

# FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

August 24, 2003

*The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor, Vernon Fix*

## “SECRETS OF THE KORAN “

by Don Richardson

### CRITIQUING THE KORAN (Chapter 4)

Some readers will protest that a book revered as sacred by more than 1 billion people should *not be critiqued--unless* the conclusions drawn are entirely positive. It is the old "if you can't say something *nice*, don't say anything" bromide. That may be good counsel for social *tete-a-tete*. It is bad advice when dealing with a book that is in the hands of hundreds of millions of Muslims who honor it today--potentially a threat to world peace.

Alas, with the attacks of September 11, 2001, and a thousand related events across the world, the literary gloves must come off. The Koran has received much criticism over the centuries, but there have been few scholarly reviews.

### Mohammed According to the Historians

A few briefer critiques from the past mention Mohammed's murderous deeds only in passing, choosing to focus mainly on the relatively unimportant matter of his notably uncommendable literary style. For example, Edward Gibbon, in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, wrote:

The Koran is an] incoherent rhapsody of fable and precept and declamation which seldom excites a sentiment or an idea, which sometimes crawls in the dust and is sometimes lost in the clouds. . . . The use of fraud and perfidy, of cruelty and injustice, were often subservient to the propagation of the faith, . . . Mohammed commanded or approved the assassination of Jews and idolaters, . . . Mohammed indulged the appetites of a man and abused the claims of a prophet. A special revelation dispensed him from the laws which he had imposed upon his nation. The female sex, without reserve, was abandoned to his desires.

A later chapter will detail what Gibbon was describing in his last sentence.

Thomas Carlyle, in *Sartor Resartus: On Heroes and Hero Worship*) described the Koran as:

A wearisome jumble, crude, incondite [with] endless iterations [and] longwindedness. . . . Nothing but a sense of duty could carry any European through the Koran.

Philosopher David Hume, in his *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, commented:

## EXPENSIVE ENTITLEMENT

"Irresponsibly, Congress is treating the lack of prescription-drug insurance among some seniors as if it were as common to old age as gray hair. In reality - a state of existence from which Capitol Hill and the White House routinely depart -- 76 percent of seniors currently have pharmaceutical coverage. Rather than target assistance to the remaining 24 percent of seniors, the GOP Congress is crafting a Medicare reform package that President Bush is desperate to sign. This brand-new entitlement -- estimated 10-year cost: \$400 billion -- looks frighteningly like something hammered together by another Texas politician: Lyndon Baines Johnson. . . . To prevent Bush from using this surgical-strength legislation to convert compassionate conservatism into Great Society II, pro-market congressmen should pull the plug on this measure and start anew."

- Columnist Deroy Murdock in  
[newsandviews@chuckmuth.com](mailto:newsandviews@chuckmuth.com)

ACTION: As appealing as it sounds, Prescription drugs for all Americans, we should oppose this huge Socialistic push by liberals and others that would bankrupt our country. Ed.

## California Churches Under Fire

...California Governor Gray Davis has signed a bill that one pro-family activist says will be one of the most harmful measures ever enacted in that state. Davis has signed landmark legislation that punishes anyone who disagrees with trans-sexuality. The new law authorizes the State of California to levy fines of \$150,000 against business owners, including religious businesses and non-profit organizations, if they refuse to hire an applicant who is a cross-dresser or a trans-sexual. Randy Thomasson of Campaign for California Families says the law punishes anyone who believes that people are born either male or female and not anything in between. Thomasson calls it "intolerance at its worst" to punish people who do not go along with the trans-sexual agenda. He says in his opinion, real tolerance means people agree to disagree -- but intolerance, he says, "means you must agree or else we'll punish you." Thomasson says Davis and his "pro-homosexual liberal cronies" imposing such a radical agenda on average citizens has given people all the more reason to oust him in the upcoming recall election.  
*From the AGAPEPRESS*

ACTION: Pray it doesn't happen in Virginia. We must be vigilant and stop this type of thing before it gets to our very liberal Gov. Warner.

## Whiteys Not Welcome

"Two groups of predominantly black ministers in Baltimore have excluded white mayoral candidates -

[Mohammed] bestows praise upon such instances of treachery, inhumanity, cruelty, revenge and bigotry as are utterly incompatible with civilized society. No steady rule of right seems there to be attended to, and every action is blamed or praised so far only as it is beneficial or hurtful to the true believers.

