

## AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of January 29, 2023 -

Sunday Morning Service	20
Sunday Evening Service	21

## AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of January 29, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 998.00
Foundation Piering Fund	\$ 120.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/29/23:</b>	<b>\$ 1,118.00</b>

- Week of January 22, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,469.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/22/23:</b>	<b>\$ 1,469.35</b>

- Week of January 15, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,643.02
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/15/23:</b>	<b>\$ 1,643.02</b>

- Week of January 8, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,713.06
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/08/23:</b>	<b>\$ 2,713.06</b>

- Week of January 1, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,122.48
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/01/23:</b>	<b>\$ 2,122.48</b>

- Week of December 25, 2022 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,685.00
Love Offering, Pastor & Family	\$ 350.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/25/22:</b>	<b>\$ 3,035.00</b>

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



## FOUNDATION PIERING FUND -

Amount For Entire Project ----- \$13,600.00

50% Deposit Needed by 04/03/23 ----- \$ 6,800.00

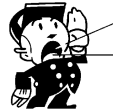
Amount on hand for Deposit ----- \$ 4,120.00

Amount Still Needed For Deposit: \$ 2,680.00

Total Still Needed To Pay Off Entire Repair: \$ 9,480.00

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



### THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. By mail - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. Drop it off - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. Online - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE!  
YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

## Church Directory

Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton	Pianist
Mickie Shatwell	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
LeAnna White	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, David Smith, Derek Quinnelly	Trustees

# REMINDER



Dr. Angel Martinez  
1921 - 1995

## Why Be Good?

by Dr. Angel Martinez

*"Now this elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.*

*And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and in treated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf" (Luke 15:25-30).*

The urge to be bad is within us all, and if it doesn't break out in one form, it will break out in another. At our best, we are not very good. Even the apostle Paul, saint that he was, could say, "When I would do good, evil is present with me." We are fighting evil on every side, and there is no rest from the battle.

Jesus fought evil on every side. He was not immune to the devil's temptations. Though He had no evil within, our Lord knows the difficulty of living right in a world that has gone wrong. It is not an easy task, but it is not an impossible task. The forces of evil surround us, and we are no match for them. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

There is a tendency to let go, and the spirit is abroad more now than ever before. Many of us register the reflection of the poet who said:

*When I was young and bold and strong  
Right was right and wrong was wrong.  
With plume on high and flag unfurled,  
I rode away to right the world.  
"Come out and fight, you dogs," said I,  
And wept there was but once to die.  
But I am old, and good and bad  
Are woven in a crazy plaid.  
I sit and say, "The world is so,  
And he is wise who lets it go."  
A battle lost, a battle won,  
The difference is very small, my son.*

The elder son in this story had a right to complain, 'Why be good?' The younger son had just returned from his sinful wanderings. The old father had gone berserk with joy and treated the prodigal son as if he were a hero. He had dressed him lavishly, and invited his friends to a party in his honor, and had killed the fatted calf. The younger son had broken the father's heart, spent the father's money, dragged the family name into the hog pen. Now he comes home and the old dwelling becomes alive with song

(continued inside)

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

and laughter. The elder son had been faithful to his father, milked the cows, raised the crops, and never given the old man a moment's trouble. And though we know that the elder brother had the wrong spirit, he certainly was justified in raising the issue in our text. "Why should I be good, Dad? I've kept your commandments, been a faithful worker, and you have never killed the fattened calf for me." It was a proper complaint.

Young people everywhere ask me this question, "Why be good?" The popular young people in our colleges and high schools are the ones who lower the bars and are not too picayunish over minor matters. They seem to be carefree and have no tension concerning what they do. Girls often say to me, "If one tries to be moral and Christian, one is not invited on dates. The fast girls get all the phone calls and invitations from the boys." Businessmen often feel this way. If they play the game according to the rules, it seems to have no glamour. The way to make a fast buck is to cheat a little, to be clever at the expense of unsuspecting customers. Partners in marriage are often perplexed with this problem. Why be good? Other couples are unfaithful to one another and lie to one another, and they seem to get along and be happy.

