

January 2007

# Biblical Concourse News

**Why not develop a home university curriculum in a medical profession or service ?**

## Can We Learn from Headlines?

- “Health Care Needs a Dose of Competition”
- “Hospital Infection Rates Rarely Disclosed Despite Thousands of Deaths”
- “USA Leads the World ... in Medical Errors”
- “How Drug Companies Deceive Doctors”
- “Doctors are the Third Leading Cause of Death”
- “The Collapse of Conventional Medicine”

- The Story of Biblical Medical Ethics & Teleconference	<b>1</b>
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### The Story of Biblical Medical Ethics by Dr. Ed Payne

My spiritual enlightenment began in the early 1970s. I was fortunate to be among three other couples who were in a Bible study, led by a graduate of Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson, MS) in Augusta, GA, where I live. We studied Romans, using Steele and Thomas' study book. During that study, the leader introduced me to *Competent to Counsel*, the first book that Jay Adams wrote on counseling.

At that time, I had completed the general part of my medical education and needed to decide on specialty training. Having been in a clinical practice situation for two years, it was obvious to me (and still is) that the major problem with patients is not physical, but in their thinking and behavior which triggers damaging emotions. So, I considered going into psychiatry.

But, *Competent to Counsel* made such an impact on me that I called Jay Adams on the phone, made an appointment, flew to Philadelphia, and spent several hours talking with him. Because of that conversation, I knew that I could not go into psychiatry because it did not give Biblical direction (having been founded upon secular, even anti-godly, philosophy). Since I liked a variety of problems and patients, I chose Family Medicine as my specialty.

My training at the Medical College of Georgia took place within a small, but growing, department with only two faculty members. When I completed my training, they asked me to join them on the faculty. My intention was to stay for about 5 years, and then go into private practice. Five years turned into twenty-five, after which I retired in 2000.

I had no interest in writing. In fact, my aptitude was in mathematics and science, in which I had majored in college. On my college SAT, I scored considerably higher in mathematics than in English. I was enjoying my teaching in Family Medicine.

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### You are Invited to the Following Free Concourse Teleconference

The following teleconference is designed to inspire and help you and your family accomplish Biblical thinking in your college learning and teaching pursuits. Please join us and invite your friends to think outside the cultural box and become leaders by understanding how God's word applies to medicine and medical education. There is room for 96 callers for this Saturday conference. Time will be provided for questions and answers during and or after each presentation. The conference calls will be recorded. The time and phone number to call is near the telephone icon below.

February 10th, 2007- Ed Payne, Chairman of the Medicine Committee for The Coalition on Revival will be presenting An Introduction to **Biblical Reflections on Modern Medicine and the Christian Worldview of Medicine**.

The conference call titled, **Agriculture and Economics** by John Mesko of [LighthouseFarm.com](http://LighthouseFarm.com) is available free at [BiblicalConcourse.com](http://BiblicalConcourse.com) via mp3 audio. This conference addressed practical ideas on developing your own college curriculum in authentic agricultural and economics.



### Handout & Brochure

View, print and circulate the latest Concourse brief & brochure via: [biblicalconcourse.com/brief.pdf](http://biblicalconcourse.com/brief.pdf)  
[biblicalconcourse.com/brochure.pdf](http://biblicalconcourse.com/brochure.pdf)



Students, parents, teachers, advisors and others are invited to participate in the above telephone conference on the respective dates. The time for each call will be: 10 AM to 11 AM CST. (The starting times from other time zones are: 8 AM PST, 9 AM MST, and 11 AM EST). Simply call 563-843-5600 and enter the code: 710154# when prompted.

## Free Market Medicine v. Licensed Medicine

“Doctors are fond of blaming government programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and the attendant morass of regulations that followed in their wake, for our present predicament. However, these welfare programs were merely the logical response to events that originated long before. The sad truth is that the medical profession is as much responsible for the socialization of medicine and the loss of our professional freedom as any politician or bureaucrat. Self-interest blinds our vision, fashions our assumptions, and casts us in the role of reactionaries. A review of the history of licensure in this country is essential to comprehending the origins of the Health Care Crisis.”

*Murray S. Feldstein, M.D. Licensure Reform: A Prerequisite to Curing the Health Care Crisis, presented at the AAPS meeting, Seattle, WA. Oct. 17, 1992.*

### Biblical Concourse of Home Universities™

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The Concourse is encouraging and enabling home school families to: (1) continue home educating through college, (2) implement Biblical thought in all disciplines, and (3) return the spiritual and economic power of education to the family.

The Biblical Concourse of Home Universities is funded primarily by memberships and gifts of interested parties.

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Suddenly, tenure stared me in the face! “Publish or perish.” I had been deluded (either by my own naiveté or that of the young department) into thinking that research and writing would not be necessary in Family Medicine. But, to stay on the faculty beyond seven years, I had to publish or make other plans. By this time, I had decided to stay.

