

NEWS YOU CAN USE



From the Desk of Dr. Tommy Crosby

"Re-discovering The Kingdom's Agenda"

Hebrews 12:28 _ "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire."

Have you noticed, religiosity is on the rise all over the world? Almost everyone is seeking a spiritual experience and have a desire to feel better about themselves and their condition. In the meanwhile, India and Pakistan has nuclear weapon capabilities, with Korea and Iran following close behind. While America's military is tied up Afghanistan, Iraq and God know where else in the quagmire of holding the line on terrorism's infiltration into the mainland U.S.A., much of the world is now holding its breath as it waits in fear for the next tragedy and disaster.

However confusing and bleak the global situation looks, the greatest threat to the future of the world is not from nuclear threat, shifting governments, military coups, Al-quaida and Haamas terrorist groups, or even worldwide pandemics of untreatable viruses. The greatest threat to the world is religion-religion lukewarm to fervent hot. More wars have been fought in the name of religion than any other influence. Millions have died over the past 2,000 years under the destructive hand of religious zeal. Misplaced and misguided religious passion has produced historical scars in the form of crusades, inquisitions, ethnic cleansing, and the horror of holocaust. Man is more willing to die for the sake of his religion than for any political, social, or ideological reason. Every culture, no matter how far removed, has developed some form of religious practice that attempts to satisfy an elusive vacuum in the pit of the human soul crying out for reason, purpose, and significance. For much of mankind, life on this planet earth has been nothing more than a long tedious march down the road of time, with each new generation searching for something they cannot define. Man seeks to find himself and make sense of his world. He usually looks in all of the wrong places and seeks out all of the wrong people.

This 21st century appears to be more uncertain than any of other previous centuries in history. Our planet earth is spinning through the solar system like a spaceship without a compass as it travels on a course to self-destruction. We are smarter but not wiser; we live longer but not healthier; we have more but enjoy less; we can go to the moon, but we cannot come home to a loving God; we have access to more information but know less about life. We have bigger houses but we have less peace of mind within it's walls;...

more high performance cars, but we're not going anywhere meaningful;... we have fewer children, but we have more family problems;... and science has figured out how to add years to our life, but they haven't figured out how to add life to our years. It is tragic to note that we protect whales, but kill our children; and unborn babies. We improve the quality of our food but produce less healthy strains for our consumption. We have more religion but less love; and we blame others for our choices as we look to ourselves for solutions to the problems we create. Wars have increased rather than decrease, weapons of mass destruction are more available than ever before, and fear for safety and security is greater than ever before in history. Public schools have become killing grounds, as our children kill one another.

It appears that the only thing that we have to show for all of our technological advances is: disposal diapers and relationships, throw-away morality, overweight bodies, narrow minds, full stomachs, and empty hearts. We have failed to realize the world that we continue to search for. All because we have rejected the real kingdom and it's agenda.

So, where do we go from here? What do we do? Why can't we just live together? Why is mankind so frustrated as our cultures keep clashing into each other? If our world has no answers to the questions it asks and no solutions to the problems it creates, then wouldn't it be wise to look to another world for help? Why not turn our focus toward that heavenly realm to discover man's long search for truth. Why not turn to God's Kingdom agenda and rediscover the eternal reality to man's long search for eternal life?

In another era, at another time, I recall to mind that the New Testament Apostle named Paul wrote a letter to believer at Ephesus. He wrote this letter at a time when Nero was sitting on the throne as Emperor, brutally sacrificing Christians to wild beasts in a stadium for sports entertainment. When the brutality of sacrificing these Christians to animal was finished, their mangled bodies were placed on crude wooden crosses along the roadside leading into Rome. At night these bodies were burned to light to way into Rome, yet all of the encouragement that the Apostle Paul could write to the believers was to encourage them to walk circumspectively as worthy of their vocation.

That same admonition yet rings out in this 21st century. It really doesn't matter how high gas prices get;... how low the stock market plunge;... how many banks go under or have to be propped up;... how many politicians and church leaders go bad, those who are called by his name and have received this kingdom that cannot be moved, ought to walk as becoming ambassadors of this kingdom.

My name is pastor Tommy Crosby, and I'm just one small voice crying out in the wilderness. If my words have stirred you or made you feel uncomfortable today, then I give God the glory for the success. Maybe there is yet hope of you re-discovering the kingdom's agenda. The kingdom's agenda has never been to make us comfortable, warm and cozy, but to drastically shape us into the image of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, that we might bring glory and honor to Him and His Kingdom. My sincere prayer is that maybe something I have said will serve to help us re-focus our attention on the kingdom's agenda for our lives and cause us to tap into the eternal truths of God's Word.

