Monthly Update

January 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I want to thank you for your response to our appeal for support, both financially and prayerfully. Your finances enable us to continue publishing our information to over 18,000 people, families, and congregations, and all of the other ministry activities.

To summarize just some of our actions in 2009, our efforts in Concerned Methodists were focused on the defeat of "the separation amendments" legislation. We had sent out over 17,000 copies of our latest edition of *The Christian Methodist Newsletter* and almost 3000 copies of our latest book *On the Brink* across the United States and overseas. (As you know, the book itself addresses homosexual practice in three ways – from individual, denominational, and societal perspectives – and how they are interrelated at this point in the life of our United Methodist Church.)

In addition we sent out summarized information with a recommended voting guide in the past issue of *The Christian Methodist Newsletter*; printed over 4,000 voter's guides, 1,000 homosexual fact sheets, and 1,000 homosexual behavioral summaries.

In addition, we were active participants in two conferences and achieved percentages averaging 78% against the separation amendments in one.

Finally, we sent a great amount of information and letters all over the world with a concentration in Africa to the conferences there: Central Congo, Cote D' Ivoire (Ivory Coast), East Africa (Uganda, Rwanda, etc.), East Congo, Kasai Provisional, Kivu Provisional, Lukoshi, Mozambique North, Nigeria, North Katanga (Congo), Oriental and Equator (Congo), South Congo, South-West Katanga (Congo), Tanganyika/ Tanzania, West Congo, Western Angola, and Zambia Provisional.

We have heard from delegates in three of those countries with votes solidly against these deleterious separation amendments. We thank the Lord for His victory in this.

Now we are faced with our denominational employees' strident pacifism in the face of the international aggression our country faces, their advocacy for the intrusive health care legislation that is before congress, and facilitating [illegal] immigration into the United States. The latest in the political arena is our leadership's continuing crescendo against any type of military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, or taking action to counter Iran's nuclear threat. This exhibits a chronic and blatant anti-American bias.

From all of us here, may I again say "thank you" for your response to our annual appeal for support to this ministry? Please continue to stand with us as we continue to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in these important times.

In His service,

Allen O. Morris, Executive Director

January 2010 Update

Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.

– Ronald Reagan

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The Good Stuff

+ Tiger Woods. In the October edition of our "Monthly Update" we had published in the section under "The Good Stuff" a tribute entitled "You'll Never Walk Alone" by Tiger Woods. His 2-minute, 5-second tribute to our nation's military and his parents was delivered at the Inaugural Telebration in Washington, DT. We are aware of the latest news publishing what may be indiscretions on his part. We deeply regret this if it has indeed has happened, and we sincerely hope and pray that Tiger repents of this sin and is able to overcome this and put it behind him – with no repetitions. However, we stand behind the value of what he had written. Even though he may have made a mistake, what he had written certainly has value and should be appreciated for what it is – a tribute to the brave men and women in our armed services. – AOM

+ Top evangelist gives glory, credit to God

CASE CORAL Fla. (UMNS).- Average attendance at Grace United Methodist Church in Cape Coral was 488 when the Rev. Jorge Acevedo was appointed senior paster in 1996. By 2008, it had risen to 2,388 congregants spread among three campuses. The growth is a key reason Acevedo was recognized by The Foundation for Evangelism as the 2009 Distinguished Evangelist of The United Methodist Church. Acevedo, however, gives glory and honor to God. "First and foremost, (our growth) is by the grace of God," he says. "Anybody who experiences the favor of God knows that it's not self-generated."

- United Methodist News Service (UMNS), October 5, 2009.

Of Interest

+ Educator's book addresses global warming myths for families

An environmental economics professor at Montana State University has authored a book aimed at teaching parents and children the truth about global warming. For the past decade, Holly Fretwell has been conducting her own research on the science behind so-called "global warming." She claims she found a lack of consensus among scientists as to whether global warming exists, and as to whether humans contribute to the supposed threat. Despite the lack of consensus, Fretwell says public schools and the media are trying to scare children into thinking that the threat is real. She cites one television program that told children their parents are to blame for global warming and that civilization, as we know it, could end as a result.

The educator says that type of alarmist mentality is what drove her to write the book entitled The Sky Is Not Falling.

