

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" HOSEA 4:6

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce these risks.

"Without vision, the people perish."

The Government's Waco Coverup: Can Linda Thompson's Video Wake Up America?

By now, many of our readers have probably seen Linda Thompson's video, "Waco: The Big Lie." Its impact on anyone who sees it is quite powerful. If what the video shows is true, then the U.S. Government is responsible for the wanton, calculated murder of at least 85 innocent people all of whom were deprived of their constitutional right to simple due process. If what the video shows is true, then our government is responsible for an atrocity as evil as anything perpetrated by the Nazis in occupied Europe during World War II. That is why it is so important that this video be seen by as many Americans as possible, so that the call from an aroused public for a full Congressional investigation of "Wacogate" will be heeded.

Linda Thompson, an Indianapolis lawyer, must be given eternal thanks for going through all of the available TV coverage of the Waco affair and putting together the astonishing footage which clearly indicts our government officials of high crimes and misdemeanors. All of the television networks have in their possession, or access to, the same footage, but they have decided not

to show it to the American public. We were shown the Rodney King video a million times on all of the networks for one purpose only: to arouse public indignation against the police officers involved. But in the case of Waco, the crucial scenes have been studiously kept from the public. In other words, the mass media are not only accomplices in the coverup, but from the very beginning waged a campaign of defamation and vilification of the Branch Davidians calculated to destroy whatever sympathy the public would have had for them when the government carried out its murderous punishment.

It has been at least six months since the Waco video has been circulated and viewed by thousands of Americans across the country, and as yet we have not seen nor heard any mention of its existence by Ted Koppel, or Peter Jennings, or Dan Rather, or Tom Brokaw, or David Brinkley, etc., etc. In fact, it seems as if the national media have succumbed to a new phenomenon called Waco amnesia. They will only acknowledge the video if enough people see it and demand an explanation from their government.

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If you have not yet seen the Thompson video, here is a synopsis of what's in it:

The first part of the video presents information about the Branch Davidians which seems to contradict what the media have told us about them. The media gave the impression that the Branch Davidians were a bunch of suicidal apocalyptic psychopaths. The Thompson video shows them as pretty normal human beings, seriously devoted to a charismatic teacher, living peacefully in communal style at their Mt. Carmel center. The sect, founded in 1935, is an offshoot of the Seventh Day Adventist church. There have been many such unorthodox religious sects and communities in America, none of which have ever suffered a military-style assault by the U.S. government.

But what drew the ire of the federal government to the Branch Davidians was the fact that they bought and sold guns, which is perfectly legal. Buying and selling guns in Texas and elsewhere is one way in which many people earn money. None of the Branch Davidians had been convicted of a violation of any of the gun laws on the statute books.

The second part of the video deals with the legal preparations made by the government to justify its planned assault on the Branch Davidians' compound. Mrs. Thompson points out the blatant irregularities in the search warrant issued by the federal judge.

The First Assault

The third part shows the unprovoked military assault on the Branch Davidians on Sunday morning, February 28. ATF troops are shown firing at the front of the compound with automatic weapons with no fire being returned. In addition, it shows three helicopters flying overhead. It then shows two teams of ATF men in black uniforms at

the side of the house with automatic weapons climbing onto the first-floor roof by ladders. The group at the right is comprised of four men, three of whom smash their way into a second-floor window after throwing a smoke grenade into the room. The fourth man on the roof is lying prone with a machine gun, covering his buddies as they enter the building. No one is firing at them. The fourth man then goes to the window and throws a grenade into the room his buddies have just entered. He then fires the machine gun into the room. Why is he firing at his own men? As he fires into the room, we see three shots fired from inside the room piercing the outside wall. Did those shots come from the three ATF agents in the room who realized they were being shot at from the outside? Undaunted, the fourth man then fires into the room once more. A bullet hits his helmet and the impact knocks him down, but he is unhurt. He scurries to the edge of the roof and quickly goes down the ladder to the ground.

Who is that fourth man, and why did he fire into the room where he knew his own men had entered? We are told that the ATF had rehearsed the attack over and over again. Had that fourth man been given special instructions? The three men who had entered that room were the three men killed in the assault, and they have all been identified as Bill Clinton's bodyguards during the election campaign.

