

THE SOWER

ARTHUR (IL) CHURCH OF CHRIST

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CELEBRATE LIBERTY

Last week did we celebrate the "4th of July" or liberty? It is difficult for those of us who have never been beyond the borders of the United States to fully appreciate the incredible heritage of liberty. We are prone to forget that our liberty has its roots in Judeo-Christian values, recognizing that "all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights"—rights not given by politicians but by our Creator. These rights, though guaranteed us by the Constitution, are under attack today in the interest of subjecting our nation to the United Nations and globalist demands. Through such proposed legislation as "hate crime" and "fairness doctrine" laws, God's word and the defense of Biblical values will be not only politically incorrect, but silenced by law. Celebrate liberty, and thank God while you still have it.

In the years following the Great Flood of Noah's day, the people soon defied God, seeking to build a tower "unto heaven"--probably not in height as much as in worship of heavenly bodies, such as the sun, moon, stars, etc. Rather than spreading abroad throughout the earth, they sought to localize about the "tower of Babel" (Gen. 11:1-9), but God divided them by the changes of language, "and there did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth" (v. 9b). It was evidently Satan's desire to unite mankind under one global government, a government hostile to God. History makes it plain that he has never given up on the idea, as there have been many attempts through the ages to bind all races and nations under one government--a government devoid of God. In the Old Testament we read of the great empires such as Assyria, Babylon, and Greece, and in the New Testament the Roman Empire, with Babylon portrayed as enduring in some form to the very end (cf. Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 18:2, 10, 21). Today, who can doubt the global ambitions of Communism, the United Nations, the dreamers for the "New World Order", and Islam? Through a controlled media, an anti-God educational system, corrupt politics a godless entertainment a satanic culture is now seeking dominance over Judeo-Christian values, with rising opposition and threats against conservative adherers to Biblical values. Such has been called "scientific dictatorship," as conceived in the minds of prominent men in the past, such as Julian Huxley and Karl Marx (author of *The Communist Manifesto*). Whether they knew it or not, the Beatles in their day aided in the mind-control of the youth. On the front cover of their 1967 album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* were the pictures of their heroes--H.G. Wells, Aldous Huxley, Karl Marx and other leaders working toward a globalist, socialist government. Lines in John Lennon's song, "Imagine", instructed his adoring fans to "Imagine there's no heaven," "Imagine there's no hell," "Imagine there's no country" (just a universal global government), "Imagine there is no religion," "Imagine no possessions, and people sharing all the world," "Imagine there

is no greed or hunger," and finally, "And the world will be as one." Such is the entertaining globalist elite's goal of an authoritarian world-government which would supposedly end world poverty and establish a world-religion that would be Christless. Even now Christianity and Judaism are seen by many as major hindrances in reaching such a goal, and must be somehow terminated. It is ironic that Lennon, who espoused a utopian world where all wealth would be redistributed so that all would be equal had, at his death in 1971 about \$500 million dollars, which, today, would be considerably more. The reality in our world is that those in power reign as kings over a society of masses who are enslaved through forms of mind control.

We should celebrate true liberty--the liberty to believe in the true God, surrendering our lives to His leading. Even in despotic nations where tyranny reigns, there is liberty of the spirit in Jesus Christ, who said, "'Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...and if the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:32, 36). Such liberty is available only in Christ, paid for by His blood, as the Apostle Paul declared, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1).
--Ron

“EYE NYAME”—EXCEPT GOD

Wherever we looked in Ghana, we saw the phrase, “Eye Nyame,” (pronounced “ee-yay-in-yah-me”). I knew that Nyame was the word for God, but the other word, “eye”, somewhat puzzled me. I knew that it wasn’t referring to our optical organ.

Augustine Tawiah, who has a keen understanding of the popular theology of Ghana showed us several things on businesses and signs that pointed to God. The people of Ghana have a strong understanding that whatever is or happens, God is in the midst of it.

The phrase “eye Nyame” means “except God.” Except God or unless God had made us, we wouldn’t be. Unless God favors us, we have little hope. Unless God gives us food and life, we would perish. They understand what it means to be dependent upon God for all they have and all they are.

I thought of Psalm 127:1—

***“Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.***

Unless Jesus had died, we would have no atonement. Unless Jesus had arisen, we would still be in our sins. If God’s word had not given us a seed for a new birth, we would still have our “old man” of sin. “Except God” is one of the most profound thoughts. Let us remember that every good and perfect gift comes from God (James 1:17). Whatever we are, we are because of Him.
—Phil Sanders, *The Search Light*, May ‘08

NAZI OR HAMAS? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

**"The Jews must be chased out of our houses."--the Nazis "Annihilate the Jews completely."--
 Hamas**

It is reported that The Israel Advocacy Movement recently questioned people on the streets in London as to what they believed to be the difference between the goals of Nazis and Islamic Hamas. As seen above, the quotes are essentially the same. One goal is in mind--the annihilation of the Jews. There is more involved in the Mideast crisis than the dividing of the land of Israel. Sad to say, The ordinary people on the streets were shocked to learn the similarity of the two. Woe to any country that does not recognize the danger of a religious and political foe of both Christians and Jews, desiring the elimination of both, with only Islam surviving.

--Ron

NO NEWS to report at this time. Hopefully, "No news is good news."