"And it really shows them [that] here is some of the information we're provided out there in our popular press, in our media, [on the] Internet and other things we see, [and asks them] how much of that can you believe," the author says. The book compares that information with "what's really happening out there," she explains, and encourages readers to examine the whole picture. "Ind I try to teach kids how to do just that," she adds.

Fretwell argues that scientists find it difficult to predict how the climate may change simply because of the numerous factors and variables that interact together. "We have a hard time predicting the weather for the next couple of days," she notes, "[so] imagine trying to predict the climate over the next 100 years. It's just a really uncertain science."

The Montana State University professor says her book is a useful tool for anyone who wants to become a critical thinker in the debate surrounding the topic of global warming.

- Pete Chagnon; http://www.onenewsnow.com/2007/12/educators book addresses globa.php; December 19, 2007.

+ Southern Baptist leader warns against 'feminization' of church, society

A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention is saddened at what he sees as the "feminization" of church and society. Recently, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) began offering a Bachelor of Arts in humanities with a concentration in homemaking. SWBTS president Dr. Paige Patterson said the course is a way to help solidify and define the biblical roles of the family and home, although he said that families are free to make their own decisions about whether a wife will work outside the home. The course has been blasted by many -- not only in the secular world, but also

in evangelical circles, including some Southern Baptist officials. Patterson says Southern Baptists are swimming against the tide of "feminism," and that society -- especially higher education -- makes every effort to target women.

"Sixty percent of all your college and university students are now female. Somebody said, 'Well, you're opposed to that?' No. Im thrilled to death that they're in upper-level education, as far as women are concerned," says Patterson. "But Ithink it is absolutely tragic that only 40 percent of the students are men. [W]hat that means is that increasingly, our country will not have a male intelligentsia," he stated.

Dr. Patterson says if that trend continues, the United States will eventually follow in the footsteps of France and England when it comes to social policies and politics.

- Allie Martin; http://www.onenewsnow.com/2007/; October 2, 2007.

+ United Methodists discuss clergy job guarantees

NASHVIII. Tenn.--Should United Methodist pastors have a lifelong job guarantee? The denomination's Study of Ministry Commission is examining the controversial practice that has survived in The United Methodist Church even as it is disappearing from other U.S. workplaces. How guaranteed appointments -- which require bishops to appoint every elder in good standing to a local church -- have an impact on the quality and diversity of clergy and whether the denomination can even continue to pay for such a system is up for debate. In a report to directors of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry during their Oct. 8-10 meeting in Nashville, commission members said that while no formal recommendations have been proposed, changes in the principle of guaranteed appointment are being studied.

- UMNS, October 15, 2009.

+ United Methodist death rates higher than U.S. average

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - United Methodists are dying faster than other Americans. A study, "Pockets of 'Youthfulness' in an Aging Denomination," has found that death rates for members of The United Methodist Church, where the average age has risen to 57, are about a third higher than the national average. "There is no future for The United Methodist Church in the United States unless we can learn to reach more people, younger people and more diverse people," declared the Rev. Lovett Weems, director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, which conducted the study.

- UMNS, July 2, 2009.

+ Investigation tests UMC's open communication

Ablog by the Rev. Larry Hollon, top executive of United Methodist Communications, threw many longtime observers for a loop when he came out defending the responsibility of United Methodist News Service to report even the most controversial news about the denomination. Communicators and proponents of open church government across the denomination cheered Bov. Hollon for his courageous and forthright stand. Hollon wrote in part:

"People often ask me why the church's news agency would disclose information about disagreements or problems in the church. The answer is simple: Reporting the unvarnished truth is our responsibility to the church and to you. It's a core value. Out of our collective experience as a people of faith our forefathers and foremothers determined it is necessary for the good of the whole. This is a remarkable stand for integrity and truthfulness.

"Being a truly open church requires being transparent about what goes on in our congregations, conferences and agencies. It means being accountable, from the local level right up to the Council of Eishops. The absence of accountability leaves room for a host of problems, ranging from complacence to the misuse of power."

Since most bureaucrats -- those of the religious variety included -- are known for their propensity to control and even stymie unpleasant information, Hollon's defense of open communication represents a principled stand that should be supported by United Methodists everywhere. Only by holding itself accountable through a free flow of information will the UMChave any credibility whatsoever among its members and society at large.

