

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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Verichip Update

Editors Note: This article appeared in a newsletter from Gary Bauer's Campaign for Working Families on Friday, December 8, 2006. CAM has previously reported on the Verichip in June 2002 and January 2003.

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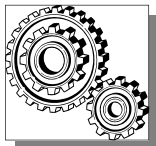
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Bible Curriculum in Public Schools

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)

A Florida company wants to get under the skin of 1.4 million U.S. servicemen and women. VeriChip Corp, based in Delray Beach, Fla., and described by the *D.C. Examiner* as "one of the most aggressive marketers of radio frequency identification chips," is hoping to convince the Pentagon to allow them to insert the chips, known as RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chips, under the skin of the right arms of U.S. servicemen and servicewomen to enable them to scan an arm and obtain that person's identity and medical history. The chips would replace the legendary metal dog tags that have been worn by U.S. military personnel since 1906.

The device is usually implanted above the triceps area of an individual's right arm, but can also be implanted in the hand. The VeriChip responds with a unique 16-digit number, which can correlate the user to information stored on a database for identity verification, medical records ac-

cess and other uses. The insertion procedure is performed under local anesthetic, and once inserted it is invisible to the naked eye.

The company, which the *Examiner* notes has powerful political connections, is "in discussions" with the Pentagon, VeriChip spokeswoman,



Nicole Philbin, told the *Examiner*, "The potential for this technology doesn't just stop at the civilian level," Philbin said. Company officials have touted the chips as versatile, able to be used in a variety of situations such as helping track illegal immigrants, or giving doctors immediate access to a patient's medical records.

The Department of State has started to issue electronic passports (e-passports) equipped

with RFID chips. According to reports, the U.S. government has placed an order with a California company, Infineon Technologies North America, for smart chip-embedded passports.

The Associated Press said the new U.S. passports include an electronic chip that contains all the data contained in the paper version: name, birth date, gender, etc. and can be read by digital scanners at equipped airports. They cost 14 percent more than their predecessors but the State Department said they will speed up going through Customs and help enhance border security.

The company's hefty political clout is typified by having former secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, on its board of directors.

Thompson assured the *Examiner* that the chip is safe and that no one — not even military personnel, who are required by law to follow orders — will be forced to accept an implant against his or her will. He has also promised to have a chip implanted in himself but could not tell the *Examiner* when. "I'm extremely busy and I'm waiting until my hospitals and doctors are able to



"He also forced everyone...to receive a mark in his right hand or in his forehead." Revelation 13:16 (KJV)

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run some screens," he told the newspaper.

Not everybody agrees with Thompson, the *Examiner* reported, noting that the idea of implanting the chips in live bodies has some veterans' groups and privacy advocates worried.

"It needs further study," Joe Davis, a retired Air Force major and a spokesman for the D.C. office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, told the *Examiner*.

And Liz McIntyre, co-author

with Katherine Albrecht of "Spychips: How Major Corporations and Government Plan to Track your Every Move with RFID," said that VeriChip is "a huge threat" to public privacy.

"They're circling like vultures for any opportunity to get into our flesh," McIntyre told the *Examiner*. "They'll start with people who can't say no, like the elderly, sex offenders, immigrants and the military. Then they'll come knocking on our doors."

In an e-mail to the *Examiner*, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.,

wrote: "If that is what the Defense Department has in mind for our troops in Iraq, there are many questions that need answers. What checks and balances, safeguards and congressional oversight, would there be?" Leahy asked. "What less-invasive alternatives are there? What information would be entered on the chips, and could it endanger our soldiers or be intercepted by the enemy?"

The company, the *Examiner* wrote, is also unsure about the technology. According to company documents, radio frequencies in ambulances and

helicopters could disrupt the chips' transmissions. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, VeriChip also said it was unsure whether the chip would dislodge and move through a person's body. It could also cause infections and "adverse tissue reactions," the SEC filing states.

But Philbin downplayed the danger of the chips.

"It's the size of a grain of rice," she said. "It's like getting a shot of penicillin."

Who Gives More?

The conventional wisdom in the mainstream media has always been that the Left is more concerned with issues like poverty and social justice, while the cold, unfeeling conservatives are solely concerned with making as much money as they can for themselves, and often at the expense of the poor. Of course, the thing about the "conventional wisdom" is that it's frequently wrong.

