

Forcing Change



Coming Year of Change and Challenge: *A Global Calendar of Events for 2011*

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)

This calendar of events for 2011 is only a partial listing of the numerous meetings and gatherings that will set trends and propel global agendas forward during this new year. Not listed, but of immense importance are the hundreds of additional meetings within regional and global organizations such as the World Bank and IMF, the Bank for International Settlements, the European Union, NATO and the United Nations, along with many other political and economic entities. Furthermore, a host of other events from all parts of the world will come to light as the year progresses, adding momentum toward global transformation.

Note: This calendar incorporates a host of events from various areas; political, religious, military, and social. The point of this calendar is to give you a point of reference for 2011.



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Carl Teichrib, Editor.

Date Unknown: One World 2011**Where: Seattle, Washington**

Although the date is not currently known, the One World 2011 conference is being organized as a massive interfaith event, bringing together Islamic, Christian, and Jewish leaders. The purpose: To bring the Western and Muslim world closer in the quest for global peace. Current sponsors are many: the Council of American-Islamic Relations, the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, the Arab Center of Washington, Bill Gate's foundation, the King Hussein Foundation, the Muslim Public Affairs Council, One Nation, and One World Now.

**Date Unknown: G8 World Religions Summit****Where: Paris, France**

For the past number of years, world religious leaders have been gathering for a global interfaith event prior to the G8 political summit. Last year, the World Religions Summit occurred in Winni-

peg, Manitoba. For 2011, the event is scheduled for France. The date hasn't been confirmed.

January 10-11: First Intersessional Meeting for UNCSD**Where: New York City, New York**

Rio+20 will take place in 2012 - the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 UN Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This high-level event will review the successes and challenges of global sustainable development, what has transpired over the past twenty years, and how to strengthen and implement global governance for the future. This will be one of the most important international conferences for 2012, for it will set the pace for international governance for years to come.

Leading up to Rio+20 are a multitude of planning events, with the most important being the Prepcom and Intersessional meetings, which set the agenda and scope of the 2012 global conference. Therefore, in January 2011, the first Intersessional meeting will take place, with a second slated for November (the third Intersessional will probably be in early 2012). Three Prepcom events were announced leading up to Rio+20; the first was held in May 2010, but the second Prepcom will be March 7-8, 2011, in New York City. And like the third Intersessional, the third Prepcom will be convened in 2012.

All of this may seem a bit confusing and technical, yet the world agenda emerging from Rio+20 will have been largely built on the 2011 Prepcoms and Interessionals.

January 14-15: Rivalry and Partnership – The Struggle for a new Global Governance Leadership**Where: Princeton, New Jersey**

This invitation-only workshop will discuss the shifting foundation of global governance, and how institutions like the United Nations, G8/G20,

and International Monetary Fund must change to become effective international managers. Sponsors include The Stanley Foundation, the Council on Foreign Relations G-20 Research Group, the Program on International Institutions and Global Governance, the University of Toronto Project on the Future of Multilateralism, and Princeton University.

January 15: Next Left – What is the Alternative?

Where: London, England

Hosted by the Fabian Society, this one-day conference seeks to find a roadmap to insert Fabian/Labour influence back within Britain's political environment. The program includes a joint keynote discussion between Ed Miliband, leader of the Labour Party, with Sunder Katwala, General Secretary of the Fabian Society.

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January 16-20: Session III of the Global Governance 2020 Program

Where: Washington D.C.

The Global Governance 2020 Program is a tri-lateral endeavor that brings together 24 GG2020 Fellows – eight from China, Germany and the USA – in a yearlong exercise to strategize and create scenarios for global governance by 2020. In January 2011, the last of three working sessions will wrap up the project as it currently stands.

The GG2020 is sponsored by the Global Public Policy Institute, the Woodrow Wilson School, Brookings Institute, the Hertie School of Governance, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and Fudan University. It is directed by a steering committee of academic experts and policy makers.

January 17-19: CoNGO General Assembly

Where: New York City, NY

CoNGO, the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, is a coalition of non-governmental organizations – global special interest groups – who are qualified as consultative members within the United Nations system. This year's theme is "Defining the Present, Shaping the Future," and the event will take place at the International Social Justice Commission Auditorium of the Salvation Army.

Besides internal business, including discussions on re-branding itself, a "Call of Action" will be given, thereby providing a common direction to CoNGO member groups.

