

The Good News TODAY

FREE

FEBRUARY 2008

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And the gospel must first be published among all nations. - Mark 13:10

Breaking the Ice

By Ralph C. Davis

Brrrr! It was a snappy 16 degrees outside when, fully bundled up, I put air in my tire. Even the extra layers didn't help! I could not wait to get back into my warm car. I well remember how miserably cold I was a year ago when I sat on an ice cold bleacher seat to watch a high school football game. At least with the football game I chose to suffer and knew that I could easily leave for warmer spots. Come to think of it, times when we have to remain outside in uncomfortably cold situations for extended periods are rare or non-existent. How fortunate we are because as we read this article there are an untold number of individuals shivering throughout the night sleeping outdoors in the warmest spot they can find.



Pastor Gene Giguere, senior pastor of the Harvest Community Church in Woonsocket, RI

Many people run hot and cold on the issue. Hot: "Why isn't anyone doing anything about this?" or "It's their own fault, they should get jobs, be responsible, etc" Cold: "Don't look at me, I can't do anything!" Or "If they were cold enough they would do something about it..." Trouble is, people can argue and debate, sympathize or ridicule, point fingers or simply ignore it. The facts don't change, however; there are human beings who do not have a warm place to sleep or adequate food in their stomachs day after day. Ironically, there is little that separates us from them; our circumstances could change and cause us to have insufficient income or resources to live comfortably, then what?

Breaking the Ice continued Page 4

In His hands at Teen Challenge

Celebrating 50 Years with director Jacqueline Strothoff

By Michelle A. Couchon

"I tell you a truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

For many of you here in Rhode Island, the name "Teen Challenge" implies a place strictly for teens. The name couldn't be more misleading. The fact of the matter is that this Christian based rehabilitation center is for anyone and everyone who is experiencing a life controlling issue. Whether you are young, old, male or female; whether you are a Christian, an athe-

ist, or one of the many denominations in between, Teen Challenge will accept you. The name "Teen Challenge" is merely a carryover from fifty years ago—fifty years ago this year, in fact--when it was known as "Teenage Evangelism". Back then it was a simple ministry that reached out to teenage gang members on the streets. Today Teen Challenge is comprised of a staggering 220 centers in the United States alone, and an additional 120 centers worldwide. It is one of the very few successful Christian based rehabilitation centers in New England and across the country.



Jacqueline Strothoff

Teen Challenge continued Page 3

Fulfilled for Eternity

By Lee Adler

To tell the story of my walk in Christ up to now is to tell the story of how a gracious God dealt with an entire family. I was born in Brooklyn, NY in the mid-50's to a Mom and Dad who loved me very much as the first of



Lee Adler

and kept many of the rules and regulations that define most peoples' understanding of Judaism. They kept the Sabbath, to an extent. They went to synagogue, most of the time. They kept a kosher home, usually. And they kept close ties with their parents.

My Dad's job with the Social Security Administration moved us to Baltimore. Though there is a strong Jewish presence in that area, the change seemed to provide my family with the opportunity to change the way in which we practiced our faith. We joined a Reform synagogue, abandoning some of the defining practices in the process. About the time that I began studying for my Bar Mitzvah, my father became disillusioned with the attitudes of the Temple, and of most of the Jewish infrastructure. He announced we no longer would be attending synagogue, and would instead "worship God in our own way." As you might imagine, this soon degraded to no worship at all.

Nevertheless, God was in the wings, engineering outcomes as only He is able to do.

Fulfilled continued Page 5

five children. My parents both came from a somewhat conservative Jewish heritage,

Oprah and Friends teach a course on New Age Christ

By Warren Smith

Oprah Winfrey will be letting out all the stops on her XM Satellite Radio program this coming year. Beginning January 1, 2008, "Oprah & Friends" started offering a year-long course on the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles*.¹ A lesson a day throughout the year will completely cover the 365 lessons from the *Course in Miracles* "Workbook."

For example, Lesson #29 asks you to go through your day affirming that "God is in everything I see."² Lesson #61 tells each person to repeat the affirmation "I am the light of the world."³ Lesson #70 teaches the student to say and believe "My salvation comes from me."⁴

By the end of the year, "Oprah & Friends"

listeners will have completed all of the lessons laid out in the *Course in Miracles* Workbook. Those who finish the Course



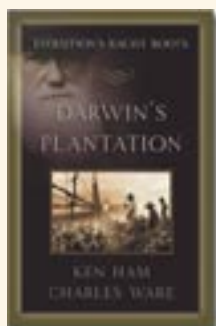
will have a wholly redefined spiritual mindset—a New Age worldview that includes the belief that there is no sin, no

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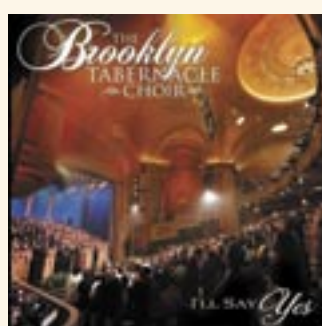
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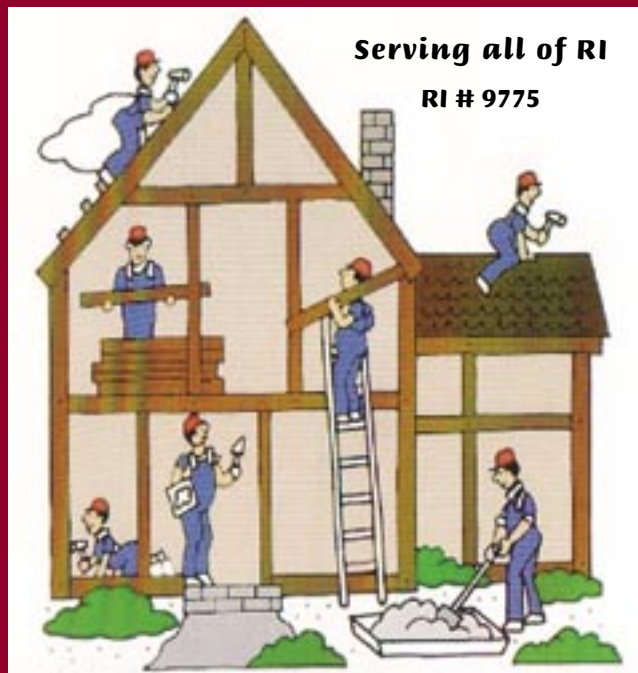
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Teen Challenge from Page 1

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing the director of the woman's Teen Challenge Center here in Providence, RI, and was quite frankly amazed at the many traumatic and heart wrenching obstacles she has managed to overcome in her lifetime. By the time Pastor Jacqueline Strothoff hit rock bottom, she had *nothing*...nothing but a tiny amount of faith, no larger than the size of a mustard seed.

Jacqui was born in Pittsburgh PA the oldest of six children. In her opinion she had a fairly normal childhood—good parents and a nice home in the suburbs. Yet at an early age Jacqui became aware of an emptiness inside her, an emptiness that caused her to view her young life as futile and meaningless.

Many of us can claim to have felt this way at one time or another in our lives, but few of us actually embark upon that path of self-destruction that inevitably leads to drugs and suicide. That is the path, however, that Jacqui chose, albeit unwittingly; after all, she was only 12 years old when she first began to experiment with alcohol and drugs. Addiction does not discriminate, it takes whomever it can, and when it enters into your life you can be fairly certain that suicide - or the idea of suicide - is part of the package. Jacqui was 14 years old when she first attempted suicide; she slashed her wrist open with a razor blade. That was how it started.

When Jacqui was 16 years old she found herself pregnant and married, married to a man who verbally and physically abused her at the slightest provocation. At 6 months pregnant she was rushed to the hospital, hemorrhaging from a beating inflicted upon her by her husband. Needless to say, she lost the baby; the doctors told her that it had been stillborn.

Several days later she went back to the hospital, where the doctors, after having discovered that she had been pregnant with twins, proceeded to surgically remove the second

child from her womb. They told her that she would never again be able to bear children, for the ordeal had left her sterile.

Her parents sent her to Pittsburgh to live with her grandparents, who then enrolled her in the private school from which she would graduate. In the fall of 1966 she entered Penn State University and looked forward to a "fresh start". Jacqui, however, had attempted several "fresh starts" before, always to wind up right back in the arms of drugs. This time was no different. During her first year at Penn state she was introduced to heroin, and from that point on her life truly became a rollercoaster

of ups, downs, and everything in between.

In 1972, while confined to a mental institution in Pittsburgh (placed there by her father), Jacqui was arrested, transferred back to Virginia, and charged with the illegal disposition of a dead body. She and her friend Michael had been partying heavily on a stash of stolen narcotics earlier that year when Michael passed out. Assuming he would come out of it sooner or later (this was not an uncommon occurrence with them), Jackie went to sleep herself. When she woke up the following morning she saw that he was dead; his body was ice cold and his lips were blue. She called another friend, who after confirm-



April 2007

ing that Michael was indeed dead, helped her to bury the body at a construction site. Jacqui was sentenced to treatment in a therapeutic community drug program, along with a suspended sentence.

Once out of the program Jacqui went back to the streets, and back to the drugs. Over the next few months Jacqui exhausted every treatment option available - from support groups to 12 step programs-- and yet she continually relapsed. In 1974 she again attempted to take her own life, and again she failed. By an ugly

any drugs. I had just...encountered Christ, and it totally captured me and changed my life. And that was it, I never left. I was there for a year before graduating the program."