In fact, as Dr. Arthur Brooks demonstrates in *Who Really Cares*, his new book about charitable giving, the hard data tell a different story. Consider these facts:

- Of the top 25 states where people give an above average percent of their income to charity, 24 voted Republican in the last presidential election.
- Conservatives give 30 percent more of their income to charity than liberals, despite, on average, making slightly less money.
- "Religious" Americans (those who attend a religious service at least once a week) give 33 percent more than "secular" Americans (those who rarely or never attend).
- Religious Americans are about 50 percent more likely than secularists to volunteer their time.

Brooks discovered that religious participation is the single biggest predictor of charitable giving, ahead of income, race, age, education, etc. Even more, religious Americans do not just give to their churches. According to Brooks, "religion engenders charity in general – including nonreligious charity."

How can we explain the generosity of religious conservatives? They give because God instructs them not to be "hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother" and to "look after orphans and widows in their distress." At the same time, they also recognize that private enterprise is more efficient at getting aid to those in need. As Brooks notes, people who disagree with the statement: "The government has a basic responsibility to take care of the people who can't take care of themselves," are 27 percent more likely to give to charity.

These facts help explain why, though the U.S. ranked 21st out of 22 major countries in government foreign aid last year, no other country comes close in terms of private giving. According to Brooks, Americans per capita individually give about three and a half times more money per year than the French, seven times more than the Germans and ten times more than the Italians – further evidence of the waning influence of faith in post-modern Europe.



"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2Corinthians 9:7

ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM FACTS

A History Lesson Worth Repeating

1. Israel became a state in 1312 B.C., two millennia before Islam.
2. Arab refugees from Israel began calling themselves "Palestinians" in 1967, two decades after modern Israeli statehood began in 1948.
3. After conquering the land in 1272 B.C., Jews ruled it for a thousand years and have maintained a continuous presence there for 3,300 years.
4. For over 3,300 hundred years, Jerusalem was the Jewish capital. It was never the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. Even under Jordanian rule, (East) Jerusalem was not made the capital and no Arab leader came to visit it.
5. Jerusalem is mentioned over 700 times in the Bible. But not once is it mentioned in the Qu'ran.
6. King David founded Jerusalem. Mohammed never set foot in it.
7. Jews pray facing Jerusalem; Muslims face Mecca. If they are between the two cities, Muslims pray facing Mecca, with their backs to Jerusalem.
8. In 1948, Arab leaders urged Arabs living in Israel to leave, promising to cleanse the land of Jewish presence. 68% of them fled without ever setting eyes on an Israeli soldier.
9. Virtually the entire Jewish population of numerous Muslim countries had to flee as the result of violence and pogroms.
10. Some 630,000 Arabs left Israel in 1948, while close to a million Jews were forced to leave Muslim counties in modern times.
11. In spite of the vast territories at their disposal, Arab refugees were deliberately prevented from assimilating into their host countries. Of 100 million refugees following World War II, they are the only group to have never integrated with their coreligionists. Most of the Jewish refugees from Europe and Arab lands were settled in Israel, a country no larger than New Jersey.
12. There are 22 Arab countries not counting "Palestine". There is only one Jewish State. Arabs started all five wars against Israel and lost every one of them.
13. Fatah and Hamas constitutions still call for the destruction of Israel. Israel ceded most of the West Bank and all of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority, and even provided it with arms.
14. During the Jordanian occupation, Jewish holy sites were vandalized and were off limits to Jews. Under Israeli rule, all Muslim and Christian holy sites are accessible to all faiths.
15. Out of 175 United Nations Security Council resolutions up to 1990, 97 were against Israel. Out of 690 General Assembly resolutions, 429 were against Israel.
16. The U.N. was silent when the Jordanians destroyed 58 synagogues in the old city of Jerusalem. It remained silent while Jordan systematically desecrated the ancient cemetery on the Mount of Olives, and it remained silent when Jordan enforced apartheid laws preventing Jews from accessing the Temple Mount and Western Wall.

Editors Note: Look for future articles in our newsletter relating to this issue and the conflict between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

“The Lord had said to Abram. “Leave your country, your people, and your father’s household, and go the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on the earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:1-3

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

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We trust you had a wonderful Christmas and remembered that

Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

In 2007 there will be issues raised in the legislature that will affect how we live as Christians. Among these will be physician assisted suicide and gay marriage as well as additional efforts to ban Christianity from public places.

CAM will research and report on these issues as they develop and will also be working on sponsoring a seminar or presentation on a topic of interest to Christians.

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Next Meetings

*February 12, 7:00 pm
At. Mark's Catholic Church
Burlington, Vt.
March 12, 7:00 pm
Open Doors & World Outreach
Essex, Vt.*

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



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