CoNGO member organizations include;

- American Psychological Association
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
- Association for Progressive Communications
- Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (a World Council of Churches' body)
- Environmental Liaison Centre International

- The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
- Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices
- International Council of Women
- International Federation of University Women
- International Federation of Women Lawyers
- International Islamic Relief Organization
- International Trade Union Confederation
- Lutheran World Federation
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- World Alliance of YMCAs
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- World Federalist Movement

January 26-30: World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

Where: Davos-Klosters, Switzerland

This event has become the world's premier forum for global re-thinking and visioning, with leaders from every corner of the planet seeking to create a new international system of governance. The event webpage describes it as "an unrivalled platform to shape the global agenda." This short list, produced by the Forum, represents the scope of participants.

- The world's leading chief executives of leading global businesses, representing the Forum's 1,000 Member companies
- Politicians from the G20 and other key countries – including over 30 heads of state and government
- The heads of all major international organizations
- The chairs of the 72 Global Agenda Councils, representing a network of over 1,200 experts
- Representatives from civil society stakeholder groups

- Media leaders representing the top news organizations from around the world
- Young Global Leaders
- Social Entrepreneurs
- Technology Pioneers
- Spiritual and cultural leaders

A number of regional World Economic Forum events are planned. In April, the Forum on Latin America will convene in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Then in May two events are planned; one for Cape Town, South Africa and the other – the Forum on the Middle East – in Jordan. June will witness two more events: The Forum on Europe and Central Asia in Vienna, Austria, and the World Economic Forum on East Asia, in Jakarta, Indonesia. Finally, in September the Forum's "Annual Meeting of the New Champions" will take place in China.



February 3: World Interfaith Harmony Breakfasts

Where: United States and India

Leading up to the UN-sponsored World Interfaith Harmony Week (see the next calendar posting), a series of interfaith breakfasts will take place in the US, and to a lesser extent in India. US locations include: Washington DC, Murfreesboro TN, Nashville TN, Long Island NY, Columbus OH, and Sedona AZ.

According to organizers, “These events bring together those of different faiths or no faith path to share one meal on the same day around the world. Attendees at every event also share prayers, meditations, chants, intentions or music from different spiritual traditions. This spirituality is focused on a common concern at the world, the national and the local levels. The goal of this breakfast program is recognize and to create greater understanding and cooperation between those practicing the many different forms of human faith around the world.”

February 6-12: United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week

Where: Global

On October 20, 2010 the United Nations passed a resolution establishing an interfaith harmony week, to be celebrated on the first full week of February. This initiative, which was kick-started by Jordon’s King Abdullah and Jordon’s Prince Ghazi, was founded on prior UN interfaith activities and the *Common Word* program – a Muslim call to bridge-building with the Christian community. Christian leaders, in turn, responded with a document calling for greater connections with Islam and equated the God of the Old and New Testaments with the Koran. Signers to the Christian response, titled *Loving God and Neighbor Together*, included Rick Warren, Bill Hybels and Jim Wallis. Leaders from many seminaries and Christian-based organizations also signed, including members of the National Association of Evangelicals, World Vision, and the Mennonite Central Committee.

Prince Ghazi’s speech announcing this Harmony Week included recognition of the interfaith role of the Second Vatican Council. Ghazi’s speech also included the UN resolution, and called on “Churches, Mosques, Synagogues, Temples and other places of Worship” to engage in interfaith cooperation for world peace.

February 6-11: World Social Forum

Where: Dakar, Senegal

The World Social Forum is an annual mega-gathering of socialist-based lobby groups, activists, political parties and delegates, and community leaders. In a sense, it’s an alternative to the World Economic Forum, and promotes an international socialist perspective. At its heart is the drive to replace capitalism and empower a system of international socialism.

According to the September 2010 issue of *World Federalist News*, the World Social Forum presents a prime opportunity to “campaign for Global Democracy and World Parliament.”

February 11-13: National Preach-In on Global Warming

Where: United States of America

Initiated by the organization, Interfaith Power & Light, the weekend of February 11-13 is to be set aside as a Global Warming “preach-in.” Hence, clergy connected to local affiliates of Interfaith Power & Light will preach sermons on global warming, the need to change lifestyles, and the quest to find “global solutions for global problems.” Furthermore, laypeople are supposed to use this time to send Valentine Day cards to politicians, encouraging policymakers to support international and federal climate change laws.

February 18-21: PantheaCon

Where: San Jose, California

PantheaCon is the largest pagan conferences west of the Mississippi. Occult rituals, witchcraft seminars, classes on environmental paganism and divination, and sessions on witchcraft-pagan ethics are expected for 2011. Last year, one of the sessions was titled “Pagans in Global Interfaith Work.”

Over 2000 attendees are expected, and more than 200 presentations, workshops, and seminars will be held.

