



June

2010

The Humanists of Ft Worth meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist building 901 Page Ave at 7 PM



From The Chair

Hi, Members and Friends of Humanists of FW

At our next meeting on Wednesday, June 9th at 7 o'clock our program will be:

HOLISM to GNOSTICISM conspiracy theory and religion

The speaker will be Mr. Joel Bailey, long time member of First Jefferson, and our great people for good talk, discussion, coffee, and cookies

Dick

Dominionist group promotes “how to take over America” list—From the Secular News Daily May 23, 2010

A growing Christian Dominionist organization is now promoting a “To-Do” list for Christians who want to take over the United States government and do away with our secular Constitution.

American Vision is a Christian Dominionist group, founded on the teachings of Christian radical R.J. Rushdoony.*

Their “anti-American Vision”:An America that recognizes the sovereignty of God over all of life, where Christians apply a Biblical worldview to every facet of society. This future America will be again a “city on a hill” drawing all nations to the Lord Jesus Christ and teaching them to subdue the earth for the advancement of His Kingdom.

• That’s right, their goal is nothing less than a world-wide Christian theocracy. Leah Smith has created for them a To-Do list for Dominion to help the rank-and-file homemakers — yes, it’s geared toward women — do their part:*Get a biblical worldview. That is, buy materials from American Vision and other related sites to teach you how to view the world through the Biblical lens.*

• *Get married and have a family.* This is extra important to Smith, because, as she says, “Atheists can do this, too”. Smith continues, “Do we want a biblical society? Start by having a biblical family . . . Pop out some kids. Raise up godly, clear-thinking Christians who will take dominion as God commands.”

• That’s right. Pop out some kids. It doesn’t matter if you can afford to raise them; it doesn’t matter if you want them. It is irrelevant if you’re ready to be a parent. It’s your duty to God to “pop out some kids” (also known as Christian soldiers) and indoctrinate them into your religion. And not just a few:

• *Have children, and if possible, lots of them.* Muslims, says Smith, are outstripping Christians with their average of 6 kids per household, and admonishes her readers to “get busy” reproducing. Women, turn on your baby ovens!

Bring up [your] children with a Christian, bible-based education. That’s right. Don’t base your kids’ education on centuries of learning and scientific experiment or accurate history; instead, look to a book written by semi-literate Iron Age nomads to figure out what to teach your children. You must, at all costs, protect them from what Smith calls “humanistic brain washing they receive five days a week.” No, you must home school!

Get educated in: Smith lists three areas she wants housewives to educate themselves. Science? Mathematics? Chemistry? No, of course not. Apologetics (the art of explaining how books written by Iron Age nomads apply today and are actually accurate, even if they seem self-contradictory and wholly ignorant of science), theology

(because there are evil atheists who understand it better than most Christians, and you might lose faith when confronted), and evangelism (how to convince believers in other faiths and non-believers that your god is better than their god). Oh, and be sure to teach your children all that you learn.

Know your feminine role. Yes, Smith wants women to “go back to being women, with joy and celebration”. That is, subject to men, not independent, and happily accepting of their role as property and as baby-ovens.

Is that the future you want? An anti-American Vision of Christian theocracy, where women are returned to the role of char-woman and baby-oven, and where people who don’t share the faith are still subject to religious laws?

*The name of this theologian may be unfamiliar, but most men of God are his heirs. Jerry Falwell, Tim LaHaye, Howard Ahmanson, James Dobson, D. James Kennedy — almost every fundamentalist follows Rousas John Rushdoony, 1916-2001. Newsweek once referred to Rushdoony’s Chalcedon Foundation as the think tank of the religious right.

Nun Excommunicated For Allowing Abortion

Last November, a 27-year-old woman was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. She was 11 weeks pregnant with her fifth child, and she was gravely ill. According to a hospital document, she had "right heart failure," and her doctors told her that if she continued with the pregnancy, her risk of mortality was "close to 100 percent."

The patient, who was too ill to be moved to the operating room much less another hospital, agreed to an abortion. But there was a complication: She was at a Catholic hospital.

"They were in quite a dilemma," says Lisa Sowle Cahill, who teaches Catholic theology at Boston College. "There was no good way out of it. The official church position would mandate that the correct solution would be to let both the mother and the child die. I think in the practical situation that would be a very hard choice to make."

But the hospital felt it could proceed because of an exception — called Directive 47 in the U.S. Catholic Church's ethical guidelines for health care providers — that allows, in some circumstance, procedures that could kill the fetus to save the mother. Sister Margaret McBride, who was an administrator at the hospital as well as its liaison to the diocese, gave her approval.

The woman survived. When Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted heard about the abortion, he declared that McBride was automatically excommunicated — the most serious penalty the church can levy.

