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CAN ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF CUBA?

When Philip, the disciple of Jesus, informed his friend, Nathaniel, that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, he was met by the skeptical question, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

An appropriate modern-day question is, "Can any good thing come out of Cuba?" If we trust a report by the CBS television program, "Sixty Minutes", the answer is "Yes, it can."

On October 3, Sixty Minutes aired a report on the treatment of the AIDS disease in Cuba. The report stated that Cuba was the only country in the world that had halted the progress of the AIDS epidemic. This great and humane result had been achieved by treating AIDS as an infectious disease and following the established procedures for the control of epidemics of an infectious nature.

The basic steps taken in Cuba are: 1) Universal testing of all citizens for the presence of the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, in their blood: 2) The compulsory isolation in sanatoria of all, who are HIV positive.

These measures were described as draconian, but effective. However, judging by the pictures of life in a sanitarium, draconian is not a suitable word. Deprivation of liberty is certainly undesirable, but it has been routine in the treatment of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis.

I can't speak for the U.S.A., but the Australian landscape is dotted with buildings which were used to confine and treat those suffering from open tuberculosis in former days, when effective antibiotic drugs were unavailable.

One of my earliest childhood memories is still vivid. I must have been about 4 years old when I contracted a combination of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. I was taken from my loving parents and isolated in a hospital for infectious diseases. I can still see a vision of my mother and father waving to me through distant bars. I have never heard anyone refer to that treatment as "draconian".

The Cuban Prison

It is well-known that Cuba is one vast prison from which hundreds of thousands

have attempted to escape. Conditions there today are deplorable. An article in the liberal magazine, EL PAIS, of Madrid, Spain, describes them in these words:

"The end of the Cuban dream is at hand. Malnutrition and fatigue have provided fertile ground for diseases that had become a thing of the past: beri-beri, tuberculosis, atrophy. There are rumors (some spread by the regime itself) that, due to a lack of fuel, government offices will be closing so that people can stay at home and that soup kitchens will be set up on every block, a humiliation that Cubans would find hard to take. Hospitals are short of the most essential items, and a month's ration of food amounts to what a Spaniard would consume at one dinner. People grow thinner by the day, and everyone is obsessed with 'getting by' and 'working it out.'

"Staggered restrictions are in force all over the island. Havana has been going without electric power seven hours a day. You go to the bathroom and find no soap, no toothpaste, no razor. At breakfast there may or may not be coffee left. Cubans wrack their brains to find ways to buy things from the tourist shops that they can exchange for food and for ways to get dollars. The tourist shops are so well stocked that one wonders why they are not robbed.

"The question a foreigner asks is, 'In a predominantly agricultural country, why is it that people cannot at least find fruits and vegetables to eat?' The answer is that everything grown on the 83 percent of the land belonging to the state is exported, while small private farmers prefer to plant garlic, a crop that fetches a good price. Everyone in Cuba yearns for that brief period when unregulated farmers' markets were allowed, before Castro nipped them in the bud because middlemen were getting rich. 'But they were feeding us,' people now say."
(World Press Review, page 21)

According to "60 Minutes", the treatment of those infected with the HIV virus is humane and generous. They are well-fed, well-housed, and well-medicated. The inmates in the sanatoria for AIDS victims must be among the most well-fed people in Cuba.

The bottom line is that thousands of people have been saved from the torture and death that AIDS brings. These potential victims also have Civil Rights.

Contrast this treatment of AIDS with that which exists in the United States. Since there is little or no compulsory testing here, most of those who are infected with the AIDS virus, are unaware of their infection. They continue on their far-from-merry way, spreading their virus, and they receive no treatment to delay the onset of the disease.

The essential steps to halt the spread of an infectious disease epidemic are:
1) Discover the location of the infectious agent, and 2) Enact and enforce legislation to discourage and prevent activity that will transfer the infectious agent to others.

It is a sad commentary that, in this particular instance, the policy and programs of the Cuban Communist tyrants are far more healthful and life-saving than those of the freedom-loving leaders of the enlightened "United States of America".

True compassion will prevent the conduct that will condemn others to the suffering and death caused by AIDS.

