

CHRISTIAN WATCH

A PROTESTANT BIBLICAL WITNESS

“And what I say unto you

I say unto all, Watch”

Mark 13:37

NEWSLETTER

JUNE / JULY 2009

CHRISTIAN WATCH

June/July 2009

To all Christian Watch Members

Dear Friends,

May the God of all grace and the only author and giver of real wisdom, guide our thoughts as we again communicate with you. The wickedness of the present time is unparalleled in more recent periods of our national history and can only be compared to that experienced by Lot in Sodom (as recorded Genesis ch.19). There is a most solemn responsibility, placed by the Lord upon those who profess to be His followers, to sound an alarm and to lovingly warn others of the inevitable consequences, if the present pattern of events continues. We, who are the older members of our churches and chapels, need to examine ourselves with regard to our personal fulfilment of the responsibilities that our profession places upon us. Does our conduct always present a scriptural example to others, and particularly to our young friends, with regard to our contending for the Word of God? If we are a scriptural 'light' in the world, it is only by our public witnessing that we can have a beneficial effect upon those who are in darkness and ignorant of their solemn condition. The Lord Jesus has given us a command to let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

In order to consider the scriptural responsibility of the church in relation to the nation in which it is situated, one of our Christian Watch Committee Members, Mr. Anthony Busk, has prepared a very searching article, which we include under the title, **IF MY PEOPLE...A Study of the relationship between Church and State in the context of the Gospel**. This article clearly identifies the reasons why our nation and others also, are in such a sad state of declension, with vice and immorality constantly increasing.

We have previously included information about the organisation, **Common Purpose** which continues to make progress in its objective to control all member countries of the European Union. Those who are directly involved operate under a blanket of secrecy and consequently the general public are kept in ignorance with regard to what is taking place. We include two informative articles under the title, **"A criminal organisation that abuses Government posts for gain"** and **"training our future EU rulers"**. These articles reveal that members of our government and leaders of the opposition parties are not only aware of this secretive organisation, but some are directly involved in the implementation of its strategy to undermine our national sovereignty and ultimately to annihilate our democracy and personal liberty. Are we right to accept these developments without publicly contending for the liberty and freedom, which so many of our fellow countrymen gave their lives in defending for us?

Some of our Members will recall the earlier involvement with our work of Mr. Andrew Clarke, which he did on a voluntary basis. We are thankful for the Lord's provision, which has enabled Andrew to work with us again on a full time basis and we welcome him back. Andrew has written an introductory article under the title, **Silent No More** which details the important area of our future work which, God willing, Andrew will be responsible for developing. Please read this carefully and prayerfully and if you consider you can assist Andrew with his work in your particular area, please make contact by using the form provided, or the telephone number provided.

One of the major factors contributing to our present national situation is the breakdown in family life. The ever-increasing number of babies born to single women will inevitably continue to multiply the problems. We witness one of the consequences of our departure from the marriage laws God has given, by the many unruly youths now in our towns and cities. Also the problem school teachers are experiencing in attempting to control their classes is a further consequence. We include an article entitled, **WHAT'S HAPPENING TO FAMILIES?** by Mr David Phillips, (General Secretary of the Church Society) in which he identifies what has taken place with regard to families over the past forty years and the effect it is having nationally upon us.

Under the title of **NEWS ITEMS** we include three short, but important articles. The first heading is, **Atheists target UK Schools** by the Religious Affairs Correspondent of Telegraph.co.uk. In this the aim by the National Federation of Humanist and Secular Student Societies is revealed which is to establish a network of atheist societies in schools. The object of this plan is to counter the present Christian influence

in those schools where it continues to exist. The second item is, **UK: Judgment seals fate of Catholic Adoption Agencies** by Simon Caldwell of the UK Catholic Herald. This article details how the Catholic Care adoption agency operating in the Diocese of Leeds has been prevented from operating, because they refuse to place children with same sex couples. Obviously the same rule will apply nationally in future. The third item by Christian Concern for our Nation is entitled, **'It is a crime to say that homosexuality is sin', police told open-air preacher**. The account detailed in this article is a serious and solemn warning to us all with regard to the attempts by the devil and his agents to prevent the complete Word of God being publicly proclaimed. Unless we are willing to be active in earnestly contending for the righteous laws of our God, which are clearly given in the Bible, we must share in the responsibility for the spiritual and moral decline that is taking place.

A CHRISTIAN CONCERN FOR NATIONAL SIN is the title of the Church Meeting Address by the late Dr. J. Owen in the year 1675. It accurately describes, and is so applicable to the situation at the present time in our nation, many of our churches and chapels and also in the lives of many who profess to be Christians. In addition, many of us have to confess our personal failings in following the Lord fully, as did Caleb of old. *Numbers14: 24*. However, I believe we can confirm that we share in the desires expressed in the penultimate paragraph of this address.

We wish you the Lord's blessing and thank you for your support.

Yours in His service.



David Crowter

Management Committee

Mr D Boyd; Mr M Brockes (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).