Ironically, the principle of open church communication came in for a serious test shortly after Rev. Hollen's commendable blog, when United Methodist Bishop Elaine Stanovsky of Denver disclosed that a church inquiry is proceeding against the Rev. Edward Paup on charges of "violating the sacred trust of ordination." Rev. Paup resigned in August as head of the General Board of Global Ministries because of a brain tumor, for which he is still undergoing medical tests. Rumors had run rampant for at least a month prior to his resignation that an inquiry was proceeding against Rev. Paup, who was a United Methodist bishop until he resigned to lead the denomination's global missions board. Retired

Bishop Joel Martinez has been named interim executive.

Information about a pending inquiry involving Rev. Paup was provided to this Examiner in July by knowledgeable persons within the denomination who requested anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the investigation. When an attempt was made in August to verify the information, Global Ministries Board president, Bishop Bruce Ough of Columbus, OH, refused to confirm or deny whether an investigation of Rev. Paup was proceeding, citing personnel rules of the board and the "fair process" rules of clergy investigations.

However, Bishop Stanovsky released a pastoral letter Sept. 11 about the investigation to members of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, where Rev. Paup's clergy membership in the church reverted when he resigned the office of bishop.

According to a report from United Methodist News Service, Bishop Stanovsky said she thought it "would ease anxiety within the conference and across the church if we published what we could without breaking confidentiality," she said. "I think any time there's a lack of information and a lot of speculation, it does harm," she was quoted by UMNS.

UMN Sreported that Bishop Stanovsky would not comment specifically on a possible church trial. "Just resolution is possible at any point in the process," she said.

In a telephone interview with UMNS. Rev. Paup, 63, declined to speak directly about the complaint. Instead he alleged that some of his "difficult decisions" as a bishop "created political enemies," but he declined to specify which of his decisions had created such enemies, whom he also refused to identify.

Cynthia Astle has commented, "Whether Rev. Hollon tried in his blog to prepare the church to face controversial news about an investigation of Rev. Paup, or whether the sequence of events was simply a coincidence, United Methodists wait to hear whether denominational officials will take the wise counsel of their top communicator."

Note: Rev. Ed Paup was a bishop and had supervisory responsibility at the time that Rachel Leider-Simeon targeted the conservative orthodox St. Paul United Methodist Church in Fairbanks, Alaska to be closed. This was done even though no charges were ever brought against the church, either as a corporate body or its individual members. - ROM

Blog by the Rev. Larry Hollon, executive of United Methodist Communications. Dallas Methodist Examiner website. http://www.examiner.com/x-3783-Dallas-Methodist-Examiner~y2009m9d27-Investigation-tests-UMCsopen-communication?cid=exrss-Dallas-Methodist-Examiner; September 27, 2009.

(UM) Bishops

+ Methodist Bishops Urge Surrender in Afghanistan

Nearly half of the bishops of the United Methodist Church, America's third largest (though declining) denomination, are demanding that the U.S.withdraw from Afghanistan by next year.

"We believe there is no path to military victory in Afghanistan," harrumphed the bishops in their November letter to President Obama. But it's not clear that these bishops ever wanted a "victory" in Afghanistan. After 9-11, the Council of Bishops declined to condemn al Gaeda or the Taliban, preferring only to seek "solidarity with victimized peoples throughout the world" and to intone that that "violence in all of its forms and expressions is contrary to God's purpose for the world." In other words, there were no necessarily great moral distinction between Osama bin Laden and those U.S. led military forces that sought his capture.

The bishops also have 4 times denounced U.S. military actions in fraq while never expressing any special concern about Saddam Hussein's mass murders or epic torture prisons, much less what even greater horrors might have prevailed to fraqis had the U.S. withdrawn precipitously. With fraq now relatively subdued, the bishops are now aiming their outrage at any U.S. military presence in Afghanistan.

We "are deeply concerned about the escalating war in Afghanistan," they bewailed, though they were never publicly concerned about Taliban tyranny or Afghanistan's sinister role as a nest for international terror by al Caeda. Urging Obama to "set a timetable for the withdrawal of all coalition forces by the end of 2010," the bishops lamented the war in Afghanistan has "no end in sight," as they cited U.S., coalition and Afghan casualty figures.

The bishops promised that their "vision is a world in which people live together in peace and with mutual respect." Of course, they do not outline how such peace and mutual respect will arise in a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. "We believe that human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities,' they banally proclaimed, seemingly indifferent to the consequence of their recommendation, preferring instead the satisfaction of their own moral preening.

