refused to allow their students to be given free Bibles." Gideon's executive director, Tevor Monson laments, "It is a terrible shame because we get lots of letters from people who say having a Bible by their hospital bed has been a great comfort to them during their darkened days."

The arguments given for removing the Gideons Bibles followed the same lame lines earlier advanced in the UK when a ban was attempted by the NHS Trust in Leicester (see CA! Vol. 8 No. 4) and also in Canada. First, that non-Christians might be 'offended' by the Bibles being in the lockers and second, that the Bibles represented an 'infection risk'. Referring to the first allegation as “an example of multiculturalism gone mad”, Islamic Council of Queensland President Abdul Jalal said it is ridiculous that people would suppose that Moslems “might be offended by seeing a Bible in a drawer”. The second allegation is even more ludicrous considering that other printed matter - newspapers, magazines, etc, are still being distributed into hospital rooms. Moreover, The Gideons have offered to supply hospitals with hard cover Bibles that could be wiped to reduce infection fears.

So is it any surprising to learn that in former communist lands such as Belarus, Churches can't find properties for worship and Bible Study? And that Churches who organize Bible Studies are being threatened with fines on the grounds that the Church's official mandate (“performance of religious rituals”) does not include organizing small-group Bible Study! Getting legal registration for a Church, talk less of putting up physical structures, is still a tough deal in many nations of the world! (see F18News www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=619, F18News www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=700 and <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/s06040068.htm> Vol. 9 No 3 (2006))

Christian persecution unrelenting

The persecution of the confessing Christian community continues with high pitch all over the world. One of the two greatest scourges

today is the notorious **blasphemy charges**, where all that is needed is for two Moslems to declare they heard you say something against the prophet of Islam or you treated the Koran with inadequate courtesy - and the consequence could range from life imprisonment (India) to immediate execution (traditional shariah).

The other scourge tormenting Bible-obeying Christians all over the world is of course the **anti-conversion laws**. In many Islamic and Bhuddist states, the worst crime is attempting to convert people to Christianity. Conversion from Christianity is of course welcome and seriously encouraged! We cite a few headlines on these events in the past few weeks:

INDIA

Militants kill prominent Christian Worker: Two unidentified militants today killed a Christian convert from Islam on a busy road in Mamoosa village, Barmullah district, in the terror-stricken state of Jammu and Kashmir. Nov 21st, 2006

Families Driven From Homes for Receiving Christ: Adherents of a Bodo tribal religion in Assam, northeast India, forced nine families from their homes last Tuesday (November 14) for converting to Christianity. www.christianpersecution.info/news/india-families-driven-from-homes-for-receiving-christ

Similarly, On October 19, two converts in Shahdol district were beaten by a group of 12 villagers for their refusal to “reconvert.” Though the victims named their assailants, police made no arrests; while **On October 26** in Mayapuri, police arrested recent convert Ramesh Thakur, 37, for the second time in three days and charged him with “insulting religious beliefs” in an apparent attempt to pressure him to say that his pastor forcibly converted him. www.portesouvertes.ch/content/visual.php?id=100&idelement=324&nomchamps=filinkimage

INDONESIA

Christian Lecturer attacked in West Java: Muslim extremists in West Java attempted to murder a Christian lecturer in mid-October for converting from Islam three years ago. www.christianpersecution.info/news/indonesia-christian-lecturer-attacked-in-west-java/)

KAZAKHSTAN

South Korean Pastor expelled for "Missionary activity without registration": South Korean pastor Kim U Sob, who has led the Love Presbyterian Church in the southern Kazakh town of Kyzyl-Orda [Qyzylorda] for the past eight years, has been forced to leave the country. The local Migration Police refused to allow the pastor to extend his visa and remain in the country, after he was found guilty in June of carrying out "missionary work without registration." www.christianpersecution.info/news/south-korean-pastor-expelled-from-kazakhstan-for-missionary-activity-without-registration **Vol. 9 No. 6 (2006)**

Indian Christians Forced to Worship Hindu Deities: According to a Nov. 3 2006 report, when Hindu villagers in Kurumaradikere noted on Oct 29 that local Christians had not participated in the annual Depavali festival, they demanded that Pastor Naik (39) and the eleven families of his congregation worship Hindu deities as a "gesture of symbolic repentance." Only three of the families were able to refuse the directive.

SIMILARLY, On Nov. 6, in the village of Bevainahall, "a group of twenty to twenty-five Hindu militants", accompanied by two Hindu priests, stormed through the village and ordered identified Christians to go to a Hindu temple to go re-convert. According to report by

VOM, the Christians were forced to bow down before the gods and they had the vermilion marks placed on their foreheads.

Could this kind of outrage be happening in other regions of the world? Definitely so! For instance 7 years ago, in CA! Vol 3 No 2, we carried a newspaper report [Post Express, March 2, 2000] that in Kaduna State of **Nigeria**, 300 Christians of the Kabe ethnic group were forcibly requested to “renounce their faith.” Those who failed to do so were killed! **Vol. 10 No 1 (2007)**

In Eritrea, Christian woman who refused to recant faith tortured to death

In the morning of Wednesday Sept 5, Nigsti Haile, a 33-year-old Christian woman, died under torture in Eritrea, for refusing to sign a letter recanting her faith. The Compass Direct News report said Haile was one of 10 single Christian women arrested at a church gathering in Keren who have spent 18 months under severe pressure. The report said last February, Magos Solomon Semere also died under torture at the Adi-Nefase Military Confinement facility near Assab, and last October, two other Christians died from torture wounds. The report said Haile, an active member of the Rhema church, died at the Wi'a Military Training Center, where she was being detained.

Meanwhile the European Center for Law (an NGO officially recognized in special consultative status by the United Nations) is asking that body to address what it described as the growing problem of forced religious conversions around the world. While noting that “the problem is not necessarily always national governments, but local governments and area factions, which are ‘putting pressure’ on people and ‘threatening people with up to death if they don't renounce their conversion to Christianity,’ the body confirms that it

has evidence that the “issue was growing.” Posted: September 9, 2007, WorldNetDaily.com Vol. 10 No. 5 (2007)

In the UK, daughter of Imam under police guard for converting to Christianity

Meanwhile, while the debate about the “Common Word” rages, the daughter of a British imam has been taken into police protection after she received death threats from her family for converting to Christianity.

The woman, aged 32, whose father is a Muslim imam in Lancashire, has moved house 45 times to escape detection by her family since she became a Christian 15 years ago. Hanna, as her pseudoname is, told *The Times* that she became a Christian after she ran away from home at 16 to escape an arranged marriage. The threats against her became more serious a month ago with a text message from one of her brothers, warning that he could not be responsible for his actions if she did not return to Islam. This has now prompted the police to offer her protection in case of an attempt on her life. According to the Times, a Policy Exchange study earlier in the year had reported that 36 per cent of British Muslims aged between 16 and 24 believed those who converted to another religion should be punished by death.

See the full story at www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article3007677.ece

In a similar vein, an Indonesian court has sentenced 41 Christian leaders to five years imprisonment on charges of blasphemy because they openly prayed that Muslims may "come to know Christ" www.persecution Vol. 10 No. 6 (2007)

New test case in Islamization of America: Convert from Islam fights for dear life

One very high-profile on-going case in the United States which highlights the increasing clout of Moslem extremists in mainstream American life is that of Rifqa Bary, a 17-year-old girl from a family of Sri Lankan expatriates who have been Moslems, according to Rifqa, for 150 generations. A brilliant student and High School cheerleader girl, Rifqa decided to give her life to Jesus; and for four years, as she claims - backed up by a FaceBook webpage captured by Pamela Geller - she practiced Christianity in her closet. However, words eventually filtered to her parents, who are members of the radical Noor Islamic Center in Columbus, Ohio, and soon, brutal attacks (one of which her classmates felt compelled to report to the school's counselor [bruises on Rifqa's limbs]) began to be inflicted upon her by her father. Fearing for dear life, especially after direct threats by her father to that effect, Rifqa fled Ohio in July for the relative safety of Orlando, Florida, where she found temporary refuge with Reverend Blake Lorenz, pastor of the Orlando-based Global Revolution Church, whom she had met through an online Facebook group.

However, backed by the notorious Hamas-linked Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Noor Mosque, Rifqa's biological father is mounting a serious legal (and media) battle, demanding that Rifqa should be returned home to him. This is despite numerous well known cases of Moslem parents killing their "unsubmissive" children and kins in the infamous "Honour Killing" phenomenon - several of which have been reported in previous editions of CA! For instance, on New Year day last year, Amina and Sarah Said were allegedly murdered by their father in Texas for having non-muslim boyfriends. They had fled home, just like Rifqa, but their mum lured them back home. They were dead within twenty-four hours of their return (www.foxnews.com/photoessay/0,4644,3036,00.html).

Thankfully, due to a surprisingly massive Christian interest and supports (mainly via the Internet), the judge had ruled that Rifqa be left alone in Florida (next hearing on Oct 13). Rifqa's story is well covered by Pamela Geller on her site, [AtlasShrugs](http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/rifqa-bary-slow-motion-honor-killing/) (http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/rifqa-bary-slow-motion-honor-killing/); while her 6-minute interview on a local TV station is now posted on the YouTube. **Vol. 12 No. 5**

Battle against conversion from Islam hot up in the US: Update on Rifqa Bary

Last edition, we reported the case of Rifqa Bary, a young Sri Lankan girl living in the United States, who converted from Islam and practiced Christianity in the closet for 4 years before being discovered by his father. When persecution from the dad (spurred by the local mosque) became life-threatening, Rifqa fled home and was hosted temporarily by a Christian couple she had met on Facebook. Rifqa and her Christian friends are now urging the court to allow her (being still a minor, at 17) stay in a state facility for minors, while the father and the Noor Mosque want her back home.

Ordinarily, in the state of Ohio, a child can become a dependant of the state simply by showing the court that there was a conflict in the home. Although as many as over 50 people who are familiar with Rifqa (including several classmates) could testify to the fact that she greatly feared for her life long before she fled from her parents in Ohio, this case is not the ordinary child-run-from-abusive-home story, in which case it would have been easily long concluded. Here, fully leading the battle for the Islamists is the US Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which has virtually limitless financial resources at its disposal as well as strong roots with the notorious Muslim Brotherhood, well-known sponsors of terror (see

the previous story on Egypt for example). The resulting legal, social, and spiritual battle is intensive and anything but childplay.

Ahead of the critical next stage, scheduled for Jan 28, Robert Spencer of JihadWatch has published a report by Jamal Jivanjee, (a friend of Rifqa and fellow ex-Moslem) to expose the strategy of CAIR and to request for prayers. The case will set precedent, not only legally but also in terms of encouraging individuals to freely choose which religion they wish to practice (Imagine this being an issue - right in the USA itself. What then would Saudi Arabia not do!)

As shown by Jamal Jivanjee the two-fold strategy of CAIR is first to get and keep Rifqa isolated and discouraged, while at the same time intensify their smear campaign against the key people who LITERALLY saved Rifqa by offering her a temporary home. According to Jamal, since the last hearing on the matter on December 22, "Rifqa has been literally cut off from the outside world. Currently, Rifqa has absolutely no official visitors list ... and has not been allowed to have phone contact with any of her friends!" On the other hand, three individuals, (Brian Williams of Columbus, and Blake and Beverly Lorenz of Orlando Florida) who LITERALLY saved Rifqa's life by helping her when she fled her home are under serious character assassination and they are being portrayed as predators who lured a very impressionable new convert away from her parents. None of these is, of course, correct. (See the story and updates at http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/11/new-rights-violations-isolation-rifqa-denied-visitors-those-that-were-allowed-were-fingerprinted.html).

We would like to urge Christians everywhere to join in praying for Rifqa's encouragement, strength, and wisdom as well as for wisdom for her legal team. Readers of CA! who could spare the effort, are also encouraged to send an email to the Director of Children's

services at Franklin County Children's services (where Rifqa is currently residing while the court case lasts) to politely request a review of the worsening isolation of Rifqa. The address is: edfenner@FCCS.co.franklin.oh.us **Vol. 12 No. 6**

Forced Islamization via rape of Christian Girls Supported By Egyptian State

The Assyrian International News Agency (AINA) has reported a recent broadcast on the Christian TV channel "Live TV", highlighting the phenomenon of abduction, rape and forced Islamization of Christian girls in Egypt. Featuring testimonies from dozens of actual victims, the shocking documentary was beamed to some 60 million Arab speaking viewers in Egypt and around the world in mid-November, 2009. According to the program's moderator, Rasheed El Maghreby, "Our role is to expose those behind those crimes."

Apart from the victims and their families, also interviewed was Magdi Khalil, an authority on Coptic affairs who has made extensive field study on forced Islamization of Christian minors in Egypt. Mr Khalil showed that these heinous crimes are carried out by organized Islamization gangs with full government funding and backing by the State Security.

As is practiced in several other moslem nations including northern Nigeria (see **Vol * No ***), Christian girls are deemed converted to Islam when abducted, raped and forced into marriage with moslem grooms. Certainly a most despicable way of making religious converts! In Egypt, apparently the situation is of epidemic proportion, as highlighted by the show on LiveTV. Coptic Pope Shenouda had warned during a lecture in 2004 that he was receiving thousands of letters of abduction of Christian girls through certain

Islamic store chains which lure them away by being told they won a prize and have to go to an upper floor in the building to collect it.

Several international organizations have criticized Egypt regarding forced Islamization of young Christian girls, among which is the International Religious Freedom report from 2005 to 2009, the Helsinki Commission Report of November 9th, 2006, Human Rights Watch Report of November 12th, 2007, and on November 10th, 2009, Christian Solidarity International issued a report quoting 25 cases of forced Islamization of minors.

Apart from the Egyptian state, as shown on Live TV, funding for Islamization also flows in from a financial network of dozens of companies, charities, and banks such as Bank of Islamic Solidarity, Faisal Islamic Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank, and Islamic Relief Organization, as well as numerous companies created through money-laundering operations, and which are supervised by the Muslim Brotherhood. Apparently, the Islamist ladies and gentlemen behind this network have no compunction about doing evil so that “good” (as they deem it) might result – a position vehemently denounced in the Bible (see Rom. 3:8) **Vol 12 No 6**

Battle against conversion from Islam hot up in the US: Update on Rifqa Bary

Last edition, we reported the case of Rifqa Bary, a young Sri Lankan living in the United States, who converted from Islam and practiced Christianity in the closet for 4 years before being discovered by his father. When persecution from the dad (spurred by the local mosque, the radical Noor Islamic centre where they attend) became life-threatening, Rifqa fled home and was hosted temporarily by a Christian couple she had met on Facebook. Rifqa and her Christian friends are now urging the court to allow her (being still a minor, at

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any of her friends!”. On the other hand, three individuals, (Brian Williams of Columbus, and Blake and Beverly Lorenz of Orlando Florida) who LITERALLY saved Rifqa's life by helping her when she fled her home are under serious character assassination and they are being portrayed as predators who lured a very impressionable new convert away from her parents. None of these is of course correct. (see the story and updates at http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/11/new-rights-violations-isolation-rifqa-denied-visitors-those-that-were-allowed-were-fingerprinted.html).

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No 6**

Moroccan jailed 15years for Christian Faith

The International Christian Concern, ICC, has reported that a Moroccan Christian named Jamaa Ait Bakrim is currently serving a 15 year term, simply on account of his faith. Jamaa became a Christian in the 1990's while travelling through Europe. When he returned to Morocco he was ostracized and later imprisoned for refusing to stop talking about his faith. In 2005 Brother Jamaa was jailed for 15 years for “proselytization”, as according to the judge, “the fact that Jamaa denies accusations of proselytization is inconsistent with the confession during which he proclaimed he was a son of Christ and he wanted Moroccans to become Christians...”

FAITH RENOUNCEMENT

Jamaa is currently serving out this sentence, and is located in Prison Centrale of Kenitra, Morocco. In order to advocate for Jamaa and other Christian prisoners, ICC is launching a prisoner focus page at: www.persecution. Please visit this site and remember to pray for God's blessing on ICC's efforts. **VOL 13 NO 2**

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CHAPTER FIVE: Killings

Devil goes on wild rampage against Christians in Northern Nigeria

With the freezing of the major accounts of Al-Qaeda and the inevitable cut-off of easy money, “Political Sharia” militants are no doubts in a very desperate position. And like a snake already cut into two, they are out on a wild rampage against the Saints in Northern Nigeria. The first of recent salvos was fired at Jos. What started like a skirmish when some militant Moslems “sealed off [a] street which houses a mosque, for the Friday Jummat prayers” soon led to the gruesome murder of dozens of innocent people (Guardian Sept 9). However a week later The News magazine (Sept 24) wrote of “a hideous spectacle” of “over 1000 human cadavers” lying on the streets.

The bombings in Afghanistan and associated economic strangulations of Al-Qaeda only led to the devil becoming more furious, unleashing a ferocious attack on Christians in Kano with hundreds (officially) gruesomely murdered (CNN Oct 14). We pray the Lord will continue to protect and comfort His people while the struggle lasts.

(Remember, organizations like Macedonian Initiative, located at 1 Apostolic Faith Campground road, Anthony Village, Lagos [e-mail

macedonianinitiative@usa.net] can turn your widow's mite into a real blessing for our persecuted brethren up north.) **Vol. 4 No 6 (2001)**

Over 200 killed by Islamic Fanatics in Kaduna

Ostensibly in protest of an alleged blasphemous commentary in a Lagos-based national daily, THISDAY, Islamic fanatics launched a sudden savage attack on innocent Christians in the city of Kaduna (and later Abuja and Bauchi) in the northern part of the country in late November. Without any inkling that danger was forthcoming, law abiding citizens going about their daily legitimate businesses were attacked, killed and maimed. In addition to the usual knives and machetes, sophisticated weapons including AK 47 rifles were used in mowing down innocent Christians. About 220 lives and properties estimated at billions of naira (mainly Church buildings and properties) were wasted. All these for a matter that had no connection whatsoever with Christianity!

A lady Style columnist of the newspaper had commented that the prolonged and continued apparent angst of some section of the Moslem community against the Miss World competition then scheduled to hold in Nigeria (in some southern cities and Abuja) was only a hypocritical stance. She further suggested that going by the dispositions of Islam (for instance, faithfuls look forward to a harem of 72 virgins in Paradise!) she believed the Prophet of Islam might not only have allowed such a contest, he might even have chosen one of the contestants as a bride. The newspaper has since issued strongly-worded statements of apologies (by highly placed Moslem members); but all these have had no impact on people who apparently were looking for an excuse to cause chaos in the country and particularly spill Christian blood. As it were, though it is desecrating to the month

of Ramadan to host beauty pageants, it is quite proper to shed the blood of innocents (who had NOTHING to do, not even endorsements, for the matter in question!) Among those killed was 78 years old Rev James Odion Iyere who was beaten into a state of coma, stabbed and burned right in his Church compound.

To worsen matters, there has been no sense of remorse, considering the statements coming from Islamic leadership. In fact, a deputy governor (Mamuda Shinkafi of Zamfara state), apparently not satisfied with the extent of damage yet done, has gone ahead to further pronounce a *fatwa* (death sentence) on the journalist involved! As usual, CAN leadership has threatened on newspapers that Christians will not tolerate such killings in the future. (See e.g Punch, Nov 28, 2002, front page) **Vol. 6 No. 1 (2003)**

Horror Unleashed On Christian Students At Zaria

No fewer than 20 Christian students at the Federal College of Education, Zaria (Kaduna State) were brutally murdered by gangs organized by Moslem students to disrupt the Students Union election on September 26, 2002. Tension rose as indications showed the Christian candidate poised to win the election to the post of the President of the Union, against the Moslem contender. Following the infiltration of the campus by hoodlums and mercenary voters hired by the Moslem group, the electoral committee decided to postpone the election.

However, while everybody dispersed, the Moslem students having hatched their satanic plans, herded their female members into the mosque, while the Christian girls innocently retired to their hostels. Later in the morning however, the male Christian students were drawn into a deadly, clearly pre-planned diversionary attack by the Moslem students, while a group described as “hired thugs” broke into

the female hostel and carried out probably the most hideous, vilest orgy imaginable. The Christian girls were gang raped, maimed and killed. The report in the national news magazine *Tell*, cautious and toned down as it must have been, was still gruesome enough. Citing names and identities of particular victims, it describes the general scenario: "...after a female student had been raped [by up to 10 men], her laps would be opened while a sharp object would be pushed into her through her genitals". Others received machete cuts on their breasts while one "had her wrist cut in Sharia style" (*Tell*, Oct 14, 2002, pg 31). All these just for being a Christian!

Reports indicate that though the College authorities could see the handwriting long before the event, they did virtually nothing to prevent the situation; and even while it lasted, it took the intervention of students in neighbouring Ahmadu Bello University, Kongo Campus, to invite the Police, four hours into the fracas. But for this intervention, it is suggested that the death toll might have been even much higher! The men at the helm of affairs in the College certainly consider it all a minor incident and are working overtime to play it down. *Tell* reported that when the Provost led a team of the management of the College to the ABU Teaching Hospital where most of the students lied critically sick, he merely said, "Sorry, it is a minor problem. It will be resolved". Likewise, the Kaduna State Media Corporation simply said the government had brought the crisis under control. The Federal government, owners of the College, is not known to have made any comments by press time.

Sober Thought: Living in an environment like this (and it could have been any one of us!), is it not amazing that we could still have many Christians living casual and material-oriented lives? What a double tragedy should one happen to get killed for a faith one is not really serious about! **Vol. 6 No. 1 (2003)**

Casual killings of Christians continue at Federal Institutions in Sharia states

The killing of Christians in Federal Government establishments, especially educational institutions, in the Sharia states continue with impunity with two different incidents recorded towards the end of year 2004. The Daily Independent reports the first incident:

“Barely a few weeks after religious tension was averted in Bauchi State over the planned demolition of churches, the president of Evangelical Church of West Africa, (ECWA) at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), Sunday Ezekiel, has been killed by militant Islamic youths while the secretariat and bus belonging to the Nigerian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (NIFES), Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi were set ablaze.

“Trouble was said to have started at the Polytechnic when students distributed tracts and materials downloaded from a website. The materials, our correspondent gathered, were given to both Christians and Muslims in the class.

“But *one of the students* took exception to the action, describing it as blasphemous. He immediately left the classroom and headed for the hostel to see their leader. [Subsequently,] the students sent messages to the library and classes calling on Muslim students to assemble at the mosque for an emergency meeting. Our correspondent gathered that at the mosque, the Islamic students resolved that to avert religious crisis, the students who gave the offending tracts should be produced and killed” (Daily Independent, Dec 10, 2004).

A similar calculated callous, cold-blooded murder was executed at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi, Kano State, where Celestine Kwada was beaten to death following an allegation

by “*an unidentified person*” that he (Celestine) had used extracts of the Quran while in the toilet. Despite strident denials and protests by Celestine, and total lack of proof whatsoever that he committed the “crime” (what, anyway would have been the point of *secretly* desecrating another religion’s book?) Celestine Kwada was beaten to death by apparently educated “Moslem faithfuls” out to defend their religion! According to the authoritative Guardian newspaper, “Authorities of the Institution declined to comment on the incident” (Details in Guardian Nov 12, 2004, pg 5). How long will this continue, and who is next? **Vol. 8 No 1 (2005)**

Islamists burn to death Christian pastor, family

Above was the headline in a June 4 posting by the WorldNetDaily. It described the burning to death of Pastor Jacob Gadet Manyiel of Presbyterian Church of Sudan, together with his wife and four children as soldiers of the militant Islamist regime stood outside their house and threatened to shoot anyone trying to escape. 2nd Lt. Mohammed Idris led the May 22 operation which left a total of 59 unarmed villagers dead. Sudan, the de-facto home base of Osama bin Laden, continues in a systematic gruesome massacre of Christians, even as the United States is considering the removal of that country from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism. **Vol 6 No 4**

Moslem Militants torch Christian Homes in Plateau

Even as we were about going to press, came in the news that in the week of May 20, several houses belonging to Christians in Ware, Plateau State had been “torched to the ground in the latest attempt by Muslims to force them out of the region” (Churchnewspaper.com, Report Number 5770, May 27, 2005) The Report stated that “Christians in Nigeria have been suffering increased persecution from

militant Muslims who are determined to drive them out of their land to pave the way for strict Islamic rule.” It further added that in Wa’a (Borno State) the self-styled Talibans - also known as the Sunna Wal Jamma group - have issued a threat to 500 or so Christians who have just returned to their homes after previous raids. A representative of Release International, a British-based Christian human rights organisation, revealed that the militants were supported by jihadists from Chad and Niger, and that “they have more sophisticated weapons than last time.” Release International’s Chief Executive, Eddie Lyle, warns: “The international community must wake up to the seriousness of the violence taking place in Nigeria. In areas like Wase, it amounts to nothing less than ethnic cleansing. Christians who refuse to convert are burnt out and driven out. Those who won’t go are killed.” For more details please visit http://www.churchnewspaper.com/news.php?read=on&number_key=5770&title=Militant%20Mulsims%20rise%20up%20against%20Nigeria's%20Christians. **Vol. 8 No 3 (2005)**

Sharia Killing in Niger State: Christian Woman stoned to death for evangelizing

Wednesday June 28, a 20 year old woman was summarily stoned and clubbed to death in Izom, Niger State at the pronouncement of Islamic elders of the town. Her offence: sharing the gospel to willing uncomplaining audiences along the street.

The broad day light, the gruesome murder executed by a mob of militant youths was witnessed by the chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Izom chapter, David Atabo, as well as a number of men and officers of the Nigerian Police. In fact the young lady was forcefully snatched from the Police Station where she had sought protection before being brutally clubbed and stoned to death.

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Describing the event to Compass Direct, David Atabo said the lady had met a group of Muslim youths, shared the gospel with them and gave them some tracts to read. “As soon as the woman left, some Muslim elders standing by sought to know from the youths what the woman told them. When they learned that the woman had preached to the youths, they claimed she insulted the prophet of Islam, Muhammad, and directed that [she] must be killed. Thereafter, hundreds of Muslims were mobilized into the streets to track [her] down. They caught up with her around the River Gurara area and started beating her, but the police rescued her and took her into protective custody at the Izom police station. The restive mob stormed the premises, demanding that the woman be released to be stoned to death in accordance with sharia (Islamic) law or else they would burn down the police station.

“The police, realizing that the Muslim crowd was overwhelming, smuggled the woman through a back door to escape with her, but the Muslims blocked all escape routes, and at this point the police abandoned the woman to save their lives,” Atabo recounted. “She was clubbed to death...” Both Daniel Mazuri and Rev Tanko Madaki of the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA) confirmed the story and suggested that the Muslims were seeking to ignite a religious crisis in Izom.

www.compassdirect.org/en/newslongen.php?idelement=4451

However this news item came out with a completely different flavour in the secular newspapers - always careful to avoid the wrath of the adherents of the so-called religion of peace. For instance, The Punch (the newspaper which claims the widest circulation in Nigeria), had the story tucked in at a corner in the inside pages, under the Crime Section. Though affirming that an “unidentified woman was dragged out of the police station in Izom where she had been taken to for

protection”, and that the woman was clubbed and stoned to death by “youths, suspected to be Islamic fundamentalists”, the report nevertheless strove to give the impression that the lady was a kind of street lunatic who had been sent to drop “letters in a mosque ... abusing Prophet Mohammed”. It is of course, totally illogical that hundreds of young adults will be so bent on killing a street lunatic – to the extent that “the divisional police officer of the station and an inspector of police [who gallantly tried to save the young lady from the determined Jihadists] ... were seriously wounded”. Nevertheless, the state governor was quoted as describing this faithful 20 year old Christian evangelist as “said to be insane”, while Mr Ernest Ibhaze, state Commissioner of Police who was nowhere near the scene described her as a “mentally retarded” lady who was clubbed down for distributing “seditious pamphlets”! (See Punch June 29, pg 6). This is indeed the classical adding insult to injury story!

Meanwhile, one wonders why David Atabo could not call a press conference in his capacity as chairman of CAN to at least document the true story; or even pass a report to the national body of CAN for further action. Or has Nigeria degenerated to India, where for instance two Christian women were raped on May 28 in Nadia, (Madhya Pradesh state), but no one could dare speak about it following the threat by the Hindu headman to expel from the village, anyone who breaches the subject to the police! See that story at www.compassdirect.org/en/newsen.php?idelement=4410 **Vol. 9 No 4 (2006)**

Again in Nigeria, 3 Christians killed by “Taliban” Militias

The Christian village of Kumutu, in Taraba State has witnessed the resurgence of the Al Sunna Wal Jamma group, a.k.a Talibans. According to a report by Release International , 3 members of the

Christian Reformed Church were killed when the militia attacked early July, while 30 others were wounded, 4 of them very critically. [Release International, July 5, 2006. Also, <http://www.worthynews.com/christian/three-killed-as-nigeria-taliban-fighters-attack-christian-village/>]

In Gombe, Christian teacher clubbed to death by Moslems for allegedly desecrating the Quran



Christianah Oluwatoyin Oluwaseesin (pic left), a contract teacher at Government Secondary School in Gandu, Gombe state was gruesomely murdered on Wednesday March 21 over claims that she desecrated the Quran.

According to report by Compass, (March 27), Christianah, who teaches the subject government in the school, was invigilating a girls-only class, writing the final examination on Islamic Religious knowledge on that day. Following standard laid-down rules for prevention of cheating among the students, she collected papers, books and bags brought into the exam hall by the students, and dropped the materials in front of the class.

According to fellow teacher Alike Musa Yila who witnessed the sordid event, “Soon after the bags collected by Christianah were dropped in front of the class, one of the girls in the class began to cry. She told her colleagues that she had a copy of the Quran in her bag, that Christianah touched the bag, and that by doing so she had desecrated the Quran, since she was a Christian.” Rhetorically, Musa asked, “How could a teacher know that there was a copy of the Quran in a student’s bag if this was not pointed out to her?”

Soon after the student raised this alarm, other students in class began to shout “*Allahu Akbar* [God is great].” Despite gallant efforts and

strident appeals by the patron of the School's Muslim Students' Society, the Principal and some other staff members, the students, joined by "Muslim extremists" from outside the school drew out Christianah from the Principal's office, clubbed her "with an iron on the head and blood was gushing out from the wounded side of the head". The principal and another teacher identified only as Kabiru valiantly smuggled Christianah outside the school to a house near the gate; but again, according to Musa Yila, "the rioting Muslims went into the house and dragged her out." This time, they clubbed and stabbed her to death, brought old mats and placed dirt on her corpse, and then burned the body. At the end of the day, no Quran, supposed to have been desecrated, was even seen or produced. Christianah's car, as well as the school library and other property were also burnt down by people apparently protecting the sanctity and ideals of Islam. Christianah and her husband, Dr. Femi Oluwaseesin, had gone to Gombe on the National Youth Service Scheme four years earlier. Having distinguished themselves, both of them were employed by the state government. Femi had just returned to pick up an appointment in his home state at Abeokuta while Christianah was to join her after the exams. Mother of two children (aged 2½ years and 10 months), Christianah was described by elders of her Church, the Evangel Chapel, as "a touching example as to how a Christian should be." www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=news&length=long&lang=en&idelement=4814 **Vol. 10 No 2 (2007)**

Murder in Malatya, Turkey

Turkey's relatively tiny Christian population (1% of 70 million) was thrust into the international limelight after three Christian workers in the city of Malatya were killed by members of a Muslim fundamentalist group. On Wednesday morning, April 18, 2007, the

three men left home to attend a Bible study. It was there that they were joined by men who pretended to be interested in the Bible Study. They subsequently attacked, bound and tortured the Christians for three hours before being finally killed. In a letter from the Protestant Church of Smyrna to Christians around the globe, the men were described as "the first martyrs for Christ out of the Turkish Church."

Interestingly, a few weeks after, the incident is generating repercussions not envisaged by their killers. Not only is Turkey's aspiration to join the EU being shaken, the reaction of the men's widows have totally enraptured the entire nation. In an act that hit front pages in the largest newspapers in Turkey, Susanne Geske in a television interview expressed her forgiveness. She did not want revenge, she told reporters. "Oh God, forgive them for they know not what they do," she said, wholeheartedly agreeing with the words of Christ on Calvary (Luke 23:34).

In a country where blood-for-blood revenge is as normal as breathing, many reports have come to the attention of the church of how this comment of Susanne Geske has changed lives. One columnist wrote of her comment, "She said in one sentence what 1000 missionaries in 1000 years could never do." **Vol. 10 No 3 (2007)**

Moslems maul Christians again in Kano

It has happened yet again. While Nigerians prepared to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the nation's independence, a group of apparently untouchable Nigerians pounced upon another group of innocent law-abiding citizens, and embarked on a sadistic orgy of systematic killing, looting and destruction. Yes, it is so-called Moslem youths again (and during the month of Ramadan for that matter), and at the receiving end were Christians, most of whom had no previous inkling about

what was going on. The theatre for this sad event was Tundun Wada area of Kano. According to reports received by Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) from sources in Kano, **“not a single Christian church, house or business has been left undamaged.”**

To worsen matters, the police and the authorities in Tundun Wada are desperately attempting to disguise the true extent of the carnage. To achieve this, Christians and other non-Muslims were evacuated to neighbouring Bauchi State and the whole region was sealed up - even to those who would offer rescue services. Three Pastors of Mountain of Fire and Miracles Church together with three uniformed Air Force members, who attempted to enter the area to help evacuate Church members, were all detained and locked up. At the end of the day, officials are putting up a figure of nine dead, but a CSW source overheard a policeman complaining of being "fed up of packing corpses." Obviously the real death toll must have been "far higher" than the official figures.

According to Assist News Service, "The violence appears to have begun on the morning of Friday 28 Sept, when a group of Muslim students invaded a room shared by two Christian students at the Government Secondary School in Tudun Wada Na Kande, and began to assault them severely," The Principal arrived early enough as the Christian boys were being beaten up. He was told that the Christian students had drawn a picture of Mohammed on a mosque wall. The Principal apparently was not able to stem the violence which soon rapidly escalated - a one-sided gruesome premeditated assault on innocent citizens whose only crime was that they answer to the appellation Christian.

The Christian Association of Nigeria chose to channel her main reaction (apparently) through its National Secretary, Engr Samuel Salifu. And this was by means of a statement issued to government

through the media, repeating the usual mantra all is now accustomed to hearing after such ugly incidences; as well as actually “pleading for the government to step in.” Government response was conveyed by Vice President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan who [in a Church service,] “pledged that the new regime would soon convene a national religious conference to address the cycle of religious violence”. End of story!

Like Pastor Enoch Adeboye of the RCCG had sounded some 4 years ago during a similar incident at Kaduna, (see CA! Vol 6 No 2) until perpetrators are arraigned and put to trial “according to the law of the land”, there would be no basis for expecting any end to the cycle of so called religious violence - which is always instigated by the same known clique. It’s so amazing that the CAN cannot meet Mr President in person to press for this simple and basic demand!

We are indebted to the Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) for details about this story. CSW is a human rights organization which specializes in religious freedom, works on behalf of those persecuted for their Christian beliefs and promotes religious liberty for all. Visit their website at www.csw.org.uk. Vol. 10 No 5 (2007)

And in Borno, Nigeria, another bloodbath against Christians looms

Tension also continues to rise in the Gwoza area of Borno State where Christians are facing imminent violence from the Al Sunna Wal Jamma group.

Also known as the “Taliban,” members of the group are notorious for their pouncing on Christians at will and implementing their orgies of killing, raping and house destruction (see for instance CA! Vol 7 No 6 and Vol 9 No 4). Unlike the traditional Muslim militants, the Talibans don’t seek for any excuse (e.g report of Koran ‘mishandling’ by some Christian lad in some far away land) before they unleash their pogrom

on any Christian in sight! (Read details of the looming crisis at Crosswalk [website](http://www.crosswalk.com/news/religiontoday/11555732/), www.crosswalk.com/news/religiontoday/11555732/) **Vol. 10 No. 5 (2007)**

ALL-OUT WORLD-WIDE WAR ON EVANGELISM

Pastors murdered for preaching the Gospel in Igangan, South West Nigeria

Not only is the on-going satanic war against Christian soul-winning intensifying, it is also spreading to regions Christians would previously have considered as ‘safe’. As we pointed out in the last edition, virtually every edition of CA! in the past one and half years has carried stories of gruesome murders of Christian evangelists in Nigeria. However, those murders, involving various Church denominations, had been confined to the Sharia-endemic northern region of Nigeria.

One of the latest assaults, on Wednesday 26th March, however was at the small town of Igangan at the Ibarapa North LGA of Oyo State, down in South-West Nigeria . There, two pastors (a male and a female) of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), who had reportedly gone to join a local ministry in rural evangelism were brutally matcheted to death in an ambush by desperate anti-proselytization forces in that spiritually dark enclave. Five others were, according to the Punch newspaper, “seriously injured”. (A brief report of the incident could be found in the April edition of the Redemption Light, the official publication of the RCCG). As has become common in recent killings of Christian evangelists in Nigeria (see last edition for instance), elements of the Nigerian Police who attempted to intervene also ended up as part of the casualty. At Igangan, one of them was killed.

Pitiable but predictable Media Response

As usual, local media houses don't carry such news - in the name of promotion of public peace. It is difficult to determine which is worse, those who keep mum or those, attempting to straddle the fence, publish half-truths. The Punch newspaper, while giving details of persons involved (including their car number), however gave the impression that the killings were cases of "mistaken identity" and that the evangelists were taken for kidnappers! In a similar incident at Izom (Niger state) on June 28, 2006, the same Punch newspaper had become advocates for the murderers of the 20 year old Christian lady evangelist killed at the instructions of Islamic elders. At that time, the Punch had not only suggested that the young lady was a lunatic, but it carefully tucked the story into the middle pages - under its Crimes section! (See **CA! Vol 9 No 4** or Punch June 29, 2006, page 6).

The frequent resort to gruesome murder of Christian evangelists speaks volumes about the desperation and despair Satan is going through, watching the steady conversion of millions from dead religious set-ups to a living relationship with the Lord Jesus every day. Such intense persecution is however a global phenomenon not restricted to Nigeria alone. It is indeed true that anywhere people are moved by the love of Christ to dutifully and boldly preach the gospel, results always abound; and the enemy is always moved to show his true murderous colour. The only concern of CA! at this time is that too many Christians still do not think that evangelism is worth the effort or trouble. If this is correct, why then would some people [moved by the enemy] be willing to commit murder in order to discourage it? Think about it! If you are one such people inoculated with satan's lethargic anti-evangelism potion, it's time you woke up and be up and doing.

Following are sample stories of similar occurrences in other regions of the world, within the same period of time as the incident at Igangan **Vol. 11 No. 2**

Iran - House church raided; Elderly couple beaten to death

An Iranian Christian couple in their 60s have died from injuries sustained when secret police raided a house church service hosted at their house and severely beat them. *Compass* reported in August that the Police beat and arrested Amiri on July 17, along with seven other men, six women and two minors who were attending the service. Amiri died in a hospital on July 30 from injuries sustained from the beating while his wife Sakineh Rahnama, died on Sunday (Aug. 3) from stress-related causes.

Citing the Farsi Christian News Network (FCNN), *Compass* reported that violence against Amiri was reportedly intensified when the policemen discovered that he had taken a pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the five pillars of Islam required of all devout Muslims, before he had become a Christian. He was also a veteran of the Iran-Iraq War, a strong source of Iranian national pride, so his conversion further infuriated police, according to FCNN. All those arrested at the house meeting are reportedly still in custody, including Amiri's daughter and the two minors.

Arrests and violence against Iranian Christians have intensified in recent weeks. Twelve Christians traveling to Armenia via Tehran were arrested on July 12 at the Kerman airport in south-central Iran. In February the Iranian parliament proposed a draft penal code that demands the death penalty for leaving Islam. Under current Iranian law, "apostasy" is considered a capital offense, but punishment is left to the discretion of the judge. The draft penal code is scheduled to be

reviewed in the next parliamentary session.
<http://www.onenewsnow.com/Persecution> Vol 11 No 4

Somali Christian martyred

In Somalia, a 28-year-old Christian, who had converted from Islam and has been “described as extremely successful in evangelizing the community” has paid the ultimate price for his faith. Hussein was confronted by Islamic extremists who demanded to know if he faces Mecca when he prays, as required of Muslims. When he replied that his God is omnipresent and he can therefore face anywhere when praying, “the extremists were very much enraged... and they killed him.” www.onenewsnow.com/Persecution Vol 11 No 4

Christians caught in murderous religious violence in India-Pakistan

The partitioning of the Indian subcontinent into the two nations of India and Pakistan, following the exit of the British colonialists in 1947 was largely based on religion: India having a majority of militant Hindu population, while Pakistan, which remains a bitter rival till date, was carved out for the Moslems. In recent times, while these militants engage themselves in their never-ending senseless satan-fuelled religious killings, the retaliatory strikes are often invariably visited on the “easy targets” in both countries – the tiny voiceless Christian minority!.

The terrible wave of massacre of Christians in Orissa state of India by Hindu mobs (still on-going even as we write this) began when an anti-Christian Hindu leader and four of his associates were assassinated on August 22. Although communist Maoists have claimed responsibility for this assassination, the Hindus continue their

merciless and totally inhuman assault on peaceful weapon-less Christians.

According to a Konania House article, *“Unknown numbers of Christians have been slaughtered and their bodies burned. Others are burned alive. A pregnant woman and her one-year-old child were chopped up when she refused to convert to Hindusim. The brutality is unbelievable. It is estimated that 50,000 Christians have left their homes to save their lives.”*

Another posting by the Evangelical Fellowship of India on Sept 5 further describes the on-going carnage: *“The fundamentalist group are going from village to village destroying Churches, burning houses, attacking and killing Christians.*

It is reported that thousands of extremists have been brought from Gujarat and Chhattisgarh to perpetrate this violence which has spread to all the districts of Orissa.” (See www.thepowerofhismight.com/?p=135). In fact a report by BreakPoint on Sept 23 states categorically that India is out on a “campaign to eliminate Christians”.

[\(www.crosswalk.com/news/commentary/11581964/\)](http://www.crosswalk.com/news/commentary/11581964/)

Despite the horror, there is hope that this persecution will only lead to the growth of Christianity in the region. Gospel For Asia's leader in Orissa, Juria Bardhan, points out that the Christian population in the state has grown from 2 percent to 28 percent, and has had its most dramatic growth during times of persecution: “They don't understand that by doing this, the church will grow by leaps and bounds, and this will cause thousands to come to Christ.” Please refer to ICC's website

(www.persecution.org) for specific details and how you could possibly help, in addition to your prayers. **Deep thanks to all those who sent in some of these information, especially Pastor M.O.O. of OAU.**

In other places, the usual “peaceful” persecutions of Christians continue also unabated and often unreported. For instance in Virginia, (US), five Police Chaplains recently lost their jobs for daring to pray 'In Jesus' Name (Christian Newswire, Sept 25); while Hovind the highly gifted anti-evolutionist christian minister (Creation Science Evangelism, Pensacola, Florida, US) and his wife are still being hounded by hell using the instrument of a complicated court case slammed on them by the tax agency. (see CA! Vol 10 No 1, January 2007). Evolutionists are having a field day hauling insults and torments on him weekly by groups such as “The Atheist Experience”, Austin. Please pray for divine intervention and grace for Dr and Mrs Hovind. **Vol 11 No 5**

Martyrdom of Christians intensifies, even in modern times.

One of the clear marks of the end of time is the increasing intolerance Satan is displaying towards Christianity. Even when “tolerance” has become the mantra used by the devil to corrupt humanity, demonic entities just could not hide their lust for seeing Christian blood flow.

In recent times, apart from the Boko Haram incidence in Northern Nigeria mentioned elsewhere in this edition, several gallons of Christian blood have been shed in recent weeks, in places ranging from Pakistan, to Somalia, Iraq, China and North Korea.

In Pakistan following rumours (announced over mosque loudspeakers), that a Koran had been defaced during a wedding at a Christian home, thousands of Moslems rose up to the occasion vandalizing Churches and Bibles in the town of Gojra. In the course of looting over 100 Christian houses, and burning half of them, at least eight precious innocent people were “either burned or shot to death.” The Times of London (Aug 3) citing residents, reported that the

casualties were much higher - in the dozens - as many bodies still remained under the rubble of collapsed buildings (www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6736696.ece) while the New York Times reported that the incident lasted about eight hours and involved as many as 20,000 Moslem mob! Armed policemen stood aside, watching while their fellow Moslems unleashed terror in the small Christian colony. At the end of the day, it was confirmed that no Koran had actually been desecrated. **Vol 12 No 5**

Tell my people I died well - Rev George Orji

Recently, the Christian community in Nigeria at least came up with some measure of response to the perennial killing with impunity of Christians by so-called fundamentalist Moslems - who never seem to be in short supply! Following the latest wave of killings, the Boko Haram uprising, the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) successfully put together a well-publicised and befitting Service of Songs (on Thursday Sept 10) in the memory of Christian pastors brutally killed, cold blooded, in the latest adventure by the Jihadists. The service held simultaneously in Abuja and in London.

Although several Christians were unfortunately caught in the crossfire, the Boko Haram incident could actually be seen as God instigating the fighting force of militant Islam in Nigeria against their double-faced masters and sponsors - and exposing their ugly secrets. One surprising element of the Boko Haram movement is the wide spread of its membership, cutting across all strata of society - from highly placed public officers (including an ex-member of a state cabinet), former lecturers in institutions of higher learning, to thousands of street urchins.

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On one hand, it was truly saddening, to read about scores of teenagers, brainwashed by the Boko Haram sect, pouring out like mindless robots, to be mowed down by the Nigerian military. Teenagers that could have contributed to the greatness of Nigeria were turned into vermins under the guise of Islamic education with active, even if informal, support of state governments. It is an open secret that the core of the Islamic killing machine deployed against Christians in many a religious crises in Northern Nigeria in recent times (e.g. Jos crises) has been recruited from Bauchi, well within Boko Haram catchment area. Even though the key leaders of the Boko Haram (including those who voluntarily turned themselves in) were summarily killed while in police custody - no doubt to protect the identity of their sponsors - no one could doubt the involvement of key state government officials at the topmost levels. Akin to the report in the last edition of CA! of Talibans buying children in Pakistan to be recruited as suicide bombers, the story of Boko Haram is no less pathetic. As is usual for any case involving Islam however, none of the usually vocal "Child Rights" advocacy NGOs seems to either have noticed the situation or find voice to ask for government investigations to address similar existing situations.

Nevertheless, several innocent Christians were caught in the crossfires between this Moslem killing machinery and their state sponsors. According to eye-witness accounts, in the face of stark terror, many nominal Christians hurriedly agreed to dump their "faith" for Islam in order to save their necks. (Many of them were killed nevertheless, either by the jihadists or soldiers' stray bullets!). Thank God for those who like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, readily embraced the ultimate price, calmly preferring to be slaughtered rather than denounce their Lord. In this honorable group are Pastor Sabo Yakubu, of Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN),

Reverend Sylvester O. Akpan of National Evangelical Mission, and Reverend George Orji of Good News of Christ Church. The Lord providentially allowed some other faithful brethren to escape the Jihadist long knives, so that the world may learn of the faith and courage of our martyred brethren (Heb 12:35). The message sent by Rev George Orji through a co-captive, “[in case you make it out,] tell my people I died well” made the headlines all over the world. Details of some eye-witness accounts of the incident can be found at www.tribune.com.ng/07082009/features.html or at news.onlinenigeria.com/?a=6864. Delivering the sermon during the funeral rites for late Rev. Sabo Yakubu, COCIN Regional chairman, Rev Bulus Azi urged Christians to be prepared for death, anytime as their calling may demand.

The Christian community seems to have given up trying to get the Nigerian government to live up to its responsibility of protecting innocent citizens or compensating their losses in the hands of militant Islamists. In the Sept 10 event, the PFN rolled out the drums, according to its National Secretary, “to honor these Christian heroes and also draw international attention to the systemic problem that has led to the death of adherents of Christian faith in Northern Nigeria.” In his message, National President of the PFN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, urged the congregation not to mourn the Christians who died in the crisis as the service was a celebration in the hope of Christ. He later led other Christian leaders in giving personal donations in cash and kind to the families of the slain pastors - in addition to corporate gifts by the Fellowship. **Vol 12 No 5**

Punish perpetrators of Kaduna Killings, Adeboye urged FG
Pastor Enoch Adeboye, the highly revered General Overseer of The Redeemed Christian Church of God has blamed the Federal

Government for the persistent religious and ethnic-related crises in the country. Pastor Adeboye said the problem had continued only because despite “empty promises” from government that perpetrators of such conflicts would be brought to book, nothing of such had happened. This, he said, is encouraging the culprits to continue to foment trouble. In the euphoria of the coming general elections, the issue of the last Kaduna killings (where over 200 lives were terminated by Islamic fanatics) is almost as good as already neatly swept under the carpet for most people not directly affected. Not so with Pastor Adeboye: he wants the government to begin from there. Suggesting that he was not merely tackling the issue on the pages of newspapers, but rather building on previous direct contact with government, Pastor Adeboye said, “We believed that the government can do something with the last riot by going to the root of the problem and dealing with them according to the law of the land. The moment trouble makers know that they can’t go free, trouble will cease”. (Guardian, Jan 10, page 5) **Vol. 6 No. 2 (2003)**

Street Preachers Killed in the United States - and the media refuse to cover it!

Tite Sufra, 24, and Stephen Ocean, 23, were shot to death on the evening of Saturday January 30 in Boynton Beach in Florida, US where they had gone out for street evangelism. They were shot by a fellow young black man, 18 year old Jeriah Woody to whom they had earlier witnessed. According to BosNewsLife, Stephen and Tite had “witnessed to Woody for fifteen minutes, when he got a phone call and told the preachers he had to go. As they walked away, Woody suddenly started walking back toward them. Sufra walked up to greet him and was killed with a shot gun blast at point blank range. When

Ocean ran, he was shot in the back. After he fell, Woody shot him in the head - execution style.”

Pointing out the absolute lack of interest in this story by the national media, Gary Cass of the Christian Anti-Defamation Commission raised a poser: “I’ll ask this: If two Muslims, or two feminists or two homosexuals were murdered, wouldn’t the media be all over it? These were two fine young black Christian men shot by another black man for their Christian faith, yet the media does not seem to care.”

Cass believes that “The increasing demonization of Christians in our culture makes some feel its open season on Christians” describing as “an ominous sign” of the times “that Christians are being shot on the streets and in our churches”.

“Increasingly, we see Christian ministers threatened and churches terrorized and vandalized for their stand on marriage. Now when Christians gather for worship they must have armed security,” Last year, Jim Pullion was killed while holding pro-life signs in front of his granddaughter’s Owasso Michigan high school. Reverend Fred Winters was murdered while preaching in his pulpit in Maryville, Illinois. According to Cass, “Anti-Christian defamation and bigotry has helped to create this violent climate and it must stop” www.bosnewslife.com/11425-news-alert-street-peachers-killed-in-united-states **Vol 13 No 1**

Indian Evangelist Hacked To Death

An evangelist with the Bethel Assembly church in Jamalpur, India was brutally murdered in the night of Sunday May 2, after participating in the showing of the “Jesus film”. The mutilated body of Ravi Murmu, 30, was found with his right hand cut off, and deep cut wounds on his neck and other parts of his body, according to witnesses. The killing had all the regular signature of Hindu militants as the attackers did

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not confiscate personal belongings, including his motor bike, mobile phone, watch and Bible. Ravi who is survived by his wife Rinku, eight-year-old daughter Celesty, and his widowed mother was buried the next day, Monday, May 3. Details at www.worthynews.com/8067-india-evangelist-hacked-to-death

Such deadly attacks against devoted Christians by Hindu militants are unfortunately increasing in frequency in several parts of India. Only two weeks earlier, on Saturday April 17, some “10 Hindu extremists” forced their way into an evangelistic event organized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the town of Betul in Madhya Pradesh. According to a statement by the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI), the militants “broke glasses of vehicles, electrical lights, furniture and mercilessly beat the Christians with their sticks.” The response of the Christians was to scatter, each trying to escape. It was soon realized however, that Pastor Amit Gilbert was missing. A search party was constituted, and the dead body of the Pastor was found in a well. His hands were found tied, and a post mortem showed he had “a big wound on his head and back.” See details at www.worthynews.com/8094-india-christians-pray-after-militants-kill-pastor.

North Korea executes underground church leaders

The Christian Post has reported (August 19) the execution of three leaders of the underground church by authorities in North Korea. Although the execution and imprisonment happened in mid-May, news only got out three months later, in August. Citing AsiaNews, the Christian Post reported that North Korean police raided a house in Kuwal-dong in Pyungung county, Pyongan province, and arrested all 23 believers who were gathered there for religious activity.

The leaders were sentenced to death and soon after executed while the other 20 were reportedly sent to the infamous prison labour camp No 15 in Yodok. The 23 Christians had come to faith after some of them travelled to China on business and met with church members there.

Last year, as reported by the Associated Press, a 33-year-old Christian woman was publicly executed in that communist enclave, for the crime of distribution of Bibles.

Most Christians in the free world can hardly imagine what it means for brethren in restricted regions of the world to live a life where the major identity is not the job title or social status, but rather what one's views are concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Being a Christian in North Korea is considered one of the worst crimes by the oppressive government. There are an estimated 400,000 Christians in North Korea who live under the constant threat of imprisonment, torture or public execution if authorities discover their Christian faith. It is estimated that at least 10 percent of these our brethren (between 40,000 to 60,000), are currently in prison labor camps because of their faith.

www.christiantoday.com/article/north.korea.executes.underground_church.leaders/26540.htm **Vol 13 No 4**

Short time to go: 176,000 Christians martyred globally in one year

The cases of martyred Christians that are highlighted on the pages of Church Arise! are only a few drops in the bucket compared with the actual onslaught against Christians. For instance, as collated by a very respectable and credible ministry coalition, an estimated 176,000 Christians around the world were martyred - killed for their faith - in a one-year period from the middle of 2008 to the middle of 2009.

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That's 482 deaths per day, one every three minutes, round the clock for a year! Talk of the devil visiting earth with great wrath (Rev 12:12)!

The new coalition that has been formed to further publicize the fact of on-going intense martyrdom in our generation is comprised of three partners - Open Doors USA, actor Kirk Cameron of "The Way of the Master" ministry and evangelist Ray Comfort of Living Waters ministry - all based in the United States. www.wnd.com **Vol. 13 No 2**

VIETNAM: Release International has completed a fact-finding mission and reports that in certain areas in Vietnam, Christians are being tortured and starved in an intentional strategy by authorities to slowly wipe them out. Several pathetic incidents were reported by ICC, including the case of a Christian leader who "was beaten with a spiked club, attacked by a vicious dog, and his unconscious body was then dragged along a road behind a vehicle." The brother is alive and recuperating even as the authorities might as well repeat the whole torture again as they decide!

These are NOT movie stories, but real events happening to real people even these very moments!
(www.releaseinternational.org/pages/posts/the-vietnam-war-rumbles-on--with-christians-as-the-enemy--pix-video-audio-available354.php) **Vol 11 No 2**

Jos religious crisis still simmering?

In the last edition, we reported extensively on the carefully orchestrated killings of Christians (with some innocent moslem folks also getting caught up in the reprisal attacks) in Jos, under the guise of dissatisfaction with the results of a peacefully held Local government elections in Plateau state.

Such was the intensity of the conflagrations that it was only recently that soldiers were withdrawn from the streets of Jos. And even then, indications are that the situation is still simmering on the Plateau.

One recent incident was the arrest by vigilant security men of some 26 mercenaries with army uniforms and sophisticated weapons to match in Jos – raising fears of a planned fresh pogrom. The fake soldiers were discovered to be from Bauchi state (one of the states bordering Plateau state), but they were traveling in a vehicle owned by the Okenne Local Government, OLG, of Kogi state. Chairman of the OLG, Alhaji Yahaya Karaku, admitted that the men were in the employ of his LG, arguing they are vigilante men.

<http://odili.net/news/source/2009/jan/12/505.html>).

Why go all the way to the border of Plateau state to hire men for vigilante group for Okenne hundred of miles away? And what were they doing at Jos with sophisticated weapons and uniforms of the Nigerian army? So many questions that should demand solid answers from the gentleman from Okenne rather than the silly cock-and-bull story which even the state government itself initially immediately distanced itself from. But rather than use its federal might to unravel this incident involving at least three different States, the Federal Government seems more interested in quickly closing the case and more importantly, being the one to write the final official report on the incident. In an unprecedented move, agents of the FG openly feuded with the state government on the issue of who should set up the investigative panel into the crisis. At the end of the day, both Federal and State governments have set up parallel Panels, while the whole world watches in wonder, how the matter would end.

The citizenry were not going to be muted though. The Northern Christian Elders Forum, NOCEF, pointedly accused the FG of gross

partisanship in the crisis. Speaking through its chairman, Evangelist Matthew Owojaiye, the group told journalists in Kaduna that "virtually all the Federal Government officials who visited Jos, all of whom are Muslims including the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Danbazzau and the wife of the President, Hajia Turai Yar'Adua, only visited the Central Mosque and places where displaced Muslims were being camped in Jos without visiting displaced Christians in their camps. "They did not even have the courtesy to visit the governor who is the chief security officer of the State nor the Traditional ruler of Jos, the Gbong Gwom Jos, Dr. Victor Pam" he lamented.

Even the indigenous Birom moslem community, took up paid adverts to buttress the well-known point that the root cause of the mayhem (like we had analysed in the last edition) was the efforts by the Hausa-Fulani political machine to extend their dominion to the Jos plateau - using the usual instrument of 'religion'. (See their well-researched and frank advertorial in *The Nation* of February 2). Like the analogy we drew (citing Islamists arrogant atrocities in Ilorin), the clear goal was to "make an Ilorin out of Jos".

In a short interview given during the recently concluded PFN biennial meeting at Warri, highly respected Pastor E.A. Adebayo (recently recognized by the secular *Times* magazine as being among the 50 most influential people in the world – the pope being the only other religious person on the list), in his usual quiet manner revealed that his number one concern about Nigeria is related to the incident on the Jos plateau. The man of God spoke more than his usual characteristic "few words" as he reasoned:

"When there is religious war, progress stops. And when I see the way some people are trying to use religion to achieve political ends, I feel bad. I mean take the case in Plateau state where there was an election and the election went one way or the other. Now, in the

South, if there is election and you see that one party has cheated, they will attack politicians. But there, it was not so. They said there was a problem with election and they began to burn churches. Now, what has innocent churches got to do with political elections? Why must we for one reason or the other, selfish or political, plunge Nigeria into a religious war? That is my concern and every well-meaning Nigerian must cry out every day to God for” (www.thenationonlineng.com/dynamicpage.asp?id=77189) **Vol 12 No 1**

Easter Violence in Niger State

A fresh example of the impunity with which Christians are harassed and persecuted in Northern Nigeria was again demonstrated in Niger state over the Easter period. Reports from several national newspapers describe the unbelievable incidents in Gwada and Minna, the state capital: A company of Christians in high spirits were moving round in a procession, celebrating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from death, when a horde of muslim fundamentalists suddenly arose from the ambush they had laid, and unleashed severe violence on people and properties. Just like that, without any provocation!

Church buildings, cars, and no fewer than 26 Christians (in Gwada) received various levels of damages and injuries. Reporting on the Minna incident, the Nigerian Tribune reported that “blood from the injured littered the ground”.

According to the PRO of the Nigeria Police, ASP Richard Oguche, it took three Assistant Commissioners of Police and a strong detachment of anti-riot policemen to put the situation in Gwada under control. As many as 88 muslim fanatics were arrested on the scene. Twenty others were arrested in Minna. Unfortunately, as has happened over and over again, the case (both the pawns arrested or

their 'untouchable' masterminds behind the scenes) is all but forgotten just a few weeks now after the incidence! **Vol 12 No 3**

Somalia Islamic Militants Behead Four Christian Orphanage Workers

For refusing to renounce their faith in Christ, four Christian orphanage workers in Somalia were beheaded in August by the country's main Islamic insurgent group al-Shabab. According to the International Christian Concern (ICC), a major advocacy group investigating reports of religious persecution, an unidentified junior member of al-Shabab, notified families of Fatima Sultan, Ali Ma'ow, Sheik Mohammed Abdi and Maaddey Diil, that the four Christians kidnapped earlier on July 27 in the coastal town of Merca. had been beheaded for apostasy. "All the four apostates were given an opportunity to return to Islam to be released but they all declined the generous offer," a witness of the beheading was reported as saying.

Earlier in July, the al-Shabab beheaded seven people in the southwestern town of Baidoa after accusing them of converting to Christianity and spying for the transitional federal government of Somalia, The group was also responsible for the deaths of 11 African Union (from Burundi and Uganda) peacekeepers who they targeted while they were attending a Sunday Church service in Mogadishu earlier in the year.

In a related development, human rights groups in South Korea say North Korea has stepped up executions of Christians, some of them in public. A recent report described one particular case of a woman allegedly publicly executed in June in a northern town close to the Chinese border. She was accused of distributing Bibles, spying for South Korea and the United States and helping to organise dissidents. Her parents, husband, and children were sent to a prison

camp. It is estimated that up to 30,000 North Koreans practice Christianity secretly in their homes.

Similarly, two young Iranian women arrested and being tried for converting to Christianity, Maryam Rustampoor and Marzieh Amirizadeh, have adamantly refused to recant their faith in Christ, despite great pressure being mounted on them. Originally arrested on March 5, 2009 the two women have suffered greatly while in prison, suffering ill health, solitary confinement and interrogations for many hours while blindfolded. In a dramatic court room session, the deputy prosecutor, Mr. Haddad, questioned Maryam and Marzieh about their faith and told them that they had to recant in both verbal and written form. According to the Assyrian International News Agency (Aug 11), they responded, "We will not deny our faith." **Vol 12 No 5**

Fresh Islamic Mayhem: Bauchi on the Boil Again

No fewer than eight people, including two soldiers and four children, were killed while a number of houses were burnt in the latest fracas by yet another fringe Islamic group as the year 2009 drew to a close. Centred around Bauchi, site of the bloody Boko Haram uprising only a few months earlier, the new rampage involved an Islamic sect called Kala-Kato who were said to be demanding the release of their leader arrested by the authorities. At least 30 members of Kalakato also lost their lives to Nigeria's military might. The four innocent children burnt to death had sought refuge in a house, which was burnt down by minors, supervised by adult members of Kalakato. According to the Nigeria Red Cross, "no fewer than 1000" were displaced, taking refuge at the Industrial area.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912300095.html>

Government's response to the latest in the incessant, predictable mayhems in Northern Nigeria is again meaningless and disappointing – as usual. According to a report in the Nigerian Tribune, the “Bauchi State Government *is to* set-up an inter-religious committee, consisting of all religious stakeholders with the aim of promoting religious harmony among the people of the state.” As if to say the one-sided madness was due to some religious disharmony between “all religious stakeholders” – meaning Christians and Moslems!

Reporting further, the Nigerian Tribune newspaper explained that, “according to the Special Assistant to the Governor on Media Affairs, .. the objective of the inter-religious committee” [when eventually set up], would be “to give warning signals of any perceived religious crises with a view to nipping it before it erupted.” [Sigh! Yawn!] How more could a government admit the failure of its security units than this kind of statement? Or the fact that it considers the development apparently only a minor incident to be addressed by mere media-directed rhetoric, when it is the assistant to the governor - on media issues - that was directed to make a statement!

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/02012010/news/news7.html> Vol 12

No 6

Yet another carnage against Christians on the Jos Plateau

Nigeria, and the world at large, woke up on Sunday 7th March to learn of yet another carnage on the Jos Plateau. On that day, in a sordid operation that commenced about 1.30 am and lasted 2 hours, about 600 villagers in the Christian village of Dogon Na Hauwa and two others nearby, were hacked down and butchered in cold blood by Fulani herdsmen, allegedly imported from neighbouring Bauchi state. (read some details at <http://www.goodseedfellowship.org/>)

According to eyewitness accounts cited in a statement by the influential Christian Elders Consultative Forum, “The Hausa-Fulani Muslim militants came chanting ‘allahu akbar’ and broke into homes, cutting human beings including children and women with their knives and cutlasses.”

The statement, signed by the the National Coordinator of the group, Bishop Anderson Bok, and the Secretary General, Dr. Musa Pam, described the fresh attack as “yet another jihad and provocation” against Christians in the state.

Apart from the Christian Elders Forum, both the traditional ruler of Jos (Gbong Gwom Jos), Da Gyang Buba and the Executive Governor of the State, Jonah David Jang averred they got wind of the massacre ahead of time and had duly informed the Nigerian Army, who were supposed to be in charge of security and an on-going 12 hour curfew in place in the state, since the last mayhem at Jos earlier in January. According to newspaper reports, the army commander bluntly denied receiving any phone call from the governor, while another officer claimed he missed the route to the locations, hence arriving late at the crime scene!

However, eyewitnesses told Jonathan Racho of the International Christian concerns (ICC) that some security forces indeed arrived in time enough to witness the killings, but they refused to enter Dogon Na Hauwa. The only action taken by the security forces, according to the report, was to stop Christians who had come from neighbouring villages to come give assistance to the villages under attack. The soldiers allegedly cited the on-going curfew! (www.persecution) The state governor, a retired officer of the Nigerian Air Force himself, was barely able to check his emotions both at the frustrations from Federal agents and at the gory sight of charred bodies of innocent children and women that littered the ground.

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In his reaction, the national president of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, urged Acting President Jonathan to prove to the 140 million Nigerians especially the Christian community that they have a stake in the nation just as their counterparts who have perfected the art of provoking them at will. Speaking with newsmen, Pastor Oritsejafor said: “I have just returned from a trip abroad. While I was away I was inundated with reports of another catastrophe in the Jigawa State capital where several churches were burnt and just as I was trying to settle down and collate reports from the field I am hearing of another on a Sunday morning.”

This latest killings occurred hours before the commencement of a Peace Meeting convened by Christian statesman and former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon, who is from the troubled Plateau state.

Weeks earlier, the Plateau state government had raised alarms about the setting free by Federal government agents, of militants arrested in the previous killings. The suspects with their case files would simply be transferred to Abuja (the federal capital), and that was the end of the matter!

Speaking to journalists in Jos, earlier on in the wake of the January killings, the Plateau State Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Edward Pwajok said efforts to ensure speedy and transparent prosecution of all those suspected to be masterminds of the crisis were being frustrated by federal agents. Mr Pwajok further lamented that “government was disturbed because it was the same scenario after the November 2008 crisis, when all the over 300 files that had been processed and based upon which remand orders were obtained in the courts, were taken to Force Headquarters, Abuja.....And in spite of the repeated demands, no file

was returned to Jos, thus leading to the release of all the suspects of the 2008 Jos unrest. Continuing, he said: “Again, all the 26 suspects arrested in the wake of the 2008 unrest on suspicion of being mercenaries were taken from Jos to Abuja and nothing has been heard from the police force Headquarters since last year,” (<http://allafrica.com/stories/201001260114.html>)

In the January 17th incident, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Gregory Anyating, had told journalists that 35 people were arrested, five in military uniform with arms. A statement by the Christian Elders described the January 17th attack.

“The attack coming in the wake of today, Sunday the 17th January 2010, after the normal Christian services in Churches is premeditated, wicked, deliberate and terrifying. Our fellow brothers and sisters were just coming out of churches in Nassarawa area of Jos when some Islamic youths pounced on them with cutlasses and other dangerous weapons. Shortly after the attack, we were made to believe that some Islamic fundamentalists were engaging themselves in some fracas after some disagreement, which spilled into churches leading to Christian casualties.

"Why must it be churches and Christians who will suffer from an all-Muslim affair?" "Why will Islamic fundamentalists engage themselves on a Sunday morning shortly after the service if the 'terror' act was not premeditated?"

The statement ominously warned: "While thanking the Plateau State government for its prompt reaction, which quickly restored peace to the city, we call on our Moslem brothers and sisters to see this as the last of such provocation on the Christians in the state. Enough is enough."

It is apparently the “prompt reaction” of the state government that angered the Islamic fundamentalists who found out they could not

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have the field day of free killing they had hoped for. More than 367 suspects and mercenaries were arrested during the crisis (although none prosecuted, as a result of direct intervention by agents of the Federal Government).

Apparently, as many of the foreign press with their usual sympathy and shameless bias towards Islam have been trying to portray, the March 7 incidents are “reprisal” acts for the January failure. For instance, in a report submitted by one Shuaibu Mohammed and written by Nick Tattersall, Reuters described the March massacre as “clashes between pastoralists and villagers!” What “clashes” when innocent folks (mainly women and children) are roused from their beds in the middle of the night by gunshots and burning roofs, to be hacked down with machetes as they stepped into the streets? According to ‘earwitnesses’, each stab of the long knife or hack by the matchete is followed by grunts of “allahu akbar”, which the murderers apparently used to steel themselves to the dastard act. Not a single one of the cold-blood murderers was killed – Clashes indeed!

Whereas, it is on record that every act of violence to date on the Jos plateau had been first instigated by Islamic elements. The latest tactic of attacking sleeping villagers in Jos suburbs simply reflects the seeking of easy targets by these Haman-minded jihadists (see Esther 9:1-2) - as Christian youths in Jos had now taken their own security into their own hands following the abysmal failure of government security forces.

Describing the March 7 killings as “cowardly killing of innocent Christians” National Secretary of PFN, Pastor Wale Adefarasin said the incident was further evidence that terrorist attacks similar to September 11 and the failed Christmas Day bombing in the United States now thrived in Nigeria. “Nigerians demand that for the first

time all the perpetrators of these shameless acts including those that have aided and abetted them must feel the full weight of the law.” he concluded. **Vol 13 No 1**

Meanwhile, NIPSS advocates for State Police

Issues being brought to the fore by these events on the Jos plateau include the need to deal with the overcentralization in government structure in Nigeria. A particularly touchy issue was the need to create state police so that state government would have full power to deploy them to quell riots more rapidly. There was a heated exchange on the subject between the Federal Government Panel investigating the 2008 mayhem and members of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru. The spokesperson for the Institute, Dr. Mark Maduagwu, refused to be intimidated as he insisted: "the general consensus here in the National Institute is that the possibility of having a state police should be seriously considered in Nigeria. That is the general consensus. There are of course two sides to a coin. Could you believe that the advantages of having a state police may, in the long run, outweigh the disadvantages?" (Guardian, Jan 18, 2010) **Vol 13 No 1**

Jigawa Govt To Compensate CAN Over Burnt Churches

In a headline that at first suggested an unprecedented change in attitude by Sharia-ruled governments in Nigeria to the wanton and carefree destructions of Christian lives and property, the Jigawa State government reportedly undertook responsibility, and offered compensation, for Churches destroyed by Islamic youths. Around January 22, eight churches had been raised down by Islamic youths who were supposedly protesting police brutality (moslems) against a

tractor driver (moslem) who lost his life for violating traffic rule!
(<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=959>)

However, reading through the details, it is clear that the statement is probably nothing more than a political ruse, which might even be a design to distract and divide the ranks of Christians. In the first instance, despite the clear facts on ground, Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Aminu Abdullahi, explained that government needed first to set up a committee ... to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the incidence. It is the same committee that would additionally "ascertain the extent of damage, as well as evaluate the cost." Unfortunately, the government forgot to include any representative of the Christian community on the committee!

www.ngrguardiannews.com/news/article04//index2.html?pdate=070310&ptitle=Govt%20To%20Compensate%20CAN%20Over%20Burnt%20Churches.

It doesn't take a prophet to predict the course of events in the several months to come. Efforts to pursue the matter and eventually obtain a cheque through the maze of government bureaucracy is guaranteed to keep CAN leaders not only distracted and possibly divided, but canned as well for a while! If the Jigawa government were serious, it could simply have followed in the footsteps of the Malaysian government, who as we reported in the last edition, simply paid compensation instantly, and directly, to the Churches destroyed by Moslem fanatics in that country last year, December 31! **Vol 13 No 1**

Muslim Attackers Slice Baby from Belly of Pregnant Woman, Remove Victims' Tongues
Christian Women and Children Slaughtered in another Jihad Attack in Nigeria

Washington, D.C. (March 17, 2010)—International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that Nigerian Muslims slaughtered at least twelve Christians with machetes this morning in the village of Bei, Nigeria.

The attackers, who were dressed in military attire, removed the baby from the belly of a pregnant woman and cut out the tongues of their victims. The Muslims murdered three children, four teenage girls, three women (including the one pregnant woman) and two men. They also injured six Christians and burned down four houses.

“Our restraint is taken for weakness. The security is not protecting life and property of Christians. This is a religious war.....” lamented Reverend Chuwang Avou, the General Secretary of the Christian Association of Nigeria in Plateau State.

ICC’s Regional Manager for Africa, Jonathan Racho, said “We are deeply saddened by the latest jihad attack against defenseless Christians in Nigeria. Women and children have borne the brunt of Muslim aggression. This demonstrates the senselessness of the attacks and the cruelty of the attackers. Unfortunately, the media and politicians wrongly label the attacks as ethnic violence instead of telling the truth about the ruthless Islamic jihad attack that is bent on driving Christians from northern Nigeria.” **Vol 13 No 2**

3.5.

Jos Update: Prosecution in View

Steady progress, so far, is being made in ensuring the prosecution of the Hundreds of suspects arrested over the recent slaughter of Christians on the Jos Plateau in Nigeria. According to reports from the Agence France Presse, the Plateau State police spokesman Mohammed Lerama said they hope to go to court in the week of 21st March and begin the prosecution of about 200 suspects.

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The suspects were detained after a number of predominantly Christian villages in the Jos area were attacked by machete-wielding Muslim extremists on March 7. About 500 villagers, mainly women and children were brutally butchered in that attack. A second attack a week later left an additional 13 people dead.

Lerama told AFP that 49 Fulani herdsmen will be charged with homicide and terrorism in connection with the March 7 violence. Another seven will face similar charges over the second wave of killings.

Persecution watchdogs have called for security for Christians in the West African country. Open Doors, which is based in the U.S., says the atmosphere in the Christian villages remains tense. Open Doors' Africa director reminded the public that this is a spiritual battle and that some Christians "react to the honor of God and others don't."

"I think it is also important to understand that the Nigerian Christians are not super human beings. We need to understand that those Christians in northern Nigeria face discrimination, humiliation and attacks on almost a daily basis," the director said. "They have built and rebuilt homes and churches so many times. They have gone to morgues to look for the bodies of their loved ones so often. (From The Christian Post, March 23, 2010) Vol 13 No 2

Even in Police Custody, Christian Brothers shot to death by Pakistani Jihadists

In the Pakistani city of Faisalabad, two Christian evangelists have paid the supreme price for their vibrant evangelistic ministries. Pastor Rashid Emmanuel (32) and his 30 year old brother Sajid Masih Emmanuel were taken into police custody on July 2 following allegations by local Moslems that the two had authored some hand-

written manuscript that denigrated the Islamic prophet. Even though the Christian evangelists denied the allegation, and handwriting experts confirmed that the manuscript did not match their handwritings, they remained in police custody. Even a high governmental official publicly expressed his doubts that anybody would write such a manuscript and put their real names as was being alleged in this case. In Pakistan such an offence attracts the death penalty.

However, especially following the instigation of some mosques on Friday 16th July that Christian houses should be burnt over the matter, it probably was not so easy for the police to release the men. As the police took the Christian evangelists, handcuffed, to court on Monday 19th July, five masked men stepped forward outside the court building and shot the two brothers dead, right in the custody of the police!

Police later hurriedly effected an early-morning burial for the two, apparently to forestall violence that could follow an elaborate burial. Some eye witnesses told Worthy News that they saw torture marks on the bodies of the two Christians suggesting they had been subjected to torture while in police custody. The two brothers were members of the Mission Group United Ministries, Pakistan. Even as at this moment, several other Christians are languishing in police custody in Pakistan on the allegation of blasphemy – which is fast becoming an effective way of settling land and similar disputes, when your opponent is a Christian. In Vol 11 No 1, we reported the resulting mayhem and massive destructions in Bauchi State, NIGERIA, when a love-seeking muslim suitor turned round to accuse of blasphemy, the Christian lady who had rejected his advances. (<http://churcharise.blogspot.com/2008/02/again-muslim-riot-claims-3-lives-in.html>)

For further details and follow-up on the story from Pakistan, check www.WorthyNews.com VOL 13 NO 2

In Pakistan, Moslem Mob kills wife and children of newly-posted Christian Police officer

In a direct mirror of the story at Wukari, Taraba state of Nigeria (see above), a police officer officially posted to a city with a Moslem majority in Pakistan was told he and his family could not stay in his rented apartment in a Moslem colony. His tardiness in responding to the quit order has cost him his wife and all four children!

The sad story began with the official transfer of Officer Jamshed Masih from Gujrat to a new posting 50 km away at Jhelum, Punjab Province. Upon arrival, he was summoned to the local mosque by a local muslim leader, Maulana Mahfoz Khan who ordered him to leave the Mustafa colony. “You must leave with your family, no non-Muslim has ever been allowed to live in this colony – we want to keep our colony safe from scum,”

Masih consulted with a local Pastor who advised he must indeed vacate his residence. But while preparing to do so, the faithful day Monday, June 21 came. Compass Direct has the details:

“Masih’s neighbor, Murtaza, told Compass that after Masih went to work at 7 a.m. on June 21, his children could be heard singing hymns before breakfast.

“Razia [*Masih’s wife*] sent their eldest son to buy a packet of Surf [detergent], and he was singing a hymn on his way to buy the Surf,” Murtaza said.

Neighbors saw Masih’s s 11-year-old son come into the store, he said. The shopkeeper asked him if he was a Christian; the child responded that he was.

“The shopkeeper refused to give him the packet of Surf and spoke very harshly to him, ‘I don’t sell to any non-Muslim, you are not welcome here, don’t you dare ever come to my shop again,’” Murtaza said.

The boy went home, upset, and told his mother about the encounter; she grew worried and called her husband, saying, “Jamshed, please come home quickly, the kids and I are very worried, we must leave this house today,” Masih said.

His neighbor, Murtaza, said that shortly afterward some area residents came to the door with the Muslim religious leader, Khan.

“Your son has committed blasphemy against Muhammad, our beloved prophet – we can’t allow him to live, he should be punished,” Khan told Razia Masih, Murtaza said. “Razia got scared and said, ‘My son couldn’t do such a thing, he is only 11 years old.’”

Khan became furious and said, “Are we lying to you? You call us liars, how dare you insult us,” Murtaza said. “Someone from the crowd hit something hard on her head, and she started bleeding. The children started crying and shouted for help. Razia kept shouting for help, ‘Please have mercy on us, please let my husband come, then we can talk.’”

Jamshed Masih said his daughter telephoned police as the mob attacked his wife and children. He said he later learned that “the people kept shouting, ‘This family has committed blasphemy, they should be killed.’”

Before police arrived, his family was murdered, he said.”

When Masih tried to file a complaint against Khan for the murder, Station House Officer (SHO) Ramzan Mumtaz refused to cooperate with him. The SHO later confirmed to Compass that he had answered Masih exactly in this manner: ‘Khan is an influential man, and he said your son has committed blasphemy – we cannot do

anything against him.... I am a poor man, I have a family, and I was pressured by higher authorities not to register the FIR [First Information Report] as Khan is a very influential man. I am sorry, I don't have anything in my hands.” [Compass Direct News \(www.Christianpost.com/article/20100708/muslim-mob-kills-wife-children-of-Christian\)](http://www.Christianpost.com/article/20100708/muslim-mob-kills-wife-children-of-Christian) Vol 13 No 2

51 Iraqi worshippers

Fifty-one Christian worshippers (and later on, seven Iraqi commandos) were killed in an attack on an Assyrian Christian Church in Karrada, central Baghdad on Sunday October 31. Rev. Wassem Sabeeh was delivering the sermon when blasting sounds were heard. Some heavily-armed men in military fatigues stepped in through the blasted door and calmly started to shoot the worshippers - beginning with the Priest. "They were well trained," Bassam Sami, 21, one of the survivors said. "They didn't say anything. It was like someone had cut out their tongues."

Sensing trouble with the initial blasting sounds, Rev Sabeeh had quietly began ushering parishioners into a fortified room in the rear of the church. However, according to Sami, one of the assailants discovered the room and tossed in a grenade.

Shortly after 9 p.m., after realizing that hostages had been executed, a team of U.S.-trained Iraqi commandos stormed into the church from all sides. At least five suicide bombers detonated explosives, killing seven of the troops. The al-Qaeda in Iraq, in an internet message, claimed responsibility for the carnage. They believe they are fighting for God, and the zombified suicide bombers have been assured by their religion of a straight passage to heaven - with 70 virgins for each!

Details in www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/01/AR201011010104420_2.html?sid=ST2010110104430 Vol 13 No 5

End year Islamic rampage on Christians – Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria

It was not only in Nigeria that Islamic goons (whether working their own agenda, or as handy tools for others) set out to bring sorrow into the lives of many christian families.

Particularly attracting global attention was the massacre of Egyptian Coptic Christians at the Saints Church, Alexandria where 21 worshippers were instantly killed 30 minutes into the new year following a suicide bombing incident by Islamic hard-liners. The service had just ended, and the about 1,000 worshippers were felicitating with one another when the bomb went off, sending body parts in different directions and leaving blood splattered on the walls.

When Christians staged demonstrations in at least three cities to protest what they see as the *government's failure* to protect their community, the police moved quickly to break up the gatherings. In Egypt, protesting against the government can be a very risky venture, no matter how good one's course may be. Earlier in November, at least four people were killed when Egyptian state security forces unleashed volley of live ammunition on unarmed Coptic protesters, who were alleged to be converting illegally a warehouse into a worship center. They were later smoked out of that "illegal worship centre" by tear gas, leading to the suffocation of a four-year old. (http://article.wn.com/view/2011/01/27/Protester_shot_in_Egypt_protest_Extra/) Incidentally, live ammunition were also used by members of the Jos Joint Task Force on Security on protesting women who were insisting that the JTF was siding with moslems

against Christians in the execution of their security mandate. At least six women were reportedly wounded by the action

Bombing of Christians began early in December with a series of bomb attacks on Christian places of worship in Indonesia. www.asianews.it/news-en/Bomb-in-Central-Java. The attacks by muslim hard-liners featured grenades, home-made bombs, and letter bombs. The series of bomb explosions were followed by forced evictions of house churches – carried out by muslim mobs. Barnabas Aid (on 21 Dec. 2010) reported that more than 100 christians were forced to flee house church gatherings by a 200-strong mob of angry Muslim extremists in Java. The government in this country with the largest muslim population in the world, refuses to provide land for church buildings; and when muslim extremists take it upon themselves to evict Christian people praying in their private homes, the police say they can't intervene. The rioters, police say had official permit for their 'protests', whereas the Christians don't have any authorization to be using their homes for worship. Case close! <http://barnabasfund.org/US>). Vol 13 No 6

Dilemma for Bauchi Pastors – “To carry guns or remain unarmed”

As a Bauchi Pastor was being handed an 18-month jail term for possessing guns for deterring Islamic attackers, other Pastors in the state who chose to remain unarmed continued to be sitting ducks for Islamic militants.

Pastor John Andrew of the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN), in Dass Local Government, Bauchi State, after being attacked thrice by Islamic militants thought it was time he procured an AK47 rifle, “When I got the arms, I thought of using them to protect myself and

members of my family, because of the incessant attacks on us, by some unidentified persons,” he told journalists.

According to *The Sun* (March 8) Pastor Andrew was full of remorse as he explained why he resorted to procuring a gun for self-defense: “Honestly, I’m sorry, particularly, to the members of my church, who I have always told to be peaceful and law-abiding citizens. Also, I have always told them to learn how to live peacefully with their neighbours, irrespective of the level of provocation. **But we were being attacked on regular basis, and you know, we in the villages need to protect ourselves from such attacks.** That was why procurement of the arms became necessary for our self-protection,”

But the State insisted the excuse was too lame. The trial Magistrate, Emmanuel Danjuma, said he took cognizance of the fact that the convicted pastor was a first offender and a cleric, and thereafter handed him a two years imprisonment sentence on one of the charges. Another 18 months jail term was handed down on a second charge. Mercifully there were options of fine for the two sentences which were to run concurrently.

Unfortunately, dozens of Christians have been killed in Bauchi with nothing done by the government. No one can query the jail term handed down to Pastor Andrew for illegally acquiring guns (which he has not yet learnt how to use). One only wishes that those who do the actual killings will also be brought to justice by the authority!

Meanwhile, within 2 months of Pastor Andrew being handed his jail terms, at least FIVE pastors and SEVERAL family members have been murdered in the same Bauchi state. The latest incident occurred in the night of May 14 when 56-year-old Pastor Irimiya Maigida and his wife were shot and matcheted at Jaruma village in Toro Local Government area of Bauchi State. Wife Kezia survived

while Irimiya Maigida gave up the ghost on the 110km trip to the Teaching Hospital in Bauchi, especially after prolonged delays at a police check point where the police insisted on having a police report explaining the wounds. Before the gruesome murder of Maigida (who left behind seven children and four grandchildren), another pastor of COCIN, Pastor Joshua Reke narrowly escaped death when his church was attacked by gunmen. Reke's wife and three children were among the 16 people, mostly women and children, brutally murdered.

In describing the security intelligence efforts that nabbed Pastor John Andrew, the prosecuting counsel, Geraldine Longtsen, told the court that officers and men of the State Security Service (SSS), acted on a tip-off, How come the security forces have been unable to respond to the several tip-offs that could have stopped the routine butchering of Christian families in Bauchi? Hopefully, the new dispensation in the country will address this fundamental issue so that the country can make progress.

Meanwhile, Pastor Maigida, slain after diligently serving his Lord for over 30 years in the ministry, had since been buried at the Christian Cemetery at Yelwa Zurfi in the state capital. **Vol 14 No 2**

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Coptic Christians Massacred in Masparo, Egypt

In what is being variously described as 'An Act of Genocide', Egyptian Police on Sunday October 9 descended on Coptic Christians in a terrible Massacre that left dozens killed and hundreds others wounded.

The Christians probably thought that the so-called Arab Spring meant people could NOW more freely express their grievances in Egypt,; so they and decided on a peaceful 3-hour rally to protest the

destruction of a Church, which had occurred about two weeks earlier. On September 30, local Muslims had descended on the Mar Gerges Church, insisting that on-going renovations of the building was illegal. They claimed the building was licensed as a hospitality house and could not be converted to a Church. Apart from showing legal documents, the Christians sought several means of appeasement – including removal of the crosses outside the building and the domes which Muslims claimed were offensive to them. None of these could however avert the Islamic strike, making the Mar Gerges Church the third to be burnt down by Muslim mobs within seven months. Several Christian-owned homes and businesses were destroyed as well in the September 30 attack.

Come October 9, about 150,000 Coptic Christians embarked on their peaceful rally – announced to last between 5 – 8 pm without any sit-in or blocking of traffic. They were shocked at government's pre-planned response. An eye-witness, Ihab Aziz, describes the scenario: "The army and police were waiting for us about 200 meters away from the Maspero TV building. They started firing at us before two army armored vehicles came at great speed and drove into the crowds, going backwards and forwards, mowing people under their wheels....The most horrible scene was when one of the vehicles ran over a Copt's head, causing his brain to explode and blood was all over the place" recalled Aziz.

Other eyewitnesses described how trapped Copts threw themselves into the Nile while some just fainted seeing other people being run-over in front of their eyes. Others ran to hide in the neighboring buildings, but the police dragged them out and assaulted them.

In a press conference three days later, the Supreme Council of Armed Forces denied shooting at protesters and blamed them for the violence – claiming that soldiers' weapons did not have live

ammunition, Despite abundant eyewitnesses and video evidences to the contrary, senior official [Mahmoud Hegazy](#), insisted that the military would “never, never” run over civilians and that the very idea was “impossible, impossible!” Continuing the bare-faced lying, Hegazy said “Shame on those who accuse the Egyptian military of such things! ... Never has our military run over a single person, not even when combating the Enemy [Israel].”

So how about the mangled bodies, scattered body parts, and bullet wounds?

Worse still, the military announced a day later that it was taking over the investigations from the civilian prosecutor who had commenced the job. Thus the accused has become the prosecutor and will also be the one to pronounce the judgement. What blatant oppression!

It is instructive to note that earlier on in April, Moslem Salafists had violently blocked the roads and railways trains in Qena for 11 days, in protest of a Christian being appointed governor of the region – and no force was applied to stop them. Rather the government chose to suspend the governor from functioning in the office to which he had been sworn in. (<http://www.aina.org/news/20110502234500.htm>, see video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QeDoZmcGZA>).

For whatever it is worth, the Egyptian government has now promised to thoroughly inspect all disputes over the construction of churches around the country. Christians used to be the majority in Egypt, but now at about 10% of the population in a Moslem majority, they have had their rights severely limited, since the 1970s, with respect to building of Churches or attaining high ranks in the army, government, and universities. (see <http://www.aina.org/news/> or <http://www.raymondibrahim.com/> for more details) **Vol 14 No 6**

Systematic slaying of Christians still ongoing in Kaduna, Nigeria.

The mainstream media continue to downplay and under-report ongoing slayings of Christians by Islamic agents in remote places in Northern Nigeria. On December 20 came the report by CDN that Kunam Musa Blak, a 50 year old Christian mother was shot to death when a Muslim villager led his fellow fanatics to the village of Kukum Gida village in a dastard “kill and destroy” mission. Kunam’s husband and one other managed to escape with several gun wounds. (see http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nigeria/article_1307433.html/?view=Print) Nine days later, the scenario was repeated in another Christian village in the same Local government area, Ungwan Rami. There, five people were killed and six others wounded when muslim assailants came visiting in the middle of the night. All these December killings are mere continuation of previous rash attacks that had been ongoing for months. For instance, on Nov 10 the same type of Moslem marauders had descended on yet another Christian village, Apiokashi where 40 year old Bulus Adamu and his wife Ladi Bulus were killed. See http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/nigeria/article_1312460.htm) **Vol 14 No 6**

Fatal Shootings

On Thursday March 1, an American by an 18-year-old student at a private Christian academy in Iraq. Jeremiah who was motivated to teach in Iraq primarily for evangelism had a heated discussion with the student a day earlier, during which the student threatened to kill him. In an interview, the father of the pupil (who also killed himself) condemned Christian evangelists, portraying them as "more dangerous than al-Qaeda."

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Later that same month, in Saana, Yemen, Al-Qaeda gunmen fatally shot another American, (29 year old Joel Shrun) on Sunday March 18. A statement issued by the murderers says the killing is "a response to the campaign of Christian proselytizing that the West has launched against Muslims," and accused Mr Shrun as being "one of the biggest American proselytizers." He was shot eight times. Joel left a wife and two children behind. (<http://news.yahoo.com/militants>)

.However the mother of all religiously-motivated shootings in recent times happened on one of the campuses of the Bayero University, Kano. At least two professors were among the 22 people shot dead by Boko Haram gunmen who invaded the campus on Sunday 29th April . Young gunmen arriving in a car and two bikes split into groups and moved into on-going Christian Sunday services on the Campus. They started shooting people indiscriminately at close range and continued for about half an hour. (see some details here (<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/04/20-killed-as-gunmen-attack-church-services-in-buk/>))

Church Bombings

In Kenya, two people were killed and over thirty injured when a band of [Muslims](#) attending an outdoor church meeting. See details at <http://www.powerlinenewsnetwork.com/?p=16479>).

In Nigeria, Islam-inspired terrorism (generically tagged Boko Haram) is fighting with its last breath to get the country ungovernable. And the Church remains the most attractive target for these blood suckers.

On Sunday March 11 a Boko Haram suicide car bomber attacked the St Finbarr's Catholic. A week earlier, on Sunday March 4, .suicide bombers had planned a massive mother-of-all bombing

attack at the COCIN (Church of Christ in Nigeria, its headquarters) in the same city. Divine intervention however reduced the loss of lives to only an incredible 3 as the Volkswagen Vento car used for the suicide bombing was deflected from its intended primary target. Former Secretary to the Plateau State Government, Mr Ezekiel Gomos, described the scene to the Vanguard: "I was sitting near the entrance to the corner of the church building where services are now held because of the expansion work going on in the church. From where I was sitting, I could see the gate clearly and I was attracted by the noise when the car forced its way into the premises. A motorcyclist which saw the car coming at top speed tried to get away but was not fast enough as he was hit by the car. But this ended up being the saving grace because the impact forced the car to veer off the target before the explosion. It all happened within seconds and the blast was deafening". Thousands of worshippers were at Church during that first service of the day.

Briefing journalists on the incident the next day, COCIN President, Rev. Soja, said the accounts of the church security unit lent credence to the allegation of complicity by some soldiers. The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) also issued a statement demanding that non-Christian soldiers should no longer be posted to churches during services.

Ironically, the Plateau State Chapter of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) has faulted the allegation and instead, insinuated that the attack might have been stage-managed – by the Christians themselves! State Chairman of the party, Alhaji Mubashiru Aliyu, in a statement, said with the security mounted by the church around its premises, it would have been difficult for an outsider to penetrate it. Meanwhile, churches in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan now hold services very early in the morning and late in the evening to avoid

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aerial bombardments intentionally targeting their Churches. An aid worker told Compass Direct that the Khartoum regime is "doing everything possible to make sure they get rid of Christianity from the Nuba Mountains—churches and church schools are the targets of both the Sudanese Armed Forces and its militias."
.(<http://www.persecution> Vol 15 No 2

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CHAPTER SIX: De-Christianization and Secularization of Society

De-Christianization of Society continues unabated

The steady subtle satanic moves accelerating the decay of society via the removal of every vestige of Christian influence seems to be having a free run in several of the ‘post-modern’ societies of the world.

Months ago, despite frantic protestations by leaders of the Orthodox Church, the new Constitution of Europe brazenly failed to acknowledge the Empire’s Christian heritage. The United States (usually denigrated by Europe as being “religious”) is following hard on the same trail as now, even reading of the nation’s Declaration of Independence is being challenged and banned in some schools. The reason being that it contains references to God! (WorldNetDaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=41623).

Little wonder that the Neosho School District (SW Missouri, USA) has decided to remove the Bible from its accelerated reading programme. Prominent books remaining on that programme include the Harry Potter series and several others teaching practical witchcraft.

(WorldNetDaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=42068).

Even the famous ‘One Nation under God’ expression contained in the

American Pledge of Allegiance is being challenged. Top legislators are among the increasing rank of those who, not being able to mouth the word “God”, have on record refused reciting the Pledge - even when officially so required (see CA! **Vol 7 No 3**).

The past Christmas period particularly served to highlight the alarming depth this rot has reached and how the Salt of Christianity is fast losing its savour in several key post-modern societies. In one incident, a US school ruled out Christmas carols that have any mention of Jesus, while a teacher in an Italian school decided to replace the name of Jesus with another word - if the carols are to be sung without any offence. (http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=3&art_id=vn20041206024632650C964977) Yet another (in the US) will not even allow the Instrumental versions of some carols to be played. (WorldNetDaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=42018)

Apparently the tunes will still evoke the right words in the minds of the hearers! In one particularly bizarre incident, a US district actually ruled that Christmas trees (Christian symbols as they are erroneously supposed to be) must not be used to decorate public places during Christmas!

(tallahassee.com/mld/Tallahassee/news/politics/10432981.htm).

These developments are not surprising, seeing how both “fundamentalist Christians” have firmly united with Pagans in emphasizing that Christmas was not, and should not be a Christian festival (Please see the article by WND to follow the hot debate on the origin of Christmas - worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=29995).

For instance, it is fast becoming an unacceptable religious extremism maintaining the word ‘Christ’ in Christmas, the current fad being ‘Xmas’. (This is really not to say that ‘Christ’ is any more a uniquely

Christian terminology as several occultic and satanic groups now have their various definitions of “Christ” and “Christ-consciousness”!) New Agers are cashing in on the confusion and have quietly but vigorously stepped up their de-Christianization campaign. The result is that Christianity is becoming actually persecuted at Christmas and the most insensitive thing someone could possibly do in today’s America is mention the name of Jesus at Christmas! Cards, CDs etc that mention the name of Jesus have been rejected by schools and hospitals; and not even “religious President Bush” could mention that glorious name in his 2004 Christmas speech. (see www.NewsMax.com)

Meanwhile, in Australia, two pastors (one of them an ex-moslem) on December 17, bagged jail terms for allegedly “vilifying Moslems”. This they apparently did by quoting copiously the Quran and applying a literal interpretation - as most Moslems would do. However, trial Judge Higgins (a non-moslem) ruled that by failing “to differentiate between Muslims throughout the world”, (presumably between Australian and Arab Moslems), the Pastors had breached section 8 of Australia’s Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 which says a person cannot engage in conduct that “incites hatred against, serious contempt for, or revulsion or severe ridicule of, that other person or class of persons.” (WorldNetDaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=41969)

However, quoting the Quran is not the only act that can send a Christian to jail in the modern world. Quoting the Bible also can! Currently, four Christian protesters who demonstrated at a Philadelphia homosexual event face a possible 47 years in prison if convicted of the felony charges that have been filed against them. By publicly quoting Scripture verses that oppose homosexuality, police prosecutors said they had run foul of Pennsylvania’s “hate crimes” law

which had recently incorporated “sexual orientation” as a new “victim” category. (See <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1316936/posts>). We reported in **Vol 7 No 4** that Swedish pastor, Ake Green, was the first to be jailed for publicly affirming the Scriptures position that homosexuality is sinful. We emphasize again that the new sexuality education curriculum already approved for Nigerian schools affirm that homosexuality is but a normal sexual orientation and actively encourages school children to experiment (see _____ for _____ instance <http://www.actionhealthinc.org/teenzone/school/identity01.htm>) When we wrote about the various impacts to be expected from the Internet 7 years ago (**Vol 1 No 2**), many of our readers were ready to swear that the Internet will never reach their village in their lifetime. Now again we solemnly warn: Nigeria is not immune to these secularization efforts. It is our duty to jealously guard our God-given Christian liberties. Whether we’ll be end-time Christians living in “Smyrna” (Rev 2:8-11) or in “Philadelphia” (Rev 3:7-11) could well depend on whether or not we allow the festering plots of the New Age people to go ‘critical’ in our much-prized country. **Vol. 8 No. 1 (2005)**

More on New Tolerance: Churches in Europe now obliged to employ atheists, Satanists, etc

In our last edition we reported on the requirement that Christian student fellowships at the University of North Carolina must allow non-Christians into spiritual leadership positions as a mark of “non-discrimination” and “tolerance”. Now this idea apparently has passed the trial stage, and is now being foisted upon the larger society. Under a new EU directive banning discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of religion, belief or sexual orientation, Churches

“could face legal action if they refuse to employ atheists, or sack staff who became satanists” reported the British newspaper, the Telegraph. Reacting to the directive, The Christian Institute in England angrily pointed out that the anti-discrimination law leaves out several other groups in the Society but apparently targets Churches in particular. For instance, political parties are exempted from the rule and the Labour Party can continue with its policy of employing only party members. Similarly the Vegetarian Society can refuse to employ meat-eaters and the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals can sack an executive who is found to have invested in the fur trade. However, under the new directive, Churches can no longer protect their interests and beliefs, for example by refusing to employ homosexuals or satanists. (Reports from Guardian, Feb 2, page 27).
Vol. 6 No 2 (2003)

Malaysia bans, unbans Bible translation into local languages

Malaysia, the country with the largest moslem population in the world is baring its teeth towards its Christian minority population again. Earlier in April the Malaysia government announced a ban on the “Bible and 11 other Christian books” written in the native languages of Iban and Bahasa ruling them ‘detrimental to public peace’. Anyone found with such literature faces a jail sentence of up to three years and a fine of almost \$3,500. It is already strictly forbidden for a native Malay to convert from the state religion, Islam; and the government apparently now wants to restrict even access to the Holy Bible only to the wealthiest English-speaking locals. Thank God, with the prayers of the Saints, and due pressure particularly from the West, this ban has been reversed. The excuse used to justify the earlier ban was the use of the word “Allah Tala” for God, which

the Islamic Development Department (Jakim) felt was too similar to the word “Allah Taala” which the Moslems use for God in the Iban language. Christians who usually claim we are serving the same God with Moslems might want to go to Malaysia to make their point! (From April editions of Charisma and Answers in Genesis bulletins)
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Canada legislates Bible as Hate-Literature, embraces Sharia

Canada’s Upper house on 28th April passed (59-11) the controversial legislation which makes any public expression against homosexual behaviour, including reference to those Bible passages doing so, a criminal offence attracting a penalty of up to 5 years imprisonment. Meanwhile, in the same country, Sharia law is now to be incorporated.

www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=35850

Vol 7 No 3 (2004)

Kwara Government bows to Islamic pressure, terminates Bonkke Crusade

On day 2 of a scheduled 5-day Reinhard Bonnke crusade at Ilorin, and with Deputy Governor Joel Ogundeji among the one million Nigerians in attendance, the Kwara State government announced the cancellation of the crusade, citing “security reasons”. The crusade, organized under the auspices of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), was holding at the Ibudo-Efo praying ground - a private property of CAN, situated some 7 km outside of Ilorin. Secretary to Government, Alhaji Salman Ibrahim had the temerity to accuse CAN of failing to choose one of the two options presented to it by Moslem groups: either a 2-day crusade devoid of any crisis or a 5-day crusade with no security guarantees!

All along, the SSG together with the leader of the Kwara Muslim Youths, Dr Mohammed Olukade had repeatedly denied there was any protest whatsoever against the crusade. According to Olukade, what the media termed a “protest against the planned programme of Bonnke” was only “a special prayer” by the group (Guardian Aug 17, p. 7). Indeed at the end of closed doors meeting with Islamic anti-Bonnke activists in the evening of 17th August, Governor Saraki had assured that “the 5-day crusade of Rev Reinhard Bonnke ... would be hitchfree”; while a 7-point communiqué signed at the end of the meeting by the SSG and Olukade recognized the right of every Nigerian to freedom of assembly and worship (Punch 19th Aug, p 9). Commenting on the sudden termination of the Crusade, Secretary to CAN in the state, Dr Olusola Ajolore said: “We believe that the whole development was a conspiracy by the Moslem group to put the Christian community out of activity and make them be underdog in Kwara state” (Guardian Aug 21, p.1; Punch Aug. 21, p 11).

Retired General Abdulkarim Adisa (ex-Works and Housing Minister) confirmed he was one of the masterminds behind the cancellation with his comments: “Ilorin is a peculiar place. It is a sensitive Moslem town. We are 100% Moslems. Though there are more Churches than Mosques, we accommodate our Christian brothers and sisters” (Guardian 24th Aug. p.6) Can anyone make any sense out of this? **Vol 7 No 5 (2004)**

Continued Frontal and Subtle Attacks on Christianity Worldwide: In the United States, Council barred from praying in the name of “Jesus Christ”

Following legal actions taken by a Wiccan high priestess in 2001, The Great Falls Council was in August this year prohibited from opening its meetings with prayers made in the name of Jesus, despite

unanimous agreement by Council officials on the matter. In his ruling, the judge issued an order prohibiting council from using the “name of a specific deity associated with any one specific faith or belief in prayers given at town council meetings.” The Council is heading for the US Supreme Court. (www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=2521438&nav=OraPSkzX)

In India, Christians Charged with "Wounding Religious Feelings"

An Indian court recently charged five Christians in Orissa state with “wounding the religious feelings” of Hindus with their preaching about the love of God through Jesus Christ. This is happening at a time the “reconversion” drive launched by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP or World Hindu Council) in the tribal belt of Orissa is gathering more steam. Between September and October, over 400 tribal Christians have been “reconverted” back to Hindu in public ceremonies arranged by the VHP. Under Indian laws, all tribal peoples are regarded as Hindu but placed at the lower level of the Hindu caste system. Tribal villagers who convert to Christianity are threatened with loss of job opportunities and they suffer several other deprivations (Culled from Compass report).