## Recent Reviewers

In recent years a few free-thinking *Muslim* intellectuals have openly criticized the Koran. Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* does not stand alone, although such commentary has been quite hard to find throughout Muslim history. Iranian Ali Dashti reviewed the 23 years of Mohammed's so-called prophetic career in a book titled *Twenty-Three Years: A Study of the Prophetic Career of Mohammad*. Dashti found not only the content but even the literary style of Mohammed's original Arabic to be seriously defective. Dashti complained:

The Koran contains sentences [in the Arabic original] which are incomplete and unintelligible without. . . commentaries. Foreign words. . . and words used with other than the normal meaning, [words] inflected without the concord of gender, and number, illogically and ungrammatically applied pronouns which sometimes have no referent, and predicates which in rhymed passages are often remote from their subjects. . . more than 100 Koranic aberrations from [Arabic's] normal rules have been noted.

Toby Lester, reviewing critical scholarship on the Koran for the *Atlantic Monthly*, quotes the opinion of a German scholar who is so skilled in Arabic that Yemen entrusted to him the analysis of extremely old copies of the Koran found in a Yemeni mosque. His name is Gerd R. Puin. He comments:

The Koran claims for itself that it is "*mubeen*" or "clear." But if you look at it [in the original Arabic, as Puin does], you will notice that every fifth sentence or so simply doesn't make sense. Many Muslims-and Orientalists will tell you otherwise, of course, but the fact is that a fifth of the Koranic text is *just incomprehensible*. This is what had caused the traditional anxiety regarding translation. If the Koran is not comprehensible-if it can't even be understood in Arabic-then it's not translatable. People fear that [fact]. And since the Koran claims repeatedly to be clear but obviously is not-as even speakers of Arabic will tell you-there is a contradiction. Something else is going on.

Just off the press in 2002-the English translation of British Egyptian author Bat Ye'or's *Islam and Dhimmitude: Where Civilizations Collide* (see bibliography). Her 500 plus pages masterfully dismantle several centuries of effort by Muslims to dignify Islam's 1,400 years of abuse of Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians in the Middle East. Ye'or finds the roots of that extremely intense and protracted abuse embedded in the Koran itself. Mohammed cannot plead innocence due to misinterpretation by his followers.

including incumbent Martin O'Malley - from the groups' Democratic primary forums," reported the Washington Times on Tuesday. "The Rev. Russell Johnson, president of the Baptist Ministers' Conference and pastor of Browns Memorial Baptist Church, said his group's July 14 forum 'was only for black candidates.'"

Can you even IMAGINE the hew and cry from Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton and the NAACP if anyone DARED to hold a candidate forum "only for white candidates"? Such hypocrisy is simply breathtaking.

*From News and Views List-Chuck Muth*

## Your Tax Dollars Hard At Work

"According to the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the city's AIDS Health Project received \$985,572 from the federal government this year to provide AIDS programs, including this Friday's federally funded 'Hot & Healthy Summer Sex Workshop,' with the goal of 'getting what we want.'" - *John McCaslin's Inside the Beltway*, 8/20/03

**ACTION:** Complain to your Congressman, they control the budget.

## Does VA need a tax increase?

It is becoming clearer every day that the primary issues in this fall's elections for the Virginia General Assembly will be budget and taxes. Virginia recently finished Fiscal Year 2003 with a small budget surplus, but legislators and Governor Warner continue to be unapologetic in their quest for increasing tax revenue to the state's coffers.

Public education is always treated by legislators as the "sacred cow" in the budget. Education budget dollars can not be touched because of the widespread belief K-12 schools are under-funded.

According to the state's own research arm, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, funding for K-12 has grown 10 times faster than enrollment in recent years. The average per-pupil spending on education in Virginia is \$8,462, with some districts spending more than \$10,000 per student ("Paying Private Prep School Prices for Public Schools" by Lil Tuttle). "What exactly are we spending so much money on?"

According to a soon-to-be-released report by Mrs. Tuttle, the answer is "personnel, payrolls, and perks." And the public school industry's appetite for more never ends. Although most Virginians have bought into the myth propagated by the VEA union that Virginia's schools are "grossly under funded," the VCU survey also showed that even with this misconception, few agree that raising taxes is the solution. In fact, given the choice between cutting other programs or raising taxes, only 32 percent supported a tax increase. Virginians are clearly growing tired of being asked to pay more when inefficiency and waste still pervade state government.

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