"She consented in the murder of an unborn child," says the Rev. John Ehrich, the medical ethics director for the Diocese of Phoenix. "There are some situations where the mother may in fact die along with her child. But — and this is the Catholic perspective — you can't do evil to bring about good. The end does not justify the means."

Ehrich adds that under canon or church law, the nun should be expelled from her order, the Sisters of Mercy, unless the order can find an alternative penalty. Ehrich concedes that the circumstances of this case were "hard."

"But there are certain things that we don't really have a choice" about, he says. "You know, if it's been done and there's public scandal, the bishop has to take care of that, because he has to say, 'Look, this can't happen.'"

A Double Standard?

But according to the Rev. Thomas Doyle, a canon lawyer, the bishop "clearly had other alternatives than to declare her excommunicated." Doyle says Olmsted could have looked at the situation, realized that the nun faced an agonizing choice and shown her some mercy. He adds that this case highlights a "gross inequity" in how the church chooses to handle scandal.

In the case of priests who are credibly accused and known to be guilty of sexually abusing children, they are in a sense let off the hook," Doyle says.

Doyle says no pedophile priests have been excommunicated. When priests have been caught, he says, their bishops have protected them, and it has taken years or decades to defrock them, if ever.

"Yet in this instance we have a sister who was trying to save the life of a woman, and what happens to her? The bishop swoops down [and] declares her excommunicated before he even looks at all the facts of the case," Doyle says.

Ehrich agrees that sexual abuse can't be tolerated. But he says neither can McBride's actions.

"She said, 'Yes, you can kill that unborn child.' That's a heinous act. And I'm not going to make a distinction between what's worse. They're both abhorrent," Ehrich says.

Ehrich says the nun can be admitted back into the Catholic community by going to confession and repenting. McBride still works at the hospital in another position. Whether she is allowed to remain in her religious order, Ehrich says that is up to the Sisters of Mercy.

A point I have stressed on several occasions, and continues to baffle me, is the non excommunication of Hitler, Mussolini, Pinochet, Franco et al, and yet a woman who attempts to save a life as opposed to kill thousands, and in the case of Hitler, millions of innocents, is tossed out of this huge cult. Yes, Hitler and the others were avowed Catholics! Your editor.

ENEMIES OF REASON



MEMBER, TALIBAN SCHOOL BOARD



MEMBER, TEXAS SCHOOL BOARD

(Continued from page 1)

R.J.'s basic philosophy was that the Old Testament gave white man dominion over the earth, the animals, women, and heathen nations. Theocracy is God's will, and democracy is apostasy — only Christians should be able to vote.

To keep the secular indoctrination of sciences, arts, and feminism from poisoning society, Rushdoony advocated the death penalty according to Leviticus laws. Among the 18 capital crimes were of course, adultery, witchcraft, homosexuality, and blasphemy.

Rushdoony is the driving backbone behind the home schooling movement, to guarantee kids would be brainwashed by the O.T. and not by history and literature.

Because R.J. sought to reconstruct the O.T. laws and overturn the apostate civic society, his work is called the Reconstructionist Movement.

R.J.'s foundation is a web ministry and magazine espousing Reconstructionist theology, promoting home schooling as defense against secularism. "The state, the school, the arts and sciences, law, economics, and every other sphere [is] to be under Christ the King. Nothing is exempt from His dominion."

The magazine publishes thought provoking articles like W. Einwechter's on stoning the rebellious child. "It displays the wisdom and mercy of God in restraining wickedness so that the righteous might flourish in peace." (Jan. 99)

R.J. is best known for *Institutes of Biblical Law*, an 800 page opus on "the heresy of democracy."

Here are a few interesting statements from the book:

"The move from Africa to America was a vast increase of freedom for the Negro, materially and spiritually."

Lazy slaves were "an albatross that hung the South, that bled it."

"The University of Timbuktu never existed. The only thing that existed in Timbuktu was a small mud hut."

"Some people are by nature slaves and will always be so."

"The urge to dominion is God-given and is basic to the nature of man. An aspect of this dominion is property."

"The false witness borne during World War II with respect to Germany (i.e., the death camps) is especially notable and revealing... the number of Jews who died after deportation is approximately 1,200,000 ... very many of these people died of epidemics."

"All men are NOT created equal before God."

"The matriarchal society is thus decadent and broken... matriarchal character of Negro life is due to the moral failure of Negro men, their failure ...to provide authority. The same is true of American Indian tribes which are also matriarchal."

And here are some quotes from *Foundations of Social Order*:

"An employer therefore has a property right to prefer whom he will, and he can prefer whom he will in terms of color, creed, race, or national origin."

"Selective breeding in Christian countries has led to ... the progressive elimination of defective persons."

