

The Good News TODAY

FREE

APRIL 2009

Vol. 8 No. 4

...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark 1:15

When “what God hath joined...” impacts “raise up a child...”

By Judith Ryder

Following months of excruciating delays occasioned both by the illness of the judge’s dog and a snowstorm, Judge Ned Mangum, District Judge of Wake County, NC, presided over a divorce proceeding between Venessa Mills and Thomas Mills, in early March 2009. Since the judge had just complimented Mrs. Mills on her job of homeschooling their three “thriving” children, she was understandably surprised and shaken when he then decreed that the children must return to public schools after their current homeschooling term ends.



Venessa Mills with her children Daniel, Jason and Dana

In a recent phone interview at her home in NC, Mrs. Mills recalled that although it was a terrible blow, especially coming on the heels of being discharged by her lawyer that same day, she came to realize it as an opportunity to grow in the Lord, and is very thankful that although she does not know His plan for her, she has the Lord in her life, and wants to follow Him. She added that “brothers and sisters in the Lord are helping me to keep my daily focus on Jesus” and hopes her children will see her “faith in action”, as she strives to “just be a servant”. Asked about the response she

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Raise up a child continued Page 4

HOPE CITY

57 Crawford Street Bridge, RI 02903

Photos by David Clouff

By Ralph Davis

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that it must be downright cold living in a tent underneath a bridge on the outskirts of downtown Providence, RI. or sleeping on a bench, in an alley, or even in a cardboard box.



Providence (God’s provision) What happened?

Try it yourself; set up a tent in your own backyard and deny yourself the privilege of entering your home for any reason for at least 48 hours. Do this regardless of the temperature or the weather condition. Absolutely do not give in to your natural desire for the comfort to which you are accustomed.

look how easy it is to quickly forget about the plight of scores of people that lack proper nourishment, warmth, and a consistent living environment.

When you do go back inside your cozy digs, you might prepare a meal, settle into your favorite chair and watch the tube before showering and hopping into bed. Perhaps as you lie there it begins to dawn on you;

When you awaken the next morning you resolve to “do something” about the problem. You chat it up at your break, telling about your outdoors experiment but all you get at work are disinterested looks on the faces of your co-workers and some

Hope City continued Page 10

Sinfully Nice Christians - Nice Churches are Killing America

By Pastor Mark E. Holick

Dt. 28, As the church goes, so goes the nation. Ps. 9:17, The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. Ro. 6:23, For the wages of sin is death...

911, two wars, 50 million children aborted, radical homosexuality, illegal’s influx, Islam’s war against us- the great satan, pornography #1 on the internet, exportation of abortions, public school failure, our current financial situation, 50% + loss in our 401(k)s, unfettered government spending,... ad naseum.



Our nation is in moral freefall and it is not because of San Francisco, Vegas, NBC, ACLU, Congress, or the New York Times, it is because of Evangelical Christian church members. Yes, it is because of us Christians and Churches who are nice. Sinfully nice.

Because of our moral depravity, God’s judgment is upon us in a multitude of ways. Some of our current judgments are

Sinfully Nice? Is it possible to be so nice that we are sinful? Let us ask the Lord. God is

Nice continued Page 5

DOES TWO PLUS TWO EQUAL FOUR?

By Coach Dave Daubenmire

“A metaphysician is one who, when you remark that twice two makes four, demands to know what you mean by twice, what by two, what by makes, and what by four. For asking such questions metaphysicians are supported in oriental luxury in the universities, and respected as educated and intelligent men.” -H. L. Mencken

the acquisition of power or the building of a ministry, moral relativism became the stagecoach upon which a new sheriff rode into town. Like “new math” a new morality seeped into the soul of America



I don’t know who I can believe anymore. Somewhere along the road to destruction Truth no longer mattered. From the pulpit to the President honesty became the sacrificial lamb required for the furtherance of an agenda. Whether it be

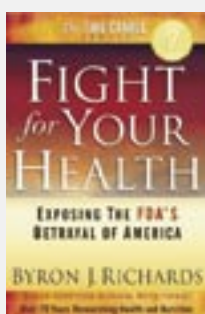
poisoning every institution upon which America had flourished.

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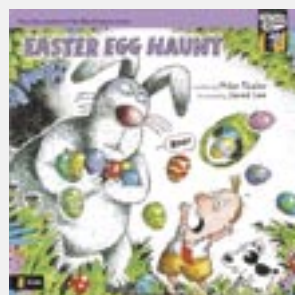
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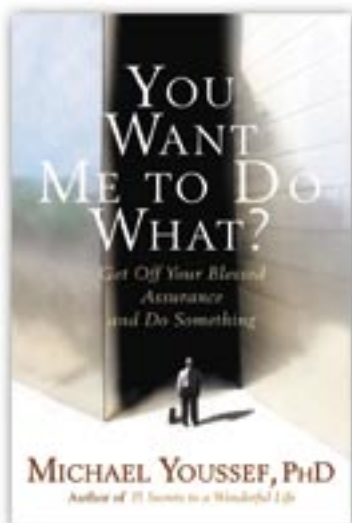
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2 + 2 = 4 from Page 1

If the Church will no longer stand for Truth is it any wonder the rest of the nation is in such a quandary?

Yes, my friends, a new banner now flies over our nation. "Clark Kent's America" of truth and justice is no longer the American way. Symbolism over substance, the end justifying the means, and pragmatism over principle is the new moral code of today's crap-filled crusaders. They continue to pile the manure higher and deeper.

Our schools teach it, our legislators codify it, and our judges affirm this new morality, while our churches refuse to oppose it. In America, Truth is no longer Truth. Truth has become an opinion.

Think I am wrong? Just tune into any cable news program and you will be swarmed with a plethora of change agents masquerading as "political pundits" puking out their opinions designed to keep you in a state of confusion. It is always the same puked regurgitating their party line--- Mr. Newt, David Gergan, Paul Begala, Dick Morris, and the "Fox All Stars" belching out their "version" of the truth. "Fair and balanced" is the mantra they like to hum, as if one's opinion, dressed up as truth, could ever set one free.

We need a Joe Friday morality in America again..."just the facts Ma'am, just the facts"...rather than the "party line" punditry polished and passed off as personal epiphanies. With most American's head spinning like something out of "The Exorcist" is it any wonder that most people live in a state of moral confusion? "You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free." Too bad very few Christian pulpits still preach it.

But the problems with this nation are not political. The genesis of them began in the Garden...."Did God Really Say?"...when Satan first planted the seeds of doubt in the mind of Eve. It was there that political spin first began with old Slew Foot's assault on Truth.

"Does two plus two REALLY equal four?"

Yes, my friends, it does, despite how much a politically motivated mathematical expert may try and convince us otherwise. The experts could say it equals, five...or even six...and produce all kinds of evidence poking holes in the old

"fundamental math" theory, but no amount of evidence, no matter how persuasive, can make it so. But I assure you, that will not keep the truth-haters from trying to get you to re-think the way you figure.

The sodomite lobby can produce all of the "evidence" that they can dig up regarding the reason for their death-style and that will not change the fact that sodomy is sin.

No matter how often heterosexuals want to change spouses, and no matter how many pastors tell them it is OK, God will still hate divorce.

Although millions can be raised to battle AIDS the truth is that we would not be where we are with this disease if men had not inserted their genitalia into the rectum of another man. Why do you suppose they warn us to wash our hands after going to the bathroom.? Hmm?

Printing Monopoly money (fiat dollars) to pay for bad debt flies in the face of all economic rules and will lead to drastic consequences, no matter how much it is designed to "stimulate the economy." What good is a "rescue plan" if it ultimately costs the life of those who do the rescuing?

A fetus is a human baby no matter what label you try and give to it. Abortion kills a child... "A Who



is a Who no matter how small"even if you call it "choice."

Practicing Christianity is not illegal in America no matter how much the communists would like for us to believe it is. God still "rules in the affairs of men" no matter how much the Supreme Court wishes to tell us that THEY do.

Our rights are "God-given rights" despite how often the talking heads call them "Constitutional rights." Our Constitution secures rights...it does not grant them.

We live in a Constitutional Republic despite the efforts to convince us we are a "democracy." America will be judged by God even if He

did "shed His Grace on" us. Let them accumulate all of the old rocks that they can find and they still will not prove we came from apes. God made the rocks and the apes.

Yep, two plus two still equals four. America needs a lesson in remedial math.

For the life of me I can not understand why the Church will no longer stand up and contend for the faith.

As I have shared with the readers in the past, I spend much of my time traveling and defending the Truth. I continue to be amazed at how sheep-like the pew sitters have become. In a time when the "trumpet blast must be certain" most Christians are getting their world view from the four-horsemen of conservatism, Limbaugh, Hannity, Beck, and Savage. Do you think any of them are born again of the Spirit of God? We would be so much better off studying Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John.

This past Saturday morning in Winchester, Virginia I taught a group of Christian-patriots from my CD series, "Exposing the Lie of Separation of Church and State." I'm sure the sound of jaws-dropping reverberated the 80 miles or so into Washington D.C. as God's people saw first-hand the rewriting of history that has taken place. The anger and frustration was almost palpable as the true beliefs of America's Founders were laid bare for all to see. The evidence that America's Founders intended that Christian principles must under gird this Republic is undeniable. And still our Pastors refuse to engage in moral issues that they deem to be "too political."

We have been lied to. Two plus two still equals four. Only those Christian principles that the Founders espoused can save this nation. Instead of multiplying their values to our progeny we have permitted them to subtract the truth of their heritage. We need a new math lesson.

Cataclysmic times lay ahead for America, and those who will pay the greatest price are those who boldly declare the Truth of the Bible. Fuzzy math Christians and fuzzy math Christianity will swallow the tolerance/diversity pill and join in the persecution of their "old-math" brethren who unashamedly defend Biblical Truth to the intolerant "haters of God." It happened in Germany and it will happen here. "Your enemies will be those of your own

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household."

Which math will you be using?

A quick study of Biblical Christianity will show that the sin-hating, God-fearing Gospel has always led to persecution. The blood-stained Gospel has always been renewed

For the life of me I can not understand why the Church will no longer stand up and contend for the faith.

by the blood stained corpses of its unflinching prophets. Sin minus Christ always equals death, no matter how you do the math. Teaching that math lesson in America will soon cost you your freedom, if not your very life.

The battle is heating up. Soon you will be forced to pick sides. As America's Obamanation moves more and more towards the celebration of both sin and death, those who stand for Jesus will be putting themselves and their families at risk. There will soon be no middle ground.

Where will you stand? You need to make the decision now. "And if it seem EVIL unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom

you will serve....

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed shall live;

"There always comes a time in history when the man who dares to say that two plus two equals four is punished with death." -Albert Camus

My friends, the question before you should not be which pundit you will believe, but rather, do two and two really equal four? Be sure that God is watching and He grades all of the tests.

"But whosoever denies me before men, him will I also deny before my father in heaven."

So what do you say, does two and two still equal four?

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has received, she noted, it has been very encouraging and supportive, though some believe that since the homeschool ruling came as part of a divorce settlement, the issue of homeschooling itself has been somewhat obscured.

She has announced she will appeal the ruling but they are not yet on the docket.

Mrs. Mills, who does not believe in divorce, reluctantly filed for divorce in October 2008 after repeated instances of her husband's adultery. Confronted by her, he denied any affairs, yet continued a romantic relationship with his tennis partner. In December, he rented a house less than half a mile away, but chose not to move out of the family home until mid-March, 2009, causing emotional trauma and stress in the home. Later, under oath, he admitted to adultery, a crime in NC. The Mills' children are Dana 12, Jason 11 and Daniel 10.

According to court papers, Mr. Mills told the judge his wife became emotionally estranged following a 2005 conference she attended at the Solid Doctrine Church in Washington State. When she returned and discussed removing the children from public school to homeschool them, he was disinclined but temporarily agreed, admitting they were doing poorly in public school. After four years of homeschooling, one child is now learning at grade level and the other two are learning at two grades above their grade levels. All three want to continue homeschooling, and are upset they must return to public school. Judging from the immediate public outcry, so are legions of homeschoolers across the country. A campaign was launched to have Judge Mangum removed from the case.

Judge Mangum's ruling had not only granted Mr. Mills his desire to return the children to public schools, but also allowed Mr. Mills to pay the minimum amount of child support, causing

financial hardship for his wife and children. By returning the children to public school, the judge effectively frees/forces Mrs. Mills to go into the workforce, thus enabling Mr. Mills to pay less child support. Although Mr. Mills makes over \$120,000 a year, or \$9400 per month, the judge required that he pay only \$1400 per month in child support.

Following days of public anger and outrage over his sending homeschooled children back into public school, Judge Mangum wrote a Temporary Child Custody order dated March 17th, in which he justified his decision by quoting extensively from the 11-13 affidavits supplied by those sympathetic to Mr. Mills. Neither Mrs. Mills' rebuttals to those, nor any of her 37 supportive affidavits were quoted. He stipulated equal child custody, with each parent having the children on alternate weeks. Until Mrs. Mills completes the current, final term of homeschooling, on the weeks Mr. Mills has custody, he must transport them to their mother's residence at 8:00 a. m., and she must return them at 6:00 p. m.

Accused of legislating from the bench, Judge Mangum defended his decision to return the children to public school, saying "it is in their best interest", will make them "more well rounded", and will be good for "socialization". (Mrs. Mills has provided much evidence in 37 affidavits that they are already well socialized.) He said, "It will do them a great benefit to be in the public schools, and they will challenge some of the ideas that you've taught them (emphasis added) and they could learn from that and make them stronger."

Some of the affidavits provided to the court on behalf of Mr. Mills came from Mrs. Mills' parents and a sister in AZ, as well as some of her long-time friends including her maid of honor. They testified of their concerns about Mrs. Mills' involvement with the Sound Doctrine Church and the effect it is having on the children's safety and emotional stability. Other affidavits presented on Mr. Mills' behalf were by disgruntled former members of the Sound Doctrine Church who variously claimed that the Church is run by fear and manipulation, that members' commitment is tested by harassing them to give more money or risk proving they "don't love God enough", and that Church leaders Tim and Carla Williams mentally abuse members. Others pointed to the Williams's unusual desire to be called variations of Mother

and Father, Grandmother and Grandfather by church members including Venessa and her children. Some critics characterized the Church as a "cult" whose leaders repeatedly cause discord between family members, thus ruining relationships. Others recounted personal experiences with Church leadership and policies which seemed harsh or inappropriate.

