

## **The Meyer Minute for August 1, 2001**

**Keyword: Once More, Cui Bono?**

**Who will benefit if Congress passes the faith-based initiative? A further consideration is the balance between church and state, a relationship that has often caused tension. There have been times, like the Middle Ages, when the church dominated the state and there have been other times when the state dominated the church, as it did under Hitler and Stalin. Cui bono? Who benefits? If we accustom ourselves to bellying up to the government's money trough, then we'll be conceding to the state more dominance over the church.**

**All this comes down to a personal question for you to ponder. Whatever Congress decides, are you ready to be a one-person faith-based initiative? Has God's love in Jesus so touched you that your purpose is to help others?**

**Lord, lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul thru me; and may I humbly do my part to win that soul for Thee. Amen.**

## **The Meyer Minute for August 3, 2001**

**Keyword: Discernment**

**"24/7 almost a way of life," announced the front-page headline in Wednesday's USA Today. Reporter Bruce Horowitz documented the proliferation of businesses now open all day long and quoted cultural critic David Shi. "The level of impatience in American culture is almost pathological," said Shi, who traces our 24/7 impatience to the ASAP immediacy of the computer.**

**24/7 isn't good for you. "To everything there is a season," (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Discerning when to work and when to rest, when to go and when to stay at home is so important-get this-that God actually ordered a man put to death for going 24/7 and not setting aside time for rest. You can check it out in Numbers 15:32-36.**

**Lord Jesus, You invite all who are weary and heavy laden to come to You for rest. (Matthew 11:28) "Teach us to number each of our days so that we may grow in wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) Amen.**

## **The Meyer Minute for August 6, 2001**

**Keyword: "Boo Boo"**

**Carla always delights to tell me about the latest exploits of her two-year old granddaughter Lisa. Recently they were watching a Shirley Temple movie. Suddenly Lisa popped up and said she wanted to hold Jesus. So Carla got up,**

went to the wall, took down a crucifix and gave it to Lisa to hold. Looking at the body of Jesus on the cross, Lisa pointed to his feet and said, "boo-boo" Then she pointed to the hands of Jesus and repeated, "boo-boo." Then two-year old Lisa kissed both Jesus' hands and His feet.

That's the heart of faith. Jesus died, He endured those "boo-boos" to pay the price for our sins against God. Trusting that, there's nothing in your past that God will hold against. That's why Jesus really is God's Good News to you and me.

Spirit of God, when my guilt rises up, when others accuse me, remind me that I am forgiven. Amen.

### **The Meyer Minute for August 8, 2001**

**Keyword: Hope**

When I was working my way through school by delivering milk, an old co-worker named Pete Iverson gave me this illustration about hope.

In those days of home delivery, if you would have asked the lady of the house where she was going in the darkness of the early morning, she would have said, "To the front door to bring in the milk."

When you ask, "How do you know that it's here?" she replies simply, "I just know it's there."

"Did you hear the milk truck or the bottles clanging?"

"No, I just know it's there!" She brushes past you, opens the door, puts her hand out into the darkness and...sure enough... the milk bottles are there.

That's hope. Whatever problems you're facing, you can reach confidently into the darkness because God's word has promised you good.

Lord, give me a hope that says, I know God has good for me; I just know it! Amen.

### **The Meyer Minute for August 10, 2001**

**Keyword: Spiritual Warfare**

On this date in 1945 Japan offered to surrender. How welcome that surrender was!

**Christians have spiritual enemies who have not yet surrendered, enemies who want to rob you of the confidence and goodness that Jesus Christ gives. "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12)**

**My friend Mark, a former military chaplain, keeps this little question on his mirror, "Are you dressed for battle?" Put on the faith and hope that are in Jesus Christ and go to the tasks of this day, go to your battle station, watchful but also assured that the ultimate victory will be yours because of Christ's resurrection.**

**Spirit, clothe me in the battle dress of faith and hope in Christ Jesus. Do not let me be spiritually complacent this day. Amen.**

### **The Meyer Minute for August 13, 2001**

**Keyword: Ransom**

**Maximilian Kolbe was a Franciscan who established friaries first in Poland and then throughout the world. When the Nazis closed the Warsaw friary in 1951, Kolbe was sent to Auschwitz.**

**A prisoner escaped from Auschwitz in July of 1941. So the Nazis retaliated by choosing ten other prisoners to die. When one of those men cried out against his fate, Father Kolbe stepped forward and said, "I am a Catholic priest. Let me take his place. I am old. He has a wife and children." That offer was accepted and Father Kolbe, with nine others, was put in a cell to starve. When Father Kolbe didn't starve to death, the Nazis used injections of carbolic acid to murder him. That happened 60 years ago tomorrow.**

**Lord Jesus, may this story of sacrifice remind us that You came to sacrifice Your life as a ransom for us. Help us today to give of ourselves for others. Amen.**

### **The Meyer Minute for August 15, 2001**

**Keyword: Teach**

**"Nibbling, nibbling like a mouse. Who's nibbling at my little house?" said the witch to Hansel and Gretel. They had wandered deep into the forest, to the witch's house, a house made of bread and cake so she could lure children, capture them and eat them.**

**Is Harry Potter an occult danger to our children? Some say yes. I wonder. I loved the fairy tale of Hansel and Gretel, witch and all, and I wasn't drawn**

into the occult. As I'm reading Harry Potter these days, one thing becomes obvious. Parents, take time to teach your children right from wrong.

Connie Neal (*What's a Christian to Do with Harry Potter?*" Waterbrook Press) says, "I propose that the Harry Potter books are deeply moral and can be highly instructive as 'training in righteousness' if one rightly aligns these stories to Scripture."

Father, help us teach our children Your truth to protect them their whole lives long. Amen.

