

# Georgia insight

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*"She hath done what she could."* Mark 14:8a

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## **Read Those Labels! Are You Buying Items from China?**

Labels on edible items produced in the U.S. must list ingredients and may add data on calories, carbohydrates, cholesterol, sodium, protein, fat, vitamins, etc. After discovering my sensitivity to soy, reading labels became a must and I soon learned it's in thousands, if not millions, of prepared foods and supplements such as vitamins. You may be astonished to learn it's added to or is a major ingredient in most oil, mayonnaise, shortening, margarine, and other refined food.

**Then there's China!** Label reading is a *real* education now. By scanning labels, you'll learn that many products formerly produced by American workers are now only "distributed by" U.S. business and a "made in the U.S.A." label is hard to find. In the past, products sold under U.S. brands were made in this country under strict government regulations. Then, businesses, greedy for cheap labor, shifted manufacturing to other countries that make the items now "distributed by" American companies. Result: U.S. workers are fired; laborers in third-world countries are hired; U.S. wages decline and consumers are exposed to often harmful, inferior foreign goods.

**Pet food.** Tainted products made headlines when dogs and cats got sick or died after eating pet food made with wheat flour imported from China. It was no ordinary wheat flour. It contained melamine, an industrial chemical used to make fertilizers and plastics. That poisoned pet food prompted a recall of 100 brands sold in the U.S. Soon, other dangers were exposed.

**Fowl, pork and seafood.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that thousands of hogs and some 20 million chickens could have been fed contaminated feed. As you (pardon the pun) digest that, consider that 80 percent of seafood eaten in the U.S. is imported and 25 percent of shrimp from China contains antibiotics not allowed in U.S. food and not destroyed by cooking.

**If meat is from China, the label must say so.** If your appetite's ruined, be grateful that the FDA refused 51 shipments of catfish, shrimp, eel, and tilapia tainted with salmonella, veterinary drugs or cancer-causing nitrofurans. Contamination occurs because China raises seafood in water mixed with bacteria-laden raw sewage. To counteract that, China adds dangerous drugs to seafood feed to combat the bacteria and pesticides are added to the water to kill the vermin. Chicken coops are suspended over growing-ponds so market-bound seafood can eat (gag) the dropping feces. I'm told that meat from China must *now* clearly state that it *is* from China.

**Vitamins.** China makes *80 percent of the world's vitamin C*. Not only is it sold in capsule or tablet form as a very popular vitamin itself, it's a valuable additive in many processed foods and supplements. Beware of product origins. Traces of chloramphenicol in *royal jelly* from China caused a ban by the European Union in 1994 and in 2002 by Ireland and the United Kingdom. Produced in hives by worker bees, very young larvae and queen bee larvae feed on it. Since it's very rich in vitamins and proteins, it's sold as a nutritional supplement for human consumption.

**Medication.** In 2006 the U.S. paid \$675 million for *pharmaceutical ingredients and products* imported from China. China exports a phenomenal 20 percent of generic and over-the-counter drugs and *40 percent of active ingredients for pills are produced in either China or India.*

## ***Tainted “Ts”: Toothpaste, Tires, Toys & Trinkets***

**Toothpaste.** Last May 900,000 tubes of toothpaste made in China were recalled. Glycerine had been replaced by diethylene glycol, an ingredient in antifreeze that’s deadly if ingested. In Georgia a woman was convicted of murdering her husband with food-laced antifreeze. Its sweet taste was so easily disguised, she, reportedly, used it to kill another man.

Inmates in U.S. jails and prisons should be grateful that the toothpaste they previously used was among the brands recalled. Prisoners had been provided brands made in China, but marketed and distributed here. A friend recently found another use for tainted toothpaste. She says it will stop the itching caused by a mosquito bite. So, don’t throw it away! Recycle it!

When I began reading toothpaste boxes, I was surprised to find only two brands currently made in the U.S.A. There may be others, but not in the stores I frequent. Packages claiming to be “distributed by” U.S. companies could be made anywhere by anyone and could be mixed with anything. So, I’ve changed brands of toothpaste. If it’s not plainly marked “made in the U.S.A.,” I leave it in the store.