IF MY PEOPLE.... A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GOSPEL

The Nation

There is a principle stated in the New Testament (NT) regarding our Lord's current dealings with nations, which is identical to His dealings with countries and peoples in the Old Testament (OT) period. It is given in 2 Peter 2:6: *'And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them **an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.***' An OT reference is Jeremiah 18:7-8 *'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.'* It is worth noting that the word 'nation' is used for **any peoples**, and not just of Israel.

There are NT passages that point to the responsibilities of Governments to punish evildoers and encourage those who do well. For example Roman 13:1-3 points out that *'...the powers that be are ordained of God...for rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil'*. Then verse 4: *'For he [government] is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.'* It is therefore wrong to assert that our Lord is only concerned with the redeemed Church, and in effect is indifferent to the actions of the rest. Romans 1:18-32 describes the outworking of unrestrained behaviour into the chaos of loveless inhumanity. The atrocities under National Socialism and Communism are modern examples of the horrific consequences where governments first challenge and then implement evil in place of good.

In the OT the flood was a direct consequence of universal lawlessness. This implementation of secular humanism was despite Noah's warnings: 2 Peter 2:5 *'...And spared not the old world, but saved Noah, the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.'* Conversely, Nineveh would have been destroyed if it hadn't been for Jonah's preaching: *'And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not'* (Jonah 3:10). Israel and Judah followed a similar course but were not spared, despite being His covenant people, because they refused to repent, and so went into a terrible exile for 70 years accompanied by untold suffering, after which they returned to Israel, a very much chastened nation.

The question has to be seriously faced as to **whether the United Kingdom is drifting towards the condition found in Sodom and Gomorrah?** The account of Lot's deliverance (Genesis 19:1-29) demonstrated the ascendancy of homosexuality, but Ezekiel 16:49-50 describes other social and economic characteristics that lead to a nation's downfall *'...pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness... neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.'* Today's extraordinarily severe economic downturn, which is not aligned to conventional cyclical trading patterns, does indicate national judgment. Unless there is repentance by government and people, the outlook for the United Kingdom is bleak, particularly in view of its Christian heritage encapsulated in its law, and the ensuing greater responsibility.

The Church

The great Commission to evangelise and disciple within all nations, also includes the injunction *'...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you'* (Mt.28: 18-20), which means impacting society through good works! The OT frequently records what pleases our Lord in this respect, such as Isaiah 58:6 *'Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke.'* Or Jeremiah 21:12 *'...Execute judgement in the morning, and deliver him that is spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor.'* Good works means practical involvement with society, its culture, and in particular, biblical morality.

Perhaps contrary to current thought, true Christians who have been born again by the sovereign ministry of the Holy Spirit can expect opposition. Jesus made this very clear in John 15:19 *'If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.'* 1 Peter 2:15 points out it is the will of God that by doing good one puts to silence *'the ignorance of foolish men.'* Jesus illustrated in the well-known passage on salt and light, the necessity of carrying out good works, which will *'glorify your Father which is in heaven'* (Matthew 5:16). Equally familiar is the summary of the moral law to **love the Lord, and to love thy neighbour as thyself** (Mt.22: 37-40).

Doing good has to be in the context of loving our neighbour as ourselves: there is no room for the coldness of legalism, but only of compassion for a people suffering from the consequence of sin. Perhaps this is summarised by our Lord's rebuke to Jonah, pointing out this was a people (Nineveh) *'that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand...'* (Jonah 4:11). In today's post Christian culture there are many who have little idea about right and wrong in the sight of God, and this includes all classes, e.g. civil servants, business leaders and politicians and is certainly true within the academic world.

The Role of Prayer

It is generally considered biblical to pray for unbelievers and for the needs of the saints, but there appears generally to be reluctance in public worship to pray for those in authority over us, whether they are within government, local authorities, police, or employers. Although, the Church of England prayer book does make references to the Queen.

Neglect of this is unbiblical, and can have serious consequences for the Body of Christ. 1Tim 2:1-3 is quite specific as a condition for Believers to *'lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.'* In this passage instruction is given regarding those in authority and whilst governmental leadership is specifically mentioned, there is also a general reference. *'...and for all that are in authority'*, which must include managerial chains of command in employment and others who, by nature of their relationship, have authority over one's activities.

The question arises - how should we pray? Verse 1 states there should be supplications, prayers, intercession and giving of thanks *for all men*. There are therefore three distinct Greek renderings: **supplications** suggests personal earnest petitioning with specific requests for oneself, **prayer** is a more general term that includes praise and worship, and **intercession** points to seeking the Lord on behalf of others. The Greek term for men (*anthropos*), specifically identifies that prayers are for unbelievers, and of course in the context of the passage, it is regarding their attitude and actions, whether within a legal context or otherwise. Finally there is **giving of thanks**, for the goodness of the Lord, particularly when prayer is answered.

Church and Nation Interwoven

Christians will face a critical barrier, when they faithfully seek to carry out good works, to be salt and light toward a kingdom of darkness. However diplomatic one may be, there will be 'opposition' directly or indirectly from those whose ambitions and lifestyles are contrary to the laws of God. For example, businesses and power groups which exploit others will challenge and campaign against those who endeavour to do good, and even try to turn their actions into criminal offences. Although the victims of corruption suffer greatly, this is usually of little interest to the instigators, who are indifferent to pleas for change. However, it is impossible to do well in a biblical sense and escape opposition and/or persecution.

