

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

**NEWSLETTER**

MARCH 2009

“And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch”

# CHRISTIAN WATCH

March 2009

## To all Members of Christian Watch

Dear Friends,

We are spared through the mercy of our kind and gracious Lord God to communicate with you again. As you are aware, our purpose is to keep you informed with regard to important developments and events currently taking place both in the United Kingdom and in other nations - the majority of which are contrary to the Lord's commandments. Many of the evils, which have proved to be the destruction of nations in the past, are now not only tolerated, but are increasingly being protected by government legislation. For example, a number of parents are currently facing prosecution for withdrawing their children from school lessons which promote homosexuality as a normal and acceptable practice. The devil and his agents are aggressively attacking our young people on many fronts, even to the extent of removing and replacing words that are associated with Christianity from a dictionary for children. We include information about this under the title: **WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTIANITY AND BRITISH HISTORY TAKEN OUT OF CHILDRENS DICTIONARY.**

We were pleased to receive information recently from one of our Members about an organisation, **Perth Street Pastors**. These people have such a real concern for the state of so many of the young people in their town that they patrol the streets at weekends from 10pm to 3am to look after those coming out of night clubs and other dens of iniquity. See [www.streetpastors.co.uk](http://www.streetpastors.co.uk) for further details.

One of the main reasons for the rapid decline in Biblical standards of morality and integrity at the present time is the failure of the majority of professing Christians to fulfil the Lord's commandment that we publicly contend against so much wickedness and witness for Him. This has been very forcibly brought to our attention by an item we include entitled: **REPORT FROM A CHRISTIAN WATCH MEMBER AND PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL IN RUSSIA.** The writer of this report requested us not to publish his name owing to the threat of persecution by those who are at enmity against him, because of the Gospel message he proclaims. The extensive miles he travels in the most difficult conditions to preach the Gospel, often to just a small group of people, follows the example given by the apostles, as recorded in the scriptures. His endeavours to witness for his Lord and master under conditions and circumstances which we can hardly imagine, evidences his love for the Lord and his concern to fulfil His commandments. We must ask ourselves the question, "How do we compare in our witnessing for the Lord?"

We are thankful that there are still some people in positions of authority in the Anglican Church who are willing to contend for a righteous cause. The solemn and slothful condition of many professing Christians was recently identified in a report on a meeting of Anglican Primates. We include a copy of this document entitled: **A Wake Up Call to the People of God by Archbishop Peter Akinola, Primate of all Nigeria.** The Archbishop gives a most timely warning from scripture to each and every one of us with regard to our need to be watchful and prayerful. It was also reported in the *Telegraph on line*, that the Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, had said, "Christians are regarded as 'mad' by the rest of society because they are motivated by charity and compassion rather than a reckless pursuit of money". He also insisted that faith cannot be separated from work and staff should not be expected to give up their religious convictions in their work place.

Under the heading, **The European Union**, we include a montage of items which identify how the consequences of our EU membership continues to reveal many areas of serious concern to all who value our democratic rights and national heritage. Whilst our UK Government continues to deceive us with regard to the benefits of our membership, the Czech President, Vaclav Klaus, in a speech at the European Parliament said, "The EU is an undemocratic and elitist project, comparable to the Soviet dictatorship". Other items under this heading deal with the cost of membership, fraud, waste and also the possibility of Tony Blair becoming President of the EU, which as a confessed Roman Catholic, would be certain to have the approval of Pope Benedict XVI, who has recently been invited to visit Britain by Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

There is only one way whereby the judgements of God can be stayed - which is by God-given repentance. We include an article by Ken Kemble from the USA, entitled **REPENT!** which clearly identifies the urgent need for this in the USA and also in our own nation.

The organisation, Hatikvah Film Trust have produced an excellent DVD on the subject of abortion from a Biblical perspective. We include details of this under the title, **THE LAND CRIES OUT FOR THE BLOOD THAT WAS SHED.** The DVD (available in two versions) is free of charge, but a contribution towards the costs involved would be appreciated.

We include an article by the late James Smith on the text, "Learn of me" *Matt.11:29*. Under the title: **A LESSON FOR THE DAY (OR YEAR).** To enable our lives to reflect our profession as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must learn lessons which are beyond our natural ability to follow. However, by the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the God appointed experiences we have to pass through, our old nature is subdued and replaced by one which reflects that we have been with Jesus and have learned of Him.

A number of our Members have recently recruited some of their friends and contacts to join in membership with us, paying their annual subscription fee of £7.00 for them. This is an excellent way of promoting the ministry we provide, which we trust will be for the benefit of others. The importance of spreading both the warnings and the Gospel message as far and wide as we can is not only important, but also our God given responsibility. May the Lord help us to fulfil it for the benefit of our churches, chapels and the nation, but more importantly, for His honour and glory.

We include a Final Reminder for those members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions for the current year. We thank all who remember us in their prayers and also thank those who have kindly donated towards our financial needs. May we also bring to your attention the notice in respect of the restoration of the CW Pay Pal Account.