THE CHRISTIAN DILEMMA

Should Christians give support to, or receive support from, individuals who are promoting good causes, but who have suspect motives?

St. Paul teaches that the cause is primary, and the motives of the promoters of the cause are secondary. In Philippians 1:17 he tells of some who are preaching the Gospel of Christ insincerely with the motive of increasing Paul's suffering while imprisoned. He concludes: "Christ is preached and in that I do rejoice and will rejoice."

I thought of this as I read the September edition of HEALTH LETTER, which is published by "Public Citizen Health Research Group". This organization is a project of Ralph Nader, who is not usually a darling of conservatives. It contains an "Outrage of the Month" in which it reproves the "American Civil Liberties Union" (ACLU) for forming an alliance with the tobacco industry and for soliciting and accepting large sums of money from it. Here is the article:

ACLU and the Tobacco Industry

A coalition of consumer and advocacy organizations has endorsed the release of *Allies: The ACLU and the Tobacco Industry*, a 36-page report by former *Washington Post* staff writer Morton Mintz, on an apparent alliance between the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the tobacco industry. The report discusses a serious conflict of interest by the ACLU in its decision to solicit and accept (but not disclose to its members) money from the tobacco industry.

The report, published by the Washington-based Advocacy Institute, details:

- ❑ that the ACLU has not disclosed to its membership its decision to solicit or accept tobacco industry money;

- ❑ that a former high-ranking ACLU official believes that this decision to accept tobacco money

should be disclosed to the ACLU membership;

- ❑ how much money the ACLU has received from the tobacco industry — \$500,000 from Philip Morris alone;

- ❑ that the ACLU's congressional testimony on tobacco-related issues has regularly coincided with the tobacco industry's congressional testimony over the years;

- ❑ that an ACLU spokesperson with no scientific credentials has disputed the scientific evidence on the hazards of environmental tobacco smoke; and

- ❑ that the ACLU has worked assiduously on Capitol Hill to protect the commercial speech of the multinational tobacco corporations at the expense of constitutionally sound legislation proposed to control tobacco advertising.

A letter sent to the ACLU urged the union to end its policy of accepting contributions from the tobacco industry. The letter was signed by the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and the American Lung Association united as the Coalition On Smoking OR Health, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Ralph Nader, Public Citizen and The Trauma Foundation, a public organization based in San Francisco.

The letter to the ACLU says in part, "Given the continuing carnage caused by the tobacco industry, we believe that it is a moral imperative to say no to tobacco money. By taking money from the tobacco industry, there is the appearance that the ACLU is not rejecting what the industry does — namely, selling a highly addictive and socially useless product that kills hundreds of thousands of Americans each year."

For accurate, up-to-date information on current Communist doctrines, activities and plans, write to: "CHRISTIAN ANTI-COMMUNISM CRUSADE, P.O. Box 890, Long Beach, California, 90801

Editor: Fred Schwarz, M.D.

GOOD NEWS ON THE LEGAL FRONT

Organizations, such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Organization for Women, have a long history of utilizing the courts of America to rob the American people of traditional liberties such as the right to have prayer in schools. For too long, they have persuaded the courts to permit abortion for any reason at any time.

The American Center For Law And Justice has now been formed to promote pro-liberty, pro-life, and pro-family causes, under the presidency of Pat Robertson. It has been winning some great victories in the courts.

The Chief Council of the American Center for Law and Justice, Jay Alan Sekulow, prepared a report which describes some of the victories which have recently been won. Consider these examples:

Right to Life

"In 1989, the National Organization for Women and several abortion facilities instituted a lawsuit against pro-life protestors. NOW argued that the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 gave federal courts jurisdiction over abortion protests. Numerous federal courts issued injunctions under the Ku Klux Klan Act. The injunctions that were issued significantly infringed on the free speech rights of the protestors.

"In a major victory for pro-life Christians, the Supreme Court ruled 6 - 3 in our favor. Justice Scalia, writing for the majority, held that opposition to abortion does not constitute discrimination against women. The court also held that a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion is proper and reasonable enough to be implemented by the allocation of public funds'...