Want more of this drivel?

<http://unreasonablefaith.com/2009/05/01/r-j-rushdoony-reconstructionist-and-racist-bigot/>

Palin: Founders meant to base law on Bible and Ten Commandments

In an interview with Fox News's Bill O'Reilly, Sarah Palin again demonstrated her contempt for American history, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution, openly lying that the Founders wanted law based on the Bible and that the evidence is in those documents. It isn't.

While discussing the National Day of Prayer with O'Reilly, Palin insisted that the event was appropriate . . . because our Founders wanted to promote "Judeo-Christian values:"

Nobody has to believe me, you can just go to our Founding Fathers' early documents, and see how they crafted a Declaration of Independence and a Constitution that allow that Judeo-Christian belief to be the foundation of our laws, and our Constitution of course essentially acknowledging that our unalienable rights don't come from man, they come from God. So the document is set up to protect us from a government that would ever infringe upon our right to have freedom of religion and to be able to express our faith freely.

Has Palin ever read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?betamatch

The Constitution makes no reference to "unalienable rights" from a Creator. The Declaration of Independence does lead off with the reference to men being "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

It does not reference the Judeo-Christian God at all; rather, it refers to "nature's God" — that is, the god of the Deist:

O'Reilly also insists that the Constitution is based on "what's right and wrong, and what's right and wrong is based on the Ten Commandments". That would explain why the Sabbath isn't enshrined in law, and why it's permitted to worship gods other than the Christian god . . . two of the Ten Commandments. In fact, the only references to religion in the Constitution are prescriptive, demanding that the government NOT establish a state religion or interfere in the free expression of religion. - Article VI: ". . . no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

(Continued on page 4)

First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

May 2010 Gallup poll: More Americans choose “no religion”

A Gallup poll conducted earlier this month indicates that more Americans are identifying with no religious affiliation than ever before, while nearly 3 in 10 say religion is out of date.

In a telephone survey of over 1,000 American adults, Gallup discovered that 16% of Americans — the highest number to date — do not have a religious affiliation. While this is not the same as saying that 16% are atheist, it is a slight uptick in the number eschewing organized religion.

Gallup has tracked religious identity since 1948. The percentage of Americans having no formal religious identity never exceeded 12% until 2005, as this Gallup graph indicates:

Trend: Percentage of Americans With No Religious Identity

■ % No religion or otherwise undesignated



Results reflect yearly averages for 1948-2009, and May 3-6, 2010, poll

GALLUP

Meanwhile, the number of Americans for whom religion is “not a very important part of daily life” has also increased, ranging from 11-14% over the last three decades of the 20th century, rising to 19% over just the last two years.

Gallup has also tracked whether Americans think religion has all or most of the answers to today’s problems, or if it is old-fashioned and out of date. In 1958, when Gallup began tracking this measure, 82% of Americans believed religion had the answers, while only 7% felt it was out of date. Today, fewer than 6 in 10 believe they can turn to religion for answers, and nearly 3 in 10 feel religion is old-fashioned.

Interestingly, even as more Americans describe themselves as having no religion, church attendance has remained fairly constant. Over the past 35 years, raw numbers have changed only slightly, according to research released in April.

Philip Schwadel of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln studied the number of services annually attended by Americans and broke research down by demographic groups including region, denomination, and sex. His primary finding?

“There is a small decline in church attendance over time, but not nearly as large as suggested in popular culture, or even by some social scientists,” Schwadel said.

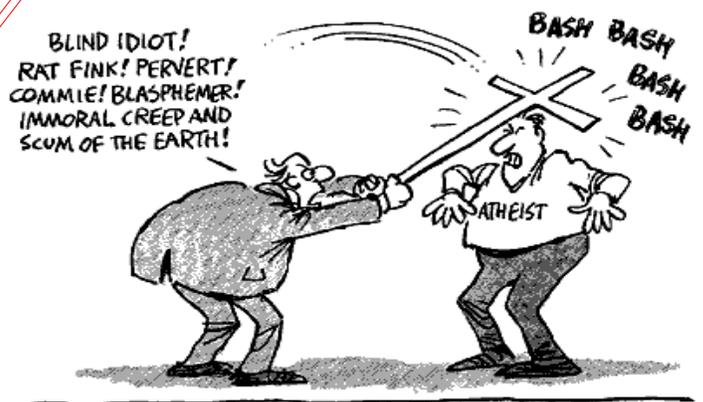
Significantly, there have been demographic changes. Schwadel found that historically, Catholics, women, and Southerners attended more services per year than Protestants, men, and Northerners, with substantial gaps.

While these three groups still lead, the gap has narrowed. And it’s not because Protestants, men, and Northerners are attending more services; it’s because Catholics, women, and Southerners are attending fewer.

