

February 11, 2006

PROPHETIC TOPIC

**SCIENCE REMAIN SCIENCE AND THAT
RELIGION REMAIN RELIGION**

FORMAT

OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCE GUEST

LOVE AND LIGHT, I'M REV. PHIL AND I'M YOUR HOST FOR "WORDS OF THE PROPHETS." THIS AFTERNOON MY GUESTS ARE ARCHBISHOP RICHARD GUNDREY - PRESIDING ARCHBISHOP, DIRECTOR OF CLERGY FOR THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF ANTIOCH - MALABAR RITE AND REV. TALITHA ARNOLD, PASTOR OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE. TODAY'S PROPHETIC TOPIC IS "SCIENCE REMAIN SCIENCE AND THAT RELIGION REMAIN RELIGION". I'VE TAKEN THIS PHRASE FROM AN OPEN LETTER CONCERNING RELIGION AND SCIENCE THAT APPEARS ON THE CLERGY LETTER PROJECT WEB SITE. THE LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS; "WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS THERE ARE AREAS OF DISPUTE AND DISAGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE PROPER WAY TO INTERPRET HOLY SCRIPTURE. WHILE VIRTUALLY ALL CHRISTIANS TAKE THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY AND HOLD IT TO BE AUTHORITATIVE IN MATTERS OF FAITH AND PRACTICE, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY DO NOT READ THE BIBLE LITERALLY, AS THEY WOULD A SCIENCE TEXTBOOK. MANY OF THE BELOVED STORIES FOUND IN THE BIBLE - THE CREATION, ADAM AND EVE, NOAH AND THE ARK - CONVEY TIMELESS TRUTHS ABOUT GOD, HUMAN

BEINGS, AND THE PROPER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CREATOR AND CREATION EXPRESSED IN THE ONLY FORM CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING THESE TRUTHS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. RELIGIOUS TRUTH IS OF A DIFFERENT ORDER FROM SCIENTIFIC TRUTH. ITS PURPOSE IS NOT TO CONVEY SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION BUT TO TRANSFORM HEARTS. WE THE UNDERSIGNED, CHRISTIAN CLERGY FROM MANY DIFFERENT TRADITIONS, BELIEVE THAT THE TIMELESS TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE AND THE DISCOVERIES OF MODERN SCIENCE MAY COMFORTABLY COEXIST. WE BELIEVE THAT THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IS A FOUNDATIONAL SCIENTIFIC TRUTH, ONE THAT HAS STOOD UP TO RIGOROUS SCRUTINY AND UPON WHICH MUCH OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE AND ACHIEVEMENT RESTS. TO REJECT THIS TRUTH OR TO TREAT IT AS "ONE THEORY AMONG OTHERS" IS TO DELIBERATELY EMBRACE SCIENTIFIC IGNORANCE AND TRANSMIT SUCH IGNORANCE TO OUR CHILDREN. WE BELIEVE THAT AMONG GOD'S GOOD GIFTS ARE HUMAN MINDS CAPABLE OF CRITICAL THOUGHT AND THAT THE FAILURE TO FULLY EMPLOY THIS GIFT IS A REJECTION OF THE WILL OF OUR CREATOR. TO ARGUE THAT GOD'S LOVING PLAN OF SALVATION FOR HUMANITY PRECLUDES THE FULL EMPLOYMENT OF THE GOD-GIVEN FACULTY OF REASON IS TO ATTEMPT TO LIMIT GOD, AN ACT OF HUBRIS. WE URGE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM BY AFFIRMING THE TEACHING OF THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION AS A CORE COMPONENT OF HUMAN

KNOWLEDGE. WE ASK THAT SCIENCE REMAIN SCIENCE AND THAT RELIGION REMAIN RELIGION, TWO VERY DIFFERENT, BUT COMPLEMENTARY, FORMS OF TRUTH."

1. FEBRUARY 12, 2006, THE 197TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF CHARLES DARWIN. DARWIN PUBLISHED HIS THEORY OF NATURAL SELECTION, "ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES", IN 1859.

- **MORE THAN 10,000 (AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2006 10,242 SIGNATURES HAVE BEEN COLLECTED) CHRISTIAN CLERGY HAVE ALREADY SIGNED THE CLERGY LETTER.**
- **HUNDREDS (403 CONGREGATIONS FROM 49 STATES ARE PARTICIPATING AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2006) OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES FROM ALL PORTIONS OF THE COUNTRY AND A HOST OF DENOMINATIONS WILL COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE COMPATIBILITY OF RELIGION AND SCIENCE.**
- **MANY OF THESE LEADERS WILL BRING THIS MESSAGE TO THEIR CONGREGATIONS THROUGH SERMONS AND/OR DISCUSSION GROUPS.**
- **PARTICIPATING RELIGIOUS LEADERS WILL BE MAKING THE STATEMENT THAT RELIGION AND SCIENCE ARE NOT ADVERSARIES.**

2. HISTORY

- **1616 – THE CHURCH BANNED THE BOOK CONTAINING COPERNICUS' THEORY THAT THE EARTH REVOLVED AROUND THE SUN AND SANCTIONED GALILEO FOR PROVIDING**

EXPERIMENTAL CONFIRMATION OF COPERNICUS' IDEAS.

➤ 1925 – THE SCOPES TRIAL

- 3. "SCIENCE IS A QUEST FOR UNDERSTANDING NATURE'S REALITY. RELIGION EMPHASIZES THE ETHICAL DIMENSION. SO THESE ARE TWO DIFFERENT FIELDS. WE NEED BOTH. WE NEED SCIENCE, AND WE NEED RELIGION."**

DALAI LAMA

- 4. RESEARCH LEADING TO UNDERSTANDINGS VS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IMPOSING EXPLANATION UPON FACTS**

5. CONTACT

➤ CLERGY LETTER PROJECT AT:

http://www.uwosh.edu/colleges/cols/clergy_project.htm

WHEN I VIEW ALL BEINGS NOT AS SPECIAL CREATIONS, BUT AS THE LINEAL DESCENDANTS OF SOME FEW BEINGS WHICH LIVED LONG BEFORE THE FIRST BED OF THE CAMBRIAN SYSTEM WAS DEPOSITED, THEY SEEM TO ME TO BECOME ENNOBLED.

THERE IS GRANDEUR IN THIS VIEW OF LIFE, WITH ITS SEVERAL POWERS, HAVING BEEN ORIGINALLY BREATHED BY THE CREATOR INTO A FEW FORMS OR INTO ONE; AND THAT, WHILST THIS PLANET HAS GONE CYCLING ON ACCORDING TO THE FIXED LAW OF GRAVITY, FROM SO SIMPLE A BEGINNING ENDLESS FORMS MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MOST WONDERFUL HAVE BEEN, AND ARE BEING, EVOLVED.

CHARLES DARWIN, ORIGIN OF SPECIES