We wish you the Lord's blessing,

Yours in His service,



David Crowter

**Management Committee**

Mr D Boyd; Mr M Brookes (Hon Treasurer/ Co Secretary); Mr A Busk; Mr D Crowter(Chairman);  
Mr I Henderson; Mr R Jupp; Mr D Lawson; Mr M de Semlyen; Mrs J Cummins (Secretary).

## **WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTIANITY AND BRITISH HISTORY TAKEN OUT OF CHILDRENS DICTIONARY**

Oxford University Press has removed words like "aisle", "bishop", "chapel" "empire" and "monarch" from its Junior Dictionary and replaced them with words like "blog", "broadband" and "celebrity". Dozens of words related to the countryside have also been culled.

The publisher claims the changes have been made to reflect that Britain is a modern, multicultural, multifaith society. But academics and head teachers said that the changes to the 10,000 word Junior Dictionary could mean that children lose touch with Britain's heritage.

*"We have a certain Christian narrative which has given meaning to us over the last 2000 years. To say it is all relative and replaceable is questionable,"* said Professor Alan Smithers, the director of the centre for education and employment at Buckingham University. *"The word selections are a very interesting reflection of the way childhood is going, moving away from our spiritual background and the natural world towards the world that information technology creates for us."*

An analysis of the word choices made by the dictionary lexicographers has revealed that entries from "abbey" to "willow" have been axed. Instead, words such as "MP3 player", "voicemail" and "attachment" have taken their place.

Lisa Saunders, a worried mum from Belfast has painstakingly compared entries from the junior dictionaries, aimed at children aged seven or over, dating from 1978 through to 2007, said she was horrified by the vast number of words that have been removed, most since 2003.

*"The Christian faith still has a strong following", she said. "To eradicate so many words associated with Christianity will have a big effect on the numerous primary schools who use it."*

*"I decided to take a closer look and compare the new version to the other editions", said the mother of four. "I was completely horrified by the vast number of words which have been removed. We know that language moves on and we can't be fuddy-duddy about it but you can't cull hundreds of important words in order to get in a different set of ICT words."*

Further in a letter to the Evangelical Times, Mrs Saunders continues. *"Compared (sic) the latest edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary with earlier ones, I find over 800 words have been replaced or removed. Of most concern were the numbers of words related to Christianity, wildlife and nature."*

*"The idea that any of the 17 words associated with Christianity which have been removed are just 'technical words' (as claimed by the compiler Sheila Dignen) is really quite worrying."*

*"These 'technical Christian words' are: abbey, aisle, altar, bishop, chapel, christen, disciple, minister, monastery, monk, nun, nunnery, parish, pew, psalm, pulpit, saint, sin and vicar."*

*"In addition, the definition for 'pray' has been changed from 'to talk to God' to 'when people pray, they talk to a god'. Thus God has been removed from the definition of praying."*

*"Among other words removed are: betray, devil, inscription, mission, oath, pardon and traitor."*

Anthony Seldon, the master of Wellington College, a leading private school in Berkshire, said, *"I am stunned that words like, saint, buttercup, heather and sycamore have all gone and I grieve it. I think as well as being descriptive, the Oxford Junior Dictionary, has to be prescriptive too, suggesting not just words that are used but words that should be used. It has a duty to keep these words within usage, not merely pander to an audience. We are looking at the loss of words of great beauty. I would rather have 'marzipan' and 'mistletoe' than 'MP3 player'."*

Vineeta Gupta, the head of children's dictionary at Oxford University Press, said: *"We are limited by how big the dictionary can be - little hands must be able to handle it - we produce 17 children's dictionaries with different selections and numbers of words."*

*"When you look back at older versions of dictionaries, there were lots of examples of flowers for instance. That was because many children lived in semi-rural environments and saw the seasons. Nowadays, the environment has changed. We are also much more multicultural. People don't go to Church as often as before. Our understanding of religion is within multiculturalism, which is why some words such as 'Pentecost' or 'Whitsun' would have been in 20 years ago but not now."*

**With acknowledgements to The Sunday Telegraph and The Evangelical Times.**

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## **PAYPAL**

Christian Watch wishes to advise its members that the Christian Watch Website Donation Pay Pal facility ([www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)) is once again operational. This has been out of action for the past three months due to a technical fault. This has now been fixed and we apologise to those of you who have attempted to donate funds during this period and have been unable to do so.

# REPORT FROM A CHRISTIAN WATCH MEMBER AND PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL IN RUSSIA

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christian Watch,

May the mercy, grace and peace of the Almighty be with you and upon the Church of Christ.

Praise to the King of kings, our Lord for His abundant kindness and great mercies towards us. Our heart is filled with praise and thanksgiving to our sovereign master for all He has done for us during our visit to Siberia in February.

From February 4<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> the Lord has blessed me with brothers in Christ to assist me in evangelising in towns in Siberia where we have travelled over 4000 kilometres (2500 miles).