After her graduation, Jacqui went on to attend the David Wilkerson Bible College—a leadership training academy designed specifically for people who had graduated from the program and wanted to continue working with addicts and alcoholics. She attended the college for two years—one year in training and one year interning in the teen challenge center located in

Riverside, California. By this time Jacqui had gotten married-- to a fellow Bible College graduate no less—and after finishing up her internship she joined her husband in New York. Over the years Jacqui and her husband had two children, a boy and a

girl; something the doctors had said was impossible.

For nearly 33 years Jacqui has been working in different ministries for the Lord. She has worked at several teen challenges across the country including New York and California and for nearly 2 years she worked directly for David Wilkerson on his crusade team in Texas. She went back to school in Springfield MO—to South West Missouri state where she received her bachelor's degree in social work. In 1988 Jacqui and her husband Robert were called to New England in order for Robert to lend a hand in the opening of a men's Teen Challenge. During their stay in Rhode Island, while

raise you up from here and use you to glorify His name."

In February of 1975, after being released from the hospital, Jacqui entered the Teen Challenge Center located in Dover, Pennsylvania. She was 27 years old. "While in Teen Challenge I had a very dramatic conversion. God just showed up and I had an encounter with him that totally transformed my life. The direction of my life changed seemingly overnight. I didn't really know what was happening to me, because I didn't have any Christian background. I had nothing to relate it to. But I knew that something very powerful was happening to me. I knew it wasn't drugs—I wasn't taking

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her husband did indeed help to open the men's center in Providence (a center that unfortunately has since closed), Jacqui was given the opportunity to at last fulfill a vision she had been given by the Lord some years back. This vision was, and is today, the Teen Challenge Center for Women located on Elmwood Ave. in Providence. And while Jacqui spent numerous years there as the director—"I was there the day we received our very first resident--Thanksgiving Day"--she inevitably gave up the position in order to move to Florida with her husband.

She and her husband moved to Florida in the late nineties, where they remained for several years in ministry for the Lord. While in Florida, Robert suffered a heart attack and was called home to glory. Shortly after his death, Jacqui moved back to New England, and in 2006 picked up right where she had left off --as Director of the Woman's Teen Challenge in Providence. She remains there still, an inspiration and a messenger of hope to all those who enter.

"The women who come to Teen Challenge tell me that they feel, from the very start, something different here. They feel "a warmth" that they never felt in a secular program. They feel a presence in the house, and although they cannot put their finger on it, they see something different in the staff as well. Rather than inundate or overwhelm them with all kinds of Gospel stuff, we just try to love them accept them, and get them settled in."

"I never imagined that me getting my life straight was going to last. I never had the hope or expectation that it would be anything other than short term. When I look back on it, it amazes me that it's

been 33 years. I've realized since that drugs were the least of my problems. I mean, if drugs were the real problem, then how come every time I got off drugs, I wasn't able to stay off drugs? I finally figured out that I didn't really have a drug problem, I had a sin problem I had a problem because I wasn't connected to the One who created me, the One who knew me best and loved me most. Once I made that connection, everything else started falling into place for me. Everything started making sense. After awhile I realized that being clean from drugs and alcohol is really the least of what God had done for me. He made me to be a person of purpose. He gave meaning to my life. And once he did that, once I had meaning in my life and I felt like I was a worthwhile and valuable person, it was just like...wow! It's amazing the difference that one life can make, when that life is in the hands of God."

For those interested in either visiting or entering into a Teen Challenge, the following is a list of the closest centers:

Teen Challenge for Men: Brockton, MA, (508) 586-1494 - Boston, MA (617) 474-2389 - New Haven, CT (203) 789-6172

Teen Challenge for Women: Providence, RI (401) 467-2970 - New Haven, CT (203) 773-1045

Teen Challenge for Adolescents: Fitchburg, MA (978) 345-2912

Teen Challenge is celebrating its 50TH Anniversary this year with a 4 day celebration which will take place in New York City. For more information and to order the 50th Anniversary DVD, go to www.teenchallengeusa.org.



Teen Challenge for Women, Elmwood Avenue house, Providence, RI

twist of fate her younger brother died from a drug overdose that same year. Unfortunately, it was an overdose that Jacqui played a part in, for she injected the cocaine that caused his untimely death. Subsequently, Jacqui was admitted to a hospital, placed in an isolation room and strapped down to the bed with an attendant sitting beside her. Jacqui could not have been in a more hopeless situation...or in a more hopeless state. It was while she was in this state that the Lord sent someone who would lead her to the saving power of Jesus Christ.

"If you surrender to Him, He will come into your heart and change you." Jacqui was told. "He will

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PO Box 2558
Providence, RI 02906
Phone/Fax 401-619-0418
E-mail larry@goodnewsinri.org
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Breaking the Ice from Page 1

Rhode Island abounds with churches; hundreds in fact, yet many people still lack the basic comforts: food, rest, and mission so vital to us all. It is unclear why so many churches at large have determined that aiding and equip-



Alison, Mary and Amy Giguere

ping the poor is someone else's job; could it be apathy, fear, or self-righteousness? Could it be that their actions and resources are focused on overseas missions rather than on the people all around them? It's so easy just to mail a check...and feel smug. Sure, it helps to have a food pantry open a few hours per week or an annual clothing drive but is it really enough when the truly hungry or desperately homeless are among their midst and largely ignored? Have they forgotten that Jesus' mission was to the poor, (Luke 4:18) or, His warning to those who ignore people in need of food, shelter, or clothing? (Matthew 25:35-46)

There are some within the homeless population, of course, who seem to have no desire to improve their circumstances and year after year they seek their creature comforts wherever they can. Some are governed by substance abuse and some are emotionally unstable. These folks are those that we are quickest to judge. There are, however, many who are there due to circumstances beyond their control. For example, a growing number of the homeless are hard working people who were driven out of their apartments or houses due to much higher rents and rising utility costs. Even with the income of a husband and wife combined, it is very difficult to keep afloat. This group is referred to as the "Working Poor" by Pastor Gene Giguere and others.

Pastor Gene is the senior pastor of the Harvest Community Church in Woonsocket, RI, a church that decided to do something about helping the homeless. He said that the church was introduced to the homeless problem in a big way when three homeless men attended their church service on an eleven-degree Sunday morning. After the service he learned that they were homeless. That night Pastor Gene

had trouble sleeping; lying in his warm bed he was acutely aware that his "dog was better cared for than many humans." Pastor Gene and Associate Pastor Steve Bacon went out to try to find them the next day to learn how they might be able to help out. They located one of the men near railroad tracks and he was eager to talk and to show them around. He ultimately showed them 12 "camps" where this

"Invisible population" stays. The camps are makeshift tents or shelters erected wherever they can get away with it.

Pastor Gene is missionary minded. Born in Woonsocket he has one brother and one sister. He decided to profess his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior while serving with the US Navy in Sicily in 1981. Later his girlfriend, Mary, accepted the Lord as well. They married and now have two girls in college, Amy and Alison. Pastor Gene and Mary later became missionaries in Thessalonica, Greece where they started a Bible School. They also helped build a church in Bulgaria and spent time in Macedonia. After four years they returned to the US. Pastor Gene and Harvest Community like to call themselves missionaries to Woonsocket. The church, in fact is perfectly located in the center of it all, easily accessible by all. It is no surprise that the church decided, missionary fashion, to address a problem head-on, to plow forward and do what needed to be done. In their sixth year their shelter, referred to as their "Sanctuary Ministry" is truly a success.

One very cold evening last month my son Matthew and I went to visit the ministry. I was there to interview and observe; Matt was there to photograph. There were twenty-four men there that night and most were awake and active although at 8pm. several were already sound asleep on their mats. The men, some of whom were watching a movie, appeared weary, perhaps having just spent a day walking the streets. There was some cheerful bantering going on. We learned of the diversity among the group; there were men of a variety of trades and abilities among them.

Some seemed at peace and some wary of Matt and I since we were two intruders in their territory.

We were greeted by Doug Lachance, director of the mission, his wife Mary, staff member Charles Britton and volunteer Scott Carpenter. Mary was visiting and frequently volunteers to help in many ways. The men love her homemade pies, a specialty, which she brings, warm from her oven. Seldom have I spoken with a group of people so totally committed to their mission. In this case, they assist in providing men with a warm meal and a bed for the night with a sincere non judgmental attitude and a Christian theme.

Doug Lachance spent most of his life in foster homes and other settings, he was ejected from the Child "welfare" system without a plan, resources, or supports due to his age. Doug was homeless for several years, eating at soup kitchens and sleeping in shelters and wherever else he could. His past, coupled with an increasing reliance on God's Word has shaped him into a determined man with an unwavering conviction to provide a listening ear and genuine interest in helping the men, and they know it. Don't call the men "Those people" in front of Doug because "Those people" are people, individuals who are valued by God and him and unique in their own ways. A most meaningful scripture that Doug shares with the men is Jeremiah 29:11 which reads: "For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

Charles Britton understands the needs of the men because he was once homeless. He has a competent, dependable look about him and he seems very capable of addressing anything that might come up. Because of his past he knows the needs, the frustrations and simply the ins and outs of homelessness. Scott is also an impressive presence; he has volunteered for over four years and seems quite proficient and committed to providing a caring and safe haven for the men.