"The victory in this case is staggering. Dozens of federal court judges were told that they were wrong. Pro-lifers must now be treated as a legitimate social protest movement. In fact, the court recognized that if the Ku Klux Klan Act could be applied against pro-life protestors, it could also be applied against the mass sit-ins of the civil rights movement.

Freedom of Speech

"In 1988, Lamb's Chapel Church requested use of the Center Moriches High School's auditorium for the showing of a film series by Dr. James Dobson's focus on the Family ministry. The film series entitled 'Turn Your Heart Towards Home' dealt with family issues from a Christian perspective. The school district had adopted a policy which allowed a broad use of school facilities for social, civic and recreational purposes. However, Rule 7 of the school district policy specifically prohibited school premises from being used for religious purposes.

"The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held that the school district's refusal to allow a church to utilize its facilities was constitutionally appropriate. We asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case.

"In a unanimous decision entered on June 7, 1993, the United States Supreme court reversed the Second circuit completely... Justice White writing for the Supreme Court held 'The government violates the First Amendment, when it denies access to a speaker solely to suppress the point of view he espouses on an otherwise includable subject.'

"The court further held that the 'First Amendment forbids the government to regulate speech in ways that favor some viewpoints or ideas at the expense of others.' The court also held that allowing a religious organization to utilize the school facilities for an admittedly religious purpose was not a violation of the establishment clause."

If you desire a copy of the report, write to: PAT ROBERTSON, The American Center of Law and Justice, P.O. Box 64429, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23467-4429. Ask for the Chief Counsel's Report.

ANTI-COMMUNISM SEMINARS IN AFRICA

By the Rev. James Colbert

As I conducted anti-Communism seminars in the African countries--Kenya, Tanzania, and Nigeria--the lyrics of the well-known hymn constantly came to mind:

I've a story to tell to the nations
That will turn their hearts to the right;
A story of truth and goodness,
A story of peace and light.

These words describe so well the worldwide campaign of the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade.

Tanzania

Our ministry is international in scope, and inter denominational in character. One of the finest seminars of this trip was at the Kibosho Catholic Senior Seminary in Moshi Tanzania. The young students were bright and enthusiastic to learn. They didn't miss a word. During the question and answer period, they asked intelligent and penetrating questions.

In answer to one question, I was happy to show them that while capitalism is not a perfect system, it has produced more goods, distributed them more fairly, and provided better education, shelter, and health care than any other system. It has achieved this while maintaining the highest level of freedom for the people that exists in any country. My answer received a standing ovation.

It was a great seminar, and immediately thereafter, the Rector and Dean of students of the University requested that I return at least once a year so that many more students could profit from the lectures. They also requested study kits and books for their library.

Tanzania was formerly ruled by Julius Nyerere, an idealist who was known as "The Conscience of Africa". He imposed an economic and social system called African Socialism. The result was deplorable poverty. He has now confessed his failure, and the country has turned to the free-enterprise system. The current president, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, claims that the economic situation in Tanzania is improving. He said recently: "The gross domestic product for the past five years has grown at an average annual rate of 4.5%, which is higher than our population growth-rate of 2.8%."

Judging by my admittedly cursory observation of conditions, I agree that the situation is improving. I have traveled in many countries, but the pockets of poverty, which I observed on previous trips to Tanzania, surpassed those in any other country. Things were different this time. Poverty certainly continues to exist, but the piles of garbage, which formerly lined the streets, are going, as are the poor people who rummaged

through them for food. Tourists are pouring in to go on wild animal safaris, and to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. In Dar Es Salaam, the capital, major numbers of buildings are being erected.

Peaceful Transition From Socialism to Capitalism

The transition from socialism to capitalism in Tanzania has proceeded with amazing peace and smoothness. This contrasts with the painful transitions that are taking place in the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Death of a Friend

A few days before leaving Los Angeles, I received the sad information that my Tanzanian colleague and friend, Ernest Mahena, had died. He was only 41 years of Age. When I arrived in Tanzania, I was met and hosted by his younger brother, Henry, who told me in detail, about the death of his brother, including these last words:

"I feel I am not going to live much longer, although you and my brothers are struggling to save my life. Please, my brother Henry, take care of my family, and keep them as comfortable as I did. Ask Rev. Colbert to find ways to assist my family in order to assure that they do not suffer.