We spoke to 120 people and had meetings in houses and met with people who were not Christians. However, we were able to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to them for one hour and then let them ask questions about the Bible and the things we had spoken. Finally we prayed with them and gave them Christian literature.

We went to each place as we felt directed by the Lord and, like the apostle Paul, we preached to the people with the authority of the Word of the living God. *"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."* Acts 20:32.

In the town of TULUN, we preached from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February. It was very cold in Siberia with hard frosts. In the day we preached in the streets of the town, and people stopped to listen to the Word of God. However, the frost increased and when it reached -30 degrees C (-22 degrees F) we could not continue. Thankfully, we were able to preach in the houses of people who invited us. In this town of TULUN there are a lot of young men who are drug addicts and alcoholics. We did not find it easy to preach in this town, but owing to the mercy of our God, we witnessed to at least 35 people who responded to the Gospel of Grace, Praise the Lord!

Upon leaving TULUN we travelled to the settlement of POKOSNOE which is 140 kilometres (90 miles) further north. The frost was very severe at -44 degrees C (-47 degrees F). We drove slowly over very icy roads. Because of the cold the people in this settlement did not gather to hear the gospel. We continued another 700 kilometres (435 miles) north to the settlement of JANGEL. When we approached the town, NEW IGIRME, the temperature was -53 degrees C (-64 degrees F) but we continued, although there was also dense fog at times. We thank the Lord for His kind protection whilst travelling in these extreme conditions. We recalled the word from the Bible: *"He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly. He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?"* Psalm 147: 15-17.

From February 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> we preached the gospel in JANGEL and the settlement OLD IGIRMA where again the temperature was -35 degrees C (-31 degrees F) in the afternoon, but dropped much lower at night. The cold did not prevent us preaching to a group of 15 people who gathered together. Praise God! The pastor of the church there was very much encouraged by our ministry and has since phoned to say how they are going to other houses in the area to evangelise and proclaim the Word of God.

Since 17<sup>th</sup> February we have travelled to ALEKSEEVSK to evangelise until the 21<sup>st</sup>, and then returned through POKOSNYJ where we preached the Word of God to 3 people.

Whilst in ALEKSEEVSK the frost was not so hard, and in these warmer conditions the Lord enabled us to preach and also to tell some senior classes of school children about the gospel of Jesus Christ. There were three classes, totalling 47 boys.

Whilst we talked to people at their houses about God, one woman told us how her son began to trust in God. His work involves driving a truck to collect logs from a wood. He decided to reduce the travelling time by going over a frozen river, but the ice gave way under the weight and the truck sank in 6 metres (19 ft.) of water. The young man cried to God for help and the Lord enabled him to force upon the door and escape. He had to run home in his wet clothes in a temperature of -40 degrees F. He took no harm, and now reads the Word of God. It was all an answer to prayer. We asked God to rescue his soul and we praise the Lord for the miracle of grace. The pastor of the Church at ALEKSEEVSK – Vitaly Bychkov – was very encouraged by this wonderful event and now actively preaches the Word of God in the settlement.

As we have evangelised in IRKUTSK the Lord has blessed our labours and enabled us to visit many houses and to preach about the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. We were privileged to preach to 20 people there, and someone from Irkutsk visited our Church on Sunday and asked the Lord to grant them saving grace. We hope and pray our labours will not be in vain, but will be to the honour and glory of our Lord and Saviour.

We pray the Lord will visit you and continue to grant to you all needed help in all your duties for Him.

*“Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD”. Psalm 150.*

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## A Wake Up Call to the People of God by Archbishop Peter Akinola, Primate of All Nigeria

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All through our gathering at the recently concluded Primates meeting I kept wondering whether we were the ones to whom John was writing. We have a glorious reputation; a worldwide communion of millions with a glorious history and beautiful heritage, fluid structures, grand cathedrals, historical ecclesiology, but we are in danger of forgetting what we have received and heard and replacing it with the seemingly attractive gods and goddesses of our age. We are in danger of becoming the living dead by giving the outward appearance of life, but in reality we are no more than empty and ineffective vessels. In parts of our Communion some have merged the historical gospel message of Jesus the Christ with seductive ancient heresies and revisionist agendas, which have resulted in an adulterated and dangerous distortion of the gospel. The call to obedience and repentance is one that we must declare, but we refuse and instead we replace it with a polite invitation to empty tolerance and endless conversation. Sometimes we think that we can replace the need for repentance with activities, programmes, endless meetings, conventions and communiqués – but we are wrong!

Our world is in turmoil and desperately looking for hope and we have been given that hope in the life and person of Jesus Christ who sets free from the slavery of sin to the new life of the Spirit – that is our message, that is our assurance, that is the holy life to which we have been called. It is a life of costly commitment where we reject the false gods and promises of this present age and embrace the one true God and His righteous claims upon our lives. It is a life of obedience to the revealed Word of God which must never be compromised. It is a gospel message which is to be fully proclaimed unfettered and undiluted. It is a life worth living and a life worth dying for. It is a life of true freedom that was birthed in this land and one we must not forget.