Why was an investigation not made into the circumstances of the deaths of the three ATF agents? Why was the blame immediately placed on the Branch Davidians who suffered six deaths in the assault? The circumstances of the death of the fourth ATF man has never been satisfactorily explained. Supposedly he was killed before the shooting even started. Was it an accident? But if it is true that one or more of the agents were actually killed by the Branch

Davidians, it should be noted that the attack by the ATF was unprovoked and unconstitutional. How can the government justify shooting its way into the house of a suspect, endangering the lives of over 80 innocent men, women and children who were in the building at the time? No one in that house had been convicted of a crime.

The ATF spent months planning the attack. Was any attempt ever made to peacefully serve a search warrant? Who gave the authorization to use deadly force before any attempt had been made for peaceful entry into the compound?

The failure of the government's attack was attributed to the superior fire power of the Branch Davidians. Yet, the Branch Davidians suffered much higher casualties than the ATF, and there is good reason to believe that the ATF men in the building were killed by their own man on the roof.

The whole episode cries out for a full, open Congressional investigation. But that's only the beginning.

Isolating the Victims

The fourth part of the video deals with the 51-day period between the two assaults. After the failure of the initial attack, the ATF and the FBI then engaged in psychological warfare against the hapless inhabitants of the compound. All of their utilities were shut off, their only communication with the outside world was through the ATF. Even close relatives on the outside were not permitted communication with their loved ones inside the compound. Why not? Was the ATF afraid that those in the compound might reveal what actually happened during that attack? And why didn't the press complain about not being permitted to communicate with the Davidians inside the compound?

At night the ATF played ear-splitting recordings of rabbits being slaughtered,

Tibetan monks chanting, and Nancy Sinatra singing "These boots were made for walking, and they're goin' to walk all over you." Also, the building was flood-lit with stadium lights during the night to keep the inhabitants awake. What kind of psychological advantage the government hoped to gain by these crude and ludicrous techniques has not been explained. But it would be interesting to listen to the ATF and FBI psychos explain before a Congressional committee where they picked up these techniques of torment. From unemployed communist brainwashers?

Also, a Branch Davidian who had been at work in town during the attack and wanted to get back into the building to be with his loved ones was shot to death by the ATF as he was climbing over the fence. Obviously, if the man had been out of the compound during the raid, he could not have been guilty of any crime against the ATF. Nevertheless, the ATF executed him on the spot. Not since the Nazi occupation of Europe were innocent people subjected to such stark, lawless atrocities at the hands of government as those in Waco.

It is also now known that the ATF and the FBI used the latest technology which permitted them to actually see and hear everything going on in the compound. The whole sordid operation was based on the unwarranted assumption that everyone in that compound, including the children, were enemies of the United States and that the only way out of their predicament was unconditional surrender. Yet, no one in that building had been convicted of a crime!

One wonders why none of the civil authorities in Waco, the state government of Texas, or the federal government could see that what was being perpetrated against the Branch Davidians violated every precept of justice and human rights codified in American law. The American people, watching the

spectacle on television, simply assumed that the "cultists," or "religious fanatics," in the compound were so dangerous and criminal as to warrant the most drastic military means to bring them into submission.

Also, we do not know, as yet, of the state of mind of the people in the compound who were being subjected to this barbaric torment by their own government. We can only speculate about David Koresh's political knowledge. Having gone to American public schools where he was labeled dyslexic, he probably had a very faulty view of the American government. It probably never occurred to him that the federal government was willing to do anything and everything in its power to destroy him, regardless of the illegality of its methods. He probably assumed that sane people on the outside would prevent the government from doing what it finally ended up doing, burning them all to death. After all, this was America, not Nazi Germany, and those men in the black uniforms pointing guns and tanks at the compound were Americans, educated in the values of religious freedom and due process, pledged to uphold the Constitution of the United States. After all, didn't President Clinton take his oath with a hand on the Bible, the same Bible that Koresh used as the basis of his beliefs? It should be noted that Koresh's followers were not idiots. One of them was a graduate of Harvard Law School.

The Final Solution

The fifth part of the video deals with the final assault that led to the total destruction of the compound by fire and the death of virtually everyone inside. We do not know how the final assault was planned. But we do know that the plan was approved by President Clinton and his Attorney General, Janet Reno.