Because **governments are in positions of national authority** in the definition of right and wrong, good and evil, their behaviour as *ministers of God* can be influenced towards righteousness through the testimony of Believers, or towards evil through the silence of Christians. Politicians and the chains of law enforcement by reason of their status are particularly required by God to resist evil and reward those who do good, but **they need the scriptural testimony of His people to enable them to function properly**. However, should Christian testimony not avail and the authorities harden their hearts, the populace concur with evil and join together in suppressing the knowledge of God, the situation within a nation will become critical and consequently the Lord's severest judgments will follow. Is this catastrophic condition fast developing in Britain, and is the silence of the Church partly to blame?

Being born again of an incorruptible seed by the word of God (1 Peter 1: 23) means the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts, and this in turn creates a spiritual love for fellow believers, and also a concern for unbelievers. Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5) within a globally wicked world, but today also within a fallen world the command is the same that *'repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations...'* (Luke 24:47).

The challenge for Christians today is to recognise and act upon the Word of God, which clearly states that **loving God and loving your neighbour go together**. As we see the growing chaos and hurt in today's Britain, our responsibility is to relate scripturally with the society in which we have been placed, not only in prayer, but also in good works that accompany the preaching of the Gospel. In other words, the church today must repent and no longer be silent.

Doing good, showing the love of Christ in practice has also to be accompanied by prayer (1 Tim 2:1-4), because we are not wrestling with flesh and blood but against '*spiritual wickedness in high places*' (Eph 6:12). Ministering to the local and wider community without prayer will fail, and lead to unscriptural ways being adopted to attempt to 'bring' people to salvation.

Churches and individuals need to urgently return to the **Word of God**, if we are to witness both a growth in true spiritual fruit and support for the true Christian Church by the Government. From the writer's personal observations, there is a long way to go! However, wonders have been achieved when the Lord's people earnestly pray for the nation in both private and public worship.

Anthony Busk – 2009

A member of CW Management Committee

Common Purpose. A criminal organisation that abuses Government posts for gain

Although it has 80,000 trainees in 36 cities, 30,000 graduate members and enormous power, Common Purpose (CP) is largely unknown to the general public.

It recruits and trains its leaders to work "beyond authority," to abuse their posts and serve Common Purpose, instead of their own departments, which they then undermine. Its members control the NHS, where it wastes £60 billion, much of it going into private pockets; and controls most of Britain's 8,500 quangos which spend £167 billion annually, according to the Cabinet Office. Most of that is waste.

Business rates and tax go up, services go down, the difference is spent on yet more CP quangos.

CP is identifying leaders in all levels of our government to assume power when our nation is replaced by the European Union, in what they call "the post democratic era." They are learning to rule without democracy, and will bring the EU police state home to every one of us.

Common Purpose is a criminal organisation that enables fraud to be committed across these government departments to reward pro European local politicians. Corrupt deals are enabled that put property or cash into their pockets by embezzling public assets.

It has members in the NHS, BBC, the police, the legal profession, the church, many of Britain's 8,500 quangos, local councils, schools, social services, the Civil Service, government ministries, Parliament, and it controls many RDA's (Regional Development Agencies).

Cressida Dick is the Common Purpose senior police officer who authorised the "Shoot to kill" policy without reference to Parliament, the law or the British Constitution. Jean de Menezes was one of the innocents who died as a result. Her shoot to kill policy still stands today.

Common Purpose trained Janet Paraskeva, the Law Society's former Chief Executive Officer. Surprising numbers of lawyers are CP members. It is no coincidence that justice is more expensive, more flawed and more corrupt. Lawyers in secret family courts routinely commit perjury to pervert the course of justice, knowing CP judges will protect them; a fair trial is now rare. When a challenge was made to the signing of the five EU treaties, which illegally abolish Britain's sovereignty, it was no surprise the courts refused to uphold the law.

Common Purpose was backed by John Prescott's Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), and its Chief Executive is Julia Middleton. The Head of the Civil Service Commission is a member.

It is close to controlling Plymouth City Council, where it has subverted the democratic process. Local people cannot get CP's corrupt activities published, because the editors of local papers are in CP, and refuse to let journalists publish the articles.

The power of councillors is being usurped nationally by council executives, as CP substitutes “expert officers” and swamps councillors with paperwork and directives. The ODPM’s councillor monitoring officers can remove councillors who don’t comply, or try to stand up for democracy.

CP was formed in 1970 by Ted Heath’s Conservative Party as part of joining the European Union Dictatorship. In the 1990’s, with its members’ cross-departmental influence, it was involved with what then became the disastrous New Millennium Dome Company and the squandering of £800 million; it appears £300m of this was diverted into the web of quangos set up by CP. There is a fraud case over this, stalled in the courts thanks to CP’s influence in the legal profession.

