

Sunday, May 26, 2013

## **REMEMBERING THE HARVEST OF DEATH**

The Civil War origin of Memorial Day

<http://www.parade.com/15771/joekita/war-and-remembrance-a-look-at-memorial-days-civil-war-roots/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:27

Friday, May 24. 2013

### **TIM TEBOW- STILL A TESTIMONY**

Tim Tebow faces the future

<http://www.denisonforum.org/cultural-commentary/713-what-tim-tebow-will-do-in-the-future>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 19:26

### **A LOVER OF CITIES**

This Blog is fascinating. Its writer is a Christian and this is the beginning of his explanation of what he is all about- They will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. – Isaiah 61:4 Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell. – Isaiah 58:12

"I love cities. I've always been fascinated with cities and finding out what makes them tick. Why do some cities succeed while others fail? What works and what doesn't? When faced with a moment of challenge, why do some cities rise to the occasion and others fall by the wayside?

"I'm most engaged by America's "everyday" cities—the large, medium, and small metropolises in the heartland and beyond that most Americans call home. America's cities are the bedrock of the nation's social, cultural, and economic well-being. They're also the places most Americans call home. For the good of their regions and the nation as a whole, they must, and can, learn to be sustainable. That means demographically and economically as well as environmentally." MORE-

<http://www.urbanophile.com/what-i-believe/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 16:51

### **POVERTY IN THE SUBURBS**

[O]ver the last decade, suburbs have increasingly become home to America's poor. Between 2000 and 2011, the population living in American cities below the poverty line increased by 29 percent. During that same time, across the country in the suburbs of metropolitan areas as diverse as Atlanta and Detroit and Salt Lake City, the ranks of the poor grew by 64 percent. Today, more poor people live in the suburbs (16.4 million of them) than in U.S. cities (13.4 million), despite the perception that poverty remains a uniquely urban problem.

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/jobs-and-economy/2013/05/suburbanization-poverty/5633/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 16:25

### **FLAGS FOR THE FALLEN**

The annual "Flags-In" ceremony is held ahead of Memorial Day to honor the nation's fallen members of the military. Flags will be placed at more than 220,000 graves.

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/arts-and-lifestyle/2013/05/flags-fallen/5707/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:09

Friday, May 17. 2013

## **THE END OF POVERTY?**

"[D]espite the recent tragedies in Bangladesh, the garment industry has arguably had positive effects on the country, said Fazle Hasan Abed in the New York Times. In the past, for example, a poor family's vision for a newborn daughter's future was often to marry her off as young as possible, since the dowry paid to a husband's family grows as a daughter gets older. Even after the dowry was outlawed in 1980, the practice continued. A girl would often be married off as young as 13, and would never leave her village, never know a brighter future for herself or her children.

Partly because many women and their daughters now take garment industry jobs — even in factories where workers' rights are virtually nonexistent — families living in poverty have changed their vision of the future. More have acquired long-term goals, like educating their sons and daughters, saving and taking microloans to start new businesses, and building and maintaining more sanitary living spaces. [New York Times]

This is the sort of philosophy that Jeffrey Sachs advocated in his 2005 book *The End of Poverty*. "My concern is not that there are too many sweatshops, but that there are too few," he wrote, arguing that these sorts of factories help lift populations out of poverty over time.

Read the whole article here-

<http://theweek.com/article/index/244016/the-bangladesh-factory-tragedies-is-this-the-end-of-cheap-labor>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 16:35

## **THE BIBLE OF THE MIND?**

"On May 22, the American Psychiatric Association will deliver a tome unto the medical community: The fifth revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The clinician's handbook. The DSM-5.

Allen Frances, the chair of the DSM-IV task force ... is speaking out against the DSM-5. A few decades ago, ... when he became involved in the field again, he decided that the field had drifted toward over-diagnosis and over-medication.

Frances is one of multiple vocal critics who have expressed doubts about, reservations over, or downright hatred toward the new

manual." [http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/the-bible-of-the-mind-turns-the-page/2013/05/12/17d8fc1c-b1b6-11e2-baf7-5bc2a9dc6f44\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/the-bible-of-the-mind-turns-the-page/2013/05/12/17d8fc1c-b1b6-11e2-baf7-5bc2a9dc6f44_story.html)

Last week, the National Institute of Mental Health, the largest mental health research organization in the world, announced that it had concerns about the DSM-5 and would begin reorienting its research away from DSM categories.