But people don't seem to realize that the game of life is a long one, and what seems to be getting away with sin is simply the patience of God at work, trying to retrieve the erring soul. The Old Testament writer described this when he said, "***Because judgment upon an evil work is not executed speedily, the hearts of men are set in them to do evil***" (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

In other words, because God doesn't judge the person immediately for his sin, he thinks, "I am getting away with it, and I will do it again." God help us to realize that "***whatsoever a man soweth, that shall be also reap***." The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small. If there were no heaven, no hell, no judgment, it would still be sensible to do what is right. But there is a heaven and a hell and a judgment, and God is calling us to walk in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. I want to outline three reasons why we ought to be good.

### ***I. BE GOOD BECAUSE YOU ARE LOOKING IN***

You will always know yourself as no one else knows you. You may do things that no one else will discover, but you cannot run from yourself. If you leave town, you have to go along with yourself. If you change jobs, you are still you.

Someone remarked, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were some way that one could take a vacation from himself?" But you cannot do that. You live in a secret world all your own, but you are there, and you know what you are and what you do. Reputation is what the world thinks about you; character is what God thinks about you.

Character is what you are in the dark. I heard a minister say once, "What you would do if you knew that no one would ever find it out — that's what you are." That's enough to bring all of us to mourners' benches.

When I was in my teens I had a sermon on the text, "***Be sure your sins will find you out***." I guess every minister preaches on

the text at one time or another. I preached it as if it read, "Be sure your sins will be found out." While that is true, the teaching of this text does not deal with others finding you out. It says, "***Your sins will find you out***."

If you justify your behavior, your conscience and your subconscious does not let you get away with it. Your sins will write their signature on your blood pressure; they will leave their mark on your nervous system. It will rob you of peace; it will rob you of sleep. It will make your life a walking nightmare. Do you remember Macbeth? He had killed Duncan and he tried to justify his sin. But he came to realize that he could not run from himself. Shakespeare has him say,

***Methought I heard a voice cry, "Sleep no more.  
Macbeth doth murder sleep." The innocent sleep;  
Macbeth shall sleep no more.***

Later, Macbeth goes to a doctor and he said,

***Cans't thou not minister to a mind diseased,  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain,  
And with some sweet oblivious antidote,  
Cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous stuff,  
Which weighs upon the heart?***

That is the problem that Judas faced when he betrayed Christ. Judas did not commit his sin on the spur of the moment. The seeds of selfish deceit had been sown in the soil of the soul as long as he had lived. To be sure, he thought Christ would establish an earthly kingdom and he would be the treasurer. But the other disciples thought the same.

To begin with, Judas was no more ignoble and confused than the others. But he sold Jesus, and he couldn't live with himself. Remorse set in swiftly, and he went back to the Pharisees. He threw the money on the floor and cried, "He was innocent; He never did a wrong thing in His life. He healed the sick and mended broken hearts; He opened blind eyes and wiped clouds out of human skies."

But the Pharisees had no remedy for his bleeding heart. They said, "We didn't shortchange you; see thou to that." How wonderful if he could have come to Christ, instead of to the Pharisees.

Esau in the Old Testament faced the same problem. In an hour of weakness he dethroned the spirit and enthroned the flesh. He sacrificed the permanent upon the altar of the temporary. He sold his birthright for a bowl of chili. He was willing to take the cash and let the credit go.

When I was in my teens, I would call a youngster to the platform and make a proposition. I would say, "I have a dime that I will give you now, or if you wait until the end of the week I will give you a dollar. Which do you prefer?" Invariably the child would take the dime. He could not wait for the larger amount. Esau was in that frame of mind when he sold his birthright.

The Bible states that later he sought repentance with tears, but could not find it. That is, he sought to undo what he had done, but some things cannot be undone, no matter how sorry we are for

having committed them.