In England, School told to drop its “offensive” saint's name

A Church of England school has been told to drop the word "saint" from its name as it may offend other religious groups. The practice of calling schools after saints or bishops alienates people from other faiths and non-believers, say officials and councillors in Islington, north London.

The council plans to incorporate the existing St Mary Magdalene Church of England Primary School into a new City Academy and

even though the Church is giving £2 million towards building costs, council officials insist that the name of the new school cannot be “religious”.

James Kempton, children and young people spokesman for the council's ruling Liberal Democrat tries to justify this position: "Church-going is now a much less significant part of people's lives." Parents and teachers at St Mary Magdalene, however, are determined to keep the name. John Stewart, the head teacher, said: "We have been serving the community in the area since 1710 and there is no reason why we should change our name ... The name makes our Christian ethos clear to everyone ..."
<http://news.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/11/05/nschool05.xml&Sheet=/news/2004/11/05/ixnewstop.html>) **Vol. 7 No 6 (2004)**

Christianity remains high hazard in Northern Nigeria

We reported in the last edition the gruesome callous murder of Sunday Ezekiel Achi, president of the campus fellowship of the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA) at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, (ATBU) Bauchi. Sunday's corpse was found, with neck broken and “body badly bruised” beside a mosque on campus, near the home of the University's Vice Chancellor (Compass, Dec 20, 2004). Although the five students involved in the “offensive” activity of distribution of Christian tracts had been summarily dismissed from their respective institutions (3 from ATBU and 2 from nearby Fed. Poly), and the bus and secretariat of the Nigeria Fellowship of Evangelical Students had been razed down, Islamic militants apparently wanted to send a strong message hence the murder of the ECWA president. (See additional details at www.opendoors.org.za/newsarchivenigeria.htm)

Now, in January, representatives of the Christian Association of Nigeria in Bauchi called on the Federal Government to carry out investigation into the murder of Achi and bring to justice those who killed him. They also demanded the reinstatement of the 5 expelled Christian students and the removal of the head officials of the 2 institutions for contributing to the conflicts between Muslim and Christian students. The first reaction of Muslim leaders in Bauchi was to call a press conference (led by one Alhaji Muhammad Dan Madami on January 25) where they expressed support for the activities of the Muslim militants. They also opposed the removal of the heads of the 2 Institutions (both Moslems) or the reinstatement of the Christian students.

Furthermore, the Muslim militants pronounced a death sentence on the 5 expelled Christian students and the very next day (January 26), the families of two of them, in Gombe state, were visited apparently to carry out the *fatwa*. Rev. Oludare Aliu, national coordinator of the students' ministry of ECWA confirmed the visit: "Muslim militants went to Gombe to ... kill Hannatu, but fortunately, she was not at home at the time. The family was held at gun point". Hannatu's mother was stabbed with a knife and has been treated for the wounds. The family of Abraham Adamu Misal, also in Gombe, was similarly visited. Both students have gone into hiding while the whereabouts of the remaining 3 is not yet known.

Other recent incidents of harassments of Christians in the northern part of Nigeria include the killing of a Christian community leader Davou Bulle of Gana-Ropp in Barakin Ladi LGA of Plateau state by militant Moslems (Compass Jan 17), and the shooting to death of a young Christian woman Judith Lan'guti, on January 28 by 'peace-keeping soldiers'.
(www.compassdirect.org/en/newslongen.php?idelement=3668).

The army of occupation had been posted to Numan since the town's respected Christian monarch, Feddy Soditi Bongo was banished to Taraba state for not restraining his people in their opposition to the building of a mosque with minarets overlooking the palace. **Vol. 8 No 2 (2005)**

Persecution of Christians intensify, all over the world

In Eritrea, the Task Force set up by the government to rid the country of Pentecostal and Evangelical Christians by the end of 2005 is working extra-time to accomplish its mandate. Currently, over 400 people are in prison in Eritrea simply for their religious beliefs - many arrested during worship, weddings, etc. Several hundred more evangelical Protestant believers, many of them soldiers caught worshipping during their active military service, also remain imprisoned for refusing to recant their faith. Despite the horrible reports coming from Eritrea, it is still regarded only as the third most repressive country in Africa: Somalia and Sudan are in first and second positions! Below are situation reports from some other locations around the world.

Pakistan: Group of 40 Christians (including women and children) arrested for holding prayers at a private home. Practice of any religion other than Islam is illegal here. http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=3&art_id=qw1114264800475B264

India: 4 Christians arrested, May 13, for handing out copies of the Bible to town residents. Following a recent alleged conversion of 300 Hindu families to Christianity, the State has passed a Freedom of Religion Act requiring all would-be converts to first obtain state permission to do so. www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=44321

Far East: Baptist conscript Gagik Mirzoyan - who is conducting unarmed service in the army of the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh republic - has been beaten and punished with more than 10 days in detention since the beginning of April for sharing his faith with other soldiers and possessing several Christian calendars.

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=43825

Iran: 47 year old army colonel, Hamid Pourmand has been summoned to appear before a Tehran court on charges of apostasy, that is, publicly rejecting the faith in which one has been raised. Pourmand, in retirement, is now a pastor with the Assembly of God. Under the current law, non-Muslims may not rise to the rank of officers in the armed forces or police. The charge attracts the death penalty.

Egypt: Doctors in a Cairo mental hospital are holding an Egyptian Christian against his will, telling the man he'll be a permanent resident there until he recants his faith and returns to Islam. The adoptive parents of Gaser M. Mahmoud, 30, committed him to the El-Khanka Hospital after learning he had converted from Islam to Christianity two years earlier. **Vol. 8 No 3 (2005)**

Hospital board backtracks on Bible ban

In what the Gideons International described as “political correctness gone mad”, the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust said it was concerned about Bibles placed on patients’ bedside stands spreading diseases like the superbug MRSA. Apparently, the real issue borders on interfaithism. At the resolution of the crisis, Trust Chairman Philip Hammersley said: “I can confirm that Gideons Bibles will remain in patient bedside lockers. In addition, information will also be placed in all lockers advising patients that other religious texts

are available on request."... The hospital is silent on who would provide those other literature, since adherents of those religions simply don't feel any religious obligation on their path to distribute their texts at hospitals. http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=44689 **Vol. 8 No 4 (2005)**

Bible Ban Proposed For Edinburgh University

Scotland's Edinburgh University is the latest of institutions in traditional Christian establishments displaying extreme intolerance for Christianity as it plans to ban Bibles from its student residence halls. A university spokesman tells the *Times* of London the ban is a response to student association protests that the Bibles are a means of discrimination against non-Christians - and an effort to treat all religious faiths on campus equally. Edinburgh University has had a long-standing practice of placing a Gideons Bible in the room of all new students. Last year, the school banned prayer from graduation ceremonies.

In the same country, authorities at the University of Stirling have had to rescind the University's own plan to remove 6,000 Bibles from campus after protests from Christian students. **Vol. 9 No 5 (2006)**

Evangelical Christian Fellowships Face Tough Times in US Varsities

Bible-believing Christian fellowships are being crudely kicked out from Universities in the United States. One of the latest is the Brown University where the Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life through an e-mail in September, notified the Trinity Presbyterian Church campus fellowship its registration was being suspended. Up to 4 varying shifting reasons were cited at different times to justify the expulsion - and each time, the charges were easily shown to be mere

untenable excuses! At the end of the day, the University pushed reason and legality to the winds, and simply insisted that the group leave Campus.

(www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=53018)

The move by Brown University comes just weeks after Jesuit-owned Georgetown University similarly notified a group of evangelical Christian organizations, including the popular InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, that they would no longer be allowed to operate on campus. The university, one of the foremost Catholic institutions in the US, merely said it was going in another "direction", without giving more explanation. Of course, no further explanation is actually required! WorldNewsDaily citing an informed source said "the groups were too evangelical". Moreover, the 200 year old Catholic university also told non-campus Protestant ministries with long histories of serving students at the University that they are no longer welcome and are now banned from holding on-campus events and using the school's name. This new direction did not however affect the Moslem and Jewish students' organizations, prompting one observer to wonder why a supposedly Christian college would be giving more religious freedom to Muslims and Jews than to Christians. Reporting the story, the Washington Post noted that the key issue was "whether those in the groups proselytize." www.wnd.com/redir/r.asp?http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/26/AR2006082600629.html

Being a private institution, there is little legal action that could be undertaken to compel Georgetown University to rescind its decision; but legal battles have usually been successful in many other previous cases. According to David French, an attorney for the Alliance Defense Fund, more than 50 colleges, including Harvard, Princeton and the University of Wisconsin, have attempted to end associations

with religious groups, but such attempts were usually defeated on principles of law.

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=51701 The main excuse normally cited in these attempts have been that evangelical Christian groups with Biblical convictions, violate the general “anti-discriminatory policy” of state universities by their insistence that only Christians can serve in leadership positions!
www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=51452.

We have been alerting readers of Church Arise! to this trend for a long time. The “no to all proselytization” campaign is a key element in the interfaith doctrine that would usher in the one world religion. This is the major satanic agenda for the day, and the brazen manner it is being executed in supposed citadels of freedom of expression in the supposed No. 1 freedom-espousing nation of the world tells a compelling story of how advanced the agenda has gone. **Vol. 9 No. 6 (2006)**

Celebrating Christmas without Christ

For about a decade now especially, it has become routine for New World Order agents, at every Christmas, to attempt to further secularize the season, purging it of every reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth the occasion marks. Beginning from the fad of depicting Christmas as ‘Xmas’, occultists at a point launched serious efforts to show that December 25 was a pagan festival stolen by Christians - and which must be returned. In more recent years, most of the battles have been at commercial outlets and involved which products to offer or which greetings to allow (e.g. ‘Happy hols’ rather than ‘Merry Christmas’, etc).

Latest intriguing developments this year include the initial attempt in the US by “Toys for Tots” to refuse the donation of 4,000 dolls made

to it by a company called one2believe.com. The “Toys for Tots” program, had claimed that the Jesus-depicting toys, might offend kids from Muslim or Jewish homes. However, inundated by calls from an angry public, the programme director quickly changed his mind and now considers the free toys acceptable. The hypocrisy of the situation is underscored by the fact that the gift dolls are unwrapped so that any child or parent who does not want to receive one only needs to decline and receive something else. The Marine Reserve programme distributes an estimated 18 million toys and gifts annually!

In the same ‘Christian-bashing-at-christmas’ vein was the decision by a public school in the UK to serve ONLY ‘halal chicken’ on its Christmas menu. The Oakwood School in Rotherham claimed the decision was made to bring a “spirit of inclusion” to the Christmas meal. Halal meat refers to the requirement by Islam that an animal to be slaughtered for meat must be killed while mentioning the name of “Allah” and that the carcass must be hung upside down long enough to ensure all blood has been totally drained out. An outraged parent criticized the decision: “We bend over backwards at Eid to eat traditional Muslim food so why should we have to change our Christmas tradition? ... I have no objection to halal meat being on the menu so long as there is a choice of traditional Christmas fare.” The obnoxious decision was reversed only following the mass protests by concerned parents and students. (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/11/18/nhalal18.xml>) **Vol. 9 No. 6 (2006)**

Concealed Affliction turning to Persecutions in the West

In a declaration titled, “Persecution is Coming to the West, Concealed Affliction May Soon Turn Into Open Persecution,” the Ecumenical Confessional Convention in Blankenburg, East Germany

stated that Bible believing Christians of all confessions are, under the guise of tolerance, being subjected to suppressive intolerance.” (<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=s5vov8bab.0.r69pb7bab.azwev8bab.33&ts=S0223&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.assistnews.net%2Fstories%2Fs06100119.htm>). Evidences certainly abound to back this declaration up! In the US two men, members of Gideons were arrested and placed in handcuffs after trying to hand out Bibles on a public sidewalk in Florida. Police insisted that Mito and Simpson were arrested for trespassing on school property - not on a public sidewalk. In another highly publicized case, Lt. Gordon James Klingenschmitt, a chaplain with the US Navy was court-martialed and dismissed from the force for praying in Jesus’ name in uniform outside a chapel. This is happening at the same time when in the same US Navy, a Wahhabi-trained Muslim chaplain who catered to al-Qaeda detainees at Guantanamo and fought to establish the first Mosque in Marine Corps history, A. Mohammed Saifulislam, is being promoted from lieutenant to lieutenant commander. NewsWithViews.com, Jan 23, 2007.

Lighthouse Trails mentioned instances of various threats being received from people opposed to that Organization’s criticisms of Contemplative Spirituality. They further reported the story of an evangelist who after showing up as one of the speakers at a conference was told “Talk about anything you want, but don't say anything negative about Rick Warren”. (<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=bssny8bab.0.w7n498bab.r49t9yaab.6290&ts=S0226&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fromthelighthouse.com%2Fblog%2Findex.php%3Fp%3D444%26more%3D1%26c%3D1%26orChrist-Follower?>). Vol. 10 No 1 (2007)

Engineering the environment against Christianity

In the US, seven organizations of nontheists - including atheists, freethinkers, humanists, and agnostics - have formed the Secular Coalition for America, a lobby seeking to increase the visibility and respectability of nontheistic viewpoints in the country. Also joining in the fiery war against God are various internet-based groups. One of them, the Rational Response Squad (RRS) has issued what it called the "blasphemy challenge" in which young nonbelievers are encouraged to create videos in which they renounce belief in the "sky God of Christianity". The reward for doing that is a free documentary DVD, "The God Who Wasn't There," which includes interviews with Dawkins, Harris, and others. RRS is publicizing its campaign on 25 popular teen websites.

The truly unfortunate aspect of this kind of report is that most Christian leaders are simply not aware that such actions as these will eventually have implications on the effectiveness of their ministries; and that they ought to step up their own warfares of prayer and aggressive evangelism. It can't be business-as-usual in the face of these and several other aggressive end-time offensive by a desperate devil.

(see Rev. 12:12)
(http://news.yahoo.com/s/csm/20070104/ts_csm/catheist) Vol. 10 No. 1 (2007)

More tough times for Bible-believing Evangelicals in the US

As the world drifts steadily to the various scenarios which the Bible predicts would characterize the end times, various challenges are mounting against the Church, beginning as to be expected, from "God's own country".

The death of the Rev Jerry Falwell on May 15 (aged 73) highlights one way the pool of uncompromising conservative Christian elements

is being depleted, their positions of influence in national socio-political life being taken up by a new breed of leaders, who don't take Biblical injunctions so literally and rigidly. The obscene glee and unveiled hatred with which the liberal groups welcomed Rev. Falwell transition to eternal glory shocked even many unbelievers (see http://www.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=55715).

See an obituary of Rev Falwell at http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=qcrv54bab.0.ajxx54bab.azwev8bab.33&ts=S0254&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.worldnetdaily.com%2Fnews%2Farticle.asp%3FARTICLE_ID%3D55704

Another manifestation of the eroding influence of conservative Bible-affirming elements in the Evangelical movement in the United States is the recent conversion of the head of an Evangelical Group to Catholicism! Francis Beckwith, President of the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) and Associate Professor of church-state studies at the Baptist-affiliated Baylor University in Waco, Texas, reported in a blog that he and his wife decided in late March to become Catholic. Consequently, having received full communion in the Roman Catholic Church, Beckwith resigned as president of the ETS.

Yet another aspect of life in which Bible-believing evangelicals in the United States are facing tremendous pressure, was pointed out, surprisingly, by a Jewish Rabbi. In an article titled: A Rabbi's warning to US Christians, the unnamed Rabbi began by saying that "There is no better term than [a Goebbels-like] propaganda blitzkrieg to describe what has been unleashed against Christian conservatives recently. He cited 7 out of over 30 books that were published by big mainstream publishers in recent months, and predicted that the ongoing **vicious propaganda war is only the first phase of the battle, the purpose of which is to make Christianity socially**

unacceptable, “something only foolish, poor and ugly people could turn to”. Phase two, he predicted, “will begin once the voice of the Bible has been silenced, and we can expect to see a long night of barbarism descend on the West.”

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/112-03232007-1318937.html>

The remnant Christian faithful in what is still the most influential nation of the world certainly deserves the prayers of the saints all over the world. May all the called of the Lord be strengthened and enabled to keep holding the Fort, occupying till the Lord shall come. **Vol. 10 No. 3 (2007)**

War against the Bible Unabated

The war against the Word of God is not abating at all - even in the traditional Bible-based countries. Apart from the intense assault on the Word of God via the massive adulteration with the so-called New Versions [Perhaps one or two of these - certainly not the NIV - may indeed be beneficial for Christians, most of these new versions are simply meant to promote particular doctrines of their publishers, just like the well-known New World Translation of the Jehovah Witnesses'.] In any case, it is absolutely incredible the open physical persecutions that now trail the Bible, even in America.

Some recent examples: Right in the Bible belt of Annapolis, a US Federal judge has placed a permanent injunction against the 30 year old tradition where Gideons International give away free Bibles to fifth-grade students. Two years ago, the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of four sets of supposedly Christian parents, objected to the practice as being unconstitutional. Soon the School District altered its policy to allow Bibles or any other religious materials to be distributed to those who wish to receive them before or after school,

or during lunch break, but not in classrooms. It is against this new practice that a permanent injunction has now been granted. (<http://www.watchman.org/jw/nwt.htm>).

Similarly in Bloomington, Indiana, city officials last October, booted out a display of the Ten Commandments erected by Christians who want equal treatment with Buddhism, whose statues and tenets are proudly displayed in the City Hall to welcome the visiting Dalai Lama. Officials defended their action by labeling the Ten Commandments (artistically inscribed in limestone for which the area is famous) as religious, while the statues of Buddhism were labeled “cultural”

www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=58216

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Christian persecution intensifying

Ten college students in North Korea are currently languishing in jail for the simple offence of being caught reading a Bible or watching a DVD about the Bible. [http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001CjddaMLHO-ElhFm5rNwa7ueXjPh9h2TO627Xi3Mzfu8uFaRc7YMbze4ZjFiusnWRH_yoeh5fPZIL-

[oqvOJvuaMCksPUvr7DAgM5tgmbLgvGimp44lSE34gKWpf7H1wzLkTmNe03DD22ul783Vmp3Mw==](http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001CjddaMLHO-ElhFm5rNwa7ueXjPh9h2TO627Xi3Mzfu8uFaRc7YMbze4ZjFiusnWRH_yoeh5fPZIL-oqvOJvuaMCksPUvr7DAgM5tgmbLgvGimp44lSE34gKWpf7H1wzLkTmNe03DD22ul783Vmp3Mw==)] A similar story is reported from Algeria where a Christian woman, Habiba Kouider, was charged after being plucked off a bus, for possession of several Bibles and books on Christianity. The case gained notoriety when Algerian newspapers reported that court officials mocked Habiba for her conversion and pressured her to return to Islam.

The same Algerian court in the city of Tiaret had world’s attention as state prosecutor hounded 6 men before the court for “practicing non-Muslim religious rites without a license.” When that charge would

not stick, prosecutors changed their charges to that of engagement in activities that could "shake the faith of Muslims," demanding two-year jail sentences and 500,000 dinar (US\$8,145) fines for each of the men. "How can six people shake the faith of 40 million unless the court is convinced that the faith of the 40 million is not based on strong foundations?" one of the accused Christians asked the court in what has now become a popular quote on the internet. Four of the men were found guilty and given 2 to 6 months suspended jail terms plus hefty fines.

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/dhimmiwatch/archives/021222.php>

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“Christianity in Iraq is ending”

Christians in Iraq are facing a silent scourge, unacknowledged by the rest of the world. Their Moslem neighbours are constantly harassing them to choose between converting to Islam or paying the jizya tax which allows non-Muslims to live in Muslim countries. Failing either of those options they are asked to leave or face certain death. A typical threat letter, pushed under front doors reads: “Be informed that we will cut your heads and leave your dead bodies with no organs and no heads in your stores and houses. We know your houses and we know your family. **We will kill you one after the other. Depart the Muslim areas.**”

The threats are most serious in the city of Mosul, where according to UN and Christian organizations, over 12,000 Christians have had to leave their homes since October this year. Some two dozen or so others lost their lives in outbreaks of violence. Recently however, the scope of the threat has widened to include Christians in the capital city of Baghdad. In a letter sent to a Christian bishop by a group known as Ansar al-Islam (and now published on the website of Al-

Ittihad, a newspaper that covers Iraqi politics, www.alitthad.com/paper.php?name=news&file=article&sid=46250 “The General Secretariat of the Adherent of Islam Brigade” said it was giving “final warning” to the Bishop and *“to all your adherents and flocks, the infidel Christian Crusaders, in Baghdad and the other governorates and order you to leave immediately, in masses and permanently from the Muslim countries (Iraq) ... There is no place for you infidel Christians among the Muslim believers in Iraq from now on. Otherwise, our swords will be legalized over your neck and the necks of your followers and flocks similar to what happened to the Christians living in Mosul. God is our witness. He who warns is excused”* For details, please visit (www.aina.org/news/20081117193211.htm) **Vol 11 No 6**

Homophobia and Islamophobia - two of a type

It is not only the gays that are seeking to gag the public (especially Christians) from discussing negative aspects of their lifestyle [they call that homophobia], a similar term, Islamaphobia does the same for Islam. Part of the amazing application of this phenomenon, in recent times, include the ruling in Malaysia where, according to [Asia News](#), (Nov.25), "The interior security minister had prohibited the Herald from using the word 'Allah' in its articles, affirming that its use 'by non-Muslims could increase tension and create confusion among Muslims in the country'". Similarly, an Austrian member of parliament, Susanne Winter, has lost her parliamentary immunity from prosecution on contributions made in the parliament. Her mortal offence was that she referred to a well-accepted historic fact that the founding prophet of Islam married one of his many wives, Aisha, “while she was six years old and consummated his marriage with her while she was nine years old”. The apparently maverick

politician likened the situation to child abuse. Meanwhile, the current President of the United Nations General Assembly, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, speaking at an interfaith conference held at the UN headquarters, has advocated that the world body should criminalize defamation of all religions - with specific reference made to Islam. (www.dawn.com/2008/11/13/top10.htm) Vol. 11 No. 6

Christian Faith under continuous Fire!

The U.S. military has confirmed that it destroyed some Bibles belonging to an American soldier serving in Afghanistan. According to *Reuters News*, the Bibles were confiscated and destroyed after Qatar-based Al Jazeera television showed soldiers at a Bible class on a base with a stack of Bibles translated into the local Pashto and Dari languages. The US military claims their personnel are not allowed to proselytize.

Lt. Col. Bob Maginnis (rtd), a Pentagon adviser and military and national security analyst finds it mind-boggling to think that military officials would allow Al Jazeera to walk through the front gate of a forward operating base and videotape soldiers conducting a Bible study. 22,000 people responded to a poll conducted by OneNewsNow on the issue, 63% of whom believe that if had been the Koran, the US military will never have dared to destroy the books. At least there would be a few local Christians who would have been blessed having the Bibles for their own personal studies. <http://www.onenewsnow.com/Security/> Vol 12 No. 3

100,000 secular Britons seek 'de-baptism'

Also from London, (Mar 30) came the news (Agence France Presse) that more than 100,000 Britons have recently downloaded

"certificates of de-baptism" from the Internet to renounce their Christian faith.

Most of the people who downloaded the certificates (at a cost of 4.35 dollars or 3.20 euros) had been baptized as children, and have long stopped practicing the Christian faith. However the initiative was launched by a group called the National Secular Society (NSS) and is designed to embarrass the Church and keep her mute over social issues. De-baptism movements have already sprung up in other countries such as Spain, Italy, and Argentina (from Yahoonews).

Contrast however the above story, where massive campaign is being organized to get people to announce their renunciation of old links with the church, with the situation in other religions. In India, Christians continued to be attacked and murdered in large numbers just because people are choosing to leave the Hindu religion to become Christians. A recent case in Egypt also highlights a similar situation with Islam. At a hearing on Sunday Feb 22, Lawyers urged that the death sentence be pronounced on Ahmad El-Mo'otahsem Bellah El-Gohary for his efforts to officially convert to Christianity. (Compass Direct)

www.copts.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1185&Itemid=1

Good News!

Despite all these desperate actions against Christianity, the good news is that the Good News cannot be stopped. Even in hostile India, a 17th March posting by Mission Network News indicate that the number of believers in India has risen to 10 or 11 percent of the population, rising from three percent in the last 20 years. About 60% of pastors that attended a recent evangelical conference in the country were under the age of 30. PTL. **Vol 12 No. 3**

Kicking Christianity around in the UK

A study in Britain has found that more than half of polled thousands of Britain's Churchgoers had suffered some form of persecution for being a Christian. These soft assaults ranged from being turned down for promotion to being rejected by family members because of their faith (LONDON SUNDAY TELEGRAPH - May 30, 2009). Furthermore, some new guidelines drawn up under the auspices of the Equality and Human Rights Commission [by the British Humanist Association (BHA)] now prescribes dismissal for anyone who attempts to share their faith with colleagues at work. Even without the guidelines, 71 year old Anand Rao, has been relieved of his job as a nurse (after 40 years of practice) because, during a **role play session** of a training course, he suggested to the 'patient' that she could go to Church to relieve stress. According to Mr Rao, 'The "patient" told me that her doctor had informed her that she would not live long and this had created stress. I called on my spiritual point of view and told her it would be wise to go to Church to ease her stress and if God wished she might live a little longer.' [LONDON DAILY MAIL, May 26, 2009]

More recently, a Christian couple has been charged with a criminal offence after taking part in what they regarded as a reasonable discussion about religion with guests at their hotel. Although the facts are disputed, it is thought that during the conversation the couple was challenged over their Christian beliefs; and they suggested, as part of their defence that Mohammed, the founder of Islam, was a warlord and that traditional Muslim dress for women was a form of bondage. The couple, whose trial has been set for December, face a fine of up to £5,000 and a CRIMINAL record if they are convicted. (www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1214666/Christian-hotel-

[owners-hauled-court-defending-beliefs-discussion-Muslim-guest.html](#)). Indeed, Moslems in the UK have become such eggshells that must be treated with utmost respect that Home Office staff were officially warned not to eat in front of their fasting Muslim colleagues during the last Ramadan - in case it made them feel hungry! (<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2009/09/uk-home-office-staff-officially-warned-not-to-eat-in-front-of-muslims-during-ramadan---in-case-it-ma.html>)

Even a medal personally established by the Queen of England is being withdrawn after it was deemed offensive to Muslims and Hindus. The honour - known as The Trinity Cross of the Order of Trinity - has been ruled unlawful and too Christian. It has been awarded to 62 distinguished residents of the former colony of Trinidad and Tobago over more than 40 years. Watch out as the same treatment is extended to those military “crosses” for gallantry, et cetera. **Vol 12 No. 5**

United States going the same way as the UK, very rapidly

Stories as above abound in several countries in the Western world showing the continued marginalization of the Church in her erstwhile stronghold, now taken over by atheism and Islam. Apparently, the last battleground, in this war, is “God’s own country” - the United States itself. A few recent examples: According to Fox News (June 8), the Child Evangelism Fellowship which has worked with underprivileged kids for over 70 years has now been banned from conducting Bible study classes in public housing projects in Tulsa, Oklahoma - within the so-called “Bible Belt”. This is despite of a US Supreme court ruling that religious groups are not to be discriminated against in the use of public institutions. CEF has been hosting its summer program in these particular housing projects for

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over 20 years. The program was designed to keep children from falling victim to the temptations of drugs and crime.

In the same God's own country, a federal district judge, Casey Rodgers, has instigated criminal charges against Frank Lay, a high school principal, and his athletic director, Robert Freeman for the crime of praying. According to court records, Lay is accused of asking Freeman to offer a blessing before a luncheon at Pace (Florida) High School for people who helped with the school's new fieldhouse. The two-some 'trouble makers' face possible jail terms. (Pensacola News Journal)

Even more chilling are the signs of things yet to come in the United States. At the current time, a bill requiring anyone receiving school loans, among others, to serve at least three months as part of a volunteer brigade has smoothly sailed through the House of Reps. This is in line with one of the key campaign themes of President Obama. The Bill HR1388, titled "Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education" (GIVE) intends to recruit one million American youth into what is being called the Obama Youth Brigade.

The real problem is the restrictions to be imposed on any student that wishes to participate in the brigade. According to Section 125 (42 U.S.C. 12575) of the bill, "A participant in an approved national service position under this subtitle may not among other conditions, engage "in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization..." (See www.snopes.com/politics/obama/give.asp). In other words, if you

want a government loan for school, you must stop serving in Church or sharing the gospel. Absolutely incredible! **Vol 12 No. 5**

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat nor with the wine which he drank...” -

Daniel 1:8

Persecution of Christians on-going in Other Lands

Of course, satan-inspired persecution of the church is a mark of the endtimes, and is on-going either subtly or openly in every nation on earth (Rev 12). Recent examples include the burning in the Asian country of North Sumatra, of two Protestant churches by a Moslem crowd of not less than 1000 in the city of Sibuhuan. Asia News reported that the local Islamic community, had complained of being tired of seeing "too many faithful and too many prayers" in a place not registered as a church. According to police, neither of the two buildings had a building permit and had to be considered "places of prayer" and not "churches". (<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/North-Sumatra,-two-Protestant-churches-burnt:-too-many-faithful-and-too-many-prayers-17427.html>)

Morocco is at least more liberal as it merely expelled five Christian evangelists for the crime of “unauthorised gathering and sharing of the gospel”. Twelve Moroccans who were taking part in the meeting were arrested but eventually released after being questioned. (<http://www.ansamed.info/>).

With Church buildings already established in strategic places all over the United Kingdom for decades, persecution of the Church in that country has to come in more unconventional forms - many of which

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have been reported in past editions of Church Arise! The latest ingenuous weapon is the so-called “Noise ordinances” whereby governmental bodies demand that Christian groups essentially be silent - so that no one can hear their worship. In one highly publicized case, the Lambeth Council issued a noise abatement notice to the All Nations Centre in Kennington which prevented the church from using any amplification for its worship music and its pastor's preaching. Following the intervention of the UK based Christian Legal Centre (CLC), an out-of-court settlement favouring the Church was agreed upon. The noise abatement order was issued without warning or discussion, shortly after the church, which has been in the same location for more than 45 years, began to publicize its services in its own neighborhood.

Onn Sein Kon, case manager at the Christian Legal Centre, said the organization has noticed an increasing number of attacks on churches because someone can hear the worship. "What is really going on here is action by secularists to try and restrict Christian freedom and expression in this country..." Kon explained (www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=121972)

And in the United States, the fabled land of lady liberty, even though it is not official government policy to torment Christians, as Tite and Stephen found out (see page 71), believers are increasingly not faring any better than their fellows in Arabia or communist nations! At least 11 Christian Churches were torched by arsonists across Texas in the first two months of this year alone. Two Satan-inspired men, steeped in the new religion of “atheism” have been finally arrested for these crimes - thankfully. According to the Dallas Morning News, the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms lists 90 houses of worship set on fire last year nationwide, with an average loss of about \$250,000 per fire.

(www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?pageId=124615,
www.getreligion.org/?p=27341). Vol 13 No. 1

In the US, Campus Ministries must now open leadership positions to all-comers

The US Supreme Court has ruled that Christian Organizations in public universities must allow anybody, whether they agree with the Organizations' tenets or not, not only to become full members but also to aspire to leadership positions. This latest display of growing intolerance towards "intolerant groups" is supposed to promote non-discrimination (especially on faith and moral grounds) on campuses. Even in associations formed on the basis of shared faith or morality!

This ruling, given on June 28th, now opens up the possibilities, for instance, of atheists, (or homosexuals) joining a Christian fellowship *en masse*, and putting up one of theirs for the top posts at election times. Such infiltration, of course, will be carried out on targeted Fellowships, one at a time all over the country.

Fellowships who feel they cannot abide by this ruling are in jeopardy of being deregistered, with consequent loss of access to the student population, as well as on-campus facilities for their activities.

In an article in Christianity Today, Alec Hill, president of InterVarsity Christian fellowship (with 860 chapters nationwide) and a former professor of Law examined the legal impact as well as the cultural significance of the ruling. He however also offered assurances, pointing out from Scriptures that such persecution of the Church by civic authorities is not new or unexpected. He concluded the article in the never-say-die spirit of the Church as he wrote: "As the people of God, we believe in a sovereign God. His purposes will be accomplished whatever obstacles present themselves ... if - in the worst case scenario - several Christian chapters were to be

derecognized as a result of this ruling, God's mission on campus would continue. If access to newly arriving freshman were lost, if campus communication channels were closed or if access to university facilities were denied, the gospel would continue to be presented through small groups, Bible studies and off-campus large groups. Though limiting campus access would no doubt make ministry more difficult, God's purposes will not be thwarted.” (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/julyweb-only/37-32.0.html>)

Lessons? When the goings get tough (as the Bible assures they would increasingly get these end times), the tough must get going. **Vol 13 No. 4**

At Zanzibar University, Tanzania, no room at all for Christianity

If Christian fellowships are being driven off campuses at Christian-majority America, what then would a moslem-majority location like Zanzibar not do? At the Zanzibar University, a private institution, Islamic administrators have banned Christian worship and other activities on campus whereas two mosques, (sponsored by a foreign-based Islamic charity) proudly stand within the same University.

Christians at ZU are already used to being treated as second-class people on Campus. This is clear from issues ranging from the specified dressing code for women (a veil and headscarf is mandatory), to effectively requiring them to participate in fasting during the Ramadan as the Cafeterias are closed, and no cooking is allowed at the hostels. However, it was the complete ban on Christian activities, first pronounced by the Vice-Chancellor's office on Dec 28 last year, and now being enforced with increasing rigour

that is threatening to be the last straw that could break the camel's back. The Christian students are thinking of going to court.

Even if the Christian students should choose to move off campus, there would be little relief in sight in Sunni Muslim dominated Zanzibar. Only a few weeks ago, in August, Evangelist Peter Masanja of the Pentecostal Church in Zanzibar was arrested by security agents following indications that he was making part of his land available for Church activities. As at the time when Compass Direct News broke the story, bro Peter was still in jail. Zanzibar is the unofficial name for the island of Unguja in the Indian Ocean. The Zanzibar archipelago (with moslem majority) united with Tanganyika (Christian majority) to form the present day Tanzania in 1964. (<http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/tanzania/24643/>)

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Other Persecution News In brief:

America

Even in the larger off-campus community in the United States, things are getting increasingly tough for Christianity. Among dozens of cases happening virtually every day are that of Ron Baity a military CHRISTIAN chaplain who was relieved of his duties as honorary chaplain of the state house of representatives for refusing to stop closing his prayers in that House, “in the name of Jesus”, his Lord! (See the Lord's promise in John 14:14) (<http://radio.foxnews.com/2010/07/09/pastor-banished-from-capitol-over-jesus-prayer/>).

And in Michigan, Arabs Christians preaching the gospel peacefully at an Arab festival were arrested. Apparently being Arab must be synonymous with being a moslem, even in America! (www.christianpost.com/article/20100708/street-

[preachers-at-arab-fest-to-face-court/index.html](#)). Even the established tradition of distributing Bibles on school campuses is being challenged at several fronts. Very vocal opponents now claim that Bibles do not provide any educational benefit to the students and that the distribution should stop. (www.onenewsnow.com/Legal/Default.aspx?id=1080338)

Indonesia

A similar situation of Christian bashing is going on in reputedly moderate Indonesia, the world's most populous Moslem country, see <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20100920/indonesia-church-holds-service-despite-police-blockade/>. In that country, the relevant authorities refused (for years) to process the renewal request of the Batak Christian Protestant Church (HKBP) to continue using its premises. Spurred on by demonstrations by some Moslem organizations, the authorities then decided to close the premises; but Christians are defying the closure and are meeting on the grounds. Apart from official police harassment, individual moslem groups are itching to carry out Sharia justice on the members of the Church.

On Sunday Sept 12, the Rev. Luspida Simandjuntak was ambushed and struck on the head with a wooden plank while church elder Hasean Lumbantoruan Sihombing was stabbed on the stomach, while on their way to church around 9.a.m. <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20100913/2-indonesian-christians-beaten-on-way-to-prayer-meeting/>

Somalia!

Meanwhile in Somalia, Sharia-rule continues to rampage the country. One of the latest atrocities involved the killing of a leader of the underground Somali Church. Al Shabaab militants broke into the house of Osman Abdullah Fataho in Afgoi on July 21 and shot him dead in front of his wife and four children. The assailants then

abducted the children (aged 5 - 15) to become soldiers and be indoctrinated into Islam. <http://www.worthynews.com/9269-somali-christian-killed-his-four-children-kidnapped> **Vol. 13 No. 4**

Iranian Pastor sentenced to death

For objecting to Christian school students (including his own children) being forced by the Iranian state to read the Qu'ran, Rev Youcef Nadarkhani has been sentenced to death! According to Worthy News, Rev Nadarkhani, who led the largest church network in Rasht, Iran, was arrested on Oct. 13. Following a kangaroo trial, he was originally sentenced to be executed on Oct. 24. But this has now been temporarily deferred; while intensive pressure is being mounted on him to recant his Christianity and return to Islam. Nadarkhani is the father of two children, both under the age of ten. (More details at www.worthynews.com/9716-execution) **Vol 13 No 5**

UK slides deeper into godlessness, and Islamic domination

The slide of the United Kingdom, one-time the major missionary-sending nation in the world, into godlessness and Christian-bashing in particular, becomes more pronounced with each passing day. In the few weeks since 2009 started alone, various saddening incidents have been recorded as the UK seems desperate to erase every trace of her Christian heritage.

For instance there was the case of a primary school receptionist, Jennie Cain (featured in the LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH of February 12, 2009) who is currently being investigated because she sought prayer support from her close friends for her daughter Jasminine who apparently ran into trouble with the school authority, where mum Jennie works as a janitor. A teacher had overheard five

year old Jasmine discussing with her friend, about "heaven and God". That apparently was a most horrible thing to discuss and she was promptly reprimanded by the teacher. Jennie thought she could request her close friends to support her with prayer for her daughter; but the school got wind of it and interpreted it as a disloyal activity from a staff member!

Earlier in the month, a diligent Christian nurse, Mrs Caroline Petrie, had been threatened with dismissal for offering to pray for her patients' recovery – as recounted to the hospital by a fellow nurse who heard about the case from the elderly patient involved. Thankfully, the threat of dismissal has now been quashed. According to the Christian Legal Centre who had stepped in to defend Mrs Petrie, the "dramatic turnaround" came "days after extensive media coverage and news reports" on the case.

A week before Petrie's case, another Christian woman in the UK actually lost her position as a registered Foster parent because a Muslim girl in her care decided to become a Christian. It would be the first such incidence in her 10 years acting as Foster parent to over 80 children. All explanations by the lady that she had put no pressure on the Muslim girl, who was 16 at the time, to be baptized fell on deaf ears.' I offered her alternatives. I offered to find places for her to practise her own religion. I offered to take her to friends or family. But she said to me from the word go, "I am interested and I want to come." She sort of burst in.' The 50 year-old ex-Foster parent apparently has not been reading well the clear handwriting of her nation's slide into the new world order's zero tolerance for religious proselytization. 'It never occurred to me that they would go that far' she lamented, rather naively. 'I was concerned that the council seemed to view Christianity in such a negative light. I wonder whether if it had gone the other way - if one of my Christian young

people had decided to embrace another faith - there would have been this level of fuss.' <www.jihadwatch.org/dhimmiwatch/archives/024762.php>

Still in the UK in the first 2 months of 2009, a radio presenter (who also happens to be a Church minister) has been sacked for 'supporting the Bible's teachings' on radio. The Rev Mahboob Masih, had been host of a regular Saturday morning show on Awaz FM, a community radio show in Glasgow, for six years before the row with the station's management blew up. According to news reports, "After a lively religious debate, the radio station management (without detailing anything specific Rev Mashih had said wrongly), accused him of not being balanced enough on air." Apparently he had allowed his co-presenter and their Christian on-air guest to dispute a claim by a popular Islamic cleric in Glasgow that Jesus Christ was not the only prophet to be "the way, the truth and the life".

It was clear to discerning people that the NWO's agents in the UK mean business this year when in the last few days of last year, the Brighton and Hove Council decided to withdraw their supporting grant for a Christian Home for retired missionaries. This follows the insistence of the Home that it was not only unnecessary but potentially disturbing to ask, every 3 months, that residents of the Home state their sexual orientation – whether heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or 'unsure'! We are here talking about retired missionaries, most in their 80s and 90s! Furthermore, the 200 year-old Pilgrim Homes was required to use images of homosexuals in its promotional literature and show staff a Stonewall presentation on 'gay rights'. For failing to see eye-to-eye with the Brighton and Hove Council on this matter, the council accused the Pilgrim Homes of "institutionalised homophobia" and withdrew a £13,000 funding, which was being used to pay for warden services in sheltered housing.

The armed forces are not left out in the anti-Christianity bashing gaining momentum in the UK. The London Daily Mail (Jan 30) reported that worshippers were outraged when the new Senior chaplain at the Sandhurst military academy concluded a Sunday service without including the recitation of the church of England Creed. Rev Jonathan Gough later explained that he dropped the Christian declaration of faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in order to **avoid offending non-believers!** The Ministry of Defence quickly rose in support of Rev Gough's withdrawal of the Creed.

Meanwhile, at the same time as the chaplains are trying not to offend non-believers with what the Church decides to believe and proclaim, the **Leicestershire police has decided to incorporate the Islamic hijab into its uniform – in order to encourage more female moslems to join the force!** This development follows similar ones in other regions of the UK including Thames Valley and the Metropolitan police. Early in February, the Norwegian Police also adopted a similar measure incorporating the hijab into police uniform! **Vol 12 No 2**

From London, came the news that an employee with the London Borough Council has been suspended from work for nearly two months because he encouraged a homeless woman with an incurable medical condition to look to God for help, after doctors told her they had given up hope. Duke Amachree (53) is a Homelessness Prevention officer with Windsworth Council and has been on the job for almost 18 years. He is also a member of the UK World Evangelism Church in London. In an investigatory interview on March 17, Mr Amachree was told he should not raise the issue of

religion at work. He was told it was inappropriate to “ever talk about God” or even say “God bless”.

(News from Assist News Service ANS, March 31, 2009) **Vol 12 No 3**

3.6

British Parliament cowers before Islamists

In what has been described as a new high for Islamic intimidation in the UK, the British Parliament quietly cancelled a scheduled visit by Dutch parliamentarian and film maker, Geert Wilders to show his factual but uncomplimentary film on Islam, Fitna.

Just as happened in the United States, a member of the House had invited Mr Wilder so the British lawmakers could have a first-hand assessment of what exactly was the problem fundamentalist moslems have with the film. However a Muslim member of the House of Lords, Nazir Ahmed, threatened he would mobilize 10,000 fellow Muslims to block Mr Wilders entrance into Westminster. And, very strangely, for the sake of “peace” perhaps, one of Western civilization's most venerable institutions, the British Parliament surrendered its own most basic of freedoms. The event was cancelled. (see

www.frontpagemag.com/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=33952).

Incidentally, the man at the centre of this cowering of the British Parliament, Nazir Ahmed, had an on-going case with the law, having ploughed his jaguar car into a stationary vehicle and killing a young man in the process in 2007. Mr Ahmed admitted he was sending text messages on his phone, while cruising on the Motorway at the time of the accident. He was subsequently jailed for 12 weeks on Feb 26, but was released only 16 days after. **Vol 12 No 3**

Islam is King in the UK

Contrast the quite familiar story above with the situation in the UK where radical Moslem preacher Anjem Choudary continues, with impunity, his Islamic Roadshows on the streets of Birmingham. A message on Choudary's website informs that "Conversion packs are already provided to those who revert to Islam in the Islamic Roadshows."

One of such new converts was captured on video which Choudary proudly shows around. According to the newspaper *Sunday Mercury*, the convert is a "bewildered-looking 11 year-old, who gives his name as Sean". Sean was filmed repeating Arabic chants after Choudary, and swearing allegiance to Allah

When contacted by the *Sunday Mercury*, Choudary defended the young boy's "reversion" to Islam, - admitting that his parents were not with him and were not consulted. "The child was genuinely interested in Islam," he said.

"The boy told us he wanted to become a Muslim and, of course, some people are intellectually more mature than they are physically" the Islamic luminary reasoned.

In **Vol 12 No 2**, we featured the story of a registered Foster Parent in the same UK who lost her practice of 10 years because a 16 year old moslem girl in her home decided to become a Christian, and would not be persuaded otherwise. Of course, merely attempting to distribute Christian tracts on the streets has led to the summary killing of many a Christian worldwide, ranging from Izom, Niger state in Nigeria to several Arab nations. (see for instance **CA! Vol 9 No 4**)

In the UK, even in jail, Islamic extremists continue to call the shots. Terrorists at Wakefield jail first refused praying in the jail's multi-faith chapel because it was used by "non-believers"; and later on requested that female warders not be allowed to supervise them – on religious ground. This latter request was refused, but according to Mirror newspaper, "it's feared they could now take their complaint to the European Court and use the Human Rights Act to claim they are being victimised." ([Mirror](http://www.mirror.co.uk), May 24; www.mirror.co.uk). Vol 12 No 4

Citizens of Western Countries Fed Up With Moslem Dominionism – No to New Mosques

The situations described above are by no means peculiar to Nigeria. Indeed Nigeria's situation is really only a portion of a global development. The Jihadists' quest to intimidate and dominate native majority in their own lands (while no Church is allowed in the Jihadists' own domain - such as Saudi Arabia or Kano) is finally backfiring.

From New York, to even France, local indigenous populations are recognizing that many Moslems do not see Islam as just a religion to practice, but a tool for political domination and subjugation of others. To this end, mosques are not just simple functional buildings meeting local religious needs, but grand, statement-making edifices, often far beyond the resources of the local Moslems – but funded from the same Arabia where no Churches are allowed. The situation is well-captured by a line in a poem by Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (before he became the PM): "the minarets our bayonets".

Consider the case in New York. After Moslems, funded from the Middle East, razed down two grand edifices (the World Trade

Center twin towers) in the infamous 9-11 events, with thousands of people killed, the same Moslems are bent on erecting grand Islamic centers on the rubbles of these same towers!

The Jihadists might have pushed their agenda a little too hard, and the previously docile American citizenry is up in arms. As at Press time, New Yorkers have risen against three separate plans to build Muslim worship centers in their city. The Washington Times quotes Joan Moriello, a community activist involved in one of the protests: "This is about radical Islam wanting to colonize the world. They pretend to be tolerant, they pretend to be loving but they aren't. It's just starting to come bubbling up to the surface." For more, see www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jul/6/plans-mosques-divide-new-yorkers/

Exactly similar protests, in direct response to local aggravations (just like at Wukari in Taraba state), are on-going virtually all over Europe, ranging from Warsaw (www.bt.com.bn/features/2010/04/06/protests-warsaw-over-new-mosque), to Britain (<http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2010/05/uk-edl-stages-rooftop-mosque-protest.html>) to France (www.chasingevil.org/2010/06/marseilles-muslims-win-right-to-build.html), to Poland (www.globalpost.com/dispatch/poland/100520/islamophobia-europe-immigration). Even, perhaps the most "tolerant" people in the world, the Swiss, in a national referendum, voted to ban mosques from incorporating their ubiquitous minarets. (<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/11/29/switzerland.minaret.referendum/>)

Recall in Numan (Adamawa State, Nigeria), issues about the appropriateness of a high minaret overlooking the compound of the

local king's palace eventually led to the deposition of that respected and beloved Christian Monarch, Feddy Soditi Bongo, in 2005. (see CA! Vol 8 No 2). Also in Vol 8 No 4, we mentioned the plans of the Prince of Wales to build a majestic mega mosque in the predominantly Christian community of Cornwall, which government's data showed had exactly 33 Moslems out of the over 22,000 total population! (www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article537568.ece) Vol 13 No 2

New York City Orders Churches To Quit Public School Buildings

About 60 churches who worship in public school buildings in New York City will have to find alternative venues for their services by February 12, 2012. This development is as a result of a court ruling upholding the decision of the New York City Department of Education to ban religious activities on school premises in that city. In reality, the churches only meet in the buildings on Sundays, when school was not in session; and many of them have excellent mutually beneficial relationships with the school. The case had been on since 1994 before the ruling by the Second Circuit. Hopes that the Supreme Court would reverse this decision were dashed when the Court declined in early December to even hear the case.

Happily, church leaders are not miffed by the situation. In general, they are saying, "Well it is an inconvenience, but 'Our identity is not in a building, our identity is who we are as a body.'" Rather than cause a set-back, the situation is compelling them to look more prayerfully at their ministries. 'How can we best be the body of Christ in this city'? they are asking themselves. Sounds like Acts of Apostles.

Particularly for the large churches, finding a large-enough facility within the same neighbourhood is a huge task. Many are therefore thinking decentralization. “Maybe we need two locations instead of one because of where our people come from” some are beginning to reflect. **Vol 14 No 5**

Not so simple, saying “Merry Christmas”

Until some years ago, nobody batted an eye at the traditional “Merry Christmas” greetings at Christmas. Suddenly emerged the post-modernists, protesting the religionization of Christmas, and advocating as appropriate greetings “Happy Holidays” or “Seasons Greetings”! Now the stakes are considerably upped as in America some Islamic clerics have ruled it a grand sin for a Moslem to wish anyone a “merry Christmas”. According to cleric Al-AhMad' "saying Merry Christmas is even worse than fornication or killing someone." (<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2011/12/islamic-scholar-saying-merry-christmas-is-worst-then-fornication-or-killing-someone.html>)

In Malaysia, even Christians had restrictions placed on their expression of Christmas felicitations. As reported by Malaysian Insider, “Parish priests and church youth leaders were required to get “caroling “ permits before they could "visit their fellow church members and belt out 'Joy to the World,' [or] 'Silent Night, Holy Night.'" For 30 years, it had been required that permits be obtained because Carols are conducted in public, outside residences of hosting Church members. The conditions for obtaining a permit include submission of full names and identity card numbers of the clergy at police stations. But last Christmas new conditions were added including that the full names and contact information of the householders that would be visited.

(<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/print/malaysia/tis-the-season-to-be-jolly-with-a-police-permit/>)

Even in western countries, moslems are aggressively putting pressure on Christians at Christmas. For example at the university of London, apparently to appease moslem folks, readings from the Quran were featured during the Christmas service; while "a posh Montreal suburb chose rather to remove a nativity scene and menorah from town hall rather than acquiesce to demands from a Muslim group to erect Islamic religious symbols."

As an example of tawriya in action, a Sheik has suggested a way out to bail out pious moslems from the "great sin" of having to acknowledge Christmas; while at the same time not sounding antagonistic. On YouTube, a Sheikh suggests Muslims to tell Christians, "I wish you the best." (http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=-ssc7MB32Sk). He explains the ingenuity of this new Christmas greeting: whereby the latter might "understand it to mean you're wishing them best in terms of their [Christmas] celebration." (here the wily sheikh giggles), you actually "mean in your heart *I wish you become a Muslim.*" Of course, in the thinking of the learned Sheikh, being a muslim is the best for anybody. Such "creative lying" is fully endorsed in Islam and is known as Tawriya. For more on this Islamic doctrine, see <http://www.jihadwatch.org/2012/02/rahmond-ibrahim-tawriya---new-islamic-doctrine-permits-creative-lying.html>. Meanwhile elsewhere on the planet, Christmas carols, greetings and symbols were the least considerations as Islamic militants went on a killing spree. In Northern Nigeria, the major assaults of the period included the Boko Haram massacre of over 40 people at St Theresa's (in Madalla, Niger state) and MFM Church (Jos, Plateau State) on

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Christmas day. (see <http://www.galaxytvonline.com/news/main-news/boko-haram-40-killed-in-christmas-massacre>) **Vol 15 No 1**

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CHAPTER SEVEN: Top Corporate Culprits

Forced Islamization via rape of Christian Girls Supported By Egyptian State

The Assyrian International News Agency (AINA) has reported a recent broadcast on the Christian TV channel “Live TV”, highlighting the phenomenon of abduction, rape and forced Islamization of Christian girls in Egypt. Featuring testimonies from dozens of actual victims, the shocking documentary was beamed to some 60 million Arab speaking viewers in Egypt and around the world in mid-November, 2009. According to the program’s moderator, Rasheed El Maghreby, "Our role is to expose those behind those crimes."

Apart from the victims and their families, also interviewed was Magdi Khalil, an authority on Coptic affairs who has made extensive field study on forced Islamization of Christian minors in Egypt. Mr Khalil showed that these heinous crimes are carried out by organized Islamization gangs with full government funding and backing by the State Security.

As is practiced in several other moslem nations Christian girls are deemed converted to Islam when abducted, raped and forced into marriage with moslem grooms. In places where Moslems do not freely command coercive state apparatus, as in Southern part of

Nigeria, abductions are seldom carried out, but it is highly encouraged that Christian girls be lured into marriage, explicitly for the conversion value. Certainly a most despicable way of making religious converts!

In Egypt, apparently the situation is of epidemic proportion, as highlighted by the show on LiveTV. Coptic Pope Shenouda had raised the alarm during a lecture in 2004 that he was receiving thousands of letters of abduction of Christian girls through certain Islamic store chains which lure them away by telling them they had won a prize and have to go to an upper floor in the building to collect it.

Several international organizations have criticized Egypt regarding forced Islamization of young Christian girls, among which is the International Religious Freedom report from 2005 to 2009, the Helsinki Commission Report of November 9th, 2006, Human Rights Watch Report of November 12th, 2007, and on November 10th, 2009, Christian Solidarity International issued a report quoting 25 cases of forced Islamization of minors.

Apart from the Egyptian state, as shown on Live TV, funding for forced Islamization of girls also flows in from a financial network of dozens of companies, charities, and banks such as Bank of Islamic Solidarity, Faisal Islamic Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank, and Islamic Relief Organization, as well as numerous companies created through money-laundering operations, and which are supervised by the Muslim Brotherhood. Apparently, the Islamist ladies and gentlemen behind this network have no compunction about doing evil so that “good” (as they deem it) might result - a position vehemently denounced in the Bible (see Rom. 3:8) **Vol. 12 No. 6**

PFN urged Christians to adopt self-defence

The Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) has advised Christians to defend themselves against any further aggressions from their Moslem counterparts” reported the Comet on Oct 26 (page 7). The statement by PFN President, Bishop Okonkwo, noted that “it has become so glaring that the Jihadists are exploiting the embarrassing inaction of the authorities concerned...” and therefore “...becoming incumbent for us to begin to re-determine our focus in the sense of self-defence and preservation”.

Christians can no longer be taken for granted in this land ... which can only be called our fatherland by every standard. The statement added that the aggressors were preparing to extend their activities to Lagos, Ibadan, Oshogbo and other major cities in the South, having been through with Jos, Kano and Bauchi. This allegation has proven to be not unfounded as the reports below show.

In Osogbo, in an effort to get the Bonnke Crusade cancelled, Moslem fundamentalists threw the city into chaos in an orgy of violence. By the time it was all over, at least one Christian, Mr Sunday Aransiola (about to wed at the month-end) had been killed and about a dozen Churches destroyed. Local Moslem leaders later blamed “outsiders” for the incident. The Crusade went on anyway with wonderful result. Over 700,000 attended the 1st night alone.

Also in Akure, ostentatiously to prevent Moslem-Christian feud, Governor Adefarati (a Christian) has banned open air crusade “by all religions”. (Comet Nov 1, page 3) The question is which other religions embark on Open Air Crusades except Christianity! As a matter of fact this is why the Reinhard Bonnke Crusade train could not penetrate Ondo State.

In Shagamu, 6 Pakistanis were arrested following an appeal by the Shagamu Traditional Council to get the “religious fanatics” out of town before any violence could erupt. The six are alleged to be using

“a public address equipment to reel out their messages which the Moslems in the locality considered strange.” A month earlier, some Pakistani Nationals claiming to be going to Ifo town “to propagate the Islamic Jihad” were also interrogated by the Ogun State Police Command on the suspicion that they could belong to Osama’s Al-Qaeda. **Vol. 5 No 1 (2002)**

Moslem government official appointed Coordinator of Christian Pilgrims’ Board

Not so long ago, we reported that Kano State government was making demands on the Christian Association of Nigeria in the state to close down 50% of the Churches in the capital city as the increasing number was unacceptable to them. Even with a new government it seems there is yet no respite in sight for Christians in the state.

The latest outrage from Kano is the report that the newly constituted Christian Pilgrims’ Board is to be coordinated by a government official - a Moslem! Governor Ibrahim Sekarau responding to a strongly worded letter from the Christian Association of Nigeria said the appointment was a directive of the National Pilgrims’ Board. He nevertheless ‘explained’ the National Board’s directive as due to the fact that “since not all the Churches are members of CAN, [the Board] want to avoid creating any disaffection on the issue of pilgrimage...” This is quite nauseating! And what was the conclusion of the matter? CAN has been advised “to exercise patience ... until the matter is resolved” [after the pilgrimage!] (See Vanguard, October 13, page 11) **Vol 6 No 6**

Stiff Costs of Christianity, worldwide

Assist News Service of 7th July reports that Cuba is currently **starving to death** Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, one of their most prominent Christian dissidents (www.assistnews.net). At the same time, the Chinese government has arrested over 100 of the Chinese Gospel Fellowship on 29 April who were meeting in Wuhan. Senior leader of the underground church network Shen Xianfeng was placed under house arrest on the same day. Shen is partially crippled and during his previous arrest, the police beat him up with his own crutches. <http://www.freechurchforchina.org/persecution>. Also in China, 34 year old Jiang Zongxiu, was arrested and beaten to death in jail by the Police for handing out Bibles in southwest China's Guizhou province. She had been arrested on suspicion of "spreading rumours and inciting to disturb social order". (<http://www.news24.com/>) **Vol. 7 No 4 (2004)**

World Zakat Fund: Underwriting Radical Islam?

Two editions ago, we mentioned that the forced Islamization via rape of Christian girls in Egypt is supported from a financial network of companies, charities and banks under the supervision of the Muslim Brotherhood. According to Israeli National news (INN), a far more ambitious fund, guaranteed to bankroll radical Islamic operations around the world is scheduled to be launched this year. Nigeria has of course remained a prime field for the disbursement and utilization of these kind of money - as highlighted by Osama bin Laden himself in 1999 (see **CA Vol 2 No 3**)

Interestingly, raising the alarm about the World Zakat Fund is a high-ranking Moslem personality. Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, president of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy, is warning that the new charity must be watched carefully. According to Jasser, the World Zakat Fund, established in part by the Malaysian government, may be

“nothing more than a ruse to give transnational Islamist movements and their controlling Muslim theocrats an economic power base”.

The new fund, the first of its kind, will collect donations from the 2.5 percent "zakat" set aside under Shar'iah law by observant Muslims who have the wherewithal to save money. With an estimated 40,000 high-net-worth Muslims in the Middle East alone, including 400 billionaires, it is expected that nearly a billion dollars could be raised by the end of its first year, and as much as \$10 billion within the first decade.

Jasser told INN that he believes the fund would simply serve to consolidate financial power "in vast orders of magnitude" and then hand it over to the member nations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Giving OIC nations the collective ability to determine the distribution of "Muslim charity," he said, is "the epitome of giving the 'fox the keys to the henhouse.'"

A list of the controlling members of the fund's Shar'iah finance board include Dr. Ali al-Quradaghi, Yusuf Qaradawi, Syria's Abdul Sattar Abu Guddah, Abdul-aziz Fawzan Saleh Al-Fawzan - all seriously implicated in Islamic radicalism and extremism. **"I cannot imagine how individuals as radical as this are going to distribute billions in funds in a 'benign' method globally," Jasser said pointedly.**

[\[www.israelnationalnews.com/SendMail.aspx?print=print&type=0&item=133707\]](http://www.israelnationalnews.com/SendMail.aspx?print=print&type=0&item=133707) Vol. 13 No. 2

Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan: Unregistered Protestants face fines for worship

In the wake of new amendments to the religion law in July, unregistered churches in Kazakhstan are now liable to a fine - more than three months' average wages. Getting registered is no easy deal

though - Pastor Rustam Kairulin's application was rejected for the sixth time in July. Another Protestant church in Gulsary which has been refused registration four times was raided on August 6 with church members being asked to write statements on why they were attending an unregistered religious community. www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=645

In a related incident in the northeastern Turkmenistan town of Dashoguz, the Baptist Church leaders learnt that the Church's national registration was not valid in northern Turkmenistan. "Individuals can only believe alone on their own at home," police told them. <http://www.persecution> Vol. 8 No 5 (2005)

Worldwide satanic angst against the Gospel

The reality of the offence of the Gospel is being demonstrated daily all over the world. In the US, a youth pastor was roughened up, arrested and handcuffed while sharing his Christian faith one-on-one with receptive shoppers at a mall in June (WorldNetDaily, June 24, 2006); while a group of 50 pro-Israel Christian tourists who strayed into the ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Mea She'arim in Jerusalem came under fierce stoning and clubbing attacks for their perceived evangelical nature. Three of the tourists and a police officer were wounded in the attack. <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=732437&contrassID=1&subContrassID=7>

In the less democratic setting of Central Asia, the manifestation of the anti-Gospel forces is of course more calculated. Already, nations like Sri Lanka (see last edition), India, and Uzbekistan http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=777 have legislated against religious conversions while similar ruptures are coming from Tajikistan

(www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=795), and Kyrgyzstan (www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=729). To the glory of God, the Church under persecution however has remained unperturbed. Accused of preaching the gospel with a view to encouraging those who wish to convert to Christianity to do so, Pastor Zhakipov of the 10,000 member protestant Church of Jesus Christ in Kyrgyzstan conceded: "We really do preach to people ... it is our duty as Christians and it is not forbidden by Kyrgyz law." At least for now!

In CHINA: Pastor Zhang Rongliang Sentenced to 7½ Years in Prison

One of the most prominent Chinese House Movement leaders, Pastor Zhang Rongliang, has been sentenced (July 4, 2006) to seven and a half years in prison. The 55-year old pastor whose church networks comprised of more than 10 million members is being jailed for "attaining a passport through cheating" and with "illegal border crossing" both associated with his international travels to attend world mission conferences for which, of course, no official travel documents would have been issued! Let's pray the on-going international outcry will lead to a mitigation of the jail terms handed over to this saint of the Most High God. More details in www.persecution

In China, there are the official churches which are registered and controlled by the state. The big difference between these and the unofficial so-called House Churches is the evangelical drive of the latter. Witnessing (the Gospel) is the vital life of Christianity (Rom. 1:16) and our faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is what guarantees our victory over the world (1 Jn. 5:4-5). To want to compromise on these in exchange for acceptance and easy life is

utterly foolish. Look out for this common thread as the great offence in every persecution story you read! **Vol. 9 No. 4 (2006)**

IN INDIA, More anti-christian legislation

Madhya Pradesh has become the latest state to pass an anti-religious conversion bill. Missionaries who attempt to convert any Indian without first notifying a magistrate of his intentions now risks a jail term of 3 years under the new bill. Sponsors of the bill, Hindu fundamentalists, claim that missionaries, mostly American and South Korean, prey on the ignorance of lower castes and persuade them to turn against their culture.” That Hinduism-inspired “culture” means that those people should embrace being treated as outcasts and remain uneducated and untouchable!

www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0%2C%2C2089-2291294%2C00.html **Vol. 9 No 5 (2006)**

Burma orders Christians to be wiped out

The military regime in Burma is intent on wiping out Christianity in the country, according to claims in a secret document believed to have been leaked from a government ministry. Entitled "Programme to destroy the Christian religion in Burma", the incendiary memo contains point by point instructions on how to drive Christians out of the state. The text, which opens with the line "There shall be no home where the Christian religion is practised", calls for anyone caught evangelising to be imprisoned. drjohnson@ix.netcom.com. For a report on government policies towards Christianity in Burma, see <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/CWN/index.aspx> **Vol. 10 No. 1 (2007)**

Pastor Zhang's health in jeopardy

We reported last year (**Vol 9 No 4**) that as China prepares to host the 2008 Olympics, it has begun a systematic sweeping of Christians in the country. We highlighted in particular the sentencing of Pastor Zhang Rongliang to 7 years prison for traveling outside of China with illegal traveling papers after authorities had repeatedly refused to authorize his trip to preach the gospel outside China. Pastor Zhang leads one of the largest house church networks in the country with an estimated 10 million members. Latest reports indicate that his health has been rapidly deteriorating - the 53 year old Pastor is kept with 19 other prisoners in a 100 ft square room with no bed or toilet! His wife, Chen Hongxian, is under severe emotional pressure as well, and both their 2 sons have had to go into hiding as government agencies mount up pressure on them as well. Intense prayers are needed, especially that an on-going campaign to get Pastor Zhang released on medical parole should be successful. Amen.

In a similar vein, in North Korea, Son Jong Nam, a convert from communism to Christianity is being held in a bleak, death row basement cell for more than a year now. He has been sentenced to die by "public execution," charged with being a "national traitor" and "receiving Christianity." Brother Son has already spent 3 years in prison and has gone through brutal tortures. The US based Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) has recently launched a worldwide campaign to free Mr. Son with thousands of letters being written on his behalf. To join this effort, please visit the website of the VOM. **Vol. 10 No. 4 (2010)**

Pastor Zhang could die in jail soon

It is now being touted that Pastor Zhang Rongliang, one of China's top Christian leaders and authors, "will likely die soon" if he is not urgently released from prison. (See the past two editions of CA! for

details of the sentencing of this pastor of over 10 million people to 7½ years imprisonment for attending Christian meetings outside of China, ‘illegally’) According to The Voice of the Martyrs, a key contact with the 56 year old Pastor has reported that his health has deteriorated to the extent that now, he "must be carried from place to place by two men supporting him". Pastor Zhang had earlier in his incarceration (between Dec 19, 2005 and Jan 23 2006) been given emergency treatment for diabetes. While receiving medical attention at the Xinmi City People’s Hospital at that time, he was allegedly handcuffed and chained to his hospital bed! Just for teaching the Word of God! Do the Communists know something about the Word of God that many Christians don’t? For details visit www.bosnewslife.com. Vol. 10 No 5 (2010)

ICC Hall of Shame Awards: North Korea Tops ignoble list again

The International Christian Concern is a US-based organization that has faithfully over the years kept the world comprehensively informed about the persecution of Christians around the globe. Annually, after analyzing the various reports compiled from different countries for the year, the ICC makes what it calls the Hall of Shame Awards - for the World’s top ten persecutors of Christians. For the year 2008, the ICC has ranked the world's worst persecutors as: North Korea, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, India, China, Pakistan, Iran, Eritrea, and Vietnam.

Highlights of the report released on Feb. 4, are the “high level of Christian persecution in many Islamic countries”, and “the massive effort undertaken by the Chinese government to silence underground church activities during the 2008 Olympics”. However, the worst anti-Christian violence for the year 2008 (still on-going) is the

systematic, brutal attacks on Christians which began in Orissa, India in August. In the last edition, we reported that \$500 was being offered to anyone who would kill a Christian pastor!

The report can be found on the ICC website [www.persecution](http://www.persecution.org/suffering/pdfs/ICC_Hall_of_Shame_2009.pdf), or it can be accessed directly at Hall of Shame 2009 ([http://persecution.org/suffering/pdfs/ICC Hall of Shame 2009.pdf](http://persecution.org/suffering/pdfs/ICC_Hall_of_Shame_2009.pdf)).

In the same vein, Open Doors USA is another influential international watchdog organization that reports on Christian persecution worldwide. In its own 2009 World Watch List (released about the same time as ICC's award), North Korea also topped the list of violent Christian persecutors - for the seventh straight year! Somalia rose from 12th position in 2008 to 5th this year because of the growing level of attacks there. Not less than 10 Christians were abducted and killed for their faith - often by beheading - last year in Somalia. With incidents at Kano, Bauchi, and lately Jos, "Northern Nigeria" also got a mention on the ignoble list, ranking 26. Report from <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/> **Vol 12 No. 2**

US Panel says Nigeria is top Christian persecutor

The International Christian Concern (ICC) recently reported (May 4), that the annual report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has designated Nigeria as a country of particular concern for "*tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of freedom of religion.*"

The ICC noted that Nigeria has been plagued by religious violence since 1999 when Sharia law was introduced in the northern part of the country (precisely at the same time that a Christian unexpectedly took over the mantle of leadership after perennial Moslem rule). The ICC further observed that since this time, "the Christian minority in

northern Nigeria has been more severely persecuted by Islamic extremists. Muslim radicals have been killing Christians, burning down churches, and forcing Christians to flee their homes. Authorities in Nigeria have failed to stem this recurring violence.

The report by the Commission expressed concern that *"years of inaction by Nigeria's federal, state and local governments has created a climate of impunity, resulting in thousands of deaths."* It further indicates the role of countries such as Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan in fueling the violence by building mosques and Islamic religious schools in which an extreme version of Islam is preached. The report noted, *"An increasing number of Nigerian Islamic scholars and clerics are being trained in Saudi Arabia and return with a politico-religious ideology that explicitly promotes hatred of, and violence against, non-Muslims."*

Like we warned, nothing has been heard again concerning the horrible bloodshed in Jos, despite two panels set up (one by state government and the other by the Federal); not to talk of the follow-up massacre in Bauchi (see Vol 12 No 2). **Vol. 12 No. 3**

Communists, Moslems top persecutors of Christians

The communist regime in North Korea has, for the 8th year running, topped the The World Watch List published by Open Doors to understand the unique persecution fingerprint of nations all around the world. The next eight nations on the list are from the Moslem world: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Maldives, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Mauritania. Nigeria (north) is ranked 27 on the infamous list, no thanks to Islamists actions at Maiduguri, Bauchi, Jos, Jigawa etc (http://members.opendoorsusa.org/site/DocServer/WWL2010_test.pdf?docID=5801)

The World Watch List was started by the Open Doors Research Department in 1991. It examines every aspect of persecution,

TOP CORPORATE CULPRITS

including the degree of legal restrictions, state attitudes, how free the church is to organize itself, church burnings, anti-Christian riots and the murders of Christians that make headlines.

In North Korea, according to the Report, every religious activity in the communist nation is viewed as an insurrection against the dictator, Kim Jong-Il. Arrests, torture and death are routine as North Korean officials desperately try to control all of society. "Christians are the target of fierce government action, and once caught, are not regarded as human" said a veteran observer of North Korea. According to the president of Open Doors, Carl Moeller, "Last year we had evidence that some were used as guinea pigs to test chemical and biological weapons." Three generations of a family are often thrown into prison when one member is incarcerated.

The good news is that despite such horrible and systematic persecution, the Christian community in North Korea has been growing significantly. Open Doors said it recently provided secret training for 4,000 Christians there, books are being distributed and other outreaches that cannot be publicized are under way. <http://www.wnd.com/?pageId=121147>

Iran seems determined to displace North Korea from the top of the list of Christian persecutors however. On February 2, the Iranian State Security agents in Isfahan arrested Rev. Wilson Issavi - a well respected, humble and devoted servant of the Church while visiting a friend's home. The pastor, and eight other Christians including his hosts, were thrown into prison at undisclosed location and are currently awaiting charges. Earlier, on January 2, the Iranian government had forced the closure of Rev. Issavi's church. The Church, the Evangelical Church of Kermanshah, was among the few remaining open churches in the country as at that time. **Vol 13 No 1**

Chinese Government Cracks down on Shouwang Church

Over 500 Christians, about half of the membership of the Shouwang Church in Beijing, were placed on house arrest, in the efforts of the Chinese government to prevent the Church, from celebrating Easter outdoors. This however did not deter the others from still showing up. According to ChinaAid, “As happened the previous two Sundays, police and police vehicles were waiting at the plaza, and church members were bundled onto a waiting bus.” At least 34 of them were detained by police. Shouwang, a Church of mostly young professionals and students, is forced to having outdoor meetings as the tenancy of the Church’s rented space was not renewed by the owners – following pressure mounted by the Chinese government. Similarly, the keys to the \$4 million property the Church paid have not been released by the seller – also due to pressure from the government.

ChinaAids further reports: “Among those who were held under informal house arrest were Shouwang’s pastors and lay leaders, including founding and senior pastor Jin Tianming. These church leaders have not been allowed out of their homes for more than two weeks. Also detained were all the members of the Shouwang choir, reputedly the best of the Beijing house church choirs. The choir had been practicing for months for the Easter celebration. As a result of the on-going showdown, some church members have lost their jobs or rented homes—or both.

For its effective efforts to publicize the persecution of the Shouwang Church, Texas-based ChinaAid has found its website under severe attacks in recent times – from Mainland China.

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2011/04/500-shouwang-church-christians-under.html>

Algeria demands closure of all Protestant Churches

The International Christian Concern is reporting that Algerian authorities have ordered the Algerian Protestant Church Association (EPA) to close all churches under her authority throughout the country. Seven churches in particular, in the province of Bejala, were to be closed with immediate effect. The May 8 notification was ordered by the governor of the Bejala province and signed by the Police Commissioner Ben Amar Salma. It is supposedly based on Ordinance 06-03 which was established in 2006 to regulate the worship of non-Muslims by requiring churches to obtain government permission to hold services. According to the notification received by the EPA, the churches are to be closed permanently “for exercising religious worship other than Islam without authorization or the compliance of the National Commission for Non-Muslim Religious services.” This requirement is however in gross violation of the country’s constitution which, in article 36, admits that freedom of creed is inviolable. See details at <http://www.persecution>

Zimbabwe:

A truckload of riot police stormed a prayer meeting held in a Harare suburb on Saturday April 9 and assaulted worshipers gathered to pray for peace. The police rushed into the Nazarene Church in Glen Norah and used tear gas to force the worshippers, including community leaders, out of the church hall. The police then fired tear gas canisters at homes and other local churches and eventually drove numbers of people out of the suburb. The police even arrested passersby who walked by the church after the congregants had been arrested or chased away. Why the rampage by Robert Mugabe? See further details at http://www.khouse.org/enews_article/2011/1762/print/

BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY - BOOK 3

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SECTION II

**Church – Apostasy and
Decay**

INTRODUCTION

The Bible clearly teaches that before the Church is raptured, there will first be a falling away from the truth (2 Thess. 2:3). The brazenness and rapidity of this happening all over the world across cultures is an eloquent pointer that the coming of the Lord is at hand. In this section we present news reports of how gay marriage, non-resurrected Christ, non-necessity of Jesus for salvation, etc are rapidly becoming main-stream in the Church.

It is evident that when men get to the level that they can't be saved anymore (see more under microchip implant in Book 3), the Church's job of providing witness would have been done, and the Lord will come to take Her away as promised in John 14. We have every reason to begin to look up, trusting that our salvation is indeed at hand (Luke 21:28). The apostate church will remain on earth after the rapture and will, under the interfaith program of the false prophet, be a major promoter of the Antichrist (Rev 13:12).

- Chapter 8 - Secret Societies/Cults
- Chapter 9 - Emergent Church
- Chapter 10 - Apostasy
- Chapter 11 - False Christs and False Anointing
- Chapter 12 - Church Decay and Immorality

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CHAPTER EIGHT: Secret Societies/Cults

Bola Ige admits membership of AMORC

Speaking at the Bilingual International Convention of the occultic group AMORC, Friday Nov 17, Justice Minister and frontline leader of the Yoruba people, Chief Bola Ige, admitted that he is a proud member of the Rosicrucian AMORC. He further stated that AMORC is “a company that is worthy of responsible people”. At the gathering, Chief Ige later “joined in the ritual of building a symbolic pyramid of the ideals of Rosicrucianism, performed as part of the opening ceremony at the Congress hall of the Nicon Hilton Hotel.

Church Arise! considers this a sad development and hopes the Chief sees that there is certainly something called Spiritual Deception. Light and Darkness are not the same thing as various attempts by the Interfaith movement, including the recent Lion King (Part II) Disney movie, are trying to convince us. **Vol. 4 No. 1 (2001)**

Meanwhile Jehovah Witness, Catholic Leaders debunk miracles

At the 4th Daluwon Convention of the Jehovah Witnesses, Convention Chairman Mr David F. Hundeyin did not spare words in

denouncing miracles being reported in Pentecostal churches. His words, “Forget about all these propaganda people talk about. There is no miracle anywhere; that is the truth. Miracles served their purpose back then; there is no miracle now” (Comet, Nov 24, page 34).

In a similar vein, writing in the prestigious Catholic Independent newspaper (Nov 26, pg 6), Francis Jide Adio launched out bitterly against “Pentecostalism in Nigeria”. Accusing the Churches of using wives to “innocently drag their men along” to church, Mr Adio wrote, “As the congregation swells, miracles are stage-managed, prophecies declared and crusades mounted in high density areas.” He further attacked the Pastors whose “unique selling point” is their assuring “their members of becoming millionaires, that childless women will have children, that the sick will receive healing, and the oppressed will be liberated”. In closing, he urged that “the Nigeria Police Force must direct its searchlight towards the activities of the new pentecostal churches”. All these, even as the Vatican preaches interfaithism!

Church Arise! does not speak for synagogues of satan masquerading as “Pentecostal Churches”. However, we see all these attacks as preparing the onslaught against Bible-believing Churches, even at a time when every other religious expression is being lauded and invited into co-operation. Certainly the highly regarded Catholic Independent newspaper would have hesitated before publishing such an article on Islam or any other religious set-up. As for miracles, the opinion expressed by these gentlemen is so clearly different from what the Lord Jesus promised. (See for example, Mark 16:17-18)
Vol. 4 No 1 (2001)

DNA analysis shatters Mormons Myth

One of the key teachings in the Book of Mormon, that special religious book of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons), which claims supremacy over the Bible, is that Native Americans were actually descended from a lost tribe of Israel that reached the New World more than 2,000 years ago. Jose A. Loayza, a Mormon, explains what this conviction meant to him: "We were taught all the blessings of that Hebrew lineage belonged to us and that we were a special people... It not only made me feel special, but it gave me a sense of transcendental identity, an identity with God."

However DNA evidence has recently shown that the ancestors of American natives came from Asia, not the Middle East. Loayza, a successful attorney confessed that, confronted with the incontrovertible evidence, he went through stages of absolute denial, utter amazement and surprise, and finally anger and bitterness.

[www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-me-](http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-me-mormon16feb16,1,4709667.story?ctrack=1&cset=true)

[mormon16feb16,1,4709667.story?ctrack=1&cset=true.](http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-me-mormon16feb16,1,4709667.story?ctrack=1&cset=true) Native Americans at least have a better deal than black Africans, since Mormon Doctrine affirms that people with black skin are the spirit children who didn't fight valiantly in the heavenly battle between Jesus and Lucifer, who by the way are said to be brothers!

Unfortunately too many Mormons, immobilized by peer pressure and the largesse of material welfare, continue to grope for God with deep bitterness and disappointment within the Mormon Church. Resigned to 'fate', they push aside the innumerable factual evidences debunking the divine claims of the Book of Mormon, intending to find out at the other side of earth, whether they were right or not. True children of God ought to remember such people who have sadly adopted an "Orunmila" ('Orun lo mo eni ti o la' - a Yoruba Marxism which translated "It is only heaven who will reveal those to be eventually saved") philosophy; especially in light of Scriptures such as 1 John

5:13 which gives assurance of Heaven to all who would choose to believe in the Son of God; and 1 John 4:1ff which warns against putting so-called visions or experiences above the sure Word of God. Our candid advice to Mormons who truly accept Jesus as Lord is to choose to obey the words of Jesus Christ rather than the words of Joseph Smith or some other elder. The words of the Lord from Heaven to such a precious one today is: "...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4) **Vol. 9 No 2 (2006)**

Jacob Prasch on Mormonism

"Joseph Smith was a convicted swindler and Brigham Young, with 23 wives, a proven false prophet. Nobody in their right mind would believe that someone who said Quakers living to be 1000 years old resided on the moon, as Smith did, nor on the sun as Young did in his Journal of Discourses Volume 17. Only an ignorant bigot would believe that black people are the descendants of fallen angels and are ugly, wicked and mischievous, and that any white person marrying a black should be killed, because of the Mormon law of atonement. Yet, this is what Brigham Young taught. It is simply not reasonable to believe such evil men were God's prophets. The first requirement of being a Mormon is to abandon any sense of reason"

This is part of a recent article by Jacob Prasch, of Moriel. The full article titled "Death of Reason and Return of Jesus may be accessed at http://www.moriel.org/pfp/discernment/church_issues/death_of_reason_return_of_jesus.htm **Vol 14 No 2**

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CHAPTER NINE: Emergent Church

Magic In Church

At the Public Seminar organized by Church Arise! on Saturday 23rd June, Rev Ade Adegunwa, the Chaplain of the All Souls Chapel of the Obafemi Awolowo University, spoke with much passion and concern on the prevalent and unfortunate incidences of pure magic going on in several Pentecostal Churches in Nigeria under the guise of “Signs and Wonders”. The review article on page 5 of the current edition of Church Arise! shows how much Satanism has quietly but effectively permeated the entire spectrum of society; and witchcraft has now gone from the secretive craft of dirty old women on broomsticks to ideas freely taught in the public square to children all over the world through books, cartoons, TV etc.

The documentary film by Pawcreek titled False Anointing - where will it end (available at our Library) is an excellent review of this general sad trend in Christian churches. In the film, hard documentations are provided to show the rotten decays in the Church: showmanship, strip-tease artistes, snake charming, and unbelievably, simulation of sex and orgasm (with demons?) right on the altar etc. If not for those hooked on self-deceit, how could anyone ever mistake these satanic manifestations for acts of the Holy Spirit?

That these strange-sounding ideas are indeed already seeping into the Church in Nigeria was confirmed recently by highly respected Pastor E.A. Adeboye of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. At the annual ministers conference of the Church (which attendance was open for all, this year), he expressed shock that one of the parishes of the Church (and there are now some thousands of them) was contemplating holding what is labeled a “Crazy Night”! Warning that he would not hesitate to close down any parish that dares put such an idea to practice, he affirmed that only “demons attend Crazy Nights”. We congratulate the man of God for such vigilance and prompt pronouncements. Several of the Churches generally labeled today as demagogues were actually once very respectable widely growing organizations that gradually allowed the lure of having supernatural experiences at any cost to introduce satanic concepts into their ranks. As Rev.2:20 shows, this is by no means a new phenomenon either. The end of the matter will probably come when satanic ideas and magic cease to be mere aberrations in the Church, but accepted and officially integrated norms in Church life. And we don’t have to wait much longer for this to happen. According to a recent report in the Guardian newspaper, the Catholic Church - one Church that is apparently not in any hurry to be removed away from the earth to heaven - is already on this path. Pope John Paul II was recently presented a **magic wand** by a Salesian Priest of the Church who requested him “to name a patron saint of conjurers, magicians and wizards”. The request was not some sort of joke. It was made by a very influential priest and there was no doubting that it was warmly received (The Pope’s pet programme of Interfaithism already makes no distinction between the Christian gospel and the philosophies of other religions).

The priest making this request, Don Silvion Mantelli of Turin in Italy, reportedly attracts huge crowds to his Church where he routinely presents the “magician mass”. An eye-witness describes this mass: “It’s the first time during catholic liturgy I’ve seen a succession of entertainers, including a ventriloquist preacher, a trick cyclist, a juggler and a fire eater, performing in front of the altar”. The description continues: “Don Silvion wore ordinary priestly vestments. Later in a nearby field, under a circus big top he had rented for the day, the priest was dressed in a black T-shirt and a conjurer’s hat. On stage he did conjuring tricks for 15 minutes. Then his other guests took their turn. One was Gaetane Bloom who does magic shows at the Crazy Horse nightclub in Paris...” (Guardian, June 3, page 110)

What does all this indicate? It shows that the devil is desperate in his efforts to neutralize the Church. Having found it an impossible task to prevail against the Church and have it crushed outright, the devil is trying the other option - befriending and neutralizing Her. In this way the devil wants to make the Salt of the Earth, totally irrelevant and good for nothing but the dunghill. But the good news is that this is only another wil-o-the-wisp of the devil, a dream that can never materialize. Despite the appearance of things in the world, including the sponsorship and promotion of purely satanic churches to cause confusions, the one true Body of Christ, with membership drawn across several denominations, continue to match strong and remains unassailable. The light shines in the dark, and the dark comprehends it not! Do you belong? **Vol. 5 No 4 (2002)**

Devil on all-out assault: Da Vinci Code

Remember the infamous Bible Code claiming to have a formula for getting coded information by some esoteric manipulation of biblical text (see **CA! Vol 1 No. 1**)? The Da Vinci Code, claiming to originate

from the painter Leonardo Da Vinci is the latest scam offering esoteric information for the gullible.

As for all deceptions, the bolder and crazier, the more effective - and this latest arsenal from the enemy's camp is reportedly shaking the faith of many. Why, our faith is the only guarantee of our victory over the world! (1 John 5:4). Based on ideas which are taken largely from Satanism (see for instance, Lucifer dethroned by William and Sharon Schnoebelen) the so-called historical thriller laboured to portray the Lord Jesus not only as a mere mortal, but also as married with children - whose descendants supposedly now live in France! The novel, according to a review in RaptureReady, is "laced with passages celebrating feminism, anti-clericalism and pagan forms of worship". More than 6 million copies of this satanic material have been sold in the past 13 months during which time it has remained at the top of The New York Times hardcover fiction bestseller list. A movie version is reportedly currently in the making.

Happily, Christian writers and organizations are producing materials to counter this book by Dan Brown whose plot reminds one of Chris Okoties' *The Last Outcast*.
www.omaha.com/index.php?u_np=0&u_pg=57&u_sid=1078935

Vol. 7 No. 3 (2004)

Following clandestine moves to infiltrate Pastor Chuck's books, Calvary Chapel publicly denounces Contemplative and Emergent Spirituality!

The Calvary Church movement has found it necessary to take a definite public stand against the Contemplative and Emergent spirituality movement. A position paper addressed to pastors and posted on the Calvary Chapel website declares that "We do not look to the myriad of church growth programs that are being promoted for

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the building of the church, but to Jesus Himself, who said that He would build His church. We do watch as the many programs come and go in which man by his wisdom tries to do the work of God more effectively, but rather than enter into the programs of man, seek to continue to be led by the Spirit of God. We realize that the Scriptures warn us of aberrant doctrines that would come into the church, even going so far as to deny our Lord Jesus (2 Peter 2:1, Jude 1:4) ... We see a tendency towards this in what is commonly called the “Emergent Church” teachings...”

(www3.calvarychapel.com/ccof2/parsontoparson.pdf)

The statement comes on the heels of a recent discovery by Pastor Chuck Smith, the movement's founder, that his book, *When Storms Come*, had been tampered with without his knowledge or consent. The book was published by Thomas Nelson and included contemplative and Eastern meditation language, which apparently had been added by someone high in the Church hierarchy doing the final editing of the book. There has been a growing concern by many Calvary Chapel pastors that some pastors and teachers in the highly regarded Calvary Chapel movement have been promoting practices that are related to contemplative spirituality and Eastern religions. Pastor Smith told Lighthouse Trails (who brought the infiltration to his notice) that *When Storms Come* is being reedited and reprinted. See Full Report from Lighthouse Trails at www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/CCSpecialReport.htm

Vol 9 No. 3 (2006)

A VISIT TO MANY CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOPS IN NIGERIA WILL SHOW AN UNFORTUNATE TAKE-OVER OF THE SHELVES BY EMERGENT SPIRITUALITY BOOKS.

The principles these books market may indeed appear to “work” - which is why many are attracted to the occult in the first instance.

However these ideas sourced from the pit of hell, are only poor imitations of the true good and permanent successes available in the gospel unadulterated and faith unfeigned. For a list of key evangelical leaders/authors promoting Emergent spirituality, see www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/PressReleasemarhc252005.htm

Contemplative prayers

The danger with contemplative spirituality is not merely in the sympathy this practice promotes for eastern religious practices (including such occultic groups as Eckankar, Rosicrucian Amorc) as well as the use of Rosary/Prayer bead, (needed to keep tab on the repetitions/mantras); the real danger is in the rendering the mind of the practitioner open to a take over by forces of darkness in the state of altered consciousness. That is what it is all about, ultimately.

Sadly, highly revered Christian leaders are being blackmailed, coerced or intimidated into either supporting these demonic ideas, or at least turning blind eyes to them. The case of Pastor Chuck Smith, whose new book was infiltrated with these ideas unbeknownst to him, by highly-placed close confidants, is quite instructive and frightening.

"The first step in faith is to stop thinking about God at the time of prayer. Choose a single, sacred word or phrase that captures something of the flavor of your intimate relationship with God. A word such as Jesus, Abba, Peace, God or a phrase such as 'Abba, I belong to you...' Repeat the sacred word inwardly, slowly, and often. When distractions come... simply return to listening to your sacred word... Gently return [your mind] to your sacred word" - Brennan Manning, quoted in *Running against the Wind*, p. 171 www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/web2printer4w.php

Contemplative spirituality is actually not just about prayers alone. A Christian leader suggests the same technique be used in studying the

Scriptures - indicating that it is not the words read that matter ... only one must learn to open the mind ajar! **Vol. 9 No. 3 (2006)**

Pastor Chuck Smith Discontinues Purpose Driven Materials

At the annual pastors' conference of the Calvary Chapel, founder and Senior Pastor, Chuck Smith, has further confirmed the organization's irrevocable zero-tolerance for the so-called "Purpose Driven" and "Emergent Spirituality" movements (see last edition). He has therefore asked that those Calvary Chapel pastors who were going in the direction of the emerging church should no longer call themselves Calvary Chapel churches. Sadly, this include Pastor Smith's own son, Pastor Chuck Smith jnr, who seems to be currently grossly entangled in the new emergent movements. A notice placed on the Calvary Chapel Distribution website stated that all materials by Rick Warren were being withdrawn: "The teaching and positions of Rick Warren have come into conflict with us at Calvary Chapel. Pastor Chuck has directed us to discontinue this product effective immediately." Go to www.calvaryd.org/assets/uploads/RecallonStorms.pdf for the Recall Notice and Discontinued Items.

Both 'Purpose Driven' and 'the Emerging Church' promote contemplative spirituality, which is a belief system borrowed from Eastern mystic religions and that is contrary to biblical Christianity. Popular authors such as Richard Foster, Brian McLaren, Rick Warren, Henri Nouwen, Brennan Manning and many others teach contemplative spirituality (also known as spiritual formation). **Vol. 9 No. 4 (2006)**

American Family Association (AFA) withdraws support for Contemplative Spirituality

Earlier in August, Agape Press (a division of AFA) posted a favourable review of the book “Sacred Listening: Discovering the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola”, which is another in the series of books flooding Christian bookstores with teaching on so-called contemplative spirituality. (The "exercises of Ignatius Loyola" are based on a practice called lectio divina, in which certain words, could be from Scripture, are repeated slowly in a meditative fashion, turning them into a sort of mantra. This is nothing but the age-long practice of meditation as practiced in Eastern mysticism and occultic religions. However, it is heartening to note that following an article by the Lighthouse (and subsequent inundation of AFA by many phone calls and emails from people concerned about the review), the organization has not only issued a retraction of the book review, it has actually removed the book from their online bookstore. (Please see details

at www.fromthelighthouse.com/blog/index.php?p=168&more=1&c=1

Lighthouse Trails however notes that many Christian outlets, including AFA not only still promote several other books on contemplative prayer, but quite sadly, have refused to stock the two major books that forcefully and clearly expose the dangers of the contemplative prayer movement. (These books are “*Running Against the Wind*”, by Brian Flynn and “*A Time of Departing*”, by Ray Yungen) Clearly, many Christian bookstores stand the risk of considerable economic loss - as of course did the Ephesians cited in Acts 19:19 - should they be required to dispose off the many pure spiritual poisons they carry on their shelves. Meanwhile, while individual christian book sellers face this their own real end-time battle and pray through for God’s leading, the rest of us are better

off, being careful what stuff we gorge down from nice-sounding but spiritually shallow ideas under glossy covers! **Vol. 9 No 5 (2006)**

Emergent Church Movement preaches “Kingdom of Earth” for Barbarians

From the clear promises of the Lord Jesus in John 14 alone, it seems quite reasonable that any true and serious Christian Church should see the instilling of Heaven-mindedness in its members as priority duty. The so-called Emergent Church Movement however takes exception to such apparently “outdated” eye-on-the-heavens theology. One of the latest books from that camp is the *Barbarian Way* by Erwin McManus. In the book, McManus calls Christianity the “greatest enemy to the movement of Jesus Christ.” and recommends that his readers should be “Barbarians” rather than “Christians.” In the Barbarian worldview, *Christianity is just another of the world religions, in many ways no different from any other religious system such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam. Barbarians on the other hand “are not about religion; they're about advancing the revolution Jesus started two thousand years ago (p.6)* McManus suggests that in the same way that God has “abandoned” Judaism (see Rom. 11 for the Biblical accurate facts though!), God is about abandoning Christianity!

www.fromthelighthouse.com/blog/index.php?p=209&more=1&c=1

All this is of course setting the ground for the imminent massive physical attack on Christianity which Occultists see as the only remaining obstacle in their preparations for the emergence of the Antichrist (see for instance, Gary Kah’s One World Religion).

Making the same point in the latest of his eight books, “**The Secret Message of Jesus**”, published in April, the leading light of the

apostate Emergent Church Movement, Brian McLaren, contends that people can follow Jesus's way without becoming Christian. Christians should be more concerned about creating a just "Kingdom of God" on earth than about getting into heaven, he argues. This, of course, has been the traditional teaching of cults such as Jehovah Witnesses. (Reports from www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/09/AR2006090901155_pf.html)
Vol. 9 No. 5 (2006)

Emergent doctrine suffers setback in Cedarville University

The intensity of the desperate efforts to stealthily infect Christian institutions with heretical doctrines was vividly demonstrated at Cedarville University, Ohio, US recently. Thank God, at least in this instance again, the Truth has prevailed as the authorities at that Baptist institution cancelled the invitation they had earlier given to Shane Claiborne, spokeswoman for Emergent Doctrine, to come infest the institution with her message. See details at www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com.

Cedarville, one of the top Christian universities in the United States, is particularly noted for its creationist approach to scientific research and study, and its requirement of a Bible minor as part of all academic programs. It unabashedly boasts of its “commitment to the inerrancy and authority of Scripture” (<http://www.cedarville.edu/about/>).

In recent times however, the institution has been under pressure to discard its orthodox posture and embrace Emergent and Purpose-Driven ideas as enunciated by people like Brian McLaren and Rick Warren. [For more on these erroneous ideas, check www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/emergingchurch.htm.] For instance, two professors who had expressed disagreement with two other professors on Emergent doctrines were fired from the

University last year, indicating that it was the massive interest shown by Christians that led to the change of heart by authorities at CU with respect to Ms Claiborne. For more details, see <http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/019919.php> Vol. 11 No. 1

Our hot-selling Seeker Sensitive model not that effective, after all - Bill Hybell

Last edition, while we rejoiced at leaders (referring particularly to Wheaton College and Cedarville University) realizing their faults and backing out of unprofitable alliances, we lamented that others might have already been unduly and irreversibly influenced wrongly - meaning that all must be careful in learning from leaders. The Paul test in 1 Cor. 11:1 would be particularly useful. Below is another turn-around of some sort by another influential leader.

The Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago is the leading expounder of the so-called “seeker sensitive movement” which defines new paradigms guaranteed to bring explosive church growth, over the traditional method of growing a church via sound biblical discipleship and grooming in the Word. For well over a decade, the words of Bill Hybell were received as the gospel truth as far as church growth is concerned. However, in a new book which reports on the results of a multi-year study on the effectiveness of this program and philosophy of ministry, Willow Creek has admitted to making a big mistake in their paradigm. In the words of Hybell:

“We made a mistake. What we should have done when people crossed the line of faith and become Christians, we should have started telling people and teaching people that they have to take responsibility to become ‘self feeders.’ We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their bible between services, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own.”

Commenting on this development, Bob Burney of CrossWalk was blunt when he writes: “The report reveals that most of what they have been doing for these many years and what they have taught millions of others to do is not producing solid disciples of Jesus Christ. Numbers yes, but not disciples.” According to Burney, this means in summary: “If you simply want a crowd, the ‘seeker sensitive’ model produces results. If you want solid, sincere, mature followers of Christ, it’s a bust.” (www.crosswalk.com/news/commentary/11558438/page2/)

Clearly, even if only from their efforts to carry out the study and their honesty for boldly reporting it, it must be concluded that Willow Creek has been promoting their paradigm with the best of intentions and clear conscience. But the question again comes up, how do the thousands of ministries who have been led astray by all these seeker-sensitive methods now undo decades of following a faulty model - one that treats sound Biblical doctrine as out-dated? How many of them would even hear of these latter developments! For another commentary on the report from Willow Creek, see www.crosswalk.com/root/11560219/page0/ **Vol 11 No 2**

Emergent Church sees positives in Da Vinci Code

For those who have eyes to see, the Emergent Church Movement is gradually showing its true colours, recently with its “no big deal” attitude to the heretical Da Vinci Code. Of course, that is what “emergent” philosophy is all about anyway - never criticize any view. According to Pastor McLaren, the Da Vinci Code will to some extent correct the “status-quo, male-dominated, power-oriented, cover-up-prone, organized” church. He went on to categorically declare that a presentation that declared that Jesus did not die on the cross (hence no resurrection, of course), has his divinity conferred on him post

humously by a Church council, married Mary Magdalene and chose her to continue to lead the Church after his supposed demise (the male-dominated rank of the apostles were said to have kicked against this arrangement and sent Mary away to Gaul!), etc, - that such a presentation is actually at the same level as the ‘Left Behind’ novels which declare the Biblical position of an imminent rapture of the true Church (www.sojourners.com). For a wholesome review of Da Vinci code, go to www.lightforthelastdays.co.uk/docs/main/davinci_code.html Vol. 9 No. 3 (2006)

Eastern mysticism creeps, settles, into the Church

Not many children of God in Nigeria will be familiar with the terms “contemplative spirituality” or “spiritual formation”. Yet, increasingly many are being introduced into these concepts, without actually being aware of their origin, and quite importantly, their ultimate destination. A few others would have learnt “wonderful” aspects of these practices, after which they swallow the entire concept line, hook, and sinker – just as intended by the purveyors of these dangerous concepts. It is elementary that any deception worth its salt would be packaged within at least 90% innocuous and probably useful materials.

Christians of our generation owe the Lighthouse Trails Research (<http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/>) an immense gratitude for their painstaking efforts to clearly and patiently expose the great evil lurking behind the nice-sounding concepts of Contemplative spirituality. This massive and highly loaded site is set up specifically to alert the Church about the deadly threat creeping in into the Church from Eastern mysticism. As overall strategy, these new age gurus seek to draw Christians to occult practices rooted in Eastern mysticism under a veneer of Christian terminologies. The Bible talks

about the devil turning himself to an angel of light in order to deceive! (2 Cor. 11:14)

What can be so dangerous about ‘meditation’? Of course the Bible encourages us to “meditate” on the word of God, and one doesn’t need a Gbile Akanni retreat to appreciate the spiritual value of ruminating over spiritual, and even every day, matters – as Isaac was reportedly doing while awaiting the arrival of Rebecca, as recorded in Genesis 24:63

The problem is that midway into such excursions into spiritual formation/contemplative spirituality, the definitions change! Furthermore, as people are encouraged to trust their “fresh experiences” more than “stale words of Scriptures”, key Christian doctrines become suddenly “non essentials” and disposable. The rest of the story is sadly all too common. We have cited several instances in previous editions of Church Arise! - with the key point being that this is the major route facilitating interfaithism and through which the predicted end-time apostasy is taking roots. Please try and meditate on this point!

Many Christians naively think that when folks from the Spiritual Formation movement speak of meditation, they are referring to the use of our minds to ruminate again and again over the gems in God’s infallible word. The truth of the matter however, is that new agers and mystics mean something quite opposite, teaching that meditation should involve shutting out the mind and entering a state called “the silence” – gateway to apparently limitless interaction with the spirit world. As explained by The Lighthouse, “the silence” is nothing other than the well-known “altered states of consciousness”. The Lighthouse further explains that “the premise of contemplative spirituality is pantheistic (God is all) and panentheistic (God is in all). Common terms used for this movement are "spiritual formation," "the

silence," "the stillness," "ancient-wisdom," "spiritual disciplines," and many others.

The clear danger in entering altered states of consciousness (also achievable through many other means, including drugs, e.g. hallucinogenic "God's tea" - see vol 8 No 1; or even microchip implant – see vol 13 no 5) has been discussed in previous editions of *Church Arise!*. Such a state effectively gives demonic entities opportunity to take over the mind of the deceived.[How these entities manifest depend on the background and expectations of the persons involved – as ufos/extra-terrestrial aliens, 'angels of light', counselors, spirit guides, ascended masters, dead relatives, etc – see **Vol 7 No 3**]. Altered state of consciousness has attained an epidemic proportion in our generation and is on display in various situations – ranging from shamanism, various mediumistic possessions in 'traditional' religions (Sango, Osun, etc), through "spiritual churches" like Olumba's Brotherhood of Star and Cross or TB Joshua's Synagogue, etc; But evidently, the last bus stop this movement is headed for, is the Bible-believing Evangelical Church; hence, the need to sound again these rather unpalatable but very necessary alerts and warnings. Obviously, those that would be used by the devil to infiltrate the Church have to be respected and possibly idolized charismatic leaders. Otherwise, infiltration simply won't work. However, infiltration and consequent apostasy in the Church during the end times, is a recurring theme not only in Bible prophecy (e.g. 2 Thess 2:3, 1 Jhn 2:18), but is a well-articulated strategy of the devil. The mystic and occult prophet Alice Bailey is considered the mother of the modern New Age Movement. She was the chief channeler for the demon Djwhal Khul, (the Tibetan Master), who dictated through her nearly 20 books. In the 1957 volume, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*. Djwhal Khul (through Alice Bailey) revealed the key

strategies that the spiritual dark forces known as the “Hierarchy” hope to use to reveal or externalize themselves in the physical world.

One key strategy expressed is that the Christian Church would be infiltrated, and with its message modified, be transformed as an instrument for the Universal Religion of the 21st Century. According to Alice Bailey: *“there will appear the Church Universal, and its definite outlines will appear towards the close of this century... the Christian church in its many branches can serve as a nucleus through which world illumination may be accomplished... the church as a teaching factor should take the great basic doctrines and (shattering the old forms in which they are expressed and held) show their true and inner spiritual significance. The prime work of the church is to teach, and teach ceaselessly, preserving the outer appearance in order to reach the many who are accustomed to church usages. Teachers must be trained; Bible knowledge must be spread; the sacraments must be mystically interpreted, and the power of the church to heal must be demonstrated.”*(Alice Bailey, *The Externalization of the Hierarchy*, 1957, Lucis Publishing.) [Appendix A in ***One World Religion*** by Gary Kah]

All these we see unfolding all around us today, exactly as predicted! In the United States (arguably still the spiritual capital of Biblical Christianity), the currently acknowledged most popular and most influential pastor is Rick Warren. Unfortunately, his utterances, associations, and deeds over the recent years (see past editions of CA!) fits perfectly the Pauline description of “seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” (2 Tim 3:13.)