Over £100 million of our money has been spent on CP courses alone, and its been hidden from the public. No published accounts, and member’s names are a guarded secret. It charges substantial figures for its courses. Matrix for example costs £3,950 plus VAT, and courses for the high flying “leader” can be as much as £9,950 plus VAT. This money is ours, paid by government departments financing senior staff to become agents for CP, instead of loyal to their own jobs.

Common Purpose International (Ltd by guarantee No. 2832875) is registered as an educational charity, No 1023384. Given that it targets the powerful with expensive fees, its charity status stinks and should be revoked.

Common Purpose – training our future EU rulers

Potential Common Purpose subjects are selected for training. Are they susceptible to being converted; are they in the right job, with the right colleagues and friends? Do they have power, influence and the control of money? The local Common Purpose Advisory Board then decides if they can do the course.

While on the courses candidates are assessed; are they corruptible; will they abuse their positions, commit fraud and lie for Common Purpose? If so they are selected for the inner sanctum; but half are not, and can honestly say they’ve seen nothing wrong.

Trained leaders are encouraged to act as a network, enable other members’ plans, and have meetings under the so-called Chatham House rules. This effectively means their statements are not attributable to them, nor can attendees reveal information heard at a Common Purpose meeting.

Council Officers are having secret meetings with, for example, property developer Common Purpose friends. No agendas and no minutes. Common Purpose Graduates from the public quango sectors such as the Regional Development Agencies attend, and award large sums of public money to these projects.

It is the worse national example of cronyism, closed contract bids, fraud and corruption. And sadly is unseen to the general public.

Common Purpose undermines traditionally effective and efficient government departments with an overwhelming influx of new language, political correctness and management initiatives. The talk is of change, empowering communities, vision, worklessness, mainstreaming (sucking EU money into a project to sustain it), community empowerment, working partnership, regeneration and celebrating diversity etc. Documents appear about change, and reorganisation.

As CP “leaders” become more senior they employ countless managers and bureaucrats. In time confusion rules, and things don’t seem to work properly. Management decisions are made that seem stupidly destructive. The organisation’s performance becomes sluggish. Undermining the NHS is Common Purpose’s biggest success so far, with bureaucrats outnumbering hospital staff three to one.

David Cameron, who is an EU plant, uses the language and techniques of Common Purpose against the Conservative Party. By changing, with nothing to change to, he is paralysing the Conservative party.

Common Purpose specifically targets children from the age of 13, and more recently age 4, for sex or leadership and citizenship training. Yes, it is active in schools, and again the average parent has no idea.

People have contacted us to speak of their experiences with Common Purpose. A common theme is its all sweetness and light, until you fail to follow the direction set by the CP leadership. Then interesting things happen. Ladies in particular have been bullied at work, some have lost their jobs, and some have become paranoid and depressed at the pressure from people ganging up on them.

A typical story is a husband describing the decline in his wife from the time she became a Common Purpose graduate. Loss of sparkle, enthusiasm, anxious and 'changed', and she initiated a divorce. Other Common Purpose people lie when they are challenged as to their involvement.

Common Purpose candidates are given a two-day residential course in which they are 'trained' in a closed residential environment, such as a small hotel. They are encouraged to reveal personal information about themselves, such as their likes, dislikes, ambitions and dreams. Discussions are then controlled by the course leaders. Some participants have likened this to Delphi technique, NLP, or the application of group psychology such as Cognitive Dissonance or brainwashing.

If you suspect Common Purpose is active in your organisation, or you see a pattern of incredibly bad decisions, money being wasted, notice bullying, fraud, or threats, note the names of those involved (we've tracked down over a thousand) and please contact us. And publish the truth about Common Purpose as widely as you can.

Brian Gerrish 07841 464187, David Oakes 07974 437097; <http://eutruth.org.uk> for action

"And then many shall be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved".
Matt 24:10-13

Silent No More

By Andrew Clarke

I would like to first acknowledge what a privilege and honour it is to be appointed to represent **Christian Watch** in the Lord's service. I know my own weaknesses and therefore ask for your fervent prayers that I may fulfil this calling well and primarily for the glory and honour of our God.

I further appeal for a "**call to action**". Such is our perilous state that I am fearful for our very survival as a sovereign nation. All around us we witness the Lord's hand in judgment.

In fact so prevalent is the evil we face that it can prove daunting. How often I have cried "It can't possibly get any worse" – but it does. How we need, therefore, the Lord to guide us in the way forward.

Why?

That great warrior for God, the Apostle Paul, taught that the Old Testament Scriptures were "*written for our learning*" (Rom 15:4). Yet it seems the people of God today foolishly pay little attention to the numerous examples given of God's judgment on the nation of Israel, thinking they have little or no relevance for Britain today.

"... The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you". (emphasis mine) **2 Chron 15:2**

There is no escaping it. God blesses obedience and punishes disobedience.

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" (emphasis mine) **Deut 30:19**

Scripture has many such warnings from the Lord, not only to the heathen, but also to His people. We live in a country God has blessed with a rich Christian heritage and Constitution, however, this is being systematically uprooted and dismantled before our eyes with little apparent concern from the people of God.