**Tires.** Had any tire trouble, lately? In August after a close inspection showed a major defect, a tire importer in New Jersey recalled 255,000 tires made in China. Missing was the gum strip that glues the treads to the carcass of the tire. He must’ve received over half of the 450,000 tires that were recalled. Was that an oversight by China, a deliberate money-saving strategy or an attempt to reduce the U.S. population of motorists? Good questions!

Maybe you’ve seen some of those treads lying beside the highway where they were flung off tires on moving vehicles. Those cast-off treads are nick-named “alligators” because they’re long, black and dangerous to cars that lose them, as well as other vehicles that may run over them or may be damaged by the flying particles.

**Toys and trinkets.** By mid-August businesses in the U.S. had recalled 24 kinds of toys for safety reasons. All were made in China. In fact, China makes 70 percent of all toys sold in the in this country and, until recently, parents didn’t know that many from foreign countries are not inspected and can be dangerous. Check the origin of your child’s necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, charms, and toy drums. They could be among the hundreds of thousands of recalled items tainted with lead paint, such as the 1.5 million Thomas & Friends wooden trains. By mid-September, Mattel had recalled the following:

### **Toys Affected by Lead Paint**

- 8/1/07 Fisher-Price, multiple products
- 8/14/07 “CARS” Sarge Character, two products
- 9/4/07 GeoTrax Engine, two products; Barbie Accessory Sets, seven products; and It’s a Big Big World, one product

### **Toys Affected by Magnets**

- 8/14/07 Polly Pocket Play Sets, multiple products; Batman Magna Play Sets, four products; Barbie and Tanner Accessory, one product; Doggie Daycare Play Sets, multiple products; and Shonen Jump’s One Piece, one product

Mattel promised to (1) require all paint to be tested before it’s used on toys, (2) increase testing and unannounced inspections at each production stage and (3) ensure compliance.

**Just think!** But for tainted pet food, consumers might be unaware of the many dangerous items imported from China. The one-percent inspection of Chinese products is 99 percent too low.

## ***Religious Freedom has been and is Under Attack in U.S. Public Schools***

Thankfully, several legal organizations focus on defending Christians whose religious freedoms are being denied. This is not a new phenomenon.

- Some 20 years ago when Raymond Raines was a little boy, he was sent to detention for a week because he bowed his head and said a silent prayer over his lunch. More recently, kindergartner Kayla Broadus was told it was against the law to bow her head and pray over her milk and cookies at snack time. These cases are only two of the many handled by the Rutherford Institute during its 25-year ministry.
- Just last winter, Rutherford reported the September 14, 2006 civil law suit filed by Rutherford attorneys to protect the rights of Amber Mangum, a seventh-grade student in Prince George's County, Maryland. She had been threatened with disciplinary action for reading her Bible during free time in Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School cafeteria, where students are allowed to read other books during lunch or non-instructional time. She was, also, assured of severe consequences if she were caught reading her Bible at school again, even during free time.
- Coach Marcus Borden's problem began two years ago in New Jersey after East Brunswick High School officials adopted a policy to prevent representatives of the school district from participating in student-initiated prayer. Although pre-game prayer had been a regular part of football for years before he became East Brunswick's coach in 1983, officials decided those who work in their public schools no longer have the constitutional right to religious freedom.

In October 2005 the school district went to court against the coach. However, Rutherford defended his case in court and won. In July 2006 U.S. District Judge Dennis Cavanaugh said the school district violated Coach Borden's constitutional rights in three categories – the freedom of speech, freedom of association and academic freedom. They had charged him with violating school policy by “silently bowing his head and ‘taking a knee’ with his players while [the team] engaged in student-initiated, student-led, nonsectarian pre-game prayers.”

After announcing their intention to challenge the decision, disgruntled school district officials picked up support from like-minded anti-Christian groups, including the ACLU, the Interfaith Alliance, the Anti-Defamation League and Americans United for Church and State.

- In July 2006 Rutherford Institute attorneys filed a First Amendment lawsuit against officials of Foothill High School in Clark County, Nevada. Although school officials asked the judge of Nevada's U.S. District Court to dismiss the case, he refused and allowed it to go forward.

