FREE

The Good News TODAY

DECEMBER 2007 Vol. 6 No. 12

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory... - John 1:14

Fearfully and wonderfully made

The Lowney family

By Ralph C. Davis

It is called conscience; those gnawing thoughts that haunt us when we know what we're doing is wrong. It is called guilt; the feeling that we experience when we continue to do it anyway. It is called human; because we are all guilty of behaviors that would be displeasing to God, our Father. It is called LOVE; amazing, bountiful and undeserved that God demonstrates to each and every one of us. And with this love comes total forgiveness and, incredibly, He forgets! Sometimes in His love, in His paternal way, he permits us to be ourselves, to make errors, sometimes grievous, as it suits His purpose. Then, in His timing and power, he draws the person away from their deeds, to Himself. Such is the case of Mark Lowney, MD.

Dr. Mark Lowney is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist (Ob/Gyn.) with a practice in Fall River and North Dartmouth, Massa-

Dr. Lowney continued Page 3

Autism Can Be Treated

By Dr. Carolyn Dean, MD, ND and Elissa Meininger

"All truth passes through three stages: First, it is ridiculed; Second, it is violently opposed; and Third, it is accepted as self-evident." --Arthur Schopenhauer

A child gets 36 inoculations by the time they are 6!

We are in the midst of a catastrophe. As of February 2007, the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) has admitted that there are at least 1.5 million children with autism in the U.S. affecting one in every 150 children and one out of 90 boys. Even these figures are probably too low and may not take into account the other categories being created to describe our increasingly challenged children. Pervasive developmental disorder, Asperger's disorder are two other autism spectrum disorders that describe children with variants of autism. The incidence of ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) is one in ten children. As the saying goes, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that something is seriously wrong.

Government health experts claim autism is an incurable disease offering anticonvulsant and psychotropic drugs to control behavior and a behavior modification therapy called "applied behavior analysis (ABA)." They dismiss all other means of helping these children as "unproven." Meanwhile thousands of children are back to full functionality by treating the damage caused by mercury toxicity using natural health therapies.

Our government's slow and even decep-

Autism continued Page 4

Walking "The Land" Final Chapter

by Lawrence L. Lepore

Luke13:34 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!*

Wailing Wall in Jerusalem

Jerusalem is a city known by many cultures and names and occurs 814 times in the bible. The Holy city, the golden city, the eternal city, the city of David, or as many Hebrew scholars interpret it, "the city of he who is perfect." As we looked over the days iternerary, while eating breakfast overlooking Old City, anticapation of our journey through Jerusalem was mounting. During breakfast our trusty guide, Ikey Korin gave us some background on the city. "Jerusalem is the capital and largest city of Israel in both population and area, with a little over 700,000 residents in an area of 49 square miles. Jeruslaem has a history that goes back as far as the 4th millennium BC, making it one of the oldest cities in the world. This city has been the holiest city in Judaism and the spiritual center of the Jewish people since the 10th century BC. It has always been the crossroads of East and West, between different races and nations. Exemplifying this diversity, within a few hundred feet are the Wailing Wall, the Omar Mosque, and the Holy Sepulchre, three of the most holy sites of the three monotheistic religions."

Walking "The Land" continued Page 12

NON-PROPHET CHURCHES

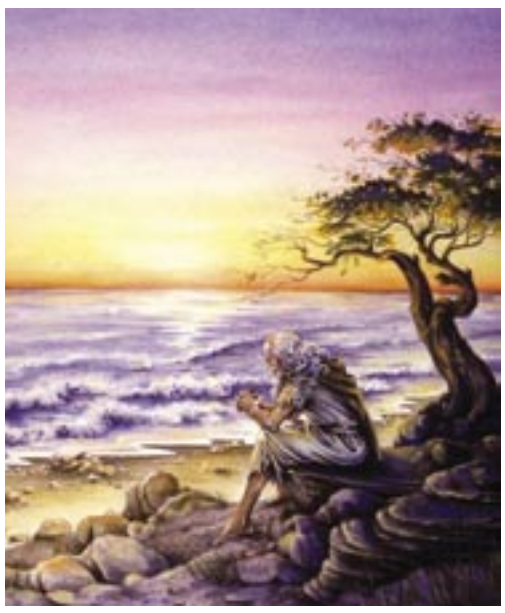
By Coach Dave Daubenmire

Isaiah 56:10 *His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.*

No I didn't spell prophet wrong. A prophet is "a person gifted with profound moral insight and exceptional powers of expression." Today the Church's door is shut to the prophets. We have traded the prophets for profits.

I saw it again this weekend. Every time I go, I pray it will be different; it is my nature, to believe for the best. But I have to admit, it is very discouraging.

I travel the country standing up for Truth.



A Prophet

I'm not sure how this mantle fell on me but I do my best to be faithful to the call. I believe that the Lord is using me to awaken the Church. My message is hard and penetrating. It is a sin-hating, God-fearing exhortation to *"Go ye therefore, and teach*

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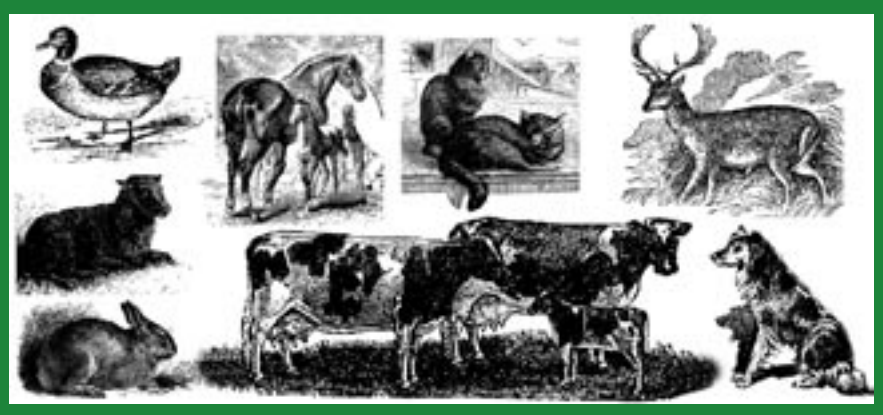

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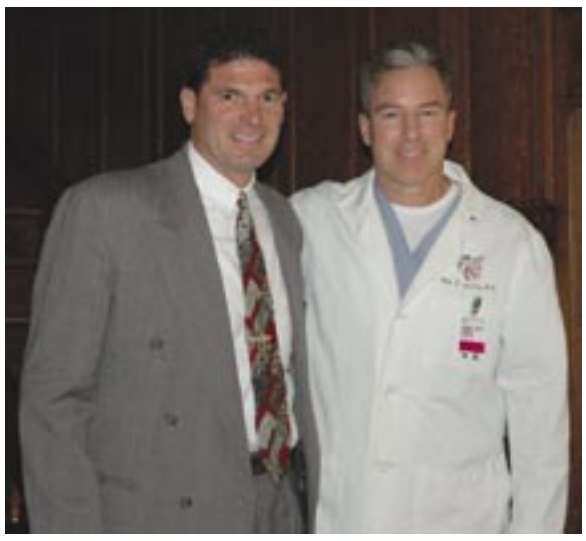
Dr. Lowney from Page 1

chusetts. He is married to Kristine and has five children: Zachary 16, Brennan 14, Arianna 12, Ashton 10, and Zoe, age 7.

Born in Bainbridge, Maryland in 1963, Mark has three siblings. His parents raised him Roman Catholic and he attended catholic schools. Interestingly, Mark said that he found an old school album a while back and saw that he had written, in the third grade, that he wanted to be a baby doctor even back then! This was because those types of doctors deliver life and give good news to the new parents.

Throughout his school years Mark participated in basketball, tennis, and other athletics. Sadly, Mark said, opportunities to play sports were few once he began the demanding pre-med regimen at Boston College. Despite all of his years of church, Mark says that he had no real relationship with Jesus Christ. Mark said that he "knew *of* him but did not *know* Him."



Ralph Lewis and Doctor Mark Lowney

Mark described himself as an "a typical American boy" living in Massachusetts when he met Kristine during his last year at Boston College. Kristine was attending Providence College at the time where she was completing a teaching degree. They dated and got married in 1989.

During his residency Mark was taught how to perform abortions. After completing the residency program he was given the opportunity to work at Planned Parenthood in Providence, RI. "From a legal point of view," Mark said, "I could justify abortions. We live in the United States where people have choices and it is legal, not to mention the fact that there is a shortage of doctors performing abortions. It was justifiable although morally it did not sit well with me."

During this period, Mark considered himself an agnostic, or doubter, when it came to God. He said that he was "Not bold enough to say that I was an atheist because I didn't know. Seeking a Bachelors of Science in Biology you are inundated with Darwinism and evolution; I did not know if there was a God and I did not care. I was very self-centered and I thought I could do everything on my own. I would pull God out of my back pocket if I got sick or was in a bad situation and maybe say a few prayers that I'd learned such as 'Our Father' or 'Hail Mary's."

Mark worked for Planned Parenthood for six years on weekends. Over time, he began to experience frequent nightmares, even night terrors that would still haunt him during his days. He became more and more convicted that what he was doing was wrong. He finally stopped working for Planned Parenthood but the night terrors, guilt and shame continued to haunt him.

About a year after leaving Planned Parenthood he was visited by a childhood friend, Ralph Lewis, an established attorney in Fall River, MA. "During the visit, he told me about our real God, our Father, who I never knew. He told me about His love for me, despite all I had done. I learned about His Son, Jesus Christ, who forgives sin and who died for *me* and all others so that, through our belief in Him we might live with Him and God in heaven forever." Mark still gets tearful when he expresses his astonishment over God's amazing love for him.

"The Lord used Ralph to convict me," said Mark; "We prayed together and he gave me a Bible. I now understand that I had no righteousness to go before a holy God. Mark quoted the biblical verse, John 6:44(a) In it Jesus said, "No one comes to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him…"

That very night in August, 2000 when Mark repented of his sins, asked Jesus for forgiveness and professed faith in Him as Lord and Savior, Mark said, "God did miraculous things." The night terrors went away and the guilt and shame he felt being an abortionist was gone *immediately*. This was a "supernatural thing," Mark said, "that if it was not for God transforming my life at that point, none of these issues would have ever disappeared."

Kristine was not home to hear the conversation that took place during the friend's visit. Afterwards Mark told her the startling and wonderful news, it was still hard to accept and believe what he had heard. "We had been brought up thinking that you had to be a good person and if you do enough good works you were going to go to heaven. But we now know that being good is not enough, you really have to put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and have a relationship with Him." Mark went on to say, "It's all about repentance, that is, turning away from your life of sin."

Even when told the good news, it was hard for Kristine to move away from the Catholic Church she was attending. She was comfortable going to Catholic mass because it was familiar and a local church where her friends and family attended. Despite her reluctance, she saw changes in Mark and his love for God's Word and she saw him actually reading the Bible, something that she had never seen before. She began to see that the change wasn't a fad, or trend that he was trying. Less than six months later Kristine also professed her faith accepting Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Kristine now relies mightily on that faith to raise their five children.

Mark, Kristine, and the kids are now attending Newport Community Church, a non-denominational, bible believing church. Barr Flynn is the pastor and Ralph Lewis, the man who initially witnessed to him is an elder there. Mark stated, "They have had a huge impact on my Christian walk as mentors, prayer and accountability partners."

Within months after his salvation, Mark was approached by people from the Women to Women Support Network in Middletown, RI to serve on their board of directors. Mark still puzzles about how they knew that he "was a changed man. Since then, he has dedicated his life to serving God by volunteering at two other pregnancy resource centers, a board member of A Woman's Concern and a medical director at CareNet of Rhode Island.

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During my interview with Dr. Mark Lowney I was most appreciative of the time he afforded me during his busy day to share his life with our readers. What moved me the most was his obvious determination to give God credit for all things, especially, His will to deliver him from his past and to use him for His purposes now.

One significant verse which the Lord used to reach out to Mark can now be found hanging in his waiting room. According to Dr. Lowney, "I have come to believe that every life is precious in the eyes of God and should be also in the eyes of man. God is sovereign over all life and has an eternal purpose for all His creation. King David clearly declared God's love for all pre-born children when he wrote:

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works, that I know very well." (Ps 139:13-14)

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Autism from Page 1

tive response to this catastrophe is a major part of the problem parents of autistic children face. The CDC does not publicize the fact that in the 1970s only one in 10,000 children were diagnosed with autism, however, in the 1980s, this figure rose to one in every 2,500. Nor does it mention that the massive escalation of cases started in the 1990s coincided with the addition of several new vaccines to the compulsory childhood vaccination lists. Currently, every American child is expected to have 36 shots by the time they are six years old.

The sudden 11-fold increase in neurobehavioral disorders of all kinds pointed to vaccines and most importantly, the mercury component (thimerosal) as the main culprit. The drug industry lobbied for laws that now protect them from liability should these government-mandated vaccines damage or kill any of the children required to take them. To aid victims of vaccination a special government-run fund was set up but a Vaccine Court decided to disallow autism claims as there was no "scientific proof" that vaccines caused autism.

With increasing demands of parents of autistic children, in the summer of 2007, the court was forced to conduct special hearings to determine, not by science, but by reasonable legal probability whether or not there is a plausible link between vaccines and autism. If a link is established, the trust fund initiated in 1986 to pay claims could provide financial relief for families with autistic children. However, the annual cost of treating an autistic child ranges from $50,000 to $200,000. If the Vaccine Court decides there is no link, the parents of 1.5 million kids must fend for themselves. Even if claims are allowed, there are not enough funds to cover all damaged children.

The ferocity of the battle is seen in press reports from both sides of the debate including the government itself. In September 26, 2007, a CDC study entitled, "*CDC Study Finds Kids' Mental Acuity Not Hurt by Mercury*," was quickly followed on October 1, 2007, by a press release titled *"Mercury (Thimerosal) in Vaccines: FDA and CDC 'Guilty' of Misconduct, Says Senate Report."* issued by Senator Enzi, Ranking Member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Thanks to massive pressure from hundreds of thousands of parents and Congressional leaders like Dan Burton, whose own grandchild has autism, Congress in 2007 finally passed legislation to fund autism research. However, this has not satisfied all parents. Their fear is that most of this money will be poured into genetic research and behavioral research and not address "the environmental causes of autism" i.e., mercury and vaccines. Sidestepping the environmental aspects of autism would serve to protect the vaccine manufacturing industry as well as the validity of the national policy on compulsory vaccinations.

It is important to note that autism first appeared in the 1930s, around the same time thimerosal, a mercury component, started to be put into vaccines. Not many cases were reported back then and the dozens of vaccines children now receive, had not been developed. In 1956, Dr. Bernard Rimland, a Ph.D. in experimental psychology and research design welcomed his son, Mark, into the world of autism. In that era, the medical community, under the leadership of psychiatrist, Bruno Bettleheim, believed autism was a psychological disorder caused by unloving mothers. The treatment was psychotherapy for both mother and child. Dr. Rimland did not agree. By 1964, Dr. Rimland, wrote *Infantile Autism* describing eight years of research and personal observation of his son with scientific evidence that autism is biochemical in nature and not caused by unloving mothers.

Finding no support from the medical scientific community, Dr. Rimland founded the Autism Society of America. Its members were and still are parents of children with autism, many of whom are health professionals. He encouraged them to become the primary experts formalizing their work by creating the Autism Research Institute, which now has the largest database in the world on the issues of autism. The Institute collects data from parents on what works to help their children providing comprehensive surveys on results of dozens of therapies. DAN! (Defeat Autism Now) conferences occur annually where researchers and parents present information on successful therapies.

The sudden 11-fold increase in neurobehavioral disorders of all kinds pointed to vaccines and most importantly, the mercury component (thimerosal) as the main culprit.

The DAN! approach also includes applied behavior analysis aka ABA (a behavior modification program which Rimland pushed for 20 years before it was accepted by the medical establishment), dietary supplements (which are still not accepted by the medical establishment including the psychiatric community), special diets to eliminate casein (found in dairy products) and gluten (found in wheat products) and a mercury detox.

Evidence of success with DAN! protocols has recently been featured on both Oprah and Larry King Live by two Hollywood authors and actresses who are mothers of recovered children. These wonderful and committed mothers effectively use their experience and notoriety to bring hope to hundreds of thousands of parents who have not heard that autism is treatable. One of the duo is Holly Robinson Peete, who, along with her husband, Roland Peete of NFL football fame, founded Hollyrod Foundation to help raise money and spread the word about autism. The other mom is Jenny McCarthy, who has just released a book about her experiences with bringing her son Evan back from autism. The book, entitled, *Louder Than Words: A Mother's Journey in Healing Autism*, was featured on the cover of People in the October 1, 2007, issue. She is spokeswoman for an organization called Talk About Curing Autism (TACA), which provides detailed information on what parents can do to help their children recover.

Roland Peete of NFL football fame and wife Holly Robinson Peete

During their interview on Larry King Live, Jenny pointed out that while vaccines might not be the sole cause of autism, she believes they are a trigger, much like obesity is a trigger for diabetes. She also pointed out that her son had candida, a yeast infection, and as soon as this was cleaned up with an antifungal diet and an antifungal drug, Max started speaking complete sentences and his social development was back on track. Jenny said Evan's experience is common among kids with autism.

The DAN doctor who Jenny credits with diagnosing Evan's candida overgrowth is pediatrician, Dr. Jerry Kartzinel. He was also on the Larry King show and said, "this isn't in the books", meaning the treatment of yeast in autism. Dr. Kartzinel has a special interest in autism because his own child became autistic after an MMR vaccination. His wife's directive to him was pretty explicit. She said, "you broke him, you go out and fix him." He quickly realized that there was nothing in the pediatric medical literature to describe the cascade of problems that develop in an autistic child. This lack of information led him to the DAN group and he is now considered a top expert in the field.

When you allow yourself to go beyond the behavioral model of autism you will find research showing that one pivotal metabolic insult to an infant who develops autism is damage to a specific kinase enzyme. In a vulnerable segment of the population, perhaps 10%, a particular gene sequence can be damaged by heavy metals (mercury in children's vaccines or flu shots and dental amalgams in the elderly), antibiotics, alcohol, and acetaminophin. This vulnerable gene sequence is found in people who have autism and Alzheimer's; it is the template for creating the kinase enzyme P13. Some researchers refer to this gene sequence as the Alzheimer's gene, which is damaged early in these children by overwhelming metabolic insults.

Why is kinase P13 so important? The body requires kinase P13 for many tasks, one of which is to help break down gluten (a wheat, rye, oats, and barley protein) and casein (a milk protein). This same enzyme allows the methylation (or biochemical modification) of certain B vitamins. Without proper methylation of B12 into methylcobalamin and folic acid into folinic acid, hundreds of functions are impaired. For example, if you don't have methylcobolamine, your liver can't make glutathione (a powerful antioxidant). Without glutathione the body is not able to detoxify heavy metals. The vicious cycle is complete. The heavy metal that causes the gene damage in the first place is not excreted as it should be and continues to accumulate and cause more damage. So intricate are these pathways that giving children the wrong kind of folic acid or B12 can make matters worse; consequently autism therapy must be overseen by knowledgeable parents and practitioners.

The therapies used to successfully treat autism are similar to ones used for Alzheimer's patients who suffer mercury and aluminum toxicity and people with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), hormone imbalance, allergies, yeast overgrowth, viral infections, nutritional deficiencies, and heavy metal toxicity, because autistic children suffer from all of the above.

Treatment must begin with diet. Casein and gluten are eliminated because they are not digested or absorbed properly in a kinase P13-damaged body. When not completely digested casein and gluten produce brain-disrupting hallucinogens or brain depressants. In my telephone consulting practice, I tell parents that a proper diet for autism is not just a matter of giving your child healthy food, it's more important to eliminate foods that are poisoning them. Sugar is another important food restriction. Sugar feeds yeast in the intestinal tract, which is often stimulated by overuse of antibiotics to deal with chronic infections that plague autistic children. Yeast produces up to 180 different toxins that cause or aggravate rashes, brain irritation, hypothyroidism, and IBS. In many autistic children the MMR vaccine with live measles virus has produced an ongoing intestinal infection.