Why is the church so passive and inactive?

It seems hard to fathom when the Scriptures are so clear. I fear that our ease and comfort has dulled our zeal, making us 'lukewarm' Christians, preferring to 'pass by on the other side' leaving the spiritual warfare to others.

In effect we have become powerless because we have sought "influence" with the world rather than Holy obedience towards God. We have allowed the devil to distract us and take us away from seeking His righteousness FIRST. It seems, despite all our modern conveniences and 'time saving' devices, that almost EVERYBODY is ALWAYS "too busy".

But busy doing what we ask?

- Passively watching television - full of blasphemy, explicit sex, and gratuitous violence?
- Playing violent and addictive computer games?
- Obsessed with watching or playing sport?
- Mindlessly "surfing the web" or "chatting" on Internet social websites?
- Working "all hours", thereby neglecting God and maybe family responsibilities, in pursuit of "success" and needless possessions?

We are in a most solemn state as a nation when there appears little difference between the people of God and the world!

*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. **James 4:4** (emphasis mine)*

My Exhortation

"No man has a right to be idle," wrote William Wilberforce. He challenged his contemporaries to use their *"health, leisure and affluence"* to *"find some ignorance to instruct, some wrong to redress, some want to supply, some misery to alleviate."*

My friends, Wilberforce was right. If we are the Lord's people, we are duty bound to be **active**. We are no longer our own, but servants to another, bought at the price of no less than the precious blood of the Son of God. As servants of God it is not a matter of choice, or convenience, whether we are active in the Lords cause - but a COMMAND of God Almighty.

We are to GO and be witnesses to all the world (Acts 1:8); spread savoury salt (Mt 5:13) and precious gospel light (Mt 5:14); remain ever vigilant (Mark 13:37) and contend for the faith (Jude 1:3) of the true and living God.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin". James 4:17

We can be silent no more

Owing to the limited resources of Christian Watch until now, we were not able to fulfil our desire to help all those who had expressed their willingness to support our Local Contact Groups. Now, with my full time appointment, it is my particular responsibility to help and support those Members who confirm their willingness to serve the Lord by promoting His Word in their local area. Obviously this can be done in various ways, which I will be pleased to discuss, by meeting with those who respond to this initiative. If you are willing to serve the Lord in your local area, I should be pleased to receive your confirmation by either calling me on 0870 199 6797 or returning the slip below. We look forward to hearing from you, and may the Lord grant to us each the help we need to enable us to rightly fulfil the responsibilities He has placed upon us.



I hereby confirm my willingness to discuss with Andrew Clarke what can be done in my local area, in an endeavour to stem the tide of evil and wickedness by promoting the Word of God.

Full Name:			
Address:			
	Post Code:		
Telephone:			
Email:			

Return to: Christian Watch, P.O. Box 3112, Nuneaton, CV11 6ZY

BOOK REVIEW

“Send The Fire, Lord!”

A new book by the **Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Barry Shucksmith** dealing with some places and characters of the 1859 Ulster Revival - 150 years ago.

In reading this book we were reminded of the wonders God has wrought for the deliverance and benefit of His people at various times in the history of the world. It is particularly important in these solemn times for those who have a gracious fear of the Lord and a trust in His mercy to read of the remarkable deliverances and blessings which were experienced by so many at that time.

It is estimated that at least 100,000 souls were delivered from being dead in trespasses and sins, to possessing a saving knowledge of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The wonders of the Lord's electing love are illustrated by various detailed accounts of people being delivered from a false religion by the work of the Holy Spirit within them.

It is important to remind ourselves that it is this same God we profess to serve, who retains the same power, authority and merciful ability, as is recorded in this book. May the reading of it strengthen our confidence and trust in Him, enabling us to pray in faith that we may witness such a spiritual revival in our land today.

PRICE (including P&P) - **£6.50**

161 Pages

Obtainable from:

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Tel: 01323 484052**

“O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and the sins of our fathers, Jerusalem and the people are become a reproach to all that are about us”.

“Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of the servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake”.

“O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city that is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies”.

“O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name”.

Daniel 9: 16-19

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO FAMILIES?

By

David Phillips

Every generation imagines that moral standards in society have deteriorated as compared to the past. Plato is reputed to have quoted Socrates as saying *"The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they allow disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise"*. The authenticity of the quotation is far from certain but it appears to be a common sentiment through history. Whether or not we think in these terms today one fact is clearly established by statistics; traditional nuclear families are in trouble.

A quarter of children now live in lone-parent families. Of two-parent families one fifth involve step-relationships. That means that around four in every ten children live in a family where one or both of their natural parents are missing. To this we can add the fact that a fifth of all couples are co-habiting rather than married (Source: General Household Survey 2006).

Anyone working with young people will know that this is more than just a matter of statistics. On occasion the heartbreak of broken families becomes all too apparent. We should not imagine that the past was a golden age, it is easy to forget the dreadful poverty, high mortality rates and children left fatherless by war and motherless by death in childbirth, but we are witnessing today the apparent gradual collapse of marriage and families. These are matters that should concern us. They also show us something of the deep social needs around us and many churches are seeking to rise to the challenge both of addressing those needs and modelling a better way.