If a Christian gets into a fight and loses his arm, God will forgive him for fighting, but sorrow for the fight does not restore the arm. He will be a one-armed Christian the rest of his life. If a Christian gets into a scuffle and he loses an eye, God will forgive him for the scuffle, but he will be a one-eyed Christian the rest of his life. There are some results of sin that are final, no matter how sorry you are for having done them or how much you repent. So you are the constant observer of your life.

You know what you think, what your ambition is in the secret of your heart. You will never have peace and effectiveness if you hide faults from others; for you cannot hide them from yourself.

That is why the poet said,

***I have to live with myself, and so  
I want to be fit for myself to know.  
I want to be able as the days go by  
Always to look myself straight in the eye.  
I don't want to stand with the setting sun  
And hate myself for the things I've done.  
I don't want to keep in a closet shelf,  
A lot of secrets about myself,  
And kid myself as I come and go  
Into thinking that nobody else will know  
The kind of a man I am.***

***I don't want to dress myself in sham.  
I want to walk out with head erect.  
I want to gain all men's respect.  
In this battle for pride and pelf,  
I want to be able to like myself.  
I don't want to think as I come and go  
That I am bluster and bluff and an empty show.  
I cannot hide myself from me.  
I see what others may never see.  
I know what others may never know;  
So, whatever happens, I want to be  
Self-respecting and conscience free.***

### ***II. BE GOOD BECAUSE OTHERS ARE LOOKING ON***

Not only are you responsible for yourself, but the destiny of others depends on your conduct and character. We are so constituted that we influence friends, loved ones, children. The old adage, "It's my business what I do" is not actually true. You are interrelated. You are like a link in a chain. When you move, others move around you. Paul said, "No man lives to himself, and no man dies to himself."

You are not living in a cave, you are in a glass house. As Shakespeare put it, "Life is a stage, and we are the players." We are performing before a live audience. Every move is significant; every word is important. That is one of the by-products of living. Immanuel Kant proposed what he called "the categorical imperative." It said this, "So live, that if everyone imitated you, it would bring the greatest good to the greatest number."

Dr. George W. Truett told the story of a revival in a certain town. He went to visit a young lawyer for the purpose of leading

him to Christ. The young man was in attendance at every service.

Dr. Truett outlined for him the plan of salvation. The young man said, "I admire the Christian life, but I don't think it is essential. Look at Judge A; he is a wonderful man, successful, kind, decent, ethical, and he isn't a Christian. If he can be one without religion, so can I."

Dr. Truett picked up his hat and made the young man promise that he would be in the service that night. He went to the office of the respectable judge and said, "Sir, I want to ask you a question. Is it right for any man to assume a course of conduct that would endanger the moral and spiritual status of another human being?" The old judge replied that it was not right.

Dr. Truett then related what the young lawyer had told him. The judge went to the open window, thought for a moment, and said, "Dr. Truett, I will be in your service tonight." When Dr. Truett gave the invitation for men to come forward and profess faith in Christ, the old judge was the first to come, and right behind him came the young lawyer.

We cannot escape this. Others are depending on us and are hitching their wagon to our star. The apostle Paul was very concerned about this. Once he went to buy some meat and he purchased some that had been offered to idols. He bought it because it was cheaper. The idols didn't mean anything to Paul. He didn't believe in them. They didn't change the flavor of the meat, even though they did change the price. But some young Christian was offended by Paul's conduct. When Paul heard about this he said, "***If eating meat offends my brother, I will eat no meat as long as the world stands***" (I Corinthians 8:13). Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone came to the realization that he is his brother's keeper? This would end wars and poverty and crime.

I heard of a man who was driving leisurely down the highway. He came to a bridge and saw a man standing on the railing just about to jump off and commit suicide. The driver came to a screeching halt, just in time to pull the would-be suicide back and say to him, "What are you trying to do?" The distraught man replied, "Turn me loose. I want to end it all. I am tired of living; I don't have a friend in the world." The driver said, "I know you have been having a hard time. I know that life has been difficult for you. Come in my car and let's talk about it." So they got in the car and they talked for about thirty minutes; then both of them jumped off.

