

BUCKINGHAM REPORT

**AN IN-DEPTH CRITIQUE BY AMERICA'S FOREMOST
CHRISTIAN ANALYZER OF THE ISSUES, PEOPLE, &
EVENTS AFFECTING TODAY'S SPIRIT-LED LEADERS**

CATHOLICS BECOMING MORE CATHOLIC

Can we believe those reports about the Catholic Church easing its position on birth control and married priests? Not likely. Pope John Paul II has called a major synod in Rome for November to review reforms of Vatican II. Catholic leaders are saying privately that the Pope will use the two-week conference to pressure bishops and cardinals to resist any change and reinforce traditional doctrine. The Pope accepts the Catholic Charismatic movement as long as the primary emphasis is on "Catholic."

Catholic writer-editor Nick Cavnar (*New Covenant* magazine), in a soon-to-be-published article in *Charisma*, enforces this by confirming that Catholics are becoming far *more* Catholic, rather than, as many hoped several years ago, more ecumenical. Gone are the days of the ecumenical/Charismatic prayer group attended by priests and nuns. Although there are still many Catholic Pentecostal prayer groups, you'll have to look a long way to find one that is truly ecumenical—and even further to find one where the attending priest is not in charge. Look for an increased emphasis among Catholic Pentecostals on traditional Catholic values, including the exclusivity of the "Mother Church" as the true body of Christ and a return to such things as the rosary and a public emphasis on Mary.

AFTER REAGAN—WHO?

Conservative Christians are beginning to look ahead—four years ahead. Who, they are asking, is an acceptable replacement for Ronald Reagan? Most feel that George Bush is a closet liberal and that Howard Baker is primarily a politician with unacceptable Christian commitment. The man to look for—and perhaps to start praying for—is Representative Jack Kemp (R/NY). Kemp, a New York congressman, is one of the front-runners. An outspoken evangelical Christian, Kemp is also a strong supporter of Israel, being one of the few congressmen to speak out on the propriety of moving our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in recognition of Jerusalem as the true capital of Israel. An avid supporter of Campus Crusade's Bill Bright, Kemp is the father of Jeff Kemp, quarterback for the Los Angeles Rams and himself an outstanding and outspoken Christian athlete.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Kemp is already running for president. He has been cramming on foreign issues, is doing a lot of overseas travel, and will probably be the big voice in preparing the president's tax reform bill. Keep him in your prayers.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

If you want to keep abreast of Christian legislation (and anti-Christian legislation) in Washington, D.C., I recommend you subscribe to *The Communicator*, published by Bob Wright, a retired Navy officer now with an apostolic ministry in the Washington/Annapolis area. In a recent issue Bob pointed out that county and city zoning laws often forbid the use of existing planned church buildings for Christian schools. A lower court recently ruled that use of church buildings for a church school did not fit a "church" usage if the local government wished to require separate zoning. Thus, before you buy property you need to check on the zoning laws in case you ever wish to have a Christian school.

Tax-Exempt Housing

In a separate matter, last year Senator Jesse Helms introduced a bill (S.2017) to counteract IRS Revenue Ruling 83-3, which states that interest and taxes paid on a personal residence out of tax-exempt income are no longer tax-deductible for ministers. The bill died in the Senate Subcommittee on Taxation and Debt Management. There is a possibility Senator Helms will re-introduce a similar bill this year. If the IRS ruling is not defeated by legislation, all ministers who owned and occupied a home on March 1, 1984, or had a contract to purchase a home on or before that date, will no longer be able to count interest as tax-deductible beginning January 1, 1986. You need to contact your senator and strongly urge support on legislation to nullify IRS Revenue Ruling 83-3.

You may subscribe by making a donation of \$20.00 to *The Communicator*, 3531 Jamestown Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

CRISIS IN WORLD MISSIONS

In 1900, 95 percent of the nations of the world were dominated by Western powers: Great Britain, France, Spain, Holland, the United States, etc. However, in 1945 this began to change radically and by 1955 only 20 percent of the world's nations were under Western domination. By 1969 the incredible reversal had been completed. Only .5 percent of the nations of the world are now under Western control.

These figures were quoted by David Cummings, an Australian who is president of Wycliffe Bible Translators, the world's largest missionary organization.

According to Cummings, 56 percent of the world's land area is "non-Western." The Third World has literally become the "Two-Thirds World." He points out that mission organizations which have not adapted to this change—and are still operating as a type of paternal colonialism—have died, or are dying.

Cummings says there are two crushing political pressures in today's world. One is Communism, which, since it works best among hungry people, is dedicated to keeping people hungry. The second, which he says is even more dangerous than Communism, is Islam.

In the African nation of Sabra, for instance, the government gives \$3,000 for the building of a new home—to each family which converts to Islam.

