



www.faithfutures.org

office@faithfutures.org

Canada & United States:
P.O. Box 6728, Shawnee Mission, KS 66206, USA

All other countries:
P.O. Box 822, Kenmore, Qld 4069, Australia

FFF Update #2 (July 2001)

News & Information from FaithFutures Foundation, Inc.

FFFUpdate is an occasional newsletter from FaithFutures Foundation, Inc. This is a distribution only service. Please address any comments, questions or suggestions to office@faithfutures.org

To unsubscribe at any time, send a blank email to FFFUpdate-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

In this issue:

1. Marcus Borg joins Panel of Advisors
 2. Those Bush tax checks
 3. Calendar of Events
 4. FFForum
 5. Science Archive
 6. Interfaith Perspectives
 7. JESUSdatabase
-

1. Marcus Borg joins Panel of Advisors

FaithFutures Foundation is delighted to announce that Marcus J. Borg, the Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture in the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University has accepted the invitation to serve as a member of our Panel of Advisors. Nationally and internationally known in both academic and church circles as a biblical and Jesus scholar, he is the author of eleven books, including *Jesus: A New Vision* (1987) and the best-seller *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* (1994). His most recent book is *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* (2001)

Further information about Marcus Borg can be found on the FFF site, as well as links to his schedule of events. <http://www.faithfutures.org/Members/Borg.html>

2. Those “Bush tax checks”

A number of people have promised to send their “Bush tax checks” as a gift to FFF. What a creative way to use a windfall of this sort!

3. Calendar of Events

The list of events published on the FFF site continues to grow. Thanks to those who have sent their suggestions for events to include. The URL is <http://www.faithfutures.org/events.html>

4. FFForum

FFForum is an online meeting for members and friends of FaithFutures Foundation.

It is designed as a medium-volume forum with a focus on issues relating to re-shaping contemporary religious belief and practice for the global era in which we now find ourselves. This is a place where you can identify and vigorously pursue the religious implications of new knowledge emerging from the arts, humanities, religion and the sciences.

We particularly invite comment and discussion in response to information and other materials published through the Foundation's web site.

We also encourage active sharing of educational materials, prayers and reflections, sermons, worship materials and other resources that may be of interest to individuals and faith communities seeking to engage intentionally with current scholarship. See the [Guidelines for Authors](#) for more information.

Contributions reflecting an interfaith perspective are especially welcome.

Anyone is welcome to post a message to this meeting, but all contributions are expected to reflect the Vision and Values of the FaithFutures Foundation.

To subscribe, simply send an email to FFForum-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

5. Science Archive

The preliminary edition of the Science page within the Research Archives has been published. The URL is <http://www.faithfutures.org/science.html> Discussions are underway to involve a number of scholars with research interests in religion and science to oversee the development of this area within the FFF web site.

6. Interfaith Perspectives

The collective character of the process of integration and renewal extends beyond traditional religious boundaries.

The initial focus of FFF will be re-framing Christian beliefs and practice since the results of critical scholarship perhaps impact most acutely on that faith tradition at present. As resources develop and its membership expands to include significant numbers of people from other religions and spiritual traditions, the Foundation anticipates that the focus on re-visioning Christianity will become just one among several lines of activity.

FFF welcomes the contributions that people from different traditions can offer one another in re-shaping their own personal and collective religious practice. Those who come from one of the Christian traditions gain important insights as they hear how others perceive and experience Christianity. Authentic information on other faith communities and forms of religious practice can also open up new possibilities for the renewal of one's own tradition.

The cooperation circles that comprise the grassroots membership of FFF are encouraged to include people from a diverse range of religious practice, and especially to welcome participation by people of other faiths.

The end result will be a diverse and creative network that pursues the integration of religious practice with traditional knowledge and new information emerging from religion scholarship as well as other areas of research.

As a preliminary step towards greater interfaith activity within the Foundation a Multi-Faith Page has been included within the Research Archives: <http://www.faithfutures.org/multifaith.html>

7. JESUSdatabase

Work has begun on publishing the [JESUSdatabase](#) through the FFF web site. This online inventory of all extant ancient traditions concerning the life and teachings of Jesus, together with notes on the assessment of each item by selected scholars is being developed by Dr Gregory C. Jenks.

The database begins with the 522 items identified by **John Dominic Crossan**, but will expand on his inventory where additional items need to be included. In some cases this will be due to different division of the extant materials for analysis by scholars

Online publication of the inventory will be completed over an extended period of time, with at least few items being added each week. The intention is to publish a page for each cluster, proceeding by weighted average according to the **Jesus Seminar** voting results. Each page will include:

- Citation of evidence
- Complete texts (initially in English translation only)

- Notes on historical judgment by selected scholars
- Links to related materials, including the growing collection of educational materials, sermons and worship resources available through the FFF site.

Individual items are being used in the ongoing cycle of discussion and reflection within the [Hodos community](#), an online community of practice with a focus on developing personal spiritual journeys informed by the wisdom and the practice of the historical Jesus. From that use it is anticipated that an additional body of comment and reflection will be generated.

Donations & Membership Contributions

Until online credit card facilities are available through the Foundation web site, please make payments by check in either US dollars or Australian dollars and post them to either of the following addresses:

Canada and United States

Robert J. McElwain, FFF Treasurer
P.O. Box 6728
Shawnee Mission, KS 66206

All other countries

P.O. Box 822
Kenmore, Qld 4069
Australia

Receipts will be issued for all gifts. Gifts to FFF by US taxpayers may be tax deductible.

Financial statements for the Foundation's operations will be published on the FFF web site at regular intervals so that members and supporters are kept informed of our income and expenses.

**Your interest and support is greatly valued.
Please help make FFF known among colleagues and friends.**

Prepared by Gregory C. Jenks
Executive Trustee, July 2001

© 2001 FaithFutures Foundation, Inc.