Therapeutic supplements are added to the diet as needed. For measles infection and yeast overgrowth natural antibiotics can be used. Methylcobalamine (B12) and folinic acid are given instead of the more common cyanocobalamine or folic acid. Hyperbaric oxygen helps revive damaged and starving brain and nervous system tissues. Urinary porphyrin testing helps determine the mercury and lead burden in a child and IV chelation with glutathione, phosphytidyl choline or calcium EDTA helps reduce the load. I recommend food based organic vitamins and angstrom-sized minerals for superior absorption of missing nutrients. Homeopathy is used to treat minor ailments in children so they aren't exposed to unnecessary medication. Practiced by an experienced homeopath, homeopathy has the potential to heal autism and ADHD. Judyth Reichenber-Ullman has written several books

Autism from next page

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Churches from Page 1

all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ***Teaching them to observe all things*** *whatsoever I have commanded."*

I am a missionary to America, an alarm clock to the Church, which has punched the snooze button far too many times. Like a teenager on Saturday morning most of our church leaders do not want to hear the sound of the alarm. They "love to slumber."

"Not all of us Coach," I often hear via email. No, not all but the ones who are not "afraid to bark" I can number on two hands. At least that is my experience. In seven years of blowing the trumpet I can honestly say I have met only a few who truly "get it." Most give lip service, trusting in the Rapture to "save them from the wrath to come," in-different to what those who are "left behind" will have to go through, and too self-absorbed to fight the Devil for the souls of men.

A "costless-Christianity," that's what I like to call it: A war without price, a Christian-welfare system where someone else always picks up the tab. Tell the persecuted church in China or the Sudan that Christianity is free and easy. American-style Christianity is easy. Authentic Christianity is not.

Eureka Springs, Ark is a honeymoon-haven. A popular retreat in the Ozark Mountains this quaint little town markets itself as a Christ-centered retreat where The Great Passion Play, an outdoor drama, draws thousands. Tourism is the town's life-blood and it is the home of the breathtaking statue of Jesus, Christ of the Ozarks which towers majestically over the city. This family-friendly vacation resort is a well-kept secret to much of America.

This past weekend the Macedonian call came to me from some faithful Christians in town who issued an appeal for help. I ran to the trumpet. It is what I do.

As is often the case, the homosexuals had decided that they wanted Eureka Springs. No longer content with getting married, they wanted to OWN marriage, at least in Eureka Springs. It seems that the "progressives" in Bible-belt Eureka Springs had passed an ordinance establishing a "Gay Marriage" registry where "gay" couples could register their "marriage," opening a Pandora's Box that would draw thousands of deviants to this once family-friendly village. It is rapidly becoming "the most homosexual city in the South."

November 3-4 was designated "Diversity Weekend" by the local "authorities" and thousands of homosexuals descended on the city to celebrate sodomy. One brave man, Pastor Philip Wilson took on the fight. The "tolerant" homo-folk fired their cannons at the brave pastor. His fellow "men of the cloth" went into hiding, and his local congregation put him on "sabbatical," ashamed, I am sure, of his "un-Christian" approach to those who want to destroy every pillar of decency in this land. "Woe to those who call good evil and evil good."

But all was not lost. As is usually the case, some brave souls, sick of seeing Christian values attacked and tired of waiting for the pastors to stand up for Christ took it upon themselves to do something. They invited some of us to town to hold a "Shake the Nation" rally, a Clarion call to the Church designed to organize and mobilize the saints for the battle.

What do we do in these "Shake the Nation" rallies? We bring Truth to the church. Most pastors and church leaders are so focused on building "their" church that they have become disassociated and disinterested in events outside the safety of their stained-glassed fortresses. Hosea said "*My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge:* " This past weekend our team of God's-warriors journeyed to Eureka Springs to awaken the Church to the enemy who had penetrated the gates of their city. We spoke to those who attended about:

• The Trojan-Horse of diversity and tolerance.
• The curse of fatherless-ness on our nation.
• Rendering under to Caesar what belongs to God.
• The dangers of "public" education.
• Hate crimes legislation and the effects on the church.
• Our command to be salt and light to a dying world.

As is usually the case, our crowd was small, once again, and conspicuously absent, were the pastors. They are not interested in "earnestly contending for the faith." They are "***dumb dogs afraid to bark***."

I know this, if it had been a church-growth seminar we would have had to turn the pastors away. Butts and bucks is their focus, "*greedy dogs which can never have enough.*"

Our pastors are cowardly, "they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter." They are building THEIR church, not defending HIS TRUTH.

It is not just Eureka Springs. I travel America, speaking the Truth. Here is what I have found. The people in the pew have had enough. They are sick of what is going on in America, but they don't know what to do. Those who should lead won't. Why? Our pastors are cowardly, "*they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.*" They are building THEIR church, not defending HIS TRUTH. After we come in and light a fire in the hearts of men, more often than not, the pastors lift their leg to douse the flames once we are gone.

The prophetic voice of the Church is almost silent. It is the pastors who have silenced it. Our church-culture has elevated them to a position they do not deserve. The pastor is merely one gift of the five-fold ministry. We have made the pastor, "king of the church." Sorry; I don't think that is Biblical.

Did you know that in the New Testament:

• The word "**apostle(s)**" occurs **85** times.
• The word "**prophet(s)**" occurs over **150** times, about **20** of those occurrences referring distinctly to prophets in the Church Age.
• The word "**teacher(s)**" occurs **125** times.
• The word "**evangelist(s)**" occurs **only 3** times.
• The word "**pastor(s)**" occurs precisely **one (1) time** in the entire New Testament! **One time!**

Let me offer you a challenge. Do an internet-search of the great preachers/prophets of the past. From Luther (1500) to Knox (1550), Bunyan (1600) to Wesley (1700), Moody (1800) to Sunday (1900), you will be hard-pressed to find one sermon on the prosperity/life-enhancement Gospel. They preached on sin and repentance. What a disgrace the sissified voices of today are to the memory of these Christian-prophets

I am reminded of a recent phone conversation that I had with a pastor after one of his men had heard me speak at a neighboring church and recommended me to his pastor. "*I'm the shepherd,*" he told me as he blocked the doorway to the prophetic voice. *"I have to protect my sheep. I'm responsible for my people. God will hold me accountable."*

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"So Pastor, do you encourage your flock to get their children out of the government schools?" I asked.

"We have good schools here. In fact, several of our boys are part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the school, and they meet regularly to share their faith with one another. We don't have those big city problems here…"

His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant; they are all dumb dogs….

Isaiah 36:16 *"But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy."*

The homosexuals will soon run Eureka Springs. The Church has lost her savor. Hate-crime legislation is on the fast track. Our children are being indoctrinated in government schools.

"Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant."

Dumb dogs, afraid to bark.

Autism from Page 4

about the treatment of ADHD and autism with homeopathy. *Impossible Cure – The Promise of Homeopathy* written by Amy Lansky, PhD, a former NASA computer researcher describes how the writer's son, Max, recovered from autism using homeopathy.

Jenny and Evan McCarthy

To those of us in the thick of the effort to treat autism, it's a modern day battlefield and no single practitioner and no single therapy holds all the answers. The management of autism requires exquisite chorography between practitioners of diverse disciplines and the use of all manner of non-toxic products.

The job is difficult and expensive but the rewards are great. In one family I work with, we began with simple dietary exclusion of sugar, gluten, and dairy. Within days the 2-year old's siblings exclaimed "Justin is back. Where was he?" Pulled back from gluten and casein-induced brain depression that kept him in a fog of withdrawal and apathy, Justin was, indeed, back among the living. In another family I worked with, magnesium and a simple homeopathic remedy were all that Allen needed to begin detoxifying and healing.

For me, the most heartbreaking part of working with families with autistic children is that modern science and modern medicine do not acknowledge the need for nutritional intervention. Long-standing criticism of people following healthy diets, being called 'health nuts' and self-help being labeled 'unscientific', has kept most people in the dark about the necessity to take care of themselves and their children. Such criticism has likely been promoted by the drug industry and processed food industry and has served them well economically but has led to a population struggling with chronic disease.

I encourage the parents I work with to think of themselves as scientists who use safe therapies and through a process of trial and error, they can "scientifically prove" in their own clinical trial (with their child) what works and what doesn't work for them. In our local parents group, whose members have given themselves full permission to look to all corners of the healing arts industry, I am constantly learning new things. Most important to realize is that each of us is different, and each child has its own set of issues that need to be addressed on an individual basis. Pediatricians, however well meaning, are trained to follow a standardized treatment plan and usually have no means of individualizing care the way a mother would or the way a natural health practitioner always does.

Hopefully this brief overview alerts you to the epidemic of autism and in the same breath assures you that there are viable treatments for this so-called incurable condition. Browse the links that Elissa has provided to further your research and please leave no stone unturned to help the next generation overcome autism.

Resource list for article.

ORGANIZATIONS –These sites offer videos of many children who have been restored to normal function as well as considerable help for parents and families.
www.talkaboutcuringautism.org
www.safeminds.org
www.generationrescue.org
www.childrenscornerschool.com/stankurtz.htm
www.autism.com
www.danconference.com
www.autismmedia.org/media15.html

Dr. Carolyn Dean is a medical doctor, naturopath, and nutritionist. She is a recognized authority in conventional and alternative medicine and author of a dozen books on health and healing. Dr. Dean offers private telephone wellness consultations through her website. Website: www.carolyndean.com

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National News

40 Days for Life Merely the Beginning; Pro-lifers Redoubling Their Commitment

WASHINGTON Christian Newswire - "In the final hours of the 40 Days for Life campaign, a volunteer approached me with a sincere, heartfelt question," said David Bereit, national campaign director for 40 Days for Life. "At an event in Fargo, North Dakota, a young man rolled his wheelchair over to me and said, 'I hope you aren't offended by this, but we simply can't stop!'

"Not only do I understand that no-quit attitude but I also fully embrace it," said Bereit. "He's absolutely correct. The abortion industry believes that we are going to simply fade away. They fully expect us to settle back into complacency, leaving them free to continue their deadly business without hindrance. This cannot happen. This will not happen."

The 40 Days for Life campaign began on September 26 in more than 80 communities in 33 states, with thousands of volunteers from coast to coast engaging in peaceful pro-life outreach--and in many cases, round-the-clock prayer vigils outside abortion facilities and Planned Parenthood locations.

"Some of the local campaign leaders are still going, through Day 41 and beyond," said Bereit. "We certainly encourage anyone whose heart has been moved by this effort to follow that prompting; there's much to be done, and the momentum provided by this 40-day vigil simply must be maintained."

There are states that have only a few abortion facilities. North Dakota, for instance, has but one remaining abortion center. "The people of North Dakota are committed to press on in their work, because they firmly believe that they will be the first abortion-free state in America," said Bereit. "With the level of determination I witnessed -- and with God's help -- perhaps they will."

Many pro-life leaders around the country are convinced that 40 Days for Life is just the tip of the iceberg, and that America is on the verge of a revolutionary breakthrough for life. "I completely agree," said Bereit. "I have never been more hopeful about the future than I am today, and I truly believe the seeds that have been planted during 40 Days for Life will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in the United States. As I look back on what these amazing people have done, I express my profound thanks to all who have joined on this journey."

Additional information about 40 Days for Life is available online at www.40DaysForLife.com.

Ron Paul Wins Nationwide Zogby Blind Poll

By Paul Joseph Watson

A new nationwide Zogby telephone poll reveals that a sizeable majority of Americans are looking to vote for a candidate who protects liberty, wants to shrink government and immediately withdraw troops from Iraq - all traits common to Texas Congressman Ron Paul.

As part of a spread poll commissioned by Jones Productions, respondents were provided with descriptions of four different candidates and asked to choose who they would vote for based on each one's attributes and political platform.

Candidate A is a 10-term US Congressman from a large Southern state who is an advocate for a smaller government and individual liberty. This candidate believes in strictly following the Constitution and has never voted to raise taxes. He has never voted in favor of the war in Iraq or the Patriot Act, and wants to bring troops home as soon as possible. As a former doctor, this candidate has delivered more than 4,000 babies. One of this candidate's goals is to return America to the gold standard, and he believes that the current monetary policy needs to be drastically overhauled because of the dollar's decline.

Candidate B is a former governor from a Democratic state in the Northeast. Before that, he was credited for essentially saving the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. He is a Mormon and family man who is considered a moderate-to-conservative member of the GOP. While Governor, he signed the first state laws in the nation requiring all citizens of this state to obtain health insurance. He is a strong supporter of keeping troops in Iraq although he has been critical of how the war has been handled.

Candidate C is a former two-term senator from a Southern state who was a long-time lobbyist before running for public office. He was chief Republican council for the Congressional committee that investigated Watergate in the early 1970s. He was an actor playing supporting roles in several major motion pictures before entering the Senate, and returned to a prominent role as a New York City prosecutor in a popular network television series after leaving office. He has mostly supported the war in Iraq, but has said he would have managed it differently.

Candidate D is a former two-term mayor of a major city in the Northeast, and is considered a moderate member of the party on social issues. As Mayor, he presided over a dramatic drop in crime in his city, and is best known for his leadership in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He established a worldwide security consulting business after leaving public office at the end of 2001 He has been a supporter of President Bush since leaving office and supports the war in Iraq.

32.8 per cent chose the description matching Ron Paul, while just 18.6 percent chose the description matching Rudy Giuliani. Just 12.6 per cent went for Fred Thompson's description while 15.1 per cent went for Mitt Romney.

The results clearly illustrate that the country is crying out for Ron Paul, which is why the establishment have launched a PR offensive to marginalize him in order to suppress the Congressman's name recognition.

The sample used for the poll had mainly never or rarely used websites popular with Ron Paul supporters, such as You Tube, MySpace and Facebook, showing that if Internet users who don't use land lines were more fairly represented, the numbers would be even more in favor of the Congressman.

In another poll question_, the survey found that the majority of Americans are more likely to vote for a candidate who wants to begin an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

Over 49% said they were more likely to vote for a candidate who would begin immediate withdrawal, compared to just under 41% who said they would vote for staying the course and around 10% who were not sure.

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New Jersey Legislature Seeks to Redefine Marriage for the Nation

by Devon Williams

(EP News)--Last December, the New Jersey Legislature created civil unions that offer same-sex couples all the protections and benefits of marriage. The Legislature is using its lame-duck session to introduce multiple bills that would grant civil unions full "marriage" status.

Brian Brown, executive director of the National Organization for Marriage, said there's a strong push for lawmakers to take on this controversial issue before the 2008 session, because the newly elected Legislature may be more inclined to defend the institution.

"A number of those that were elected, including Declan O'Scanlon in the 12th District, are people that will vote to protect marriage," he said. "So, we need to do everything we can to make sure that it doesn't come up now and that there is not a vote."

Len Deo, president of the New Jersey Family Policy Council, said it's vital that people get involved in this fight. "There is a likelihood that the bill will pass, especially if there's no outcry from those people that do support marriage as being the union of one man and one woman only," he said. "As long as the voice of the people is heard by the legislators, I think that will help in hopefully stopping this legislation from moving forward."

Since New Jersey does not have any residency laws that would restrict the exportation of "same-sex marriage," the passage of any of the bills would have a devastating impact nationwide.

"Couples could come here from outside the state, get married, go back to their states and then challenge their state legislatures and their state laws on the same-sex marriage issue," Deo said. "Therefore people have the right to call in, whether they live in Oklahoma or Pennsylvania or any other state."

He's asking people across the nation to call New Jersey's lawmakers — especially those in leadership: Gov. Corzine, Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts and Senate President Richard Codey.

Brown said the situation is not hopeless. "We're nowhere near the point of no return on this," he said, "but it's going to require people standing up and making their voices heard."

Congress May Be Funding Illegal Abortions

WASHINGTON Christian Newswire - Concerned Women for America (CWA) and 59 other organizations sent a letter yesterday to every senator and representative asking them to suspend the more than $300 million in federal funding they send to Planned Parenthood each year. According to a 107-count complaint filed in Kansas' Johnson County District Court last week, Planned Parenthood purposefully performed illegal late term abortions in violation of Kansas state law and unlawfully falsified documents to conceal that fact.

CWA President Wendy Wright says it is time for abortion clinics to be held accountable. "One-third of Planned Parenthood's income comes from the government. Planned Parenthood takes our money and when accused of violating laws arrogantly insists that no one dare question them because they are doing it 'for the women.' Government officials have a duty to hold Planned Parenthood accountable when innocent lives die due to its skirting of regulations and laws. Our tax dollars should not go to organizations involved in illegal activities.

"This goes beyond being pro-life or pro-abortion. The rule of law applies to everyone, including abortionists." *Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization.*

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National Shorts

Breakthrough in Ethical Stem-Cell Research

(EP News)--Scientists in Kyoto, Japan, and researchers at the University of Wisconsin announced in late November they have transformed human skin cells into embryonic-like stem cells. Jennifer Lahl, national director of the Center for Bioethics and Culture, said it's yet another example showing that life-destroying embryonic stem-cell research is unnecessary. "We don't have to create embryos. We don't have to clone embryos. We don't have to destroy human embryos," she said. Research that uses embryonic stem cells and cloning techniques has been fraught with scientific and ethical difficulties. David Prentice, senior fellow for life sciences at the Family Research Council, said the breakthrough decreases the credibility of those who are pushing for embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning. "You're still going to get a few folks that will be resistant to this new idea, even though we recently heard that Ian Wilmut, the cloner of Dolly (the sheep), turned his back on this idea of cloning at all in favor of this new technique."

Texas School Bans Explicit Dancing; Some Parents Gripe

(EP News)--The new superintendent at a Texas high school has banned "grinding" -- a sexually suggestive form of dancing -- and enforced a stricter dress code in time for the homecoming dance. Superintendent Jason Ceyanes feared that the current dress styles combined with sexually charged dancing could lead to an unsafe environment for students, The Wall Street Journal reported. The decision is causing controversy among parents. Some say Ceyanes ruined their children's homecoming dance. Others support his decision to enforce rules that will protect students. Ceyanes has agreed to hire dance instructors from local studios to demonstrate what's appropriate and what's not for a school dance. He also scheduled a "winter dance" to give the students another try at implementing the new rules.

Children are Safer When Living with Biological Parents

(EP News)--Child abuse in America is at a high, and experts warn the perpetrators tend to fit into one category. Reports show children living in households with unrelated adults -- usually their mom and her boyfriend -- are more likely to be sexually abused, and 50 times more likely to die of injuries, than children living with their biological parents. "The demographers estimate that a child who's born out of wedlock will have something like five or six different father figures and co-residents in their household or in their mother's life before the age of 16," said Robin Wilson, a professor at Washington and Lee University professor. She said the boyfriend may see the child as a threat. University of Virginia Professor Brad Wilcox said men often step into father-like shoes they are not ready to fill. "It's a very simple idea; it's an idea that's quite old," he said, "but we have to be attentive to the kinds of adults that we're putting in contact with our children."

Willow Creek's Hybels: "We made a mistake"

(EP News)--Willow Creek Church in suburban Chicago has long been the epicenter of the "seeker" movement for three decades. The influential Willow Creek Association has taught its 12,000 member churches – including many that do not share the mother church's evangelical theology – how to grow. That's why founder Bill Hybels' recent confession that the church's brand of ministry has been a "mistake" came as a shock to the evangelical world's system. The confession came in the wake of a survey published by Willow Creek. "Reveal: Where Are You?" was co-written by Willow Creek Executive Pastor Greg Hawkins and Callie Parkinson, who leads Willow Creek's Reveal ministry and led the survey effort. "We made a mistake," Hybels said at Willow Creek's annual Leadership Summit, where the results of the survey were presented. "What we should have done when people crossed the line of faith and become Christians, we should have started telling people and teaching people that they have to take responsibility to become 'self feeders.' We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their bible between service, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own."

Robertson, Weyrich Refuse to Defend the Faith; Endorse Unbelievers Giuliani, Romney

Christian Newswire - The following statement has been issued by Recovering Republican John Lofton, Editor of TheAmericanView.com:

"In a marriage made in Hell, Pat Robertson - who has called for the assassination, the murder, of Venezuela President Chavez, Slobodan Milosevic, Saddam Hussein and unnamed mullahs in Iran - has endorsed, for President, Rudy Giuliani who: Sees nothing wrong with murdering by abortion unborn babies in the womb; has committed adultery; is a friend of sodomites.

"Robertson's endorsement is particularly interesting since in an exchange with Jerry Falwell on the "700 Club" (9/13/2001), Robertson agreed with Falwell ("I totally concur") that abortionists, homosexuals and lesbians make God angry and therefore bore part of the blame for 9/11. Thus, by endorsing Giuliani - who is pro-abortion and believes homosexuals have "rights" to practice their sex perversion - Robertson has endorsed a person who is for the kinds of things Robertson agreed anger God and helped cause 9/11!

Where is that "word of knowledge" when Robertson REALLY needed it?

