



The President's Perspective



When No News Makes News

"When small men cast long shadows, it's well nigh sundown." That short, but potent statement has been echoing in my head for the last week. I'd like to alter it just a little. "When small EVENTS cast long shadows, its well nigh sundown." Is it just me, or have you noticed the frivolous events that seem to dominate the headlines? From the Vice President's accidental shooting of a hunting buddy, to what designer duds the Hollywood "A"-listers will be wearing to the Academy Awards, it seems that Americans (especially the media) have a pre-occupation with the unimportant. While some of this may be due to the news media's need to fill a 24 hour reporting cycle with something, I personally feel that it goes much deeper than that.

In a society characterized by prosperity and relative ease, people become enamored with entertainment much like the Roman empire became enamored with "bread and circuses." Hence, that which would normally go unnoticed, or be considered unimportant, becomes the topic of constant conversation. Because of our materially prosperous lifestyles, we have the luxury of focusing on "news" stories that are actually no story at all. I shudder to think what would have happened had Mr. Whittington (the Vice President's shooting victim) been seriously injured or died. We would have been subjected to even more "breaking news" coverage of all the inane details of the ACCIDENT. And, it was an accident.

Believe it or not, there actually were some news worthy events that occurred this past week. For example, the United States Air Force revised its guidelines to its chaplains. Because liberal groups opposed the increased evangelical visibility at the Air Force Academy, initial chaplaincy guidelines stated that chaplains could not pray in Jesus' name. When religious freedom advocates took up the cause, the guidelines were revised to allow chaplains to conduct themselves according to "the tenets of their faith." Chaplains can't be ordered to pray in a way that is "inconsistent with their faith." The new guidelines also permit "voluntary discussions of religion" among ALL Air Force personnel, provided such discussions are "personal, not official." Without doubt, this is not only good news, it is noteworthy news. Other than its mention in a few religious periodicals, this story received almost no media attention.

We must remember that even though it may appear as if nothing is happening, God is definitely at work. When Jesus was born, other than a "report" issued to some lowly shepherds on a lonely Judean hillside, the event went virtually unnoticed by the world. However, the birth of Jesus Christ didn't remain unnoticed. Ultimately, Jesus

Christ, the Unnoticed One, revolutionized the world through His life, death and resurrection. What began in obscurity has resulted in eternally changed lives.

Dear friend, don't ever become discouraged because most seem to miss what's really important. God is accomplishing His work in this world, whether ABC, NBC, CBS, MSNBC, CNN or FOX recognizes it or not.

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