When contacted about these allegations, the Sound Doctrine Church categorically denied them all, calling them gossip and slander, untruthful, and resulting from bias and misunderstandings. *Gossip and the Gospel*, by former pastor Tim Williams, may be downloaded at their website (sdoctrinechurch.org). The web-

After four years of homeschooling, one child is now learning at grade level and the other two are learning at two grades above their grade levels. All three want to continue homeschooling, and are upset they must return to public school.

site indicates the current Pastor and Assistant Pastor as Josiah Williams and Joshua Williams. Judge Mangum had found that part of the daily activity of the Mills children included "frequent communication via phone and web cam" with people at the Church in Washington State. Mr. Mills, who disapproved, said he had been unaware that part of the time being devoted to the children's homeschooling curriculum was comprised of instruction from a Church member in Washington State.

Mrs. Mills had requested the Court to limit Mr. Mills' custody to nine hours a week, no overnights or Sunday visits, no phone calls to the children unless scheduled in advance, and no contact, while in his custody, with ex-Church members or anyone else hostile to the Church. The court rejected these demands when issuing its equal custody ruling. There was no censure of Mr. Mills' adultery, except he may not allow contact between



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the children and his mistress.

Mrs. Mills testified that her husband is a liar, an adulterer, a poor role model, and a bad father. Mr. Mills admitted his wife's good job of homeschooling the children and said she is a good mother, though expressed concern that his children have sometimes shown fear of her. He related an incident about a time she refused her 9 year old son's request to use the bathroom before finishing the dishes, causing humiliation when he urinated through his pants onto the kitchen floor.

Nevertheless, not until Judge Mangum suffered the slings and arrows of public outrage over his order to remove three "thriving" children from homeschooling, did he seek to divert attention from the issue of homeschooling to the issue of Mrs. Mills' involvement in the Sound Doctrine Church. The several additional pages of quotes from affidavits which suddenly appeared in his Temporary Custody Order had not been in the initial written draft of the verbal order prepared for the judge's signature by Mr. Mills' attorney.

Relating mostly to the Sound Doctrine Church, the affidavits consist entirely of "malicious gossip, insinuation, and slander", according to Robyn Williams, a friend of Venessa's who is also a conservative, stay-at-home Christian mother, homeschools her four children, and is certified to teach in three states. Robyn undertook to defend Venessa by establishing a blog (HSinjustice.com) where frequent updates appear about the case. Judge Mangum's oral (video) and two written court orders may be downloaded from that site. It suggests that more information may be found on the Christian Action League's website (www.christianactionleague.org).

In addition, and "due to her family and friends' concerns", Judge Mangum ordered only Mrs. Mills to undergo a mental assessment begun within 30 days. Apparently,

the court failed to consider the possibility that friends and family of Mrs. Mills may have rejected her when she joined the Sound Doctrine Church and became a "changed" person after adopting new religious beliefs which were foreign to them, as sometime occurs. Mr. Mills complained of becoming miserable in his formerly happy marriage after she began withdrawing emotionally, largely limiting her conversation to "quoting scripture and religious rhetoric".

The court also ordered a comprehensive custody evaluation of both parties and children to be conducted by Dr. Helen Brantley and her team at the UNC Forensic Psychiatry Service. No outside testimony is allowed at UNC proceedings, and Dr. Brantley and her team are known to be "pro-father". Not surprisingly, this evaluator was selected by Mr. Mills' attorney over the objection of Mrs. Mills' attorney. All the affidavits were ordered to be made available for the mental assessment and the custody evaluation.

It would seem that by highlighting Venessa Mills' religious beliefs and those of a small church on the other side of the country, Judge Mangum has somewhat succeeded in diverting attention from his initial ruling about homeschooling. But Robyn Williams urges those interested in "learning the truth" about the Church to access its website. She alleges that diversionary tactics have turned the entire matter away from the central issue of homeschooling to a "trial by gossip", and quotes Proverbs 18:8: "The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts."

On the other hand, says Ian Slater, a spokesman for the VA based Home School Legal Defense Association, which assists homeschool parents with legal problems, "It's a tragedy of divorce, but we don't see any broad implications."

Notwithstanding, judging an individual's particular religious beliefs and/or those of the Sound

continued next page

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Nice from Page 1

too nice to Judge? Mal. 2:17 You make God tired with all your talk. "How do we tire him out?" you ask. By saying, "God loves sinners and sin alike. God loves all." And also by saying, "Judgment? God's too nice to judge."

We are nice Christians who attend nice churches that are killing America. We are Christians who promote a God that is, "too nice to judge." Our repentance (first in the evangelical church 1Pe. 4: 17, and then the nation) is the only thing that will save America. Only our returning to the Lord's Holy Law, Holy Statutes, Holy Decrees, Holy Judgments. Calling right, right, and wrong, wrong. This means we can no longer be nice.

God's Word says that the Lord blesses and prospers nations that keep His commandments and curses those who do not (see Dt. 28:1). But today, the Lord's commandments are considered contraband in our public schools, workplaces, military, media, and homes. We are nice Christians who attend nice churches that are killing America.

It is our fault.

How so? Because the preponderance of churches in America (that we Christians willingly choose to attend, which is our sin) refuse to call what is clearly wrong...wrong. We are afraid to judge wrong. That's right, judge. We will promote a God of mercy, compassion, love, gentleness, but not a God of justice or judgment. I'll not take the time here, but all the latter are just as scriptural as the former.

Did you know that word judge in some form (judged, judgment, etc.) appears over 700 times in the bible (old and new Testaments)? Did you know that word nice appears 0 times...not once?

We will not publicly confront evil

when it occurs. For example; The shedding of innocent blood (murder/abortion) - Breaking Commandment #6 Homosexuality - Breaking Commandment #7 Islam-BreakingCommandment#1

We are so nice, that we call the above things good. Instead of calling them sin, we have nice words for them. Let me give examples of nice words we have for the above three wickedness'. "Choice, a mother's right, for abortion, born that way, sexual orientation, for homosexuality, a religion of peace, culture, for Islam. All nice ways of saying that God is too nice to judge.

By nice I mean that we are amiable, tolerant, polite, understanding, respectful, accepting, unwilling to confront, etc., acts of sin that are detestable to the Lord. Jesus was so offensive to people that at one point he had to say, "Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." (Mt. 11:6; Luke 7:23). Are we American Christians today, offensive like Jesus was? *Is your church?*

What does the local media say about your church? Nothing, nice things, or a whole bunch of name calling. Jm. 4:4, Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship (nice) of the world is enmity with God? If it's the first two, you are an accomplice to sinfully nice. Note, those with no church are even worse.

Recently, I actually had a Christian pastor (leader of a local pastors group) (who was upset with me over our marquee sign) who defended Obama tell me in all sincerity that The Lord God Jehovah and allah are the same G/god. Unbelievable!

quasi-public forms of education are mounting rapidly throughout this country "for the reasons of one's choice." In today's turbulent atmosphere, our freedoms of speech and religion are also endan-

Why Do We Have Nice Churches?

Because that is the kind of Christians we are...nice. Nice Christians want nice churches with nice pastors. The most basic law of economics is supply and demand. America's churches and pastors are nice because that is the kind of churches/pastors we want. We have few courageous churches and few courageous pastors in America because there are few who are willing to support them. Simple supply and demand. There are plenty of courageous men out there who are willing, but can't do so due to lack of support.

The four basic church structures are denominationally ruled, board ruled, congregation ruled, and pastor ruled. In the first three, the structure hires the pastor and therefore can fire the pastor. They choose what kind of pastor they want or don't want. What kind do they choose? *Nice*

Did you know that word judge in some form (judged, judgment, etc.) appears over 700 times in the bible (old and new Testaments)?

ones, charismatic ones, business style ones... However, even in the pastor lead church, if people won't support him, he will have to find other employment.

We want nice churches that teach our pet doctrines just like we want. We want nice churches so we can hopefully get our family or friend to come to church, who would never come to a "radical"

ged. Some common objections to homeschooling arise from an aversion to possible "religious indoctrination", others from a fear that money and students may be diverted from public education, while still others originate from ideological concerns re: a perceived need to ensure that all children learn off the same page - i. e. state and/or federally-generated and approved materials. California is notorious for its repeated attempts to erect obstacles to homeschooling. Recently reports surfaced of a move afoot in Washington, D. C. to get rid of their charter schools, even though those students perform at a level 90% above that of public school students. Such a statistic accentuates the comparatively poor performance of our capitol's public schools.

In conclusion, Americans' right to educate their own children must be vigorously defended, especially by those who recognize all that is at stake. Getting involved in helping others who are in danger of losing their rights is the key to preserving one's own. As Martin Niemoller once wrote: "In Germany, they came first for the Communists.

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church. And on, and on, and on...

Defining a Courageous Pastor or Church

A courageous pastor or church is a pastor/church that willingly and physically leads his congregation, outside the four walls of the carpeted floored, padded pewed church building. He/they personally go to the "gates of hell" (Mt. 16:18).

The gates of hell are *not*, seminars, revivals, church services, preaching cruises, worship services, prayer services, ecumenical unity meetings, etc., etc., etc. The gates of hell are abortion clinics, city hall, porn shops, homosexual pride fests, abortionists/workers homes, godless politicians meeting places, the court house, public schools, seeker friendly churches, mosques, apostate churches, and on and on and on.

What is a Successful Church?

I recently received a great quote from my friend Cal Zastrow on, What is a Successful Church? Cal has made a number of trips to China to smuggle in bibles and tracts.

"Yes, the churches in China that are the most respected and honored in China are not the ones with the best buildings (ha!), most money (ha ha!), on TV, own a church

airplane, or even the most members. The Christians in China honor most those churches that have produced the most martyrs. Those with the most members being faithful to the Lord, through prison, torture, and martyrdom is what is highly esteemed by suffering Christians over there."

Christians, for the sake of our nation, we must repent of our sin of nice churches, before it's too late!

Churches are required to be the moral compass and conscience of a nation (Mt. 5:13). When it ceases to be that it ceases to be salt and the nation is no longer "preserved." The sin destroys it as sin always does (Ro. 6:23).


See the progression: *Nice* Christians seek -*nice* pastors produce - *nice* churches allows - a sinful and unrepentant population - resulting in the death of that nation.

If you Christian are not actively and faithfully supporting a courageous church with a courageous pastor, then you are an accomplice to the destruction of America. We must repent today. End of story. Attend and support a courageous church today!


America will not survive if you don't.

And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. And then they came for the trade unionists. And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. And then

they came for the Jews. And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. **And then...they came for me...and by that time there was no one left to speak up."**



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National News

New Hampshire Considers 'Bathroom Bill'

(EP News)--New Hampshire's House Judiciary Subcommittee voted 3-2 to pass a bill that would open all public restrooms and locker rooms to people of the opposite sex. Family advocates are concerned that by adding the words "gender expression" into the list of anti-discrimination laws, it will make New Hampshire's public bathrooms a haven for sexual predators. Last June, Colorado passed a 'bathroom bill,' and shortly thereafter reports came in from women who were uncomfortable that men were using their restrooms. Pennsylvania is considering a similar bill.

Connecticut Legislation Targets Catholic Church

(EP News)--The "biggest political firestorm" of Connecticut's legislative session ended when the legislature tabled a bill that would have altered the structure of the Catholic Church in the state. Representatives had introduced a bill that would have installed a board of laymen to govern the church, usurping the church's structure of bishops and archbishops. "Our Church is facing an unprecedented intrusion by the state Legislature into our own internal affairs," Bridgeport Bishop William Lori told supporters last week. "It is a grave violation of religious liberty." The Judiciary Committee apparently agreed, and issued a statement saying it would "table any further consideration of this bill for the duration of this session."

Religion in America is on the Decline

(EP News)--In a 2008 study, 15 percent of Americans said they had no religion. That's an increase from 8.2 percent in 1990, according to the American Religious Identification Survey from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. "Americans are slowly becoming less Christian. The challenge to Christianity does not come from other world religions or new religious movements, but rather from a rejection of all organized religions," said the report. In the latest survey, three out of four Americans called themselves Christian. In 1990, the figure was closer to nine out of 10. The most notable declines in the report came from mainline Protestant churches.

Senate Confirms Porn Lawyer as Deputy Attorney General

(EP News)--The Senate confirmed David Ogden as deputy attorney general in early March by a 65-28 vote. Ogden opposes restrictions on abortion and pornography, and has represented Playboy and Penthouse in court. He previously filed a brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in support of child pornographer Stephen Knox, who possessed sexually explicit videos of children. Ogden argued that, *The Good News TODAY*

because the children's genitalia were partially covered by clothing, such exploitation is protected by the First Amendment. Tom McClusky, vice president of government affairs at FRC Action, was disheartened by the confirmation. "It's very disappointing. In the case of David Ogden," McClusky said. He said Ogden had a "casual attitude towards pornography and protecting minors when it comes to abortion."

Families Struggle to Balance Budgets During Tough Times

(EP News)--The news is filled with stories of layoffs and plunging stock prices. And food and energy costs continue to rise. So what are families to do? Rob West, training director at Kingdom Advisors, said it's important to keep financial priorities straight. "Our responsibility as Christians is to be found faithful with what God has entrusted to us, however much or however little," he said. Howard Dayton, CEO of Crown Financial Ministries, pointed out one of the keys to financial freedom. "Learn to be content with what we have, instead of going out and buying things that we don't really need," he said. Dayton said it's also important to stay in contact with creditors. "It's been proven that creditors are much more willing to work with you, to seek to have some creative solution, if they feel you're actually going to make an effort to pay them," he said.

National Day of Prayer under Attack from Atheists

(EP News)--More than 50 years after it was made official by a joint resolution of Congress, the National Day of Prayer is being threatened by a group of atheists. The Freedom From Religion Foundation has filed a federal lawsuit, saying the National Day of Prayer is unconstitutional and creates a "hostile environment for nonbelievers." The Alliance Defense Fund will defend the National Day of Prayer Task Force. "The lawsuit will not keep us from responding to our call to ask Americans to intercede in prayer for our nation's leaders and their families," said Brian Toon, vice chairman of the NDP Task Force. "We pray without fear of retribution." The National Day of Prayer falls on the first Thursday of May -- May 7 this year.

"Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Appreciation Day" at a Massachusetts high school

By Brian Camenker

On Dec. 17, 2008, Newton North High School held a school-wide "Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Awareness Day", which included an entire day of homosexual-related presentations, workshops, and activities. It was paid for with tax dollars -- just one of the things that the \$850,000 given to the infamous *Massachusetts Commission on Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Youth* pays for.

TEA'd off Americans urged to protest

By Allie Martin

(OneNewsNow) A pro-family organization is planning TEA parties nationwide on April 15 -- but the events, designed to send a strong message to the White House and Congress, won't be sit-down affairs.

The rallies are called Taxed Enough Already, or TEA, parties that will be held in 1,000 cities across the nation. People are being asked to gather at their city hall during the lunch hour on Tax Day. Similar gatherings have taken place in cities across the U.S., as tens of thousands have turned out

to protest wasteful government spending and President Barack Obama's "stimulus" package.

