

Shopping For Role Models

by Gabriel Mancino



One great problem we face in shopping for role models is like I face each week at Tesco. My wife almost always pushes the trolley while looking in a different direction. Many people are looking in the wrong direction and fail to see where they are going in the alleged shopping pursuits of life.

During our recent camping holiday, I heard a radio discussion about role models for black youth. Making forced racial specialisations can be as artificial as much of the flooding trends of society. I certainly see some reality and merit in such distinctions, and I appreciate the practical, "earthy" aspects of some of it, so let me offer a few excellent black role models I know of.

I saw a super photo of black USA football player, Sammy Morris, scoring a touchdown for the New England Patriots on 10 August. However, my guess is that I would be far ahead and blessed by following the role model of another black Sammy Morris who died at about age 30 in 1893. This Sammy, called "The Angel in Ebony," left Liberia after being with Christian missionaries, and attended Taylor University for two brief years before dying. Yet that young man left such an influence and impact on the faculty, staff and student body as to still effect the place today. Lindley J. Baldwin wrote The March of Faith about Samuel Morris. I dare you to read that little book!

Two black "Washingtons" are also

great role models: Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. Both of these men overcame the "left-overs" of slavery to become some of the world's greatest men! And, ladies...get the biography of Amanda Berry Smith. Read their stories, learn principles from their lives and follow them. There is much about them on the internet. **Check it out!**

To be fair, open and honest with everyone, it is imperative that I say that Jesus Christ, as seen in the Bible, is the Supreme and unparalleled Role Model for every person from every nation, regardless of colour, religion, sex, financial or intellectual status...you name it. St. Peter wrote of Jesus, "He is our example, that we should follow in His steps, who did no sin..." (1 Peter 2: 21-23). When I listen to and watch the Christ of the Bible, interacting with people like you and me, I cannot think of any earthly parallel in history—caring and gracious, powerful and unruffled, totally precise. **What a role model!**

The Call of Calamity

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experienced in Amos' days. It's always easier to see and feel the hurt others cause us than the hurt we daily inflict on our loving heavenly Father—our God and Creator.

In Amos chapter 4 verses 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 we see God's failed attempts to bring His people back to correct ways, repeating again and again in those verses "yet you have not returned to Me, says the Lord." **God called through the calamities**, but the people refused to give any notice. In this present day in which we live, are we able to show that we have more intelligence than those people demonstrated in the days of Amos? God tried, as the verses above indicate, and added "Prepare to meet your God!" **THAT** is a Call we would be most wise to heed.

DARE TO BE A DANIEL! Daniel in the Bible was a very goodly man. God called him "a man greatly beloved," though he was in high government position among the paganism of ancient Iraq and Iran. We can love and obey God wherever we are, though surrounded by world-wide paganism...including in Britain, America and the EU...Yes, and in Asia and Africa, too! Sing and live that old Sunday School song: Dare to be a Daniel!

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"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

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Images of the UK July floodwater are still fixed in my mind, and the suffering and loss that has gone along with it. Catastrophes come in various forms, and to various people and areas of the world...and they continue coming. As I write, Peru grieves the losses due to the earthquake, while even some of the rescuers in a Utah, USA mine were killed in the process of aiding, and a hurricane menaces the Caribbean. The list is endless and up-to-date—including Iraq, China, etc.

From time to time, we are reminded of the horrific suffering experienced in Nazi concentration camps. Amidst the comparatively mild "suffering" I have experienced, I have often thought and quoted to others the words of the Bible prophet Jeremiah, who was called "the weeping prophet"—but not because he was a "wimp!" Many who consider themselves "tough" would never have withstood what Jeremiah endured. This faithful man of God beheld the utter destruction of Jerusalem,

with the enormous city walls removed, the city and gates in burned ruins and the population largely slaughtered or in captivity. Yet he wrote: "This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!' The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD." (Lamentations 3:21-26).

