

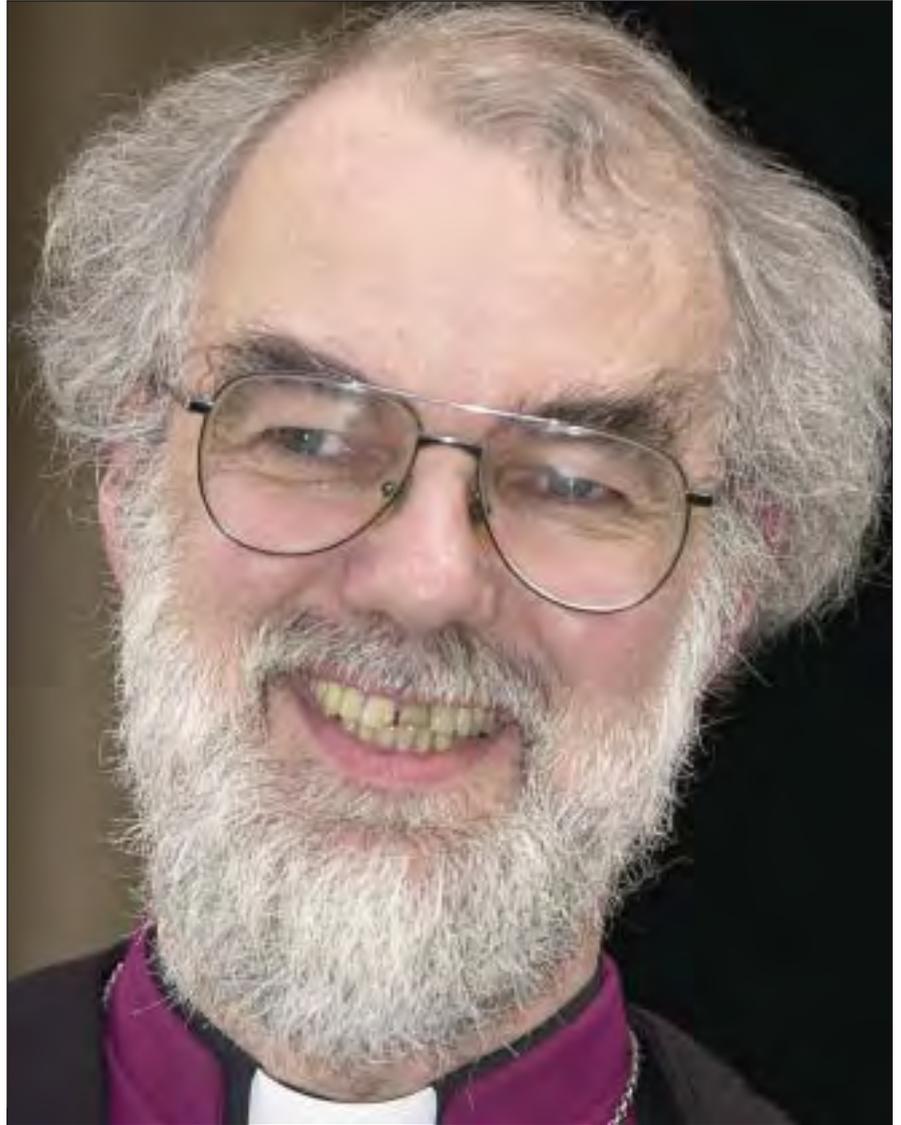
When the World Worships as One

BY IRVIN BAXTER JR. AND EDDIE SAX

There were no about-faces this year in the development of the prophesied endtime religious system wherein everyone on earth will find common ground on which to worship. Barriers between the world's many religions continued to disintegrate as the concept of Interfaithism was universally and successfully promoted. Meanwhile, the earth-worshipping environmental movement continued to do its part to establish a world government.

Darkness continues to infiltrate church

Those who follow prophecy took note of an announcement that appeared in March by the National Religious Partnership for the Environment. It came out in opposition to the Bush administration's proposal to drill for oil in the Arctic Natural Wildlife Refuge. The declaration was simple and low key, but it did send up a red flag. NRPE members include the U.S. Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches of Christ, and the Evangelical Environmental Network. They claim that the churches in their network cover over 100 million Americans. The problem is that NRPE's director, Paul Gorman, used to be the head of the interfaith Temple of Understanding. He believes that the Bible is obsolete; the earth, "Gaia," is the true giver of life; human beings are merely individual cells in the Gaia organism; and that the United Nations is the evolving "brain" of Gaia. Simply put, it's paganism, the worship of Mother Earth, and it continues to infiltrate the mainstream church. True Christian churches would have no part in an NRPE-type movement, which is so closely aligned with New Age spiritualism.



Archbishop Rowan Williams emerges from St. Paul's Cathedral in London to pose for the media after having been confirmed as the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, Monday, Dec. 2, 2002. He became the leader of the world's 70 million Anglicans.

Mikhail Gorbachev hosted a conference for the NRPE in Moscow. He and Maurice Strong have been the driving forces behind the Earth Summit movement for the last ten years. Their guiding hands were obviously present at the September World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa—a tenth-year follow up to the

1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Over 30 representatives from the interfaith Baha'i religion attended the summit. As official participants, they stressed the central importance of Interfaithism to the summit's proceedings.