Paul Weyrich has endorsed Mitt Romney, a Mormon, whose religion teaches that Jesus Christ is the spiritual brother of Lucifer. Try finding THAT in your Bible. God's Word, the Bible, refers to non-Christians, unbelievers such as Romney, as wicked, children of the devil and antichrists. By their endorsements, Robertson and Weyrich have shamefully refused to defend the Christian faith. They have ignored God's Word which makes it clear that Christians can vote for only Christians to hold God's ordained civil government offices. By ignoring what God says here, Robertson and Weyrich have invited further judgment from God upon our nation. By putting the desire to win above God's Word, Robertson/Weyrich have revealed they are corrupt, double-minded men - as are all those who do not, first, put our Lord above everything. As God tells us in Psalm 127:1: "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Pennsylvania Strikes Down "Hate Crimes" Law Expansion

Philadelphia- The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court in a 4-1 decision today struck down amendments to the state's "hate crimes" law, declaring that the amendments enacted in 2002 were "unconstitutional and therefore null and void." The ruling was a victory for Repent America (RA), a Christian evangelistic organization, several of whose members challenged amendments.

"Praise the Lord!" stated RA director Michael Marcavage upon hearing the decision. "This is a victory for constitutional government, so let us be thankful," he concluded.

The legal challenge to the law, formally known as the Ethnic Intimidation Law, stemmed from the arrests of eleven Christians with RA, who became known as the Philadelphia 11, after they were jailed and charged under the amendments to the law while ministering the Gospel in 2004 at a publicly-funded homosexual event known as "OutFest". The charges were all later dropped and/or dismissed as being without merit.

Seven defendants in the Philadelphia criminal cases subsequently filed an action in the Commonwealth Court challenging the process by which the amendments to the Ethnic Intimidation statute had been enacted. In particular, the petitioners asserted that the passage of the bill – which originally criminalized agricultural crop destruction but through amendment became the first statute in Pennsylvania history to recognize "sexual orientation" as a protected class – violated various sections of Article III of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Section 1 of Article III prohibits the changing of a bill in the course of its passage through the legislature such that its original purpose is changed. Section 3 of Article III requires that the subject matter of a bill be clearly expressed in its title.

The Court, finding sufficient basis to rule in the petitioners' favor due to an alteration of purpose of the bill as expressed in its original text, declined to rule on the challenge brought under Article III, section 3. The amendments struck down today would have increased the penalties for various crimes committed with a malicious motivation based upon "actual or perceived . . . ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity."

"The legislative process that led to the enactment of these amendments clearly violated Article III of the Pennsylvania Constitution," stated Aaron Martin, attorney for the Repent America defendants. "The Court rightly found that there was no logical or legal connection between trampling down a hay field and assaulting someone on the basis of sexual orientation," he concluded.

The Court's majority opinion was authored by President Judge Emeritus James Gardner Collins, who was joined by Judges Doris A. Smth-Ribner, Dan Pellegrini and Robert Simpson. President Judge Bonnie B. Leadbetter dissented without opinion.

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(James 1:5)
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(1 Corinthians 12)
Spend the fruits of your labors wisely!
(Luke 12:15, Proverbs 22:7, Psalm 37:21)
Remember: your retirement is in heaven, not on earth! (Matthew 6:19-34)

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World News

Christians to build new hospital in West Bank for Palestinian children

By Dan Wooding

BETHLEHEM (ANS) -- CURE International, a US-based Christian medical charity which operates teaching hospitals throughout the developing world, has announced plans to open a $16.5 million state-of-the-art medical training centre and hospital in Bethlehem, Palestine. "The facility will be the first specialty surgical care available to Palestinian children in the West Bank," says a story that has appeared on the www.ekklesia.co.uk web site.

"This cardiac and orthopedic hospital fills a major need in the West Bank where medical care is severely limited," said Dr. Scott Harrison, an orthopedic surgeon who founded CURE International ten years ago and serves as the organization's president and chief executive officer.

The story said that Harrison is appreciative of the cooperation between Christians, Muslims and Jews who are working together to provide medical care for children in the area. "The Bethlehem hospital is unique in that it is bringing together three faith groups to build a facility of healing in a very volatile region," said Harrison. "Christians and Muslims will serve together at the hospital and will receive additional training at some of the leading hospitals in Jerusalem including Hadassah and Schneider."

The Bethlehem hospital represents a dimension of CURE that Dr Harrison did not anticipate when he founded the organization to help children in developing nations. In moving into Palestine, CURE leadership hopes to build bridges of understanding to the Muslim world -- a vision they have aggressively embraced after opening a successful hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, two years ago and acquiring another hospital in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, last year.

"The CURE hospital will be well received by all people," said Salah Al Tamari, governor of Bethlehem. "In Bethlehem, we set the example for co-existence. Bethlehem is not just a holy place. It is a message - a message of peace, tolerance, freedom, and acceptance of all people."

The story went on to say, "In addition to the hospitals in Afghanistan and United Arab Emirates, CURE also operates teaching hospitals in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. The organization also plans to expand its reach in the next two years with new hospitals in Egypt, Ethiopia and Niger.

"CURE International is a Christian non-profit organization committed to the physical and spiritual healing of disabled children in developing countries. CURE International transforms the lives of children and their families, serving all by establishing specialty teaching hospitals, building partnerships and advocating for those who need healing.

"To date, CURE has performed 41,000 surgeries and treated more than 600,000 patients." For more information on CURE International, go to www.helpcurenow.org.

Secret Document Reveals Chinese Government's Campaign Against Unregistered Churches

By Dan Wooding

MIDLAND, TX (ANS) -- Christian Aid Association (CAA), based in Midland, Texas, says it has recently received a secret document from a "reliable government source" showing the Chinese government has been launching a nationwide campaign against unregistered Christian churches since July of this year.

CAA states that the "confidential" (jimi) document was issued on July 24, 2007 by the Duodao District Committee Office of Jingmen Municipality of the Communist Party of China, Hubei province. The document number is listed as "Duo Ban Fa [2007] No. 18" which seems compatible with the standard way of document listing by the Chinese government. In order to protect the source, CAA has to omit the specific three-digit serial number on the top of the document.

The document entitled as "Notice on Forwarding 'Work Plan for Special Administration on Christian Activities in Duodao District' from Duodao District Committee Office of the Communist Party of China and Office of Duodao District People's Government" (Work Plan) was issued to all township and neighborhood Party committees, all people's governments, neighborhood offices, and relevant work units. According to the document, the work Plan was formulated by the Department of United Front of District Committee, District Bureau for Religious Affairs of Ethnic Minorities and Duodao Branch of the Public Security Bureau (PSB).

Though this document was issued in a local level, it does reveal that the central government has directed a national campaign specifically against unregistered Christian House churches. According to the document, the secret campaign was launched "based on the relevant documents from the central government, provincial government, and municipal government and the decisions from the working conference on special administration on Christianity throughout our province." Moreover, according to "Guidelines and General Requirements" of the Work Plan, the whole campaign was urged and instructed by the National Christian Working Seminar and "leading comrades in the central government."

CAA learned that the central government convened a secret National Christian Working Seminar which is called "601 Conference" on June 1, 2007.

The purpose of the crackdown was said to "Fight against infiltration activities by hostile overseas forces under the guise of Christianity and safeguard the stability in our society and in the religious arena." By urging the government-sanctioned patriotic Christian organizations to work closely with the public security agents, the aim of the campaign is to establish" a socialized mechanism of management of religious affairs."

According to the document, the duration of the crackdown was "set at five and a half months, starting on June 15 and ending November 30 in three phases" including propaganda, actions, and inspection.

As for the self-appointed missionaries (house church leaders), the document urges to "tackle the problem in three ways: education and stop, order them to stop their activities and crack down on their activities according to law." For those unregistered churches, the public security agencies are asked to "work with departments in charge of religious affairs and resolutely stop their activities. In the meantime, the leaders of the site should be investigated and due penalties rendered. All their illegally acquired income shall be confiscated."

Furthermore, for unauthorized churches that were found preaching "heresies, religious fanaticism, feudal superstition, or harm the physical and mental health of the people, and violate the laws of the state," the public security agencies are urged to "resolutely crack down on them and abolish them on the basis of sufficient evidence."

Finally the whole campaign was asked to be carried out in super secrecy. "Being serious internally and lax externally with strict confidentiality. We should only perform the special administration, but not talk about it. Without approval from the district's leading team for the special administration, no agencies in all the areas shall disclose the information in this document to any media. All the documents for the special administration are classified as "confidential" and must be printed in serial numbers. After the documents are used, they shall be stored at a confidential room and their content must not be disclosed."

CAA says that it also received four sets of registration forms from Yu'an District, Liu'an city, Anhui province showing both the believers and their relatives are mandated to fill these forms including their personal data such as when they become Christians, who introduced and where the meeting place is, both home and work addresses, date of birth and their IDs etc.

"This campaign is another clear example of absolute violation of the relevant international human rights covenants and China's own Constitution on protection of citizen's religious freedom," said Bob Fu, "We urge the Chinese government to stop this kind of illegal secret practice if China intends to be a true respected responsible stakeholder in the international community."

For more information, go to www.ChinaAid.org.

Bishops banned from Western Wall

By Dan Wooding

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL (ANS) -- The Rabbi of the Western Wall, Shmuel Rabinovitch, has denied a group of Austrian Catholic bishops access to the Kotel, the Western Wall, that dates from the time of the Jewish Second Temple (516 BCE - 70 CE)., which is the Jewish people's holiest site.

He did so for wearing crosses after he sent a "message" to the group requesting the crosses be hidden.

According to a story released by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), Rabinovitch barred the group of 20 bishops and its leader, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, the Archbishop of Vienna.

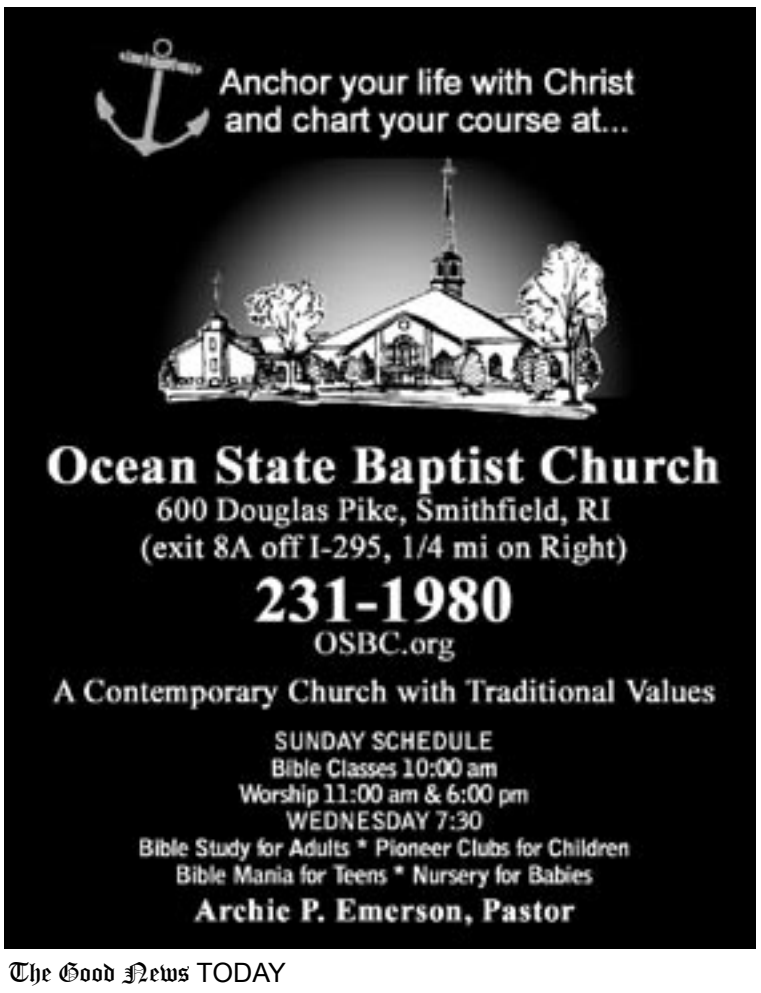
"Crosses are a symbol that hurts Jewish feelings. I feel the same way about a Jew putting on a tallit and phylacteries and going into a Church. I would be the first to rebuke such a Jew for not behaving like a mensch," said Rabinovitch. "They did not have to take them off, just hide them. I've never encountered a Christian who has refused, including the Pope."

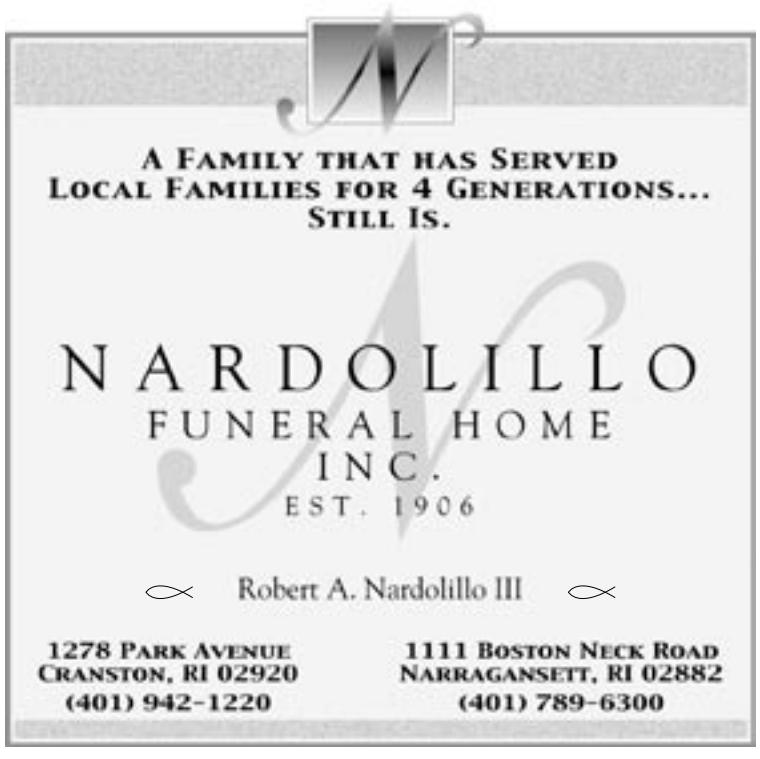
However, Arad Benko, spokesman for the Austrian Embassy said, "Unfortunately we did [not] know there was a dress code."

The bishops arrived at the site fully clothed in their formal attire and canceled their meeting with the rabbi when told they had to remove their crosses. They moved to a close overlook that provided a beautiful view of the Western Wall.

"Needless to say, they were disappointed," Benko added. "Following the incident the group of bishops visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, where Schönborn referred to the incident in his speech.

"I do not feel disappointed because we have seen the Wall from the terrace and we were able to participate in the prayers of the Jews from afar. Our decision to heed the requests not to approach the Wall was made out of respect for the religious sensitivities of the Jews."





World Shorts

U.S. Sends Help to Cyclone-Ravaged Bangladesh

By Jeremy Reynalds

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ANS) -- The White House offered condolences to the victims of Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh, and said that the United States Government has provided an initial contribution of 2.1 million dollars for emergency relief.

A statement from press secretary Dana Perino said that the USS Essex and the USS Kearsarge are en route to Bangladesh to assist in operations there. The U.S. will airlift 35 tons of non-food items such as plastic sheeting, jerricans, hygiene kits and other supplies to provide material assistance.

Perino said that an 18-person Department of Defense medical team that was in Bangladesh prior to the storm is there to help with current medical needs. Working with the Government of Bangladesh, we are assessing critical needs to determine where our assistance can be most effective.

The statement continued, "President and Mrs. Bush offer condolences to the victims of Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh, especially those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods in this tragedy. The United States is committed to helping the people of Bangladesh and their government as they face the many challenges of rebuilding and recovering."

Tropical Cyclone Sidr is the deadliest storm to hit the country in a decade. The death toll from tropical cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh has risen to more than 2,000, with more than 1.5 million people living in temporary shelters, a disaster management official told Bloomberg News Saturday.

Tree planting will mark Luther's 500th anniversary

By Dan Wooding

WITTENBERG, GERMANY (ANS) -- Churches throughout the world are to be asked to sponsor trees in a special "Luther Garden" in Wittenberg in eastern Germany to mark the 500th anniversary in 2017 of Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation - writes Stephen Brown for Ecumenical News International (www.eni.ch)

"We don't want to be a museum," said Wittenberg's mayor, Eckhard Naumann, announcing the initiative at a November 16 media conference in Geneva where the Lutheran World Federation has its headquarters. "We want to be a place where there is a living process of communication."

Brown said in his story that the first tree is to be planted in 2008 on October 31, which is known as Reformation Day. This marks the day in 1517 when Luther is said to have nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg's Schlosskirche (castle church), thereby setting in train his breach with the Roman Catholic Church.

Churches worldwide are to be encouraged to adopt one of the 500 trees that are planned for the Luther Garden and also to plant a tree themselves to denote a link with the birthplace of the Reformation.

"The Luther Garden will be a symbol of solidarity, interconnectedness and reconciliation between Christian churches throughout the world," said the Rev. Norbert Denecke, executive secretary of the LWF's German National Committee.

He said Lutheran churches as well as those belonging to other traditions such as Anglican, Methodist and Reformed would be approached to sponsor a tree. Catholic dioceses are also to be invited to take part, he noted.

Brown went on to write, "The Luther Garden is being planned around a landscaped adaptation of the Luther Rose, a symbol of Lutheranism that is based on the seal with which the Protestant Reformer authenticated his correspondence."

Martin Luther

Luther himself is said to have seen trees as a sign of hope, being reputed to have once said, "If I knew the world was to end tomorrow, I would still plant an apple tree today."

The plan for the Luther Garden is the brainchild of Denecke and landscape architect Andreas Kipar, who has offices in Milan and Duisburg.

"We don't want to have a one-off event but something that can already begin in 2008," said Kipar. "The 500 trees will be a symbol that the Reformation that took place 500 years ago completely changed the world."

150 Israeli Citizens File Lawsuit Against Islamic Trust Leaders over Alleged Temple Mount Destruction

By Jeremy Reynalds

JERUSALEM (ANS) -- A group of 150 Israeli citizens, which represent a cross section of the Israeli public, have filed a lawsuit against WAQF Islamic trust leaders in Jerusalem. The suit alleges that Islamic officials have engaged in the deliberate destruction of ancient Jewish relics on the Temple Mount.

According to a news release from the Shurat HaDin - Israel Law Center (ILC), the indictment was filed in the Jerusalem District Court as a private lawsuit. The private indictment is the first of its kind in Israeli legal history. If convicted, ULC reported the WAQF officials could face years in prison.

The legal action, which is led by the Shurat HaDin - Israel Law Center, accuses members of the Islamic Trust (WAQF) of intentionally demolishing priceless Jewish artifacts, including the remains of the Second Temple.

In recent months, the news release stated, the WAQF has brought in bulldozers and heavy digging equipment to carry out "renovations." Israeli archaeologists who have sifted through the discarded earth were shocked to find many Jewish artifacts destroyed by the bulldozers. A wall from the outer courtyard of the Second Temple is also believed to have been ruined.

ILC reported that court papers contend the recent accelerated destruction is part of a four decade long campaign by the WAQF to eradicate all evidence of the historical Jewish connection and claim to the Temple Mount.

After liberating the Old City in 1967, ILC reported, Israel permitted the WAQF to remain as "custodians" of the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site.

The ILC alleges that the Israeli government, in its "political cowardice," has consistently refused to undertake any concrete actions to stop WAQF. As a result, ILC commented, the Israeli government has abandoned the long Jewish claim over the Temple Mount and allowed Islamic extremists to rewrite Jerusalem's history.

Shurat HaDin-Israel Law Center Director Nitsana Darshan-Leitner said in a news release, "This private prosecution is an unprecedented response to the brutal attempt by the WAQF extremists to eradicate any Jewish claim over the Temple Mount. The WAQF leaders belong in prison, and since Israel's government is refusing to protect Jewish heritage and property, we will prosecute the WAQF ourselves. This legal action is a moral obligation, not only for the Jewish people, but also for the Christian community, which has significant interests in safeguarding the Temple Mount as well."

For more information go to www.israellawcenter.org

New Home After Elephant Rampage

WEST BENGAL, INDIA (ANS) -- Gospel for Asia missionary Anand Kumar has a new home after wild elephants destroyed his house in August.

Anand woke up in the middle of the night, jarred awake by the terrifying sounds of the elephants crashing through his house. Reacting quickly, he grabbed his wife and two small daughters and ran out of the house before the elephants could harm them.

The morning sunrise brought to light the destruction. While Anand and his family were grateful to the Lord for sparing their lives, the loss of their home, their goat and his bicycle were greatly distressing. The elephants also ate all the food in the family's kitchen.

