

Savior's List

By JOHN NICHOLSON

With the advent of the movie, "Schindler's List," we are reminded once again of the atrocities of Nazism. Perhaps we *do* need to be reminded periodically lest we forget how insensitive, destructive and diabolical human beings can be toward one another. Hearing this story we can't help wondering how intelligent, civilized people were fooled into justifying the systematic murder of innocent people. Maybe they were told it was for a worthy cause—the good of the nation, or to rid society of an undesirable element, and to improve the quality of life for others. In other words, they were fed a lie to deceive them into thinking that they had the right to make that choice. As a result, within a few short years, six million people were exterminated. We look back with such clear hindsight and say, "What an awful crime against humanity."

Why can't we, as Americans, admit that a similar atrocity of equal magnitude occurs and reoccurs every four years in our nation? Since the Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 there have been an average of 1.5 million abortions annually right here in our own country. Those innocent and defenseless children didn't even have names to be put on a list if there had been one. Nevertheless, I am confident that they are safe in the hands of a loving and just God (see *Ezk. 18:20* and *Matt. 19:14*).

However, there is another list which should have been even more important to the 1,100 or more names of Jews on Schindler's list. This list should be of utmost importance to us as well. It concerns our eternal destiny. It is called the Lamb's book of life (see *Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27; Psa. 69:28* and *Lk. 10:20*).

If our names appear there, it will not be because we were fortunate enough to have had our families employed by Oscar Schindler. They will appear there because a loving and just God has sacrificed His only Son to provide a way for our salvation, and we have accepted His way, on His terms by obeying His commands!

"Is your name written there,
on the page white and fair?
In the book of His kingdom,
is your name written there?"

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THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

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The 'PC' Phenomenon

By AL DIESTELKAMP

"PC" is an abbreviation used to denote what has become known as "political correctness." The "PC" agenda, if adopted, will result in atheists and humanists having their way in redefining appropriate behavior and speech. They have systematically worked in the schools to implement what they have termed "values clarification." Couched in what appeared to be noble intentions, they succeeded in stripping away any remnant of our Bible-based morality system. Now, instead of having a "fear of God," many of our friends and neighbors are more concerned with what is acceptable among men.

The first really noticeable application of PC was made in male-female designations. When worldly women began to assert their "manliness," they wanted us to adopt a new vocabulary. Ignoring the rules of the English language, it was suddenly no longer "proper" to use "he" and "him" in a generic sense—when referring to either gender. As a result, most writing today is "gender sensitive." For example, I was reading in a professional journal recently in which the author, when using personal pronouns to refer to hypothetical persons, would use "she" and "her" instead of "he" and "him." To do otherwise would likely be viewed as discrimination against women.

It would be bad enough if all we had to do was quit using terms such as "policeman," "mailman" or "manhole," but the PC advocates aren't satisfied to stop there. Under the

ordinances against what they call "gay bashing." Any public reference to homosexual perversion can potentially result in "being ticketed" and possibly fined. I imagine, in their view, reading the first chapter of *Romans* aloud would be a form of "gay bashing." I have no doubt that these ordinances are unconstitutional, but that has not stopped the PC proponents yet.

All of my life I have heard gospel preachers refer to a hypothetical time in the future when we may have to face persecution for our loyalty to the cause of Christ. I will admit that until recent years I didn't think it could happen here in the USA. But I'm not so sure now. There are forces at work to make it a crime to be a true Christian.

Really, PC is not new—it just has a new name. John the baptist wasn't politically correct when he accused Herod of adultery. Herod considered that kind of talk "criminal" and threw him in prison. Even more militant, Herodias made sure John lost his head for his "insensitivity."

Our Lord also said some things that were not politically correct. He spoke out against the hypocrisy of men in high places (see *Matt. 23*). It was that kind of talk that fueled the PC crowd of His day to convince the masses to call for His crucifixion.

The great apostle Paul, though schooled in the way of political correctness, when converted to Christ spent the rest of his life in trouble with religious and political leaders due to his forthright declaration of the truth. Indeed, like most of the other apostles of

Christ, his life was probably shortened by his refusal to knuckle under to the demands of the politically correct agenda of his day.

Recently I have said, "They're trying to make a criminal out of me." I have to ask myself if I am ready for that! You'd better ask yourself the same question.

'Ace is the Place with the Helpful Hardware Man'

Not anymore! The popular advertising "jingle" has been changed to satisfy the whims of the "PC" police. The revised lyric replaces "man" with "folks." Try singing it. Sounds dumb, doesn't it? It makes me want to go buy something at a True Value Hardware store.