"We wanted to get this to Obama before he made his decision on sending more troops to Afghanistan," explained retired Bishop Marshall L. Meadors, who drafted the Afghanistan decree. "I have struggled with the war in Iraq," he said. "I held public prayer services when the 3,000th and 4,000th soldier was killed in Iraq." For left-leaning religionists, concern and political empathy have replaced thoughtful public witness.

Many of these bishops pretend that their church is pacifist, and they insisted that their denomination believes "war is incompatible with the teachings of Christ." But The United Methodist Church also acknowledges that "many Christians believe that, when peaceful alternatives have failed, the force of arms may regretfully be preferable to unchecked aggression, tyranny and genecide." Actually "many" should say "vast majority," as the pacifist tradition among Methodists and among Christians globally has always been small. Methodist founder John Wesley once offered to help raise troops for his King in case of a French invasion of Britain.

But in the early 20th century, much of Mainline Protestantism's academic and social elites in America surrendered to pacifism, which only accelerated after World War [I], and which even Nazi and Japanese militarist aggression did not dissuade. In 1940, Methodism's governing General Conference adopted a pacifist stance, even as Europe and Asia were being overrun by darkness, saying "The Methodist Church will not officially support, endorse or participate in war." After Pearl Harbor, the bishops tried to compensate for that stance by insisting, "In this crisis, as in all previous crises in our history, the Methodists of America will support our President and our nation."

Even at Methodism's 1944 General Conference, church elites proposed a continued pacifist stance, while 1 million American Methodists were serving in the armed forces. Its primary spokesman explained that we "do not think that a Christian Church should pray for a military victory" because the "God of the Christian Church is the God of all mankind." The head of the Methodist Publishing House who later became a bishop, Nolan Harmon, responded to the pacifists by noting: "We have spent more time in calling attention to the plight of the 600 Methodist conscientious objectors than we have to three times that many Methodist boys, dead and buried under crosses on battlefields in the far-flung corners of the earth." Harmon also insisted: "The ultimate control of moral evil in this world must be by force." He later explained in his memoir 40 years later: "If we do want to stop crime, or on the world stage, to stop Hitler or evil dictator, it will take force to do it," declaring that "in principle, the policeman's club and the SCBMwarhead are no different."

Aminority report among the Methodist delegates in 1944 just barely prevailed by asserting: "We are well within the Christian position when we assert the necessity of the use of military forces to resist an aggression which would overthrow every right which is held sacred by civilized men." In 1952, the Methodist bishops supported U.S. resistance to, in one bishop's words, the "Russian-planned and dictated invasion of Korea," with that bishop, Bromley Oxnam, further declaring that a Christian "must courageously resolve that mankind shall not be engulfed in materialism nor shackled by tyranny," as the Christian is "called upon to live dangerously in the spirit of Jesus and in loyalty to the principles symbolized by the cross."

Fredictably, the 1960's erased most remnants of traditional Christian Just War teaching among the United Methodists. Some Just War language was restored to the church's official teaching in 2000, just in time for 9-11. But despite this prescient revival, and the pleas of Virginia's Methodist bishop, who had personally visited the Pentagon right after the terror strike, the bishops opted for milquetoast pacifism and working towards "alleviating the root causes of poverty and the other social conditions that are exploited by terrorists."

The repeated Methodist denunciations of Iraq's liberation from Saddam Hussein never expressed any concern about human rights or a just regime in Iraq; they focused exclusively on condemning the U.S. as the seeming only source of injustice and violence in otherwise peaceable Iraq. The Religious Left's brand of pacifism is typically only concerned about restraining U.S. military efforts and does not usually quibble with aggression or oppression by tyrants, even when genocidal.

Equating justice with reflexive anti-Americanism is old hat for the Religious Left, including many modern American Methodist bishops, who, unlike their more robust predecessors of 60 years, preside over a dwindling flock that no longer seriously heeds their political posturing.

- By Mark D. Tooley, as reported in FrontPageMag.com; November 30, 2009.

+ Bishop joins in rally for immigration reform

PHOENIX.-Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, Desert Southwest Annual (regional) Conference, co-chaired an Oct. 13 Families Can't Wait Rally in Washington. The event is intended to urge President Obama and Congress to move forward on comprehensive immigration reform. Individuals from across the United States will have lobbying visits, a procession and a rally organized by Familias Unidas and the Reform Immigration FOR America campaign.