The plan, as advertised to the public,

was to use tanks with extended arms to punch holes in the walls of the compound, pump CS gas into the building, and force the people inside to come out with their hands up. Janet Reno justified the use of these methods in order to "save the children." Of course, had she really been interested in saving the children, she would have simply called off the entire military operation and permitted anyone who wanted to leave the compound to do so unharmed. That would have been the humane and sensible thing to do. It is wiser to let the guilty go free if that's what it takes to save the innocent. But she was so intent on capturing the alleged killers of the ATF agents, that she was unwilling to spare the 85 innocent men, women and children in that building. If she was so intent on bringing the killer or killers of the ATF agents to justice, why didn't she start by questioning the ATF man who fired into the room where his buddies, Clinton's former bodyguards, were?

What the Thompson video shows is that the plan as described to the American people on television was quite different from what actually happened on that tragic day, April 19, beginning at 6:05 a.m. First, the Thompson video shows us a diagram of the compound and the two underground bunkers a few feet away from the main building which were accessible through a trapdoor in the house. It is speculated that many of the Davidians, particularly the women and children, were spending nights in the bunkers to escape the psychological torment aimed at them by their government. And since the government knew where everyone was in that building at all times, what took place next is perhaps too gruesome to be true but probably is.

The first thing we see is a large military tank maneuvering directly over the bunker area, at six a.m., moving back and forth. It is not clear what the tank is doing, but it seems

to be destroying the building over the trapdoor leading to the bunkers which would have made it impossible for anyone to get out. We then see smoke rising out of the ground where the bunkers are located. The bunkers are obviously on fire, and the people inside are trapped. They can't get out, and they are being burnt to death. The ATF has blocked their escape. All of this took place early in the assault, six hours before the big conflagration that destroyed the entire complex.

In fact, we see no evidence of CS gas being pumped into the building. What we see are 58-ton converted M-60 tanks with extended crane-like arms simply pushing in and destroying the building around the bunker entrance area as if to seal it off. The big fire is reported to have started at 12:05 p.m. at the very other end of the compound. It should be noted that during that entire time, a good six hours after the beginning of the operation, no ATF or FBI agent was shot at.

Since many of the people who were burned to death in the compound were found in the underground bunkers, we have no choice but to assume that they were killed by the government hours before the big fire. They were killed in the bunkers, probably between 6 and 8 a.m., well before the big fire broke out. Their murder had to be covered up, for they would not have been killed in the big fire had they been alive before the fire at noon and taken refuge in the bunkers.

What about the CS gas? Was any of it actually pumped into the building, or was the CS gas idea simply invented as a pretext for using the tanks to demolish the buildings? We shall have to wait to hear the testimony of the Davidian survivors who will stand trial for their "crimes."

But what we then clearly see in the video is the U.S. government starting the fire at around noon which reduced the entire

compound to ashes. We clearly see a converted tank with a blow torch pushing into the building and pulling out. Also, we see two ATF agents who probably started fires in the upper levels. One has leapt down onto a tank, the other we see jumping from the building, removing fire-repellant clothing and nonchalantly walking away from the building. Who were those two ATF agents? What were they doing on top of the building? Who gave them their instructions? Have they been questioned by anyone? Also, who was driving the tank with the blow torch? Who gave him his instructions, and what were they?

Destroying the Evidence

We also know that Koresh made a desperate call for help, but that the ATF prevented any fire-fighting apparatus from getting to the building until it was burnt to the ground. We also know that the ATF proceeded to level everything in sight and destroy any evidence that would have contradicted their story that the Branch Davidians had immolated themselves in some sort of apocalyptic mass suicide. The truth is that the government is covering up mass murder by its own agents.

The sense of shock one feels after viewing that video is numbing. One asks how could the U.S. government commit such an atrocity on 85 or so innocent men, women and children, none of whom had been convicted of a crime, and all of whom had been denied and deprived of their basic constitutional right to due process. Apparently, the Constitution no longer means anything to those who rule over us.

And the myth that David Koresh and his followers committed mass suicide is still being drummed into the heads of the American people eight months later by the media, despite the existence of the Thompson video

and their own video files which contain the same footage.