John Lanagan of My Word Like Fire Ministries has recently compiled some key quotes from key leaders in Contemplative Prayers and Spiritual Formation; and he shows how these quotes and leaders are affirmed and endorsed unto the Evangelical Church. by Pastor Rick Warren We cite a few of these quotes:

First, Gary Thomas describes what exactly is meant by contemplative/centering prayer: “It is particularly difficult to describe this type of prayer in writing, as it is best taught in person. In general however, centering prayer works like this: Choose a word (Jesus or Father, for example) as a focus for contemplative prayer. Repeat the word silently in your mind for a set amount of time (say, twenty minutes) until your heart seems to be repeating the word by itself, just as naturally and involuntarily as breathing

Brennan Manning and Tricia Rhodes, other top notches, add some practical details. According to Manning in his best selling **Ragamuffin Gospel**: “[T]he first step in faith is to stop thinking about God at the time of prayer ... simply return to listening to your sacred word. Gently return your mind to your sacred word.” (p. 212, 218)

And from Rhodes: “Take deep breaths, concentrating on relaxing your body. Establish a slow, rhythmic pattern. Breathe in God’s peace, and breathe out your stresses, distractions, and fears. Breathe in God’s love, forgiveness, and compassion, and breathe out your sins, failures, and frustrations. Make every effort to “*stop the flow of talking going on within you—to slow it down until it comes to a halt.*” (emphasis added)

Contrasting these well-known age-long new age mystic practices with Biblical meditation, Lanagan explains: “In biblical meditation, a repetitive word or chant is never used, the mind never ceases being active, and there is never an altered state of consciousness. Thus, one does not enter what is known as *the silence.*” Check our previous link of eastern meditation to catholic and Islamic repetitive chants in **Vol 9 No 3**

Pastor Rick Warren obviously understands Biblical meditation, as he demonstrated in a recent attempt to blunt the growing criticism of his

supports for eastern meditation. For example he said: “So when the Bible says meditate it’s not talking about **zone-out** in some psychic, New Age trance, or put your **mind in neutral and** contemplate your navel....” (see Lanagan’s article). But the problem is, even as Rick Warren is rightly describing biblical meditation with one side of his mouth, he also finds it necessary, due to a number of other considerations, to affirm and endorse those who spearhead new age meditation, with the other side of his mouth

For instance, of Gary Thomas (first cited above), Rick Warren states: “I think highly of his work ... he tells them [readers] how they can make the most of their spiritual journeys. He places an emphasis on practical spiritual exercises.”. And concerning Tricia Rhodes book, Rick Warren writes: “This book is a quiet-time companion for those who hunger for a greater intimacy with God. It offers fresh insight into little understood aspects of prayer and introduces a step-by-step journey of learning contemplative prayer.” Manning’s *Ragamuffin Gospel* is listed on Rick Warren’s website, under “[Must Read Books](#).” Lighthouse Trails points out that “It is this very book that reveals Manning’s true affinity with contemplative spirituality. In the back of the book Manning makes reference to Basil Pennington saying that Pennington’s methods will provide us with “a way of praying that leads to a deep living relationship with God.” However, Pennington doesn’t hide his believe that his prayer methods are based on Eastern mysticism. Advocating that Christians “should not hesitate to take the fruit of the age-old wisdom of the East and ‘capture’ it for Christ”, Pennington writes that “Indeed, those of us who are in ministry should make the necessary effort to acquaint ourselves with as many of these Eastern techniques as possible. Many Christians who take their prayer life seriously have been greatly helped by Yoga, Zen, TM

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and similar practices. (<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/pennington.htm>).

And so, through such “a little-to-the-right, a little-to-the-left” pandering, Rick Warren manages to build fanatical supports on both sides of the divide. Especially from those who put “tolerance” and “unity” far above Truth and sound doctrine. This method is further demonstrated in recent weeks, by Rick Warren under his Daniel Plan. Here, to teach and mentor Christians on the supposedly secular subject of well living, Warren has engaged as resource persons, well known and outspoken [New Age](#) who are guaranteed to bring in the subject of eastern mysticism into the business now and then in subtle or even not so subtle manner. It’s like asking Pastors William Kumuyi and Enoch Adeboye to come deliver a week-long mathematics seminar at a mosque; and pretending to believe the audience will somehow be left unexposed to Jesus Christ!

The dangers lurking behind Spiritual Formation, are best demonstrated by showing some of the “fruit” of Contemplative Prayer. As the Lord said, “By their fruits you shall know them”.

As shown by Lanagan, many of those who enter the *silence* frequently end up believing in pantheism or panentheism. (defined previously above) A prime example was [Sue Monk Kidd](#) who started off as a conservative Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher, but after being introduced to Thomas Merton, had her whole spiritual outlook changed. She eventually became a worshipper of the goddess Sophia, saying that God is [even in excrement](#).”

Another famous example is contemplative spirituality practitioner, Miller who wrote in his book ([Blue Like Jazz](#)) “For me, the beginning of sharing my faith with people began by throwing out Christianity and embracing Christian spirituality, a nonpolitical mysterious system that can be experienced but not explained” (p. 115).

In his last book, father of spiritual formation, **Henri Nouwen**, **writes:** “Today I personally believe that while Jesus came to open the door to God’s house, all human beings can walk through that door, whether they know about Jesus or not. Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God.”—From *Sabbatical Journey*, page 51, 1998 Hardcover Edition

Leonard Sweet gives an apt summary of where the movement is headed for: “Mysticism, once cast to the sidelines of the Christian tradition, is now situated in postmodernist culture near the center.... In the words of one of the greatest theologians of the twentieth century, Jesuit philosopher of religion/dogmatist Karl Rahner, “The Christian of tomorrow will be a mystic, one who has experienced something, or he will be nothing.” [Mysticism] is metaphysics arrived at through mindbody experiences. Mysticism begins in experience; it ends in theology.” (*Quantum Spirituality*, p. 76).

PS: Most of these quotes above are taken from Ray Yungen’s book, [A Time of Departing](#). and [Faith](#). by Roger Oakland These two books are highly recommended. They show clearly the destination anyone who delves into Spiritual Formation is headed for. The transformation won’t happen overnight, but the destination is sure. **Vol 14 No 1**

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LifeWay Stores Drops “Warning” Labels on Emergent Books

Meanwhile according to [a Christianity](#), LifeWay Christian Stores (resource department for Southern Baptist Convention) has decided to discontinue its “Read with Discernment” labels program. In the program which began in 2007, readers are alerted that certain books

they were about to buy may contain ideas, such as Spiritual Formation which are not mainstream Christianity. Lifeway now says the program "have kind of become irrelevant", but the truth is probably closer to the observation made by Lighthouse Trails. "We realize that for them to remove all contemplative aspects of their store, their shelves might be sparsely filled unless they turned to biblical publishers." The problem with much of organized Christianity today is that the cost is too high and the loss financially too great to make these changes. But the eternal cost of NOT doing what is right is far greater, and the implications could be staggering (<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=5769>) **Vol 14 No 1**

End of the world – May 21, 2011?

Have you heard the new date when the world would come to an end? Based on a supposed scholarly study by 88 year old Harold Camping, the planet earth will probably stop spinning come May 21, this year! Never mind that the failure of a previous date set by Mr Camping for the return the Lord Jesus (Sept 6 1994) was later explained as due to a "mathematical error". What's amazing is how much efforts are being put into pushing obvious unbiblical nonsense as these to the populace. (http://articles.sfgate.com/2010-01-01/bay-area/17466332_1_east-bay-bay-area-first-time-camping). However, all these attempts to confuse issues and probably get people to resignedly cast off restraints and become hardened to the news of the promised imminent return of the Lord, do confirm that the real end, though clearly stated in the Bible as scheduled for a date nobody will ever be able to predict in advance, is "at the doors" – Mathew 24:33. Now that's information worth all the energy, money and time we can muster to push around. **Vol 14 No 1**

End of the World – May 21 Hype!

To most of the world, there is no difference between the latest hype that the world would end on Saturday May 21, 2011 (about 6.00pm, US time) and the numerous previous ones. But people in the catchment area of the \$180 million worth propaganda machinery of Mr Harold Camping were not so unaffected. Confronted daily by dozens of imposing high tech bill-boards and other messages (2,000 bill boards and regular program on 66 radio stations), many found it rather difficult ignoring Mr Camping message. It is another evidence of the deteriorating mental state of people in this technology-saturated manipulative age that several people would still take such a message seriously, with many donating all their livelihoods to help spread the message. Thankfully, other Christian ministries prepared ahead to help the deceived face the new reality come Sunday May 22! Of course, May 22 also saw a swell in the number of people who got hardened to the message of Jesus’ imminent return – at a date when no one thinks. Oh that we would get a few “mad” folks too, who would be as mad as the Apostle Paul in preaching the Gospel! If Mr Camping and his associates could be so sold out on a lie, why do people who know the truth and claim to love the Lord find it so difficult becoming sold out for the Gospel? **MARANATHA! Vol 14 No 2**

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CHAPTER TEN: Apostasy

Priest openly denies Jesus as Son of God

A 54-year old priest in the Church of Ireland Rev. Andrew Furlong has repeatedly denied that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God. When put to Church trial for heresy, he chose to resign his office and keep what he calls his nearly 30-year conviction. The Bible states clearly that confessing that Jesus is the Son of God is a test to detect the spirit of the anti-christ (1 John 4:3, 15). Earlier, the Archbishop of Canterbury himself has said that we could not really be sure whether Jesus rose from the dead or not, and that the issue is not crucial to Christianity (Vol. 2 No 6). See however, 1 Cor. 15:14, 17 for what the Bible says on the matter. Back home in Nigeria, acclaimed Gospel singer, Sonny Okosun through his recent book is trailing the same path, and straining himself to ‘show’ that “Jesus did no miracle”. With developments as these, who but a hypocrite can still keep asking for signs that we are in the endtimes? **Vol. 5 No. 4 (2002)**

Christian Leaders urge boycott of new Gender-Neutral Bible.

A broad coalition of Church and Ministry leaders has urged a boycott of the controversial new gender-neutral version of America’s best-

selling Bible, the Today's New International Version (TNIV). More than 100 influential pastors, theologians and ministry heads, from conservative evangelicals to Pentecostals in the statement jointly signed said that "the TNIV is not sufficiently trustworthy to commend to the Church". Among those who signed the statement are Jack Hayford, James Dobson and Charles Colson. The gender-neutral Bible arose from the thinking that it is wrong and inaccurate, to think of God in terms of the male gender and that divinity/spirituality could be expressed equally well as either male or female. This is surely another of the so-called "post-modern" madness. And the objective in sight is hardly hidden: if the Bible cannot be physically removed from the earth, it can be effectively removed by being corrupted. Talk of contaminating the salt. Thank God, He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. **Vol. 5 No 4 (2002)**

The Open View of God - apostasy at the door!

In 2 Tim 3:1-5, the apostle Paul listed as the last of 19 characteristic markers of the end times, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof". We are now witnessing an avalanche of doctrines, all claiming to be Christian, but at the crucial points, plainly negating what is needed to bring out the benefits of Christianity. Hence, for instance, we have so-called Christians who agree with all standard Christian doctrines but believe that the Lord Jesus was a created being. Jehovah Witnesses, for example, belong to this group.

In their case, they believe that the Lord Jesus is one and same person as the archangel Michael - now upgraded. The Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints), on their own part, believe (among other heresies) in "the law of eternal progression" which proclaims that God is getting better everyday; and that we too are on

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our way to Godhood. There are numerous other cults, perhaps less known, peddling similar dangerous doctrines. One mark of these cults is that apart from the one or two crucial truths they are denying (and which they are very quiet about!), they go out of their way to affirm the other truths of Christianity - especially when it comes to demonstrating “love”, “tolerance” and “unity”. As we have repeatedly mentioned in this newsletter, the coming one world religion will be just the result of such unity and love that compromises on “Truth”. It is the antichrist’s last ‘joker’ for the world (2 Thess. 2:3).

Charles Colson, in his book referred to elsewhere in this edition of CA! included a 1984 article titled “God isn’t dead, Just Sick and Feeble”. In it, he showed the subtle efforts of Satan to deceive the people of God, no longer by claiming that there is no God (as in the days of Communism), but rather that God is very much alive, but limited in what He can know or do! The usual route taken in making such a preposterous claim is by appealing to the question of evil and pain in the world. Why does God allow evil if He is all-good and all-knowing and all-powerful?

Recently the matter was brought close home to us at Church Arise! A confused young Christian on our University campus at Ile-Ife had asked for our comments on the “Classical” and “Open” views of God. Our attitude that this was a mere academic question quickly changed to concern when we were later presented with the source of trouble for the young man. It was a book recently published and authored by Gregory A. Boyd, professor of Theology at a US Bible College and Senior Pastor of a Baptist Church. Deceptively titled “God of the Possible - A Biblical introduction to the Open View of God”, and based on the same shallow and carnal discussion of the question of sin and evil that Colson wrote about, the book set out to prove that God does not know everything that will happen in the future. Neither can

He guarantee what will happen! What was particularly alarming was the discovery that the book had just been acquired by the Library of the Christian youth organization that our inquirer belonged to. The spectre of several dozens of impressionable young and innocent truth-seeking minds being confronted with the flowery language and well-crafted sentiments of a “faith-destroyer” has compelled us to do this brief review, at least to provide a balance for the people of God, not only on our Campus but elsewhere.

Having with a stroke of the pen robbed God of His omniscience and sovereignty, Pastor Boyd nevertheless tells his readers that that was only a minor point. The big issue, according to him, is “love” and “tolerance”. How can a Bible-believing Christian get to this position? The author explains in the preface: “One evening ... I came upon 2 Kings 20 while reading my Bible.” The question that arose in his mind thereafter was: “how could God change His mind and add fifteen extra years of life to Hezekiah, if He indeed knows all future?” From such a tenuous position, Prof Boyd then went ahead to cast shadows of doubts on the practically innumerable passages that clearly declare the omnipotence, omniscience and sovereignty of God, challenging them with passages which his limited understanding and narrow interpretation adjudge to be contradictory! Such passages include Num. 14:11 where God asked Moses, “How long will this people despise me?” which in turn prompted Prof Boyd to ask: “If God wonders about future issues, does this not imply that the future is to some extent unsettled?” (pg 58-59). At a point, Prof Boyd was later to boldly declare that “the view of God as eternally unchanging in every aspect ... owes more to Plato than it does to the Bible” (pg 109). In short, passages like Gen. 18:14, Jer. 32:17, Mal. 3:6, Luke 1:37, Rom 4:21, Heb 13:8, Rev 1:1, 8, 18; Rev. 17:17, Rev 22:12-13 etc were all actually inspired by Plato!

Of course, Prof Boyd could not really deny that God claims not only to “know the end from the beginning”, but to actually be the “Beginning and the End”. What he attempts is a strange mathematics that adds together the “Yes” and “No” (as perceived by him) bible passages to arrive at the bizarre conclusion that the future is “partly settled” and is “partly opened”. Of course, this oxymoron of a partially settled future is nothing but pure TRASH. A matter is either settled or it is not. Appealing to such nuances and play on words, Pastor Boyd gently coaxes his reader into heresy and apostasy. It’s a shame that books as this now practically litter Christian bookshops and libraries, making our days most perilous indeed.

The author asked the question “what practical difference does the Open View make” (Chapter 3), and immediately answered in the first instance, that “the disagreement between the Open View of God and the future and the classical View is minor” (page 89). Indeed! Nevertheless, he went ahead to list seven areas in which he believes this view might positively affect the “quality of our faith and lives” - and why we must embrace it. It turned out that all seven are mere appeals to carnality or demonstration of ignorance of God. For instance, the Open View is supposed to make more intellectual sense, prevent fatalism, provide a [simplistic] answer to the question of evil, etc, and strangely, it is also supposed to accord more with the findings of Quantum Physics. On the last issue, one wonders what Physics, which deals with the study of Creation, has got to do with the Creator who can only be known by His revelation?

In reality, the danger the Open View of God and Future thesis poses to the faith of believers is enormous, and quite obvious. In the preface, the author fleetingly referred to “the controversy over this issue that has engulfed our denomination the last three years”. That is to be expected! Even more so, this thesis strives so hard to convince

us that God does not know all future and has no absolute power over all future. That His well-intentioned advice might end up fouled up. That He is really limited to the extent that He can help, etc, etc. So where does all these leave the Christian? With what benefit does the author intend to replace our faith in a completely dependable God he is labouring so hard to steal away? How dare a finite mortal judge the infinite God? For example, was God's purpose in the earthly life of Jesus really a failure - as our finite intellect must suggest? Who, including Prof Boyd, knows what else could have happened, had what he imagines to be a particular failure not happened? And who knows what is yet to happen and how that will interact with what has happened already? Only the God of the Bible claims to know. And only Satan inspires people to challenge God's claim!

Those familiar with hard-core satanic literature are aware that satanists (demons and humans) fervently believe they are still going to win in the coming war against God. It is the "Open View of God and the future" that gives them ALL their hope and expectation. What the Bible has revealed however is simple and clear. The devil WILL end up in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10) - nothing OPEN to chance there! Jesus will reign forever - not a mere wish, but a certainty! Likewise, humans have two clear choices - to doubt God (and follow Satan) and end up in hell fire (Mathew 25:41) or trust and obey the Lord Jesus and reign with Him forever (John 14:3). The FACT that the sovereign LORD God happens to know what each individual will eventually choose; and that He does not in any way interfere with this choice (that He might be justified when He speaks and be clear when He judges, Psa 51:4) does not change the equation one bit. Two Scriptures for Pastor Boyd and those in his camp to meditate upon:

*Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor
the power of God" (Mathew 22:29)*

*For ever O LORD, thy word is settled in
heaven. (Psalm 119:89)*

Vol. 6 No 1 (2003)

Hell let loose against the Church: Flurry of doctrinal attacks.

One American pastor likened it to the scam (419) e-mails from Nigeria - and how true! At least in the wonder that such incredulous, cheap, silly, endlessly recycled stories could continue to have any impact at all in otherwise reasonable people. How could wild "fairy tales" emanating from people whose lives, antecedents, beliefs, clearly show them as depraved pathological liars, openly foresworn to destroying the faith of Christians in the end times, nevertheless end up having considerable impacts on so many who profess the Christian faith?

First in recent times was the so-called **Gospel of Judas**, a proven heretical document, which was translated and rehabilitated by the National Geographical Society (purchase price for the original 13 papyrus scrolls was one million dollars!), seeking to "rehabilitate" the personality of Judas the treacherous and accursed apostle. According to the heretical document, Judas actually is the chief of all the apostles found worthy of fulfilling the sacred duty of helping the Saviour to the cross. For instance the Lord was quoted as saying to Judas, "You will exceed all of them, for you will sacrifice the man that clothes me. You will be cursed by the other generations and you will come to rule

over them...” This is in stark contrast to various passages of Scriptures such as:

“The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! Good were it for that man if he had never been born” - Mark 14:21 or –

“...ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place” - Acts 1:25 etc.

It is incredible that there could be apparently genuine Christians who will prefer to believe a 4th century heresy than the proven, established, settled, eternal Word of God - particularly the four Gospel records. For a good review and commentary on the heretical Judas Gospel see www.moriel.org/articles/discernment/church_issues/gospel_of_judas.htm

Of course the “rehabilitation” job on Judas is only a part of the bigger task of rehabilitating Lucifer - the ancient dragon, rebel, Queen of Heaven, Satan. The incredibly documented literary work by G.A. Riplinger, “New Age Bible Versions” carefully shows the motivation and methods of satanically-inspired “scholars” (making use of other naïve good-intentioned but carnal men) to doctor the very Holy Bible (in English) itself, and eventually portray Lucifer as a misunderstood personality. For instance, well-known pro-Satan scholar Dr Henry Angsmar Kelly (a Jesuit priest and professor at the University of California) recently reaffirmed that “Satan is the most maligned figure in history and has endured 17 centuries of unjustified character assassination.” (Sydney Morning Herald, Apr. 12, 2006)

Now the latest in the series of doctrinal attacks against the Church is Dan Brown’s *Da Vinci Code* book/movie. And again, for all the outrageous and outright lies (which could be easily debunked), many Christians are being swayed not only in the secularized societies of

Europe and America, but even right here in Nigeria. “A sister in our fellowship has stopped attending since reading the book” one campus Christian leader told Church Arise! at Ile-Ife recently!

The appeal of the pro-Freemasons storyline is in the mixture of ‘thrills’, suspense, and conspiracy theories - including known facts such as those concerning the catholic society of Opus Dei, with carefully blended and satanically inspired lies about the Lord Jesus Christ. Just like any other potent poison! Of course, all these developments are practical indictment of the various emergent techniques upon which such flagging faiths were established in the first instance.

It is really unfortunate that rather than be discussing how to neutralize the impact of this satanic masterpiece on the millions of unbelievers being exposed to it, the Church should be so plagued by the casualty in her very own ranks! The Church, rather than being a barrack of combat-ready soldiers, is turning out to be more of a maternity ward full of pregnant women and babies that need to be defended! At the last count, 45 millions hardback copies of the heretical Da Vinci Code book (now translated into 43 languages) have been sold; and millions worldwide are trooping to the movies to feed their minds with pure poison. In Singapore, under-16s are barred from watching “The Da Vinci Code” as they might see it as a factual movie. www.breitbart.com/news/2006/05/09/060509150140.mo08e148.html. See a 2003 review of the Da Vinci book at www.albertmohler.com/commentary_read.php?cdate=2006-04-12
Vol 9 No 3 (2006)

Episcopalians refuse affirmation of Jesus as unique Saviour

The Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA) at its 75th General Convention soundly rejected a proposed resolution that sought to

affirm “its unchanging commitment to Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the only name by which any person may be saved...” Earlier in the Convention, the Church had also thrown out the call by the rest of the Anglican Communion that ECUSA repents of its policies of ordaining openly homosexual clergy. Virtue Online reported one of the few faithfuls, Rev Donald Perschall of St John’s Episcopal Church in Centralia, Illinois, leaving the convention hall much shocked and disappointed: *"On top of leaving the Anglican Communion, we've decided to leave Jesus Christ behind as well,"* he lamented. Another highly placed faithful, Dr. Michael Howell of the Diocese of Southwestern Florida, put it bluntly: *"If we cannot affirm the unique salvific power of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are no longer a Christian church."* (theworldnow.wordpress.com/2006/06/23/episcopals-vote-no-to-affirm-jesus-is-the-only-way-to-god/) **Vol. 9 No 4 (2006)**

Meanwhile, many are heeding the “Come ye out of them” Call

As clearly stated in the Scriptures, end-time pressure is inevitably propelling many otherwise die-hard faithfuls across the barriers created by inertia, heeding the Lord’s call that loyalty be directed primarily at the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and not some man-made apostate organization (See 2 Cor.6:17, Rev. 18:4).

In response to the various antichrist positions which the Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA) is digging into, one of its key components, the Christ Church, Plano which “has been a mission of Jesus Christ for the last 21 years” held a specially called session on June 23 and 24. There, “the Vestry unanimously regretted the departure of ECUSA from biblical truth and the historic faith of the Anglican Communion and therefore declared its intention to disassociate from ECUSA as soon as possible.”

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<http://www.speroforum.com/site/article.asp?idcategory=33&idSub=134&idArticle=4209>

Likewise in the Presbyterian Church (USA), a major organization of lay members (The Presbyterian Lay Committee with a mailing list of 450,000) has issued a statement saying the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) "crossed a critical line of demarcation" in June by allowing local congregations and regional bodies some leeway to install openly gay clergy or lay officers who live with same-sex partners. The statement noted that the conservatives "are not capable of reversing the denomination's plunge into apostasy" any longer - so now they must find a way forward.

The Presbyterian Lay Committee statement also denounced the assembly for failing to reject a paper on worship of the divine Trinity that proposes gender-neutral alternatives to the traditional "Father, Son and Holy Spirit." The alternatives proposed to replace the divine Trinity includes "Mother, Child and Womb" or "Rock, Redeemer, Friend" The statement urged supporters to "explore fellowship with other like-minded Presbyterians," among other steps. www.christianpost.com/article/20060713/22932.htm

Also in down-under Australia, the country's third-largest Christian denomination, the Uniting Church, is being rocked by its reaffirmation of gay clergy in July. A group to be launched in October under the name of The Assembly of Confessing Congregations has decided that though they will still remain within the Church and maintain dialogue until absolutely pushed out, "we will... not focus our energy on trying to change them" any longer. <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/gay-clergy-split-uniting-church/2006/07/13/1152637810677.html>

Not all churches are tackling the issue of apostasy and corruption with civility as reported above however. In the Springfield, Illinois diocese

of the Catholic Church, tired about widespread predatory homosexuality among the clergy, two teenage boys simply chose to beat up the chancellor in a park after he had solicited them for sex. <http://www.speroforum.com/site/article.asp?idcategory=34&idSub=127&idArticle=4362> Vol. 9 No. 4 (2006)

Challenges of “A Common Word”

On Wednesday October 10, to mark the anniversary of a letter written by 38 top Islamic clerics to the Pope following his apparent criticism of Islam last year, a new 29-page letter was released, signed by 138 influential Islamic clerics, under the auspices of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Amman, Jordan. The missive challenged the Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and 25 other named Christian leaders, together with "Leaders of Christian Churches, everywhere" that it is time that Muslims and Christians recognized just how similar they are; and how that since between them, they comprised of 55% of the entire mankind - the fate of the world depends on their entering into a sustained religious dialogue. At the London edition of the world-wide launching of the letter, David Ford, Director of the Inter-Faith Program at the University of Cambridge, observed that the signatories cover “all the branches of Islam”.

Quoting from both the Koran and the Bible, and while noting **that “...Islam and Christianity are obviously different religions,”** the letter nevertheless harped on what it deems as common grounds between the two religions. These, in the opinion of the Moslem scholar-authors, include: 1) both require believers to believe in only one God, and it's the same God. 2) Both religions are founded on goodwill, not violence, and 3) that many of the fundamental truths, particularly the requirement to love fellow

human beings - are the same in both religions. Based on these, the letter says, "Muslims are duty-bound by the Koran to treat believers of other faiths with respect and friendship - and that Muslims expect the same in return." (Read the letter at www.acommonword.com./index.php?lang=en&page=option1)

At Church Arise! we certainly wish this latter "duty" were true: then we would not have had to feature with such regularity (see the front page of this edition, again), pathetic stories about moslems mauling and killing Christians - and that's talking of just Nigeria alone! Could it not be that the three premises identified above, and on which this "duty" is based, are shaky in the first place?

How lovely, noble and altogether reasonable, the final proposition is the Islamic letter!: "So let our differences not cause hatred and strife between us. Let us vie with each other only in righteousness and good works". But why would the Moslem zealots, from Bauchi to Sokoto to Somalia, not heed this sound advice coming from their own rank? The crucial issue, as we have often highlighted over the years, is whether individuals should be allowed (not to say encouraged), if they wish, to freely move from either of these two religions to the other? For the Christian faith, denying such liberty would tantamount to a negation of the clear last command of the risen Saviour and would usher in nothing but sure death of the faith. This then is the uncommon ground that needs to be addressed!

Responses To The Common Word Appeal

In his own response to the Islamic reasoning, Pope Benedict praised the "positive spirit" of the letter. Obviously, the Pope has decided to pipe down from his initial aggressive posture towards Islam, deciding now to pursue the path initiated by his predecessor, Pope John Paul - who actually initiated the modern interfaith movement with his gathering of all manner of religious and spiritual expressions together

at Assisi in 1986 (see CA! Vol. 2 No. 6) To demonstrate his seriousness, the pope further requested to meet the head of the Institute for Islamic Thought in Amman, Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal as well as the signatories to the letter. For other responses to the letter, particularly of Evangelical pastors, see www.acommonword.com./index.php?lang=en&page=responses.

Paul Proctor of News with Views however, has provided a very useful commentary on all these responses. Paul saw the falling of Christian leaders over themselves to accommodate the latest Islamic initiative as nothing short of betrayal of Christ for the sake of the mirage called ‘world peace’. He showed that, what the interfaith advocates are heading for is the elimination of **both** genuine Christianity as well as the original Islam, and the emergence of a brand new world religion!

First, Paul painstakingly showed that any plan requiring that Christians should unite with other religions and their deities is unscriptural and only amount to a disregard for God’s values in the name of tolerance/love. Scriptures cited include James 4:4, 2 Cor. 6:14-17, Ephesians 5:11 and Matthew 12:30

On whether the same God is served by both faiths, Paul simply reminded that “Jesus Christ is not the Son of Allah; and to even imply that He is by claiming to love the same “God” as Muslims is not only being dangerously deceitful - it's blasphemy!”

Responding to the joint statement endorsed by some 300 evangelical christian leaders, to the effect that “Peaceful relations between Muslims and Christians stand as one of the central challenges of this century, and perhaps of the whole present epoch,” and that “If we can achieve religious peace between these two religious communities, peace in the world will clearly be easier to attain”, Paul Proctor reminds that Jesus directly disagreed with such views in passages such as Matthew 10:34-36. Evangelism and soul winning, Paul insisted, is

the central challenge in Christianity! **To read the whole article by Paul Proctor, visit**

www.newswithviews.com/PaulProctor/proctor137.htm

At Church Arise! we believe that while members of all faiths must learn to co-exist peacefully with mutual respect for one another, nevertheless each religion must be allowed to freely espouse its tenets and whosoever wishes to try any of them, should be free so to do. This is the ultimate test of tolerance and true love!

“WHO IS HE THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD, BUT HE THAT BELIEVES THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD? “ 1 JOHN 5:5

– Vol. 10 No. 6

Recent Interfaith meetings Highlights:

LEADERS of the world's main religions kicked off an annual interfaith peace summit in Naples today with calls for a global organisation uniting their faiths. Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, Israel's chief rabbi, Yona Metzger and the imam of the United Arab Emirates, Ibrahim Ezzeddin, were among those attending the gathering. Hey, do you know what's going on around you, even right now? What alliances YOUR church is entering into on your behalf?

On November 6th, 2007, in an unprecedented event, Pope Benedict XVI received the Islamic King of Saudi Arabia at the Vatican for an undisclosed agenda. At the meeting King Abdullah presented the Pope with a golden sword studded with jewels. (Associated Press, Nov. 6, 2007).

On November 13th, 2007, a gathering of leaders from the Eastern Orthodox churches met with Pope Benedict who declared the following:

- *The Pope is the first and highest over all Orthodox patriarchs.*
- *Rome is the first “Bench” or headquarters.*
- *The Church of Rome will prevail and govern with love.*

(ERT News, Nov. 15, 2007, ERT Radio, Athens, Greece.) **Vol. 10 No. 6**

But ‘intolerant’ Pentecostals can’t be tolerated!

Apparently the only religious group whose views cannot be accommodated by the Pope in the unfolding new religion, is the Bible-believing “Jesus is the only way to the Father” (Jhn. 14:6) Pentecostal movement. Earlier in May, on a trip to Brazil, Pope Benedict XVI had described Pentecostal churches as “sects” which use aggressive tactics to win souls. The Pope’s grouse is not unconnected with the drastic drop in number of catholics (from 90% of the population in the 1960s to only 67% in 2005 as noted by the Associated Press. This, the Vatican ascribed to the “increasing rise of Protestant evangelical communities in Latin America, Africa and elsewhere” (www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,312650,00.html) **Vol 10 No. 6**

Eminent Christian signatories back out of “Common Word” response

In the last edition, we featured the letter written by 138 Islamic leaders suggesting that the same God is served by Christians and Moslems alike; and that a Common fundamental principle links the two dominant monotheistic faith together, compelling that they close

ranks and launching out from a kind of hybrid faith, jointly square up to the task of making the world a better place for mankind. One hundred evangelical pastors in the US responded with a letter of their own, praising the Islamic initiative, apologizing for perceived intolerance of Christians towards Moslem, and offering to close ranks as requested by the Islamic faithful.

However, top administrators from Wheaton College, one of the most influential evangelical colleges in the United States, who had earlier signed the joint evangelical reply now say they have had a re-think, and can no longer in good conscience continue to endorse that joint statement.

According to Wheaton College president Duane Litfin, "I signed the statement because I am committed to the business of peace-making and neighbor-love ... I did not savor the document's unnuanced apology section..." Also backing out are provost Stanton Jones and Chaplain Stephen Kellough of the same University.

The so-called "Evangelical Response" had drawn sharp criticism from highly respected theologians including R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who called it a "profound disappointment". John Piper, pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church, issued a public statement criticizing the document, emphasizing that the love of God¹ for Christians is starkly different from that of Islam. According to Pastor Piper, "The love of God is ... uniquely expressed through Jesus Christ as the propitiation for our sins because He died on the cross and rose again. All those things, Islam radically rejects, so they do not believe in the love of God we believe in".

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In withdrawing his endorsement for the joint statement, Litfin said he was not pressured to make the withdrawal, only that "It was simply a matter of conscience, combined with the fact that I had put the College on the line in a way I was no longer comfortable in defending." He emphasized that he could not support a statement that speaks as if Quran's Allah and the God of Christians are the same.

For us at Church Arise!, the only sad part of this heart-warming development is that many other evangelical leaders who had signed largely on the example of the influential Wheaton leaders may not find it easy retracing their own steps! For instance, one of the signatories who admits to having been influenced by "other evangelical leaders more knowledgeable in Islam than himself" into signing the letter was the President of the very influential National Association of Evangelicals, Rev. Leith Anderson. According to the Christian Post, Anderson said the unnamed "more knowledgeable" evangelical leaders had suggested to him that "not signing could be damaging to ... Christian brothers and sisters who live among Muslims". "So I agreed to add my name to the letter" www.christianpost.com/article/20080104/30738_Evangelicals_Rebuke_NAE_Leaders_over_Islam_Letter.htm.

Meanwhile, the Vatican is currently preparing to receive the 138 Islamic scholars for more dialogue, with the first meetings held early February - <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=11727> Vol. 11 No. 1

Jacob Prasch defends Chuck Smith against Purpose Driven attack

Notable Bible teacher, Jacob Prasch of Moriel Ministries has written a comprehensive article addressing the issue of "doctrine" versus "experience" which kind of summarises the Emergent Movement,

currently raging like wildfire and wreaking havocs in the Church of God.

The article was actually written in defense of Chuck Smith, Roger Oakland and Dave Hunt who had been critically attacked by Richard Abanes of Saddleback Church in reaction to their expressed position regarding Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Agenda.

Describing the response by Mr. Abanes as "an exercise in circumlocution failing centrally and candidly to address the various concerns voiced to the unbiblical nature of The Purpose Driven Agenda" Dr Prasch went on a systematic excursion exposing the progression of errors in recent times beginning from issues such as so-called "Christian yoga", through the Toronto laughing revival, the re-packaging of Norman Peel's positive thinking ideas in Christian language, etc, and eventually to the Purpose driven agenda of Rick Warren - which Prasch sees as opening the door to the Emergent doctrine being championed by Brian McLaren.

For this very important article, which ends by repeating Prasch's standing challenge of Rick Warren to an open "properly formatted and filmed webcase debate" on his Purpose Driven ethos, see http://www.moriel.org/articles/notice_board/in_defense_cc_hunt_oakland.htm (E-copy of the article is attached with this edition for our e-subscribers). **Vol. 11 No. 1**

Deeds, not Creeds, Rick Warren pleads

Slowly but steadily, according to him, influenced largely by his wife's battle with cancer and the huge success of his book "The purpose driven life", Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church has gone full humanist.

In a widely-reported interview with the Washington Post, Rick Warren affirms that he is reviewing and broadening his perspectives

(he had an “epiphany”) on issues he used to consider as “non-negotiables” for the evangelical Christianity. Specifically he says he now regrets his emphasized opposition to abortion, same-sex marriage, and similar issues; and wishes henceforth to focus more on restoring “civility” to American culture. He explains what that means: “I just think we're becoming too rude ... you have no right to demonize someone just because you disagree with them.”

Of course, this is absolutely true - only that it is promoters of anti-christian values that are the crude rude ones, blackmailing, harassing and demonizing any uncompromising Christian. Ex-gays, creationist scientists, holiness preachers etc can tell the story better! Unfortunately, these really rude folks are not likely to listen to the preaching of Mr Warren, which then amounts to requesting Christians to keep the more silent on holiness issues. Warren’s co-traveller on the road to emergent doctrine, Brian McClaren, had earlier called for a moratorium of 5 years on any debate concerning the morality of homosexuality and lesbianism in the church.

This is clearly wrong and unacceptable! And Mr Warren’s position is hardly a novelty. In fact, a recurrent major issue in Christianity since the days of the Apostles has always been: should we or should we not give in to those who attempt to “creep in unawares”, trying to contaminate the salt of the gospel?

In the same interview, Rick Warren again confirms his involvement with the Council on Foreign Relations (which he tried to deny a while ago, even after having boasted about it previously - see Vol. 10 No. 1). Here it is confirmed that he is working [on behalf of the CFR] together with Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention on a **“Religion and Foreign Policy Meeting Series”** that has to do with the “impact of religious doctrine on foreign policy.”

Concluding his interview with the Washington Post, Mr Warren bluntly makes it clear that conversion (i.e. soul winning) is certainly out of his new agenda, declaring: "People are so worried churches are going to be about conversion... Everyone has a world view. Christianity is a world view... I don't care why you do good as long as you do good." Even, the secular Washington Post could not help but observe that that represents "a shift".

The difference between humanism and Christianity has always been clear: humanism sees the problem of mankind in only one dimension - physical. Consequently, the solution to these problems is believed to lie with man and man alone. Christianity on the other hand, sees Jesus as the only solution to the problems of mankind, which problems have to be dealt with from their non-physical dimensions before an enduring physical solution can be obtained. A Church that does not believe in "conversion" i.e. soul winning is a compromised and dead Church. Such, Pastor Warren would want us all to be! **Vol 11 No. 1**

American Missionary kidnapped in East Africa - for opposing Rick Warren

Two members of staff of Evangelist/Missionary Loren Davis were on Sept 26, kidnapped in Nairobi, Kenya at machine gun point and held apparently for opposing Rick Warren's Global Peace Plan in Rwanda, which is the first Purpose-Driven Country. Minutes after Davis had finished meeting with 300 Kenyan pastors to warn them about the dangers and pitfalls of Rick Warren's Purpose Driven programs, his car was hijacked as it moved out of the parking lot, by two unidentified armed men. Fortunately, Pastor Davis had been invited to ride with his crusade manager, and so was not in his usual vehicle, well marked with the ministry logo. About thirty minutes later the

hijackers released both vehicle and men, probably on realizing that the evangelist himself was not aboard. Davis who has planted 132 churches throughout Africa over the last two decades is warning Christian leaders and pastors in Africa about Rick Warren and the Purpose Driven program. According to Davis, Rick Warren's teachings are often unscriptural and contain serious New Age implications.

www.lighthouse-trails-research.com/lorendavisincident.htm

While it is clear that Rick Warren himself could not have been part of the plot apparently carried out by parties who do not want anything impeding the coming financial largesse from the United States under the Rick Warren Plan, it is on record that Warren has dubbed those who do not endorse his covenant as “resisters” and “pillars” and it is not clear how he hopes to eventually deal with this group. <http://www.abrahamic-faith.com/False-Teachers.html>. See last edition of Church Arise! for our opinion on Rick Warren's interfaith-based P.E.A.C.E. programme. **Vol. 8 No 6 (2005)**

Ecumenicals decry lack of sufficient participation by Evangelicals and Pentecostals

Readers will recall that in the last edition we mentioned the on-going desperate attempts by the ecumenical, one-world religion organization, to officially draw Bible-believing churches into its fold; and that we must all be vigilant to avoid being the Judas. The report below further highlights the importance and urgency of the matter:

The largest ecumenical body of churches, the World Council of Churches (WCC) together with two other church bodies - the National Council of Churches (NCC) and the Armenian Apostolic Church of America held a symposium on October 22 at the Interchurch Centre in New York to discuss challenges facing the

ecumenical movement in the 21st century, one of which is the marked absence of Evangelicals and Pentecostals from the ecumenical table. One panelist called the inclination to not include Evangelicals and Pentecostals indicative of a “disturbing isolation from the wider Church.” General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America, the Rev. Dr. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson concurs. “Churches that are growing the fastest are not connected to the ecumenical fabric,” he said. “Pentecostals, evangelicals are nowhere to be found at our meetings.” However, citing “The Micah Challenge” and “Rick Warren’s new HIV/AIDS initiative” in particular, Granberg-Michaelson notes the possibilities of finally being able to incorporate evangelicals and Pentecostals into the ecumenical body through these their social movements.

The keynote address, delivered by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, the WCC’s general secretary, touched upon the same need to include other church movements including other faiths, including Islam and the New Age, described as “a spirituality understood as existing over and against organised religion”... CHRISTIAN TODAY - by Rhoda Tse - October 25, 2005
<http://www.christiantoday.com/news/church/ecumenical.bodies.reveal.lack.of.evangelical.pentecostal.presence/856.htm> **Vol. 8 No. 6 (2005)**

Hal Lindsey parts with TBN - over radical Islam

The end-time separation of goats and sheep, such as is happening in several mainstream churches over the homosexuality issue for instance, is reaching other traditional Christian establishments as world situations continue to demand that those sitting on the fence make a clear definite stand.

First it was the Trinity Broadcasting Network (World's largest Christian network) that abruptly denied one of its founding clients, Hal Lindsey, airtime for his regular highly successful twice-a-week programme, *The International Intelligence Briefing*. A shocked Lindsey had driven hundreds of kilometers to TBN studio to come record the programme when he was told that it was being put on hold for 6 weeks. At first TBN insisted the denial of right to Lindsey was just the traditional hiatus over Christmas. But later it admitted the real reason was that they are not comfortable with the position of Lindsey over radical Islam and Israel. Though TBN spokesman John Casoria said he could not point out specific examples from Lindsey's programs that were anti-Arab or anti-Muslim, he indicated that the network is not comfortable about how Muslims are portrayed. He added, "TBN is a worldwide ministry; we have an entire channel that airs 24 hours a day, seven days a week in Arabic," he said. "We are trying to reach the Islamic world and open a dialogue with them regarding Christ and Christianity."

Lindsey however affirms that he has never cast the Arabs as a race in a bad light and that his program is in any case not shown in the Middle East. He then wonders: "If we don't tell the world the truth, then who will? The government won't. The mainstream media won't. Foreign powers won't. Al-Jazeera won't... I can't understand how any Christian that is aware of the dangers radical Islam poses to our nation, Christians worldwide and the nation of Israel can issue a mandate to soft-peddle the truth about it". Hal said his message on IIB has not changed in the past 12 years that he's been on TBN. Guess then who has changed! Defending his traditional support for Israel Hal said: "As the Bible predicted would happen in the days just before Christ's return, Israel is hated by almost the entire world. I believe

there never has been a time when Christians need to support Israel's right to exist within secure borders more than now”

TBN's Jan Crouch had said the contract may be reviewed after the 6 weeks 'hiatus', but in a later development, Lindsey said such a review will not be necessary again as he will be looking for other outlets for his program: "I've been happy with my opportunities for ministry at TBN. I'm thankful for the platform TBN gave me. I will speak at the gates of hell as long as they don't tell me what to say. But it appears that they are now telling me what not to say - so sadly, it's time to move on." His new half-hour news and commentary series will be called "The Hal Lindsey Report." A new video version of it will also be streamed on Lindsey's website (<http://www.hallindseyoracle.com/>)

Lindsey is one of the most respected teachers on the end times, and is the author of the best seller "The Late Great Planet Earth". That book alone sold over 32 million copies making Hal the most read non-fiction author alive.

www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=48163

Many students of the end-time events are not surprised at all at Hal's break with TBN which is viewed as a compromised establishment. For example Chris Lawson wonders how Hal and TBN could have together come thus far in the first instance knowing their completely different attitudes towards the New Age movement. Please visit Chris' site <http://srn-chrislawson.blogspot.com/2005/12/inside-trinity-broadcasting-network.html> for pictures taken inside TBN showing the organization's deep endorsement of the New Age Catholic 'Mary'. (see CA! Vol. 3 No. 6, http://www.churcharise.org/3_6.pdf on the New Age Queen of Heaven, blasphemously labeled as Mary - which is the binding force of the One World Religion movement). A critical review of Hal

Lindsey's life and ministry, warps and all, is posted at www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/exposes/lindsey/lindsey.htm
Now, all these call for extreme care and discernment on the part of children of God, especially those who have become addicted to cable channels like TBN. Perhaps it is for times as these that God is raising up new Christian satellite channels, such as the Dove Media of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (CA! Vol. 8 No. 3) which can be reached at <http://www.doveradionetwork.net/> Vol. 9 No. 1 (2006)

CONFUSION IN THE CHURCH

Understanding and Relating with Israel

Many believers have always confused the relationship between the Church (Bride of Christ) and Israel (His brethren). The Apostle Paul addressed this issue frontally in many places (e.g. Rom 11:11, 25), yet many, for one reason or the other, still have got it muddled up. We are currently in the Church Age, and the way of salvation, the Ark of Noah as it were, is the Gospel and only the Gospel. However the Church is perhaps already in the "injury time" of her stay on Planet Earth. The redemption of Israel, when God will relate with the world through Israel again, is at the corner.

It is therefore sad to see the Church in open, misguided antagonism of Israel in many instances. An example is the recent vote by the Church of England Synod to review its £2.5m investment in Caterpillar, a bulldozer manufacturer on the grounds that the nation of Israel uses Caterpillar bulldozers in destroying Palestinian residences which were being used by terrorists. A UK based Rabbi, Allan Clancy, has soundly denounced this "totally unfair and biased" move, rightly pointing out that the same bulldozers were also used "by the Israelis to withdraw... the Jewish settlements from Gaza". More poignantly the Rabbi added: "I didn't hear anything about the Synod criticising

the Palestinians for destroying Christian villages where the Israelis tried to protect them"
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4729024.stm> Vol. 9 No. 2 (2006)

In Berlin, Priest burns himself to death over Islam

Times online has reported that a 73 year old retired priest, Roland Weisselberg, doused himself in petrol and set himself on fire in a German monastery, apparently frustrated by the increasing influence of Islam in Germany and the apparent inability of the Protestant Church to contain it. Witnesses said that Weisselberg climbed into a building site next to the monastery church, where a Reformation Day service was being held and shouted "Jesus and Oskar" before setting himself ablaze. The latter name was an apparent reference to Oskar Brüsewitz, a priest who burnt himself in 1976 in protest against the Communist regime in East Germany. Martin Luther had spent six years as a monk in that same Augustine monastery at the beginning of the 16th century.

Times of UK reports that "relations with Muslims have been a matter of intense debate in Germany in recent months, stoked by the cancellation of a Mozart opera in Berlin amid fears that it could provoke Muslim violence, and a speech by the Pope in Sept in which he quoted from a medieval text linking the spread of the Islamic faith to violence." It is not clear what impact this suicide action will have on the attitude of the protestant church. The Protestant Bishop of Saxony, Axel Noack, said the suicide had shocked the community and that he hoped it would not hurt relations between Christians and Muslims."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0%2C%2C13509-2434625%2C00.html> Vol. 9 No. 6 (2006)

Rick Warren OK With Harry Potter

In the June 21st issue of his weekly e-newsletter to Pastors and Church leaders around the world, Rick Warren added a link titled "Recommended Reading List," developed by contemplative promoter James Emery White. Coming out with glowing recommendations on the list are the Harry Potter series of books, which books have been demonstrated to be a mass selling point for the occult world. See articles by Ray Yungen at www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com

Interestingly, five and a half years ago in 2001, Rick Warren had also run a story on his website that spoke up *against* Harry Potter. The article by Robert McGee made a clear statement that Harry Potter was dangerous for kids because of its witchcraft element. (www.pastors.com/RWMT/?ID=28&artid=1274&expand=1).

Commenting on this significant change in posture by Rick Warren in the space of 6 years, Lighthouse Trails research wrote: "All we can say to that is, '**You've come a long way Rick Warren!**'" Vol. 10 No. 5 (2007)

Jimmy Carter convenes US Baptist Church around Social Issues

Jimmy Carter, ex US President, and well-known hard core "green" rallied some of his Baptist brethren together in Atlanta for a 3-day meeting at the end of January. The stated object of the conference was to fashion a New Covenant, drawing together the various diverse groups in the Baptist church, towards taking a common ground about specific social issues.

Supposedly a "big-tent diversity" meeting, Sociologist Tony Campolo, however reportedly scanned the approximately 10,000 attendees and pegged it at about 90% white, a significantly skewed demographic representation considering the percentage of whites in the US general

population (74%). Religious News Service also found it germane to add in its report covering the event that Campolo spotted “a brightly coloured stole to show solidarity with gay and lesbian Baptists”; and that some attendees at the diversity meeting “are asking how far Baptists are willing to go without going too far”. (<http://www.christiancentury.org/article.lasso?id=4478>)

Key speakers included Al Gore, one of the infamous three musketeers of Environmental issues, together with occult masters, Maurice Strong and Gorbachev (see **CA! Vol. 4 No. 3**). Suddenly, Al Gore seems to have remembered his Baptist roots. “We who are Baptists are not going to tolerate heaping contempt on God’s creation” he thundered, referring to those who would not uncritically subscribe to the theory that Man’s activities are responsible for global warming. Another participant, Jan Moore from Florida concurred and warned that “it is our job to bug them until they get on board” Rick Warren’s new message of tolerance and civility would certainly be useful here! Bill Clinton, who took a break from his wife’s presidential campaign to attend the conference, spoke in milder language. “We have to meet this schism with respectful disagreement” he suggested. “We must approach those who disagree with an outstretched hand, not a clenched fist” he appealed.

However Religious News Service noted that the 3-day meeting “was largely boycotted by conservative Southern Baptists” with one SBC spokesman calling it a Democratic Party prayer meeting. Other major speakers at the meeting included “well-known author, John Grisham, who according to Baptist Press, “criticized the Southern Baptist Church where he grew up for teaching that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God”. Churches holding such beliefs, he called “intolerant and harmful to the cause of Christ” (www.onenewsnow.com/Church/Default.aspx?id=66257)

In closing out the event, Carter left no one in doubt what were the major social issues he had in mind in convening the meeting. He indicated he would be reconvening “key leaders in the coming months for strategy sessions on how to deal with such issues as the environment and immigration”. Reports from: <http://www.understandthetimes.org> and <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/gores.green.message.resonates.with.baptists/16621.htm> **Vol. 11 No. 1**

“Deeds not Creeds” Credo further amplified

The “deeds” rather than “creeds” position of Rick Warren is being pushed further to its logical position in Toronto, Canada with the recent launching of Gretta Vosper’s book: *With or Without God: Why the Way We Live is More Important than What We Believe*. Vosper, has been pastoring West Hill United Church in Toronto for the past 10 years and is considered “one of the bright, if unconventional, minds within the United Church, Canada's largest Protestant Christian denomination.”

In the book, she describes the Lord Jesus as no more than a “Middle Eastern peasant with a few charismatic gifts and a great posthumous marketing team.” She further enunciates her fervent desire of seeing our world come to a point “when the label Christian won’t even exist”, and “when the central story of Christianity will fade away.” Ms. Vosper (she wouldn’t answer to any official religious title) does not believe in the Virgin Birth, the Resurrection, the miracles and the sacrament of baptism. And she proudly declares that the Bible is just a book among other books.

What then does she believe in? According to the National Post, “the focus of her ‘spiritual’ life is love. And since love is the common bond between all people, it is really the only thing worth believing in.”

Apart from her expressed desire to get rid of Christianity as we know it, Vosper would want “salvation to be redefined to mean new life through removing the causes of suffering in the world...” (www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=490325). Hence, the bottom-line is getting rid of human suffering, poverty and misery. That surely strikes a chord with the UN Millennium Development Goals and similar efforts being peddled by various “faith-based” groups, including Rick Warren. In another place, Vosper clarifies that the “love” she believes in is a “radically inclusive love” - meaning a love that accepts people for whatever they are, without any criticism, correction or concern. Certainly there is nothing called “sin” or “hell fire” in this kind of self-deluding “love”! http://progressivechristianity.ca/ccpc/index.php?Itemid=46&id=213&option=com_content&task=view) **Vol. 11 No. 3**

“Just the story, not the substance” gospel debuts

The London Daily Mail on March 26 featured the story of Anglican vicar, Rev Robert Harrison, author of the new book, *Must Know Stories* which was coming out the day after. In the book, Rev Harrison chose 10 Bible stories for re-telling. Daily Mail’s Paul Sims gives some peep into the book: “Goliath is a celebrity binge drinker, Eve is a sex-obsessed man-eater and Noah's wife wants to kill him - welcome to the updated Bible.”

Mr Harrison, defended his decision, saying he was doing it to encourage people to read stories “that are so utterly part of our culture... It's better to tell the story controversially than not at all.” He added. The question, of course, is what is wrong with telling the story the way it really is! Or if Mr Harrison wishes to write his own fiction, why not simply go ahead without calling it “Bible stories”?

Read Full Report at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-546408/Reworked-Bible-stories-feature-Goliath-drunk-Eve-sex-mad.html>

In but a short step away from Mr Harrison's position, similar fictions are being written; and are being presented as the real story. A recent example being the documentary released in May, titled "Bloodline" with the usual thrash of Jesus having being married to Mary Magdalene and the lineage of their supposed biological children existing as some cultic group somewhere in France, and all that. See article by WorldNetDaily at

www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=63121 Vol 11

No 3

Our shame, Shallow Christianity

Recent local events in South West Nigeria should be enough grounds for concern about the real depth of Christianity in the land. Issues such as the "acid rain" scare, "Mini-skirt and hell" vision, and now "Erelu Agbaye" show that most Church goers are yet far from understanding what the Christian faith is all about. In the most recent event, one wonders how a self-confessed occultist, without any conversion experience (e.g. repentance, discipleship) could just turn into a celebrity evangelist overnight with massive followership. Claiming to have been "the most powerful woman in the world", she has only one basic message. In an admixture of occultic folklores and incoherent, easily disproved data, she directly cast aspersion on the integrity of proven and well-respected teachers of the Word; who are in one swipe mixed together with known charlatants like Temitope Joshua of the Synagogue. - Vol. 13 No. 2

Rick Warren 'Reboots' PEACE Programme: New Boost for "One World Religion" Agenda

APOSTASY

America's acclaimed No 1 Pastor, the highly likeable Rick Warren has stepped up his poverty-fighting P.E.A.C.E. programme – which aims (according to the letters of the acronym forming the word) to 'Plant Churches', 'Equip leaders', 'Assist the poor', 'Care for the sick', and 'Educate the next generation'. In this new phase tagged PEACE 2.0, Warren went one step ahead to replace 'Plant Churches' with 'Promote Reconciliation' – an inevitable, but significant step which further highlights the spirit behind the plan.

In launching PEACE 2.0 on May 22, Mr Warren had invited 1700 senior pastors from all the 50 states of the United States, and 39 other countries - including Nigeria. Times magazine was one of the media houses invited to cover the by-invitation-only event. According to the Times, even though "few details" of the actual PEACE 2.0 initiative were given, nevertheless, the whole house fell over themselves in uncritically giving their "enthusiastic" support. Warren was later quoted by the surprised magazine as saying "I knew they were already on board". Warren also intends to send DVDs of the proceedings to a further 30,000 churches that have participated in his rigorous "40 Days of Purpose" programmes.

Aspects of the programme, which even a secular organization like the Times discerned as going to be "extremely complicated and possibly controversial" will include the tension between traditional para-church missionary organizations who, presumably, might feel threatened by the PEACE initiative which seeks to bring back missionary activities within the ambit of the local Churches. We feel Warren's citing of the precedence in Act 13 is quite appropriate in this regard, and note that he already is bridging gaps with the affected groups.

The second obvious area of controversy however is far more fundamental. As we have been reporting over the years, Pastor

Warren is so carried away by his vision of making the world a better place for all, that he is willing to do so at the expense of the Christian faith. For one, the local Churches who are the arrowhead of the PEACE initiative are being encouraged to actively collaborate with other religious (and irreligious) faiths in carrying out the assignment. In PEACE 1.0, Warren had specifically stated that the “man or woman of influence” that the Churches should seek partnership with could be a Muslim, Mystic, Jew, Gay, or one with New Age propensities – in short, any belief or practice system goes! (see <http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/index.php?p=1096&c=1>)

Apparently, the end justifies the means! Naturally then, the assignment is totally blind to the spiritual status of the souls being ministered to! This then cannot be a biblical assignment, but rather, 100% the agenda of the United Nations - as stated, for instance, in its Millennium Development Goals. As we have pointed out before, what all these humanistic efforts ignore is the fact that most human problems – poverty, diseases and misery - are related to the condition of Man’s heart, wickedness and spiritual state. No lasting solutions may be found without addressing the root of the problem! Besides, in the words of our Lord Jesus, what does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his soul (in hell fire!)?

For the avoidance of doubts, Church Arise! is NOT against Christians collaborating with members of other faiths in order to improve the lot of mankind. But such efforts should not be on religious platforms! The only major outcome of merging different religious expressions together for social reform, is the diluting of the participating faiths, and the emergence of a new synthetic religion – even the One World Religion which the Bible predicts would be the platform on which the antichrist would emerge in the last days(see

Rev.13:11,16). While some other religions may be able to afford such transformation of their faith, the Church can absolutely not do so. For, “this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the son of God?” 1 John 5:4-5. If we lose or get muddled up our faith because we fail to contend for it as instructed in Jude 3, we are truly done for!

While the Christian Church must continue to be concerned about social issues and respond appropriately in mobilizing her members, such efforts can not be put on the same pedestal as the business of soul winning. The church understands that the Lord Jesus has an agenda for solving and ending totally all human misery – which by the way was brought on mankind by Satan. That agenda is well on its course as we await the Lord’s promised return – first to rapture the Church, and later, to institute the millennium reign. Any other self-aggrandizing agenda is hasty, ill-informed, naïve, and bound to crumble.

[Read the coverage of the event by two news agencies:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/july/1.1.html>

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1809833,00.html>]

Vol 11 No 3

Discerning Christians steer clear of Rick Warren’s inter-faith ruse

Meanwhile, not all the Christian leaders invited by Rick Warren to the launch of the revised PEACE initiative accepted the invitation.

One of the critics who refused to honour Rick Warren’s invitation (even with an all-travel-expenses paid offer) is the very influential discernment and research ministry, the Lighthouse Trails. According to the Lighthouse Trails, Warren in his invitation letter, “stated that

we attack him regularly and consider him to be an enemy” and would therefore like for personal interaction to iron out the differences.

Lighthouse Trails declined the invitation on the ground that “the matters we address in our books and articles deal with Rick Warren's public teachings and doctrine and have nothing to do with relationships.” The organization further adds “We do not consider Rick Warren a personal enemy, we do not hate him, and we do not attack his private life or character.”

Concluding, the Lighthouse Trails re-states its position: “However, regardless of his [Rick Warren] motivation, be it good or bad, we believe his public teachings, writings, and speeches promote contemplative (i.e., mystical) spirituality and the emerging church, both of which advocate New Age spirituality and are instrumental in restructuring the Christian church so it no longer represents biblical Christianity. This..... puts the spiritual welfare of millions in harm's way.”

(<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/index.php?p=1100&c=1>)

One critic who had cautiously attended part of the proceedings (a semi-private, recorded session with Rick Warren) was Bob Dewaay, pastor of Twin City Fellowship in Minneapolis, US. After the meeting, Richard Abanes, notable apologist and defender of Rick Warren made public statements saying that Bob DeWaay saw nothing wrong with Warren and his beliefs. An embarrassed DeWaay was compelled to write a statement reaffirming his continued belief that Rick Warren is part of a global movement to bring about a “One World church.” Bob DeWaay’s statement, which further reiterates his conviction that the Purpose Driven program of Rick Warren has New Age implications and is a path to deception is available at www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/index.php?p=1100&c=1

Meanwhile, confirming Rick Warren's ever-growing influence in the inter-faith movement, he has been announced a member of the Advisory Council of the new Faith Foundation of Tony Blair, launched in New York on 30th May. Also Warren received in his Church a delegate of homosexuals at the last Father's Day Weekend (June 13-15) and had a private reception with them thereafter.

For further insights on "Emergent" Church/spirituality, see a useful working definition at <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2008/06/how-everything-must-change.html>

For free e-books, *In the name of Purpose: Sacrificing Truth on the Altar of Unity* by Tarmara Hartzel, click here <http://www.inthenameofpurpose.org/page2.html>

Vol 11 No 3

3.10

"Just the story, not the substance" gospel debuts

The London Daily Mail on March 26 featured the story of Anglican vicar, the Rev Robert Harrison whose book, *Must Know Stories* was coming out the day after. In the book, Rev Harrison chose 10 Bible stories for re-telling. Paul Sims of the Daily Mail gives some peep into the book: "Goliath is a celebrity binge drinker, Eve is a sex-obsessed man-eater and Noah's wife wants to kill him --- welcome to the updated Bible."

Mr Harrison, who preaches at St John's in Hillingdon, West London defended his decision, saying he was doing it to encourage people to read stories "that are so utterly part of our culture...I wanted to write a book that tells the most important Bible stories in a way that relishes them rather than tries to make any particular

religious point. “It's better to tell the story controversially than not at all.” He added.

So there goes again the appeal to relativity! Of course the question is what is wrong with telling the story the way it really is? Or if Mr Harrison wishes to write his own fiction, why not simply go ahead without calling it “Bible stories”? Read Full Report at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-546408/Reworked-Bible-stories-feature-Goliath-drunk-Eve-sex-mad.html>

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Vol 11 No 3

Interfaith, pro-gay, 'cooperation' blossom at Rick Warren's Church

Recently, Warren was the envy of all journalists as he got one of the biggest scoops of the year, when both presidential candidates of the Republican Party, John McCain, and of the Democratic Party, Barak Obama agreed to have their first joint public appearance in his church - with him as the interviewer. The event no doubt shows the amount of clout Warren is gathering. However, the not-so publicized fact that the appearance was jointly sponsored by Warren's Church (Saddleback) and a major homosexual advocacy inter-faith group (Faith in Public Life) is also telling. It is precisely to maintain such clout that Warren is ever chained to his anti-Biblical yoking with

groups purveying values that are diametrically opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And he tries to justify these with dead “good works”.

Parallel with the Presidential Forum, Warren also convened “an interfaith meeting for 30 Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders “to discuss cooperation for the common good of all Americans.” www.onenewsnow.com/Church

Both presidential hopefuls have identical unbiblical opinions about gay and abortion, with Obama being slightly more “liberal”. **Vol 11 No 4**

Rick Warren disavows support for Anti-Gay Marriage Initiative

One of the titanic social battles in recent history would certainly be the so-called Proposition 8 - a ballot proposition passed in California, USA, late last year which amended the State’s Constitution to restrict marriage to opposite-sex human couples.

Many Nigerians would find it hard to believe that such an apparently simple, fundamental issue could be the subject of an epic battle of wits, lawsuits and considerable blackmail. At the end of the day, over \$83 million was raised and expended, making the social campaign one of the most expensive ever - apart from the US Presidential contest itself.

Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Mega Church (and author of the best selling book: Purpose Driven Life), like many other evangelicals, had been part of those who supported the Proposition – a fact clearly documented even on Wikipaedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California>). Many Christians were therefore disappointed to hear Rick Warren apologize recently on CNN that he ever supported the Proposition. He further futilely

attempted to justify this position by claiming that his previous support had somehow been qualified.

Speaking with CNN's Larry King on April 6, Rick Warren declared: "During the whole Proposition 8 thing, I never once went to a meeting, never once issued a statement, never -- never once even gave an endorse-ment in the two years Prop. 8 was going"

However, apart from the already cited Wikipedia article, OneNewsNow has a well-documented record of Warren's support for Proposition 8. According to the news organization, "Just two weeks before the November 4 Prop. 8 vote, Pastor Warren issued a clear endorsement of the marriage amendment while speaking to church members." Rick Warren was quoted as having said: "Now let me say this really clearly: we support Proposition 8 -- and if you believe what the Bible says about marriage, you need to support Proposition 8..... I never support a candidate, but on moral issues I come out very clear."

Concluding his emotional endorsement, Rick Warren said: "Now here's an interesting thing. There are about two percent of Americans [who] are homosexual or gay/lesbian people. We should not let two percent of the population determine to change a definition of marriage that has been supported by every single culture and every single religion for 5,000 years.... This is not even just a Christian issue -- it's a humanitarian and human issue that God created marriage for the purpose of family, love, and procreation. So I urge you to support Proposition 8, and pass that word on." (See the complete transcript at: www.onenewsnow.com/Culture/Default.aspx?id=481280)

Rick Warren now denies having given such a clear and comprehensive support for the anti-gay marriage initiative. According to OneNewsNow, Pastor Warren has not responded to

request for interview so he could clarify these clearly contradictory statements. www.onenewsnow.com/Church

And, as for the supposedly little measure of support he now claims he ever gave in support of the Proposition, Rick Warren has nothing but deep remorse. During the CNN interview, Warren said: "There were a number of things that were put out. I wrote to all my gay friends -- the leaders that I knew -- and actually apologized to them."

Dr. Jim Garlow, the senior pastor of [Skyline Wesleyan Church](#) in the San Diego admits he is confused and troubled by Pastor Warren's decision to apologize for supporting Prop. 8.

"Historically when institutions and individuals back away from convictional biblical truth, it is driven primarily by one single factor -- and that is the respectability of other people. In other words, much more caring about what other people think about them than what God thinks about them," he concludes.

Another Pastor, from Washington, DC, lamented that Rick Warren has done "tremendous damage" by his latest apology. According to Bishop Harry Jackson, Jr., of the High Impact Leadership Coalition, Warren's statements on CNN were very disappointing.

"This man ... who I really respect with all my heart and love what he's doing in Africa, is falling into a trap that is emblematic of the problem that the entire church is facing in this generation," Jackson states. "And that is that we love the applause of men more than we love the work of God and the gospel. Jesus...told us that we are to honor God first, and that we are not to fear men but we're to fear God."

www.onenewsnow.com/Culture/Default.aspx?id=481280 Vol 12 No 3

Rick Warren seeks coalition with Muslims to solve World Problems

Yes, we feature Rev. Rick Warren again in two straight editions. In his latest efforts to sell the evangelical platform to the religious arm of the New World Order movement, Warren gave the keynote address at the 46th Annual Conference of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) held in Washington D.C., on 4th July.

Ordinarily there should be nothing wrong with seizing what could be an unusual opportunity to share one's faith: but not only is ISNA known to be committed to groups involved in radical jihad, Warren went there not to promote the Gospel, but effectively, in the words of Paul McGuire, "to disinfect and rehabilitate a group that is dangerous and subversive to U.S. national security". The secular Washington Post in covering the event, specifically noted that Warren "was sparse in mentioning Jesus or God."

As noted by Jan Markell, no one exactly expects Warren to make an altar call at such a meeting, but he (as a Pastor) should have "lifted high the Name of the Prince of Peace who is coming again"; and might we add, Who has made definite promises with regards to the very theme being discussed at the Convention: "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"

Paul McGuire, who was obviously distraught at having to address an open letter to Warren, whom he says was a regular listener and caller to his nationally syndicated radio show, (broadcasted from Southern California for over 10 years), was however blunt in criticizing Warren's action: "I do not believe that Christians can have any serious discussions with Islam as long as they continue to make public statements denying the Holocaust and calling for the complete destruction of Jews and Israel. To ignore those statements, is like

Chamberlain ignoring Adolph Hitler's statements before he killed [6] million Jews.”

Warren insists that the Church needs the Islamic platform to “team tackle” poverty, war, diseases and promote “dignity” and “civility”. But as again noted by McGuire, “militant Islam is the primary force in the world today causing war, poverty and disease. ”

In an internal document recovered by security forces from the militant Muslim Brotherhood, titled: "An Explanatory Memorandum on the General Strategic Goal for the Brotherhood in North America" the Muslim Brotherhood stated that it is dedicated to "a kind of grand Jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and 'sabotaging' its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and Allah's religion is made victorious over all other religions."

The Memorandum concludes with a "list of our organizations and the organizations of our friends", prominent among which is the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). (JIHAD WATCH - Robert Spencer - July 1, 2009, <http://www.jihadwatch.org/>)

Warren, who once boasted of his membership of the infamous US Council on Foreign Relations (see CA! Vol 10 No 1, or www.newswithviews.com/BeritKjos/kjos67.htm) apparently sees himself more as a politician/statesman, than a spiritual leader. However, the issues Warren is so fixated on will remain with us, till the Lord's second coming; and are best left for politicians (who of course must work together, irrespective of their religious backgrounds). While Christians may address these issues on a secondary note, there is absolutely no basis for seeking any “coalition” in doing so. Much more a coalition that would in turn render us ineffective in fulfilling our primary mission – preaching of the Gospel!

Al Amriki, the American Jihadist we cite on page 6 of this edition of CA! is apparently more spiritually discerning than Warren, and he debunks Warren's social Christianity when he said: *"A Muslim doesn't look to peace, security, education, work, or the love of any other number of things as his ultimate goals ..."*

Scott Brisk of Moriel has provided an excellent compilation of reports and commentaries on Rick Warren's misadventure at the ISNA conference. All the references cited in this article can be found on the compilation. It can be accessed at Moriel's site, www.moriel.org (under Be Alert section) **Vol 12 No 4**

Social Gospel engulfing the True Gospel in the US

Two important recent developments in the US underscore the increasing shifting and sifting of the Good News from a message that brings salvation to the total man, beginning from his spirit and working outwards to the soul and body; to one that focuses entirely on the body – and seeking to effect the change by means and methods developed by man.

First is the reluctant admittance by leader of the "progressive Christian" Sojourners movement, Pastor Jim Wallis, that he, over the years, accepted funding from leftist atheist billionaire George Soros. What communion could there possibly be between Christ and Belial! Pastor Wallis, after prior vehement denials of receiving funding from a non-christian group, made a volte-face turn around - when confronted with hard evidences. He thereafter declared that he had no apology for at least three documented grants, totaling about \$325,000 he got from Soros' Open Society Institute. Wallis, who is the new adopted spiritual mentor of Barack Obama (following the US President's forced denunciation of Rev Wright at the heat of the US

elections in 2008), told [*Christianity*](#): **"I have no apologies for taking a donation ...from Open Society. We'd do it again."**

George Soros is known for his strong views and supports for abortion rights, euthanasia and re-definition of marriage contrary to established Judeo-Christian values. (For more on this, see www.americanthinker.com/2010/08/soros_has_a_pastor_close_to_ob.html). Soros is sometimes referred to as Judas Iscariot, he being a Jew that is stridently anti-Israel. See his latest donation, largely to undermine Israel's interest, at www.israelnationalnews.com/News/news.aspx/139596.

A second even more alarming development, reflecting the increasing subordination of the Gospel to man-made social gospel, is the arrival of a new spokesperson for Christian orthodoxy in America – the Mormon Gleck Beck.

At a rally at the base of the Lincoln Memorial on Saturday, 28th August, 2010, Glenn Beck (who is a Fox news commentator with enormous followership in the US) assembled some top evangelical celebrities to give testimonies, after which he preached about “a God and country revivalism that leaves the evangelicals cheering that they’ve heard the gospel...”

(<http://www.russellmoore.com/2010/08/29/god-the-gospel-and-glenn-beck/>)

While everybody is obviously entitled to their opinions, and efforts seeking to promote godliness and sanity in society obviously should be applauded, the issue is the engulfing of the Gospel by this new social gospel. As we have pointed out several times previously, individuals who wish - no matter their faiths or lack of faith - might indeed validly join forces to address social issues, say through an NGO. However, it is extremely dangerous to do so on the platform of faiths, thereby suggesting that some issues are more urgent or

important than purity of faith! For Christianity, where faith is everything, this is nothing less than a death knell! For a feel of the intense debate on Glenn Becks assuming the position of official spokesperson for evangelical Christianity in the US, see <http://www.bible-prophecy-today.com/2010/08/open-letter-concerning-glenn-beck.html>. Also the radio discussion: ▶ [Are Christians](http://olivetreeviews.org/radio/mp3/). <http://olivetreeviews.org/radio/mp3/>

For those who are not too familiar with the core doctrines of the Church of Latter Day Saints, these include the belief that God was once a human like us (starting off from one of a named planet); and that Jesus and Lucifer are brothers of this God. See **Vol 8 No 4** or <http://saintsalive.com/> for more on Mormon teachings. **Vol 13 No 5**

Turning God's grace into lasciviousness - at Grace Cathedral

Dr Jane Alison Shaw was installed the eighth dean of Grace Cathedral on Nob Hill, San Francisco, USA on Nov. 6. This appointment is historic not only by the fact that Jane Shaw became the first woman to lead the 161 years old cathedral, but she also became the cathedral's first openly gay dean. As observed by the bishop of the Diocese of California, The Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, the elevation of the openly-practicing lesbian to lead one of the denomination's most prominent churches is "a signal moment."

As usual, the justification for embracing the sinful enslaving practice of homosexuality has been "grace", "tolerance", and "love" As further explained by the bishop, "We seek to be a house of prayer for all people." <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/24/us/24bcjames.html> **Vol 13 No 6**

Cooperation and Tolerance gone too far

While Islam continues its desperate concerted efforts to destroy Christians and Biblical Christianity, some so-called Christian leaders appear to be totally oblivious to the dangerous developments. Hence we reported in **Vol 9 No 6** how a retired German clergyman committed suicide seeing the foolish pandering to Islamic interests by the church in his country. A church in Germany actually, at one time, raised money from members to help build an imposing mosque in that country!

Unfortunately, such evident lack of discernment by Christian leaders continues to be displayed at deeper levels today. In the news recently is the Claremont School of Theology, located in Southern California, USA, which has announced that it will be partnering with Jewish and Islamic schools to offer clerical training to students of various faiths. According to the Seminary's president, the Rev. Jerry Campbell, students will be trained in their own religious traditions as well as gain understanding of other faiths through shared classes with the Academy for Jewish Religion and the Islamic Center of Southern California. He said the program will eventually be expanded to include Hinduism and Buddhism, among others. All these, Rev Campbell believes, will "better prepare students for the multi-religious world they are living in." Claremont is a Methodist Bible College established in 1885. John Wesley, as the saying goes, must be turning in his grave! (details at <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20100611/methodist-seminary-is-abdicating-christianity-says-theologian/index.html>)

Apart from a Bible College offering to train and produce Imams for the Moslem religion, another example of tolerance gone too far is the case at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, in Alexandria, Virginia which is currently allowing the Islamic Circle of North America

(ICNA) to hold regular Friday prayers in its facility while their new mosque is under construction. [OneNewsNow (24th February)] – just like Heartsong Church near Memphis allowed members of the Memphis Islamic Center to hold Ramadan prayers in its building last September.

Alan Wisdom, of [The Institute on Religion & Democracy](#) (IRD), believes that while it is important for Christians to reach out and share the gospel with Muslims, God's house should not be used by those who do not accept Jesus. According to Wisdom: "Worship is a sacred thing. We dedicate our sanctuaries to the worship of Jesus Christ. It is not appropriate in a space that's dedicated to the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ to have prayers said based on the false prophecy of Mohammad," In closing, Wisdom contends. "And I would venture to say that I doubt that Muslims would allow us to pray in the name of Jesus Christ in a mosque that was dedicated to Islam."

<http://www.onenewsnow.com/Church/Default.aspx?id=1299800>
Meanwhile, while undiscerning Church leaders are offering their facilities for the service of Islam, elsewhere Christian property are being confiscated and taken over by Islam. For instance, in Somalia, Islamists are right now busy confiscating land of Christians who dare attend Bible studies . According to the International Christian Concerns, eight farms have been confiscated since January 19. In another story from Somalia, a teenage girl, Nurta Mohamed Farah, who converted to Christianity from Islam was shot to death late last year. It was generally believed that the two unidentified men who shot her in the chest and head with a pistol were relatives or acting on relatives' behest. For details please see <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/somalia/29407/>
Vol 14 No 1

Funding Apostasy: Methodist Bible College to use donation to grow other faiths

The Claremont School of Theology, a leading institution of the United Methodist in the USA is surging forward in its bid to start training imams and rabbis as we reported in Vol 14 No 1. The new agenda of the College to teach instructions and raise clergy for other religions apart from Christianity received a giant boost with a generous donation of \$40 million from a California couple.

The school's president, Jerry Campbell, told the *Los Angeles Times* that the university is "looking for understanding, respect and the possibility of collaboration" with other religions. He noted that other religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism may be implemented in the future. The university also hopes to engage all religious groups in social issues, such as tackling poverty.

Not all Christian leaders think all this a good idea though. According to highly respected Rev. Lou Sheldon of [The Traditional Values Coalition](#), "I just think it's foolishness. It's not going anywhere. We know where things are going. We know who has been given all authority and power in heaven and on earth. We know what the gospel is about."

See more about this story at <http://www.onenewsnow.com/Church> Vol 14 No 2

Food for thoughts on Mormonism

“Joseph Smith was a convicted swindler and Brigham Young, with 23 wives, a proven false prophet. Nobody in their right mind would believe that someone who said Quakers living to be 1000 years old resided on the moon, as Smith did, nor on the sun as Young did in his Journal of Discourses Volume 17. Only an ignorant bigot would

believe that black people are the descendants of fallen angels and are ugly, wicked and mischievous, and that any white person marrying a black should be killed, because of the Mormon law of atonement. Yet, this is what Brigham Young taught. It is simply not reasonable to believe such evil men were God's prophets. The first requirement of being a Mormon is to abandon any sense of reason”

This is part of a recent article by Jacob Prasch, of Moriel. The full article titled “Death of Reason and Return of Jesus may be accessed at http://www.moriel.org/pfp/discernment/church_issues/death_of_reason_return_of_jesus.htm Vol 14 No 2

Pastor Bakare backs Islamic Banking

While virtually every Christian institution or individual leader in Nigeria is either outrightly critical or at best cautious on the proposed Islamic Banking in the country, the concept has at last found an enthusiastic Christian advocate - Pastor Tunde Bakare. Apparently enjoying the free publicity that comes with being labeled “controversial,” Pastor Bakare entertained newsmen in his church auditorium on Sunday July 24 by calling for the immediate take-off of Islamic banking.

Bakare, who was the running mate to General Muhammadu Buhari in the last presidential election, failed to address any of the issues being raised by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), but merely kept mouthing the mantra that Islamic banking “has benefits for everybody economically.” In his vigorous passionate defence of Islamic banking, Bakare tried to appeal to the Bible. He was quoted by the Sun newspaper as saying: if the Bible says “do away with usury, any cleric who says otherwise would be an anti-progressive element in the church.” He further expressed the conviction that “business thrives better in an interest-free system where no businessman can be

tied to bondage.”

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2011/july/25/national-25-07-2011-004.html>

In reality however, while “interest-free” banking follows the letters of “no usury”, it can hardly be said, as being practiced, to imbibe the spirit intended in the Bible (see for instance Deut 23:19-20). Neither also does it guarantee a freedom from bondage. Here the “interest” payable on loans are simply transferred to profit-sharing, making the loan-giver effectively a joint-owner of the business. An enterprising guy might prefer to pay interest and keep his business to himself while a less sure individual might want to share the risk with the capital provider. Both are legitimate means of doing business and each individual should be free to choose their preference. The contention of CAN is that state fund ought not to be used to promote or organize such a system, especially where the CBN is now overtly discriminating between general “interest-free banking” and “Islamic banking” in particular.

In the words of CAN president, Pastor Ayo Oritsajefor, “ we have continued to frown at the way the CBN governor who is being paid by taxpayers’ money is championing the cause of Islamic banking **in isolation of other non-interest banking formats**. We are against Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi using state fund to promote Islamic banking as though that is the only form of non-interest banking. It is against the spirit of the Nigerian Constitution.” Declaring at several forums that the CAN is not necessarily against Islamic Banking per se, Pastor Oritsajefor nevertheless wants the CBN governor to “allow people who are interested in Islamic banking to use their money to sell their manifesto to Nigerians with a view to wooing them to accept that form of banking which is different from what they used to know.”

As noted by other Christian and secular business leaders, the zeal with which Mallam Sanusi is prosecuting the Islamic Banking issue is simply amazing and hardly ethical.

Speaking at a seminar organized by the Apostles in the Market place (AiMP), the **Chief Executive Officer of Pharez Consulting, Mr. Eghes Eyieyen** wondered: "What is the inordinate drive and ambition behind the introduction of Islamic banking? To me, it seems as if the CBN is in a hurry to introduce it and why does the CBN think it is going to be a major driver of financial inclusion? It is not about religion, it is about the law and professionalism. Why has the CBN not given such passion and priority to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)? You cannot use a small provision in the BOFIA that gives you the power to regulate, to now begin to legislate."

The answer to the question of why the CBN is having to use state fund and clout to promote Islamic Banking could be gleaned from a quote by Junaid Bhatti, a member of the team that set up the Islamic Bank of Britain (IBB): "As we now approach the sixth anniversary of IBB's launch, I'm sad to finally have to admit that Islamic finance in the UK has been a huge flop." In a World Street Journal report of June 2010, Bhatti added "IBB may still be limping on as probably the last bastion of the cause, but it's difficult to imagine it holding out for much longer." <http://zulkiflihasan.wordpress.com/2010/06/23/why-britain%E2%80%99s-islamic-finance-industry-flopped/>) In short, without state backing and active sponsorship, Islamic banking would be dead on arrival in Nigeria. As we wrote in the last edition while discussing the demonstrations in Arab lands, Islam is seriously handicapped to deal with real life situations –especially the problem

of human lusts and sin. Islam and her institutions always needed some measure of state muscle or coercion to survive in the real world. But that is none of our business or problem.

The other major issue raised by the CAN is that Mallam Sanusi is writing a separate guideline for Islamic Banking, different from other non-interest banking systems. In the words of Pastor Oritsajefor, this can be likened to the National Universities Commission issuing different rules for the establishment of Islamic Universities and another for Christian or secular Universities – which of course is unthinkable. What is probably more serious with the procedure is that the proposed guidelines for the establishment of Islamic Banking requires the establishment of a Shari’a Council of Experts - to be based at the CBN to monitor the operations of the Islamic banking! Pastor Oritsajefor asked rhetorically: “is this what operates in all the countries in the world where Islamic banking operates?” Speaking further on the proposed Advisory Council, Dr Bankole Sodipo of Babcock University stated bluntly: “there is no way they [the CBN] can delegate the decision making of the body[Islamic Banking] to another body because the National Assembly doesn’t give them that power.” Dr Sodipo, an Associate Professor of Law and Security Studies made this contribution at the AiMP seminar previously referred to above. (see <http://www.independentngonline.com/DailyIndependent/Article.aspx?id=36538>)

In making his contribution to what he calls a “worthless and useless debate,” Latter Rain Pastor Bakare used disparaging words on everybody holding views different from his, and as usual, managed to bring in the President for mockery and taunts. One simply cannot help wondering why Pastor Bakare should be the most passionate defender of a concept blatantly labeled as “Islamic” – and that in a

clime where Islamic zealots are out on rampage, killing and maiming Christians in pursuant of their publicly declared vow of making the country ungovernable!

In the meantime, the Fellowship of Christian Ministers is insisting that the Islamic banking was a booby-trap that could threaten the corporate existence of the country; and the Anglican Bishop of Enugu, Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Chukwuma has disclosed that the Anglican Church would embark on a protest if the apex bank ignores its position on the issue. He warned that the Anglican Church would equally pass a vote of no confidence on CBN if it approves Islamic banking.

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2011/july/25/national-25-07-2011-004.html> Vol 14 No 2

Norwegian killer demonstrates identity crisis

A 32-year old Norwegian, Anders Behring Breivik, went on rampage on July 22 and started to systematically shoot to scores of youth who were on holidays on an Island. To distract the police, he had initially detonated a car bomb at the Government House in Oslo. Eight people were killed in the car bomb, while 69 youths were shot dead in cold blood on the Island of Utoeya, 40 kilometres away (25 miles) see <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/07/norway-terror-suspect-arrives-in-court/>

One fact clearly demonstrated by this sad incident is the identity crisis in the Church. Wonder of wonders, Anders Breivik sees and describes himself as a Christian and a conservative! Indeed, according to him, his motive for the dastard killings was to save (supposed Christian) Norway and Western Europe from a Muslim takeover". (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anders_Behring_Breivik)

The Christian post describes it as “a drama fit for reality television: Larger than life characters, familial infighting, private jets, mansions, pink poodles, and of course contentious litigation.” But it is not one of the popular soap operas but the first family of Trinity Broadcasting Network. Brittany Koper, granddaughter of TBN founders Paul and Janice Crouch, alleges that her grandparents are scamming the public with their prosperity gospel message and using the contributions of their viewers to sustain a lavish lifestyle that would make a hip hop mogul blush. Mama and Papa Crouch counter that granddaughter Brittany is merely attempting to distract attention from her own wrongdoing. They've accused her of misappropriating ministry funds while she served as finance director for the organization.”

Read the rest of the article at <http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2012/May09/0952.html>

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Over Half of South Jersey's Catholics Believe Jesus Sinned

In a shocking revealing study commissioned by a Diocese of the catholic Church in southern New Jersey, 60 percent of practicing Catholics in the region said they believed that Jesus sinned during his time on Earth. Whereas the Bible clearly teaches otherwise: the Lamb of God required to atone for the sins of the world must be free of its own personal sins that would have needed to be atoned for.

A very worried Bishop Joseph Galane of the Diocese of Camden, sponsors of the study, told a Press Conference: "The number of Catholics who have a very flawed, a seriously flawed, understanding of who Jesus is, that's troublesome,"

The study was commissioned by the diocese with the hope that the results would help it to better evangelize the communities it serves.

APOSTASY

The study was conducted by the Barna Group, a Ventura, Calif.-based research organization, which surveyed 612 adults living in the six New Jersey counties within the diocese.

Other findings of the study that got the Bishop worried included the following:

Four out of ten of the Catholics respondents disagree with the idea that sex should be reserved solely for marriage.

Only a paltry 28 percent of them agree strongly with the idea that the Bible is "totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches,"

38 percent favor attending church only on holidays. One-third of lapsed Catholics said they have other priorities or are too busy to attend, while others said they just aren't interested in church (27 percent).

Other issues investigated in the study was the clergy abuse scandals within the Catholic Church. -Nine out of ten (89 percent) adults interviewed said they know about scandals; and all 89 percent consider it a "major issue."

(<http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2012/May09/0951.html>

based on <http://www.christianpost.com>) Vol 15 No 1

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CHAPTER ELEVEN: False Christs and False Anointing

Another Mwerinde in the making?

In our last edition, we referred to a Ministry (not named then) that has been sounding itself hoarse on Osun TV that the Lord Jesus will certainly come in the year 2001. While we may not necessarily be concerned with people claiming to have received special messages from the Lord (perhaps they indeed have heard from Him); we doubt seriously if the Lord will commission people to make such revelations the message to preach. Especially when such a message is one that undermines the Scripture's message of the need to be prepared at all times for the coming of the Lord. Now our bother is the 'valedictory message' of this group, Last Days Deliverance Ministry (Ilesha) on the Osun TV on Sunday the 31st December, 2000. The Prophetess/Vision-bearer for this ministry suggested the Ministry will be essentially going into seclusion at the "Ark of Noah" along Gbongan-Ibadan road.

Now Church Arise! genuinely and eagerly expects the coming of the Lord any day from now - as we did throughout last year, and as we shall continue to do till He eventually comes, just in the undeniable

eventuality that He chooses to further delay His coming this year. But virtually closing down a Ministry's work, and gathering at weekends at a supposed Ark of Salvation site? Sounds every inch like the Credonia Mwerinde saga in Uganda that led to the largest mass murder in history (see Vol 3 No 3). What will the propheticess tell her congregation in case the sovereign Lord does not turn up this year? We hope local Christian leaders are paying careful attention to this development. **Vol. 4 No 1 (2001)**

End-time Deception, an equal opportunity issue

The above expression is borrowed from an essay by Jan Markell of Olive Tree Ministries, warning that no individual or organization is too big to be deceived in the raging end-time deception. ALL must watch (be informed) and pray. Two recent events, one of them happening at the backyard of Church Arise!, very clearly illustrate this important point. This was the amazing reports of eleven students of the Obafemi Awolowo University who took into the wilderness in expectation of the imminent occurrence of the Rapture. It wasn't until about five days later that a determined search by the University authorities located the much famished and haggard looking young fellows - including two ladies, who had been feared to have fallen prey to kidnappers!

Not surprisingly, the newspapers and local bloggers had a field day deriding this act of fanaticism. But it is easy to miss the frightening issues behind this event. The first obvious fact is that these were not just some riff-raff youth somewhere. In a country where hundreds of thousands of youths are roaming the street, desperate to have some semblance of University education, these ones are enrolled in one of the very best Universities in the country, and with probably the lowest fees structure as well. One of the rapture-seekers has actually

successfully completed his 7 years of medical education, but he refused to go for the housemanship training. Similarly, according to Seun Adeoye, writing for the Guardian newspaper, “Three of the students, were graduating students, with one studying Law. The graduating students reportedly claimed that they were not interested in the one-year mandatory National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC), saying "life is worthless". In fact the re-scheduled semester exams were going on at the time these students took into the wild!

So we have healthy, educated, probably morally-sound youths, so deluded to have concluded they have nothing more to receive from or give to life; and deciding that the biblical but often-derided Rapture will be the vehicle for their escapist desire! Not only was the devil going to waste the lives of these youths, foul up the lives of their families and loved ones, the devil was also going to further turn the glorious Biblical hope of the coming of the Lord Jesus for His people (John 14:1ff) into a by-word in society. Talk of killing several birds with one stone!

The above incident is fuelled by exactly the same major factor - wrong end-time doctrine - that led to the similar situation in the UK where several medical doctors have ended up in security custody over attempted terrorist attacks in London and Glasgow. Another group of 45 Muslim doctors have also been discovered by the British Police to have signed up for suicidal attacks in the U.S. with car bombs and rocket grenades. A few years back, we reported, as did the national media, the sad story of several undergraduates and children of affluent Moslem parents in Northern Nigeria, who went to join what is called the Nigerian Taliban group and who engaged in deadly armed insurrection against the government till the army had to be called in.

What is the big lesson in all these stories? End-time deception is an equal opportunity issue and there are currently innumerable

individuals and groups who have deep but unhealthy and unbiblical interests in end-time issues. We wish to stridently sound this warning that it is not every group that discusses the kind of issues we raise in Church Arise! that is worth having our attention. Apart from those deliberately set up by the devil to confuse issues, there are many who have themselves been deceived and are innocently propagating the deceptions. End-time discussion groups exist across a very wide spectrum: from cults, new agers, conspiracy theorists, Roman Catholic groups, to several Protestant groups. The big doctrinal issues to always put in mind (as advised by 1 Jhn 4:1-3, 15) are what the group says about the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ; and the centrality of an undiluted faith in Him for victory over the world (1 Jhn 5:4-5). On the practical side (probably the 'undoing' of the OAU 11), the question of the expected response to whatever information is being dished out is also vital.

At Church Arise!, our mission and message is encapsulated in our name. Our mission is mainly directed at the Church of Jesus Christ; and the message is that the Church has a lot of opportunities for fruitfulness and glory as she arises to meet the unique challenges of these end times (Isa. 61). It is time that EVERY element in the Body of Christ arise to play their own part in establishing the counsel of the LORD in these days we are privileged to be living in (Luke 10:23-24). Failing to do this, we may continue to witness not only the ungodly and riff-raffs increasing in number uncontrolled; even those who wish to live godly lives may end up being confused with disastrous consequences - enslavement to cultic teachings, living an extremely limited/ inhibited deluded lives, etc, as clearly demonstrated by the OAU 11.

The Truth: Jesus is coming back, soon (Rev 22:12, Acts 1:11); the Truth: Believers will be raptured to join Him in the skies (as

promised in John 14, 1 Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor 15:51-52). But it is equally true that we are to occupy today till the Lord Jesus comes (Luke 12:43, 19:13ff). **Waiting for the Lord is the most active and fulfilling endeavour an informed person can ever engage in.** Vol. 10 No. 4

Todd Bentley and the “Third Wave Outpouring”

He mentioned Nigeria directly by name and favourably in his “Prophetic Directions for 2008”, www.etpv.org/2008/pd4208.html and has glowing testimonies from Nigeria on his Fresh Fire Ministries website; yet there are disconcerting aspects about Todd Bentley that the average Nigerian pastor is most likely totally ignorant about.

Bentley is at the centre of what is being labelled as the “Third Wave” Revival, in the footsteps of the much discredited First and Second Wave revivals at Toronto and Pensacola years back. This “third wave” on-going since April 2, 2008, is happening in the United States. Todd Bentley had been invited to hold a series of meetings, scheduled to last 5 days, at the United Church, Lakeland, Florida, but an outburst of unusual supernatural manifestations has kept the meetings going on ever since, now running into weeks. (See, for example, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakeland_revival)

Yes, there are reports of spectacular healings, signs and wonders; but associated with these are also some strange manifestations. Mike Oppenheimer of “Let us Reason” Ministries (<http://www.letusreason.org/>) describes some of these manifestations: “This revival has all the spiritual sensations and activities of the other revivals combined: Roaring, groaning, burning sensations in the body, head, and stomach; shaking, jerking, spiritual drunkenness and uncontrollable laughter and then some new manifestations. People have their eyes rolled back in the back of their

heads. There are reports of women gyrating and pulsating like they've been ravaged from behind by some unseen force.” Todd Bentley himself describes a particular scene: “During a visitation, the pastor's wife got totally whacked by the Holy Ghost. She began running around barking like a dog or squawking like a chicken as a powerful prophetic spirit came on her.”

Oppenheimer, himself a deep occultist before becoming saved, was blunt in declaring: “Holy or un-holy may still be debated by some but to those of us who are knowledgeable of the previous 'revivals' and the power of the occult, the jury is in. The source is not the God of the Bible.” (www.crossroad.to/articles2/08/markell-prophet-wolf.htm)

Todd Bentley, with his tattoos and body piercings (which he had probably when he was still a demon-afflicted Satanist, and convicted paedophile - before becoming a Christian), has far more than these chaotic manifestations to answer for, even if asking the questions has not always been easy. For example, according to *Charisma* editor, Lee Grady: “When I called for scrutiny of some aspects of the Lakeland Revival, I was labeled a Pharisee and a 'religious policeman.' I had suddenly become the enemy.”

There were also the issues of significant violence associated with Todd's ministrations - as when he tried to maul a young man he was ministering deliverance to; or his gloating about the kicking of a healing-seeking lady in the face with his biker boot - under the instruction of the 'Holy Spirit'. Incredible, but it's true! www.prophezine.com/PZArticles/AreChristiansThatStupidByRayGano/tabid/706/Default.aspx. (For a partial word-for-word transcript of a YouTube video titled, “Todd Bentley's Raging Revival”. See <http://www.christianresearchservice.com/ToddBentleyResearchPage.htm>

) The video clip may be reviewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_K8XjObzfXM. An apologist,

futilely attempts to water down the situation, insisting the boot never touched the face of the lady before she fell under the unction of the spirit! (<http://completefaith.wordpress.com/>).

By far the most serious aspect of this hyped “great outpouring”, however, has to do with doctrine. One major issue is the key role the “female angel” named Emma plays in the whole “revival” saga. Todd describes the so-called angel as a young, (about 22) beautiful female who appears at the meetings spreading gold dust on people, which invariably translates to financial breakthrough for those so-dusted, among other miracles. As part of his new angels-centred theology, Bentley now teaches: “So when I need a financial breakthrough, I don't just pray and ask God for my financial breakthrough. I go into intercession and become a partner with the angels by petitioning the Father for the angels that are assigned to getting me money: 'Father, give me the angels in heaven right now that are assigned to get me money and wealth... Let them go into the four corners of the earth and gather me money.’”

This type of prayer is unfortunately gaining much currency in Pentecostal circles in Nigeria at the present time. While the Scriptures say the Father will give His angels charge over us, heirs of salvation, it is not our job specifying which angels to send and when! Summoning ‘angels’ and ‘spirits’ has long been the main character of the occult.

Further on doctrine, Bentley has been claiming he makes routine trips to the 3rd heaven where he interacts with Abraham, Jesus, and at least on one occasion, interviewed the apostle Paul (www.scribd.com/doc/3356633/-Todd-Bentley-DEMONIC-STAR-GATE-PORTALS-TO-THIRD-HEAVENS-). Bentley describes all these matter-of-factly and is even ready to assist others to learn how to make these no-big-deal trips. Any informed Christian would easily

understand that the trips are nothing different from the out-of-the-body astral travels that are so common in new age spirituality, where a horde of demons meet the gullible seeker at the point of his/her expectations - from posing as UFOs, to taking on forms of dead relatives, or (for the religious minded folks) some biblical character!

Read more on this subject matter from Jan Markell's article *Footprints of a prophet or tracks of a wolf?*
www.crossroad.to/articles2/08/markell-prophet-wolf.htm

Vol. 11 No. 3

Todd Bentley's Lakeland 'Revival' Crashes – Following Moral lapses, Evangelist asked to withdraw from public ministry

We urgently wrote the article in the last edition on the so-called 'revival' at the Ignite Church Lakeland, US, under the auspices of visiting Canadian evangelist Todd Bentley, because despite its clearly unchristian character, the phenomenon nevertheless continued to gather raving reviews and endorsements - not only from throngs of young gullible Christians, but from many respected Christian leaders as well.

The Lord Jesus however, did give clear guidelines by which to judge such events, "By their fruits ye shall know them" saith the Lord in Mathew 7: 15ff.

For those who are unable to discern spiritual fruits, the Lakeland 'revival' is now producing physical 'fruits' which meanings should no longer be difficult to interpret. First was the news from Bentley's Fresh Fire ministries on August 15, that following the discovery of "information revealing that Todd Bentley has entered into an unhealthy relationship on an emotional level with a female member of his staff", he "has agreed to step down from his position on

the Board of Directors and to refrain from all public ministry for a season to receive counsel in his personal life”. Furthermore, Bentley had separated from his wife and mother of his 3 children, Shonnah .

Fresh fire Board of Directors were clearly confused, and they are not hiding it. In the same breath, the Board refers, in an August 12 prayer request, to “pressures and the burden of the Outpouring” as possibly exacerbating existing tension among the Bentleys, but hasten to add that the “Outpouring is not ‘to blame.’” Ordinarily, a time of revival, if truly from the Lord, ought to be a time of strengthening, if not physically, but spiritually – and the visible fruits must be in repentance, holiness, righteousness, strengthening of Godly relationships and values, forgiveness, etc!

One of the three pastors in charge of Bentley’s rehabilitation, John Arnott of Toronto Airport Church, further revealed on his website that Bentley had the additional problem of “drinking excessively”. As seen on the video False Anointing by Joseph Chambers (available at our Library), getting drunk is no big deal with these “new wave” ministers, but here, even they find Bentley’s drinking “excessive”!

Unfortunately, while many of the so-called leaders who have been endorsing Bentley and his farce of a revival are now compelled to agree that the bubble has burst, many of his deceived neonate Christians still struggle to find straws to cling at. “Don’t judge others, nobody is perfect, etc” are common phrases emanating from blogsites of Bentley’s devotees. GodTV which had carried the Lakeland meetings live all throughout the over 140 days it lasted, had earlier declared that any criticism of Bentley could only be “demonic”!

The disappointed host pastor at the Ignite Church, Lakeland, Rev. Stephen Strader, while reluctantly divulging that Bentley had actually

had a similar marriage-threatening “other-woman” relationship, three years ago, still insists that the developments do not in any way invalidate the revival – which had been based solely on Mr Bentley and his mysterious female ‘angel’, Emma! According to Strader: "Miracles are still happening. God's power is still present in the building."

The Fresh Fire ministries, itself while trying to launder its image with the good humanitarian works they are doing in Uganda and elsewhere, hopes to take the development in its strides and plans to continue with its “major African crusade”

While the ostriches may still continue to hide their heads in the sand, others are highlighting lessons to learn from the entire saga. Lee Grady of Charisma magazine was one level-headed Christian whose constituency/readership was deeply involved and supportive of Bentley. He lamented: "Many of us would rather watch a noisy demonstration of miracles, signs, and wonders than have a quiet Bible study." Adding, "Our adolescent craving for the wild and crazy makes us do stupid things. It's way past time for us to grow up."

Andrew Strom (www.revivalschool.com), in an open letter addressed alternately to leaders of the controversial prophetic and apostles movement, Rick Joyner and C. Peter Wagner, asked bluntly: “Sir, if your discernment is such that you could get on a stage and openly endorse one of the most deceptive movements in the history of the church, then - with all due respect - should you really be heading up the apostles of the entire Charismatic world? Are you aware that you have greatly endangered God's precious sheep all around the globe?” See more details from Fresh fire website, or at www.onenewsnow.com/Church

Vol 11 No 4

False Christs: Another ‘Jesus’ appears at Siberia

One of the signs of the end times given by the Lord in Mathew 24 is the emergence of false Christs. Today, there are legions of people going by that title, especially as the new age movement teaches that anyone can create their own realities and live in their own self-made (illusory) world. One of the more well-known false Christs in Nigeria is of course Guru Maharajji, the Ibadan-based self proclaimed “master of the universe”. But at least he doesn’t claim to operate a Church.

However, ABC News (US) have recently reported on another wave-making “messiah”, deep in the heart of Siberia's birch forests. Here dwell 5,000 people who have abandoned their families and homes to form “one of the largest and most remote religious communes of the planet.” Another 5,000 people in other locations of the world (mainly Europe) make up the Church of the Last Testament which is centred on one man, Sergei Torop, a former Traffic Warden. He is now known as Vissarion, meaning "he who gives new life," or simply as the teacher, and he claims that he is Jesus Christ.

Seeing the Vissarions and Todd Bentleys of this world, you would think they are competing to act out in true life drama, some of the characters and scenarios described by Frank Peretti in his classic novel, *The Visitation!* Clarissa Ward of ABC news described the new-look Sergei Torop: “My first impression seeing the teacher was that he did actually look how one might imagine Jesus. With his long hair, flowing white robes and kind smile, he looked the part. But as the interview began, my feelings soon changed.”

According to the ABC, “Many of Vissarion's followers are educated people from different European countries. Some of them used to work as doctors, teachers and engineers. One was even the former

FALSE CHRISTS AND FALSE ANOINTING

Belorussian deputy railway minister.” ABC News (US) [Disney] June
23, 2008 **Vol. 11 No. 4**

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CHAPTER TWELVE: Church Decay and Immorality

Church Licensed to operate Heroin Injection Centre

In what has been tagged a “health solution” to the many homeless and disoriented Australians who were endangered by heroin overdose, one of the biggest Churches in that world-under Country, the Uniting Church, has been issued a licence by the state of New South Wales to administer “correct” doses of the illegal drug with clean needles. The big question of how the church will procure the illegal drug was not addressed in the license. However, a suit by the King’s Cross Chamber of Commerce challenging the legality and validity of the license has been dismissed by the Australian Supreme Court. (Guardian April 7, 2001, pg 1)

This murky business seems to us the climax of the new social gospel being preached by the Church. The Church truly should be involved socially, but a “spiritual solution” should by far be the main method for the Church to apply (Rom 1:16). **Vol. 4 No 3 (2001)**

Archbishop of York says Homosexuality is divinely Ordered

The second most senior Churchman in the Church of England, the Most Revd David Hope has recently commissioned a new catechism

for the Anglican Church. A section of the catechism says that “homosexuality may well not be a condition to be regretted but to have divinely ordered and positive qualities... Homosexual Christians should be encouraged to find in their sexual preferences such elements of moral beauty as may enhance their general understanding of Christ’s calling”. This of course, according to the Bible is arrant nonsense, but the Archbishop apparently does not think so. In his foreword, he describes the catechism as “a celebration of Christian living”.