(UM) General Board of Church and Society. Religious Left Demands Obamacare Abortion Funding

"The old religious left, which has enthusiastically supported unrestricted abortion since the 1960s, sees the proposed abortion funding restriction in Obamacare as a nightmarish stain upon their utopian dream of socialized medicine."

- Mark Tooley, IRDPresident

Washington, DC—The lobbying offices of the mainline churches have joined with abortion rights advocacy groups in opposing the Stupak-Pitts restriction against government health insurance funded abortions. Unlike the evangelical left, which has sought to consolidate liberal evangelical support behind Obamacare by promising protections against government funded abortion, the old religious left is urging constituents to tell the U.S. Sonate to drop the abortion restriction. "It is now up to the Senate to keep health care reform free of religious doctrine and restrictions that will prevent women from making their own reproductive health care choices," explained the Reverend Carlton Veazey of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC), which includes agencies of the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ.

In an alert that the United Methodist lobby office sent out to supporters, health care reform passage in the House was honored as a "major milestone." But the office lamented that "what should have been a celebratory moment" had been tarnished by "restrictive language" that "politicized health care and posed the possibility of a tremendous setback for access to comprehensive reproduction health coverage."

IRDPresident Mark Tooley commented:

"For the mostly new Evangelical Left and the old Religious Left, government-imposed universal health care is a long-time totem for which their activists have toiled across years and decades. Politically liberal evangelicals who still are pro-life, or who at least care about gathering support from the majority of evangelicals who are, remain anxious to preserve Stupak-Pitts.

"The old Religious Left, which has enthusiastically supported unrestricted abortion since the 1960s, sees the proposed abortion funding restriction in Obamacare as a nightmarish stain upon their utopian dream of socialized medicine.

"United Methodism officially opposes partial-birth abortions and abortions for gender-selection or birth control. But the ultra-liberal United Methodist Capitol Hill lobby office interprets the stance as supporting unrestricted abortion rights.

"Evangelical Left activists like Jim Wallis desperately want Obamacare - even if it entails abortion restrictions - and see Stupak-Pitts as a sweetener for their constituency. Hard-line old Religious Leftists portray Stupak-Pitts as an outrageous accommodation of theocracy.

"Both Evangelical Left and Religious Left are united in their messianic hopes for socialized health care and almost certainly will support Obamacare ultimately in any form."

- Jeff Walton, Institute on Religion and Democracy, 1023 15th Street NW, Ste. 601 Washington, DG20005-2601.

Phone: (202) 682-4131 Fax: (202) 682-4136. www.TheIRD.org. December 1, 2009.

(UM) General Board of Global Ministries. Mission board approves \$1.3 million in scholarships

NEW YORK—More than \$1.3 million in scholarships for advanced and college-level study in the 2009-2010 academic year were approved April 29 by directors of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The stipends will help to support the educational preparation of students whose future work will directly relate to the mission of The United Methodist Church. Atotal of \$649,463 was granted through the World Communion Scholarship program, \$462,263 to 45 international students and \$187,200 to 23 students in the United States. The funds come primarily through the World Communion Special Sunday offering. Atotal of \$627,358 was awarded in International Leadership Development Grants to 52 new and 74 continuing students. These funds, supporting bachelor-through doctoral-level studies, come from designated endowments and the general funds of Global Ministries. Another \$71,500 was awarded in National Leadership Development grants, assisting 18 continuing students from racial and ethnic communities.

[Note: It will be interesting to see exactly how this money - your apportionment dollars - will indeed "directly relate to the mission of The United Methodist Church" in how they are used. - AOM] - UMNS June 5, 2009

(UM) Judicial Council. Judicial Council voids sexuality statement

There is an official position in The United Methodist Church on gay and lesbian sexuality, and that states the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The Judicial Council, the denomination's highest court, in a ruling released Nov. 2 said that the Baltimore-Washington Annual (regional) Conference went too far in adopting its own statement declaring "a more authentic and truthful representation of The United Methodist Church" is that "we disagree" on gay and lesbian issues. "The effect of the Baltimore-Washington resolution is to negate the church's clearly stated position as reflected in current disciplinary language," the council wrote. "Moreover, the Baltimore-Washington resolution attempts to articulate a new and different standard of church belief using language that has been specifically rejected by the General Conference."

