Next Week’s Papal Visit

Many people are wondering about the prophetic significance of Pope Francis’ call for global cooperation on climate change in the light of Bible prophecy. There probably isn’t much as far as climate change itself goes. The prophetic significance lies in the pope’s growing political influence in the world. Francis will be the first pope to address a joint session of the United States Congress, and he will be the first pope to address the United Nations. And he can be expected to make a major push for climate change in both of these speeches. And while the media didn’t say a lot about it, the Vatican was significantly involved in the recent reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Communist government in Cuba.

Revelation 13:7 says that the beast that rose out of the sea “was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.” That’s political authority. The papacy had tremendous political influence over European political affairs during the 1200s and 1300s A.D. However this political influence gradually declined over the following
four centuries, and it was completely lost when the pope was taken prisoner in 1798. During the following century and a half the papacy had little or no political influence in the world. That is changing rapidly.

It’s also significant that in one of his recent addresses to the crowds at St. Peter’s Square the pope stated that a day of rest and prayer each week is sacred, and he called for a renewed observance of Sunday as a day for families to be together and enjoy one another instead of being slaves to work.—Marvin Moore, Editor, Signs of the Times®

**Helping the families of martyrs**

Egyptians sometimes cross into Libya to find work. This past February, 20 Egyptian Christians and one Ghanaian were beheaded by ISIS. Their families, also Christians, were left destitute, yet they didn’t curse ISIS, nor did they request any kind of aid. However, Focus on the Family (FF), a Christian charity based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, built houses for the 21 families. FF’s Web site said that the martyrs “literally had nothing, except for the very thing they died for because they would not let it go—their faith in Christ.” The construction workers were hired from nearby villages, which provided them with short-term jobs. Jim Daly, president of FF, said, “It brings us great joy to get to see these houses go up as a sign of love and unity within the global Church.” —ChristianHeadlines

**Religious rights threatened in Nepal**

Nepal recently adopted a new constitution, but a proposed amendment could make all Christian activity illegal. It’s already against the law to try to convert someone to a different religion, but the proposed amendment could be interpreted to make illegal anything perceived as evangelistic. Technically, all religions would be included, but with 80 percent of the population being Hindu, it’s likely that minority religions would especially be targeted. Christians fear that it could be considered illegal to conduct church services that are open to anyone, and even humanitarian efforts to aid the poor could be punishable by law.—ChristianHeadlines
Live Longer, Eat More Fruits and Veggies

Recent reports are citing new studies that document the value of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

"Researchers in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition followed people and their diets over time to create a dose-response curve between fruit and vegetable consumption and mortality. Subjects who consumed five fruits and vegetables a day lived an extra three years compared to their non-plant-eating counterparts." NutritionFacts.org

Why not leverage the moment and share this amazing lifestyle message with friends and neighbors? This Signs Special, Why Be a Vegetarian will help people improve their health and feel good about life!

Try these sharing ideas:

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

1-9 $ .49/ea
10-99 $ .45/ea
100-999 $ .39/ea
1,000 plus $ .25/ea

1-800-765-6955

Court rules against Christian university

Trinity Western University (TWU) in Langley, British Columbia, is a Christian
university that plans to open a law school in the near future. However, several provincial bar associations across Canada have opposed accreditation for the law school because of TWU’s Community Covenant. The covenant states, among other things, that faculty and students must “voluntarily abstain” from “sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and woman.” In January this year the Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruled in the university’s favor, but in early July the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruled against it. The court said that “the effect of the Community Covenant is to exclude certain persons from eligibility for all of the spaces available at TWU’s law school. . . . That reduces their opportunities for acceptance to law school in comparison to all other persons, and it does so on a discriminatory basis.” The university plans to appeal the decision.—Christian Post

**Americans’ confidence in organized religion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Confidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: The Gallup Organization*
Ellen White For Teens

Seth Pierce does it again! In Ellen White for Teens, he takes a challenging topic and explores it with insight, wisdom, and humor—in a language that teens will understand. Topics include:

- Did Ellen Ever Make Mistakes?
- What’s the Difference Between Her Books and the Bible?
- Are You Gonna Eat That?

He writes, “My prayer is that you will become a friend of Ellen’s. You may find her challenging, aggravating, beautiful, confusing, or inspiring—or all of these at the same time—but that’s true of anybody we have a close relationship with. Above all, I hope you hear a voice that will point you to Jesus. Her voice matters, and I hope you can begin to hear it in the pages of this book.”

Click Here to read the powerful first chapter online!
Click Here to order Ellen White for Teens
1-800-765-6955

Police officer says God protected him

A St. Louis, Missouri, police officer who chose to remain anonymous, says God told him to put on a bulletproof vest. The officer was off duty and sitting in his personal vehicle when he saw three people walking toward him. “At that point,” the officer said, “there was a voice that told me to grab my vest. I know it was God.” Soon a car pulled up in front of him. One of the men he’d seen earlier pointed a gun at him and pulled the trigger, but the vest stopped the bullet.—ChristianHeadlines
Sikh can wear turban in ROTC

Iknoor Singh, a student at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, wanted to join his school’s ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps). However, Singh, a Sikh, was told that he would have to conform to the U.S. Army’s dress code by removing his turban and trimming his long hair and beard. But because these requirements violate the grooming code of the Sikh religion, Singh refused and sued with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union. On June 12, 2015, U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson ruled in Singh’s favor. She said that the Army has made more than 197,000 exceptions for secular grooming, and therefore it had to comply with Congress’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act and make an exception for Singh’s religious convictions.—Religion News Service

As Quoted

“I’m sorry for the lives that I’ve taken, for the suffering that I’ve caused you, for the damage that I’ve done—irreparable damage.”

—Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the two brothers who set off two bombs at the Boston Marathon, addressing the families of the injured and deceased in court the day the judge handed down his death sentence.—Christian Century

Copyright © 2015 Pacific Press Publishing Association, All rights reserved.
You’re receiving this because of your relationship with Pacific Press.

This newsletter is edited by Scott Cady
Our mailing address is:

Pacific Press Publishing Association
1350 N. Kings Rd.
Nampa, ID 83687

Add us to your address book