We are affecting people every day. Men all around us rise or fall because of our actions and words. Our conduct will be judged by its effect on others. There will be no excuse for being shoddy at this point. We are so prone to justify our conduct.

I heard of a little boy who was playing with a ball and bat. He would pitch the ball in the air and then swing at it. He missed the ball every time. An old man was standing by and watching. He moved near the boy and said, "Son, you are not a very good hitter." The little boy said, "No, but I'm sure a good pitcher." He thought that the fact that he was making himself miss made him a good pitcher. You cannot justify the mistakes and blunders of

life in such a manner. May God help us to live right because of others.

One of the first songs I learned after becoming a Christian states adequately the point that I am trying to impress upon your minds in this hour:

*I would be true  
For there are those who trust me.  
I would be pure,  
For there are those who care.  
I would be strong,  
For there is much to suffer.  
I would be brave,  
For there is much to dare.*

We are to be the salt of the earth. We have a responsibility to the world around us. We are to be the light of the world. Jesus told us to let our light shine so that men would see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven. We are encompassed with a great cloud of witnesses. Hold on, my Christian friends. Don't become weary in well doing; in due season we shall reap if we faint not. It is so easy to become discouraged and want to relax our grip on God. But hold on. God will vindicate your position before men and angels. The day will come when our patient continuance in doing good will pay off and glorify the Saviour.

### ***III. BE GOOD BECAUSE GOD IS LOOKING DOWN***

If everyone knew you as God knows you, would your friends still respect you? I often have thought to myself, If everyone knew me as God knows me, would they still come to hear me preach?

The issue is not primarily what others think about you – it is what God knows about you. If I know my heart, the ambition of my life is to be a good preacher. One can be a smart minister or a talented minister, but Paul told Timothy to be a “good minister for Jesus Christ.” I don't have trouble building sermons or meeting people or making talks, but I have trouble being a good man. I would rather be a good man than to be a great man. You may hide many things from the others; you may hide some things from yourself (by rationalization and self-justification), but you hide nothing from God.

He knows the book of your life from cover to cover. He knows every chapter in the book. He knows every paragraph in the chapter; He knows every sentence in the paragraph; He knows every word in the sentence; He knows every letter in the word. Yea, even the blank spaces are known unto Him. He knows every thought, every sin, every evil, every ambition. He knows every weak moment, every iniquity, every hidden sin. Hagar in the desert said, “*Thou God seest me.*” David said, “*If I take the wings of the morning and fly to the uttermost parts of the earth, behold thou art there.*”

*Three ghosts on a lonesome road,  
Spoke each to one another;  
“Whence comes that stain around your mouth  
No other hand may cover?”*

*From eating of forbidden fruit,  
Brother, my brother.”*

*Three ghosts on a windless road,  
Spoke each to one another;  
“Whence came that red burn on your foot,  
No ash or dust may cover?”*

*“I stamped a neighbor's heart flame out,  
Brother, my brother.”*

*Three ghosts on a sunless road,  
Spoke each to one another.  
“Whence came that mark upon your hand,  
No lifted hand may cover?”*

*“From breaking of a woman's heart,  
Brother, my brother.”*

*Yet on the earth, clean men we walked,  
Glutton, and thief, and lover.*

*White flesh and fair did hide our stains,  
That no one may discover.*

*Naked the soul goes up to God,  
Brother, my brother.*

But we must remember that God is not looking down simply to snoop and pounce upon us with judgment. His abiding vigil is concerned with our spiritual growth.

*“The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the land, to show Himself strong to those whose hearts are perfect toward Him.”* God in Christ was watching Peter when He could see Satan sifting him as wheat (blowing on him), but the Lord said, *“I am praying for you.”* So Christ sits at the right hand of God the Father making intercession for us. What a consoling and strengthening truth. Many of my friends pray for me daily. I know I have the prayers of my Mother. But the greatest comfort to my heart is to know that Jesus is praying for me at the right hand of God the Father.