The government hopes that an indifferent and apathetic public will let them get away with the Waco massacre. But what happened in Waco is far worse than what happened at My Lai, for in Vietnam our soldiers were fighting a war. There was no war in Waco, only sheer, unadulterated tyranny by a lawless government that must be made accountable for its murderous actions. Some 85 individuals were killed by their government at Waco. The American people must not permit the murderers to go unpunished.

Lies From the Media

What is most disturbing about this entire Waco episode is the utter complicity of the media in characterizing Koresh and his followers as suicidal apocalyptic psychopaths.

For example, Steven V. Roberts, a senior writer at *U.S. News & World Report* wrote the following commentary in its May 3, 1993 issue:

Waco and Bosnia. David Koresh and Slobodan Milosevic. One driven by religious zeal, the other by nationalist blood lust. But these two places, and these two men, present civilized people with basically the same question: How does society deal with a messianic personality who resists all attempts at persuasion and pressure?

How? In a country that believes in religious freedom, you leave him and his followers alone, all 85 of them. That's how. Koresh represented no danger to anyone. The government's suspicions of illegalities were simply that. Suspicions founded on hearsay, noises, and the tales of vindictive individuals and cult deprogrammers. The question the writer should ask is how does an individual protect himself from false

witnesses when the government has decided that it is out to get you? Mr. Roberts continues:

As President Clinton put it, after Koresh and his followers burned themselves at the stake of Ranch Apocalypse: "There is unfortunately a rise of this sort of fanaticism all across the world. We may have to confront it again."

Whose fanaticism was more dangerous, the ATF's fanatic determination to get its man no matter the cost, or Koresh's belief in his own religious calling? The latter claimed the loyalty of about 130 people, while the former represents a gross perversion of the American legal system. Were the technical gun violations the Branch Davidians were accused of worth the 85 lives destroyed by the government's relentless and merciless pursuit after an eccentric religious visionary? Why didn't the writer in *U.S. News* question the government's wisdom and/or legality in Waco? He writes:

The most painful question is this: To stop insanity, do civilized people have to become insane themselves? Do they ultimately have to kill and maim in order to thwart a greater evil? Finally, in Waco, the patience broke, and the result was tragedy.

Obviously, the writer in *U.S. News* hasn't the slightest idea how to tell fact from fiction. Was it "civilized" to attack a compound of 85 men, women and children with helicopters and automatic weapons for the purpose of serving a search warrant? Only an insane or evil government would do what was done in Waco. And comparing David Koresh to Slobodan Milosevic is about the closest thing to insanity I can think of. Koresh did not attack the ATF. They attacked him first, killing six of the people in the compound. During World War II, there were Germans who used tortured logic to justify what Hitler was doing to the Jews, and Mr. Roberts is using the same strained logic to justify what

his government did to the Davidians.

Has Mr. Roberts or any of his colleagues seen the Thompson video? Are they even interested in knowing the truth? Has anyone in Congress seen the video? At a speech Linda Thompson gave to an audience of 3,000 in Milwaukee on Oct. 23, 1993, she said:

We started sending out videos to churches and groups around the country. We sent a copy to every member of the House and Senate Judiciary Committee in the U.S. Congress and they denied getting them. We called behind them to ask if they got them. Now, one Congressman—Sam Nunn of Georgia, said on TV the other night: "Please, don't anybody send me another copy of this tape!" We've got to inundate them with this so please don't let my copyright on the video throw you off because I really could care less if you copy it. In fact, I want you to copy it! I am an attorney and I really put that copyright on there to offend the people that put this coverage out originally so that they would sue me and nobody has! Make copies, lots of copies and get them out there. Send them to Congress. Get the cheapest deal you can get. Make as many as you can—get them out there! This is the only way we're going to convince anybody to do a genuine investigation.

It is also important to get this video discussed by the media which so happily played the Rodney King tape over and over again. What about 60 Minutes, 20/20, Prime Time Live, and other such TV magazine shows? For a media that devoted volumes to Watergate and Irangate, where is the curiosity over Wacogate? Where are all those well-paid investigative reporters? Where are all those Pulitzer Prize winners? Only a massive effort on the part of thousands of Americans will be able to break through the wall of censorship and disinformation erected by the Clinton government and its accomplices.