### **The Meyer Minute for August 17, 2001**

Keyword: WWJD?

The Los Angeles Roman Catholic archdiocese is building "the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels." Costing \$195 million, advocates claim that the magnificent construction will life the spirits of the faithful. Detractors, calling it the 'Taj Mahony' after Cardinal Roger Mahoney, say that the money would have been better spent on social ministry programs.

The debate reminds me of this truth: There is no command in the Bible for us to build churches. Think about it. The Christian life is not supposed to be static but rather a dynamic journey from baptism to that coming day when you'll see your Lord face to face. Church buildings aren't wrong; we just need to think of them as spiritual fueling places for our journey to God.

What would Jesus do? I know what Jesus is doing. He's moving forward and calls, "Follow Me!"

Spirit, give me a faith that's dynamic, that' moving toward a greater future. Amen.

### **The Meyer Minute for August 20, 2001**

Keyword: Tenuous life

"Why, why, why?" asks the commercial from Enron, a Houston-based energy company. "Why?" was the question raised last Tuesday when Jeffrey Skilling, Enron's CEO, abruptly resigned. He told the Wall Street Journal that the drop o the company's stock, down 50% this year, was the reason.

Why? There's something more from that interview, something to remember as you plunge into this new workweek. "Mr. Skilling said that the 'final straw' in this decision to leave had come on a visit last week to England in connection with the deaths of three Enron workers in a power-plant accident there. That trip helped reinforce 'how tenuous life is.'"

**"I looked on all the works my hands had wrought. Behold, all was vanity and the vexation of spirit." (Ecclesiastes 2:11) Lord, Jesus, because life is tenuous, let your words be for me spirit and eternal life. Amen.**

## **The Meyer Minute for August 22, 2001**

**Keyword: Respect**

**Back to school! Paul Turner in "The Spokesman-Review" of Spokane, Washington, tells what you should not say to a 13-year-old when shopping for back-to-school clothes. (August 17, 2001; D!)**

**"Hahahaha. Yeah, right. Like we're going to buy that.'**

**"That's fine, honey. Go ahead and embarrass our whole family.' "I'm sorry my mere presence here in the store humiliates you. But I wish you would remember that I'm the one with the credit card."**

**One thing I learned as the parent of teens: Our children are not our appendages. They are independent human beings, fully equal to us in the sight of God. Yes, parents have an authority over their children (Exodus 20:12), but that is temporary. God is no respecter of persons (1 Peter 1:17). Children should honor and obey their parents, but we parents should give the highest respect to these children of God.**

**Heavenly Father, help us be good parents to Your children. Amen.**

## **The Meyer Minute for August 24, 2001**

**Keyword: Money**

**Wring your hands! The poor government will only have a billion dollar surplus. Wish I had a billion dollar surplus! About your personal finances, consider the Lord's Prayer.**

**"Our Father who art in heaven." Pray to your all-powerful Father, not to Powerball.**

**"Hallowed by Thy name." Don't spend on anything unholy.**

**"Thy Kingdom come." Give first-fruits, not leftovers, to the Savior's work.**

**"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Give budget priority to God and others.**

**"Give us this day our daily bread." Distinguish your needs from your wants.**

**"Forgive us our trespasses..." How many sins have been committed for the love of money!**

**"And lead us not into temptation." Would God approve your spending habits?**

**"But deliver us from evil." Let financial concerns point you to heaven, when present worries will yield to eternal glory.**

**"For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever." Amen.**

### **The Meyer Minute for August 27, 2001**

**Keyword: War**

**On this date in 1928 the Kellogg-Briand Act was signed which outlawed war forever.**

**On this date in 1973 a letter bomb blew off the hand of a secretary to the military attaché in the British Embassy in Washington. Why was there a military attaché? We outlawed war!**

**Christianity isn't so naive. Jesus promised that as the end of the world draws near, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars...Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." (Matthew 24: 6-7)**

**The ultimate cause of strife lies in our sinful hearts. "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight." (James 4:1-2)**

**Jesus, teach me to leave in the peace that comes from Your forgiveness for my sins. Help me share Your peace. Amen.**

### **The Meyer Minute for August 29, 2001**

**Keyword: Fear**

**The other night a horrific thunderstorm shook us out of bed. Our dog, "Speaker" is about 5 years old, old enough now that he's afraid of thunder and loud noises. As Diane and I tried to reassure him, I thought about the dog's inability to reason and talk. Scared, he couldn't talk about his fear. Shuddering, he couldn't understand our words of reassurance.**

**Unlike animals, you and I have been gifted by God with rational minds and voices that can both analyze and verbalize our feelings. How often we fail**

**to do that! Sometimes we tremble in silence, not analyzing our fears and not speaking about them to trusted friends or loving family.**

**And taking that higher, shouldn't our personal prayer times include self-analysis of our fears, describing those fears to God with words and then-unlike animals-use the gift to hear and process God's words of reassurance?**

**Lord, teach me to face my fears with You. Amen.**

### **The Meyer Minute for August 31, 2001**

**Keyword: Parent's Prayer**

**"Missing teen back at home" ran the headline in our local paper yesterday. 16-year-old Amy ran away "because she felt everything was going wrong in her life with her mother and school." (Belleville "News Democrat", August 30, 2001; 1A)**

**Jesus was once a "missing" child. Mary asked, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.'**

**"Why were you searching for me? He asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:48-49)**

**Like Jesus, our teens are moving into their adult life and, I pray, into a deeper relationship with their heavenly Father. Should I as a parent be more directive...or more permissive? One key to walking that fine line is presence. Give them enough quantity time that quality communication can spontaneously happen.**

**Jesus, You are my Savior. Help me be an instrument of Your guidance and love to my children. Amen.**