Leaders of the Anglican Communion have gathered in a place that is rich with history and a powerful reminder of the glorious heritage that we all share. Egypt is the place that provided respite for the Holy Family when they faced persecution. Egypt is the place from which God led his people through the Red Sea to the land of promise. Egypt is the place where God took his people out of slavery into freedom. Egypt is a reminder that time after time God met His people at the point of their need. Here in this historic city of Alexandria, we are reminded of the great Church fathers, Origen (185-254) and Athanasius (298-373) and several others who risked their lives to give us the creeds and many foundational doctrines of the Church.

Egypt is also a reminder that God's people often have very short memories. It was only a brief time after their deliverance that Israel began to complain about the lack of variety of their provisions in the wilderness. "We remember the fish we did eat in Egypt freely; also the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions and the garlic," they grumbled. Once they were safely established in the Land of Promise they also quickly forgot the bondage under which they had suffered in Egypt and began to embrace the very same pattern of life that they had escaped. The lure of attractive pagan religious ceremonies and the endless cycle of fertility cults, ensnared the people of God. They failed to recall the words declared to Moses on Mount Sinai, "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you to myself. Now therefore if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then shall ye be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people." *Exodus 19:4,5*.

Time and time again God sent prophets to warn his people of the grave consequences of following false gods that surrounded them with their deceptive claims. God also warned them repeatedly that they could not bow the knee to Baal, the god of pagan culture one day and the next day make a pretence of being a faithful disciple of the God of Abraham.

The prophet Jeremiah gave this sharp warning, "Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these. For if ye

thoroughly amend your ways and your doings..... Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever". *Jer. 7: 2-7.*

Jeremiah presents a warning that is timeless and always contemporary, because if our profession of faith is not matched with actions of faithfulness, we will also find ourselves back in the land of bondage where our message has no meaning for a sick and spiritually bankrupt world and our lives will have no transforming power. We can have all the seemingly godly heritage, all of the historical and religious symbols, but if we fail to obey God's call to a holy, faithful life, we will be like withering grass that is simply blown out by the devastating winds of the age.

When John wrote his inspired letters to the early churches he gave them a similar message. His message to the Church in Sardis is perhaps the most poignant. Sardis was a city with a remarkable history. Prior to the great earthquake in 17 AD it was renowned for its worship of the goddess Cybele. Sardis was a name of contempt. Its people were notoriously loose living and pleasure and luxury loving. After the earthquake it embraced the cult of emperor worship and was a city of decadence. It was costly to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and difficult to resist the syncretism that beckoned at every turn. John writes, "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars. I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. **Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die,** for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember, therefore, how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy." *Rev: 3:1-4.* We need to carefully and prayerfully consider the foregoing and endeavour to be watchful, and to strengthen the things which remain which are in accordance with the Holy Word of God.

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# THE EUROPEAN UNION

## **Czech leader's swipe at 'communist' EU**

Mail Foreign Office

Czech President Vaclav Klaus compared supporters of a greater European Union integration, to Soviet-era communists. As leader of the Czech Republic he holds the EU's rotating presidency, but that did not stop Klaus kicking aside diplomatic niceties to tell EU lawmakers their parliament intervened too much in people's lives.

The controversial Lisbon Treaty, meant to streamline the bloc's creaking institutions, would only make things worse, he said.

In his attack, delivered at the European Parliament in Brussels, he branded the EU an undemocratic and elitist project comparable to Soviet dictatorships that forbade free thought.

He added: 'Here in the European Parliament there is only one single alternative, and those who dare think about a different option are labelled as enemies of European integration.'

His speech provoked boos from many lawmakers, some of whom walked out, but applause from a minority of nationalists.

Klaus has long been one of the most strident critics of the EU and is refusing to fly its flag over his official seat in Prague during the six-month Czech presidency.

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## **More EU Fraud and Waste**

'Britain' Winter 2008/9

Open Europe published a list of "a hundred examples of EU fraud and waste" to coincide with the European Court of Auditors' report last autumn on the state of the EU's finances.

For the fourteenth consecutive year, substantial irregularities in the EU's budget owing to fraud and mismanagement meant that the Auditors were unable to state that the EU's accounts were clean for "most spending areas."

Of the samples undertaken by the Auditors, 54 per cent of Structural Fund projects and 31 per cent of agricultural transfers were subject to "material errors" in 2007.

The EU Commission has consistently argued that the responsibility for fraud lies at the national level, not with itself, as 78 per cent of EU funds are distributed by member states in agricultural payments and Structural Funds. However, as the Court of Auditors made clear in its report last year, "Regardless of the method of implementation applied, the Commission bears the ultimate responsibility for the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts of the European Communities." Despite the usual problems with spending, the Auditors gave an "unqualified" – or clean – opinion of the Commission's internal accounts for the first time.

However, the EU's budget is overwhelmingly dominated by two failing policies: the Common Agricultural Policy and the Structural Funds. The sheer size and complexity of these two top-down spending programmes mean that it is in these areas where the issues of fraud and waste continue to dominate.