Don Wildmon, founder and chairman of the sponsoring American Family Association, says the TEA parties have touched a nerve with average Americans.

"There's a tax rebellion coming if Congress and the president do not deal properly with this," says Wildmon. "I think that President Obama has gotten himself a problem that is above his pay grade -- and we're just hoping that people will respond."

In a press release, Wildmon says Washington's economic solution thus far could have detrimental effects on families for generations. "We cannot spend our way out of debt," states the AFA leader, "and we find it immoral to pile debt on our great-grandchildren."

The April protests are inspired by the Boston Tea Party in December 1773, an incident which protested British taxation on the American colonies without representation in Parliament. Rhode Islanders can protest at the Statehouse, April 15th from 12-3pm. Massachusetts has 4 Tea Parties planned, 3 in Boston and 1 in Worcester. Check TeaPartyDay.com for details.

Texas Appeals Court Upholds Moment-of-Silence Law

(EP News)--A federal appeals court on March 16 upheld a Texas law that allows public school students to observe a 60-second moment of silence following the Pledge of Allegiance. A three-judge panel from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled the moment of silence -- one minute for students to reflect, pray, meditate or engage in silent activity -- is constitutional.

In 2007, some parents sued, claiming the requirement to observe a moment of silent "causes harm" to their children and violates the First Amendment.

David Cortman, senior counsel

for the Alliance Defense Fund, said no student is compelled to pray under the Texas law. "A moment of silence is not a government endorsement of religion just because someone might use the time for prayer," he said. "The 5th Circuit was right to uphold the district court's determination that the law is not an establishment of religion."

Kelly Shackelford, chief counsel for Liberty Legal Institute, said the law is about freedom. "Students have the freedom to pray, meditate or simply think about their day," he said. "It took real intolerance for someone to sue to try to stop students from choosing prayer as

their option."

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott also defended the court's decision. "The United States Constitution plainly protects young Texans' right to observe a moment of silence before school each morning," Abbott said in a news release. "In an age where children are bombarded with distractions, beginning each school day with a moment of silence offers a welcome moment of quiet contemplation."

Twenty-six states have moment-of-silence laws, including Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Is Media Ignoring Adult Stem-Cell Successes?

(EP News)--Researchers in California and Ecuador have discovered that non-controversial adult stem cells from bone marrow can be used to treat patients with spinal-cord injuries. More than 50 patients with spinal injuries were injected with their own bone-marrow cells. To date, the patients have reported significant improvement and a better quality of life without serious complications.

This is just one of three recently published studies that demonstrate how adult stem cells are treating patients with spinal cord injury. Ironically, no one from the mainstream media reported any of these successes.

Dr. David Prentice, senior fellow for life sciences at the Family Research Council, said the successful treatments should be getting a lot more exposure. "There have been three groups now who have successfully treated patients -- not rats or mice -- with adult stem cells from the patient's own body," he said. "It's sad that people would

continue to push use of embryos because that's actually obsolete science now. But, especially if we consider the patients first, we ought to be pouring all of our resources on the ethical and successful adult stem cells."

Instead, the mainstream media covered the news that biotechnology company Geron received permission from the FDA to conduct the first human clinical trial to see if embryonic stem cells can treat spinal-cord injuries. The harvesting of embryonic stem cells always requires the destruction of human life.

The FDA announced the decision to allow the life-destroying research just days after Obama was sworn into office.

Wesley J. Smith, senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, addressed the blatant media cover-up on his blog. "Geron's future human trial made huge news. But a successful human treatment for the same condition has been ignored by the

mainstream media," he wrote. "Why the news blockade? Wrong kind of stem cells, apparently."

Dawn Vargo, bioethics analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said she is tired of adult stem cells getting ignored: "This is just further evidence that some members of the media continue to promote the agenda of embryonic stem cell research -- at the cost of young human lives and at the cost, and even detriment, of helping patients."

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sisted of public record, so they gave in.

Most of the legislators claim they don't know anything about this program but much of this is part of the homosexual group GLSEN's national project to promote transgenderism in schools across America, called the TransAction project. GLSEN is a member of the *Massachusetts Commission on Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Youth*, spending your tax dollar for their agenda.

Airport to tag passengers

By Mark Ballard

Airport security chiefs and efficiency geeks will be able to keep close tabs on airport passengers by tagging them with a high powered radio chip developed at the University of Central London.

The technology is to be trialled in Debrecen Airport in Hungary after being in development for two-and-a-half years by University College London as part of an EU-funded consortium called Optag.

Dr Paul Brennan, of UCL's antennas and radar group, said his team had developed a radio frequency identification tag far in advance of any that had been used to now to label supermarket produce.

People will be told to wear radio tags round their necks when they get to the airport. The tag would notify a computer system of their identity and whereabouts. The system would then track their activities in the airport using a network of high definition cameras.

"[The tags] have got a long range, of 10m to 20m," said Brennan, "and the system has been designed so the tag can be located to within a metre, and it can locate thousands of tags in one area at a given time."

RFID tags can normally only transmit their presence to readers a few centimetres away, while their location is difficult to grasp.

The project, called "Improving

airport efficiency, security and passenger flow by enhanced passenger monitoring," is using €2m of European funding so airports can herd people through the airport system.

Colin Brooks, Optag co-ordinator, said the trial would determine if the tags would be feasible in the light of obvious problems, such as the possibility that people might ditch their tags to avoid detection, or swap them with another person.

One solution might be to require people to use their tags to get through gates placed throughout the airport, he said. Perhaps a little like a shepherd might gate off his pasture and check the tags on his sheep as they passed into this field. ®

New UK Immigration Rules Leave Christians Confused

By Anne Thomas - Christian Today Reporter

LONDON – Foreign Christian musicians and missionaries to the United Kingdom could be deported if they are not sponsored by a licensed organization and do not obtain the necessary visas, according to new immigration rules.

Early in March, Colorado-based Christian singer Don Francisco was refused entry into London and a team of missionaries from Arkansas were denied entry to Scotland after being told they needed work visas to enter the country.

Francisco arrived at Heathrow Airport to take part in the Christian musical "Why Good Friday," in which ten of his songs are included. Upon arrival he was detained, fingerprinted and escorted onto a flight back to the United States after officials claimed he did not have the proper paperwork.

Francisco, who has traveled throughout the United Kingdom for 30 years without trouble, said, "I felt like they were looking for a reason to keep me out," accord-

ing to the Pentecostal publication Charisma. Anyone who goes into England from this point on for any reason other [than] to be a tourist and just spend money had better have their ducks in a row."

Just the day before, a Master's Commission team from Arkansas was refused admission to Scotland after immigration officials found that they would be volunteering at soup kitchens in partnership with Assemblies of God churches in Edinburgh.

"She told us that we'd have to have a work visa," said Craig Johnson, associate youth minister at Harvest Time Church in Arkansas. "So essentially you can stay [in the UK] as a tourist for six months, but if you want to volunteer some of your time working in a soup kitchen, you have to have a work visa." Johnson added that instead of being escorted to a U.S. flight, the chief immigration officer could have let them through.

"The [immigration] team kept apologizing to us profusely. The [chief immigration officer] had the power to just discretionally wave us through. She was just doing her job; I understand that. But discretionally she could have waved us

through."

Daniel Webster, parliamentary officer of the Evangelical Alliance, said the new immigration regulations had been introduced last November to counter illegal immigration and the threat of terrorism. The new rules, he said, had left many ministers and organizations confused.

"The recent cases highlight just how complex these cases are and the urgent need for churches and ministries to be kept up to date. The Evangelical Alliance is working on a full analysis to help churches better understand the law so that this does not happen again," he said.

Christian artist Francisco added that he still hoped to take part in the musical but said, "My main concern is that this one misinterpretation and misapplication of immigration law will result in my being unable to return to the UK in the future. One question that is always asked at a border is, 'Have you ever been denied entry into this country?' Unless this present situation is reversed, my truthful reply would probably result in yet another denial of entry."

Christian TV host attacked in London in 'faith hate' crime

By Dan Wooding

LONDON, UK (ANS) -- A London-based Christian minister and TV show host has been attacked by Muslims in what police are calling a "faith hate" crime.

According to a story written by Charles Boyd and posted on the UK website - www.christiantoday.com -- Pakistan-born Rev. Noble Samuel, 48, was recently driving to the studio for his Asian Gospel Show in North London, when another car pulled over in front of him. A man got out of the car and asked him for directions in Urdu.

Boyd said that the London Daily Mail reported that according to Rev. Noble, the man then "put his hand into my window, which was half open, and grabbed my hair and opened the door. He started slapping my face and punching my neck. He was trying to smash my

head on the steering wheel. Then he grabbed my cross and pulled it off and it fell on the floor. He was swearing. The other two men came from the car and took my laptop and Bible."

Boyd said, "Following the attack, Rev. Samuel, went on to present his show as usual. The Muslim owner of the TV station came on air during the show to condemn the attack."

During the last few weeks, Rev. Samuel noted that a number of Muslims had been calling in on his show to oppose his views.

"They were having an argument with me," he said. "They were very aggressive in saying they did not agree with me. I said those are your views and these are my views."

Boyd concluded by saying that the police have given panic alarms to

Mob Brutally Attacks Missionaries

By Taun Cortado

A large mob of anti-Christian extremists brutally attacked two Gospel for Asia- supported missionaries in Himachal Pradesh, India, on Saturday, March 14. After stripping them naked and beating Murari Jay and Atul Rajesh, the vicious group burned all their belongings and then had the missionaries arrested.

The mob of about 30 people barged into the place where Murari

his family in the event of similar troubles. The minister said he was afraid for the safety of his wife and 19-year-old son. "I am frightened and depressed. My show is not confrontational."

Despite the attack and threats, the Rev. Noble Samuel still insisted on carrying on with the hour long live show that is broadcast on the Venus satellite channel and made at studios located in Wembley, North London.

World News

Jesus Dramatically Changes Priest's Life

By Gospel for Asia

INDIA (ANS) -- Najeev Chakma was a respected temple priest in his local village. People came to him looking for relief from all kinds of problems. They paid him money to conduct poojas (ritual prayers) to heal their sicknesses, help them financially or promote family harmony. Yet underneath the religious façade, Najeev was a fraud who was addicted to alcohol and drugs.

But Najeev did not know what to do. All he had ever done was serve at the temple. He had even dropped out of school to pursue this path for his life. But then he had an encounter with a Gospel for Asia film team.

A pastor of a local church had invited the film team to come to the village and show their movies about the life of Christ. While serving in this village, the pastor had

become good friends with Najeev, so naturally he invited him to see the movie. The people in this area love films but do not have many opportunities to watch them. While Najeev was watching the movie, he began to realize Jesus is alive and offers true forgiveness. He had never heard of a God who is able to do all this. Najeev chose to receive Jesus as his savior that very day.

Now, he no longer works in the temple. Najeev also quit drinking alcohol and taking drugs. This former village priest is now a member of the local Christian church. His legacy of faith is lasting long after the film team has gone on to another village.

Najeev's pastor asks for prayer that this former priest's family will come to know Jesus in the same way that Najeev does. He also asks for prayer that Najeev will stand firm in his faith.

Papal Kotel Visit May Bar Jews

By Tzvi Ben Gedalyahu

(Israel Today) The planned visit by Pope Benedict XVI to the Western Wall (Kotel) may force a ban on Jews from praying there for the first time since the holy site was restored to Israel after 2,000 years. Pope Benedict has said his visit to Israel in mid-May is devoted to "unity" and "peace."

Security officials have been discussing the issue with Western Wall Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, who said he is vehemently opposed to the idea. Government authorities responsible for the safety of the Pope want to clear the area from the evening before his visit until he leaves.

"The Kotel must be open during the entire visit for every person who wants to pray," Rabbi Rabinowitz said. "Jews have been praying at the Kotel for almost 42 years. There is no preference

of one person over another."

Jews were banned from visiting the Western Wall during the Jordanian occupation of eastern Jerusalem. Jordan also closed off all of the Christian churches, and Israel re-opened all religious sites to all faiths after recovering all of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War in 1967.

Pope John Paul II visited the Western Wall in March 2000 and followed the tradition of placing a prayer between the cracks of the Wall. It stated, "God of our fathers, you chose Abraham and his descendants to bring your Name to the Nations. We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer. And asking Your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant."

when asked about the attacks.

The next morning, the two missionaries had to go back to the police station to clear the case. After investigating the situation, the police found no fault in the mob for the unproved beatings, and the missionaries were not charged with any crime.

Murari and Atul also received treatment at a local hospital following the attack. They are now home and, through medical care, are recovering quickly.

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Health



Big Pharma CEO Fakes Cancer while Pill-Pushing Doctor Fakes Clinical Trial Results for Bextra, Effexor and Celebrex

By Mike Adams, the Health Ranger, NaturalNews Editor

(NaturalNews) The culture of deceit and fraud that permeates conventional medicine became even more apparent today with the announcement that Howard Richman, the former vice president of a pharmaceutical company named *Biopure*, faked his own cancer and even impersonated a doctor in order to convince a federal judge that he was dying from colon cancer.

This bizarre deceit was an effort by Richman to squirm out of an SEC lawsuit that accused Richman of misleading investors. According to the *Associated Press*, Richman misled investors about the potential for FDA approval of a blood replacement product called *Hemopure*, which is made from cow's blood. By faking his own cancer and forging a doctor's note, Richman was able to get a postponement of judgment in the SEC lawsuit, which effectively ended the legal action he would have otherwise faced.

It all makes you wonder just how low the integrity standards really are at drug companies these days. If a highly-paid executive can fake his own cancer in order to avoid a lawsuit brought against him because he lied to investors, what other sorts of fabrications and deceptions might be going on at these companies?

Faking clinical trial data for Vioxx and Celebrex

Meanwhile, a researcher at *Baystate Medical Center* in Mas-

sachusetts, Dr. Scott Reuben, was found to have faked the data used in 21 "scientific" papers published in peer-reviewed medical journals from 1996 - 2008.

The *Associated Press* has recently reported that journals have begun retracting papers authored by Dr. Reuben. The journal *Anesthesia & Analgesia* has retracted 10 studies authored by Dr. Reuben, and the journal *Anesthesiology* has also started retracting studies.

But the damage has already been done: Dr. Reuben's work was reportedly relied on very heavily by pill-pushing doctors and medication advocates, who cited his studies to "prove" these drugs are safe and effective. In reality, though, **it was all just made up!**

This is actually the story on just about everything Big Pharma pushes these days: It's all just fiction shrouded in scientific-sounding language, led by dishonest, corrupt drug company CEOs and deceitful doctors who lie to the world in order to make more money pushing dangerous prescription medications.