Anand was not alone in his loss. Two other homes in his village in West Bengal, India, were also destroyed that night. India's forest department reported that in the area where Anand lives, elephants were damaging 15-20 homes every night during this time. The rampages happen every year in late summer as flooding in area rivers drives the elephants from their feeding grounds. The distressed elephants run through the villages looking for food.

The summer's extensive flooding affected West Bengal, so Anand knew it would be difficult to rebuild his own home quickly. Relatives gave his family shelter.

But the Lord provided for Anand and his family. He was able to construct a small new home beside the ruined one. Anand was also able to repair his bicycle enough to use it. He depends on it to minister in villages that are too far from his home to walk. The elephants have left the area and are roaming elsewhere looking for food.

Pastor Anand asks for prayer that God will continue to supply their needs, and also praises God for His protection over their lives.

Christian Family Attacked in India for Not Celebrating Hindu Festival

By James Varghese

CHHATTISGARH, INDIA (ANS) -- A Christian family was attacked by Hindu radicals during its family devotional time. The incident occurred in Chhattisgarh, India, on Nov. 10 at about 9 p.m.

According to a report on www.persecution.in, the victims were Pritam Arse, 53, his wife Priyadarshini, 45, his son Ravi Arse, 24, another son Prakash 22, who is blind, and daughter Mamta, 18.

The report said that while the family was praying, they heard the sound of loud firecrackers in their yard. When they went to investigate, they were confronted by more than 20 young men, some of whom were obviously drunk.

The young men cursed the family, the web site reported, for praying instead of celebrating a Hindu festival. Then the young men reportedly slapped Ravi on his face and pushed him down on the ground outside the house. They also, the report continued, threatened to murder the family and kidnap Mamta. The incident continued until about 11 p.m.

The next morning, one of the family's neighbors who was also one of the attackers, said the group had been instructed by a radical Hindu group to attack the family. The young neighbor even told the family that the alleged instigators of the attack had provided alcohol for the group.

According to www.persecution.in, when the family attempted to file a police report about the incident, police refused to accept the complaint. The web site also noted that the family's pastor was attacked earlier this year on July 1.

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Book Reviews

How Christian is J K Rowling's "Christian Inspiration" for the series of Harry Potter books?

By Marcia Montenegro

ARLINGTON, VA (ANS) -- J. K. Rowling made a recent statement that "Christian inspiration" played a role in her writing of the series of Harry Potter books.

Whatever J K Rowling may say about inspiration for the books, the true judgment of the books should rest on what they themselves present. I don't doubt Ms. Rowling's sincerity, but if it is authentic Christianity that inspired her, would she have created a child hero who practices occult arts that are clearly condemned by God's word? Harry and his friends casts spells, take a class called Divination, communicate with the dead, and learn how to mix magical potions. In fact, they are in school to hone their practice of the occult.

Ms. Rowling has spoken of her professed struggle with the issue of life after death, and how this is reflected in the books. She related this to her Christian faith. While it is true that belief in life after death is very much a part of Christianity, the view of life after death is also held by many non-Christian religions such as Islam, Hinduism, New Age beliefs, and some Neo-Pagan beliefs.

What is not part of Biblical Christianity is how Harry and others communicate with the dead. The ghosts at Hogwarts are not just symbolic but represent actual people who have died. Moaning Myrtle, a ghost who hangs out in the girls' restroom, was killed, and she even morbidly describes how someone found her body: "And then she saw my body. . . ooooh, she didn't forget it until her dying day, I made sure of that. . . followed her around and reminded her, I did."

In the first book, Harry sees his dead parents in a mirror and they wave to him. While adults may dismiss this as fantasy, young children who read this will take it literally. In the last book, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, communication with the dead is even a more forceful theme. While Harry seemingly lingers between life and death after being injured, he goes to a peaceful place where he meets Dumbledore, who gives Harry some crucial information, facts that Harry could not have received otherwise. Harry also encounters his dead parents, and several deceased companions during this interlude.

In our culture, we have mistakenly accepted fictional "friendly" or humorous ghosts. This has desensitized us to God's commands against spirit contact and communication with the dead (Deuteronomy 18: 10-11; Is. 8: 19), so that we substitute fiction for truth or downplay the idea of belief in ghosts. Children are often confused about ghosts and whether real people hang around after they die. According to the Bible, attempting to contact the dead is wrong, yet these books promote the view that it can be a good thing.

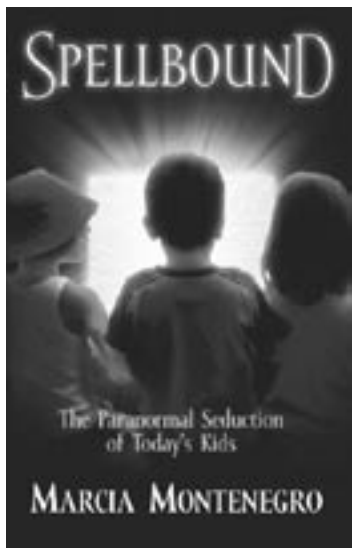
Rowling referred to the Biblical quotes on the tombstones in the last book. But putting quotes from the Bible on tombstones does not make a book Christian, either, especially when so much of the book is not consistent with historic Christian beliefs.

One quote, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" does not tell the readers anything unless they know the Biblical context. Harry, in fact, doesn't understand it.

The quote on the tombstone for Harry's parents, "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" is meaningful only in its Biblical context. But no Biblical citation is given for either quote. Harry thinks the quote is something a Death Eater would say. Ironically, this quote is inconsistent with messages in the books that death is a good thing. Dumbledore tells Harry in the first book that to "a well organized mind, death is the next great adventure." The last book, through various people, tells readers that death is an "old friend," is "easier than falling asleep," and that there are things "worse than death." But in the Christian view, death is the result of sin coming into the world, and is an enemy to be abolished by Christ.

I was involved in the occult for many years before becoming a Christian; the occult really exists. Such things in the Harry Potter books as divination, astrology, amulets, communicating with the (supposed) dead, and casting spells are practiced by real people. Furthermore, books that explain how to do these things are filling more and more shelf space at your local bookstore.

When will Christian adults wake up and realize how pervasive occult concepts and ideas are packaged and marketed to young people today? Harry Potter only makes those activities more appealing.



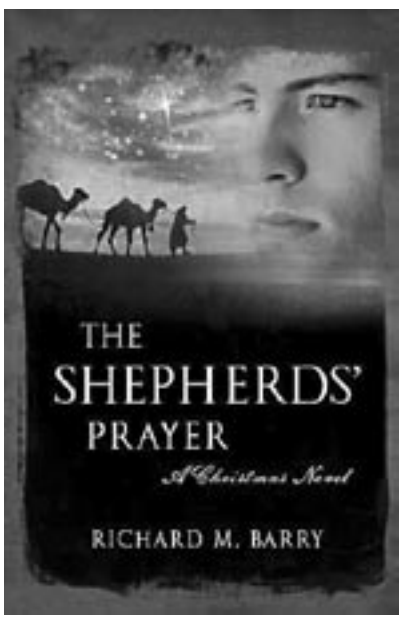
Before becoming a Christian, Marcia Montenegro was a professional astrologer who taught astrology for several years, and was involved prior to that in Eastern and New Age practices. Through her ministry, Christian Answers for the New Age, Marcia speaks and writes on New Age and occult topics. Based in Arlington, VA, she is the mother of an adult son and the author of SpellBound: The Paranormal Seduction of Today's Kids, (Cook/Life Journey, 2006). You can get more information at www.christiananswersforthenewage.org.

In 'The Shepherd's Prayer,' the Storyline is Fresh, but the Message is Classic

By Good News staff

An orphaned child who survived Herod's massacre of the infant boys of Bethlehem longs to know his true identity as well as the identity of two strangers, Jesus and Mary, whose names appear in a mysterious inscription on a lambskin blanket - his only link to his real mother and father. Making an imaginary character or a peripheral character mentioned in the New Testament the hero of a novel set during the first years of the Christian era is classic: it worked in Ben-Hur, the story of a Jewish prince whose life is changed by chance encounters with the Christ; The Robe, the story of the Roman centurion who supervised the crucifixion of Christ, then rolled dice for and won his seamless robe; and The Other Wise Man, the story of the fourth Magi who set out late for Bethlehem.

Following in the grand tradition of those timeless novels Richard M. Barry builds his story around individuals who are bit players in the gospel narrative-the shepherds who learned from the angel that the Messiah had been born. As his main character Barry invents a young man named Anam who survived the Slaughter of the Innocents. Anam is entirely the



product of Barry's imagination; no such survivor of the massacre is mentioned in the gospels. But Barry isn't tinkering with the New Testament; instead he spins around Anam an imaginative, action- packed story that draws the reader, step by step, back to the message of Christ, the message that transformed the world.

Every story needs conflict, and Anam's quest for his identity is fraught with confusion, disappointments, and uncertainty. But he also finds friends in unexpected places. As he gets closer and closer to unraveling the mystery of where he comes from and who his people were, he discovers that learning the facts about his family were less important than learning who Jesus and Mary are.

Christian fiction has become one of the hottest segments of the contemporary book market and this is a true Christmas novel, one that takes its reader on a journey. I won't be surprised if one day soon we see this novel come to life on the big screen. You will be captivated by Anam's quest, as I was, and be assured that this novel belongs in every Christmas stocking this Christmas. Visit www.christmasbook.com to read a few sample chapters.

Here's what a few Christian leaders are saying about the book!

"I have never read anything like this. You have taken Biblical stories and prophecies and woven them into a most remarkable and fascinating book." - Pastor Dan J. Dunkel

"Richard Barry's novel, 'The Shepherds' Prayer', is a Christmas treasure! Reading 'The Shepherds' Prayer', I imagined how the shepherds must have felt on that blessed night of Christ's birth more than 2,000 years ago. Anam's search is our search - when we seek the truth, we always find Christ!" -- Jeff Cavins, author and creator of The Great Adventure, The Bible Timeline

The Shepherds' Prayer is a story that reminds us of two things. First, we remember that the humble will be lifted up and confound the wisdom of the wise. Secondly, Barry's novel reminds us of perhaps how we often react to the difficult and painful circumstances in our lives. --- Charles Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship.

Till We Meet Again: New Book Depicts Images of Heaven to Cope with Loss

By Good News Staff

The loss of a loved one is devastating even when there is a promise of a future reunion in heaven. Though believers in Christ know that the future guarantees reuniting with loved ones who have gone before, the physical separation from this earthly life to the next is tremendously challenging. Vickie Funston and Jaime Broxson have combined their God-given talents to provide, "I'll See You in Heaven", a unique way to comprehend this transition that brings comfort and encouragement to those who have hope, yet suffer.

With space to insert a photograph and to record thoughts and memories, this beautiful book is sensitive and articulate in its images, thoughts and scripture, giving the grief stricken hope when surrounded by sorrow. The narration is given from the point of view of our dearest friend or loved one entering paradise. Through the eyes of a friend or a loved one the reader experiences the first glimpse of heaven, the awesome presence of Jesus, and the beauty of an eternity spent praising God. The idea that when we sing of God's holiness here on earth, we are joining with our loved one and a heavenly choir of believers is of great comfort.

The book provides an avenue to imagine a future in which there will be no more pain or sadness. Though grief is inescapable, understanding what our heavenly father has in store for our loved one, and for us, can bring joy. Funston and Broxson write, "In a world where time is taken for granted and loss can come suddenly, our hope is that he will help you find strength, as you hear your loved one saying , "I'll See You in Heaven."

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Sports

Southern Baptist ministered to 'America's Team'

By Art Stricklin

EULESS, Texas (BP)--Hundreds of people, including dozens of players and representatives from Dallas' professional sports teams, crowded into First Baptist Church in Euless Nov. 6 to honor the life and legacy of longtime Dallas Cowboys chaplain John Weber.

Weber, 59, a deacon at FBC Euless, served as the Cowboys team chaplain for more than two decades. He died Nov. 1 in Dallas following a heart attack, and he was remembered by his family, friends and those he served as a gentle man with an eternal mission.

"John was a chaplain, a deacon, a staff member for Athletes in Action, a father, husband and grandfather," said John Meadon, the Euless church's senior pastor. "We are all here because we've been touched by John. We will never be the same."

Photo by James D. Smith/Dallas Cowboys

Dallas Cowboys chaplain John Weber

The two-hour service included current and former Dallas Cowboys players and legendary football broadcaster Pat Summerall, who called Weber his best friend.

"God must have been very proud last Thursday when John came to take his seat in heaven next to Him, because He never made one better than John," Summerall said.

In addition to working with the Cowboys through five head coaches, Weber also served the local Arena Football League team, the Dallas Desperados, the Major League Baseball Texas Rangers and local businesses in the Dallas area.

He also taught a Sunday School class at FBC Euless, touching and encouraging everybody he met. "I don't think you realize what greatness you have in front of you before he's gone," Cowboys All-Pro defensive lineman Greg Ellis said. "I don't think you'll know how important John was to the world we live in."

Weber, working under the Athletes in Action pro sports ministry umbrella, conducted weekly Saturday chapel services for the Cowboys during the NFL season, but also counseled the players, coaches and team personnel on a regular basis, interacting with the millionaire superstars and the lowest-paid team employees.

The nearby team complex was nearly empty as the Cowboys' personnel came to pay tribute to Weber and his unique ministry in the life of one of sport's highest-profile franchises.

At one point during the service, one speaker asked every professional athlete impacted by Weber's ministry to stand, and a wave if players in all sports standing in silent tribute crossed the large auditorium.

One of those who came to thank Weber for his service and eternal impact was Dallas' starting quarterback Tony Romo. "He was never judgmental, he just made people feel good and that's rare in this world today," Romo said.

Ellis, who is into his 10th year with the Cowboys, said Weber treated everyone he came into contact with the same. "He was a man of integrity -- he treated all men the same, from a rookie to a 10-year veteran. He said in one of his last chapels, we should all be of good cheer and that's what we're doing today," Ellis said.

While emphasizing he was not a trained preacher, "just" a Christian, Ellis continued the theme often spoken during the funeral of urging those in attendance to have the same spiritual salvation certainty that Weber had. "I just know that Christ is on one side and man is on the other, and there is a gulf in between, with Jesus as the bridge," Ellis said. "Make sure that your eggs are in the right basket. To me, Jesus Christ is the real stuff."

Ellis also made an emotional presentation of an actual game ball used by the Cowboys in their Sunday night win over the Philadelphia Eagles. "This ball has a small X on it which means it's the real deal. The ball is worn and has battle scars on it, but it serves its purpose just like John."

Ellis made the first presentation of the ball in the Cowboys locker room after Sunday's victory over the Eagles and also presented it to Weber's wife Carol at the funeral.

James T. Draper Jr., a former FBC Euless pastor and well-known leader in the Southern Baptist Convention, compared the work of John Weber to another famous John in the Bible. "Two-thousand years ago, John the Baptist came to testify to the light of Jesus. Now 59 years later another John [Weber] came to testify for the Savior.

"Who is going to be saved through this service and John's life and example? Who is going to get serious for God through seeing John? Will it be you?" Draper asked.

Summerall closed the service, which included a video tribute, by reading a poem titled, "Leaving a Legacy," written by Weber this summer, which concluded by saying, "When the end comes, only one thing really matters and escapes the grave … only a good name matters."

"Nobody ever had a better name than John Weber, and that's better than silver or gold," Summerall said.

A Question Of Character

By Brad Locke

When evaluating a prospect or recruit, coaches consider several factors: speed, agility, decision-making, vertical leap, strength, resilience. Nowadays, another factor is heavily weighed: character.

Every time the NFL and NBA drafts roll around, you hear a lot about "good character guys," players who area upstanding citizens and won't cause trouble inside or outside the locker room. As star athletes' rap sheets have gotten longer, team owners' patience has grown shorter. They've finally decided that some guys just aren't worth the trouble.

There are still plenty of "bad character guys" out there, the kind who implode their teams by not only being distractions off the field (see: pre-New England Randy Moss) but by letting their poor attitudes affect their own play and the teamwork required to win (see: post-Shaq Kobe Bryant).

Tom Brady celebrates supermodel Gisele's birthday in NY, while his illegitimate daughter was born in Los Angeles.

This raises an obvious questions: What defines a "good character guy?" And there's the often underlying question: How can you really know if someone is a "good character guy?"

Most would define that as one who is respectful, law-abiding, and a good teammate. However, in this hyper-sensitive culture of ours, political correctness is considered a necessary quality, too. Athletes have been reprimanded by commissioners or team management for saying something deemed offensive. And sometimes athletes say things that really are offensive, or just plain stupid, like when Kellen Winslow, Jr. called himself a bleepin' soldier.

We seem to be inconsistent in applying our own standard, though. NBA players get ripped and mocked for having out-of-wedlock children, but Tom Brady gets winked at because he's Mr. All-American.

For most in the public eye, all it takes is one slip-up to go from "good character" to "bad character." Ever notice how fragile the former distinction is? (And how clingy is the latter?) I wonder how a single act can fully reveal something as vast as a person's character. Humans are too complicated to be viewed through such a narrow lens.

A person's character tends to evolve, and hopefully improve, over time. It's near impossible to form a proper view of one's character without allowing time -- that patient divulger -- to paint for us the big picture.

Kobe and Shaq

The human heart can be an inscrutable place, where good and evil are doing constant battle. That's what really matters -- not so much what people see and hear from us, but what God sees in our hearts. None of us are truly "good character guys," not in the truest sense.

Randy Moss faces reporters after driving altercation and marijuana possession arrest.

We're all morally corrupt, we're all in need of His righteousness.

All an athlete's physical attributes come from God. So does good character.

American Bible Society Provides Scripture at New Orleans Hornets Home Game

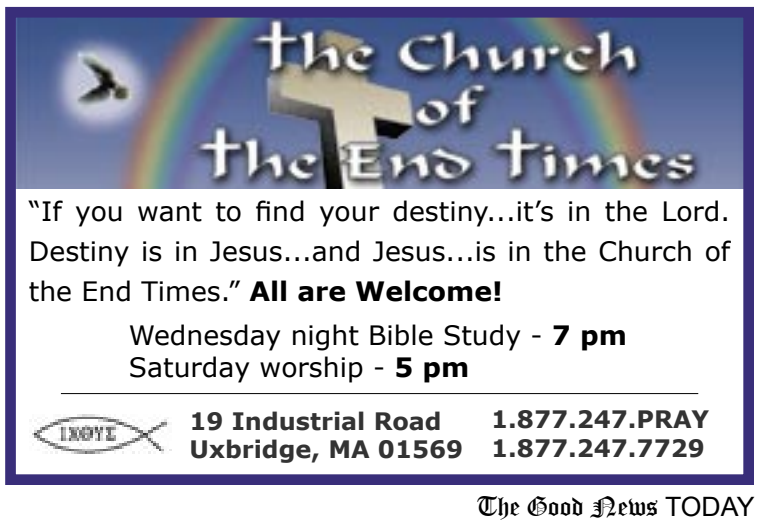
NEW YORK Christian Newswire - The American Bible Society, working cooperatively with the New Orleans Hornets of the National Basketball Association, participated in the first Faith & Family Night at the team's home game with the San Antonio Spurs, Friday, November 9. The game concluded with a post-game Christian concert featuring national recording artists Point of Grace. The Bible Society created a special Book of Psalms given to every fan who wanted to have it. Word Entertainment, a division of Warner Brothers, provided Point of Grace for the concert.

'Take the Word challenge,' were emblazoned on T-shirts and the American Bible Society logo was on the back of the shirt.

Peter Goldsberry, Senior Vice President of the Hornets, said, "I'm a man of God and he put me in this position with the Hornets. I did not make the Faith & Family night possible. The Lord did. I opened my heart to him and he is so good to me. So if I can give back something as a result, I want to do it. To be in the position I am is exciting." He continued, "That night was made possible by the Bible Society and so many other people who are Christians. And Word was terrific in providing Point of Grace. It's all about what you give in this world and I was brought to tears when the American Bible Society was handing out the Psalms to thousands of people. Anything I can do for the Bible society, in my position, I will do."

Dr. Joseph Crockett of the American Bible Society was instrumental in the Bible Society's participation in the event. He said, "The owner and the senior staff of the Hornets were intent on helping to point toward a faith that serves the foundation of the rebuilding of the community. The Hornets allowed the Bible Society to fulfill our mission. The words, 'Take the Word challenge,' were emblazoned on T-shirts and our American Bible Society logo was on the back of the shirt. The people who experienced the evening were not those who ever necessarily set foot in a church. This was an outreach to regular people about the power of God's Word to change lives." He concluded, "Any time that we can reach out in this way is a real success."