The Bible prophet called Amos only takes eight pages to give us God's message, yet his words likewise offer invaluable signposts to point us in the right direction, even in calamitous times. Great benefit comes to those who read, digest and apply the sometimes shocking and forceful truth of Amos's little "book." As in other places in the Bible, Amos shows us that God sometimes sends or permits national tragedy. However, we must remember that such Divine action is not merely to bring severe punishment, but to help us to correct whatever we may be doing or allowing which God clearly disapproves of. The individual hard-heartedness, stubbornness and rebellion against God was worse than the tragedies the nation eventually

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HEY, LOOK OVER THERE! Shopping, making bills— "popping" lots of pills. Fun and fun and fun— run and run and run. Making all those "bucks"— 4 by 4s and trucks. Work, phone, fashion— chase it with a passion. Chaos, what a game— makes us all the same how can I get out?— shout and shout and shout! Who will ever hear?— is there cause to fear? When will it all end?— just around the bend! And God says, "Look to Me, and be saved. All you end of the earth! For I am God and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22).

World At War

...or are we all
"on stand-by"?

Gabriel L. Mancino



During July I collected some of the free WW2 DVDs from the Daily Mail. These DVDs were made from TV broadcasts in 1973—the same year God changed me and I became a real follower of Jesus Christ. I was then and there given “peace.” That means that from that time I desired to please God, not myself, and to love and obey Him. Peace is the absence of war, and I willingly and unconditionally surrendered to God and have made it my focus to keep that peace.

However, on that same day a war started, for I began living in a way that is clearly and unwaveringly against the ways which the Bible plainly indicate are displeasing to God.. **No guns, knives or fists are used in this war**, yet it is sometimes an exacting and violent conflict; intended for ALL, but only if they truly intend to “*endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*” (2 Tim. 2:3).

Yet, as rugged as these “soldiers” are, I have personally known some of the dearest soldiers you could ever hope to meet! One of my “mothers in the Lord” is my former Sunday School teacher. She is still sweet, enjoyable, intelligent, very practical and down to earth, though unflinching in her commitment to lovingly serve and obey God. From her inward *position and possession* has flowed a steady stream of service to many, many others over several decades.

The war in which my Sunday School teacher and I have been involved is a *spiritual* warfare that rages at street level world-wide. One of the most effective ways the enemy hinders our fighting the war is to cause diversions, as well as divisions and confusion along with conflict. **Many who are “religious”**

know little of fighting such a war. The general public, though often more well-informed, will wrongly identify the enemy and point to wrong causes and cures.

Those Daily Mail DVDs, **World at War**, couldn’t have been more timely, for the world IS at war right now. However, though this present, international warfare is being fought on this

earth and involves human beings like you and me (though the “big shots” would consider themselves far higher!), yet the war is *spiritual*! Don’t forget that.

For many years, the motto of another Christian paper of the past stated it’s purposes as follows: “**Dedicated to the Sanctified Life** (that means a life of holy living) **and Issues That Vitally Concern Our Times.**” This motto describes my present effort.

Those Daily Mail DVDs, of course, mentioned the burning of the Reichstag (Parliament) building in Berlin in 1933, which Hitler used as an excuse to suspend most human rights provided for in the 1919 Constitution, and take over the government completely. From shocking and seemingly indisputable evidence I have seen, the 9/11 Twin Towers horror appears to have been an avoidable, orchestrated repeat of the burning of the Reichstag. Apparently, President Bush’s aids stated that they “needed a new Pearl Harbor” to motivate the people against the new “enemy,” and shortly thereafter—9/11. Search “**New Pearl Harbour**” on the internet. There is much information there.

George Orwell’s Big Brother mentality has been in our newspapers much in the last year or two. Apparently, Holloway Road, one of my “target areas” for years, is titled “**Big Brother Street**,” with the question: “**is this the most spied-on road in the world’s most spied-on nation?**” Yet, last month’s issue of **The Londoner** had the bold headlines “**London Signs Up To Save Planet.**” How can Britain “save the planet” when, as our newspapers for the past year say that UK youths are out-of-control and the worst in Europe. Our leaders need to

World At War (continued from left)

stop suggesting that they will “save the planet” with such soldiers. (and it’s not just the youth that are messed up!) How can **The Londoner** state for their June headlines “More Police Lead To Drop In Crime,” when by 13 July other newspapers revealed that “62% more police resign from force”?! Somehow this doesn’t seem to add up...like so many other things.