Even when drug company executives aren't lying to their investors or lying to judges, they're still lying to the FDA and their own customers about the safety of their drugs. Through the cherry-picking of drug trials (and the burying of negative results), they lie to the entire scientific community about the real dangers of their chemical products.

Modern medicine is largely one big lie. It doesn't work. People aren't getting any healthier from drugs and surgery, but they sure are becoming increasingly bankrupt.

The "grand clinical trial" of medicating an entire nation and observing the results has proven quite conclusively that *drugs and surgery do not produce a healthy nation.* That's the one drug trial they will never report, of course: While people suffer from sky-high rates of degenerative disease, depression, obesity and chemical

SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN FDA PRE-EMPTION

By Byron J. Richards, CCN

In a stunning and unexpected 6-3 ruling the right-leaning Supreme Court went against the wishes of the last president, took the wind out of the sails of health care reform of the current president, sent irresponsible Big Pharma a major wake up call, and bluntly told the arrogant FDA that they are indeed not above the rule of law. It is a major victory for every American citizen.

Central to the issue is a power struggle between the federal government and states, which in this situation meant the federal government authority to pre-empt your state rights to sue if you are injured by a drug. The FDA, acting on behalf of the Bush administration and on the side of Big Pharma, has helped tie up thousands of drug injury lawsuits across the country. The FDA, who is supposed to be protecting consumers from drug injury and ensuring a correct risk/safety picture for any person taking a drug, was instead trying to shirk their responsibility and simply claim that Americans had no right to sue.

This convoluted attempt by the FDA to undermine consumer safety was one of the main themes in my 2006 book, *Fight for Your Health: Exposing the FDA's Betrayal of America.* The Bush Administration had intentionally appointed anti-safety people in high positions within the FDA, starting with its Chief Counsel, Daniel Troy (and continued as a legal philosophy after Troy was forced out for his Big Pharma connections). Troy set in motion the legal problem the Supreme Court just decided.

During the final years of the Bush

intoxication, the drug companies hilariously try to convince people they're somehow getting healthier by popping patented pills.

But the results speak for themselves: Big Pharma is a big lie, and the people pushing the Big Pharma agenda are, themselves, some of the most dishonest and despicable human beings to ever walk the planet.

It is no exaggeration whatsoever to say that if the entire drug industry shut down tomorrow, and all the doctors went on strike, and all the oncologists overdosed on chemotherapy and died, *the health of the population would immediately improve.*

Modern medicine has become the enemy of good health, and those who advocate drugs and surgery have become well-paid destroyers of lives. We would all be better off simply abandoning nearly all of modern medicine and advocating nutrition, exercise, sunlight and the avoidance of man-made synthetic chemicals.

administration cancer industry insider Andrew von Eschenbach, MD, was appointed to run the FDA, and Wall Street insider, Scott Gottlieb, MD, was second in command. These individuals sought to fully implement the FDA label as senior to any rights of citizens. Their intention was to make sure that new biotech drugs would be protected from lawsuits, as the FDA wanted to speed new and even more dangerous drugs onto the market so as to foster the development of the biotech industry. In essence, the FDA management wanted to turn the American

public into one large clinical experiment, with no right of recourse when injured.

This was occurring against a backdrop wherein the FDA couldn't even name all the drugs currently on the market, had failed to demand required after-market follow up safety testing on drugs, and had intentionally withheld safety information on existing drugs from the public. The current situation with drugs is that almost no drug, even blockbusters and those in use for decades, have an accurate risk/benefit profile.

Americans who use medications are already taking risks of unknown magnitude...

nitide, which is a main reason over 100,000 Americans are killed every year and over 3 million are injured so seriously they need hospital care (ironically, over half those injuries occur while already in the hospital).

The FDA knows full well that when a drug is approved for the market the full extent of the side effects won't be known for years. History shows us time and again that Big Pharma actively hides risk data from the FDA and pays for "science" that distorts reality. This irresponsible behavior goes along with closed-door negotiations with the FDA, and has resulted in numerous drug disasters like Vioxx. FDA managers oftentimes go against the wishes of their own safety scientists and then move on to six figure salaries in the industry they regulate. Doctors are not apprised of the actual risks and consumers are in the dark.

Currently, there are 450,000 additional new cases of heart failure every year in Americans over 65, a fact that parallels the increased use of heart-weakening statins in this older group. It is only a matter of time before the shoe drops on the 20-billion-dollar-a-year statin industry.

The FDA insistence that a drug label, based on what is known at the time of approval, should supersede citizen's states rights

to sue if they were injured, has almost nothing to do with consumer safety. Rather, it is a federal power grab that is in the best financial interests of Big Pharma and Big Biotech, industries that do not have consumer safety as their top priority.

By the way, don't think President Obama is on the side of the citizens. In the health care section of the stimulus bill, there is specific pre-emption language. If the federal government is in charge of health care it will be named in future lawsuits when patients are injured from the care it does out or doesn't allow.



The current Supreme Court ruling will undermine any system of federal health care wherein the drugs being used are injuring people. Experts believe this system is so badly broken,

due to gross FDA management incompetence, that it will take 10 years of studies and many billions of dollars just to understand the actual risks of the drugs Americans are already taking.

In writing for the majority, Justice John Paul Stevens put Big Pharma on notice. The defendant in this case, Wyeth, had argued that it could not comply with both federal and state law. Stevens told them they had a fundamental misunderstanding of regulation and were trying to hide behind the FDA, going on to say that it is a central premise of federal drug regulation that the manufacturer bears responsibility for the content of its label at all times. That is not the news Big Pharma wanted to hear.

Stevens went on to write that there was no merit in the argument that the FDA's labeling decisions could supersede state law, saying that this argument was "an untenable interpretation of congressional intent and an overbroad view of an agency's power to pre-empt state law." He pointed out that the FDA tried to push this on the public without any opportunity for comment from the public or from states, all done against a backdrop wherein the FDA is not able to keep up with safety issues in the first place, meaning that the FDA position lacked "thoroughness, consistency and persuasiveness." Stevens stated that under such lacking standards the Bush position "is entitled to no weight."

This is a major victory for all Americans and for states. While the case itself is on the topic of Big Pharma and the FDA, the ruling is sweeping in nature and will extend far beyond prescription drugs. States have just been handed a major legal ruling against the ever-growing incursion of federal power.



Book Reviews

What's Easter Got to do with Eggs

By Stephanie Mayabb

Like Santa, the Easter Bunny can create quite a conundrum for kids and their parents when it comes to celebrating the true meaning of a Christian holiday. After all, what do eggs, chocolates and bunnies have to do with Jesus' resurrection?

In a unique approach, "America's Riddle King" Mike Thaler helps kids differentiate truth from tradition this season with his new book, *Easter Egg Haunt*. One of four books in his "Tales from the Back Pew" series, *Easter Egg Haunt* gets kids laughing as Thaler sets the record straight about all things Easter.

In the book, a Sunday school class adorns Easter eggs with tulips, roses and funny clown faces, while one boy paints his egg to look like Frankenstein. Realizing the kids might be missing the point, the teacher gathers the students to share the real Easter story:

"Why is it called Easter and not Westster?" I asked. My teacher scratched his head... "Maybe it's because the Son rises in the east," I exclaimed. "Maybe." My teacher smiled. "Maybe."

"Like everything else." My teacher smiled. "Like everything else."

The colorful stories in "Tales from the Back Pew" are reminiscent of Thaler's "Black Lagoon" books, which now celebrate 20 years and more than 12.5 million copies sold. Thaler and illustrator Jared Lee keep the punches rolling to teach kids with humor and wit - this time in church. They say, "it's Black Lagoon goes to church."

"Tales from the Back Pew" uses Thaler's signature storytelling to deflate kids' anxiety about church, summer camp, mission trips and Easter. Featured titles include: *Preacher Creature Strikes on Sunday*, *Church Summer Cramp*, *Mission Trip Impossible*

Thaler is the author of more than 200 books and the creator of the "Letterman" character for PBS' "The Electric Company." For nearly 30 years, he and Lee have been called "The Court Jesters of Children's Literature" for their collaboration on more than 70 hilarious books.

Since devoting his life to Christ 11 years ago, Thaler says "life has gone from black and white to glorious Technicolor." Today,

his knack for imaginative story-telling, combined with a passion for Christ, is helping spread the love of Jesus to children everywhere. In 2000, Thaler's "Heaven and Mirth" series marked his foray into the Christian market and included

funny Bible stories like *Adam and the Apple Turnover* and *Moses Take Two Tablets and Call Me in the Morning*. He enjoys performing free public readings for the children at the churches and synagogues he frequents across the nation. Learn more at www.mikethaler.com



"And what's Easter got to do with eggs?" "Well," answered my teacher, "the eggs are eggstra. People added them to the Holiday...sort of like Santa Claus was added to Christmas." "And what about the Easter Bunny?" "He hopped aboard too." "So," I said. "Easter is really all about Jesus."

An unlikely providence: SBTS grad ready to serve as Red Sox chaplain

By Jeff Robinson

BOSTON (BP)--The Boston Red Sox did not sign a big-name free agent this winter to help them fend off the hated New York Yankees in the American League East during the upcoming season, but the clubhouse presence of a man who batted .080 in his last year of organized ball could make a significant impact on the team in 2009.

Bland Mason, a two-time graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and New England church planter, was named chapel leader for the Red Sox in January by Baseball Chapel, a Christian organization that has an informal relationship with Major League Baseball and places chapel leaders with each team.

Mason, who received his master of divinity from Southern Seminary in 1997 and his Ph.D. in 2005, seems to be the most unlikely of candidates to serve the Boston Red Sox; after all, Boston is a Red Sox-mad city with fans that number among the most ardent and baseball-savvy in America, able to sniff out a historically naïve, Johnny-come-lately fan from 100 paces.

Mason has been a Boston citizen exactly four months and prefers basketball to baseball, having last played the latter in fifth grade, concluding his brief career with a batting average of .080.

Recently, the Red Sox new chaplain encountered a friend wearing an Atlanta Braves cap with the trademark "A" emblazoned across the front. Mason asked his friend if he was a fan of the A's — as in Oakland. While he is not ready to dominate at baseball trivial pursuit, Mason points out that God's ways often confound the wisdom of the wise.

"I have cheered for the Sox for the last five years and yes, I was touched somewhere deep in my soul when they won the World Series in 2004," he said. "With all of that said, as of November of this year I could not have named more than six or eight players on the Sox roster.

"Add into this mix the fact that I just moved to Boston in November of this year and it makes complete sense why I wouldn't be a good candidate for the position as a baseball chapel leader to the Red Sox. I mean, who would want a very modest Red Sox fan who just moved to Boston and never played baseball beyond little league to serve as the chapel leader to the Red Sox? It seems that 'God' is the only answer to that question because logically it just doesn't work otherwise."

A native of Gloucester, Va., Mason did not find the chaplain position; consistent with the theology of his Puritan heroes, it

found him. A friend in the Acts 29 church planting network was offered the role, but could not fill it; he recommended Mason and Baseball Chapel contacted him. Mason and his family are laying the groundwork for a church plant in Boston.

As a chaplain, Mason's duties include serving the spiritual needs of the Boston players, both those who play for the big league club and those in the minor leagues. Each Lord's Day, he will lead



The Mason Family

chapel services for both the Red Sox and the visiting ball club and will offer Bible studies for players during the weeks when the Red Sox are playing at Fenway Park.

Baseball chaplaincy offers a profound opportunity to minister to players who play a rigorous 162-game schedule of daily games, a schedule that consumes most every minute of their time for more than six months, Mason points out.

Half of the games are on the road, meaning players are seldom at home with their families and games are scheduled for each Sunday, meaning Christian players seldom worship in their local congregations.

"Most of the players are not from Boston and only live here eight months out of the year," he said. "Combine that with the fact that they have the most games of any major sport means that the Christians on the team don't get to their home church most of the year."

"I can offer Bible studies during a home stint for those players that are ready or interested. Within that group there are usually one or more players that are open to being disciplined on a personal level. My prayer is for God to allow me to equip and encourage these guys to grow in the Gospel in every area of their lives."

Since Mason took the position a little less than two months ago, he is getting acquainted with the Christian players who populate the Red Sox roster.

Mason and wife Teresa joined the Red Sox last week at their spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla., where he met two players who were off-season acquisitions, both of whom are strong Christians: former Atlanta Braves pitcher John Smoltz and catcher Josh Bard, formerly of the San Diego Padres. Both are active in Baseball Chapel. Mason has also met Justin Masterson, a second year pitcher and follower of Christ.

Not only will Red Sox players receive discipleship from Bland Mason, but Teresa Mason has also accepted a position with Baseball Chapel as a women's leader and will work with wives and girlfriends of players.

Though it seemed a bit of an odd fit at first, Mason is embracing with vigor the new calling that God has given him to minister to the Red Sox through the ministry of Baseball Chapel.

"I have been reminded that God delights in working things out according to the counsel of His will, despite what we may think. If I can use my sanctified imagination for a minute, I think God smiled when he lined things up and I got the call offering the position to me," he said.

"I honestly had never remotely considered the idea of being a chapel leader to a major league team...I am reminded of something Jesus said: 'Oh how small is your faith!' Knowing that I would have dismissed it, God went one step further to get me in place: have a friend call me. God showed once again that His providence will guide us exactly where we need to be when we need to be there."

"As I begin laying the foundation for a new church here in Boston, it excites me to have the opportunity to serve the Red Sox. The position will afford me instant credibility with Christians and the unchurched across Boston. Teresa will have the great opportunity to minister to the players' wives as well."

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Sports

Hope City from Page 1

derogatory comments: “they’re all crack heads, lazy, abusers, thieves, dirty,” and so on.

You learn that people in glass houses really *do* throw stones. Thus, your resolve quickly erodes into apathy and you gradually forget your outdoors experiment and your empathy.

One of the things that struck me when I first saw *Hope City* is the irony of the tall downtown buildings that dwarf the encampment. The Hampton Inn Luxury Suites are a few minutes walk away and not much further are the Biltmore, The Westin and other fancy eating and sleeping establishments.

Cars whiz by; many of the drivers are oblivious, while other carloads gawk at the sight. Some of the “campers” can be seen moving about in the shadow cast by the bridge. On a sunny day, they might be on lawn chairs soaking up the rare natural warmth. In any event, it is indeed an odd sight to see camping in a downtown area.

A five-foot long cross composed of rocks is shaped on the ground under the bridge; a memorial placed on the spot where a homeless gentleman, Paul Langlais, died in January. He is one of thirty who have died on the streets in the last year or so.

John Joyce refers to Hope City as the “Community.” Three years homeless, he said that he “could not believe the injustices” everywhere when he first hit the streets. There is a lack of continuity that prevails and “everything comes down to the almighty dollar.”