The last 40 years

In 1970 Alan Stibbs wrote an article for Churchman looking at issues relating to families (available) on the Church Society website. What struck me after recently reading the article is that when Stibbs refers to children about to be born into families he is speaking of those who are now in their 30s, and when he speaks of existing families that includes those who were then children but are now in their 40s, which includes me. Stibbs makes a number of observations about families, which makes a useful starting point to consider the changes of the last 40 years.

Families were isolated, no longer part of a wider community. In some areas there are still larger family networks but in most places today people are even more isolated. In addition, I have been aware in raising children, of our reluctance, and that of other parents, to let children out alone in the way that I was when younger. The use of the internet is a constant area of concern. Yet it does allow children to interact with others and though it may have limitation and problems it must be better for children than just sitting in front of a television.

The lack of natural communities is a challenge to which churches rise and one feature of this response is the number of churches now seeking youth and family workers. Sadly, at the same time regulations and red tape have made some work with young people increasingly difficult.

Families were no longer large and unplanned but small and planned. Stibbs believed that there was a consequent danger of children being pandered to and spoilt. Today families are even smaller. In 1971 the average number of children per household was 2.0, whereas in 2006 it was 1.7. Thus families are still shrinking and if Stibbs was right to be concerned then we have all the more reason to be so.

Families were much more cared for by the state than previously. This was a good thing leading to improved opportunities and education. Today, if anything, Christians are concerned about too much state interference in the family. Most recently some parents have been threatened with legal action because they withdrew their children from school lessons which were glorifying sexual immorality. In addition young teens can gain contraception and abortions apparently without their parents ever being told. Thus families are undermined. In addition, whereas 10 or 20 years ago taxation policy encouraged marriage and the idea that one of the parents might not work in order to care for children, today there are little benefits and it has even been claimed recently that it is more beneficial financially for parents to separate (though I have to say that I could not understand the figures used to support this claim).

Families were much more comfortable in 1970 than they had been in the past, and we can only say that we are even more comfortable now. We may occasionally decry material possessions but few of us I think would really want to go back 40 years in our comforts. I may like to shock my children by talking about having no central heating and only two black and white television channels but I don't regret either transformations any more than I think my mother missed the days of using the scrubbing board and hand ringer which I can remember in my grandmother's kitchen.

Related to some of the above, Stibbs also asserted that children were spoilt and that there was a decline of discipline in the home which spilt over outside the home. The cry would be the same today and probably in every generation. Whilst we may look back 40 years and say that things are worse, we would have to be honest and say that they are also far better than they have been at times in history. One significant change in recent years has been state interference in discipline both in the home and in education. Many claim that the breakdown of discipline in schools is having a detrimental effect on the education of children.

There are it seems good grounds for concern regarding children and families and this concern must therefore be for society as a whole. As Christians we feel that this is part of a more general abandoning of Biblical norms by our society and symptomatic of a deeper moral decay. Ultimately it is hard to imagine that people will accept Biblical teaching unless they first accept the authority of the Bible, which in turn will be a fruit of their acceptance of Christ. Nevertheless, there is an argument from common grace. Marriage was established by God from the beginning. It was not something commanded only to his particular people. As Stibbs remarked in a following article *"When God created man he created male and female, two in one; and he made them capable of giving birth to a third – the child; and, indeed to several children – the family."* Marriage and the family are meant for all humanity and indeed have been found amongst virtually every, if not every, branch of the family of Adam and Eve. This leads us to conclude that marriage and families are good and have positive benefits. So it may be possible to persuade others, despite their unwillingness to accept the commands of God, that those commands are nevertheless best for us.

David Phillips is General Secretary of Church Society.

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NEWS ITEMS

Atheists target UK schools

Atheists are targeting schools in a campaign designed to challenge Christian societies, collective worship and religious education.

by
Jonathan Wynne-Jones, Religious Affairs Correspondent, Telegraph.co.uk

The National Federation, Humanist and Secular Student Societies (AHS) plan to launch a recruitment drive this summer.

Backed by professors Richard Dawkins and AC Grayling, the initiative aims to establish a network of atheist societies in schools to counter the role of Christianity.

It will coincide with the first atheist summer camp for children that will teach that religious belief and doctrines can prevent ethical and moral behaviour.

The federation aims to encourage students to lobby their schools and local authorities over what is taught in RE lessons and to call for daily acts of collective worship to be scrapped. It wants the societies to hold talks and educational events to persuade students not to believe in God.

Chloe Clifford-Frith, AHS co-founder, said that the societies would act as a direct challenge to the Christian message being taught in schools.

She expressed concern that Christian Unions could influence vulnerable teenagers looking for a club to belong to with fundamentalist doctrine.

In particular, she claimed that some students were being told that homosexuality is a sin and to believe the Biblical account of creation.

“We want to point out how silly some of these beliefs are and hope that these groups will help to do that,” she said.