You cannot save a planet or even the nation with unfit soldiers. Though we care for the environment (more than environmentalists allow!), yet Madonna & friends with the Wembley **Live Earth** gathering, or former U.S. Vice President, **Al Gore**, or many such persons fail to speak to the real issues. I thoroughly enjoy nature, yet I do not worship nature like Gore and his friends such as gather every July in the **Bohemian Grove in California** (as they have for 120 years)! Journalist-activist, Alex Jones, exposed the secret ritual of Bohemian Grove where international leaders have gathered each July. They are like the **Bilderberg** group formed in 1954 (my birth year), who are another elite group of world-controllers and world planners. Such people as these will destroy rather than save the planet. To such people as these, the divisions of Tory and Labour or Democrats and Republicans are meaningless.

By the way, I understand that California governor, **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, wants the US Constitution changed so that he can run for President (which no foreign-born citizen can). Apparently, Arnie’s father was in Hitler’s SS, and Arnie himself has expressed a keen fondness toward **Hitler’s ideology**. Could my sources have been mistaken? Interestingly, President Bush’s grandfather was deeply linked to Hitler’s Nazi financial power, etc. There is what appears to be a move toward ripping up of well-made Constitutions which protect citizen’s rights and the trend toward government control. ***SEE WEB LINK IN BOX BELOW**

Remember, I said that this War is a spiritual war. All of this chaos would never have developed had the citizens of Britain

and America not rebelled against the government of God. “We will not have this man reign over us!” say the rebellious citizens in one of Jesus’ story sermons (Luke 19:11-27 and 20:9-20). Britain needs to turn from its sin and get back to the God of the Bible. If it refuses, then the present chaos will turn to a catastrophe of epic proportion. This is no exaggeration. To win *this* War, the greatest human asset is to be tough enough to come to God broken, humble, honest, confessing. Only for such is there hope.

I said that this spiritual War is not fought with guns, fists and such like...**but it IS fought with dynamite**—the best kind! When Jesus told His followers that they would receive “power” after the Holy Spirit came upon them, the Greek word, *dynamis*, (from which we get dynamite) was used. Jesus had also told His disciples that, by faith, they could “move mountains.” The church today—in all of its branches—needs to realise that never has a mountain been moved by TALK of dynamite, but only by the actual presence and use of real dynamite. **The World is at War.** There are mountains to move. There is spiritual “Dynamite” available to bring to us Christ-likeness in holiness and in love for others like Him, as well. **Let’s fight this way!**

HOW TO FIND GOD

Confess your condition: “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). “*The wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23). **Genuinely turn from your sins and ask God’s forgiveness:** “*Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon*” (Isaiah 55:7). **Have true faith:** “*Christ died for our sins...was buried, and rose again* (1 Corinthians 15:3,4) **Tell others that Jesus is Lord and Saviour:** “*If you shall openly tell that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved*” (see Romans 10:9). **Repent and be baptised:** “*Repent and be baptised every one of you...Then they that had gladly received his word were baptised...*” (Acts 2:38,41).

Psalm 1 only has 6 verses, but is a good example of how the Bible says that there are only 2 paths and 2 destinations from which we may chose. “**Kinds**” of sin are irrelevant. **Either we are loving and obeying God or we are not. Compare yourself with no one else except Jesus, for HE alone is our Perfect Pattern. Check the Bible!**

One of the Daily Mail DVDs says after the war, “It is time to count the cost—time to start again.” Jesus said this long ago, but with far deeper meaning...and time is running out. “Today is the day of salvation. Now is the excepted time, says the Bible!” (2 Cor. 6:2). Were world wars ever easy? **WEB LINK (above) * <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6922652037840749081>**