The city of London, which produced the world's first modern missionaries, is now the Western base for Islam. In Hyde Park there is a \$7 million mosque. A mosque is now being built near the Vatican—with the endorsement of the Pope, who, although he is a staunch anti-Communist, seems very pro-Moslem. (Remember his vaunted audience with Yasir Arafat?)

These facts are cause for additional concern when viewed from the perspective that the great wave of Christian missionaries who volunteered at the close of World War II are now retiring. Over the next nine years U.S. mission organizations will retire FOUR TIMES as many missionaries as they are now recruiting.

PROGRESSIVENESS

Recently Chuck Swindoll told of running across a letter written over 150 years ago by Martin Van Buren, who was then governor of New York, to President Andrew Jackson. Van Buren was warning the president that the "evil" new railroads would disrupt business, boost unemployment, and weaken our nation's defense. I print part of the letter:

January 31, 1829

TO: President Jackson

The canal system of this country is being threatened by the spread of a new form of transportation known as railroads. The federal government must preserve the canals for the following reasons:

One. If canal boats are supplanted by railroads, serious unemployment will result. Captains, cooks, drivers, hostlers, repairmen, and lock tenders will be left without means of livelihood, not to mention the numerous farmers now employed in growing hay for horses.

Two. Boat builders would suffer, and towline ship and harness makers would be left destitute.

Three. Canal boats are absolutely essential to the defense of the United States. In the event of the expected trouble with England, the Erie Canal would be the only means by which we could ever move the supplies so vital to waging modern war.

As you may well know, Mr. President, railroad carriages are pulled at the enormous speed of 15 miles per hour by engines which, in addition to endangering life and limb of passengers, roar and snort their way through the countryside, setting fire to crops, scaring the livestock and frightening women and children. The Almighty certainly never intended that people should travel at such breakneck speed.

Martin Van Buren
Governor of New York

PLAN YOUR VACATION

A well-known pastor confided in me recently that he had not taken a vacation in 22 years. He's taken time away from his pulpit and his church—lots of it—but he always uses it to travel and preach or to visit a foreign mission field. Listening to him I realized I had fallen into that trap also.

The term "vacation" comes from the root "to vacate," meaning to leave your work behind. The further behind you leave it, the more qualified you will be to pick it up when you return.

This summer my wife and I are going to take a true vacation. Accompanied by one of the couples in our home group, we're going to spend two weeks in Alaska. One of those weeks will be spent at a cabin located on a lake two air hours from the nearest community. We'll fly in

with all our provisions and the pilot will return in a week (hopefully) to pick us up—that is, if the bears haven't broken in and carried us away. The other week will be spent driving around, or on a ferry, looking at glaciers and doing some mountain climbing. We're not taking any dress clothes—just boots, jeans, fishing gear, and bear repellent. If we go to church it will be to worship from a back row *in cognito*. In short, we're going to vacate.

By making plans now we can take advantage of what the airlines call their "garbage fares." For instance, by buying our ticket now and staying more than one week, we can fly to Seattle for about \$230.00 round trip. We'll use some free bonus coupons from Eastern Airlines to upgrade to first class with reserved seats.

What About a Sabbatical?

Most colleges and universities grant their professors a six-month sabbatical with full pay (or a full year with half pay). Now a number of large corporations are doing the same thing. A recent government survey found that 14 percent of the nation's white-collar workers are employed by companies now offering some form of sabbatical program.

Since 1971 IBM has allowed employees to take social service leaves, with full IBM pay, to volunteer at nonprofit community organizations or at educational institutions through the faculty loan program. More than 1,100 have used these sabbaticals.

A sabbatical is a leave of absence from the job for rest, relaxation and personal pursuits. More and more pastors are now taking them. Three-month sabbaticals are popular for those who don't want to leave their flock for long periods at a time, but realize the value of getting away from the pastorate long enough to ask, "What is God telling me to do with my life?" or, "How can I refresh myself as a human being?"

In a book called *What Color is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters & Career-Changers*, author Richard Bolles says, "People feel as though their work has become the dominant motif of their lives. They want some time off where they can relax while they're still in the work phase."

Some pastors head to Israel on an archaeological dig. Others go back to seminary or the university for study in some field of interest. Some hole away in a cottage and write. Some travel. A friend, the pastor of a large Presbyterian church, recently spent three months in a Trappist Monastery of the Holy Spirit near Conyers, Georgia, in virtual silence. He told me his life and ministry will never be the same. So, while thinking of your vacation, think also of your need to really vacate—on a sabbatical. If Jesus had to turn aside to get quiet and hear God, how much more important for us.

