A Father Speaks

Continued from cover

I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written way before I knew I would be speaking here today.

Your laws ignore our deepest needs
Your words are empty air.
You've stripped away our heritage.
You've outlawed simple prayer.
Now gunshots fill our classrooms.
And precious children die.
You seek for answers everywhere.
And ask the question "WHY"?
You regulate restrictive laws.
Through legislative creed.
And yet you fail to understand.
That God is what we need!

Men and women are three part beings. We all consist of body, soul, and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our makeup, we create a void that allows evil, prejudice, and hatred to rush in and wreak havoc. Spiritual influences were present within our educational Systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historic fact.

What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God and in doing so, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs – politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that continue to erode away our personal and private liberties.

We do not need more restrictive laws. Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts. Political posturing and restrictive legislation are not the answers. The young people of our nation hold the key. There is a spiritual awakening taking place that will not be squelched! ... As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes, he did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right!

I challenge every young person in America and around the world to realize that on April 20, 1999 at Columbine High School – prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain. Dare to move into the new millennium with a sacred disregard for legislation that violates your conscience and denies your God-given right to communicate with Him.

To those of you who would point your finger at the NRA - I give to you a sincere challenge. Dare to examine your own heart before you cast the first stone! My daughter's death will not be in vain. The young people of this country will not allow that to happen. WW

Around TOWN

China and "Normal" Trade? Despite the theft of U.S. nuclear secrets, increased human rights violations, and the recent siege of the U.S. Embassy in China, President Clinton did not hesitate to renew "normal" trade relations (formerly known as "most favored nation status") with China. The House will likely debate this issue sometime in July. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) has introduced legislation opposing renewal of "normal" trade relations. China maintains significant trade barriers. Less than 2 percent of U.S. exported goods go there. Family Research Council is preparing a paper outlining the potential national security threat posed by China and will host a press conference late in July. – *AMR*

A Moral (?) Voice for America. In an elaborate and festive ceremony at the State Department, homosexual activist and meatpacking heir James C. Hormel was instated as ambassador to Luxembourg. Hormel was sworn in on a family Bible held by his male "partner" in the unusually orchestrated ceremony, during which several homosexual men openly greeted each other with kisses on the lips, The Washington Times reported. Last week, Michael Yaki of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors said Hormel would do well as a diplomat because "the ambassador is frequently called on to be the moral voice for America." – *TJD*

Pentagon Okays Witchcraft on Base. In 1996, the Pentagon officially recognized Wicca as a religion and today there are at least five military Wiccan congregations. U.S. Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.) argues that recognizing Wicca sets "a dangerous precedent" that could lead to "all sorts of bizarre practices being supported by the military under the rubric of religion." Members of the Native American Church, for example, can legally use the illegal hallucinogenic drug peyote in their on-base religious ceremonies. For more information on witchcraft in the military call 1-800-225-4008 and ask for a copy of the paper "Brewing Up Trouble: Wicca and the U.S. Military" (MP99F4). – *RLM*

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CHAMPIONS of FAITH

A Gentle Giant of Faith

by Bill Saunders

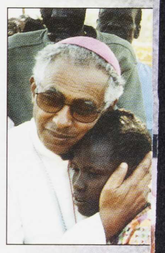
In Sudan, just south of Egypt, where the Church traces its roots to Apostolic times, a radical Islamic government is waging war on its own citizens – torturing and murdering Christians. In this war, the government regularly bombs innocent civilians, destroys their food supplies, poisons their only sources of clean water, desecrates their churches, supports the taking of their children as slaves, and forces non-Arab, non-Muslim people into refugee camps where they must convert to Islam or starve.

For years, the world has done little to help. The U.N. has allowed the Sudanese government to dictate where it can provide relief (thus, the most needy people starve). Until recently, the U.S. focused little diplomatic effort on the problem, despite Sudan's strategic position as a bridge between black Africa and the Middle East, and despite the Sudanese government's avowed aim of exporting radical Islam throughout the world. Only recently, the House of Representatives passed a stinging resolution, finally and fairly condemning these practices by the Sudanese government. Senator Sam Brownback has introduced a similar resolution in the Senate but it remains to be seen whether the House will vote to take substantive action.