The Harvest Community Church Sanctuary mission is a professionally operated, safe environment that can house up to thirty-five men. There are security cameras and a security person that stays awake each night as well as a volunteer. There is warm food for the men when they arrive at 7:30 pm and a secure place to store their belongings which in itself is unique; it is common for people who are homeless to carry all that they own with them each day. The area is very clean, and the sleeping mats are sterilized daily. "Why" a man is homeless is not questioned; the goal is to get him out of the cold for the night. The sanctuary mission operates from November 1 - March 30 each year.

Pastor Gene had an important meeting scheduled later in the day after our interview; a summit with four other Woonsocket churches which, working together, are a voice for change. These churches

are listed for two reasons: first they deserve recognition as ones who have left their comfort zone and, second, to illustrate the diversity of the churches in the group. They are the Apostolic Pentecostal Church (Pastor Ken Jarre), St. James Baptist Church (Pastor Sammy Vaughn), St Charles Catholic church (Father Jerry) and All Saints Catholic Church (Father Mark). This is not to be mistaken as a group of churches unifying and professing the "same faith." which has nothing to do with it. This amounts to five men attempting to become one voice to address critical needs in the city.

Harvest Community Church leaders and members moved forth in faith over five years ago to take on a project in which they had no knowledge or experience. Now they are doggedly moving towards opening a "transitional house" that could house up to twelve men at a time. People eligible for the home are those who display a true desire to help themselves. God's Will is done when a church moves forward in faith. With the group of pastors listed above all interested in accomplishing this goal, there is more clout and action.

There is an opportunity for much more to be done for the homeless and the poor in RI but first the disunity among churches must



Charles Britton (staff), Mary and Doug Lachance and volunteer Scott Carpenter

diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace..." Here, and other verses exhort churches to unify." Pastor Gene believes that churches have lost their voices through disunity for the following reasons: first, there have been scandals in churches which discredit them. Then, there is a major shift in thinking, as the Bible in

2 Timothy 4:3-4 describes this period: "For a time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." Enough said. Finally, there is division not only within churches but among churches.

Pastor Gene believes his church exists to "demonstrate the love of Christ to people; not just to staple a tract on their heads." By this he means that he has nothing against tracts, in themselves: instead it is the hit and run method used by so many churches which he dislikes. It is much more effective to meet a need, gain trust, and display His love first before proclaiming beliefs.

So there you have it, God's work in action, carried forth by a church body that cared enough to move

forward and create meaningful change in the lives of many men during the past six years. They would love to introduce you to some of the fruit they have borne. One in particular is Adam, age 32 who came to the ministry three years ago heavily addicted to drugs. He is now free of the substances and it actively taking steps to improve his lot.

cease. Churches, banded together regardless of "denomination," should speak against poverty and do something about it. They truly could become a voice for change and progress. To do less is to deny God and His Word. Pastor Gene reminds us of His Word in Ephesians 4:3 which reads: "Be

If you would like to learn more about the Harvest Community Church and Sanctuary Mission they are located at 60 North Main Street in Woonsocket. And they meet each Sunday at 10 am. Their phone number is 401-765-1777. Pastor Gene's Email address is dontoro1@earthlink.net

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Fulfilled from Page 1

While my dad explored different confessions and professions, my brothers were active in the Cub Scout pack that met at a local United Methodist Church. They sponsored a Cub Scout Sunday event that featured a speaker from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He testified of Jesus' saving power in his deliverance from drugs and alcohol abuse. My Dad was unimpressed, having been an upright individual all of his life. Yet he was in seeker mode. His testimony was, "I looked up to the ceiling and said, 'God, isn't there something for someone who hasn't lain in the gutter?' And I heard God say to me, 'Yes, there is! Follow Me!'" But Dad didn't go forward at that time. There was in that same Cub Scout pack another family. The dad was a lawyer, but the mom was the pastor of a United Church of Christ that met in South Baltimore. God put it together in such a way, with such acceptance on the part of the church and its members, that my dad and our whole family were baptized and received into membership in June of 1972.

But this is meant to be my testimony. The pastor gave our family a copy of "The New English Bible", which my dad looked through and then placed on a shelf in our dining room. Several months went by as I saw it laying there. Finally, in late September of 1972, I saw it and grabbed it. I said to my assembled family, "I think I'll take this Bible upstairs and read it. It's supposed to be ruling my life, you know." I decided that since I had a Jewish heritage, I wouldn't start in the Old Testament. So opening to Matthew, I began to read about the life of Jesus and His teachings. I soon arrived at the twelfth chapter and verses 31 and 32:

"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come. (NKJV)

I was shaken to the core, and cried out to God, concerned that perhaps I, by making light of this new found faith, had committed this unpardonable sin. It was my turn to hear the reassuring voice of God inside of me, saying "No, not yet; but unless you repent..." I didn't wait to hear anything more, but immediately asked God to forgive me and come into my life. Two years later, as a result of my father's involvement with the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship and other connections, I asked the Lord to fill me with the Holy Spirit, which He graciously did.

So began my spiritual journey. I found myself enjoying a youth fellowship that met in a Presbyterian church. I was entrusted with teaching the youth at the United Church of Christ where my family first joined. I became involved with a charismatic prayer group that met in an Episcopal church, leading as God gave me insight in His word.

All these things seemed to fit in

House Pets the Biggest Victims of US Economic Woes

By Jim Kouri

As the more and more private home foreclosures occur as a result of a slumping housing market and economy, the biggest -- and most silent -- losers are family pets who are being deserted by their owners.

"Economists and analysts are predicting a serious recession and politicians are making empty promises that could actually increase the suffering of Americans. Yet not one of the current presidential candidates in both parties is articulating a solution to the suffering of our most vulnerable creatures -- dogs and cats," warns political analyst Mike Baker.

"We're seeing quite a few animals being surrendered due to economic

reasons, including foreclosure," Angie Wood, assistant director of the Naperville, Illinois Humane Society, told the Chicago Tribune.

According to The Daily Green, Wood's shelter is currently caring for a small number of animals that were turned over when their owners lost their homes, including a cat, a black Labrador retriever and a shiba inu.



ForeclosureCats.org

Several animal welfare experts say the US is witnessing an increase in the number of abandoned animals as a result of the housing crunch. "It seems people are giving up their pets after they are forced to move to a place where animals are forbidden, or when they end up crowding in with family or friends who are not amenable to furry friends. It's also possible some folks just can't afford Fido or Fluffy's chow or vet bills anymore," said Woods

Last year, the number of homes at some level of bank foreclosure in the US more than doubled from the previous year -- one for every 196 homes, according to the tracking company RealtyTrac. In response, the Humane Society has issued a statement this past month saying

it is worried about what will happen to many of the country's millions of pets.

"We're finding too many animals who have starved to death," said Stephanie Shain, director of outreach for the Humane Society of the United States.

"While some people dump their pets on the street, others go so far as to lock the animal in a closet where their cries for help are harder to hear," she said.

with feelings I'd had for most of my life, even before I knew the Lord. As I have already said, my parents conveyed the concept of God to me at an early age, though somewhat shaded by common thinking of the era. A smattering of reincarnation and soul-sleep did not overshadow the need I perceived for the world to acknowledge God, one God, the only God there is. I was, and continue to be, perturbed by the lack of unity in the Church, daydreaming of a time when I might be able to say something that would somehow make the world turn about and face God squarely.

Now that the Lord had saved me, I sought for a way to prepare myself to minister according to knowledge and sound doctrine. I attended a bible study one evening and met Clarence Thomas, who often ministered in that meeting. He told me about Zion Bible Institute, formerly the Barrington Bible College, where he had graduated in 1948, and I knew that I needed to go there. I graduated in 1981 after completing the three-year program, and responded to the call of a small congregation in Coastal Maine. At the same time, I met and proposed to a fellow Zionian, my wife Kathy.

We enjoyed some early success,

but my ministry at that church was abbreviated due in large part to immaturity in the ministry and a lack of oversight. We have been back since and God has done an amazing work of healing in us and the congregation. However, we needed to make some changes, and we moved further south in New England to establish ourselves and raise our family. I took a succession of jobs in the Providence area, and became active in teaching Sunday School classes to adults and children within the framework of the Evangelical Covenant Church. God has since led us to other fellowships in the area to be of service in whatever way we could. We currently attend North Providence (RI) Assembly of God where my wife and I find varied opportunities to serve.

"It can take weeks for an animal to starve to death and desperate scratch and bite marks are usually found on doors and windows. They will eat anything -- furniture, or carpet or wallboard -- to try to ingest something," Shain said in a telephone interview.

Other Americans are also not waiting for government bureaucrats to address the problem of pet abandonment. They are springing into action to save the most vulnerable among us.

For example, after more than 60 cats were discovered weeks after abandonment in a Cincinnati house in May 2007, a local artist sprung into action. The felines were near death from starvation and soaked in urine, but Robin Moro adopted two, and created a

website, ForeclosureCats.org, to help the others. Artists around the country created portraits of the rescues, called the Foreclosure Cats Project, and an eBay auction of the resulting work was set up to raise funds for their care.