February 21-25: UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environmental Forum

Where: Nairobi, Kenya

Top level staff from the United Nations Environment Programme, other UN agencies and offices, and national ministerial/secretariat leaders will converge to discuss international environmental directives.

February 25-March 1: Prophets Conference

Where: Palm Springs, California

This is a gathering of prominent New Ages and occult-based futurists, including Barbara Marx Hubbard, who are seeking a new “vision of the future” and a “new world.” Themes will include the coming “alien visitation,” “Native American prophetic teachings, and earth changes. This conference is the first of two such events in 2011.

February 28-March 1: Connecting Academics and UN Practitioners – A Unique Encounter

Where: UNO-City, Vienna, Austria

The United Nations Organization complex in Vienna, also known as UNO-City, is a massive compound of UN offices, conference halls, and buildings housing international bureaucrats and lobbying groups. This special “city-in-a-city” has extraterritorial status – that is, the UNO-City is a legal entity unto itself, operating as an international domain outside of the laws of the hosting country (Austria).

In 2011, a conference at the UNO-City will take place titled “Connecting Academics and UN Practitioners.” The purpose of this event is to bridge university professors who teach on international relations with those who are engaged in this type of work at the UN level. One area of concern to be explored is the development of a UN “worldview” within the broader university setting.

March 10-11: China/Global And Regional Governance

Where: Singapore

There’s no question that China is an international player with enormous regional influence. Hence, this conference will explore China’s growing role in world governance and regional management, including global security issues such as arms control, international peacekeeping, global financial systems, regional security in East Asia, China’s involvement in maritime security in East Asia, and the development of global and regional Free Trade areas that will gravitate around China’s economic energy. Watch the East!

March 16-19: Global Governance – Political Authority in Transition

Where: Montreal, Canada

This year’s theme for the annual convention of the International Studies Association is “Global Governance: Political Authority in Transition.” The big questions to be explored are: Where is political authority moving? Is global governance good? And can global governance be improved and reformed?

The ISA is a worldwide organization of scholars dedicated to international political affairs. It has a membership of over 4,000 academic leaders in 80 countries, and has consultative status with the United Nations. Moreover, the ISA is part of a wide network of professional scholar’s organizations, groups and committees, who in turn are influential at the national, regional, and global levels.

March 18-20: Left Forum: Toward a Politics of Solidarity

Where: New York City, NY

Each year the Left Forum brings hundreds of activists from around the world to discuss options for socialism. Moreover, as socialism grows as a political force with deep, grassroots connections, activists are seeking to expand their reach, pro-

ducing “tighter forms of world-wide solidarity” is a “global world.”

Last year’s Left Forum brought together more than 600 speakers and over 3,000 attendees.

March 26: Earth Hour

Where: Global

Considered the largest grassroots movement in modern history, Earth Hour unites people around the planet in a demonstration of Earth solidarity. For one hour, starting at 8:30 PM, people from every corner of the globe will turn off their lights in a stand against climate change.

Organized by the World Wildlife Fund, Earth Hour has become more than just “turning off the lights.” It has become an educational event with the aim of raising awareness for Earth-first concepts, and has taken on a celebratory flavor with concerts, festive gatherings, and community activities. The goal: to unite humanity in the cause of saving the planet.



April 8-9: Exploring Human Enhancement

Where: Richardson, Texas

This technical symposium will explore trans-human themes, including human perfection, human enhancement for military uses, the politics of transhumanism, designer babies, and the ethics of changing human biology. Technical papers will be presented and a number of workshops held. The event is being held at the Center for Values in Medicine, the University of Texas at Dallas.

April 21-24: Marxism 2011 – Ideas to Challenge the System

Where: Melbourne, Australia

Sponsored by Socialist Alternative, a network of “revolutionary socialists in Australia” who are “active in many cities and university campuses,” Marxism 2011 will feature international speakers and over 70 sessions. Topics will be wide-ranging, yet all cemented in the framework of Marxism: This includes discussions on Middle Eastern affairs, the lesbian/gay/trans community, the global economic crisis, feminism, worker’s rights, and the environment.

April 22: Earth Day

Where: Global

Each year, thousands of city, regional, and national Earth Day events are convened on April 22.

Viewed as a day to celebrate and embrace the Earth, millions of people attend interfaith, environmental, and peace celebrations with an emphasis on Earth-first principles – to the point where often times it is difficult to differentiate between actual environmental concerns and the literal worship of Earth as a deity (known as Gaia). Throughout this global gathering, the constant theme of “world unity” is advanced, making this day a special time to swing personal allegiances towards global governance ideals and “world citizenship.”

From open paganism to the acceptance of new global political forms, from being a tool for massive social change to creating pressure towards a radically altered economic order, Earth Day has become, by far, the single most dramatic public demonstration of “global citizenship.”