In the midst of this man-made hell on earth, one man stands out as he fights for justice. That man is Catholic Bishop Macram Max Gassis. Born in Sudan of ethnically mixed parents and educated in England, Italy, and the United States, the Bishop is an articulate modern-day prophet. The only Sudanese bishop born in the northern (Arab) part of the country, he is fluent in the Arabic language and understands those in the North who see all blacks as "slaves" and all Christians as "infidels".

Unlike so many others, he refuses to pretend the horror does not exist. He has spoken out before the European Parliament, the U.S. Congress, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission. He travels regularly to the West, particularly to the United States, to expose the evil in his country. His witness has inspired many, from Senator Brownback to Congressman Frank Wolf. He, like St. Paul, has spoken the truth to kings and governors.

In Sudan, the people revere Bishop Gassis for his courage. The government, angry that he has called it to account, has branded him a criminal. Whenever he travels back to his country, he risks being captured and possibly executed.



Bishop Gassis comforts former slave

Undaunted, he returns to his diocese because his people need him. His presence inspires them. Every time he returns, he smuggles desperately needed supplies through enemy lines. In many areas, he is the only one providing assistance.

Despite his tribulations, the Bishop remains a gentle man, firmly committed to Christ. He has a special affection for children, particularly those children who were formerly enslaved, and is raising several hundred of them, orphaned by the raiders who abducted them. These children need food, clothing, shelter, education, and counseling, and he provides it. Because of this expression of Christian love, the children are joyful and, like Bishop Gassis, full of hope.

Christianity in Sudan, its ancestral home, is alive and growing. The Church, through heroes like Bishop Gassis, refuses to be silenced. As he says, "though we in Sudan are being crucified, after every crucifixion, there comes a resurrection." WW

Across the NATION

Pro-Abortion Governor Signs Parental Notification Law. Late in June, pro-abortion Governor Christie Todd-Whitman (R-N.J.) signed a law requiring parental notification for teenagers seeking an abortion, making New Jersey the 40th state to enact legislation requiring parental involvement. The ACLU immediately announced it will file suit against the new protective law. New Jersey Attorney General John Farmer, however, is certain the new law will pass constitutional muster. He said, "...if it's proper to afford parents notice when a school is providing aspirin to a minor girl, it's certainly proper to afford notice when something as intrusive as an abortion is contemplated." – *SMM*

Promises, Promises –Theater Owners Flunk the Test. On June 8, the National Association of Theater Owners promised President Clinton to crack down on kids trying to get into R-rated movies. Since then, both *USA Today* and the *New York Post* have sent teenagers as young as 14 into theaters across America to test that pledge. The results, according to *USA Today* writer Trey Graham, were "between a C-minus and a flat-out F." Considering that this summer's R-rated offerings include the vile *South Park* and *Eyes Wide Shut*, which the *Post* reports barely escaped an NC-17 rating, theaters have a lot of changes to make in a hurry. – *GRD*

Stonewall: Epic Myth in the Making. President Clinton marked the birth of the homosexual movement during the Stonewall riots by adding the Stonewall Inn to the National Register of Historic Places. At the dedication ceremony, Assistant Secretary of the Interior John Berry compared the Stonewall riots to the Boston Tea Party, the Declaration of Independence, and the Battle of Gettysburg. He called the riots, which were led by drag queens, "hallowed days for our country's history." According to homosexual historian Martin Duberman, Stonewall was also a haven for "chickenhawks" (i.e., men who prey on young boys). Kathleen LaFrank of New York's Historic Preservation Bureau noted, "[I]t's unusual to list something that's happened this recently. Usually sites have to be at least 50 years old. But it was felt this had exceptional significance." - *TJD & KLE*