Determined to help change things, John began to attend meetings and join committees but, he said, “There were meetings after meetings but there was no action. There was nothing getting done; there was no change.”

Recognizing the scarcity of case managers and outreach workers in the overburdened shelter system, John began to advocate for people on his own. Not only did he provide direction and support but he

also studied the regulations governing the shelters and other agencies so that he could effectively intervene and advocate when a persons rights were abused.

It was at one of these meetings that John met Megan Smith. Megan, a twenty-one year old Urban Studies and Public Policy major at Brown University joined forces with him. Megan had a strong interest in homeless issues and was an active member of the Brown student group, *Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere* (HOPE) for over two years.

Together this dynamic-duo began to do some outreach on the streets. As they did, they were appalled at the lack of case managers. Even one of the largest homeless organizations, the one with the most case managers, is overwhelmed by the increasing numbers entering the



(l to r) John Joyce, Megan Smith and Jeff Mayer

system.

John and Megan saw, first hand, the difficulties and challenges facing people forced to survive on the streets or in the shelters. People sleeping in the streets are “Seldom seen and largely ignored,” said John. It is also not safe. People are “messed with,” and sometimes robbed of their belongings while they sleep. There are often security problems

in shelters, they simply cannot afford the number of people needed to oversee everything.

Megan related that “Something needed to be done; the city and the state are not stepping up. There needed to be a safe place, where people could sleep together in the same area and watch out for each other; a sense of community was necessary.” On January 24th of this year, the first tent and some supplies arrived at the site. John, Megan, and six other cold people shared the tent. There are now a dozen tents and 15-20 residents living there.

Megan said that it was quite interesting setting up Hope City with “A budget of zero.” John Joyce says that it is the “Faith-based Community” that has sustained them in many ways. For instance, a few days after they set up, a church provided an out house.



A man volunteers to haul away their trash in his pickup truck every two days. Food, clothing and other supplies are regularly offered. The list goes on.

John also said that prayers are answered. Very short of water, they prayed hard and ten cases of water were donated a day later. Needing more charcoal to keep warm, again prayers were answered when a large amount was donated.

They have recently been quite moved by a mother of seven children who prepared sandwiches with chips and drinks for them and then returned with coffee. A few days later they returned with cookies that the kids had baked and homemade cards they had made. She owns a beat up car, John said, and except for rare occasions, that is the case; the affluent seldom give them a second glance.

Aside from friend and advocate, John also provides scriptural wisdom to his peers. A believer in Jesus Christ, and having some Bible knowledge, he can often quote scripture appropriate for the moment. One favorite is



A cross is placed on the spot where a homeless gentleman, Paul Langlais, died in January

Matthew 6:34 when Jesus said “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble on its own.” This is especially suitable when a person is worried and overwhelmed about things; a poignant description of God’s amazing love and protection for us all. Why worry when *He* is at the helm?

John and Megan recognize that Hope City is not a solution. What is needed is affordable housing, more case managers and program assurances that are enforced so that the shelters are safe. There is a need for *outreach* case managers that come to the streets to visit people who can’t or won’t use the shelter system. Homelessness, John reminds us, “is not a 9-5 job.”

Megan says that much of the problems have to do with “bad public policy.” She describes this as “Policy that does not take into



account the needs of the poor in any real way.” The current policy, she said, is “Designed for the rich. All of the basic thinking that keeps people falling into homelessness has been cut from the budget. They have cut affordable housing models, welfare, cash assistance, rental assistance and foreclosure

prevention programs and more.”

The budget, “Is balanced on the backs of the poor”, Megan said. She’s right; items such as the capital gains tax and tax codes have advantages built in for the very wealthy. It is “So easy to disassociate oneself and view the problem in an analytical ivory tower than to actually engage in the situation”

“How can you make public policy, she wonders, when you don’t come out to talk to the people? Everyone here (at Hope City) is articulate and willing to share their views.” She, in fact, wonders why reporters are always interested in speaking with her instead of those in the community.

While there I had the opportunity to speak with Jeff Mayer for a few moments who offered similar insight, followed by a man named Bruce. Bruce admits to readily falling back into the same trap of addiction to alcohol but has coined the phrase, his favorite: “A set back is only a step up for a come-back.”

Affordable housing, which could be made available right away, has not materialized, mainly because of political aspirations and other motivations that keep it from happening, said John. Among the people in the homeless community there are many skilled laborers, including carpenters, electricians, plumbers and other talented people who are willing to volunteer to renovate houses which are currently sitting abandoned.

So there you have it. I realize that it would be unrealistic for you to drop everything to live in the elements or to write a huge check to alleviate some of the problems, but your silence is deadly. Here is an opportunity to speak up and make your voice heard:

Ink in (don’t pencil) April 2, 2009 on your calendar. Location: State House Rotunda, Time: 2-4 pm with a rally in the lobby beginning at 3pm. You are encouraged to join the folks from Hope City to ensure that some of the federal stimulus money and the state budget is spent to grow healthy communities here in RI. Join the group demanding that our local government begin to Build Affordable Housing! Stop Foreclosures! Create Jobs!

continued next page

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Saved at Summer Camp

By Charlene M. Ryerson

When I was a young girl, my babysitter used to read stories from the Bible. My favorite was about Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. The awesome and mighty power of God was displayed as Moses raised his staff, the Red Sea parted, and the Israelites escaped Pharaoh and his army on dry ground. I believed every word and wanted to find out more about God.

My sitter got permission from my mom to take me to a Christian summer camp. It was at this summer camp that I made the most important decision I will ever make in my life. One night there was an altar call. I went forward and accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. My first



experience with God was full of awe and wonder. I was filled with the Holy Spirit and started to speak in a language that I did not understand. Later in my walk with the Lord I had recognized this phenomenon to be one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—speaking in tongues.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given one for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

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I will never forget my introduction to the Lord. Christian summer camp solidified my foundation with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

when I did not recognize this fact. Though I have walked away from God a number of times, I always came back-reminded by the Holy Spirit I was a child of God and He had a purpose for my life that He began revealing to me at summer camp.

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

(To correspond with author email:

I have had trials and tribulations throughout my life but Jesus has always been there for me, even

Charlene@thegoodnewstoday.org)

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Hope City from Page 10

Adequately fund state homeless programs!

Take a moment to evaluate your own situation. Many who felt safe are now jobless. Many who became jobless became homeless. Stand up to an uncaring govern-



The overpass view of tents in Hope City, Providence

ment and spend just 3 hours of your time at the State House on April 2nd. Many will be marching from Hope City starting at 1:45. Join them to show your support.

If you have questions about the



By Hannelyn Perez

New Life invites you to their 3rd annual youth conference, the Awakening Conference. This years conference is being held during school vacation, April 16-18. This year is planned to be the best one yet. Well known speakers & musicians from all over the country will be tearing up the pulpit and instruments: Adam McCain from Christ

for the Nations, Darren Whitehead from Willow Creek Church, and Jonathon Stockstill from Bethany World Prayer Centers along with their youth worship team, Deluge band. Those are just a few in the awesome line up.

Our prayer is that this conference will spark a great awakening in the heart and lives of young people all over New England. In such trying times, youth today need God more than ever before. New Life is dedicated to seeing the lives of the youth transformed and takes action to raise up the next generation of leaders.

We are encouraging all to attend from age 12 all the way up. If you are young or young at heart

April 2nd rally, contact the RI Coalition for the Homeless at 421-6458. Information can also be found on the website of *Street Sights*, www.streetsights.org. *Street Sights* is a newspaper that focuses on “Shedding light on homelessness in Rhode Island.”

this is something you won't want to miss. We believe in connecting the generations- join in and attend the Awakening Conference. The evening sessions with Deluge are something every worship team in the region should be attending! The current price for admission is

\$39, but after April 1st the registration fee will increase.

Register online at www.awakeningconference.net or call the church offices at (401)-232-5200. We hope to see you there!

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Entertainment

Hidden Treasure: The Boat the Vatican Sought

By Brian Nixon

In 1986, two brothers, Moshe and Yuval Lufan, found something beyond all expectations. According to Pastor Skip Heitzig, who has recently finished filming a documentary on the find, the brothers felt that they would discover something wonderful on that day. And wonderful it was. Tucked away in the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, the brothers unearthed a 1st century boat, now named the "Jesus Boat."

Heitzig explained to me in a recent interview that in 1986 there was a tremendous drought in Israel.



Yuval Lufan discusses finding the Jesus boat.

This allowed the brothers access to deeper regions of the lake. One of the brothers stumbled upon some wood, and after a little digging, determined that the wood was actually a boat. According to the brothers, a double rainbow revealed itself in the sky after the find.

The brothers retreated to the Kibbutz Ginasar to get help. The Antiquity Authorities were brought in. After a long, 12-day archeological excavation (the boat was kept in a preserving environment and sailed across the Galilee river), the "Jesus Boat" was put in a 7-year chemical bath (a wax paraffin, Heitzig explained) before it could be displayed in the open air.

Since the time of its unearthing, the boat has been officially dated to the 1st century. Almost 27 feet long, and over 7 feet wide, the boat was dated based upon the nails used and the construction of the hull. Most scholars agree that the era during which the boat was built falls somewhere between 100 B.C and 100 A.D.

Archeologists state that the "Jesus Boat" is the first near-complete boat ever to be found in the Sea of Galilee, and is therefore a considerable discovery.

Though some have attempted to draw conclusions that Jesus (or His disciples) may have used the boat, the reality is that no one knows. Chances are the boat served its purpose for fishing and trade, and then when it got old; it was allowed to submerge in the lake.

Though scientists can't determine if this exact boat was one Jesus would have sailed on, it can be said that it is representative of the boats the people of His day would have used.

Since the boat's discovery, the Pope came to view the vessel, hoping it needed a home in the Vatican. The President came to see it, as did many other men of science and politics. For the past few years, the "Jesus Boat" has generated great interest across the world.

In as much as Heitzig finds the boat a fascinating and important archeological discovery, he also sees the boat as a picture of more than an ancient sailing craft. In the boat, Heitzig finds a parallel to the nation the boat was discovered in.

For Heitzig, the boat is a picture of Israel: a nation that was considered dead and submerged. But through His wonderful providence, God brought Israel forth

in 1948. He reemerged it as a bud for a new generation, and established Israel as a nation.

In the soon to be released documentary, "The Jesus Boat", Heitzig as host, takes viewers on a journey through the discovery, preservation, and display of the boat (the boat can be seen in the Yigal Alon Museum in Kibbutz Ginasar), though Heitzig makes it a point to draw a strong parallel to the rebirth of the Nation of Israel.

According to Heitzig, "The Jesus Boat was way more than a documentary about an ancient boat. It's really a testimony to the faithfulness of God. Through the film, we paralleled the story of a lost boat and a lost nation, Israel, both of which were "resurrected" after 2,000 years. It tells of a boat that wouldn't stay buried in a land that couldn't stay buried!"

"Just like the boat was buried under the shores for 2,000 years, the land of Israel was submerged - virtually not a nation - a dispersed people group. Yet against all odds, Israel re-emerged in 1948. As the prophet Ezekiel predicted, there was a re-gathering of Jews from the four corners of the world into that ancient piece of real estate. It would seem as impossible as dried bones, bleached and parched under the Middle Eastern sun, coming to life again." (See Ezekiel 36-37).

"And yet it happened - 1948, the re-establishment of the nation. And why? Because God made promises to Abraham: 'I'll bless you, I'll make you a great nation, your name will be great, I'll bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.'" (See Genesis 12:1-3).

To learn more about The Jesus Boat documentary, go to

By Good News Staff

"The Widow's Might," a western musical feature film has won the \$101,000 'Best of Festival Award' at the 2009 San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival (SAICFF). Also vying for the prestigious award were high profile films including "Fireproof" and "Expelled."

Geoff Botkin, veteran film producer and SAICFF judge, marked "The Widow's Might" as a milestone in Christian filmmaking. "'Widow's Might' is a groundbreaking film, even though it is a first feature film from a teenaged director. It is one of the most original high-concept features in recent film history. The story is innovative in ways that can inspire the next generation of filmmakers, many of whom are looking for ways to break out of tired cinematic cliches..."

Botkin also added, "This film attempted and achieved a wholesome family message, illustrating the difficult-to-capture functional family environment. Its message addressed a very complex theological issue which is a defining issue of our generation..."

"The Widows Might" is a feature length comedy adventure made for people of any age. John Moore and Cameron Cavillo are two aspiring filmmakers with the dream of winning the prestigious American

'The Widow's Might' wins Best of Festival and Audience Choice Awards

Viewfinder Film Festival. When an acquaintance of Cameron's, an elderly Widow, faces losing her home to the outrageous property taxes in her area, the Moore

judges and audiences alike. "We never saw this coming!" said John. "The greatest lesson we have learned at this event over the years is to press on; keep moving

forward. Always pursue excellence. The production was very tough; but it brought our families together, and we're even closer now than ever. I dedicate this award to my father, the most inspiring man I have ever known."

The producers tell us, "There is a never ending need for support from

anyone willing. First and foremost is Prayer. We can never have too many people praying for this film, and not just the film, but what the film will do and what lives this film will encourage and inspire. So please pray for this cause.

Next is to spread the word, tell your friends and family. If you have a site or blog there are Web Banners available to add to them! Point them to the movies website, have them view the videos and pictures in the media section.

Next if you have not purchased a copy of The Widows Might, pick yourself up a copy! Either a digital download at Behemoth.com or you can purchase a Limited Festival Edition on DVD or Bluray at WidowsMightTheMovie.com. The movie is being prepared for nationwide release in July 09.



family takes action, along with their friends, the Morton family. Through political smears, on set mishaps, and a wild western ride, these families band together in a classic black hat/white hat tale of heroism!

Audiences at the SAICFF seemed to agree with the SAICFF judges. Attendees at the festival overwhelmingly selected "The Widow's Might" for the Audience Choice Award, giving the movie more than twice as many votes as the nearest contender. Audiences laughed, cried, and cheered as the film unfolded, ultimately giving three standing ovations at the close of the film.

Young filmmakers John Moore (age 19) and David Heustis (age 20) were surprised at the affirmation they received from festival

Rave Reviews for "God Provides" from Crown Financial Ministries

By Good News Today Staff

Three short films in Crown Financial Ministries' new "God Provides" series received resounding applause and rave reviews at their worldwide premiere during the recent San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival.

