

# RELIGION

## CHILDWATCH

### Let's not confuse what is legal with what is just

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

It is morally and politically shocking that the leaders of a nation that believes in Jesus Christ, Mohammed and the prophets would knowingly condemn millions of its children to poverty, poor health, and death.

But that's what our President and Congress did when they agreed to enact a "welfare reform" law that the government's own experts warned would push more than one million new children into poverty and millions more already poor children deeper into poverty.

Never have we witnessed such dramatic political abuse of our children.

As citizens, and as leaders in our congregations and civic organizations, we have to begin to mobilize the political will and political voice that will allow us to prevent this

kind of immoral and unjust assault on our children from ever happening again.

**We must also pray for a nation that has lost its way. As we ponder the potential impact of our leaders' decision, let us offer up the following prayer with renewed conviction:**

*O God, forgive our rich nation where small babies die of cold quite legally.*

*O God, forgive our rich nation where small children suffer from hunger quite legally.*

*O God, forgive our rich nation where toddlers and school children die from guns sold quite legally.*

*O God, forgive our rich nation that lets children be the poorest group of citizens quite legally.*

*O God, forgive our rich nation that lets the rich continue to get more*

*at the expense of the poor quite legally.*

*O God, forgive our rich nation which thinks security rests in missiles rather than in mothers, and in bombs rather than in babies.*

*O God, help us never to confuse not giving You sufficient thanks by giving to others their daily bread.*

*O God, help us never to confuse what is quite legal with what is just and right in Your sight.*

Praying is an important first step, but the Bible tells us that faith without works is not enough. We must combine prayer with action. We must make sure that the leaders we've elected to protect our children are living up to their responsibility. As for the candidates seeking our votes, we must demand some specifics about what they plan to do for children once they are elected.

I am convinced that our "moral Achilles heel" -- the thing that will take us to hell as a nation unless we change direction -- is our treatment of children.

Our political leaders may have acted "legally" when they agreed to take away basic nutrition, income support, and other essential services for families and children, but we know it was not just and right in God's sight.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and a leader of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), whose mission is to leave no child behind. The prayer above is taken from Edelman's latest book, "Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations for Loving and Working For Children." For more information, call 1-800-BCCC.

## Conversations with Jesus

Internationally renowned Jesus scholar and author Dr. Marcus Borg will present a three part lecture at First United Methodist Church on October 12, 1996.

Titled "Conversations with Jesus," the lecture series will reflect about the meanings of Jesus for Christian understanding and life today.

The package that Borg will be offering on October 12 has never before been presented in the Portland area. Borg will present three talks, each followed by discussion:

Session 1: "Jesus and God: The Pre-Easter and Post-Easter Jesus"

Session 2: "The Death and Resurrection of Jesus"

Session 3: "Living the Life: Spirit, Wisdom and Compassion"

Marcus J. Borg is Hunderer Distinguished Professor of Religion in the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University. Nationally and internationally known in both academic and church circles as a

Jesus scholar, he is the author of seven books, including the best-selling "Jesus: A New Vision" (1987) and "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" (1994). His most recent book is "Jesus in Contemporary Scholarship" (1994).

Described by The New York Times as "a leading figure among the new generation of Jesus scholars," he has also appeared on NBC's "Today Show".

A Fellow of the Jesus Seminar, he has been national chair of the Historical Jesus Section of the Society of Biblical Literature and co-chair of its International New Testament Program Committee.

His work has been translated into German, Dutch, Korean and Japanese. His doctor's degree is from Oxford University, and he lectured widely overseas (England, Austria, Germany, Belgium, Hungary, Israel and South Africa) and throughout North America, including the Smithsonian Institution.

## A faithful response to violence

A free community workshop called "Against the Tide: A Faithful Response to Violence" will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 1996, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at Adventist Medical Center, 10123 S.E. Market Street in Portland.

Presenters include Dr. Linda Erwin, Trauma Surgeon at Legacy Emanuel Hospital, whose topic will be "Guns and Violence: How do we save our youth?", and Linda

Jaramillo, Multnomah County Violence Prevention Coordinator, who will share the latest Multnomah County Health Department Report titled "Faces and Voices of Violence".

Presentations will be followed by a panel presentation addressing what congregations can do in their communities to combat the growing trend of violence and abuse in families, schools, and the workplace.

Representatives from the Interfaith Peace Network will share examples, information and resources that are available to congregations.

Resource materials will be available for review and purchase, along with an array of free hand-out materials addressing the topics of violence, such as domestic violence, child abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, elder abuse, and conflict resolution.

The workshop is sponsored by the Interfaith Peace Network, a grassroots task force of concerned citizens representing the faith community, community organizations, health care and local businesses, who joined together in September of 1995 to address this community problem.

For more information, contact Joyce Adams-Malin at 503-497-8167 or 360-750-9651.

## FBI asked to heighten investigation of Sacramento black church burning

Assemblyman Willard H. Murray, Jr. (D-Paramount), chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, today called for FBI officials to step up their investigation of the arson attack on New Home Missionary Baptist Church in the State capital.

In a letter to FBI Special Agent in Charge Richard H. Ross, Murray asked for a status report on the agency's efforts to determine the specific cause of the blaze that destroyed the edifice just hours after New Home's 31st anniversary celebration.

He also called on the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to intensify their efforts to bring swift justice to those found responsible for the latest in a nationwide surge of Black church burnings.

"We cannot overly stress the need for all law enforcement

agencies to take precautions against another attack on this or any other house of worship in this state," Murray wrote. "I trust that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and related agencies are expending the maximum possible resources on this hate crime."