May 2-8: Toward a Science of Consciousness

Where: Stockholm, Sweden

What is consciousness? How can it be enhanced? Does religious experiences change human consciousness? These and other themes will be explored in Stockholm, in an event that’s sure to be the talk of the scientific community: *Toward a Science of Consciousness*.

As science and technology is being positioned to change humanity in fundamental ways, philosophers and technical experts are now wrestling through the meaning of consciousness – how it interacts with the universe, what role does spirituality play, can it be made to interact with artificial intelligence...? The list goes on. This multi-day conference, hosted in part by New Ager Deepak Chopra, will attempt to wrestle through some of these questions, with the hope that someday soon our consciousness can be connected into a global intelligence.

May 17-20: Earth Systems Governance - Crossing Boundaries and Building Bridges

Where: Fort Collins, Colorado

The Earth Systems Governance conference will discuss global environmental systems, the problems of environmental management, adaptive solutions, and the connections between government, economic systems, and environmental governance. Water resources, climate issues, and food systems will be explored in a global context. The first Earth Systems Governance conference was held in Amsterdam in 2009.

May 20-23: Gaia Gathering – Canadian National Pagan Conference

Where: Montreal, Quebec

Gaia Gathering is a national conference bringing Canadian pagans of all stripes together. Unlike many other pagan gatherings, this event doesn’t focus on group rituals, instead it’s designed as a networking and collaborative event with forums, discussion groups, and panel talks.

May 29-June 4: World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel: It’s Time for Palestine

Where: Global

Sponsored by the World Council of Churches, this one-week event is to be a time for churches around the world to lobby on behalf of the Palestinians in an effort to bring a political settlement to the region. The direction is clearly aimed at largely promoting one side of the issue; *It’s Time for Palestine*. Watch as churches this summer will be called to increasingly side with the Palestinian cause – and by default the geostrategic agenda of the Arab League – in an effort to bring “justice” and “peace” to the region.

May 30 - June 1: International Security Forum

Where: Zurich, Switzerland

A world premier event, the International Security Forum brings together leading politicians, military personnel, strategic planners, and global security contractors. Each year this elite forum tackles international strategic challenges, and just as importantly, it provides a venue for networking at the global level. Issues for the 2011 event include alternatives options for “solving the Arab-Israeli impasse,” trends in cyber warfare, nuclear weapons management, the role of private contractors in the global security environment, terrorism ten years after 9/11, scenarios for the South Caucasus (including Russia), international law, energy security, intelligence trends, and the strategic role of the European Union. All of the

above falls under the main question for 2011: “Can the world find a new blueprint towards collective action in order to resolve global, regional and national challenges...?”

June 2-4: ACUNS Annual Meeting

Where: Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

The Academic Council on the United Nations System is a worldwide body of academics, policy makers, and individuals dedicated to empowering the United Nations. This group has gained considerable clout over the past number of years, and has become a strong voice for global governance. In 2011 the annual meeting of the ACUNS will be in Waterloo, Ontario.

June 19-26: Pagan Spirit Gathering

Where: Salem, Missouri

The annual Pagan Spirit Gathering is one of the largest and oldest in the United States. This weeklong event features approximately 150 scheduled workshops, forums, concerts, and networking events that highlight shamanism, nature spirituality, and pagan training. Ceremonies and rituals are part of this gathering: “Rituals will be led by a variety of facilitators in different traditions, including Summer Solstice Rituals, a Magical Gift Circle, a Candlelight Labyrinth of 1000 candles, Drum Circles, Sweatlodge ceremonies, Rites of Passage, plus Women's and Men's Rituals.”

July 1-8: The Rethinking – The Prophets Conference

Where: Glastonbury, England

This is the second Prophets Conference, a gathering of New Age leaders who claim an esoteric (occult) vision of the future. *The Rethinking* will be a combination of rituals and ceremonies, seminars and teachings, and key presentations on the coming global spiritual environment, world consciousness, “alien visitations,” and massive earth changes prophesized by New Age leaders.

July 8-10: WorldFuture 2011

Where: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Sponsored by the World Future Society, the WorldFuture conference will bring approximately 1000 philosophers, scientists, and futurists to Vancouver. The purpose: To explore the major social, technical, political, and cultural trends that are shaping and changing our world.

August 17-20: World Crisis – Revolution or Evolution in the International Community?

Where: Porto, Portugal

Over 1,000 scholars, experts, and political practitioners will gather to discuss governance “beyond the state,” world order options, questions of sovereignty, and international justice. To this end, the overriding theme centers on the question of world order by evolution or as an outcome of revolution. The host body for this event is the World International Studies Committee, which is connected to a large network of professional academic organizations, including the International Studies Association.

