



SHEKINAH

(Heavenly Glory)

You are the light of the world. Matt. 5:14a

May 2007

Inking my thoughts ...



Pastor Daniel Israel

“...Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. (Mat.26:52)

WHY NOT AMEND THE CONSTITUTION?

Christian ministers' response to Virginia Tech shooting is shocking! They point out all kinds of reasons for such incidents, but they almost always avoid talking about hand gun control! Is it due to some party loyalty, or is it due to their respect for US constitution? Has the US constitution become a “Golden Calf “idol for us? After all, this constitution was written by sinners like you and me. It cannot be that perfect that it cannot be amended at all. But who can dare to propose to correct the second amendment? Where are our modern day prophets, who can speak on behalf of Christ to correct the amendment without any political bias? USA faces at least ten times more gun related homicides than any other country. There is something seriously wrong about the gun laws in this country. These laws have surreptitiously come in to existence by exploiting the ambiguity of the second amendment.

The archaic second amendment of “right to bear arms” for the “security of a free state” has been misconstrued to mean “security for individuals”. We can appreciate the real meaning of the constitution only when we understand its historical context. The country had recently liberated itself from England, and it was facing a lot of imminent dangers. There was a serious need for “common defense”, and a “well regulated militia” to promote the security of a free state”. “The right to bear arms” was to provide “common defense”, and it was not for individual, private security. In this twenty first century, we have already placed our “well regulated militia” - the police, National Guard to carry the arms to protect us. But why should the hand guns be made available to the “unregulated” individuals that do not work for “common good”? Such misinterpretation is causing so much pain and agony in our society almost every day. How many more senseless shootings must we go through before we clarify and correct the language of our constitution? Some of us, we love our constitution so much, we would rather face more tragic shootings than correct it.

Trillions of dollars have been poured in to law enforcement. Millions of law enforcement authorities are in charge of security. The people are relatively safe compared to 17th century. But yet, the constitution has been twisted and warped by some to allow any person to possess a gun, and that too, concealable hand guns. **The very constitution which is supposed to bring safety and security has become a breeding ground for violence.**

Every drop of blood of Virginia Tech victims is crying out for the right

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Why not amend the Constitution? *Contd. from pg.1*

interpretation of US constitution, and tougher gun laws. Those drops of blood are shed because weak Senators and Congressmen could not bring a constitutional amendment to prohibit hand guns. If we amend the constitution appropriately, then we do not have to worry about any other gun control laws. If the Congress does not have the backbone to amend, then there ought to be law suits to test the relevance of this second amendment in the Supreme Court. Recently, Washington DC hand gun control law was defeated unfortunately, and that case is on its way to the Supreme Court. (The NRA argues that Washington DC gun laws actually failed to curtail the circulation of numerous illegal guns in that city. But where did they come from? Are they from Maryland, which has tougher gun laws, or from Virginia? Most of the guns are bought from Virginia! ABC 20/20 claims that crime went up due to gun control. But what they failed to inform us was that the homicides went down in Washington DC). Let us pray and hope that the Supreme Court judges will put aside politics and interpret the constitution accurately in this matter.

Man is not made for the constitution, but the constitution is made for the man. Constitution must bend a little, if necessary. Its language must clearly say that the concealable weapons (hand guns) are for the official Security militia only. Other individuals may be allowed to purchase any number of rifles and shot guns to protect their property, and their life. But there is absolutely no necessity for concealable weapons. Let us not worship constitution as an idol, and misinterpret it. It is very disappointing to see our Christian leaders siding with NRA and KKK instead of following the teaching of Jesus Christ. Jesus does not want us to carry a gun. Those who take the sword will perish by the sword. He commanded His disciples to carry a sword, only at the time of His death on the cross (Luke 22:37), because He would not be there to protect them during that time. Christ is our Rock, the Fortress, He is our Sword of the Spirit, and He is our mighty Gun! Scripture says "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord! (Zech. 4:6) Let us fight for the right interpretation of second amendment, and put an end to this "hand gun promotion"!

Youth & Kids Corner

Sunday, May 13 is Mother's Day. Oh don't we all know it! All ads on TV are exhorting us to send mommy cards, flowers or get her some gift or the other—show her she's special! The latest estimate is that a mom is to be paid about \$130,000 per year for all that she does. What does mom think of all that? She probably agrees and feels that sometimes she also needs to feel appreciated. Would mom stop doing all she does, if she does not feel appreciated. A true mother doesn't care whether she is appreciated or not.

Here's how one mother expressed what it means to be a mother.

"A mother is to have so much love for her children that she would be willing to pour out her life as an offering to the Lord in order to deepen their faith and grow them into who they are in Christ. Being a mother is striving to be a true reflection of God, so that her children will look into her life and see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control".