Examples include 50 million euros paid out between 2001 and 2004 to farmers in southern Italy for buying and selling citrus fruits, despite the fact that neither the farmers nor the fruit actually existed; and an Italian dentist using EU funds to buy a yellow Ferrari Testarossa and a yacht.

Moreover, funding that may be classified as legal is often spent on projects that are of little or no economic or social value.

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## **FROM THE LORDS**

### **Regulation without ratification – Lord Vinson of Roddam Dene:**

I come to the primary purpose of this debate: our financial relationship with Europe. Recent parliamentary Questions have shown that our membership, after all rebates, costs us at least £4 billion a year, apart from the appalling inefficiencies that the ever-growing burden of EU regulations brings to this economy. The French, needless to say, are substantial beneficiaries. Our contribution of £4 billion a

year is a lot of money, and many of the rebates we get are for purposes that our own Treasury would not dream of sanctioning. So the real loss to this country, in net terms, is considerably more.

However, this pales into insignificance against the unquantifiable cost of unnecessary regulations, which bring a huge additional burden; it must be tens of billions of pounds a year. To name but four of the culprits, there are the working time directive, the chemicals directive, the height at work directive and the pesticides directive. Now there is even compulsory holiday pay for people who have been on sick leave for up to five years, there is a limit on doctors' working hours, and electronic implants are to be compulsorily put into Britain's 10 million sheep. All these things, like the premature closing down of our coal power stations just when we need them, chisel away and do real economic damage to our flexible economy.

It was not as if we could do anything about it, anything to rectify it in any way. Here, Parliament, through its scrutiny committees, has tried to influence that legislation, but its work has been almost totally ignored. Hundreds of recommendations have been made to improve EU legislation and the hard fact is that our scrutiny committees have been wasting their time. Frustratingly, there is no satisfactory way of rectifying that regulation. This democratic safety valve simply does not work.

Your Lordships will recall that the American War of Independence was triggered on the slogan, "*No taxation without representation*". Today we have the equivalent: "*Regulation without rectification*". Increasingly, our citizens in the front line of business do not like it and we ignore their rumbling discontent at our peril.

Our blind and damaging conformity to EU regulations is like an army marching over the cliff because no one has the courage to question the command. Idealism is a wonderful thing, but blind idealism is damaging this country beyond belief. Day by day and week by week we witness the economy of this country being impoverished by the endless attrition caused by unnecessary EU regulations. Few in Westminster are really aware of what is going on; the political class lives above it all. Eagles seldom know of the habits of moles. I love my country and I hate to see it ruined by bureaucratic nonsenses imposed by non-elected, totally impractical officials.

The denial of the means of rectification is a denial of sovereignty, and without sovereignty democracy cannot exist. We really must re-examine our financial and wider relationships with the EU.

Source: House of Lords Hansard, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009, Parliamentary Copyright.

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## Tony will lead Europe, says Sarkozy aide

Eurofacts Feb 09

*"When the Lisbon Treaty is ratified, Europe will move into a new phase. Europe will need a strong leader and Nicolas Sarkozy will nominate Tony Blair for the position. We have to unite and say to Mrs. Merkel that we cannot afford not to have Tony Blair, who will be a strong figurehead, he is entirely respected around the world and will be a commanding leader at the helm of Europe."*

Unnamed senior aide to President Sarkozy quoted in the Mail on Sunday, 8 Feb 2009

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## Lisbon Treaty *is* laughing matter, German judges find

Members of the German Constitutional Court are not known for their jollity or sense of humour. But according to the *EUobserver* members broke into laughter when parts of the Lisbon Treaty were read to them on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, first day of the hearing on whether the Treaty violates the German constitution.

Passages from the document were read out to demonstrate how difficult the document is to read.

All judges agreed that the Treaty was indeed very hard to read. "*Less-than-clear passages from the treaty were read out aloud, guaranteeing a laugh*". The *EUobserver* stated.

According to reports, four out of eight judges expressed reservations about the Treaty.

Judge Herbert Landau said new EU powers in criminal justice affected "core issues" of German legislative authority. "*These are issues affecting the shared values of a people*", he said.

Judge Udo Di Fabio, who will deliver the judgement on the Treaty, asked whether the transferral of powers to the EU really means more freedom for EU citizens, asking "*Is the idea of going ever more in this direction not a threat to freedom?*"

*Sueddeutsche Zeitung* has reported that the Court may ask for a referendum if it finds that the Treaty detrimentally affects the German Constitution. The paper notes that "*if the judges intervene...it*

*will be because important transfer of powers in the EU is not followed by a corresponding increase in democracy. Europe suffers from lack of democracy”.*

The court hearing has been brought by Peter Gauweiler, a German who argues that the Treaty undermines the Bundestag and thereby threatens democracy.

A decision by the court is not expected for two months, but even if it finds in favour of the treaty it will still have to consider a further complaint about the treaty expressing concern about the political, economic and constitutional impact of European political integration.  
Eurofacts Feb 2009

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# REPENT!