Thankfully, not all Anglican clergy share this unscriptural and shameful view. At the last Lambeth Conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Carey, supported by African and Asian bishops passed a resolution saying homosexual acts were “incompatible with Scriptures”. (Punch July 8, pg 1) **Vol. 4 No. 5 (2001)**

Visiting American Cleric defends Homosexuality

In his recent visit to Nigeria (Lagos, Abuja, Enugu, Bida and Awka), Bishop and head of Episcopal Church of USA (ECUSA), Most Rev. Frank Tracy Griswold “has explained” the rationale behind calls for the legalisation of homosexuality by American clerics. At a reception held in his honour at the Cathedral of Archbishop Mining Memorial Church, Ikeja, the cleric said the call was informed by the “cultural reality” of the United States. Arguing that every society has its own realities, the Bishop said that it only became bad when Christians allowed those cultural realities to becloud or affect their faith”. Rev Griswold later addressed the Nigerian Anglican Bishops at their 2002 Episcopal Retreat at Alex Ibru’s ecumenical centre, the Trinity Centre, Agbarha-Otor, presumably to further make his case for ‘tolerance’.

CA! wonders what “faith” Bishop Griswold is referring to when he is suggesting that some cultural realities are superior to the realities in the gospel. Not only does the gospel unconditionally condemn homosexuality (Gen 19:5-7, Rom. 1:27ff), it promises deliverance for every penitent homosexual in the name of Jesus Christ. Any salt that succumbs to the environmental “realities”, forgetting its own “reality” to provide taste, is good only for the dunghill says the Lord (Mathew 5:13) **Vol. 5 No. 2 (2002)**

Pastor arrested for bank robbery spree

Christianity Today (April 24) has the following sad story from the Bible Belt of the United States: Last week the FBI arrested Warren Brown, pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Norman, Oklahoma, as he tried to rob a bank in the area. The agents say he’s admitted robbing six banks and credit unions this year. So far, Brown’s family and church, an independent Baptist congregation with between 30 and 50 members, aren’t talking, though one congregation member told television station KFOR that the church was in financial trouble and hadn’t been able to pay Brown’s salary. Other colleagues were dismayed, and were surprised by their colleague’s actions. **Vol. 6 No. 3**

Alas: Anglican Church in South Africa reconsiders position on homosexuality

The unrelenting efforts of the apostate segment of the Anglican Church to promote homosexuality have claimed its first African casualty. The Church of the Province of South Africa (Anglican Church) now says it is re-considering their policy on homosexuality, following the debate overseas. Their discussion paper on the subject does not question that the Bible takes a strong stand against

homosexuality, but rather questions whether there is a responsibility to follow the moral instruction of the Bible on this issue. Homosexuals are also trying to infiltrate other denominations and if they succeed with one, they may influence others. The Church of the Province of South Africa should not be confused with Church of England in South Africa. This latter denomination takes a strong line against homosexuality. (From information provided by Philip Rosenthal, www.ChristianView.org) **Vol 6 No 5**

And further hell-ward drift in England

The Church of England's Doctrine Commission has issued a report deploring the fact that the Church has 'acquired a reputation for being negative about sex'. It should celebrate it as 'wonderful gift from God.' The report deplors the use of such phrases as 'living in sin' and claims that 'covenant relationships' in which two people live together in a sexual relationship without being married but make a life long commitment to each other are as good as being formally married (*bye-bye fornication!*). The report is another step along the line of accepting that all sexual relationships, including homosexual relationships, are good as long as they are 'committed' and 'stable'.

It is interesting that the Roman Catholic Church has put out some very strong statements upholding the sanctity of marriage recently, saying (*even if not necessarily practicing*) the opposite of the Church of England Doctrine Commission and opposing 'gay marriages'. Perhaps many traditional Anglicans will follow Anne Widdecomb in transferring their allegiance to Rome as a result. As the Church of England is weakened so Rome gains strength which in turn makes it easier to absorb the UK into the EU under the spiritual authority of the Roman Catholic Church. <http://www.lightforthelastdays.co.uk> **Vol. 6 No. 5**

HOMOSEXUAL BISHOPS

You are probably beginning to become wary of reading about this again. Yes, the whole strategy of gay movement is working; it is only a question of time before the whole ‘hullabaloo’ about homosexual bishops be left only to the ‘religious’ experts and other ‘fundamentalists’ who don’t have ‘more urgent things’ to attend to.

But we had better pay closer attention and refuse the temptation to treat it all with kid gloves! The aspiration by men who unabashedly fondle, caress and have sex with other men to become bishops is only the real beginning. In their deluded vision of having the gates of hell vanquish the Church, the ultimate intention of the new ethicists in the New World Order movement is to eventually usher in an era where those who balk at homosexual relationships will be the ones to be ashamed and ridiculed for undue prudishness. Very soon the ‘value’ of homosexual sex in the ‘intractable population problem’ of the world will start receiving prominence, as indeed the idea of homosexuality being the next stage of evolution for modern man is being touted. Help!

And so, a perverted act which some twenty years ago used to be hushly reported as occurring only among the worst hardened criminals, demon-possessed dictators on some banana republics, and hard-core occultists, has gradually moved into the public arena, veered into the Church, and is now headed straight for the Bishop’s very throne!

Even as late as 1997, CA! (**Vol.1 No.1**) was still reporting that the Southern Baptist Convention was calling for a boycott of Disney Theme Parks (a privately owned entertainment industry) for promoting homosexuality. The same year in Vol. 1 No. 5, we reported that even Bill Clinton (who had just admitted to having

“inappropriate” sexual affairs) passed a veto on homosexuals in the US military, while the US Senate anxiously waited “for an opportune time” to nominate a gay for ambassadorial position for the first time ever. But in this short period of about five years, homosexuals are now openly calling the shots, even right in the Church!

Where are we headed for? Trends are already discernable to a careful observer. In Canada, a pastor whose parish refused to cooperate with the gay movement was recently rendered redundant and the parish itself closed down. The heat is even more intense outside the Church for those who oppose homosexuality in that country, as a new law being discussed threatens a stiff 5 year jail term for “intolerants” who engage in “hate activities” which could be applied to criticism of homosexuality or homosexuals. Meanwhile, homosexuality continues to receive massive promotion not only in media but even more seriously, among school children. We reported previously about activities such as role-playing in which school children in Britain are not only taught that homosexuality is normal, but are encouraged to imagine themselves as homosexuals. (See also current developments in the so-called ‘The Laramie Project’ (Offstage drama over school play, ChicagoTribune.com, Oct. 24)) And of course there are numerous provisions in the various emerging children’s rights to spur them on should they feel any ‘inclination’ whatsoever towards homosexuality.

So while we all prepare for the ‘post-modern world’ reminiscent of Sodom (Genesis 19:4-5) and Gibeah (Judges 19:22) where the vocal minority eventually takes over, cajoling the silent majority in society - they being made dumb by their lusts, Christians must nevertheless strengthen their resolves to continue to vehemently abhor and speak against all appearance of evil, making no compromises whatsoever. We must continue to love the sinner, continually sounding the

undiluted gospel so as to pull them “out of the fire” if at all possible, while at the same time “hating even the garment spotted by the flesh” (Jude 23). “And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (John 1:5). The question is will you shine, dear Christian (Matthew 5:13-14) or do you have “more urgent business” to attend to? **Vol. 6 No. 6**

U.S Church allowed to use hallucinogenic tea

The US Supreme Court has ruled that a New Mexico church, O Centro Espirita Beneficiente Uniao do Vegetal, could use hallucinogenic tea as part of its services, at least during the Christmas period. Thus a temporary stay on the continued use of the product which government had previously won was lifted. The US government contends that the hoasca tea contains a controlled substance, DMT, and is therefore illegal and dangerous. The Brazil-based church however replied that hoasca isn't only safe, but to members it is sacred and as a sacrament, connects them to God. (azcentral.com/offbeat/articles/1210Scotus-Religion-ON.html)

Hallucinogens are substances that produce various visual effects and imagery. The question is whether these are hallucinations or ‘visions’. Many of them often lead to mental problems if not carefully prepared and used. Practitioners claim that the effects of using these products ‘ordinarily’ and as ‘sacrament’ are different **Vol. 8 No. 1 (2005)**

Britain no longer a Christian Country - Archbishop of York

The Church of England's second most senior figure, Dr David Hope, has said that he would be “hard-pushed” to describe Britain as a Christian country. He specifically cited a lack of belief in the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus as an example of the increasing secularisation of the country. A few weeks later at Christmas, a Sunday Times

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survey of 140 ministers in the Church of Scotland revealed that 37% of them do not believe in the virgin birth of Christ. The ministers said they believed that, like the resurrection (!), the virgin birth should be interpreted metaphorically rather than as a description of actual events.

(<http://news.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/12/15/njesus15.xmlref>)

Dr Hope is not alone in his perceptions. Jayne Ozanne, senior adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, is predicting even tougher times ahead for the Church in that country. In her analysis, Ozanne pointed out that: "Sacrificial giving is not a concept that we in the West have either embraced or understood. We are too comfortable and, as a result, too compromised". Her conclusions were unambiguous: "I see a time of great persecution coming, which will drive Christianity all but underground in the West. I believe that this will primarily take the form of a social and economic persecution, where Christians will be ridiculed for their faith and pressurized into making it a purely private matter."

While the established Church will self-destruct, "fragmenting into various divisions over a range of internal issues", a new "Church in England" will emerge, she further predicted. (worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=41891)

Ironically, missionaries from Nigeria now rank among the leading lights that God is using to hold the light in Britain and Europe - a near reversal of the situation some 150 years ago. The two largest and fastest growing Churches in Europe (East and West) are pastored by 'young' Nigerians, Pastor Sunday Adelaja in Kiev, and Pastor Mathew Ashimolowo in London. **Vol. 8 No. 1 (2005)**

Paedophiles 'turning Christian' to prey on children in church

In the UK, “children are at growing risk from paedophiles who convert to Christianity in prison and join a church on their release”, a government-backed charity has said. The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service said that five churches a week were asking for its help, partly because of an influx of sex offenders who had "found God" on evangelical "Alpha" courses in jail. Simon Bass, a spokesman for the Service, said that clergy must be on their guard because some churches had been ruthlessly exploited by paedophiles, who have often held senior posts. The charity estimates that up to three quarters of child abusers are regular members of church congregations or religious groups“. (The Telegraph, London 07/05/2005)

This sad news item on the one hand is another data on the destructive fruit of sexuality education - which seeks to promote a general liberal sexual attitude coupled with the exploration and “nurturing” of infant/children sexuality. On the other hand, it also shows the danger of the “newer techniques” of soul winning which place strong emphasis on psychology, at the expense of the Gospel. Such courses are unable to provide real helps for sinners who wish to be free from the shackles of sin and addiction. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe... Rom 1:16 - **Vol. 8 No. 3 (2005)**

Contaminating the Salt - Now Christian Yoga?

So-called “Christian Yoga” is the latest in the series of satanic devices stealthily infiltrating the Church and seeking to contaminate her salt. Propelling the rapidly-growing popularity of “Christian yoga” is a popular video, "Outstretched in Worship" which even while noting some concepts that are at odds with Christianity in yoga, still gave the

practice a full endorsement. Daniel Akin, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, warns that "Yoga is rooted in Eastern mysticism and is incompatible with Christianity." He says the Bible holds ample opportunities for meditation. Furthermore, a Christian who got out of that scene, Laurette Willis, said it left her vulnerable to "psychic influences" and opened the door to 20 years of involvement in the New Age movement. She says you cannot put a Christian spin on yoga and that "Christian yoga" is an oxymoron (see www.olivetreeviews.org, Review of May 20).

Meanwhile, two different ladies have filed law suits against the Delnor-Community Hospital of Geneva, alleging that a former psychologist there subjected them to witchcraft under the guise of therapy. One of the ladies claimed that she was coerced during therapy into acts of nudity and self-mutilation and into joining a Wiccan coven while receiving treatment from September 2001 to June 2004. The so-called therapy only increased her depression and sparked three suicide attempts.

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story.asp?id=25725> Vol. 8 No. 3 (2005)

Gay marriage issue continues to shake Churches

The issue of homosexual unions and relationships continue to separate the sheep and goats in many a Christian denomination in recent times. In one such development, the Anglican Consultative Council has voted out the American and Canadian Churches for 3 years over their insistence to continue ordaining gay clergy and bless gay relationships. At a meeting in Nottingham, the North American Churches had refused to back down from their view which had led to the ordination in the US of the openly-gay Gene Robinson as bishop in 2003. (BBC - June 23, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4121438.stm>.)

On the other hand, the United Church of Christ with a membership strength of 1.3 million has become the largest Christian denomination to embrace same sex marriage when about 80% of the Church's 884-member General Synod approved on July 4, a resolution calling on member churches to consider wedding policies "that do not discriminate against couples based on gender."

Claiming that this decision does not represent the opinion of "the people on the pew", the Rev. Brett Becker, who represents a group of the UCC's more conservative churches, said by this declaration made on the US Independence Day, the UCC has declared itself independent "from the teachings of Jesus and the clear teachings of Scripture". He further confirmed that his congregation at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Cibolo, Texas, will leave the church over the resolution. "I would like to see us stay in the denomination and network for positive change, however, many of my members have expressed very clearly that this decision would cause great consternation and that, if this happened, they would want to see us leave" Becker said. - **Vol. 8 No 4 (2005)**

Homosexuality continues to divide sheep and goat congregations

The Russian Orthodox Church has suspended its contacts with the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden after a vote by the Swedish church to introduce a service of blessing for same-sex civil partnerships. In its statement, the Russian synod said, "Approving the shameful practice of same-sex marriages is a serious blow to the entire system of European spiritual and moral values influenced by Christianity. Such novelties undermine the moral foundations of European civilisation and cause irreparable damage to its spiritual influence worldwide." The assembly of the Church of Sweden, which accounts for about 7

million of Sweden's 9 million people, voted on 27 October to establish a blessing in churches for same-sex couples who have signed a civil partnership agreement, (www.eni.ch/articles/display.shtml?06-0007)

And in the United States, the Board of Directors of the Pacific Southwest has announced it may soon end all formal relationships with the American Baptist Churches, USA, over "irreconcilable" differences on homosexuality. The leaders of the Pacific Southwest criticized the 1.3-million-member ABCUSA for the national body's unwillingness to enforce its official stance on homosexuality, specifically for its acceptance into membership churches that are open and affirming to the homosexual lifestyle. In 2004, the Southern Baptist Convention withdrew from the international Baptist World Alliance also over ABCUSA's acceptance of gay-friendly churches. <http://www.christiantoday.com/news/america/homosexuality.debate.drives.wedge.between.american.baptists/479.htm> **Vol. 9 No. 1 (2006)**

Missing pastor found dead in Abuja

The body of Pastor Israel, earlier declared missing by the police in Abuja on December 27 2005, "was found floating on the stream behind the Amazing Grace Church, the church he tended before his death." reports the Daily Trust. The Pastor is believed to have been killed by a robbery gang who took away the N12,000 he had just received from the church council, out of the five months entitlements (amounting to N65,000 - about \$460) being owed him by the Church. Another Pastor in the same Church, Pastor David, said he realized that the late Pastor Israel could not afford three square meals because of the non-payment of his salary. He lamented that though the deceased was given some payment before his death, even then he

had to pass through deacons of the church and even people who are not Christians. For details of this unfortunate story see Daily Trust, Jan 6, 2006; <http://www.dailytrust.com/>) - **Vol. 9 No 1 (2006)**

Directive versus Definition: Lesbian Evangelist pronounced Not Guilty of Misconduct

At last, one of the several ministers in the Presbyterian Church who have been treating with utter disdain the Church's official position on same-sex marriage has been brought to trial. 63 year old Jane Spahr better known as Lesbian Evangelist was charged before the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) for officiating at the unions of gay couples. However she was soon quickly discharged and acquitted. Ruling 6-1 in her favour, the Commission declared that since the section of the Church's constitution that reserves marriage for a man and a woman "is a definition,[and] not a directive," Spahr was "acting within her right of conscience in performing marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples," Hmm! http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PRESBYTERIANS_GAYS?SITE=MNWIN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT **Vol. 9 No 2 (2006)**

Court Allows Church's Hallucinogenic Tea

Remember the story about the *O Centro Espirita Beneficiente Uniao do Vegetal* Church which claims its members are able to contact God only under the influence of hoasca, a hallucinogenic tea (containing the illegal drug DMT)? (CA! Vol 8 No 1), Well, in addition to the temporary reprieve it got last December, the US supreme Court has now granted it full leave to go on using the leaves that send her members on celestial trips! Members believe they can understand God only by drinking the tea, which is consumed twice a month at four-hour ceremonies. The do Vegetal Church might as well begin to

witness an upward surge in membership as drug addicts flood in to abuse substance under the official cover of religion. What confusion, what bondage!
www.breitbart.com/news/2006/02/21/D8FTJ9V82.html Vol. 9
No 2 (2006)

Ted Haggard: The fall of an icon

A major stinge operation was executed against the Church on Nov. 2 when a male prostitute revealed on radio that Pastor Ted Haggard, President of the most influential evangelical organization on earth, the National Association of Evangelicals (an umbrella organization for over 45,000 CONSERVATIVE churches in the US); and the Senior Pastor of the 14,000 strong New Life church has been hiring him every month over the past three years for drug-fueled homosexual affairs. After an initial denial of the incredible story, Ted Haggard confessed that unspecified aspects of the allegations were indeed true and he resigned his position on the NAE. A few days later he was dismissed from his office at New Life.

It is difficult to over-emphasize the impact of this sordid affair on the Church whose credibility took a sudden nose-dive. The word “hypocrisy” kept reverberating, considering that Ted Haggard had been an impassioned and vocal uncompromising opponent of homosexuality and same sex marriage. The secular and atheist world had a field day denouncing Christianity and Christian leaders in general. Mr Haggard had also been articulate in the Creation versus Evolution debate - and once again the situation provided the enemies of Christ a big opportunity of reproaching His name on that front.

Of course, the Lord was not unaware of the developments, right from the first day Mr Haggard stepped into sin; and it is the Church (particularly outside the US) which must learn its lesson from the sad

situation. The first question that springs up from this sad development is, where was the Holy Spirit in all these? How could an organization like the NAE have at its very helm, for three years, a man involved in gross sin for the same length of time - and nobody seemed to have noticed anything! A visiting Chinese Christian leader was once quoted as expressing his amazement at how much the American Church could get done, apparently without the help of the Holy Spirit! Much like Rick Warren's Purpose Driven ministries, it's all about programming, high-tech, and strategic marketing. This, of course, is not to denigrate good, purposive planning, but rather a question of giving primacy of place to the Holy Spirit as the true head of the Church - in the spirit of Prov 16:1, 21:31, etc.

The positive side of the story however is the impressive manner the matter was dealt with by the Board of New Life. Without any rancor whatsoever, Ted Haggard was promptly removed and replaced from being the Senior Pastor of a church he had built from the scratch. Moreover, to the great disappointment and sorrow of the secular and atheist press, Mr Haggard did not try to excuse his action; neither (at least for now) has he changed his position that homosexuality is sinful and should not be condoned. His letter of apology to his congregation was quite heart-rending and showed how terrible sin is.

The real problem right now seems to be at the NAE side. On the one hand, Haggard's replacement as NAE interim president, Leith Anderson is known to be involved with the Emergent Church movement - which movement is one of the major pressure groups working to link the Evangelical/Pentecostal Churches with the Eastern spirituality in the actualization of the satanic one world religion agenda. The Emergent Church movement is quite sympathetic to homosexuality, as it is to a myriad of other ordinarily incompatible ideas. Right now, the NAE seems to be pushing Mr

Haggard towards seeking help from the secular world via psychological evaluation and counseling. One does not have to be a prophet to see that the result of such an approach would be to 'help' reconcile Mr Haggard to "his homosexual nature" and perhaps prepare him to bridge the NAE and the gay world. As a matter of fact, Richard Cizik, Vice President for governmental affairs and apparently the official spokesman for the NAE, is already telling the world that this Haggard infamy could be the beginning of a whole new era for evangelicals and homosexuals; and that evangelical pastors should stop "demonizing" homosexuals from the pulpit. (www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N06304878.htm)

Unfortunately, the minority voices of Christian watchdog organizations, many of which had critically warned Ted Haggard as well as others before the current situation, are still unheeded in the big business that Christian ministry has become, not only in the United States, but elsewhere in the world. Ted Haggard and his family certainly need the prayer of the Church. **Vol. 9 No 6 (2006)**

More Evangelical Leaders in the US endorse homosexuality

As a sign of the on-going headlong plunge of the Church into the apostasy Bible says would usher in the anti-Christ, more evangelical leaders in the US are joining the position already championed by popular preachers like Rick Warren endorsing the "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and queer" (GLBTQ) movement. The latest in this sad development is Tony Jones, popular author and national coordinator of the Emergent Village. According to an article in WorldNetDaily, despite recounting his earlier days of arguing that "biblical prohibitions to homosexual sex should be taken seriously," Jones now admits that his "experiences and feelings" have led him toward a different conclusion. In an Internet posting, Jones writes, "I

now believe that GLBTQ can live lives in accord with biblical Christianity (as least as much as any of us can!), and that their monogamy can and should be sanctioned and blessed by church and state."

About the same time, Richard Cizik, chief lobbyist and vice president for governmental affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), the highly influential body representing 45,000 US Churches from 59 denominations, has said in a National Public Radio interview that he believes in homosexual civil unions. <<http://www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=82709>>

Meanwhile, disgraced former president of the NAE, Ted Haggard who was exposed as having a 3 year old relationship with a male prostitute and consequently removed from leadership and ministry both in the NAE and in his own Church is staging a come-back, almost exactly two years after. Nine months ago, Mr Haggard has reportedly walked out of the programme designed by his Church to rehabilitate him and help him deal with his problem with homosexuality - which he sorrowfully admitted at that time. Now, early in Nov, Haggard took the pulpit at the Open Bible Fellowship, Morrison, Illinois, where he introduced as a "Christian business man." The Associated Press news items reports that Haggard preached "a message that was equal parts contrition and defiance"

In reporting on Mr Haggard's fall two years ago, (Vol 9 No 6), CA! had noted that the event seemed to be strengthening the hands of the Emergent Church movement within the NAE. We particularly warned that Richard Cizik and his ilk might as well attempt to "reconcile Haggard to his 'homosexual nature' and perhaps prepare him to bridge the NAE and the gay world". We fear that is about to happen at this time. **Vol. 11 No. 6**

And the NUDES Church Emerges

If you are concerned about the emerging trends in dressing - with the indecent exposure of parts of the human anatomy - which is fast creeping into the Church in Nigeria, you surely ain't seen anything yet. Some fringe groups are already promoting "clothes-free worship" sessions. One group that has emerged from the movement is the 'Naturists Unashamedly Doing Evangelism and Surfing' (NUDES). By going totally naked (clergy wear their collars though) the UK-based NUDES hopes not only to worship God in a natural way, but also to effectively reach out to the nation's thriving naturist and surfing communities. Since nudity outside designated beaches is still illegal in many countries, (expect clamour for minority rights in no distant future!), the mission work for now is still restricted to such beaches. Speaking at their beach mission located at Wyndup Beach in Cardigan Bay, Wales, co-coordinator, Eve Ennsong explains that "Nakedness is crucial to what we're about... once people get beyond the pretence of fashion and image they find that they can be totally open with each other. It's led to some revealing conversations."

Those tireless missionaries to places like Koma hills of Nigeria and elsewhere might as well start wondering what business they have trying to clothe the nudist animists they encounter in their mission fields! www.emergingchurch.info/stories/nudes/index.htm **Vol. 9 No 3 (2006)**

Woman Methodist minister re-appointed - as a man

A woman who has served as minister at St. John's United Methodist Church in Baltimore (USA) for five years has been re-appointed to the position - as a man, according to church officials. The announcement came at the Baltimore-Washington annual conference

of the UMC, where the former Ann Gordon announced the change to Drew Phoenix, and talked of a "spiritual transformation" since the sex change procedure. In a statement on the conference website, Gordon/Phoenix explained that the change was to reflect "my true gender identity."

"The gender I was assigned at birth has never matched my own true, authentic, God-given gender identity ... how I know myself," the statement said.

Several ministers in the Church however vehemently disagree with Ann's/Drew's polemics. Mark Tooley, director of the UMAction, a part of the Institution on Religion and Democracy, said gender, is not a choice but a reality. He affirmed that "The church's calling is to facilitate healing, not echo the secular culture's mantras about 'diversity,'" He further explained that the sex change case is a modern repetition of an ancient heresy, gnosticism, in which one's private feelings and thoughts overrule church teachings. According to Tooley, Christianity "rejects the suggestion that sexual identity is merely a state of mind or a preference. The God whom we worship knew us as male or female before He created us. Gender is not a choice but a reality." http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=55880 Vol 10 No 3 (2007)

Blasphemy stepped-up: “Bible Fight” The Video Game

Numerous Christian gamers and youth ministers are hailing a new "awesome video game" which many are describing as the "most fun video game they've played in a long time". The new Video Game is none other than "Bible Fight", a game where biblical characters ranging from Adam and Eve to Moses, to Jesus. There was even a character named God himself.

The game is described by "A Little Leaven": Each character has 'special' moves and powers. For instance Noah can call forth a stampede of ark animals, Eve (who is wearing only fig leaves) can whap her adversaries with a snake, Moses can rain down a plague of frogs while Jesus (attired in a loin clothe and a crown of thorns) can clobber his opponents with a cross. There was no outrage over the game, no pangs of guilt for having fun while beating the snot out of Jesus, God or Moses. There was no shame expressed over enjoying a game that blasphemes our Lord. Instead, there was gleeful excitement about the game and an enthusiasm for blogging about it and sharing it with the friends in their online communities. One of the several screen shots from Bible Fight shown by "A Little Leaven" showed 'Satan' defeating 'Jesus', with a big caption making that wishful but ever unrealizable event. If you think you have a strong enough stomach for thrash, check the screen shots at: http://www.alittleleaven.com/2007/05/bible_fight_the.html **Vol. 10 No. 3 (2007)**

New Bible translation promotes fornication

A brand-new translation of the Bible - praised by Britain's archbishop of Canterbury, flatly contradicts traditional core Christian beliefs on sex and morality. Titled "Good as New," the new Bible is translated by former Baptist minister John Henson for the "One" organization, to produce what the group calls a "new, fresh and adventurous" translation of the Christian scriptures.

"Instead of condemning fornicators, adulterers and 'abusers of themselves with mankind'," says Ruth Gledhill, the London Times religious affairs correspondent, "the new version of his first letter to Corinth has St. Paul advising Christians not to go without sex for too long in case they get 'frustrated.'"

Passages that refer people to get married, such as 1 Cor. 7:8-7 become translated as “get yourself a partner”

The One organization that produced the new Bible translation is dedicated to "establish[ing] peace, justice, dignity and rights for all." It is also focused on "sustainable use of the earth's resources," challenging "oppression, injustice, exclusion and discrimination" as well as accepting "one another, valuing their diversity and experience."

For a taste of the Good as New version of the Bible, consider for instance its translation of the important passage of the Heavenly Witness to Jesus Messiahship in Mark 1:10-11

KJV: "And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him. And there came a voice from the heaven saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

New: "As he was climbing up the bank again, the sun shone through a gap in the clouds. At the same time a pigeon flew down and perched on him. Jesus took this as a sign that God's spirit was with him. A voice from overhead was heard saying, 'That's my boy! You're doing fine!'" **Vol 10 No 3 (2007)**

RCCG faces burden of success

When critics, usually with not-so-hidden agenda, attack the RCCG, they often do so hammering on one minor point or the other, but blown up as an admixture with many other perceived evils pertaining to Pentecostal Churches in general. As seen in one of the most virulent attacks of this sort in recent times by columnist Duro Onabule of the 29th June, 2007, most of these ‘evils’ include tithes payment, noisy prayers and worship, promotion of miracles, general seeking for reliefs from pain and poverty, causing traffic jams etc.

CHURCH DECAY AND IMMORALITY

However, there have been two recent points of attacks, which the RCCG (and others can sure learn from them) will do well to immediately take heed to, and address. First, was the much hyped but apparently not - without-a-substance - issue of some privileged members of the Church having abused the tax-free concession granted the Church by the FG, in importing materials for its massive, unprecedented building projects. There was the allegation that a number of “luxury cars” which were later traded at the Nigerian market, were incorporated into the legitimate tax-free imports. Understandably, the writers at the regional newspaper who forcefully hammered on this incident were not as keen to divulge that the proceedings of those illegal transactions in “luxury cars” went into the pockets of the greedy Judas(es) involved, unknown to the Church leadership! (Story in PH Telegraph, Nov 12, 2007)

The second issue, which will soon be shown to be related, is actually the central point of attack by Mr Onabule in his article already cited. This had to do with Pastor Adeboye’s mentioning to his US-based ministers at their annual conference in that country, that former president OBJ avoided him stridently on the 3rd term issue. In Mr Onabule’s fanciful opinion, such a statement, rather than indicating the actual level of intimacy between the two personalities, must be seen as a betrayal by Pastor Adeboye of someone who MUST certainly be a bosom friend!

So why are we highlighting these probably inconsequential but connected cases? Well, the latter case demonstrates, first of all, that there will be apparently rational people, who would nevertheless pretend not to know that there is little a charity organization [Christian for that matter] can do to rebuff reasonable friendship offers from the Number One citizen of the land in which it is operating - even if for some reason it wanted to do so!

[Saharareporters years ago, actually conceded that efforts by late General Sanni Abacha to court Pastor Adeboye were futile, <http://saharareporters.com/www/news/detail/?prevpage=0&startpage=10018&x=2&id=80>]

This further leads to the more important issue of the possibility of such similar unavoidable advances being made to the RCCG by people in authorities in other nations of the world, where the Church currently operates or seeks to operate from. And how, as the first case demonstrates, certain individuals may abuse such an advance irrespective of the Church's official operating principles! This situation, we consider as the burden of success, which can only be borne with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The possibilities we address are certainly not far-fetched. For instance, on Nov. 14, the Prince of Wales, the heir to the most powerful throne in the world chose a Parish of the RCCG in the UK (Jesus House) as the place to mark his 59th birthday. Any Church, except perhaps the Buckingham Palace chapel itself, must consider that choice a mark of recognition, honour and goodwill by royalty and should wish to reciprocate. However, while Prince Charles stands to gain considerable political points by associating with “black majority churches”, represented in this case by the RCCG, the gains to the Church are very questionable!

For one, the possibility of getting the Prince to have a re-think of his now well-articulated interfaith agenda (which could have made the whole association very well worth the while) is so remote; with the opposite, the contamination of the Church with the prince's peculiar form of humanism, being much more likely. In fact, the Prince, at the occasion of the visit, specifically directed a personal assistant to begin the integration of his Princes' Trust with the RCCG's social work departments. (see his speech at

http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speechesandarticles/a_speech_by_hrh_the_prince_of_wales_during_a_visit_to_jesus__409885750.html). Thus, if the RCCG leadership does not remain careful and sober, it might soon find itself on the same slippery unscriptural grounds that Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church, in the US has found himself, as we have been articulating in this newsletter over the past few years. Gradually, Mr Warren has become engulfed in his five-point humanitarian P.E.A.C.E. programme (which has *de-facto* become an extension of the UN millennium programme,) sincerely seeking to reform mankind via humanistic means, in association with other religious faiths, rather than through an unwavering faith in the undiluted Gospel as the power of God unto salvation! (please see **CA! Vol 9 No 6** or online www.lighthouse-trails-research.com/warren.htm)

In fact, a few days to his visit to the RCCG, the schedule of the British heir had taken him to places including the largest Hindu Temple in Europe, where he had enthusiastically worshipped with them (www.princeofwales.gov.uk/.../trh_visit_the_shri_swaminarayan_mandir_in_neasden_north_west_1487329830.html). Also, his intense romance with Islam is well known, and he indeed is a patron to the UK's Centre for Islamic Studies (see for example, **CA! Vol. 10 No. 2** or <http://www.faithfreedom.org/oped/sina51103.htm>).

Fortunately, the RCCG leadership seems to be well aware of all these inter-faith and humanistic interests at play. In the 5 minutes sermon he was allowed at the occasion, host Pastor Agu Irukwu of the RCCG Jesus House, according to the Punch, “encouraged the congregation to invest in the nourishing of not only their bodies but of their spirit and their souls.” (www.punchontheweb.com/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art200711250322993) **Vol. 10 No. 6**

Chris Okotie Unveils New Wife To Church

It is not likely that Rev Chris Okotie, who unsuccessfully tried to sell himself as the Christian candidate in the last Presidential election, is aware of the raw deal believers are receiving in the North, if reports in the media are anything to go by. At the same time as the events we reported in the previous article (**see page394**) were unfolding, the Pastor of the popular Household of God Church in Lagos, was busy introducing to his congregation, Stephanie Henshaw as the woman he intends to marry later in the year.

Rev. Okotie divorced his wife of 17 years, Tina, some years ago; and last year announced that he had decided to marry Stephanie, who he describes as “a woman of breathtaking beauty”. Stephanie Henshaw had been married twice and has three children. According to TheNews, “Okotie, however, said he does not care, adding that he was marrying her because she was beautiful” Stephanie, in her 30s, has known 50 years old Okotie for the past 10 years “but the two lovers became close when she left her second husband.” www.thenewsng.com/modules/zmagazine/article.php?articleid=22410 **Vol. 11 No. 1**

Homosexual groups take campaign into US mega-churches

A coalition of pro-homosexual groups led by Soulforce, is targeting six U.S. mega-churches in an effort to foster dialogue about Christian views on homosexuality. The Churches chosen for the campaign are: Lakewood Church (pastored by Joel Osteen), The Potter's House (T.D. Jakes), Hope Christian Church (Harry Jackson), New Birth Missionary Baptist Church (Eddie Long), Willow Creek Community Church (Bill Hybels), and Saddleback Church (Rick Warren).

According to the Soulforce website, "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people" and their families will attempt to visit with *members*, pastors, and leaders of the churches to talk about religious views on homosexuality; hoping "to begin a process of changing hearts and minds" in those churches.

While there certainly is nothing wrong with Christians having dialogues with homosexuals or any other group for that matter (what better opportunity to preach the Gospel!), it certainly is something else allowing specially prepared agents of anti-christian values to bring their doctrine into the Church and be given free unfettered access to church members – including children and young converts! Except of course, if the leaders of those Churches don't really believe homosexuality is a sin that can lead those caught in its throes to hell! (see Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Eph 5:5-6 however!) **Vol 11 No 1**

US Church kicked out of School Hall - for being too obscene!

Still on awards, respected Christian commentator, Ingrid Schlueter also dishes out from time to time, what she dubbed "Hall of Shame BONUS". This award is for Christian people or organizations who engage in outrageous and shameful activities. One such BONUS was recently awarded to the Great Lakes Church in Kenosha, US. The 'church' was booted out from its rented public school hall for being "obscene" and "disruptive". Yes, the local community determined that actions at the Church are too obscene to be allowed to continue in a public school building! Talk about the tail wagging the dog!

Somehow desiring to attract the whole community to their meetings, The Great Lakes Church had sent out flyers to every mailbox in the entire community, promising fun and sex talk. In the flyer titled

“Thank God for Sex”, the Church listed for the weeks ahead, topics such as - Sexy and Single (Why God Doesn't Care About Your Virginity), Sex Secrets (Porn, Homosexuality and Stuff Like That)”, etc. The local community decided it has had enough of lack of decency coming from the ‘Church” and gave the boots - lest the Church corrupts the young children! Citing the story of God using a dumb ass to correct the prophet Balaam, Ingrid concludes: “It appears that the unsaved and unregenerate sometimes have a sense of moral decency apparently missing in those claiming to be Christians”. Please read:

<[www.greatlakeschurch.com/ media/docs/GLCNashArticle1.pdf](http://www.greatlakeschurch.com/media/docs/GLCNashArticle1.pdf)>

<www.sliceoflaodicea.com/true-church/hall-of-shame-bonus-award-granted-to-great-lakes-church/> **Vol. 12 No. 2**

Rehabilitation of Ted Haggard as Homosexual Icon progresses

Many will well remember the sad story of Pastor Ted Haggard, the enormously popular and influential pastor of the New Life Church and the then President of the US National Association of Evangelicals. Three years ago, he was full of remorse as he confessed his drug-fuelled homosexual activities with a male prostitute while actively preaching against the vice in public. Knowing the great influence of the gay lobby on carnal man, we predicted then that Mr Haggard might as well turn out to become a major icon in promoting homosexuality in Bible-believing Churches. Therefore, last edition we reported his first sermon, described as “part contrition, part defiance” in an attempt for him to be rehabilitated back into the society of faith.

Since then, efforts to set up Ted Haggard in the world of advocacy are progressing at neck-breaking speed, and not so subtly anymore. Not

only has he being interviewed in quick succession by Oprah Winfrey and Larry King, a new documentary film called *The Trials of Ted Haggard*, has been made to give, according to a Christian Post article, "a sympathetic portrait" of Haggard. The film was directed by Alexandria Pelosi, daughter of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Influence of New Age Teachings and Books

The highly influential, crack Christian research organization dealing with the New Age, Lighthouse (www.lighthouse-trails.com), noted that several other cases of homosexual involvement of Mr Haggard, including many from his former Church, have further been exposed. Lighthouse then warns that the foundation for Mr Haggard's fall may actually be found in the many harmless-sounding books offered for sale at the New Life Church. These new age books, found in many Christian bookstores today (and many of them being donated to Christian libraries, especially among the youths in developing countries, as previously mentioned by us) deal with such concepts as "sexual spirituality" or "conjugal spirituality," which is related to tantra sex (the mixture of sex and mysticism). Current popular titles in this category include: Sex God (Rob Bell) and Sacred Marriage (Gary Thomas). These and similar books lay the foundation to prepare many to first be sympathetic towards, and later to "taste," homosexuality - a frontal rebellious assault at God's Word and principles. **Vol. 12 No. 2**

Restoration without genuine repentance: of Liardon, Bentley, Haggard and co

Moriel's Jacob Prash in his usual forthright manner has breached a hot topic affecting the Church in the United States. Not only are highly visible leaders in the Church falling from grace to grass, in their desperate attempts to stage dubious come-backs, they are

putting ministry and self ahead of holiness and the Gospel. The result is that Christianity is being further derided among unbelievers, while many unstable Christians are embracing the new watered-down standards of their idols. Titled “What do Ted Haggard, Todd Bentley, and Roberts Liardon all have in common?”, Prasch listed three facts which should provide food for thought for the Church:

All either compromised with false doctrine or preached it even before their public falls from grace.

All have an exposed history of homosexuality while claiming to oppose homosexuality.

All have constructed bogus doctrinal justifications for returning to the ministry.

<http://moriel.org/MorielArchive/index.php/discernment/church-issues/false-prophets/haggard-bentley-liardon-and-company>]

It was in 2002 that Roberts Liardon, pastor of Embassy Christian Center in Irvine, California, and influential Pentecostal author (including of the book *God’s Generals*), confessed to a long-term homosexual relationship with his associate youth pastor. Not only was he back in the ministry within weeks of the confession, he has more recently been announced by Colin Dye as the new head of Kessington Temple’s International Bible Institute of London. His mandate is to “train a new generation of leaders”.

Todd Bentley’s story was featured extensively on the pages of *Church Arise!* beginning from the height of his so-called “revival” which we felt could easily spill over to the Church in Nigeria - especially among the youths (**Vol. 11 Nos 3&4, 2008**). However, even while the so-called ‘revival’ was still on-going, Todd abandoned his wife and three children, and ran off with a ministry staff who he has since married! Despite such warped theology, clear demon-inspired ministry, and unsurprising serious character flaw and immorality; after a brief

suspension, Todd Bentley is back in ministry - together with the woman he ran off with, courtesy of strong backings from Rick Joyner. [A case of birds of the same feather flocking together, no doubt!] Meanwhile, as pointed out by Prasch, "Bentley's three children languish at home in Canada with his biblically rightful wife while Joyner shamefully applauds the spectacle."

Ted Haggard's case was a big-time disaster for evangelical Christianity in the United States (see **Vol. 9 No. 6**, and **Vol. 11 No. 6**). Prasch summarises the situation: "The former President of the National Association of Evangelicals, who was already consorting with doctrinally off-base figures, was involved with paying male prostitutes for unnatural sex and taking dangerous intoxicating drugs recreationally. And then lied through his teeth about it to his church - all of a sudden, he is supposedly "restored"."

Several other unfortunate cases that could be cited include Paul Crouch of Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Although Crouch vociferously denied the charges of homosexual affairs with an employee, he in 1998, agreed to pay \$425,000 in an out-of-court legal settlement to this man. The payment required the recipient remain silent about charges of the deviant sexual behavior. <http://www.politicalbyline.com/2009/04/08/the-reading-room-recent-pentecostal-scandals/>

Now, the issue is not that Christians who backslide should not be restored, but rather on what conditions and in what time frame, especially when restoration is being sought into leadership roles? One authority Collin Dye has used, to justify his restoration of Liardon to leadership role, is the narrative of the Old Testament where God forgave David for his sin with Bathsheeba. Aside several problems with this analogy, a key factor is the godly sorrow and genuine repentance exhibited by David. These ingredients have not been

obvious in the contemporary situations under discussion. As a matter of fact, Ted Haggard, (probably attempting to model Bill and Hillary Clinton), has encouraged his wife to write a book on the whole saga, which is being used to generate sympathy from non-spiritual folks. 'I love a good redemption story,' a supporter was quoted. However, a critical commentator, The Phoenix Preacher [<http://phoenixpreacher.com/>] wrote on his blog: "Would it not be more prudent to go into obscurity and work on their marriage?"

Haggard's former church affirms that he spurned the restoration process by quitting the stipulated counseling sessions in early 2008. Not only does this suggest a hardening of the heart, Haggard's choosing to set up his new church only a few miles of the old Church has been described by other leaders as "insensitive and premature". According to Larry Eskridge, associate director of the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals at Wheaton College in Illinois: "The larger question is the inability [of Haggard] to put himself under someone else's authority and whether it shows true repentance." [<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation-and-world/la-na-ted-haggard7-2009dec07,0,2372048.story>]

In his article, Jacob Prasch wrote: "No one suggests that a fallen brother or sister who truly repents cannot be forgiven and restored to fellowship, but once they no longer can have a good name with those outside of the church, 1 Timothy teaches clearly that they can no longer be restored to ministry or leadership. If someone in such an unfortunate situation truly repented, they would accept the ramifications of their misdeeds, do all they could to make amends, and abide by the teachings of Scripture that prohibits them from being in further ministry or leadership.

"We are forced to conclude" Prasch further wrote, "either that their repentance is therefore disingenuous and malmotivated or else they

are so fundamentally ignorant of God's Word that they should never have been in the ministry at all to begin with.” [http://moriel.org/MorielArchive/index.php/discernment/church-issues/false-prophets/haggard-bentley-liardon-and-company] **Vol. 13 No. 1**

James Dobson forced out from ‘Focus on the Family!’

Although couched in diplomatic soft-speak, the bottom line of the latest developments at the Focus on the Family ministry is that Mr Dobson has had to step aside from a ministry he founded 33 years ago. The 73-year-old respected espouser of traditional family values and strict biblical moral principles announced he is going to launch a new radio show with his son in March, adding "I cannot watch the world continue in a moral decline without offering guidance."

With a mission of "nurturing and defending the God-ordained institution of the family and promoting biblical truths worldwide," Dobson's Focus on the Family has built an audience estimated at 1.5 million daily listeners in the U.S. and more than 200 million worldwide.

Taking over from James Dobson is Jim Daly who is said to have a markedly different style and set of priorities. "I don't see evil behind everything," The new set of leaders have made it clear they intend to broaden their agenda beyond abortion and gay marriage and adopt the bridge-building style of such evangelical leaders as pastors Rick Warren and Joel Hunter.

Commenting on this extremely sad, but telling development, Todd Strandberg of Rapture Ready writes: "We are now at the point where it is time to declare that our nation has no moral watchmen. We still have some, but they are so small in number that they don't matter to the general population. Rapture Ready is proclaiming the

true gospel message, but our effort only reaches the hundreds of thousands.”

“Most of the moral leaders of my youth are now dead or are too old to be of any service. We're left with preachers who write books that appeal to people’s carnal nature.

“I can't think of a better example than Joel Osteen. He has the largest church in North America, he is the top-rated pastor on TV, and was named ‘Most Influential Christian in America’ in 2006 by The Church Report. The Houston-based pastor refuses to mention the word ‘sin,’ and every one of his books has the word ‘you’ or ‘your’ in the title.It doesn't surprise me that Houston elected a gay mayor and Joel Osteen was the one giving the inauguration ceremony prayer. What shocked me is the silence in the church. (See **Another Watchman Falls Off the Wall** www.raptureready.com/nm/288.html)

Todd closes with a verse of Scriptures, (1 Tim. 4:1-2):
"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some (not all) shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" **Vol 13 No 1**

*When the Son of man cometh, shall he find
faith on the Earth?*

The answer to the above poser by the Lord (Luke 18:8) seems, increasingly, to be in the negative, at least in the UK. Not only are worldviews such as atheism, humanism, and paganism, gaining ascendancy in the country, the disintegrations in the official Church of England is continuing, seemingly unabated.

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An example of the first situation is the recent elevation of Druidry to the level of an officially recognized religion in the country. By the concurrence of the Charity Commission that druids' worship of natural spirits could be seen as religious activity, the Druid Network now qualifies for a charitable status, entitled to tax breaks; and probably may soon be clamouring for public holidays – as witches and wiccans are already demanding in the United States.

The BBC explains that “Druidry's followers are not restricted to one god or creator, but worship the spirit they believe inhabits the earth and forces of nature such as thunder. Druids also worship the spirits of places, such as mountains and rivers, with rituals focused particularly on the turning of the seasons.” It further observed that “with concern for the environment growing and the influence of mainstream faiths waning, druidry is flourishing more now than at any time since the arrival of Christianity.” www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11457795.

As for the rest of the Church of England in the Church, disagreements over the issue of female Bishops is driving multitudes into Roman Catholicism, where the Pope has introduced a special structure, the Ordinariate to absorb defecting Anglican clergy. As reported by the London Daily Telegraph, (Nov 18, 2010) fifty Anglican clergy, including 5 Bishops, are to be formally received into Catholicism, early 2011. The Times religious affairs correspondent Ruth Gledhill told the BBC the announcement could prompt "hundreds, possibly thousands" of lay ministers to follow the bishops' example. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11709148>.

Already, an Anglican parish in Southeast England, St Peter's at Folkestone, has decided to leave en masse, the church of England and become Roman catholic. [<http://www.pres-outlook.com/news-and-analysis/1/10570.html>]

It is believed that the majority of “Anglo-Catholics” are waiting until 2012 to see whether or not the church will conclusively pass the legislation which will allow women to be consecrated. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion>. A group of such “Anglo-Catholics” Forward in Faith, currently claims to have at least 800 priests among its members [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11709148]

In the meantime, for the first time ever, representatives of secularist, atheist and masonic organisations in Europe had discussions with the leaders of the European Union's three main institutions on Friday 15th October, 2010. The summit with the "philosophical non-confessional organisations" was seen as a necessary secular counterpart to the summits the three institutions are now obliged by the Lisbon Treaty to regularly have with religious leaders. <http://euobserver.com/843/31066> Vol 13 No 6

Crisis at Crystal Cathedral – Schuller voted off Board

The crisis at the famous Crystal Cathedral reached a new climax when the Board recently voted the founder, Rev Robert H. Schuller off the Board of Directors. Making the announcement on July 3 was his son Robert A. Schuller, who himself had been voted off by the Board some three years ago. According to the younger Schuller, his dad was ousted because he had proposed adding new members to the board. In his words: “My father wanted to add board members, and they didn’t want that because they would lose control. They kicked him off. ... I feel bad for him because he’s had to watch his life’s work go down the toilet the last three years.”

The story of the building of the Crystal Cathedral in an audacious move of faith is popularized in the book by Schuller, Tough times don’t last, but tough people do.

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Robert Schuller, now 84, stepped down from the pulpit five years ago and had been a non-voting but influential member of the board with the title chairman emeritus. Daughter Sheila Schuller-Coleman was named Senior Pastor on July 11 last year, and her husband Jim Coleman is the current president of the Cathedral. <http://moriel.org/MorielArchive/index.php/discernment/rev-robert-h-schuller-voted-off-crystal-cathedral-board#more-7647>.

However, probably as a result of expression of outrage from several quarters, the governing board on July 27th made an about-turn and decided to restore “the voting rights” of Robert H. Schuller. Furthermore, an additional five members were added to the Board, It remains to be seen whether this move could step the tide of financial woes that has befallen the Church. Last year the Church declared bankruptcy and filed a plan to sell its campus and its all-glass sanctuary in the face of a \$47 million debt profile. To worsen an already sad story, one of the potential buyers of the cathedral is the local Roman Catholic diocese. Such a deal, would likely end the tenure of Crystal Cathedral Ministry on the site, unlike other deals which would allow Crystal Cathedral ministries to lease back portions of the site, including the cathedral itself.

In May last year, we reported the easing out of Dr James Dobson from Focus on the Family – a ministry he had nurtured for 33 years. He subsequently went ahead to start a new ministry . (<http://churcharise.blogspot.com/2010/03/james-dobson-forced-out-from-focus-on.html>) Could it be that pressures such as these – perceived or real -- sometimes make even godly leaders to miss their steps? The next story throws more light on this perspective. **Vol 14 No 2**

US: Lutheran Church Invites High Priestess Of Isis To Speak At Conference

A high priestess of the pagan fertility goddess Isis, was one of the major speakers listed for the fifth annual "Faith and Feminism Conference" of the Ebenezer Lutheran Church, ELCA, (Nov.11–13, 2011)

Loreon Vigne, high priestess of the Egyptian goddess Isis, will be bringing several other priestesses from her Oasis Temple “to conduct prayers, songs and meditation,” organizers of the so-called Christian conference announced.

What exactly is this meditation? Ms Vigne explains: "Guided meditation is where the audience closes their eyes and you take them on a little journey. I've taken people to their past lives in Egypt, as [that culture] had all the secrets...."

Defending the event, one of the organizers, Rev. Megan Rohrer told the World Net Daily, "I think the world is much more interested in interfaith connection than exclusivity." Rohrer holds the unenviable “distinction” of being the first openly transgender Lutheran minister ordained in the United States. Other events announced for the conference include a chanting workshop with another Isis priestess, Katie Kethcum, "inclusive" hymns, Interplay, Individual Reiki Sessions, Labyrinth, sacred walks, sacred drums, sacred dance, and Kundalini Yoga mantras, which the church says "are composed of basic phonetic sounds common to all languages and have been used to invoke the presence of the Divine for centuries.

The ELCA refers to itself as Her-Church and describes God as a female. According to this notorious church, faith in Jesus is not needed for salvation. Read details of this story at <http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2011/November01/0152.ht>

[ml](#). The next story below shows that the concept of harmonizing Jesus and goddess-worship is seeking for acceptance, even in Nigeria.
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3.12

Nigeria: Introducing “Witches for Jesus”!

Much has been written both on the Internet and mainstream media, on the so-called slap by a highly respected Bishop on a supposed innocent girl. While we do not hold brief for the man of God (whom, by the way, we deeply admire and respect), we believe the incident has important lessons for the saints as we slug it out with a desperate devil these end times.

We’ve gone through some transcripts provided of the event – most of them crudely edited to promote some uncharitable perspectives. Apparently, the man of God had made an altar call for those involved in witchcraft, and who wished for deliverance, to step forward. Apparently some who stepped out were coerced into doing so (e.g. by concerned relatives) and they were not willing to openly admit to being practicing witches in need of deliverance. Even though transcripts provided by the most ardent critics clearly reported the Bishop by-passing at least one such case and telling her to continue on the path to hell if she was not willing to renounce witchcraft and embrace Jesus, the incident of slapping of the “innocent young girl” is the long-sought opportunity the desperate anti-Christian press needed to bash an influential and unstoppable Christian minister.

The simple and clear fact however, is that what got the Bishop all provoked was the insistence of the subject that she is a witch for Jesus. The slap was therefore not a process of deliverance - as being portrayed in the tomes that have now been written trying to link the

Bishop with the numerous incidences of child abuse connected with so-called deliverance ministers from various religious and spiritual expressions.

Our interest in the case however, is the apparent genuine insistence of the girl to being a Jesus' witch. It is what she really believes! And it speaks volumes about the infiltration of the Church with satanic concepts painted in Christian terms. Over the years, we have been shouting ourselves hoarse on this dangerous trend: myriads of lodges, freemasons, cults, and inter-faith buffs sincerely believe (and seek to teach) that they are worshipping the Lord Jesus, while so blatantly opposing His commandments! See for instance the last edition for the story of the Norwegian mass murderer who insisted in all apparent sincerity that he was defending the Church!

Unfortunately, these high profile cases are only the tip of the iceberg. In the vast majority of cases, observable from day to day, the issues are not quite as stark clear as the examples cited here. Nevertheless, it's the same phenomenon: multitudes who engage in clear sinful living still tenaciously believe they are serving Jesus and are Heaven-bound!

The Scripture is quite clear on the issue, however:

“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience*” (Ephesians 5:5-6)

Recommended further reading: ***Blending Witchcraft and Christianity (Spiritual Warfare***, Part 4). By Berit Kjos (October 24, 2011)

www.crossroad.to/Quotes/spirituality/African-witchcraft.htm

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Masturbation Not A Sin — Pastor Chris

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome of the Believers Love World, a.k.a Christ Embassy shocked both fans and critics when he recently declared that masturbation is not a sin and God is absolutely not bothered a hoot about what a Christian does with his body. Masturbation involves deriving sexual pleasure by fondling one's own body and actively using the mind to get sexually aroused. Apparently, many members of Pastor Chris church had problems with this issue – which they consider as a sin; and having discussed it extensively on a chat forum, decided to get the Pastor's assistance.

In his comments which is available on the Youtube (<http://www.youtube.ng/watch?v=DBi8l621wbQ>), Pastor Chris was responding to questions from his members and fans, moderated by Pastor Kwadu from Ghana. Kwaku asked: "Pastor, how does one overcome masturbation?"

The response by Oyakhilome was surprising: "The reason you are thinking of stopping it is because you think it has become a habit for you...masturbation is not more than a habit than any other habit" And then he added the shocker: "This habit has nothing to do with God but a lot to do with the body of the person practising.it"

For the avoidance of doubt, Pastor Chris explained what he meant by "habit". Masturbation is just another habit, just like "the habit of playing football". And to break that habit, one simply replaces that habit with another habit.

The Pastor was not done yet, as he veered off the original question of how, to the issue of why? Why think of breaking the harmless "habit" of masturbation? "There is one thing I would like to bring to your mind that may be of help to you because the reason you are thinking of stopping this is because of what you think it is." With

characteristic charm and emphasis Oyakhilome then proceeded to say: “No matter how wrong you think this is in your mind, get this straight, in itself, it is not a sin against God,”

Speaking further, Pastor Chris said it was only Satan that is oppressing the people of God by troubling them with the unnecessary guilt that masturbation is offensive to God. As a result of this belief that masturbation is a sin, Satan uses it to oppress people of God “making them feel ineffective and inefficient in the things of God.” (See updates and white-washing efforts at <http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2012/03/21/masturbation-not-a-sin-oyakhilome-insists/>)

The main issue then, according to Pastor Chris, is that members of his church that have become steeped in the “habit” of masturbation need not feel bad about it. What offends God, is one’s feeling guilty about masturbation. In his words: “Masturbation is about you and your body. God is not offended by it, He is only offended by any habit that takes hold of your mind and if this takes hold of your mind and dominates your body, God is offended.....so if you don’t like it, stop it, but God’s got nothing to do with it. It is your own body.” It would appear Pastor Chris is deliberately trying to challenge the Scriptures: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are. (1Co 3:16 -17). For good measure, that Scripture adds: “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. (1Corinthians 3:18)

In his advice to those, who being weak in “faith” truly needs to get rid of this habit (as the original question requested), Pastor Chris counsels: “So once you make up your mind that you want to break a

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particular habit, you just do it, you make up your mind...in fact the best way to break a habit is to replace it with another habit.”

One wonders, if masturbation truly were just another innocuous habit as the Pastor would have it, what other sexual “habit” would be strong enough to be used as replacement?

The pleasant surprise, considering the considerable moral downturn of the age, is that most commentators on the internet – including members of the Pastor Chris Church, Christ Embassy, could not agree with this clearly carnal and immoral teaching. While a number of Pastor Chris disciples groped for words to express reservations about their mentor’s teaching, others simply pointed to several Scriptures, such as those warning about fornication not necessarily limited to the physical acts but thoughts as well, or the need to walk not in uncleanness or carnal lusts. Indeed the Bible is emphatic in Ephesians 5:5-7:

“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.”

Caught in the sin of masturbation? Please seek the help of the holy spirit through prayer and fasting. If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed. **Vol 15 No 1**

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SECTION III

**Church – Progress and
Courage**

INTRODUCTION

For all the challenges, persecution, and the falling away of many from the faith, the word of the Lord is that the gates of Hell shall never prevail against the True Church. The resilience of the faith of saints across nations in all manner of situations is another compelling evidence that the Lord Maker of all things is still in control of all situations, and His words and promises are absolutely dependable. His words still ring loud and clear: Behold, I come quickly (Rev. 22:12)

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN: Courage and Truth

Baptist Church to demand AIDS Certificate from Couples

In a communiqué issued at the end of its annual convention in Ilorin on April 30, the Baptist Church announced that its ministers “shall demand a certificate of HIV/AIDS test from would-be couples before they are joined in holy matrimony”.

When pressed in a telephone interview to comment, CAN Chairman, Dr Mbang said he doesn't think that was such a good idea. “Churches should encourage intending couples, privately, during pre-marriage counseling sessions to go for HIV/AIDS test but Church shouldn't make it an official policy as it could lead to discriminations” (Punch page 3, May 16). The reader may recall that two leaders of the HIV-infected group are reportedly planning to get married. What happens in cases like this? **Vol. 4 No 4 (2001)**

RCCG targets 50 million souls for Christ

The Redeemed Christian Church of God has set a target of 50 million new souls to be won for the Lord next year, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the Church. The General Overseer, Pastor E.A. Adeboye who will be 60 years old by then has already made it clear that meeting this target is the only birthday gift that will be acceptable

to him from his ministers. “I don’t want any sponsored congratulatory messages for my 60th birthday. I want souls...” he told a gathering of Ministers during the Ministers' Conference preceding the Church’s 49th Annual Convention in August. **Vol. 4 No. 5 (2001)**

At Onitsha, Dead Man rises back to life

A man who had spent 3 days at the Mortuary was revived at the Grace of God Mission, Onitsha without any special prayers. The corpse was taken to the basement of the Church while Reinhard Bonnke, unaware of the presence of the corpse, preached in the Church. The event happened at the commissioning of the multi-million 30,000 seat “His Glory Temple” of the Mission. A member of the Church’s security told Vanguard newspaper that “when he (the corpse) was brought in, his body was black, but now he has regained his normal colour”. (Vanguard Dec 5, pg 8) **Vol. 5 No. 1 (2002)**

PFN on 200 Day Fasting for 2003 Polls

The national Vice President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, Rev. Uma Ukpai has warned that God’s severe punishment awaits any Nigerian politician who may attempt to manipulate the 2003 elections with a view to getting into public office at the expense of others. He maintained that God is ready to put an end to electoral fraud and violence in the country. “I want to sound the warning as God put it to me that anyone who plans violence in 2003 to have unmerited election victory would be the first victim of the crisis. He added that the PFN (**South-South Zone?**) has begun a 200-day fasting and prayer programme for Christian leaders in Nigeria. **Vol. 5 No. 2 (2002)**

Direly Wanted: Christian Politicians

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has urged “committed Christians to take part in politics since we are the salt of the earth”. In a press conference by the General Secretary of the BSN, Rev Fred Odutola, “if we stand aloof and allow ourselves to be ruled by gluttons, then we should not cry that the treasury has been emptied”. (Punch April 23, pg 4)

In a related event, Bishop of Egba/Yewa Diocese of the Methodist Church, Rev. Charles Odenade made a similar call on a recent OGBC Sunday Morning Live on FM programme. He believes that there were “still righteous and committed people in the country who are ready to turn the fortunes of Nigeria around. In a conference organized by the Northern States Christian Elders Forum (see below), Chief Solomon Lar lamented that “while adherents of the opposing faith have no pretence about the inseparability of religion and politics in human affairs, there was a totally misleading and fallacious belief among Christians ... that politics is a dirty and immoral activity”. Christians should get involved and correct the defects rather than abstain altogether, he urged. **Vol. 5 No. 3 (2002)**

Defense Minister alerts Nigerian Christians on Impending Danger

There is an underground design to totally wipe out Christianity in Nigeria, beginning from the North, the Defense Minister, General T.Y. Danjuma has warned. Not known to be frivolous, General Danjuma gave the warning at the one-day conference on “Social, Economic and Political status of Christians in the Northern States of Nigeria” organized by the Northern States Christian Elders Forum (NOSCEF) on April 20. He cited the case of Egypt and other North African countries which used to be major Christian centers in the

world before Islam crept in and systematically drove Christianity underground. General Danjuma observed that in the last 2 years, there has been a massive exodus of non-Northern Christians (from the South) out of Sharia states with many of them shifting to Abuja and Jos. This, he said, was exactly what the Sharia scripts read. The solution according to the General is not far-fetched: “the solution will only come when people from interior northern states are made clergies and missionary groups headed by core-northern indigenes are sent to the villages. These are not likely to leave their people despite any persecution or threat”. The General commended the Anglican Church which he said is already following this course of action.

Also present at the Conference were political bigwigs such as Chief Solomon Lar, Air Vice Marshal Idi Musa, Rev. Fr. Peter Tanko, Mrs Sarah Jibril and NOSCEF Chairman Prof. Adamu Baikie. (Sunday Tribune, 21 April, page 13). CA! hopes those Southern Christians who are always quick to suggest a breaking of the country into North and South as the panacea to the various socio-economic problems will learn to see with ‘Kingdom eyes’. The North is a ripe-for harvesting missionary field which should not be abandoned to the hounds of Sharia. Our brethren in the North deserve every support to win all Nigeria to Christ. **Vol. 5 No. 3 (2002)**

Gospel Power

Police have been called in to process thousands of pounds of stolen goods handed in by committed Christians after they sat through a sermon on the commandment; ‘Thou shalt not steal’. Items including 1,500 pounds sterling in cash, diamond, jewellery, watches and wallets have been left in “honesty bins” by Church goers who attended the meeting at the Norfolk Showground at the end of May. British preacher, John John urged his 3,500-strong audience to go home and

think about things they had acquired dishonestly. The power of the Gospel was adequately demonstrated throughout the week as 90 items were deposited anonymously in the bins. (Guardian June 9 Pg 28, based on report from the Telegraph **Vol. 5 No. 4 (2002)**)

PFN calls for Christian Revolutionary Agenda

Pissed about the current political developments in Nigeria, the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) is promoting what it calls the Millennium Christian Revolutionary Agenda. The Agenda is to provoke “Nigerian Christians [to] begin to see their responsibility in nation-building as a task that must be achieved if they will not be failing God and their generation. The thrust of the matter is that Christians should come out to be involved in the political process, not just to vote for the candidates of their choice, but “to serve that the light might shine”. All these were contained in a press advertorial by the organization and signed by its national president, Bishop Mike Okwonkwo as the position taken by the NEC meeting of the PFN (Punch Sept 20, pg 41). The strongly worded statement urged “Nigerian Christians and other well meaning Nigerians” not to allow “unabated, the FILTH” that is currently being unleashed on the polity “by the present crop of profligate politicians... who have turned themselves to demi-gods in Nigeria”. **Vol. 5 No 6 (2002)**

Church Refuses \$100,000 tithes - from Lottery

The Salvation Army in Naples, Florida (US) will not accept a \$100,000 donation from a man who had won \$14.3 million in the Florida Lottery. And it is not because it was the wrong percentage! The Salvation Army said it could not morally accept winnings from the Lottery that it opposes. Even though an official of the organization had earlier accepted the cheque from 71 year old David L. Rush, the

winner; Major Cleo Damon, head of the Salvation Army office in Naples had the cheque returned. “There are times where Major Damon is counseling families who are about to become homeless because of gambling”, explained the spokesperson for the Church. (Christianity Today, 30/12/02, www.wrbs.com) **Vol. 6 No. 1 (2003)**

US Governor adopts Christian worldview in governance

Newly elected governor of Georgia state in the United States, Sonny Perdue, is one born-again Christian ready to bring his faith into his job of governing the state. Recently at the 2nd annual legislative Prayer Breakfast, Gov. Perdue declared to his Christian audience, “I want you to know that your governor is not afraid... to say that Jesus Christ is his Saviour! ... I believe that the Bible is not a passive book - it calls us to action”. Gov Perdue added that he plans to make the Church the backbone of his two new social initiatives called, ‘One Child, one Church’; and ‘One Inmate, One Church’. The Church should be ‘Salt and Light in our world’ he maintained. (Guardian Feb 16, pg 27) **Vol. 6 No. 2 (2003)**

Ugandan Bishop to reward virgin brides

Mityana diocesan Bishop, Rev. Dunstan Bukunya has promised to give 100,000 shillings to every girl of the Anglican Church who marries while still virgin. Bukunya said he decided to do this to discourage prostitution. The exact practicality of this good idea is not clear though! (Guardian Jan. 19, pg 27) **Vol. 6 No 2 (2003)**

In England, Evangelical Anglicans continue to protest new Archbishop-designate

In our last edition, we reported that the announcement of Dr. Rowan Williams as the new Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the 70

million-strong Anglican Church Communion is generating some furores, since Dr. Rowan is known to be a “humanist to the core”. An Anglican Church website monitored by *Answers in Genesis* (AiG) in April is reported to have listed two main issues, with respect to Dr. Rowan, causing “deep concern amongst Evangelicals within the church”. First is concerning the perverse acts of homosexuality; “On the fundamental issue of truth and authority of the Bible [Dr. Rowan] showed that his understanding is one which evangelical Christians cannot accept. The Archbishop-designate was clear that homosexual activity is not always wrong, based on a perverse interpretation of chapter 1 of [the] letter to the Romans.”

The second issue has to do with the evolution theory, which the new Archbishop’s group claim could be “refined, confirmed and even radically altered by attention to evidence.” Evolution theory is a vital force to keep pantheism and other new age ideas alive. We thank God for Anglicans standing for the integrity of the Word of God. Happily for us in this part of the world, the Anglican Communion in Nigeria is mainly in the Evangelical group that affirms the sanctity and truth of the Gospel. We need to keep these people in our prayer. *From AiG News; April 29. Vol. 6 No 3 (2003)*

Worldwide Church of God joins mainstream Christianity

Probably most people have come across a copy of *Plain Truth* Magazine one time or the other. It is one of the famous free-literature that heretical groups have inundated the world with in this end-time battle of ideas. The publishers of *Plain Truth, the Worldwide Church of God* (WCG) is generally considered as a classical heretical group. Under founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, the WCG rejected Trinity as a pagan doctrine (holding that there are rather two Gods) and enforced tithing (30%) and observance of seventh-day Sabbath as

conditions for salvation. Furthermore, the WCG is recognised as the only “True Church”, while Britain and the USA are recognised as the ten lost tribes of Israel.

However, since Armstrong’s death in 1986, his successors have begun to question some of these doctrines in the light of the Scriptures. Now, after a particularly gruesome 18 months upheaval, the WCG has on May 7 been voted into membership of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) in the USA - representing the mainstream evangelical Church. This transition, which was entirely without any influence external to the WCG, has been quite costly for the group in terms of massive loss of revenue and many withdrawals from fellowship.

Immediate successor to Armstrong, Joseph Tkach had in 1995 challenged the Church’s view on Sabbath when he declared that “being Sabbath-keepers does not make us more righteous than other Christians”. Current Pastor General of the Church, Joseph Tkach (Jnr) summed up the developments in the Church: “For decades, we regarded the law of Moses as the basis of our righteousness. We attempted to relate to God through old covenant rules and regulations. In his mercy, God has shown us that Old Covenant obligations do not apply to Christians, who are under the New Covenant...” For details of these developments, see Christianity Today’s classic: [From the Fringe to the Fold](http://www.ChristianityToday.com/ct/2001/113/) (www.ChristianityToday.com/ct/2001/113/ Vol. 6 No. 4 (2003))

March towards Homosexuality - Church of Nigeria threatens to stop being Anglican

In 1998, at the once-in-ten-years Lambeth Conference of the worldwide Anglican Communion, it was the “African Roar” from Bishops from Africa that eventually saw the Communion denouncing

homosexuality as “incompatible with Scriptures”. Bishop John Ruchyimana of Shyira, Rwanda, was blunt and clear when he declared to liberals in Western Anglicanism “We don’t like your First World way of speaking ambiguous words and not being straight on the issues.”

However, the liberals have determined that they would not allow some unsophisticated African view of Scriptures deter them any longer. The first incidence was at Canada where the diocese of New Westminster has now authorised same sex blessing services - one already carried out a few weeks ago. Now the action has shifted to England itself, the home base of the Anglican Communion, where confessed homosexual, Canon Jeffrey John is to be consecrated as Bishop of Reading on October 9.

Dr. Jeffrey John freely acknowledges he has been in homosexual relationship with another man for 27 years - and will continue that relationship, although now as a celibate. The majority of lay Anglicans are incensed. Philip Giddings, a licensed lay minister in Reading said he and colleagues opposed the nomination because it went against the “plain meaning of Scripture”, 2,000 years of Christian tradition, and the “divinely-created order and gift of marriage”. Unfortunately, the situation among the Priests looks dicey, as there are claims that as many as a third of English Anglican priests are gay! (timesonline.co.uk/article/0,3284-719524,00.html). The situation is further worsened by the fact of an Archbishop of Canterbury that is highly supportive of homosexuality. It is not clear how far the African and Asian bishops can again influence these events, which this time around is strictly speaking, a local affair of the Church of England. However Nigerian Archbishop, Peter Jasper Akinola, representing 17.5 million of Anglicanism’s 70 million members, has written to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams,

threatening to break communion with the worldwide body if the ordination goes on. According to Archbishop Akinola, “We cannot continue to be in communion with people who have taken a step outside the biblical boundaries.” Speaking on BBC, he added, “This is only the beginning. We would sever relationships with anybody, anywhere... anyone who strays over the boundaries, we are out with them. It is as simple as that.” Is all this not 2 Tim. 3:1-5 playing out? (Reports from Punch; 25 June, pg. 64 and Christianity Today, June 23) **Vol. 6 No. 4 (2003)**

Robbers try Winners Chapel

A six-man gang of armed robbers made a daring raid at the Living Faith Church (Winners’ Chapel), Otta on Sunday 22nd June, reportedly snatching 5 vehicles in the process. However, by 5:00 am, next day, the syndicate had been smashed with one of them killed in gun battle with the police. All 5 vehicles were recovered, as well as 2 Kalashnikov assault rifles and 30 rounds of ammunition. (Punch, June 25, Page 9) **Vol. 6 No 4 (2003)**

No greater love...

A Jordanian Christian, Jamil Rifai, who came to the aid of his neighbours, a Dutch missionary and his German wife, was killed by a bomb planted outside their apartment block overnight, on May 7. The bomb is suspected to have been planted by a man who had visited the missionaries several times recently, claiming he was interested in becoming a Christian. Rifai was killed instantly by the explosion of the device as he and another friend tried to help their Christian mentors and disciplers. (Punch May 8, p54) **Vol. 6 No. 4 (2003)**

Fishing with Money

A black minister is offering money to whites who attend his sermons. For the month of August, whites who go to the Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana will get \$5 an hour on Sundays and \$10 an hour on Thursdays. Bishop Fred Caldwell told Reuters that his 5,000-member Church has been almost exclusive black since founded in 1958. He says he thinks that was not the way Jesus wanted it. He will be paying from his own pocket, he added. So far, Bishop Caldwell said the Church has got more than 100 phone calls from whites wanting to attend, with many offering to forgo the money. Caldwell is not questioning those who want the cash. "Jesus said that we're to fish for men," he said. "I'm just using money to fish with". He said other ethnic groups such as Hispanics, Asians, etc will get their own offers soon. (Guardian; August 2, page 7). **Vol. 6 No. 5 (2003)**

Bishop shuts down "anti-gay marriage" church

In further fallouts from the "homosexual battle" in the Anglican Church, the local Anglican bishop of New Westminster, Canada, Most Rev. Michael Ingham, just before Christmas, closed down the Holy Cross parish at Vancouver over its opposition to the church's approval of homosexual "marriages" reports Julia Duin of the Washington Times. Earlier in October, the Parish funding of about \$48,000 per year had been zeroed out. Nine other churches, representing 30,000 members of the 80-parish diocese, have protested the bishop's blessing of homosexual unions; but it was the Holy Cross Parish, the smallest of the 'dissidents', that has been chosen out obviously as a warning signal to the others. "We are reluctant dissidents," says the Rev. David Short, rector of St. John's Anglican Church, Shaughnessy, a large evangelical congregation in an

affluent Vancouver suburb that ;, one of the Bible affirming churches. *"We have become increasingly convinced the umbrella of the Anglican Church is over two different religions. We put the blessing of same-sex unions in the same category as idolatry. It's saying that what the Scriptures and the church have condemned for centuries is positive and blessed by God"* **Vol. 7 No 1 (2004)**

Act Right Initiative - Just Say "No!"

We were excited in no small measure by a recent bold Christian campaign to counter the increasingly brazen advances of ungodliness on Institutions of higher learning in the country. The Act Right Initiative asks students and staff on the side of righteousness to join forces and help stamp out campus-based evils such as cultism, pornography, indecent dressing/nudity, etc. Sponsored by the Campus Transformation Network, the Initiative held simultaneously on 217 campuses in Nigeria. In addition to eminent local speakers, each evening of the 6-day event (beginning March 9) was rounded up by special ministrations by Pastor W.F. Kumuyi of the Deeper Christian Life Church, transmitted live by satellite to all participating centres. We hope this will not end up as just another 'programme', but will be a sustained initiative. The second phase is scheduled to hold at 80 centres later in the year. **Vol. 7 No. 2 (2004)**

PFN Spits Fire: Won't fold hands while "Kingdom of God" is assaulted.

In a "message of goodwill and solidarity to Christians in the North", but directed more squarely at the Federal Government, the highly influential Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria has warned that Nigerian Christians are feeling pushed to the walls by recent events in the country, and may adopt new responses to any future incidents

(Sunday Punch, June 13, pg 50). Specifically addressing the ears of the President of Nigeria, PFN says that Christian leaders might also be approaching the threshold of experiencing the same “handicap” usually claimed by Islamic leaders - that of having difficulties curtailing the anger of their youths. In a classic “Nathan vs David” setting, the PFN faulted President Obasanjo’s verbal assault on Plateau State CAN chairman; especially the counsel to “turn the other cheek”.

According to the PFN, “Church persecution in Nigeria (with the headquarters of its machinery in Kano)... goes beyond the Christian person, but the Kingdom of God, which every Christian stands to represent, project and defend chiefly as an Ambassador”. It therefore declared categorically that “any future attack on Christians and Churches will mean a murder of peace to the provocators!” The statement signed by 16 highly visible and influential Christian leaders in Nigeria explained that the root of the problem is an age-long overt Islamic agenda to employ government machineries “to spread the Koran from Sokoto to the Delta Region”, and a totally compromised Police outfit, incapable of protecting “Christian lives and properties in the face of arson and killings”. PFN claims that even right now, “there are yet training grounds all over Kano for future attacks on Christians”. The current unfortunate situation escalated when 48 Christians were massacred in a Church in Plateau state, an event which CAN in the state felt did not receive enough attention from the Federal Government.

In a related development, Rev Ladi Thompson of Plateau State-based Macedonian Initiative has described the events in the state as mainly terrorism masquerading as religious crisis. Explaining that the cycle of violence is “influential, well-funded and ... premeditated”, he asked rhetorically, “Why is government not interested in knowing the source of the arms supply? Terrorism cloaks itself and it takes a lot of

vigilance and discernment to admit it. Christians realize it is here now, which is why we are exposing it and calling on the government to take heed” he concluded. (Punch May 23, pg 15) **Vol. 7 No 4 (2004)**

Yelwa, Kano Riots: OBJ, the Target - Akinola

Meanwhile, the President of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Most Reverend Peter Akinola, has said that recent ethno-religious crises in Plateau and Kano States were not a war against the Church *per se*, but against the leadership of the nation under President Obasanjo. Speaking after the third session of the Fifth Synod of the Church of Nigeria, Diocese of Abuja, the CAN president stated that the crises were not only targeted at the corporate existence of Nigeria but also the Obasanjo administration. He attributed the problem to "many people who are aggrieved with the present government because they are hungry, people who are very much disturbed because of injustice, because of corruption in high places and because of poor standard of living." (Vanguard, May 16).

In a related event, Bishop Taiwo Akinola of Rhema Christian Church believed that “the devil was working to ensure that Obasanjo turns against the constituency that has been praying for him and his government.” Asking for further prayers, the Bishop added that “the devil wants [the President] to be rude to the constituency that has been praying for him so that he would become vulnerable to the advances of the devil” (Punch May 22, pg 45).

Meanwhile Vice President Atiku Abubakar has been “fingered” in the recent deposition of the Christian Numan monarch, the Hama Bachama, following rumpages over the central mosque whose towering minarets has not only been used to suggest rising Islamic dominion over the predominantly Christian community, but also

constituted security risk to the king. (Details in Punch June 14, pg 1)
Vol. 7 No. 4 (2004)

Cheers for the Azare 11

The Federal Government has finally announced the re-absorption of the 11 Christian nurses whose appointments were terminated in April 2002 for their refusal (on religious grounds) to exchange their nurse's uniform for the Shariah garb of trousers and veil (CA! Vol. 5 No 5). The nurses were among the 21 nurses who initially refused to comply with the orders given by the new Medical Director at the Centre, Dr Sabo. However, due to tough economic and other personal pressures (including the withdrawal of contracts and termination of the employment of their spouses by the Bauchi State Government as well), 10 of the nurses capitulated, going back to their jobs in Islamic garbs.

We salute all 21 nurses for daring to arise to protect the integrity of the Kingdom of God as well as the Christian Organizations that stood by them all the way. All hail King Jesus! (Report from CSW Aug 5, 2004) **Vol. 7 No 6 (2004)**

No stopping the Gospel on Campuses

The ink had hardly dried up in the article in our last edition, warning that key government officials vehemently pushing anti-christian policies in the Nigerian educational sector are unwittingly setting up themselves into Nebuchadnezzars and Herods, when the Lord Himself moved swiftly to demonstrate the point we were making. The issue at hand was the order banning religious activities in classrooms on institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. On the surface the directive looked like one borne out of genuine concern to preserve

physical infrastructure on the campuses; but a closer look reveals a clear anti-christian motive.

First, the ban does not affect non-religious activities, such as gala nights, “socio-cultural” events, etc which usually are more rowdy, and which put considerably more pressure on those facilities. And then, among the religious groups, it is evident who exactly is affected by the proposed policy. Moslems for instance prefer using car parks and other open spaces for their activities, while traditional religion adherents stick around junctions and cross-roads (leaving their pots of sacrifices behind as gory environmental eyesores). Cultists on their own, prefer the jungles and cemeteries. That leaves only Christians and New Age groups such as Eckankar and Rosicrucian Amorc as users of classrooms. Again, since the activities of the new age groups comprise mostly of occultic Transcendental Meditation (long silences interspersed with occasional mesmerizing chants), coupled with their small numbers, they could be considerably less noticeable. That leaves the joyous Christian evening fellowships as the obvious target of the Ministry’s directive!

Well, with the Lord’s swift intervention, those seemingly immovable “Gilbratars”, implacably anti-christian public officers, both within the Education Ministry and the Nigerian University Commission now certainly have more pressing matters to think about as a fall-out of the infamous fifty-five million naira bribe incident. Those universities at the vanguard of implementing the ungodly policy (Ile-Ife and Akure) are fast beating a retreat on the matter. Looks like a mini-replay of Acts 12:23-24 here! **Vol. 8 No. 3 (2005)**

Nigerian Anglicans deepen rift with West over gays

Nigeria's Anglican Church has altered its constitution to formalize the rift between itself and English and North American congregations

which tolerate homosexuality, its bishops said in a statement. [MONDAY MORNING (DAR ALF LEITA WALEILA from Beirut, Lebanon) - Issue No.1709 - September 26, 2005]. The statement called on Anglicans "to stand up in defense of New Testament Christianity, as opposed to the revisionist theology of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the Church of Canada and the Church of England." www.morning.com/ArticleC.asp?Article=2876&CategoryID=7

On a similar note, an international panel of Anglican bishops has called upon a gathering of their conservative American counterparts to split from the rest of the U.S. Episcopal Church. Speaking at the three-day Hope and a Future Conference sponsored by the Anglican Communion Network, Nigerian Archbishop, Peter Akinola warned that "Bishops of the network must realize time is no longer on their side... This is your ... moment to make up your mind about what you want to do... Many of you have one leg in ECUSA (the Episcopal Church, USA) and one leg in the network. You must let us know exactly where you stand - are you ECUSA or are you network?" he said.

Brazilian, Bishop Robinson Cavalcanti, who has been ousted by his own archbishop for siding with American conservatives, encouraged his listeners who he called "my partners in martyrdom", "Don't be afraid of your bishop. Don't be afraid of losing your jobs, of losing your salaries ... Many times the law of men needs to be broken so the law of God is obeyed." **Vol. 8 No. 6 (2005)**

Swedish Anti-Gay Pastor Preaches at the Supreme Court

Pastor Ake Green, the Swedish Pentecostal pastor who was given a jail term in 2003 for denouncing homosexuality as a "cancerous tumor" has defended his views in Sweden's highest court where he

pointed out that gay sex was an abnormality on a par with pedophilia. Two years ago, Pastor Green, 64, had warned that Sweden risked a natural disaster because of leniency toward gays, pointing out that gays were more likely than others to rape children and animals. He however clarified before the Supreme Court that the "tumor" reference was directed toward the gay lifestyle, not the individuals who practice it. "I want to warn young people about the consequences," he said. "When you tell the truth to a person, it can hurt..."

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20051109/D8DOV1603.html>

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Indonesian Christians continue to brave persecutions

Two 17-year-old school girls were shot November 8 in the second recent attack of its kind in Indonesia. Washington D.C.-based International Christian Concern said two armed men shot the girls - Siti Nuraini and another identified only as Ivon - at close range with pistols near a Pentecostal church in Poso, Central Sulawesi. One of the girls has died while the other was still as at press time in critical condition, in a coma. The attacks followed the beheadings of three Christian high school students in the area earlier on Oct 29.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/I/Indonesia_decapitations?site=ap§ion=home&template=default

ICC said the new attack took place as 10 national police officials of the Muslim-majority nation were in Central Sulawesi probing the beheadings. According to some reports, the perpetrators of the beheadings are in custody but have not been formally charged. The Poso area, which has a relatively large Christian population, has seen at least 40 attacks recently against the Christian community, including shootings, killings and major bombings.

Elsewhere in the West Java region of Indonesia, churches that have no permits are being asked to close, with Islamic militants such as the Alliance Against Apostasy quickly moving in to enforce the closures. This is despite official government statements that it opposes Church closures. A report indicated that as many as 30 churches are being forcibly closed in West Java and that the threat is fast spreading to East Java as well as the capital city of Jakarta. In West Java, Christians whose Churches had been closed moved their services to the streets. Even there, they are being challenged by radical Moslems who suddenly have found new attraction to worshipping on the streets. Fortunately, for now, there are enough streets for all. <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/s05100109.htm>

Many people will be shocked to learn that even in a relatively tolerant environment like the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, SouthWest Nigeria, a Christian congregation that has been using the Rev Ogunbajo Community Hall for worship service for almost ten years has on some occasions in recent times, had to conduct its Sunday services on the open fields due to Islamic instigated cancellation of bulk annual bookings for the Hall. Groups that may wish to use the Hall once in a while now have more priority over a dedicated user whose commercial rent is what is actually sustaining the Hall, built in the name of a Christian clergyman, in operation. **Vol. 8 No 6 (2005)**

Why preach the gospel?

Carnal men question why one religion should encourage an official policy of seeking to convert adherents of other religions, seeing this as an avoidable cause of tension. The panacea of the Vatican-led inter-faith movement panacea for the dousing of religious tension is that Bible-believing Christians should "heal themselves from the obsession

of converting others!”
http://www.hinduamericanfoundation.org/media_press_release_wcc.htm. The truth however is that no man but the Holy Spirit can convict or convert people to Christianity. Our own responsibility is to show the way of life and rest to those who are direly in need of it. This surely cannot be forced on people who feel they don't want it. To however keep the wonderful knowledge about the Life available through Jesus Christ to ourselves is like keeping good medicine away from a dying man. We may never do that, no matter how desperately the enemy instigates persecution. In the word of the Apostle Paul, “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16) **Vol. 9 No. 4 (2006)**

More Churches Split From the Episcopal Church in the United States

Several churches in the Episcopal (Anglican) Church in the United States continue to leave the liberal Church, choosing rather to place themselves under the oversight of Archbishop Peter Akinola of Nigeria who is recognized as representing fidelity to the Holy Scriptures, especially on the issue of homosexuality.

Several very prominent churches in Virginia are voting by wide margins to make the move; and the entire Episcopal diocese in San Joaquin, California has voted to sever ties with the mother denomination. At least six other dioceses are reportedly considering similar action. The Episcopal bishop of Virginia, Peter Lee, is not giving in without a legal fight. He is claiming that going by Anglican practice, archbishops are not allowed to start churches outside their own geographical borders. He has therefore labeled the Churches placing themselves under Peter Akinola as “Nigerian congregations occupying Episcopal churches”. By this he is suggesting that no matter

the decision of the congregation members, the properties of Episcopal churches in his territory remains under his control. The property of just two of the latest churches to call it quits with the Episcopal church is valued at \$27 million. (From Friday Church News Notes, Dec. 22, 2006, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org) Vol. 10 No. 1 (2007)

CrossFire between Rick Warren and Conservative Evangelical Leaders

Rick Warren, the immensely popular pastor of the Saddleback Church and author of best-selling “Purpose Driven Life” gave some indirect but valuable support to the liberal movement when he (in early May) described as un-christian, what he termed a “narrow focus” on abortion, homosexuality and pornography by conservative Christian leaders. Mr Warren said that such pastors neglect to meet the needs of the suffering masses (“they haven't done zip for those people”) but rather engage in seeking doctrinal purity of the Christian faith and are defined by their “big mouth”.

In an immediate response published by LTRP, Africa-based Evangelist Loren Davis lamented that a Pastor can consider “contending for sound Bible doctrine as being “a big mouth”; and emphasized that both good works and sound doctrine must necessarily go together. Speaking about “good works for the underprivileged” Lorren said: “Well, we are not against those things and do many of those things ourselves. But the fact is, the primary purpose of the church is not humanitarianism. The church's main purpose is to provide a place where people can find Christ; prepare people for where they will spend eternity; and to be taught the truths of the Bible.” He further went on to counsel: “If Rick Warren and his friends want to go full time into humanitarian work, that's fine. Let him and his friends work

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full time for the U.N. with whom they already associate with; but don't, in the name of humanitarianism, turn the churches away from their main purpose of being spiritual institutions and transform them into social institutions. (www.lorendavis.com)

As Church Arise! has tried to clarify many times, the real issue involved here is the gravity of the Gospel Truth that Jesus Christ is the only saviour of mankind (Acts 4:12), and the ONLY way to God (Jhn 14:6). If this is true, then all possible means must be explored to persuade those who have not come to this knowledge to open the door of their hearts to the Lord, Who expectantly stands and knocks at those doors. However, Rick Warren has been coming out more and more boldly to declare that the doctrinal position of any religious group is grossly inferior to the fact of their being involved in practical humanitarian causes - which he has listed under five headings in his famous P.E.A.C.E. purposes. Warren's Saddleback Church clearly declares that those "purposes" are far superior to right Christian doctrinal convictions: "Our desire is to **work with denominations to strengthen their churches**. Each church can maintain its own heritage and doctrinal convictions while cooperating with others on accomplishing the five purposes" http://www.alittleleaven.com/2007/05/rick_warren_wor.html.

Saddleback specifically "welcomes Catholics, Mormons, Jews and ordained women" into its Pastor-training programs. When questioned about this unbiblical position, Warren explained: "I'm not going to get into a debate over the non-essentials. I won't try to change other denominations. Why be divisive?" (see http://www.apprising.org/archives/2007/05/southern_baptis_9.html) **Vol. 10 No. 3 (2007)**

Moslems converting to Christianity in massive droves

It is not for nothing that Islamic radicals have developed absolute zero tolerance to Christian gospel preachers (and perhaps why nations like Qatar and Saudi Arabia are opening their gates to Catholicism, to at least give the people a form of Christianity, if not its Gospel-based power). On a live interview given in Decemebr 2001, a leading Saudi cleric, Sheikh Ahmad al Qataani, gave figures of Moslems turning to Jesus: **“In every hour, 667 Muslims convert to Christianity,”** For emphasis, he added **“Every day, 16,000 Muslims convert to Christianity. Every year, 6 million Muslims convert to Christianity... A tragedy has happened”**

Respected Christian commentator, Joel Rosenberg, (Rosenberg, The Free Republic, 12/26/2006, <<http://joelrosenberg.blogspot.com/2006/12/record-number-of-ex-muslims-celebrate.html>>) confirms that Qataani was not necessarily exaggerating the situation. Describing scenarios where **“many Muslims throughout the Middle East and even in the United States are seeing dreams and visions of Jesus,”** he related that these former Moslems come to churches **“explaining that they have already converted and now need a Bible and guidance on how to follow Jesus.”** He further cites data upon data from various countries backing up these claims. Countries covered include Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Iazakhstan, Egypt, Iran and Sudan. At Sudan, Rosenberg reports that more than 1 million Sudanese have made decisions to follow Jesus Christ just since 2001 - despite (or perhaps because of) a ferocious civil war, genocide and widespread religious persecution, particularly in the Darfur region. Read the entire report at <http://joelrosenberg.blogspot.com/2006/12/record-number-of-ex-muslims-celebrate.html>>.

One of the mighty effective end-timer harvesters in the Moslem world is Coptic priest, Zakaria Botros. So effective is this saint's ministry among the Moslems that he had been labeled Islam's "No. 1 Public Enemy" by the Arabic newspaper, *al-Insan al-Jadid*. Along with fellow missionaries - mostly Muslim converts - he appears frequently on the Arabic channel *al-Hayat* (i.e. "Life TV"). There, he addresses controversial topics of theological significance. His discourses of little-known but embarrassing aspects of Islamic law and tradition have become a thorn in the side of Islamic leaders throughout the Middle East. A very informative and challenging account of Zakaria Botros (<http://www.fatherzakaria.net/>) is making its way round the internet. Read this heart-warming story on <http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/articles8/Ibrahim-Islams-Public-Enemy-Number-One.php>

Rosenberg's authoritative article concludes on a beautiful note:

"Is life easy for these Muslim converts? By no means. They face ostracism from their families. They face persecution from their communities. They face being fired by their employers. They face imprisonment by their governments. They face torture and even death at the hands of Muslim extremists. But they are coming to Christ anyway. They are becoming convinced that Jesus is, in fact, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one comes to the Father in heaven except through faith in Jesus' death on the cross and powerful resurrection from the dead." **Vol 11 No. 2**

Updates on the Anglican Communion

Nigeria leads resistance against Emergent doctrine in the Anglican Communion

Archbishop Peter Akinola of Nigeria is often cited as one of the key leaders in the "traditionalist wing" of the Anglican church who,

according to the Washington Post on July 26, “condemns homosexuality as an abomination against God’s teaching”. The call that homosexuality should be embraced and allowed to flourish in the church is a key feature in the emergent doctrine where the distinction between the Church and the world is gradually but steadily being eroded in the name of post-modernity. This is actively being marketed by Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback and his many other colleagues.

Surely, no true Christian will ask that homosexuals should be hanged as is hypocritically and publicly done in Islamic countries such as Iran. But no one worthy of the name Christian would contest that this abominable and sinful act should be roundly condemned; and those caught in its deadly web should be lovingly helped. In the case of the Anglican Church, the main issue is not even that homosexuals could freely participate in Church life but that they could function in the office of a bishop - while keeping male sleeping partners with them in the vicarage!

The Lambeth conference held once every ten years at Canterbury, is the major stakeholder’s forum in the 77 million-strong Anglican Communion. The 1998 edition of the meeting produced a resolution that declared “active homosexuality” to be incompatible with the teachings of the Bible - technically providing a leeway for so-called “celibate homosexuals” i.e. those who profess to be homosexuals but are not currently living with a same-sex partner. However, five years later, the U.S. branch of the Anglican Church, the Episcopal Church, elevated a notorious practicing homosexual, Gene Robinson, to the office of a Bishop leading to the breaking away of over a dozen congregations in Virginia from the Episcopal Church. The congregations then chose to put themselves under the spiritual leadership of Archbishop Akinola. Seeing the direction of things

within the Anglican Communion, the Nigerian Archbishop together with over 200 others from several countries, decided to boycott this year's Lambeth conference (held in July), convening an alternate conference in Jerusalem, earlier in June. Though not officially invited to Lambeth, Bishop Robinson, together with his recently wedded "wife", Mr Mark Andrew, attended and freely interacted with the participants.

Contrary to the posturing of many of the so-called Christian spokesmen for homosexuality, the condition is reversible (mainly in those who accept the truth about its reversibility) and this is confirmed by the myriads of ex-gays and ex-lesbians who now live normal lives. Visit one of their websites at <http://www.exodusglobalalliance.org/> to read their stories! **Vol. 11 No. 4**

The other "traditional faction" of the Anglican Communion heads for Rome

Not all those who desire that the Anglican Communion should remain true to its traditional doctrines and practices are necessarily taking their stance based on Biblical principles. While one faction of the "traditional wing" of the Anglican Communion opted for their own separate spiritual retreat in Jerusalem under the leadership of Dr. Peter Akinola of Nigeria, another prominent faction is actively negotiating to be absorbed into the Roman Catholic Church. Going by the embarrassing spates of long-term homosexual and often paedophilic practices currently being resolved in the courts in the USA involving top brasses of the Roman Catholic Church, it is clear that the abominableness of homosexuality is a minor point with this other Anglican "traditional wing". In fact the main contention is the ordination of female Bishops.

Reporting on the secret “talks that some believe may presage a mass return of Anglicans to the Catholic fold”, the Sunday Telegraph quoted an Anglican bishop as saying "There can be no future for Christianity in Europe without Rome." In 1992, on account of ordination of women into clergy, a large number of Anglican ministers applied to become Catholics on the condition that Rome would create a provision to retain the traditional Anglican style of worship. Even though some “Anglican Use” catholic parishes were established in the US, the episcopate of the Catholic Church of England and Wales obstructed the solution insisting that “converts would only be accepted individually, not en masse, and there would be no provision made for the retention of 500 year-old Anglican liturgical traditions” (LIFESITENEWS.com, July 7, 2008).

However, Pope Benedict XVI before his election was known to be a strong supporter of the Anglican traditionalists; and it is expected that things might be different this time around. Reuters reported on July 8 that the Vatican “strongly criticized” the Church of England’s plan to ordain women bishops while The New York Times of the same day wrote that as many as 1,300 Anglican clergy members said they were prepared to leave the church rather than accept women as bishops.

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And as for the rest of the Communion?

Meanwhile, with the traditionalists sorting out their future alliances as reported in the preceding two articles, the remnant Anglican-by-name Church is digging deep into the emergent doctrine, wooing not just the homosexuals and elements of the inter-faith movement, but also actively reaching out to the no-faith movement as well.

The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor, in urging Christians to treat atheists and agnostics with

“deep esteem” argued that believers may in fact be partly responsible for the decline in faith by their insisting on God as a “fact in the world”. According to the learned clergy, "If Christians really believed in the mystery of God, we would realise that proper talk about God is always difficult, always tentative... I want to encourage people of faith to regard those without faith with deep esteem because the hidden God is active in their lives as well as in the lives of those who believe."

The atheist gang would not be wooed so easily though. British number 1 atheist, Richard Dawkins, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that the cardinal's comments carried no weight. BBC NEWS [PSB operated by BBC Trust] - May 9, 2008 Vol. 11 No. 4

Nigerian Anglican Church condemns Gay Marriage, Focuses on Youths

The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, Most Reverend Peter Akinola has lauded the Same Gender Marriage Prohibition Bill which aims to proscribe in Nigeria, any so-called marriage between people of the same sex. In a paper, recently submitted to the Nigerian Parliamentary Committee, stating the Church's position, Akinola demonstrated his support for the bill which is continually being stalled by high-level desperate advocacy by international homosexual groups desperate to seek an inroute into Africa for their nefarious agenda. www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=nigeria&id=2071

Strong voices like Akinola's are part of what is keeping legislators from having totally jettisoned the bill initiated by then President Obasanjo, over 2 years ago.

On his blog (www.virtueonline.org), Anglican orthodoxy defender, David Virtue further quotes Rev. Akinola: "Same sex marriage apart

from being ungodly is also unscriptural, unnatural, unprofitable, unhealthy, uncultured, un-African and un-Nigerian. It is a perversion, a deviation and an aberration that is capable of engendering moral and social holocaust in this country. It is also capable of extinguishing mankind and as such should never be allowed to take root in Nigeria. Outlawing it is to ensure the continued existence of this nation. The need for doing this is urgent, compelling and imperative. The time is now."

Referring to developments in the Anglican Church elsewhere in the world, Akinola said:

"As Anglican Christians we continue to be distressed by the spiritual crisis within our own family of faith in other parts of the world. Since 2003 the unilateral revisionist actions of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church Canada have torn the fabric of our common life. While the Church of Nigeria stands resolutely and uncompromisingly on the truth of the Holy Scriptures and the Lordship of Jesus Christ endless meetings and repeated communiqués have done nothing to bring restoration of our beloved communion."

One tactic frequently employed to introduce unwholesome practices into the Church today is to claim we are in a post-modern world, and that, the supposedly "restive" youths must somehow be indulged by the Church. For instance, in the United States, the United Church of Christ (Barak Obama's church) has endorsed the action of distributing condoms to youths in the church, calling it "a matter of life and death" for which the Church has a "moral responsibility" (www.onenewsnow.com/Church/Default.aspx?id=468294)

Once again, the Anglican Church in Nigeria is providing exemplary leadership on this note. The Standing Committee of the Church, at its last General Synod (with the theme "The Youth of our Church") said it recognized that the youth of today are living under very different

conditions from older generations. In a statement, it further avers that: "The ease of access to the global village afforded by Information Technology has a profound impact on what they believe and how they behave."

And the Action Plan? "We will do all that we can to secure the commitment of our youth by involving them fully in the task of nation building through the transforming mission of the church. We will challenge them, guide them, listen to them and assure them of our support" (www.virtueonline.org, 24/03/09). Way to go, brethren! **Vol. 12 No. 3**

Can two walk together except they be agreed?

Polarization of Churches into "goat" and "sheep" congregations, as the Bible suggests would happen as the end times draw near, is already intensifying. Early May, members of the Chippewa United Presbyterian Church (representing 87 churches in two counties) voted 104-1 to leave the Presbyterian Church (USA), PCUSA, citing its liberal views on abortion, homosexuality, biblical authority, and the significance of Jesus Christ. That would be the fifth Congregation that would be leaving to join the more conservative Evangelical Presbyterian Church in recent months.

www.onenewsnow.com/Church/Default.aspx?id=512672 **Vol 12 No. 3**

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www.onenewsnow.com/Church/Default.aspx?id=512672

Also from the Judicial Council of the United Methodist has come the ruling forbidding any clergy in the church from performing same-sex “marriages” or civil unions, even if their regional Church district supports the idea. The Judicial Council ruled that a church district, or annual conference, cannot “negate, ignore or violate” churchwide discipline, even if it disagrees with the policy. Pastors who violate the discipline risk losing their clergy credentials.

<http://www.onenewsnow.com/Church/Default.aspx?id=511458>

Vol 12 No 3

PFN Rises to the CAN Challenge

With the PFN bloc (Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria) capturing the keenly-contested presidency of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), northern Christian brothers can look forward to more sympathetic attention and quicker responses from the national umbrella body than they have gotten in the past. Apparently frustrated at the limited interests previous CAN leaderships have shown to the peculiar situation in Northern Nigeria (in the name of Political Correctness) the perennially persecuted and marginalized brethren from that region drafted the indefatigable president of the PFN, Pastor Ayo Oritsajefor, into the race for CAN presidency. He “won” by a significant majority.

With this development, the published agenda of the PFN to become more involved in endorsing and probably sponsoring candidates for the next year’s crucial elections is likely to now receive

more attention in CAN circles. All these can only be good news in this year of Jubilee!

Church Arise! believes that Pastor Ayo Oritsajafor is up to the task, and wishes him God speed and guidance and protection. However, we hope that as Pastor Oritsajefor steps up to a more political and diplomatic terrain, the PFN will be able to still maintain her unique identity and mission. In other words, as Pastor Ayo goes to his new assignment with PFNs prayers, it is important that the PFN does not go with him to CAN! **Vol 13 No 2**

Mega church Pastor takes leave to deal with pride and hypocrisy

On July 6, Pastor C. J. Mahaney. President of Sovereign Grace Ministries, a network of some 95 churches in the US wrote on his blog that he was proceeding on a leave of absence. This, he said, was in response to some charges made against him by “some former pastors and leaders in Sovereign Grace”. Interestingly enough, the charges “are not related to any immorality or financial impropriety,” but Mahaney considers them serious enough to warrant his vacating office for a while. They “include various expressions of pride, unentreatability, deceit, sinful judgment, and hypocrisy.” Mahaney said he has, by the grace of God, been able to perceive a degree of his culpability in the charges; and even for those charges he disagrees with, he still sees them as an opportunity for soul-searching. Declaring that the most important issue for him is to please God, he expressed his readiness to “take responsibility for my sin and every way my leadership has been deficient, and this would include making any appropriate confessions, public or private.”
<http://www.sovereigngraceministries.org/blogs/cj-mahaney/post/2011/07/06/Why-Im-taking-a-leave-of->

[absence.aspx](#)) This is truly refreshing and a powerful preaching of the Gospel to the myriads of preachers and pastors currently towing the slippery slopes of ministry.