Founded in 1816 and headquartered in New York City, the mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so that all people may experience its life-changing message. The American Bible Society Web site is ***www.Bibles.com***



Walking "The Land" from Page 1

Our first stop of the day would be Yad Vashem, the National Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust. During our trip to the museum, Ikey explained, "The Modern City has grown up around the Old City. The Arab population resides in clusters in the North, East and South. Today, Jerusalem remains a bone of contention in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem (captured in the 1967 Six-Day War) has been particularly controversial, as Palestinians view this part of the city as the capital of a potential Palestinian state. The status of a "united Jerusalem" as Israel's "eternal capital" has not been officially recognized by the international community. That is why all foreign nations maintain their embassies outside of the city, mostly in Tel Aviv." Unfortunately, the United States is part of a contingent of nations encouraging Israel to give East Jerusalem to the Palestinians, as their capitol. Luk 21:20

Rev. Samuel Clarke

Situated on 45 acres on the Mount of Remembrance, located in Modern City, Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a vast, sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials. We were met by the Director of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, Rev. Samuel Clarke, who informed us, "I recently accepted this newly created position at the museum and will be working to coordinate visiting Christian groups at the museum. Only 3 months ago my family and I lived in Ft Lauderdale, Florida and after visiting Israel with our church last year, we heard the Lord calling us to move here. The job offer at the museum was a confirmation of that call, so here I am."

Rev. Clarke explained, "The rebirth of Israel has opened a door that God is using to bring reconciliation between Christians and Jews. Christian Friends of Yad Vashem allows Christians to walk alongside the Jews in an effort to inform the world about the root causes of the holocaust in order to prevent any future reoccurrence of this tragedy. Yad Vashem is also committed to remembering and celebrating the lives of the "Righteous Among the Nations", like Oscar Schindler and many Christians who risked their lives to help Jews escape their oppressors."

Mr. Clarke introduced us to a museum tour guide and we set off on our tour, complete with headsets, so that we could all stay abreast of our tour guides every word. As we walked through the grounds on our way to the museum she pointed out some of the 21,700 tree's that had been planted on the grounds, for the "Righteous Gentiles", those that protected the Jews."

Entering the museum she continued, "Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations."

The Museum is designed as a long tunnel with a light at its end, but in order to get to that light, you must zigzag in and out of the tunnel, learning more about the Jews and their plight through each room of the museum. Our guide informs us, "The Archive collection, the largest and most comprehensive repository of material on the Holocaust in the world, comprises 68 million pages of documents, nearly 300,000 photographs along with thousands of films and videotaped testimonies of survivors. These may be accessed by the public and read and viewed in the appropriate rooms."

"The Library houses some 112,000 titles in many languages, thousands of periodicals and a large number of rare and precious items, establishing itself as the most significant Holocaust library in the world."

"The Hall of Names is a tribute to the victims by remembering them not as anonymous numbers but as individual human beings. The "Pages of Testimony" are symbolic gravestones, which record names and biographical data of millions of martyrs, as submitted by family members and friends. To date Yad Vashem has computerized 3.2 million names of Holocaust victims, compiled from approximately 2 million Pages of Testimony and various other lists."

If you go to Israel plan on spending at least a full day or more in this museum taking in the lives of families and how they were affected by this international tragedy. As we ended our visit there was a somber silence among our group, it was evident that few people could walk through this exhibit without being profoundly moved. "And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (a "yad vashem")... that shall not be cut off." Isaiah 56:5

Our next stop on the journey was the Israel Museum, where we would see a scale model of Jerusalem from the second Temple period (time of Jesus) and the Shrine of the Book (The Dead Sea Scrolls). Founded in 1965, the Israel Museum today has, in a relatively short time, achieved world class status with collections ranging from prehistoric archaeology through contemporary art and also features a dynamic roster of temporary exhibitions, publications, and educational activities. It is the leading cultural institution in Israel and is one of the largest encyclopedic museums in the world.

As we walk up to the model, Ikey informs us, "The model was constructed between 1964-1967, and the Holyland Second Temple Model offers a glimpse at Jerusalem before its destruction by the Romans in 66 AD. This modern Jerusalem cultural landmark, built to a 1:50 scale, depicts the Second Temple and the surrounding Jerusalem cityscape of the period. The model was built by the late proprietor of the Holyland Hotel, Mr. Hans Kroch, with the guidance of the late Prof. Michael Avi Yonah of the Hebrew University. The model received so much attention at the hotel it was decided a move to the sight of the Museum was necessary. In the course of time, the Model has both been renovated and brought up to date archeologically." Our group agreed, examining this model enables a more comprehensive understanding of the historical context of the Second Temple period and the story of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jesus, and early Christianity, a must see.

Jerusalem street market scene

A two minute walk through beautiful gardens brought us to the Shrine of the Book, which has undergone a complete architectural restoration and installation redesign, to provide for the optimal preservation and display of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other treasures. Included in the display is the 10th-century AD Aleppo Codex, the oldest and most complete extant Hebrew Biblical codex until the discovery of the Scrolls. Since the scrolls are so fragile, it's impossible to display all on a continuous basis, thus a system of rotation is used. After a scroll has been exhibited for 3–6 months, it is removed from its showcase and placed temporarily in a special storeroom, where it "rests" from exposure.

Second Temple period model of Jerusalem.
(Solomon's Temple in foreground)

The Dead Sea scrolls consist of roughly 900 documents, including texts from the Hebrew Bible, discovered between 1947 and 1956 in eleven caves in and around Qumran, on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. The texts are of great religious and historical significance, as they include practically the only known surviving copies of Biblical documents made before 100 AD, and preserve evidence of considerable diversity of belief and practice within late Second Temple Judaism.

In the most commonly told story a Beduion shepherd threw a rock into a cave in an attempt to drive out a missing animal under his care. The shattering sound of pottery drew him into the cave, where he found several ancient jars containing scrolls wrapped in linen. Like a gold rush, many others soon discovered how valuable these scrolls were and additional trips to the caves uncovered many more scrolls, which were later sold in smaller fragments. Another must see for those who love the word of God.

A trip to Israel would not be complete without a visit to an outdoor marketplace in Jerusalem. We spent a couple of hours wandering through the crowds at BenYehuda St marveling at the wide selection of fresh goods, shops, cafes and galleries taking in the sights and sounds of a culture not unlike our own. In this one market you could purchase all your household goods and groceries from local farmers, bakers and merchants.

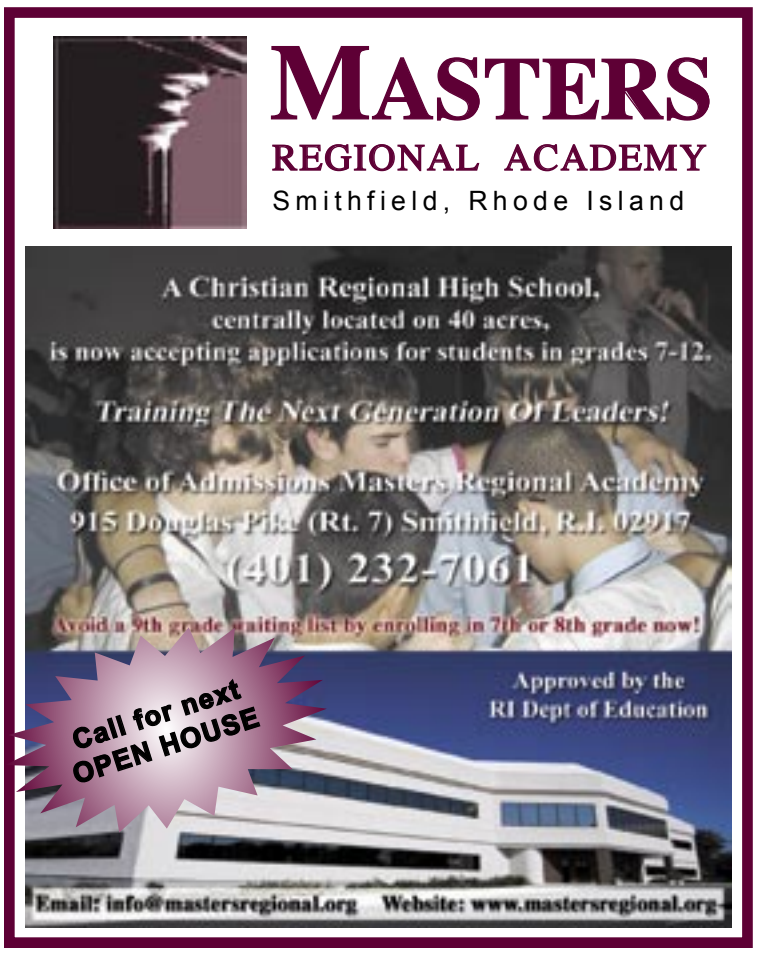
Our evening was capped off by a traditional shabat (sabbath) dinner at our hotel. The main meal of the week (and a festive one at that) in Jewish households in Israel and around the world is this Friday night dinner. The meal begins after sundown. Because Shabbat is the focal point of the week, families often set the table with a white tablecloth and their best dishes. Atop the table sits the Kiddush cup, which is held when the blessing over the Sabbath day is said. Before the meal, Jewish people sing a song to welcome Sabbath angels and follow it with blessings over the wine and bread.

In some traditional households, people ritually wash their hands before consuming bread. Traditionally Sabbath dinner foods include chicken, a stew made with carrots, and sometimes red meat. Eating fish on Shabbat is also a traditional practice. One of the reasons for this custom is connected to numerology of the fish. Each Hebrew letter is assigned a numerical value. And the numerical values of the letters in the Hebrew word for fish total seven. And Shabbat is the seventh day of the week!

While heading to the Shabbat meal I discovered even the elevators played a part in this ritual day of rest. One of them was reserved for traditionalists who would not even press the buttons to go up or down; the elevator was set on automatic, stopping at each floor.

Our next couple of days would be spent in The Old City and Ikey tells us, "It has been traditionally divided into four quarters, although the names used today - the Armenian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Quarters - were only introduced in the early 19th century. Despite having an area of only .35 square miles, about 3 miles in perimeter, the Old City is home to several sites of key religious importance: the Temple Mount and its Western Wall for Jews, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for Christians, and the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque for Muslims."

continued next page



Walking "The Land" from Page 12

We enter the city through St. Stephens Gate and walk the famous Via Dolorosa. Ikey tells us of a significant battle that took place at this gate where a tank got stuck blocking the entrance to the city, pock marks on its surface attest to the story. Altogether, the Old City walls contain 43 surveillance towers and 11 gates, seven of which are presently open.

Lion's Gate or St. Stephen's Gate

Rounding the corner of the gate, as if on cue, we view a large gathering of veterans celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Six Day War. As we walked through Old City our thoughts often focus upon the fact that Jesus once walked these very same streets. "Not much has changed since then." Ikey tells us. "These streets have been here for over 2000 years and now the city is both an open air museum and a dwelling place for about 40,000 people. There's so much to see and know about Old City, one could spend a lifetime exploring every nook and cranny and still only touch the surface of what this city has witnessed through the centuries.

There's the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9), the Mount of Olives with trees dating back three thousand years. Could one of them have witnessed Jesus prayer of Gethsemane? There's the tower of David, a museum housing the city's 300 year history in an ancient citadel. If your desiring a different perspective of the city how walking the perimeter of the city atop the wall.

The Garden Tomb

Just outside the gates of the Old City our day was brought into perspective by a visit to what many Protestants believe to be the Garden Tomb (Golgotha). The Garden Tomb is believed by many to be the garden and sepulchre of Joseph of Arimathea, and therefore a possible site of the resurrection of Jesus. The Garden Tomb is a quiet place preserved for worship and reflection. There are places to sit, drinking water and toilet facilities, including provision for the disabled. It was the perfect setting for our group to break bread and reflect upon our journey through Israel and life and celebrate all that Jesus has done for us.

The next day started at the City of David. Ikey excitedly invites us to enter, "Welcome to the place where it all began…The story of the City of David began over 3,000 years ago, when King David left the city of Hebron for a small hilltop city known as Jerusalem, establishing it as the unified capital of the tribes of Israel. Years later, David's son, King Solomon, built the First Temple next to the City of David on top of Mount Moriah, the site of the binding of Isaac, and with it, this hilltop became one of the most important sites in the world."

"Today, the story of the City of David continues. Deep underground, the City of David is revealing some of the most exciting archeological finds of the ancient world. While above ground, the city is a vibrant center of activity with a visitor's center that welcomes visitors for an exciting tour to the site where much of the Bible was written." Ikey informs us, "Just recently a discovery was made under the visitor center revealing what is believed to be the remains of King David's palace. The initial discovery was a letter seal tied to Jeremiah 37&38, which led the visitor center being moved and excavation revealing the walls of a significant building."

The tour of the City of David begins with a breathtaking observation point overlooking Biblical Jerusalem which sends visitors 3,800 years back in time to the days of Abraham, when the first foundations of the city were laid. The journey quickly heads underground to some of the newest archaeological excavations at the site. Here, while we explored the recently excavated fortresses and passageways, we relived King David's conquest of the Jebusite city as described in the 2nd Book of Samuel. The underground tour finally ends at the Gihon Spring, the major water source of Jerusalem for over 1,000 years and where, according to the Book of Kings, Solomon was anointed king. If you're feeling adventurous you can bring flashlights and wade through the spring in King Hezekiah's 2,700 year old water tunnel, one of the wonders of early engineering.

A tour through the City of David brings visitors face to face with the personalities and places of the Bible. As such, this is the only place on earth where the only guidebook needed is the Bible itself.

Back inside the Old City walls, we visit the Jerusalem Archeological Park, where we viewed a computerized virtual simulation of life during the Second Temple period. The Hebrew University through grants from the Rockefeller foundation has painstakingly recreated a presentation which depicts an individual walking through Jerusalem including a visit to the temple during the days of Jesus. We learn that the smallest stone in the wall weighs 4000 pounds, the largest of which weighs 570 tons and is 44 feet long. The largest stone in the Great Pyramid weighs 11 tons. The Temple is about 13 stories high and we even take a virtual ritual bath before entering it. The virtual tour stops at the Holy of Holies since that is where the Dome of the Rock now stands, not to mention only the High Priest is allowed to enter.

As we leave the museum we walk in amazement, respecting that everywhere we look boasts thousands of years of history. Our next destination only a five minute walk from the museum is the Western Wall, the most holy place accessible to the Jewish people because of Muslim control of the Temple Mount. Known in recent centuries as the "Wailing Wall," this was built by Herod the Great as the retaining wall of the Temple Mount complex. The plaza was created as an area for prayer when Israel captured the Old City in 1967.

Ikey leads us to the wall explaining, "Three times a day the Jewish people pray (morning, afternoon, evening) and they do so with phylacteries tied around their forehead and wrist and with the white and blue prayer shawls. At times tens of thousands of people gather here for prayer."

As if to confirm in our minds what Jesus said in Luke 13:34 we visit the Dome of the Rock. Upon entering this Muslim controlled section of the temple we must pass by Al Aqsa brigade (Palestinian troops), closely observing everyone that passes, Ikey, tells us after we pass that the Palestinians are concerned that Jews are tunneling o the Dome in an effort to reclaim the site of Dome of the Rock as their own."

According to Islamic tradition, the rock in the center of the dome is the spot from which Muhammad ascended for a night-long journey to Heaven in AD 621, accompanied by the angel Gabriel. There he met many prophets like Abraham and Moses and was given the (now obligatory) Islamic prayers before returning to Earth. A Qur'anic verse says that Muhammad took an instantaneous night journey on Buraq from al-Masjid al-Haram ("the sacred mosque", interpreted as being in Mecca) to al-Masjid al-Aqsa ("the farthest mosque", interpreted as being in Jerusalem).

3,000 year old olive trees in Garden of Gethsemane

In Judaism this same stone is the site where Abraham fulfilled God's test to see if he would be willing to sacrifice his son Isaac (See Genesis 22:1-19). (Muslims believe that this event involved Abraham's other son Ishmael and occurred in the desert of Mina (where millions of Muslims offer pilgrimage every year). There is some controversy among secular scholars about equating Mount Moriah (where Isaac's binding occurred according to the Biblical narrative), the Temple Mount, and the rock where Jacob dreamed about angels ascending and descending on a ladder to heaven (See Genesis 28:10-19); but for Orthodox Jews, there is no doubt that all these events occurred on this spot.

The Dome of the Rock

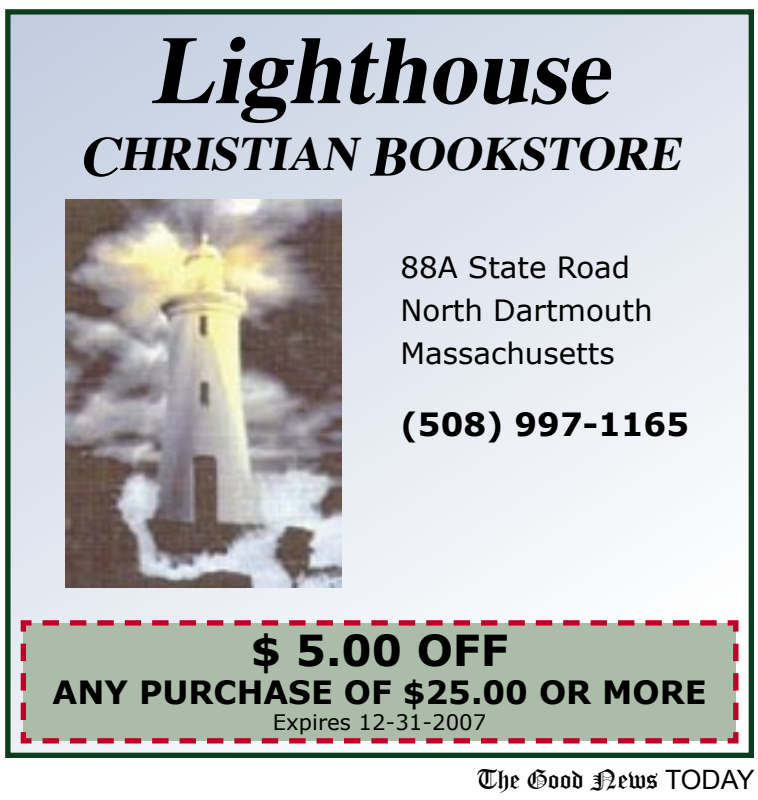
Wailing Wall prayers

According to Jewish scholars it was this rock which was situated inside the Holy of Holies and upon which the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Temple. The stone was used by the High Priest who offered up the incense and sprinkled the blood of the sacrifices on it during the Yom Kippur Service. Rabbinic legend also alleges that the entire world was created from this stone, hence the name, Foundation Stone.

Those of us who know Jesus, realize He is that foundation stone, and that when he uttered His final words, "it is finished" the temple curtain was torn in two, signifying our access to the Holy of Holies, through Him. Let's take advantage of that access and pray for the peace of Jerusalem, accepting even so, that the soon return of the Prince of Peace might bring an end to the endless strife of this world.

What a wonderful experience. As stated earlier in this story, "Visit Israel and you will never be the same." Whether you are researching Judeo/Christian roots or archeology and the study of mankind, you will never find a better place than Israel. It's quite astounding to visit this place where the physical foundations of life shout loudly of our Creator. Touring Israel will open new doors to your faith and bible study. Go with a group and spend time with the Jews, they can add a dimension of understanding which few Christians have to offer.

I hope that reading about my tour has inspired you just a little. Visit www.goisrael.com for further information about Israel and tour information. This is the official website of the Israel Ministry of Tourism, where you will find several "virtual tours" online and get complete information to help make your plans. I hope to go back again and take my wife. There are many tour packages available and they are actually much less expensive than you might think. Some packages feature several all-inclusive tours including airfare from New York for $1200 to $1500. Why not put a tour together with your church and if we can help out give us a call. Shalom!

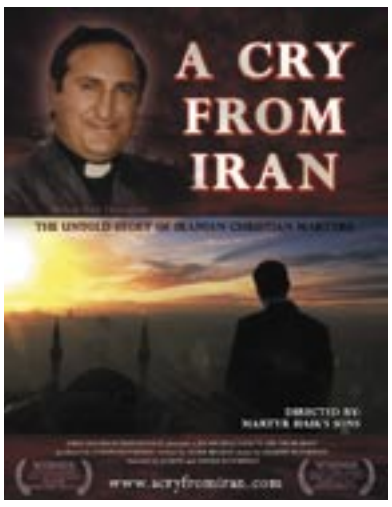


Entertainment

"A Cry From Iran" wins best documentary award at film festival

By Michael Ireland

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (ANS) -- "A Cry from Iran," a powerful documentary on modern-day martyrdom, garnered the Best Documentary Award at the Jubilee Awards during closing ceremonies at the fourth annual San Antonio



Independent Christian Film Festival, held at the Lila Cockrell Theatre in downtown San Antonio last weekend.