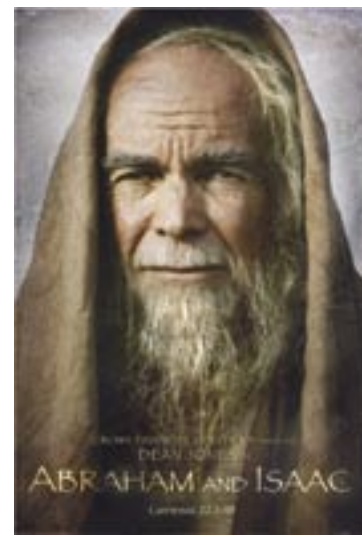
"Abraham and Isaac", "Widow and Oil", and "Rich Man and Lazarus" debuted before a capacity crowd at the Lila Cockrell Theatre in San Antonio, Texas. The audience cheered as the credits rolled.

Here are some of the comments shared by viewers afterward: "The films reminded me of the quality and feel of The Passion of the Christ." "How did you do that? It made me cry." "It far exceeded my expectations." "Great films!" "You will reach millions with this series."

Crown CEO Chuck Bentley said, "I could not have been more pleased with the overall event and the reception of our work."

"Abraham and Isaac" is the story of God's call on Abraham to give up his son Isaac, from Genesis 22:1-18. "Widow and Oil" is the story of God's provision for a widow in

need that's found in 2 Kings 4:1-7. "Rich Man and Lazarus" is the par-



able Jesus told about heaven and hell from Luke 16:19-31.

Following the world premiere of the three films, Dean Jones, who has the lead role of Abraham in Abraham and Isaac, received the festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. Jones has been acting for over 50 years and has appeared in 46 movies including 10 made by Disney. He's best known for playing Jim Douglas in The Love Bug, which spawned a series of movies about Herbie, the Volkswagen Beetle with a mind of its own.

After being honored, Bentley along with short film directors Jon and Andy Erwin joined Jones on stage to participate in a panel discussion about Abraham and Isaac and the other two short films that had been shown. They gave their perspective on the "God Provides"

series and shared their passion and vision to reach the world through visual media.

"God gave us a very high quality tool that can impact a worldwide audience," said Bentley. "God's stories are powerful and alive whether on film or in print. Millions who may never have an opportunity to go to a movie theater will be blessed by the encounter with God's principles."

There are six short films in the "God Provides" series being produced by Crown. In addition to the movies already mentioned, the other titles are Abram's Reward (Genesis 13-15:6), Jeremiah's Call (Jeremiah 29:1-14), and Lifted Up (John 3:1-18).

The goal of the films is to engage hearts worldwide through visual storytelling with a desire to reach the world's population who cannot read as well as visual learners in the most modern parts of the world. By utilizing biblical truths new to film, viewers can experience a fresh connection with God's financial principles and find their hope and future in Him.

The films are being produced by Crown Financial Ministries, a non-profit organization that was co-founded by the late Larry Burkett and the immediate past CEO, Howard Dayton. Dayton has passed the baton to Chuck Bentley, who became CEO on September 1, 2007.

connectionradio.org or visit Skip Heitzig blog, skipheitzig.com and listen to Pastor Skip's full discussion on the Jesus Boat project.

Editorials / Commentary / Letters to the Editor



Samuel F.B. Morse

American Minute with Bill Federer

The world of communication was revolutionized by a man who died APRIL 2, 1872. His name was Samuel F.B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph and the Morse Code. An outstanding portrait artist in his own right, founding the National Academy of Design, Morse erected the first telegraph lines between Baltimore and the U.S. Supreme Court chamber in Washington, D.C. The first message over this new communication system, sent in 1844, was only four words, a verse from the Bible, Numbers 23:23: "What hath God Wrought!" Samuel F.B. Morse, who graduated from Yale in 1810, was the son of educator Jedediah Morse, known as "Father of American Geography." Jedediah Morse stated in Charleston, Massachusetts, April 25, 1799: "Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government, and all the blessings which flow from them, must fall with them." Four years before his death, Samuel F.B. Morse wrote: "The nearer I approach to the end of my pilgrimage, the clearer is the evidence of the divine origin of the Bible, the grandeur and sublimity of God's remedy for fallen man are more appreciated, and the future is illumined with hope and joy."

A Clarion Warning about the Days Ahead

By Bill Wilson

Several days ago, I told my wife that I sensed in my spirit that there was going to be a catastrophe so great in the coming months that it would cause the Church in America—all the true Christians, church going or otherwise—to band together and become the Church it should be. Now I did not know how or when this event would occur, but that I sensed that we should be prepared and that it was to be very serious. Over the weekend, I received an email from a Christian sister who from time to time forwards me interesting material. This one was from David Wilkerson. When I began in earnest my journey as an evangelist, I read everything I could get my hands on from two people—Billy Graham and David Wilkerson.

Wilkerson, who evangelized in New York City, wrote the groundbreaking book "The Cross and the Switchblade" and started a church in New York, is as close to a modern day prophet as I know. He writes a monthly newsletter exhorting the church and he has had many prophetic pronouncements over the years that have been spot on. He is a man of great integrity, loves the Lord with all his heart, and has stayed "sola scriptura", meaning he is devoted to basing his views on a

Dear Good News Editor:

I'm a female inmate at Bristol County Corrections. The women here are limited to the outreach ministries from the outside. The men have their own Teen Challenge program with Pastor Carl and my Pastor from my home church, Ferry Street Ministries in Fall River. He, along with the very gifted band N.B.J. (Nothing But Jesus) offer the Fresh Start Ministry in the men's facility.

I have been given the sweet

Dear Editor,

I can say categorically that President Obama is lying!!! The type of embryonic stem cells that are being created are from embryo's created from human cloning. The way the scientific community, and Obama, gets around it, by using semantics, is saying that the embryo is not a clone unless it is implanted in a human uterus!! It is still a human clone!!!

A clone is an exact DNA replica of the Donor. The definition of a clone has nothing to do with it being implanted in a uterus! The definition is based on the DNA

opportunity to redirect my life back to my heavenly Father. God knew my heart on the outside but I just couldn't let go of the mess. In my 17 months I've served here, Jesus has raised me from death and He is blessing my children and grandchildren! His blessing was placed upon me by my beautiful friend & "Sister In Christ" Allison Vigna, a tireless minister of Christ here at the women's facility.

Editor, I have heard Allison say on many occasions "If only one Lord, only one, it's been all worth

it." This obedient servant of God has gotten up after surgeries and crippling body pain to come and minister to me and the other inmates who have either, re-committed their lives to God or for the first time in their lives heard the truth, the word of Jesus! I would just like to publicly shout "Thank You Jesus"! Thank You! To Allison, thank you, I'M THE ONE!

Cindi Washington

Thank you, Cindi. Yes, those of us at the Good News have grown

quite fond of Allison also, as you probably know she tirelessly delivers the paper in the New Bedford area after all of her other daily chores and is never too tired to pray for someone else's needs on the streets and behind bars. I'm certain one day our Father will say to her, "well done, my good and faithful servant." After Christ, she is a great earthly example for you to emulate. We join you in lifting her up and praise God for her efforts.

makeup of the embryo. The scientific community is creating clones of humans at the embryonic level and removing the stem cells at a certain point of development then discarding the embryo. If the embryo were allowed to continue to grow and placed in a uterus, a human being would continue to develop and would eventually be born. It is the same process that gave us Dolly the Sheep.

Is this why our nation is facing judgement? The official policy of the United States is now to clone humans and use them for scientific research before implantation in the uterus? For anyone who supported Obama and continues to hold out

hope for his presidency, HE HAS JUST LEGALIZED HUMAN CLONING, while saying he has not. It is so Orwellian I am at a loss for words.

I am so angry with those Christians who voted for Obama. Did you also know that Obama policy forcing health care providers to lose their legal exemption from performing abortions means that most Catholic Charity hospitals (and other pro-life institutions) will be forced to close rather than being forced to perform abortions? I thought the Great Obama was about serving the poor. I thought this new emphasis by Obama Evangelicals was to put the focus

on the poor and justice for the oppressed? Now an Obama policy will mean that millions of the poor will lose their hospitals!

Did you know that Obama policy that removes the charitable tax deduction of individuals who make more than \$250,000 will mean that billions of dollars that would otherwise go to organizations that serve the poor will now be lost? This is policy that even liberals are fighting! It is time for Obama Evangelicals to apologize to the rest of us, to the poor, and to the unborn, for their vote.

Dwight Wideman

Day Gardner Comments on The Supreme Court's Rulings that Neither Blacks nor the Pre-born are 'Fully Human'

Day Gardner, president of the National Black Pro-Life Union submits this statement regarding the anniversary of the decision of the Supreme Court/Dred Scott Case:

strict interpretation of the Bible. Wilkerson never has been prone to the fads and trends in Christianity. He is solid. That's why we need to take note of his email.

Wilkerson warns, "An earth shattering calamity is about to happen. It is going to be so frightening; we are all going to tremble, even the Godliest among us." Wilkerson writes, "There will be riots and fires in cities worldwide. There will be looting—including Times Square, New York City. What we are experiencing now is not a recession, not even a depression. We are under God's wrath. In Psalm 11:3 it is written, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" He says, "God is judging the raging sins of America and the nations. He is destroying the secular foundations." He says this is a righteous judgment of God, just as in the days of Sodom and Noah.

In a follow up on his website, Wilkerson writes what he believes is the proper response. First, he advises people lay aside a month's food supply. And then, he says, "This is what I hear the Holy Spirit speaking to my heart concerning my own spiritual response to impending calamity. It is simply this—STAND STILL AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD." Wilkerson quotes Exodus 14:13, 14: "And Moses said to the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation

One hundred and fifty seven years ago, Dred Scott, a black slave, petitioned the Supreme Court for his freedom, but was denied. In the case known as the Dred Scott decision, the Supreme Court ruled that slaves—even freed slaves, and all their descendants, had no rights protected by the Constitution and that states had no right to abolish slavery.

The reasoning in Dred Scott and Roe v. Wade is nearly identical. In both cases the Court stripped all rights from a class of human beings and reduced them to nothing

of the Lord, which he will show you today...The Lord shall fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." We should consider brother Wilkerson's warning. 2

more than the property of others.

In the Dred Scott case of 1857 the Supreme Court said: Dred Scott was not fully human. He was the property of his owner -- and therefore he had no rights at all. The Court stated that because Dred Scott was not deemed "fully human", he could be bought, sold or even killed at the owner's discretion.

In the Roe v. Wade case of 1973 the Supreme Court said the same thing: A baby is the property of his/her mother -- and that he/she is not fully human, therefore he/

she has no rights at all. The Court stated that because an unborn baby is not deemed "fully human" he/she can be bought, sold or even killed at the mother's whim.

The Dred Scott Decision implied that even if slavery is cruel and degrading, slaves are not human and so their suffering is as ethically important or unimportant as the suffering of domestic animals and they do not have any rights that would justify the abolition of slavery.

There are also those heartless people today who say while abortion is cruel and gruesome, babies are not wanted, therefore their suffering is unimportant or even less important than the suffering of domestic animals and therefore do not have any rights that would justify ending the atrocity of abortion.

In the Court's eyes, unborn children are now the same "beings of an inferior order" that the justices considered Blacks to be over a century ago.

We must all come to realize that if we are truly the America that holds life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness so dear -- then we must obliterate the scourge of abortion from our midst otherwise we are no better than those who perpetrate the conflict in Darfur, or any other country where human beings are enslaved, butchered or denied their rights just because they are meeker or weaker.

Day Gardner is the president of the National Black Pro-Life Union headquartered in Washington, DC. www.nationalblackprolifeunion.com



Inspiration

He is risen!

By Joseph Farah – World Net Daily

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7)

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29).

Good Friday, I’m still not sure why we call it “Good Friday,” because this is the day in which Christians around the world commemorate the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Crucifixion was an ugly practice. There was and is perhaps no more painful way to die. And that’s how Jesus chose to die to pay for our sins. According to the prophet Isaiah, who foretold His death, Jesus was scourged, tortured and marred more than any other man. Nails through the feet and a crown of thorns puncturing His head, Jesus was whipped; His torso was pierced with a spear.

That hardly sounds like a Good Friday to me.

Personally, I think we should drop the Good Friday name along with the name of the holiday that follows on Sunday. Easter, too, is a lousy name for a very good holiday – in fact, I would argue, the most important holy day on the Christian calendar.

Why is Easter a bad name? Because Easter was a pagan festival. And we celebrate it today – with Easter bunnies and eggs and

other fertility symbols – much like the ancient Saxons marked it in the pre-Christian period.

So, without belaboring the issue, I say we should drop the “Good Friday” stuff and rename Easter “Good Sunday.” That would make sense; since it is the day we Christians rejoice that Jesus is alive and risen from the dead – our conquering Savior from all sin. It is a good day, indeed – the best day of the whole year, the best day in the history of man.

Easter, or, should I say, Good Sunday, is not about eggs, bunnies, flowers and springtime. It’s about a Lamb – the Passover Lamb.

Remember what John said the day he saw Jesus coming toward him at the Jordan River? He proclaimed Jesus the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world.

John was a Jew. Jews traditionally, since the time of Moses, sacrificed an unblemished lamb at Passover. The First Passover for the Jews came in Egypt, when they were instructed to mark their doorways with the blood of an unblemished (or sinless) lamb. This sign protected them from the angel of death – sent to Egypt to claim the lives of all first-born sons – because it *passed over* their homes and moved on to homes not marked with blood.

And here was John – recognized by many in Israel as a young prophet – saying that Jesus was the “Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world.”

Indeed, Jesus is the Lamb. He was the first-born Son of God. His blood was shed for us. God did not spare or protect His own Son, but

spared us – those He loves and who love Him – by having Jesus be the pure sacrificial Lamb, who not only protects us from the angel of death for a time, but for eternity.

It may be a coincidence that Jesus’ death and Resurrection coincided with pagan fertility rites. But it is certainly no coincidence that His death and Resurrection occurred around the Jewish feasts of Passover and unleavened bread. Jesus is the Passover Lamb, and He is the Unleavened Bread.

The true meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was brought home to Christians by the Apostle Paul, who wrote, in 1 Corinthians 5: 7-8, “Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.”

Yeast represented sin – through decomposition and fermentation. Once we are freed from sin through the blood of Jesus, we are then encouraged to avoid the old sin ways.

Today, many so-called Christians have forgotten their Jewish roots. They don’t understand the symbolism and message of the Jewish feasts. They don’t get the relevance of the Old Testament. They don’t grasp that they are spiritual adoptee children of Abraham. Some today even fail to acknowledge that Jesus Himself was Jewish – a rabbi, who came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it. But, then again, maybe such folks are not really Christians at all.

In some European countries today, they still call Easter “Pascha” – a much better name. This is derived

BABY PICTURES MINISTRY TIP

By Rev. Doug Forbes

Everyone loves to look at baby pictures. Viewing Baby Pictures brings a smile to our faces and a flood of happy memories. This activity will help your students get to know each other better and encourage friendships.

For the Baby Pictures activity you need: Bibles, Bible concordances, 3” X 5” cards, glue sticks, pens, baby and current photos of your students and a good copier.

