JUNE

NEW RESOURCES for Sharing Your Faith

- Truth Matters
- Life Matters

Fairs | Bible Study Interests | New Believers | Pastor's Class |
Community Services | Evangelistic Meetings | Food Baskets | Neighbors

Religion in the News
Hispanic Catholics in the U.S.

Solve this conundrum: fewer Hispanics in the U.S. are Catholics, but more U.S. Catholics are Hispanic. Odd as it seems at first glance, it's true. In 2013, 55 percent of American adult Hispanics were Catholics, down from 67 percent in 2010. However, the percentage of Hispanics among all American Catholics is increasing. In 2013, 33 percent of all American adult Catholics were Hispanic, up from 25 percent in the 1980s. That's why a growing percentage of the total U.S. Catholic population is Hispanic, even though a declining number of the nation's Hispanics are Catholics. —Pew Research Center

National Day of Reason

In 1952, the U.S. Congress proclaimed the first Thursday of every May to be a National Day of Prayer, and President Harry Truman signed on. In recent years, America’s atheists and other secular groups have expressed strong objection to this enactment on the grounds that it is an unconstitutional union of church and state. However, so far, they have been unsuccessful in having it overturned. Therefore, atheists and secularists recently proclaimed the first Thursday in May to be a National Day of Reason. Roy Speckhardt, the executive director of the American Humanist Association, said, “We wanted a more universal alternative to the National Day of Prayer. . . . Something that everybody can embrace.” And the idea is beginning to catch on. Rhode Island’s governor, Lincoln Chafee, and Denver’s mayor, Michael Hancock, have recently proclaimed some form of making May 1 or 2 a day of reason.—Christian Science Monitor

Americans who believe in creation, evolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Creation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Evolution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Gallup Poll*

**Dispute over religion in the classroom**

Florida’s Broward County Public School District has recently been embroiled in a charge of religious discrimination against one of its students. According to his family, 12-year-old Giovanni Rubeo was told he could not read his Bible during a “free reading” class period that allowed students to read any book they wished. The school responded that Giovanni was reading his Bible during an “accelerated reading” period and that he would have been allowed to read it during a “free reading” period. Attorneys for the Liberty Institute, a conservative legal group, threatened legal action unless the school district publicly apologized, which District Superintendent Robert Runcie did on May 6. However, that same day the Liberty Institute sent an e-mail to the district demanding that the school allow Giovanni to read his Bible during accelerated reading periods or face legal action.—*Miami Herald*

**Bible curriculum for public schools**

Steve Green, president of the Hobby Lobby chain of craft stores, is preparing a Bible curriculum for public schools that will include topics such as archaeology, zoology, and the influence of religion on art. More controversial is the inclusion of biblical moral principles and the consequences of people choosing to disobey God. The American Civil Liberties Union has expressed a concern that the curriculum will involve the state in promoting religion.—*Associated Press*
Tell The World About Jesus

“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ.”

This line from Ellen White is truer now than ever before and she goes on to suggest that it would be good to place a copy of the Desire of Ages in every home.

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To get copies call (800) 765-6955 or visit The Desire of Ages online.

Canadian high-rise church

The Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia, is planning a bold new venture: tear down its existing facility and replace it with a 22-story high-rise building. The church will occupy the three bottom floors, and the rest will be used for apartments: 168 housing units for regular rental and an additional 45 subsidized units for seniors. The project will require no government subsidies, since it will pay for itself through revenues derived from rents. Logistics indicate that the project will succeed, since, according to a recent survey, Vancouver has the second least-affordable housing market in the world (Hong Kong is first). Jim Smith, the church’s pastor, says that “the existing building is in use from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. seven days a week, and we’re just completely out of time and space.”—Christian Week
“I hoped that at least there would be some beige people in the movie.”

—Wil Gafney, associate professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, commenting on the absence of people of color in the recent motion picture, Noah.—Christian Century