Animal welfare experts say that if someone can no longer care for their pets, the best and most humane thing would be to locate a reputable shelter or animal adoption group, rather than just releasing the pets to fend for themselves, or simply leaving them to fate in abandoned dwellings. According to Foreclosure Cats Project, in some cases, people have been able to re-adopt their animals after getting their physical, and financial, houses in order.

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National News

Rhode Island school to track students with RFID tags

By Jeff Johnson

OneNewsNow.com - A Rhode Island school district plans to begin using Radio Frequency Identification -- or RFID -- technology to track students, starting next week. But the plan is not without opposition. Neal McCluskey with the Cato Institute says while the program may have good intentions, it is still a bad idea.

The Middletown, Rhode Island, school district will attach RFID tags to the book bags of about 80 children who ride buses to and from school. The system is supposed to allow the district and parents to know whether their children are on the bus. Global Positioning System (GPS) devices will also allow officials and parents to locate buses.

A spokesperson for the district told *Associated Press* that the system will improve accountability and efficiency of the schools' transportation services. But McCluskey, education policy analyst for the Cato Institute, says Americans should be concerned any time any government entity, like a public school, wants to gather more information about them.

"And I think a lot of people, with good reason, see this sort of as the camel's nose under the tent of greater tracking, more

intrusion on personal freedom and independence," he says.

"It'll all be cast in terms like 'It's for their safety. It's for efficiency' -- which, you know, might be legitimate reasons to do it," the Cato Institute analyst acknowledges. "But when it comes from a government entity ... unless it's truly, fully voluntary, people are very worried that it's going to become something much bigger than it starts out as and it's a legitimate concern."

The fundamental problem, according to McCluskey, is that the plan will be imposed upon parents who pay for the school through their taxes and who may have legitimate concerns about privacy and other tracking applications of the technology -- such as tracking students during and after school.

In addition to privacy concerns and fears of expanded use of such electronic monitoring of children, security experts point out that the system would only track whether the RFID tag, not the actual child, is or is not on the bus. Advocates for school choice say the program is evidence of the laziness of some public school administrators, who should -- they say -- already have systems in place to know the location of every student for the entire school day.

Awana launches national campaign to tackle US youth crisis

ORLANDO, Fla. Christian News-wire - Awana, an international ministry that helps children and youth grow spiritually by learning to apply the Bible to their lives, has launched a national media campaign called *Project Joseph* to help kids, parents and churches work together to develop strong "spiritual champions" for Jesus Christ. The initiative was unveiled January 25 at the Children's Pastors Conference in Orlando, Fla.

The campaign is modeled after Joseph of the Old Testament, who

maintained his faith in spite of challenging circumstances. It features a life map for growing kids spiritually that plots out critical milestones to raising a Modern Day Joseph, while allowing for the uniqueness of each child.

Joining Awana officials in making the announcement was Pat Williams, Senior Vice President of the Orlando Magic and author of a book about Joseph called *Unsinkable*. Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner provided videotaped remarks to open the event.

Thirty-Five Years and 45 Million Preborn Babies Later

By Devon Williams

(EP News)--Thousands of life advocates gathered Jan. 22 in the nation's capital for the 35th March for Life to remember the more than 45 million preborn babies who have died since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973.

On Jan. 22, 1973, the court voted 7-2 to overturn all state laws banning abortion. Thus, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* made abortions legal for any reason throughout the first six months of pregnancy, and for virtually any reason thereafter.

Yet, polls show most Americans want more limits on abortion. A December Time magazine poll revealed that more than half of Americans oppose abortion in nearly every circumstance. A Fox News poll in October showed that

45 percent of Americans want to know a candidate's position on abortion before they vote.

Carrie Gordon Earll, senior bioethics analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said that, notwithstanding 35 years of tragedy, the pro-life movement should be encouraged. "Abortion advocates surely expected the debate to be over by now -- but it's far from it," she said. "Pro-life voices continue to raise moral objections to abortion and offer true choice to women in unplanned pregnancies. The number of abortions is steady, even declining, thanks in part to the passage of state pro-life laws. We can expect to see continued progress toward our goal of making abortion both illegal and unthinkable."

Twenty-six states provide women seeking abortion with information

about its risks and alternatives. Thirty-five states have laws providing for parental involvement in a minor daughter's abortion decision.

Ultrasound technology also has played a huge part in America's pro-life shift. Ten states allow women to view ultrasound images of their preborn child before an abortion. "Technology has been a great assistance in humanizing the unborn," said Christian Brugger, a fellow at the Culture of Life Foundation. "Fetal imaging technology has shown us beyond question that the unborn is human life. As the information gets out, it's clear that those who are most educated on the issue go in the direction of pro-life. The heart of the next generation is not going to those who defend abortion. It's going to be life."

New Jersey Passes Hate-Crimes Bill

By Devon Williams

(EP News)--New Jersey lawmakers voted Jan. 7 to give transgendered individuals special rights. If Gov. Jon Corzine signs the legislation, the state would be the 12th to grant such strong rights. According to gay-activist groups, New Jersey has 153 laws to protect homosexuals and transgendered people.

The first section of the bill adds "gender identity or expression" to the existing hate-crimes law, which includes sexual orientation, race and religion. The bill also requires all new police officers to attend a mandatory, two-hour hate-crimes sensitivity training. "This par-

ticular piece of legislation is very strong because it includes 'gender expression,' which is not defined," said Greg Quinlan of New Jersey Family First, the legislative arm of the New Jersey Family Policy Council. "What does 'gender expression' mean?"

In December, a federal hate-crimes measure fell apart over the effort to protect "actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity."

Quinlan said the bill puts families, particularly women and children, in danger. "What is the protection from these people going into a restroom where they identify themselves as a different gender,

yet they're using the facilities at the same time you are?" he said. "It's exposing children -- an unintended consequence of the law."

The legislation also creates a Commission on Bullying in Schools, which has nine months to investigate and make recommendations to the governor. "New Jersey already has anti-bullying laws in place," Quinlan said, "but the bullying commission is set up to be totally sexually oriented."

The bill is on Corzine's desk. "The people of New Jersey have got to stand up," Quinlan said. "It's time to speak up."

an independent study of Awana alumni conducted in November 2007 by suburban Chicago-based CTCreative.

The study found Awana to be as important to a participant's spiritual foundation as the rest of the church's activities combined. "Young people who have been consistent in their Awana participation are more committed to the literal truth of Scripture and therefore are more firmly grounded in the fundamental doctrines of their faith," Fowler noted. The study also found that Awana has helped instill a servant's heart years beyond participation in the program. This is evidenced by findings that at every level, Awana alumni volunteer at much higher levels when compared to a national sample of those who do volunteer work in their churches.

For more information about Project Joseph, visit www.moderndayjoseph.org or call 877-HI- JOSEPH. Each

week, more than a million children and youth are involved in Awana through 17,000 churches worldwide.

Awana is the only organization with fully integrated evangelism and discipleship programs for kids from ages 2 to 18 that actively involve parents, church leaders and mentors. For nearly 60 years, Awana has been a leader in children's ministry by helping children and youth know, love and serve Christ.

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"The parallels between Joseph and today's youth are striking," Williams said. "I believe God has provided the ministry of Awana, with its global resources and nearly 60 years of experience, 'for such a time as this.'"

"Joseph is a spiritual champion who demonstrated integrity, courage, wisdom, forgiveness and faith. We believe there is great value in holding up such a flesh- and-blood example of what it means to follow Christ," added Jack Eggar, President and CEO of Awana. "Traditional approaches are not working -- it's time for a change."

Larry Fowler, Executive Director of Global Training for Awana and author of *Rock-Solid Kids*, presented an overview of the crisis among children and youth, citing studies that show one in two teens will abandon the church after high school. According to Fowler, too many 21st-century youth are looking like another young man who left home -- the prodigal son -- rather than Joseph as they enter adulthood.

"The culture of our churches and homes must change to reflect God's mandate that parents are first responsible for the spiritual training of children. The Joseph biography recorded in Genesis provides a model desperately needed by parents and children's and youth workers alike," said Fowler, whose new book, *Raising a Modern-Day Joseph*, will be available in February. He also announced results of

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National Briefs

Wal-Mart's Pro-Family Strategy Pays Off

(EP News)--While other retailers saw their Christmas sales figures slip, Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, reported December sales rose 2.4 percent. There's a good reason for that, said Tom Minnery, senior vice president for government and public policy at Focus on the Family. "Wal-Mart isn't afraid to embrace the values embraced by most Americans," he said. "It's not hard to see why it's No. 1. The company's genius is in simply recognizing that The Salvation Army bell-ringers and the phrase 'Merry Christmas' are woven into the American fabric. "May a thousand companies do likewise next Christmas." Wal-Mart had come under fire from the Biblically-Responsible Investing Institute for pro-homosexual policies, including financial support for the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The criticism from the BRII, Focus on the Family, and other Christian organizations ultimately caused Wal-Mart to change its policies.