This action calls to mind a similar action by another eminent Christian leader and famous preacher, John Piper, who took an 8-month break from Ministry last year, in order to reexamine his soul. Piper did not even have any body laying any charges against him. But he spoke of self-discovered “sins of my own soul,” “ongoing character flaws” and stresses that they have caused to others. Addressing his church, Piper said: “I see several species of pride... They may not rise to the level of disqualifying me for ministry. Nevertheless, while I don’t think they do, I grieve over them.” His leave, the first in almost forty years of ministry, he explained, “ means no preaching, no book writing, no blogging, no tweeting, no articles, no papers and no speaking engagements”

<http://pjmiller.wordpress.com/2010/03/29/john-piper-taking-leave-of-absence-to-reexamine-his-soul/>

In his own case, Mahaney hopes the leave of absence would afford him opportunity to solemnly consider the charges, examine his heart, and pursue reconciliation with the people making the charges. He has also stepped off the board of SGM and further relinquished the office of President during the period of examination and evaluation – so as to not be able to influence the process in any way.

In reporting the story on Mahaney, Mark Galli (himself a pastor) lamented that pastors in America who somehow manage to scale the all-pervasive hurdles of gross sins, (such as sexual immorality and financial misconduct), still have to also contend with the more subtle ones that, as it were, spontaneously arise in the very system they serve. Writing matter-of-factly, he declared: “we have a system in which pride and hypocrisy are inevitable.”

Asserting that “pastors all over America commit week in and week out” the same sins Piper and Mahaney are responding to, he opined that “the state of the modern American pastorate has been shaped so that these sins—especially pride and hypocrisy—are impossible to escape.” Will the Church in America (and the copy cat countries) be able to change her perspectives of Church and ministry? The situation sounds like the fulfillment of the prophecy in 2 Timothy 3:1- 7 for the end times. Galli concluded by urging: “our pastors need not our condemnation, but our prayers “
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/julyweb-only/mostriskyprofession.html> Vol 14 No 2

Church of Scotland says ‘No’ to Same-Sex Marriage, Denmark Churches embrace it.

The Church of Scotland has responded to the government's question as to whether or not it should allow same-sex marriage in that country. The answer is a resounding “NO.” In a statement on its website, the Church wrote: “The Church of Scotland cannot agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same-sex marriage. The Government’s proposal fundamentally changes marriage as it is understood in our country and our culture – that it is a relationship between one man and one woman”.

While the church's statement categorically condemns “homophobia” which it regards as a sin it nevertheless affirms that the historic position of the Christian Church, which the Church of Scotland unflinchingly endorses, is that marriage is between one man and one woman. “Scriptural references to marriage, whether literal or metaphorical, all operate under this understanding.” the Church declared.

The church did not fail to express its concerns over the great speed with which the government has been trying to make the proposed changes. In the opinion of the Church of Scotland, the debate over the issue thus far is “patchy, undeveloped and exclusive of both ordinary people and the religious community.” The church said it is concerned that the government is acting too quickly, for the sake of pleasing a few, to change an institution that is highly valued in society by religious and non-religious people.

Patrick Harvie, member of the Scottish Parliament for the Scottish ooppp, strongly disagreed with the Church and averred that allowing same-sex marriage would actually strengthen marriage in the country.

The man would have been proud to have been a Dane. This is because Denmark, the first country to endorse civil union between homosexual partners in 1989 is now set to be the first to officially embrace gay wedding in its churches.

Beginning from February 2012, gay couples can now have full weddings in the Lutheran Church of Denmark. New church minister of the Church of Denmark, Manu Sareen, enthused: “I look forward to the moment the first homosexual couple steps out of the church.” Officially 80 percent of Danes belong to the Lutheran Church of Denmark, (but only 5% actually regularly attend).

In Denmark, a portion of tax dollars collected from Danish citizens is allocated to churches and religious groups. About \$1.1 million is allocated annually to churches and religious organizations. <http://www.christianpost.com/news/gay-marriage-ok-in-denmark-churches-62818/> **Vol 14 No 5**

Church of England Rejects Same-Sex Civil Partnership Ceremonies

The Church of England (CoE) has reiterated that it will not allow civil partnerships for people of the same sex to be registered on their premises despite the passage of a new law in England and Wales that gives the church and other religious premises the “opportunity” to do so. A written statement released on Dec 1 by the Church’s Secretary General, William Fittall reads in part: “No Church of England religious premises may become ‘approved premises’ for the registration of civil partnerships without there having been a formal decision by the General Synod to that effect.”

Previously, under the Civil Partnership Act of 2004, civil partnerships could not be registered on religious premises . In March 2010, however, the Parliament decided during the passage of the Equality Act of 2010 to remove the prohibition on places of [worship](#). This amendment was approved on Nov. 8, 2011 and it comes into full force beginning Monday Dec 5, 2011

The Church of England is however quick to ‘respectfully decline’ to use this new “opportunity” to participate in registering civil partnerships. It justifies this stand by referring to “Clear assurances ... given in Parliament by the then Government that the new possibility for the registration of civil partnerships on religious premises would operate by way of denominational opt-in and that no Church or other religious body would be under any obligation to permit the registration of civil partnerships on its premises.”

The Christian Post, in reporting the stand of the CoE also observes that the government of David Cameron had also “issued a consultation document, reaffirming previous commitments by the previous leaders, which the Archbishops’ Council and the Standing Committee of the House of Bishops both agreed upon.”

But how would the Church marry this position with the country's Equality Act 2010 which makes it unlawful for 'a person concerned with the provisions of a service to the public or a section of the public' to discriminate on various grounds, including sexual orientation, 'against a person requiring the service by not providing the person with the service'? The Church's Legal House claims that their decision was not discriminating in a way which was unlawful under the Act because they were "not concerned" with the service of civil partnership registrations.

"A Church which provides couples with the opportunity to marry (but not to register civil partnerships) is 'concerned with' the provision of marriage only; it is simply not 'concerned' with the provision of faculties to register civil partnerships," the Legal Office noted. "That would be a different 'service,' marriage and civil partnership being legally different concepts."

This argument thus rests heavily on the definition of "marriage" to automatically mean a union between opposite sexes. The question is how long will that definition remain valid? Evidently, changing the legal definition of marriage is the next task the gay movement has assigned itself. Rather than all these laborious process of fighting the satanic concept of same-sex marriage, how refreshing to be able to simply declare, as the Church in Nigeria is able: we oppose same-sex union because it is sin and abomination before God! Period. Nigerians must never compromise the right to freely hold such a position.

The Church of England recognizes the tenuousness of its position and concedes, as reported by the Christian Post, that "If the Parliament were to legislate for same sex marriage, however, which the Prime Minister recently suggested, the church would reassess the issue." With the threats of fire and brimstone David Cameron is

breathing down on Nigeria on the issue of same-sex marriage, there can be no doubting which direction he is taking his native country England.

In the meantime, the Church of England laboriously continues with its self-defence, explaining that the nondiscrimination requirement imposed by the Equality Act on service-providers did not include a requirement to undertake the provision of other services, in this case civil partnership registrations, that a service-provider was not already concerned with providing just because the services that it currently offered were of such a nature that they tended to benefit only persons of a particular age, sex, sexual orientation, etc.

“For example,” the church argued, “a gentlemen’s outfitter is not required to supply women’s clothes. A children’s book shop is not required to stock books that are intended for adults. And a Church that provides a facility to marry is not required to provide a facility to same-sex couples for registering civil partnerships.”

Additionally, the Legal Office commented that the church was not violating the public sector equality duty contained in the Equality Act as well because the church was not exercising public functions in making their decision to deny civil partnership registrations.

We salute the position of the Church of England, but sympathize with their inability to simply freely declare their religious convictions based on the clear words of God without all these legal rigmarole.

(Story sourced from The Christian Dec. 03 2011) **Vol 14 No 5**

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CHAPTER FOURTEEN: Triumphs and Testimonials

Yet, the Gates of Hell cannot prevail!

As has been clearly demonstrated over the centuries, persecution of the Church only serves to make her more vibrant, virile and fruitful! On-going worldwide persecution under various shades and degrees are but serving to make the Church free of spots and wrinkles as we await the arrival of the Bridegroom! Here's a brief sample, even from the "persecution frontline":

In Cuba, reports have it that even as Churches continue to get closed, Bibles continue also to be in high demand, such that the supply system is being taxed! (<http://www.mnnonline.org/article/8244>)

In the Middle East, Christians are quietly and faithfully living for Christ despite opposition and persecution. And such resilience and gracious living can simply not be ignored or resisted by the rest of the Society. Lee DeYoung of Words of Hope reports a growing phenomenon of interest in the Gospel of Jesus - in response to efforts to promote hostility toward Christians. According to DeYoung, "Many Muslims really are seeking after God. They have a hunger to know Him, and as they have opportunities to talk with Christians,

they find a common quest to discover God, and many are finding Jesus.” <http://www.mnnonline.org/article/8253>

The same encouraging trend is reported from Asia.

Singapore is one of the fastest-growing Christian communities in Asia, along with Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China. In fact, Asia is projected to become one of the largest Christian populations in the world in the next 30 years. There are reports of new believers, mainly Asia’s upwardly mobile, who are rejecting materialist and consumer values and flocking to Pentecostal or charismatic churches. (ASIA TIMES, March 2, 2006).

In Japan, Researchers were especially surprised at the large number of Japanese youth who claimed the Christian faith. Of the 20 percent who professed to have a religion, 60 percent called themselves Buddhists and 36 percent Christians. Calling the numbers "stunning," George Gallup Jr. who assisted with the recent, comprehensive poll in Shinto-dominated conservative Japan, noted that "These projections mean that seven percent of the total teenage population say they are Christians..." www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=49337

Vol. 9 No. 2 (2006)

The Truth continues to prevail!

Among the string of victories the Gospel continues to record even in the face of determined attacks by the gates of hell is the recent reversal (April 13) of the Canadian ruling that had classified references to Bible verses on homosexuality as punishable under the anti-hatred law. Based on the obnoxious attempt to muzzle the Truth, Hugh Owen had been declared guilty, along with the newspaper Saskatoon StarPhoenix, for publishing in 1997 an ad citing Bible verses that oppose homosexuality; and was forced to pay damages of

1,500 Canadian dollars to each of three homosexual men who filed a complaint. Similarly in 2001, the Ontario Human Rights Commission penalized printer Scott Brockie \$5,000 for refusing to print letterhead for a homosexual advocacy group.

www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=49728

Another table-turning event was recorded at the graduation ceremonies of Russel County High School on Friday May 19. Twelve hours to the graduation, US District Judge Joseph McKinley had ordered school authorities not to include prayers in the graduation ceremonies on account of a Moslem student who claimed offense at hearing prayers made in the name of Jesus Christ. At the ceremonies proper however, the senior class gave their own response to the Judge's gag order when about 200 seniors stood and began reciting the Lord's Prayer as the principals's opening remarks drew to conclusion. This prompted a spontaneous standing ovation from the huge crowd at the School gymnasium. According to the Associated Press, "The revival like atmosphere continued when senior Megan Chapman said in her opening remarks that God had guided her since childhood. Chapman was interrupted repeatedly by the cheering crowd as she urged her classmates to trust in God as they go through life." (www.wkyt.com/Global/story.asp?S=4928301) **Vol. 9 No. 3 (2006)**

World of Life dedicates Church Building

The stadium-like worship centre of the Word of Life Bible Church, Warri, was dedicated on 19th November, 2000. Started in 1992, the Centre is designed to sit 35,000 adults and 17,000 children for service. According to an eye-witness, the grand "Jubilee and Dedication" ceremony was "10 days of heaven on earth". Various men of God from Nigeria and abroad, including Pastor E.A. Adeboye and

Dr Morris Cerullo ministered on the theme, IT IS FINISHED. The whole of the construction was done by a strong team of about 300 indigenous engineers, all members of the church pastored by highly respected Pastor Ayo Oritsajefor. **Vol. 4 No. 1 (2001)**

CAN budgets N2 billion for Rehabilitation of Churches in Kaduna

In partnership with an NGO, Macedonia Initiative (MI) based in Lagos, Churches affected by the Sharia riots in Kaduna are being rehabilitated. First to benefit was Ibukun Oluwa Baptist Church Abakpa which received an initial sum of N250,000 to begin the 1st phase of the work. Representative of MI, Mrs Chinyere Musa said “we want to create an environment that will enable people to be free to practice their religion without hindrance” (Guardian March 25, 2001, page 29). **Vol 4 No. 2**

Open Heavens Alheri Prayer Camp opens

The Alheri Prayer Village of the Harpadzo Ministries was recently commissioned on May 23rd. Located at Km 31 along the Kaduna-Abuja Expressway, the dedication of the Camp was performed by Pastor E.A. Adeboye. The commissioning was preceded by a Ministers Conference and Festival of Miracles (May 21-22) hosted by President of the Ministries, Revd Joe Olaiya. **Vol. 4 No 4 (2001)**

Fresh Search for Noah’s Ark

There may be some positive side to the record heat wave experienced in several parts of Europe last year after all. The heat wave, the most intense in 500 years, caused a massive melt-back of ice at the northeastern slopes of Turkey’s Mount Ararat, revealing what appears to be a large man-made object. That particular location

happens to be where, according to the Bible, the Ark of Noah rested after the flood that inundated the whole earth (Gen 6:9). Though several old reports insist that this object now freshly revealed was indeed an ark and had been visited/photographed several times in the past (see 'In search of Noah's Ark', by Balsiger and Sellier), the impregnable ice covering at that particular location, virtually throughout the year, made it difficult for a modern-day investigation/confirmation.

As a result of these new developments and opportunity, a Roman Catholic entrepreneur from Honolulu, Mr. Daniel P. McGivern, is committing \$900,000 to send a 30-man expedition to confirm the find. According to Mr. McGivern, "The discovery of Noah's Ark [would be] the single greatest event since the resurrection of Jesus Christ... and it will change the way science currently thinks about the Earth". Modern science is vehemently opposed to the idea of a global flood having occurred because that fact would make nonsense of the way the fossil record and earth history is currently being interpreted and it will virtually nail the coffin of the Evolution Theory myth. The finding would also confirm the supremacy of the Biblical records since though there are dozens of different global flood stories from different cultures and traditions, it is only in the Biblical record that the Ark bearing the survivors of the flood did not settle at the backyard of the people recounting the story but at far away Mount Ararat. [Yoruba culture is one of the few that does not have a well-defined global flood tradition, but all the same, the mythical Oduduwa was supposed to have come down from a chain, to a flooded world at Ile-Ife]. The Bible assures us that by the time of the end, everything that is covered will be uncovered. Christians should pray for this expedition scheduled to hold between July 15 and Aug 15. (News from Washington Times, April 27, 2004) **Vol. 7 No. 3**

Vietnamese Mennonite pastor freed

Ho Chi Minh City (AsiaNews/Agencies) - Nguyen Hong Quang, pastor of an outlawed Protestant Church, was freed in August by Vietnamese authorities. Nguyen Hong Quang, who is responsible for the Mennonite Church, had been serving a 3-year term for "acts against local authorities." He had been arrested on June 8, 2004. Nguyen Hong Quang, age 45, is secretary of the Mennonite Church, a creed prohibited in Vietnam. <http://www.asianews.it/view.php?l=en&art=4016> Vol. 8 No. 5

Redemption Camp, Floyd, Texas

Just as God has, in what is nothing short of miracle, established the Redemption Camp, along Lagos-Ibadan expressway in the middle of nowhere - previously the HQ for armed robbers, ritual killers and wild beasts, the same God is proving He can do it all over again, in any place and culture. Check <http://www.nigeriavillagesquare1.com/stories/2005/08/greenville-texas-awaits-rccg.html> for some reports about the awesome move of God to bring about the Redemption Camp (RC) Texas as the Headquarters of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in North America. RC in Floyd, Texas, currently comprising of 500 acres of pasture acquired at a cost of between \$1 million to \$3 million, is being developed, to the consternation of all, in what used to be the HQ of the deadly race supremacist KKK group. Vol. 8 No. 5

Daniel Company still much alive!

"Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? Whatever is not in line with the authority of the Word of God must be

evangelized. Those who do not uphold this, [the Bible], I will not go with them."

Bishop Jasper Akinola, Primate, Church of Nigeria [Anglican], leading Conservative Anglican Bishops worldwide to totally reject homosexuality, (see www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2005/007/27.40.html) **Vol. 8 No. 5**

100 years of Pentecostal Movement

April this year will mark 100 years of the Pentecostal Movement, apparently the last of such periodic major rekindling of the original fire of Pentecost, before the return of the Lord Jesus. Billy Wilson, executive officer for the Azusa Street Centennial described the revival that started in a former stable in downtown Los Angeles in 1906: "A handful of people in Los Angeles, led by a one-eyed black man who was the son of former slaves, has turned into a movement of over 600 million people around the world who claimed to be filled with the Holy Spirit." Washington Times correspondent Julia Duin, expatiated a little further: "Black preacher William Seymour, the leader of the 1906 revival, was introduced to Pentecostal Christianity in 1903 at a Houston church. Although he was forced to sit outside the segregated sanctuary in a hallway, Seymour became familiar enough with its teachings for the church to send him to Los Angeles, hoping he'd start a new congregation. Seymour arrived in Los Angeles in February 1906, where he began services in a private home and then a renovated barn. On April 9, 1906, people began experiencing conversions, healings and speaking in tongues." <http://www.washingtontimes.com/functions/print.php?StoryID=20060101-122305-1724r>. For details about the celebration of the centennial, check the official conference web site, www.azusastreet.net. **Vol. 9 No. 1 (2006)**

“With Signs and Wonders following...”

It is not without cause that the devil is resorting to desperate actions in Nigeria - if only he can discourage the people of God! It's been exciting times indeed as in the past few months or so, notable Generals in the Lord's Army such as Reinhard Bonkke have taken to the fields on extensive mass crusades, as if to say, "The time is short indeed". And there was no shortage of signs and wonders either. At the crusade in Osogbo, one of several organized by the Deeper Life Bible Church, a well-known blind beggar was among the first to get a miracle. Similarly at the all-night vigil organized by the Redeemed Christian Church of God at the University of Lagos, a man lame for 22 years who by the power of God began to walk was one of several hundreds of outstanding miracles. Yes, outstanding first-century like miracles are becoming common place in Nigeria, Praise the Lord!
Vol. 9 No. 2

Church Unstoppable!

Even in the face of all manner of persecution, the Church has kept on robustly marching forward! This is well exemplified with the case of China where the approximately 90 percent of the nation's born-again Christians continue to endure "unimaginable persecution". Yet current reports indicate that an estimated 3,000 Chinese are coming to the Lord Jesus Christ each blessed day. **Vol. 10 No. 1 (2007)**

Tenth Edition of Holy Ghost Congress held at Redemption Camp

Miracles, Healings, Fulfilment, breakthroughs - all these apart, one commonly over-looked integral component of the annual Holy Ghost Congress (HGC) organized by the Redeemed Christian Church of

God (RCCG) is the rich display of authentic African culture - music, poetry and language, attire, dance steps, etc, all employed in praise of the LORD. Not just by a group on stage (even though there is indeed the exciting African Praise Team presentations) but by millions of bubbling Nigerians full of hope, gratitude and joy before the God of all the earth.

This shouldn't be much of a surprise. After all, the precursor for the HGC is 'the Congress,' which started in 1977 as a radical Christian protest, and alternative to the then FESTAC (World Black Festival of Arts and Culture) hosted by Nigeria. Most people would have laughed at the 'David vs Goliath' kind of efforts of Pastor E.A. Adeboye to protest at that time, the world-shaking international Festival which had as ultimate agenda the revival of the several ancient, and at that time, fading spiritual (daemonic) entities. Today nobody could deride anymore.

While it has not proven possible to organize another edition of the FESTAC, the then Congress still continues today, now in two streams. On the one hand, the Congress gave birth to the now bi-annual "Go-A-Fishing" Programme of the RCCG; while on the other, we have the annual Holy Ghost Congress, (formerly called the Holy Ghost Festival.) The tenth edition of this international, interdenominational week-long event held this year 10th to 15th December at the Redemption Camp. The attendance at Friday night of the event, at a conservative 4.5 million, was about the entire population of Singapore - as pointed out by a guest Singaporean minister at the meeting. It can also be compared with the 2.6 million people performing the Islamic Hajj at Mecca at the same period of time.

(www.arabnews.com/?page=1§ion=0&article=104766&d=18&m=12&y=2007; www.hajinformation.com/main/1.htm).

Incredibly, all these millions (or at least most of them) were hosted in one single auditorium - the very largest auditorium anywhere on the face of planet earth. Well, even though size is no big deal with God, but the image of such multitudes seriously keeping Heaven in view, is surely heart-warming. With the sound clear expositions of the Christian gospel, powerful prophetic words to destroy yokes and besetting sins in the lives of many, heavy concerted prayers directed at various strategic needs of Nigeria - not to mention the various seminars on practical issues as entrepreneurship, living the Christian life at the workplace, home-making, etc, everyone who loves the Kingdom of God must feel a tug in their heart, beholding the spectacle! We certainly wouldn't rather it was the gathering of cultists that is attracting such figures! To the glory of God, the very night the millions were at Redemption Camp, another impressive number of Christians congregated at Cannanland, Ota, less than an hour away, for Shiloh 2007. Guess who is being intimidated by all these figures! **Vol. 10 No. 6**

TEN YEARS OF HOLY GHOST CONGRESS: JOY UNSPEAKABLE

Many people will be surprised to recall that it is now ten quick years since the famous Lekki '98, when millions gathered together at the Lekki Beach to celebrate the first edition of what then used to be called the Holy Ghost Festival. Organized by the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), it was certainly a landmark event, reminiscent of the congregation of the children of Israel in the days of Moses. Subsequent editions have moved to the Holy Ghost Arena at the Redemption Camp, first as a 3-day event, and now as an all week-long (Monday to Saturday) affair.

Spiritually-speaking, the Holy Ghost Congress has an even older history. The first “Congress” in the RCCG was actually Pastor Adeboye’s indignant response to the Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) hosted by Nigeria in 1977. Irked about the idea of people congregating in large number to celebrate dead idols, the then totally unknown Pastor E.A. Adeboye persuaded his father-in-the-Lord, the General Superintendent of the then obscured RCCG, to organize a “parallel” celebration of the Holy Ghost at Ilesa, in Osun State. Today, while organizers of FESTAC struggle to have a repeat celebration (see for instance www.pmg.org.za/files/docs/080205draftbrief.pdf), the ORGANIZER of the Holy Ghost Congress seemingly has no difficulty in taking His event to ever-increasing heights of glory, attracting millions of participants from all over the world, every year Church Arise! believes that apart from an exciting Spirit-charged atmosphere featuring excellent music, seminars and teachings; or the outright miracles and life-imparting prophecies, the Sovereign Almighty God Himself - for some point He is keen on making - is directly behind the gathering in of the multitudes who have become faithful features of these meetings. If you are yet to participate in the Holy Ghost Congress, this year is an excellent time to partake of this unique indescribable experience. Themed “Joy Unspeakable”, the 11th Holy Ghost Congress runs from Monday 15th - Saturday 20th December. **Vol 11 No 6**

Globally, the Church is marching on strong!

Despite the persecutions involved, Moslems continue to troop out of Islam, as reported in last edition. Many, not so much because they were preached to by Christians, but by the self-evident contradictions they find in the religion or even direct visitation by the Lord Jesus in

dreams and visions. A new book has just been published by WND Books titled "Why We Left Islam: Former Muslims Speak Out," It contained "gripping firsthand personal accounts of 23 men and women who risked their lives by abandoning the Koran." One of the ex-Moslems, Waleed, says the attack on the World Trade Center changed him: "On Sept. 11, 2001, I saw the real face of Islam. I saw the happiness on the faces of our people because so many infidels were slaughtered so easily. I saw many people who started thanking Allah for this massacre."

<http://www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=62905>

Meanwhile, the Indonesian government has ordered Ahmadiyyas to return to orthodox Islam - or face 5 years in prison for "insulting Islam"

<<http://www.jihadwatch.org/dhimmiwatch/archives/021333.php>

> **Vol. 10 No. 6**

New Opportunities for the Gospel in China, Haiti

According to Christian Today, the U.K.-based Bible Society has reported a growing demand for copies of the Bible in China where an estimated 500,000 people convert to Christianity every year. Although some four million Bibles were printed and distributed across China last year, the rapid growth of the church year on year means that demand for Bibles is now outstripping supply, according to the Bible Society.

The official number of Christians in China stands at 28.6 million, but it is believed the true figure could be as high as 90 million if the estimated number of worshippers at unofficial house churches is included. To deflect the cost, the Bible Society subsidizes the cost of printing Bibles. Keeping the price low is vital for Christians living in

China's rural heartland, where 70 percent of churchgoers are found and half the population live on less than \$2 a day.

“As more and more people are joining the church they are asking for a Bible,” said Bible Society's China Partnership coordinator Kua Wee Seng. “This is a time of opportunity in China. Many of us feel that we mustn't miss this opportunity or people will turn to something else, other than Christianity.”

<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20100220/demand-for-bible-outstripping-supply-in-china/index.html>

A time of great opportunity that should not be missed is also presenting itself in Haiti where, following the catastrophic Jan 12 earthquake that killed 230,000, many are turning against voodooism. As it is said, “Haiti is 80% Catholic, 100% Voodoo!” Unthinkable before, a group of voodooists were stoned at a recent ceremony showing that Haitians are overcoming their dread of the deadly practice. In a famous picture by Associate Press now flooding the internet, Haitians are seen destroying objects that were to be used in a voodoo ceremony in the Cite Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince on Tuesday Feb. 23, 2010.

Pat Robertson got into trouble for saying it, but most Haitians are now owing up that it might as well be true, that the ceremony of Bwa Kayiman, where thousands, led by the freedom-fighter Boukman, had sacrificed a wild boar and sought the help of “spirits” to liberate Haiti from oppressive French rule in 1791 has been affecting the fortunes of the country to date. Then a slave, Mr Boukman, ran from his French owners and led the revolution that got independence for Haiti. Voodooism had since become an established national pastime in the country.

Of course, it is insensitive, and most probably incorrect, to attribute the earthquake in Haiti to a curse! (Catastrophic earthquakes have

occurred all over the world, and Voodoo is not the only way of serving the devil!) Nevertheless, the current disenchantment with voodooism in Haiti represents a unique opportunity to preach the unadulterated gospel. This more so as “missionaries” of cult organizations such as Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses and Scientologists are already reportedly having a field day in providing “earthquake relief” in port-au-Prince. (<http://prayerandaction.com/?p=6792>, also <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/02/18/haitis-pact-with-the-devil-some-haitians-believe-this-too/>) Vol. 13 No. 1

Nigerian Anglican Church condemns Gay Marriage, Focuses on Youths

The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, Reverend Peter Akinola has lauded the Same Gender Marriage Prohibition Bill which aims to proscribe in Nigeria, any so-called marriage between people of the same sex. In a paper, recently submitted to the Nigerian Parliamentary Committee, stating the Church’s position, Akinola demonstrated his support for the bill which is continually being stalled by high-level desperate advocacy by international homosexual groups desperate to seek an inroute into Africa for their nefarious agenda. www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=nigeria&id=2071

Strong voices like Akinola’s are part of what is keeping legislators from having totally jettison the bill initiated since the days of Obasanjo, over two years ago.

On his blog (www.virtueonline.org), Anglican orthodoxy defender, David Virtue further quotes Rev. Akinola: "Same sex marriage apart from being ungodly is also unscriptural, unnatural, unprofitable, unhealthy, uncultured, un-African and un-Nigerian. It is a perversion, a deviation and an aberration that is capable of engendering moral and social holocaust in this country. It is also

capable of extinguishing mankind and as such should never be allowed to take root in Nigeria. Outlawing it is to ensure the continued existence of this nation. The need for doing this is urgent, compelling and imperative. The time is now."

Referring to developments in the Anglican church elsewhere in the world, Akinola said:

"As Anglican Christians we continue to be distressed by the spiritual crisis within our own family of faith in other parts of the world. Since 2003 the unilateral revisionist actions of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church Canada have torn the fabric of our common life. While the Church of Nigeria stands resolutely and uncompromisingly on the truth of the Holy Scriptures and the Lordship of Jesus Christ endless meetings and repeated communiqués have done nothing to bring restoration of our beloved communion."

One tactic frequently employed to introduce unwholesome practices into the Church today is to claim we are in a post-modern world, and that the supposedly "restive" youths must somehow be indulged by the Church. For instance, in the United States, the United Church of Christ (Barak Obama's church, by the way) has endorsed the action of distributing condoms to youths in the church, calling it "a matter of life and death" for which the Church has a "moral responsibility" (www.onenewsnow.com/Church/Default.aspx?id=468294)

Once again, the Anglican Church in Nigeria is providing exemplary leadership on this note. The Standing Committee of the Church, at its last General Synod (with the theme "The Youth of our Church") said it recognized that the youth of today are living under very different conditions from older generations. In a statement, it further avers that: "The ease of access to the global village afforded by

Information Technology has a profound impact on what they believe and how they behave.”

And the Action Plan? “We will do all that we can to secure the commitment of our youth by involving them fully in the task of nation building through the transforming mission of the church. We will challenge them, guide them, listen to them and assure them of our support. ” (www.virtueonline.org, 24/03/09). Way to go, brethren! **Vol 12 No 3**

Good News

Amidst the stress, toils and turmoils of the endtimes recorded globally in 2011, there were still pockets of encouraging reports, tokens, confirming that everything is going on exactly as the Great Wisdom, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe – Jehovah, has designed them. We present a few from a compilation put together by khouse (<http://www.khouse.org/enews/2011-12-27/>):

Aug 5 – Twelve-year-old Dale Ostrander drowned off the Oregon coast after he was dragged under by a rip tide. He was under the water for 25 minutes and was technically dead when brought to shore. Family and church members began praying. After CPR, Dale regained a faint heart beat, and within three days the boy was conscious and talking.

Nov 1 – The U.S. House of Representatives approved a resolution reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States. It passed by a vote of 396-9.

Dec 22 - Fifteen-year-old "Wati" made her way back to her home and family seven years after she was swept away by the Indian Ocean tsunami the day after Christmas in 2004. She had been "adopted" by a woman who made her beg since she was eight-years-old. After seven years, she was able to leave and try to find her way home. She arrived in the nearby city of Meulaboh on Wednesday and told staff at the Simpang Pelor cafe that she

was trying to get home. "When I saw my mother," she said, "I knew it was her. I just knew." **Vol 14 No 6**

Entire Mosques Coming to Christ in Sub-Saharan Africa, Says Former Church Planter

(culled from <http://www.ChristianPost>)

A former church planter among Muslims in West Africa is reporting incredible number of conversion among Muslims. According to Jerry Trousdale, even entire mosques in Sub-Saharan Africa are coming to faith. Trousdale, now director of International Ministries for CityTeam International, reports in his new book *Miraculous Movements*, amazing and inspiring stories of faith among Muslim communities in Africa. These include:

- Multiple cases of entire mosques coming to faith
- Thousands of ordinary men and women being used by God to achieve seemingly impossible outcomes
- Tens of thousands of Muslim background Christians becoming dedicated intercessors who fast and pray for the gospel to penetrate the next community
- Muslim people groups that never had even one church among them now have more than fifty church planted, and in some cases more than one hundred churches – within two years of engagement
- Former sheikhs, imams and militant Islamists making up 20 percent or more of the new Christian leaders in Muslim regions.

Speaking with Christian Post, Trousdale said: "We had seven years now in Africa. And of the people in Africa, 81 different people groups that have at least 50 percent Muslim have now significant movements among them. Of those 81, 45 are people groups with 99 or 100 percent Muslim...So we are talking about fairly extreme areas of Islamic influence. These are people who have been Islamic for well

over a hundred years, some hundreds of years."

In one of the many narratives, a successful businessman and a respected leader at his mosque dreamed that Isa al Masih (Jesus the Messiah) appeared to him and said that he (Jesus) was the light of the world. His life did not remain the same and he ended a committed and effective soul winner for the Lord Jesus.

An enthusiastic Trousdale concludes: "This is just good news that God is in the same business as He was in the book of Acts. Disciples are multiplying greatly and even priests, imams and sheikhs are becoming obedience to the faith. So I no longer doubt that we can finish the task in this generation."

(<http://www.Christianpost.com/news/entire-mosques-coming-to-christ-in-north-africa-says-former-church-planter-72123/>)

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In Asia also, Moslem mass conversion to Christianity continues

Despite all the restrictions and persecutions, it has proved impossible to stop moslem folks, upon seeing the light of the Gospel, from embracing the lordship of Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God and the salvation He freely offers mankind. In Malaysia, the development got a former state-commissioner lamenting that "'It could be hundreds, maybe even thousands" of Muslims. He has therefore started "collecting data" to "persuade" the apostates to return to Islam: "We are helping them, hoping they will come back to Islam" he said. Likewise, the Sultan of Selangor, a Malaysian state, has ordered top-level Islamic organizations to take strategic steps against proselytism, "so that Muslims who have began distancing themselves from Islam will return to the fold and repent."

Meanwhile in *Kuwait*, a royal prince is one of the latest to openly declare that he has converted to Christianity. He said he took the necessary step despite being aware of the reality that he now might be [targeted for killing](#) as an apostate. **Vol 15 No 1**

Failure trails the Terrorism Enterprise

In the report of the unfortunate bombing of the COCIN church in Jos reported in this edition, we noted that as painful as the 3 lives that were lost were, we must appreciate the Divine providence that prevented what could easily have been hundreds of death. Most of the other stories we shared also have this same element of Divine Intervention. Koionona House (<http://www.khouse.org>) has actually compiled a list of Divine Interventions in frustrating the terrorism enterprise – from Africa to Asia. Part of the introduction reads: “While terrorists make constant efforts to paralyze a population through destruction and bloodshed, a variety of would-be terrorist attacks have been prevented this week (April 24), demonstrating that, whichever way one looks at it, terrorism is a doomed occupation.” We reproduce part of the article

:

Nigeria: Terrorists occasionally succeed in their planned murders, as when 50 people were killed when a car bomb exploded near an Assembly of God church in Kaduna Nigeria, April 8. However, more often than not, terrorist plots fail miserably. This last Saturday night (April 21) five suspected Nigerian Islamists were killed when the IEDs they were assembling accidentally detonated during a firefight with government soldiers.

Afghanistan: Three Pakistani and two Afghani Taliban suspected of connections to the Haqqani Terrorist Network were arrested in

Kabul before they were able to detonate the 11 tons of explosives – enough to fill ten pickup trucks – hidden carefully under sacks of potatoes in their large produce truck.

Jordan Valley: A 19-year-old Arab man was arrested on the Wednesday before Passover when he tried to carry seven explosive devices, three knives, and rifle shells through the Bekaot checkpoint in the Jordan Valley. Officials believe the young man intended to use the bombs to attack Israelis during the Passover. In January an Arab man was shot to death when he approached the Bekaot checkpoint crying, “Allahu Akbar” and refused to stop when ordered. Two pipe bombs were found on his body.

Thailand To Hong Kong: Soldiers and check point guards were not alone in thwarting would-be attacks. A 31-year-old Mongolian businessman has been called a hero after stopping a Filipino man from opening the cockpit door of a plane flying from Thailand to Hong Kong last week. The terrorist intended to crash Cathay Pacific flight 712, imperiling the lives of the 216 passengers on board, but Z.Buyannemekh jumped up and choked the man when a flight attendant struggled to stop him from entering the cockpit. Buyannemekh held the man until a second pilot could handcuff him. They then tied the man to a chair and guarded the wailing, struggling Filipino until the plane could safely land.

When asked whether he were a soldier or police officer, Buyannemekh said, “I was proud to answer that I was just a regular citizen of Mongolia. I think there is something in the genes and blood of the Mongolians.” The airline has given Buyannemekh free flight privileges for life. **Vol 15 No 2**

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CHAPTER FIFTEEN: Convocations

Convocations for Christ

The end of the year 2000 witnessed a deluge of high-powered Christian convocations in the country. Prominent were the Fire Conference of Reinhard Bonnke, the Bible Conferences of Bishop Oyedepo and that of Rev Paul Adefarasin among others. However the mother of it all was the week-end 14-16 December. Simultaneously, the CAC held its 50th anniversary celebrations/Millennial Revival at Ikeji-Arakeji; Winners Chapel had her week-long Shiloh 2000 celebrations, while the Redeemed Christian Church of God hosted the whole world at her 3rd Holy Ghost Festival, Open Heavens.

Harvest of Miracles: at Bonnke's Crusades

It was a harvest of miracles at the Lagos 2000 Millennial Crusade organized by Christ for all Nations (Nov 9-12). According to a report in Comet newspaper (9/11/00, page 10) several lame and deaf were among those that were physically touched and healed by God at the meeting... Another Bonnke crusade held in Enugu, Dec 7-12, with identical results (Comet, Dec 10, pg 4).

And At Open Heavens

The Open Heavens meeting (Holy Ghost Festival 2000) of the RCCG managed to surpass even the already almost oversized expectations for it. Attended by several millions, dozens of ministers drawn from every continent of the world ministered with great power and anointing. Perhaps the most eloquent testimony was the last recorded miracle of the event when a young man, previously on life-support device and brought down to the meeting, got up and jumped around completely hale and hearty (with an incredulous mother standing by). Now the really interesting aspect was that nobody prayed for the chap. In fact, the 1,200 strong Mass Choir was already taking the closing hymn for the Festival [The Church is marching on....]. This sovereign demonstration of the Holy Ghost showed clearly who had been behind the myriad of miracles, including over a dozen lame that had walked away on their feet, earlier, especially on the 2nd day, during the Festival. The Lord is indeed to be praised!

Foursquare marks Convention

The 45th Annual Convention of the Foursquare Church (Nov. 12-19) held last year with the theme, Kingdom 2000. It also marked the first anniversary of Rev. Dr W. A. Badejo as the General Overseer of the Church. **Vol. 4 No. 1 (2001)**

Intercessors for Africa holds Congress

About 10,000 delegates are being expected at the All Africa Congress on Spiritual Warfare of the Intercessors for Africa, being co-ordinated by highly anointed man of God, Emeka Nwakpa. The focus will be on Strategic Praying and Discipleship and the theme is “The fullness of time for Africa”. Highlights will include 24 hours practical prayer

watch, 16 plenary sessions and 50 school of ministries. The Congress will hold at the Redemption Camp, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, between 16th and 20th July, 2001. This programme is highly recommended for those who would want to have a full part in what God is doing these end times. There is a fee of N500 for attendance. Check details on their web site, www/http/intercesors.net. **Vol. 4 No. 2**

It's Harvest Time!

It's indeed a season of Harvest into the Kingdom of God with anointed men of God labouring out there in the field. Yet to recover from the mighty shakings of the Holy Ghost Convention organized by the Sword of the Spirit Ministries (hosted by Bishop Francis Wale Oke), the city of Ibadan will again witness the decimation of the hordes of hell as Evangelist Reinhard Bonke storms the city with his "blood-washed Africa" message. Here is the simple message that has never failed for once in producing amazing results to God's glory. If at all you can make it, be part of this great meeting holding Nov 7 - 11. The Osogbo version will hold Dec 5-9.

As usual, the big one to round off the year will be the **Holy Ghost Congress** of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (Dec 13-15) holding at the Redemption Camp. Formerly called the Holy Ghost Festival, the Congress (usually attracting millions) to be hosted by Pastor E.A. Adeboye will certainly usher in a positive **Wind of Change** both into our nation and into the lives of individuals who attend. We write this from our personal experience at CA! You too can prove it. Dare you sleep in this Season of Harvest? (Pro. 10:5) **Vol. 4 No 6 (2001)**

Holy Ghost Congress 2001

The annual Holy Ghost Congress (formerly Festival) organized by the Redeemed Christian Church of God continued to blaze its success trail with the 4th edition held Dec 13-15. Now fully an international event, participants came from several countries spanning all continents of the world. Among the cream of foreign ministers was Pastor Jonathan Khan from Israel who came with the *shofar* and led a series of prophetic prayer actions at the close of the Congress. He also recounted how the priestess of the Osun goddess agreed to give her life to Jesus when he visited the Osun shrine. Men of God from Nigeria who ministered at the Congress included Prophet Abiara, Bishops Mike Okonkwo, Wilson Badejo, Francis Wale Oke, David Oyedepo, Margaret Idahosa, Revs. Moses Aransiola, Charles Achonwa, Joe Olaiya, Ayo Oritsajefor, etc. The hosts were Pastor and Pastor (Mrs) Enoch Adeboye. Going by the usual reflection of the Congress themes on Nigeria national life so far, we can reasonably expect that a *Wind of Change* is set to blow over Nigeria **Vol. 5 No. 1 (2002)**

Reinhard Bonkke for Ile-Ife

Sometimes earlier this year, Christian leaders in Ile-Ife approached the Christ for All Nations, requesting for a Bonkke crusade. As usual, Bonkke would subject the request to prayers to seek the counsel of the Lord. However while the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria in Ile-Ife were praying that the Holy Ghost would grant their request and hopefully a date in 2004 can be obtained, the outcome was far more than anything they could have hoped for: Bonkke is to accept the invitation, and is to come immediately - that is this year! That means three Bonkke crusades in Osun State in just a little over a year! All these show quite plainly that the Holy Ghost is

set to work mightily at Ile-Ife, the Cradle and Spiritual Headquarters of the Yoruba race. The Crusade (and the usual fire conference for ministers) is scheduled for Dec 4-8. If you are a born again Christian in Ile-Ife and environs, then you are not expected to be a member of the congregation, but an active participant. For instance, 20,000 ushers will be needed while the number of counselors will be 60,000! Not to talk of other aspects such as security, publicity, mass choir, etc! For more information, contact your pastor, or you may contact directly the Chairman of the Central Working Committee, Pastor E.A. Osasona of Christ's Fishers of Men Church. (Phone 036-230269).

Already, there are lots of evidences that the devil is already in shivers. Leaflets threatening chaos at the crusade were circulated by some traditional religionists; but all such threats have been effectively dealt with. At least one high priest of a local deity has summarily lost his chieftaincy title in the process. The crusade and fire conference will be holding along Ede road, in the neighbourhood of the University campus. Congratulations Ile-Ife, Congratulations Yoruba race! **Vol. 5 No. 6 (2002)**

Holy Ghost Congress 2002

Thank God, the end of the year is here, and it is time for another edition of the Holy Ghost Congress. Organized by the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Congress has established itself as a great crowd puller, and one the largest meetings of any kind in the world. At the first edition in Lekki (1998), an estimated 7 million people were in attendance - the largest gathering of human beings ever before that time. Subsequent editions have even been more successful. This year's edition will run for an entire week Monday 16 - Saturday 21 December. The theme (highly prophetic, as experience

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shows) is “Showers of Blessings”. The General Overseer of the RCCG, Pastor Enoch Adeboye together with seasoned ministers of the Gospel from within and outside Nigeria will be ministering. We very highly recommend you make all efforts to participate at this usually Holy Ghost saturated meet. Venue is the Redemption Camp. **Vol. 5 No 6 (2002)**

Holy Ghost Congress: A New Song

The annual Holy Ghost Congress hosted by the Redeemed Christian Church of God continued its steady metamorphosis into a truly global event when participants from over 30 nations of the world joined millions of Nigerians including President Obasanjo, in the 6th edition 15-20th December last year. The event themed "A New Song" not only witnessed the usual harvest of unusual and outstanding miracles, but also featured seminars on practical sides of life such as opportunities in small-scale business/farming in Nigeria, how to excel in the corporate sector, marriage and courtship issues, etc. The noticeable exceptionally high quality of ministration at virtually every event can not be adduced to the galaxy of highly anointed ministers from all over the globe alone. In fact, Host Minister, Pastor E.A. Adeboye confessed that a new level of anointing has been placed on the Ministry. This was tangibly evidenced on the third day of the Congress, when the "G.O" was not able to minister as "the anointing was so high" on that day, reminiscent of 1 Kings 8:11. **Vol. 7 No. 1 (2004)**

Intercessors for Nigeria (IFN) National Conference for Ile-Ife

The end-time battle is growing in intensity as the IFN takes the 13th edition of its usually highly explosive and impacting annual National

Prayer Conference to the spiritual capital of the Yoruba race - Ile-Ife. IFN itself was formed at the ‘Cradle’ over a decade ago; but this is the first time the national body will be returning ‘home’ for its annual prayer conference. A battle of the gods looms! More hands are still needed to run some of the special committees to host the Conference scheduled for mid May. Since the meeting is inter-denominational, all spirit-filled and eternity-minded children of God in Ile-Ife and environs are welcome to participate. Speak with Brother Ola on 08035069037 for more inquiries. **Vol. 7 No 2 (2004)**

Millions expected at MFM Convention as Foursquare squares up against corruption

Organizers say they are expecting up to 6 million delegates at the coming first-ever International Convention of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, to be held at the Prayer City, Km 10, Lagos-Ibadan expressway in September. The anointing service which normally holds in March had been shifted to September to make it a double. Regional Overseer for Abeokuta, Prof. Olusola Oyewole, explained that this would be the first time the Church will be meeting together as a body since establishment. (Guardian Aug 29, pg 31)

Meanwhile, the General Overseer of the Foursquare Gospel Church of Nigeria, Dr Wilson Badejo has said that the Church is prepared to work with the Federal Government to fight corruption. To this end, a 2-day memorial lecture with the theme “A Battle Nigeria Must Win” was held 9-10 August. Speaking during a press conference in Lagos, Rev Badejo said it was absolutely expedient for the Church to intervene before things finally fall apart. Corruption, he said, is “very destructive, spiritually, morally, educationally, physically, economically, politically and socially.” (Guardian, Aug 8, pg 29) **Vol. 7 No. 5 (2004)**

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The Master Key is the theme for the next edition of the Holy Ghost Congress, an annual international, inter-denominational event organized by the RCCG since “Lekki ‘98”. This year’s Congress is scheduled for 13th - 18th Dec. at the usual venue: Redemption Camp, Km 46, Lagos- Ibadan Expressway. Pastor Enoch Adeboye who will be leading a team of other highly anointed ministers from Nigeria and abroad, said his Daddy has promised special and unusual breakthroughs for as many as would attend with expectations in their hearts. Don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate the Lordship of Jesus Christ and obtain the Masterkey to your future breakthroughs. **Vol. 7 No 6 (2004)**

PFN Biennial Conference held in Lagos

The 8th Biennial Conference of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, marking the 20th anniversary of the organization was successfully held between Feb 8 and 11 in Lagos. All the spiritual heavyweights were present; and the deliberations were quite frank but brotherly. Apart from the main theme, “*Making Disciples of all Nations,*” there were some other interesting asides. For instance, Rev Chris Okotie brought up the issue of his presidential ambition and lamented the lukewarm attitude of many Christian leaders to his candidacy in the last national elections. The general view however was that the announcement by a member of the clergy that God has instructed him to become the president of the nation should not automatically translate to the political adoption of that candidature by every pastor in the land, especially when there are other Christians also aspiring to the same office. Nevertheless, apathy to politics by the clergy was roundly condemned. At the end of the very refreshing and stimulating

Conference, Bishop Mike Okonkwo said the PFN is now “better equipped spiritually and physically to rise up and defend our faith as unto the heroes of faith who laid their lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ”. The much beloved and respected Bishop also announced that Pastor Ayo Oritsajefor has been appointed to be his successor, as the new President of the Fellowship. The appointment was made by the National Advisory Board of the Fellowship in accordance with its Constitution. Energetic and highly influential “Pastor Ayo” is the helmsman at the Word of Life Church in Warri. CA! has had cause to refer on occasions to his uncompromising and effective spiritual stands on many issues, particularly during the highly volatile Warri crisis. We congratulate him and wish him God’s continual guidance and strengthening in his new very important office. **Vol. 8 No. 2 (2005)**

The Ultimate Breakthrough

Above is the theme for the 2005 edition of the annual interdenominational Holy Ghost Congress organized by the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the eighth in the series. The annual event which draws multitude of participants both from Nigeria and abroad will this year hold between 12th and 17th December at the Redemption Camp. As usual, Pastor Enoch A. Adebayo together with other anointed men of God will be ministering. As we have noted over the years, the themes chosen for the Holy Ghost Congress have often proved to be prophetic, first in the life of the nation Nigeria, as well as in the lives of individuals who attend and participate with expectations in their hearts. How about going for the Ultimate Breakthrough of your life? **Vol. 8 No 6 (2005)**

MILESTONE 2006

It is not clear whether or not Evangelist J.A. Ajeigbe of Mission Nigeria and Beyond has the centennial celebration of Pentecostalism mentioned in the last story in mind, when he announced the Programme Milestone 2006. Tagged as the 21st Century Pentecost, the theme of Milestone 2006 is: “Regaining Pentecost to recapture the World”. Patterned after the 10 days of tarrying in Jerusalem prior to the day of Pentecost, Pastor Ajeigbe is inviting “every true child of our Heavenly Father” to participate in a 10-day gathering at Ilesa, “to set the stage for latter day explosion” and “address the serious issues affecting Christianity today” - such as “the corrupt state of our decadent nation, coupled with the ignominious state of the church”. Pastor Ajeigbe is a preacher of holiness and integrity; we heartily recommend this meeting scheduled for Feb 16 -25, 2006. Venue is the Holy Ghost Fire Ground, Power-Line, Ijebu-Jesa road, Ilesa, Osun State, Nigeria. Call 0803 360 5848 for details. **Vol. 9 No 1 (2006)**

Pastor Adeboye at OAU Ile-Ife May 9

To the glory of God, the scheduled visit of Pastor E.A. Adeboye to the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife did hold despite the desperate antics of a disappointed devil. It was a thoroughly refreshing evening, as the man of God calmly took all the overt display of hostilities by hosts of hell in his strides - ministering vital life to the several thousands drenched in the steady drizzle that had accompanied him to the podium. The spiritual climax of the evening probably was when Pastor Adeboye paused in his preaching on the supremacy of holiness, to pronounce, “...under this unction... I declare every force working against the OAU scattered in Jesus name!” The next day, there was an early morning “breakfast prayer

meeting” for the hundreds of Oliver Twists who cannot but maximize on God’s grace. More good news: the botched meeting with Bro. Gbile Akanni (see last issue of CA!) has now been rescheduled for July. **Vol. 9 No. 3 (2006)**

NIGERIA PRAYS

In collaboration with American Worldwide Chaplaincy Association (AWCA), South Korea, the Nigeria Prays organization is holding a 24-hour prayer watch for Nigeria from 12.00 noon July 28 to 12 noon July 29. The theme is: Stand before me in the gap and occupy till I come (Ezekiel 22:30, Luke 19:13). Virtually all the bigwigs of the Nigerian Church are slated as speakers. Nigeria Prays is chaired by former Nigerian Head of State, General (Dr) Yakubu Gowon GCFR and coordinated by Rev (Dr) Moses Aransiola. Venue of the Prayer meeting is the Redemption Camp, Km 45, Lagos/Ibadan Express Way. You too can participate! Further enquiries may be directed to: nigeriapraysorg@yahoo.com, 09-6725706. **Vol. 9 No. 4 (2006)**

Gbile Akanni coming to OAU, 30th July.

To the glory of God, the previously postponed meeting (see Vol. 9 No 2) of anointed teacher of the Word, Brother Gbile Akanni has now been firmly rescheduled for Sunday 20th July 2006. Venue is the Oduduwa Amphitheatre of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Time is 5.00 pm. This is an opportunity too good to be missed by any serious-minded Christian within Osun state and environs. Bro Gbile will be speaking on: Bring Me a New Crusade. Gate is free. **Vol. 9 No 4 (2006)**

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TEN YEARS OF HOLY GHOST CONGRESS: JOY UNSPEAKABLE

Many people will be surprised to recall that it is now ten quick years since the famous Lekki '98, when millions gathered together at the Lekki Beach to celebrate the first edition of what then used to be called the Holy Ghost Festival. Organized by the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), it was certainly a landmark event, reminiscent of the congregation of the children of Israel in the days of Moses. Subsequent editions have moved to the Holy Ghost Arena at the Redemption Camp, first as a 3-day event, and now as an all week-long (Monday to Saturday) affair.

Spiritually-speaking, the Holy Ghost Congress has an even older history. The first “Congress “ in the RCCG was actually Pastor Adeboye’s indignant response to the Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) hosted by Nigeria in 1977. Irked about the idea of people congregating in large number to celebrate dead idols, the then totally unknown Pastor E.A. Adeboye persuaded his father-in-the-Lord, the General Superintendent of the then obscured RCCG, to organize a “parallel” celebration of the Holy Ghost at Ilesa, in Osun State. Today, while organizers of FESTAC struggle to have a repeat celebration (see for instance www.pmg.org.za/files/docs/080205draftbrief.pdf), the ORGANIZER of the Holy Ghost Congress seemingly has no difficulty in taking His event to ever-increasing heights of glory, attracting millions of participants from all over the world, every year.

Church Arise! believes that apart from an exciting Spirit-charged atmosphere featuring excellent music, seminars and teachings; or the outright miracles and life-imparting prophecies, the Sovereign Almighty God Himself – for some point He is keen on making - is directly behind the gathering in of the multitudes who have become

faithful features of these meetings. If you are yet to participate in the Holy Ghost Congress, this year is an excellent time to partake of this unique indescribable experience. Themed “Joy Unspeakable”, the 11th Holy Ghost Congress runs from Monday 15th – Saturday 20th December. **Vol 11 No 6**

PFN holds 10th biennial meeting

The “once-in-two years” meeting of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria held this year, for the first time ever, outside Lagos. The venue was the 35,000 seater auditorium of the Word of Life Bible Church, Warri - an apparent honor for host Pastor Ayo Oritsajefor (who is also PFN President) as well as an emphatic statement about the importance of a peaceful Niger Delta to Nigeria. Present were several spiritual heavyweights including Pastor E.A. Adeboye, Rev. Uma Ukpai, Bishops Mike Okonkwo, Margaret Idahosa, Felix Omobude, and a host of others from all over the 36 states of Nigeria and other countries including America, Barbados, Chad, Cameroon, and Ghana.

With the theme: 'His kingdom, the nation, my commitment,' the Conference deliberated on various spiritual and political issues, with an emphasis on the need for government to increase the pace and volume of developmental programmes in the Niger Delta. The Fellowship said it was deeply touched by the prolonged neglect of the area which has contributed the lion's share of the nation's wealth, by successive governments, stating that “it is evidently clear that other regions with lesser financial contributions to national purse have enjoyed more attention from the central government.” (www.nigeriansinamerica.com/vbulletin/showthread.php?p=256968)

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Another recurrent issue at the meeting was the impact of corruption on the Nigerian state. The PFN advocated zero tolerance for corruption, which was identified as the foundation of the nation's under-development, massive poverty, high crime rate, infrastructural decay, and political manipulations. Bishop Mike Okonkwo represented very well the mood of the meeting, when during his message, he “pronounced curses on corruption and those who encourage it in the country” (www.ngrguardiannews.com/metro/article02//index3.html?pdate=170209&ptitle=Lamentation%20for%20Nigeria%20at%20PFN%20conference%20in%20Warri&cpdate=170209)

Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor who was re-elected into the office of the President of PFN for another 4-year term, lamented the apathy to politics among Christians. He was quoted by the Guardian newspaper as saying: "It is high time Christians woke up and shook away their passive attitude and focused more on governance. We can no longer afford to remain unconcerned about the way we are being governed. I am afraid of what would happen to this nation in future if we fail to act now". On the issues of the “Kingdom” and “my commitment”, the PFN resolves “to continue to preach the unadulterated word of God in Nigeria and the nations for the edification of His body and soul winning.”

In a private interview granted to The Nation, one-time president of the PFN, Pastor Enoch Adeboye of the RCCG, expressed satisfaction that the PFN is living up to the expectation of the founding fathers, evidenced by increasing relevance of the body in national affairs, and effective checks in place among its members. When challenged by his interviewer, Pastor Adeboye also reiterated PFN's clearly and publicly documented position on Mr Temitope Joshua of the infamous Synagogue for all Nations, Lagos. Asked if the PFN's

position of outright rejection of TB Joshua could ever change or if he (Adeboye) could possibly honour an invitation to minister in the Synagogue, Pastor Adeboye said emphatically that he could only minister at the Synagogue if first of all TB Joshua would sit with him to have both of them agree on what constitutes salvation in the Biblical context. And then Mr Joshua will further agree that he (Pastor Adeboye) should communicate that position to the congregation in the Synagogue.

www.thenationonlineng.com/dynamicpage.asp?id=77189

The main guest preacher at the Conference was the ever-bubbling German evangelist, Reinhard Bonnke. Bonnke urged Nigerians to pray fervently for the power of God that could lead to the transformation of lives and the nation. A good fraction of the meeting time was spent praying for the sustainable development of Nigeria.

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CONVENTION SEASON

With schools on long break, it's the season for Christian conventions again. At the Redeemed Christian Church of God (*the home Church of the editor of CA!*) it is a week-long affair preceded by a 3-day Ministers' conference. I'd like to invite readers who are able, to participate in this year's Convention at the Redemption Camp, scheduled for 3 - 9 August. Apart from the Plenary sessions to be handled mainly by Pastor Enoch Adeboye, there will be several seminars and workshops on aspects of the Home, Business, Ministry, Finance, etc, to be handled by seasoned men of God and other professionals drawn from within the Body of Christ at large. With the Theme: Christ in you, **the Hope of Glory**, the Convention is surely going to be glorious - and so will your life as you join us. For details, please check the

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convention website: <http://media.rccgnet.org/2009conv> Vol. 12

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CHAPTER SIXTEEN: Institutions

Baptist Convention set to establish University

The Nigeria University Commission (NUC) has approved in principle the establishment of a University by the Baptist Convention. One of the conditions stipulated by the NUC was that the University bears a “neutral” name. The Convention has decided to name the University after Rev Thomas Jefferson, the first Baptist missionary to evangelise in Nigeria. According to chairman of the Baptist University Committee, Prof. J.T. Okedara, the University which will be sited at Iwo in Osun State, will attend to the academic needs of “qualified candidates from local, national and international communities regardless of race, colour, ethnicity and religion” (Punch 1/05/01, pg 5). **Vol. 4 No 4 (2001)**

Islamic TV Station Coming

Governor Ahmed Sanni of Zamfara said over N90 million has been paid by the State of the total N159 million required for supply of necessary equipment for the proposed *Voice of Islam*. The TV network which is to propagate Islam is apparently being paid for by the Tax-payers in the state, including Christians. Meanwhile, thanks to private initiatives, a 24 hour Christian TV channel is now available

in Nigeria. An advert in Punch on May 10 (pg 38) says to call Moses or Chris on 01-612305 or 01-4709740 for further enquiries. **Vol. 4 No. 4 (2001)**

Covenant University takes off

The FG has approved the take-off of an additional three Christian Universities in the country. Among them is the Covenant University of the Living Faith Church which will take off in September with N5 billion and 7,264 students. Spokesman for the University, Bishop Dayo Olutayo said the University was established “as a departure from form to skill, from ‘mathematics’ to life-matics” (Comet Jan 28, back page) **Vol. 5 No. 2 (2002)**

Covenant University kicks off, Affiliates with ORU

Covenant University (CU), one of the new [Christian] Universities recently licensed in Nigeria has commenced classes (Oct 21). As part of the efforts to ensure the University lives up to its mission statement of providing top quality education of international standard, it has sought and secured affiliation with the Oral Roberts University (ORU) in the United States. According to a Memorandum of Understanding signed recently between the two institutions, among other provisions, there will be exchange of staff and students, credit transfer to either institutions by students, assistance in recruitment of staff and students and access to facilities of ORU. CU is only the third university worldwide to be granted an affiliation status by ORU; and it shows the implicit confidence ORU places in the quality of education in the new University. **Vol. 5 No. 6 (2002)**

24-hour Gospel programming now available on RCCG Internet Radio

Surprisingly, many people seem to be yet unaware of the operations of Liveway radio, the media arm of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. The CEO of what has been described as the “most Spirit-filled channel this side of heaven”, Pastor Solomon Onita promised “to make a remarkable difference in alternative media integration... [and] reach the world with The Goodnews of the Gospel using the latest technology via the Internet and Satellite.” There is a special LiveWay “Pastor’s Channel on Demand” facility which offers to broadcast sermons by participating pastors for a world-wide audience over the web at a token fee. Details of these and other good commercial investment opportunities can be obtained from sonita@rccg.org or at the website <http://www.rccg.org> **Vol. 9 No. 4 (2006)**

Church Arise! – Restating our Perspective

We routinely, from time to time, get uncomplimentary responses to our ministry efforts. Of course, it is the norm in the Christian endtime ministry that your teeming friends affirm you by merely nodding their heads while your few foes do far more than that. Often, *they* don’t spare funds, time, or spiritual efforts in making their points clear. But it is all part of basic ministry!

So whether it is threat letters from legal chambers abroad or verbal snipes from local folks, we simply take these in our strides and keep our focus on our Christ-given mandate. However an email received just before press time addresses a major point in our ministry and we take the opportunity to once again restate our perspectives and position on these issues. First the mail (without any editing):

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“I read your article, but why can't we just preach the word and stop condemning one another? what has the catholic church done that you all keep striking hard and forgot to impart the true meaning of Gods Words. let stop all this feud and condemnation of priest and face the true meaning of christainity. God will judge us one day, you too may not be 100% holy. we all need prayers, that is why we have to pray for one another in times of trouble. not telling the whole word the negative side of priest, destroying there image when u were suppose to pray for them. everyone have sinned.

a life of celibacy is difficult, paul in the bible lived that. when most pastors fall out of lust, i pray for them, stop this. it wont lead us anywhere. even falsifying stories to gain your purpose.

pray for forgiveness and stop condenming. leave it to God.Dont fall a victim, avoid insulting men of God, there are implications!

Peter”

Our response: CA! is not about condemning people. What do we gain from that? On the contrary we have a great deal of sympathy towards those most of society despise or (ab)use. Our position and concern is that the great deceiver and enemy of our soul (using largely religion and social tools) is keeping people in bondage away from their destiny and potentials in Christ.

Just look at the facts in these sexual abuse cases:

(1) It is plain wrong, and unfair that young children who trust in a religious institution get abused and scarred and corrupted. Wrong is wrong, no matter who is involved or the institutions that sponsor them!

(2) It is sad that ordinarily sincere people, seeking to serve God (as priests, for instance), should get ensnared in unbiblical situations that turn them into fiends and abusers of children – doing satan’s work for him. Of course each individual is accountable before the great Judge. But while we refrain from the futile and unfruitful efforts to judge *people*, we have the mandate to judge *institutions and practices*, using the yardstick of God’s eternally-settled word .(eg, Acts 4:19, 1 Cor 14:29, Phil 1:9, etc) God Himself affirms that He has some of His people (trapped/blinded?) even in unimaginable places (e.g. see Rev 3:4). Church Arise! mandate includes attempting to reach out to such people. Anyone who fits into this category needs to **urgently** heed God’s clear instructions in the Bible (see e.g. Rev 18:4, 2 Cor 6:17, Cor. Etc) – TODAY!

Yes, it’s tough living in the world, especially in these perilous end-time days. But we affirm that the Lord Jesus has made more than adequate provisions for our victory (See 1 John 5:4-5). We report these issues hoping that people will see that there is a glorious alternative provided for them through Jesus Christ the Truth. If only they would be bold enough to take the right steps,

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seeking the honour that comes from God alone and not that from men and their institutions (see John 5:44, John 12:42-43)

And of course, we don't CREATE the news. We only report them. And we go to great length to always cite the sources of our news. Deliberately, most of our news and commentaries are taken from reliable sources that others can easily check out. For instance, all the news and commentaries we published on the catholic church in the last edition (vol 13 no 2) were all in the public domain, authored by catholics themselves. We only direct the attention of people (engaged by several other man-made problems in society) to these facts!

Finally, as any regular reader of CA! can attest, events in the catholic institution are only a fraction of the issues we routinely report on. We devote at least as much space to unifying situations in non-catholic churches too. And, especially where persecution of Christians is involved, we do report extensively on Islam and other religions also. Of course reports on religion is only about a half of what we publish. The other half involves politics and governance, technology, economy, education and ethics, etc. The whole point is to alert the Church that "the time is short" and there might be better ways to use whatever time is left than what most of us are currently doing.

We seize this opportunity to sincerely thank all who have steadfastly encouraged us along, all these 12 years plus. **Vol 13 No 2**

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CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: Personalities

Mama Akindayomi passes on

Madam Esther Egbedire Akindayomi, wife of the founder of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, has gone to be with her Lord. She died on January 10 at the age of 85 years. This is 20 years after her husband, Pa Josiah Akindayomi, had gone to be with the Lord. Mama Akindayomi has since been buried. **Vol 4 No. 2**

Carey's Visit Refreshing, but...

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the head of the 100 million strong Anglican Communion world-wide was in Nigeria for a 13-day visit, Jan 31-Feb 12, 2001. Dr Carey's visit was impressive in the way and manner he interacted with and commented on Nigeria. He was unperturbed by various harassment at the airports, and was frank in his discussions with Sharia strong man Gov Sanni in Zamfara. He also had strong words for the infamous "prosperity preachers". Particularly fascinating to us was his comment at the Ibru Centre when goaded to comment on inter-faith issues. Said the Archbishop, "All religions are not the same, and Jesus Christ is not merely one great religious figure among others. Rather, Jesus Christ is unique, incomparable and God's greatest gift to be shared without fear or

fervour...” (Guardian Feb 18, pg 26). Bravo, great words in a perverse inter-faith world! However, we cannot easily forget that the Archbishop is on record as having said that the claim that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead is open to question (see Vol 2 No 6). He is also on the verge of surrendering his Communion to the Church of Rome. Unfortunately the Jesus the Archbishop defends so ardently, if really dead, could offer nothing to the world today (see 1 Cor. 15:13-14,17) **Vol 4 No. 2**

Mbang now heads World Methodism

The Prelate of the Methodist Church of Nigeria and president of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Dr Sunday Mbang, has been installed the President of the World Methodist Conference and has therefore become the head of the Methodist Church worldwide. He was voted in at the 18th Methodist World Conference in Brighton, England. **Vol. 4 No 5 (2001)**

Darrel Lee visits Nigeria

The President of the Apostolic Faith, and Superintendent-General of the Apostolic Faith churches worldwide, Darrel Lee, paid a week-long pastoral visit to Nigeria on January 23. Among his activities in Nigeria was the official foundation laying ceremony for the 75,000 seating capacity new Tabernacle of the Apostolic Faith at Igbessa, Ogun State. The Apostolic Faith was founded in 1906 by Florence L. Crawford with emphasis on sanctification and holiness; and has a strong bias towards the literature ministry. **Vol. 5 No. 2 (2002)**

Strides in Holiness

A new docu-drama film on the biography of Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye is out. Produced by the Redeemed Christian Church of God

(RCCG) Headquarters State 2B, Lagos, the film traces the birth, early life, academic career and ministerial journey of this apostle of holiness and humility. Available in both video and CD, the production premiered on Sunday 31st March at Regency Hall, Lagos **Vol. 5 No. 3 (2002)**

Sword of the Spirit marks 20 years

It was celebration galore as the Sword of the Spirit Ministries celebrated 20 years of God's goodness and grace between Sept 30 and Oct 6. The history of this ministry involved with crusades and mass evangelism, Church planting (Christ Life Church), Literature and Media Ministries, International Bible College of Ministries, etc, began on May 17 1982 while the set-man, Bishop Francis Wale Oke was studying John 21. Convicted by the phrase, "Lovest thou me more than these?" he decided to go all out for the work of the Master. In his welcome address to participants at the 20th year celebrations, Bishop Wale Oke thanked God for preserving the ministry over the years and for using the work to ignite a huge Holy Ghost revival in the land. Church Arise! Livingwater Ministries, publisher of Church Arise! is but one of the countless fruits the Sword of the Spirit Ministries has brought forth for the Lord in these 20 years. We rejoice with Bishop and Rev (Mrs) Wale Oke and wish them more strength and grace as they forge ahead serving the Lord. **Vol. 5 No. 6 (2002)**

David Wilkerson in Nigeria

David Wilkerson, Pastor of Times Square Church of New York and the real-life hero of the book *The Cross and the Switchblade*, was in Nigeria for a mission in the month of October. He was in Lagos 3-5 October for a Ministers' Conference and at Jos for a city-wide

crusade between 10 and 12 October. The theme on this mission trip was: “The Truth will set you free”. **Vol. 5 No 6 (2002)**

Bishop Okonkwo decries “alarming passivity” of Nigerian Christians to politics

The 7th National biennial conference of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) was an earth-shaking success. What with anointed men of God such as Pastor Enoch Adeboye, Bishop David Oyedepo, Rev Moses Aransiola, Bishop Wale Oke, Rev Ayo Oritsejafor ministering. The theme was Finishing Strong.

Host Pastor and National President of the PFN, Bishop Mike Okonkwo in his presidential address lamented that although 64% of Nigerians are Christians, their alarming passivity to the affairs of their nation and indeed their political environment has detracted seriously from the impact they should be having. This, he adduced to “a long processed indoctrination that has placed Christians as mere heads yet with the tail focus” (Guardian Feb 16, 26) **Vol. 6 No. 2 (2003)**

New head for Anglican Communion Worldwide

“Wittingly (or unwittingly?) the Anglican Church worldwide may have been launched into its most eventful era in history with the enthronement of controversial bishop, Rowan Williams as its head” was the way the Guardian (a good friend of the Anglican Church) reported the installation of a new head (the 104th) for the 70 million strong Anglican Communion late February. (Guardian, Feb 28, page 1).

In the report, Bishop William is cited for his “outspoken radicalism” and is described as a “humanist to the core”. The 52 year old “fiery cleric described as the strongest religious voice in the whole of

Britain” has knowingly ordained a gay man and is in favour of ordination of women as bishops. Hmm... **Vol. 6 No. 2 (2003)**

Bishop Okonkwo marks 30 years in ministry

Simple, consistent but outspoken and highly respected Bishop Mike Okonkwo of The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM) marked the 30th anniversary of his call into ministry on 22nd November. A week-long Kingdom Life World Conference 2003 (17-23 November) was convened to coincide with the celebrations with noted national and international ministers of the Gospel participating. Bishop Okonkwo is the National President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria and *has* also recently become the Vice President of the Christian Association of Nigeria. We wish him more fruitful years of service in the Lord's vineyard in Jesus name. **Vol. 7 No. 1 (2004)**

Pastor Adeboye turns 62

We congratulate the man of God, Pastor Enoch A. Adeboye of the RCCG who turned 62 in March. The event also marked the 18th anniversary of the Holy Ghost Service which has been providing succour and strength to many a Christian from various denominations over the years. We pray the Lord continue to sustain His son and establish the fruit of his ministry. Pastor Adeboye will be ministering on OAU campus Ile-Ife in the month of May, as he usually does every year.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Chapter of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria has commended President Obasanjo for recognizing the contributions of church leaders to the nation's development. A statement by Bishop Lanre Obembe, Lagos PFN president, “specifically lauded the recent decision of the President to honour...

Pastor Adeboye, with a national merit award” (Punch January 5, pg 9). **Vol. 7 No. 2 (2004)**

Adieu, Pastor Bimbo

Pastor Bimbo Odukoya, a woman of God, manifestly full of His grace and commissioned as an apostle to the youths in particular, returned to Base - into the bosom of her Lord - Saturday 10th December, 2005. She was among the few that had earlier survived the Sosoliso air crash at Port Harcourt; but the Lord deemed it better for her to enter into her rest, and she gave up the ghost at the hospital.

There is a virtual general consensus among Christian leaders that the spate of air crashes in Nigeria last year (3 crashes in less than 2 months) were orchestrated by satanic agencies, no doubt exploiting the greed, corruption and other lapses in the aviation sector. If this is correct, the involvement of Pastor Bimbo would no doubt be an unwelcome complication in the calculations of such occultic powers, in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 2:8.

Pastor Bimbo was many things to many people; but Church Arise! will particularly remember her as an anointed officer in the Lord’s army against one of the major battalions of Satan’s end time force - the forces of the New Sexuality. A sentence (with appropriate gesticulation) from Pastor Bimbo, is often as effective in demolishing perverse satanic arguments, as several pages of write-ups by many other Christian soldiers, including ourselves! We take comfort in the tribute paid to Pastor Bimbo by her husband, Pastor Taiwo Odukoya, during her burial. Speaking with infectious glowing passion, as one with unflinching assurance in the resurrection hope promised by a most-trustworthy Saviour, Pastor Taiwo said, “Pastor Bimbo cannot be replaced ... no... but she has been reproduced... [in the several

people that she laboured in the Lord to build up]”. May the Lord comfort His people in this very painful departure. **Vol. 9 No. 1 (2006)**

Dr Henry Morris back home with the Lord.



Dr Henry Morris, renowned as the father of scientific creationism, has gone to be with the Lord after such meritorious and fruitful service on earth. Dr Morris departure took place on the evening of Saturday 25th February. He was 87, and according to his son, Henry III, he “remained cogent and alert up until the last few moments...” Dr Morris will go down as one of the truly great men of God that ever passed through the planet earth. He believed, taught, and gracefully and intellectually demonstrated the infallibility of the Scriptures, and might well be described as a modern day Paul to the scientists. His three-volume Trilogy on Creation sent down as a gift to us in 2000 from the Institute for Creation Research which he founded in 1970, would go down among the most important and life-affecting books ever read by the editor of Church Arise! We have since acquired several of his numerous books, including The Genesis Flood, the book he co-authored with John Whitcomb in 1961 and which is widely recognized as a classic on creationism. We invite our readers to visit the Creationism section of our Library to really appreciate the ministry of Dr Morris. We join the rest of the Church to celebrate the life and return to the Lord of a truly great man of God. **Vol. 9 No. 2 (2006)**

Bishop Oyedepo Marks 25 Years In Ministry

High praise and intense thanksgiving were the hallmarks of the celebrations of the silver anniversary of the divine commissioning of the man of God, Bishop David Oyedepo which held all over

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congregations of the Living Faith Church (Winners Chapel) in the month of May, 2006. According to the much beloved Bishop, twenty-five years ago, at Ilesa, Osun State, in an 18-hour encounter with the Lord, he heard God distinctly tell him, “The hour has come to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil through the preaching of the word of faith; and I am sending you to undertake this task.”

What began with simple obedience to this commission with “four worshippers, one Volkswagen beetle car as an official car and with little above N100 as total income for the year” has today spawned a ministry with thriving congregations in over “300 cities, towns and villages in Nigeria and mission activities in 35 countries in Africa and churches in Europe, America and the Caribbean.” The Church HQ building at Otta is designed to sit over 50,000 worshippers and the services are broadcast live over the Internet to every nation on earth. The ministry owns the Covenant University (whose 1st graduation is scheduled for June 2006); an industrial scale-publishing firm with 500,000 books to its credit and two aircrafts to facilitate easy distribution; and a substantial involvement in humanitarian services.

An intensely practical man, Bishop Oyedepo teaches that anointing is no substitute for skill acquisition. This, he insists, together with a strict observation of Scriptural principles (no matter how unconventional they might appear), constitutes the ultimate way out of poverty and the shackles of Satan. Many do not have any idea how closely the Bishop really walks his talk. For instance it took Pastor Adeboye, a few years ago, to reveal that the Bishop gave out to his then pastor the first car he ever bought in life as a struggling young man.

Church Arise! holds Bishop David Oyedepo and his wife, Pastor Faith, in the highest esteem, and wish them God’s speed and

continued guidance as they continue to bear enduring fruits in the services of our soon-coming King, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Vol. 9 No 3 (2006)**

Adieu, Mummy Kumuyi

The Church in Nigeria collectively lost one of her leading lights during the Easter period as Pastor (Mrs) Biodun Kumuyi, matriarch of the Deeper Life Bible Church, went to be with her Saviour on Saturday 11th April.

Apart from several vital ministries she served within the Deeper Life organization, Mrs Kumuyi was also the publisher of the Christian Women Mirror, a monthly magazine widely circulated across denominational lines and proven as a veritable tool for developing Christian women in godliness, child training, and other virtues.

Of course, by far her greatest contribution to the Body of Christ was simply being the help-meet for Pastor William F. Kumuyi, and a shining role model to hundreds of thousands of Christian ministers' wives, particularly in Nigeria.

The departure of Mummy Kumuyi at the rather young age of 57 has big positive lessons for the Church. One of these is the way the Lord arranged the circumstances, scheduling it to coincide with the period when the strongest message of Christianity, victory over death through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, was being preached and celebrated.

More than preaching, the Lord also gave the man of God, Pastor Kumuyi, to demonstrate this reality in a clear manner as he took the news of the death of his wife calmly and continued with his preaching schedule at the then on-going Easter Camp of the Church. Most members noted the fresh vibrancy and vigour with which the man of God preached on the necessity of “Feeding the Sheep” of Christ

irrespective of prevailing circumstances. None suspected that he had just lost his partner and soul-mate of almost 30 years.

We join Christians all over the world in celebrating the life of Pastor (Mrs) Biodun Kumuyi as well as the demonstrated Christian Hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our soon-coming King. Meanwhile, may the Holy Spirit comfort and encourage His people as they grapple with the vacuum created by this departure. **Vol 12 No. 3**

Akinola retires, successor restates ban on same-sex marriage

After a glorious term in office that saw the Church of Nigeria rise to play key leadership role in the Anglican Communion worldwide, Archbishop Peter Jasper Akinola has gracefully retired from the exalted office of Primate of the Anglican Communion in Nigeria.

However the leadership of the Church of Nigeria has made it clear that its stand on sexual purity was a collective decision which will continue, even after the exit of Archbishop Akinola.

Restating the position of the Church, the new Primate of the Anglican Church, Archbishop Nicholas Okoh, at the formal ceremony that had then acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan in attendance, said, “We do not approve of a homosexual lifestyle and same-sex marriages. Some want us to see it as a normal alternative lifestyle to marriage between male and female. We are saying we are sorry, we cannot accept this in the church...”

Referring specifically to the suggestion by the bishop of Liverpool that the Church should allow individuals to decide what they wish to believe or practice on the matter, Archbishop Okoh said: “My people, the danger in this kind of teaching is that it establishes two authorities in the church - the scriptures on one hand and the canon of deviant sub-culture. It is intended to destroy the established standard of

morality as it is written in the Bible.” Did someone say “Praise the Lord” to all these? **Vol. 13 No. 2**

Tell my people I died well – Rev George Orji

Recently, the Christian community in Nigeria at least came up with some measure of response to the perennial killing with impunity of Christians by so-called fundamentalist Moslems – who never seem to be in short supply! Following the latest wave of killings, the Boko Haram uprising, the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) successfully put together a well-publicised and befitting Service of Songs (on Thursday Sept 10) in the memory of Christian pastors brutally killed, cold blooded, in the latest adventure by the Jihadists. The service held simultaneously in Abuja and in London.

Although several Christians were unfortunately caught in the crossfire, the Boko Haram incident could actually be seen as God instigating the fighting force of militant Islam in Nigeria against their double-faced masters and sponsors – and exposing their ugly secrets. One surprising element of the Boko Haram movement is the wide spread of its membership, cutting across all strata of society – from highly placed public officers (including an ex-member of a state cabinet), former lecturers in institutions of higher learning, to thousands of street urchins.

On one hand, it was truly saddening, to read about scores of teenagers, brainwashed by the Boko Haram sect, pouring out like mindless robots, to be mowed down by the Nigerian military. Teenagers that could have contributed to the greatness of Nigeria were turned into vermins under the guise of Islamic education with active, even if informal, support of state governments. It is an open secret that the core of the Islamic killing machine deployed against Christians in many a religious crises in Northern Nigeria in recent

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times (eg Jos crises) has been recruited from Bauchi, well within Boko Haram catchment area. Even though the key leaders of the Boko Haram (including those who voluntarily turned in themselves) were summarily killed while in police custody, no doubt to protect the identity of their sponsors, no one could doubt the involvement of key state government officials - at the topmost levels. Akin to the report in the last edition of CA!, of Talibans buying children in Pakistan to be recruited as suicide bombers, the story of Boko Haram is no less pathetic. As is usual for any case involving Islam however, none of the usually vocal “Child Rights” advocacy NGOs seems to either have noticed the situation or find voice to ask for government investigations to address similar existing situations.

Nevertheless, several innocent Christians were caught in the crossfires between this Moslem killing machinery and their state sponsors. According to eye-witness accounts, in the face of stark terror, many nominal Christians hurriedly agreed to dump their “faith” for Islam in order to save their necks. (Many of them were killed nevertheless, either by the jihadists or soldiers’ stray bullets!). Thank God for those who like Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego, readily embraced the ultimate price, calmly preferring to be slaughtered rather than denounce their Lord. In this honorable group are Pastor Sabo Yakubu, of Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN), Reverend Sylvester O Akpan of National Evangelical Mission, and Reverend George Orji of Good News of Christ Church . The Lord providentially allowed some other faithful brethren to escape the Jihadist long knives, so that the world may learn of the faith and courage of our martyred brethren (Heb 12:35). The message sent by Rev George Orji through a co-captive, “[in case you make it out,] tell my people I died well” made the headlines all over the world. Details of some eye-witness accounts of the incident can be found at

www.tribune.com.ng/07082009/features.html or at news.onlinenigeria.com/?a=6864. Delivering the sermon during the funeral rites for late Rev. Sabo Yakubu, COCIN Regional chairman, Rev Bulus Azi urged Christians to be prepared for death, anytime as their calling may demand.

The Christian community seems to have given up trying to get the Nigerian government to live up to its responsibility of protecting innocent citizens or compensating their losses in the hands of militant Islamists. In the Sept 10 event, the PFN rolled out the drums, according to its National Secretary, “to honor these Christian heroes and also draw international attention to the systemic problem that has led to the death of adherents of Christian faith in Northern Nigeria.” In his message, National President of the PFN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, urged the congregation not to mourn the Christians who died in the crisis as the service was a celebration in the hope of Christ. He later led other Christian leaders in giving personal donations in cash and kind to the families of the slain pastors – in addition to corporate gifts by the Fellowship. Read an account at http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/sunday_magazine/article05//indexn3_html?pdate=130909&ptitle=Boko%20Haram:%20Christian%20Body%20Brings%20Hope,%20Succour%20To%20Victims%27%20Families&cpdate=180909 **Vol 12 No 5**

Pastor Adeboye leads prayers at the UN

The recent 64th General Assembly of the United Nations was significant for Nigeria not only in the conspicuous absence of the Nigerian President (who was attending the opening of a University in Saudi Arabia, where he was reportedly not listed as a guest – suggesting there are other factors for his absence at the UN); but also in its featuring of a Nigerian pastor to lead the pre-Summit prayers.

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Leading ambassadors and representatives of more than 68 nations in the prayers organized by the UN International Prayer Council at the UN headquarters in New York on Thursday Sept 10 was Pastor E.A Adeboye of the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Of course, it requires nothing short of the wisdom and courage of a Daniel to speak the gospel truth to a body so obviously committed to World Governance and a global (see-no-evil) religion, under the guise of “good works” and “tolerance”. Many a pastor, notably US Rick Warren (aka the UN Pastor), have fallen prey to the glamour and pressure for “diplomatic civility”, instigated by the UN, eventually leading them to compromise the Christian message. This serious issue has been addressed in several past editions of Church Arise!

Thank God for the man of God from Nigeria. According to news reports (see for example, <http://news.onlinenigeria.com/templates/?a=8017>), Pastor Adeboye first gently re-directed the emphasis of the meeting, tagged "Uniting in prayer for the United Nations," and advertised as “open to all Christians and Moslems at the UN”, from an innocuous inter-faith affair to a clear Christian tone.

In his presentations as the keynote speaker at the event, Pastor Adeboye told the gathering that "the greatest problem the world is facing today is not the one we are trying to grapple with here. It is the attack on our youths, our children, our tomorrow, while we are busy planning strategy." According to Pastor Adeboye, the fire on the roof of all nations at the moment is the Internet, through which the enemy is quietly luring children and youths into pornography, terrorism and similar dangerous endeavours. In his words, by teaching youths that the value system of their parents is unduly restrictive, “the Internet ... has become an avenue for the enemy to attack humanity. This is a

problem facing every nation, rich or poor, first world or third world." The big challenge then, according to Pastor Adeboye is: "How do you fight an enemy you cannot see, an enemy you cannot defeat by force of arms, an enemy you cannot legislate against, an enemy you cannot fight with diplomacy?"

Having thus prepared the grounds, Pastor Adeboye brought in the gospel message: the situation is not hopeless, but there is only one hope. In his words: "It is best to use the age-old method of warfare by calling in on the ally. The greatest Ally is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of hosts."

Very well put. More grace to you sir, in Jesus name! **Vol 12 No 5**

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

(Background: Dr James Dobson, 73, was recently "forced" out of Focus on the Family, a ministry he started in 1977 and has nurtured to an enormous international status and influence. He thereafter started a new TV program, Family Talk. See some details in **CA! Vol 13 No 1**)

Interviewer: Do you see Family Talk as competing at all with Focus on the Family?

James Dobson: It's kind of silly to think that the family, with all its problems across the country and around the world, needs only one ministry whose goal is to reach out to them. There's plenty of work to be done. We're not in competition any more than two Baptist churches in Atlanta are in competition. We're not trying to hurt each other, wound each other, or overtake each other. That's not going to happen.

My legacy doesn't matter. It isn't important that I be remembered. It's important that when I stand before the Lord, he says, "Well done, good and faithful servant." I want to finish strong. I don't want to make a mistake that would hurt the cause of Christ late in my life, so I'm going to do everything I can to bring many people to Christ. If he can use me in that regard through Family Talk, that will be my greatest legacy.

<http://www.Christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/july/17.31.html?start=3> Vol 13 No 2

QUOTES

Bishop Mike explains the secret of his youthfulness, at 65.

“We (*Bishop Mike and Mummy Peace*) make it a duty to watch the things we eat. We endeavour to eat fresh things. We eat fish. We avoid red meat. We avoid too much starch. We eat a lot of vegetables and a lot of salad. They are all over the place. We drink a lot of water and do exercise, so that the pulse can be open. Most of the food people eat today are processed and filled with chemicals; and people eat these. There’s no way it will not register in your body. So, most of these things must be avoided. Our food in Nigeria is fresh. We can get vegetables from our gardens, to reduce some of these toxic wastes we put inside our bodies. We exercise — not as one going to the Olympics, but at least to keep our bodies agile.”

Bishop Mike Okwonkwo is the highly respected presiding Bishop of The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM). He is unquestionably one of the genuine men of God of our generation. The above quotes was from of an interview he granted the Guardian (Life Magazine, 06-09-10) on the occasion of his 65th birthday in Sept.

We wish Bishop Mike continued sound health together with more speed, grace, and fruitfulness in the service of his Lord. **Vol 13 No 5**

After the Rapture

“Unsaved people often ask me if they can have my car or money once we Christians are gone. I always tell them that it’s more likely that they will be rummaging through my kitchen cabinets looking for canned goods. A wiser choice for these folks would be to come to Christ and be ensured a seat at the great feast that will take place at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

“And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the true words of God.’” (Rev. 19:9).

Todd Strandberg www.raptureready.com/nm/323.html **Vol 13 No 5**

David Wilkerson gone to be with the Lord

“David served the purposes of God in his generation, then he died” (Acts 13:36).

With these words, Gary Wilkerson began his tribute to his father, the much beloved and highly respected David Ray Wilkerson. David went to be with the Lord during a car crash on Wednesday April 27. 79 year old David was driving himself and had his wife of 57 years, Gwen by his side Mercifully, Gwen survived the accident..

A common expression used to describe brother Dave is his “unlimited faith”. He believed God could change the lives of gang members and transform the most desperate drug addicts. He believed that a dynamic church could be launched in the heart of Times Square, New York City (perhaps the very centre of the world’s depravity). He

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believed he could be a man who loved his wife and children well. And from clear evidences, including testimonies from friends and family, all these he did creditably with the help of the Holy Spirit.

According to Gary, “Dad was not one for fanfare, acclaim or ceremony. He turned down invitations to meet with world leaders yet would give everything he owned to support a poor orphan or a widow in distress.... He preached with uncompromising passion and relentless grace. He wrote with amazing insight, clarity and conviction. He ran his race well and when his work was done, he was called home.”

According to Dave’s close friend and New York Times reporter, McCandlish Phillips, “His method was an absolute model of simplicity, directness and total non-sophistication—he just went out on the streets and mixed with the kids and reasoned with them face-to-face, often quoting the Bible—and it worked.”

Outcomes of his faith and spirit-led boldness include the Teen Challenge ministry, a Christ-centered drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. The ministry became well known though the book *The Cross and the Switchblade*, which has sold over 50 million copies and been translated into 30 languages. The ministry has grown to more than 1,000 centers in the United States and 80 other countries. David Wilkerson was in Nigeria for a pastoral visit a few years ago.

According to Carter Conlon, Senior Pastor of the Church at Times Square “I get tremendous personal comfort from the thought of Brother Dave dancing around the throne of God.” Son Gary echoed similar sentiments when he wrote: I don’t think my father would have retired well. I don’t think he was one to sit in a rocking chair and reminisce about times past. I believe that Jesus, knowing this, graciously called him home.

David was born on May 19 1931 to a line of devoted Pentecostal preachers. His body was laid to rest in Lindale, Texas on May 2, 2011. During the funeral service, attended by members of Wilkerson's family and close friends, including evangelist Nicky Cruz, a tribute video was shown to those who attended. The video may be viewed on <http://pleasepassthebread.org/2011/05/02/a-tribute-to-david-wilkerson/> **Vol 14 No 2**

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SECTION IV

Interfaithism

INTRODUCTION

The fuel for apostasy, and the basis for intolerance of Christianity's intransigent character, is interfaithism. The naïve core of this position is that there is really no bad devil anywhere, and all spiritual expressions are legitimate and different sides of the same coin. The most complete and accurate position then is the combination of all the faiths. Even when many of the faiths adopt exact opposite positions?

Of course while interfaithism may be good for every other "faith", it is absolute deadly poison to Christianity where faith is literally everything!

"And this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but He that believes that Jesus is the son of God" 1 John 5:4,5

The advance of the interfaith agenda, clearly evident over the past decade, as documented below, is another clear sign of the soon-coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 18 - The Nigerian Scene

Chapter 19 - The International Scene

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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: The Nigerian Scene

Zamfara Governor prays in Jesus' name

This was front-page news on the Nigerian Tribune (26th March). Governor Ahmed Sanni reportedly performed the 'feat' while saying the closing prayer at the recent meeting of 16 state governors from the six geo-political zones of the Country at Asaba. This development should make Christians cautious about the value of getting "mouth professions" from people. Obviously, the Zamfara Shariaman (up till that point at least) was not considering accepting Jesus as Lord, Saviour and only Mediator between Man and God. It is a sign of what level of concessions even die-hard Moslems might be willing to accept as the Inter-faith agenda gathers more momentum. Mouth confessions must be preceded by heart-believing for the saving power in the name of Jesus to be released. (Rom 10:10, 1 Jhn 5:5) **Vol. 4 No. 3**

Inter-faithism in Nigeria: Moslem Scribe commends Pope

The Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) Dr Lateef Adegbite has commended the catholic pontiff for his "sustained commitment to inter-religious dialogue" efforts. Dr Adegbite paid the "glowing tribute" in a goodwill message to the 1st Plenary meeting of Catholic Bishop's Conference of Nigeria, 2004 at

Abuja (Guardian March 5, pg 6). At a communiqué issued at the end of the conference, the Bishops said they were dedicating Nigeria to Mary who they described as Queen of Nigeria (Guardian, March 14, p. 53). We recognize no such entity and emphatically reject the dedication in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. **Vol. 7 No. 3**

GODS OF OUR FOREFATHERS

With the month of March, came the news that the Obong of Calabar, Nta Elijah Henshaw IV has been given 14 days to abdicate the throne by the Kingmakers. Although it was later to be evident that the whole palaver was actually due to money matters, the official accusations were that the Obong “has reneged on certain aspects of the tradition of the people” (Guardian, March 3, back page). Specifically he was accused of making “it impossible for some kingmakers to ‘*tat Mbobo efe*’ (to remove the leash of the shrine) - decapping himself and wearing an occult cap”; as well as “banishing traditional rituals from the palace.” Chief antagonist Etubom Bassey Ekpo Bassey was quite blunt, confirming that it was Christianity that was really on trial when, speaking of the Obong, he declared: “He might be Baba Aladura, but certainly not the Obong of Calabar”.

Although this might be the first time in recent memory that this kind of issue is gaining national prominence, it is by no means a new development. It is a scene that has over the decades, played out in several cities, towns and villages in Nigeria. On a casual consideration, it seemed only reasonable that royal fathers must necessarily embrace idol worship, in the name of preserving the traditions of our forefathers. This reasoning is however seriously flawed and extremely dangerous, in practical terms.

In the first instance, it is a matter of fact that kings have the rights and powers, even duty, to choose which gods they would serve. History

is replete with monarchs, all over the world, embracing new 'foreign' gods as they deemed fit, and at the same time jettisoning whichever of the gods failed to deliver. Indeed, by most African traditions, the king himself is no less a deity than the other gods of the land; and he being the only "speaking god" among is granted the right to dynamically lead the people along the path of peace, progress and sustainable prosperity. Guiding his kingdom into such a path is the primary duty of a king; and not a compelled dancing to the tunes of those 'gods' who are actually his peers by spiritual ranking - or worse, the tunes of their self-serving human priests.

What really then are the "gods of our forefathers"? Most of them are personified by some human characters (several of them kings at their time), but it is clear that these men and women (e.g Ogun, Sango, Osun, etc) were mere pawns through whom the real spiritual entities in question were introduced into those hapless people's communities. For instance, among the Yorubas, two Oduduwas are recognized. One is the man who migrated to Ile-Ife from around the Nile Valley, while the other is the deity that "descended from the skies" accompanied by 400 other deities. It is reasonable to infer that the god Oduduwa was merely the spirit that operated through the man Oduduwa. This phenomenon is easily observed today, under various labels, including so-called Ascended Masters, spirit guides, re-incarnation, UFOs, even "angels", depending on the spiritual situation and disposition of those involved.

Several excellent books (e.g. Hislop's *The Two Babylons*) have clearly documented how demonic entities opposing the one true God of creation were dispersed into various human communities beginning from Babel through the instrumentality of Nimrod. The tradition and spirit of Nimrod who married his own mother is found in virtually every false religion/mystery and is usually reflected by the

worship/adoration of a son and mother pair. (see Babylon Mystery Religion by R.E. Woodrow). Demonic spirits posing as gods may well have different names in different cultures, but their character, demands and manifestations easily give them away. For instance, among the Yorubas, Ogun and Olojo are known to refer to the same entity. Also the goddess that operated through Nimrod's mother is variously identified as the Babylonian Semiramis, Chinese Shingmoo, German Hertha, Scandinavian Disa, Etruscans Nutria, Indian Indrani, Roman Venus, Greek Aphrodite, Ephesian Diana, Egyptian Isis etc. However, according to Bach (quoted by Woodrow), "regardless of her name or place, she was the wife of Baal [the sun god], the virgin queen of heaven". She is always pictured as a mother goddess with her child. Unfortunately, to most people on earth today, this same being is falsely identified as "Mary"!

What is common in the worship of all these "gods of our forefathers" is the element of constant appeasement; and often, the only benefit for the devout worshipper is reprieve from the particular calamity that a particular god specializes in inflicting on people. For instance the god of thunder will not pretend to offer any protection against say influenza or road accidents, which calamities are supposedly under the domains of other gods. In this sense, the gods are more of taskmasters/protection-racketeers, with their constant demand for blood (through the engineering of unnecessary civil disturbances, wars, road accidents, and outright demand for human sacrifices or 'donations'!)

Compare all these attributes with those of the true God of creation, who fully entered and shared our humanity coming as a baby and eventually offered His own blood as a sacrifice to redeem mankind. Furthermore all He demands is that we believe in Him, thus freeing our minds from the veil of satanic deception and confusion (Jhn 6:28-

29, 2 Cor. 4:4, 1 Jhn 5:5). These are the marks of true ownership, rather than the antics of some usurper who came to earth as full-grown 'humans'. Furthermore, virtually every culture (at least in Africa) recognizes the existence of this supreme God of Creation, who is far above the 'gods' but who unfortunately (as is erroneously supposed) is too far away to be directly worshipped, hence, the necessity of employing the 'gods' as go-between. So where is the sacrilege if a reigning king should declare he now has a privileged direct access to the supreme Deity; and therefore does not require the services of go-betweens any more? Shouldn't he be judged in such a situation, rather by the results he produces - peace, prosperity and sustainable development?

The supreme God has revealed Himself to mankind through the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. The true God is necessarily NOT native to any particular locality; and every culture, through its spiritual leadership, must decide whether or not to affiliate with Him or not. The Bible is full of stories of individuals, such as Abraham, who decided to abandon the 'gods of his forefathers' to serve the living God; while nations also, such as Israel (after whom the living God is now usually called - the God of Israel) similarly have to make that choice. Joshua made this abundantly clear when he declared to Israel: "...choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." - Joshua 24:15

Obas and other traditional rulers who, daring to call off the bluff of the ancient taskmasters, shift allegiance to the living God for the sake of the peace and prosperity of their people, should be commended and not condemned. After all the vast majority in most African society have had to make such shift in their personal lives and families!

Honouring the memories of our forefathers and keeping to our traditions and cultures certainly does not imply subjecting ourselves to the same bondages which they, in the absence of any alternative, were constrained. What could be more heart-breaking than to see one's offsprings ignorantly insisting on repeating one's mistakes and thus remaining in perpetual bondage! Now that we have the Gospel of Jesus, with its EVIDENT fruit of peace, joy, power, life... how, indeed, shall any people escape who choose to neglect such great a salvation! [for related materials see our tract titled "The greater than all orishas" released during the World Orisha festival in 2001]. **Vol. 7 No. 3**

Deity passes death sentence on woman for declining priesthood

The Odo deity in Odozo LG area of Enugu state is reported to have passed a death sentence on Mrs Esther Ekedigwe for rejecting the deity's choice of her as priestess. The Odo deity is believed to be powerful and "lots of Christian women have been made to serve the deity in the past" said Mr Michael Ekedigwe, brother-in-law to Esther. He added that "it had become a yearly event for new servants to be chosen for Odo", through what is termed a "traditional ballot". Esther and her husband have gone into hiding to avoid forced conscription (Punch Aug 11, p. 12). Though this story of supposed voice of some deity overruling people's personal decisions strongly brings the story of the Okija shrines in nearby Anambra state to mind, it is actually a recurrent situation in the so-called traditional religions all over Africa. For example in the case of the Osun deity which is fast becoming Nigeria's flagbearer in the much touted tourism drive, the priestess, *Yeye Osun*, is also conscripted by similar "traditional ballot" and is required to "surrender" her husband by being totally dedicated

to the deity. The current Yeye *Osun* of Osogbo, Mrs Ibilola Omileye was asked at the recent Osun Festival if she could have refused the title and call. Her reply: “Once the oracle chooses anybody, the person cannot refuse it” (Guardian August 14, page B9). **Vol. 7 No. 5**

AMORC threatens UI

Vexed by its being listed as one of the cult groups to be denounced in the on-going anti-cultism campaign at the University of Ibadan, AMORC is demanding that the Vice Chancellor should “immediately publish a retraction of its improper classification of the Order in at least 3 national newspapers” (Advert on page 71 Guardian, Aug 5). Despite a Supreme court ruling (15th July 1994) upholding the majority decision of the Court of Appeal that AMORC is a secret society, this Satan-revering organization still will not stop trying to intimidate and confuse the unwary public. (See CA! Vol 3 No 6, 2000 for some coverage of the then famous AMORC versus ECWA legal-spiritual battle!) In the present threat to the UI, AMORC seems to be basing its argument on the fact that it is an incorporated organization. But so also is the Ugwu-Ugwu Shrine! **Vol. 7 No. 5**

Imo House passes bill on Masquerades

Indications are that the people of Imo state are fed up with the excesses and apparently limitless power enjoyed by Masquerades in the state. After initial objections by some members who argued that “masquerades are spirits and cannot be seen nor laws made against them”, the House eventually unanimously passed a bill stating that “any masquerade that causes public nuisance shall on conviction be liable to a fine of N5,000 or imprisonment for 6 months or both” (Guardian August 10, pg 20). Talk of the wind of liberation blowing

over the East. May it go round the entire country in Jesus' name **Vol. 7 No. 5**

A WAVE OF LIBERATION FROM ANCIENT STRONGMEN

Two editions ago, we focused on the so-called “gods of our forefathers” and concluded that these deities were no more than taskmasters who viciously held our fore-bears in bondage with an iron fist. We further showed how lamentable it will be for anyone to want to choose to reject the liberty our fathers no doubt prayed for, preferring to continue in the bondage for “cultural reasons”.

The recent events at the Okija shrines very clearly demonstrated the points we were making. We briefly recap the events of the past few weeks: at one of the forty-some shrines dotting Okija (home to the Madonna University) police discovered some 83 bodies, 60 skeletons and 20 skulls (Guardian, Aug 14, pg 1). Several of the bodies have the heads and private parts missing, pointing at ritual use. That was at the Ogwugwu shrine alone. The Guardian newspaper captured the essence of the story when it reported that following the raiding of 10 more shrines in Anambra, neighbouring people are full of jubilation over what they saw as “liberation from age-old bondage”. (Guardian Aug 10, pg 10) Next day, the paper also reported that Police have uncovered human trafficking shrines in Edo state; and a few days later, a priest of Ayelala was arrested at Ondo for alleged sale of human skulls (two skulls were recovered from him) (Guardian Aug 20, pg 5). These show that the phenomenon is not just an Igbo affair alone. In these days of dog-eat-dog, oath-taking is big business, not only among politicians but also among those involved in such shady businesses as prostitution/human trafficking, drugs etc.

Police DIG Sunday Ehindero explains the Okija justice system: “When somebody complains to the custodians that he has grievances

against another, the custodians issue an invitation to the person complained against. If he fails to come, they threaten him that the deity would trace him and kill him. If he makes it there, they will give him a concoction. Evidence revealed that some of them died after taking the concoction. They created the impression that the one that died was not honest before the deity” (Punch Aug 14, p.10). Numerous other traditional deities (e.g. Ayelala mentioned above) dispense justice in more or less the same manner, and usually the bodies of the victims belong to the deity.

It is sad but instructive that some ‘die-hard traditionalists’ still attempted to justify these shrines in the name of culture. For instance, secretary to the powerful pan-Igbo social and cultural group, Col. Joe Achuzie (rtd) lambasted the Police for desecrating a traditional worship place. According to the Civil War veteran, “Unless the Police have no other job to do, then it can go on making further discoveries on things that are in consonance with ancient history...” (Guardian Aug 6, back page). Public outrage however soon forced Ohaneze’s president to disown his secretary, saying the retired colonel was only expressing personal opinions. In the opinion of eminent Professor Ayo Banjo, “no right thinking person will be in support of this. Culture does not have to be backward or even barbaric” (Punch Aug 16, pg 7).