We cannot be good in our own strength. Paul clearly taught this in the seventh chapter of Romans. He said, *“When I would do good, evil is present with me,” and “the good that I would I do not,” but “the evil which I would not do, that I do. . . . I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (vv. 21, 19, 25). And that victory is ours in Christ.

The beginning step in being good is to become a Christian. Jesus dealt with the sin question on the cross. Sin is our biggest problem. You cannot fight and be victorious without the forgiveness of your sins and the power to begin over again. Goodness does not begin by quitting sin, but by allowing Christ to forgive it. *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins”* (Colossians 1:14).

The writer of I John clearly taught this. *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The blood of the Lord Jesus cleanses from all sin”* (1:8, 9, 7).

Goodness must have an inspiration, and Christ becomes our inspiration. When He resides in the heart, we try to live right for

His Name's sake, not because we are afraid of laws and penalties. We know that the reason Christ is against evil and sin is not because He doesn't want us to have a good time, but because the thing we are engaging in will ultimately hurt us and hurt others. Goodness must become rooted in righteousness. Otherwise our righteousness is like filthy rags in the sight of God.

The beginning of goodness is salvation, and the continuance of goodness is sanctification. Sanctification is a Bible word for spiritual growth and development. Constant and patient following of Christ daily is the key to continued goodness. Goodness without Christ is the worst form of badness. So I plead with you tonight that you find the answer for sin in the person of Christ. He will release power in your life in order that you may overcome the evil that surrounds you, because unless you have within you that which is above you, you will be defeated by that which is around you. ■

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### ***NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS***

□ ***BRIAN AND BOBBIE HOUSTON: PROSPERITY GOSPEL BUSTED*** - For decades, Brian and Bobbie Houston were the co-pastors of the multi-million dollar Hillsong empire based in Australia. They preached a Word-Faith prosperity doctrine. In 2002, the church took in \$10 million in tithes alone, not to speak of the sale of music and materials. The Houstons had a \$4.5 million mansion in Sydney and two beach apartments valued at over \$3 million.

In September 2021, Brian stepped down from his role on Hillsong boards after being charged by police with concealing child sex offenses (“Hillsong's Brian Houston,” Christian Headlines, Sept. 17, 2021). The charges pertain to Brian's alleged knowledge of his father's abuse of a boy in the 1970s. Earlier, Brian told a court that his father, head of Australia Assemblies of God, was “a serial pedophile.” In March 2022, Brian stepped down as global senior pastor after the church sent a letter to its members exposing him for “inappropriate behavior” with two women. The Houstons have sold their beach apartments and mansion and are selling their clothes online. Perhaps Brian needs to re-read his 2003 book *You Need More Money* that teaches the way to prosperity through giving and “kingdom living.” Houston says, “If you believe in Jesus, He will reward you here as well [as in heaven]” (“The Lord's Profits,” Sydney Morning Herald, January 30, 2003).

That same year, when asked by a Sydney Morning Herald reporter why the church is so successful, Brian Houston replied, “We are scratching people where they are itching” (“The Lord's Profits,” Sydney Morning Herald, January 30, 2003). That is right out of II Timothy 4:3, which is a warning of apostasy. It describes people who itch for a new kind of Christianity and heaps of preachers who will scratch this illicit itch. *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”*

□ ***THIRD STATE ENACTS UNIVERSAL SCHOOL CHOICE*** - School choice is the only program that can have a

significant impact in reducing the power of the mainstream public school system, and school choice is growing. At the same time, the government remains in ultimate control of the money in these schemes, which always spells danger at some point.

The best thing Bible-believing parents can do, in our estimation, is to home school or church school and don't take a dime from the government. God has promised to take care of those who trust Him.