In 1993, a judge in Iran issued an official death sentence to Mehdi Dibaj, a man already imprisoned for ten years. A copy of the official execution order was leaked to Haik Hovespian, the leader of the Evangelical Christians in Iran. At peril to his own life, Haik released the document and launched an international campaign to bring an end to the civil rights violations of the Iranian Islamic courts. International pressure mounted and the Iranian government was forced to release Dibaj at the eleventh hour. But there was a price to pay for Haik.

Now, A Cry From Iran, an award-winning, expertly documented true story that includes hidden camera footage filmed in Iran during the actual events, tells the story of how Haik Hovsepian gave his life for freedom of religious belief in Iran. The film tells the true story of Haik Hovsepian, the leader of Evangelical Christians of Iran who was brutally murdered for speaking out against the persecution of another Christian under Iran's Islamist regime.

The film was produced by Joseph and Andre Hovsepian -- the sons of the martyred hero -- in honor of their father. The crowd rose to their feet in solemn applause as Joseph and Andre took the stage to receive the award. "We are grateful that this film could touch the audience in such a deep way and communicate the message of love, courage, and sacrifice," stated Joseph Hovsepian, whose father was killed fourteen years ago.

"In reality, the main award goes to the hero and role model of my life -- my father -- who portrayed the best example of a Christian father and a church leader for us in Iran....We are honored and humbled that we've had a small part in sharing [his] story with the world."

"This is the story of not only my father, but also of the victims who have been killed and continue to be tortured for their choice of religion. It is an example of the many stories that are happening as we speak," said film director and producer Joseph Hovsepian.

A Cry from Iran is the true story of Christian martyrs killed callously for the right to practice their chosen faith. It has been nominated for several film festivals, including the 6th Annual Route 66 Film Festival, and is the winner of the Best Documentary Feature at the Faith and Film Motion Picture Festival and the Audience Award at the Leith Film Festival.

Rewind 14 years to 1994: the documentary highlights the story of Haik Hovsepian, the leader of Evangelical Christians in Iran. After an Islamic judge in northern Iran condemns a zealous Christian convert, Mehdi Dibaj, from Islam to death, Haik chooses to speak out and launch an international campaign for Dibaj's sentence to be overturned. Haik's campaign is successful, and Dibaj is released a few days before his execution date.

However, in January 1994, Bishop Haik Hovsepian disappears. Twelve days later his corpse is identified by his son. The body has been stabbed 26 times. Haik would not be the last to be martyred. Since then, numerous Christians have been brutally tortured and put to death.

Fast forward to present: after production in five countries, interviews with 40 political and religion experts, family and friends, 42 months of production and 200 hours of archive footage, the sons of Haik Hovsepian deliver the story of one victim who serves as an example for the many who have suffered the same senseless tragedy.

Speaking to the timely issue of religious radicalism on the global stage and the current climate of repression in the Middle East, Dr. Ravi Zacharias, author of Light in the Shadow of Jihad, examines the intersection between faith and extremism, "When for example the Quran is quoted that there is no compulsion in belief, it ought to be understood in a very real way then. Is a person in Iran free to disbelieve? Is a person in Malaysia free to disbelieve? Is a person in Indonesia free to disbelieve? If you are not free to disbelieve in a certain faith, then there is compulsion in that faith."

"This film is the first opportunity of its kind for believers and non-believers, for activists and non-activities, for politicians and non-politicians and for the general public to get a personal look at the human and historic story of leaders punished for their beliefs. It is an issue of human rights," said Dr. Anis Shorrosh, author of Islam Revealed. Get more info at www.acryfromiran.com

'Noëlle' Movie Offers Inspirational Message of Forgiveness and Second Chances

LOS ANGELES Christian Newswire - Opening in selected cities nationwide on December 7th, Gener8Xion Entertainment Inc. and Volvo Film's are announcing the release of *Noëlle*, a heartwarming and inspirational story of how a cold-hearted Catholic priest - haunted by his past - discovers a whole new meaning to his existence in a sleepy, winter- bound New England town at Christmas time.

"Forgiveness, redemption, and second chances are the key themes in this movie," says *Noëlle's* writer and director, David Wall. According to Wall, *Noëlle* also has a subtle, but powerful, pro-life theme that will leave viewers moved.

"The pro-life message is there," says Wall. "But a person really needs to see the movie in order to catch how this plays out. Words cannot describe it. You really have to see it to understand how powerful it is."

As for the movie's storyline, Father Jonathan Keene, played by Wall, visits a small New England town to shut down a Catholic Church that is deemed unworthy. But when Father Keene arrives, he gets caught up with the town's colorful mêlée of characters.

Keene offers the small ragtag group one last chance to save their church - they must pull off a successful Christmas play in their community. In the end, though, it is the lovable characters who help Keene find his own personal second chance.

"Surrounded by eccentric and hilarious towns folk that will eventually turn his world upside down, Keene ends up not only questioning his brittle faith, but grappling with it as well," says Wall.

One such character is Father Simeon Joyce (Sean Patrick Brennan), a priest with a great love for his people, but deemed incompetent by Keene. Joyce shows Keene that being a man of God is having compassion for human weakness.

When Keene meets the town librarian, Marjorie Worthington (Kerry Wall), he begins to be plagued by the sins of his past. Haunting, recurring visions of an angelic, messenger child begin to ripple the still waters of Keene's Scrooge-like façade.

In the end, Keene comes face to face with his past and his hardened heart. In a breathtaking ending that converges around Keene and the haunting angelic messenger child, Keene discovers forgiveness and second chances.

"There is a real excitement about this movie," says Wall. "Even people who are not Christians are moved by the clear emphasis on redemption. People are clapping after every show."

Christian Apologist Responds to "The Golden Compass"

By Good News Staff

LA CROSSE, Wisc Christian Newswire - Christian apologist Anthony Horvath released a guide for Christian parents regarding Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" series. The free guide may also be printed and used as a bulletin insert for churches.

The Pullman series has been more popular in Britain than in the United States, but with the film adaptation of the first book in the series, "The Golden Compass," being released in December, that may change. Horvath's guide is available at just the right time.

Christians have disagreed about "Harry Potter," but the anti-Christian themes in "His Dark Materials" are indisputable.

Anthony Horvath explains, "Pullman's stories are vehicles to communicate what he thinks of the Christian church, Christian doctrines, and Christian morals. His hostility becomes explicit as the series progresses, with some of the more anti-Christian elements emerging in the later books. This is not a series we want to take laying down."

In response to the challenges posed by the Pullman books, Anthony has developed a one page Christian parent's guide that gives basic information about the series and highlights some of its anti-Christian themes.

Says Horvath, "In the series, there is a quest to kill the Christian God - 'a liar and a mortal.' However, Pullman's 'God' is nothing like God as Christians perceive Him. For this reason, one might think that the series poses no threat because any reasonably informed Christian would see the inaccuracies and the agenda behind the series in an instant. Young Christians will not be able to do that, which exposes the real issue: we need more reasonably informed young Christians."

Horvath hopes his parent's guide serves as a useful introduction for concerned individuals. It is available as a free PDF download and is also designed for churches to use as bulletin inserts for their Sunday morning services.

Horvath urges churches and parents not to overreact: "Boycotting the series gives the impression that we need to be afraid of the ideas it contains. That said, I won't be seeing the movie and the copies I read were from the library. We need to learn how to keep our guard up whenever we are being 'entertained' and teach our children to do the same."

Anthony is available for interviews and presentations and you can download the guide/insert at http://sntjohnny.com/front/archives/132.

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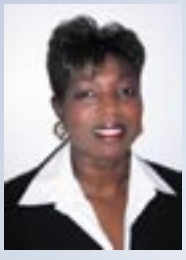

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Processed Meat Unsafe For Human Consumption; Cancer Experts Warn of Dietary Dangers

By Mike Adams

World cancer experts have finally declared what health conscious people have known for years: that processed meats cause cancer, and anyone seeking to avoid cancer should avoid eating all processed meats for life.

Hundreds of cancer researchers took part in a five-year project spanning more than 7,000 clinical studies and designed to document the links between diet and cancer. Their conclusion, published in the World Cancer Research Fund's report, *Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Prevention of Cancer: a Global Perspective (2007)*, has rocked the health world with a declaration that **all people should immediately stop buying and eating processed meat products** and that all processed meat should be avoided for life!

Processed meats, the report explains, are simply too dangerous for human consumption. And why? Because they contain chemical additives that are known to greatly increase the risk of various cancers, including colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, leukemia, brain tumors, pancreatic cancer and many more.

Processed meats, the report explains, are simply too dangerous for human consumption. And why? Because they contain chemical additives that are known to greatly increase the risk of various cancers, including colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, leukemia, brain tumors, pancreatic cancer and many more. The report, published at www.DietAndCancerReport.org also recommends that consumers:

• Avoid all sugary soft drinks for life.
• Exercise at least 30 minutes a day.
• Get lean and fit, without becoming underweight.
• Limit consumption of ALL meats (even fresh meat).
• Breastfeed all infants for their first six months, avoiding infant formula.

Sadly, the WCRF still does not recommend that consumers use nutritional supplements to help protect themselves from cancer, indicating that the group still has a lot to learn about the role of medicinal mushrooms, sea vegetables, microalgae, Chinese herbs, rainforest herbs and superfood extracts in preventing and reversing cancer. But at least the group's recommendation that consumers now avoid all processed meat products is a huge step in the right direction. It is the first time that any internationally-recognized cancer organization has found the courage to make a partial proclamation about the health hazards of the chemicals found in processed meat products. It's almost as big a deal as when the American Medical Association, after years of taking millions of dollars from tobacco companies, finally admitted that smoking causes lung cancer and heart disease. (A decade after the scientific evidence was irrefutable, of course, but then again, the AMA was making money off Big Tobacco by running tobacco ads in JAMA...)

What is "processed meat" exactly?

A woman asked me this question at a recent speaking engagement where I was warning the audience about the dangers of chemicals found in popular grocery products. Frankly, I was surprised to hear the question. But I've since learned that many people really don't know the difference between processed meat and non-processed meat ("fresh" meat).

Here's the difference:

Fresh meat usually has only one ingredient: The meat! Fresh meat is refrigerated and has a very short shelf life (just a few days, usually). It's usually packaged in simple wrappers, with no fancy logos or color printing.

Processed meat has many ingredients and is usually packaged for long-term shelf life. These products almost always contain sodium nitrite, the cancer-causing chemical additive that meat companies use as a color fixer to turn their meat products a bright red "fresh-looking" color. Processed meat products include:

• Bacon, Sausage, Pepperoni, Beef jerky, Deli slices, Hot dogs, Sandwich meat (including those served at restaurants), Ham, Meat "gift" products like Christmas sausages, Meat used in canned soups, Meat used in frozen pizza, Meat used in kid's lunch products and Meat used in ravioli, spaghetti or Italian pasta products... and many more meat products.

Unless it says "NITRITE FREE" on the front label, you can bet it's made with cancer-causing sodium nitrite!

(Hint: You will only find nitrite-free meat products in two places in the grocery store: 1) In the fresh meat section where you can buy freshly-ground hamburger, for example, and 2) In the freezer, where you can find "natural" meat products that are nitrite-free.

What are the dangerous chemicals in processed meats?

Sodium nitrite is one of the most dangerous chemicals added to processed meats. Please be aware:

• You MUST read the ingredients list to find the sodium nitrite! Meat product companies do not list this ingredient on the front of the package.

• Even ORGANIC meat products and NATURAL meat products can still contain sodium nitrite. So read the labels to be sure, and avoid buying any meat product made with sodium nitrite.

• Be especially careful of food for kids! Virtually all packaged food products containing meat and marketed to children contain sodium nitrite! (Read the ingredients to protect your children.)

Monosodium glutamate (MSG) is a second dangerous chemical found in virtually all processed meat products. MSG is a dangerous excitotoxin linked to neurological disorders such as migraine headaches, Alzheimer's disease, loss of appetite control, obesity and many other serious health conditions. Manufacturers use MSG to add flavor to dead-tasting processed meat products.

Essentially, dead meat products look and taste dead (because they are), so meat companies use the following three ingredients to make them look fresh and taste interesting:

Sodium nitrite makes the meat look red and fresh. (But it promotes cancer.)

MSG makes the meat taste savory. (But it causes neurological disorders.)

Processed salt makes the meat taste more interesting. (But it causes nutritional problems and high blood pressure.)

On top of these three chemical additives, processed meats also contain saturated animal fat that is often contaminated with PCBs, heavy metals, pesticide residues and other dangerous substances.

You can learn more about dangerous chemicals in the food supply in my book, Grocery Warning, available from Truth Publishing.

Or you can download my free **Honest Food Guide** from www.HonestFoodGuide.org which reveals the true health dangers of numerous chemicals added to processed foods. The Honest Food Guide has now been downloaded by over one million people.

Meats continued Page 23

Superbugs: Drug Resistant But Not Herb Resistant

By Stephanie Whited

(NewsTarget) Superbug is becoming a household term and unfortunately, a household occurrence. The most recent headliner is the methicillin and penicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA. Thought of mostly as a hospital acquired infection, its occurrence is showing up in schools, gyms, and daycare centers. 21 schools in Bedford, Virginia have closed to undergo cleaning after a high school senior died October 15th of the infection.

It is often carried by healthy individuals without symptoms. In a mild case, MRSA affects the skin, but it can become invasive and potentially deadly when it penetrates the body usually through a break in the skin, like a cut, scrape, or wound. It infects more than 90,000 Americans a year, and due to a resistance to antibiotics, MRSA has become hard to treat by the medical community.

It is generally accepted that MRSA has become immune to many antibiotics due to the overuse. Bacteria are smart and very good at survival. They share knowledge about antibiotics, and can even acquire the necessary encoding for resistance by scavenging the remnants of dead bacteria killed by the antibiotic.

Alternative treatments for bacterial infections are widely available, but they have not been publicized in the recent media frenzy.

One herb, Pau D'Arco (also known as Tabebuia avellanedae, Taheebo, Lapacho), was found by a research team at the University of Rio de Janeiro in 2003 to be an effective topical treatment of MRSA. View the abstract at PubMed. It can also be used internally as a tea. The team also suggests that the herb be tested for use against cancer, a claim already made by many herbalists. It is widely available as a tea or in capsule form and can be used against Candida, viruses, and parasites.

So Pau D'Arco not only treats drug resistant Staph, it guards against other infections and health problems, including viruses, parasites, and possibly cancer. Antibiotics however, do not work against viruses and cancer. Instead, antibiotics "may help fungi to proliferate within the human body", and they kill *all* types of bacteria, including the beneficial bacteria which aid in healthy digestion. A lack of beneficial bacteria has been linked with autism and bowel disorders.

Antibiotic use in children has been correlated with asthma and allergies, and their use can "alter the development of a child's immune system." The same study also found that children were less likely to develop these problems if they were exposed to a dog before the age of 1.

So germ exposure can be a good thing, and all this exposure to antibiotics is actually making us weaker and making the harmful bacteria stronger! They are not only over prescribed by doctors, but they are used in agriculture and fed to livestock. So if you are not choosing organic food, you may be taking antibiotics!

Antibacterial soaps and sanitizers create the same problem: stronger, more immune bacteria. Natural soaps wash away dirt and germs from the body, but they don't help create superbugs. In addition to creating superbugs and lowering our immunity, NewsTarget recently reported that many antibacterial soaps also contain the toxic chemical triclosan which can promote cancer. Antibacterial soaps could also change your hormones.

So before resorting to antibiotics and chemical antibacterials, first try alternatives such as Pau D'Arco, garlic, grapefruit seed extract, honey, colloidal silver, lemon, and tee tree oil. There are many others, and most natural antibiotics alternatives are safe for everyday, preventative use, unlike antibiotics.

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Editorials

Christmas: Fact, not Fable

By Alex McFarland

EP News)--Sooner or later, as December approaches each year, the stories invariably appear. This year's versions of the account are typified by recent *Newsweek* and *Time* cover stories. Christmas comes accompanied by many things, and one of them is usually this particular news report. To what stories do I refer? I am speaking of articles asserting that early Christians molded existing mythology into the story that we know today as Christmas. Major periodicals run the seasonal piece theorizing that Christ's birth is rooted more in fable than in historical fact, but these doubt-inspiring disclaimers simply do not measure up to the scrutiny of historical investigation.

The premise behind this perspective is that the early Christian beliefs about Jesus were really just variations on older religious themes. Pagan "mystery religions" had emerged from Roman, Greek, and Egyptian cultures, with teachings that focused on mythical hero-gods such as Osiris, Mithra, and others. Some writers suggest that Jesus was an invented figure, patterned after such gods.

It is hypothesized that Christian doctrines developed through a repackaging of existing legends. A *Newsweek* feature article asserted that the New Testament writers were "confronted with a literary problem that had to be solved," and thus created the story of Christ's birth. The apostle Paul is also frequently cited as a likely reviser and partial "founder" of Christianity, allegedly having meshed prevalent paganism with teachings about Jesus. The implication is that the core beliefs of classical orthodoxy are inventions of men rather than revelation from God.

But consider the facts revealed upon closer examination: The New Testament deals with *actual* persons, and *historical* events, open to investigation. The mystery religions dealt with *mythical figures*, having no historical ties whatsoever. In contrast, Jesus' birth is tied to such things as real **people** (Mary, Joseph, Wise Men of the East, Herod of Judea), real **places** (Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth), actual **events** ("a census by Caesar Augustus"), and is corroborated by **verifiable details** ("when Quirinius was governor of Syria"). Further, none of the myth-based ancient religions ever claimed to be reported via eyewitnesses, as does the New Testament's presentation of Christ.

The Gospels present a *genuine* Savior, demonstrating *genuine* love, coming to a world possessing *genuine* spiritual need. None of the so-called "savior gods" of the myths died for some one else. It is important to note also that Jesus died once and for all; The mystery religions portray gods which died repeatedly, depicting cycles of nature. Unlike the mythical heroes, Jesus died *voluntarily,* and His death was a triumph, not a defeat! Christ's death provided atonement for sin, a concept utterly foreign to the mystery religions.

The belief that early Christians borrowed from the paganism of their times, rests on the assumption that mystery religions were pervasive and influential in Palestine during the first century. But even the skeptical Albert Schweitzer concluded of those who interpret Christianity in this manner, "They manufacture out of the various fragments of information a kind of universal mystery religion which never existed, least of all in Paul's day." C.S. Lewis rejected the mystery religion thesis, observing that Christianity originated, "In a circle where no trace of the nature religion was present." Famed religion scholar Mircea Eliade concluded, "There is no reason to suppose that primitive Christianity was influenced by the Hellenistic mysteries."

Why is it important that we consider such things at this time? The difference between Christianity and ancient myth is worth noting, because it illustrates the how unique the Gospel message truly is. Even in their own day the mystery tales were known to be fables. On the other hand, Christmas reminds us that at a precise point in history, Christ came bearing the gift of Himself. 2 Peter 1:16 demonstrates the solid base on which Christian faith rests: "*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty."* Here we have *eyewitness* testimony to *actual* events. It does not matter that many years separate us and the earliest Christians; We, too, may personally meet history's most important Figure, who bears life's most relevant message.

The Christmas story is that God loved people enough to come into the world and be their Savior. That's no myth, but have you personally met the Christ of Christmas? The words of Charles Wesley's hymn frame the facts in complete accuracy: "*Mild He lays His glory by / Born that man no more may die / Born to raise the sons of earth / Born to give them second birth."* Almost two thousand years ago, Christ quietly entered human history through a manger in Bethlehem. Today, Jesus lovingly enters human hearts through simple faith. In this way, historical fact can become present reality, for all who will believe.

Dr. Alex McFarland is the president of Southern Evangelical Seminary. He is also the author of "The 10 Most Common Objections to Christianity" (Regal Books, 2007).

Five years of Good News

By Lawrence L. Lepore

Five years. Yes, five glorious years of serving our Lord and Savior through the written word. In case you didn't realize it, this paper that you are holding, the Good News Today, formerly the Good News INRI, completed five years of publishing last month. Often we are asked, "how can such a sad story be good news?" To which we reply, from Gods perspective, the crucifixion of Christ is good news.