Moms are human beings too and may not be perfect all the time but one thing we cannot doubt— they always have our best interests at heart. We may not always appreciate our mothers but at least on this one day that is set apart to honor our mothers, let us make an effort to let them and people who have been mother figures in our lives know how special and appreciated they are.

Why don't you write a special note this year, instead of getting a store bought card? Tell your mom from your heart what makes her so special. It will show that you put some time and effort into letting her know how you feel about her. I'm sure she will cherish it all her life.

Toward an Active Church

Part 2: What "The poor you will always have with you"

In our previous newsletter, we talked about what is arguably the most oft-quoted Bible verse about the poor. We examined how when the verse is taken out of context, we can make it sound almost as if there's no point helping the poor at all. In fact, I almost hope that's the case, because it's far better to say we're not helping the poor because we misunderstand the Bible than to say we just don't care!

Most people who quote "The poor you will always have with you" only mention that first part of the verse. But there's more. The whole verse says:

The poor you will always have with you, and you may help them whenever you want. But you will not always have me. Mark 14:7 (NIV)

Jesus said that to Judas after His wayward disciple criticized the woman who had just poured expensive perfume over Jesus instead of selling it and giving the money to the poor. It sounds noble on Judas' part, but we know his money motives are not as pure as they seem. Immediately after this exchange, he betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

So what about that part of the verse we leave out? What does Jesus mean by "you will not always have me?" He means in a short time, He will ascend to heaven. And when He does, that will be the time to bless the poor as extravagantly as the widow had just blessed Jesus. Of course, that time is now!

It should be clear the Lord never advocates a casual attitude toward the poor. We find further evidence of that in a strikingly similar verse in the Old Testament:

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land. Deuteronomy 15:11 (NIV)

Does that sound like a casual attitude to you? Funny no one ever seems to quote that verse! In case we're not clear yet on God's attitude toward the poor, read this:

For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me... whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. Matthew 25:42-43,45 (NIV)

The Lord uses our love for the poor as a measuring rod for how much we love Him!

It's obvious we need to be doing something beyond what we're currently doing, but what? Let's be pragmatic for a moment. If a country has the resources to destroy entire nations with sophisticated weapons of mass murder, do we also have the resources to prevent mass starvation? Of course we do! Would God want us to prevent mass starvation? Of course He would!

One idea recently bandied about simply is called *One*. Celebrities ranging from actor George Clooney to U2 lead singer Bono to Rev. Pat Robertson have embraced this idea: If the world's most prosperous nations each set aside one percent of their gross national products, we could eliminate death by starvation on this planet within a decade. Eliminate! Many companies, nonprofit organizations and churches have signed on in support of this movement, which right now is little more than an ad campaign. It needs support of the masses, not just the celebrities, to get the attention of the purse holders in Washington and other wealthy capitals.

There are plenty of other ideas regarding the poor besides *One*. Another terrific movement is called *Make Poverty History*. But there are more, and they all have their share of supporters and critics. What they do not have are enough people, including Christians, who care enough to have formed an opinion one way or the other. To update Matthew 23:23: Woe to us, teachers of the law and modern-day Pharisees, who embrace our comfortable suburban rules of living—yet neglect to plead the case of the poor!

To not care about the poor at all is to cheapen the faith we profess. To provide the lip service many in Christ's body seem comfortable providing is to follow the example of Judas. Is that what we'd like to do? To know that 30,000 people in this world die every day of starvation and easily preventable disease, and not be moved by compassion, is to make any argument that we are "pro-life" suspect at best.

We can do better.

In my next writing: We know what to do. So why aren't we doing it?

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Vision of our Church

- ✠ To reach out to all people for Christ .
- ✠ To reach out to all children and lead them to CHRIST.
- ✠ To help out the mission work in the Indian subcontinent.
- ✠ To be a light to this country and be a blessing to the needy people in the USA.

Directions From Route 29

Merge onto Baltimore National Pike (US 40) West
At the 5th traffic light, turn Right onto Pine Orchard Lane (0.1 miles)
Turn Right onto Corporate Ct (<0.1 miles)

Schedule for the month

- Sunday Worship Service - 11 am
- Children's Sunday School - During the service
- Adult Sunday School - Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
- Prayer Session every Tuesday 7:30pm
- Women's Fellowship - Second Saturday at 2:30pm
- Kidz Bible Club - Second Saturday at 4:30pm
- Church Anniversary June 3rd—11 a.m.

Summer Activity Schedule

Calling all agents to VBS 2007!



Where

COI

When

July 9 — 13

Time

8:30am to 4:30pm

Who

4 - 12 year olds

Registration

FREE. Free lunch & snacks



Seats are limited! Registration forms are available online at www.churchofindia.org



Eastern Conference '07
Mark your calendars
August 17-19
Refreshing Mountain Camp, PA

WORD for the month....

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Proverbs 14:30

Let us reflect the Light of our Lord Jesus Christ