The following is excerpted from “Iowa latest government-school domino to fall,” Fox News, Jan. 26, 2023:

“Arizona's then-Gov. Doug Ducey signed into law the biggest school choice victory in U.S. history last year. All Arizona families can now take their children's state-funded education dollars to the education providers of their choosing. Little did he know, Gov. Ducey ignited a school choice revolution among red states. On Monday, the Republican-controlled Iowa Legislature passed an expansive school choice proposal championed by the governor. Gov. Kim Reynolds--who is the leader of the Republican Governor's Association and has fought for education freedom for years--signed the bill Tuesday. Much like Arizona's policy, Iowa's education savings account bill allows families to take their children's state-funded K-12 education dollars --about \$7,600 per student--to the education providers of their choosing.... This victory makes Iowa the third state to enact a universal school choice policy. The bill passed the GOP-led Senate by a vote of 31 to 18. The House passed the bill 55 to 45.

...West Virginia also has its foot on the accelerator. In 2021, Republicans passed an education savings account program initially available to all families who had children who wished to switch out of public schools. Like Iowa, West Virginia's law allows the program to automatically expand over time--with full universality achieved in just a few years. 2021 was dubbed ‘the year of school choice,’ but 2023 may give it a run for its money.

... Red [Republican] states are now engaging in friendly competition to empower all families with school choice this session. ... Ultimately, it will lead to empowering more American families with the freedom to choose the education that works best for their children.” [Utah, Texas, Nebraska, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, and Florida are moving rapidly toward universal school choice.]

□ ***SANCTUARY GIVE-AWAY INSANITY*** - The following is excerpted from “Camp of the Ain'ts,” PowerLine, Jan. 26, 2023:

“In her New York Post column Miranda Devine reports on ‘The migrant mess ... ruining NYC's midtown.’ She identifies previously elite midtown hotels that are now housing illegal aliens at taxpayer expense: ‘The city is putting illegals up -indefinitely in Midtown's former luxury hotels, providing three free hot meals a day, baby formula, free clothing, free legal services, free health care and free education. The cost is reportedly close to \$100,000 per room. But as it's human nature not to appreciate what you are given for free rather than what you have worked for, some recipients of taxpayer largesse are biting the hand that feeds them. Take the Row Hotel. The new residents

have been turning up their noses at the free food, with the result that almost a ton of perfectly good meals reportedly have been thrown out daily. A hotel worker earlier this month provided The Post with photos of trash bags full of untouched sandwiches and bagels that he said migrants refused to eat. Instead, they cook meals more to their liking on hot plates in their rooms, creating a serious fire hazard in the historic building.

... [New York Mayor Eric] Adams doesn't appear to have any solutions apart from mildly complaining that he's not getting enough money from the federal government. He estimates the Big Apple will need \$2 billion extra and it could bankrupt New York City. For two years, the Biden administration has been secretly flying illegals into New York and busing them all over the city and the tri-state area.

... With more than 250,000 illegal migrants crossing the southern border each month, plus another estimated 70,000 'gotaways' who slip past the Border Patrol, cities all over the country have been inundated, but New York bears a larger burden than most because of the sanctuary status that Adams still trumpets."

❑ **CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION AT 30 YEAR HIGH** - The following is excerpted from "Christian Persecution," Christian Headlines, Jan. 18, 2023:

"Christians around the world are facing the worst levels of persecution for their faith since persecution watchdog Open Doors began recording such acts nearly 30 years ago. Open Doors' new 2023 World Watch List, released this week, showed that in 50 countries around the globe, Christians are facing record levels of persecution for their beliefs. North Korea returned to the top spot on the list amid a jump in arrests of Christians under the country's 'anti-reactionary thought' law. This law defines a range of behaviors considered illegal, such as listening to foreign radio and distributing 'impure' foreign recordings or other media. The ban includes the Bible. ... Wybo Nicolai, a former Open Doors global field director who launched the World Watch List in 1993, said the high level of persecution has nearly doubled since that first list. ... The top 10 on the 2023 list are North Korea, followed by Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Sudan."