August 26-28: World Peace Festival

Where: Berlin, Germany

Billed as the “biggest peace event in history,” the World Peace Festival is expected to draw 1 million participants and be viewed by over 1 billion on television. “Global Advisors” and event speakers include Desmond Tutu, New Age author Deepak Chopra, Peter Buffett of the Global Philanthropy Circle, UN Ambassador H.E. Francis Lorenzo, former president of the UN General Assembly – Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, and many leading cultural and business figures. Speaking of the Festival, the Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships has said; “Our office stands ready to facilitate and support your good work.”

The Dalai Lama and Richard Branson have publically lent support, and official sponsors in-

clude the UN Department of Public Information, Virgin Unite, and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

It's expected that this event will be globally "transformative." In other words, it's meant to guide civilization toward a break-through – assisting humanity in becoming one-world. The focus will be on the transformative roles that individuals can play when connected to the bigger circle of world peace.



August 29-September 5: Burning Man – Rites of Passage

Where: Black Rock City, Nevada

Burning Man brings together approximately 50,000 participants, creating for itself an actual community, Black Rock City. While it's hard to describe this event, it does incorporate humanist, pagan, and bohemian celebrations. Incredible art displays, concerts, social events, rituals, and celebrations all culminate with the burning of a huge human effigy.

September 11: Tenth Anniversary of 9/11 Terrorist Strikes

Where: Global

2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist strikes. Commemorative events to remember those lost in the attack will probably be held in New York City, Washington DC, and other venues. Other events may take place, including forums on terrorism, religion, and world peace. This day will no doubt be marked by global newscasts commemorating the event and discussing the changes in world security since that horrific day ten years ago.

September 16-18: Australian Wiccan Conference

Where: Near the town of Swansea, Tasmania, Australia

Australian Wiccans – modern practitioners of magic and witchcraft – will be converging in Tasmanai for their annual conference. This event is open to “all Wiccans, Pagans, Witches and pagan-type people.” Rituals to celebrate the Spring Equinox (remember, this is in the Southern Hemisphere), workshops, pagan musicians, and guest speakers will mark the occasion.

September 21: International Day of Peace

Where: New York City and other locations

Peace organizations, interfaith groups, and United Nations supporters mark September 21 as the “International Day of Peace.” This one-day, UN-sponsored global celebration and campaign is geared to uniting humanity around the theme of world peace. The Day of Peace was originally instituted in 1981 through a United Nations resolution.

October 3-6: Global Alliance Summit for Ministries and Department of Peace

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

This conference is part of a worldwide movement to create an official “Department of Peace” at the national level in countries around the world. Currently, three countries have a Department of Peace, and there's a move to create a similar government agency in the US. Although such an agency sounds benign, it must be understood that the philosophies underlying this move are based on a global vision of political correctness, and the desire for international government (the World Federalist community has been supporting a Department of Peace).

October 4-6: Global Economic Symposium**Where: Kiel, Germany**

The Global Economic Symposium is an annual event focusing on the international financial architecture and the challenges of developing a global economy, including the exploration of active solutions. World leaders in business, economic governance, and high-level policy players will attend, and although the GES isn't as well known as the World Economic Forum, it is nevertheless a significant gathering. GES sponsorships and hosting organizations typically include European banking firms and major corporations.

December: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**Where: Durban, South Africa**

Thousands of world leaders, activists, climate lobby groups, and UN supporters will converge in Durban for another United Nations climate change meeting. Like the other UN climate summits, it's expected that this event will focus on international management priorities and wealth re-distribution through carbon trading schemes. The dates for this event have not yet been released. *FC*

America's Sin In Forgetting God

By Joseph T. Larsen

NOTE: This article was originally published in 1933 in the *Moody Bible Institute Monthly*. I'm including it in this issue of FC because what Mr. Larsen said *then* is applicable *now*.

America's greatest sin and the real cause of the present depression is forgetting God. That means failure to obey God, to listen to His Word, and to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Godlessness leads to disregard for law, corruption in politics, fraud in educational and state life, and hypocrisy in the Church.

America has forgotten God! Its parents, youth and citizens as a whole - these have forgotten God. Even ministers, educators and church officials have forgotten God. True, millions of Christians have not yet forgotten God, but the whole tendency in state life, school life, commercial life, and even in religious circles, is to forget God.

Though there are fifty million church members in the nation and many more

Christians who are not church members, yet there are about seventy million outside the churches, living as if there were no God or hereafter.