A week before the Baby Picture activity gather one baby picture and one current picture of each class member. Using a photocopier, make 3” X 5” or smaller copies of each picture so that there is at least one set of photos for each student.

Ask your students to use their Bibles and concordances to discover stories about or references to babies in the Bible. Allow time for each child to share his or her findings with the class. Have your young people turn to Exodus 2:1-10, and ask for volunteers to each

from the Hebrew word “pesah,” which means “passover.” Jesus was celebrating the Jewish festival of Passover shortly before He was arrested and sentenced to be crucified. Passover recalls how God rescued the Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt. Christians believe that Easter, like Passover, is a time of rescue. We say that by His Death and Resurrection, Jesus rescued us from eternal death and punishment for our sins.

That’s why I will be rejoicing this Sunday – Good Sunday. And that’s why even on a Bad Friday, I still have hope.

if even one of our sins remained on Him. God’s eyes are too pure to look upon sin, remember? He’d have to turn away again and banish His Own Son from His Presence forever.

Since Jesus took all of our sins upon Himself, it follows that His death had to absolutely and forever pay the complete penalty for every one of them, or else He’d still be in the grave. So His resurrection is proof of yours. By believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you’re really telling God that you believe all the sins of your life were forgiven at the cross. With that alone you’ve inherited eternal life. Say a simple prayer like this:

Jesus, please forgive me. I know

read one verse until the entire passage has been read.

Discuss how God and Moses’ family protected Moses in a most unusual way! Talk about the little boat or basket that Moses was placed in. Discuss how God watches over us and protects us, and encourage your students to share with the class a time when they felt God’s protection, love and care.

Separate the children as much as possible, and give each child copies of their current and baby pictures. Have them glue a picture onto one side of each 3” X 5” card and write their name on the other side. (You may wish to have them share additional information such as their favorite sport or hobby.) Separate the pictures into two stacks, current photos and baby photos.

Have your assistant teacher or a parent give the children a snack while you organize the pictures into decks with the pictures facing up. Each deck should contain one current and one baby picture of each child. After the snack, give each student a deck of cards.

Explain to your students that they are to match up each baby photo with a current photo without looking at the back of the cards. The first one to make all perfect matches wins a small prize, such as an extra snack. (When working with younger children proclaim everyone winners and give everyone a prize.)

After class, allow the children to take their decks of photo cards home, and encourage them to play the match game with their parents or guardians. The photo cards will often be kept for many years, and they will bring back happy memories of your class whenever they are reviewed.

I haven’t done everything that I should in my life and I regret it. I know that you died and rose from the grave for me. Please teach me your ways and help me to live my life for you. I want to be ready for eternity with you. Amen

Congratulations, if you have prayed this prayer, the Bible says, “Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a **new** creature: **old things** are passed away; **behold**, all **things** are **become new.**” (2 Cor. 5:17)

If you’ve prayed this prayer for the first time or are renewing your commitment to the Lord, please let us know so that we can pray for you as you start your new life with Jesus.

Believe in your Heart

By Jack Kelley

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

(Romans 10:9-10)

This verse is the bottom line where salvation is concerned. In case you’ve never noticed, it’s always a matter of the heart with the Lord, and in this passage it’s clear that the central issue of salvation is a heart-felt belief in the Resurrection. Why? Because it’s how we’re justified. The Greek word for justified comes from a root meaning “to regard as innocent.” So, if we confess (agree) that Jesus is our Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead He’ll regard us as innocent of all charges and qualify us for eternal life.

How Can This Be?

First, it helps to remember that

Jesus didn’t die so that bad people could become good. He died so that dead people could live. When the Prodigal returned home, his joyful father didn’t exclaim, “My son was bad and is good again” but, “My son was dead and is alive again!” (Luke 15:32).

The wages of sin are death, so prior to becoming believers we were all dead in our sins (Ephes. 2:1). But when Jesus went to the cross He took all our sins upon Himself. (Col. 2:13-14) That means He agreed to accept the full punishment that was due us so that the charges against us could be dropped and we could escape the death sentence. Simply put, He made it possible for our Father in Heaven to exclaim, “My children were dead and are alive again!”

And His act of sacrifice wasn’t only retro-active, paying back for all the sins of our pre-Christian lives, it was also pro-active, paying forward for all the sins we’ll commit during the rest of our lives too, ... because *by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.* (Hebr. 10:14) Put another

way, He clothed Himself in our sin once so we could clothe ourselves in His righteousness forever. (2 Cor. 5:21)

Oh Yeah? Prove it!

God’s eyes are too pure to look upon sin. (Haba 1:13) He literally can’t stand the sight of it. Discovering this fact about Him helps us understand the importance He places on believing in the resurrection. On the cross, Jesus became the physical embodiment of our sin. For the first time ever the Father had to turn away from His Son leaving Him alone and in anguish to cry, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Insulted, spat upon, beaten, whipped to within an inch of His life, and finally nailed to a cross, this was the only part of His entire ordeal that caused Him to cry out. The Earth shook and the sky went dark as the Light of the World was extinguished. (Matt 27:46)

Three days later Jesus rose from the dead to sit at the right hand of Majesty, and He’s sitting there today. That wouldn’t be possible



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Government Contracts

By Ron Paul

Three contractors are bidding to fix a broken fence at the White House. One is from Chicago, another is from Tennessee, and the third is from Minnesota.

All three go with a White House official to examine the fence. The Minnesota contractor takes out a tape measure and does some measuring, then works some figures with a pencil. "Well," he says, "I figure the job will run about \$900: \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew and \$100 profit for me."

The Tennessee contractor also does some measuring and figuring, then says, "I can do this job for \$700: \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew and \$100 profit for me."

The Chicago contractor doesn't measure or figure, but leans over to the White House official and whispers, "\$2,700."

The official, incredulous, says, "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?"

The Chicago contractor whispers back, "\$1000 for me, \$1000 for you, and we hire the guy from Tennessee to fix the fence."

"Done!" replies the government official. And that, my friends, is how the new stimulus plan will work.

Tell me this won't happen to me

An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator! The dispatcher said, 'Stay calm. An officer is on the way.' A few minutes later, the officer radios in. 'Disregard,' he says. 'She got in the back-seat by mistake.'

Three sisters, ages 92, 94 and 96, live in a house together. One night the 96-year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, 'Was I getting in or out of the bath?' The 94-year-old yells back, 'I don't know. I'll come up and see.' She starts up the stairs and pauses, 'Was I going up the stairs or down?' The 92-year-old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, 'I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood.' She then yells, 'I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door.'

A little old lady was going up and down the halls in a nursing home. As she walked, she would flip up the hem of her nightgown and say 'Supersex.' She

walked up to an elderly man in a wheelchair. Flipping her gown at him, she said, 'Supersex.' He sat silently for a moment or two and finally answered, 'I'll take the soup.'

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, 'Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is. Her friend glared at her for at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, 'How soon do you need to know?'

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, 'Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!' 'Heck,' said Herman, 'It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!'

Two sides of one story

A little girl asked her dad, "Where do people come from?" The father told her, "well that's easy dear. You see God created Adam and Eve and they had children who had more children and their children had children and before you know it

the whole earth was populated." The little girl seemed satisfied and went on her way. The little girl then went to her mom and asked the same question, to which her mom replied, "that's simple dear, you see there was a big bang and all the matter started flying around and before you know it some slime formed into a little fish and as time passed the fish grew legs and walked out the sea, then later these fish became other animals until finally they became apes. Slowly but surely, after a very long time the apes evolved into people, who later had children and populated the whole earth." The little girl now more confused than ever went back to her dad and told him how her mom had answered the question and said, "dad, how can both of these be the truth?" The dad thought about it for moment and said, "That's easy dear, you see, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

Recently received from our management up on Olympus:

As the CEO of this organization, I have resigned myself to the fact that Barack Obama is our President and that our taxes and government fees will increase in a BIG way. To compensate for these increases, our prices would have to increase by about ten percent (10%).

But since we can not increase our prices right now due to the dismal state of our economy, we will have to lay off six of our employees instead. This has really been bothering me, since I believe we are family here, and I didn't

know how to choose who would have to go.

So, this is what I did. I walked through our parking lot and found six Obama bumper stickers on our employees' cars and have decided these folks will be the ones to let go. I can't think of a more fair way to approach this problem. They voted for change; I gave it to them.

I will see the rest of you at the annual company picnic.

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(James 1:5)

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(1 Corinthians 12)

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Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
Wrinkles don't hurt.
Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

SUCCESS:

At age 4 success is . . . not piddling in your pants.
At age 12 success is . . . having friends.
At age 17 success is . . . having a drivers license.
At age 35 success is . . . having money.
At age 50 success is . . . having money.
At age 70 success is . . . having a drivers license.
At age 75 success is . . . having friends.
At age 80 success is . . . not piddling in your pants.
Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way;
BUT NEVER forget the blessings that come each day.



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"For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand." Deut. 2:7

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825 Mineral Spring Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02860


Church Phone (401) 727-0311
Prayer Line (401) 481-8004
Sunday Worship Service - 9 am
Sunday Intercessory Prayer - 7 pm
Thursday Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - 7 pm
Friday Night Vigil - 11 pm

The Church of the End Times
19 Industrial Road
Uxbridge, MA 01569
1-877-247-PRAY

www.thechurchoftheendtimes.com

Wednesday Night Worship Service and Bible Study-7PM
Saturday Night Worship Service and Sermon-5PM - 7PM

His Love Reaching Church
Rev LJ Andrews, Pastor



Services
Sunday 10 a.m. Worship Service
Kingdom Kids Church (Ages 4-11)
Monday 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer
Thursday 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

(508) 999-5683
651 Orchard St Suite 302
New Bedford, MA 02744

...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, with the Lord of Hosts.

North Providence Assembly of God
244 Lexington Avenue
North Providence, RI 02904
401-353-0670

Saturday Service - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Service - 8:30 & 10:00 am
Sunday -College & Young Adult Service - 6:00 p.m.
Mid-Week - Adult & Youth Service 7:00 p.m.

Apostolic Pentecostal Church of RI
And Ye Shall Know The Truth
537 Elm Street • Woonsocket, RI 02895
401-534-0172 • acts238@apcri.com

Service Times
Sunday Morning: 10:00 am
Tuesday Evening Prayer: 6:30 pm
Tuesday Evening Interactive Bible Study: 7:30 pm
Thursday Evening: 7:30 pm


~ **Clayville Assembly** ~
7 Plainfield Pike - Foster, Rhode Island
www.clayvilleassembly.com

Matt. 28:18-20
HIS PRESENCE CHURCH
595 St. Paul Street
North Smithfield, RI - 02896
(401) 762-4463
www.hispresencechurch.org
Rev. Al Berja - Senior Pastor

Sunday Christian Education: 9:30
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Friday Intercessory Prayer: 7:00 pm

Oasis of Grace Church of God
464 Silver Spring Street
Providence, RI 02904
(401) 861-1441

CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
385 Ashley Blvd
New Bedford MA 02745
Pastor I. Garcia 508-984-0454




Sunday Services: Sunday School FOR ALL AGES @ 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service @ 7:00 pm
Tuesday: Bible Study @ 7:00pm


Conquerors For Christ Church
972 Reed Road • North Dartmouth, MA 02747
Tel: (508) 999-1669 • Fax: 508-999-2314
www.conquerorsforchrist.org

English Services
Sundays 9:00 AM
Praise and Worship Service
Wednesdays 7:00 PM
Prayer and Bible Study
Fridays 7:00 PM
Youth Service

Serviços em Português
Domingos às 11:00 AM
Louvor e Adoração
Terças-feiras às 7:00 PM
Reunião de Oração
Quintas-feiras às 7:00 PM
Estudos Bíblicos



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Jan Shepard, Director (401) 765-4364



PO Box 22 • 632 River St. Woonsocket, RI 02895

Ocean State Baptist Church
600 Douglas Pike Smithfield, RI 02917
(401)231-1980 • www.osbc.org

Sunday Services 10:00 am
Sunday School 11:00 am
Morning Worship 6:00 pm
Evening Worship
Wednesday Service
Adult Bible Study, Children & Teen Programs 7:30 pm

Calvary Pentecostal
33 Braley Rd. E. Freetown, MA 02717
508-763-8343

Rev. Curtis D. Dias, Pastor
Services - Sunday 11:00AM
Sunday 7:00 PM - Movie Night
Tuesday 6:00PM - Celebrate Recovery
Wednesday 7:00PM - Bible Study,
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Deliverance Church of All Nations
38 Anthony Street, Seekonk, MA 02771
(508) 336-4427


Bishop A.M. Johnson, spiritual leader
Service times: Mondays 7 p.m. - Prayer, Wednesdays 7 p.m. - Prayer & Bible Study, Fridays, 8 pm - Prayer, Sunday School, 9:30 am, Morning Worship, 11:00 am (401) 354-8287

THE ORCHARD CHURCH
180 Oaklawn Ave, Cranston, RI 02920
Pastor Bob Lancia (401) 942-4616
www.orchardri.org

Join us for contemporary worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. Wednesday night is family night starting with a light supper at 6:30 pm followed by classes for all ages at 7:00 pm. Childcare provided. Elevator accessible.



