

be a continuation of our descent into new depths of crime, oppression, sexual immorality, and evil?

Ironically, many people heralded the dawn of the 20th Century with optimism. The steady march of scientific and social progress, they believed, would vanquish our social and economic problems. Some optimistic theologians even predicted the 20th Century would be "The Christian Century", as humanity followed Jesus' exhortation to love your neighbor as yourself. But no other century has been ravaged by such devastating wars, genocides and tyrannies. During this century we have witnessed the outer limits of human evil.

Our mood on the brink of the 21st Century is far more somber. Terms like "ethnic cleansing", "random violence" and "suicide bombing" have become part of our daily vocabulary.

Look at our own society. There is much, of course, that is good about America, and we thank God for our heritage of freedom and our abundant blessings. America has been a nation that has shown a global compassion that the rest of the world seemingly does not understand. After World War II, because we had the Atom Bomb, we had the opportunity to rule the world, but America turned from that and instead helped rebuild the countries of our enemies.

Nevertheless, something has happened since those days and there is much about America that is no longer good. You know the problems as well as I do: racial and ethnic tensions that threaten to rip apart our cities and neighborhoods; crime and violence of epidemic proportions in most of our cities; children taking weapons to school: broken families; poverty; drugs; teenage pregnancy; corruption; the list is almost endless. Would the first recipients of this award even recognize the society they sacrificed to establish? I fear not. We have confused liberty with license—and we are paying the awful price. We are a society poised on the brink of self-destruction.

But what is the real cause? We call conferences and consultations without end, frantically seeking solutions to all our problems; we engage in shuttle diplomacy; and yet in the long run little seems to change. Why is that? What is the problem? The real problem is within ourselves.

Almost three thousand years ago King David, the greatest king Israel ever had, sat under the stars and contemplated the reasons for the human dilemma. He listed three things that the world's greatest scientists and sociologists have not been able to solve, and it seems the more we know, and the greater our technology, the more difficulties we are in. In perhaps the best-known passage of the Old Testament, Psalm 23, he touches on the three greatest problems of the human race.

First, David said, is the problem of emptiness. David wrote, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." He was not talking just about physical want, but spiritual want.

I stood on the campus of one of our great universities some time ago, and I asked the Dean, "What is the greatest problem on your campus?" He replied in one word: "Emptiness." The human heart craves for meaning, and yet we live in a time of spiritual emptiness that haunts millions.

"Nirvana" is the Hindu word for someone who has arrived into the state of perpetual bliss. Media reports said that Kurt Cobain, the Nirvana rock group's leader, was the pacesetter for the nineties, and the "savior of rock and roll." But he said the song in the end which best described his state of mind was "I hate myself and I want to die!" And at age 27 he committed suicide with a gun.

Second, is the problem of guilt. David wrote: "He restoreth my soul, he leadeth me

in the paths of righteousness." Down inside we all know that we have not measured up even to our own standards, let alone God's standard.

Third, David pointed to the problem of death. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me." Death is the one common reality of all human life. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown did not realize his time had come when he stepped on that plane in Croatia a few weeks ago.

From time to time I have wandered through Statuary Hall and looked at all those statues of some of the greatest men and women in our nation's history. But one thing is true of every one of them; they are all dead.

Yes, these three things—emptiness, guilt, and the fear of death—haunt our souls. We frantically seek to drown out their voices, driving ourselves into all sorts of activities—from sex to drugs or tranquilizers—and yet they are still there.

But we must probe deeper. Why is the human heart this way? The reason is because we are alienated from our Creator. That was the answer David found to these three problems; "The Lord is my shepherd." This is why I believe the fundamental crisis of our time is a crisis of the spirit. We have lost sight of the moral and spiritual principles on which this nation was established—principles drawn largely from the Judeo-Christian tradition as found in the Bible.

What is the cure? Is there any hope?

Ruth and I have devoted our lives to the deep conviction that the answer is yes. There is hope! Our lives can be changed, and our world can be changed. The Scripture says, "You must be born again." You could have a spiritual rebirth right here today.

What must be done? Let me briefly suggest three things.

First, we must repent. In the depths of the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called for special days of public repentance and prayer. Our need for repentance is no less today. What does repentance mean? Repentance means to change our thinking and our way of living. It means to turn from our sins and to commit ourselves to God and His will. Over 2700 years ago the Old Testament prophet Isaiah declared: "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7, NIV). Those words are as true today as they were over two and a half millennia ago.

Second, we must commit our lives to God, and to the moral and spiritual truths that have made this nation great. Think how different our nation would be if we sought to follow the simple and yet profound injunctions of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. But we must respond to God, Who is offering us forgiveness, mercy, supernatural help, and the power to change.

Third, our commitment must be translated into action—in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in our society.

Jesus taught there are only two roads in life. One is the broad road that is easy and well-traveled, but which leads to destruction. The other, He said, is the narrow road of truth and faith that at times is hard and lonely, but which leads to life and salvation.

As we face a new millennium, I believe America has gone a long way down the wrong road. We must turn around and go back and change roads. If ever we needed God's help, it is now. If ever we needed spiritual renewal, it is now. And it can begin today in each one of our lives, as we repent

before God and yield ourselves to Him and His Word.

What are you going to do?

The other day I heard the story of a high school principal who held an assembly for graduating seniors, inviting a recruiter from each branch of the service, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines to each give a twelve minute presentation on career opportunities they offered to the students. He stressed the importance of each staying within their allotted time.

The Army representative went first, and was so eloquent that he got a standing ovation, but went eighteen minutes. Not to be outdone, the Navy presentation was equally superb, but took nineteen minutes. Air Force then gave a sterling presentation, which lasted twenty minutes. By now, the principal was irate, and admonished the Marine recruiter that he had only three minutes before the students had to leave for the next class!