Meeting Oct. 27-31, the nine-member court considered the statement during a review of a decision of law by Bishop John Schol. The court's ruling reverses his decision that the resolution of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference was in order. The court said that while such statements can be "aspirational in nature," an annual (regional) conference "may not negate, ignore or violate" the Book of Discipline, "even when the disagreements are based upon conscientious objections."

General Conference upholds the teaching that homosexual practice as "incompatible with Christian teaching."

In its 2009 annual meeting, the Baltimore-Washington Conference affirmed the rejected statement, declaring that it was prompted by the Holy Spirit to acknowledge "that we disagree yet all seek a faithful witness." Those words went beyond permissible language, according to the Judicial Council, which noted that the Baltimore-Washington statement was patterned after the proposed legislation rejected by the General Conference.

In previous decisions, the council had determined the statements of beliefs on sexuality from the Desert Southwest and Pacific Northwest conferences - and even an earlier Baltimore-Washington resolution calling for inclusive behavior in the acceptance of congregational members -- were permissible because they did not negate, ignore or violate the Discipline.

Note: It is seriously doubted that the Baltimore-Washington Conference's contention that their statement "was prompted by the Holy Spirit"; it may have been a spirit, but it was certainly not the Holy Spirit. God is a God of order, not confusion. His word is clear on homosexual practice - and those who try to justify their behavior as being good and right when the Bible says otherwise are only kidding themselves. The Judicial Council, even though it is comprised of a majority of theologically liberal members, is to be commended. - ACM

- By Linda Bloom, UMNS; Nov. 2, 2009.

(UM) Women/Women's Isssues

+ Women call for affordable health care for all

STAMFORD, Conn. -- Passing cars honked approval as more than 50 United Methodist Women rallied in support of health care for all that is "affordable, accessible and accountable" at a noontime vigil Oct. 10 outside the Marriott Hotel. The vigil was one of several actions related to health care that directors took during the Oct. 9-12 annual meeting of the Women's Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The division is the national policymaking arm of the 800,000-member United Methodist Women organization. Note: What they are talking about here is socialized medicine - which has proven unworkable in every part of the world. As it stands now, with all of its flaws, medical care in the United States provides the best quality of care to the greatest number of citizens of any country in the world. Our system does have its flaws, but is correctible of massive government intrusion into our private health-care lives. One question I would ask is, "How much money is provided by the Women's Division to families for their health care to ease their suffering?" Would this not be a bit of hypocrisy, if they do not expend any of their own money for this? - AOM!

- UMNS, October 13, 2009.

+ Four women will attend climate change conference

STAMFORD, Conn. -- United Methodist Women will send four representatives to Copenhagen Dec. 7-11 for part of the U.N. International Conference on Chimate Change. The organization has been advocating for U.S. legislation on the issue and participated in the ecumenical "Countdown to Copenhagen" postcard campaign. During their Oct. 9-12 annual meeting, directors of the Women's Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, urged the U.S. Senate "to move quickly to enact comprehensive climate and energy legislation built on strong, science-based targets."

[Note: At best these actions are misguided. Human caused "global warming" is based on "junk science". - AOM]

- UMNS, October 12, 2009.

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When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.

When the government fears the people, there is liberty. — Thomas Jefferson

Global Outlook

Government is not reason; it is not eloquence. It is force. And force, like fire, is a dangerous servant, and a fearful master.

George Washington

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Japan. Japanese Protestants mark 150 years

YOK OHAMA Japan, (ENI)—Thousands of Japanese Christians have marked the 150th anniversary of the beginning of Protestant missionary work in Japan at a two-day assembly here in the country's second-largest city. In a July 9 statement, participants from the traditional, evangelical, and Pentecostal Protestant churches in Japan declared their determination "to be united and cooperate to tell the gospel of the cross and the resurrection on the occasion of the 150th anniversary." The 600,000 Protestant Christians constitute a religious minority of about 0.48 percent of the total population. During the gathering, the Rev. Nobuhisa Yamakita, one of the key organizers and moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan - the nation's largest Protestant denomination - called on participants to "go cheerfully with joy to tell the gospel" in order to rekindle church growth.

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The sheep are happier of themselves, than under the care of wolves. - Thomas Jefferson