By Ken Kemble

REPENTANCE is a divine grace bestowed by a sovereign God. Ordinarily it is bestowed as an accompaniment of the preaching of the Gospel, as a result of reading and study of God's Word or in answer to prayer. National repentances involves a nation instead of an individual.

*"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."* Proverbs 14:34 *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* Psalm 9:17 *"Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts."* Zechariah 1:3 *"The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold a greater than Jonas is here."* Luke 11:32 *"... be zealous therefore, and repent."* Revelation 3:19

The Scriptures teach that the only way to escape from the reproach and guilt of sin is through repentance and faith in the atonement made for sin by Jesus Christ, *"the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."* This was the *"witness"* of *"a man sent from God"* *"to bear witness"* of Christ. His witness was given in terms of the Old Testament Scriptures to those who were familiar with those Scriptures. The Lamb of God was to offer the ultimate sacrifice which had been typified through hundreds of years by all true sacrifices offered in faith from the time of Abel. That sacrifice included the offering for the sin of *the nation* prescribed in Leviticus 4:13-15

*"And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which should not be done, and are guilty; When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the Tabernacle of the congregation. And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD; and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD."* Leviticus 4:13-15

The fact that a bullock, the most valuable of all sacrificial victims, was required in this case indicated the greatness of the guilt of *corporate sin*.

When the ultimate sacrifice had been offered on Calvary, and Christ was about to return to heaven, He issued what we speak of as *"The Great Commission"* to his followers: (literally) *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all the nations."* *"He did not say, make disciples of: there is no substantive in the command except *"nations."* This command includes a far larger enterprise than that of bringing individual souls to Himself. It is a command to influence all the nations toward His standards and His ideals."* (G. Campbell Morgan, Gospel According to Matthew, p. 321).

A nation can be saved only as its individual citizens are saved, through their personal faith in Christ, and then bring their collective faith into operation in the sphere of civil life. It is true also that *"my people which are called by my name"* must first repent of *personal sin* before there will be any inclination to recognise *national sin*. But repentance for personal sin by citizens of a nation is not enough. There are sins of which the nation is guilty and for which confession must be made and forgiveness sought. To be effective, the leaders of the nation must participate sincerely in this movement as did the King of Nineveh under the preaching of Jonah.

It is accepted as almost Gospel by more and more people today that religion is wholly a concern of the individual; that a nation may maintain absolute neutrality between Christianity and idolatry or between theism and atheism. They shout *"separation of church and state!"* *"How awfully plain is the language of the second Psalm on this subject, where it is precisely this national repudiation of the authority of God and of His Christ, so increasingly common in our day, which is named as the ground of the derisive judgment of God, and is made the occasion of exhorting all nations, not merely to belief in God, but also to the obedient recognition of His only-begotten Son, the Messiah, as the only possible means of escaping the future kindling of His wrath. (W. H. Kellogg, Book of Leviticus, p. 127)*

Roger Babson, a highly respected discerner of the signs of the times, both economically and spiritually, has said: "I see coming chaos as clearly as the shepherds saw the star of Bethlehem. Only one thing will stop this coming chaos – a sweeping spiritual revival. Unless we have such an awakening of religious forces, we shall have a depression that will make the last one look like a Christmas Eve programme!"

It is reassuring to note that amid all the corruption and wickedness of our day, there is a growing number of God's people who are crying out to God for mercy, and who are yearning for a sweeping spiritual revival in these United States. Many of these movements are entirely independent of each other, yet they form a part of a national pattern. As the enemy comes in like a flood – heaping up the guilt of our nation in regard to the horror of *abortion*, in the federal protection of such abominable practices as *sodomy*, *miscegenation* and *spiritual harlotry*, in blessing the *enemies of Christ* in Palestine, in the continued rejection of the *supreme authority of the King of kings* in our federal constitution, and in throwing "*our fathers' God, Author of liberty*," out of our public schools – the Spirit of the Lord is lifting up a standard against him.

There is only one way whereby our nation may get right with God. Except we repent, we shall never find the way. The path of history is strewn with the wreckage of nations which have died because of their sin. I adjure you, therefore, America (as well as the many other Israel nations of the world), that you repent at once and without delay, before it is too late!

*"O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel. At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them."* Jeremiah 18:6-10

*"Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you."* Jeremiah 26:13

Perhaps there are no sweeter words – and no more urgent words – to be found in all the Scriptures in these wicked times than these:

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* II Chronicles 7:14

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## THE LAND CRIES OUT FOR THE BLOOD THAT WAS SHED

*"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."* (Genesis 4:10)

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The legalisation of abortion in some countries of the western world has resulted in more unborn children being slaughtered than the entire global death-toll during the Second World War, including the Holocaust and Hiroshima.

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The primary purpose of this powerful documentary is to encourage Christians to pray for the abolition of abortion in our nations and particularly in Israel – the nation from which the Christian faith originated and with which the destiny of the whole world is intertwined.

Both the full length and abridged versions of *"The Land Cries Out"* (45 minutes and 20 minutes respectively) contain horrifying images of unborn babies killed during abortion procedures, and should not be shown to children.