The Battle for Sexual Purity

By ANDY DIESTELKAMP

Humanity has gone through some amazing and drastic changes in this past century. However, progress as defined by man is not always progress in the eyes of God. As a culture we are becoming increasingly humanistic in the ways that we think and substantially less spiritual. Yes, church membership is on the rise, but more often than not it is a secular faith that is being taught and upon which the flocks are feeding. Because of this, the messages of the New Testament have been hidden under a bushel while the masses have gathered to themselves teachers who will scratch their itching ears. And oh-h-h how good that feels.

That is what we have become: a "feel-good" society. "If it feels good, do it" is the philosophy of choice. To say that this prevailing attitude has affected the sexual behavior of this nation and the world at large is a gross understatement. It has radically changed it for the worse. Discussing the resultant sexual behavior of the "feel-good" philosophy may seem to narrow the field of discussion. However, it can be shown that illicit sexual desires *have* motivated men and women to alter their entire approach to life.

Aldous Huxley (atheistic author) said, "I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning; consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. The philosopher who finds no meaning in the world is...concerned to prove that there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do....For myself, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation, sexual and political." (*Ends and Means*, pp.270 ff.)

It is attitudes such as these which have attained positions of influence and power in our society. We have been taught to do what we want to do. With a license like that, any normal person is going to have a battle maintaining sexual purity. Nevertheless, with God's guidance it can be done.

From the beginning to the end of Scripture we are given principles that define what is moral and what is immoral. Genesis 2:18-24 identifies God's intent from the start. All creation was good, but man's loneliness was not. God created woman for the purpose of companionship; to be a helper suitable to man's needs.

Marriage is the joining of two into one. Jesus says that, once joined by God, they are no longer two but one (Matt. 19:5,6). The sexual relationship is an intimate portrayal of the greater oneness of companionship found in marriage. When a sexual union

"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

Hebrews 13:4

takes place outside marriage, what does that fleshly union stand for? It stands for lust and nothing more. Therefore, the intimate act of marriage is profaned when engaged in by those not married to each other.

We are told that marriage is honorable and, within that context, the bed (sexual act) is undefiled (Heb. 13:4). God declares that not only is marriage good, but so is the sexual act within marriage. On the other hand, fornicators and adulterers will be judged. Therefore, the Scriptures define sexual immorality as any sexual union outside the context of marriage. Sexual union

outside marriage is not honorable. It is defiled. Yes, the same physical act that is good and honorable in marriage is profane and dishonorable outside of marriage. How can this be? Consider the home garden. Each Spring, as we till up our gardens, the dark soil churns up into a moist black powder. Its rich smell invites us to sink our hands into it and marvel at the wonderful power contained therein. But, after working in the garden, it is not appreciated if you track that dirt into the house. What is rich, dark and amazing soil in one context is just dirt in another.

Isaiah said, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20). Calling sexual activity outside marriage "good" is to ignore the prophet's warning. Yet, this is largely the message that we are getting from all fronts (media, government, etc.).

Paul admonishes Christians to flee sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18-20). Contrary to popular opinion, our bodies are not ours to do with as we please. They belong to God and are to be used to His glory.

Indeed, we *are* able to exercise self-control. God expects us to do so.

What's Next?

By ANDY DIESTELKAMP

Where will all the perversion stop? What is there to stop it? So much of what is repulsive to God and should be repulsive to us is glamorized by the media and rationalized by many. Promiscuity, pre-marital sex, adultery and homosexuality have all found levels of acceptability in our society. Where do we go from here? Twenty years from now will we be talking about the rights of pedophiles? Ridiculous you say? Consider the following quotes from the *San Francisco Chronicle* in an article entitled, "Kids Should Have Sex — Pediatrician Says." It is an interview with Dr. Alayne Yates:

"Rather than repress the erotic instincts of the young, Yates urges total sexual liberation for them. In brief, she feels that kids should not only engage in sexual experimentation, but that parents should encourage them to do so."

Yates also said, "...sibling incest is probably quite common already and relatively normal in families today. There's no evidence that this behavior causes abnormal emotional development. In fact, one research study indicates that brothers and sisters who

have sex before puberty are less interested in each other after puberty."

When asked what was the right age for kids to have intercourse, she said, "That differs from child to child. I know a 4-year old boy who had intercourse with a 6-year old girl and neither seemed damaged by it."