When trouble call on you, Call on God

If Jesus needed to pray, How can we do less

Women of "COLOR"Continued from page one

Cynthia McKinney gave little opportunity for applause, using her time at the podium to inspire the crowd of Green delegates and C-SPAN viewers with her energy, insight and wisdom that, given the failed social policies of both the Democratic controlled Congress and the Republican executive and Supreme Court, the Green Party stands as the opposition party to a corporate controlled government focused on feeding unaccounted military spending while the U.S. is the only industrialized nation without a single-payer national healthcare system. She described the stark contrast between the policies of a "sick" government and the messages and actions of the Bush Administration that essentially imprison the American people in debt, war and fear, compared to what the United States and the world would look like if the values of a Green Administration became the policy of the American republic. "We have a lot of work to do, and now is the time to do it", said McKinney.

Here is a quote from her acceptance speech that encapsulates her observations of what we are all up against:

"Public policy can be our friend or it can be our foe in understanding and working through the immense changes our planet is undergoing. We the voters, the activists, the policy wonks, the candidates, and the elected officials all have a role to play in making public policy. As I have said so many times during this campaign for the Green Party nomination, politics is not a beauty contest; it is not a fashion show; it is not a horse race. Politics is the authoritative allocation of values in a society. Politics is about values being reflected in public policy. It is about having power over public policy. And we engage in the political process because we want our values reflected in public policy.

Had the Green Party's values been reflected in public policy since the beginnings of the Green Party in this country, the United States would have long ago implemented a livable wage; there would be no civil liberties erosion; diversity would be respected, appreciated and welcomed; education would be interesting and relevant to students' lives and no student would graduate from college \$100,000 in debt in a Green Party USA because education, not incarceration and militarization, would be subsidized by the state. In a Green Party USA, health care would be provided for everyone here through a single payer, Medicare-for-all type health care system. We would have no homeless men and women sleeping on our streets and everyone who could work would have work. Rebuilding our infrastructure, manufacturing green technology, retooling our economy so that those who protect us, train us, heal us and prepare us for tomorrow are compensated in what is their true value to our culture and our society, based on their contribution to our civilization. Vietnam War-era veterans would be our last war veterans because we would never have been engaged in war and occupation against Afghanistan and Iraq. We would forego imperial designs on our neighbors to the north and south, never building any wall of division, not ever encroaching on their geographic or cultural sovereignty. In fact, if Green Party values were now reflected in U.S. public policy, our country not only would not be engaged in war and occupation, there would be peace in the Middle East based on self-determination,

respect for human rights, and justice. We would strive to perfect our democracy at home through election integrity and no one would be denied their rightful place in our Union due to discrimination. Our neighbors in the global community would look up to us for our cultural and technological

Oh, if it could be true: that the values of the Green Party were reflected in the Federal Government's public policy. Let me wake up and snap out of my reverie. Yes, today's reality is harsh. Abu Ghraib, torture, rendition, lying, spying, war, stolen elections, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, New Orleans, poverty, racial profiling, Sean Bell, the San Francisco 8, Benton Harbor's Reverend Pinkney, the Holy Land Foundation, 9/11/01.

Embargo, blockade, friendly fire, depleted uranium, white phosphorus, cluster bombs, bunker busters, shock and awe.

Predatory lending, mortgage crisis, foreclosures, a country \$53 trillion in debt. And while Bear Stearns gets a bailout, you and I sink or swim.

Harsh? Today's reality is harsh. But what's even harder for many to accept and admit is that our quality of life today is the making of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

What our country has become through their public policy is reflective of their values.

We will never get a United States that is reflective of different values if we continue to do the same thing. Those who delivered us into this mess cannot be trusted to get us out of it.

That's why I signed up to do something I've never done before so I can have something I've never had before: My country, made in the likeness of the values of the Green Party." (end quote)

It is clear that the vision of the Green Party's ten core values is alive and represented in the hearts, minds and actions of two American women: A presidential candidate outspoken in her belief in what the Green Party leadership can do, and a vice-presidential candidate inspiring the generation of youth and creativity embodied in the multi-ethnic hip hop movement. In their acceptance speeches both Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente expressed their gratitude for the many people that gave them inspiration and leadership, and made a point that they are mothers on a mission of peace, education and justice. The African-American and African-Caribbean women exemplified the power to motivate others with the knowledge that opportunity is within reach when you organize around what you believe in and not accept more of the same with a different face. Cynthia McKinney stated flatly that five percent of the national vote can catapult the Green Party into national election status; the foot-in-the-door opening a closed election system designed to keep the core people-centered policies the lowest budgetary priority