"Distribute all the Crusade literature, and perhaps the Rev. Colbert will appoint you to host his seminar. Be as dedicated as I have been, and be active and honest.

"Educate all my children academically and professionally. Send my first-born, Visia Mahena, for a nursing course so that she can work with my clinic in Ludewa.

"Tell Rev. Colbert how much is required for the completion of the clinic. (Henry told me, \$2,000)

"Make sure that the five day care centers at Ludewa have a child malnutrition rehabilitation center."

The late Rev. Ernest Mahena had commenced the construction of the house for his family and himself. Approximately \$1,600 is now needed so that his wife and three children will have a comfortable home by Tanzanian standards.

What caused the illness and death of Ernest? He underwent surgery on April 19, to remove his gallblader, a ruptured appendix and a blockage that prevented the flow of bile. He did not recover from the surgery and died on June 22.

Henry Mahena accepts the heavy responsibility of caring for the family of his brother. I hope we can find those who can, and will, help with the completion of the erection of the clinic, and of the family home.

Kenya

I arrived in Kenya at a time of considerable turmoil, which was due to tribal conflict. The Kalenjin, of which President Moi is a member, are claiming that the Rift Valley belongs to them. However, many members of the Kikuyu also live in Rift Valley.

The Kalenjin are trying to remove the Kikuyus by the dreadful process known as ethnic cleansing. This has led to bitter clashes and bloodshed. I was informed that over 1,000 people have been killed, and many more have been injured.

Since many participants of the seminar that was to be held in Nukuru were to come from the Rift Valley, the organizers were fearful that the attendance would be low, but the auditorium at the Kunste Hotel was packed, and we had a great day. The students included members of parliament, mayors of cities, teachers and professionals.

Nairobi

A seminar for members of the Kenya Parliament was conducted in the capital, Nairobi. It was a highlight. The questions asked were intelligent and penetrating, but I was uncertain whether they found my answers satisfactory. I was encouraged when I was informed later that many had expressed their gratitude for the understanding which they had received.

My colleagues in Kenya--The Honorable Bishop Joseph Kimani and Bishop Bernard Kariuki--are most anxious for me to take the truth message into many African countries next year. They stress that the current move towards democracy in Africa opens wide the doors for a much needed truth campaign in these countries.

Nigeria

On arriving in Lagos, Nigeria, I discovered a society in great turbulence. Security was much tighter than formerly. People told me they were expecting civil war. Some were leaving the urban and suburban areas to return to their villages to be with their families and their tribe in case civil war broke out.

Trouble had erupted when President Ibrahim Babangida cancelled or annulled the results of the presidential election which had been held in June. This had caused great chaos, including strikes, demonstrations, and violent clashes.

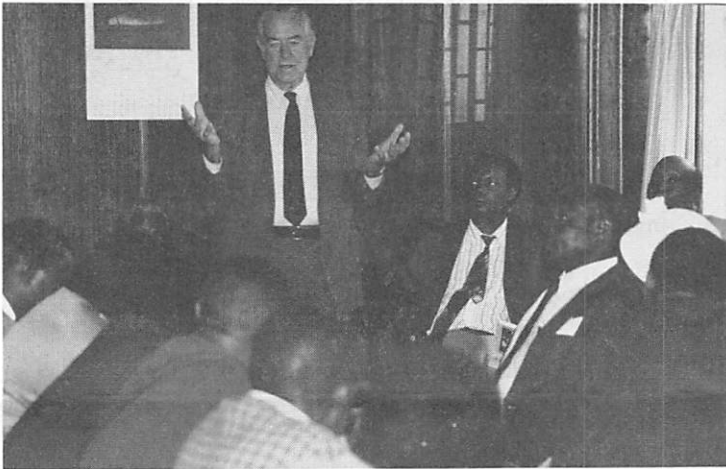
In spite of this, all the seminars, which were held in churches in and around Abuja and Lagos, were packed. As a result of the seminars, hundreds of people gave us their names and addresses so that they could receive anti-Communism literature.