Five years may not seem very long, but let me assure you, to the 30 volunteers who make it happen every month, it is a major accomplishment. One we realize, that we would never have been able to achieve without Gods divine guidance, provision and protection. Some of us here at the paper often feel a little more like dogs than humans, fitting seven years of life experiences into each and every year that passes by.

During this time we have expanded our distribution from 40 churches in central Rhode Island to the entire state, bordering Connecticut towns and Southeastern Massachusetts as far east as New Bedford. Our volunteers now deliver the paper to over 300 churches and 200 businesses every month and the growing list is only limited by the funds available to print additional copies.

Each month we receive requests from outer lying areas asking, "when will you expand into our area?" The most frequent requests come from the Boston area wanting to know if and when we would start another edition for them. Recently we have started contacting churches there in an attempt to generate enough support to begin publishing a separate edition for the Greater Boston area. As confirmation for this expansion the Lord provided a box truck through a donation by one of our partners and a quote from Mayor Menino, in a Boston Herald article, wishing Boston had a Good News newspaper.

During the past five years we have had the pleasure of meeting many believers throughout New England and across the country. We have featured a wide array of varied topics ranging from the local Christian business owner, to church and ministry related stories to national and international current events. We have not shied away from controversial topics like gay pride parades and same-sex marriage, abortion protests, gambling, politics and cults. Ultimately, we're always looking to find and share God's perspective on our world.

It has never been easy producing the paper, every month brings another spiritual battle. Yet somehow, miraculously He guides us through each obstacle that appears before us. Along the way, we have met and made many new friends, many that are instrumental in making the paper work each month. We hope that you enjoy reading the paper as much as our volunteers enjoy providing it to you.

As we enter our sixth year of publishing the Good News we'd like to take this opportunity to thank God for you, our readers and supporters. Without your willingness to read and share the paper with friends, co-workers, and loved ones we would have no reason to publish it. Some of our readers have become our partners in sharing the gospel, keeping extra copies with them to share or leave behind wherever their lives take them. As a result of our combined efforts many people have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, while others are developing a better understanding of him. We've come to accept that the Lord uses the paper in many manners and instances to reveal himself to people, often unbeknownst to us, but always at the right moment.

Since starting the paper we have slowly increased our distribution, now between 14,000 and 16,000 copies per month, volunteers handling all aspects of that task. They write articles, take pictures and design graphics, make phone calls and answer them and deliver the paper. It's a massive undertaking and we can always use more help, funding and of course, your prayer. We also welcome input, your testimonies, articles, poetry, advertising and any other items that would encourage or benefit the community. Please let us know how God has used the Good News to impact you. Perhaps you or a friend will be the subject of an upcoming article or maybe you could join our crew of volunteers in their continuing efforts to share the Good News Today.

Please visit our website, www.the goodnewstoday.org., now receiving over 6000 visits every month, where you will find archives of the last 7 editions of the paper along with printable featured articles, Bible study resources, a list of area churches where the paper is available and many other features. Call us if you would like to link your church or ministry to the website or advertise your business and become a partner in this exciting ministry.

Help us to unite the body of Christ while sharing the good news of our Savior. Call 401-619-0418.

How Do We Find Our Way Into Heaven?

By Dr. Harold Sala

LAGUNA NIGUEL, CALIFORNIA (ANS) -- I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." (Romans 1: 16).

If you stood at the door of God's heaven and knocked, and Peter, opening the door, asked, "Why should I let you in?" what would you say? Essentially, that was the very issue which troubled a conscientious young priest nearly 500 years ago. His father was a copper miner who lived and worked near Mansfeld, Germany. But Hans Luther had greater goals for his son Martin. After completing his bachelor's degree at the University of Erfurt, Martin entered the Augustinian monastery, a decision which appalled his father.

In the monastery Luther sought to find God's favor through self-denial. There he prayed, he flagellated his body, he denied himself sleep and food and the amenities of life, yet there was no peace. He struggled with the issue of what is necessary to really please God. Recognizing his potential, the Augustinians sent Luther to Wittenberg to study for his doctorate, which he earned in 1511. Then he was appointed as a professor of biblical theology, a position which he retained for the rest of his somewhat troubled life.

Luther's study of the book of Romans first caused him to question the dogmas of his day--keeping the ordinances of the church and being faithful in good works. But the issue of how we find favor in the sight of God came to a boil in 1510 when Luther was sent to Rome on official church business. There Luther was repulsed by the practice of selling indulgences in the streets to pay for the opulence of St. Peter's, which was then under construction. An indulgence was simply a piece of paper which you bought, which allegedly brought forgiveness for sins that you would commit in the future.

Convinced that indulgences were wrong, biblically and practically, Luther was deeply distressed. Going to the Church of the Scala Sancta or the Sacred Steps, Martin Luther began his pilgrimage as did thousands of others crawling up the steps, one at a time, kissing them and praying the rosary.

But what you may not know is that these steps were no ordinary walkway. Thought to have been the very steps that Jesus ascended as He made His way into Pilate's judgment hall, faithful devotees had brought them to Rome, where they had become a token of veneration and worship. As Luther worked his way up the steps, the text of Romans 1:17, like rolling thunder in a summer storm, kept going over and over in his mind: "The righteous will live by faith." It was the phrase, "by faith," that spoke so loudly. In the midst of this act of devotion, Luther rose from his knees, never to be the same.

The question confronting Luther is absolutely valid today. How do you find salvation before a holy, righteous God? Is it through what you do, or what Christ did? Through keeping the law? Through going to church or giving to the poor? Or what?

Luther found satisfaction through the message of the New Testament- specifically, what Paul wrote. As Paul wrote to the young man, Titus, "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). Luther's struggle is every person's struggle, for sooner or later every man, every woman, every child stands before a righteous Holy God. As the New Testament clearly asserts, Luther believed that salvation is God's free gift, not the reward a person gets for being good. Make sure you get the right answer.

Resource reading: Romans 1: 1-17

Commentary / Letters to the Editor

America In Prophetic Crisis: Oil, Dollar, China, Iran Combine In Perfect Storm

By Bill Wilson

Oil has reached record levels on the world market…gold is trading at its highest level in nearly three decades…the U.S. dollar is at its lowest value in 34 years…General Motors has reported a $39 billion loss for the third quarter…Iran has reached a key milestone in its nuclear program of having 3,000 working centrifuges for its uranium enrichment…Pakistan, America's ally in the war on terror, is amid a general crisis where terrorists are attacking from within and opposition parties are on the rise, signaling more political disruption…Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is pressing Israel to give up parts of Jerusalem and its traditional lands of Judea and Samaria in a land for peace deal.

These are just a handful of the news events that are seemingly not linked together. There are countless more. It is no stretch of the imagination to say that the entire world is in disruption of some form or another. But for the United States of America, the disruption—economically, politically, and even in the climate—is one of the most prevalent in decades. Looming over the country is China's decision to "diversify" its $1.42 trillion in foreign exchange away from the dollar and into other currencies. This single event alone could throw the U.S. economy into a tailspin and because of the U.S.-China trade deficit, it could mean that China would rule over certain segments of the U.S. economy.

The Iranian nuclear program is yet another huge concern. Fueled by Russian technology and expertise, the Iranian nuclear program will be capable of producing an atomic bomb in less than a year, according to many experts. Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was broadcast on state television as saying, "The Iranian nation has entered the phase of industrial scale of nuclear fuel (production) and the train of the Iranian nation's progress is irreversible." This, combined with the Chinese technology on missile development, almost assures Iran's entrance in the nuclear club unless action is taken to prevent it.

The Bible prophesies that in the latter days Russia, Iran and other nations will come against Israel in a colossal end time battle. These two countries are quickly coming into alignment with that prophecy. The one nation that holds them back is the United States. But the U.S. is dabbling in dangerous waters by trying to force Israel to give up part of Jerusalem in a land for peace deal. Zechariah 12:3 says, "And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces." Certainly, America is burdening itself with Jerusalem and the consequences may be looming on the horizon—just read the headlines.

Life on the Vine

By Diana Parente

John 15:1-8 says this, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Have you been feeling pruned lately? Do you cringe at the sight of the Vinedresser's shears coming toward you? Take heart beloved, because the promise of God to us is that as He prunes us (takes away all those things in us that are unprofitable and dead) THEN we will bear fruit for Him in our lives. There will be no productive activity unless there is first pruning. We must stay close, so close, to the Vinedresser and we must allow Him to remove foolishness from our hearts, in order that we might bear good fruit. I have a saying about the processes of God that I like to call, "it hurts so good". Because, in fact, the discipline of the Lord when He reveals my failures and weaknesses does "hurt", but it's so "good" because it is to my benefit and to the benefit of my relationship with the Lord and with others that He does this; not to hurt me, only that I might bear "good fruit". Be encouraged today if the hand of the Lord is reaching down deep into your heart and "pruning" your thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Remember this; what He reveals, He also heals! Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for you are now in a prime position to bear good fruit and to do all that which is pleasing in His sight.

One hundred years ago.....Theodore Roosevelt's ideas on Immigrants and being an AMERICAN in 1907.

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

Theodore Roosevelt 1907

Every American citizen needs to read this!

WORTH FIGHTING FOR

By Dick Evans

Philippians 1:27But whatever happens to me, you must live in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ, as citizens of heaven. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the Good News. (NLT)

Paul is writing from his prison cell reminding fellow Christians who they are. And doesn't each of us have to be reminded from time to time?

We get so wrapped up in the business of life. Remember that old song, "9 to 5"? We get so wrapped up doing what we have to do to put food on the table and meet our monthly obligations that it can become easy to slip into our old worldly mode.

We must be on guard each day to be sure we are living in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. We must be that light in the darkness for others around us. Paul was that light even from his prison cell.

Regardless of where we are and who we are with, we must stand side by side with fellow believers fighting the good fight, living in a manor worthy of He who lives in us. Were you fighting for the Good News today?

Government Must Approve of Theological Degrees?

By Kerby Anderson

If you are concerned about religious liberty and the right of seminaries to educate future Christian leaders, then you need to know about an important case out of Texas that will have a far reaching impact.

The case involved Tyndale Theological Seminary. It was informed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that the seminary would be fined as punishment for issuing theological degrees without government approval. The bureaucrats argued that Tyndale could not call itself a seminary without seeking their approval of its curriculum, professors, and governing board.

In the spirit of full disclosure, let me mention my brief relationship with Tyndale Seminary. Although I was not a faculty member, I did on two occasions teach a one-day seminar to the students similar to courses I have taught at other seminaries like Dallas Theological Seminary. And I might also mention that some of the other professors were individuals who held degrees from Wheaton College, Dallas Seminary, Trinity Divinity School, etc. In other words, the credentials of the professors and caliber of their teaching were not the issue.

What was at issue was governmental control. Tyndale did not first seek permission from the state of Texas before it began teaching and granting degrees.

Two other seminaries joined the suit: The Hispanic Bible Institute in San Antonio and the Southern Bible Institute in Dallas. These institutes which train Hispanic and African-American pastors joined later because they also were prevented from calling themselves seminaries or issuing theological degrees without state approval and control.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the three seminaries in what is a landmark religious freedoms lawsuit. The Chief Justice ruled that the state requirement "impermissibly intrudes upon religious freedom protected by the United States and Texas Constitutions." I think this is a great victory for religious liberty. I'm Kerby Anderson, and that's my point of view.

GOOD ATTITUDE

By Charles R. Swindoll

In his book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl wrote these amazing words:

"We who lived in the concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last pieces of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: The last of his freedoms is to choose his own attitude in any given set of circumstances—to choose one's own way."

I could not be in greater agreement. We make a choice every waking moment of our lives. When we awaken in the morning, we choose the attitude that will ultimately guide our thoughts and actions through the day. I'm convinced our best attitudes emerge out of a clear understanding of our own identity, a clear sense of our divine mission, and a deep sense of God's purpose for our lives. That sort of God-honoring attitude encourages us to press on, to focus on the goal, to respond in remarkable ways to life's most extreme circumstances.

It was that kind of remarkable attitude Paul and Barnabas consistently maintained throughout their missionary journey. The two Antioch-sent servants faced and overcame countless and extreme obstacles with a relentless determination to stay focused on the goal.

We all need a reliable game plan for facing extreme circumstances. The situation that now looms in front of you may be fixable, or it may seem impossible to overcome in your own strength. It might be the result of your own actions, or you may be an innocent victim, caught in the backlash of someone else's consequences. Whatever the case, we can easily become intimidated, even fearful, and eventually immobile when facing such obstacles. The only way to move beyond that sort of paralyzing stalemate is to learn to accept and trust God's plan. You release the controls and wait for Him to move. And while you wait, maintain a good attitude.

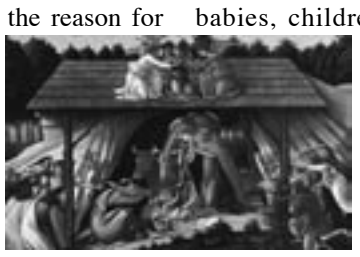
By Charles R. Swindoll, from *Charles R. Swindoll, Great Days with the Great Lives: Daily Insight from Great Lives of the Bible*, www.insight.org

Inspiration

The Reality of the Nativity

By Kenneth D. MacHarg
Missionary Journalist

The manger scene is the centerpiece for many during the Christmas season. Those figurines of Mary and Joseph, Jesus in the cradle, cattle and donkeys, some wise men and the shepherds help to remind us that the reason for the season is the birth of the world's Savior two thousand years ago.



Yet, to modern, urban people, the imagery of a small, Middle-Eastern town, a cattle stall filled with hay, animals and the crisp night air can be a little difficult to comprehend. Certainly, for comfortable Americans the poverty and simplicity of that humble birth is beyond our experience.

One Christmas, however, I came close to the beginning of an understanding of how it might have been. As part of our ministry in Ecuador, my wife Polly and I took two Christmas films to show at a neighborhood party being sponsored by an Ecuadorian Christian. He owned a simple garage, one of those open-air lots bordered on both sides by undulating zinc roofing that served to protect the auto bays on rainy days. The lot was surrounded by unpainted concrete block walls and faced the intersection of two busy streets. It was far from glamorous, really quite simple, somewhat dirty. A few junk cars littered the back of the lot, and there was a makeshift three-room building along one wall where a family lived to guard the property.

Just days before the event, the owner came up with the idea of a Christmas party to share the gospel. He and his family worked hard to prepare a small package of cookies, candy and a gospel tract for each guest. They ordered films, lined up some benches, rigged a sheet for a movie screen and prayed for the best. Then, they went door to door in the surrounding Quichua-speaking indigenous neighborhood, passing out a simple flyer inviting residents to come to the party. "I thought that we might get 25-50 people," he told me. "I just wanted to share the Christmas gospel with them."

The response was overwhelming. Nearly 150 people showed up, and more came throughout the evening. Mothers nursing babies, children excited about the possibility of receiving gifts, fathers on their way home from work, teenagers out for a social occasion. The benches overflowed and the family scrambled to set up more makeshift seats. Other family members divided up the cookies and candy into smaller packages and a few were sent out to a nearby store to buy more supplies. "I can't believe how many have come," the owner beamed as he rushed to the gate to greet a family of latecomers. Everyone was welcome whether there was room or not.

We began the movies just before dusk. On the sheet/screen, the old story of the simple birth in the poor conditions of the stable played out. Even though some of the children became restless, few left. The audience watched the story unfold in front of them, perhaps for the first time.

I looked over the scene. A rough shelter covered those who watched and protected them from the night dew. Dogs roamed through the yard, mothers wrapped their children in woven blankets as the temperature dropped with the approach of the evening. I half expected a few shepherds to show up. We had seen some not too long before high on the treeless, wind-swept paramo of the Andean highlands. Rugged people living at altitudes of up to 12,000 feet, seeking refuge in grass shelters. From there they must have been able to see the lights of Quito reflecting against the sky, beckoning them to the warmth and excitement of the city. Could there have been a light, a star to guide them to the humble garage where the Savior of the world was being born again, this time in the hearts of those who came to seek Him?

As we packed away the projector and got ready to return home, I realized that I was probably closer to experiencing the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem than I had ever been. That, more than gifts or carols, dinners or parties, even candlelight services, was Christmas for me.

Kenneth D. MacHarg is a Missionary Journalist living in Carrollton, Georgia. He is the author of ***From Rio to the Rio Grande, Challenges and Opportunities in Latin America.***

Christ has come!

You are in your car driving home. Thoughts wander to the game you want to see or meal you want to eat, when suddenly a sound unlike any you've ever heard fills the air. The sound is high above you. A trumpet? A choir? A choir of trumpets? You don't know, but you want to know. So you pull over, get out of your car, and look up. As you do, you see you aren't the only curious one. The roadside has become a parking lot. Car doors are open, and people are staring at the sky. Shoppers are racing out of the grocery store. The school football game across the street has come to a halt. Players and parents are searching the clouds. And what they see, and what you see, has never before been seen.

As if the sky were a curtain, the drapes of the atmosphere part. A brilliant light spills onto the earth. There are no shadows. None.

You see every hue ever seen and a million more never seen. Riding on the flow is an endless fleet of angels. They pass through the curtains one myriad at a time, until they occupy every square inch of the sky.

North. South. East. West. Thousands of silvery wings rise and fall in unison, and over the sound of the trumpets, you can hear the cherubim and seraphim chanting, Holy, holy, holy. The final flank of angels is followed by twenty-four silver-bearded elders and a multitude of souls who join the angels in worship.

Presently the movement stops and the trumpets are silent, leaving only the triumphant triplet: Holy, holy, holy. Between each word is a pause. With each word, a profound reverence. You hear your voice join in the chorus. You don't know why you say the words, but you know you must.

Suddenly, the heavens are quiet. All is quiet. The angels turn, you turn, the entire world turns and there He is. Jesus.

Through waves of light you see the silhouetted figure of Christ the King. He is atop a great stallion, and the stallion is atop a billowing cloud. He opens his mouth, and you are surrounded by his declaration: I am the Alpha and the Omega.

The angels bow their heads. The elders remove their crowns. And before you is a Figure so consuming that you know, instantly you know: Nothing else matters. Forget stock markets and school reports. Sales meetings and football games. Nothing is newsworthy. All that mattered, matters no more.... for Christ has come.

The Tablecloth

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve'

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home.

On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus.. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet.. 'Pastor,' she asked, 'where did you get that tablecloth?' The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her

Tablecloth continued next page

A HEARTWARMING CHRISTMAS

By Rev. Doug Forbe

Home is where the heart is, and our hearts and minds often turn toward home during the holiday season. This is a time of year when we remember loved ones, as well as a time to make our world a little better and a little brighter. It is a time of year when kindness reigns, and we try to help others.

It is also a great time of year to remember Gods' great love for us. There are many heartwarming Christmas specials on television and video this time of year. One of my favorite specials is "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

After a great flurry of activity and problems, Charlie Brown asks what Christmas is all about. Linus responds by reading a part of the Christmas story and concludes with the simple words "That's what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown."

Let's take a few minutes to read this simple, heartwarming passage once more. It goes like this: "*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*" Luke 2:9-14.

The good news is that God loves every one of us, and we don't need to be afraid. We also have an important job to do. We should seek to bring God's peace and good will to our world. We can do this by reaching out beyond ourselves and sharing God's great love this holiday season through kind words and deeds.

We can tell people that God's greatest gift to mankind is his Son Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins. We can accept His free gift of eternal life by asking Him to forgive our sins, come into our hearts and make us members of His family.

If you have just asked Jesus to come into your heart, please write and tell us so that we can rejoice with you! May peace on earth and good will toward all fill our hearts this Christmas season. And, may you have a Merry Christmas and your best New Year yet!

Reason for writing:

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Major merger announcement - Chrisnuka

Continuing the current trend of large-scale mergers and acquisitions, it was announced today at a press conference that Christmas and Chanukah will merge. An industry source said that the deal had been in the works for about 1300 years.

While details were not available at press time, it is believed that the overhead cost of having twelve days of Christmas and eight days of Chanukah was becoming prohibitive for both sides. By combining forces, we're told, the world will be able to enjoy consistently high-quality service during the 15 Days of Chrisnukah, as the new holiday is being called.

Massive layoffs are expected, with lords a-leaping and maids a-milking being the hardest hit. As part of the conditions of the agreement, the letters on the dreydl, currently in Hebrew, will be replaced by Latin, thus becoming unintelligible to a wider audience.