What do all these signify? First there is nothing hidden that will not be exposed, as the Lord teaches us. Secondly, we are beginning to witness a mighty deliverance for Nigeria. For one thing, many people previously bound in fear and torments of “the deity” could now regain their liberty. We believe this wind of positive change will also have significant implications for year 2007 and the political aspirations of many trusting in the power of the occult for victory. **Vol. 7 No. 5**

Structural re-alignments: African Traditional Religions face hard times

We have often explained that one of the events to look forward to as we approach the end of time is a re-arrangement of various forces. One major driver of these re-alignments will be globalization. Hence governments will continue to merge first along regional lines (e.g. EU, ECOWAS, AU, OAS/NAFTA, etc) and ultimately into a One World Government to be headed by the antichrist (EU, UN expected to be major players in this respect). Similarly, private businesses will continuously merge to form big conglomerates (e.g the banking industry in Nigeria) and public ones will be privatized, all facilitating subsequent easy take-overs by agents of the One World government (see **CA! Vol 1 No 5**). Finally, religions will also merge to produce the One World Religion to be headed by the False Prophet who will accelerate the emergence of the antichrist (Rev. 13:11-12).

Current events in Nigeria indicate that the so-called African Traditional Religion, ATR, is currently being battered and this may be indicative of its imminent demise and departure from the stage, prior to its being totally subsumed by the ever bludgeoning One World Religion. The modern One world religion move was officially inaugurated at the meeting in Assisi in October 1986 by Pope John Paul II, and is being consolidated by various agencies like the UR, UN, etc all as part of the New Age movement (See e.g. **CA! Vol 2 No 6** for a detailed exposition). In Nigeria, apart from the reeling blows suffered during the Okija shrines saga and similar situations, ATR was put in a new dimension of public quandary at the recent demise of well-loved monarch of Abeokuta. It was an open secret that Oba Oyebade Lipede, a born-again Christian, had long repudiated ATR. His acclaimed sagacity, long life (died at 90 years), plus such unusual progress and tranquility in his domain (the only Yoruba domain to

produce Nigerian ruler on 4 occasions) clearly debunked the myths that all such cherished blessings come from dedication to the worship of the “gods of our forefathers”.

At Ira, Ikeji-Ile in Osun state, in a story we might be telling in more details at a later time, despite the disposition of the Christian monarch, (a practicing Pastor) to accommodate ATR, divine turn of events in February led to the unexpected, total dismantling and desecration of the last surviving principality in the area - the fearsome Olofin deity, widely consulted from home and abroad. The failure of the deity to “respond appropriately” is a clear testimony to the power of Jesus and has caused even more damage to the image of the once-dreaded deity in the mind of the general populace.

However, the most intriguing of the set-backs being suffered by ATRs in recent times in Yorubaland would be the declaration by Chief Jeboda, the 86 year old Abore (High Priest) of the Olokun Shrine (probably the principal deity of Lagos) that he is packing up the priesthood in order to seek reconciliation with his Moslem children. When asked by his fellow Moslem Oba of Lagos to vacate the shrine to make way for a newly appointed priest, Chief Jeboda declared, (with historical and documented legal evidences) that not only the building hosting the shrine but the deity itself is the private property of his family (see Judges 18:14-20 for this type of situation in the Bible). Since he is the last available person in the family willing to perpetuate the priesthood, it seems obvious that despite the threats from Iga (the King’s Court) and the intervention of the National Orientation Agency, Olokun the marine deity, is on her way to the museum. In the words of Jeboda who has served 7 Obas of Lagos over the decades, “the deity was potent. But that was then. Its era has gone. We are now in a new age” (Punch Feb 13, pg 7ff).

As we have repeatedly stated in this newsletter, the so-called Abrahamitic monotheistic religions (in their true forms) will be the last to face the wrath of the pantheistic Bhuddism-based new world religion. And the results are known in advance: Fundamental Islam will be totally annihilated, Bible-based Christianity will hold the fort, manifesting as the Light which the darkness cannot comprehend till it be taken out of the way at the rapture of the Church (2 Thess. 2:4-9, Rev 12:5); while Judaism will face the full brunt of the antichrist till the Lord's second coming for her rescue (see Rev 12:6; Zech 14).
Vol 8 No. 2

Pastors asked by traditional religion adherents to quit town

In previous editions, we reported instances, where traditional religion practitioners insisted that adherents of other religions (essentially the Church) must keep dead silent (essentially they should close) during their festivities. (See for example Vol 4 No 5/6, and Vol 6 No 1 for incidences at Accra, Sagamu and Ilogbo-Ekiti). Well things haven't changed much!

In Patani, headquarter of Patani Local Government Area of Delta State, 4 Pentecostal Pastors who violated the "keep mute" directive of traditionalists during the Seigbein festival held early April, have been asked to vacate the town - within 24 hours. Talk of residency right! The statement signed by chairman and secretary of the community, Chief Lawrence Babedoh and Mr Christian Bebetidoh respectively, claimed that the 4 pastors, by their defiance to the gods, "constituted a threat to the peace of Obukabo..." (Punch April 12, pg 12). However, the next story below shows that it is the Gospel (not the Pastors) that is posing so serious a threat to the 'traditional religions' (cf stories on Okija shrine (Vol 7 No 5) **Vol 8 No 3**

Over 150 shrines destroyed in Imo state

The United Congress of Mbaise Christians, a body inaugurated shortly after a crusade held in the area by Rev Uma Ukpai between April 29 and May 1, has said that no fewer than 150 shrines were destroyed by churches located in the three local government areas of Ahiazu/Mbaise, Ezinihitte/Mbaise and Aboh Mbaise of Imo State. The National President of the congress, Deacon Bright Alaribe, said that the shrines were destroyed with the consent of the traditional rulers and worshippers in the affected communities. Apparently, it had dawned on the people that their society would not be making much headway economically, physically, political and financially “without a spiritual repositioning.” (*The Punch, Monday May 09, 2005*). Despite lame denials by sympathizers of traditional religions, they are irredeemably tainted with their links to various manners of anti-social practices, including use of human beings - whole or in parts - for rituals. **Vol 8 No 3**

1st Mormon Temple for Nigeria

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (popularly known as the Mormons church) is embarking on a world-wide Temple erecting campaign that has led so far to about 70 new temples being opened in the last four years. The 121st Temple is situated in Aba, and is the first to be built in Nigeria. It is scheduled to be dedicated on August 7, after it would first have been opened for all to view and visit between June 18 and July 2. Mormons would hope that many an unwary visitor will be mesmerized by the grandeur and opulence of the Temple and will want to consider joining the Mormon Church despite the myriads of its false doctrines and its unsavoury history.

Following the formal dedication, the Temple will become closed to "unbelievers" - meaning all non-Mormons!

Mormons believe that the Lord Jesus is the brother of Lucifer, and that God Himself was once a man and that mankind is also on his way to becoming gods (pls see **CA! Vol 1 No 2** and also **Vol 5 No 2**). Most of these esoteric "truths" are only taught to Mormons who have become Temple-communicants, who therefore find it quite difficult pulling back from the group. With several Nigerian Mormons now about to find it easier joining as Temple participants, they may expect a gradual coming face-to-face with these ugly realities about their Church. Alternatively, they may wish to learn from ex-Temple Mormons and save themselves unnecessary pain and anguish. Saints Alive is one of the ministries to Mormons. Visit their site www.saintsalive.com to learn more about the Mormon church and how to be delivered/snatch your loved ones from its Luciferic grip.
Vol 8 No 4

The on-going Spiritual Battle for Ile-Ife

A powerful 3-day crusade directed mainly at liberating the ancient city of Ile-Ife from the shackles of the forces of darkness held between 9th and 11th November. The grand finale on Friday the 11th was an all-night affair, and it came exactly one month after the Olojo festival where the city, led by the *Ooni* (the king), had made blood sacrifices to the Ogun deity.

The crusade organized by the Christ's Hosts Evangelical Team was supported by the Ile-Ife chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria/Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria and featured a number of well-known ministers from out of town, including Evangelist Jide Oriire, Dr (Mrs) Bola Are and Apostle Matthew Oluwajoba. CHET's set-man, Evangelist Joseph Obabiora spoke passionately on ridding

Ile-Ife of the influence and burdens of the ancient slave-drivers, the false gods, who though not the maker of the land had colonized it, kept the people in servitude and continue to drive away progress and developments. He was particularly piqued by the apparent general consensus that the throne of the *Ooni* must necessarily serve and worship the ancient, now-dead deities, even when the occupier of the throne feels otherwise. In this however, Evangelist Obabiora certainly has much work ahead, for a so-called Thanksgiving Service was actually held in a Church at Ile-Ife, as part of the Olojo Festival! Olojo is another name for Ogun, the god of Iron and the main principality at Ile-Ife. **Vol 8 No 6**

Yerima

The infamous architect of “political sharia” is in the news again. Senator Sanni Ahmed Yerima, two-time governor of Zamfara State and currently a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has picked a 13-year-old Egyptian girl as his latest sweet-heart. While he was governor of Zamfara, limbs of petty thieves were severed; but his unparalleled hypocrisy was exposed when after his terms, the EFCC accused him of having embezzled multiple millions of naira while in power. The finance ministry promptly and conveniently went up in flames as the EFCC dragged the net around him!

Caught in another storm, Yerima has again activated his usual defence mechanism of casting himself as a victim of religious persecution. Incredibly for a Nigerian lawmaker, he was quoted as saying he doesn't recognize Nigerian laws, but sharia, and that the marriage of his spiritual mentor and prophet to a 9 year old (see **CA! Vol 11 No 6**) gives him full liberty to go on with the wedding to the minor. He was quoted by Sahara Reporters as saying: “I am only following Prophet

Mohamed's footsteps who married a nine-year-old girl, Aishatu.... I have not done anything that violates Sharia”

The Egyptian father, who is Yerima's driver, reportedly received a \$100,000 dowry for the transaction, which was illegal in Egypt and therefore had to be contracted in Nigeria. The development is a big blow to the campaign to reduce the incidences of VVF common in Northern Nigeria, when underaged girls are put through the rigours of sex and child bearing. (<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=171666>)

Vol. 13 No. 2

GUESS WHO'S ON THE COUNCIL OF BLAIR'S INTER-FAITH PROJECT?

One of the most serious groups bent on achieving the One World Religion dream is Tony Blair's Faith Foundation. That's particularly significant considering Blair's increasing roles in the complementary One World Government project: First as the arrow head coordinating the efforts of the Quartet (US, Europe, Russia and the UN) to bring in the Middle East peace treaty, and secondly as we report elsewhere in this edition, as the President-in-waiting for Europe. With these credentials, it is not for nothing that he has been a leading contender, among speculators, for the position of the antichrist!

Now his Inter-Faith Foundation has an International Religious Advisory Council (apart from the traditional Board of Trustees) which, according to a statement on the Foundation's website, "is composed of individuals from each of the six faiths with which the Foundation initially intends to work. The members are either religious leaders or significant scholars. They.... keep the Foundation

attentive to the religious nuances and implications of the Foundation's work.....”

Readers of Church Arise! will be interested in two names on this 12-man Council: The Reverend Rick Warren, Founding and Senior Pastor of Saddleback Church (of whom we have had much to write); and Right Reverend Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Bishop of Kaduna. Yea, right from here in Nigeria.

Tony Blair’s Inter-faith Man in Nigeria speaks on Boko Haram.

It is not only desperate politicians from Northern Nigeria that are finding the Boko Haram sect as a very useful tool to promote their position, some Christians with their own hidden agenda also are doing just that. As we have reported previously (see Vol 12 No 4) one of the 12 Advisory Council members of Tony Blair’s inter-Faith Foundation is Rev Josiah Idowu- Fearon, the Anglican Bishop of Kaduna. In an article in the Vanguard newspapers, (Feb 12, 2012), Bishop Fearon gives his take on the way forward to the BH question. The article was titled “***Boko Haram: What all believing Christians and Muslims must do***”.

Recognizing that the very lengthy article was more appropriate as an academic exercise than what the average man would read through, Bishop Fearon (or his editors) aptly included a summary, as a sub-headline. It reads: “***No peace in Nigeria Until Christians and Muslims accept that they worship the same one God – Fearon, 2012.***” (<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/02/boko-haram-what-all-believing-christians-and-muslims-must-do/>)

One can only wonder how the eminent Bishop managed to reach such a conclusion.

It is interesting, though, to note the words used by Bishop Idowu-Fearon: “the same one God”.

Rick Warren, also a fellow Council member with Bishop Fearon on Tony Blairs’ Foundation is currently playing with those words in extricating himself from yet another tight corner as he usually finds himself in his perennial efforts to beguile Evangelical Christians into joining the One World Religious arrangement that would usher in the antichrist (see **Vol 2 No 6**).

In his latest gymnastic, Warren having told a secular newspaper that Christianity and Islam have the common distinction of both worshipping one God, found it necessary to come out to explain to his concerned Christian audience that what he really means is merely that both Islam and Christianity are monotheism; but that the one god each of them believes in are not the same. (www.oregister.com/articles/muslims-341669-warren-saddleback.html). Technically correct of course, but what difference does it make believing in a false personality as the one only God or wrongly believing that there are many gods? With this new interpretation and perspective, how could the monotheism argument have been used to seek further cooperation between the two religions, as Rick Warren assiduously tries to? For the records, we endorse the position that Christians must live decently and at peace with people of other religions – whatever those religions are – as long as they are willing to so live with us. However being a monotheism does not bring Islam any where closer to Christianity than any of the other religions that do not recognize Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God and only Savior of the world.

In any case, Bishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon is not leaving any room for any theological ambiguity as Rev Rick Warren. He declares that Christians and Moslems worship “the same one God” and unless all

“believing Christians” accept that proposition, there would be no end to Boko Haram terrorism in the land. It’s quite telling, the extent inter-faithism die-hards will go to sell their position and compromise the Body of Christ. **Vol 14 No 6**

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CHAPTER NINETEEN: The International Scene

Earth Summit Coming next year (2002)

The 10 year review of the Summit of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio-de-Janeiro, Brazil in 1992 has been scheduled for Johannesburg, South Africa for June 2002. The Earth Summit is the major forum being used by openly-practicing occultists for pushing their agenda for global unity under the banner of environmental reforms. At the organizational apex of this forum are the famous three musketeers, deep-rooted in the New Age one-world religion/one world government movement: Mikhail Gorbachev (de facto Convener of last UN Millennium Summit), Maurice Strong (Executive Coordinator, UN Reforms/, (ex?) Director UNCED, etc), and Al Gore (Former US Vice President). The Rio + 5 Summit (five year review of the 1992 summit) had held earlier in 1997 also at Brazil.

The Highlight of that summit was the presentation of the draft of a document known as the Earth Charter which is to regulate every aspect of life on earth, putting 'Mother Earth' first in all respect, as opposed to the Judaeo-Christian values of putting Man first. The final version of the Earth's Charter was concluded March 12-14 last year by the Earth Council, an NGO formed by Maurice Strong (see CA!,

Vol 3 No 3 May-June 2000); but the legal muscles to enforce its many requirements still have to be developed. This will no doubt be the major focus of the coming Rio+10 meeting. If the conduct of the past UN summits is anything to go by, we can expect strong and blatant show of occult powers at Jo'burg next year. At the same time that Rio '92 was going on, another convention known as Global Forum '92 was underway in the same city. The Global Forum was declared open by the Dalai Lama, Buddhism's leading master... Exactly the same situation - a parallel spiritual meeting opened by the Dalai Lama - played itself out at the last 'Millennium Summit in New York last September, (see Vol 3 No 6).

In his book "The New World Religion" (pg 149 - 150) Gary Kah gave some insight into what happen behind the scene at such Forums, referring particularly to the Rio '92 Forum: "To ensure the meeting's success, Mautrice Strong's wife, Hanne, held a three-week vigil with Wisdom keepers, a group of 'global transformation lists'. This group held the 'energy pattern' through round-the-clock sacred fire, drumbeat, and meditation for the duration of the summit. Lucis Trust [formerly Lucifer Trust see Vol 2 No 3] also contributed to the spiritual energy of this conference" This coming Rio+10 summit, it is expected that various treaties that would enable international groups and national government agencies to elevate environmental protection to draconian levels such as Convention on Biodiversity and Agenda 21 would be ratified. Church Arise! promises to keep you posted, by the grace of God. Meanwhile, WorldWatch Institute is calling for stronger enforcement of treaties and International Environmental agreements in existence. This is contained in the yearly "State of the World 2001" report of the Institute. Part of the report states: "Globalization must go beyond commercial relationships to embrace strengthened political and civil-society ties

between diverse nations if we are to avoid a shared catastrophe” (Guardian 12th March, page 41, 49). **Vol. 4 No. 3**

Perverting the Glorious Gospel - New Age religion on the Prowl

“Ye are the salt of the world...” In this manner the Lord described Christians, emphasizing our call to counter decay in the world even with our ‘mere’ presence. Of course the devil is not happy with this situation, and he would not fold his hands and watch! There is only one way to render salt useless - by contamination, i.e. mixture with other materials. Thus, perversion of the Gospel has always been the devil’s main weapon for fighting Christianity throughout the ages. However in these end times, he is wielding this wicked weapon, more determinedly, more desperately. These indeed are perilous times, times every Christian must seriously take the counsel to ‘watch and pray’.

The devil’s pantheistic new age religion, the One World religion being advocated by the Pope and promoted by organizations such as the United Religions has been well described in previous editions of CA! Most serious Christians however have little problems recognizing and dealing with deceptions in a System that says that all roads lead to heaven (contrary to John 14:6) and that there is no devil anywhere (contrary to John 10:10). To get at this category of Christians, Satan is now peddling occult principles to look either as Science or often as Christianity. An example of the first category is the evolution theory which is based on ideas handed down by so-called “ascended masters”; but now couched in scientific terminology. The second category, couching occultic principles and ideas in Christian terminology is however much more dangerous. One of the most subtle, most dangerous and most widespread occurrences of this

phenomenon is spirit-channeling. During occult meditation, the practitioner is encouraged to open up his mind and link up with a spirit-guide, which confers on the individual supernatural wisdom and abilities. Traditional Biblical teaching calls this demon-possession; but in various books targeting Christians, the spirit-guides are now referred to as 'Angels'. Several books by new age leaders now go by that subject - for example the best sellers by John R. Price, '*Angel Energy: How to Harness the Power of angels in Your Everyday Life*' and '*The Angels within us*'.

While these so called 'Angels' go by various names (even Biblical-sounding ones) in some churches, in others, these spirit beings are presented as patron Saints, and other Biblical personalities, 'Mary' being the most popular one. The experiences of people who encounter/make use of these spirit-beings have been well-documented to be exactly the same as those in various other altered states of consciousness, e.g as induced by hard drugs; or even those who come into contact with so-called UFOs. Apart from a belief in Evolution, other satanic principles that are encouraged by these demons parading as angels are Reincarnation, Astrology and Occult meditation - key pillars in the New One World Religion. In most (but not all) cases also, these spirit-beings have little or no regards for holiness, a cardinal principle in Christianity. By their fruits you shall know them! For a practical demonstration of what we are saying, check out the videos "The False Anointing" by Joseph Chambers or "The One World Religion" by Gary Kah and Joe Vankoevring in our Library.

Dear child of God, these are not days to be children in understanding (1 Cor 14:20). We can not afford to be ignorant of the devices of the devil in these last days.(2 Cor 2:11) "And no wonder! For Satan

himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” 2 Cor. 11:14. **Vol 4
No 4**

Media War on Church’s decision to pray for conversion of Muslims

As yet another sign of mounting pressure on the Body of Christ, the supposed secular press is unrelenting in attacking basic Christian beliefs and practices that stand in the path of the Inter-faith agenda. The thoroughly commendable and basic Christian decision of the Southern Baptist’s Convention (2nd largest denomination in the United States) to pray for the salvation of Moslems at the close of the Ramadan (in their own churches) is the latest point of attack leading to the usual allegation of ‘intolerance’. The head of the Convention, James Merritt, had noted that Muslims were lost without Christ and therefore urged that Christians plead with God on their behalf.

The BBC (16/12/01) contrasted this ‘hostile’ posture of the Baptists with the ‘friendly’ gestures of the Roman Catholics who rather congratulated Moslems at the end of the Ramadan. The BBC report went on: “In recent years, the Southern Baptists Convention has adopted an increasingly conservative and literal interpretation of the Bible”. It further cited last year’s pull-out of former US President Jimmy Carter from the Church as a confirmation of the “increasingly rigid doctrines” of the Church. We can expect more bashing from the inter-faith press as the countdown to the Lord’s coming continues. Are you ready? **Vol. 5 No. 1**

Pope invites world religious leaders again

Apparently set for a (final?) re-enactment of the Oct. 1986 meeting where spiritualists, voodoo priests, budhists etc all gathered together to pray for world peace, the Pope is once again calling the world’s

religious leaders to Assisi, Italy to pray for world's peace (Vanguard Jan 3, pg 12). This "we-are-serving-the-same-god" doctrine is certainly not what the Bible says in passages such as John 10:10, 1 Cor 10:20, and 2 Cor 6:15, among several others. **Vol. 5 No. 1**

Jewish Conversion project sparks fresh controversy

The belief of Southern Baptists that Jews need to be evangelized has again stirred the waters in American religious pond.

What sparked the fresh controversy is a statement by the Catholic Church that Jews need not be reached with the Gospel. A joint statement issued on August 12 by Jewish and Catholic leaders - specifically the US bishop's Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the National Council of Synagogues, representing Conservative and Reform Judaism read in part, "A deepening Catholic appreciation of the eternal covenant between God and the Jewish people, together with a recognition of a divinely-given mission to Jews to witness to God's faithful love, lead to the conclusion that campaigns that target Jews for conversion to Christianity are no longer theologically acceptable in the Catholic Church".

Southern Baptists disagree strongly. Jim Sibley, coordinator of the denomination's ministry to Jews, said that when it comes to Judaism, Catholics have gotten it wrong twice.

For centuries, he said, Catholics violated Jews' religious freedom and tried to force them to convert, with the end result being that persecution "hardened (Jews) against the good news of their Messiah."

In recent years, Sibley said, Catholicism has moved too far the other way - excluding Jews from the Christian message. "There can be no more extreme form of anti-Semitism" than "withholding the hope of

Israel”, said Sibley. Such beliefs undergirded the Baptists’ controversial call to pray for Jewish conversions during the High Holy Days of 1999. A similar call by Southern Baptists to pray for Moslems during the Ramadan last year equally roused tempers with the Roman Catholics not only criticizing the call, but sending a congratulatory message rather to the Moslem community. The Southern Baptists and the US Catholic church are the two largest faiths in the US, having between the two of them 81 million members.

Fortunately, the Jews are taking the issue quite maturedly. While thanking the Catholics for their ‘solidarity’, Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, said the Southern Baptists have a right to speak their mind and that he understands that when they seek out Jews for conversion, “it’s a good faith effort” and Jews also “have the right to thank them and make that the end of the conversation.” (Religion today, August 29, 2002)

“Even from our own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard.” Acts 20:30-31a **Vol. 5 No. 5**

Ushering in the New Religion

Regular readers of CA! are aware that the ultimate twin goals of the new world advocates, preparatory to the revealing of the antichrist, is the institution of both a One World Government and a One World Religion. The new religion is to be synthesized from all existing religions by drawing from the ‘best’ aspects of each. In reality, it is no more than the final onslaught against Biblical Christianity, the only faith that cannot condone mixture or compromise. Adulterated truth is nothing but falsehood. Now all these New Age efforts are openly

being linked together as advocates boldly make efforts to take over the stage in world affairs.

Using the Earth Charter as the stepping stone, (like we have always warned), advocates of a new global religion are forging ahead in selling their ideas at the grassroots, starting from the United States. Not long ago, 12 Earth Charter Summits held simultaneously in 12 American cities, linked by interactive TV. Though the advertised objective of the summits was to secure the support of professional and community groups involved in grassroots effort for the Earth Charter, the proceedings clearly show that the new religion was also gradually being presented with the Earth Charter (see Vol 5 No 4). According to Christian researcher Steve Frazier who attended one of the summits, (held at the Catholic Marian College at Indianapolis) one of the items in the programme was yoga with the following encouragement to participants: *“Relax and discipline your mind with this Hindu spiritual art form. Let Kim Allen, a certified yoga instructor, guide you towards the path of enlightenment and liberation.”* Another session was titled *Tai Chi Chih* and the entry stated, "Join Ann Daly as she teaches you the techniques of this spiritual art form. Relaxation and lots of moving energy abound!"

Frazier's report (presented by Gary Kah at www.GaryKah.com) continues: At one point during the summit, the attention shifted to the national level. A prayer was broadcast live from Tampa via satellite, to all participating cities. The prayer included a request for blessings from "Sister Moon and Stars... Brothers Wind and Air... Sister Water... Brother Fire... Sister Earth - our mother who feeds us... and Sister Death..." This was followed by remarks from each of the conference [twelve] sites. David Korten, President of Positive Future's Network, spoke to all the centers via interactive TV calling for a shift from the "old story" [of the Bible] to the "new story" of

evolution and awakening to a sacred cosmos (worship of creation). Laying the groundwork for this "new" religion, he remarked: Fifteen billion years ago all energy and mass packed into the size of a pinhead, exploded and was dispersed across space... then four billion years ago earth gave birth to a living organism, a single cell... these cells then transformed into a living web... [then] came the creation of a being with the capacity to reflect on its own consciousness. The new story, of which the building blocks are thoughts... spiritual intelligence is God... we must choose the new story to guide our future... this is a time of passage to a new human era... an evolutionary moment, taking a step toward species maturity. These efforts are of course not restricted to the United States alone. In France, the Earth Charter is to be linked to the French Constitution (by June 2003 if things work out to plan) and a *Sommet de la Francophonie* meeting of 55 French-speaking states is scheduled for Burkina Faso in the Fall of 2004 to further disseminate and sell the idea. For other efforts at Papua New Guinea, Brazil, Scotland, Thailand etc see www.earthcharter.org/events/evebt.cfm?id_activity=465; For ongoing efforts at another level, the United Religions, check www.uri.org and in particular the article [interfaithnews_net United Religions Initiative Comes of Age in Rio.htm](#) Vol 6 No 1

Latest developments on the “New Tolerance”: Christian organizations must allow non-Christians in leadership positions.

The New World Order is steadily showing its true colours and ultimate intentions. Charles Colson in his book “Who speaks for God” (pg 71-74), mentioned a 1984 case in the US where a Court awarded a cost of \$400,000 against a Church for separating an unrepentant

adulterer from fellowship. The Court and the public held that a person's 'love life' is not the Church's business. Now almost 20 years later, the world continues to make strange demands of the Church. The setting is at the University of North Carolina where three Students Christian Organizations have been told that their requirements that their leaders be Christians violated the University's anti-discrimination codes. They have been asked to either change the rules or lose their status as recognized University Organizations. However, the Chancellor of the University, James Moeser has had to intervene, at least on behalf of one of the Organizations, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF). **Ordering** the office involved to allow the IVCF maintain its status, Moeser said that he appreciates the "valuable contributions" of the Organization to "student life and campus leadership ... in its many years" at the University. "I want to preserve that relationship, and I pledge to do all I can to support the IVCF and its values..." He said the University needs to distinguish between "illegal discrimination" and "principles of freedom of expression". (Christianity Today, 30/12/02). The question is what happens where the Pharaoh in office does not know Joseph? **Vol. 6 No. 1**

United Methodist Bishop says Muslims, Other religionists are already Saved

Bishop Melvin Talbert, ecumenical officer of the United Methodist Church, said on *Larry King Live* (March 11) that Muslims will be saved and should not be evangelized. "They are on their way just as certain as I'm on my way. And what we need to do is to be tolerant with each other and not assume that our way is the only way", said Bishop Talbert on March 11th. According to the Bishop, "That dispute belongs to God. We are here to practice what we preach... I believe

my God is large enough to be inclusive of all human beings who were created in God's image, and that includes these religions that are not Christians." Supporting Bishop Talbert was Michael Manning, a Roman Catholic priest and host of a popular TV show.

However, other guests of Larry King on the programme, including Bob Jones, Max Lucado and John MacArthur strongly opposed this unbiblical stance. Why did Paul say, "If any man preaches any other Christ than the true Jesus Christ, let him be accursed? Let him be anathema?" asked MacArthur. "Why does the Bible say, "Neither is there salvation in any other name than Jesus Christ?" Why does the Scripture condemn anyone who rejects Jesus Christ and the gospel of Christ? Why is the message so exclusive?" Uncomfortable questions indeed for advocates of interfaithism. **Vol. 6 No. 3**

Witchcraft led to girls' double suicide?

Authorities in Indiana believe witchcraft played a role in the double suicide of two 13-year-old girls who intentionally walked into the path of an oncoming train. The two eight-grade classmates who left suicide notes to their families espousing belief in reincarnation were killed Saturday morning by a Norfolk and Southern freight train. The train's engineer said he saw the girls walk onto the tracks at about 3 a.m., but was unable to stop in time. "The girls did take their own lives, and it appears that some of the decision-making involved Wicca (an earth-based pagan religion) and, to some degree, witchcraft," Knox Community Schools Assistant Superintendent Steve Sailor told the Gary Post Tribune. Do you know what your children are reading, even right now? (Reports from WorldNetDaily.com, September 2, 2004) **Vol. 7 No. 5**

US Air Force officially goes psychic

An official report commissioned by the US Air Force has called for a \$7.5million study on “psychic teleportation”. The 88-page “Teleportation Physics Report” claims that psychic teleportation, moving yourself from location to location through mind powers, is “quite real and can be controlled.” To back this claim, the report appealed to a number of teleportation concepts and experiments such as Quantum Teleportation, Wormholes, Psychokinesis, cited UFO reports, Soviet and Chinese studies of psychics and US military studies of spoon-bending phenomena. Physicists are however deriding the report as “in large part crackpot physics”. The report has been posted on the Web site of the Federation of American Scientists (http://news.yahoo.com/news?templ=story&u=/usatoday/20041105/tc_usatoday/airforcereportscallsfor75mtostudypsychicteleportation)

Meanwhile in the UK, a Times report is gloating that “religion” is bound to be eclipsed by “spirituality” within the next 30 years. Citing figures to support increasing collapse of traditional religion and corresponding rise of mysticism, the report claims that: “Twice as many people believe in a “spirit force” within than they do an Almighty God without”; and that a finding that two thirds of 18 to 24-year-olds had more belief in their horoscopes than in the Bible” points at a revival of the Age of Aquarius. (www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7-342587,00.html) Vol. 7 No. 6

Popularising Satanism: The Devil as Father Christmas

Instead of the usual Father Christmas, visitors to Satan's Grotto at York Dungeon are greeted by a man dressed as the Devil with a red face and horns. As well as meeting Satan the alternative Santa, visitors to the grotto are handed "gifts" such as severed fingers, and can write on a scroll to sign their souls away. Rev Roger Simpson, from St

Michael-le-Belfrey in the city centre, said concerns were raised at a regular meeting with colleagues from across York. "It is not just complaining for the sake of it," he continued. "There are real evil forces and we in our work come across people who are damaged seriously through their involvement with occult forces. We are concerned the attraction has the potential to do real pastoral harm." (http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/north_yorkshire/4074685.stm)

Meanwhile local school officials in a suburb of Houston, Texas, are investigating how it was possible that a school police officer handed out calendars to students that featured explicit details on satanic and sexual rituals for every day of the month. Sample: "September 20th is a 'midnight host'... you should have a blood-type ritual. September 23rd is the full equinox - you should have an orgy: activity group sex, any age, any sex."

"They shouldn't be teaching the kids, at 12 years of age, a calendar of satanism. It's just not right," said an irate parent. (WorldNetDaily.com) Dec 13, 2004 **Vol. 8 No. 1**

Renaissance of Cult Temples

Apparently in furtherance of the "externalization of the hierarchy" agenda, (see back page) hoping for wholesale and "raw" satanic miracles, there is noticeable flurry in the building/recomissioning of cult temples all over the world. An example is the 100,000 euro project to reconstruct an ancient Sun Temple in Goseck, Germany which was commenced early June, and is expected to be completed by year end. (DEUTSCHE WELLE - June 4, 2005 Rebuilding Germany's Temple of the Sun, <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,1564,1604678,00.html>) **Vol. 8 No. 4**

Charles's mosque meets a rebellion

THE Prince of Wales is facing a growing public revolt over plans to build a mosque as part of a new settlement he is planning in Cornwall. An action group comprising more than 100 local residents point out that there are virtually no Muslims in the area, with official government figures showing that only 33 people out of more than 22,000 are Muslims. A range of community services including a "holistic" health centre and masonic lodge are also planned as part of the project, which is scheduled to be completed by 2016. (THE SUNDAY TIMES, June 26, www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,2087-669565,00.html Vol 8 No 4

In Corporate Australia, CEOs use magic, psychics

Psychics and witches are coming into corporate boardrooms as alternative business consultants in Australia. According to a report in Australia's Sunday Telegraph, "Self-employed professionals, small business owners and executives in major, publicly listed companies are among those joining an expanding network of "covens" organised by businesswoman and self-described witch, Stacey Demarco. In the past few years she has helped establish three large covens in Sydney and runs workshops on "business magic" from her offices in North Sydney. Elsewhere, Sydney-based psychic and former lawyer, Alana Fairchild, is providing 'intuitive diagnostics' sessions to large corporations, focusing on *personnel* issues. Charging up to \$385 per hour, she uses intuition to detect problems or 'blockages' within the organisational structure. <http://www.finance.news.com.au/story/0%2C10166%2C15727217-462%2C00.html>. With decisions on who to hire and who to fire being 'intuitively' made based on occult advice, "born agains" with their "negative vibes" are certainly in for some tough deals!

Unregenerate people of course have always had to depend, either directly or indirectly, on power and direction sourced from hell to make progress. The interesting fact about this news item is that just when born-again children of God are increasingly separating their secular lives and the spiritual into isolated compartments, the children of darkness are melding the two together - and boldly too. Tough times await the undiscerning Christian! **Vol. 8 No. 4**

“Externalization of the Hierarchy” - Watch out for deception from the skies!

The time for some high level dazzling deception from the skies, may be at hand - indicative of how close to the end of all things we have come. One indication for this warning was a recent event in Las Vegas, US where a so-called prophet claiming to be in contact with UFOs challenged a local TV station to name a venue and a time, and he would summon visible UFOs to be captured on TV camera. The stunt was apparently fulfilled on May 29, when a stunned KTNV journalist and his cameraman observed a strange speck of light that appeared and moved around for quite a while before disappearing again. The video picture was posted on the Internet. (worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=44503. See Vol. 5 No. 1 for more our comments on UFOs)

This kind of development certainly marks a new level in the phenomenon of occult channeling and in the open manifestation of demonic beings in the public. According to Gary Kah in his book, *One World Religion*, one of the major agenda of demonic forces of hell as all things draw to a conclusion, is to increasingly “externalize” some spiritual beings, which over the centuries had been working behind the scenes. Hence, those so-called members of the ‘Hierarchy’ (supposedly highly evolved beings who once lived on earth) are no

longer content with inspiring or even occasionally physically possessing some chosen vessel to carry out the satanic agenda against God and godliness, they would now be direct participants in the warfare - such has the environment become so conducive, and the mission so urgent and desperate!

Another of the tons of evidences confirming this development reminiscent of the days of Noah, is the story of the 6 year old Jewish boy in New York who among other things, is “predicting the Initial Revelation of Moshiach” (Messiah) for December this year. Of interest here is the event this cultic figure claims will usher in the Moshiach: unique shooting stars and other celestial events. Esoteric and supernatural events may indeed be recorded in the skies this December or at any other time; but it certainly would not validate the claims that Eli (as the Jewish toddler is called) is privy to the date of the Lord’s coming - which might very well be before December!

The Lord Jesus specifically warned that we are not to believe reports of his secretly arriving on some locations (Mat. 24:23ff) as all Christians (dead and living) will hear the trumpet and appropriately respond to it (1 Cor 15:51ff, Jhn 5:25-29). As for signs in the skies, old readers of CA! will recall (e.g. Vol 3 No 5) that the claims/promises of the so-called marian apparition at Fatima was a show in the skies that would make all to believe the message of Fatima. Such a celestial display was actually demonstrated by the same cultic figure on October 13, 1917; but the promise of a bigger show is hanging. (See *Understanding the New World Order*, Roy Livesey, 1989, p.212ff)

One thing is sure, as the satanic hierarchy desperately seeks to externalize itself in brazen appearances, the Hosts of the LORD, sent to minister to heirs of salvation are not going to fold their hands and watch. The issue is simply whether there will be willing, dedicated

vessels available. Frank Peretti aptly captures this Biblical fact in his book, *This Present Darkness*: that angelic forces are released only in response to the prayer of the saints. Friend, will you be so available for the Lord's mission these exciting end days? **Vol. 8 No. 4**

UN promotes alternative Ark of Covenant

A replica of the Biblical Ark of Covenant has been presented at the UN Manhattan headquarters and is subsequently going round Public Schools in the United States. The ark, called Ark of Hope, however carries New Age replacements in place of the contents of the original Ark. For instance, in place of the Ten Commandments which is the most important content of the Mosaic Ark, this new age ark carries a document known as the Earth Charter. The Earth Charter was received from the occult realm and put together by the former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev and Kofi Annan right hand man, Maurice Strong. (<http://arkofhope.org/>, For more on the Earth Charter, see www.contenderministries.org/articles/arkofhope.php or CA! Vol5 No 4). **Vol. 8 No. 5**

Rick Warren in UN Sponsored Interfaith Meeting

We find it quite worrisome to learn of the participation of Rick Warren, author of the best-selling “The Purpose-Driven Church”, at the special Interfaith Prayer Breakfast meeting organized as part of the 60th anniversary of the UN. In attendance were some 200 “high level” delegates including 4 presidents. According to the only reporter allowed to cover the meeting, four Christian ministries participated in the Prayer Breakfast; and interestingly, they all demanded complete anonymity lest their ministries be “destroyed”. A representative of one of the organizers told Ingrid Schlueter that the true sponsoring organizations are a complete secret (visit Ingrid's site,

www.sliceoflaodicea.com posted Sept 15; and also www.crossroad.to/articles2/05/peace).

Like we have mentioned before, the problem with interfaith (prayer) meetings is that, *a priori*, it is agreed that all religions equally lead to heaven, and no discussion of such vital and peculiar Christian doctrines as original sin, repentance, redemption or a Redeemer could be entertained. Most certainly, no mention of hell is in any way conceivable! While we must of necessity continue to interact with all segments of society, such social interactions must not be at the expense of our faith. Else, the injunction not to be equally yoked with unbelievers will be totally meaningless. Interfaith prayer meetings are totally against the basic principles of Christianity!

We have mentioned in previous articles that the ultimate aim of the New World Order advocates is to have a One World Religion which will ultimately usher in the false prophet of Rev 13 (See CA! Vol. 2 No. 6 and Vol. 3 No. 4). The big challenge the New Agers have been having so far is how to get representatives of the genuine Bible-believing Church to join their motley assembly. By definition, a Judas must first of all have been a true disciple; and so every true disciple must constantly check himself (motives, words and actions) in the light of God's word, asking the critical question: "Lord is it I?" (Mark 14:19).

According to Derek Prince (see CA! Vol. 1 No. 1), anyone who claims he cannot be deceived is already deceived. In the words of the Scriptures: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed..." (1 Cor. 10:12). Vol. 8 No. 5

Bolder, Brazen Manifestation of the Antichrist spirit

In late September, 2005, a special panel, which included US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, met at the United Nations for a special

meeting. On the wall immediately behind the panel was a prominent display of three United Nations' emblems, which feature the world as viewed from the utmost North, which is surrounded by two wheat sheaves containing thirteen kernels of wheat each, not counting the stems. Next to each of the three United Nations' emblem was a gigantic six. Thus, there was a massive 666 proudly displayed on the wall. (David Meyer, <http://www.lasttrumpetministries.org>). A friend of Church Arise!, Isaac Boboye, also noted this rather interesting way of depicting the 60th anniversary of the UN, and sends us a picture as captured from the TV (from NTA news, 26/09/05).



Picture by Isaac Boboye, (from NTA news, 26/09/05)

Of the coming Saviours, Messiahs, Avatars and Divine Teachers

The consensus among spiritual people, whatever the kind, is that the situation of the world has deteriorated to a stage that help for Planet Earth can only come from outside of it. And many will vouch (claiming gut feelings, discernment, Scriptures, visions, etc) that we

don't have much longer to wait before that help comes. One compelling reasoning is that unless the help comes sooner than later, it might as well not bother in coming as it would have become too late!

Hence we have the New Age movement with its frenzy promotion of the so-called 'Great Invocation' which calls for the quick return of a personality referred to as the "Coming One". For their own salvation, UFO enthusiasts look forward to the coming of some "little green men" from outer space in their flying saucers; while Hindus look forward to one they call the Maitreya. As demonstrated in the latest rabbles of Iranian president, Ahmadinejad, many Moslems are also awaiting a personality known as the Imam Mahdi, supposed to have disappeared as a child in the year 941. Sunni Moslems expect Mahdi to return to reign on earth for seven years before bringing about a final judgment and the end of the world. As a matter of fact, Ahmadinejad sees his main mission, as he recounted in a Nov. 16 speech in Tehran, as to "pave the path for the glorious reappearance of Imam Mahdi, may Allah hasten his reappearance." See http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=48225. This hope of the coming Mahdi has so emboldened the Iranian president to making unbelievable provocative and reckless statements, particularly with respect to Israel - statements as are usually associated with people high on drugs, with their feeling of absolute indestructibility. Well, the Jews also are expecting the messiah, a warrior son of David who will save Israel at a most critical time from enemies that would have already surrounded Israel, waiting for the kill. Even devout catholics, the types that claim to receive constant messages from 'Mary', expect her dramatic intervention in world affairs, sooner than later.

What does all this tell us? The devil is out to confuse the naïve into believing that the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ that He will be returning for us (John 14, Rev 22, Acts 1 etc etc) is just one among many such promises in other religions; and that, perhaps, the promise will be fulfilled in one and same person. Absolutely false! The Bible clearly teaches about the existence of two opposite irreconcilable camps, each following two different ways, leading to 2 different destinations! For satanic agents anxious to deny the existence of their master, there is no “thief” anywhere seeking “to steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10a). In fact the Lord Jesus Christ, according to these people, has only come to deliver us from ... well, from nothing at all! Absolute falsehood!

Dear saint of God, are you ready for the literal, visible appearance of our Master, Jesus Christ? These things are right upon us.

“..this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11)

Vol. 9 No. 1

Emergent Church: Progress towards the One World religion

In recent years, we have stepped up our warning about the imminence of the “Great departure from faith of the Church” (apostasy) which according to the Scriptures must necessarily precede the “Great departure from earth of the Church” (the rapture - see 2 Thess. 2:3). As the Church is taken out of the way during the Rapture, it will be replaced on earth by the One World Church, based on interfaithism. Much progress has been made, melding together virtually all the religious faiths represented on earth in the Interfaith move - except for the glaring absence of the Evangelicals/Pentecostals. See the loud complaints over this point in

several recent meetings of the Interfaith movements as reported in Vol 8 No 6 for example.

The Emergent Church Movement is now set to bridge this gap between light and darkness, as it were. Previously amorphous, the movement is now taking a definite form and leadership with the recent hailing of the new book *A Generous Orthodoxy* by Brian McLaren as its manifesto. The central philosophy of the movement is the simultaneous embrace of both the “old” and the “new” till an emergent one is synthesized - precisely what the interfaith movement is all about. To read more about this dangerous movement and the key personalities currently involved with it, check the articles at (www.moriel.org/articles/discernment/church_issues/emergent_church.pdf). As usual, we should not forget that many get sucked into movements such as these due to some positive aspects they see and the negative aspects that are hidden from them, for a while. While we may have to deal softly and compassionately with such people, we must be as hard as flint in rejecting the new emergent doctrines they purvey. Indeed what concord could there be between Belial and Christ? **Vol. 9 No. 2**

Satanists plan for 6-6-6 (6th June, 06)

Satanists and other occult groups are excitedly preparing towards Tuesday the 6th of June as a high day for various occultic activities. Apart from the date forming the notorious number of the antichrist, 06/06/06 is furthermore exactly six years before the next transit of Venus across the face of the sun on June 6th, 2012, “which is the day the witchcraft calendar ends.”

Invariably, occult groups will be all about casting spells over the environment and attempting to secure strategic advantages against your life and interests in the realm of the spirit. We suggest

Christians spend the day fasting and occupying their territories for the Lord Jesus Christ.. **Vol. 9 No. 3**

Rick Warren’s Interfaith agenda faces major contradictions

Smooth operating, highly charismatic “America’s Pastor”, Rick Warren is at last beginning to face up to the consequences of the gospel of compromise he has been promoting of late. We have shown previously the desperate search by agents of the One World Religion agenda, for an influential candidate that would bridge the gap between the interfaith movement and the evangelical/Pentecostal Christian groups. As we have, in all sobriety, pointed out, Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church, California and author of best selling “Purpose Driven Life” fits very snugly, the bill.

While, quite understandably, many hesitate before endorsing such a serious pronouncement about a man of faith who is passionate about bringing about considerable economic and social benefits to the poorer nations of the world - which agenda, by the way, exactly coincides with that to be set by the antichrist (see last edition for a detailed covering of this subject); recent events involving Rick Warren is demonstrating beyond all reasonable doubts, the serious problems with his theology.

Setting the ball rolling were Mr Warren’s comments, whilst on a trip to Syria, that that country (official sponsor and host of more terror organizations than any other nation on earth) is quite hospitable to Christians and Jews. Obviously meant to please the Islamic dictatorship and push forward the interfaith agenda, that was just what the harassed, harangued and subdued Christians and Jewish communities in Syria needed to hear from a Pastor from the free world!

Only a few days later, Amin Gemayel, a Christian anti-Syrian official in the Lebanese government was to be assassinated in a manner that plainly incriminates Syria (see the article "Beirut murder puts spotlight on Syria". www.ft.com/cms/s/44580826-7993-11db-90a6-0000779e2340.html) Added to the largely religious comment, Mr Warren also went political, pointedly declaring that the policies of the US government towards Syria are misguided and very unpopular with the masses at home. Of course the Syrian media were excited to publish such wonderful endorsements.

Now the big problems: When questioned by Joseph Farah of WorldNetDaily, on the statements published by the Syrian press, Warren categorically denied ever making such statements; and he further maintained that his ministry had no personal recordings of what he actually said. When reference was however made to his ministry's video recording of the Syrian trip, (confirming that he actually made those statements), the video was immediately yanked off the ministry's web site. However, an enterprising journalist had downloaded an audio version of it [www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=53048]. Now, the question of what Rick Warren said or did not say at Syria suddenly becomes secondary. Why would a man of Mr Warren's status lie so blatantly!

To take the issue further to an embarrassing level, while denying the statements or the availability of any independent recording of the events, Rick Warren in his counter-offensive to Joseph Farah, launched into a tirade about how he is close friend to president Bush and "many, if not most, of the Generals at the Pentagon". He did not stop there. He further boasted of his membership of both the Council on Foreign Relations and Oxford Analytica - two brazenly anti-Christian groups, ardently and overtly working towards One World

Government goals! (For more about these organizations, see www.crossroad.to/Quotes/globalism/cfr.htm and www.oxan.com/about/history.asp).

In a later posting Farah asked 3 pointed questions:

Why would the globalist Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) invite a Christian Pastor to join its semi-secret, anti-Christian organization?

How might Rick Warren benefit the elite Oxford Analytica, which works with globalist power brokers such as J.P. Morgan, the Aspen Institute and the World Bank?

What could drive Pastor Warren to lie and deny his taped dialogue with a Syrian Muslim leader?

The answers to the above are obvious and linked. It is no longer a matter of speculation that the ultimate goal of Mr Warren's purpose driven initiatives as well as his P.E.A.C.E. programme is the hastening of the realization of the New World Order involving a One World Government and a One World Religion. The head of that Order is none else but the antichrist himself. www.crossroad.to/articles2/006/pd-deception.htm

*ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IS SIN - 1 Jn
5:17a*

Vol. 9 No. 6

Iran Prepares To Usher In The Mahdi

Iranian expectation of the imminent appearance of Islamic Messiah, the Mahdi is reaching a frenzy with all manners of preparations being made. News reports indicate a collective national excitement, including several radio talkshops and messiah hotline, discussing the

impending advent of the "Messiah" and the role of Iranian president Ahmedinejad to prepare his way.

WorldNetDaily reports that official Iranian radio has recently completed broadcasting a lengthy series on the imminent appearance of the messianic figure who will defeat Islam's enemies and impose Islamic Shiite rule over the entire world - even speculating on specific dates the so-called "Mahdi" will be revealed. No wonder Iran can be bold standing against the great world policeman, the United States in the current nuclear stand-off (see next story). [{English-language transcripts of "The World Toward Illumination" programs can be found on the website of IRIB, a public broadcast arm of Tehran.}](#)

"After the coming of the 12th Imam, or Mahdi, 'liberal democratic civilization' will be found only in 'history museums,'" explained the program. According to Shiites, the 12th imam disappeared as a child in the year 941. When he returns, they believe, he will reign on earth for seven years, before bringing about a final judgment and the end of the world. Interestingly the Mahdi is expected to be joined later on by the Lord Jesus Christ! "Another beautiful moment of the Savior's appearance is the coming down of Prophet Jesus (PBUH) from heaven." The report continues: "Hazrat Mahdi receives him courteously and asks him to lead the prayers. But Jesus says you are more qualified for this than me. We read in the book Tazkarat ol-Olia, 'the Mahdi will come with Jesus son of Mary accompanying him.'

In a way, this expectation tallies with the Biblical teaching on the end times. The only difference being that the man who appears 7 years before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with a promise of world peace is none else but the AntiChrist himself (See Dan 9:27)! And when the Lord Jesus does return it is NOT to fraternize with this so-

called man of peace, but to utterly destroy him with His appearance (2 Thess. 2:8).

Similar expectation of a Coming One, like the Mahdi, exists in virtually all other religions and spiritual expressions where he is referred to as the Avatar, World Teacher, The Coming One, The One, Messiah, etc (see CA! Vol. 9 No. 1). In the meantime, while all thinking, praying people of all spiritual persuasions are agreed about the imminent shutdown of this present World Order, the vast majority of humans, including many Christians, are too busy to notice anything; but continue living as if the present world is all there is to life. The words of our Lord Jesus Christ in Mark 8:36 are especially relevant for this generation.

Iran: Spending And Being Spent In The Service Of The Mahdi

Meanwhile, Iran is forging ahead with her plan to acquire Nuclear capability with the planned commissioning in February of a 3,000-centrifuge facility, as confirmed by IAEA's Mohamed ElBaradei at the World Economic Forum in Davos, in January. http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=eu89c7bab.0.hc9ti7bab.azwev8bab.33&ts=S0223&p=http%3A%2F%2Fnews.yahoo.com%2Fs%2Fap%2F20070126%2Fap_on_re_mi_ea%2Firan_nuclear_3.

Similarly, the country is making frenzy effort to develop her ballistic missile capacity with the recent conversion of “one of its most powerful ballistic missiles into a satellite launch vehicle”. Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine reports in its Jan. 29 issue that there are concerns in the West that the upgrades could eventually result, within a few years, in an Iranian intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of nearly 2,500 mi., giving Tehran the ability to strike as far as central Europe, well into Russia and even

China and India.
<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=eu89c7bab.0.ic9ti7bab.azwev8bab.33&ts=S0223&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.aviationweek.com%2Faw%2Fgene ric%2Fstory.jsp%3Fid%3Dnews%2FIRAN01257.xml>

In addition with her forays in providing training, arms and funding for any group ready to cause trouble for Israel and for the US (in Iraq), Mr Ahmadinejad is certainly not sparing any effort in fulfilling what he perceived to be his divine mandate to bring the world on edge, into a state of chaos that will hasten the advent of the Mahdi - who alone will presumably have the solution to prevent an irreversible tipping-over of the planet into the precipice of utter destruction. **Vol. 10 No. 1**

Now, Staff denies Rick Warren's membership of CFR

We've had cause to continue featuring Rick Warren over the past few editions, not only because of the seriousness of his efforts to lead the Bible believing Church into the arms of the antichrist in what might as well be the Great Apostasy; but also because the man himself will simply not leave the headlines!

Last edition, our expressed main concern was why a revered clergy of Mr Warren's status will LIE bold-facedly, about his statements in Jordan where, for the sake of interfaithism, he not only closed his eyes and ears to the immense sufferings and deprivations of Christians in the Islamic country, but actually went ahead to praise the Jordanian government while simultaneously denouncing his own American government.

In making his defence at that time, Rick Warren had, on his own initiative, boasted to Joseph Farah of WorldNewsDaily about his membership of the US-based Council on Foreign Relations, an organization at the vanguard of introducing one world government.

Apparently, Mr Warren did not anticipate many of his supporters will respond so negatively to this self-disclosure. So, in response to enquiries for clarification by such fans, Rick Warren, through his assistant pastor at Saddleback, John Mogush, IS DENYING BEING A MEMBER OF THE CFR! Such bold-face denials of established facts should trouble even the most loyal of Rick Warren's disciples!

According to an e-mail from Mogush to a concerned constituent, "Pastor Rick is not a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was asked to become a member, but declined..." (http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=53688)

The fact however is that not only was Rick Warren's membership disclosed in writing by Mr Warren himself, there are lots of documentary evidences confirming his close association with that group. For instance, the annual report of the CFR for last year confirms Mr Warren's deep participation in CFR meetings at New York. (See

http://www.cfr.org/content/about/annual_report/ar_2006/8_new-york_032-035.pdf)

The CFR's intense efforts to co-opt the churches into its globalist plotting are well covered in the 2005 book by Martin Erdmann, "Building the Kingdom of God on Earth: The Churches' Contribution to Marshal Public Support for World Order and Peace, 1919-1945." **Vol. 10 No. 1**

Progress towards the AntiChrist One World Religion

While the likes of Rick Warren and the emergent spirituality folks labour with the tough mission of luring the born agains - Evangelicals and Pentecostals - into the ecumenical movement, the established orthodox churches are coasting along relatively effortlessly into union

with the undisputed leaders of that movement, the Roman Catholic Church.

A recent document leaked to The Times (UK) reveals that radical proposals to reunite Anglicans with the Roman Catholic Church under the leadership of the Pope have been concluded and will be published this year. According to the Times, the *Growing Together in Unity and Mission* document urges “Anglicans and Roman Catholics to explore together how the ministry of the Bishop of Rome might be offered and received in order to assist our Communion to grow towards full, ecclesial communion.” In another place, the report recommended that lay and ordained members of both denominations should be invited to attend each other’s synodical and collegial gatherings and conferences, while special “protocols” should be drawn up to handle the movement of clergy from one Church to the other.” The Anglican Church being referred to in this report is the majority “non-gay” faction, where the Nigeria diocese is a key player. The Vatican is said to be preparing a formal response. **Vol. 10 No. 2**

Let's all call God Allah: Dutch Catholic bishop

“A Roman Catholic Bishop in the Netherlands has proposed people of all faiths refer to God as Allah to foster understanding, stoking an already heated debate on religious tolerance in a country with one million Muslims” reports Reuters Aug 16.

Bishop Tiny Muskens, who had once suggested it was okay for hungry people to steal bread, told Dutch television that God did not mind what he was named. "What does God care what we call him? It is our problem" he quips.

A survey in the Netherlands' biggest-selling newspaper *De Telegraaf* found 92 percent of the more than 4,000 people polled disagreeing with the bishop's view, which also drew ridicule. “Sure. Let's call God

Allah. Let's then call a church a mosque and pray five times a day...”, one Welmoet Koppenhol wrote in a letter to the newspaper. A spokesman from the union of Moroccan mosques in Amsterdam said Muslims had not asked for such a gesture.

Traditionally, Netherlands is considered the most tolerant country in the world; but militant Islam rocked it with the 2004 gruesome murder of Theo Van Gogh, a filmmaker critical of Islam, and later on, the demand by Moslems for unDutch-like censorship of a mediahouse over the now infamous Mohammed cartoons. **Vol. 10 No. 5**

Rick Warren ‘Reboots’ Peace Programme: New Boost for “One World Religion” Agenda

America’s acclaimed No 1 Pastor, the highly likeable Rick Warren has stepped up his poverty-fighting P.E.A.C.E. programme - which aims (according to the letters of the acronym forming the word) to ‘Plant Churches’, ‘Equip leaders’, ‘Assist the poor’, ‘Care for the sick’, and ‘Educate the next generation’. In this new phase tagged PEACE 2.0, Warren went one step ahead to replace ‘Plant Churches’ with ‘Promote Reconciliation’ - an inevitable, but significant step which further highlights the spirit behind the plan.

In launching PEACE 2.0 on May 22, Mr Warren had invited 1700 senior pastors from all the 50 states of the United States, and 39 other countries - including Nigeria. Times magazine was one of the media houses invited to cover the by-invitation-only event. According to the Times, even though “few details” of the actual PEACE 2.0 initiative were given, nevertheless, the whole house fell over themselves in uncritically giving their “enthusiastic” support. Warren was later quoted by the surprised magazine as saying “I knew they were already on board”. Warren also intends to send DVDs of the

proceedings to a further 30,000 churches that have participated in his rigorous "40 Days of Purpose" programmes.

Aspects of the programme, which even a secular organization like the Times discerned as going to be "extremely complicated and possibly controversial" will include the tension between traditional parachurch missionary organizations who, presumably, might feel threatened by the PEACE initiative which seeks to bring back missionary activities within the ambit of the local Churches. We feel Warren's citing of the precedence in Act 13 is quite appropriate in this regard, and note that he already is bridging gaps with the affected groups.

The second obvious area of controversy however is far more fundamental. As we have been reporting over the years, Pastor Warren is so carried away by his vision of making the world a better place for all, that he is willing to do so at the expense of the Christian faith. For one, the local Churches who are the arrowhead of the PEACE initiative are being encouraged to actively collaborate with other religious (and irreligious) faiths in carrying out the assignment. In PEACE 1.0, Warren had specifically stated that the "man or woman of influence" that the Churches should seek partnership with could be a Muslim, Mystic, Jew, Gay, or one with New Age propensities - in short, any belief or practice system goes! (see www.lighthouse-trails-research.com/blog/index.php?p=1096&c=1)

Apparently, the end justifies the means and the assignment is totally blind to the spiritual status of the souls being ministered to! This then cannot be a biblical assignment, but rather, 100% the agenda of the UN as stated, for instance, in its MDGs. As we have pointed out before, what all these humanistic efforts ignore is the fact that most human problems - poverty, diseases and misery - are related to the condition of Man's heart, wickedness and spiritual state. No lasting

solutions may be found without addressing the root of the problem! Besides, in the words of our Lord Jesus, what does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his soul (in hell fire!)?

For the avoidance of doubts, Church Arise! is NOT against Christians collaborating with members of other faiths in order to improve the lot of mankind. But such efforts should not be on religious platforms! The only major outcome of merging different religious expressions together for social reform, is the diluting of the participating faiths, and the emergence of a new synthetic religion - even the One World Religion which the Bible predicts would be the platform on which the antichrist would emerge in the last days (see Rev.13:11,16). While some other religions may be able to afford such transformation of their faith, the Church can absolutely not do so. For, *“this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the son of God?”* (1 John 5:4-5) If we lose or get muddled up our faith because we fail to contend for it as instructed in Jude 3, we are truly done for!

While the Christian Church must continue to be concerned about social issues and respond appropriately in mobilizing her members, such efforts can not be put on the same pedestal as the business of soul winning. The church understands that the Lord Jesus has an agenda for solving and ending totally all human misery - which by the way was brought on mankind by Satan. That agenda is well on its course as we await the Lord’s promised return - first to rapture the Church, and later, to institute the millennium reign. Any other self-aggrandizing agenda is hasty, ill-informed, naïve, and bound to crumble. [Read the coverage of the event by two news agencies: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/july/1.1.html> www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1809833,00.html] **Vol. 10**

No. 5

End time Inter-faithism puts evangelicals into more jeopardy

Although the current waves of persecution of Christians in India and Pakistan are currently indiscriminately directed at both Roman Catholics and Protestant Christians alike, indications are that it might soon become an all protestant (particularly evangelicals) affair as the catholic church, in the spirit of her pet inter-faithism {“all-roads-lead-to-heaven doctrine} is actively currying favours with both Hindus and Moslems.

For instance, on September 5 in the Pakistani village of Mariamabad (the village of Mary), news reports confirm that “Hindu and Sikh leaders” have become participants in the annual national Marian pilgrimage organized by the Catholic Church. The archbishop of Lahore, Lawrence John Saldanha, confirmed that the pilgrimage is the “most important event for the Pakistani Catholic Church”, particularly because “it embraces the faithful of other religions”, so that the number of pilgrims” grows year after year”. (See www.understandthetimes.org/inthenews/31_rcc.shtml). The influential Daily Times of Pakistan further quoted the catholic prelate as saying “Pakistani bishops applaud this element, saying that it is “wonderful” that many **Muslims also visit the shrine**, and that there is the participation of representatives from the Hindu and Sikh communities”

Similarly in India, the inter-faith spirit is amply demonstrated by the New Community Bible published by the Catholic Church which features very prominently, the Bhagavad Gita, (Hindu sacred scripture/chant), and also the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi (<http://www.thebereanall.org/node/7037>). Again, increasingly, as

the end time draws closer, we can expect all the ire of the Hindus to be directed at Bible.

With all these developments, it is only a matter of time when all the antagonism and violence against Christians will be directed solely at evangelicals and protestants who believe in the uniqueness of the Lord Jesus as mankind's only saviour (in the spirit of Jhn 14:6 and several other Scriptures). These are the ones who reject the false, shallow ecumenical spirit that fails to admit that there is not only a Heaven in the hereafter, but a hell as well! (Math. 25:41). **Vol. 11 No. 5**

United Nations bans criticism of Islam

Meanwhile, in an ironic surprise, the liberal staunch UN supporting newspaper, the New York Daily news, has written to criticize the UN's latest move to silence any effort to call attention to the ways in which Islamic jihadists use the texts and teachings of Islam to justify their actions and make recruits. In a January 14 article titled "**UN-acceptable censorship: The United Nations tries to outlaw criticism of Islam**", Floyd Abrams of the [Daily News](#), wrote that:

"It is one thing to urge that all Muslims should not be criticized because of [terrorist acts like 9/11 and Mumbai killing sprees and repeated human rights violation including female genital mutilation]. But the notion that it may or should be made a crime even to "associate" Islam with crimes too often committed in its name is inconsistent with any notion that both freedom of speech and religion should be protected".

That UN resolution, by the way, has now been adopted! Vol 12 no 2 Rick Warren seeks coalition with Muslims to solve World Problems Yes, we feature Rev. Rick Warren again in two straight editions. In his latest efforts to sell the evangelical platform to the religious arm of the New World Order movement, Warren gave the keynote address

at the 46th Annual Conference of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) held in Washington D.C., on 4th July.

Ordinarily there should be nothing wrong with seizing what could be an unusual opportunity to share one's faith: but not only is ISNA known to be committed to groups involved in radical jihad, Warren went there not to promote the Gospel, but effectively, in the words of Paul McGuire, "to disinfect and rehabilitate a group that is dangerous and subversive to U.S. national security". The secular Washington Post, in covering the event, specifically noted that Warren "was sparse in mentioning Jesus or God".

As noted by Jan Markell, no one exactly expects Warren to make an altar call at such a meeting, but he (as a Pastor) should have "lifted high the Name of the Prince of Peace who is coming again"; and might we add, who has made definite promises with regards to the very theme being discussed at the Convention: "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"

Paul McGuire, who was obviously distraught at having to address an open letter to Warren, whom he says was a regular listener and caller to his nationally syndicated radio show, (broadcasted from Southern California for over 10 years), was however blunt in criticizing Warren's action: "I do not believe that Christians can have any serious discussions with Islam as long as they continue to make public statements denying the Holocaust and calling for the complete destruction of Jews and Israel. To ignore those statements, is like Chamberlain ignoring Adolph Hitler's statements before he killed [6] million Jews."

Warren insists that the Church needs the Islamic platform to "team tackle" poverty, war, diseases and promote "dignity" and "civility". But as again noted by McGuire, "Militant Islam is the primary force in the world today causing war, poverty and disease".

In an internal document recovered by security forces from the militant Muslim Brotherhood, titled: "An Explanatory Memorandum on the General Strategic Goal for the Brotherhood in North America" the Muslim Brotherhood stated that it is dedicated to "a kind of grand Jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and 'sabotaging' its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and Allah's religion is made victorious over all other religions."

The Memorandum concludes with a "list of our organizations and the organizations of our friends", prominent among which is the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). (*JIHAD WATCH* - Robert Spencer - July 1, 2009, <http://www.jihadwatch.org/>)

Warren, who once boasted of his membership of the infamous US Council on Foreign Relations (see *CA! Vol 10 No 1*, or www.newswithviews.com/BeritKjos/kjos67.htm) apparently sees himself more as a politician/statesman, than a spiritual leader. However, the issues Warren is so fixated on will remain with us, till the Lord's second coming; and are best left for politicians (who of course must work together, irrespective of their religious backgrounds). While Christians may address these issues on a secondary note, there is absolutely no basis for seeking any "coalition" in doing so. Much more a coalition that would in turn render us ineffective in fulfilling our primary mission - preaching of the Gospel! Al Amriki, the American Jihadist cited on page 6 of this edition of *CA!* is apparently more spiritually discerning than Warren, and he debunks Warren's social Christianity when he said: "*A Muslim doesn't look to peace, security, education, work, or the love of any other number of things as his ultimate goals ...*"

Scott Brisk of Moriel has provided an excellent compilation of reports and commentaries on Rick Warren's misadventure at the ISNA

conference. All the references cited in this article can be found on the compilation. It can be accessed at Moriel's site, www.moriel.org (under Be Alert section) **Vol. 12 No. 4**

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"
- 2 Corinthians 6:14

GUESS WHO'S ON THE COUNCIL OF BLAIR'S INTER-FAITH PROJECT?

One of the most serious groups bent on achieving the One World Religion dream is Tony Blair's Faith Foundation. That's particularly significant considering Blair's increasing roles in the complementary One World Government project: First as the arrowhead coordinating the efforts of the Quartet (US, Europe, Russia and the UN) to bring in the Middle East peace treaty, and secondly as we report elsewhere in this edition, as the President-in-waiting for Europe. With these credentials, it is not for nothing that he has been a leading contender, among speculators, for the position of the antichrist!

Now his Inter-Faith Foundation has an International Religious Advisory Council (apart from the traditional Board of Trustees) which, according to a statement on the Foundation's website, "is composed of individuals from each of the six faiths with which the Foundation initially intends to work. The members are either religious leaders or significant scholars. They ... keep the Foundation attentive to the religious nuances and implications of the Foundation's work..."

Readers of Church Arise! will be interested in two names on this 12-man Council: The Reverend Rick Warren, Founding and Senior Pastor of Saddleback Church (of whom we have had much to write); and Right Reverend Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Bishop of Kaduna. Yea, right from here in Nigeria. **Vol. 12 No. 4**

Pastor Adeboye leads prayers at the UN

The recent 64th General Assembly of the United Nations was significant for Nigeria not only in the conspicuous absence of the Nigerian President (who was attending the opening of a University in Saudi Arabia, where he was reportedly not listed as a guest - suggesting there are other factors for his absence at the UN); but also in its featuring of a Nigerian pastor to lead the pre-Summit prayers. Leading ambassadors and representatives of more than 68 nations in the prayers organized by the UN International Prayer Council at the UN headquarters in New York on Thursday Sept 10 was Pastor E.A Adeboye of the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Of course, it requires nothing short of the wisdom and courage of a Daniel to speak the gospel truth to a body so obviously committed to World Governance and a global (see-no-evil) religion, under the guise of “good works” and “tolerance”. Many a pastor, notably US Rick Warren (aka the UN Pastor), have fallen prey to the glamour and pressure for “diplomatic civility”, instigated by the UN, eventually leading them to com-promise the Christian message. This serious issue has been addressed in several past editions of Church Arise!

Thank God for the man of God from Nigeria. According to news reports (see for example, **<http://news.onlinenigeria.com/templates/?a=8017>**), Pastor Adeboye first gently re-directed the emphasis of the meeting, tagged

"Uniting in prayer for the United Nations," and advertised as "open to all Christians and Moslems at the UN", from an innocuous inter-faith affair to a clear Christian tone.

In his presentations as the keynote speaker at the event, Pastor Adeboye told the gathering that "the greatest problem the world is facing today is not the one we are trying to grapple with here. It is the attack on our youths, our children, our tomorrow, while we are busy planning strategy." According to Pastor Adeboye, the fire on the roof of all nations at the moment is the Internet, through which the enemy is quietly luring children and youths into pornography, terrorism and similar dangerous endeavours. In his words, by teaching youths that the value system of their parents is unduly restrictive, "the Internet ... has become an avenue for the enemy to attack humanity. This is a problem facing every nation, rich or poor, first world or third world." The big challenge then, according to Pastor Adeboye is: "How do you fight an enemy you cannot see, an enemy you cannot defeat by force of arms, an enemy you cannot legislate against, an enemy you cannot fight with diplomacy?"

Having thus prepared the grounds, Pastor Adeboye brought in the gospel message: the situation is not hopeless, but there is only one hope. In his words: "It is best to use the age-old method of warfare by calling in on the ally. The greatest Ally is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of hosts."

Very well put. More grace to you sir, in Jesus name! **Vol. 12 No. 5**

Endtime Inter-faithism puts evangelicals into more jeopardy

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soon become an all protestant (particularly evangelicals) affair as the catholic church, in the spirit of her pet inter-faithism {“all-roads-lead-to-heaven doctrine} is actively currying favours with both Hindus and Moslems.

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Similarly in India, the inter-faith spirit is amply demonstrated by the New Indian version of the Bible which draws extensively on Hindu references. Citing the Batagh Giva.....etc etc. Again, increasingly, as the end time draws closer, we can expect all the ire of the Hindus to be directed at Bible-believing, witnessing Christians. Our brethren surely need our prayers in the tough times ahead!

Clearly the violence against Christians will, with time, be directed mainly at evangelicals and protestants who believe in the uniqueness of the Lord Jesus as mankind’s only saviour in the spirit of Jhn 14:6 and several other Scriptures. These are the ones who reject the false, shallow ecumenical spirit that fails to admit that there is not only a

Heaven in the hereafter, but a hell as well! (Math. 25:41). **Vol 11 No 5**

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SECTION V

Roman Catholicism

INTRODUCTION

Officially, the largest number of Christians in the world answers to being Catholics. A sizeable fraction of issues previously addressed (interfaithism, apostasy etc) have the Roman Catholic Church playing a central role. To emphasise these, and offer sincere Christians in the Catholic Church a good opportunity to appraise themselves and their church, we highlight some of the developments in the Catholic Church over the decade in review. Furthermore, the Catholic Church with its strong emphasis on traditions provides reasons for every Catholic to take more seriously the imminence of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Fatima, St Malachy - whereas Catholics expect only one more pope before the destruction of the Church, etc). Peculiar developments in the Roman Catholic Church which could serve as indicators of the imminent arrival of the Lord are compiled here.

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CHAPTER TWENTY: Doctrine

Doctrine and Politics

POPE NOW SAYS SALVATION POSSIBLE OUTSIDE THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

In an unprecedented, major re-interpretation of doctrines, the Pope now says that salvation is possible not only outside the Church of Rome, but outside of Christianity altogether. According to the Pope, ‘our confession of Christ as the only Son, through whom we ourselves see the Father’s face (cf Jn 14:8)’ is neither to disdain other religions, nor deny salvation to non-Christians”. Carefully crafted words, yet there is no mistaking the point: **Jesus Christ is no longer a necessary factor in the issue of salvation!** This might as well be the last step in the Pope’s passion to bring together all religions and spiritual expressions into a one world religion. The journey to this earth-shaking, (yet being quietly received) declaration had actually began on Sept 5, when the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith had issued a document, “*Dominus IESUS*”.

This document, among other things, reiterated the 2nd Vatican Council’s teaching that the Catholic Church is necessary for salvation. This of course has been the Catholic Church’s traditional stand through the ages - a stand that has led to the persecution and death of

millions of protestant Christians, right before and even after the 16th Century Reformation. According to Cardinal Ratzinger who oversees the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Pope “followed moment by moment with great attention” the writing of the text. This clearly suggested that the Catholic Church expected the great stir the document eventually evoked. The Pope’s subsequent reactions and declarations are then to be understood as well pre-planned. Apparently responding to those reactions the Pope has now thrown this his bombshell, which is at the same time long-expected as it is unimaginable. Long-expected from a man who since 1986 has been declaring in words and actions, contrary to the clear teachings of the Bible, that all religions are one and lead to the same God; and unimaginable from the head of an organization whose motto is *Semper Eadem* - never changing. According to the Pope, **“God gives light to all in a way which is accommodated to their spiritual and material situation, granting them salvific grace in ways known to himself”** (See Nigerian Catholic Independent newspaper, 26 November, 2000: Pg 7: *Pope corrects erroneous reading of “Dominus IESU”* or check the Vatican website).

In a radio message monitored in England early December last year, the Pope preached that without any doubts, there is salvation outside of the Roman Catholic Church. **“If a person loves justice,”** the Pope said, **“then he is bringing the Kingdom of God to earth, and will be saved.”** Surprised aides of the supposedly-infallible Pontiff, are left to sort themselves out. It’s either the RC Church had been wrong all along or Pope John Paul II is wrong in this his assertion! One of them explained away this difficulty by saying that “God moves in mysterious ways”, and that the Pope is just recognizing that God is still sovereign outside of the R.C. Church.

Of course, similar to the now well-known Interfaith song of the Pope that all religious adherents be encouraged to stick to their own religion (see Vol 3 No 4), those who know “absolute truth” (i.e. Roman Catholics, supposedly) are urged to stick to their religion - or whatever is left of it! Cardinal Ratzinger himself could now later comment “that **the being of the Church as such is a larger identity than the Roman Catholic Church**”. **This is just another way of saying that the Church of Rome does not again represent the whole of Christ’s Church.** (Nigerian Catholic Independent, Nov 26, page 1 - *Cardinal Ratzinger says “Dominus IESUS” unjustly criticised*). All these from the Roman Catholic establishment? No doubts, we are witnessing the final moves of a master Chess player, or the “Joker-move” of an expert card player! In the same way as Mikhail Gorbachev sacrificed the Soviet Union in his calculation to gain the whole political world through the occultic New Age movement/One-World Government group of which he is the undisputable leader (he was the chairman and the de-facto convener of the last UN Millenium Summit); it is clear that the Pope does not mind sacrificing the Roman Catholic Church in his bid to gain all other religions and spiritual expressions through the One-World Religion movement. [One speculation was that he will even resign this year!]. If anyone still prefers to see these clear fulfillments of end-time prophecies as speculations or coincidences, we wish such a one good luck in his/her thoughts. To those who understand however, we say, watch-out lest ye be check-mated! **Vol 4 No 1**

Rumblings in the Vatican

Controversy surrounding the state of the Pope’s health continues to rage. A report in Italian magazine ‘*Oggi*’ had reported one of the Pope’s physicians as affirming that the Pope is suffering from the yet-

incurable neuro-degenerative Parkinson Disease. However few days later, the surgeon was to retract his statement, apparently under intense pressure. However, *Oggi* says it stands by the story published (Guardian Jan 4, pg 1 and Jan 7 pg 5).

The possibility of the Pope having such an impairing disease as Parkinsons, has been the main pressure being used by “a group of ambitious and reform-minded cardinals” to call on the Pope to step down for the good of the Church. One of the most outspoken critics is Bishop Karl Lehmann, head of Germany’s Catholic Bishops. Like other reformers he is pushing for female priests and married clergymen. The Pope’s initial action was to furiously counter the moves, including having “an astonishing Christmas week meeting with his senior Vatican staff”. According to the Pope, he is on a “divine mission, to guide the church into the new millennium, despite personal weakness,” However, he has now recently appointed new cardinals, a move that has been interpreted as preparing the way for the selection of a successor. Bishop Lehmann was one of the newly appointed cardinals. (For more detailed analysis, see Living Word Times Jan - March 2001, available at <http://come.to/livingword>).
Vol. 4 No. 2

What’s happening in the Roman Catholic Church?

Above is the title of a 1975 book by William C. Standbridge, also author of “Born-again Catholics and the Mass” (1980). Given that the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) is the largest and most wide-spread Church denomination on earth, the subject is indeed an important and legitimate one to discuss.

Much has been written over the centuries identifying the church of Rome as the Great Whore of Rev 17 and the establishment on whose back the antichrist will ride into power. Few serious minded people

will even attempt to challenge these very serious assertions - not only on account of the indefensible history of the RCC including the well-documented martyrdom of millions of Protestants who dared to differ with Roman doctrine; unholy and embarrassing entanglements in politics, mafia and business; up to present day open promotion of the New One World Religion which boldly proclaims all religions equally leading to the same one God, in stark contrast to the several clear teachings of the Bible.

Even several ardent catholic sources confirm the data, although they always have a myriad of different innovative interpretations. Outspoken and ultra conservative sources like Paula Devlin for instance, while agreeing with all those facts about the Church of Rome, nevertheless believe that the Church is only a victim of a few hijackers. In an article titled “*The Whore of Babylon and the One World Religion*” (MichNews.com, Dec 22, 2003) she writes:

“During the latter days of the pontificate of Pius XII, the plans for the take-over of the Roman Catholic Church were finalized. Their execution was completed during Vatican II with the election of Paul VI to the papacy. Satan was enthroned in the Vatican just prior to his election...”

She continues in a way that few protestants can match: “The true Church was transformed from an institution concerned with the salvation of souls, transformed to the Novus Ordo to mesh with the Novus Ordo seculorum of Freemasonry. The Vaticrats who took over the church ... are [now] delivering many trusting souls to hell”. She is later to assert that “of all the useful idiots, liberals, socialists, communists and freemasons who have worked so hard to advance the cause of humanism, the worship of man as god and the new world order, no one is more culpable than the Catholic Church in having it here now, devouring nations, jobs, the economy, personal freedom,

religious freedom, morality and families”. Yet she proceeds in her strident defence of the Church arguing that “the catholic church was not part and parcel of the schema for the New World Order from the beginning”, citing Aquina’s *Suma Theologica* for support. She continues: “It is only since Vatican II that the Church has become the Whore of Babylon in existence to put the finishing touches on the One World Religion and to usher in the ultimate antichrist”. Such admissions, yet as far as she (and there are multitudes in her position) is concerned, the mythological true Catholic Church is only a victim of hijacking Vaticrats! A case of literally wanting to be more catholic than the Pope!

So what is her conclusion? Biblical doctrines such as “rapture” are surely unacceptable. ‘True Catholics’ must return to such doctrines as “purgatory” and “devotion to Mary”, and be ready for the coming persecution from those who wish to translate the beloved RC church into a global religion.

So we have this great paradox: probably few people know more about the decadence and hopelessness of the Catholic Church more than the conscientious, open-minded catholic. Yet, for several differing reasons, most are unable to agree that the most reasonable action to take is that prescribed in the Scriptures: “*Come ye out of her....*” Rev 18:4, 2 Cor 6:17

To be fair, a major excuse could be “where to?” considering the serious decay in most other non-catholic churches! In fact this was practically the attitude of the Catholic League in responding to the reported gross sexual perversions among the RCC clergy. But the question of denomination is only a minor one.

The real call is to come out of the anti-Biblical *religion* of Catholicism with its “non-bloody sacrifice” (that is cainitic!); bastardization of that most beloved biblical personality Mary, via the

so-called “co-redemptix” heresy (actually the ‘common ground’ for merging other religions and Catholicism into the one world religion); and denigration of the Scriptures for the sake of traditions (despite Acts 4:12, 1 Cor 3:11 etc)). The scripture is true for both catholic and non-catholics, “without holiness, no one shall see the Lord”! (Heb. 12:14)

Though the Catholic Church appears not much worse than other denominations of its size and comparable age, the big crucial difference is that the Organization is first of all Roman, and all authority resides at the Vatican. Next, it is not just a Church, but is also a recognized political entity, as well as a business venture (perhaps the biggest on earth). There is practically no hope for any “rebel” to think they can change the Church of Rome - unlike the case in Anglicanism for instance where you can have a group like the Church of Nigeria threatening to leave the Communion en-masse, or a major group in Canada affirming their conviction that “the umbrella of the Anglican Church is over two different religions” (see CA! Vol 7 No 1, front page).

The mark of a true Christian, especially in times like this, is absolute loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ through obedience to the Gospel unadulterated, rather than some denomination. This is a matter of eternity and eternal life. Several millions of lives have been sacrificed to keep this important issue alive for this generation to consider. You certainly cannot afford to trivialize it. **Vol. 7 No. 2**

Roman Catholic Churches Put Mary On The Cross

A recent article by Way of Life Literature (August 25) takes up issues with “contemporary Catholic propagandists” who deny that the Roman Catholic Church worships Mary. Beginning from citing instances where Mary is depicted as hanging on the cross (e.g. at the

Church of the Mother of God of Polish Martyrs in Warsaw, Poland, and at the main Mary basilica in Rome -Santa Maria Maggiore), the article further cites numerous Vatican documents which assert that Mary is “the co-redemptress with Christ”, and that she is currently interceding for men from heaven to aid their salvation. It closes with a reference to a plaque in the Chapel of the Virgin of the Grace at Saints Vincent and Anastasius Church in Rome. Inscribed thereon and referring to the Image of Mary, were the words: "Cardinal Benedetto Odescalchi, who became the pope with the name of Innocent XI, initiated THE WORSHIP OF THE IMAGE, placed on the altar in 1677, and wanted his heart to be buried here, not in the main chapel."

These are some of the facts that will not go easily away. Genuine God-seeking catholics have a duty to examine this sore point which is the main gateway into the endtime intra-faith apostasy. The full article is found at www.wayoflife.org/fbns/fridaynews/news/2006/fridaynews060825.html

Local readers are invited to visit our library to check several books such as Dave Hunt’s “*A woman rides the beast*” or Ralph Edward Woodrow’s “*Babylon Mystery Religion*”, among several others documenting in clear plain language how a major Babylonian goddess has now replaced the biblical Mary. **Vol. 9 No. 5**

Pope’s Pronouncements point at both past and predicted coming Inquisition

Within a period of one week three quick pronouncements from the Vatican sent shockwave to the discernment community, underscoring the reality that props that will support the predicted persecution in the days of the Anti-Christ are being put in place.

First, despite Pope John Paul having pronounced in 2001 that salvation is possible without Jesus Christ (see **CA! Vol 4 No 1**); the Roman Catholic Church has now declared that as far as the Christian faith goes, non-catholic churches are really either defective or not true, and salvation for the Christian is impossible outside Catholicism! In a statement approved by the Pontiff, the Church declares that “It is nevertheless difficult to see how the title of 'Church' could possibly be attributed to [Protestant communities], given that they do not accept the theological notion of the Church in the Catholic sense and that they lack elements considered essential to the Catholic Church'." Several Protestant Churches, particularly those deeply involved in ecumenical talks with the Roman Catholic Church have expressed their “dismay and anger” over the statement <www.guardian.co.uk/pope/story/0,,2123195,00.html>. "It makes us question whether we are indeed praying together for Christian unity," says the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. Students of Bible prophecies however see in the statement, a theoretical framework which the predicted False Prophet (the antichrist's right hand man, according to Rev 13) will use to justify the forced closure of any non-catholic affiliated Christian organization in the future. Such de-recognition is already happening in states dominated by Communist, Moslem, Buddhist and Hindi states (see previous editions of CA! for specific reports), and will become full-blown in the days prior to the rapture of the true Church. The view that Protestants cannot have churches was first set out by Pope Benedict six years ago when, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the newly revived "Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith" which he headed, published the document “*Dominus IESUS*”, but then Pope, John Paul, had intervened to “correct the incorrect reading” of the document. (See **CA! Vol 4 No 1** for details).

Actually, the office which Cardinal Ratzinger headed in 2001 is officially known (according to Wikipedia Encyclopedia) as the 'Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition' or simply "the Inquisition office." This was the office in charge of forcing 'heretics' to recant in the middle ages; and it is equipped with sophisticated facilities and brutal personnel to ensure the success of the work. The office of the Inquisition had been closed for over 100 years, until Pope John Paul II reinstated it and appointed Cardinal Ratzinger as its director! (see <<http://cuttingedge.org/news/n1676.cfm>>)

That is why the second pronouncement from the Vatican a few days after the declaration that Protestants are unqualified to 'operate Churches' is equally important and intriguing. It was to the effect that the notorious torture chamber in the Vatican, known as the "Pope's Dungeon" is now to be opened to the public after a 10-year closure for restoration work. (The Guardian (London), July 13, 2007. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,-6776389,00.html>) "Why would the Vatican spend 10 years and undoubtedly a lot of money, to resurrect a relic of the infamous Roman Inquisition?" queries the Cutting Edge ministries?

Finally, to complete the trio of intriguing news from the Vatican within the same week, the Pope announced the revival of the old "Tridentine Mass". This Mass, said in Latin and replete with hair-splitting specifics on "which vestments can be used, what material they must be made of, where the candles should be placed on the altar, and the precise position of the priest's hands at various points in the liturgy," etc is a triumph for conservative catholics, and a reversal of the purported gains of the 2nd Vatican Council (1962-1965). However, most protestant end-time commentators are more struck with the fact that the Tridentine Mass, originally created in 1560 was

the standard Mass used all during the infamous Inquisition Period, during which over 70 million people were murdered and tortured simply because they would not accept the Catholic's "Salvation by Works", chief of which was the systems of Indulgence and Purgatory. <<http://www.cuttingedge.org/news/n1763.cfm>>

For one thing, the old Latin Mass specifically included a prayer for the conversion of Jews (another shift of the gears with respect to the Church's interfaith agenda), and thus predictably has provoked strident protests from Jewish groups. www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3422621,00.html More significantly however, David Bay of Cutting Edge, strongly supported by former Satanist Doc Marquis, believes that the Mass, when said in Latin, possess very powerful "mind control elements", which when implanted daily over the years, could suddenly be triggered to provoke ordinary easy-going Catholics into committing unimaginable atrocities. David (www.cuttingedge.org/detail.cfm?ID=740) believes that this might be responsible for the amazing instances, repeated in various parts of Europe, when large group of Catholic adherents "would suddenly become frenzied and start attacking Protestants in very large number" as detailed in the "Foxe's Book of the Martyrs" This thinking is certainly not far-fetched as evident in similar situations when Moslems in northern Nigeria suddenly turn against their Christian neighbours once certain Arabic quotations from the routine prayer lines are pronounced [see for instance, Vol 10 No 2 for details of the gruesome lynching of Christianah Oluwaseesin]. Linking the three stories together, CuttingEdge (a Baptist end-time commentary website) concludes that "these three stories all have one common factor: they point to the Inquisition, both to the future Inquisition in fulfillment of Revelation 13:11-18, and to the past Inquisition. In the first story, Pope Benedict XVI stated the core

reason that the office of the future False Prophet will close Protestant churches and begin killing its adherents, i.e. he recognizes only Catholic Church as a genuine church, and all others are pre-tenders. In the two [other] stories, the past Inquisition is clearly in view.” Concluding, he remarked, “As the world teeters on the brink of the planned World War III which will produce Antichrist, we should not be surprised that the Vatican is steering the Catholic faithful toward the tools of the Inquisition”. **Vol. 10 No. 4**

Trips to Lourdes in 2008 will cut time spent in purgatory - Pope

The Catholic Church is going through some hard time with its figures, necessitating various measures being taken by the Vatican to secure the future of the Church. Apart from declining attendances leading to forced closure and merger of several parishes - at times with dramatic responses from the Parishioners who resist (see an example at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/10/nyregion/10church.html?r=1&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin>), there is also the declining enlistment of Nuns and Priests (BBC News, Feb 5). Hence the Catholic Church is finding itself having to fall back more and more to her old, time-tested traditional measures.

In the latest efforts to shore up the attendance figure to the Marian shrine at Lourdes, Pope Benedict XVI has, last December, offered relief from purgatory to Roman Catholics who travel to Lourdes this year - the 150th anniversary of the appearance of an apparition in that little French village. In the words of the Vatican, Pilgrims to the shrine will receive "plenary indulgences" from the Pontiff, which the Church says reduce the time spent being "washed" of sin after death. For those who cannot make the journey to France, the Pope will also grant indulgences to Catholics who pray at places of worship

dedicated to the Madonna of Lourdes from Feb 2 to Feb 11. See Original Report at www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/1967940/posts

Reports about apparitions of Mary (supposedly the mother of the Lord Jesus) are rife among catholic faithful. Please see CA! Vol 4 No 5 to learn the truth about Marian apparitions. Meanwhile, the London Daily Telegraph (March 16) has reported that at least 50 people have lost their sight in India after they persistently stared at the sun hoping to see an image of the “Virgin Mary”. **Vol 11 No 2**

UPDATES ON ROMAN CATHOLICISM

While the on-going feud in the Anglican communion has been providing hope to shore up alarmingly declining figures in the Catholic Church (see e.g. **Vol 11 No 2**), via mass conversion from Anglicanism; this over 1 billion strong denomination whose head is seen as the “Vicar of the Son of God” on earth continues its desperate struggles to remain relevant in other arenas.

Her inter-faith agenda seems to be right on course with the recent warm embrace given the Pope by the Moslem community in Sydney during the World Youth Day in July. There, an Islamic school offered to host part of the catholic visitors and served as ushers in addition to hosting a papal interfaith event during the visit. (ZENIT NEWS AGENCY [Innovative Media] - July 16, 2008).

Also top of the news is the rumour that President Bush, just like Tony Blair before him, is set to convert to catholicism at the end of his presidential term. Bush has recently developed a strong relationship with the Pope and has made known his deep respect for Catholicism, pandering to its demands in several state matters. According to Rick Santorum, former U.S. senator and close confidant of Mr Bush, “I

don't think there's any question about it. He's certainly much more Catholic than Kennedy." *CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY* - June 16, 2008

However, these gains of the Catholic Church are hardly sufficient to offset the severe impact of declining figures, continued embarrassment from reports of gross immorality among top clergy and religious orders, and perhaps most hard-hitting of all, that a very large percentage of the teeming catholic crowd are merely "catholic" in name, neither believing in the church's doctrine nor active in its practices. Responding to a survey conducted in the US by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Denver Roman Catholic Archbishop Charles Chaput said: "The statistics show, more than anything else, that many who describe themselves as Catholics do not know or understand the teachings of their church ... It also means that the church ought to work harder at evangelizing its own members." (*ASSOCIATED PRESS* June 23, 2008).

The call of Christ to anyone who accepts that His leadership and authority are still valid in this world, rather than vested in some other person or institution is clear: Come ye out of her, my people..." (2 Cor 6:17, Rev 18:4) **Vol 11 No 4**

Vatican opens up Confession

Concerned about the decreasing number of catholics still going to "confession," the Vatican said it is embarking on a "relaunch [of] the sacrament of penance." In a news item posted on its website on Jan. 15, Foxnews explains that in the catholic sacrament of penance, people are taught that they "can receive forgiveness if they sincerely confess their sins to a priest." (www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,480014,00.html).

As part of the relaunch, one of the most secret tribunals in the Vatican, the Apostolic Penitentiary, threw open its doors (for the first

time in its 830-year history) for a two-day conference in the hope of re-attracting back catholic faithful to the confessional. Delivering a paper at the conference which ended on Wed, Jan 14, the number two man at the Vatican, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, said “by lifting the veil of secrecy surrounding the tribunal’s work, the Vatican hopes to emphasize the fundamental role the sacrament plays in saving souls”

The Apostolic Penitentiary could be described as the number one confessional in Roman Catholicism. Its work involves those sins that are reserved for the pope - considered so serious that a local priest or bishop is not qualified to grant forgiveness.

Foxnews, quoting the American head of the tribunal, Cardinal James Stafford, elaborated on these “special sins” that are increasingly being witnessed within Roman Catholicism: “These include defiling the Eucharist... by ordinary faithfuls who receive Communion and then remove the host from their mouths and spit it out or otherwise desecrate it.

“Others include a priest breaking the seal of the confessional by revealing the nature of the sin and the person who sought penance, or a priest who has sex with someone and then offered forgiveness for the act”.

The “relaunch” effort seemed an unavoidable last ditch effort to save a truly desperate situation. A study carried out by Italy's Sacred Heart University indicated that 47 per cent (nearly half) of people in Italy - a majority Roman Catholic country - never went to confession or did so a long time ago.

"We cannot hide that the sacrament of penance is threatened in this time of secularization," said Monsignor Gianfranco Girotti, the tribunal's No. 2 official. He however continued to insist that the sacrament remained "fundamental for salvation and the sanctification of souls."

DOCTRINE

Another major Vatican tribunal sharing the same accommodation with the Apostolic Penitentiary in the Palazzo, is the Roman Rota, which decides marriage annulments. Note that the Catholic church forbids divorce - only marriage annulments are conducted. You may wish to try to spot the difference! **Vol 12 No 1**

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CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE: Moral Issues In The Catholic Church

Another Stinker from the Vatican

The Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church is in the news yet again. This time around, the problem is neither with doctrines nor the health of the Pope, but base issues such as sex, rape, abortion and other unmentionables - right among the clergy.

The Church has admitted as true, reports of long-standing sex scandals involving its Priests/Missionaires and Nuns. Specifically, the Vatican confirmed that Priests and Missionaires were forcing Nuns to have sex with them and in some cases, committing rape and at other times, forcing the victims to have abortions or take contraceptive pills - all these officially from the Vatican!

Specific cases were cited in the report originally presented in 1995 by Nun and physician, Maura O'Donohue, AIDS coordinator for the London-based Roman Catholic fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD); and presented to the head of the Vatican's congregation for Holy Orders, Cardinal Martinez Somalo. Particular cases cited included a case of 20 Nuns in one Community being pregnant at the same time, and another, a case of a Mother Superior being relieved of

her duties because she complained that Priests in her diocese had made 29 of her Nuns pregnant.

The report indicated a global spread of the phenomenon - 23 countries including Italy, India, Brazil and Africa were cited. (See Editorial of Nigerian Tribune 26th March, 2001, page 10 for more unbelievable details).

Meanwhile in a swift reaction, Nigerian catholic clergy, obviously seriously upset, have expressed “**serious concern**” over the Vatican’s apparent indictment of them in this report. In a statement signed by Rev Sis. Patricia Egbulem and Rev Fr. Urban Osuji, the President and Vice President of the Conference in Nigeria, the group said that the article was so sweeping that African members of the Clergy and the religious [orders] are made to appear as hypocrites.

Church Arise! sympathises with the few innocent Priests and Nuns so maligned by Vatican’s own report. We urge all to put sentiments apart and face the realities of what the Catholic Church establishment is today; and more significantly, the direction it is headed for, with its open endorsement of the Satanic evolution theory and clamouring for a new synthetic One world religion. We believe tenaciously that there are lots of God’s own people within the Catholic Church establishment. We further believe God is sounding an urgent call to this group. If you sense that you belong, find the message in Revelation 18:4 and 2 Cor. 6:17. **Vol 4 No 3**

Archbishop takes a Bride, Excommunicated

The Roman Catholic Archbishop in Lusaka, Zambia 71 year old Emmanuel Milingo has renounced the Church’s celibacy oath and taken a bride. According to a statement by Catholic Bishops in Zambia (Guardian June 3 pg 27), they, as well as the Pope himself, tried to reach out to Archbishop Milingo “but he decided to go on

with his plan to marry, thereby turning his back on the Catholic Church”. Last edition, we reported on a Vatican report that admitted that unspeakable sexual atrocities were going on among her priests and nuns. By catholic tradition however, these were not enough reasons to excommunicate any of the offenders - but marriage among the clergy is clearly anathema. The said Archbishop has since been excommunicated and “damned to hell”. So much for the Pope’s inter-faith message. **Vol 4 No 4**

Rwandan Priest taken into hiding by Italian Church

A Rwandan Priest wanted by a UN war crimes tribunal to face charges of genocide is reportedly being hidden by the Roman Catholic Church in Italy. Fr Athanase Seromba has been accused of the murder of over 2,000 people during the 3-month massacre of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda in 1994. The Italian Government has so far refused the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda’s request to hand Fr Seromba over for a trial at the UN Court in Arusha. The Vatican also has refused to comment (Punch July 17, pg 17) **Vol 4 No 5**

At long last, Homosexuality and Child Molestation Among Catholic Clergy Finally Becomes News Material

For decades, a few Christian newsletters and magazines had consistently alerted the world of unspeakable evils going on within the file and rank of supposed holy fathers and nuns of the Catholic Church - homosexuality, abortion, rape, child-molestation and all other sorts. But none of the ‘courageous’ Pulitzer winning journalists and their media houses deemed it necessary for any “investigative journalism” on the issue. Anyway, who knows what cue was now sounded, suddenly the airwaves and newspaper pages are filled with

reports of the extensive homosexuality and child molestation of several hundreds of Catholic Fathers against innocent and helpless members of their own congregations. On our part, we have usually restricted our reports on these unspeakable acts in the Catholic Church largely to the Church's own reports (e.g. **Vol 4 No 3**) - and even those alone should be sufficient to make any honest person to question whether the Catholic Church is building Christ's Kingdom here on earth or another's kingdom. Take the recent scandal together with other well-documented facts of the Church's involvement in murders and assassination (even of Popes!), promotion of a one-world religion (to bring together every spiritual expression on earth - including Satanists, occultists, etc!), and one will have no choice but agree with Spurgeon and other eminent spirit-filled Christians that the transformation of the catholic church to the anti-christ church of Rev 17 is inevitable and almost complete. Yet all these do not mean there are still no godly individuals in the Church. And it is to these that the Lord expressly speaks: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev 18:4). **Vol 5 No 3**

Nuns also sexually abused

Still reeling from the massive negative publicity given to the worldwide involvement of her Priests in homosexual abuse of minors entrusted into their charges, the Roman Catholic Church seems caught again in another scandal. Several thousands of Nuns in the United States are claiming sexual victimization from priests and other nuns in the Church. From the results of a national survey carried out at the St Louis University, four out of every ten Nuns involved say they have suffered some form of sexual trauma within the Church. According to a report monitored from Zion's Cry website: "This

often has had devastating psychological effects on the women. Many of the Nuns said they were left with feelings of anger, shame, anxiety and depression. Some said it made them consider leaving religious life, and a few said they had attempted suicide ... One woman wrote that after a priest fondled one of her breasts during confession, she remained so upset that she did not return to confession for the next 18 years. Another wrote that as a young girl, her uncle, who also was a priest, insisted on touching holy oil to her genital area 'to keep me safe while dating.' Still another wrote that a priest-therapist treating her for severe depression encouraged her to become involved in 'sexual experimentation.' The woman said she later began a relationship with another Nun."

However, although this national scientific study (in the United States) focused primarily on the Catholic Church, indications are that this sad situation is rife in other Churches and faiths as well. In a quick survey of the United Methodist Church women clergy and women rabbis (Judaism) 77% and 73% of the women, respectively, said they had been sexually harassed. (Reference: E-mail: billsmith@post-dispatch.com <http://stltoday.com/stltoday/news>) Vol 6 No 1

Cardinal Okogie spits invectives on Pentecostals, CAN

While most men of goodwill were congratulating newly ordained Cardinal Anthony Okogie for his red cap, the catholic priest seems to have acquired fresh angst against the rest of the society. While his vitriolic attacks against the government have become a familiar refrain, his comments on the rest of the non-catholic Church were certainly alarming and unbecoming of his new high status. Some samplers from his interview with the Vanguard:

On proliferation of Churches: “It is all for money, churches everywhere. Everybody has got anointing. Breakfast fellowship today; another one tomorrow - all for money!”

On Pentecostal Churches: “They open churches, see fake visions and deceive people. They are after people’s pocket and how to make as much money as possible from them”.

On the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN): “[CAN] has lost focus. CAN is no longer CAN, it is a business venture, a money-making machine. I heard the association got N200 million and that changed everything. It has lost focus”.

It’s a big wonder that someone holding the high office of cardinal can be making this kind of sweeping provocative statements. (See Vanguard Oct 4, pg 17 for more unbelievable quotes). **Vol 6 No 6**

Catholic Church pays compensation to sex victims

In September (2003), the catholic Archdiocese of Boston in the US agreed to pay \$85 million to settle more than 500 sexual abuse lawsuits, the largest public payment ever made by the Roman Catholic church in the USA. Also in October, it was the turn of the Archdiocese of Chicago to opt for out-of-court settlement with 15 people for \$8 million. All these were part of the thousands of boys who had been sexually molested by catholic priests in the United States during the last 5 decades! (Punch Oct 7, pg 21) **Vol 6 No 6**

Catholic group highlights general rottenness in Church and Society

Reacting to the increasing reports of incredible sexual perversion particularly among the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church, the US based Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights CLRRC in February, released a special report, *Sexual Abuse In Social Context:*

Catholic Clergy and other professionals, “to put things in perspective”. While not denying the several allegations, or even trying to “exculpate anyone”, the report merely went ahead to release similar data of sexual offences for other churches and for society in general. Though the comparisons are in several cases faulty (e.g. comparing number of *confessed* “inappropriate sexual behaviour”, with number of *reported* homosexual assaults), the data are nevertheless grim enough and confirm that the Church is indeed under serious unprecedented pressure. A few examples:

In 1984, almost 40% of ministers [in the US] reported sexual contact with a Church member. In the same year, 20% of “conservative” pastors admitted to some sexual contact outside of marriage. The corresponding figures for “moderate” and “liberal” pastors were 40% and 50% respectively! Likewise, a national survey reportedly revealed that about 20% of “all ministers” are involved in “pornography and sexual addiction”. Some of the data sought by the CLRCR were specific for the highly respected denominations. For instance, a 1993 study among Southern Baptists showed an unbelievable 14% of ministers confessing to having engaged in “inappropriate sexual behaviour”. The CLRCR report went further to cite similar data, equally depressing, among Jehovah’s Witnesses, athletic coaches, psychologists, teachers and family members. The end times are truly here. **Vol. 7 No. 2**

First Catholic church for Saudi Arabia

Negotiations are underway to build the first Catholic church in Saudi Arabia with King Abdullah lending his support for its construction. Vatican Radio reports the Vatican and the Saudi government are currently in talks to allow the church despite the

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kingdoms ban on allowing the construction of any non-Muslim place of worship.

No religion other than Islam is allowed to schedule public services, and even the possession of bibles, rosaries, and crucifixes is forbidden. While Saudi Arabia does not have formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See, King Abdullah became the first reigning Saudi monarch ever to visit the Vatican last November. [<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7080327.stm>]

However, some “Middle East experts” are leading calls that the Vatican must first recognize Mohammed as a prophet of God before churches are allowed. [<http://truediscernment.wordpress.com/2008/03/23/will-the-pope-recognize-mohammed/>]. There is at least one major requirement, even if unspoken, of course – no conversions of Moslems. This requirement is eloquently demonstrated by the outrage being displayed by prominent Islamic scholar Sheikh Yousuf al-Qaradawi with respect to the baptism of a Muslim-born journalist, Majdi Allam, by the Pope during the last Easter Mass. Describing the event as a “provocative and hostile act against Muslims”, Qaradawi, lamented that “We try to seek peace with the Vatican and the World Council of Churches but in vain. They keep provoking us by their hostility.”