The federation’s bid to improve co-ordination among atheists in schools follows a successful campaign at universities.

The number of groups reported by the AHS to be active on campuses has risen from seven in 2007/2008 academic year to 25 in 2008/2009, including societies at the universities of Oxford and Durham.

Leeds Atheist Society claims to have experienced discrimination, vandalism, theft and death threats from religious groups on campus, who oppose the open expression of an atheist viewpoint and blasphemy.

AC Grayling, the philosopher and writer, said: “As well as making the case for reason and science, it is great to know that the AHS will be standing up against religious privilege and discrimination.

“The AHS shows that increasing numbers of young people are unwilling to put up with it.”

Simon Calvert of the Christian Institute said: “Atheists are becoming increasingly militant in their desperate attempts to stamp out faith. It is deeply worrying that they now want to use children to attack the Christian ethos of their schools.”

“Many parents will also be anxious at the thought of militant atheists targeting their children.”

In a further development to strengthen the role of atheism among the younger generation, the first summer camp for irreligious children or the children of nontheistic parents is being held this summer.

Organisers say that Camp Quest, which originated in America, offers “a godless alternative to traditional religious summer camps, such as vacation Bible schools”.



UK: Judgment seals fate of Catholic Adoption Agencies

By Simon Caldwell

LONDON (UK Catholic Herald) - The Catholic Church in England and Wales has lost the legal battle to retain its remaining few adoption agencies.

The Charity Tribunal ruled on that the Catholic Care adoption agency of the Diocese of Leeds could not continue as an adoption agency unless it assessed same-sex couples as potential adopters and foster parents.

The agency, which finds new families for about 20 children each year, wanted to continue to serve the Church as a diocesan charity.

It had applied to the Charity Commission to change its charitable objects so that it could appeal for an exemption under Regulation 18 of the Sexual Orientation Regulations (SORs), which ban discrimination against homosexuals in the provision of goods and services.

The regulation allows limited discrimination “in pursuance of a charitable instrument” or if “the restriction of benefits to persons of that sexual orientation is imposed by reason of, or on the grounds of, the provision of a charitable instrument”.

But the Charity Tribunal ruled that it would be “unlawful” to allow Regulation 18 to be used as a defence by Catholic Care, saying that the proposed alteration of the objects “arose substantially out of a desire to maintain a principled stance rather than being specifically designed to advance the...charitable purpose of the support, relief and care of children and young people without families to care for them.”

The decision leaves Catholic Care with the option of appealing against the decision at the High Court. The agency could also either close down or break from the Church and become an independent, secular adoption agency, a policy already adopted by at least eight Catholic adoption agencies.

The decision also represents a blow to the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) which from New Year's Day, the date from which the SORs applied to the Catholic agencies, suspended its adoption assessment services pending the outcome of the case.

The future is also uncertain for the Father Hudson's Society, the adoption agency of the Archdiocese of Birmingham which had lodged a joint appeal with Catholic Care against the original Charity Commission judgment but which, last month, withdrew ahead of the final ruling.

A Leeds diocese spokesman said: "It seems likely that the charities will need to close their adoption services and a flagship service will be lost. We are concerned about the possible impact this will have on potential adoptive parents and children."

So far none of the 11 Catholic adoption agencies of England and Wales, which together found families for about 250 children a year, has been able to survive the SORs.

However, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator allowed St. Margaret's Adoption and Child Care of the Archdiocese of Glasgow to change its charitable objects to continue its policy of assessing only heterosexual married couples and single people as adopters.

Neil Addison, an expert on religious discrimination law, who was not consulted in the case, said he found the tribunal's ruling "highly questionable".

Catholic Online – www.catholic.org

'It is a crime to say that homosexuality is a sin', police told open-air preacher

(Christian Concern for our Nation. 9th June 2009)

An open-air preacher from Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, was told by the police that he was committing a criminal offence by saying that homosexuality was a sin.

Andy Robertson, an evangelist with Open Air Mission, had never mentioned homosexuality in his open air preaching.

Despite this, the local council sent a letter to him saying that they wanted him to stop preaching because they had received 'complaints'. The council asserted that Mr Robertson was breaking the law by his preaching and that the Police would be called if he didn't stop preaching. In the letter, the council did not specify which law was broken.

When the police arrived where Mr Robertson was preaching they told him they had received complaints that he was making 'homophobic' comments and that it was a crime to say that homosexuality was a sin. See a video of what happened on YouTube (www.christian.org.uk).

At CCFON we have become increasingly aware of how difficult it is to speak publicly on sexual ethics from a biblical standpoint particularly regarding the practice of homosexuality. At the Christian Legal Centre we are dealing with many cases where Christians are discriminated against because they hold biblical views on sexual ethics.

In the current Coroners and Justice Bill, the Government wants to remove the existing free speech clause that allows for discussion and criticism of sexual practices – (<http://www.ccfon.org/view.php?id=745>). The case of Mr Robertson and others is a clear indication that the society needs to keep a free speech protection.

A CHRISTIAN CONCERN IN NATIONAL SIN

From a Church Meeting Address

By Dr. Owen, 1675

(Slightly altered for easier reading)

ALL SINS may be reduced to two main headings: **Irreligion** and **Immorality**.