Study Shows Students Grow Spiritually During College

(EP News)--A study by UCLA shows the majority of U.S. college students experience spiritual growth during their time on campus. Researchers followed more than 14,000 freshmen through their junior year and found the students were more likely to be engaged in a spiritual quest, were more caring and showed higher levels of "equanimity and an ecumenical worldview." The study also revealed that, as freshmen, 41.8 percent of the students were interested in integrating spirituality into their lives. Three years later, 50.4 percent were actually engaged in that spiritual quest. "Student interest in spirituality and religion is at a level not seen since perhaps the 1950s," said Colgate University President Rebecca Chopp, a scholar of religion and American culture. "Religion and spirituality are important aspects of well-being and character development, and colleges need to support the growing interest and activities of our students."

Family Advocates Work to Protect Traditional Marriage in Vermont

(EP News)--Last summer, the state of Vermont launched a commission to "review and evaluate Vermont's

laws relating to same-sex couples and the families they form." Family advocates, in turn, have formed the Vermont Marriage Advisory Council, which was launched at a statehouse press conference this morning. Stephen Cable, founder of Vermont Renewal, said the council was formed in response to the pro-gay leanings of the state commission. "The council will be holding forums to delegate information on the social goods that come with the institution of marriage," Cable told The Times Argus of Montpelier, Vt. "After that, the council will open up the microphone to hear from Vermonters." The Marriage Advisory Council's first "Marriage Matters" forum will be held Jan. 19 at the University of Vermont.

Pro-life Group Releases List of Corporate Abortion Supporters

(EP News)--Life Decisions International (LDI) has released the latest edition of The Boycott List, which identifies corporations that are boycott targets due to their support of Planned Parenthood, the world's primary abortion-advocacy group. Corporations appearing on The Boycott List for the first time include BBJ Linen (home products), Carlson Companies (travel agencies, hotels [Country Inns & Suites, Park Inn, Park Plaza, Radisson, and Regent], and restaurants [T.G.I. Friday's and Pick Up Stix]), FastSigns (graphics/printing), InterContinental Hotels (Candlewood, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn, Indigo, InterContinental, and Staybridge), Midas (motor vehicle care), and Paul Ecke Ranch (poinsettias), among others. The new Boycott List includes a significantly expanded "Dishonorable Mention" section, which identifies charitable groups that are associated with Planned Parenthood and/or its agenda. Groups named in this section include Amnesty International, the American Cancer Society, Camp Fire, Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, Human Rights Watch, Kiwanis Clubs, Doctors Without Borders, the March of Dimes, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Rotary Clubs, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and the YWCA, among others.

New Jersey Passes Hate-Crimes Bill

(EP News)--New Jersey lawmakers voted Jan. 7 to give transgendered individuals special rights. If Gov. Jon Corzine signs the legislation, the state would be the 12th to

Iowa Grandmother Jailed for Discouraging Abortion

Christian Newswire - In March, 2007, Donna Holman was convicted of a charge of "harassment" as she engaged in "sidewalk counseling" to discourage women from entering a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Iowa City, Iowa. Judge Karen Egerton found Mrs. Holman guilty on the hearsay testimony of Planned Parenthood employees. The woman Mrs. Holman allegedly harassed did not even show up for the hearing. Despite being unable to confront her accuser and offer exculpatory evidence, the Iowa Supreme Court declined to review the case.

"While murderers and rapists

run free, a harmless 72-year-old Christian grandmother, Donna Holman, must languish in jail for having the temerity of speaking out on behalf of the unborn," said Dr. Gary Cass, Chairman and CEO of the Christian Anti-Defamation Commission. "The double standards of justice used against pro-life Christians are staggering. If Donna Holman had been a union or homosexual activist she would have been released and she trumped up charges dropped. Donna is only guilty of caring for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. The courts are guilty of aiding and abetting the abortion industry as it plies its bloody

trade on bodies of innocent babies while harming unsuspecting women. It is especially troubling that she is beginning this ordeal on the eve of the 35th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

"This case makes a mockery of the judicial system," continued Dr. Cass. "The interests of justice have been ignored. Mrs. Holman only sought to exercise her rights free speech, religion and peaceable assembly in an attempt to protect the unborn. The Iowa State Bar should begin an immediate investigation of Judge Egerton's behavior," said Dr. Cass.

Evangelist Arrested for Publicly Preaching to Halloween Revelers in Salem, Mass.

Christian Newswire - The Foundation for Moral Law, a non-profit, religious-liberties legal organization led by Judge Roy Moore, has agreed to represent Michael Marcavage of Repent America against the misdemeanor charges filed against him for preaching in a Salem, Mass. public square on Halloween night, Oct. 31, 2007. Even though Salem's laws allow the use of speech amplification until 10:00 p.m., Salem police officers on Halloween night confiscated Mr. Marcavage's megaphone at 8:30 p.m., threw him to the ground, and arrested him on

charges of allegedly violating the noise ordinance and "disorderly conduct"--all for calmly preaching the gospel to a large crowd of Halloween revelers.

About this case, Judge Moore said: "Michael Marcavage believes he is called by God to preach a message of repentance and forgiveness of sin. He is just as free to preach that message in Salem, Mass., as the Halloween party-goers are free to listen to, disagree with, or ignore him. Instead of protecting his rights to free speech and freedom of religion, however, the Salem

police decided to shut Mr. Marcavage up by unlawfully arresting and charging him. It seems that the days of "witch hunts" are not over in Salem."

Attorneys at the Foundation for Moral Law will vigorously defend Mr. Marcavage against the charges brought against him. The next court hearing in this case is scheduled in Salem District Court for January 23, 2008. If the case is not dismissed, a trial will most likely be scheduled within the next month or so.

ADF files suit against MA "buffer zone" law

Attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) filed a lawsuit in federal court Friday against a new Massachusetts law that creates a 35-foot "buffer" zone around abortion clinics. The law essentially eliminates free speech rights within the zone by restricting pro-life advocates from sharing their message with people entering the clinics.

"Pro-life advocates shouldn't be penalized for expressing their beliefs," said ADF-allied attorney and lead counsel Michael DePrimo. "The buffer zone law is breathtaking in scope. It obviously was designed and intended

to squelch pro-life speech, but it prohibits much more, such as labor picketing and charitable solicitations. The First Amendment simply does not permit such outlandish restrictions on peaceful speech."

"It's ironic that Massachusetts, the 'cradle of liberty,' would pass a law that effectively creates a First Amendment-free zone that silences those who seek to share the truth about abortion," said ADF Legal Counsel Tim Chandler. "Those with pro-life views have the same First Amendment rights as anyone else in America."

On Nov. 13, Gov. Deval Patrick signed into law S.B. 1353 which created the "buffer" zone. First-time violators face a fine of up to \$500 and three months in jail. Repeat offenders face fines of up to \$5,000 and 2 1/2 years in prison.

ADF attorneys filed suit on behalf of several pro-life advocates whose ability to communicate peacefully with people entering the clinics has been severely compromised by the new law. In some instances, the new law leaves only about one foot of public sidewalk open to free speech, making it virtually impossible to engage in reasoned conversation.

grant such rights. The first section of the bill adds "gender identity or expression" to the existing hate-crimes law, which includes sexual orientation, race and religion. The bill also requires all new police officers to attend a mandatory, two-hour hate-crimes sensitivity training. The legislation also creates a Commission on Bullying in Schools, which has nine months to investigate and make recommendations to the governor. "New Jersey already has anti-bullying laws in place," Quinlan said, "but the bullying commission is set up to be totally sexually oriented."

Patrick Sookhdeo has called a statement signed by NAE leaders a "betrayal" and a "sellout." Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Seminary (Southern Baptist), termed it "naiveté that borders on dishonesty." In November, NEA President Leith Anderson and NEA Vice President Richard Cizik signed onto a Christian response to an invitation to dialogue from 138 Muslim leaders around the world. Their response -- initiated by Yale Divinity School and endorsed by other liberal Christian leaders

-- apologized for the sins of Christians during the Crusades and for "excesses" of the global war on terror, without mentioning Muslim atrocities. It appeared to leave the fundamentals of Christianity -- especially the deity of Christ -- open for discussion. Mohler said the agreement "sends the wrong signal" and contains basic theological problems, especially in "marginalizing" Jesus Christ. He also condemned the apology for the Crusades.

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

Evangelical Leaders Pledge Common Cause with Islam

(EP News)--An attempt by leaders of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) to win friends and influence Muslims is generating controversy among NAE members. Islam expert Dr.

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World News

Bible put on a pinhead-size chip

By Dan Wooding

HAIFA, ISRAEL (ANS) -- Researchers in Israel say they have succeeded in putting a version of the Bible on a chip smaller than a pinhead. According to the BBC, "Its 300,000 words in Hebrew were inscribed on a silicon surface at the Haifa Institute of Technology. "Scientists say the aim of the project is to increase young people's interest in nanoscience and nanotechnology."



This could be the smallest Bible ever printed (Photo: AP)

Focused Ion Beam (Fib). "When we send the particle beam toward a point on the surface, the gold atoms bounce off of this point, thus exposing the silicon layer underneath," Ohad Zohar, one of the project's managers at Technion, said. "By sending a particle beam towards various points on the substrate, we can etch any pattern of points, especially one that represents text."

The BBC story added that the next step for Technion researchers is photographing the Bible and displaying it on a giant wall within the Faculty of Physics. "In this picture, which will be 7m by 7m (23ft by 23ft), it will be possible to read the entire Bible with the naked eye (the height of each letter will be some 3mm - 0.1in)," Mr. Zohar said.

"Near this picture, the original - the nano-Bible itself, which is the size a grain of sugar - will be displayed."