245 Phenix Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920
Help Line: (401) 941-4357
Business Line: (401) 941-2051
www.carenetri.org



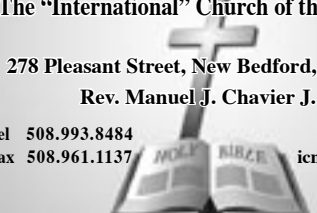
Office Hours
Monday 10 - 5:30
Wednesday 10 - 5:30
Thursday 10 - 5:30

Faith Bible Chapel
115 Ashaway Rd (Rt 3)
Westerly, RI 02891
(401) 348-9637

Pastor Bernie Norman
Sunday services:
Adult Sunday School 9:00 am
Sunday Worship service: 10:30 am

The "International" Church of the Nazarene
278 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02745
Rev. Manuel J. Chavier J. R.

tel 508.993.8484 email
fax 508.961.1137 icn@verizon.net



Pentecostal Assembly
215 Sawyer Street
New Bedford, MA
508-996-9865

SERVICE TIMES	
Sunday Service	10:00AM
English Service	11:00AM
Portuguese Service	6:30PM
Tuesday	
Youth Service	6:30PM
Wednesday	
Portuguese Bible Study	7:00PM
Thursday	
English Bible Study	7:00PM

Christian Assembly
1494 Fall River Ave • Seekonk, MA 02771
508-336-4023 • www.cachurch.org

Weekly Service Schedule:
Sunday 9:00 am - Portuguese Service
10:00 am - Sunday School Adults & Children
10:45 am - English Worship Service
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study - Portuguese
Friday 7:00 p.m. Youth Service
Adult Bible Study • Portuguese Bible Study

Faith Christian Center
95 Sagamore Road
Seekonk, MA 02771
www.faithchristiancenter.org
508-336-4110

Sunday Worship Hours 8:30 am & 11:00am
Wednesday Bible Study-7:30pm



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401-723-2039

Tuesday Prayer- 7:00 -8:30 pm
Friday- midweek service 7:00-8:30 pm
Sunday- 10:00 AM

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401-934-1414
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Weekly Services:
Sunday - Morning Worship 10:00 am
Sunday - Children's Church 10:00 am
Wednesday - Bible Study 7:00 pm
Wednesday - Youth Group 7:00 pm

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(401) 351 - 2347
Rev. Dr. Paul Lawrence
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Sunday Worship 10:45-12:30
Wednesday Night Prayer 7:30 PM
Thursday Night Bible Study 7:30 PM

Quidnick Baptist Church
484 Fairview Avenue
Coventry
821-2465

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
Childrens Sunday School 10:45 am
Bible Study Wednesday 7 pm

United Pentecostal Church
"Bringing Families Together"



Sunday School & Worship 10 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 pm

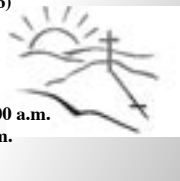
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New Hope Christian Church
1436 G.A.R. Highway (Route 6)
Swansea, MA 02777
508-324-4500
www.nhcc.ws

Service Times:
Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evenings: 7:00 p.m.
Prayer begins at 6:15



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Scarlet Cord Apostolic Temple
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www.scarletcordtemple.org



Church of the Apostles
170 Fairview Ave • Coventry, RI • 401-821-7609
www.churchoftheapostlesri.org

e-mail: churchoffice@churchoftheapostlesri.org
The Reverend Mark R. Galloway, Superintendent

Worship Services:
Saturday 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am
Worship & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Our Mission is to Obey, Follow and Bear Witness to Jesus Christ.



Grace Family Church
125 Washington St. - W. Warwick, RI
Services: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study: Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Biblical Counseling by Appointment
Pastor Luciano Cozzi
(401) 821-8869

New Life Worship Center
915 Douglas Pike
Smithfield
232-5200
www.nlwcenter.org

Sundays Service 10:00am
Tuesday Men's Prayer 6:30am Early prayer then breakfast fellowship
Friday Ground Zero 7:00pm, Youth Service with Teen-Led Worship and Relevant Bible Teaching.

World Covenant Life Ministries Center
25 Market Street Unit #6
Swansea MA
508-493-3701

e-mail: wclministries@comcast.net
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 am
Power Study Night - Wednesday 7:30 pm

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
1494 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771
caseekonk@hotmail.com

For Information or Reservation, please call:
Eugene & Patricia Larocque at (401) 226-8020

Humanitarian Relief Dinner
Saturday, April 11th, 2009 at 5:00 pm

To aide the local citizens of Guinea-Bissau with the building of a community hospital.

All are welcome!
13 years - Adult: \$20.00 6 - 12 years: \$10.00
Children under 6 years: Free

Church of The Apostles is hosting
Heavenly Melodies
a Christian Russian Children's Violin Orchestra
from the Slavic Evangelistic Church of East Providence.

Saturday, April 25th, at 7:30 p.m.
The children are natives of Russia who live in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Please invite your family and friends for this wonderful evening of "heavenly" music played solely for the glory of God.

A free will offering will be collected. A reception will follow.

Church of The Apostles
170 Fairview Ave, Coventry, RI
401-821-7609

APRIL Calendar

April's Highlights

April 9 7p.m. ~ Washing of the Feet: Service, At Scarlet Cord Apostolic Temple, 441 Cogshell St New Bedford MA 02746 Church # 508-997-1672 website scarletcardtemple.org

April 15 9:30 a.m. ~ Coalition Labor Day -Opposing the Transgender Bill HB 1728 at the MA State House in Boston, info@coalitionformarriage.org, 781-569-0509

April 15 12-3p.m. ~ Join us Providence Tax Day Tea Party - at the State Capital Building, City Side steps, Providence Contact: Colleen Conley 508-243-3824 info@touchstonedesign.com or TAXDAYTEAPARTY.com

April 16-18 ~ Awakening Conference 2009, New Life Worship Center Smithfield, RI. www.atnewlife.org for times, schedules & directions 401-232-5200 for more information.

1 Wednesday

12-1 p.m. ~ Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. Luncheon: at The Courtyard Marriott Hotel (1st Wed of month at this location) 32 Exchange Terrace (Kennedy Plaza) Call Jim 401-821-8750

7p.m.~ Family Night every Wednesday at The Orchard Church, light supper at 6:30pm followed by classes for all ages. Childcare provided. Elevator Accessible. 180 Oaklawn Ave Cranston RI 02920. 401-942-4616. orchardri.org

7 p.m. Family Night ~ Adult Bible Study & Childrens programs. every Wed "Something For Everyone" Christian Fellowship Center-Assembly of God. 844 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA 508-995-9996, www.cfc818.org

7:30 p.m. ~ Power Study Night every Wednesday at World Covenant Life Ministries Center, MA. Call for Info 508-493-3701

2 Thursday

7 p.m. ~ Teen/Youth Night. every Thursday The Orchard Church, 180 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920. 401-942-4616 or www.orchardri.org

3 Friday

7 p.m. ~ Ground Zero Youth Service with Teen-Led Worship and Relevant Bible Teaching. New Life Worship Center, 915 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI. 401-232-5200

7-9 p.m. ~ Recovery Class every Friday at New Hope Christian Church, 1436 G.A.R. Highway Swansea, MA.(508)-324-4500

7p.m. ~ "Daryle Borrows" contemporary music at New Beginnings Coffeehouse Church of The Apostles 170 Fairview Ave Coventry, RI. Refreshment served, Free will offering. For more info call 401-821-7609

4 Saturday

4-8 p.m.~ Adult Coffee House Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly, 10 Troy St. Providence, RI 02909; 401-780-8900

7 p.m. ~ "Cross Back" The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick RI, 401-823-5330 www.theupperroomri.org

5 Palm Sunday

7-8:30 p.m.~ Evening Church Service, every week, Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly, 1860 Westminister St.. Providence, RI 02909; 401-780-8900

7 Tuesday

10 a.m. ~ Women's Bible Study, meets every Tuesday at New Hope Christian Church, 1436 G.A.R. Highway Swansea, MA. or nhcc.ws (508)-324-4500

7 p.m. ~ Healing Streams Prayer Service 1st Tuesday of each month for healing & prayer gathering. Healing and peace in body, soul & spirit with Gods healing touch. New Life Worship Center 915 Douglas Pike Smithfield, RI.more info call:401-232-5200

7p.m. ~ Celebrate Recovery every Tuesday. (Behind the Church) International Church of the Nazarene 278 Pleasant St, New Bedford, MA.

8 Wednesday

12-1 p.m. ~ Full Gospel Businessmen's Luncheon. Full gospel/ fellowship. . (2nd Wed of month at this Location) Radisson Hotel, Providence, RI (exit 3, Gano St... off 195) call Jim 401-821-8750

7p.m.~ Family Night every Wednesday at The Orchard Church, light supper at 6:30pm followed by classes for all ages. Childcare provided. Elevator Accessible. 180 Oaklawn Ave Cranston RI 02920. 401-942-4616. orchardri.org

7 p.m. Family Night ~ Adult Bible Study & Childrens programs. every Wed "Something For Everyone" Christian Fellowship Center-Assembly of God. 844 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA 508-995-9996, www.cfc818.org

7:30 p.m. ~ Power Study Night every Wednesday at World Covenant Life Ministries Center, MA. Call for Info 508-493-3701

9 Thursday

9:30 a.m. ~ Coalition Labor Day -Opposing the Transgender Bill HB 1728 at the MA State House in Boston, info@coalitionformarriage.org, 781-569-0509

9:30 a.m. ~ M.O.P.S Group meets every 2nd & 3rd Thursday of every month; call holiday weeks for reschedule. New Hope Christian Center. 1436 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA (508) 324-4500 or nhcc.ws

7p.m. ~Washing of the feet: service, At Scarlet Cord Apostolic Temple 441 Cogshell St New Bedford MA 02746 Church # 508-997-1672 website scarletcardtemple.org

7 p.m. ~ Teen/Youth Night. every Thursday The Orchard Church, 180 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920. 401-942-4616 or www.orchardri.org

7 p.m. ~ Joshua's Men 2nd and 4th Thursday, we meet for prayer, bible study and mutual accountability, at Church of the Apostles 170 Fairview Ave, Coventry, for more info: 401-821-7609

10 Friday

7 p.m. ~ Ground Zero Youth Service with Teen-Led Worship and Relevant Bible Teaching. New Life Worship Center, 915 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI. 401-232-5200

7-9 p.m. ~ Recovery Class every Friday at New Hope Christian Church, 1436 G.A.R. Highway Swansea, MA.(508)-324-4500

7-9 p.m. ~ Core- Youth Night (Grades 9 - 12) Every Friday. Christian Hill Community Church. 1745 Main Street, West Warwick. 401-823-0285 www.christianhill.com

11 Saturday

12-2p.m. ~ Matthew 25 Ministry ~ Food pantry/clothing/furnishings at Cathedral of Life. . 1860 Westminister Ave, Providence, RI .401-780-1860

7 p.m. ~ "Shawn Dennison & Raised Glory" The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick RI, 401-823-5330 www.theupperroomri.org

12 Sunday

Resurrection Day

15 Wednesday

12-3p.m. ~ Join us Providence Tax Day Tea Party - at the State Capital Building, City Side steps, Providence Contact: Colleen Conley 508-243-3824 info@touchstonedesign.com or TAXDAYTEAPARTY.com

16 Thursday

9:30 a.m. ~ M.O.P.S Group meets every 2nd & 3rd Thursday of every month; call holiday weeks for reschedule. New Hope Christian Center. 1436 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA (508) 324-4500 or nhcc.ws

10 a.m. ~ Senior Saint Bible Study (65 & older) 3rd Thursday of the month at New Hope Christian Church, 1436 G.A.R. Highway Swansea, MA. (508)-324-4500

18 Saturday

7:30p.m. ~ "Mitch McVicker" at Community of the Cross Coffeehouse, 7 Madison Ave Danbury Ct. www.1heartonline.org 203-748-4972

7 p.m. ~ "N.B.J. (Nothin But Jesus) The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.theupperroomri.org

19 Sunday

7-10 p.m. ~ Men of Covenant Men's Meeting every Sunday. Cathedral of Life, 433 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907 401-780-8900

21 Tuesday

10 a.m. ~ Women's Bible Study, meets every Tuesday at New Hope Christian Church, 1436 G.A.R. Highway Swansea, MA.(508)-324-4500 or nhcc.ws

23 Thursday

6:45 p.m. ~ Rhode Island Men of Hope 4th Thursday every month. Barrington Baptist Church, Barrington, RI www.menofhope.org Our Mission - Reaching Men for Christ. Ambassador for Promise Keepers. Coach for National Coalition Men's Ministry: call Big John Mentus (401-433-2030)

7 p.m. ~ Joshua's Men 2nd and 4th Thursday, we meet for prayer, bible study and mutual accountability, at Church of the Apostles 170 Fairview Ave, Coventry, for more info: 401-821-7609

24 Friday

7-9 p.m. Mens Covenant Meeting ~ at Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly. 1860 Westminister St. Providence, RI. Last Friday of the month please call 401-780-8900

25 Saturday

12-2p.m. ~ Matthew 25 Ministry ~ Food pantry/clothing/furnishings at Cathedral of Life. 401-780-1860 . 1860 Westminister St, Providence, RI.

4-8 p.m. ~ Adult Coffee House Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly, 10 Troy St. Providence, RI 02909

7:30 p.m. ~ "Heavenly Melodies" Children's Christian Russian Violin Orchester an evening of music at Church of The Apostles 170 Fairview Ave Coventry, RI. Refreshment served, Free will offering. For more info call 401-821-7609

7 p.m. ~ "Catlysis" The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.theupperroomri.org

26 Sunday

6-8 p.m. ~ Cathedral of Life Strategic Prayer Gatherings (corporate prayer), last Sunday of every month. 433 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 401-780-8900

May's Highlights

Tara Leigh Cobble w/guest Sandoval Band at Community of the Cross Coffeehouse, 7 Madison Ave Danbury Ct. www.1heartonline.org 203-748-4972



Church of the Month
By Pastor Peter Atkin

What is Living Hope Christian Church?

We are a group of people trying to find the best way through this life. We are excited about what the Bible says about God, how much He loves us, is concerned for us and seeks to give us fullness of life and not take it away! We have found our answers, our comfort, our healing and our direction from Him and His Son Jesus Christ!

We are a nondenominational, evangelical church committed to: instruction in the Bible for all ages, worship of Almighty God through a mix of contemporary and traditional music, prayer, fellowship, outreach and evangelism. As a church, our desire is to bring the Good News of Jesus to the South County area, minister to the needs of the body of Christ and serve our local community. Living Hope

Christian Church seeks to help people grow in their relationship with God and find their purpose and potential in Him.

We believe church should be a refuge from the world where people are accepted and loved in spite of who they are, a safe place where hurts can be healed, and a nurturing place where people are encouraged to seek Christ, believe on Him and grow in the fullness of life that He offers.

We meet on a regular basis, Sundays at 10:00am in the North Kingstown High School Auditorium, 150 Fairway Drive, North Kingstown. We offer various programs for the whole family. You can get more information on our website, www.lhcc.info, or by calling us at (401) 667-0775.

We are also the church that purchased the American Legion post at 730 South County Trail in North Kingstown an have been remodeling it for God's use. Our grand opening celebration will occur on Sunday May 3rd. We will have our regular service at 10am, followed by a luncheon/open house from 11:30am to 2pm, with a dedication service happening at 2pm.



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MINISTRIES

Catch A Vision Ministries is starting a counseling service to former inmates and people who have lost their way and need some help getting back on the Narrow Road. Appointments only, please call 508-763-5042.

CareNet-RI. Free pregnancy testing. 245 Phenix Avenue, Cranston, RI 941-4357

Garments of Love- Free Clothing and baby equipment. S. Attleboro Assembly of God 1052 Newport Ave, South Attleboro, MA 508-761-7334 Wednesday and Saturday 10 AM - 1 PM.

PROVIDENCE Rescue Mission. 627 Cranston Street, Providence. 274-8861.

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Serving Bristol County, Massachusetts

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for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8*

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CONTACT PERSON:

Colleen Conley
508-243-3824

info@touchstonedesigns.com

NATIONAL WEB SITE:

WWW.TAXDAYTEAPARTY.COM

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