Also, instead of translating to A great miracle happened there, the message on the dreydl will be the more generic Miraculous stuff happens. In exchange, it is believed that Jews will be allowed to use Santa Claus and his vast merchandising resources for buying and delivering their gifts. In fact, one of the sticking points holding up the agreement for at least three hundred years was the question of whether Jewish children could leave milk and cookies for Santa, even after having eaten meat for dinner. A breakthrough came last year when Oreos were finally declared to be kosher. All sides appeared happy about this development except for Santa's dentist. He then closed the press conference by leading all present in a rousing rendition of Oy, Come all Ye Faithful.

Tablecloth from Page 19

husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike.

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

Christmas???

Happy Solstice, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza

Sorry for the delay...our Legal Department just approved the following Holiday Greeting:

To All Good News Readers:

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday(tm), practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all . . . and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2000, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great, (not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only "AMERICA" in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual orientation of the wishee.

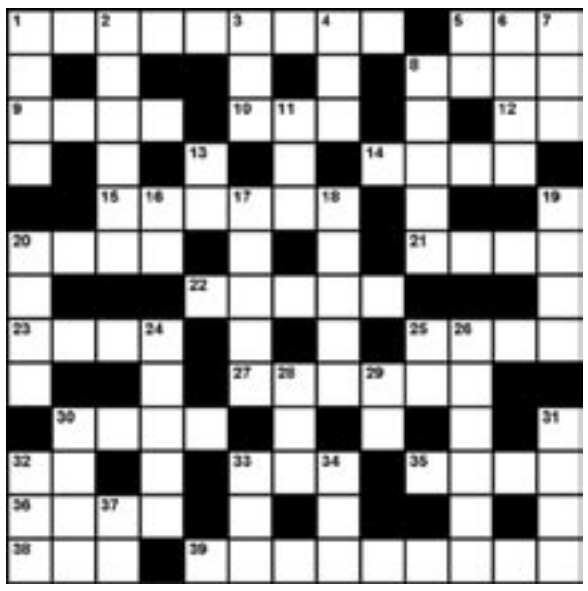
By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms: This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

See I told you this place was big enough. Look at all the shepherds and angels coming right in to see little Jesus.

Soul Food

Christmas Crossword 2007

by Colin



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(Solution on Page 21)

Across

1 Jesus' birthplace
5 Herod slew the children of this age and under
8 Peter quoted his words on the day of Pentecost
9 "A ___ shaken with the wind"
10 "Ye shall find ___ babe wrapped in swaddling clothes"
12 The year from Jesus' birth
14 Anna was of this tribe (as recorded in Luke)
15 "Behold, a ___ shall be with child"
20 "Fruits ___ for repentance"
21 The wise men came from here
22 "He shall reign of the house of ___ for ever"
23 A female ancestor of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 1
25 The amount of manna to be gathered per person
27 He multiplied the widow's oil
30 "As soon as the voice of thy salvation sounded in mine ___"
32 An altar meaning witness (Joshua 22)
33 To increase
35 Malarial fever
36 To guide
38 There was no room here
39 These men went to see the baby Jesus

Down

1 "Mary, of whom was ___ Jesus"
2 Jesus' age when he was taken to Jerusalem
3 Jesus did not do this in the wildnerness
4 Adam's wife
5 "Mary was espoused ___ Joseph"
6 "They that ___ soft clothing are in kings' houses"
7 Zacharias said, "I am an ___ man"
8 Grandson of 23
11 A place near Bethel
13 "A pair of turtledoves ___ two young pigeons"
16 "That ___ might be fulfilled"
17 "The ___ of God was upon him"
18 Mother-in-law of 23
19 This went before the wise men
20 The mother of Jesus
24 He was king at the time of Jesus' birth
25 "___ that one would hear me!"
26 Jesus was laid in this
28 The spirit did this to Jesus in the wilderness
29 Thus
30 The first garden
31 "Where is he that is born king of the ___?"
32 A priest in the time of Samuel
33 A tree of the olive family
34 To put into water
37 "___ angel of the Lord appeareth"

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Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. - Matthew 1:23

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Amazing Grace Church is now meeting at 6PM on Sundays in the basement of All Saints Episcopal Church, 111 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886 (near Pontiac Mills)

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- **Wednesday: Evening Prayer 6:00pm - 7:00pm**
- **Friday: Evening Prayer 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

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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

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170 Fairview Ave • Coventry, RI • 401-821-7609
www.churchoftheapostlesri.org
e-mail: churchoffice@churchoftheapostlesri.org
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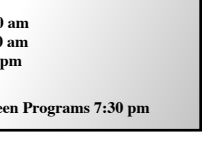
www.nhcc.ws
Service Times:
Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evenings: 7:00 p.m.
Prayer begins at 6:15



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www.carenetri.org

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www.thechurchoftheendtimes.com

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www.godsfamilychurchri.org
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TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY : 10:00AM & 7:00PM
THURSDAY PRAYER WARRIORS : 7:00PM
DAILY PRAYER MONDAY-FRIDAY : 12 NOON

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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.

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www.cathedraloflife.com

(parking is on Troy Street)
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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.

Christian Assembly

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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
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Friday 7:00 p.m. Youth Service
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Sunday Worship service: 10:30 am

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

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Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday Service
Adult Bible Study, Children & Teen Programs 7:30 pm

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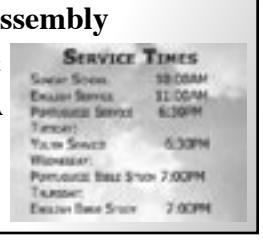

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508-324-4500 ext 31

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Quidnick Baptist Church

484 Fairview Avenue
Coventry
821-2465

Sunday Service - 10:00 am
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 am
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

River of Life Church

202 Congress Ave Providence, RI 02907 401-461-0229
Services:
Sunday 2PM
Morning Prayer Tuesday 6 -7 AM
Bible Study Tuesday 7-9 PM
Pastor Janice Thompson
igotariver@aol.com

Spirit & Truth

United Pentecostal Church

45 Shawmut Ave
Central Falls, RI 02863

(401) 722-8001
Sunday Service: 3:00 p.m.

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 - 7:30 pm

December Highlights

7p.m. -Treasured Hearts Ministry Theatre Troupe announces the following event! **"Something Wonderful"** to be performed on Dec 7 - 8, 2007 at New Hope Christian Church in Swansea,MA 508-324-4500 www.treasuredheartsministry .com

7p.m. - Dec 8. Andrew Peterson Presents "Behold the Lamb of God" the true tall of the Coming of Christ: featuring Bebo Norman, Sara Grooves, Jill Phillips, Andy Gullahorn, Andrew Osanga, New Milford High School, Ct (877-261-ROCK or RTSTickets.com

Dec 7 & 8th -The Perfect Gift Christmas Bazaar Pawtuxet Baptist Church - Annual Bazaar & Silent Auction 2157 BroadSt, Cranston Fri, Dec 7, 4:30pm- 8:30pm, Sat Dec 8, 9am- 4pm.Christmas items; Baked goods; Flea market items; Craft work; Jewelry; Wood products; Snowflake Cafe; Face painting;Our Silent Auction, & more! Pawtuxet Baptist Church 2157 Broad Street Cranston, RI 02905 401-461-3635

Dec 9- Christmas Toy Drive at The Artic Mission, Drop off New toys at 1221 Main St, W Warwick. Call 401-828-9400 for details.
Dates/Times for Distribution:
Fri, Dec 14 - 10am-1pm
Sat, Dec 15 - 10am-2pm
Sun, Dec 16 - 1pm-4pm

Dec 15-16 - Christmas Tableaus 6:30-7:30 p.m. -on going tours. Join us for guided tours thru scenes of The Christmas Story. Complete with live animals & characters. Perryville Bible Church.org 401-783-9824 in case of inclement weather.

Newport Seal Watch Tours- Aboard its Marine education vessel "Aletta Morris" - Educators provide expert commentary on the Bay's migratory Seals. Binocular's are provided for on the 1 hour trip near Rose Island. Runs weekends & school vacatioon week, now thru May 08. Bowen's Ferry Landing, Newport. 401-324-6020 www.savebay.org

"A Christmas Carol" Charles Dickens" A Christmas Carol. Directed by Fred Sullivan Jr. Now thru 12/30, Trinity Repertory Co. 201 Washington St. Providence,401-351-4242, www.trinityrep.com for tickets & times

1 Saturday

7:30 p.m. - "Word of Life Worship Team" Christian Contemporary worship. The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI 401-823-5330 www.thearticmission.org

3 Monday

7 p.m.- Christian Support Group For Addictions: Christ-centered 10-Step Support Group to help with addictions. Higher Ground Ministry Meetings, every Monday at Harvest Fellowship Church of God, 72 Washington St., West Warwick. Please call 826-1389 for more info. www.higherground ministry.org

4 Tuesday

7p.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

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

5 Wednesday

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

7p.m. Family Night Adult BibleStudy, RoyalRangers (Boys) Missionettes (girls) Daisies (Kindergarten) Rainbows (3 &4 yrs) Prims (1st-2nd grades); Stars (3rd-5th grades) Friends (6th-8th grades) Christian Fellowship Center 818 Church St, New Bedford MA. 508-995-9996, www.cfc818.org

7p.m. - A 12 Step Group - All Addictions - Every Wednesday, Free of charge, North Providence Assembly of God, 244 Lexington Ave, N. Providence RI. call Pastor Mike 401-353-0670

12–1p.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

6 Thursday

7 p.m. – Teen/Youth Night. every Thursday Meshanticut Park Church, 180 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920. 401-942-4616 or www.mpcri.org

7 p.m. – Celebrate Recovery for men and women every Thursday at Christian Hill Community Church. 1745 Main Street, West Warwick.

7 Friday

7 p.m. - Ground Zero Youth Service with Teen-Led Worship and Relevant BibleTeaching. 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 p.m. – "Satellite" Youth Night (Grades 9 – 12) and "Flip Side" Jr. High Night 6th -8th grade. Every Friday. Christian Hill Community Church. 1745 Main Street, West Warwick. 401-823-0285

8 Saturday

7:00 a.m. - Men's Fraternity II "Winning at Work and Home", the first Saturday morning of each month, Faith Bible Chapel at 115 Ashaway Rd (Rt 3) Westerly, RI 401-348-9637

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

7:30p.m. - Handel's Messiah - The majestic favorite presented in a special collaboration by two Rhode Island's musical treasure, Providence singers & RI Philharmonic at Providence Veterans Memorial Auditorium 248-7000 for tickets

7:30p.m.- "Crimson Rain" Christian Contemporary/Rock . The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI, 401-823-5330 www.thearticmission.org

9 Sunday

Dec 9- Christmas Toy Drive at The Artic Mission, Drop off New toys, 1221 Main St, W Warwick. Call 401-828-9400 for details.

9:00 a.m. - Men's Fraternity I "The Quest for Authentic Manhood" every Sunday morning here at Faith Bible Chapel at 115 Ashaway Rd(Rt 3) Westerly, RI 401-348-9637

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

6 p.m. –Underground 101- every Sunday. Gatherings feature, live music, spoken word, art exhibits, drama, movies, discussions, comedy. Ages 21 - 35. 244 Lexington Avenue, North Providence, RI 401-353-8330

7p.m. – Healing & Miracles. Every Sunday. Come experience this awakening move of God. Be empowered and trained to move in signs and wonders, to walk in your redemptive rights. Call for directions – The Well of RI 401-946-3907

12 Wednesday

12–1 p.m. – 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

13 Thursday

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

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

15 Saturday

Dec 15-16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Christmas Tableaus-on going tours. Join us for guided tours thru scenes of The Christmas story. Complete with live animals & characters. Perryville Bible Church.org 401-783-9824 in case of inclement weather.

Rest Stop Coffee House
sponsored by Christian Fellowship Center
818 Church Street • New Bedford
7 PM to 9 PM

Set awhile and soak in God's presence while you enjoy some coffee, a snack and listen to some great music centered in God's Word.
Each month we will have a different local band for your listening pleasure.
The Rest Stop Coffee House will be held on the Last Friday of each Month.
This is a time for the adults to relax and enjoy a time of fellowship. If you bring children they will be your responsibility, please keep them with you at all times.

DECEMBER Calendar

7:30 p.m.- "4 A Cross" Christian Contemporary/Rock . The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.thearticmission.org

16 Sunday

9:30 /11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Christmas Canta Christian Fellowship Center, 818 Church Street New Bedford, MA, for more info call 508-995-9996 Website: www.cfc818.org

20 Thursday

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

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

21 Friday

7:30-9p.m. Christmas Wassail Night with Grace Worship Band presenting traditional and unique Christmas music and sing-along carols. The evening includes special refreshments and 19th-century costumes.GraceEvangelical Lutheran Church, 1055 Randolph Rd. Middletown. Admission is free. For directions and more information, call 860-346-2641www.GraceMiddletownorg

22 Saturday

7:30p.m. - "Special Event" The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.thearticmission.org

25 Tuesday

Merry Christmas

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. ***Matthew 1:24***

27 Thursday

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

28 Friday

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

Mens Covenant Meeting at Cathedral of Life last Friday of the month please call 401-780-8900 for time. 433 Elmwood Ave, Provience, RI

30 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

31 Monday

New Year's Eve

First Night Newport- Ring in the New Year at this family-oriented celebration of arts and culture in Newport, culimating with a Firework display over the Newport Harbor!! Citywide Newport 410-845-9123 www.FirstNightNewport.org

Bright Night Providence- Artist-run arts -oriented New Year's Eve celebration carries on the tradition of First Night Providence. Downtown Providence. 401-351-2596,www.brightnightprovidence.org

2p.m -midnight, First Night Westerly- Is an alcohol-free celebration of the performing arts held thru-out downtown Westerly. Features music, dancing, theatre, a grand procession, storytelling puppet shows and much more Westerly Broad & High St. 401- 596-7761 www.westerlychamber.org

First Night Westerly

First Night Westerly is an alcohol-free celebration of the performing arts held at numerous locations in downtown Westerly on New Year's Eve. It features music, dancing, theatre, a grand procession, storytelling, puppet shows, magicians and more.

12/31/2007 - 12/31/2007

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MINISTRIES

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

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

Bible hour every Wednesday 2:30-3: 30 p.m. at R.I. Veterans home. 480 Metacom Ave., Bristol RI 02809 all are welcome

MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNATIONAL Mothers and Grandmothers meeting weekly to pray for their children or grandchildren and the schools they attend. GROUPS NOW FORMING IN RI. Call Susan at 397-5611 for more info. If you not praying for your children, who is?

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

Shalom - We have good news for you. Every Saturday at 11:30 p.m. channel 14 in R.I. you can watch a Messianic Jewish program "Shalom from Olive Tree" 1-800-418-8281

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" Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of the lord!" 1 Corinthians 10:31

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Meats from Page 15

om) and share it, if you want. Let people know that processed meats are dangerous for their health.

What's next: The future of processed meats

My research tells me that **chemical additives in processed meats are emerging as the next big food safety issue to hit mainstream awareness**. Just a few years ago, most consumers had never heard of trans fats or the dangers of hydrogenated oils, for example. But once that issue went mainstream, fast food restaurants all over the country announced changes to avoid hydrogenated oils.

I believe that sodium nitrite in processed meats is the next big food safety issue that's about to break into mainstream awareness. More and more consumers are suddenly aware that hot dogs promote cancer, or that bacon consumption is incredibly bad for your health. As awareness of this issue builds, there's going to be increasing political pressure to pass laws that protect the public by strictly limited or banning the use of sodium nitrite in processed meats.

The meat industry, of course, which seems to have absolutely no respect for human or animal life, will fight this every inch of the way. The people in charge of meat-producing companies exhibit zero concern for the health of the consumers who actually eat their products, and they remain entirely focused on the profits to be had from selling more toxic meat products to gullible consumers.

But just like Big Tobacco's marketing methods and fraudulent science was finally exposed as wholesale fraud, the processed meat industry is going to have to face scientific facts sooner or later: Sodium nitrite promotes cancer, and **eating processed meat products substantially increases your risk of cancer**. There's no denying it or arguing about it, at least not by any sane person. Eating cancer-causing chemicals is blatantly and irrefutably dangerous to your health.

Why some people commit nutritional suicide

Of course, many low-income, low-education consumers still continue to smoke cigarettes AND eat processed meat products. But the smart consumers are wising up and increasingly opting for healthier foods made without dangerous chemicals.

There are people in society today who exhibit a strong desire to commit nutritional suicide. For those people, there is beef jerky, hot dogs, frozen pizza, cigarettes and over-hyped "energy" drinks. The future of these people is easy to see: Cancer, diabetes, heart disease, chemotherapy, pharmaceuticals, pain, death and bankruptcy.

There are people in society today who exhibit a strong desire to commit nutritional suicide. For those people, there is beef jerky, hot dogs, frozen pizza, cigarettes and over-hyped "energy" drinks.

Oscar Mayer's Cotto Salami magnified 1X. Here, you can clearly see some of the texture, the fat blobs and some dark spices that appear to be spices. This gives you a fairly close-up picture that you might be able to see with the naked eye.

Thankfully, there are other people who believe in taking care of their health and in living informed lives with outstanding health. For these people, there are living foods, superfoods, raw cacao, sprouts, rainforest herbs, sunshine, juicing and joyful exercise. Their future is also clear: Exceptional mental performance, freedom from chronic pain, excellent vitality and longevity, spiritual awareness, abundant living and much more. Which group do you want to belong to?

You make that decision every time you shop for food. When you buy processed meats, you put yourself on a timeline track towards disease, suffering and medical victimization. But when you avoid meat products and focus on a plant-based diet, you are creating a future filled of abundance and health. It's up to you to decide which of these futures you'd rather create.

Regardless of which future you choose, there's no judgment from me. You're free to do what you want with your life and your own body. Some people choose to abuse their bodies as chemical playgrounds, living in the moment and dying young. That's their choice. Others choose to extend their lives and honor their bodies (as the temple of the Holy Spirit), living an extended, purpose-filled life. That's God honoring. I just want people to *live consciously* and understand that *their decisions create results*.

Anyone who decides to eat processed meat products on a repeated basis is simply creating a result. That result is cancer, and over enough years, that cancer will grow to the point where it shows up on a scan. That's when the doctor says, "You have cancer" and starts prescribing even more toxic chemicals known as chemotherapy agents. This is not a disease with an unknown cause. In fact, **cancer is incredibly easy to both prevent AND cure -- but only if you understand the fundamentals of nutrition**.

For now, just remember: Processed meats = sodium nitrite = cancer. If you don't want cancer, don't eat processed meats. Ever. (And if you really want to be healthy, eat a plant-based diet for life. But that's another article altogether...) Genesis 1:29&30

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For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

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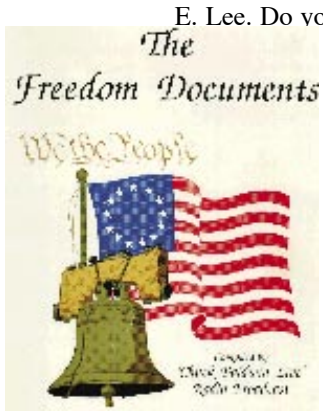
Make Yours a Patriotic Christmas

By Chuck Baldwin

A few years ago, I sadly discovered that it was next to impossible to find our nation's great historic documents together in one volume, so we decided to fix that problem. It took us a full year to research and compile over 50 of our country's greatest historical documents, but we did it!



Now you can have these great documents at your fingertips in one beautifully bound, easy to read format. This compilation includes the documents that gave birth to the greatest free nation on earth. Nowhere else that we know of can you find these documents, complete in one volume, under one title. We call this magnificent collection THE FREEDOM DOCUMENTS.

Media personalities such as MSNBC's Joe Scarborough, and judges such as the former Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, Roy S. Moore, also own THE FREEDOM DOCUMENTS. Even the state Supreme Court in Tennessee ordered several copies. Pastors, teachers, high school and college students, law and history students, and home schoolers have found THE FREEDOM DOCUMENTS immensely valuable to the study of American history and civics.

Included in this remarkable volume are documents such as The Mayflower Compact, The First Thanksgiving Proclamation, the complete text of Patrick Henry's immortal "Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death" speech, The Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms, The Northwest Ordinance of 1787, George Washington's Farewell Address, etc.

We have also included several letters written between John and Abigail Adams as well as letters written by General Robert E. Lee. Do you remember the poem about Paul Revere's ride? Well, it, too, is included in this compilation. Also included is the letter written from within the Alamo by William Barret Travis to the people of Texas. Of course, the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights are also there.

This giant compilation includes more than 50 documents, over 170 full-sized pages complete with a spiral ring binding for easy copying, and a professionally designed color cover. This volume is must-reading for every American patriot! Many people are buying multiple copies as special patriotic Christmas gifts.

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• That the Lord Jesus Christ will return to this earth and judge all men.

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