The BBC story went on to say that the record for the smallest copy is held by a Bible measuring 2.8x3.4x1cm (1.1x1.3x0.4in), weighing 11.75g (0.4 ounces) and containing 1,514 pages.

The 0.5sq-mm (0.01sq-in) nano-Bible was written on a silicon surface covered with a thin layer of gold (20nanometres thick - 0.0002mm).

It was written using a device called

Car bomb explodes outside Iraqi church

By Dan Wooding

MOSUL, IRAQ (ANS) -- A car bomb has exploded outside a church in the Iraqi city of Mosul on Thursday, January 17, where two persons were reported to be injured.

The motor vehicle carrying the explosive device was found parked outside the Chaldean Tahira church in western Mosul's al-Shifaa neighborhood had slightly injured a police officer and a little girl who were both wounded in the blast. No fatalities were recorded though the church building was damaged.

According to the www.christiantoday.com web site, this was the second time the church was bombed after it closed down from the first attack. Around 10 days ago, a series of coordinated bomb attacks were carried out in both Mosul and Baghdad against Christian buildings such as churches and convents, in what a Chaldean bishop had described as a planned

attack to intimidate Christians into leaving the country.

This seemed to be working, according to the figures provided by Neal Youngquist, the International Services Director for Asia with Prison Fellowship International, who wrote the Christian community suffered a 50 percent decline in their population since the 1990s.

He said, "Consequently, the Christian community has decreased to some half million - a decrease of almost 50 percent since the 1990s. since June 2004 forty churches have been the targets of bomb attacks resulting in destruction, death and injury."

The Prime Minister of Iraq, Nouri Al-Maliki, has committed his government to protect the Christian community in the war-ravaged country, reported the Christian Today web site.

Christian presence, missionary activity, not wanted in Afghanistan

By Michael Ireland

AFGHANISTAN (ANS) -- Reports of restrictions on Christian missionary activity in Afghanistan are now coming in as a result of the presence of Christian missions in Afghanistan, first reported by ANS on January 6.

"All missions web sites are being scrutinized and if they refer to any Christian activity, wherever it occurs, then visas are refused. This does not mean those doing evangelism, but just their presence is not wanted," writes a correspondent in-country who wished not to be named for security reasons.

"It may be a phase and restrictions relaxed at a later date or it may be a way of tightening up generally. Often governments must be seen to be acting and so these could just be temporary gestures," the writer says in an e-mail to ANS.

The writer says: "Christian money and expertise has gone a long way to rebuild the country, nurses, doctors and technicians have served the land well and, of course, soldiers of many nations have sought to bring safety for all. Schools have been built, hospitals, clinics, and many other developments have been the result of Christians serving the country."

The author continues: "An old Afghan proverb says 'bae laeq saeg daerya murdar naeme sae (waed)' which, loosely translated, means 'A river is not contaminated by having a dog drink from it.' Christians must maintain their good character in spite of any accusations."

The correspondent concludes: "The pacification of Helmand province is slowly taking place and suicide bombings have increased in Kabul itself as a result of Jihadists being pushed out. The modernization of Afghanistan is at stake and that process cannot be stopped. It will only lead to other pressures and realities taking place."

Compassion Projects Located at Center of Unrest in Kenya

By Jeremy Reynolds

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO (ANS) -- About 500 people have died and 250,000 have been displaced from their homes in Kenya in violence that has erupted since a disputed presidential election Dec. 27. Compassion International, one of the world's largest Christian child-development organizations, has 29 projects at the center of the chaos.

According to a news release from Compassion, many of the centers are located in the slums - melting pots of tribal diversity - which place Compassion-assisted families in the middle of the violence. Compassion Kenya reported that hundreds of Compassion-assisted

families and children have been affected and whole communities have been displaced by the turmoil, as property has been destroyed, looted or vandalized.

Compassion Kenya said in a news release it is providing medical aid and counseling, while working with other agencies to help families who aren't part of a Compassion child development center. Compassion Kenya is also disbursing funds for relief supplies, including food and blankets. But 11 of the centers are currently inaccessible, with children and parents receiving support from the government and other agencies.

According to a news release, Compassion Kenya is working with its church partners to assess

needs for additional support to include rebuilding of classrooms and houses, school supplies for children, and bedding and mattresses.

Compassion said it does not currently have a list of affected children as the situation has not stabilized. Operations at all the affected centers have been temporarily suspended.

Compassion International works with more than 800,000 children in 24 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean. About 4,000 indigenous churches from more than 65 denominations partner with Compassion. For more information go to www.compassion.com

Early release from Hubei Labor Camp for three female House Church leaders

By Michael Ireland

WUHAN, HUBBEI PROVINCE, CHINA (ANS) -- In another stunning legal victory, three Chinese female house church leaders have been unconditionally released from their labor camp in Hubei province.

China Aid Association (CAA) says the decision was made at 4:30 PM Beijing time on January 23, and follows on the heels of the January 11, appellate ruling to release four male house church leaders from their labor camp following dismissal of charges from government officials.

CAA says the church leaders were arrested and sentenced to 18 months and 12 months re-education through labor respectively on August 6, 2007 after they were detained on July 15 and accused of the "crime of engaging in organizing and making use of evil

cult organization to undermine the enforcement of State laws."

In an interview with one of the recently released male pastors, China Aid Association was told that the director of the Hubei labor camp made a formal apology to the house church leaders for their wrongful imprisonment.

Furthermore, the director went on to state that he and other officials had learned their lesson and would seek to do a better job in the future. He then expressed to the leaders that they should be patriotic and upright citizens.

The admonition from the director was easy to take for the leaders who find empowerment in their true Christian faith to be the best citizens they are able to be in society.

"The Chinese house church is

deeply committed to helping China realize the goal of becoming a 'Harmonious Society,'" said CAA's Bob Fu. "The released leaders expressed their gratitude to the labor camp officials for their willingness to discern true Christianity from common criminality and for setting a remarkable precedent of progression towards true religious freedom and rule of law in China."

The leaders are also thankful to the international community for their efforts and prayers during this time.

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World Briefs

Sharp Escalation Along Gaza Border Taking Toll On Both Sides

(EP News)--More than 40 Kassam rockets and mortars rained down on the western Negev region on Jan. 16, as Hamas sought to exact revenge for Israel Defense Forces (IDF) operations in Gaza which killed 19 Palestinians, including at least 15 militants, among them the son of senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar. The IDF killed Hussam Zahar, the son of ex-Hamas foreign minister Mahmoud Zahar, during an operation Jan. 15 to stop rocket launches into southern Israel. IDF troops killed ten more Palestinians when troops backed by tanks and helicopters ambushed rocket squads in northern Gaza. On Jan. 16, an Israel Air Force air strike killed two more Palestinians in a vehicle carrying a load of weapons in the central Gaza Strip, while earlier that day, three Palestinian civilians were killed in an IAF strike that targeted a car carrying a group of militants east of Gaza City. The air strike came shortly after Defense Minister Ehud Barak vowed that Israel would step up its military offensive on Gaza in response to the barrage of Kassam rockets on southern Israel, with at least 11 landing in Ashkelon and 12 in Sderot. Hamas has blamed the escalation on the visit of President George Bush to the region.

Australian Hotel Owner Pulls the Plug on Poker Machines

(EP News)--A Queensland, Australia, hotel owner has pulled the plug on his poker machines, saying he could no longer stand to watch patrons losing all their money and leaving in tears, Australia's Courier Mail reported. "In the end, I just couldn't stand it," said Scarborough Hotel owner Roger Okalyi. "The pokies (video gambling machines) just prey on people who can't afford to gamble. 'I've seen people walking out in tears. They've got kids, and you're just hoping that they haven't done their weekly wage and will still be able to put food on the table.'" Chad Hills, analyst for gambling research and policy at Focus on the Family Action, said "Australia's had an open-door policy toward gambling for years now, but this country can no longer hide the bodies," he said. "Pokies have devastated this country with addiction and broken lives. It's encouraging to see business owners care enough about their patrons to remove gambling from their premises. 'Pokies are the crack cocaine of the gambling industry. No other form of gambling in history has been this addictive. U.S. citizens need to encourage local business owners to remove — or oppose — any video gambling machines on their property.'" Okalyi plans to replace the pokies room with a family games area.

Tony Blair converts to Catholicism

(EP News)--Former British prime minister Tony Blair has converted to Roman Catholicism. He was formally received into the Catholic church at a service on Dec. 21. "I am very glad to welcome Tony Blair into the Catholic Church," the cardinal said in a statement. "For a long time he has been a regular worshipper at Mass with his family, and in recent months he has been following a program of formation to prepare for his reception into full communion." Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, head of the 77-million member Anglican Communion, said, "Tony Blair has my prayers and good wishes as he takes this step in his Christian pilgrimage."

Two IDF reservists murdered while hiking near Hebron

(EP News)--Two reservists in an elite Israel Defense Force (IDF) combat unit were killed by Palestinian gunmen Dec. 28 while hiking near Hebron. The IDF insists the killings were acts of terrorism and not "criminally motivated," as claimed by the Palestinian Authority (PA). Both the al-Aksa Martyrs Brigades and Islamic Jihad quickly claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in retaliation for the IDF's killings of Palestinian militiamen in Gaza. The PA eventually took the assailants into custody, as they feared arrest by IDF forces conducting an intensive manhunt for them. After interrogation, PA officials said the Palestinians attacked the two Israelis simply to steal their weapons. But the IDF is convinced the attack was carried out for "nationalist" reasons, and has revealed that two of the attackers are Fatah loyalists and one a member of the PA security forces.