America's History Has Been Phenomenal

From the first there were many immigrants coming to America seeking religious liberty. In godly worship they settled our eastern shores, then moved westward, until they settled almost three million square miles of territory. They built cities, made marvelous inventions, improved everything possible, and now support approximately 124,000,000! For 157 years, God has been the God of this nation, piloting us safely through the pioneer periods, the five wars for freedom of oppressed peoples; and as a culmination, the people following the recent period of pros-

perity, have turned largely away from God! Then came the events which brought a general depression!

How Does America Forget God?

By largely banishing the Bible from schools and by misinterpreting it in universities, criticizing it in theological seminaries and colleges, and scoffing at it among the infidels and atheists of the nation. False cults numbering nearly ten million are sweeping the land with propaganda of denial, deceit and devilish doctrines. Atheists, modernists and communists have formed a deadly alliance against God, Christ, the Church, and the Bible. "But he that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh, the Lord shalt have them in derision."

Pleasure, newspapers, magazines, business and society have largely taken the pre-eminent place that God and Christian living ought to take. Crime gets the eye, not Christ! Society not salvation, business and not betterment of souls, money and not missions, earth and not Heaven is foremost in thinking. True, there are a few million Christians in America who still adore, worship and serve Him; but they are like salt in a rotting nation.

Judgment Is Coming

Ancient Babylon, Greece, Rome, Medo-Persia, Assyria, and other empires all forgot God, and have been ruined and forgotten; but only until the judgment!

Oh, citizens of America! Will you ever learn a lesson from past history, from experienced adversity, from former judgments on the nations, that forgetting God does not pay? Can the professing Church of today continue to exist if she joins the world,

praises the communists and denies God's divine rulership?

Macaulay, the English historian, writing nearly one hundred years ago, said of America, "She will be pillaged and looted in the twentieth century by vandals, and forces within her will cause her destruction." Indications prove him to be right, and unless something can be done by godly people to stem the tide of lawlessness, communism, modernism and immorality, she will go the way of the ancient nations. Will Christians, will governmental leaders, will its citizens awaken in time or too late?

What Will Cause America to Return to God?

Only a nation-wide revival of Christian teaching, the preaching of a crucified Christ, the return to the Bible, banishing communism, deposing false cult-teachings, baring worldly and sinful amusements, and all dangerous teachings in our public schools. God must find His rightful place in human hearts, the family altars must be restored, and the Church must cease pandering to worldly aspirations.

The prodigal son "came to himself," and America must come to herself. God's voice calls upon her to repent, confess her sins and return to the God of love and life. Mercy pleads with justice, grace pleads against judgment, truth opposes falsity, and wisdom foresees coming disaster, unless there is a change through national revival.

May God's faithful ones keep crying to God for a revival and "give him no rest" until He hear from Heaven with a mighty power as of old. Let us pay unceasingly, "Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee?" (Ps. 85:6) *FC*

The New Look of Christian Missions

Note: This year I had the opportunity to speak on the growing challenges now facing Christian missions - that is, the impact of a globally shifting worldview both within and outside the Christian community. Roger Oakland, a fellow Canadian, likewise recognizes this shift in thinking and the problems it poses to missions. His article raises some sobering points.

By Roger Oakland, author of *Faith Undone*.

“I must add, though, that I don’t believe making disciples must equal making adherents to the Christian religion. It may be advisable in many (not all!) circumstances to help people become followers of Jesus and remain within their Buddhist, Hindu, or Jewish contexts.” – Brian McLaren [1]

Emerging spirituality is changing the way missions is being conducted. The idea is that you can go for Jesus, but you don’t have to identify yourself as a Christian or part of the Christian church. This concept spills over into some missionary societies too, where they teach people from other religions they can keep their religion, just add Jesus to the equation. They don’t have to embrace the term “Christian.”

At the 2005 United Nations Interfaith Prayer Breakfast, Rick Warren made the following comments to 100 delegates who represented various different religions,

“I’m not talking about a religion this morning. You may be Catholic or Protestant or Buddhist or Baptist or Muslim or Mormon or Jewish or you may have no religion at all. I’m not interested in your religious background. Because God did not create the universe for us to have religion.” [2]

While he did go on afterwards and say he believed that Jesus was God, the implication was that your religion doesn’t matter to God, and being Buddhist, Mormon, or whatever will not interfere with having Jesus in your life. Donald Miller, author of the popular *Blue Like Jazz*, puts it this way,

“For me, the beginning of sharing my faith with people began by throwing out Christianity and embracing Christian spirituality, a nonpolitical mysterious system that can be experienced but not explained.” [3]