During the first two minutes of his shortened time, the Marine didn't say a word, but individually and carefully studied the faces of each student. Finally, he said, "I've looked across this crowd and I see three or four individuals who have what it takes to be a United States Marine. If you think you are one of them, I want to see you down front immediately after the assembly."

Who do you think drew the biggest crowd!

This afternoon, as I look out across this distinguished group gathered here, I see more than a few men and women who have what it takes, under God, to lead our country forward "through the night" into the next millennium—individuals who represent civic and governmental authority—as well as doctors, lawyers, clergy, artists and media.

Again, Ruth and I are deeply humbled by this award, and we thank you for all that it represents.

We pledge to continue the work that God has called us to do as long as we live.

HONORING THE NEW MIDDLETON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the New Middleton Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer fire fighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN WOLVERINES: 1996 NCAA HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 30, the University of Michigan hockey team defeated Colorado College 3 to 2 in overtime to win the 1996 NCAA Hockey National Championship. The championship was Michigan's 8th hockey championship—more than any other school—and its 29th NCAA championship in all sports. On their way to the championship, the Wolverines compiled a record of 33–7–2, winning the CCHA tournament championship, the Great Lakes Invitational Tournament, and sharing the CCHA regular season championship.

The team outscored its opponents by 239 to 93 over the course of the season. Among the standouts on the team are:

Center Brendan Morrison who led the team in scoring and was named the most outstanding player of the NCAA tournament. He was also named the player of the year in the CCHA, and was a finalist for college hockey's highest individual honor, the Hobey Baker Award.

Goalie Marty Turco who was recognized on the NCAA all-tournament team. He allowed just 2.16 goals per game over a 42-game season and saved 90 percent of the shots he faced.

Defenseman Steven Halko who was also recognized on the NCAA all-tournament team. He was the senior captain of the Wolverines and led the stingiest defense in college hockey.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to attend the reception at the White House to congratulate and honor the team for its achievement. The team and Michigan coach Gordon "Red" Berenson were honored by University of Michigan President James J. Duderstadt, Vice President AL GORE, Senator CARL LEVIN, Representative JOHN CONYERS, and myself among others.

I salute the University of Michigan Wolverines for their achievements.

Members of the 1995–96 Michigan ice hockey team: John Arnold, Andrew Berenzweig, Jason Botterill, Peter Bourke, Justin Clark, Greg Crozier, Chris Fox, Chris Frescoln, Steven Halko, Bobby Hayes, Matt Herr, Kevin Hilton, Mike Legg, Warren Lunning, John Madden, Gregg Malicke, Brendan Morrison, Bill Muckalt, Sean Ritchlin, Dale Rominski, Mark Sakala, Harold Schock, Blake Sloan, and Marty Turco.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ASIAN-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian-American Federation of California as they celebrate the third annual Asian-American Festival. The festival will be held this Saturday, May 11, 1996, at Kennedy Community Park in Union City, CA, in California's 13th Congressional District.

The Asian-American Federation was formed out of the need for Asian-Americans to unify in order to address a common set of goals and ideals, and to educate all Americans about the diverse Asian cultures in America and their positive contributions to the American way of life and culture.

The purpose of the festival is the same—to educate people about the history of Asians in the United States and the significant contributions that Asians have made to this country. The event is a day-long festival that has drawn in many as 3,000 people in the past. This year's theme is "Unity in Diversity" and the event will feature arts and crafts, cultural programs, and a variety of foods from different Asian cultures. Some of the cultures represented will be Filipino, Indian, Taiwanese, and Thai.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing the Asian-American Federation for their efforts in working to foster a greater appreciation and awareness of Asian heritage. I also ask that you join me in congratulating the federation on organizing this important event to celebrate diversity, where all people are encouraged to come together to learn about and respect other cultures.

HONORING THE LIVINGSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department. Those brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer fire fighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

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and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MCKINLEY HAZARD

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an individual with a longstanding commitment to native American heritage in the State of Rhode Island. Joseph McKinley Hazard of the Silver Cloud Senior Citizens, Inc., of the Narragansett Indian Tribe exemplifies strength and dedication to tribal and cultural tradition.

Born in 1901 to Charles Frederick and Hannah Mariah Hazard, Joseph is the oldest known active member of the Narragansett Indians who meet at the Narragansett Indian longhouse in Charlestown, RI. In 1920, he married Nancy Ellen Hubbard in Norwich, CT, and then settled back in Charlestown, raising four children: Joseph, Jr., Raymond Atwood, Nancy, and Dorrance. After his wife, Nancy Ellen, passed away in 1965, Joseph remarried, to Ruth Brown Michaels in 1970. Joseph is now the only surviving member of his family.

Throughout his long and fruitful life, Joseph has been a member of the Narragansett Tribal Council. He also sits on the board of the Narragansett Indian Church and was a dedicated Boy Scout leader.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joseph M. Hazard for his constant and dutiful commitment to the preservation of the Narragansett Indian Tribe's way of life. It is my sincere belief that outstanding individual embodies the spirit of history and tradition of native Americans in the Ocean State and throughout our Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH YEAR OF UCONN'S DAILY CAMPUS

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th consecutive year of publication of the University of Connecticut's student-run newspaper, the Daily Campus and to congratulate the current and former staff of this the State of Connecticut's largest student newspaper on a century of service.

For 100 years the Daily Campus has been a dependable vehicle for communicating news and views to the University of Connecticut, its students, faculty, and administration and the local community. The Campus has also acted as a training-ground for student journalists, editors, and photographers, who not only learn, but practice, their craft under the Daily Campus masthead.