Copies of the DVD can be obtained free of charge (at the discretion of Hatikvah Film Trust) from:

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## CROMWELL'S THUNDEROUS WORDS ARE RELEVANT TODAY

Letter in a recent edition of the Western Morning News

Following is Oliver Cromwell's speech in 1653, when he addressed the Long Parliament.

*"It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you dishonoured by your contempt of all virtue, and defiled by your practice of every vice; ye are a factious crew, and enemies to all good government; ye are a pack of mercenary wretches, and would like Esau sell your country for a mess of pottage, and like Judas betray your God for a few pieces of money.*

*"Is there a single virtue now remaining amongst you? Is there one vice you do not possess? Ye have no more religion than my horse; gold is your God; which of you have not bartered your conscience for bribes? Is there a man amongst you that has the least care for the good of the Commonwealth?*

*"Ye sordid prostitutes, have you not defiled this sacred place, and turned the Lord's temple into a den of thieves, by your immoral principles and wicked practices?*

*"Ye are grown intolerably odious to the whole nation; you who are deputed here by the people to get grievances redressed, are yourselves gone!*

*"So! Take away that shining bauble there, and lock up the doors.*

*"In the name of God, go!"*

How apt are Cromwell's words now in 21st century when the people of the United Kingdom so badly need someone to forcibly deliver them and rid us of the House of Clowns that now performs in the Westminster Circus.

Colin McNamee, Baltonsborough, Somerset



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# A LESSON FOR THE DAY (OR YEAR)

By the late James Smith

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## “Learn of me” (*Matthew 11:29*)

The Lord Jesus, having all things delivered unto Him of His Father, lovingly invites poor, labouring, weary, and burdened sinners to Him, and promises them rest and repose. The very thing we want, Jesus has; and what Jesus has that suits us, He wishes to bestow upon us. Therefore He calls us to Him, and bids us ask of Him. A sinner may have anything from Jesus that suits his case, if he is prepared to receive it as a gift from free and sovereign grace. “If we ask anything according to his will he heareth us,” and “this is his will, even our sanctification.” Jesus desires our happiness, but only through the means of our holiness. On this His heart is set. To effect this all His dealings are directed. To this end the whole of His word points. If we come for rest, He says, “Take my yoke, learn of me. Be my servant, my imitator. Make me your lesson.” Beloved, we must learn of Jesus, if we would walk peaceably with God – if we would pass safely through the world – if we would fearlessly meet death. Be this, then, our daily lesson, and let us, day by day, hear Jesus say to us, “learn of me.”

We must learn *to be of His temper*. He was meek and lowly of heart. He meekly bowed to His Father’s will – took a servant’s place, suffered the sinner’s doom, - and in all things sought to honour His God. His will was subordinated to His Father’s will. Self in Him was never allowed to bear sway. “I seek not mine own glory,” was His daily rule, “He was reviled, but he reviled not again.” He was persecuted, but He suffered it. He always appears the lamb and not the lion. He endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself. When there was everything to irritate, provoke and stir up passion, He was calm, patient, and subdued. In the most trying scenes His conduct said, “I am meek.” Let our hearts, then, be set on this, to be of the same temper as Jesus was. Let carnal men talk of their honour, self-respect, and rights – be it ours to be as much like Jesus as possible, seeing He has left us an example that we should walk in His steps.

We must learn *to copy His example*. “He was holy, humble, undefiled, and separate from sinners.” The law of God was in His heart, and ruled every action of His life. His thoughts were holy thoughts. His words were holy words. His actions were holy actions. His thoughts, words, and actions were all ruled by love. There was no bitterness, or envy, or malice, or evil-speaking, ever in Him. All was love. And to this we should aspire. Over the opposite of this we should mourn and weep. “Be ye holy, for I am holy.” Such is God’s command; a command which must commend itself to our judgments, and ought to sink into our hearts. Let us therefore strive against vain thoughts, unprofitable conversation, and unlovely actions, and seek to be like Jesus. Grace from Jesus will render us like Jesus; and if we are fully set upon learning of Him, we shall come often and boldly to His throne, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need.

We must learn *to walk by His rule*, which was love – love to God, and love to man. Love to God, so that he preferred His will, invariably obeyed His commands, and aimed at His glory. Love to man, so that he pitied his weakness, pardoned his faults, and sought always to do him good. He became servant of all. He appeared to be at everyone’s bidding. He would go miles to heal a servant. He stopped in His journey to listen to a blind beggar. He took the little children of strangers into His arms and blessed them. He gave food to the hungry, health to the sick, and life to the dead. He was the poor man’s friend, while He was at everyone’s call. Love should influence our hearts, baptise our words, and rule our conduct. Jesus, the loving One, says, “Learn of me.” Let us then put on charity, that all may see it. Love is religion, and religion among men is love carried out into every part of one’s conduct and conversation.