A Reward

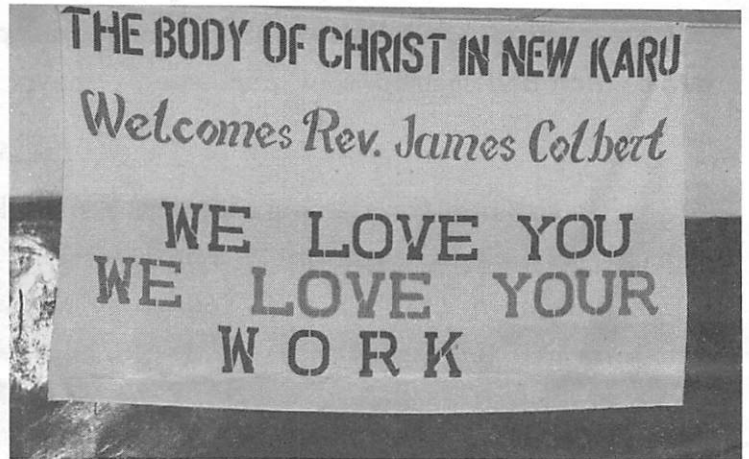
One of the rewards I receive during these trips is an outpouring of love from the African people. My Nigerian hosts were the Rev. and Mrs. N.C. Joseph, who have two children, a boy and a girl. At his birth, they named their little boy, Colbert, in my honor. He is now three or four years old and claims he wants to be just like me.

During my visits to these countries, I feel like the man who said, "I had no shoes and complained until I met a man who had no feet." Their privation and suffering

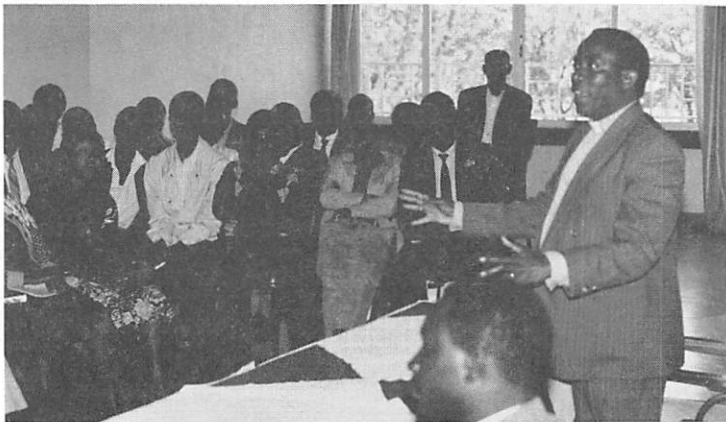
are so much greater than ours, and a relatively small donation can bring such great health and happiness. Will you help us by making a sacrificial gift so that the needs of these people can be met, and our truth ministry can be maintained and expanded? Thank you.



DESCRIBING COMMUNIST TECHNIQUES OF DECEPTION TO THE PARLIAMENTARIANS OF KENYA



A ROYAL PICTORIAL WELCOME IN NIGERIA



BISHOP BERNARD KARIUKI EXPOUNDS



COLBERT JOSEPH, NAMED IN HONOR OF REV. COLBERT AND HIS PEERS

IT'S THE IDEAS--STUPID

Economic conditions certainly have consequences, but so do ideas. Who can deny that the delusional ideas of Hitler had deadly consequences for the Jews of Germany and Europe?

Applied ideas often have unintended consequences. The abolition of poverty is a great idea, but there is substantial evidence that legislation based upon it has weakened the bonds that bind the family together and has led to an increase in the poverty of women and children. The road to hell continues to be paved with good intentions.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, 1993

Many are hoping and waiting to receive a message from you this Christmas season. The Christmas cards produced by the Crusade are ideal for this purpose. A sample card is available on request. All the cards you ask for will be provided free with envelopes. We do request a voluntary tax-deductible gift to sustain the Crusade's Truth Campaign, from all who receive the cards.