



# The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3, March 2003

## Prepare the Way



*D'Angeles opened February's "Prepare the Way" concert with very strong vocals and harmonies.*

February's "Prepare the Way" Concert showcased **D'Angeles** and **Shelly Morin**. They both gave great performances and shared touching testimonies. It's a shame so many students missed a good show.



*Shelly Morin and her band gave a rocking testimony of God's love with American sign language and mime.*

Next month's scheduled artists are **James Laing** and **Draweth Nigh**. The Concert will be at the Good Shepherd Chapel of Concordia University, 1530 Concordia West, Irvine, CA 92612. The date and time is Wednesday, March 26, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

This concert series began in January and will end in April. This is a "new student program" whose fate lies in the hands of Concordia students. If they come, we will build it.

## The First Amendment

**Thomas Jefferson** gave us the phrase "separation of church and state" in his letter to the Danbury Baptist Association (Jan 1, 1802). He Wrote:

"Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a **wall of separation between Church and State**. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced that he has no natural right in opposition to his social duty."

Jefferson's "wall of separation" was a protection of man's right of conscience from government regulations. In his letter to **John Adams** (October 13, 1813), Jefferson wrote that Jesus taught "the most sublime and benevolent code of morals which has ever been offered to man." The First Amendment separated the ruling powers of church and state without infringing on every man's duty to God. Good leaders have a strong moral fiber that is cultivated from a belief in a holy and just God.

In **George Washington's** farewell address to his cabinet (Sept. 17, 1796), he said

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion."

Church and State must be separated to ensure freedom of religion. But the Church should influence the State so that we have leaders who follow God as they govern men.

You may have noticed the new look of our newsletter. The old software was great but the program kept crashing and I would lose everything and have to start from scratch. The new program doesn't have as many features, but it's reliable.

## Bible Observations

There are some people who think that the book of Genesis is a myth because it doesn't fit with modern science's "Theory of Evolution." Some Christians reconcile Creation and Evolution by believing that God created the "Big Bang" and set evolution in motion. But Genesis says that the earth and its vegetation were created before the sun, moon and the stars.

If the story of Creation was a myth, the sun would be created before vegetation because plants need the sun, but the sun doesn't need plants. Perhaps God chose to create vegetation before celestial objects to demonstrate his power and to weaken any argument that the story of Creation came from a myth or legend.

Genesis also says that Adam and Eve were created as mature and fully developed adults capable of procreation. This is impossible in our physical universe, but answers a paradox of life that Evolution can't explain: How did the cycle of life begin?

Logic tells us that life begins in its simplest form. We see ultrasound pictures of the womb and recognize the embryo as a developing infant. But we forget that embryos come from the union of a male (sperm) and female (egg) cell ("and they will become one flesh" - Gen 2:24). Life procreates life, so the chicken *and the rooster* had to come before the egg! Some things can't be explained by science, they can only be accepted from God.