"The weakness is a lack of validity," NIMH director Thomas Insel wrote in a statement, criticizing the DSM-5 for basing its diagnosis on clinical symptoms rather than on "objective laboratory measures."

David Kupfer, the DSM-5's chair, responded to the NIMH's concerns by arguing that objective measures, like biological and genetic markers, are still too far off to wait for. "In the absence of such major discoveries," he wrote in a statement, "it is clinical experience and evidence, as well as growing empirical research, that have advanced our understanding" of many disorders.

Understanding has been advanced — but not reached. Because even for medical professionals, "fact" is a moving target, a difficult destination. Throughout its history, the DSM has remained a consensus document, says Shorter, ... Psychiatry aspires to scientific status," but it's also subject to the political or interdisciplinary nuances of the day.

"People don't change quickly," says Frances. "Labels change on a dime. Labels follow fashion. Whenever there's a sudden jump, it's not because there's more pathology, it's because there's a difference in labeling it."

It brings up an essential, philosophical question: Who are we? Are we the same people we've always been? Sicker? Healthier? Wounded as ever, but with better terminology? The DSM might relabel our suffering, but does it bring us any closer to understanding the unquiet of our minds?

"We're very comfortable with what we've done," says James Scully, the APA chief executive, back in his office overlooking the Potomac. "Will there be changes in the future? I hope so. It's not the word of God. It's the best science we have currently," he says.

Scully did not realize how true his off-handed remark is: the DSM is not the Word of God and Christians should not accept it as such. Many of the so-called disorders people suffer have spiritual causes not mentioned in the Bible. And spiritual solutions which are.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 16:09

Monday, May 13, 2013

### **ABORTIONIST GUILTY OF 3 MURDERS**

[http://www.worldmag.com/2013/05/gosnell\\_jury\\_hung\\_on\\_two\\_counts](http://www.worldmag.com/2013/05/gosnell_jury_hung_on_two_counts)

In addition to the first-degree murder charges, the jury found Kermit Gosnell guilty of aborting 21 babies older than Pennsylvania's 24-week limit. It also found him guilty of corruption and conspiracy. Jurors will return May 21 to start the sentencing phase of the trial. Several others involved in the case also await their sentencing. Four of Gosnell's former employees pleaded guilty to murder and testified against him during the trial. Four more, including his wife, Pearl, pleaded guilty to lesser charges.

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 16:59

Friday, May 10. 2013

## **CHRAPITALISM**

Astringent article denouncing the collusion of Christianity and Capitalism (Chrapitalism) and my reply  
<http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 15:39

## **WHY CASINOS ARE BAD FOR YOUR CITY**

Our local newspaper and elected Officials are very enthusiastic with the Casino proposed for our downtown. They wholeheartedly endorse the project for its economic benefits ("jobs" and tax revenue) Most of those who oppose the coming casino do it on moral grounds (the evils of gambling). Here is a strong argument for opposing it on economic grounds (loss of jobs in the area and loss of revenue and destruction of the City in the long run)-

"...casino building is city-ruining of the highest order. Virtually every serious study that has ever been done of the economic impacts of casinos shows that their costs far exceed their benefits and that they are a poor use of precious downtown land."

"... urban environments thrive on mixed uses, pedestrian traffic, street life, and attractions that feed off one another in an integrated urban fabric. The casino is the antithesis of this."

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/thisisourcity/detroit/why-casinos-are-bad-for-your-city.html?>

<http://www.urbanophile.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:25

Thursday, May 9, 2013

### **CLIMATE CHANGE ARGUMENTS**

Good summary of arguments, pro and con, about Climate Change and its possible causes and remedies.  
<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/an-interpretation-of-data-argu/12036797>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:49

Sunday, May 5, 2013

### **ON THE DEATH OF A WIFE AND CHILD**

Testimony by R C Sproul Jr, a strong Calvinist

"Sorrow over the loss of a loved one, at least for those of us who trust in God's loving, sovereign care for us, is pretty simple to understand. We don't, when our wife passes, have to wonder what God is thinking. We don't, when our little girl joins her, have to listen to the accusations of the devil that we must have made our Father mad. He knows what He's doing, and one thing He is assuredly not doing is expressing His anger toward us. He loves us as He loves His Son; His anger is no more. But the sorrow is easy to grasp—we miss those who are no longer with us.

I am still asked, thankfully, how I am doing, and my answer has not changed." ...

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/its-little-things-ok-its-big-things-too/>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 18:51