In her book she claims that father-daughter incest may be beneficial. She was asked how this could be. She said, "As I said before, any kind of early pleasurable sexual experience tends to augment later sexual adjustment and enthusiasm. And father-daughter incest is frequently pleasurable. I must add, however, that the daughter must be young and therefore untouched by the religious and cultural taboos against incest. When a girl is uncoerced by the father and doesn't feel any pain, then she probably enjoys it."

These quotations were printed in May of 1978. Today we have NAMBLA which is the North American Man/Boy Love Association. This group is trying to ride the coattails of the homosexual movement in getting their rights. Perhaps it's later than we think. What is next? Consider Genesis 19.

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Slovakia

By KARL DIESTELKAMP

My wife, Delores, and I left May 2 from Chicago for Bratislava, Slovakia and returned June 1, having spent the month with the David Diestelkamp and Rick Liggin families. It was great to see and be with our family after having been separated for almost one and one-half years, but it was also thrilling to observe the work that is being done to spread the gospel in Slovakia and to have a small part in helping to sow the seed.

We tried very hard to integrate ourselves into a household routine that already involved eleven people. It is amazing how well these families maintain an almost unbelievable schedule centered around the work of teaching the Bible that requires the cooperation of every person in the house. All of this involves not only daily household chores and home schooling, but doing everything outside of the house by either walking or taking the bus, trolley, streetcar or train, since they have no car—and no complaints about the inconvenience.

The number of Bible studies varies from week to week, but the calendar is usually full. It may involve as many as five studies in one day, each lasting a minimum of one hour and some lasting over two hours and sometimes two studies going on at the same time in different parts of the house. Studies are in English or Slovak with the latter requiring a translator. Both David and Rick are taking Slovak language classes as well as studying along with other family members with a Slovak tutor each week. It was great to see how much of the language they have learned and how they use it in studies and on the telephone and on the street and in the shops and stores. David and Rick can find passages in the Slovak Bible faster than can their translators and frequently give a Slovak word to the one with whom they are studying to help the translator.

For some time before we arrived they had been studying with Andrea Lorinczova. On May 9th we were privileged to witness her baptism into Christ. She is the "first-fruits" of their work and is very zealous to help in the work and to teach others as well.

On May 21st a special study for women had been arranged in their home with Delores teaching. There were a total of ten present which included five Slovak women who are not Christians.

The Bratislava church rented a hall in the area Cultural Center for a series of evening lectures May 23-27. Over 1800 invitations were handed out and ads were placed in

three different newspapers. Each night there were fourteen of "us," including Andrea (Monday night Charlie and Maria Brackett came from Brno, Czech Republic, having recently moved there from Prague). All others who came were Slovaks, including two translators. Peter Lenygel did all the translating as I spoke on the following subjects: Mon., "Does My Life Have A Purpose?" (27 present); Tue., "Is God Good If He Allows Suffering?" (26 present); Wed., "Is Sin Serious?" (29 present); Thur., "Is There True Joy and Hope for Today?" (28 present); Fri., "Salvation—Man's Ideas and God's Word" (37 present). In all there were 26 new contacts who attended, some several nights, as well as some of the people from their regular weekly studies. Good questions were submitted for the question period following each lesson and follow-up studies have resulted as well as correspondence with some of the new contacts.

They have a good number of people enrolled in Bible correspondence courses who live all over Slovakia, and are having extended correspondence with some. Nearly every day the telephone or mail brings some new inquiry or request for Bible study or a correspondence course from someone new who has seen a newspaper ad. The Diestelkamps and Liggins are working hard and are making a difference in that far country. Pray for them and those with whom they study. We pray that Peter Lenygel will soon obey the gospel he has been trying so hard to faithfully translate from English to Slovak. The Slovaks are good people. Many are coming out of a darkness imposed by Communism for nearly fifty years, and others see the futility of an impotent/idolatrous Roman Catholicism that has dominated the traditional religious scene for hundreds of years. No doubt others will obey the gospel.

The Diestelkamps and Liggins are making a substantial sacrifice in the work they are doing, but they do not want you to think that it is a great hardship. They have adjusted well and are doing well. They deeply appreciate not only the financial support that makes their work possible, but also the encouragement they receive through the mail and by phone. Mail time is a special time each day as *everyone* looks for a letter or a card. Why not drop a line to David and Robin (Christa, Nathan, Aaron, Jacob) Diestelkamp or Rick and Candy (Rene, Joshua, Caleb) Liggin at Kastiel'ska 21, 821 - 05 Bratislava, Slovakia. You can help "make their day."