However, considering the on-going inter-faith agenda of the Vatican, and the concerns about declining figures, (check the factsheet at <http://www.futurechurch.org/fpm/cardinals/facts.htm>) it would appear the Vatican is set to embrace these conditions – even if it will have to give the impression of being unwilling! Meanwhile, the catholic church has on Saturday March 15, celebrated it’s first mass in

Qatar, another Islamic enclave, according to Agence France Presse, “despite threats from Islamic radicals” VOL 11 NO 2

Pope visits US amidst hot catholic scandals

As Pope Benedict begins a historic visit to the United States, he was received with very hard knocks by respected Christian commentator, Jacob Prasch, based on the stinking pedophilia cases the Church had been quagmire with in the United States. In one of his previous assignments at the Vatican, the then Archbishop Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) had signed the directive that priests and nuns who had sexually abused young people attending their parishes must be protected at all costs. Such priests and nuns were merely moved to new locations where they repeated over and over again their sexual crimes against innocent little children who had sought spiritual succor from the Catholic Church. So widespread is the practice that right now, as many as 177 out of the 179 dioceses of Roman Catholic Church in the USA were found culpable in court of protecting child molesting clergy. And in just one week, the archdioceses of Los Angeles and San Diego had to pay \$790 million to victims just to keep one Cardinal Mahoney, out of prison for his role in these sordid most unchristian acts.

It is difficult to determine the extent of such practices outside the USA where legal institutions are less strong and the Catholic Church held in more awe. Vol 11 No 2

Catholics mull removal of Pope over Church Sex Scandal

The once unthinkable idea is fast gaining currency: irked catholics are asking how the Pope may be removed! Other less committed catholics, particularly in Europe, are simply leaving the Church in droves over an unabating avalanche of sickening reports that not only

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were priests (over the course of decades) molesting young boys and girls entrusted into their care, the Church authorities having full knowledge of these events did virtually nothing to stop it. This is totally different from the well-reported sexual abuses on Nuns and sisters by their superiors, as is extensively reported in the Chicks publications or several home videos in Nigeria.

In the latest case breaking out - in Ireland, the CNN quotes that country's top Catholic cardinal as acknowledging that the church's response to the abuse had been "hopelessly inadequate." Currently, numerous reports of catholic-based sex abuse are increasing across Europe, including in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland. New abuse allegations have surfaced in Brazil, home of the world's largest Catholic population, and indeed, according to the CNN, a recent TV report in that country included a video purportedly showing a priest having sex with a 19-year-old altar boy! According to CNN's Vatican analyst, who is also a senior correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter: "Now we have obvious confirmation that this is a global crisis. Anywhere there is a substantial Catholic population there is the potential for this type of scandal."

But the Pope's pious and strongly-worded letter to Irish Bishops, which he had hoped would "help in the process of repentance, healing and renewal" in Ireland is being considered as pure hypocrisy. This is in light of fresh revelations (March 26) that even when the Pope himself was an archbishop in Munich, Germany, he condoned similar actions and turned blind eyes to at least one priest who repeatedly molested children under his care - despite strong recommendations which he (Pope Benedict then an archbishop) blatantly refused to act upon.

Calling the issue “the biggest church credibility crisis in centuries, if not in the entire history of the church”, the National Catholic Reporter wrote: “it becomes even more difficult to reconcile the strong language of the pope in his letter to Irish bishops and his own conduct while head of a major see ... No longer can the Vatican simply issue papal messages - subject to nearly infinite interpretations and highly nuanced constructions - that are passively "received" by the faithful. No longer can secondary Vatican officials, those who serve the pope, issue statements and expect them to be accepted at face value.” Unprecedented strong words coming from the Church’s own rank! www.usnews.com/blogs/erbe/2010/03/26/catholic-sex-scandal-raises-question-how-do-you-remove-a-pope.html

However, it would seem the Pope is in no immediate danger of being removed. Not only is there no provision for that in the church’s law, far more people seem willing to leave the church themselves rather than require the pope to leave. A case of can’t be more catholic than the pope?

The CNN reports that apart from erosion of membership, the crisis is threatening “to change secular Europe's posture toward the church from shrugging toleration to outright hostility.” However, church experts predict that all these storms are not likely to generate much distress for the church in Africa - where the pope is still considered just a few steps away from being a deity. The CNN report noted that “Nigeria is now home to the world's largest Catholic seminary, while Europe and the United States now depend on wider Africa to supply their
priests.”

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/europe/03/19/catholic.church.abuse/index.html>.

For a detailed coverage of the sexual abuse stories in the catholic church, check the Boston Globe at www.boston.com/globe/spotlight/abuse/ .

Catholic Archbishop of Benin quits over child sexual abuse

The resignation of Richard Burke, the catholic Archbishop of the Nigerian Diocese of Benin City, accused of molesting a teenage girl, was accepted by Pope Benedict XVI on Monday 31st May, 2010.

Dolores Atwood had alleged she was sexually abused by Archbishop Burke when he was a priest in Warri. At that time Dolores was a 14-year-old patient in an unnamed hospital in Warri.

In his letter of resignation, the humiliated Archbishop wrote: "I take full responsibility for my actions. I wish to express my deepest sorrow for my inappropriate, irresponsible and **repeatedly** sinful conduct." According to newspaper reports, Burke, of Tipperary in South-Central Ireland, "**voluntarily**" left his position. The problem with this statement is that the indicated remorse came only **AFTER** Dolores had filed the complaint - in far away Canada. Burke had been named Archbishop of Benin City in 2008.

Last edition we referred to a statement by a senior correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, affirming that: "*Anywhere there is a substantial Catholic population there is the potential for this type of scandal.*"

The situation with the Archbishop Burke confirms this statement for Nigeria, and should be food for thoughts for the wise and prudent.

(Story from The Sun Publishing **Tuesday, June 1, 2010, still available on-line here**

<http://www.nigerianbestforum.com/index.php?topic=76436.msg306038>) Vol 13 No 2

Child Sexual Abuse in Roman Catholic Church - Belgium next Bus stop

The sad revelations about respected and trusted adults sexually molesting innocent children in the Roman Catholic Church continue to reverberate all around the world. Further confirming what a catholic writer has written, suggesting that such abuse is potentially occurring wherever in the world “there is a substantial catholic population” (see Vol 13 No 2), the latest scene for these sickening stories is Belgium.

According to the BBC, the level, extent and duration of abuse revealed early September, shocked even members of the commission set up by the Catholic Church to investigate the allegations. The independent commission found that such abuse occurred in EVERY diocese and in EVERY Church school over decades. The commission said some victims were infants when the abuse started and that, at least, 13 had committed suicide as a result.

The Catholic Church is under pressure to prevent further abuse and help the victims who have suffered at the hands of priests, teachers, lay workers and in at least one case, a bishop. (The Punch, Sept 13).
Vol 13 No 4

Historical trial with Catholic archdiocese begins – targeting those who hid pedophile priests

(CNN) – Opening arguments have begun in Philadelphia in the first case in which an official of a Roman Catholic archdiocese has been accused of protecting abusive priests by moving them from parish to parish.

Monsignor William Lynn has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy and endangering the welfare of a child. Lynn served as the vicar of clergy in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from 1992 to 2004, a

position in which he was responsible for investigating reports that priests had sexually abused children.

A grand jury alleged that he knowingly allowed priests accused of abuse to continue in the ministry in roles in which they had access to children, according to the district attorney's office. Lynn "acted as if his job was to protect the abuser, never the abused," a January 2011 grand jury report concluded. To continue reading this article, go to the CNN site here: <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2012/03/25/philadelphia-priest-abuse-trial-to-draw-plenty-of-attention/>

In a related development, the attitude of another abusive Catholic Priest has been described as "A slap in Face to victims". former Belgian bishop, 74-year old Roger Vangheluwe admitted he had abused one of his own nephew for 13 years, beginning from when the boy was just 5 years old. But he said the whole situation was no more than "a little piece of intimacy" and that he paid the nephew tens of thousands of euros in support while it lasted. His sexual abuse of another nephew he said was very short. Despite all these, the Priest insisted he had no plans to abandon the priesthood, though he has resigned from the office of Bishop. He said he fully realized what he did was wrong, and often went to confession about it. **Vol 15 No 2**

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CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO: Eschatology

In Ikeja, Nigeria: another Marian Apparition

Over 20,000 people have reportedly visited the Marian apparition that is located at apartment P3 Room 9 Nigerian Airforce Base, Ikeja in search of healings and miracles.

On Good Friday, April 12, Mrs Christianah Ejembi and her daughter claimed to have been visited by ‘Mary’ and have a “lucent impression that registers so vividly inside one of the blades of a single framed 5-louvre window” to show for it (Punch July 7, pg A16). There has been an explosion in Marian apparitions all over the world in the past decade (see Vol 3 No 6). The problem with the apparitions is the clearly unscriptural messages often associated with them. The messages border largely on Interfaithism - oneness of all religions, and the subjugating of the Lord Jesus to this “Queen of Heaven” often, for instance through the massive promotion of “saying the Rosary”. The Scriptures is quite clear on what the Christian response to such claims should be: “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8) **Vol. 4 No. 5**

‘Future of God’ Congress at Fatima

May 13 this year marks the 87th anniversary of the famous Marian apparition that appeared at the little Portuguese town of Fatima in 1917 giving rise to what has now become one of the most famous Marian shrines in the world. The shrine has also recently (October last year) hosted the audaciously-named “Future of God” Congress, an annual interfaith meeting jointing organized by the Vatican and the United Nations.

At the last congress, plans were unfolded to develop the Fatima shrine into a centre where all the religions of the world will gather to pay homage to their various gods. Addressing Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Orthodox, Buddhist and African Pagan representatives. The Shrine’s rector told this motley assembly that “The future of Fatima or the adoration of God and his mother at this holy Shrine, must pass through the creation of a shrine where different religions can mingle... the shrines of Fatima is... already becoming a universalistic place of worship.”

Expectedly, the Congress is vehemently opposed to any attempt to convert people from one religion to another - the Christian Great Commission! The Hindu representative at the congress, Ansshok Ansraj declared that millions of Hindus are getting “positive vibrations” from visiting Marian shrines. To Bible students, such a declaration can only mean that the Marian apparitions do not represent the Mary of the Bible, (who urged that Jesus be obeyed to the letter - see John 2:5) but some demonic entity. Traditional Catholics who are opposed to the Congress were described as “old fashioned, narrow minded, fanatic extremists and provocateurs” (news from www.lightforthelastdays.co.uk)

The Bible clearly predicts that the end-time One World Government will be ushered in via a one world religion under the auspices of the

false prophet. Current events point at the imminence of these things.

Vol 7 No 3

One more Pope to go - ancient catholic source

We have always made it clear that our interpretations of events and projections on matters pertaining to the end times are based 100% on the Holy Bible. For example in Vol 4 No 1, we cited several respected ‘mystic’ sources, including Mother Shipton, Nostradamus, etc whose predictions began to progressively go wide off the mark as the year 2000 approached. The fact of the matter is that as the *very* end draws near, the superiority and sovereignty of the LORD God becomes more and more evident; and all guessworks, “general ideas” and manipulations from pretended divinities become exposed for what they are. Nevertheless, we consider to be noteworthy those events on which all the major actors in the End Time drama are all perfectly agreed.

One of such concerns the highly-rated, high profile prophecies of a catholic mystic, who supposedly saw, a vision of all the popes that are to be installed in office until “the end of time”, when the Catholic Church will be finally destroyed (see <http://newsmax.com/archives/ic/2005/4/3/180901.shtml>).

In the documentation of his vision, the mystic, an Irish Bishop later canonized as St Malachy, the total number of popes, counting from 1143 A.D., would be 112. The story goes on that St Malachy, on a pilgrimage to Rome fell into a trance in which all the future popes were revealed to him. These he accordingly recorded in a book, including a vivid loaded one-line Latin description of each pope. Virtually all commentaries are agreed that St Malachy’s predicted descriptions of the popes have been uncannily accurate, from Pope Celestine II, whose papacy began in 1143 A.D. right up to Cardinal

Joseph Ratzinger recently installed as the 111th Pope, (Pope Benedict XVI). At 78, Benedict XVI is the oldest man to become Pope in 275 years; and with the widely reported unsound state of his health (e.g. 2 mild strokes in the past 2 years, plus a heart condition, UK Sunday Times, May 1), the journey to the expected last pope may not be a long one at all. Respected Hal Lindsey will even hazard a guess. In an article, concerning Pope Benedict, he wrote: "He won't live very long - because we're at an advanced stage in Bible prophecy, so he couldn't live very long. We have to go to the last pope very soon in order to stay current with this prophetic scenario that's already in place".

On another occasion, he told a caller on a live show: "I don't believe [Benedict XVI] will live long, probably about five years. But he will have an enormous impact ... He will extend the power and influence of the church before he dies." Of the 112th pope, St. Malachy had written: "In extreme persecution, the seat of the Holy Roman Church will be occupied by Peter the Roman, who will feed the sheep through many tribulations, at the term of which the city of seven hills will be destroyed, and the formidable Judge will judge the people. (http://aoreport.com/200504news_rccpapalprophecy.htm) Although very many catholic sources, quite surprisingly, believe that the Catholic Church is headed for doom (see for instance Paula Devlin's article cited in Vol 7 No 2; or directly at MichNews.com Dec 22, 2003), very few seem to see this in the light of Rev 17 where a vast, powerful and influential religious organization (scarlet woman) riding upon the back of the antichrist (Beast) is later attacked and destroyed by the same beast.

However, at least there is one conclusion that can be reasonably drawn from all these developments: the coming of the antichrist is to be measured, more in years than in decades. At Church Arise!, our principal concern, however, is to warn the people of God about the

danger in waiting arms-akimbo for “one more pope”, in “a few more years“, before the Lord’s coming. As far as the Church is concerned, the next event on the End-time Agenda is the Rapture of the Church, and that has nothing to do with which pope is on the throne, or even the antichrist having been manifested. We dare not lose focus and get complacent even for a day. The deception of the end times is getting more and more refined and technical. **Vol. 8 No. 3**

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SECTION VI

Islam

INTRODUCTION

Developments in Islam are certainly clear markers of the end-times. Apart from the fact that some Moslems expect the Mahdi to appear at any time to save the world, leading to more fundamentalism (eg Iran), Islam is a major thorn in the flesh of the church. It is also the most likely religion to attract Christians into interfaith ventures – with its appeal to father Abraham and monotheism. Believers need to be well informed about the agenda of islam, as well as its flagrant inconsistencies.

Chapter 23 Sharia - principles and practice

Chapter 24 Antichristian moves

Chapter 25 Fruits of Islam

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CHAPTER 23: Sharia - Principles And Practice

Sharia Updates

“Sharia cripples Kano Trade Fair”, was the headline of a report in the Comet of Nov 19 (pg 33). With visitors (including married couples) being required to be gender-separated at the Fair, it wasn’t surprising that the once famous international trade fair was a mere shadow of itself, with the few participants coming mainly from the local governments in Kano State. In compliance with the provisions of -Sharia Law, all the female ushers wore veils from top to bottom revealing only their eyes.

On a similar note, the State Directors of Sports in the country voted to change the venue of the recently concluded **12th National Sports Festival** from Kano state to Bauchi; because of the many rules demanded by Sharia.

Women protesters seek husbands in Zamfara

More than 1,000 divorcees and widows marched round the major streets of Zamfara state town of Bungudu to show their anger and annoyance with men who have less than 2 wives, reported the Comet on 10/11/00 (page 7). The protesters want such men to come to their rescue by marrying them in order to reduce the number of

widows and divorcees roaming about in the towns and villages in the state. They warned that the situation “may force them to commit crimes against Sharia law”. **Vol 4 No 1**

SHARIA NEWS

Bauchi Signs Sharia: Making the usual pledge that Sharia will not affect Christians in the State, Bauchi State Governor has finally signed the Sharia bill into law in the state on Feb 27. Like Kaduna, Bauchi state has a very significant Christian population. Some Local Government councils have vowed to declare Canon laws in their own area should the State adopt Sharia; while some are actually asking to be excised from the state.

Trouble in Kano: In Kano, the Military and the State Government are headed for a showdown, following the vandalization of an alcohol-carrying truck meant for the military barracks. According to a BBC report, some Sharia zealots had ambushed the truck and burnt it down. The military authorities have vowed to deal with members of the Sharia Committee if the government does not bring them to book and compensate the truck owner. The event was the second time such vandalization would occur.

Sharia ‘Scapegoatism’: Perhaps the most popular story concerning Sharia in recent times is that of Bariya Ibrahim Magazu, the 17 year-old girl who was convicted for becoming pregnant outside wedlock. Although she named three men who slept with her, she was unable to provide three witnesses, as required by Sharia law, to testify that each of the men did indeed sleep with her. She got 100 lashes for getting pregnant, and another 80 lashes for making unsubstantiated claims against the three men. That’s Sharia justice.

Sharia for Schools: In the meantime, Arabic and Islamic Religion knowledge are now compulsory in **all** primary and post-primary

schools in Zamfara state. Did somebody say Sharia won't affect Christians? (Guardian Jan 11, pg 32)

Zamfara PDP faults Sharia: The People's Democratric Party in Zamfara State has expressed disappointment over the failure of the Sharia legal system in addressing the rising crime wave in the state. According to a report in Punch (Feb 8 pg 12), "the state secretary of the party, Alhaji Bala Maru, noted with disappointment what he called the inability of the APP-orchestrated political Sharia to reduce crime in the state, provide jobs for the teeming jobless youths roaming Gusau streets".

Last Line: Sh..sh. Several hundreds of people were arrested under Sharia law in December for speaking to the opposite sexes. (Guardian Jan 4, pg 56) **Vol 4 No 2**

Gombe may shelve Sharia's implementation

Apart from a sustained strong resistance by the Christian community in Gombe state, non-willingness of sponsoring Saudi Arabia in continuing with 'political Sharia' is another reason that may force Gombe government to shelve its Sharia programme. Now that the expected political windfalls from Sharia seems not forthcoming again, due Islamic processes are being followed before grants would be awarded for states desiring to implement Sharia. In the course of this, it has been discovered that in Gombe State, there is no single "Sharia judge that has even a diploma in Sharia, how much more a degree, as specified by the Saudi authority, required for proper implementation of Sharia law". Fumed a disappointed officer in charge of Sharia implementation in the state, "Not even the Gombe State Grand Khadi who is supposed to be the State Chief Judge as soon as Sharia takes off in the State [is competent, by Sharia standards]". This discovery is after the State had already procured 5 million copies of the Sharia Law

book from Saudi Arabia, but alas no one is qualified to even open the books! The mellowed Sharia implementation officer concluded: “we collectively resolved to drop the idea because it is obvious that the present agitation for Sharia is more politically inclined than religious” (The Comet, 7th March, 2001, page 6). **Vol. 4 No. 3**

Gospel Crusade in Sharia Heartland

Meanwhile, the Ibadan-based Sword of the Spirit Ministries (SOTSM) took the battle to the enemy’s gate with a power-packed x-day crusade held at Sokoto. Apart from the abundant harvest of souls into the Kingdom of God (thousands each night), there were reports of several miracles, signs and wonders, testifying to the power that is released from the simple preaching of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ministers of the Gospel in the State were particularly touched that one of their Southern brothers would offer to come and invest so much in preaching the Gospel in a state that promises little in return, materially-speaking that is. In a related issue, the President of the SOTSM gave a brief insight to other aspects of his Gospel Visit to Sokoto state. Speaking at the spiritual commissioning of Church Arise!, he mentioned an encounter he had with Governor Bafarawa of Sokoto state. In the chat, Bishop Oke defended the use of homes for Christian activities, maintaining that the phenomenon is rampant in Sokoto State mainly because the state was making it difficult for Churches to acquire land officially for their activities. The clincher that convinced the honorable governor came when Bishop Oke observed, “Okay, almost every house in Sokoto has a mosque attached to it. Where are the papers for those mosques?” (More reports in Guardian, April 8, 2001, page 36) **Vol. 4 No. 3**

Moslem Council insists on Parallel Sharia Police

The Supreme Council for Sharia in Nigeria (SCSN) says the establishment of the *hisba*, a militant Moslem body that enforces Sharia law is a necessary part of the legal system and therefore warned the FG to stop its alleged underground moves “to tactfully hoodwink states that have adopted the Sharia legal system to disband the *hisba*” (Punch July 1, page 1). Meanwhile, it has been confirmed that followers of Osama Bin Laden took part in the recent religious war in Bauchi State between Christians and Moslems. Many of these mercenaries were imported from outside the country. “The fundamentalists constitute the major security threat to Nigeria”, a Presidency source was quoted (The News Aug 25) **Vol 4 No 5**

Ex-Sudanese Prime Minister cautions on Sharia

Ex-Sudanese PM, Sheik Sadiq El Mahdi has advised the protagonists of Sharia in Nigeria to take time to actually find out whether the demand for its adoption was genuinely the wish of majority of the citizens or that of a few privileged politicians, who want to use it to realise their selfish interests. (Punch July 2, pg 10) **Vol 4 No 5**

Sharia Amputation gathers momentum...

Following once again the leadership of Zamfara state, other Sharia states are going forward with amputations. Still at the limbs stage, Sokoto state carried out its first amputation at 4.00pm on Friday July 6. The offender, Mallam Umoru Aliyu had been found guilty of stealing a sheep valued at N3,000. His right wrist amputated and buried is expected to deter him from repeating such a crime. However to guarantee that Mallam Aliyu smiles and rebuffs human rights activists ready to take up the case, he was paid N50,000 from the coffers of the state. Sokoto Justice Commissioner however insisted that the payment was in accordance with the Islamic law

(Guardian August 2, pg 64) and not a ‘keep-shut, keep smiling’ inducement. The same day the amputation was carried out, another amputation, of 24-year old Mallam Lawali Garba Minanata has been ordered.

...With death on its trail

Meanwhile back in Zamfara, Lami Lawali, wife of Sharia’s first amputee Lawali Isah, could not bear the sight of her limbless husband. On seeing her husband who had just returned from the government’s rehabilitation centre (for medical treatment and financial inducement), the poor lady fainted and collapsed. She never recovered from the shock as she died within a week. (Punch July 7, pg A9)

It is sad however to observe that the Sharia law seems not to be as stringent when it comes to more well-placed offenders. For instance a news report on the Osun State TV on 31st August says 3 Sharia judges in Zamfara have been indicted of taking bribes. Rather than lose their limbs however, they will only lose half their salaries. **Vol 4 No 5**

Sharia World

President Obasanjo declared that Sharia will die a natural death. We update our regular watch on developments in the world of Sharia and the fruits it is bringing forth...

Murderer to be stabbed to death

Sani Rodi, murder confessor, has been sentenced to death by Sharia. That’s expected. What is curious is the mode of death. Mr Rodi is to be stabbed to death, using the same knife he had used to kill his victims, Zainab Haza and her 2 children. (The Comet, 15/11/01, page 3)

Safiyat to die after child-birth

The case of 35 year old Nigerian divorcee (married at age of 12), Safiyat Hussani condemned by the Sharia court to death by stoning for adultery is generating intense outrage all round the world. Despite her repeated claims that she was raped and hypnotized she faces her death sentence, after the delivery of the pregnancy she now carries.

Ironically, the man involved, Yakubu Abubakar (60) having reportedly retracted an earlier confessional statement, could go scot-free. There must be at least 4 men who witnessed the sexual act, as prosecution witnesses before charges could be pressed against him. DNA or similar tests of paternity are of course inadmissible to Sharia. In the meantime, the well-known Roman Catholic clergyman, **Archbishop Okogie, has offered to die in Safiyat's place** if the Sharia appeal court upholds this death sentence. **Vol. 5 No. 1**

At Last FG makes pronouncement on Sharia

The Federal Government, after nearly 30 months, has finally made an official pronouncement on the Sharia Criminal Law in Nigeria. In an official memorandum to the governors of states implementing the Sharia code, the Justice Minister, Godwin Agabi (SAN) urged them to “take steps to secure modifications of Sharia so that the courts will not be obliged to impose punishments which derogate from the rights of Moslems under the Constitution”. The Justice Minister further added that the Constitution is supreme and “to proceed on the basis that the Constitution does not exist, or that it is irrelevant, is to deny the existence of the nation itself” - very strong words indeed. The Minister further made it clear that a situation where we have an arbitrary society based on the discretion of our rulers is “totally unacceptable”. Expectedly, Sharia advocates, not finding any of these any pleasant, are threatening fire and brimstones. But the reality is

that an official pronouncement has now finally been made and the ball is now in the court of anyone so aggrieved to go to Court. **Vol. 5 No 3**

Sharia dressing imposed on Christians in Bauchi

At the Federal Medical Centre, Azare in Bauchi State, all nurses and midwives are now required to dress in the Islamic mode dictated by the Sharia legal system. Some of the Christian staff who refused to comply have been reportedly relieved of their jobs. Decrying this situation, Bauchi CAN has issued a statement urging the FG to immediately address the injustice displayed on the issue. The body also noted that Christians and Moslems had co-existed peacefully in the state before the introduction of Sharia. (Guardian May 26 pg 25) Meanwhile, authorities at Adeyemi College of Education are expressing discomfort at increasing number of people who walk the College streets totally veiled. Given the peculiar problems on ground, the College authorities believe wanted cult members might have started using this method to move around *inognito*. How good if Islamic ladies who want to show their commitment to the Koran will go the whole way and simply remove themselves entirely from co-educational public institutions as recommended in the Koran for pious women! **Vol. 5 No. 4**

In Nigeria, Sharia creeps down-South

Over 2,000 Moslem youths displaying placards with inscriptions such as “Give us Sharia for peace to reign”, staged a rally around Ibadan, the Oyo State capital on April 30. Dressed in complete Islamic garbs including veils for the females, the demonstrators reportedly “triggered uncomfortable feelings among the on-lookers” (Guardian May 1, pg 5). The fact is that despite considerable difficulty, Sharia

legal system is gradually inching its way South of the Niger. The Oyo state governor, in particular, has been under considerable pressure in the past 2 years or so, to declare Sharia in the state, but so far he has continuously refused to do so. However, the race for a second term is on, and who knows...? For now in Oyo state, a non-governmental panel has been launched to oversee “civil sharia”, while in the meantime, the State governor has been installed to the office of the main vanguard of Islam in all of Yorubaland. Hmm, let’s keenly watch out to see what and where all this drama is supposed to lead!

Vol. 5 No 4

Lagos State governor admits being under pressure to introduce Sharia

Governor Bola Tinubu of Lagos has confessed he is under severe pressure to introduce Sharia law into the state. He first dropped this bombshell when receiving Lagos evangelist, Prophet Samson Ayorinde in his office. If this has not come from the governor personally, most Christians will probably think no one could ever be contemplating such a move - and that should speak volumes concerning the mindset and ambition of the powers behind Sharia in Nigeria. They are ready to stop at virtually NOTHING! Thankfully, the governor, himself a Moslem, apparently has been able to resist the pressure so far. In fact he described the people behind it as “politicians and their cohorts”, who are “deliberately attempting to disintegrate the nation” for their personal gain (Punch Sept 9, pg 5). In the meantime similar pressure is reportedly being exerted in other Southern states in Nigeria where various “drama” are being enacted in the name of Sharia! **Vol 5 No 6**

Sharia at Cul De Sac

Things are rapidly coming to a head with the implementation of Sharia in Nigeria. So far, men have been whipped publicly, clerics have been placed on half salaries, and limbs have been severed. Now the ultimate - official death sentence - is about to happen - or is it? In a 50 minutes judgment punctuated with chants of *Allau Akbar*, the Presiding Judge of the Upper Sharia Court sitting in Funtua, Katsina State on August 19 ruled that 30 year old adultery-convict, Amina Lawal "should be taken to a public place, buried up to her neck and stoned to death" (Punch August 20, page 1). Unlike the first case of its kind where the appeal court overruled the death sentence on technical grounds, in this situation, the Appeal Court has upheld the judgement. As usual, since the man involved has denied (swearing on the Koran) being responsible for the pregnancy (though he agreed to being Amina's boyfriend), he has no case to answer. Another dicey conviction is that of 54 year old Sarimu Barada who was condemned to be stoned to death for raping a 9 year old girl. In his case, he has refused to appeal his conviction. Now the time allowed for appeal has long expired, but it seems Islamic authorities at Jigawa never really anticipated they may be faced with this kind of situation. **Vol. 5 No. 5**

Sharia continues to search for foothold in Lagos

In our last edition, we mentioned the surprising report (by Lagos Governor himself) that he is under pressure to introduce Sharia into the State - the state with the largest Christian population in Nigeria. Now apparently following the same script as that in Oyo state (see Vol. 5 No 4) an independent sharia panel (ISP) has now been established in Lagos State by the state chapter of the supreme council for sharia in Nigeria. The panel, which was inaugurated last week in December, is expected to implement the Islamic legal code in the

state through private initiatives. (Nigeria Today Online 27/12/02)
Vol 6 No 1

Finally, Sharia rapist convinced to appeal

Sarimu Mohammed Baranda, the 54 year old man previously sentenced to death by stoning for raping a 9 year old girl in May has now appealed the judgement. Previously the man had refused to appeal the death sentence leaving the State government in a quandary of what to do with the criminal, long after the period for appealing had expired. Now it is reported that Mallam Baranda has been “pressured to change his mind” by his defence counsel. He now claims he was insane when he committed the offence. Clearly the current Sharia movement which came into existence during the government of a born-again Christian in Nigeria is a political one, and the Lord knows how to catch the crafty in their own nets. May the Lord continue to be the defence of His people, especially while all this madness lasts. **Vol 6 No 1**

In Dutse, Emirate declares war on HISBA. Sharia Suspended

For daring to cane the son of a traditional ruler for the sin of drunkenness, Jigawa State Sharia Monitoring Committee (HISBA) has incurred the wrath of the Dutse Emirate Council. On Jan. 17, the 20 year old prince had been arrested by the HISBA and caned 4 days after, for the offence. It was the second time he would be caned for the same offence.

However, embarrassed by the publicity the HISBA gave the incident, the Emirate Council has declared war on the members of the Sharia police. The result of this, in practical terms, is that Sharia law has virtually been suspended in the council, with a noticeable upsurge in

activities of prostitutes and ‘musicians’ - hitherto, mortal foes of the HISBA. An enraged Chairman of the Sharia Police, Malam Yakubu described the actions of the emirate council as a clear sabotage to Islam. (Guardian Feb 7, pg 5)

CA! comments: If a prince cannot be caned, why amputate and stone to death the innocent poor? Note also that Sharia has apparently not been able to reform society, it only drives crime underground, with a vengeance! **Vol. 6 No. 2**

Sharia State, Zamfara, bans non-indigenes from public school...

Previously made to pay hiked school fees, non-indigenes are now also banned from public schools in Zamfara. State commissioner for Science and Technical Education, Alhaji Aliyu Tukur explains: “we are not going to admit any non-indigene in our public schools. Until when we obtain a vacant number after admitting the indigenes, then we can afford to give them admission because we want to first satisfy the need and aspirations of our people”. The commissioner revealed that 357 “non-indigenous students” are studying in 6 science secondary schools, adding that his ministry will not entertain any part-payment of school fees from any non-indigene at the resumption of schools. (Guardian August 27, page 1)

... And tops exam fraud list in Nigeria!

Going by the exam malpractice index released by the Exams Ethic Project, Zamfara state has been declared the state with the highest exam fraud figure. In the 2003 SSS certificate exam, 2,291 out of the 4,784 candidates from Zamfara (nearly 50%) were involved in malpractice. (Guardian August 30, back page) **Vol 7 No 5**

Church continues to lose ground to Islam in Britain

Church attendance in Britain is declining so fast that the number of regular churchgoers will be fewer than those attending mosques within a generation, according to a research reported by the Times of London on May 8. Yet, a traditionalist Anglican who advocates that the Church of England work explicitly to convert Muslims to Christianity is under intense fire, especially from “senior figures in the Church”. Paul Eddy, a lay member of the General Synod, is unwavering though. Speaking to the Sunday programme on BBC Radio Four, he said that in an effort to be inclusive and inoffensive, the church had "lost its nerve" and was "not doing what the Bible says". "Both Christianity and Islam are missionary faiths," he observed. "For years, we have sent missionaries throughout the whole world, but when we have the privilege of people of all nations on our doorstep, we have a responsibility as the state church to share the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Paul faulted the argument that preaching the undiluted Christian message would be offensive to Islam: "Most Muslims that I've talked to say, 'I really wish that Christians would stop watering down their faith and expecting us to do the same.. Until we start really saying what we really believe in our faith, there will be no respect.'" Speaking further, he said: "Actually, to present to a Muslim that we believe Jesus is the only way to God, they'll say, 'We know that'. 'They will expect us - if we're true Christians - to try to evangelise them, in the same way they will expect us, if they're true Muslims, to adopt their faith.'" <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7418957.stm>

Meanwhile, two pastors, Arthur Cunningham, 48, and Joseph Abraham, 65, handing out gospel leaflets in a predominantly Muslim area of [Birmingham](#), England, were threatened with arrest and

warned of being beaten for committing what an officer called a "hate crime."

They were accosted by police community support officer, or PCSO who told them that they "were in a Muslim area and were not allowed to spread [the] Christian message." In April, Rev. Michael Nazir-Ali, bishop of Rochester and the Church of England's only Pakistan-born bishop, had written in the Telegraph that certain pockets of England were becoming "no-go" zones, places too dangerous for non-Muslims to enter.

<http://www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=65922>

VOL 11 NO 3

Meanwhile fellow Moslems continue to desecrate the Koran with impunity!

We had expressed before, our cynicism of the fervor which pious Moslems claim is generated in them to defend their holy book. In Vol 10 No 4, we cited the case in Sokoto, where in a feud between two warring Moslem factions, the first objects that were seized and destroyed were the opponents' Koran!

In a more recent situation (late August), while innocent Christians were being burnt in their own homes by Islamic zealots on rumour of desecration of Koran in Pakistan, some pious Moslems were actually using their Korans to smuggle heroins in Jarkata, Indonesia! You bet, Moslems only see this as a simple case of attempted smuggling. No question of Koran defilement!

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/027300.php> Vol 12 No 5

Iran unveils painting of...Muhammad

As we reported at various times before, Moslems have been known to deface the Koran so that some innocent Christian with whom they have grudges could be framed up; or even publicly burn the Koran provided these are the copies of their opponents as happened in Sokoto (see Vol. 10 No 4, 2007). In all of these nobody seems to remember to charge the offending moslem for blasphemy!

Now, after all the many innocent lives that have been terminated on the guise that somebody published the cartoon or drawing of the Islamic prophet Mohammed, (e.g. Vol 9 No 2) the Islamic state of Iran is set to unveil a painting of Mohammed. Apparently the idea that “Islam forbids depictions of the prophet Muhammed” applies only to infidels? Details at: www.jihadwatch.org/archives/022299.php or <http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8705300937> Vol 11 No 4

MARCH OF ISLAM

Meanwhile, in other lands and climes where they are in the vast minority, moslems continue to piously claim to be under persecution. Coming from the UK is the story of Mohammed Ahmed a warehouse worker, who took his employer, the supermarket chain TESCO, to the law for their requiring him (like any other employee) to carry cartons, including those containing alcoholic beverages, using the forklift he was paid to operate. Surely that was insensitive of the employers, him being a pious moslem who must have no contact whatsoever with alcohol! Well Mr Ahmed, and his sponsors lost the case at the industrial tribunal.

Also losing out is an unnamed moslem female radiographer who is claiming that the new safeguard requirement that all physicians who come in contact with patients in the UK must do so with arms bare of clothing, from the elbow down. This is as a result of the increasing

problem of microbial infections that is almost assuming epidemic proportions in the country's hospitals. The lady, apparently a contract staff at the Royal Berkshire in Reading, however believes that rolling up the sleeves of her hijab when attending to patients is immodest and a violation of her Islamic belief!

(www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/health/2662473/Muslim-radiographer-loses-job-after-refusing-to-bare-her-arms.html)

Meanwhile, a muslim youth described as "UK's youngest terrorist" has been sentenced to two years in prison for being "involved in a global conspiracy to wipe out non-Muslims" Yet, perhaps due to sheer intimidation, the British society has only continued to give more leverage to Islam despite all these outrageous excesses. The recent inexplicable leverages include the report that a member of the gang of nine that hijacked an internal flight in Afghanistan in 2000 is now working as an office cleaner for British Airways after a 30 months jail term (Weekly newsletter of Homeland Security, May 23 2008); or the reports that Sharia law has now been approved for certain parts of the UK!

Elsewhere, in the US, Moslem workers at a Swift plant at Nebraska forcefully demanded that the company's normal schedule be adjusted to accommodate the Ramadan fast. <www.jihadwatch.org/archives/022774.php>, just as some Islamic clerics asked for the deferment of the recruitment of Administration Police Officers in Nigeria, since Moslem participants would be adversely affected by the fasting. (Daily Nation, Sept 17, or www.jihadwatch.org/dhimmiwatch/archives/022747.php). Perhaps it is only a matter of time before similar cases are made for already recruited police officers – that they be not given strenuous assignments during the Ramadan! **Vol 11 No 5**

Somalia

For refusing to renounce their faith in Christ, four Christian orphanage workers in Somalia were beheaded in August by the country's main Islamic insurgent group al-Shabab. According to the International Christian Concern (ICC), a major advocacy group investigating reports of religious persecution, an unidentified junior member of al-Shabab, notified families of Fatima Sultan, Ali Ma'ow, Sheik Mohammed Abdi and Maaddey Diil, that the four Christians kidnapped earlier on July 27 in the coastal town of Merca. had been beheaded for apostasy. "All the four apostates were given an opportunity to return to Islam to be released but they all declined the generous offer," a witness of the beheading was reported as saying. Earlier in July, the al-Shabab beheaded seven people in the southwestern town of Baidoa after accusing them of converting to Christianity and spying for the transitional federal government of Somalia, The group was also responsible for the deaths of 11 African Union (from Burundi and Uganda) peacekeepers who they targeted while they were attending a Sunday Church service in Mogadishu earlier in the year.

In a related development, human rights groups in South Korea say North Korea has stepped up executions of Christians, some of them in public. A recent report described one particular case of a woman allegedly publicly executed in June in a northern town close to the Chinese border. She was accused of distributing Bibles, spying for South Korea and the United States and helping to organise dissidents. Her parents, husband, and children were sent to a prison camp. It is estimated that up to 30,000 North Koreans practice Christianity secretly in their homes. Similarly, two young Iranian women arrested and being tried for converting to Christianity, Maryam Rustampoor and Marzieh

Amirizadeh, have adamantly refused to recant their faith in Christ, despite great pressure being mounted on them. Originally arrested on March 5, 2009 the two women have suffered greatly while in prison, suffering ill health, solitary confinement and interrogations for many hours while blindfolded. In a dramatic court room session, the deputy prosecutor, Mr. Haddad, questioned Maryam and Marzieh about their faith and told them that they had to recant in both verbal and written form. According to the Assyrian International News Agency (Aug 11), they responded, "We will not deny our faith." **Vol. 12 No. 5**

Fresh Islamic Mayhem: Bauchi On The Boil Again

No fewer than eight people, including two soldiers and four children, were killed while a number of houses were burnt in the latest fracas by yet another fringe Islamic group as the year 2009 rolled away. Centred around Bauchi, site of the bloody Boko Haram uprising only a few months earlier, the new rampage involved an Islamic sect called Kala-Kato who were said to be demanding the release of their leader arrested by the authorities. At least 30 members of Kalakato also lost their lives to Nigeria's military might. The four innocent children burnt to death had sought refuge in a house, which was burnt down by minors, supervised by adult members of Kalakato. According to the Nigeria Red Cross, "no fewer than 1000" forsook their homes and sought refuge at the Industrial area. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200912300095.html>

Government's response to the latest in the incessant, predictable mayhems in Northern Nigeria is again meaningless and disappointing - as usual. According to a report in the Nigerian Tribune, the "Bauchi State Government is to set-up an inter-religious committee, consisting of all religious stakeholders with the aim of promoting

religious harmony among the people of the state.” As if to say the one-sided madness was due to some religious disharmony between “all religious stakeholders” - meaning Christians and Moslems!

Reporting further, the Nigerian Tribune newspaper explained that, “according to the Special Assistant to the Governor on Media Affairs, ... the objective of the inter-religious committee” [when eventually set up], would be “to give warning signals of any perceived religious crises with a view to nipping it before it erupted.” [Sigh! Yawn!] How more could a government admit the failure of its security units than this kind of statement? Or the fact that it considers the development apparently only a minor incident to be addressed by mere media-directed rhetoric, when it is the assistant to the governor - on media issues - that was directed to make a statement!
<http://www.tribune.com.ng/02012010/news/news7.html> **Vol. 12 No. 6**

Qur’anic student who killed teenage wife to die by hanging

“I wanted to have sex with her, but she refused. I begged her several times but she will not yield to my request. I then left her inside the room, went out and searched for a knife, which I got in the kitchen. I took possession of the knife and went back to the room with annoyance and stabbed her several times at different places.” That was how 28-year-old Qur’anic student, Abubakar Goni described the events that led to the death of her 14-year old-wife on October 22, 2003.

Seven years later in June 2010, the case was finally settled at the Maiduguri High Court where Abubakar was sentenced to be hanged.

The plain fact is that the innocent bride, Amsa Usman Abdu, at 14 was not ripe for marital life (contrary to the position of new sexuality advocates). Who is the victim here? Both Abubakar and her late young bride Amsa, we think. The sad reality is that hundreds of

thousands are today, at the same crossroad as these two young people. These people are stranded and frustrated just because of various distortions introduced into marriage - a concept lovingly given by God - through various religious and human traditions. If only they would embrace the liberty and freedom that is available in Christ Jesus!

“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5)

*“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”
(Matthew 11:28) Vol 13 No 3*

World Zakat Fund: Underwriting Radical Islam?

Two editions ago, we mentioned that the forced Islamization via rape of Christian girls in Egypt is supported from a financial network of companies, charities and banks under the supervision of the Muslim Brotherhood. According to Israeli National news (INN), a far more ambitious fund, guaranteed to bankroll radical Islamic operations around the world is scheduled to be launched this year. Nigeria has of course remained a prime field for the disbursement and utilization of these kind of money - as highlighted by Osama bin Laden himself in 1999 (see **CA! Vol 2 No 3**)

Interestingly, raising the alarm about the World Zakat Fund is a high-ranking Moslem personality. Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, president of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy, is warning that the new charity must be watched carefully. According to Jasser, the World Zakat Fund, established in part by the Malaysian government, may be

"nothing more than a ruse to give transnational Islamist movements and their controlling Muslim theocrats an economic power base."

The new fund, the first of its kind, will collect donations from the 2.5 percent "zakat" set aside under Shar'iah law by observant Muslims who have the wherewithal to save money. With an estimated 40,000 high-net-worth Muslims in the Middle East alone, including 400 billionaires, it is expected that nearly a billion dollars could be raised by the end of its first year, and as much as \$10 billion within the first decade.

Jasser told INN that he believes the fund would simply serve to consolidate financial power "in vast orders of magnitude" and then hand it over to the member nations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Giving OIC nations the collective ability to determine the distribution of "Muslim charity," he said, is "the epitome of giving the 'fox the keys to the henhouse.'"

A list of the controlling members of the fund's Shar'iah finance board include Dr. Ali al-Quradaghi, Yusuf Qaradawi, Syria's Abdul Sattar Abu Guddah, Abdul-aziz Fawzan Saleh Al-Fawzan - all seriously implicated in Islamic radicalism and extremism. **"I cannot imagine how individuals as radical as this are going to distribute billions in funds in a 'benign' method globally," Jasser said pointedly.**

www.israelnationalnews.com/SendMail.aspx?print=print&type=0&item=133707] Vol 13 No 2

Fanatical Moslems, Normal Moslems and the rest of us

There is an interesting article almost going viral on the internet on the world wide epidemics of Islamic fanaticism. It was generally attributed to Dr Emanuel Tanay, a well-known and well-respected German-Jew psychiatrist (see his interviews at

<http://holocaust.umd.umich.edu/tanay/>). Although the Truth or Fiction site seems to have some formal grouse with it, the perspective shared by the author provides a very useful insight into the situation in Nigeria at the present time. Just replace “Nazi” with “Boko Haram” and “German” with “Moslems” and see the striking similarity!

The writer also repeated his analogy about Germany with historic events from other countries like Communist Russia, China, Japan and Rwanda, Serbs, Afghans, etc, including Nigeria! The full article can be found at bibleprobe.com/Emanuel-Tanay.pdf.

Here is part of the introduction:

“When asked how many German people were true Nazis, the answer he gave can guide our attitude toward fanaticism. 'Very few people were true Nazis,' he said, 'but many enjoyed the return of German pride, and many more were too busy to care. I was one of those who just thought the Nazis were a bunch of fools. So, the majority just sat back and let it all happen. Then, before we knew it, they owned us, and we had lost control, and the end of the world had come. My family lost everything. I ended up in a concentration camp and the Allies destroyed my factories. “ **Vol 14 No 2**

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CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR: Antichristian Moves

Islam challenges Christian proselytization

Comet Nov 22 reported: “Eager to stem the rate at which the Christian community in the Ifako/Ijaiye area of Lagos State was winning over their members as converts, the Moslem community recently turned the first sod of a N100 million Islamic secretariat complex where it hopes to disseminate information about the religion. **Vol 4 No 1**

Boost for Interfaithism: Christmas/Sallah Days coincide

In another apparent “divine approval” for Interfaithism, the Moslem’s Id-el-Fitri festival marking the conclusion of the Ramadan, a major pillar in Islam, coincided in the last year of the last millenium with the Christian’s traditional day for Christmas, December 25. Proponents of Interfaithism could hardly miss such an opportunity to make their points. The Catholic Bishop in Jos visited his Moslem counterpart, declaring that they are worshipping the same God. According to reports from Osun Radio, masquerades were major part of the Christmas celebrations in Nsukka, Enugu state this year! **Vol 4 No 1**

Mandatory Islam studies course in California Public Schools

7th graders (SS1 students) in a school district in California, USA are being required to take a COMPULSORY Islam studies course. In the course, children are encouraged to pray in the name of Allah, dress in Islamic garb, and describe what kind of Jihad they want to be involved in. This development (part of the larger inter-faith agenda) shows the seriousness of Islam to enforce its influence upon society, anywhere it gets the opportunity. In countries such as Nigeria, Islam foists its agenda via militancy and appeal to chaos, whereas in developed countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States, it appeals equally effectively to the Rule of Law to achieve the same end. To read more about this controversy in the US, go to: <http://www.aclj.org/resources/studrts/islam/letter.asp> Vol. 5 No.

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Islamic Militants Declare War on College in South-West Nigeria

About 1000 riotous people, claiming to be members of the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria in the Ondo Area descended upon the Adeyemi College of Education on Oct. 11, and paralyzed activities from 6.00am to about 12 noon. The group forced their way into several sensitive locations on the Campus, and dispossessed the security men around of a gun and communication gadgets – reportedly at gun point.

Breaking into the home of the Provost, they compelled him to sign an undertaking to re-instate within 2 weeks some 5 students (3 female and 2 male) who had been dismissed by College authorities for their insistence on going-around fully veiled, in the spirit of Sharia College authorities had argued that not only will this manner of dressing

compromise security on Campus, but is inappropriate for teachers-in-training.. Imams and other Islamic authorities in the city who tried to mediate were labeled by the intransigent students as “false Moslems”. Organized in so-called ‘Platoons’ and shouting *Allahu Akbar*, the Moslem mob made little efforts to hide the fact that they were Al Qaeda ‘wannabes’. In a letter titled “Aftermath of October 11” and widely distributed in the College at the end of the 2 weeks, the group is threatening to do to the College “ exactly what bin Laden did with the United States”. **Vol. 5 No. 6**

Terrorists plan an Islamic State in Asia

The Singapore government on Sept 19 announced that the terrorists they had arrested a month earlier were planning to cripple Singapore’s military and other crucial targets as part of a plan to overthrow neighbouring Malaysian government and creating an Islamic state there. “The attacks on key Singapore installations would be portrayed as acts of aggression by the Malaysian government and thereby generating animosity and distrust between Malaysia and Singapore”. In the ensuing ethnic strife, the ultimate goal is the creation of an Islamic state covering Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei.

Most of the 21 people arrested were members of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) the group under the regional leader, Hambali, believed to be responsible for the later bombing at Bali on October 24 (Punch Sept 20, pg 13). **Vol 5 No 6**

Moslem Students Society (MSS) on rampage again in SW Nigeria

We recently reported the violence meted out by implacable members of the MSS at the Adeyemi College of Education Ondo, on the issue

of use of veil by female Moslem students (Vol 5 no 6). This is obviously a major issue on the current agenda of the Society as members have again recently unleashed mayhem in SW Nigeria, based on the same issue. The battle ground this time was Ibadan, the capital city of Oyo state. In the first wave of attack, several schools were disrupted and members of staff (including the Principals were stoned) for resisting the attempts to coerce students to accept the veils brought in by the invading Jihadists. According to a report in the Guardian (Feb 20, pg 3), two students at St Louis Girls Grammar School and Oba Akinyele Secondary School fainted while others sustained bruises during the melee. The government merely responded by closing down schools for a week. Immediately schools were re-opened, a repeat incident occurred, this time involving more violence and direct assaults on students and school heads. This has prompted the Nigerian Union of Teachers to direct that all teachers in both public primary and secondary schools in the state should stay at home “until the state government demonstrates greater seriousness and capacity to restore secular peace in the school system”. (Guardian Feb 27, pg 3). Recall that Oyo state is where the romance with Sharia is most noticeable in South West Nigeria. Currently civil Sharia is being practiced via “private initiatives” while the governor himself has been installed as a chief Islamic chieftain for the State. **Vol. 6 No. 2**

NASFAT youth reacts to alleged plans to sabotage Christian Organizations

It is now common knowledge that supposed confidential letter on NASFAT Youth stationery became public in the past two months. In the letter, the Youth chapter of NASFAT, arguably the leading Islamic group in Nigeria, solicited for funds to use in disrupting the activities of some Christian groups (e.g. by causing chaotic traffic situations);

win back Moslems who had been converted to Christianity and also cast some sort of Islamic spell on foods consumed by Christians at some popular Christian gatherings such that they would be discouraged from attending such activities in future.

President Abdul-Rahman of NASFAT Youth has strongly dissociated his group from the letter. Maintaining that the letter emerged from “a group of faceless, mischievous and terrible individuals”, he described the letter as a “deliberate attempt to blackmail the leadership of NASFAT” (Punch; March 17, page 10). Blackmail? Could this be some factional problem among Islamic youths then? In any case, Church Arise! is rather surprised at the amount of interest generated by the letter among Christians. We certainly don’t need any written document (genuine or otherwise) to remind us that Christians are regularly and consistently under both physical and spiritual attacks and all sorts of spells. Ephesians 6:10ff makes this expressly clear! More than any time ever, this perilous end time period is time to Watch and Pray. **Vol 6 No 3**

Islamist countries continue to blast Christian minorities

At least 12 people were killed and over 38 others wounded when a series of “coordinated explosions” rocked 5 Churches across Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul on Sunday August 1 in the first attacks targeting the country’s Christian minority (Guardian Aug 2, pg 11). Meanwhile, an appeal court has upheld the acquittal of 92 villagers charged with the murder of 21 Christians and one Muslim in the southern Egyptian village of al-Kosheh on January 2, 2000. Coptic Orthodox Bishop Marcos who investigated the tragedy on behalf of his Church lamented "We are all certain these people did not commit suicide, but were brutally killed" (Details in Christianity Today, Bad Cops, Sept, 2004).

The good news to all this is that the Church has refused to be cowed or intimidated. For example, in August, the Christian School in Murree, Pakistan where 6 workers were gruesomely murdered two years ago, re-opened to continue its business of educating children of Christian missionaries - as it has been doing for nearly half a century. Speaking at the re-opening ceremony, Luke Cutherell, the chairman of the school's directors declared: "That we, as an educational institution, will carry on, is an indication that we have not been overcome by evil" (AP, Aug. 26, 2004) **Vol 7 No 5**

Worship and Die! Christian Fellowship banned at Federal Medical Centre, Keffi

In the last edition, we reported how a Bonkke Gospel Crusade at Ilorin was abruptly terminated on the instructions of the Kwara State government following threats by Islamic agents. It was more or less the same scenario all over again at the Federal Medical Centre, Keffi, as a faceless group identifying itself as "Islamic Fundamentalists" wrote to the Fellowship of Christian Nurses (FCN) at this Federal Institution to immediately stop all its activities or face chilling death. In the letter, (which was copied to the Hospital's management), the Islamic Fundamentalists warned: "We are making it abundantly clear that our thirst for your heads/blood is mounting daily if you continue with your worship services in the hospital unabated."

The reaction of the Hospital management was to issue a letter suspending Christian religious activities at the Centre. End of the matter! Or is it?

Lamenting this summary withdrawal of their constitutional right to faith, secretary of the local chapter of the FCN, Christiana Shiaki revealed that while the FCN's request for land to build a chapel for health workers and patients has been ignored for the past 5 years, two

mosques have been built in the hospital, using public funds. It will be recalled that at a similar Federal Medical Centre, (Azare, Bauchi state) all staff including Christian nurses were required to come to work only in Sharia garbs. See below for latest development on that issue. **Vol 7 No 6**

'Talibans' invade Christian towns in Borno

More than a dozen Christians were killed and seven kidnapped when members of a militant Islamic sect recently raided towns in Borno State, North East Nigeria. Members of Al Sunna Wal Jamma, a group also known as the Taliban, are reported to have carried out the raids on the towns of Bama and Gwoza on September 20. According to news agency Compass Direct, the group went on to attack Christian communities, killing, raping and burning down homes. A police spokesman confirmed that 14 bodies had been recovered from areas targeted by the raids, but that there may be many more victims. Enquiries into the whereabouts of the kidnapped Christians are ongoing. (Compass News, 28/09/04) **Vol 7 No 6**

Netherlands braces for 'jihad'

Perhaps the most “tolerant” country on earth, Netherlands now has to face the sore reality that radical Islam is trying to take over the country. But the government has vowed to fight back and contain the threats from the “jihadists”. The first undeniable salvo from Islamic fundamentalists was the gruesome murder of a popular film maker, Theo van Gogh who was fatally shot and stabbed on Tuesday 2nd November, while cycling down an Amsterdam street. Attached to his body was a death threat addressed to a Dutch MP Miss Hirsi Ali an ex-moslem who scripted Mr Gogh’s latest film, “Submission” - a film criticizing the treatment of women under Islam. Following the

development, government has compelled political leaders to employ bodyguards. Also an emergency law which will enable authorities to revoke the Dutch nationality of dual citizens suspected of terrorist activity so that they can be deported is also being considered.

Deputy Prime Minister Gerrit Zalm agreed with comments by other politicians who called Mr. van Gogh's slaying a declaration of Islamic jihad, or "holy war" he confessed that "the increase in radicalization is worse than we had thought."

(www.washtimes.com/world/20041105-111203-2756r.htm) **Vol. 7**
No. 6

Islamic Leaders threaten Jihad, right inside Aso Rock

"At a joint meeting of leaders of Ja' amatu Nasril Islam, the Council of Ulama and Northern traditional rulers in Kaduna on [28th March], they threatened to disrupt the peace if more Moslems were not appointed into sensitive positions in the armed forces and if government failed to correct the alleged religious lopsidedness in the representation at the National Political Reform Conference" reports the Punch on April 2 (page 12). The meeting which reportedly had Governor Ahmed Sanni Yerima of Zamfara state in attendance, gave the FG 7 days to make the redress failing which it would declare a Jihad against it. As a follow-up to the meeting, a delegate was further sent to Aso Rock to deliver the same threat to the President in person! Thankfully, fellow Moslem and Northerner, former governor of Kaduna State, Col Abubakar Umar was one of the first people to condemn the Jihad threat. He pointed out that President Obasanjo had earlier acceded to the Moslem's demand of an Islamic co-secretary for the Confab, whereas a state, like Borno with "a substantial Christian population, nominated only Moslems to the talkshop". In its own reaction, through a paid advert (Punch, April

19, pg 13), the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) noted that “when Moslems declare jihad, as a norm, the lives of Christians and their properties become the immediate visible and direct targets”. The statement further pointed out that the machination and damages are usually caused by the same well-known clique who apparently has misconstrued Christians’ “resolve for peaceful co-existence to mean an unconscious state of mind to our right to life, the preservation and defense of that life”. The statement, signed by PFN national president, Pastor Ayo Oritsajefor, therefore urged “every Christian to prepare to resist any aggression on their persons, lives and properties, anywhere in Nigeria”. For a change, the FG also immediately put all security units in the country on alert. And so, weeks after the threat, the wanna-be jihadists seem, at least for now, to have beaten a hasty retreat. Only the Lord can say how many lives have been saved from destruction by words and deeds released in due season. **Vol 8 No 3**

In Kano, Christians to Wear Islamic Dress

If Malam Ibrahim Shekarau has his way, Christians in Kano state will soon have to adopt Islamic way of dressing. On May 16 at a Muslim forum in the city of Kano, Governor Shekarau took his pet *Adaidata Sahu* project to new shocking level when he ordered that all Christians in the state must dress in accordance with Islamic tenets. The order was sent to Christian churches and institutions in the state. Shekarau said, “*All Christians in Kano are henceforth prohibited from dressing the way they like. Their dressing must reflect the culture and religion of Islam.*”

According to the governor, the implementation of the dress code will start in schools across the state immediately and then be extended to everyone. Some of the schools have already enforced the Islamic dress

code. (ThisDay, June 25, cited by
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200506270149.html>;
www.groupsrv.com/religion/post-900326.html) Vol 8 No 4

Islamic Indoctrination in US Public Schools

While it remained an offense punishable by death to share the gospel in some Moslem countries, not only are tenets and principles of Islam being taught in US schools, impressionable 12-year olds are actually being compelled to practice them. The new teaching method called "Islam simulation" which is being implemented at the Excelsior Elementary School in Byron, California, requires students to be placed into Islamic city groups, and for three weeks they are to take Islamic names; wear identification tags that displayed their new Islamic name and the star and crescent moon; read materials that instructs them to 'Remember Allah always so that you may prosper'; complete the Islamic Five Pillars of Faith, including fasting; and memorize and recite the 'Bismillah' or 'In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate,' which students also write on banners hung on the classroom walls. Students also played "jihad games" during the course, which was part of the school's world history and geography program.

In December 2003, a federal district court judge in San Francisco had determined that this method of teaching about the Islamic religion by the school district had not violated the constitution. Challenging this decision at the Appeal Court (October 19, 2005) Christians warn that if the decision by the lower court is upheld, they too may have to adopt a similar approach in teaching Christian knowledge in the public schools.

www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=46916

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British Airline bans Bibles to avoid offending Muslims

The British, a British airline, has banned its staff from taking (personal) Bibles and wearing crucifixes or St. Christopher medals on flights to Saudi Arabia to avoid offending the country's Muslims. Yes, we must all learn to tolerate the intolerance of Islam! The airline has also told female flight attendants they must walk two paces behind male colleagues and cover themselves from head to foot in a headscarf and robe known as an abaya. Airline officials, explain that the Islamic kingdom's strict laws - enforced by religious police - prohibit public practice of Christianity and figures of animals. Employees who want to opt out of such flights have the option of transferring from overseas to domestic flights, with an attendant loss of about \$30,000 a year in wages. (www.worldnetdaily.com, Jan. 9, quoting the Mirror newspaper of London) **Vol 9 No 1**

Anti-Cartoon Carnage in Maiduguri, Nigeria

True to pattern, the violent Islamic protests against the portrayal of Islamic prophet Mohammed in cartoon/caricature, took a different dimension when it got to Nigeria. At the end of the day, the largest number of casualty arising from these violent near global protests was recorded in Nigeria. Victims: Christians, most of who can't locate Denmark on the map. In the North East city of Maiduguri alone, local Christian leaders who spoke to Compass Direct, recalled 31 churches that were burnt and at least 50 believers who were murdered - mainly beaten to death or in some cases roasted alive on the streets, all within 2 hours on Saturday February 18. <http://www.christianpost.com/article/africa/507/section/cartoon-protestors.burn.15.churches.in.deadly.nigeria.muslim-christian.clash/1.htm>

There were cases of whole families roasted in their homes, while some, including at least a catholic priest, were burnt to death right in their churches. All these in addition to an economic destruction in the tune of several millions as, according to a Reuters report, some 200 shops, 50 houses and 100 vehicles were torched or vandalised.

Unlike some other northern cities notorious for radical Islam, persecution of the Church in Maiduguri (with roughly equal proportion of Christians and Moslems) had been limited mostly to refusal of land for Church buildings, denial of promotion to Christians in the public service, etc - until now. Even native Moslems in the city were shocked and quickly adduced the violence to the “trailer loads” of youths being imported to the city every day from other parts of the North - to be put under the custody of extremist non-native Islamic mallams. An official of the state government noted the “military precision” with which the 2 hour carnage was implemented, and ruled out natural spontaneity of these gruesome murders. (www.vanguardngr.com/articles/2002/cover/february06/260022006/f226022006.html).

As has become the routine however, “a high-power” jaw-jaw committee, without any power to punish the perpetrators or indemnify the victims, has been set up to help douse tension till the event is again consigned somewhere in history.

The toll of cartoon-related killings in other cities in Northern Nigeria included 7 deaths reported by the Red Cross in Katsina state; and 18 dead and over 60 injured in Bauchi. To worsen an already bad situation, the killings soon assumed an ethnic dimension as Igbos, mainly in the South East Catholic city of Onitsha started retaliatory killing of northerners in their midst. At least 35 local Hausa Muslims were killed before the military was quickly brought in. www.assistnews.net/Stories/s06020095.htm Vol 9 No 2

Islamic Anti-Christian Pogroms In other places

Pakistan was another place where the anti-cartoons pogrom was pronounced. Apart from the several thousands of demonstrators who plundered Christian properties and buildings, some 50 mostly opposition members of the National Assembly staged their own protest march. Amidst shouts of “Allah-o-Akbar - we are ready to sacrifice our lives for Prophet Muhammad!” the legislators trooped from Parliament House to the Foreign Office. The hypocrisy of it all was typified by one of the Muslim demonstrators who was arrested for burning pages of the Quran, with a view to framing his Christian father-in-law (with whom he had a property dispute) with the ‘crime’. That same day, Sunday 19 February, in the southern province of Sindh, two churches, a convent school, as well as the residence of Pastor Ilyas Saeed Masih, were burnt by a mob of some 500 Muslims. The Islamic faithfuls were, quite indignantly, protesting a rumour that a Quran had been desecrated. Thus, the *rumour* of the ‘desecration’ of one holy book is enough justification to destroy not just other holy books of other religions, but the sanctuaries hosting those books, as well as the people of those books and their properties. Extremely bizarre logic! **VOL 9 NO 2**

Also in the Phillipines

In a slightly different version to what happened in 1999 to some Christian girls at Columbine High School, Littleton, Colorado, US (they were shot dead when they affirmed on demand, their faith in God, See CA! Vol 2 No 3, http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=48916); three Islam-inspired gunmen went round homes in a neighbourhood in the Phillipines, asking whether the residents

believed in Christ Jesus. Those who responded in the affirmative were shot down dead on the doorsteps. At least 6 people were martyred in this fashion. <http://www.mnnonline.org/article/8280>
Vol 9 No 2

A Local Example: It is worthwhile to reflect on why in most countries of the world; Islam's angst at "crimes" perpetrated by the non-Christian world is always directed at Christianity. In Nigeria, the 'Miss World' killings of 2002 and the current anti-cartoon carnage are but glaring examples. But rather than casually explain this off as an Islamic naïve equation of westernization with Christianity, we think there is a deeper spiritual underpinning. It has to do with the desire to inflict maximum damage to the cause of Christ at the slightest opportunity.

Consider a local example from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife where, at the time of this writing, some Moslem students, 'spontaneously' chose the weekend that noted national Christian teacher, Gbile Akanni, was to minister at the Campus, to protest the showing of pornographic videos at one of the Halls of residence - which showings, unfortunately, were by no means a new development. The resulting intense violence was to lead to a hurried closure of the University and a concomitant cancellation of what promised to have been a highly edifying Christian event (see details at <http://odili.net/news/source/2006/mar/13/410.html>). The previous programme by the Campus Christian Mobilization committee had similarly been seriously marred as the University unexpectedly decided to prolong an official function thus making the venue unavailable. The next in the series of meetings is the regular May meeting with Pastor E.A. Adeboye. This one will hold! **Vol 9 No 2**

Dutse, Nigeria: Cathedral and churches burned by angry Muslim mobs

Christians have again come under attack by mobs of angry Muslims in Northern Nigeria. At Dutse, the capital city of Jigawa state, several people were maimed and property destroyed following an allegation that the comments of a Christian woman on the on-going Pope-Muslim imbroglio, was insulting to Muhammad. The rioting started on September 19, two days after the said comments.

According to Barnabas Fund, “St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral was burnt to the ground and the Bishop's office destroyed.” About 10 other churches (representing two-thirds of all local churches) as well as shops, vehicles and homes belonging to Christians were also set ablaze.

www.barnabasfund.org/archivenews/article.php?ID_news_items=225 The local Daily Trust newspaper further reported “thousands of people” taking refuge at the police headquarters. The state governor himself was attacked, and one of his security attaché, Mr Sunday, received some machet cuts inside the mosque where he had accompanied the governor. The Daily Trust reported six people receiving treatment at one of the hospitals visited, “one of them in a critical condition with no medical facility to cater for his injuries.”

Vol. 9 No. 5

TBN cancels another “Islam-critical” programme

Officials of [Zola Levitt Ministries](http://www.zola-levitt.com) have announced in the September issue of the Levitt Letter, that the Trinity Broadcasting Network, TBN, has cancelled the popular long-running, issue-oriented, “Zola Levitt Presents” weekly program because the Network was “modifying its programming to be suitable for broadcast in Arab

nations". This will be the second major jihad-critical prophetic programme that the TBN will be discontinuing in recent times; and it clearly is a sign of the imminent conclusion of the One World Religion agenda of the antichrist. (See CA! Vol 9 No 1 for news on the termination of Hal Lindsey's International Briefing on TBN in January).

While TBN cites what it claims to be a drop in the standard of the programme following the demise of Zola Levitt in April this year, ZLM insists that it is facing its own "Armageddon" only because it could not "appease" the network's programming directors. Thankfully however, the show, now anchored by Zola's son, Mark Levitt, will continue on the [Internet](#) and as well on hundreds of other networks, including [via the Sky Angel satellite television system](#). [For program details, type in 'Levitt' in search engine on [Sky Angel page](#)]. The networks are Angel Two, Guardian Television, Total Living Network and Liberty Channel. **Vol 9 No 5**

Saga of a Christian teacher in Keffi, Nigeria: Lost house, job on charge of blasphemy

Joshua Lai, a teacher at Government College in Keffi, Nasarawa state is on trial for blasphemy after he disciplined a Muslim student in June, reports Compass Direct News. Joshua, whose official residence at the school as well as his yet-to-be-completed personal house were vandalized is currently standing trial for being the cause of the acts of vandalism against him! Earlier, on June 12, Joshua had applied the standard corporal punishment to a Muslim student who had arrived very late to class. He was therefore surprised to be called to face a committee comprising of fellow teachers later in the afternoon, on the allegation that the Muslim student had accused him of blaspheming against the Islamic prophet whilst administering the

corporal punishment. The committee seemed satisfied with the denial by Joshua that he made such statement, cautioning him to be more careful in his handling of such Muslim students in future. Not so with the Muslim students however! They plotted to behead Joshua Lai, and he having escaped with his son following a tip-off, his residence and three others bore the brunt with the jihadists. Several Christian students and teachers were also attacked. Later, on Friday June 15, the Muslim students removed their belongings from the three school dormitories, and set the buildings, with the properties of Christian students, on fire. Homes of two other Christian teachers were again torched down by fire.

It was only then that the state governor, Adamu Muazu whose house is about 500 m away, decided to intervene. He asked that Joshua Lai, who had been arrested by the police at Abuja should be brought to him in his private house at Keffi. According to Joshua, Governor Adamu asked him, “So, you are the one who has caused this problem?” to which he replied, “No Sir”. **Joshua said the governor then turned to the police officers who had brought him, saying “Why did you bring him here in one piece? You can see he is saying ‘No’ to me”.** The governor then ordered him to be taken into prison custody in Lafia from where he was arraigned at the Magistrate Court 2 on June 20, the only accused for a riot in which he was the major victim!

Joshua was later released on bail after over a week in prison custody, but he is required, among other conditions, to report to the police in Abuja every two weeks. As at October 16 when Compas Direct News filed the report, he had received no salary, and the school has notified him not to return. Joshua Lai is not miffed however: “What has kept me going is the fact that I believe God has a purpose for allowing this to happen,” he said. “His comfort has been my strength.”

See more details at www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=news&lang=en&length=long&id=4594 Vol 9 No 6

NASSARAWA GOVERNMENT CONTINUES WAR AGAINST CHRISTIANITY

Last edition, we reported how Joshua Lai, a teacher in Government College, Keffi, was manhandled and summarily dismissed from service on the flimsy accusation of a Moslem student who had been punished for lateness to class. All with the full knowledge and even personal involvement of Gov Abdullahi Adamu (Muazu). Nassarawa state is again in the news, as according to an e-mail circulated by Lars Widerberg of Intercessors Network on 26th January, over 200 Islamists recently descended on Christians who were trying to rebuild a Reformed Church building in Lafia, the Nassarawa state capital. The Nongo u Kristu u ken Sudan hen Tiv (NKST) Church, burnt down two years ago, had been planted more than a century ago by missionaries of the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa under the auspices of the then-Sudan United Mission, headed by German missionary Dr. Karl Kunn. According to an eyewitness (cited by Compass sources), Rev. Jerry Modibo, chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Nasarawa state chapter: **"The Muslims were chanting, 'Death to Christians, death to infidels. This town is for Muslims, we don't want Christians here.'**" The Nasarawa state government's response to this outrageous attack was to officially ban the reconstruction of the Church - what a way to maintain peace! This ban has now included Angwan Tiv as another of the many areas of Lafia town where the government has officially forbidden the building of churches. According to Modibo, while the government uses state money to build mosques all over the place,

including on the premises of various government ministries and agencies, including of course the Governor's Lodge, State House of Assembly, etc; the efforts of Christian public servants to raise funds for a chapel within the confines of the office of the deputy governor, a Christian, were frustrated by an order by the governor stopping the building of the chapel! Two mosques have been built in the same premises by the state government.

Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se Vol 10 No 1

Kano compels all Students to put on Islamic Garb

Sharia forces are studiously but boldly attempting to put their stamp on every segment of life, particularly in the Northern states of Nigeria. Soon after the widely reported (but later renounced) pronouncements by the Sultan of Sokoto that Islam must make major moves to checkmate the perceived growing influence of evangelical Christianity in the North, the government of Kano state has ordered that every student in the public school system MUST put on Sharia - compliant clothing. Will this issue ever go away! In a swift reaction, the Northern States Christian Elders Forum (NOSCEF), representing the Christian community in the 19 Northern states of Nigeria, has issued a communiqué calling on the Kano state government to rescind the order “in the interest of peace and harmony in the Northern states.” Vol. 10 No. 4

Again Muslim riot claims 3 lives in Kano state, Nigeria.

For the third straight edition, it is our sad duty to once again report the cold blooded killing of our Christian brethren by so-called Islamic faithfuls in Northern Nigeria. After the mauling last October in which an indeterminable number of Christians (official figure of 9) were killed; with the response from the Christian Association of Nigeria

nothing more than some feeble whimpers channeled through its secretary; with government responding through the VP at a Church service with a promise to set up yet another committee, etc etc, we warned that the Islamic goons cannot miss the clear message that they are literally untouchable even in the face of crude hideous murder.

In this latest event, the AFP reports on Feb 9 that three people, including a police officer were killed by Muslim students, who were rioting over a Mohammed cartoon allegedly drawn by a Christian student.

The event occurred at Sumaila, 76 kilometres south of Kano city. This time around, the Muslim students were said to be protesting the resumption back to school of the Christian student who had earlier been suspended by school authorities for two weeks for the cartoon pasted on a wall inside the school.

www.thetimes.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=702348

Unlike the case of the young Christian evangelist who was forcibly retrieved from a police station and lynched in Izom, Niger State on June 28, 2006 (see Vol 9 No 4), the Police, at the divisional police station in Sumaila, successfully resisted the “hundreds of angry Muslim students” who demanded that the Christian student be released unto them for instant sharia justice.

Kano police chief Aminu Yesufu recounted the cost of the brave Police resistance: three people including a police inspector killed. Twenty others badly wounded (including the divisional police officer who suffered a deep machete cut to the head); while the police station itself and everything inside, including ammunition were burnt down by the “*Allahu Akbar*” chanting mob. A week earlier, on February 1, the Police had watched apparently helplessly as about 200 members of the private Sharia Police (Hisbah) took to the streets of Sabon Gari, the Christian area of Kano city, arresting scores of women

indiscriminately on the allegation that they were prostitutes. This is despite a Supreme Court ruling last year declaring the operations of the Hisbah as unconstitutional. Whither the Rule of the Law?

A day after this rampage in Kano, hell was again let loose in nearby Shira Yana (Bauchi State), when Islamic youths similarly demanded that the police hand over another Christian lady for Sharia-prescribed lynching. In that situation, after several rejections, a desperate love-seeking Moslem had appealed to the young Christian lady in question to speak to him “in the name of the Messenger”. When the Christian girl responded that she knew no “messenger,” that was sufficient ground for an Islamic mob to attack her house the next day, on blasphemy charge, prompting her running to the police station for safety. What happened at Sumaila is an indication of the herculean task the security agents had to confront. In self defence, the Police had to shoot into the mob, unfortunately fatally hitting one protester, before they could get them to disperse. However the Islamic crowd simply descended on private properties of policemen and Christians in town in an orgy of wild revenge! According to a report in Christianity Today, “Around 1000 people were displaced, several critically wounded, and every church reportedly destroyed” in the resulting

rampage.

(<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/churches.destroyed.in.wave.of.religious.violence.in.nigeria/16769.htm>)

Recall that at least 10 Christians were killed in Bauchi state 2 weeks to the end of last year (see vol 10 no 6)!

The real nauseating aspect to all these, is that Moslem’s zeal for their Prophet and Scriptures seems to be only a superficial, exaggerated affair. As we reported in Vol 10 No 4, when two influential rival moslem groups engaged in a duel in Sokoto on July 19 last year, the first items they seized and burnt were copies of the Koran, these

being the most treasured asset of their opponent! So for the umpteenth time we ask, how long will this continue? Until the law of the land is strictly applied there seems little respite in sight for our brethren living in Pergamos, “where the devil dwells”, literally! (see Rev 2:13) **Vol 11 No 1**

Somali Christian martyred

In Somalia, a 28-year-old Christian, who had converted from Islam and has been “described as extremely successful in evangelizing the community” has paid the ultimate price for his faith. Hussein was confronted by Islamic extremists who demanded to know if he faces Mecca when he prays, as required of Muslims. When he replied that his God is omnipresent and he can therefore face anywhere when praying, “the extremists were very much enraged.... and they killed him.”

www.onenewsnow.com/Persecution **Vol 11 No 4**

Saudi Arabia deports Christians for worshipping in their private homes

Fifteen Christians in Saudi Arabia who were accused by government officials of worshipping in their homes have been ordered deported. According to a report from [International](#) the Christians were scheduled for expulsion on Aug 5 “for their part in a home worship service in Taif”.

They were arrested at gun point, Gestapo-style, and ordered to hand over their resident permits and mobile phones. The worshippers initially faced accusations of preaching and singing, but the charges were later changed to holding a 'dance party' and collecting money to support terrorism". Details at

<http://wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=71498> Vol 11

No 4

Muslims burn down Church in Ilorin

Sunday August 31, members of the Christ Apostolic Church, Baboko area in Ilorin were confronted by militant elements from the Moslem community who barred them from entering their Church. In order to prevent any unnecessary breakdown of peace, the 300-strong congregation retired to a site on the outskirts of the city for their Sunday service. They returned only to find their 4-year old multi-million naira church building destroyed and gutted by fire in the hands of the Muslim militants.

The Islamic grouse was that the church building, at half a kilometre from the Baboko mosque, was cited too close to the Mosque and must therefore be relocated. This is despite the fact that the Church duly got and paid for the land and all necessary papers and approvals required by the state government before the mosque was built! What effrontery from a religion that would deafen whoever cares to listen, with pious statements about its unwavering commitment to peaceful co-existence with neighbours! Many will recall a not-too-different situation at the University of Ibadan several years ago, when Moslems demanded that a decades-old landmark Christian cross be relocated for being too close to their newly built mosque.

At Ilorin, the Moslems had initially taken their case to the government-established Inter-Religious committee, which on examining the case ruled against the Islamists' claim. However, under further Moslem pressure, the spineless panel reversed itself, asking the church to relocate. Although the Christian Association of Nigeria promptly appealed against this second ruling, the state government promptly "offered church leaders" 3 million naira and ordered the

congregation to relocate their building that had cost nearly 20 million naira to erect. Talk of adding salt to an injury!

It is probably the state government's position that emboldened the Islamists to rise up to enforce the relocation order by gutting down the Church building. Earlier on, on June 16, the Moslem faithfuls had paid a warning visit to the church on which occasion "they broke into the church sanctuary, destroying musical instruments, burning pews and pulling down part of a fence around the premises." They also wrote Islamic inscriptions on the Church gate - an action which had it been done to the Moslems could have been sufficient to justify a wave of indiscriminate arson and killing of Christians statewide. Please read the details of this story from Compass Direct at <http://www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=news&length=long&lang=en&idelement=5551>

As usual, Moslem leaders are keeping mum, under the usual explanation that they can't speak for the "extremists" who choose to take the law into their own hands. As for the state government, it has gone as far as causing a statement to be issued by the secretary to the state government condemning the action purportedly carried out by "agents of destabilization and enemies of peace.", and "warning" it would "not tolerate or harbour any evil-doer." You bet, that settles the whole matter. No arrests, no compensation... Even, no more discussions! **Vol 11 No 4**

MOSLEMS RESIST PRESENCE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS WORLDWIDE

It's not only in Nigeria (cf Ilorin, Jos) or Iraq that Moslems are openly frustrating the setting up of Christian churches. In fact, at the same time that the Jos Jihadists were perfecting their plans, a similar gory scene was already unfolding in Cairo.

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According to [AINA](#), 20,000 Muslims (that is twenty thousand!) gathered around a Coptic Orthodox Church of the Virgin Mary in West Ain Shms, Cairo, trapping inside one thousand Christians, who they attacked with stones and butane gas cylinders. The mob were chanting Jihad verses as well as slogans saying "we will demolish the church" and "We sacrifice our blood and souls, we sacrifice ourselves for you, Islam", while the entrapped Christians chanted "Lord have mercy". (www.aina.org/news/20081126035704.htm)

When the security forces tried to disperse the mob, they went to nearby homes and shops owned by Christians, armed with sticks, butane, knives and other sharp objects.

The Church building, located in a blue-collar region of Cairo, was originally a factory that was adapted into its present state. It took over five years to complete the rehabilitation and to secure the necessary permissions from the authorities to have the Church established. But the Christians did everything quite discreetly. Moslems however got wind of the (equally low-keyed) inauguration of the Church on November 26; whereupon they hastily arranged to take over the first floor of a newly-built building facing the Church, and started praying there. Voila!, just as it was reasoned in the Ilorin case (see CA vol 11 no 4), how could a Church co-exist with a Mosque in the same precinct? Hence the dastard attack demanding that the Church be demolished, a task they very well nearly accomplished on Nov 26. As usual, the news media are reporting the incidence as mutual intolerance and "sectarian strife" between Christians and Moslems! (www.jihadwatch.org/archives/023655.php)

After the incident, the factory building's doors have been chained shut, and the Coptic Church itself said that to avoid further trouble it will not seek to hold services there. A shocked Father Anthony (the Church's priest) wondered rhetorically: "Would they tear the factory

down if it was turned into a theater or a nightclub?" Following are Headlines of other similar acts of aggressions against Christians (occurring about the same time) elsewhere in the world:

Ethiopia Arrests Members of Underground Islamic Jihad Group as they plotted to carry out bomb attacks in the country (similar to the large-scale attacks on Christians in Ethiopia in 2006), www.persecution

"Muslims burn Christian church in Indonesia" In December, a group of 500 Muslims, mobilized by the local Indonesian Ulema Council, wreaked havoc and spread panic in Masohi, in the Moluccan Islands, during clashes with police and local Christians. As a result, 45 homes, a church and a village hall were set alight. The spark that set off the violence is an incident in which a teacher allegedly insulted Islam in front of some Muslim students. <http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/023881.php>

In India, the wanton killings of Christians in Orissa province by Hindus, which we reported previously, is only getting worse. Right now, Hindu extremist groups are offering money, food, kerosene, and alcohol to anyone who murders Christians and destroys their homes. According to Faiz Rahman, chairman of Good News India, "The going price to kill a pastor is \$250." <http://worldnetdaily.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view>

Similarly in communist China, (according to China Aid), from the end of September to early November 2008, more than 400 Christian college students attending house church gatherings were arrested and interrogated. Four of the house church leaders were sentenced to re-education through labor for one to one and half years. (ICC webpage on China).

In Eritrea, government has launched a fresh crackdown on Christians with reports that at least 110 evangelical believers were

arrested all over the country in late November. Those arrested were transported to a new military camp set up for detained Christians known as Mitire. An estimated 2000 believers are already in detention, many having been detained since 2002 without a fair trial. **Vol 11 No 6**

Church Planting Restriction: Russians stand up to the Saudis

For a country that forbids the building of non-Islamic houses of worship in its supposed holy land, hounding and throwing into jail Christians who worship even in their own homes; Saudi Arabia should get an award for sassy diplomacy as it has nevertheless managed to litter most cities of the world with mosques, pushing its Wahabist brand of Islam. The kingdom seems to be having problem in Russia however, as there are only four mosques for the estimated 2 million Muslims in Moscow. So the king boldly requested for permission from Russian authorities to build mosques ([Washington Times](#), December 3). Representatives of Orthodox public organizations have however written an open letter to the Saudi king demanding an Orthodox church in Saudi Arabia in return (INTERFAX). At least, some people are now thinking!

“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (Rev. 3:11) **Vol 11 No 6**

Homophobia and Islamophobia – two of a type

It is not only the gays that are seeking to gag the public (especially Christians) from discussing negative aspects of their lifestyle [they call that homophobia], a similar term, Islamaphobia does the same for Islam. Part of the amazing application of this phenomenon, in recent times, include the ruling in Malaysia where, according to [Asia News](#),

(Nov.25), "The interior security minister had prohibited the Herald from using the word 'Allah' in its articles, affirming that its use ' by non-Muslims could increase tension and create confusion among Muslims in the country'." Similarly, an Austrian member of parliament, Susanne Winter has lost her parliamentary immunity from prosecution on contributions made in the parliament. Her mortal offence was that she referred to a well-accepted historic fact that the founding prophet of Islam married one of his many wives, Aisha, "while she was six years old and consummated his marriage with her while she was nine years old". The apparently maverick politician likened the situation to child abuse. Meanwhile, the current President of the United Nations General Assembly, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann , speaking at an interfaith conference held at the UN headquarters, has advocated that the world body should criminalize defamation of all religions – with specific reference made to Islam. (www.dawn.com/2008/11/13/top10.htm) **Vol 11 No 6**

ISLAMIC KILLERS STRIKE AGAIN - AT BAUCHI

"We knew that it was a matter of time before the Islamic fundamentalists would strike". That was Jeremiah Shirnyi, an indigene of Benue state resident in Bauchi, voicing out what is common knowledge in Northern Nigeria. He was interviewed by the Guardian newspaper after he managed to escape Bauchi, back to Benue state after yet another series of religious killings. Yes, the ubiquitous, faceless, untouchable Islamic killers have been at work again.

This time, the murder spree was at Bauchi, adjacent to Jos (Plateau state) where the last mini-pogrom had taken place. In what has been described as a well-planned and coordinated operation, Moslem youths embarked on systematic killings and lootings of innocent Christians - at around 2.00a.m on Saturday February 21, and despite

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the imposition of a curfew and somewhat prompt deployment of security forces (long after the initial irreversible damages have been done), the killings managed to continue for some three days.

The excuse for the attacks this time is a clearly false accusation that Christians had participated in the burning of a mosque, being shared by two feuding Islamic factions. An Islamic leader in Bauchi told the Guardian that two factions of an Islamic sect (known as the Izala) had earlier agreed to be using the same Fantanmi mosque for the Friday worship in alternate turns. According to him, one faction agreed to begin its prayers at noon and end by 1.00 p.m. for the second group to take off. This pact was however breached by one of the leaders of the factions, who opted to use the whole day for prayers that fateful Friday.

Writing further, based on the story of the same Islamic cleric, the highly respected Guardian newspaper (confirmed by other national dailies) wrote that the protracted argument and the subsequent congestion of two groups converging on the inadequate Mosque space for prayer, compelled some of them to park their cars at a nearby church premises. The “audacity” of the Christians at this COCIN Church to challenge Moslems from taking over their premises as “parking lot” was then the identified direct cause of the event that resulted in the loss of several innocent lives - even according to government’s official record. An initial attack on the COCIN church which left many badly bruised and wounded on Friday evening was quickly contained by security forces. However, the Fantanmi mosque at the centre of this dispute felt the arsonist flame later that evening, and like the situation in Nero’s time, words went round that the audacious Christians must have been responsible. So, at 2.00a.m, in the middle of the night, Christian homes, businesses, and Churches

began to receive the tactically deployed rampaging Islamic killer-mobs!

It was evident that planning for the riot had been in the works for a while; and many people blamed the state security apparatus for not being proactive enough. Indeed many commentators have expressed the belief that the incident was planned to avenge the losses suffered by the Islamic killers during the Jos crisis, further confirming the well-known fact that the main squad of Islamic killers at the Jos mayhem were mercenaries from Bauchi.

In all probability, this case will soon go the way of the dozens before it - the victims would be asked to count their losses and take heart, while business will return to usual ... till, quite unfortunately, the next incident. However at least, one thing seems to be changing. The Christian Association of Nigeria (well, a few officials really, not a full-house meeting) seems to be finding its voice to speak frankly to government (again, if only on the pages of the newspapers!) and make demands as free citizens.

Addressing journalists in Abuja, CAN General Secretary, Samuel Salifu, decried the silence of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and his deputy, Goodluck Jonathan, over the conflict. He was quoted as saying: "I can't remember at any time the President said anything about the crisis. The perception of CAN is that maybe they are weak to address this ugly incidence unlike what is obtainable in other countries where the government will go publicly to address the people over such matters. Further talking bold, the CAN spokesperson said: "Lives of Nigerians cannot continually be sacrificed on the altar of their weakness because they campaigned to get the election from the same people. Any President or government that cannot guarantee the protection of the people is not worthy to govern them". The Association then said it would soon be promoting

in the National Assembly a bill pressing for Nigerians from 21 years to legally obtain weapons for defence against violent attack by miscreants.

At the state level, CAN chairman Bishop Musa Tula accused the state government and security agencies of not taking adequate measures to protect Christians and their property. Apparently governor Isa Yuguda could not spare the time to visit the Christians languishing in refugee camps in army barracks, but managed to get them food and water on Day 4. According to Bishop Tula, "To our greatest dismay, the governor left for Borno for the burial of the Emir of Borno when his state was in turmoil, which clearly shows his non-interest in the plight of the Christian community in the state".

Also seemingly finding its voice, for the first time, is the so-called majority moderate Muslim ummah. According to the Guardian, a group called the Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC) has condemned the mayhem and called on the government to investigate the cause and prosecute perpetrators. According to the Director of Media and Communications for MPAC, Disu Kamor, "The perpetrators of these merciless crimes must be swiftly brought to book and they must not be allowed to justify their irrational actions by unjustly using religion as a weapon in their political belligerence." www.ngrguardiannews.com/news/article04/indexn2.html?update=240209&ptitle=Volence%20escalates%20in%20Bauchi,%20CAN%20seeks%20emergency%20rule Vol 12 No 2

British publisher scraps Christian encyclopedia for "negative" portrayal of Islam

The saga of the multi-volume "Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization", which scheduled publication was cancelled after a two-year intensive literary effort, is pushing "political correctness" to the

realm of absurdity. Briefly, as recounted by MercatorNet (http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/reduced_to_pulp/), the eminent English academic publishing house, Wiley-Blackwell, in March 2006 commissioned George Thomas Kurian, an experienced encyclopedist of high repute, to produce a multi-volume "Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization." Two years later with the toil of almost 400 contributors, the task was successfully accomplished. Rave reviews were coming in and the publishers prepared for the grand launching.

The story however developed a "k-leg" when a group of four members (out of several editors, not to talk of the aforementioned 400 contributors) of the encyclopaedia editorial board came up with a litany of complaints, claiming that the encyclopedia's introduction portrayed Islam in a bad light. According to Mercatornet, they "demanded Kurian to modify his introduction "to remove the offence thrust at Islam and other religions and to moderate the tone of confrontation and polemic"". Encouraged by the shivers demonstrated by Wiley-Blackwell top notches, the aggrieved Islamists later came up with more demands, effectively denuding the supposed Christian encyclopedia of its Christian content. Entries such as "Antichrist," "Virgin Birth," "Resurrection" and "Uniqueness of Christ and Christianity" were requested for removal.

The long and short is that Wiley-Blackwell not only halted the production of the very well-received encyclopedia, it even made some attempt to claw back already distributed copies with a view to pulping them! Just because some Islamists were offended by the reality of "Christian Civilization" compiled into an encyclopedia.

Sociologist Alvin Schmidt, author of about 70 articles in the encyclopedia, says he has never before in his academic life "run into this kind of politically correct nonsense." Vol. 12 No. 3

Radical Muslims Razed Down Church Buildings In Zanzibar

Typifying on-going assaults by radical Islam on Christianity in several regions of the world, two church buildings were razed down on the night of Sunday June 28 on the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar after worship services, according to Compass Direct News (June 30).

Radical Muslims set the church buildings on fire on the outskirts of Unguja Township, on the island off the coast of East Africa. Earlier they had dropped a flier at the door of Charles Odilo, who had donated the plot on which the Evangelical Assemblies of God in Tanzania (EAGT) building stood. “We don’t want churches on our street,” read the flier. “Today we are going to burn the church, and if you continue we are going to burn your house also”.

www.jihadwatch.org/archives/026770.php Vol 12 No 4

Yet another carnage against Christians on the Jos Plateau

Nigeria, and the world at large, woke up on Sunday 7th March to learn of yet another carnage on the Jos Plateau. On that day, in a sordid operation that commenced about 1.30am and lasted 2 hours, about 600 villagers in the Christian village of Dogon Na Hauwa and two others nearby, were hacked down and butchered in cold blood by Fulani herdsmen, allegedly imported from neighbouring Bauchi state (read some details at <http://www.goodseedfellowship.org/>).

According to eyewitness accounts cited in a statement by the influential Christian Elders Consultative Forum, “The Hausa-Fulani Muslim militants came chanting ‘allahu akbar’ and broke into homes, cutting human beings including children and women with their knives and cutlasses.”

The statement, signed by the the National Coordinator of the group, Bishop Anderson Bok, and the Secretary General, Dr. Musa Pam, described the fresh attack as “yet another jihad and provocation” against Christians in the state.

Apart from the Christian Elders Forum, both the traditional ruler of Jos (Gbond Gwom Jos), Da Gyang Buba and the Executive Governor of the State, Jonah David Jang averred they got wind of the massacre ahead of time and had duly informed the Nigerian Army, who were supposed to be in charge of security and an on-going 12 hour curfew in place in the state, since the last mayhem at Jos earlier in January. According to newspaper reports, the army commander bluntly denied receiving any phone call from the governor, while another officer claimed he missed the route to the locations, hence arriving late at the crime scene!

However, eyewitnesses told Jonathan Racho of the International Christian concerns (ICC) that some security forces indeed arrived in time enough to witness the killings, but they refused to enter Dogon Na Hauwa. The only action taken by the security forces, according to the report, was to stop Christians who had come from neighbouring villages to come give assistance to the villages under attack. The soldiers allegedly cited the on-going curfew! (www.persecution) The state governor, a retired officer of the Nigerian Air Force himself, was barely able to check his emotions both at the frustrations from Federal agents and at the gory sight of charred bodies of innocent children and women that littered the ground.

In his reaction, the national president of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, urged Acting President Jonathan to prove to the 140 million Nigerians especially the Christian community that they have a stake in the nation just as their counterparts who have perfected the art of provoking them at will.

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Speaking with newsmen, Pastor Oritsejafor said: “I have just returned from a trip abroad. While I was away I was inundated with reports of another catastrophe in the Jigawa State capital where several churches were burnt and just as I was trying to settle down and collate reports from the field I am hearing of another on a Sunday morning.”

This latest killings occurred hours before the commencement of a Peace Meeting convened by Christian statesman and former Head of State General Yakubu Gowon, who is from the troubled Plateau state.

Weeks earlier, the Plateau state government had raised alarms about the setting free by Federal government agents, of militants arrested in the previous killings. The suspects with their case files would simply be transferred to Abuja (the federal capital), and that was the end of the matter!

Speaking to journalists in Jos, earlier on in the wake of the January killings, the Plateau State Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Edward Pwajok said efforts to ensure speedy and transparent prosecution of all those suspected to be masterminds of the crisis were being frustrated by federal agents. Mr Pwajok further lamented that “government was disturbed because it was the same scenario after the November 2008 crisis, when all the over 300 files that had been processed and based upon which remand orders were obtained in the courts, were taken to Force Headquarters, Abuja. And in spite of the repeated demands, no file was returned to Jos, thus leading to the release of all the suspects of the 2008 Jos unrest. Continuing, he said: “Again, all the 26 suspects arrested in the wake of the 2008 unrest on suspicion of being mercenaries were taken from Jos to Abuja and nothing has been heard from the police force Headquarters since last year,” (<http://allafrica.com/stories/201001260114.html>)

In the January 17th incident, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Gregory Anyating, had told journalists that 35 people were arrested, five in military uniform with arms. A statement by the Christian Elders described the January 17th attack.

“The attack coming in the wake of today, Sunday the 17th January 2010, after the normal Christian services in Churches is premeditated, wicked, deliberate and terrifying. Our fellow brothers and sisters were just coming out of churches in Nassarawa area of Jos when some Islamic youths pounced on them with cutlasses and other dangerous weapons. Shortly after the attack, we were made to believe that some Islamic fundamentalists were engaging themselves in some fracas after some disagreement, which spilled into churches leading to Christian casualties.

“Why must it be churches and Christians who will suffer from an all-Muslim affair? ... Why will Islamic fundamentalists engage themselves on a Sunday morning shortly after the service if the 'terror' act was not premeditated?”

The statement ominously warned: “While thanking the Plateau State government for its prompt reaction, which quickly restored peace to the city, we call on our Moslem brothers and sisters to see this as the last of such provocation on the Christians in the state. Enough is enough”.

It is apparently the “prompt reaction” of the state government that angered the Islamic fundamentalists who found out they could not have the field day of free killing they had hoped for. More than 367 suspects and mercenaries were arrested during the crisis (although none prosecuted, as a result of direct intervention by agents of the Federal Government).

Apparently, as many of the foreign press with their usual sympathy and shameless bias towards Islam have been trying to portray, the

March 7 incidents are “reprisal” acts for the January failure. For instance, in a report submitted by one Shuaibu Mohammed and written by Nick Tattersall, Reuters described the March massacre as “clashes between pastoralists and villagers!” What “clashes” when innocent folks (mainly women and children) are roused from their beds in the middle of the night by gunshots and burning roofs, to be hacked down with machetes as they stepped into the streets? According to ‘earwitnesses’, each stab of the long knife or hack by the matchete is followed by grunts of “allahu akbar”, which the murderers apparently used to steel themselves to the dastard act. Not a single one of the cold-blood murderers was killed - clashes indeed!

Whereas, it is on record that every act of violence to date on the Jos plateau had been first instigated by Islamic elements, the latest tactic of attacking sleeping villagers in Jos suburbs simply reflects the seeking of easy targets by these Haman-minded jihadists (see Esther 9:1-2) - as Christian youths in Jos had now taken their own security into their own hands following the abysmal failure of government security forces.

Describing the March 7 killings as “cowardly killing of innocent Christians” National Secretary of PFN, Pastor Wale Adefarasin said the incident was further evidence that terrorist attacks similar to September 11 and the failed Christmas Day bombing in the United States now thrived in Nigeria. “Nigerians demand that for the first time all the perpetrators of these shameless acts including those that have aided and abetted them must feel the full weight of the law.” he concluded. **Vol 13 No 1**

In Pakistan, Moslem Mob kills wife and children of newly-posted Christian Police officer

In a direct mirror of the story at Wukari, Taraba state of Nigeria, a police officer officially posted to a city with a Moslem majority in Pakistan was told he and his family could not stay in his rented apartment in a Moslem colony. His tardiness in responding to the quit order has cost him his wife and all four children!

The sad story began with the official transfer of Officer Jamshed Masih from Gujrat to a new posting 50 km away at Jhelum, Punjab Province. Upon arrival, he was summoned to the local mosque by a local muslim leader, Maulana Mahfoz Khan who ordered him to leave the Mustafa colony. “You must leave with your family, no non-Muslim has ever been allowed to live in this colony - we want to keep our colony safe from scum”.

Masih consulted with a local Pastor who advised he must indeed vacate his residence. But while preparing to do so, the fateful day Monday, June 21 came. Compass Direct has the details:

“Masih’s neighbour, Murtaza, told Compass that after Masih went to work at 7a.m. on June 21, his children could be heard singing hymns before breakfast.

“Razia [Masih’s wife] sent their eldest son to buy a packet of Surf [detergent], and he was singing a hymn on his way to buy the Surf,” Murtaza said.

Neighbours saw Masih’s 11-year-old son come into the store. The shopkeeper asked him if he was a Christian; the child responded that he was.

The shopkeeper refused to give him the packet of Surf and spoke very harshly to him, “I don’t sell to any non-Muslim, you are not welcome here, don’t you dare ever come to my shop again”. Murtaza said.

The boy went home, upset, and told his mother about the encounter; she grew worried and called her husband, saying, “Jamshed, please

come home quickly, the kids and I are very worried, we must leave this house today,” Masih said.

His neighbour, Murtaza, said that shortly afterward some area residents came to the door with the Muslim religious leader, Khan.

“Your son has committed blasphemy against Muhammad, our beloved prophet - we can’t allow him to live, he should be punished”. Khan told Razia Masih, Murtaza said. “Razia got scared and said, ‘My son couldn’t do such a thing, he is only 11 years old.’”

Khan became furious and said, “Are we lying to you? You call us liars, how dare you insult us,” Murtaza said. “Someone from the crowd hit something hard on her head, and she started bleeding. The children started crying and shouted for help. Razia kept shouting for help, ‘Please have mercy on us, please let my husband come, then we can talk.’”

Jamshed Masih said his daughter telephoned police as the mob attacked his wife and children. He said he later learned that “the people kept shouting, ‘This family has committed blasphemy, they should be killed.’” Before police arrived, his family was murdered, he said.”

When Masih tried to file a complaint against Khan for the murder, Station House Officer (SHO) Ramzan Mumtaz refused to cooperate with him. The SHO later confirmed to Compass that he had answered Masih exactly in this manner: ‘Khan is an influential man, and he said your son has committed blasphemy - we cannot do anything against him... I am a poor man, I have a family, and I was pressured by higher authorities not to register the FIR [First Information Report] as Khan is a very influential man. I am sorry; I don’t have anything in my hands.’”

[Compass Direct News
\(www.Christianpost.com/article/20100708/muslim-mob-kills-wife-children-of-Christian\)](http://www.Christianpost.com/article/20100708/muslim-mob-kills-wife-children-of-Christian) Vol 13 No 3

Islamic war against Christian evangelism - 10 killed in Afghanistan

On Thursday August 5, Taliban militants in Afghanistan brutally terminated the lives of 10 aid workers on a Christian medical mission. Knowing the particularly sensitive nature of their Afghanistan field, these medical missionaries operating under the International Assistance Mission (IAM) are known to exercise extra-stringent caution to steer clear of proselytization. According to IAM director, Dirk Frans, they don't even carry Bibles in Afghan languages.

Though gagged from speaking the gospel to the individuals they meet on the field, the sheer lifestyle of these types of missionaries, together with the unquestionable love that motivates them to the remote fields clearly bear eloquent witness of the gospel loud and clear to the entire watching world. Apparently, this is too much for radical Islam to quietly bear!

However, there is no wisdom or counsel against the LORD, and whatever step the enemies of the Church takes against Her is bound to backfire. As clearly demonstrated over the ages, the blood of the martyrs is indeed the seed of the Church.

It is an instructive sign of the times that in the wake of the callous cold-blooded murder of these fine Christian ladies and gentlemen, the issue in most of the news coverage has been on whether the IAM does or does not engage in clandestine soul winning. Rather than put Islam and its Scriptures to task for these heartless and barbaric acts done in the name of God! Ed Stetzer articulated this concern when he wrote on August 9 “Media keeps saying medical workers weren't proselytizing. OK, but is [it] OK to murder if they were?” (<http://twitter.com/edstetzer>)

In short, the whole world is gradually concluding that evangelism is indeed a most reprehensible vocation! This trend will only worsen in the days ahead, as the Lord clearly teaches in Mathew 24ff. (For more about the IAM and this story, visit www.iam-afghanistan.org/) Vol. 13 No. 4

Amazing: Police Officer Insists on Constructing Mosque inside Police Station in Taraba State

It's incredible what level people bent on fostering chaos in society could go to in order to actualize their satanic agenda. How can a public officer who was recently transferred on a new posting insist against all entreaties on building a mosque within the office complex! (What else will such a man not do, then, to the men under his command?) Not to mention that the location happens to be one of the states in northern Nigeria with majority Christian population. It's just like the situation in Jos (Plateau state), another of such few states. One can imagine the outcome should every public officer decide to follow this example at each of their new postings!

It should be obvious enough that the police officer, Mr Mohammed Mustapher (an Area Commander), must have received strong assurances and backings from certain quarters, else it would have been a totally insane and unconceivable action. Jihadists are ever hell-bent on reversing the balance of power wherever it is not in their favour.

Not unexpectedly, the foreign Islam-leaning press was quick to come out with blazing headlines about Christians attacking mosques – rather than the real situation that the attempt to build a mosque at a police station was forcibly stopped when all entreaties had been rebuffed by a stubborn officer with obvious religious cum political agenda.

At the commissioning of CA!, 9 years ago, Bishop Francis Wale Oke recalled his poser to then Gov Bafarawa of Sokoto State, who was insisting that Church buildings erected without government approvals must be bulldozed: “Your excellency, where are the papers for all those mosques attached to practically every mansion, petrol station, etc in this state?” (*we paraphrase!*)

Thank God the conflagration they might have hoped for in Wukari, Taraba State did not quite occur – 8 dead and about 40 seriously wounded is tragic and horrible, but still a child play compared with the situation on the Jos plateau. And to imagine that, of all people, it would be a police officer, supposedly in charge of security that would blatantly work to destabilize peace in his own domain! Now who is going to prosecute such a guy?

