

4 WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

By Randall Bach

Randall Bach claims a person's true worldview is validated by their behavior. What do your actions say about your worldview?

5 WHAT'S YOUR PHILOSOPHY?

By Mark Culham

Despite the plethora of Christian books, music, video products, and conferences available today, an abysmally low percentage of teens from evangelical churches hold to the basic truths of the Christian faith. Discover how you can help change that fact.

7 WE DON'T WANT YOUR BATON

By Nate Beaird

Imagine what could happen if we combined the "older" generation's wisdom, knowledge, and experience, with the "younger" generation's networking, strength, and passion.

8 M&M'S®: MONEY & MISSIONS

By Andy Hansen

Read what happens when a pastor is challenged to trust and obey – with regard to the church's finances.

9 SHATTERED

By Dan Pope

Dan never dreamed how quickly his life would change. What seemed to be an easy task nearly cost him his life.

Plus Much More!

America's Idols



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

When Joshua, our worship pastor from Tanzania, first stepped onto American soil he knelt and prayed, "Dear God, please do not let the gods

of America become my gods." What a wise prayer. He realized how difficult it is to keep from adopting the gods of the culture where one lives.

The television show, *American Idol*, reveals some of America's gods – fame, youth, and beauty to name a few. Who do most Americans serve with their time and money? Certainly not our Creator. The decline of theism, the belief in one God, has corrupted our nation. Ideas once taboo are now extolled. Our nation is not alone.

A headline from the May 5, 2007, issue of *The Des Moines Register* grabbed my attention: "Animal Activists Want Chimpanzee Declared 'Person.'" It seems the animal sanctuary where Hiasl, a male chimpanzee in Austria, lived for 25 years went bankrupt. The Association Against Animal Factories, a Vienna animal rights group, does not want Hiasl to end up homeless. They say he needs to be declared a "person" so he can become a legal entity, able to receive donations and obtain a guardian to look out for his interests.

Why not? If you hold to a secular worldview, a human life carries no more value than that of an animal.

A recent press release from The Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD) also caught my eye: "Inclusion Run Amok – A Muslim/Episcopal Priest." An Episcopal priest, the Rev. Ann Holmes Redding of Seattle, Washington, made her profession of faith in Islam in March 2006, announcing that she is both a Christian and a Muslim. Shortly after noon on Fridays, she ties on a black headscarf, preparing to pray with

her Muslim group. On Sunday mornings, Redding puts on the white collar of an Episcopal priest.

Of course if animism (the belief that millions of gods exist) is your worldview no conflict would exist. No faith would be superior.

U.S. Wal-Mart stores report they are seeing a huge increase in shoplifting. Customers and employees are hauling out goods without paying for them. One union-backed group indicated that worker discontent is playing a part in employee theft. (Note: Wal-Mart officials say that employee morale is actually on the rise.)

Such an attitude aligns with a secular worldview that touts no God-given absolutes, no right or wrong. So, if I'm upset with the way my employer treats me, I have a right to steal from him.

Can you imagine the confusion caused by growing up in a society without absolutes or standards? Most of us have a hard enough time doing the right thing when we know what that is.

This is why a standard is so important. In Open Bible, we obviously believe the Bible is that standard, thus, our name. Nonetheless, a few years ago George Barna reported that a mere nine percent of all "born-again" adults possess a biblical worldview. That would explain the above headlines. It would also explain why there is so little difference between the lives of Christians and those who do not profess the faith.

We could blame the media, the government, or our educational system, and they should be held accountable. Yet, as the Church it is up to us to model and teach a biblical worldview. Wouldn't it be great if the Joshuas coming to our shores found a nation truly under God?

Andrea

Andrea Johnson,
Managing Editor