In Erwin McManus’ book *The Barbarian Way*, he refers to “Barbarians” in a positive light and says that this is how Christ-followers should be,

“They [Barbarians] see Christianity as a world religion, in many ways no different from any other religious system. Whether Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam,

or Christianity, they're not about religion; they're about advancing the revolution Jesus started two thousand years ago." [4]

A May/June 2000 issue of *Watchman's Trumpet* magazine explains what this new missiology really entails,

"Several international missions organizations, including Youth With a Mission (YWAM), are testing a new approach to missionary work in areas where Christianity is unwelcome. A March 24, 2000, Charisma News Service report said some missionaries are now making converts but are allowing them to 'hold on to many of their traditional religious beliefs and practices' so as to refrain from offending others within their culture." [5]

The *Charisma* article in which *Watchman's Trumpet* report elaborates,

"'Messianic Muslims' who continue to read the Koran, visit the mosque and say their daily prayers but accept Christ as their Savior, are the products of the strategy, which is being tried in several countries, according to Youth With a Mission (YWAM), one of the organizations involved." [6]

The *Charisma* story reports that a YWAM staff newsletter notes the new converts' lifestyle changes (or lack thereof),

"They [the new converts] continued a life of following the Islamic requirements, including mosque attendance, fasting and Koranic reading, besides getting together as a fellowship of Muslims who acknowledge Christ as the source of God's mercy for them." [7]

When one of the largest missionary societies (YWAM) becomes a proponent of the new missiology, telling converts they can remain in their own religious traditions, the disastrous results be quite sobering for any discerning Christian. In an article titled "Christ-Followers in India Flour-



ishing Outside the Church,” the following statement is made regarding the research of Herbert Hoefler, author of *Churchless Christianity*,

“In striking research undertaken in the mid-eighties and published in 1991, Herbert E. Hoefler found that the people of Madras City are far closer to historic Christianity than the populace of any cities in the western Christian world could ever claim to be. Yet these are not Christians, but rather Hindus and Muslims. In their midst is a significant number of true believers in Christ who openly confess to faith in fundamental Biblical doctrines, yet remain outside the institutional church.” [8]

The article expands this idea that one does not need to become a Christian or to change his religious practices; he just needs to add Jesus to his spiritual equation,

“However, some might argue that this [the ‘smothering embrace of Hinduism’] is the danger with the ishta devata strategy I am proposing. It will lead not to an indigenous Christianity but to a Christianized Hinduism. Perhaps more accurately we should say a Christ-ized Hinduism. I would suggest that really both are the same, and therefore we should not worry about it. We do not want to change the culture or the religious genius of India. We simply want to bring Christ and His Gospel into the center of it.” [9]

Herbert Hoefler’s research is quite interesting. His idea that rather than “changing or rejecting” the Hindu and Muslim culture missionaries should be “Christ-izing” it. [10] He says there are thousands of believers in India whom he refers to as “non-baptized believers.” Reasons for the believers not becoming baptized vary, but usually it is because they will suffer financial or social loss and status. Hoefler admits that these non-baptized believers are not Christians, and usually they do not choose to call themselves that. In many of his examples, these non-baptized believers continue practicing their religious rituals so as not to draw suspicion or ridicule from family and friends. Hoefler explains one story,

“[There is] a young man of lower caste who earns his livelihood by playing the drum at Hindu festivals and functions. ‘All this is what I must do,’ he said, ‘but my faith is in Christ. Outside I am a Hindu, but inside I am a Christian’.”[11]

Another family of the Nayar caste consisted of a wife, her husband and one son. Hoefler describes their situation,

“[H]er husband and son have been believers in Christ for eight years. They both had studied in Christian schools and learned of Christ. The husband’s father had a vision of Christ, and one brother also is a non-baptised believer. The husband does not join his wife in coming to Church, but he occasionally joins her for the big public meetings. They do not have family devotions, but worship Jesus along with the Hindu gods in their home. Their approach to the Hindu festivals is to carry them out but to think of God, not Jesus specifically.”[12]

I am not here to judge whether these non-baptized believers are truly born again. That is for the Lord to decide. My concern lies with the way missions is changing and how the Gospel is being presented. To say that someone does not have to leave their pagan religion behind, and in fact they don't have to even stop calling themselves Hindu or Muslim, is not presenting the teachings of the Bible.