1. **IRRELIGION** - This again may be reduced to two headings: *atheism* and *false worship* – to which you may add – the contempt of worship.

As to *atheism*, it may be no age can parallel that wherein we live, considering all the ways whereby the atheism of man's heart may discover itself. For, take it absolutely, and in the seat of it, it is found in the heart of man. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." The heart is the seat of atheism. But let us consider the ways whereby this atheism may and doth manifest itself.

(i) By horrid, cursed, blasphemous swearing; which is a contempt of the Name of God. And when did it ever more abound in this nation?

(ii) By reproaching of the Spirit of God. Perhaps this is the peculiar sin of the nation at this day; and that the like hath not been heard of in any nation under the sun.

(iii) By scoffing at all holy things; - at the Scriptures and at everything that carries a reverence and fear of God; so that a man who dares to profess a fear of God in what he does, makes himself a scorn.

(iv) Contempt of all God's providential warnings is another proof of atheism. Never had a nation more warnings from God's providence, nor ever were they more despised. These things, brethren, are not done in a corner; they are perpetrated in the face of the sun. The effect of them darkens the whole heaven and they abound more and more every day.

2. **IMMORALITY** - It would be an endless thing to go over the sins that reign among us: oppression, murder, uncleanness, sensuality, drunkenness, - all are at a height, raging and reigning in the nation. I mention these things as a matter to be bewailed before the Lord by us; we ought to be affected by the consideration of them.

Unto this great prevalency and predominancy of sin in the whole nation, there is added a strange and unspeakable security. The truth is, men were a little awakened at one time in the nation. When the judgments of God – the pestilence, the fire, the sword, and, the year after, another warning from heaven – came upon us, then there was a little awakening, like a man out of a dead sleep, that lifts up his head and rubs his eyes for a time. But I can say this, that it is now forty years since God enabled me to observe something in the world; and, to my knowledge, I never observed this nation in that state of security wherein it is at this day. In former times, there were warnings continually that God had a controversy with the nation, and those who had any fear of God spake one to another about it; and we saw and found their warnings were not in vain. But there is now general security. Men complain of straits, want, poverty, and the like; but as to any thing wherein God hath to do with the world, either my observation does greatly deceive me, or I never saw, so general a security as at this day in this nation. And this security hath reached us all, - even the churches of God themselves....

These things are matter of fact. The whole question is, Whether we are greatly to be concerned about these things or not? "They are the sins of wicked men, and they are the sins of the persecutors of the people of God, and the like; and what have *we* to do with them?"

The Psalmist of old said: Rivers of waters ran down his eyes because wicked men did not keep the law of God. God does set a special mark upon those, not that are free from the abominations of the age, but upon those that *mourn* for the abominations that are in the midst. It will not be enough for us, that we are free from those abominations, unless we are found to mourn for them. Brethren, our own hearts know we are guilty in this matter, and that we have need to seek the face of God to give us a deeper sense of these things than we have obtained. The Name of God is blasphemed, the Spirit of God is reproached, a flood of iniquity spreads itself over the nation, the land of our nativity, over the inheritance of Christ, over a nation professing the reformed religion; - all things go backward, everything declines. Indeed, brethren, if you will not, I do acknowledge in this matter, that I have not been sensible of the abominations of the

nation, so as to mourn for them and be humbled for them, as I ought to have been. And you will do well to search your own hearts and consider how it is with you; - whether you have been affected with these things; or whether you have not thought all is well, while it has been well with yourselves and your families, and, it may be, with the church, that may have no trouble on that account.

..... That which is worst of all, there seems to me, to be a very great decay in all churches of Christ in the nation. That which we call zeal for God is almost quite lost among us. Some of us have almost forgotten whether there be such a thing as the cause and interest of Christ in the world. We who have cried and prayed about it, and had it upon our hearts, have sat down in our narrow compass and almost forgot that there is such a thing as the interest of Christ in the world, so as to have an active zeal for the ordinances of Christ, and the society of His people for edification, - how cold have we grown in these things! How little is the church society upon our hearts, which some of us remember when it was the very joy of our souls! Truly we have reason to lift up our cry to God, that He would return and visit the churches, and pour out a new reviving spirit upon them, that we fall not under the power of these decays till we come to total formality, and God withdraws Himself from us, and leaves us; which He seems at the very point of doing.

Then, brethren, let us remember our own Church; that God would in an especial manner revive the spirit of life, power and holiness among us; that He would be pleased to help us to discharge our duties, and not suffer them to fall under any decay of grace or gifts, thereby unfitting us to discharge our office to the edification of the church. May He also give us to beware of and preserve us from formality; and that He would take care of us, since we are apt to fall under these things. Let us pray that we may be acted upon by the Spirit of God and enlivened by the grace of God.

Have any of us any particular occasions in reference to temptations, trials and troubles upon our hearts that we may bear to the Lord? May the Lord make us to know the plague of our own hearts, and enable us to plead with Him for grace and His help in every time of need!

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