So, I began to write on two issues: sports medicine and cardiovascular health. I had enough publishing success to satisfy promotion and tenure requirements to stay. Meanwhile, abortion became a concern for evangelicals, and euthanasia loomed on the horizon. I was a member of the Christian Medical Society (now the Christian Medical and Dental Society) and looked to them for answers. In the early 1970s, they had published a book on abortion and an official statement on abortion.

The book had a variety of views on abortion and the statement essentially said that we “lament” that there are so many abortions, but every Christian must decide for himself or herself (my summary in my words). I began to read every book on medical ethics that I could find. There was not much! More work had been done by Roman Catholics, but I had sufficient theological understanding to know that their epistemology was not as authoritative as Scripture.

So, I wondered. “Can I learn a Biblical approach to ethics, and then apply that to medicine?” Rightly or wrongly, I made a fleece. I would write ten letters to the editors of medical publications and see what happens. All ten were published! I never had that success again!

So, I began to study Christian and Biblical ethics. To my surprise, there was not a good summary book on an approach to Biblical ethics. (There still is not, to my knowledge.) So, I began to read: *Systematic Theology*, by Louis Berkof; many books by Gordon Clark; *Christian Personal Ethics*, by Carl F. H. Henry; *Principles of Sacred Theology* by Abraham Kuyper; *Ethical Reflections* by Henry Stob (the closest to a basic book); all the books of Jay Adams, as he wrote them and were published; and many other books which had a chapter or two on basic Biblical ethics or medical ethics. As far as I could surmise, at the time I had the only complete collection of *The Journal of the Christian Medical Society* and *Human Life Review*. That is how thorough I tried to be.

I had the opportunity to meet Harold O. J. Brown. We agreed to write a book on medical ethics together, but God separated us, and he did not have the time except to write one chapter. But, he did ask Mott Media to review my book, and they published it as *Biblical/Medical Ethics: The Christian and the Practice of Medicine* in 1985.

Meanwhile, in 1978, I got this phone call to speak to “that physician who was counseling according to Jay Adams.” (I had begun counseling a few people with whom I came in contact.) That caller was Hilton Terrell, who had just completed his Family Medicine training, but with a background in psychology (Ph.D.) and reading of Jay Adams. His family had labeled him as “just to the right of Attila the Hun.” I still remember the first night that we met. He kept looking at me out of the corner of his eye, as if to say, “Can there really be another physician on planet earth who thinks as closely to the ways that I do?”

## Resources For Developing College Medical Studies

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1. Thomas Dorman, “Licensure,” *Fact, Fiction & Fraud in Modern Medicine* 3, no. 12 (December 1998), <[http://www.dormanpub.com/articles/PDFs/FFF\\_December\\_1998.pdf](http://www.dormanpub.com/articles/PDFs/FFF_December_1998.pdf)> (18 January 2007).
2. American Medical Association, “Atlas of the Body,” *Professional Resources*, 12 October 2005. <<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/7140.html>> (19 January 2007).
3. World Health Education Initiative, <<http://health-care-reform.net>> (19 January 2007).
4. World Health Medical School, <<http://www.emedschool.org>> (19 January 2007).
5. Ivan Illich, “Medical nemesis,” *Journal of Epidemiol Community Health* 57 (2003): 919-922.
6. Ed Payne et al., *Christian World View of Medicine*, (Sunnyvale, CA: The Coalition on Revival, 1999), <<http://www.churchcouncil.org/ReformationNet/COR/cordocs/med.pdf>> (19 January 2007).

## Practical Tip

“Most pre-medical education is irrelevant. The M.D. degree requires twelve years of higher education, most of which have little value to the future practicing physician.”<sup>3</sup>

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Since then, he has read and edited virtually everything that I have written. (Initially, Jay Adams did also.) And, he has written a great deal himself. Together with Andy White, another Family Physician, we started *The Journal of Biblical Ethics in Medicine*, which was published from 1987 to 1997. Later, I started a newsletter on AIDS and even later, another newsletter, *Biblical Reflections on Modern Medicine* (the *Journal* and most of *Biblical Reflections...* is online at [www.bmei.org](http://www.bmei.org)).

### Coalition on Revival

In the early 1980s, Jay Grimstead and others began the Coalition on Revival (COR). It was the next rational step after The International Council on Biblical Inerrancy, and its follow-up, on Hermeneutics. The task of COR was to develop a set of Affirmations and Denials in each of 17 worldview "spheres" (areas of culture and theology). These were completed in 1985 and are now online. ([www.reformation.net](http://www.reformation.net)) Great effort went in to the precision and comprehensiveness of each of these areas. It is one of the jewels of scholarship that is sorely neglected and unknown today.

I was fortunate initially to be part of the committee on medicine, and when the first chairman left, I became its co-chairman, writing most of the document. Later, when the psychology and counseling document faltered, I was asked to write that one, as well. While I did not chair that document to completion, most of it is still worded in the way that I wrote it.