Conservative Anglicans plan global summit

(EP News)--Conservative Anglican leaders from across the globe have announced plans to gather in Jerusalem in June, one month before more than 800 Anglican

Coincidence, or Message From G-d?

By Tamar Yonah

Arutz Sheva - It seems like this is just too uncanny that these are all 'coincidences'. On January 8, 2008 the day that President Bush left the USA for Israel in order to lay the framework for the establishment of a Palestinian State and the division of Jerusalem for its capital, a freak 'January' tornado

bishops are scheduled to convene for a once-a-decade conference in England. The conservatives' event, called the "Global Anglican Future Conference," is planned by bishops disturbed by the increasing acceptance of homosexuality in the Western branches of the Anglican Communion. Conservative archbishops from Africa and the "Global South" have criticized the communion's spiritual leader, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, over his guest list for Lambeth Conference, a huge summit of Anglicans held every 10 years in England. Williams did not invite openly gay Bishop V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, whose 2003 election kicked off the current controversy, but neither did he welcome U.S. missionary bishops consecrated by conservative Africans. Chris Sugden, a spokesman for the conservatives, said, "This conference is not a direct challenge to the Lambeth Conference," but it "will provide opportunities for fellowship and care for those who have decided not to attend Lambeth."

Winter frost hits Israel hard

(EP News)--A homeless woman was found dead from hypothermia on a bench in Bat Yam, a district of Tel Aviv, on Jan. 15. Similar incidents were reported on Jan. 13, when two people died from the cold in Beersheba -- a 40-year old man, and a 78-year old woman. The Israeli Electric Company reports record high usage since temperatures in Israel have dipped below zero for four successive nights. Many homes in Israel are not equipped for cold weather, many families live below the poverty line, a number of invalids live alone, and homeless people roam streets in the larger cities. Social Welfare Minister Isaac Herzog has set aside NIS 1 million to be given in one-time assistance grants to needy people so they can purchase blankets, warm clothing and heaters.

swept through a city in Bush's own country. The place hit was 'Jerusalem', Arkansas. Coincidence?

One church was totally destroyed in the tornado's path. The name of it was "Mt. Zion" Community Church. Coincidence? One man was killed in the tornado. He was a 'Pope' County resident. His name, was Billy Carter. So, let's examine some interesting 'coincidences' here.

- 1) A tornado in the month of JANUARY?
- 2) This tornado hits a city called 'Jerusalem'.
- 3) It destroys a church called, 'Mt. Zion'.
- 4) Hits in a place called 'Pope' County

All this on the day Bush leaves for Israel to wage war on G-d by going against the Bible and dividing the Land of Israel.

The very next day, Thursday January 9th, another calamity strikes America. As Israel experiences a very heavy and unusual heavy fog during Bush's visit, central Florida gets hit with a freak heavy fog. A mega 70 car accident takes place, the worst highway

British Media Group Bans Personal-Services Advertising

(EP News)--A media group in the United Kingdom has banned all personal-services advertisements from its publications over fears the ads could be linked to criminal activity.

In many cities, personal ads and those for erotic services and massage parlors are significant sources of local prostitution. As a result, the Manchester Evening News, Reading Evening Post, Surrey Advertiser and all associated media no longer will publish health club, escort or personal-services advertising.

MEN Media, a group of more than 20 daily and weekly newspapers, became concerned that if the advertisements were used for criminal activity, the media could be seen as profiting from a crime.

disaster in Florida's history.

What is interesting here is the number 70. A neighbor of mine whom I often give a lift to, was waiting at the gas station near where Bush's entourage passed on its way to Ramallah. The roads were closed down and he was stuck waiting and watching. He saw Bush's entourage pass by. He counted 70 cars.

70 cars driving with Bush to Ramallah in heavy fog, and 70 cars in a horrible accident in Florida under heavy fog. Coincidence?

Let me remind you again about the significance of the number 70 that we keep seeing in the news these last few weeks. The number 70 is the number of nations that met in Paris, France, to raise billions of dollars to create a viable (enemy) Palestinian State. 70 is the number that the letters Gog and Magog add up to. Gog and Magog is the war of the Nations of the world who come against Jerusalem and Israel. And the nations of the world, numbers 70 according to the Bible as explained in the story of the Tower of Babel where G-d mixes up the people with 70 languages, who then disperse to become 70 different nations. Is all of this JUST a coincidence?

A U.S. pro-family group is using the news to encourage Americans to pressure local media to follow suit. Daniel Weiss, senior analyst of media and sexuality for Focus on the Family Action, agrees the media have a responsibility not to contribute to criminal and destructive behavior. He also encouraged concerned Americans to examine their local newspapers

"If these types of ads are present, contact these papers and find out if they have a policy concerning what kinds of ads they will accept," he said. "Then, kindly request they stop accepting ads that could contribute to criminal activity.

"This is the kind of activism that anyone can do and which can have a very positive outcome for their community. I would also encourage friends, family and churches to get involved."




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Book Reviews

Book Finds Missing Link Between Evolution, Racism

'Darwin's Plantation' Breaks New Ground in Study of Subject

PETERSBURG, Kentucky Christian Newswire - Author Ken Ham and theologian Dr. A. Charles Ware take a groundbreaking look at one of the human race's greatest problems - racism - in "Darwin's Plantation: Evolution's Racist Roots." Along the way, they also tackle the questions of the origin of all the people groups, skin "color," and interracial marriage,

Ham is the president of Answers in Genesis and the new Creation Museum, ministries that uphold the authority of the Bible from the very first verse. Ware is the president of Crossroads Bible College (training Christians to reach a multiethnic urban world) and a national leader in promoting multiethnic ministry.

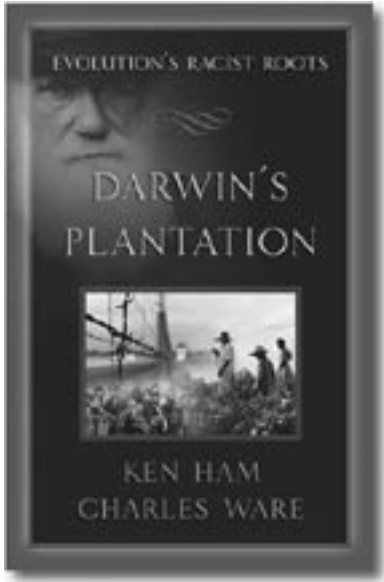
With Darwin's birthday coming Feb. 12, and his 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of the publication of "On the Origin of Species" little more than a year away, the time seems right for an accurate assessment of his legacy.

Ham and Ware show that although racism certainly did not begin with Darwin, his beliefs did more to fuel racism than the ideas of any other single individual. "Racism is a consequence of sin in a fallen world infused with evolutionary thinking," Ham writes.

The subtitle of Darwin's "Origin of Species" is "The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life." Darwin himself writes in "The Descent of Man" that he would rather be descended from a monkey than a "savage."

Even Stephen Jay Gould, the late leading evolutionist, agreed that the publication of "Origin of Species" had a negative impact on the discussion of racial issues. "Biological arguments for racism may have been common before 1859, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory," he wrote.

Ham and Ware note that evolutionary theory made its way to American shores during the time of the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation (the 1860s).



"Without the legal ability to enforce slavery, many people turned to the theories of Darwin to justify racism in its many forms," the book says. "They began to use evolution as justification of their views that African-Americans were an inferior 'race' and

a 'sub-species' that was not really fully human and not deserving of fair and equal treatment."

Ham, originally from Australia, studied environmental biology at the Queensland Institute of Technology. He notes that the remains of perhaps 10,000 Aborigines, some slaughtered as "specimens," were shipped to Britain to prove that they were the "missing link."

Perhaps most tragically, Hitler used evolutionary thought to justify his concept of a "master race" and the extermination of the Jews and other so-called "inferior" groups of people.

"As soon as one believes that human beings have evolved from creatures of lesser intelligence, it is an easy corollary to assume that some people groups are more evolved than others," the book says.

Ultimately, though, the book is not about assigning blame. Instead, it sets out a Biblical blueprint for harmonious race relations. In fact, with man's history of racial conflict, the authors say that "GRACE (God's Reconciliation At Christ's Expense) relations" provides a much better model than race relations. This concept mirrors the teaching found in a compelling exhibit inside the Creation Museum on the origin of the different people groups.

Ware adds: "Darwin's Plantation" presents the scientific and Scriptural case for the origin of

Christian Newswire - "Thanks a lot, God! You've let me down so many times, I guess one time more won't hurt, right? Wrong! This hurts beyond belief. I hate You!"

With these frank utterances Deborah Lawyer opens up a dialogue between God and one contemporary woman who demands to know where He is as she experiences loss after painful loss.

Told from the perspective of Rochelle, now full of years and looking back on scenes from her life: the death of her father and mother, a shocking date rape, an abusive husband, abandonment, eventually, the loss of a child-- this gritty, new fictional story, "I Am Right Here," rings painfully true as Rochelle's tough experiences and anger at God find voice in her lifelong argument with Him.