Rutherford took the case after Foothill High officials, blatantly, denied Brittany McComb's constitutional rights. They censored a written copy of her valedictory speech by crossing out and circling certain parts they judged inappropriate. Then, they wrote these words on it: “IDENTIFIES A PARTICULAR RELIGION,” “DEITIES” and “PROSELYTIZING.”

However, Brittany, who would not acquiesce, exercised her constitutional right to share her personal beliefs. But school officials were ready to act if she did not comply. As she read Bible verses and referred to God and her faith in Jesus Christ, they either had the stage microphone unplugged or did it personally. The censorship caused Rutherford attorneys to defend Brittany's right to free speech. If Rutherford wins, censorship will be gone from Foothill High and other schools may hesitate to restrict the constitutional rights of students.

## ***Bush-led Secret SPP Plan Prompts “Cease & Desist” Letter From 22 in Congress***

While some scoff at secret plans to merge the U.S., Canada and Mexico into a North American Union, it’s a fact that’s well under way. Bush is signing “trade agreements” with Mexico and Canada to create a “common market” that will transition into a North American Union, such as began in Europe where an economic “common market” soon became the European Union. For folks who doubt this is happening, give them a copy of the letter quoted verbatim below.

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August 6, 2007

Dear Mr. President:

As you travel to Montebello, Canada later this month for a summit with your Canadian and Mexican counterparts, we want you to be aware of serious and growing concerns in the U.S. Congress about the so-called Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) you launched with these nations in 2005.

We share your desire to promote good relations with our neighbors to the north and south. There are, of course, areas in which collaboration between the three nations is both sensible and necessary. For example, further development of the energy resources of Canada and Mexico would benefit North America as a whole. And cooperation in matters of national security is something the three North American nations have engaged in for many years.

The SPP process, however, is being conducted in a secretive manner with a view to “harmonizing” U.S., Canadian and Mexican policies, regulations and practices in ways that may actually undermine our security and sovereignty. For instance, measures that would make it easier to move goods and people across borders could have the effect of further weakening this country’s ability to secure its frontiers and prevent illegal immigration.

Such secretiveness seems not to be accidental. The public interest group Judicial Watch had to resort to use of the Freedom of Information Act to obtain notes from a “North American Forum” conference, attended by U.S. government and corporate officials. Conferees made reference to using a practice called “evolution by stealth” to prevent significant opposition from developing to the desired end-state: a supranational North American association of some kind.

The House of Representatives last week overwhelmingly and on a bipartisan basis adopted an amendment barring Transportation Department officials from participating in SPP-related meetings in the future. This vote is an indication of the serious concerns felt by those of us in Congress and by our constituents about this initiative – concerns that will only be intensified if pursuit of the SPP continues out of public view and without congressional oversight or approval.

We call on you not to pledge or agree to any further movement in connection with the SPP at the upcoming North American summit. Rather, in the interest of transparency and accountability, we urge you to bring to the Congress whatever provisions have already been agreed upon and those now being pursued or contemplated as part of this initiative, for the purpose of obtaining authorization through the normal legislative process. Only by doing so, can your partners in Canada and Mexico have confidence in the future application of such arrangements.

Sincerely,

*U.S. Congressional Representatives Terry Everett, Tom Tancredo, Nancy Boyda, David Davis, John Boozman, Virgil Goode, Jr., Duncan Hunter, Ted Poe, Walter Jones, Phil Gingrey<sup>1</sup>, John Duncan, Tom Price<sup>1</sup>, Ginny Brown, Jo Bonner, Steve King, Michael Rogers, Robert Aderholt, Sue Myrick, Gary Miller, Greg Walden, Thaddeus McCotter and Todd Akin*

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that only two of Georgia’s 13 Congressmen signed this letter. If yours didn’t, see below.

**ACTION** – If your congressman didn’t sign the above, please send him a copy. Then ask him to write another letter to President Bush asking him to stop the unprecedented merger of our nation, laws and borders into a North American Union that would destroy our form of government and the U.S. would cease to be a sovereign nation.

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