❑ **FAMOUS MISSIONARY PREACHES AGAINST "MODERATE DRINKING"** - The following is a wise statement from John G. Paton: Missionary to the New Hebrides, 1891:

"From observation, at an early age I became convinced that mere Temperance Societies were a failure, and that Total Abstinence, by the grace of God, was the only sure preventive as well as remedy. What was temperance in one man was drunkenness in another; and all the drunkards came, not from those who practised total abstinence, but from those who practised or tried to practise temperance. I had seen temperance men drinking wine in the presence of others who drank to excess, and never could see how they felt themselves clear of blame; and I had known Ministers and others, once strong temperance advocates, fall through this so-called moderation, and become drunkards. Therefore it has all my life appeared to me beyond

dispute, in reference to intoxicants of every kind, that the only rational temperance is Total Abstinence from them as beverages, and the use of them exclusively as drugs, and then only with extreme caution, as they are deceptive and deleterious poisons of the most debasing and demoralizing kind."

❑ **PASTOR PREACHES AGAINST "MODERATE DRINKING"** - The following statement is by Bruce Lackey, who pastored Lakewood Baptist Church of Harrison, Tennessee, in the 1970s:

"How is alcoholic wine deceptive? In the very way that people are advocating today, by saying that drinking a little bit will not hurt. Everyone admits that drinking too much is bad. Even the liquor companies tell us not to drink and drive, but they insist that a small amount is all right. However, that is the very thing that is deceptive. Who knows how little to drink? Experts tell us that each person is different. It takes an ounce to affect one, while more is necessary for another. The same person will react to alcohol differently in different situations, depending on the amount of food he has had, among other things. So the idea that 'a little bit won't hurt' is deceptive, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise!" **"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).**

❑ **MEN OF INTEMPERATE MINDS CANNOT BE FREE** - The following is excerpted from Edmund Burke, "A Letter to a Member of the National Assembly," 1791. This statement identifies America's fundamental problem, and it cannot be solved by politics:

"What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice, and madness, without restraint. Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites; in proportion as they are disposed to listen to the counsels of the wise and good in preference to the flattery of knaves. ... It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters."

❑ **AWANA GOES WOKE** - The following is excerpted from "Awana," thirtypiecesofsilver.org, Nov. 2, 2022:

"AWANA ... since 2021 has increasingly featured and been dominated by social justice/woke, LGBTQ inclusion activist evangelical speakers. Based on its 2022 and 2023 discipleship events and speakers, Awana is in the polluted stream of Tim Keller's WOKE organization **The Gospel Coalition** (TGC), Neo-Calvinist leader's **Together 4 The Gospel** (T4G), along with the now disgraced former leader of the ERLC, Russell Moore.

Clearly Third Way politics and activist/inclusion/BLM [Black Lives Matter]/CRT [Critical Race Theory] narratives are flooding Awana.

... Note about the speakers at Awana's Child Discipleship Forum, Sept. 2022:

**SAM ALLBERRY** is an activist same-sex

attracted/homosexual priest from the Church of England and co-founder of 'Living Out' a controversial LGBTQ inclusion movement which has sought to 'Audit Churches for LGBTQ Inclusion.'

**ANDY CROUCH** is a former editor of left-swerving Christianity Today who used his position there to promote the LGBTQ activist 'Revoice' movement and now serves on Revoice Board /Council.

**REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN** is in the TGC [The Gospel Coalition] speaker promoting the APA/ SOGI [American Psychological Association's Sexual Orientation Gender Identity] based same-sex attraction narrative.

... Awana's 2023 Child Discipleship Forum promises a racially woke rapper and more. Speakers include **SHAI LINNE**, a rapper and writer and TGC regular. He was discipled at TGC /T4G leader Mark Dever's Capitol Hill Baptist Church. Shai is a racial activist using vintage critical race theory narratives

... Linne's own words advocating Black Lives Matter (BLM) reflect his Critical Race Theory worldview in his reflections on the death of George Floyd which launched the BLM riots and Marxist-styled protest of 2020.