Schwadel points out that these changes are not the result of shifts in American demographics. Rather, he speculates that these changes are induced by increasing opportunities for education and economic advancement for women, Southerners, and minorities over the past 35 years.

“As more women have gone to college, participated in the workforce and have begun to work outside the home, it can be said that they are becoming more like men in a number of ways,” he said. “Few people have really thought about whether the traditional role of women in their church has changed. This may change that.”

Schwadel points out that while men typically hold leadership positions in churches, women are the majority of attendees, and the glue that holds church groups and social functions together. Could a decline in women’s participation lead to further unraveling of the church-centered community?



An Atheist's Guide to Mohammedanism By Frank R. Zindler

Mohamed was a passive agent of Allah, simply serving as his mouthpiece or oracle. It is his message that is important, not his biography. He was one of a series of prophets who reported Allah's wishes to men (perhaps even to some women). These prophets included Jesus (Arabic 'Issa), who, to spite the Christians, is demoted by Mohammedans from non-profit to prophet status. Most importantly, Mohammed was Allah's *last* prophet. Thus, Joseph Smith was an impostor, and Mormon missionaries are not welcome in Mohammedan territories. (Of course, no missionaries of *any* kind are welcome in such places, where it is often a capital offense to convert a Mohammedan to 'infidelity'.)

Despite such protestations by the faithful (all non-Mohammedans are infidels), the reverence accorded to Mohammed at times has bordered on the threshold of worship if not actually transgressing it. Very early, his followers came to attribute a number of miracles to him and passed along fabulous tales of supernatural signs and wonders relating to his birth and career. (One night, it is believed, Mohammed set out on a nocturnal journey or *Miraj* up to the heavens where he communed with Allah face-to-face.) It is still believed by many that at the Last Judgment, Mohammed will be an intercessor like the Virgin Mary and the Catholic saints, pleading for the exculpation of those who have submitted themselves to his teachings.

Mohammedans prefer to be called *Muslims*^B a term derived from the Arabic 'aslama, meaning 'to resign oneself [to Allah]'. They prefer their religion to be called *Islam* (from Arabic 'islam, meaning 'submission') rather than Mohammedanism. Most western scholars have gone along with this, rather than risk the wrath of purportedly peaceful members of the third great Abrahamic faith'.

Nevertheless, *Mohammedanism* seems to be a perfectly appropriate name for a religion which currently poses so great a threat to secular civilizations throughout the world. Despite this fact, it must be conceded that *Islam* is easier to spell than *Mohammedanism*, and *Muslim* is less tedious to type than *Mohammedan*. Consequently, these shorter words will be the terms most often employed in the remainder of this guide.

The Legend of Mohammed

Although Mohammed is believed to have been born in the year 570 or 571 CE, it is not known what name he was given by his mother. *Mohammed* ('praiseworthy' or 'highly praised') is obviously an honorific title, not a name. In fact, once in the Qur'an (at 61:6) he is called 'Ahmad, which in Arabic means 'more praiseworthy', and at times his contemporaries are said to have called him *al-Amin*, which means 'the trustworthy one'. Despite this problem, Muslims believe that Mohammed - whoever he may have been - was born in Mecca, an Arabian city supposed to have been located at the intersection of major caravan trade routes. Orphaned early in life,

when he reached the age of twenty-five (595 CE) he married a wealthy widow named Khadija, fifteen years his senior. According to a traditional account, Mohammed had married his boss - the merchant Khadija having been his employer at the time. Only after her death in 620 did Mohammed begin to practice polygamy, taking perhaps a dozen wives. Only one of his children survived, however, a daughter named Fatima. (She married her father's cousin 'Ali, making him the ancestor of all the prophet's later descendants.)

Tradition also tells us that in the year 610, while meditating in a cave outside Mecca, a supernatural voice (later identified as the voice of the angel Gabriel, the same heavenly messenger that previously had delivered the results of the pregnancy test to the Virgin Mary) commanded him to "Recite in the name of thy Lord, who created." Thus began the alleged revelations of the Qur'an. This event is revered as the "First Call" of the prophet and has been immortalized as the "Night of Power."

At least at first, Mohammed's 'revelations' were like those of other oracles, soothsayers, and religious con-artists whose utterances took the form of rhymed prose. Mohammed convinced himself that he had been called to be a prophet in the tradition of the Jews and of Jesus. He also convinced a small coterie of relatives and friends that he had tapped into a direct line to Allah. This quickly led to friction with his tribe, the Quraysh, who were custodians of the Ka'aba, which at the time was a pagan shrine housing all the idols of economic significance to his tribe.

Want more? go to:

www.atheists.org/An_Atheist's_Guide_to_Mohammedanism

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