Foreign Media changing tune

Foreign media are well-known for their serious pro-Islam bias, as pointed out several times by CA! But one foreign media house seems to have finally found its wit and tongue. Reuters not only reports that at least half of the fatalities at Wukari came from police guns, it also now seems to have finally understood the basic roots of the problem. It reports “One local student who asked not to be named said he saw four people die when police and soldiers opened fire”. On the roots, Reuters states: “Taraba state neighbours Plateau state in Nigeria's Middle Belt, a central region of Africa's most populous nation where the mostly Muslim north meets the predominantly Christian south. The tension is rooted in decades of resentment between indigenous groups, mostly Christian ..., who are vying for control of fertile farmlands and for economic and political power with migrants and settlers from the north.” – Reuters

(<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE66D1SB.htm>)

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MOSLEM PERSECUTIONS OF CHRISTIANS, JANUARY 2012

Assaults on Christians from their Moslem neighbours is not subsiding in the new year. Raymond Ibrahim, in his chronicle of January persecutions, includes reports "from Nigeria, where an [all-out jihad has been declared](#) in an effort to eradicate the Muslim north of all Christians, to Europe, where Muslim converts to Christianity are still hounded and attacked as apostates." He posted a warning that considering the unprecedented and ever increasing flight of Christians out of some countries, "[Christians might disappear altogether](#) from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Egypt." Please check these details from Raymond Ibrahim's website at <http://www.raymondibrahim.com/11152/muslim-persecution>.

Vol 15 No 1

Islamic terrorism in France

In France, a 23-year-old Islamic jihadist named Mohamed Merah confirmed the threat of homegrown Muslim terrorism when he went on an 11 day killing spree. Before he was finally subdued, Merah, had killed three French paratroopers, three Jewish schoolchildren and a rabbi with close-range shots to the head. A French citizen of Algerian origin, Merah filmed himself carrying out the attacks that began on March 11 to "verify" the deaths. Merah later died in a hail of gunfire on March 22 after a 32-hour standoff with police at his apartment in the southern French city of Toulouse.

Incredibly, the European Union's 'Foreign Minister', Catherine Ashton of Britain, declared that "what happened in Toulouse," -- the deliberate murder of the Jewish children -- was morally equivalent to

the accidental war deaths of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip. Read details in the articles Europe's Islamic Future Has Arrived at (<http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org>) and Europeans Horrified To Discover That They Must Contend With Homegrown Terrorists at (<http://www.ynetnews.com/>) Vol 15 No 1

Islamists Nearly Wipe Out Christians In Syrian City

The Christianpost, based on figures given by the Syrian Orthodox Church, reports "an ongoing ethnic cleansing of Christians" by members of the militant Islamist outfit, Brigade Faruq, which has links with al-Qaeda. The militants have expelled 90 percent of Christians in Homs, which has faced the brunt of violence related to the uprising, and grabbed their homes, it said. They went door to door in the neighborhoods of Hamidiya and Bustan al-Diwan forcing Christians to flee without giving them the chance to take their belongings, it added.

About 10 percent of Syria's 23 million people are estimated to be Christians, who have generally supported President Bashar Assad, a Muslim from a Shiite offshoot who is autocratic but protects religious minorities. On the other hand, the majority of the Muslims in Syria are Sunni.

The ChristianPost further reports a car bomb explosion targeting pupils at a school of the Franciscan fathers in Aleppo. "By a miracle a massacre of children was avoided, at the Center of catechesis of the Church of St. Bonaventure: only because the Franciscan, sensing danger, made the children leave 15 minutes before the usual time." (<http://www.rescueChristians.org/2012/03/25/syria-islamists-have-expelled-90-percent-of-Christians>) Vol 15 No 1

Saudi Arabia cracks down on Christian prayer meeting

Dozens of Ethiopian Christians were arrested for holding a prayer meeting, though under charges of "mixing with the opposite sex": "the Saudi officials are accusing the Christians of committing the crime of mixing of sexes because if they charge them with meeting for practicing Christianity, they will come under pressure from the international human rights organizations as well as Western countries."

The women among the Christians were strip-searched and the men assaulted (<http://www.christianpost.com/news/ethiopian-christian-prisoners-assaulted-strip-searched-in-saudi-arabia-68013/>). It is instructive that this was a purely prayer meeting among Christian foreigners and did not involve any proselytization of any moslem or Arab.

As at early February 9 the Christians were still being held without trial. (<http://www.charismanews.com/world/32553-saudi-arabia-arrests-ethiopian-christians-for-mixing-with-the-opposite-sex>) **Vol**

15 No 1

Egypt's Murderous Mobs

Imagine if you can, a murderous mob of 1,500 people — several of them armed with swords and knives and shouting Islamic slogans— threatening to burn down a room you had locked yourself in for refuge! That was the situation of two nuns at the Notre Dame Language School in Upper Egypt, when Muslims from local mosques raised the alarm falsely alleging that the private school was putting up a Chapel. (a mortal sin in Egypt!). After eight solid hours of looting and destruction, the mob finally retreated, thankfully without any loss of lives. But one of the nuns suffered a major nervous breakdown and

required hospitalization.
(www.compassdirect.org/english/country/egypt/article_1449790.html)

At Assiut, also in Egypt, an even larger mob, 2,500 strong had invaded a courthouse where a Christian, Mr Makram Diab was on trial for allegedly blaspheming the Islamic prophet. Though even if found guilty, the normal penalty for this offense should range from a jail term of two months to three years maximum, the trial judge was so intimidated by the Islamic mob who terrorized his court that he ordered Mr Diab to be jailed for 6 years..(<http://barnabasfund.org/US>). The mob had locked up the courthouse from within and were bent on killing Makram Diab had not the judge done something to assuage them. Egyptians certainly know something about the use of numbers in a democracy!

All Churches in Arabian Peninsula to be destroyed –Saudi Grand Mufti

The Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, one of the Islamic world's highest religious authorities, has declared, on March 12, that it is "[necessary to destroy all the churches of the region](#)." Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Asheikh made this assertion in response to a question posed by a delegation from Kuwait, where a parliament member recently called for the "removal" of all churches. The delegation wanted to confirm Sharia's position on the issue. The Grand Mufti "stressed that Kuwait was a part of the Arabian Peninsula, and therefore it is necessary to destroy all churches in it," basing his verdict on a saying (or hadith) of Muhammad pronounced on his deathbed, which says "There are not to be two religions in the [Arabian] Peninsula." (<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/11358/saudi-mufti-destroy-churches>)

Only last year, Saudi King Abdullah established a Centre for interreligious dialogue at Vienna, Austria seeking to get even more concessions from the Western countries for Islam. How asymmetric can a relationship get! (Vol 15 No 2)

Pakistan Plans to Ban the Bible

Pakistan's Islamist party, Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islami (JUI), has petitioned to have the Bible banned from Pakistan because it violates the nation's notorious blasphemy laws. According to JUI leader Maulana Abdul Rauf Farooqi, the Bible contains passages that show biblical figures whom Muslims regard as prophets (such as Abraham and Solomon) to be engaging in "a variety of moral crimes." As such, the JUI has called on Pakistan's supreme court to have the entire Book banned from the country if the offending passages are not removed.

As patently unreasonable as the basis of this petition is, the Christian minority feels it might well succeed. As we mentioned in the last edition, the blasphemy law enjoys such fanatical support in Pakistan that a governor who suggested it could be polished or modernized was gruesomely assassinated – by his own security detail.

In reporting this story about the proposed Bible ban, Frontpagemag observes that over the years, "Pakistan's blasphemy laws have proven to be a reliable legal cudgel with which to bankrupt, beat, jail and kill Christians." See further details at <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/06/14/banning-bibles/>

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CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE: Fruits of Islam

Taliban Movement bans Internet

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban Movement has banned the use of the Internet in the country. It claims the decision is taken so as to stop access to vulgar, immoral and anti-Islamic material. (Punch July 17, pg 26) The children of this world are wise in their own generation. **Vol 4 No 5**

Osama bin Laden factor in Nigeria no longer hidden

One of the fall-outs of the Sept 11 bombing is the clear demonstration of the high-level infiltration of Nigeria by Osama bin Laden network, which fact CA! has been consistently harping on since May 1999. The Kano killing of Christians (hundreds of innocent lives lost) and the separation of Nigerians together with Arabs as possible agents of Al-Qaeda confirm the influence of Osama here in Nigeria. Thanks to God, this influence is now being destroyed. It remains for us to see how long Sharia will remain with the freezing of Al-Qaeda's funds globally. **Vol. 4 No. 6**

Al-Aksa mosque in danger of collapse?

Israeli archaeologists and Jerusalem's mayor have sounded serious notes of warning that the bulging wall surrounding Jerusalem's Old City could collapse any moment if urgent repairs are not made. But Muslim authorities, who are in control of the area, are refusing to allow any work to be done. The plateau in question is at the pinnacle of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

Although it seems it is the Jewish people praying under the wall that are at the most risk as the wall could collapse on them, there is also the real possibility that some part of the Al-Aksa mosque could collapse. The al-Aksa Mosque is only 100 meters from the protuberance. Complicating matters, during the last few years Palestinian Moslem authorities (WAKF) have excavated a giant area underneath the Mount (by the bulge, in an area known as Solomon's stables) to make a mosque - by some accounts the largest mosque in the Middle East. Some experts charge that those excavations caused the stones to further shift. Anyone in the mosque at the time of the collapse could be hurt, said Jon Seligman, Jerusalem Regional Archaeologist for the Israel Antiquities Authority. Authorities are especially concerned about the approaching Muslim holy month of Ramadan in November when hundreds of thousands of worshippers could attend prayers at the site with as many as 10,000 in the Solomon's Stables mosque.

But WAKF officials insist that there is nothing to worry about and charge that Israel's concerns are politically motivated and is only an attempt to "gain a foothold" on the Temple Mount. Adnan Husseini, director-general of the WAKF said Muslim authorities have been monitoring the bulge for more than 20 years. "It is stable. We don't feel that there is any dangerous situation," Husseini was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said that the "moment of truth" had been reached regarding the wall because there are "serious grounds for fearing that it could collapse." The Temple Mount was originally purchased by King David, 3,000 years ago and his son King Solomon built the first temple on it. One thousand years later, King Herod enlarged the plateau and rebuilt the temple. In 638 A.D., Jerusalem fell to the Arabs. The Muslims built the gold-plated Dome of the Rock in 692 over a stone slab from which the Prophet Mohammed was said to have ascended into heaven. Construction of the Al-Aksa mosque on the Mount was completed a few years later. Bible scholars all believe that a new Jewish temple must be built at this very same site by the time of the Anti-Christ and the general question has been "who will convince the Moslems to remove their Mosque, the second holiest shrine in Islam? Perhaps this? **Vol. 5 No. 5**

FG to rehabilitate Churches and Mosques destroyed during Miss World riots

"The FG has released an undisclosed amount of money for the rehabilitation of Churches and Mosques destroyed during the last violent protests in Kaduna over the Miss World beauty pageant", reported the Punch on April 7 (page 6). Kaduna State governor, Alhaji Ahmed M. Markafi was quoted as making the claim during the inauguration of a ₦1.5 billion appeal fund organized by the State Chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria, for the rebuilding of the Churches destroyed during the crisis. The governor however appealed to the FG to increase the amount already given for rehabilitation "due to the magnitude of the destruction".

Over 300 lives were lost and properties worth billions of naira destroyed in Kaduna, when Moslem militants went on a sudden orgy

of destruction, directed at the Church, over an alleged blasphemous publication in a Lagos-based secular newspaper. **VOL 6 NO 3**

Nigerian Talibans contained

The Talibans is the name adopted by a group of young but highly fanatical Moslem fundamentalists that have been fomenting troubles in Yobe state in recent times. According to a NAN report, the group was largely composed of students of tertiary institutions from across the country who abandoned their studies in the belief that it was un-Islamic to acquire western education. Claiming that Yobe government was not being run according to Islamic tenets, the group "had raided 4 police stations, killed and wounded some policemen, and carted away guns and ammunition. A combined team of soldiers and police has now finally flushed out the menace, according to Governor Bukar Ibrahim of Yobe state (Tribune, 5th Jan. 2004, pg 7). **Vol 7 No 1**

Suspected Iranian Spy arrested in Abuja

Worries were triggered in security and military circles with the arrest of a suspected Iranian spy in Abuja late January. The arrest came at a time when the self-styled Yobe Talibans were just being quashed by security forces; and there were reports that a major terrorist attack on Nigeria was impending. The Iranian was caught taking photographs of 15 national monuments and buildings in the FCT including the Supreme Court building, ECOWAS secretariat, the new UN building, the ministry of Defence and the NNPC towers. As we have reported in previous issues, e.g. Vol 4 No, 6, Nigeria is one of the countries that Osama bin Laden has sworn to destabilise and Islamise - and about the only one (of the 6) where the recent threats of massive terrorist bombing has not been actualized. (At Press time, Al-Qaeda struck at Madrid with nearly 200 dead in a rush hour

bombing (March 11), but US are also intensifying search for Osama and could deploy the so-called “non-lethal weapons” which deploy high intensity sonic waves which produces unbearable pain in the ear, to the point of even causing deafness). Anyway, as we have also been saying, Osama certainly doesn’t know Who he is trying to engage - the LORD God almighty, to Whom Nigeria has been twice formally dedicated.

Source:

<http://odili.net/news/source/2004/jan/29/35.html> Vol 7 No 2

Alert on Foreign-Funded Islamic extremism in Kaduna

The Vice Chairman of the Kaduna branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Sam Kujiyat has alerted “that terrorists, hiding under religion, have invaded Kaduna state”. Speaking at a press briefing, Pastor Kujiyat warned that "Unless something urgent is done to identify and fish them out, what is happening in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Spain may be lurking around the corner."

President of the Kaduna-based Civil Rights Congress, Shehu Sani later corroborated this fact in his own way. He said he believed money from Arab countries was entering Nigeria through Islamic charities, and that such transfers were largely undocumented and uncontrolled. Pointing at the Nigerian "Taliban" group as a product of a new Sunni ideology spreading through Nigerian universities, he concluded: "I do not think al Qaeda has moved into Nigeria yet, but there are all the conditions to make Nigeria vulnerable... There are organisations receiving funding, with links to the Arab world, sending students for scholarships."

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/B663457.htm>) Vol 7 No 3

Islam and the challenges of Family in the New World Order

An unnamed Jordanian on April 20 slit the throat of his 25 year old sister and inflicted 15 stabs to various parts of her body. The lady was 8 months pregnant at the time. This is only another case of "honour killing" done in the name of Islam, however; and the murderer is not likely to receive any serious punishment. According to Associated Press, the victim had married an Egyptian, against her family's wish and had left for Egypt. She now returned to Jordan to give birth to her child only to be visited by a brother who had decided to obey the koranic injunction of killing her to "cleanse family honour". (MichNews.com, 26/4/04)

In another development, a French muslim cleric, Imam Abdelkader Bouziane, has stirred the hornet nest when he told a local magazine that he was polygamous and believed that "beating your wife is authorized by the Koran". In January, another imam had been given a suspended sentence in Spain for inciting violence against women in a 1997 book that gave detailed instructions to Muslim men on how to beat their wives. **Vol 7 No 3**

Muslim Cleric: Some wives need to be beaten

In his sermon broadcast on Qatar TV on Aug. 27, a Muslim cleric claims some wives, due to their nature, must be beaten. (See the video of the sermon: www.memritv.org/archives.asp?ACT=59&p1=226)

"We must know that [wife] beating is a punishment in Islamic religious law," the cleric stated. "No one should deny this because this was permitted by the Creator of Man, and because when you purchase an electric appliance or a car you get instructions - a catalogue, explaining how to use it. The Creator of Man has sent down this book [the Quran] in order to show man which ways he

must choose." The learned scholar claims the non-Muslim world is ignorant of the truth about wife beating.

"We shouldn't be ashamed before the nations of the world who are still in their days of ignorance, to admit that these [beatings] are part of our religious law," he said. "We must remind the ignorant from among the Islamic Nation who followed the [West] that those [Westerners] acknowledge the wondrous nature of this verse". The preacher then went on to do an exposition of the three types of women "with whom life is impossible without beatings". He however warns that Islam forbids beating anyone, even animals, on the face. (From WorldNetDaily.com, September 3, 2004) **Vol 7 No 5**

Wife-swapping Islamic sect recruits in Nigeria

Several people were reportedly killed in Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, following a police raid on the Yan-Gwagwarma Islamic sect. Members of the sect are said to extend the religious injunction of loving one's neighbours to wife swapping (same spirit as polyamory, reported in CA! Vol 7 no 5). The BBC reported (Aug 5) that members of the sect battled the police with guns and machetes before being overwhelmed. The violence, according to the BBC, followed complaints by residents of the town after the sect attempted to recruit local youths (Guardian, Aug. 6, pg. 4). We will like to emphasise that unrestrained sexual expression is a main pillar in the sexuality education curriculum as drawn up by Debrah Haffner - which curriculum is being marketed hook, line and sinker in Nigeria by Action Health Incorporated (AHI). AHI is very actively recruiting local youths into this programme all over Nigeria. (See our articles on Sexuality Education) **Vol 7 No 5**

Nigeria's Sharia chief spokesperson charged with stealing millions of dollars state money

The no-nonsense Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) of Nigeria has filed charges against Governor Ahmad Sanni and five other state officials for stealing more than \$5 million in public funds. The stolen funds were essentially from the state's agricultural project, whose building promptly went up in flames shortly after the EFCC invited some of the indicted officials for a chat. (NIGERIA TODAY September 6 2006). EFCC boss Mallam Nuhu Ribadu has also claimed that the governor came "to bribe me directly..." www.newage-online.com/news/article01

It will be recalled that Governor Ahmed, currently protected by state immunity from prosecution, has been at the forefront of advocating for and implementing the Islamic sharia law in Nigeria; and he has had several people amputated for stealing sundry items such as livestock.

Vol 9 No 5

Al Qaeda Chief in Nigeria Arrested

We reported in 2003 the statement by Osama bin Laden, identifying Nigeria as one of the countries ripe for 'liberation' by his Islamic "Mohammed Army". Since then, just like we predicted, the God of Nigeria has always been one step ahead of Mr bin Laden; and despite orchestrated violences here and there (e.g. Talibans, Miss World, Mohammed Cartoons, etc), Al Qaeda has not been able to get any kind of success close to what they have recorded in other target countries like Kenya, Afghanistan, Sudan, France, etc

Now at the critical election period in Nigeria, the Lord is apparently taking special care of things as Osama's main man in Nigeria has been finally exposed, apprehended and currently docked to face criminal charges. Fifty years old Alhaji Mohammed Bello Ilyas (aka Damagun?)

is a director with the Daily Trust newspapers, a newspaper having rather strong influence in the Moslem North. It is now clearly evident that much of the harsh criticisms the Daily Trust has for the government of Nigeria might not have stemmed from purely patriotic motives alone, but as directed by the Al Qaeda. Ironically, Mohammed Bello Ilyas was arrested by EFCC operatives who were tracing the \$300,000 Mr Ilyas received from Al-Qaeda through a London bank in late 2002, about the same time Osama bin Laden was promising Islamic hell and brimstone for Nigeria. The EFCC has clearly documented that Ilyas recruited, sponsored and ferried 17 people to Mauritania where they received combat training on terrorism. He also funded the training of one Mohammed Yussuf, another operative of the Nigerian Taliban, in “the spread of extremism and various acts and techniques on terrorism.” He was charged before a Federal High Court in Abuja on Jan. 16 and the case has been adjourned to 20 February, 2007. Please stay tuned on this very important development.

<http://www.thenewsng.com/modules/zmagazine/article.php?articleid=13152> and also AP reports. **Vol 10 No 1**

Moslems burn the Quran in Sokoto, Nigeria

Christians have been killed and maimed for failing to give due respect to the Quran. Still fresh in memory is Christianah Oluwaseesin, gruesomely killed on March 21, 2007 by an Islamic mob in Gombe, for the sin of throwing down carelessly a bag which (unknown to her!) contained a Quran (see CA! vol 10 no 2); or the on-going saga at Pace University, in the US, where there has been much hallowing concerning a young man who was alleged to have used portions of the Quran in the toilet. The AP, reporting on that incident, commented: “Treatment of the Quran is a sensitive issue for

Muslims, who view the book as a sacred object and mistreating it as an offense against God. The religion teaches that the Quran is the direct word of God.”(AP, July 27).

Now, in Sokoto, the Islamic bastion of Nigeria, an Islamic group attacks the home of a rival Islamic teacher, and the first thing they do is to burn the Quran! But for the newspaper article written by the anguished son of the Islamic teacher mentioning the event, there is apparently no big deal about the case. According to Ahmad Rufai Khalid: “Precisely at 2:45pm on Thursday, 19th July, 2007, a gang of men numbering over thirty stormed our family home situated at Gangaren Faqon Idi, Tudun Wada area of Sokoto...” and “...my father’s Islamic books comprising the Quran, tafsir (exegesis of Quran), Fiqh (analogy), Tarih (Islamic history), etc. were the first to be set ablaze... My grandfather’s handwritten Holy Quran was also set ablaze by the gang” (see http://dailytrust.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1220&Itemid=49)

Apparently, it is only “infidels” who are prohibited from “mishandling” the holy book, in which case, the Islamic justice of public mob lynching is speedily administered. It seems reasonable then to conclude that much of the usual observed agitated response to incidents of “desecration” of the Quran is merely conditioned response, rather than genuine personal conviction in most Moslems on the sanctity of the Quran as an infallible Holy Book. At the end of the day, the value of a book will be gauged by how much the instructions contained therein (particularly those pertaining to self discipline and sacrifice) are adhered to!

Islam seems to be facing considerable internal crisis in Nigeria at the present time, really. Apart from the incident referred to above, highly revered Sunni Islamic cleric, Umaru Dan Maleshyya was shot

by gunmen on Wed 18th July in the same Sokoto city - seat of the Caliphate in Nigeria. His death the next day in hospital has led to the on-going apparently official onslaught on Shi'ite Moslems in the city. As at Press time, security operatives are demolishing the headquarters of the sect, including a school, a clinic and several residential quarters.

(www.thenationonlineng.com/dynamicpage.asp?id=26925) Earlier, on April 12, another Sunni Islamic cleric, Sheikh Ja'afaru Mahmud Adam, was shot dead right in the mosque. www.news24.com:80/News24/Africa Vol 10 No 4

Islamic influence grows in Europe

While Islam rules with absolute iron hand in countries where it has majority followership (e.g it is a crime to as much as bring in more than one Bible into Saudi Arabia, and no conversion from Islam is allowed), it plays the hawk in countries where it has significant but minority following (see headline story of this edition for a good example from Nigeria). However in those countries where it is in the minority, Islam has perfected the act of feigning the oppressed underdog, thereby attracting sympathy even as it quietly and virulently spreads its influence.

A few recent examples will illustrate the power of this subtle influence in Europe. Last October in a High Security Prison in Leeds, England, even though no ham (from pork) was served to Moslems, a mistake in the special menu printed during the Ramadan holiday announced ham sandwiches as to be served. Right now, 200 muslim inmates at that prison facility are suing for millions of dollars for their violated human rights! One prisoner claims he actually ate boiled ham which was mistakenly served with his bread roll instead of the cheese he had ordered for. Rather than return it, he claimed he was so

hungry that he ate it anyway. Now he is suing for up to \$20 million compensation - for the temptation perhaps? (see www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=58365).

Such a claim from any other persons anywhere in the world would have been treated as a very funny joke. But here Islam, the “persecuted religion”, is involved and care must be exercised! Indeed, such is the subtle pressure and increasing influence of Islam in England that the Archbishop of the official Church of the country has advocated that Sharia Law be allowed (even inevitable) in Britain! (www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/feb/08/uk.religion).

Similarly, last December, a think-tank of the ruling Labour Party had suggested that Christmas should be “downgraded” to make it less offensive to Moslems (www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=490925&in_page_id=1770&ct=5).

The situation in Sweden is so dicey that the government is currently looking into the possibility of using state funds to provide training for imams. The reasoning is that perhaps this will at least break the monopoly of Al Qaeda and Saudi Arabia being the only ones training and controlling the Islamic religion in the land. (<http://www.thelocal.se/9880/20080205/>. (See also:

www.christianpost.com/article/20080207/31110_Expert%3A_LiberalChristianity_Intensifies_Radical_Islam **Vol 11 No 1**

Muslim father roasts Christian daughter to death in Saudi Arabia

A Moslem faithful in Saudi Arabia has been taken into police custody for cutting out the tongue of his own daughter and then burning her alive, unto death. The reason for this outrageous callous and wicked action was simply that the girl decided to become a Christian.

According to the Gulf News, the girl came to know about Jesus through the Internet. The killer-dad is a devout moslem who works for the mutaween (Commission for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice), an arm of the government that enforces religious purity and is the government's face of persecution to Christians in Saudi Arabia.

The state is obviously not keen that this kind of a report should gain much publicity. The name of the man was withheld, as well as the date the hideous crime was committed. However the International Christian Concern, who disseminated the news on the Internet on August 13, learnt that the sad event "happened recently".

Amazingly, most pious Moslems believe that they are serving the same God as Christians and that the Lord Jesus is a holy prophet of God. What sort of mentality would then make a man to murder his own daughter in a most gruesome manner, not because (at least in his opinion) she had gone against God into immorality for instance, but simply because she is opting for a different way of serving God? This indicates gross confusion indeed and gives the lie to on-going efforts spearheaded by the Saudi monarch at bringing together the so-called three Abrahamic faiths (Christianity, Islam and Judaism) as well as Hinduism, Bhuddism and Taosim. Stopping Christian proselytization seems to be a task the Saudis have committed themselves to doing by all means - violence as well as fake peace both included!

This confused worldview is not peculiar to Saudi Arabian Moslems alone. The ICC reported that the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has in a recent press release, indicated that textbooks found at the Saudi government school in Northern Virginia, in the United States, teach that "it is permissible for a Muslim to kill an apostate (a convert from Islam)". See more details at www.persecution.com. Vol 11 No 4

Iran unveils painting of ... Muhammad

As we reported at various times before, Moslems have been known to deface the Koran so that some innocent Christian with whom they have grudges could be framed up; or even publicly burn the Koran provided these are the copies of their opponents as happened in Sokoto (see Vol. 10 No 4, 2007). In all of these nobody seems to remember to charge the offending Moslem for blasphemy!

Now, after all the many innocent lives that have been terminated on the guise that somebody published the cartoon or drawing of the Islamic prophet Mohammed, (e.g. Vol 9 No 2) the Islamic state of Iran is set to unveil a painting of Mohammed. Apparently the idea that "Islam forbids depictions of the prophet Muhammed" applies only to infidels? Details at: www.jihadwatch.org/archives/022299.php or <http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8705300937> **Vol. 11 No. 4**

Islamic "Honour Killing" flourishes in Pakistan

With the ouster of President Musharaff and worsening of relationship between Pakistan and the West, Islamic fundamentalism is having a field day in that country. And guess who else is at the receiving end but Bible-believing Christians, especially those who engage in "soul-winning" - that activity, most-despised and feared by inter-faith NWO advocates! A few of the recent atrocities committed in the name of Islam against Christians are again reported here beginning with the so-called "honour killings" whereby a pious nearest-kinsman steps up to administer the penalty of death to any moslem found to be courting Christianity.

Indeed "honour killing" has become a national pastime in Pakistan, a proof of one's piety and commitment to Islam such that in the first

quarter of this year alone, at least 90 incidents were reported in the country! The cases ranged from that of a father who stabbed his own daughter and then broke her skull just because she was courting a Christian, to the case of another father who sent assassins to his 17 year old daughter because she was about to get an annulment from the marriage she had been forced to with a Moslem man since the age of 9. She was shot to death on coming out of the court, right in front of the police. Later, a senator attempted to defend the killing as based on immutable traditional value www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,418025,00.html.

And if people would not hesitate to administer the most inhuman treatment to their own children and blood relations who court Christianity; what then would they not do to those Christian people and organizations responsible for the conversion! Being an evangelical Christian (native or foreigner) is a most perilous thing in today's Pakistan. **Vol. 11 No. 4**

Jihadist Genocide In Jos

The reality and intensity of Satan's wrath and evil end-time agenda, thinly veiled by the hustle and bustle of every day civil living, was again vividly demonstrated late November, as elements of the Moslem community in Jos, Plateau state of Nigeria, descended heavily on unsuspecting Christians, inflicting terrible damages and casualties. The excuse for the action, this time around, was a peacefully-conducted Local Government elections whose results tended to favour the Christian candidates against the Moslems.

It didn't take long however to realize that the violence was directed neither at officials nor properties of any political party. Rather, the casualties were largely Christian men and women, irrespective of whether they were indigenes of Plateau state or elsewhere. An e-mail

from the Anglican Archbishop of Jos Rt Rev. Ben Kwashi to Barnabas Fund on Saturday 30th November described the pogrom that had started without any warning the previous day: “*The Muslims are attacking and burning this morning. It looks well coordinated. They are well armed with AK47 and pump machine guns...*” Several Nigerian blogs carried the nauseating details of how organized Moslem mobs went from one identified Christian home to another, pulling down the gates and killing in cold blood, mostly the male occupants (see, for instance www.nigeriavillagesquare.com/forum/main-square/27336-three-youth-corpers-among-dead-jos.html). Another core of Moslem invaders, apparently hired mercenaries from outside Plateau state, came dressed in army and police uniforms, thus further confusing many Christians who, expecting refuge, actually ran towards their eventual executioners! Before the real army (led by the Army chief of staff himself) would intervene two days later, hundreds of innocent lives have been lost. Unfortunately a number of Moslem folks caught in the reprisal attack would also be part of that number.

One of the particularly moving killings was that of Ibukun Akinjogbin a fresh University graduate participating in the mandatory National Youth Service Corps scheme at Jos. He was on the phone with his parents requesting for prayers as the Islamic mob descended on him and his friends. The heartless killers picked the phone and sadistically described to the distraught family in Lagos, the gradual ebbing-out of Ibukun’s life!

Yet, several national leaders, following the usual “douse the tension” script, were vociferous in declaring that the mayhem has nothing to do with either ethnicity or religion, but was a mere political protest. While one may not necessarily blame Moslem political figures, such as the Speaker of House of Representatives, for making such patently false statements, it is difficult to excuse those with the label of

Christianity, such as the Senate President, who join in the ostrich game. The Nigerian number three man was quoted as saying “Truly, what is going on in Jos has nothing to do with religion... I am not aware of any faith that advocates violence. Every faith that I know of condemns killing”. Really? Wouldn’t it have been more helpful keeping quiet than reducing a serious matter to mere rhetoric? The sad, bitter reality is that Islamic violence is indeed rooted in faith - at least as interpreted and clearly demonstrated by many. This would explain why subsequent governments have preferred to shy away from the problem rather than attempt to address it. For instance by the simple and sensible action of treating those who engage in arson and murder as the cheap criminals that they would be - if not regarded as religious faithfuls!

However, sadder still is the response of Christian leaders who hastily pronounced the violence, even as it was yet unfolding, as totally having nothing to do with religion. No less a person than the national chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria - CAN, (who also is the catholic Archbishop of Abuja) hastened to make such a declaration - even from far away Rome, where he was at the outbreak of the incidence.

(www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=1285)

He could at least have consulted his colleague, the chairman of the Plateau state chapter of CAN, Most Rev. Ignatius Kaigama, who repeatedly averred that the crisis was definitely religious, and was clearly instigated by the Moslems. According to Kaigama, “We were surprised at the way some of our churches and property were attacked and some of our faithful and clergy killed. The attacks were carefully planned and executed. The questions that bog our minds are why were churches and clergy attacked and killed? Why were politicians and political party offices not attacked if it were a political

conflict? Why were the business premises and property of innocent civilians destroyed? We strongly feel that it was not political but pre-meditated act under the guise of elections.” www.barnabasfund.org/email/email.php?id=255. The Anglican Bishop of Jos, the Rt Revd Ben Kwashi ventures an answer: "We are the victims of ... Islamic anger. Two years ago, it was the Danish cartoons. Now they are trying to lay it at the feet of the elections. We have become a convenient scapegoat and target..." www.jihadwatch.org/dhimmiwatch/archives/023788.php

With national leaders and even Christian leaders trying hard to exonerate Islam from the killings, it is little wonder that the foreign media would follow the cue. Though the foreign media were forced to concede that the riot was religious, they effectively (even if silently) put the blame mostly on Christians! For instance, the BBC in reporting “the death of hundreds of people in clashes between Christians and Moslems”, added the sub-heading “A Muslim charity in the town of Jos says it collected more than 300 bodies, and fatalities are also expected among Christians.” (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7756695.stm>.) Such silly, biased reporting gives the impression that the bodies collected by the “Muslim charity” were those of Muslims killed by Christians; and that the Christians probably lost a few people too! It is however well-known that Moslems have learnt to quickly give Islamic mass burial for victims of riots picked from the streets (as in this situation), mainly to discourage retaliatory killings in the South (particularly the catholic South-East) triggered by strong emotions that are evoked when such bodies are returned home for proper burial.

According to the Punch newspaper, “The identities of the dead could not be ascertained as they were said to have been picked up randomly by the Muslim community and taken to the mosque.”

www.punchontheweb.com/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art20081201235371. Moreover, many of the Moslems killed in Jos were militants, reportedly shot down on the streets by the state-based security forces. Several hundred others (including foreign mercenaries) were arrested. (www.mnnonline.org/article/12016).

Another widely circulated news report originated from the Agence France Presse (AFP) with the blazing headline: 2,000 "angry youths" storm mosque. The truth however was that the "angry youths" were not Christian youths as silently implied, but Moslems who came to threaten/blackmail the visiting parliamentary official who had come to placate the Moslem community. Some media houses using the story (such as this, www.calgaryherald.com/news/youths+storm+mosque+riot+torn+nigerian+city/1017450/story.html) even added the picture of a traumatized female youth corper, in clear Islamic veil, to complete the impression of apparent culpability of Christians in the matter!

The well-planned pogrom had began on Friday 29th November, when the results of the Local Government council elections, held very peacefully the previous day, began to indicate that indigenous Christian candidates were set to sweep the polls in all 17 LG council areas of the state. This would represent a decisive break in the influence which the largely Moslem Hausa-Fulani group has been trying to build over the years and which they hoped to consolidate with the elections. For instance, the attitude of the largely Christian Yoruba community in Jos (whose community reportedly lost about 113 people) could be contrasted with that of the Hausa-Fulani community. In a peace meeting convened by the State governor, the Yoruba leader, Chief Toye Ogunshuyi said: *"We have been carrying out legitimate businesses in Jos since 1891 and we built the first church in Jos but we have been living peacefully without fighting to rule Jos"*

www.vanguardngr.com/content/view/23328/47/. On the other hand, speaking to Reuters, Sheikh Khalid Aliyu, spokesman for the council of imams in Plateau state insisted: "*We are not aliens, we are not foreigners. We deserve each and every right.*" (africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnJOE4B10FZ.html).

The only problem is that such righteously indignant assertion is supposed only to apply in regions where Moslems are in the minority. Refer for instance, to the story in the last edition of CA! exemplifying incredible Islamic arrogance, even in the simple matter of allowing a legally-cleared Church building to operate in a favoured area in Ilorin, Kwara state. Kwara, just like Plateau, is a gateway state linking the North and South of Nigeria; and both of them have a roughly equal Christian-Moslem population. In such a situation, as is fast becoming a reality in Kwara state, access to state powers is blatantly used to compel non-moslems to a subdued 'dhimmified' second-class citizen livelihood - as in states like Kano and Zamfara where Moslems are in the vast majority. Achieving Kwara in Plateau state is clearly one of the major goals of Nigerian Islamic Jihadists, and a direct cause of the Jos conflict. It is at the same time religious, ethnic and political - in that order of relative importance!

As for the hundreds of lives lost in pre-meditated Islam-instigated killing, the President of the country, Alhaji Umaru Yar Adua at the Joint Sitting of the National Assembly for the presentation of the 2009 Appropriation Bill requested the customary "one-minute silence" in their memory. For the survivors, he offered his personal prayers, according to the Vanguard newspaper, that "the almighty Allah condole those who have lost their loved ones and those who have lost their property and also those who have sustained all kinds of injuries." (www.vanguardngr.com/content/view/23228/42/).

Going by past antecedents, (as we have always been careful to point out), that's probably the end of the story. How sad!

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end shall be saved” - Matt. 24:12,13
Vol. 11 No. 6

Muslim TV executive beheads wife

Failing economy is not the only pressure on people living in the end times. Confused religious-gender-matrimonial pressures were demonstrated by the recent beheading of 37 year old Aasiya Hassan by her husband, Muzamil Hassan on February 12. What makes the story, which happened at the high-brow Orchard Park, New York, in the United States, particularly instructive is that the couple, both highly educated had actually floated a TV station with the express goal of redeeming the stereotypical image of Islam as a violent religion that pushes its most ardent followers into extreme acts. It is precisely in the premises of Bridges TV that Muzamil ‘Mo’ Hassan cut off the head of his tender beautiful young wife! The Bridges TV network, available across the U.S and Canada, was believed to be the first English-language cable station aimed at the rapidly growing Muslim demographic.

An acquaintance gave a portrayal of Muzamil ‘Mo’: “I've never heard him raise his voice”, said Paul Moskal an FBI man who featured regularly on Bridges TV. “His personal life kind of betrayed what he tried to portray publicly” Moskal said.

The New York president of the National Organization for Women, Marcia Pappas, condemned prosecutors for referring to the death as an apparent case of domestic violence. “This was, apparently, a terroristic version of 'honor killing'”, a statement from NOW said. Nadia Shahram, who teaches Family Law and Islam at the University

at Buffalo Law School, explained honor killing as a practice still accepted among fanatical Muslim men who feel betrayed by their wives.

Aasiya Hassan who trained as an architect is described as “obedient to her husband and that she wore a traditional hijab for a time but later stopped without explanation”. The murder occurred days after she filed in for divorce from her husband.

Strange how it is such a dishonourable thing (in Islam) when a woman files for divorce whereas the same woman can be summarily divorced by her husband for no other reason than that he was simply tired of her - great shame! (See details at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090218/ap_on_re_us/wife_beheaded) Vol. 12 No. 1

Children, Women, foddors in the Jihadist’s arsenal

One of the saddest situations in the world at the present time, must be the continual and increasing use of hapless children and women as canon foddors by some unconscionable people who seek to achieve global relevance, using religion as a platform.

Nowhere is this phenomenon more pronounced as among the Arab people, labeled by their own people as ‘Palestinian’ refugees, so they may continued to be used to achieve political ends at the negotiation table. So blatant and pitiful were the actions of Hamas in using innocent children as human shield during the recent impoundment of Gaza by Israel that none other organization than the UN itself has complained about this callous wastage of young lives. Hamas had provoked the Israeli attack by a remorseless and unending rocket assaults on Israel’s civilian populations. However, while the Israelis gave advanced notice that a particular identified rocket-site in Gaza would be bombarded and that all civilians should evacuate, the Hamas

not only blocked people in, but herded others in from other locations as well, thinking to arouse global condemnation of Israeli's action from the resulting casualty. The UN further accused Hamas (the ruling political party in Gaza) of stealing blankets and food meant for the poor and starving Palestinians, threatening to institute an investigation. This is almost unprecedented in the history of the UN and it clearly signifies the extent of this callous, wicked, despicable and cowardly act by the Arabs. <<http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/024708.php>>

But the suffering of women among Islamic Jihadists is even sadder, as many personal stories have shown. For instance, one of the standard ways of recruiting female suicide bombers today, is akin to the plot in a typical Wale Adenuga's Super-Story episode. In the version that is now sadly common among many Islamic militant groups, young females are either enticed into adultery or worse still, brutally raped. In the unfathomable Islamic sense that is common in many Arab countries, such a woman automatically becomes a prime subject for public religious killing, preferably by her own close relatives - fathers, brothers, uncles, etc. CA! has featured several incidents of such so-called "honour killings" in past editions.

Now, the "super-story" angle to this case is the emergence of some 'pious' fellow, from nowhere apparently, who then rescues the young lady from such public and shameful execution by keeping the adultery/rape incident hushed up. It is then a relatively easy task, convincing the scared lady to donate her life to "God" and become a martyr instead. Now the really nasty and nauseating aspect to this increasingly popular story-line is that not just boyfriends, but now husbands and mothers, are luring unsuspecting wives/daughters into such arrangements on account of the fame and financial benefits that would be theirs in the event of a successful martyrdom operation! (In

the Western world, the version of this phenomenon is people killing their folks for the insurance pay-offs)

A recent story from the Agence France-Presse described a woman who had up to 80 close relatives raped so as to have them recruited as suicide bombers after being sexually smeared.

<www.jihadwatch.org/archives/024703.php> And yet a new development along that line is the recent whining from the homosexual group, PinkNews (February 4), that Al-Qaeda Jihadists are also now turning to raping young men for the same recruitment purposes - after first satisfying their satanic sexual lust.

<www.jihadwatch.org/archives/024714.php>

“This, know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, ... unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent ... traitors...” - 2 Tim 3:1-4 **Vol 12 No 1**

British Parliament cowers before Islamists

In what has been described as a new high for Islamic intimidation in the UK, the British Parliament quietly cancelled a scheduled visit by Dutch parliamentarian and film maker, Geert Wilders to show his factual but uncomplimentary film on Islam, Fitna.

Just as it happened in the United States, a member of the House had invited Mr Wilder so the British lawmakers could have a first-hand assessment of what exactly was the problem fundamentalist Moslems have with the film. However a Muslim member of the House of Lords, Nazir Ahmed, threatened he would mobilize 10,000 fellow Muslims to block Mr Wilders entrance into Westminster. And, very strangely, for the sake of “peace” perhaps, one of Western civilization's most venerable institutions, the British Parliament surrendered its own most basic of freedoms. The event was

cancelled. For more details, please see www.frontpagemag.com/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=33952

Incidentally, the man at the centre of this covering of the British Parliament, Nazir Ahmed, had an on-going case with the law, having ploughed his jaguar car into a stationary vehicle and killing a young man in the process in 2007. Mr Ahmed admitted he was sending text messages on his phone, while cruising on the Motorway at the time of the accident. He was subsequently jailed for 12 weeks on Feb 26, but was released only 16 days after. **Vol 12 No 3**

Taliban buying children, turning them into suicide bombers

Just as child soldiers were fielded in the genocides in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and children were (ab)used by Palestinian Arabs as human shield to force Israeli's planes to turn back, Children are again being abused, perhaps this time in more outrageous fashion, in Pakistan - as suicide bombers! As reported in the [Washington Times](#), (July 2): U.S. Defense Department and Pakistani officials have confirmed that Pakistan's top Taliban leader, Baitullah Mehsud, is buying children as young as 7 to serve as suicide bombers in the growing spate of attacks against Pakistani, Afghan and U.S. targets. The going price for a child bomber is between \$7,000 to \$14,000 - still much cheaper than a jet bomber www.jihadwatch.org/archives/026811.php) **Vol 12 No 4**

Islamic “Honour Killings” of women unabating

Honour killings continue to strike terror in female folks in the Islamic world. A recent study in Pakistan now lists “honour killing” as a major portion of the country's homicides. Recent incidents include the report from Jordan about the teenager who stabbed his 22-year-old

sister to death "to cleanse the family honor because she left the house too often" <www.jihadwatch.org/archives/025560.php>; or the case in Germany, where a 20 year old Kurdish boy lured his triplet sister to an isolated side road, choked her unconscious with a clothes line before clubbing her to death. The girl who was to be forced into marriage was discovered not to be a virgin.

www.jihadwatch.org/archives/025568.php

In a case from Turkey where a 16-year-old was given a gun by his mother and made to shoot his sister-in-law, several times, in the presence of other family members; the courts decided that "the region's tradition placed an incredible burden on the two families" to do what they did as the victim was rumored to be having an extra-marital affair. The shooter, especially being a minor, thus received only a very light sentence.

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/026122.php>

Sexual immorality is not the only dishonorable thing a woman can do to earn her (and not her male accomplice!) an instant death sentence. For ultra-orthodox Muslims, a girl going to school could be just as bad. This has been a major issue in Afghanistan (and other sharia-enclaves such as Somalia), where girls' schools face continual assaults. In one of the latest of such, 84 girls were hospitalized following the release of airborne poisonous chemicals in the school environment. The incident reported here <www.jihadwatch.org/archives/026080.php> was the third of such in three weeks directed at girls' schools.

Meanwhile, the forced marriage of a young Saudi girl (aged 8) to a man in his 50s, which attracted worldwide attention and a court action by the girl's mother, has mercifully now being annulled. Since the Islamic courts found nothing wrong with the development (the Islamic founding prophet married one of his wives, Aisha, at the age

of 6), an out-of-court settlement had to be sought as a face-saving device for the Saudi Kingdom. The girl's father is said to have married her off against her mother's wishes to a close friend in order that he could pay off a debt.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8026545.stm Vol 12 No 4

Al-Qaeda - Lessons in maximizing resources

“The greatest problem the world is facing today is... the attack on our youths... The Internet ... has become an avenue for the enemy to attack humanity. This is a problem facing every nation, rich or poor, first world or third world”. Pastor E.A. Adeboye (addressing the UN Prayer last Sept. (see report in **CA! Vol 12 No 5**)

When Pastor Enoch Adeboye, in the quotes above, identified as the most important problem facing all nations today, corruption of our youth, especially with the influence of the Internet which gives ready access to “terrorism” and bomb-making techniques, among other vices, some people thought he was out of touch with realities and is taking his religion too far. At least some chaps said that much on Nigerian internet groups (see, for example <http://www.nairaland.com/nigeria/topic-322690.0.html>).

One Nigerian who today is having a better personal understanding of the danger Pastor Adeboye was referring to is Alhaji Abdulmutallab - by most reports, a hardworking, highly respected gentleman who tried his best to bring up his children in piety as he best understands - through Islam. The respected Nigerian banking scion is the father of would-be Al-Qaeda Christmas-day bomber on Northern Airline flight 253 to Detroit, USA. Though young Umar Abdulmutallab had been introduced to radical Islam most of his life (his eminent family being a leading force in the Sharia movement in Nigeria), apparently the quantum leap to terrorism, at the level which became uncomfortable

for his family, came through a casual internet contact with Yemen. According to several reports, following a detailed investigation of his “internet trail” (<http://www.comcast.net/video/abdulmutallabs-internet-trail/1371645714/>), Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab is believed to have turned to the internet to overcome loneliness and find “a true Muslim friend”. <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/lonely-bomber-umar-farouk-abdulmutallabs-religious>. Ultimately and inevitably, as he disclosed to US investigators, “a radical Imam he met over the Internet hooked him up with a terror boss in northern Yemen”. <http://www.weedconnection.com/php/php.php?dmit=umar-farouk-abdulmutallab>. The rest is history.

The Church could learn some lessons from this unsavory development. One is the need to pay more attention to our youths - our most valuable God-given resource. While most Nigerians (Christians in particular) treat their youth as kids who don't understand “the real world”, militant Islam understands far better. Not only must the coming generation be protected from predators such as Al-Qaeda and their ilk, our youths ought to be encouraged, challenged and allowed to fulfil their destiny.

Another lesson is the need to appreciate the insidious nature of the new frontier the devil is using to viciously attack mankind (youths in particular) - the Internet. While many Christian leaders seem barely aware of the existence of the Internet, we see groups like Al Qaeda putting it to devastatingly potent use. Not only does Al Qaeda actively recruit operatives (youths of all nationalities - including American, British, Arab, and as we have lately learnt, Nigeria) via the internet, thousands of coded details of nefarious instructions are locked away in several innocuous-looking webpages. With e-terrorism, there is no

more need to carry about on one's person, potentially incriminating papers!

While many are aware of youths being drawn into immorality such as pornography, drugs, etc via the internet, only few seem to appreciate that “piety” can as easily be used just as well, to indoctrinate people, via the Internet, straight into destruction. The Internet has a great potential both as a source of good (eg Rifqa Barry - another Moslem, was literally saved via the Internet, see story on page 2), and at least on equal measure, for evil. The challenge in this article is that it is time Christian leaders in particular, began to appreciate this incredibly enormous capacity - and hopefully arise to checkmate the 419-ners, porn merchants, and yea, the terrorists currently having a field day on the ethereal world.

Related to the subjects raised above is the issue of higher education. It is heart-warming that more and more Christian organizations are investing in University education in Nigeria (with the Deeper Life Bible church and Christ Life Church, among those set to become new entrants into the field). Hopefully all these Christian educational institutions will prove to be centres of excellence where our most valuable resource - the youths, will be nurtured and released to play their God-given role in world affairs, even in these peculiar end times. It sounds ironic, but the Church can indeed learn something from Al-Qaeda! **Vol 12 No 6**

Another Islam-inspired homicide in the US

Prosecutors in Cook County, Chicago, said Friday that James Larry, a Chicago Muslim, has confessed to brutally murdering his wife, his seven-month old son Jihad, and two of his nieces. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, Larry was a prison convert to Islam who had been arguing with his wife over her refusal to become a Muslim and wear

Islamic clothing. His sister revealed that he had been clutching a copy of the Koran and telling relatives that “something in the book told him to kill someone.” Unfortunately, such killings of supposed loved ones for their failure to measure up to some Islamic standard is quite common in many parts of the world, as we reported in some previous editions eg. **Vol 11 No 4 & 5, Vol 12 No 1** etc. In an article here (<http://www.bible-prophecy-today.com/2010/04/whitewashing-koran-inspired-murders-in.html>) Robert Spencer expressed his disgust at the failure of most of mainstream media in the US to cover the story, especially in the light of predictable publicity that would have attended the story, were it be a Christian fundamentalist who, God forbid, was involved in such a carnage. **Vol 13 No 2**

Muslims in Kano: Even indigenes can't build Churches here!

[Worthy News](#) has reported (May 21, 2010) that Muslim extremists destroyed several churches and a pastor's house in the latest religious violence to hit Nigeria's northern Kano state. One of the buildings and the pastor's house were set ablaze on the premises of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) at Kwasam, in the Kiru Local Government area, while another building under construction was demolished, the church said. Over 100 Moslem youths were involved in the attacks, demanding that their area must be free from Church buildings!

The ECWA Church had earlier been dragged before the Sharia Court for this “great crime” of putting up Church building in a Moslem city; but the church argued that the land on which the Church stood was their inheritance, and that its members are indigenous to the area. Nevertheless, according to Christian Solidarity Worldwide CSW

which has closely monitored the case, the Sharia court ruled in favor of the Moslem complainants. The rampaging youths then were the demolition squad effecting the orders of the religious court!

Earlier the Baptist Church in the area of Banaka, Takai LGA, was also destroyed on May 15, the fourth time the Church would be demolished. "After the previous demolition, a group of Christians from Kastina State paid for the construction of a new building, and also drilled a well for church members to use. However, during the demolition, the well was blocked off completely", CSW said in a statement.

Meanwhile, while Moslems would not allow indigenous Christians to construct Churches in their own family properties, is it not incredible that they would sponsor transiting public officers to attempt to erect mosques in public institutions in parts of the same "northern Nigeria" where they (Moslems) are struggling to put the Christian majority under political subjugation? Read the next story please. **Vol 13 No 3**

Amazing: Police Officer insists on constructing Mosque inside Police Station in Taraba State

It is incredible what level people bent on fostering chaos in society could go to in order to actualize their satanic agenda. How can a public officer who was recently transferred on a new posting insist against all entreaties on building a mosque within the office complex! What else will such a man not do, then, to the men under his command? Not to mention that the location happens to be one of the states in northern Nigeria with majority Christian population. It's just like the situation in Jos (Plateau state), another of such few states. One can imagine the outcome should every public officer decide to follow this example at each of their new postings!

It should be obvious enough that the police officer, Mr Mohammed Mustapher (an Area Commander), must have received strong assurances and backings from certain quarters, else it would have been a totally insane and unconceivable action. Jihadists are ever hell-bent on reversing the balance of power wherever it is not in their favour.

Not unexpectedly, the foreign Islam-leaning press was quick to come out with blazing headlines about Christians attacking mosques - rather than the real situation that the attempt to build a mosque at a police station was forcibly stopped when all entreaties had been rebuffed by a stubborn officer with obvious religious cum political agenda.

Thank God the conflagration they might have hoped for in Wukari, Taraba State did not quite occur - 8 dead and about 40 seriously wounded is tragic and horrible, but still a child play compared with the situation on the Jos plateau. And to imagine that, of all people, it would be a police officer, supposedly in charge of security that would blatantly work to destabilize peace in his own domain! Now who is going to prosecute such a guy? **Vol 13 No 3**

Foreign Media changing tune

Foreign media are well-known for their serious pro-Islam bias, as pointed out several times by CA! But one foreign media house seems to have finally found its wit and tongue. Reuters not only reports that at least half of the fatalities at Wukari came from police guns, it also now seems to have finally understood the basic roots of the problem. It reports "One local student who asked not to be named said he saw four people die when police and soldiers opened fire". On the roots, Reuters states: "...The tension is rooted in decades of resentment between indigenous groups, mostly Christian ... who are vying for control of fertile farmlands and for economic and political power with

migrants and settlers from the north” - Reuters
(<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE66D1SB.htm>)

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Citizens of Western Countries Fed Up With Moslem Dominionism - No To New Mosques

The situations described above are by no means peculiar to Nigeria. Indeed Nigeria's situation is really only a portion of a global development. The Jihadists' quest to intimidate and dominate native majority in their own lands (while no Church is allowed in the Jihadists' own domain - such as Saudi Arabia or Kano) is finally backfiring.

From New York to even France, local indigenous populations are recognizing that many Moslems do not see Islam as just a religion to practice, but a tool for political domination and subjugation of others. To this end, mosques are not just simple functional buildings meeting local religious needs, but grand, statement-making edifices, often far beyond the resources of the local Moslems - but funded from the same Arabia where no Churches are allowed. The situation is well-captured by a line in a poem by Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (before he became the PM): "The minarets our bayonets".

Consider the case in New York. After Moslems, funded from the Middle East, razed down two grand edifices (the World Trade Center twin towers) in the infamous 9-11 events, with thousands of people killed, the same Moslems are bent on erecting grand Islamic centers on the rubbles of these same towers!

The Jihadists might have pushed their agenda a little too hard, and the previously docile American citizenry is up in arms. As at Press time, New Yorkers have risen against three separate plans to build Muslim

worship centers in their city. The Washington Times quotes [Joan Moriello](#), a community activist involved in one of the protests: "This is about radical Islam wanting to colonize the world. They pretend to be tolerant, they pretend to be loving but they aren't. It's just starting to come bubbling up to the surface." For more, see www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jul/6/plans-mosques-divide-new-yorkers/

Exactly similar protests, in direct response to local aggravations (just like at Wukari in Taraba state), are on-going virtually all over Europe, ranging from Warsaw (www.bt.com.bn/features/2010/04/06/protests-warsaw-over-new-mosque), to Britain (<http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2010/05/uk-edl-stages-rooftop-mosque-protest.html>) to France (www.chasingevil.org/2010/06/marseilles-muslims-win-right-to-build.html), to Poland (www.globalpost.com/dispatch/poland/100520/islamophobia-europe-immigration). Even, perhaps the most "tolerant" people in the world, the Swiss, in a national referendum, voted to ban mosques from incorporating their ubiquitous minarets. (<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/11/29/switzerland.minaret.referendum/>)

Recall in Numan (Adamawa State, Nigeria), issues about the appropriateness of a high minaret overlooking the compound of the local king's palace eventually led to the deposition of that respected and beloved Christian Monarch, Feddy Soditi Bongo, in 2005 (see CA! Vol 8 No 2). Also in Vol 8 No 4, we mentioned the plans of the Prince of Wales to build a majestic mega mosque in the predominantly Christian community of Cornwall, which government's data showed had exactly 33 Moslems out of the over

22,000 total population!
(www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article537568.ece) Vol 13
No 3

Even in Police Custody, Christian Brothers shot to death by Pakistani Jihadists

In the Pakistani city of Faisalabad, two Christian evangelists have paid the supreme price for their vibrant evangelistic ministries. Pastor Rashid Emmanuel (32) and his 30 year old brother Sajid Masih Emmanuel were taken into police custody on July 2 following allegations by local Moslems that the two had authored some handwritten manuscript that denigrated the Islamic prophet. Even though the Christian evangelists denied the allegation, and handwriting experts confirmed that the manuscript did not match their handwritings, they remained in police custody. Even a high governmental official publicly expressed his doubts that anybody would write such a manuscript and put their real names as was being alleged in this case. In Pakistan such an offence attracts the death penalty.

However, especially following the instigation of some mosques on Friday 16th July that Christian houses should be burnt over the matter, it probably was not so easy for the police to release the men. As the police took the Christian evangelists, handcuffed, to court on Monday 19th July, five masked men stepped forward outside the court building and shot the two brothers dead, right in the custody of the police!

Police later hurriedly effected an early-morning burial for the two, apparently to forestall violence that could follow an elaborate burial. Some eye witnesses told Worthy News that they saw torture marks on the bodies of the two Christians suggesting they had been subjected to torture while in police custody. The two brothers were

members of the Mission Group United Ministries, Pakistan. Even as at this moment, several other Christians are languishing in police custody in Pakistan on the allegation of blasphemy - which is fast becoming an effective way of settling land and similar disputes, when your opponent is a Christian. In Vol 11 No 1, we reported the resulting mayhem and massive destructions in Bauchi State, NIGERIA, when a love-seeking Muslim suitor turned round to accuse of blasphemy, the Christian lady who had rejected his advances. (<http://churcharise.blogspot.com/2008/02/again-muslim-riot-claims-3-lives-in.html>) For further details and follow-up on the story from Pakistan, check www.WorthyNews.com Vol 13 No 3

Islamic “Honour Killings” of women unabating

Honour killings continue to strike terror in female folks in the Islamic world. A recent study in Pakistan now lists “honour killing” as a major portion of the country’s homicides. Recent incidents include the report from Jordan about the teenager who stabbed his 22-year-old sister to death "to cleanse the family honor because she left the house too often" <www.jihadwatch.org/archives/025560.php>; or the case in Germany, where a 20 year old Kurdish boy lured her triplet sister to an isolated side road, choked her unconscious with a clothes line before clubbing her to death. The girl who was to be forced into marriage was discovered not to be a virgin.

www.jihadwatch.org/archives/025568.php

In a case from Turkey where a 16-year-old was given a gun by his mother and made to shoot his sister-in-law, several times, in the presence of other family members; the courts decided that “the region’s tradition placed an incredible burden on the two families” to do what they did as the victim was rumored to be having an extra-marital affair. The shooter, especially being a minor, thus received

only a very light sentence.

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/026122.php>

Sexual immorality is not the only dishonorable thing a woman can do to earn her (and not her male accomplice!), an instant death sentence. For ultra-orthodox muslims, a girl going to school could be just as bad. This has been a major issue in Afghanistan (and other sharia-enclaves such as Somalia), where girls' schools face continual assaults. In one of the latest of such, 84 girls were hospitalized following the release of airborne poisonous chemicals in the school environment. The incident reported here <www.jihadwatch.org/archives/026080.php> was the third of such in three weeks directed at girls schools.

Meanwhile, the forced marriage of a young Saudi girl (aged 8) to a man in his 50s, which attracted worldwide attention and a court action by the girl's mother, has mercifully now being annulled. Since the Islamic courts found nothing wrong with the development (the Islamic founding prophet married one of his wives, Aisha, at the age of 6), an out-of-court settlement had to be sought as a face-saving device for the Saudi Kingdom. The girl's father is said to have married her off against her mother's wishes to a close friend in order that he could pay off a debt.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8026545.stm Vol 12 No

4

3.26

"Youths" torch over 1,000 cars across France

Just like a repeat of a similar incident in 2007, but this time with greater ferocity, muslim youths, aggrieved by the accidental deaths of two young muslims who were in the act of fleeing from the police during new year eve's celebrations, mobilized against the French

authorities, and burnt overnight, over a thousand cars. Imagine that level of arson , if you can – happening in one single night! 398 people were arrested over the incident. [CBC News](#), January 1.

(<http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2010/01/01/france-violence.html#socialcomments>) Vol 12 No 6

Another Islam-inspired homicide in the US

Prosecutors in Cook County, Chicago, said Friday that James Larry, a Chicago Muslim, has confessed to brutally murdering his wife, his seven-month old son Jihad, and two of his nieces. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, Larry was a prison convert to Islam who had been arguing with his wife over her refusal to become a Muslim and wear Islamic clothing. His sister revealed that he had been clutching a copy of the Koran and telling relatives that “something in the book told him to kill someone.” Unfortunately, such killings of supposed loved ones for their failure to measure up to some Islamic standard are quite common in many parts of the world, as we reported in some previous editions, eg. **Vol. 11 No. 4&5**, **Vol. 12 No. 1**, etc.

In an article here (<http://www.bible-prophecy-today.com/2010/04/whitewashing-koran-inspired-murders-in.html>

) Robert Spencer expressed his disgust at the failure of most of mainstream media in the US to cover the story, especially in the light of predictable publicity that would have attended the story, were it be a Christian fundamentalist who, God forbid, was involved in such a carnage.

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AHMADINEJHAD AT THE UN

He denies that the holocaust ever happened, claims that the 9-11 terrorism was not carried out by Moslems but rather Americans intent on protecting Israel (and that no Jew died in the explosions),

etc etc. With such easily disproved fallacies, Ahmadinejad truly deserves to be called - like someone insisted is the correct pronunciation of the name - “I’m mad in ze head”. But then there is still some method to the madness of this man! All his rhetoric about the US and Zionism, etc, began by his claiming that the current world order has failed because mankind has forsaken spirituality for materialism, especially capitalism. And in his conclusion, he proffered what he sees as the only solution, the coming together of religions to prepare the grounds for the literal return of the Mahdi to this planet. The Mahdi (who was the 12th Imam) supposedly disappeared in the year 941 as a child; but is supposedly living in seclusion since then, ready to appear to save the world in these end times.

According to Ahmadinejad: “Reforming the world's affairs and bringing about tranquility and prosperity requires the participation of all, pure thoughts and the divine and humane management...The complete human, the true servant of God and the true friend of the mankind whose father was from the generation of the beloved Prophet of Islam and whose mother was from the true believers of the Jesus Christ, shall wait along with Jesus the son of Mary and the other righteous to appear on those brilliant times and assist the humanity. In welcoming them we should join ranks and seek justice.” Without any doubts, the Iranian president is hopelessly confused in his theology. Scriptures and currently unfolding world events clearly show that the man he is waiting for is none other than the antichrist (same as occultists Avatar, Hindu’s Maitreya, Catholic’s “Mary”.grand master, or World Teacher, The Coming One, etc, see **Vol 9 No 1** and **Vol 10 No 1**). But say, how many of our Christian heads of government would dare proclaim from the UN podium the soon-coming Jesus Christ as the only ultimate hope of the world? Even

supposed Christian pastors sing different tunes when they get to the UN (see a refreshingly different situation in Nigeria's Pastor E.A. Adeboye at last year's UN summit, **Vol 12 No 5**). Speaking out at the UN apart, even in their minds alone, how many Christian political leaders would dare to refrain from embracing policies that have to be "tolerated" simply because "there is no other option". Of course expecting a direct intervention by the Lord Jesus Christ would not qualify as an "intelligent" option! Hence, even though the many risks associated with genetical tinkering with life are well known, not to talk of the real possibility of having all mankind subservient to a few who hold the patents to new "improved" seeds, genetic engineering of foods continue to foray into sacred grounds, all because, "there are no other options". Likewise, homosexuality must be embraced and recommended to young people so that sexual needs could be "met" without increasing the population burden of mankind because "there are no other options". The list is of course inexhaustible, but we mention one more: Jerusalem, the ancient Jewish capital today "NEEDS" to be partitioned in order to bring about some man-made peace in the Middle East, because "there are no other options". All these evil compromises are eagerly embraced by the world today simply because it is inconceivable that some help can come from above. The Ahmadinejhad of this world clearly expose the mortal danger in unbridled ecumecism and inter-faithism. Spirituality without a sound doctrine on the person and ministry of Jesus is mortal danger. (see 1 Jhn 4:2-3). Ahmadinejhad with all his spirituality is no saner than the atheist described in Psa 14:1 and 53:1 All these "do- small-evil- to- prevent- bigger- evil" philosophy will fly in the face of a belief that the good Lord, the eternal Creator will do what He has promised in His words, not to abandon the world to

decay. Prior to His ultimate physical and literal return, He has put the Church here on earth to salt the earth and occupy for Him. The Church needs to sound it loud and clear that the only way of escape for the world is in following the clear directions set out in God's word (the Holy Bible); and expecting the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ . From the Scriptures, we expect the manifestation of the antichrist (Mahdi, Avatar, etc etc), will coincide with the rapture of the Church, the event that removes the restraint placed on the antichrist (2 Thess. 2:6-9)

See Full text of Iranian President Ahmadinejad's speech at UN here (<http://www.worthynews.com/9464-full-text-of-president-ahmadinejads-speech-at-un>).

Vol 13 No 5

Saudi Arabia operates official 'Anti-Witchcraft Unit'

Islam flagship country is in the throes of witchcraft! Witchcraft is so widespread in the Islamic holy land that the government has had to set up a special Anti-Witchcraft Unit to respond to the menace of occultic practices. The unit, established in May 2009, is charged with apprehending sorcerers and reversing the detrimental effects of their spells in the country. [Nigerians can imagine a kind of "EFCC" to deal with witchcraft and sorcery].

David Miller in a Media Line article (20th July) describes a typical activity of the anti-witchcraft unit: "When the severed head of a wolf wrapped in women's lingerie turned up near the city of Tabouk in northern Saudi Arabia this week, authorities knew they had another case of witchcraft on their hands. ... Agents of the country's Anti-Witchcraft Unit were quickly dispatched and set about trying to break the spell that used the beast's head. "

Sorcery carries the death penalty in Saudi Arabia. However the last official execution of a convicted sorcerer was in late 2007. When Fawza Falith, a Saudi woman, was condemned in 2008, intense appeal from international human right agencies caused her execution to be postponed. However she eventually died in prison, reportedly of ill health. The Anti-Witchcraft Unit operates under the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (CPV), Saudi Arabia's religious police.

The belief in sorcery is so widespread in Saudi Arabia, that it is even used as a defense in criminal court cases. Media Line reports that last October, a judge accused of receiving bribes in a real-estate project told a court in Madinah that he had been bewitched into doing so. He is said to be undergoing treatment by Quaranic incantations, known as ruqiyah, to restore him.

Media Line also reports that accusations of witchcraft are conveniently used to counter charges of sexual harassment when made by foreign domestic workers against their Saudi bosses. “They will often say that the [female] domestic worker bewitched the Saudi into falling in love with her.”
www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=230183

Three years ago, in August 2008, the corruption case against a former Chairman of the Niger Delta Development Commission made waves in Nigeria. The intriguing part of the story was that it was actually the accused who apparently reported himself to the police. The claim was along the line that a sorcerer the accused had been consulting had turned his spells on him compelling him to steal government funds. Up to N510 million out of the N800 million stolen money was handed over to the sorcerer! On his turn, the sorcerer claimed he had not done anything illegal! Part of the occultic

rituals supposedly involved the burning of N270m cash at a cemetery.
www.punchng.com/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art20080820052531

But there is probably no land on earth as immersed in sorcery at the present time as Europe. Yonder, through the various Harry Porter movies (among other media), the whole land is reeking in sorcery - cast in the guise of harmless stories on guts, courage and loyalty. The prime targets are the children. For a review of the latest Harry Potter movie recently released, see <http://www.raptureready.com/featured/markell/21.html>. Vol 14 No 2

In Pakistan”

A Pakistani man has gunned down six of his daughters on suspicion that two of them were in relationships with boys in the neighbourhood. In the morning of Tuesday July 26, Arif Mubashir called his teenage daughters to his room and shot them while the rest of the family, including their mother, watched. His wife Musarrat called the police after the incident. (<http://tribune.com.pk/story/218250/honour-killings-man-guns-down-six-daughters>)

Mubashir shot the girls after their brother said two of them were in a relationship. He afterwards told police officials that he had killed his daughters because they were both “without honour”. That the magic phrase no sensible government official will ignore! The killer dad explained that his daughters Sameena, 14, and Razia, 16, were in a relationship with college boys from the neighbourhood and the sisters had helped each other. Police officials have taken Mubashir into custody and filed a case against him. “He does not regret what he did. He boasted that he would do it all over again if he had to,” the investigating Police officer Javed Sial told reporters.

Despite denials and protests by moslems, “honor killing” is firmly grounded in Islam. As pointed out by Robert Spencer, “It is no accident or coincidence that [Muslims](#).” In 2003 the Jordanian Parliament voted down on Islamic grounds a provision designed to stiffen penalties for honor killings. [Al-Jazeera reported](#) that "Islamists and conservatives said the laws violated religious traditions and would destroy families and values."

Pakistan has repeatedly been termed as one of the least women-friendly countries. In June, the Thompson Reuters Foundation ranked Pakistan as the world’s third most dangerous country for women. Please see more details and commentaries at <http://www.jihadwatch.org/> Vol 14 No 2

675 Women murdered in “Honour Killings” in Pakistan in the first nine months of 2011

The AFP on December 20 reports that a total of 675 women and girls were killed in the name of “honour” across Pakistan from January to September, 2011. That’s an average of 18 women every week, all year-round. The final figures are expected to be similar to 2010’ s figure of 791 once the tally for the remaining 3 months is added. According to statistics provided by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, about 130 of the victims were killed for marrying without permission. Some 19 were killed by their sons, 49 by their fathers and 169 by their husbands. At least 71 of the victims were under the age of 18.

Even outside Pakistan, Pakistani nationals keep implementing their “honour-killing” code with all impunity. For instance in the UK, a court believed that a child born out of wedlock by a young Pakistani lady will eventually be tracked down and killed by her family for honour’s sake - even in the UK. The court therefore has ordered that

the baby be put up for secret adoption (<http://barenakedislam.wordpress.com/2011/12/21/uk-court-says-muslim-baby-at-risk-of-being-honor-killed-must-be-adopted/>). Elsewhere, in Belgium, four members of a Pakistani family were in December sent to prison for the murder of their daughter and sister. The girl had defied the family by living with a Belgian man and refusing an arranged marriage. Figures provided on JihadWatch indicate that the Moslem world is responsible for 91% of all “honour killings” in the world.

The number of women seriously abused in the name of honour, without outright killing, are simply legion. In a recent case reported by the AFP on December 19, a Pakistani man went a step above the Islam- permitted hitting of his teenage wife, to chop off her nose and lips in the midst of a furious marital row. The 17 year old wife Salma Bibi tells her story: "He repeatedly slapped my face and then went into the room and brought with him a locally made, sharp razor. I started shouting in panic. He tied my hands and foot with a rope and chopped off my nose and lips" (for details, see <http://www.answeringmuslims.com/2011/12/pakistani-muslim-chops-off-wifes-lips.html>).

It's hard to see what is honorable in these brutalities. In other cultures of the world, Nigeria for example, “honour killing” would actually suggest killing oneself, and not the other, weaker person!
Vol 14 no 5

Necrophilia Bill in Egypt

We first put it as an obvious exaggeration and slanted reporting. But alas, it is indeed true that Egyptian legislators are considering a bill that would make it lawful for a man to have sex with a dead wife – within some specified hours after death! Not only is it horrific,

seemingly incredible that a man would even be moved into contemplating sex looking at the dead body of a supposedly beloved one, it is even ironic that the idea of parting sex should come from a culture and religion that officially allows legitimate sex with at least four living wives, in addition to “what your right hand possesses”, ie. slaves, maids, etc.

But Raymond Ibrahim on FrontPage Magazine (<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/11630/islam-death-sex-necrophilia>) not only documented the fact of the legislators’ actions, he also delved into the historic/religious root of the idea of a “farewell intercourse”. No less a personality than the Prophet of Islam himself was cited to have engaged in a parting sex with a cadaver in one of the hadiths. Raymond provided the link (in Arabic) (http://www.islamweb.net/hadith/display_hbook.php?bk_no=4156&pid=556490&hid=208). Where then is the Muslim who would dare publicly criticize this practice!

As pointed out by Raymond Ibrahim, hadith apart, necrophilia is also validated in many Islam's **legal** texts. Quoting an example, he wrote: “According to al-Sharwani's Hawashi, ‘there is no punishment for having intercourse with a dead woman’ and ‘it is not necessary to rewash the dead after penetration.’”

All this is yet another evidence of the lateness of the Hour, and massive attack from demons in utterly corrupting the good gift of sex and marriage as given by the Almighty. It follows a long line beginning with homosexuality, down to pedophilia, bestiality, and now necrophilia. People who engage in these sordid acts are indeed having intercourse with demons, only using the physical object/body as stimulating aid. Humanity has clearly reached the end of the cycle and we are back at the days when spirit beings copulated with humans

producing a new breed. (Genesis 6). Indeed many are openly advocating that the age of humans is soon to give way to that of transhumans – as the next stage in human evolution series!

As a comic relief to a really serious issue of valedictory sex, Raymond also reproduced a cartoon from an Egyptian newspaper showing the departing spirit of a dead woman watching as her husband prepared for the parting copulation act. Lamenting, the spirit asked where the husband had been when she was alive!

Raymond however drew out a sobering conclusion on Islam from this issue. He wrote: “[this development] leads to another eye-opener: it is no longer this or that "radical" cleric, but parliament members who are, not merely acknowledging bizarre Islamic practices, but trying to implement them as "laws." (Perhaps this should be unsurprising, considering weeks earlier in Egypt, suit-and-tie wearing Muslim court lawyers attacked with knives a Christian defendant for supposedly "blaspheming" Muhammad.)

“What else do such "parliamentarians" and "lawyers" have in store for Egypt and its neighbors? If this little known, ghoulish practice is being endorsed simply because of one arcane hadith, how much more support must Egypt's Islamist-dominated parliament be giving to those other ironclad teachings of Islam--for instance, Muhammad's unequivocal commands, recorded in hundreds of canonical hadiths, to fight, deceive, and subjugate all non-Muslim infidels?”

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/11630/islam-death-sex-necrophilia>) Vol 15 No 2

Hypocrisy of the Hijab jihad

We find the unabashed self-delusory hypocrisy involved in the Hijab jihad really amazing. It's a common sight, for instance on

University Campuses in the South West, seeing ladies in hijab asking for rides by the roadside – even from unknown male motorists with no one else with them in the car. Does not the same religion put equal weight on wearing hijab as never being alone with a non-family member of the opposite sex?

And as for the school situation, would we not have to resort to segregating the classroom into males and females, not only for pupils but teachers as well? Remember Christianah Oluwaseesin was killed by her students in March 2007 in Gombe state for lacking proper Islam-mandated classroom etiquette. She “foolishly” seized (thereby touching!) a bag containing the Quoran from a pupil while invigilating an IRS exam! Read that horrible story again in **Vol 10 No 2**)

If Muslims in the South West are reviving the call for the hijab in public schools, (which they unsuccessfully tried at University Medical schools etc in the past), they should be prepared to go the whole hog. Such Hijab-clad faithfuls should not be found alone in the company of non-family males – except of course they are prepared for the conditions for exemptions.

Yes there are conditions for exemptions. Back in May 2007, Dr. Izzat Atiya, head of Al Azhar University's Department of Hadith in Egypt, issued a *fatwa*, saying that female workers should "breastfeed" their male co-workers in order to work in each other's company. According to the [BBC](#): He said that if a woman fed a male colleague "directly from her breast" at least five times they would establish a family bond and thus be allowed to be alone together at work. "Breast feeding an adult puts an end to the problem of the private meeting, and does not ban marriage," he ruled. "A woman at work can take off the veil or reveal her hair in front of someone whom she

breastfed." <http://www.meforum.org/3211/islamic-adult-breastfeeding-fatwas>. In a later version (year 2010), high-ranking Saudi, Sheikh Abdul Mohsin al-Abaican [issued another fatwa](#) relaxing the requirement: the male co-worker does not necessarily have to suck directly from the breast, but can drink the milk served in a cup. (<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/7570/fatwa-men-drink-breast-milk>). As late as April 2012, the appropriateness of adults drinking women's breastmilk to confer the licence to see their supposedly seductive hairs is still being affirmed in the Islamic world. (<http://www.meforum.org/3211/islamic-adult-breastfeeding-fatwas>) **Vol 15 No 2**

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SECTION VII

Other Religions

INTRODUCTION

For completion, in this perspective of examining Christ's imminent coming, we present developments in some other world religions. Like Islam with its stick and carrot attitude, embrace of interfaithism gives access to the carrots while the stick is wielded at intransigent Christian who would not toy with their faiths. It is necessary that Christians see the developments in these other religions as the end time approaches. As previously stated, religion will be a major platform to usher in the antichrist. At every UN summit, there are parallel sessions for religious matter under the UR. Developments in these other religions are clearly indicative that the Master is at the door!

Chapter 26 African Traditional Religion (ATR)
Chapter 27 Others

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CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX: African Traditional Religion (ATR)

Ooni of Ife repudiates Orisha worship, embraces Christianity...

The Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuade is sick of the local deities, especially of their enslaving demands and failure to deliver! And as the chief custodian of all the deities (Orisha) of Yorubaland, he should know what he is saying! He maintained that only “death, losses and bloodshed” and unending wars has the city to show for its strict devotion to these deities. To the chagrin of a number of hard-core traditionalists who are issuing as much threats as they dared, but to the joy of several indigenes of the ancient city, a branch of the Christ Apostolic Church, CAC Royal Chapel, has been established at the Palace. The revered traditional king has also ordered Christians in the city to hold crusades at the City Hall (the Ogun Shrine) every month. (See *Bojuri* newspaper, Vol 1 No 5, June 2001 for details)

...Even as Orisa Festival planned for Ile-Ife

With peace gradually being re-established in Ile-Ife and environs, after series of intermittent voodoo-driven fratricidal wars, and perhaps in reaction to the massive repudiation of the local traditional

deities by an increasing number of people (including the Ooni, see previous article); a group of traditional religion practitioners feel it is time to invite the entire world to help work for a renaissance of Orisa worship in the city. Scheduled for mid-August this year, the festival is expected to attract worshippers from all over the world in a kind of mini-Festac.

Probably in connection with the Festival, a piece of land has been given by the University, for the construction of an Orisha Temple. This takes the current planned festival steps higher than the first festival organized by Prof Wande Abimbola years back. Christians have the options of either folding their hands and observing the resurrection of local deities already judged in the establishment of the current peaceful co-existence in the city - with predictable results - or once and for all exercising their spiritual authority to disallow any thing that would return things to the satanic status quo. **Vol 4 No 4**

Traditionalists in All-out War against Christianity

Indications are that traditional religionists have declared an all-out war against Christianity! Let's check out a few incidents.

In Sagamu: Traditional religionists actually circulated letters to Churches banning all night vigils and other Church activities in the week of the Oro festival. Like the situation we had reported in our last edition in Accra, adherents of traditional religion are demanding for a stricter enforcement of curfew and similar laws this year. However unlike in Accra, the Church in Sagamu seemed unable to do anything about the matter. In fact, the episode was so serious that the Prayer Conference of the Intercessors for Nigeria scheduled for Sagamu July 5 - 7 could not hold within the city as the approval for use of the NYSC Orientation Camp was suddenly withdrawn at late hours. A participant at the Prayer Conference which was

subsequently shifted to an hotel on the outskirts of Sagamu was visibly sad while recounting the situation to us. Said he, “They shut the city against us. It is quite lamentable”.

In Ikorodu: The traditional religion-imposed curfew “caused consternation among parents whose female children were forced to sleep at School to write the recent WASC exams” writes a reporter in a meant-to-be-favourable report on *Agemo Festival in Ijebuland* (Punch July 10, pg 38). The violence attending the Egungun festival **in Ijebu-Igbo** was not directed at Christians in particular, at least on the surface; but it was bad enough to make the Government declare that “no Egungun festival should take place henceforth without express permission of the law enforcement agencies in the state” (Punch July 12, pg 7).

At Iwolo, Enugu State, there was direct confrontation between traditionalists and unyielding catholic worshippers on Sunday 5th August leading to the razing down of 9 houses. Chairman of Ezeagu local government has waded into the crisis promising compensation for the Church members whose houses were razed down. A special committee has also been set up while 35 persons including 2 masquerades have been arrested for the arson. (Punch Aug. 14, page 8)

However, the “mother” of all efforts by traditionalists to reclaim the land for a possession was the recent **World Orisha Festival** held at **Ile-Ife** (with some activities also marked at **Osogbo and Oyo**). Thank God for Christians who rose to the occasion in a military manner with prayers and night-vigils, the festival was not anything like the grand carnival envisaged for it. In fact the Festival was badly upstaged when on the opening day, Mrs Stella Obasanjo came calling in Ile-Ife to lay the foundation of the new NTA Ile-Ife station. Most of the (open) activities of the festival were subsequently restricted to the

Obafemi Awolowo University campus. Pressed to comment on the success of the Festival, one of the key members of the Local Organizing Committee was overheard to sputter, “W...A... is a thief!”. He was referring to one of the chief organizers/priests who was alleged to have ‘cornered all the dollars’ brought in by the hapless expatriate participants at the festival! **Vol 4 No 5**

At Ilogbo Ekiti traditionalists disrupt Crusade, abduct preacher

A six-day revival programme organized by the local branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria in Ilogbo-Ekiti was disrupted on day 2 by “traditional religion practitioners”. According to a report in the *Punch*, trouble started when “the traditionalists suddenly besieged the crusade venue at the heat of the programme armed with sticks, cudgels, stones and other dangerous weapons”. The invited minister, Rev Femi Oluwande of the Calvary Church, Ado-Ekiti was hit by stones and later abducted to an unknown destination. He was found next morning, unconscious in a bush and was rushed to a hospital for medical attention. All the public address systems as well as drums, generator and over 2,000 Bibles were also burnt by the traditionalist mob. At Press time, Police said they were still investigating the case and will issue a definite statement “soon” (*Punch* Dec 12, pg 6). **Vol 6 No 1**

More on Orisha Festival at Ile-Ife

A significant event during the Orisha Festival week was the regular radio programme on the **Osun State Radio** on *Odu Ifa* where this time around (Tuesday, August 7), a Babalawo from **Ila-Orangun** harped vigorously against people who are leaving the traditional religions for Christianity. He threatened that those who do so, no

matter their status “even be it a Royal Father”, will be dealt with by [spiritual] clubs/hammers reserved for them! Though such a flagrant ‘unYoruba’ threat more or less only betrays utter desperation, nevertheless Christians should not take it lightly. Participants at the World Orisha Festival were not left completely without a Christian witness. A tract released by Church Arise! for the event is reproduced at the close of this section (Appendix).

Bees attack during Olojo Festival at Ile-Ife

That power has changed hands in Ile-Ife, Nigeria was further confirmed when the few recalcitrant worshippers of Ogun were attacked by a swarm of bees during the last Olojo festival. Since the Chief Priest of the Yoruba deities, the Ooni of Ife gave his life to Jesus, renouncing the deities that have kept the people in bondage for generations, those still trying to service these altars are actually on self-sent missions. Some people prefer learning the hard way! **Vol 5 No 1**

Ooni to testify for Jesus in the United States

The Ooni of Ife, His Royal Highness Oba Okunade Sijuwade has agreed to be the special guest at the 2nd anniversary celebration of the Network of Ministers of Africa and African Descent International (NMAADI) coming up in September in the United States. At the meeting, the royal father will be sharing the testimony of how he became born-again, trusting the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation and well-being. In times past, this high priest of the cradle of Yorubas (himself one of the gods of the land, in fact, according to the confused religious system handed down to the Yoruba ancestors) used to be a popular guest abroad during celebrations of the false gods that had

held the Yorubas in bondage for centuries prior to now. Praise God it's time to export true godliness and righteousness! **Vol 5 No 5**

Reaching unto the Roots

Meanwhile the Gospel of the Master continues to triumphantly make in-roads into the palaces. For instance, the Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship at a very powerful meeting launched a Chapter of the Fellowship at the Ooni's palace on Tuesday July 17th with many Obas and traditional chiefs in attendance; while the Association of Christian Kings also had a strategic meeting at Warri in August. Among the graduands at the Redeemed Christian Church of God's Bible College on August 8 were HRM, Oba Olatunde Falabi Lambeloye III, the Akire of Ikireland, and his Olori. The people who sat in darkness are indeed seeing a great light!

Ritual Killing Unabating

In Osogbo, 3 persons, agents of some herbalists who specialise in money-making rituals within and outside Osun State have been nabbed in Osogbo the state capital. (Punch July 22, pg 1)

In Warri: Kingsley Samuel, a child trafficker, was arrested on Sunday (Punch Thurs 12 July, page 8) while trying to sell an 8 year old girl in Warri. The girl was stolen from Ahoada in Rivers State.

In Maiduguri: Jummai Hassan, 13 year old, confessed to have killed 48 persons, mainly children, for ritual purposes. She said she was initiated into the business by one Ashade Akinoni, a worker in the Federal Office of Statistics, Maiduguri, who specializes in killing adults. The 2 occultists first mesmerize their victims by "a powdery substance" sprayed on their food. They are then killed and their hearts removed. A troubling angle was added to this already stomach-turning satanic business, when the ritual killers revealed they are

investing monies so-obtained for building 'churches' (Punch July 29, page 1). **Vol 4 No 5**

CAC Church in Ghana attacked for ignoring Animist Council's Orders

Youths from Ghana's Ga ethnic group attacked a Church during a worship service on Sunday May 13, for defying a one-month ban on loud music and drums imposed by elders of the animist community. About 2,000 people were worshipping in the Christ Apostolic Church Accra when the incident occurred. Acting Chairman of the Church, Revd Annor Yeboah said some of the Church's members were injured, several windows were broken and about 5 cars smashed. A council of Ga elders comprising priests, priestesses and chieftains had outlawed "the beating of drums" and other loud music for a month to mark their main annual festival, Homowo. Unlike in previous years, they are asking for strict enforcement of silence this year. The police have stepped into the matter. (Punch May 14, page 13) **Vol 4 No 4**

Sango at COJA

The presentation and exaltation of the mythical Yoruba god of thunder Sango, was one of the surprises the Wole Soyinka-led organizing committee sprang on both President Obasanjo and the rest of the world during the very colourful opening ceremony of the last 8th All African Games (COJA).

Represented by one of his devotees, Sango marched to the field in his characteristic drunken and possessed steps and blew out fire from his mouth, an action that the technical gurus blended with the actual lighting of the Festival Torch - no doubts very impressive! Sad for Sango however, the Festival Torch (unheard of in any festival of the magnitude of COJA) went off after only two days, and remained

unfixable for the next couple of days (Punch Oct 7, pg 56). Nigeria, the eventual winner of the game was not able to win a single medal in the 2 days the ‘Sango torch’ was on!

‘Sango’ was also at hand at the closing ceremony to officially swallow up the flames, thus putting off the Festival Torch. But the real Sango had apparently visited the venue, some 2 hours earlier when a thunderstorm mysteriously descended at the Abuja stadium reducing one of the most beautiful edifices there, the multi-million naira Velodrome, to tatters. An eye witness account was given in Sunday Punch of Oct 19 (page 11): “It was a terrifying experience. I was just beside the complex when it happened. There was lightning which bounced off the nearby transformer and landed on the roof. Within a twinkle of an eye, the roof went off...” On the arrival, a few days later, of the consortium of experts to evaluate the destruction, Public Affairs Manager of Julius Berger told Punch: “We are still in shock about what happened because we have handled many other Velodrome projects in other parts of the world... and we have never experienced a thing like this” (Punch Oct 22, back page).

Punch reporter described the incident as “a sad end to the Games”. A familiar conclusion for projects to which the violent god of thunder is given prominence, we will say! Thank God, no lives were lost. **Vol 6 No 6**

Anglican Church calls for justice on Cathedral sacked by Traditionalists in Ondo state.

Four months after the Ebenezer Cathedral at Ilutitun-Osooro in Okitipupa Local government area of Ondo state was sacked by traditionalists celebrating the Iwo festival, the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, is requesting the intervention of both the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Hafiz Ringim, and the Ondo State

Government to investigate the incident. According to the Punch (29/11/2010), the Bishop of the Diocese of the Coast, Rt. Rev. Joshua Ogunle, wants government to investigate in particular, the role played by the Majuwa of Ilu-Titun, Oba Ernest Idepefo, in the incident which resulted in damages to the tune of N25m.

During the incident that happened on Saturday July 31, 2010, a church programme had coincided with the annual traditional worship of the Ominele deity. The problem is that the traditionalists ascribe to themselves the power to impose a stay-at-home order on all women and children – presumably to ensure the potency of their deals with the local slave-driver, the Ominele deity.

Irked by the Church's decision to hold a parallel open activity on a day supposedly dedicated to Ominele, the traditionalists resorted to their trademark – physical violence. Rev Ogunle described the situation:

“Hell was let loose around 4.30pm when some fierce-looking youths numbering about 500, armed with machetes, guns, axes, used tyres, petrol and other dangerous weapons stormed the church premises while the service had barely started.”

“They destroyed the cathedral's expensive tinted glasses , vandalised three cars, destroyed four residential buildings, removed the church's valuable property and stole N98,000 in one of the residential quarters.”

Rev Ogunle said despite reporting the matter to the police and the state government, none of the perpetrators had been prosecuted.

The traditionalists neither denied the story nor showed any remorse. Rather, the head of the traditionalists, Chief Adedeji Iwere, attempted to justify the action by wondering why “...of the over 30 churches in Ilu-Titun only the Anglican Church defied the order that women and children should stay indoors during the festival.”

He sent his own appeal that the state should protect the local deities from “the ignorance of these Christians, who think they can teach us new ways of doing things.”

What a way to justify attacking people on their own property, for not subscribing to the instructions of a god they do not serve! If the government prefers to turn blind eyes to the problem, it should be aware that another July is just ahead, with the possibility of another showdown. **Vol 13 No 6**

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CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN: Others

Baby Sacrificed in India to appease Hindu goddess

An 11-month old boy was allegedly sacrificed by a woman in the Southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh to appease a Hindu goddess, reported the Press Trust of India (Punch May 27, pg 10). G. Pochanma beheaded her tenant's son, late on Thursday May 25 "after offering prayers." She made the sacrifice to attain prosperity and "spiritual powers". Also in Nigeria, a "Senior Evangelist of a popular white garment Church" has been arraigned in Court for "organizing the slaughtering, like an animal, of his mother" and draining the blood into bottles. (Punch June 24, pg 1) **Vol 4 No 4**

P&G and Perennial Satanism accusation

The President of Procter and Gamble is not involved in Satanism. Few Christians will doubt this assertion now with so many respected men of God saying they are so convinced. In 1997, the well-respected Jacob Prasch of Moriel, a cult-exposing ministry, had written to debunk this 20 year old allegation pointing out the AMWAY organization, competitors with P&G on some products, as at least one group behind such rumour.

However, the issue is again in the news; and once again P&G is collecting/‘wresting’ endorsements from notable and respected men of God, particularly in Africa. Indeed, some of the statements have been quite measured. Pastor Adeboye for instance wrote “in view of your express denial and the evidence provided by your Mr Timi Adetona all the way from London, we now believe the rumour [of involvement in Satanism] is false”. Explaining further to ministers of the RCCG, Pastor Adeboye said “...and even if someone belongs to Satan and he comes to the open and says I denounce Satan, as far as I’m concerned, that settles the matter”. Similar or somewhat stronger statements of endorsement were issued by PFN’s Bishop Mike Okonkwo, Dr Isak Burger of The Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Ray McCauley. Other men of stature who had risen to defend P&G of this same allegation in the past include Billy Graham, the Most Rev. Daniel E. Polarczyk (Catholic Archbishop of Cincinnati), and General Superintendent of the General Council of the Assemblies, Thomas Trask (Christian Hotline Week, July 11, pg 6). This is not to mention the various popular talkshow hosts who were also roped into the story, somehow from time to time.

And this is what got us writing this article. Honestly, one wonders if the impact of the good publicity from such powerful ‘spokesmen’ have not more than compensated several times over, for whatever the negative economic impacts of the rumours were. And surely the so-called competitors peddling the rumours should be aware of that much; rather than continuing making over the years the same cheap allegations that are easily disproved and turned round to great advantage by the opponent!

Our concern at Church Arise! however, is the effects all this repeated accusation-clearing cycle could have on Society at large and Christians

in particular. We wrote earlier to point out how the enemy is waging war of attrition to “unprepare” the masses for certain crucial events his is planning to come out with; such that when those events finally break in like a flood, most people would not be able to respond as sharply as they ought to (VoL 3 No 2, March-April, 2000).

The 20-year old accusation and clearing of P&G of the one same issue - open Satanism - might have nothing to do with economics at all in the long-run. It might even have not much to do with the P&G, as any organization could have been picked upon. It might as well be a dual way of gauging public opposition to open Satanism over the years and at the same time getting the average man to lose interest entirely in the subject matter.

Church, do not give in. Refuse to lose your sharp edge in abhorring every appearance of evil. As Salt and Light, we must continue to preserve sanity and godliness in Society till our Master comes for us. Amen. **Vol 4 No 5**

US Jail suspends devil worship services

Satan worship is on the official religious services calendar in the United States, so inmates at a number of prisons allow satanic services to hold. However, claiming to have found "information that indicates that satanic services could be a threat to the institutions, authorities at the Kentucky Prison Service have decided to suspend the practice at the Green River Jail. Apart from outright satanism, several of the jails in the state also practice Wiccan services, which is pure witchcraft. It is being suggested that the case might end up in the supreme court as violation of religious rights. (AP, Sept 2)

This shows that what would have been considered outrageous in years past are now regarded as purely normal. Even in Nigeria, several apologists are defending cults and occultism as fundamental human

rights. All these notwithstanding the devastating impacts these have on the larger society - for instance several satan-inspired rituals involve human lives/organs. **Vol 5 No 5**

Another Clownish attack on Christianity - Claims Of Jesus' Bones Found

In a way, it is gratifying to us to note that the majority of our readers will only wonder at the incredulity of stories and efforts to discredit the fact of Christ's resurrection and use these as a gauge of the imminence of the coming of the Lord. Not only have they had their mind firmly made up on the issue, most of them (for one reason or the other) don't dote on Discovery channel TV.

However for the millions of people, most with marginal or no faith at all, who spend quality time swallowing the latest servings on the Discovery Channels, the story of the discovery of the bones of one 'Jesus son of Joseph', and a 'Miriam' is compelling. Also found on the same location were bones (kept in stone boxes called ossuaries) of eight other individuals among them one named 'Judah son of Jesus'. Professional archaeologists have long known (since 1980) about the find - among several others of its kind - and they considered it totally inconsequential. But told in the professional compelling fashion Discovery Channel is known for, the Hollywood version nevertheless pulls some strings in the heart of those who in any case are seeking for a way out of God's authority!

Applying a shameful and blatantly unreasonable set of deductions, film producer James Cameron (who happens to be a 33rd degree Mason) and film Director Simcha Jacobovici came to the strange conclusion that the said "Jesus son of Joseph" must be Jesus of Nazareth; that the Mariame must be Mary Magdalene, and the Judah must be the son of the duo! The other bones which cannot be

reasonably explained within this incredulous framework are simply ignored! (See a secular report at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0702270145feb27,1,1790100.story?track=rss>)

Begging the issue, but completely consistent with Hollywood tradition, elaborate efforts were made to do DNA analyses on the bones found in the ossuary; but how on earth could such result ever conclude that the bones were those of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, when no one ever took HIS own DNA for comparison? Of course anything goes in Hollywood science! Nearly 100 ossuaries in Palestine have been found bearing the names Jesus, Joseph, and Mary. In fact, an earlier ossuary found in 1931 had the exact same inscription “Jesus son of Joseph”. How strange and stupid it would have been for disciples of Jesus to have kept His bones while at the same time insist, to the point of being brutally killed, that He had risen from death. And they had seen Him after His crucifixion, received into Heaven, while they all looked on!

The story is breaking around Easter, and is obviously meant to further weaken the significance of the death and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Professional archaeologists all agreed that it is shady science that Discovery Channel (owned by the chairman of strategic communications on the increasingly notorious US based Council on Foreign Relations, CFR!), is doing. But to us in CA! it's no surprise. It's just the same kind of science that tries to portray everything on earth to have gradually and uniformly evolved from nothing, “billions of years ago.” Downright incredibly stupid!

Antecedents of James Cameron

Ironically, it's not the first time the imaginative director mentioned in the last story has tried to help our understanding of the Bible. About a

year ago, James Cameron (who also directed the films, Titanic and Terminator) produced a new documentary that claimed to have uncovered fresh evidence that the parting of the Red Sea recorded in Exo. 12 might actually have been caused by a tsunami! The documentary claims the episode occurred not at the Red Sea but at the smaller Sea of Reeds, a marshy area at the northern end of the Gulf of Suez. An underwater earthquake may have released poisonous gases that turned the waters red. In short, it has nothing to do with God. Comical - if not for the hundreds, probably thousands of souls, that would end up in hell just because of all this nonsense!
www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/article601300.ece

APPENDIX

THE GREATER THAN ALL ORISHAS (Tract produced for the Orisha Festival at Ile-Ife, 2001

Nearly 20 years ago, though a keen admirer of the gods of Yorubaland, I somehow ventured into reading through the Bible, the Christian Scriptures. To me at that time, I was only reading another best-seller and classic, a book whose God was certainly a stranger to me.

I soon developed considerable respect for the book and its God. For one thing, the Bible is so brutally frank, unpretentious and honest. All its great heroes were portrayed just as they were: warps, blemish and all. The very first passage that really caught my attention as I read through was Deuteronomy 32:8-9. In the Good News Version which I was reading, it says:

“The Most High assigned nations their lands; he determined where peoples should live, He assigned to each nation a god, but Jacob’s descendants he chose for himself”.

This passage made a lot of sense to me. To me the issue was very clear: God almighty has assigned gods to each nation, and any nation that takes its own gods seriously stands to reap the benefits. Oh of course, I was envious of the descendants of Jacob whom the Almighty chose for

Himself. Deep down, I wished I could belong to Him too. But I quickly consoled myself with the Yoruba adage: *Ibi ori da ni si laa gbe* (you live where heaven has assigned you).

Most of the Old Testament, as I read along, only went on to reinforce this my basic belief. I could see the children of Jacob winning spectacular victories over mighty opponents, but then there were instances where much smaller nations did get some victories over them too. In fact on some occasions the Israelites were actually evacuated from the Land of Promise by their enemies! It was quite easy for me to conclude that if you served your gods and were obedient, you got rewarded and if you neglected them you also reaped the consequences. In fact most of warfare in Yorubaland, and certainly elsewhere, is getting your opponent to disobey his gods, as exemplified in the story of Kurumi of Ijaye in his war with the Ibadans.

I received my next major jolt on getting to the 82nd chapter of the Book of Psalms. Till today, there are still aspects of this Psalm that I am still only discovering; but even at that first reading, several things were crystal clear. The Psalm opens on a tough note:

“God presides in the heavenly council; in the assembly of the gods he gives his decision: You must stop judging unjustly; you must no longer be partial to the wicked!

Pretty heavy stuff. It continues in like manner showing the anger of the Most High God against this assembly of the gods. In verse 5, this Scripture reads:

“How ignorant you are! How stupid! You are completely corrupt, and justice has disappeared from the world”

In verse 6 comes the bombshell - judgement:

“You are gods,” I said; ‘all of you are sons of the Most High’. But you will die like men; your life will end like that of any prince.

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The Psalm ends with a clear declaration that the Most High God will one day take over all the nations:

“Come, O God, and rule the world; all the nations are yours”.

Of course, I had seen earlier on, how the Most High God judged individual gods when there were direct confrontations between them. For instance in Exodus 12:12 He threatened to punish all the gods of Egypt, which He did (see also Num 33:4); while His judgement of Dagon (the god of agriculture - Orisa-Oko/Obatala - of the Philistines) is well known (1 Sam 5:1-7). Since the Yoruba nation is known to have migrated down to present location from somewhere in the Middle East, there is little doubt that the gods brought down to Ile-Ife were part of the gods so judged in the instances above.

“If He likes, let Him come and destroy all of us” was however my response to the information in Psalm 82! And I shrugged my shoulders. Though I continued to attend Church for the protection it offers against witches and wizards etc (I loathed incisions and the myriads of sacrifices of appeasement the local gods always prescribe), my heart or perhaps sympathy was much with the local gods. *Ibi ori da ni si laa gbe.*

The turning point for me came as I came to the book of *the Acts of the Apostles* in the New Testament. There in Chapter 17, I was confronted with a commandment from the Most High God. A commandment I knew I had to respond to one way or the other. Beginning from verse 26 one reads, concerning the Lord God Almighty:

“From one man he created all races of mankind and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live”

Well, that is a re-affirmation of Deuteronomy 32, with the addition that this Most High God determines not only geographical locations people will be assigned to, but also the TIMES as well - talk of being in

total control. The passage went further on to explain God's earlier actions recorded in Deuteronomy. In verse 27 of Acts 17 we read:

“He (God) did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt around for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us...”

In verses 30-31 comes the bombshell, a clear-cut command I could either obey or disobey:

“God has overlooked the times when people did not know him, but now he commands all of them EVERYWHERE to turn away from their evil ways. For He has fixed a day in which he will judge the whole world with justice by means of a man he has chosen. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising that man from death!

The Most High God is commanding **everyone, everywhere!** Jesus is the Ultimate Judge! He rose up from the dead! My heart throbbed. I needed to know Him more.

Thanks be to God, I have since learnt that the Most High God is welcoming into His family anyone who will simply receive His Son Jesus (i.e. accept His sacrifice, teachings and commandments); and believe in His name (John 1:12). I have learnt from the Bible that Jesus is God's way of speaking to us “these last days” even though He tried many other ways in times past (Heb 1:1).

More significantly, I learnt that by trusting in Jesus, I myself become *de facto* a god. True, folks like Ogun, Oya, Sango, Oluorogbo, Orunmila, Osun etc once ordinary men and women who lived in Yorubaland, were upon their deaths deified and labeled ‘gods’. This is because while they were alive, they were possessed by some spirits which manifested themselves using these hapless people as media. In every culture around the earth, these same spirits (fallen angels?) have expressed themselves through willing/ignorant human agents. My 'godship'

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however is by far superior, being graced to partake even of the divine nature of the Almighty Himself (2 Peter 1:4, Ephesians 1:20-21, 2:6).

Egbe ori omode!

The Bible does not leave any room for independent gods running the show on earth. In Jeremiah 10:11, God gave the instruction:

“Thus you shall say to them: “The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens”.

We wait to see who will have the last word!

People who refer to Jehovah El Elyon, the Most High God, as a foreign God are terribly wrong; and most certainly have been blinded by the “god of this world”, Satan (2 Cor 4:4 KJV). Jehovah is NOT a local God, but the God of all the earth (see, for instance, Psalm 97). And He has commanded **all** to turn to Him. He who disobeys does that at his own personal peril.

My friend if you are still following the gods who demand sacrifices and blood (including human blood - if not overtly, then implicitly through road accidents/war-mongering etc), it is time you turned to the living God. The One Who gave His own blood for you rather than demanding yours or that of your loved ones. I plead with you, do turn to Jesus today.

Do not put your decision off. Do not delay any further. Today is the day of salvation.

This tract was written in 2001 and directed at the participants of the World Orisha Festival, (August 2001) which held at Ile-Ife.

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“Beloved ... It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” - Jude :3 **Vol. 10 No. 2**

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