CLOTHES FOR A KING

If you have a Christian bookstore in your church, or are familiar with one in your community, I recommend you check into a new clothing product company in Asheville, North Carolina, which carries a select line of first class sweaters, jackets, ties and accessories marketed exclusively to Christian stores and churches. I have one of their sweaters and it is by far the best and most comfortable sweater in my cedar chest. They also sell directly to individuals. Their products, tastefully monogrammed with a small dove and fish, make ideal gifts for your staff. Write for a color brochure and price list. Mark Carlson, FISHERMEN, 175 Weaverville Highway, Suite P, Asheville, NC 28804.

GOAL STATING

Today's busy pastor knows the importance of goal setting. Equally important, however, is how you state those goals. Kenneth Smith, a Fairfax, Virginia, attorney who directs Christian Stewardship Ministries, lists six essential elements in goal stating.

1. *It should be in writing.* Goals never reduced to writing are seldom achieved.
2. *It should be precisely stated.* If, after reading a written goal, you are unable to know when it's achieved, you've confused goals with purpose.
3. *It should contain only one objective.* Goals should be achieved in steps, not simultaneously.
4. *It should be achievable within a certain time.* Deadlines push us to accomplishment.
5. *It should be measurable by quantity.* You need to ask yourself how much needs to be accomplished or accumulated to achieve the goal.
6. *It should be realistic.* Start small with the possible before moving on to what seems impossible.

In this issue I'm SPOTLIGHTING. . .

GOOD LEADERSHIP

Leaders are people who do the right things; managers are people who do things right.

This is a concept developed by Joseph DeBell, professor of management and organization at the University of Southern California. DeBell, who has been an advisor to four American presidents, says one of the key problems facing American organizations is they are underled and overmanaged.

I find this often true in parachurch organizations such as mission groups, large evangelistic and media ministries (including the Christian publishing business), not to mention Christian schools and colleges. I also see it as a creeping problem in many large churches where pastors do not pay enough attention to doing the right thing because they are always pressured by the sheer size of the congregation into doing things right.

Part of the fault lies with our seminaries which teach young pastors how to do right things, but don't train them for leadership. Another fault lies in the pastor's desire to please, to keep the organization of the church running smoothly, to raise money, and to put out fires (helping troubled people). This constant pressure to get involved with administration and to spend time solving problems—most pastors admit that 10 percent of the people consume 90 percent of their time—prevents the pastor from exerting true leadership.

Get Out of the Office

The wise pastor will take two days each week away from his office. One day should be spent in leisure and recreation—work in the yard, playing tennis, time with the family, and so forth. The other day should be a personal retreat day. By personal retreat I mean a day aside, perhaps at the lake, the seashore, or some place of solitude.

The pastor should insist that every senior staff member take at least one day of personal retreat each month, in addition to his weekly "day off." Some churches insist each senior staff member take one day a week in personal retreat, just as the senior pastor does.

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At least monthly the entire church staff should have a "leadership retreat" where they draw apart for a day of spiritual brainstorming, prayer, and ministry to each other. If your church has elders in addition to staff, then I recommend quarterly weekend elders' retreats. These will shift the emphasis from doing things right to doing the right thing. Otherwise you may find yourself doing the wrong thing well.

Where the pastor is a leader rather than a manager, these things will be evident:

1. *Everyone in leadership (including the church staff) will feel significant.*.. Each person will feel he or she makes a difference to the success of the church—and to the kingdom of God. The difference may be "small": working in the nursery, showing people where to park, turning out the lights, visiting an old age home, singing in an ensemble, on and on. But leadership always inspires and empowers others to feel that what they do has meaning and significance.

2. *Each leader will be eager to expand his own level of learning, competence and knowledge of God.* The good pastor is always learning about himself—discovering new dimensions of the kingdom of God and applying them to his person and family. Pastors who value learning, excellence, discipline and personal devotion inspire these same traits in other church leaders. Leaders of this quality make it clear there is no failure, only mistakes which help us discern God's will for the next step.

3. *Each church member will feel part of the family.* Where the pastor is more leader than manager the church will understand the difference between family and team. In team action a poor player is always benched for mistakes, sometimes even kicked off the team. Only the "competent" ones—that is, those with the greatest gifts—get to play. There's little room for the two-mite widow, the out-of-key musician, or the out-of-work usher. Only the rich, the gifted, and the people with personal charm are noticed. But when a church is a family there is room for everyone. Even people who do not especially like one another feel a sense of *koinonia* (fellowship). Everyone knows his place at the table and is secure as long as "Papa" is in the head chair.

4. *Work is exciting.* Good leadership on the part of the pastor means the "work" of the church is viewed by the workers as stimulating, challenging, fascinating, and fun. There are always more volunteers than there are jobs. Everyone wants in on the fun.

The shepherd protects, feeds, and rests in his flock. You never see a Mid-east shepherd driving his sheep. Only the butcher does that. The shepherd leads. The true leader energizes his people. He motivates through identification rather than through rewards and punishments. He articulates and embodies Christ's vision for his church.



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