And the apostle Paul, who ended up dying for his faith, exhorted believers to be willing to give up all for the sake of having Christ,

“I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)

The implications of this new missiology are serious and, what's more, very unbiblical. Mike Oppenheimer of Let Us Reason ministries has done extensive research and analysis on the new missiology. In his article, “A ‘New Evangelism’ for the 21st Century,” Oppenheimer states,

“Can a Christian now call himself a Muslim? The word Muslim is made up of two words, Islam and Mu. Muslim does not just mean submission; it means submission to the God Allah; not the Lord Jesus Christ or Yahweh. Can a Muslim be called a Christian and walk with Allah? This seems to make no doctrinal or practical sense, unless they change the names and the meaning. This only brings confusion. Why do this when you can introduce Yahweh as the true God without any baggage and shuffling around in names, nature or descriptions? The answer is that you may not see the same results. This is what this is all about isn't it, results; pragmatism, the end justifies the means.” [13]

In a book by Oppenheimer and Sandy Simpson titled *Idolatry in Their Hearts*, they show how widespread this new missiology has become. Listen to some of the comments made by a few new missiology proponents,

“New Light embodiment means to be ‘in connection’ and ‘information’ with other faiths... One can be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ without denying the flickers of the sacred in followers of Yahweh, or Kali, or Krishna.”
– Leonard Sweet [14]

“I happen to know people who are followers of Christ in other religions.”
– Rick Warren [15]

“I see no contradiction between Buddhism and Christianity...I intend to become as good a Buddhist as I can.” – Thomas Merton [16]

“Allah is not another God...we worship the same God...The same God! The very same God we worship in Christ is the God the Jews – and the Muslims – worship.” – Peter Kreeft [17]

Oppenheimer and Simpson present page after page of documentation showing this paradigm shift in Christian missions. They ask the question, “Can one be a Hindu or a Muslim and follow Jesus?” They explain why the answer is no,

Agrippa continued listening and then said to Paul, “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian (vs. 28).” Paul answered him,

“I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.” (vs. 29)

If Paul had been following the emerging mentality, he would have told Agrippa, “No need to become a Christian. You can remain just as you are; keep all your rituals and practices, just say you like Jesus.”

In actuality, if Paul had been practicing emerging spirituality, he wouldn’t have been arrested in the first place. He would not have stood out, would not have preached boldly and without reservation, and he would not have called himself a Christian, which eventually became a death sentence for Paul and countless others. **FC**

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Endnotes:

1. Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, op. cit., p. 293.
2. Rick Warren at the 2005 United Nations Prayer Breakfast, September 2005. For more information about the prayer breakfast, see “Rick Warren Speaks about Purpose at United Nations” by Rhonda Tse (*Christian Post*, September 14, 2005, http://www.christianpost.com/article/20050914/21340_Rick_Warren_Speaks_about_Purpose_at_United_Nations.htm); quote in this book is from transcript of Warren’s talk that was provided to Lighthouse Trails Publishing.
3. Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz* (Nashville, TN: Zondervan, 2003), p. 115.
4. Erwin McManus, *The Barbarian Way* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005), p. 6.
5. “Youth with a Mission Experiments with New, Unscriptural Missions Strategy” (Foundation, *Watchman’s Trumpet*, May – June 2000), p. 39.
6. Andy Butcher, “Radical Missionary Approach Produces ‘Messianic Muslims’ Retaining Islamic Identity” (*Charisma News Service*, March 24, 2000, <http://web.archive.org/web/20010818051517/www.charismanews.com/news.cgi?a=285&t=news.html>).
7. Ibid., quoting from a report in “The International YWAMer,” YWAM’s staff newsletter.
8. H. L. Richard, “Christ-Followers in India Flourishing Outside the Church,” a review of *Churchless Christianity* by Herbert Hofer (*Mission Frontiers*, March/April 1999, <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/1999/0304/articles/04f.htm>).
9. Ibid.
10. Herbert Hofer, *Churchless Christianity* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2001 edition), p. xii.
11. Ibid., p. 17.
12. Ibid., p. 16.
13. Mike Oppenheimer, “A ‘New Evangelism’ for the 21st Century” (Let Us Reason ministries, 2006, <http://www.letusreason.org/Curren33.htm>).
14. Leonard Sweet, *Quantum Spirituality*, op. cit., p. 130.
15. Rick Warren, “Discussion: Religion and Leadership,” with David Gergen and Rick Warren (Aspen Ideas Festival, The Aspen Institute, July 6, 2005, <http://www.aspeninstitute.org>).
16. David Steindl-Rast, “Recollection of Thomas Merton’s Last Days in the West” (*Monastic Studies*, 7:10, 1969).
17. Peter Kreeft, *Ecumenical Jihad*, op. cit., pp. 30, 160.
18. Sandy Simpson and Mike Oppenheimer, *Idolatry in Their Hearts* (Pearl City, HI: Apologetics Coordination Team, 2007, 1st Edition), p. 358.

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