

U.S. most religious of wealthy nations

THE UNITED STATES is still the most religious of the world's wealthy nations, according to a 44-nation poll conducted by the Pew Global Attitudes Project. The survey found that America's tradition as a nation of believers gives it more in common with poorer countries than with other industrial societies. "Wealthier nations tend to place

less importance on religion—with the exception of the United States," the study said. "Americans' views are closer to people in developing nations than to the publics of developed nations." The survey found that Americans are about twice as religious as Canadians and much more inclined to faith than people in Western

Europe and Japan. According to the study, France is Western Europe's most secular country, and Czechoslovakia the most secular country in Eastern Europe. Like their American cousins, the English are the most religious people in Western Europe, noted the survey. — *Evangelical Press News Service*

'Choose Life' plates declared unconstitutional

A FEDERAL JUDGE has ruled that South Carolina's "Choose Life" license plates are unconstitutional. Senior U.S. District Judge **William Bertelsman** ruled that the pro-life tags, approved by South Carolina's legislature in 2001, violate the First Amendment because they provide a

forum for pro-life advocates that abortion supporters are denied. Bertelsman' decision conflicts with an earlier ruling by a federal appeals court that abortion advocates could not sue the state of Louisiana over its "Choose Life" license plates. Planned Parenthood had challenged the plates

and won an injunction that kept them from being issued. **Tracey Green**, an assistant deputy state attorney general, argued the license plates represent government speech "and communicate the state's oft-expressed preference for childbirth over abortion." — *EPNS*

Theme park drops religious services

FLORIDA'S WALT DISNEY WORLD theme park has dropped its 28-year tradition of offering weekend religious services to its Christian guests. The park, which began the Sunday services in 1975, said it could no longer accommodate the 1,500 or more Catholic and Protestant families who want to attend them. **Lou Sheldon** of Traditional Values Coalition told the Cybercast News Service (CNS), "I'm sure Walt Disney is crying from his grave when he sees what the current owners are doing to his basic belief system by saying, 'The inn is full. There's no more room for the baby Jesus.'" CNS noted that the famous animator and creator of many classic cartoon characters and movies once said, "Whatever success I have had in bringing clean, informative entertainment to people of all ages, I attribute in part to my Congregational upbringing and

lifelong habit of prayer." Sheldon speculated that the decision by Disney executives to pull the plug on the services was an attempt to appease their non-religious guests including a vocal homosexual contingent. "I see this as a very clear, clear way of becoming more

politically correct," said Sheldon. "They do not want to have to deal with the fact that they are accommodating Christianity, Catholic or Protestant, or any other group that has a strong religious faith as their basis." — *EPNS*



"I'm postponing all appointments until I get my heavenly body."