We must learn *to work in His spirit*, which was a spirit of self-denial. Jesus never appeared to study Himself for one moment. He wrought, He suffered, He died – but all for others. He lost sight of Himself. His was a life of self-effacement, the finest exhibition of self-annihilation ever seen. We, alas! too often think of ourselves first, and others next, and our God last of all. This order should be reversed. Our first aim should be God’s glory; next to that the good of our fellow-men; then we need think little of ourselves, for our holiness and happiness are secured. Self must be denied in its demand; it must be mortified in its efforts; it must be crucified, or put to death, or we shall never be like Jesus.

The self-denying One says to us, "Learn of me." Let us therefore seek grace that we may lose sight of self, and whatsoever we do, do it for the sake of Jesus; in whatsoever we do, aim at the glory of God, and the good of our fellow-men.

We must learn *to worship as He worshipped*. He was the model worshipper. He worshipped the Father in spirit and in truth. In worship He was devout, spiritual, and earnest. He realised the presence of His Father. He pleaded the promises of His Father. He bowed to the will of His Father. Even when He "offered up strong crying with tears unto him that was able to save him from death," He closed by saying, "Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done." Beloved, let us learn of Jesus to worship. He never neglected it, for if He had not time by day, He continued the whole night in prayer to God. If He had no closet, He sought the sequestered walk or the mountain top. With the eloquence of the God-man, with the simplicity of the child, and with the earnestness of one whose whole heart was set upon obtaining the blessing, He prayed. Oh, to pray as Jesus prayed! Oh, to praise as Jesus praised! Oh, to worship as Jesus worshipped!

We must learn *to suffer as He suffered*. In Him patience had its perfect work. He suffered from man, from Satan, and from God. He was the man of sorrows. He suffered for us in the flesh. It was common to Him to sigh, to groan, to weep. But He never repined, never complained, but at the very worst said, "The cup that my heavenly Father giveth me, shall I not drink it?" We shall be called to suffer. It may be personally, in body, in mind, or in property. It may be relatively, - in beloved relatives or friends. We must drink of His cup. But shall we drink of it in His spirit? Will there be that clear, quiet, unresisting submission to the will of God? There should be. "For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also both suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps." Let us realise our interest in Jesus, our union to Jesus, and remember that if we suffer for Him, with Him, like Him, we shall also reign with Him. O to suffer like Jesus, who was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth!

Brethren, shall we take this for our lesson this day? For this year? It may be the last day or year of life to some of us. If it should not, can we do better than set our whole hearts and souls upon this one point, to learn of Jesus? Are we not predestined to be conformed to His image? Is it not testified that if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His? Can we be like Christ, if we do not make conformity to Him our object and our aim? Is it not a cause for lamentation, that we have hitherto been so unlike our Saviour? Does it not sometimes generate a doubt of our adoption, because we so little resemble the only begotten Son of God? Can we satisfy our consciences, when we come to close self-examination, that we have made it so little of our study to be like Jesus? Alas, alas! if we have believed for this, if we had aimed at this, should we not have been much more like Jesus than we are? And what are the things of time, the pleasures of sense, the gratifications of the intellect, compared to this? Surely, surely, as redeemed by His blood, as called by His grace, as hoping to dwell with Him in heaven for ever, we ought to seek to resemble Him on earth! Can we expect to receive from Him, if we do not obey Him. And can we be said to obey Him, if we do not learn of Him?

Brethren, let us then set our hearts and souls upon learning of Jesus, and, in order to this, let us read His word carefully, meditate on it seriously, compare ourselves with it daily, and aim to copy its precepts in our life hourly. There is grace in Jesus that will enable us; let us seek it; and day by day, as we discover our defects, mourn over our want of conformity to our Redeemer, and confess it as our sin. The eyes of the world are upon us, and they too often judge religion by us, and pronounce a false verdict. Satan will try by all means to divert our attention from this object, or discourage us by suggesting that we can never attain it. But in spite of Satan, notwithstanding failures, in the strength of God promised in His word, let us determine to learn of Jesus. Spirit of the living God! produce in us the meek and gentle temper of Jesus, enable us to copy His holy example, - to walk by His lovely rule, - to work for God in His humble, self-denying spirit - to suffer as He suffered - to worship as He worshipped - and, like Him in all things, to aim at His Father's glory.

Sinner, unless you are like Jesus, you can never live with Jesus in heaven; and unless you come to Jesus for life and salvation, you can never be like Him. Come then to Jesus. Let it be the first purpose of your heart, the solemn determination of your soul, to come to Jesus and seek salvation at His hands. Many have lost their last opportunity, and are now in hell, where they rue their folly, and suffer the just desert of their sins; if you neglect the salvation of your soul now, perhaps before another day you may be in hell too, exclaiming, in bitter agony, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not

saved.” O, delay not! Listen no longer to the enemy of your soul; but this day, this hour, this moment,  
- seek, and seek until you find, the salvation of your never-dying soul.

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**Email: [info@christianwatch.net](mailto:info@christianwatch.net)**

**Web: [www.christianwatch.org.uk](http://www.christianwatch.org.uk)**