Chairman Murray also asked Ross to consider the possibility that the attack on New Home "is part of a widespread campaign of fear and domestic terrorism aimed at the Black community."

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Love truth, but pardon error.  
—Voltaire

## CeCe Winans to headline Gospel Festival

Multi-Grammy and award-winning Gospel and R&B music recording sensation CeCe Winans will headline a Late Night Gospel Music Festival, Friday, October 11, 1996 as part of the BiCentennial Celebration of the African Methodist Episcopal

(A.M.E.) Zion Church.

The concert will be held in Harlem at the Mother Zion A.M.E. Church, the denomination's original founding church and the oldest African-American church in the state of New York.

## Noted scripture scholar to speak

World renowned Scripture scholar Father Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J. will give the second lecture in the "Jesus Series."

The Series is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Portland, and presents the Church's teaching regarding the person of Jesus Christ for the Catholic and ecumenical community. The "Jesus Series" focuses on Jesus Christ as the resurrected Lord proclaimed by tradition and Scripture.

Father Fitzmyer is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Biblical Studies, The Catholic University of America. Father Fitzmyer's presentation will be "Jesus Christ and the Witness of Scripture." He will speak at Marylhurst College (Lake Oswego) on Friday, October 18, and at the Franciscan Renewal

Center (0858 S.W. Palatine Hill Road, Portland) on Saturday, October 19. The talk will begin at 8:30 p.m. on both evenings.

Father Fitzmyer was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1920, and entered the Society of Jesus in July, 1938. He was ordained a priest in 1951. He earned a Sacred Theology Licentiate degree from the Facultes St-Albert de Louvain, Belgium and a Sacred Scripture Licentiate degree from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. He received a Ph.D. from The John Hopkins University, Baltimore.

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Never esteem anything as of advantage to thee that shall make thee break thy word or lose thy self-respect.

—Marcus Aurelius Antoninus

## Obituary

### Virginia Mundell Jones

October 22, 1923 - September 20, 1996

Virginia M. Jones, 72 retired Assistant Administrator of the State Budget and Management Division and Past President of the Salem YWCA, passed away peacefully Friday, September 20th at the Curie Monor Alzheimer's Residence in Roseburg, Oregon. Virginia and her late husband Chalmers Jones were 22 year residents of Keizer, Oregon until a year ago.

Born Virginia Rose Hayes, she was the daughter of Carl Edwin Hayes and Edith Marie Boss of Fort Dodge, Iowa. "Jean" was raised during the depression in the small coal mining and farming town of Oskaloosa, Iowa, after adoption by her Paternal Grandmother, Gertrude Francis Mundell in 1927. In 1942, she left High School, graduating by correspondence, to work for the War Production Board in Washington, D.C. The summer of 1943 she married 2nd Lt. John Manley Norris, 11 years her senior.

In December 1943, John was shipped to the Western Pacific leaving her with his family in Eugene, Oregon where their oldest son was born August 1944. In 1945 she attended the University of Oregon and worked part time as secretary to the Dean of Personnel Administration. In November 1945 her husband returned and they moved to Junction City, Oregon where John opened an insurance agency and they increased the family with a daughter and three more sons.

"Ginny" Mundell Norris returned to full time employment in 1950 with her husband's agency. From 1958 until 1961 she began working as bookkeeper for the lo-

cal Chevrolet-Oldsmobile dealership and advanced to Office Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the Corporation.

During her time at the University her personal life also changed. At the annual council meeting of the Oregon State employees Association she met Chalmers Lloyd Jones who was just completing his first term as President of that organization. She and Chalmers remained good friends over the years and were married in June 1973 after she and husband John separated in 1965 and divorced in 1967.

She was active in the Church Altar Society and American Legion Auxiliary. In October 1961 she began as a secretary to Librarian at the University of Oregon Library, where over the next 10+ years she evolved her position to Administrative Officer in charge of personnel and budget. In 1963 she earned the coveted Certified Profession Secretary (CPS) rating and moved to Eugene, closer to her work. After 8 years of part time course work, she received a B.S. in Public Administration. In 1972, she transferred to the University Planning Office.

Virginia was President of the Salem YWCA in 1985 and was a delegate to the National Convention serving on the National Nominating Committee. She was a member of the NAACP.

She also was a member of St. Edwards Catholic Church and choir until her illness forced her to curtail her activities. She was cared for by her husband Chalmers until July of last year when he placed her in Curie Manor.

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## Divorce Hurts!

Are you separated, divorced?  
Dealing with pain and confusion from a broken relationship?  
A Divorce Recovery Workshop  
"Picking Up The Pieces"  
6 Tuesday evening sessions  
7-9pm, Oct 8 - Nov 12  
Cost: \$35  
Sunset Hwy at Sylvan Exit

## Grief Recovery Workshop

New Beginnings  
Coping with significant losses or an accumulation of losses?  
Grief Recovery may be just what you need to help you heal & move on!  
Oct 8 - Nov 12, 7-9pm  
Cost: \$15

## Parenting Workshop

Holding - Keeping - Letting Go.  
the dynamics of parenting!  
Presenter: Byron Kehler,  
Counselor, Educator & Founder of  
Agape Youth & Family Ministries  
Oct 8 - Nov 12  
7- 8:30pm  
Cost: \$35 couple/\$20 single

Held at Portland First Nazarene Church  
Sunset Hwy at Sylvan Exit  
For registration & childcare costs phone 297-6100.

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