Johannesburg, Geneva

At center stage in Johannesburg was a

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document called the Earth Charter, authored by Gorbachev and Strong. The Earth Charter is being promoted as the basis for a sustainable social and religious order. Some even see its guiding principles as serving the New World Order in the way the Ten Commandments have been the moral compass of the now fading Judeo-Christian society. The Earth Charter was ceremoniously housed and transported to South Africa in the "Ark of Hope," an ark-of-the-covenant look-alike adorned with images representing spirit, water, air, fire and earth. Not coincidentally, spirit, water, air, fire and earth are symbolized by the five points of the Wiccan pentagram (Wicca, meaning witch).

October saw another gathering of hundreds of religious leaders under the roof of the United Nations, this one at their Geneva, Switzerland headquarters. Christian leaders shared the proceedings along with Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Wiccans and the like. The summit was a direct outcome of the 2000 Millennium World Peace Summit of religious and spiritual leaders held at the UN's New York Headquarters. At that assembly, CNN founder Ted Turner promoted the interfaith credo that there are many pathways to heaven.

More notable events

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan marked the anniversary of September 11th with a speech on Interfaithism. That same day, a California Appeals Court ruled that the Burbank City Council could no longer use the word Jesus in its opening prayer, because it established a religion. In June, the now-infamous 9th Circuit Federal Appeals Court ruled that the use of the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance breached the alleged "wall between church and state". This created a hurricane-like backlash reaching from the President and every member of Congress all the way down to you and me. Enforcement of the ruling has now been put on hold, pending re-hearing.

Also in June, a groundbreaking joint declaration on environmentalism was made by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I and Pope John Paul II. They both affirmed their churches' commitment to environmentally ethical goals. Longstanding tensions between the Orthodox and Catholic churches were

thawed by the initiative, which was signed during a five-day sea voyage that brought together religious figures, scientists, environmentalists, and politicians.

U.S. leaders of the Roman Catholic Church declared in August that Jewish people should not be targeted for conversion. The announcement further validates the Vatican's belief in Interfaithism as stated in Items #839-841 in the 1994 Catholic Catechism. These state that the plan of salvation includes those who acknowledge the Creator, "in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day". In second place, by the Catechism's logic flow, would be the Jews, who also hold the faith of Abraham and the one true God.

"...Prince Charles of Wales announced that he wants to be the Prince of Faiths."

In August, Dr. Rowan Williams, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the worldwide Anglican Church (Episcopal in the U.S.), was inducted as an honorary white druid, an ancient Celtic pagan religion. The Anglican Church has long been a leading proponent of the Interfaith movement.

The 8.3 million-member United Methodist Church created a stir in June when it considered appointing The Rev. Rebecca Steen to pastor one of their churches. Before going on a voluntary leave of absence in October of 1999, Steen was known as the Rev. Richard Zomastny. Steen would have been the first known transsexual clergy member

from any mainline American denomination to pastor a church. After complaints were filed, calling Steen's ability to be an effective leader into question, Steen left the denomination before a ruling could be issued.

In April, Prince Charles of Wales announced that he wants to be the Prince of Faiths. He launched an organization called Respect, a multi-faith campaign to bring all the religions of the world together.

The movement brings to mind a few important questions on the subject of Interfaithism. Should a person respect a false religion? A false god? Should you respect Satan? Tolerate him? The Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:27: "Neither give place to the devil."

On the assumption that this scripture includes a place at the dinner table, it should be noted that, once again, President George W. Bush hosted a Ramadan dinner at the White House watching on as his Muslim dinner guests turned toward Mecca, and knelt and touched their foreheads to the floor.

A trip we can't make!

Revelation 13:4 prophesies that, during the endtime, people on earth will worship the dragon. Whether it is conscious worship or unconscious worship, or is done knowingly or unknowingly, it will come—it is coming to pass. The Bible does not advocate the practice of religious persecution by Christians. Prince Charles, however, calls for moving from tolerance to respect, and that's a trip we can't make. The Bible teaches us that if a person does not bring the gospel of the Bible to you, you should not bid them God speed and you should not receive them into your house. In fact, they are there to persuade you by one method or another that Jesus is not the only way to salvation. God has commanded us to not treat them with respect. □

Whetstone Answers

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| 1. B., Jesus, Revelation 1:1 | 11. B., Ruth, Ruth 4:13-22, Matthew 1:1-16 |
| 2. D., Lazarus, John 11 | 12. C., Ananias & Sapphira, Acts 5:1-10 |
| 3. C., bird, Deuteronomy 22:6 | 13. D., Jonah, Jonah 1:1-3 |
| 4. A., Knowledge, Genesis 2:16-17 | 14. A., Joshua, Joshua 6 |
| 5. C., Elizabeth, Luke 1:5, 24, 63 | 15. C., Leviticus, Read Leviticus |
| 6. B., 1/10, Leviticus 27:30-33 | 16. B., Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel 4:32-33 |
| 7. D., Never, Psalms 96:9, Revelation 22:9 | 17. C., Tongue, James 3:1-8 |
| 8. C., Samuel, I Samuel 16:1-13 | 18. A., Jude, Jude 3 & 4 |
| 9. A., Elijah, II Kings 1:8, Matthew 3:4 | 19. B., Elisha, II Kings 2:9-12 |
| 10. A., Job's wife, Job 2:9 | 20. D., Cherubim, Exodus 25:18-22 |