(To get copies of the Thompson video, "Waco, the Big Lie," write to: American Justice Federation, 3850 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana 46203. Or phone: 317-780-5204. Fax: 317-780-5209. Price: \$20.)

Lawsuits Filed in Waco Massacre

In October 1993, the CAUSE Foundation filed the first of numerous lawsuits under the Federal Civil Rights Act, on behalf of relatives of individuals killed in the Waco massacre of April 19. After the initial attack by the BATF on February 28, CAUSE had been contacted by family members of Davidians trapped inside by the government siege. As a result, CAUSE sponsored the "Lawyers Response Committee" which attempted to legally prevent the tragedy which occurred 51 days later. They contacted well-known attorneys who agreed to represent Branch Davidians for free, and to connect them with family members.

This strategy resulted in the representation of David Koresh by Dick DeGuerin and Steve Schneider by Jack Zimmermann, both of powerful Houston-based criminal law firms. In addition, CAUSE sought an injunction and restraining order in the U.S. District Court in Waco. These legal documents predicted that the government would burn out the Davidians almost two months prior to the holocaust of April 19.

CAUSE has also filed three Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) demands with FBI and BATF, seeking over \$100,000,000 in damages for the survivors of three Branch Davidian families. "These suits are not so much intended to compensate the victims of the government's excessive use of force, as they are to defend the Constitution from government encroachment and to see that another situation like Waco never happens again," said Kirk D. Lyons, attorney and Executive Director of CAUSE.

The 39-page lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Waco Division, cites several causes of action against the U.S. government. The suit names the United States of America, Presi-

dent Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno, FBI, BATF and its former Director, Stephen Higgins, numerous BATF agents, including Robert Rodriguez, the so-called infiltrator, and several FBI agents, including Jeffrey J. Jamar, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Davidian standoff.

The civil rights lawsuit accuses the BATF of unconstitutional use of excessive force in conducting the February 28 raid that left four BATF agents and six Branch Davidians dead. Moreover, CAUSE charges that the BATF had no sufficient probable cause to support the search warrant that led to the initial raid, provided the court with false information to secure the warrant, fired indiscriminately and killed innocent citizens, established a de facto state of martial law, used psychological terror, and willfully and maliciously attacked and killed the surviving members of the Branch Davidians. The lawsuits also allege that BATF is engaged in a conspiracy to deprive citizens of their rights, privileges and immunities under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Defending the Survivors

In addition to suing the government, CAUSE has been active with defense attorneys for the Branch Davidians and represents several of those held as material witnesses, having secured several releases from federal custody. Moreover, CAUSE Associate Director Dave Hollaway is an independent investigator in the Davidian case and was taken to the site of the Branch Davidian church by BATF prior to the government's razing of the fire remains.

In its investigation, CAUSE has secured the services of an independent forensic pathologist, a fire and explosion laboratory, and other expert witnesses. Independent examination of Branch Davidian human remains has been conducted by CAUSE.

The official report on the investigation by the U.S. Treasury Department was released on September 30, 1993. This led to the firing of BATF Director Stephen E. Higgins, and the suspension of five senior agents, four of whom are named in the lawsuit: Chojnacki, Royster, Hartnett, and Dunagan. The civil lawsuit was filed by CAUSE on the previous day.

A companion report by the U.S. Justice Department was released on October 8, 1993. The report was hastily edited to remove any information which would be of value in the civil suit or of use to the defense attorneys in their representation of the Branch Davidians.

Naturally, the reports leave much to be desired considering they are products of the government investigating itself. However, they do contain sufficient facts to support the contentions of the civil lawsuit. Moreover, the reports contradict themselves and each other: they don't even agree on what gas was used to force the Davidians out of their building.

CAUSE represents about seven families of dead Davidians and is expected to file more suits in the next few weeks. CAUSE Foundation is a non-political public service corporation dedicated to the preservation of international human and civil rights. It is the only organization which is actively and meaningfully pursuing justice for the survivors of the Waco massacre. Since the expenses for carrying forth these legal battles against the government are high, CAUSE needs as much financial help from the public as possible. Any contribution over \$50 will receive a copy of the lawsuit. (For further information, write to: *The Balance*, a newsletter published by CAUSE, P.O. Box 1235, Black Mountain, North Carolina 28711. Contributions to CAUSE should be sent to the same address.)