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Stuffed Birds AND OTHER STUFFED THINGS

By ED BRAND

Many years ago my father-in-law and I went pheasant hunting around Rantoul, where we lived at the time. We were successful on our hunt and brought several birds home. One especially beautiful rooster was taken back to Mississippi to be "stuffed" by a taxidermist. For years that bird was prominently displayed in my in-laws' house. He was a handsome bird indeed, full of color. You almost expected him to run.

But he couldn't move. He had no spirit—literally. He had the appearance of life, but it was only an illusion. Dead birds cannot fly.

It is possible for Christians to be like that pheasant. They appear to be so lifelike. You can see them on Sunday morning. They report for duty, ready to get through the morning. They are dressed respectfully, wearing the proper face, going through the motions of worship. They look like the real thing. But they are just like that stuffed bird—it is only appearance. Running is out of the question.

You may think I am being uncharitable and too harsh. Have you read the book of James lately? He encountered some "stuffed" Christians. He found brethren who were doctrinally illuminated, but practically darkened. Their head and their hands were not connected. They could repeat the proper scriptural arguments and formulae, but they were uninterested in "practicing what they preached." They couldn't move. In actuality, they were as dead as my father-in-law's bird. The bird had no spirit and these brethren had no works (Jas. 2:26).

It is easier to talk the game than it is to play it. Talking may be a pleasant pastime. It is even necessary in making plans for future ventures. But all talk and no work will yield the same product as adding a column of zeros. Nothing.

It is interesting to notice that James gives three examples of faith *and* works. Saying "Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled" is quite dead without doing something to provide food and clothing (2:15-16). Abraham could talk all he wanted about his relationship with God, but there came a day when his deeds had to match his words (2:21). Rahab had to do more than just say, "You're safe in my house." She had to hide the spies and send them away secretly (2:25). There is more to being a Christian than saying the right words—or than even singing the right songs. Unless the words become a moving force in me, I'm just like that old stuffed bird: *all show, no go.*

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Competing Congregations

By AL DIESTELKAMP

Not too long ago there existed a spirit of genuine cooperation among brethren in neighboring congregations. What seems to be in its place today is a competitive spirit. No longer do many congregations seek for opportunities to help struggling groups in

Pros & Cons of Debating

Recently, a debate on the subject of "church benevolence" was held in the suburbs of Chicago. It was the first such debate between brethren in the Chicago area in many years. David Padfield, of Zion, Illinois, and Mac Deaver, of Wellington, Texas, were the disputants.

Since the audience was overwhelmingly from congregations holding to the more conservative viewpoint, someone may question whether debating is worthwhile. It is sometimes argued that we may be exposing a large audience to error, while getting a very small audience for truth in return.

However, those who teach truth have nothing to hide from those they love. If we must provide an audience of 100 to reach one soul who is practicing error, it is worth it (Matt. 18:12). Besides, it is always good for us to give a hearing to all "sides" of an issue.

—Al Diestelkamp

nearby communities. It seems they are afraid that success in nearby places will hurt them.

Of course, nobody openly admits they are acting in such a way, so what makes me think this attitude prevails? Consider:

- A "strong" family moves into an area which is equidistant between two congregations—one long-established, self-supporting, with a good building; the other small, struggling meeting in a rented hall. Which congregation will they become a part of? Well, that's up to them, but there was a time when the brethren in the larger congregation would have hoped (and maybe even advised) them to go where they were needed the most. I don't see that happening today.

- Two gospel meetings are in the same metropolitan area—one at the larger established congregation; the other at the struggling group. Years ago brethren saw the greater need to encourage the struggling group, but I dare you to count the visitors in both places today. The larger congregations invariably draw a larger numbers of visitors from other congregations. Why?

- Two congregations are looking for a preacher—one self-supporting with elders; the other lacking both. A preacher is interested in working in the general area. Which congregation do you think will "land" him?

The examples, though written as if they were hypothetical, are not—they're real. We bristle at the prospect of being called "anti-cooperation," and yet sometimes I fear we deserve the label.

'Man'-power Needed

A critical need exists in the church in Amberg, Wisconsin. There are times when no male Christian is available to teach and lead in worship. Yet they have non-Christian men in attendance. There is one man and his young son who are Christians, but the man is not always able to be there. What is needed is for someone (or maybe a retired couple) to go there and teach for a period of several months. Perhaps the two who are Christians could be built up and the men who attend could be converted. If anyone is up to the challenge, contact Lois Wartick (715) 759-5465.

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