... Mark Markins [new CEO of Awana] appears to be desperately eager to turn Awana from the tried and true and treasure focus of teaching Bible verses to our children and grandchildren, which is viewed by him and others inside Awana as 'looking back to the ways of the past and the methods of the good ole days.' Markins warns churches and parents that this 'looking back' is wrong and is failing their children and [we should rather be] 'looking ahead and charting a course to the future.' Clearly by 'Charting a New Course,' Markins and Awana leadership mean your children need LGBTQ Church Inclusion.

... BLM advocate rap with Critical Race Theory driven narratives on race by Shai Linne which are loose with the facts and heavy on systemic racism worldview."

❑ **CRITICIZE ISLAM AT YOUR OWN RISK IN EUROPE** - The following is excerpted from "Criticize Islam," Arutz Sheva, Jan. 9, 2023:

"I've often heard of coincidences, but I've never seen one. Instead I saw that a few weeks ago the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg convicted the French journalist Eric Zemmour of insulting Islam. Zemmour goes around with a larger escort than many French ministers. And now I see that French Muslims are taking Michel Houellebecq to court for his critical sentences of Islam. These political trials on Islam began in 2002, when a Paris court examined a complaint against Houellebecq, who in his novel 'Platform' had defined Islam as 'the stupidest religion'. ... Oriana Fallaci also ended up on trial that year for her book 'Rage and Pride'. ... When she died in 2007, Oriana Fallaci was still on trial in Bergamo, Italy. ... Since 2014, the Council of Europe has organized the 'European Day against Islamophobia'. After the Second World War and the horrors of Nazism and Stalinism, a fundamental principle of Western democracies was that people could be put on trial, but not ideas and opinions.

Europe is today allowing dangerous Islamist and 'human rights' groups to restrict the boundaries of our freedom of expression, exactly as in the Soviet show trials."

❑ **DESTRUCTION OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION THROUGH ABORTION** - According to a report by the New York City Department of Health, 59.8 percent of African-American pregnancies in 2009 ended in abortion. A whopping 60% of black babies in "Christian" America are murdered in the womb! To understand this massacre, it is necessary to understand the eugenics movement, a philosophy that flourished prior to World War II and is based on Darwinian natural selection. Founded by Charles Darwin's cousin, Francis Galton, eugenics was built upon the idea that the white race is superior and should be kept pure from intermixture with other "races."

In Germany, the eugenics movement was called "race hygiene." Founder Alfred Ploetz said that his ideas about eugenics were drawn from Darwinism, and he praised Darwin's disciple Ernst Haeckel as a key influence (Richard Wiekart, From Darwin to Hitler, p. 15). Henry Fairfield Osborn, head of the American Museum of Natural History and president of the Second International Congress of Eugenics in 1921, praised the work of German racists Jon Mioen and Hermann Lundborg for giving men "a new appreciation of the spiritual, moral and physical value of the Nordic [white] race" (Edwin Black, War Against the Weak, p. 244). Eugenics sought to purify the human race by culling it of the "inferior" through birth control, abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia.

Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger referred to "inferior" humans as "weeds," complaining that "nature eliminates the weeds, but we turn them into parasites and allow them to reproduce" (Black, War Against the Weak, p. 133). Sanger called large families "immoral." She was on the cutting edge of the modern Culture of Death. In her book *Woman and the New Race*, she said, "The most merciful thing that the large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it."

Eugenics went out of popularity after Hitler took the program to its logical conclusion, but the Darwinian eugenics philosophy is alive and well and has spread throughout society. This philosophy has resulted in the elimination of multitudes of people, and black babies have suffered more than those of any other group. If it isn't racist to destroy a class of people through birth control and abortion, I don't know what racism would be.