I have written four books. 1) *Biblical/Medical Ethics*, 2) *Making Biblical Decisions* (about population, birth control, and genetic issues), 3) *What Every Christian Should Know about the AIDS Epidemic*, and 4) *Biblical Healing for Modern Medicine: Choosing Life and Health or Disease and Death*. The first three are out of print, but a few copies are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and other used book dealers. The fourth can be bought from Covenant Books, P. O. Box 14488, Augusta, GA 30919, \$10.00 postpaid or \$5.00 each for multiple copies, postpaid.

My writing of Biblical medical ethics mostly ended in 2000, when I ceased writing the newsletter, *Biblical Healing for Modern Medicine*. Essentially, I stopped because few were grasping the basic issues, much less the more complex issues.

It is quite incomprehensible to me that a nation can spend over \$1 trillion ... yes, \$1 trillion dollars on an industry that actually has a negative effect (excluding abortion) on overall health in the United States. (See Neil Postman's *Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology*, Chapter 6, "The Ideology of Machines: Medical Technology.")

It is more incomprehensible to me that Christians have no better understanding than non-Christians. My own denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America, had its insurance program go bankrupt, even after they were given an opportunity to set it up by Biblical standards.

And, so it goes. Our website, an occasional article that I or Hilton write, and the rare event of someone writing a Biblical medical ethic somewhere else, are the only lights in a dark world that worships at the altar of bodily health and modern medicine. Perhaps the Biblical Concourse can steer some souls towards the light of a truly Biblical medical ethic.

Note: Dr. Payne's new website contains a wealth of Biblical worldview articles in many disciplines: [biblicalworldview21.org](http://biblicalworldview21.org)

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### Agriculture and Economics Teleconference Review by Liz Brown

John Mesko of Lighthouse Farm presented a teleconference discussion on Authentic Agriculture on Saturday January 13th 2007. He has degrees in agriculture, and over 20 years of agricultural experience and extension work, and now works on the family farm. His vision is to reclaim the field of agriculture for God's glory.

Beginning his presentation with Genesis 2:5 and Adam's first assignment of caring for the garden of Eden, Mr. Mesko showed us that one of man's primary purposes is to cultivate the ground, and that the ability to do so is a foundational skill. He pointed out that God has designed us with bodies that need nourishment, and thus, that depend on the fruit of agriculture: fruit, vegetables and animal products. He also talked about the unlimited opportunities of further learning and study that agriculture affords, from theology to the sciences.

He shared how, after WWII, farming became increasingly "easier" - meaning more machinery and more chemicals have been used as time has passed. Agriculture has become industrialized, and profit drives mass outcome of products, meaning efficiency has replaced the importance of quality. Authentic agriculture has a whole different mindset: not of dollars per hour, or trading time for cash, but trading time for resources and 'real wealth' - a field or animal that will reproduce for years on end, and yield food and money for the

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time and effort put into it. Mr. Mesko gave examples of authentic agriculture at work from his own experience.

Near the end of the presentation, he gave tips and recommended a few resources. He recommended utilizing the organization Acres USA, and books by Gene Logsdon; as well as citing blogs which can be linked to from his website, [www.lighthousefarm.com](http://www.lighthousefarm.com). However, he said, hands-on experience is by far the best training for a career in authentic agriculture. He estimated that for the \$40,000 and four years spent on a secular agricultural education, one could more than double the amount by investing in land, animals, and machinery and using authentic agriculture techniques for four years, besides gaining much more experience than a degree would ever afford.

Mr. Mesko kept Biblical principles foremost throughout the presentation. It was an eye-opening look at the effects of agriculture and the ways we can use these God-given foundational skills.



## Valerie L. Richey, MD, ND

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An Eagle's Nest Homeschool blog, <http://www.eaglesnesthome.blogspot.com>  
is hosting Analyzing and Interpreting Media: A Literature and Worldview Course.

### Quotes to Ponder

"Within the last decade, medical professional practice has become a major threat to health ... The desperate disability of contemporary man to envisage an alternative to the industrial aggression on human condition is an integral part of the curse from which he suffers ... Cosmopolitan medical civilization denies the need for man's acceptance of these evils. Medical civilization is planned and organized to kill pain, to eliminate sickness, and to struggle against death. These are new goals, which have never before been guidelines for social life and which are antithetic to every one of the cultures with which medical civilization meets ..." Illich<sup>5</sup>

"We deny that medical ethics should be determined by the desires of the patient, the ethics of a medical organization, current medical practice, technical feasibility, or governmental legislation (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 3:1) ... Christian Worldview of Medicine <sup>6</sup>

## Instructional Design Can Organize Your Course

Starting a new course is not always as simple as gathering a group of students around you and pouring out your wisdom. An effective course design can make the difference between success and failure. Tony Silva, founder of Family Mentors ([www.familymentors.com](http://www.familymentors.com)), brings a Christ-centered instructional design philosophy to the Biblical Concourse of Home Universities. Tony is happy to make himself available to Concourse members to assist with course design, syllabus development, and preparation of materials for use on a Learning Management System (LMS) such as the Moodle eCampus used by BCHU and many of its members. Tony can be reached at [help@familymentors.com](mailto:help@familymentors.com) to set up an initial consultation at no charge.