"But I love you!" God says. "I am right here. You have to believe in Me, even to hate Me...."

"This book is probably a little bit about everyone who reads it,"

says Lawyer. "If we are honest with ourselves, we'll admit we have all, at one time or another, blamed God for something gone wrong in our lives. Once we stop accusing and start listening to God, we can find the peace we long for."

Through characters like a kind teacher and police officer Jim Hamilton, who adopts orphaned Rochelle at a young age, the author illustrates how God also uses "guardian angels" to speak to us in



our deepest trials--and sometimes removes blessings we haven't appreciated or stewarded well.

A career correctional officer, Lawyer pulls no punches in presenting a female character that is flawed, at times foolish, gritty, and real.

"I pray that each person who reads Rochelle's story will understand His message to us in times of personal tragedy, rejection, failure, and loss: 'I don't leave you at those times--I Am right here!'" says the author.

Through years of ever-spiraling poor choices and damaging behavior, Rochelle continues making serious mistakes and railing against God for everything that has gone wrong in her life, finally hitting rock bottom. Even her shallow attempts at faith end in increased bitterness.

In all, God never leaves, nor gives up on Rochelle. But can her wounded heart finally hear Him and fully embrace His love and peace?

Open the Doors and Send Out the People: Churches Rediscover Community Service

CINCINNATI, Christian Newswire - Just outside your back door is a neighborhood, a community, a world desperately in need of a kind word and a helping hand.

That isn't exactly new news, but many Christians - and many churches - who want to serve people are discovering that many people who need help will never open the doors of the church to look for it.

Increasingly, churches are finding their most effective service comes when they go out into the community instead of waiting for people to come in their doors.

the so-called races and of their skin color and eye shapes, plus what the Scriptures teach about still-controversial issues like interracial marriage."

The authors paint a picture of a world where churches are multiethnic and interracial marriage is no longer a problem. How can this happen? According to this book, it can only happen when Christians accept the Bible's truth that there is only one race - the human race (Acts 17:26; Genesis 1).

Answers in Genesis is a biblical apologetics ministry which conducts more than 300 teaching meetings each year, hosts an award-winning Web site and produces the "Answers" radio program heard on more than 900 stations throughout the United States. The high-tech Creation Museum, which opened in May, has seen over 300,000 visitors in less than eight months of operation.

Crossroads Bible College is a Christian undergraduate institution in Indianapolis whose particular concern is to train men and women of many cultural and ethnic backgrounds for effective roles in Christian service.

"Tomorrow's generations of unbelievers will not be drawn to the church behind four walls, but to the church that is found serving in local food pantries, homeless shelters and hospices," said author Tom Ellsworth in his new book, *Beyond Your Backyard: Stepping Out to Serve Others* (Standard Publishing, January 2008).

"We cannot do less than GO! Christians of all generations are called to demonstrate their love, share their faith and serve humanity...all for the privilege of introducing others to Jesus."

Ellsworth, who is also a successful minister of a congregation of 2,500 in Bloomington, Indiana, peppers his easy-to-digest book with practical suggestions to make outreach approachable for Christians and churches of all types.

He uses the example of the old but still popular children's finger exercise from Sunday school in which you have to "open the doors" of the church to "see all the people."

"I still believe the two-fisted children's poem has value," Ellsworth comments. "But as we look to the future, I would suggest we teach a slightly modified poem to our kids: 'here's the church, here's the steeple: open the doors, and SEND OUT the people.'"

Using examples from the lives of those in the Bible, Ellsworth teaches his way through the principles of assisting others in our families, neighborhoods, communities, as well as nationally and internationally.

His encouragement applies equally

to the individual Christian as it does to a whole congregation.

"It is all too easy to become inward focused instead of outward focused, if we aren't careful," he explains. "Oh sure we are still passionate for the truth, we still desire to exalt Jesus Christ, and

we still long for the moment of his return. But in some ways we've lost the urgency of the GO! It is so easy to become satisfied to offer the invitation to COME. Anyone who makes it past the front doors is welcome."

Ellsworth's book will prompt thought and discussion around a dinner table or at a small group, and a discussion guide for group study is also available.

"Identifying those who qualify as neighbors isn't difficult; determining how I should be a neighbor is the challenge," he concludes. "There is no time to waste. We cannot stay in our own backyards and build hedges to make us feel secure. We must get beyond the hedge if we are to fulfill God's plan for our lives."



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Faith factor seen in NFL conduct policy

By Art Stricklin

PHOENIX (BP)--The National Football League has used an unstoppable combination of marketing muscle, longtime loyalties and on-field performance to create the most successful professional sports league in America, if not the world.

Its annual season-ending showcase, Super Bowl XLII, on Sunday, Feb. 3, in Phoenix, has become secular sports' high holy day, drawing interest and global TV ratings on par with the Olympics and soccer's World Cup.

NFL officials, fearful highly publicized illegal and immoral behavior by some of the sport's biggest stars was jeopardizing the league's multi-billion-dollar success, instituted a new Personal Conduct Policy this spring.

The behavior policy, spearheaded by newly hired commissioner Roger Goodell, draws a clear line between right and wrong, and it says players may be punished for behavior that does not result in a legal conviction.

Among the incidents specifically mentioned in the new policy are gun violations, drinking and driving, domestic disputes and gang-related activities. The commissioner also cracked down



on NFL clubs' alcohol use by limiting or outlawing open beer and wine possession in locker rooms and other team facilities.

"It is important that the NFL be represented consistently by outstanding people as well as great football players, coaches and staff," Commissioner Goodell said. "We hold ourselves to higher standards of responsible conduct because of what it means to be part of the National Football League."

While the NFL has not specifically cited Christian principles, and league spokesman Brian McCarthy denied there was any method in place other than to see good behavior, some in the faith-based NFL community see it differently.

"There are absolutely Christian principles involved in all of this," said Don Davis, a former NFL linebacker and now the New England Patriots' team chaplain. "The league would never say they're putting Christ first, but it's exactly the same thing if you look at their new rules."

"Those of us who are behind the scenes [have been]

on our knees about this," he added. Former player and Chicago Bears chaplain Harry Swayne isn't sure what to make of the new policy and the NFL's heightened interest in mandating right and wrong for its players.

"Bad behavior is just bad business for the league," Swayne said. "Until the Lord changes a person's heart, a man won't get right by himself. This is a knee-jerk reaction and a small answer to a big problem. The problem is sin in a person's life."

New York Giants chaplain George McGovern said his team hasn't had a public lawbreaking scandal in nearly two years, partly because New York players have seen what's happened to

once-bright stars such as Michael Vick and Adam "Pacman" Jones.

McGovern said another reason for the heightened emphasis on good behavior is the number of outspoken Christian coaches and players in today's NFL.

"They are certainly more outspoken about their faith than they were 35 or even 20 years ago," McGovern said. "I've had coaches personally tell me they are taking a bolder stand in their faith after hearing [Indianapolis Colts head coach] Tony Dungy share his faith last year. He's a good example of a bold witness for Christ."

Davis, who played in the league 11 years, the last four with the New England Patriots, said it's been a gradual progression of star players sharing their faith in Jesus Christ publicly.

"First you had some like Reggie White who people respected, then you had Kurt Warner, then Shawn Alexander and Curtis Martin, guys who wanted to share their faith."

"Even the worldly player

has an overall sense of right and wrong," Davis said.

Goodell said the new conduct policy would continue into the coming years, and the league would not relent on its stand that players recognize the basic difference between right and wrong.

"We made it very clear what was expected of players, coaches and anyone affiliated with the NFL," Goodell said. "That standard is clear. From our standpoint, people understand that. I think they are responding to that."



Don Davis, the New England Patriots' team chaplain.

While Sunday's game will pit the history-seeking Patriots, looking

to become the NFL's first 19-0 team, against the upstart Giants, who have won three straight road playoff games to get here, the Super Bowl offers an entire week of faith-based activities and other opportunities for players to express their faith.

Basketball coach goes barefoot to provide shoes for the shoeless in Africa

By Michael Ireland

Indianapolis, Indiana (ANS) - A staggering 110,000 pairs of shoes have so far been donated to Samaritan's Feet, a nonprofit, Christian-based charity that seeks to put shoes on 10 million people throughout the world over a 10-year span. Ron Hunter, Head Basketball Coach at IUPUI (Indiana University, Purdue University at Indianapolis) recently had the privilege of meeting Emmanuel (Manny) Ohonme, the founder of Samaritan's Feet.

Four years ago, Manny left a lucrative marketing and supply chain job to start Samaritan's Feet, a 501c3 organization whose goal is to put 10 million pairs of shoes on children's feet in 10 years around the world.

According to the outreach's dedicated website, Manny is originally from Nigeria and grew up very poor. He received his first pair of shoes at the age of 9 from a missionary, who also taught him how to play basketball. These shoes allowed him to run and play without getting hurt and helped him get better at sports, specifically basketball.

He started playing travel basketball during his childhood and eventually played high school basketball in Nigeria. God blessed him with the ability to play basketball at a high level and eventually earned a scholarship to play at the University of North Dakota - Lake Region.

While in school, Manny earned his bachelors and masters degrees. He had a chance to play basketball overseas, but he turned it down to

concentrate on his education. After graduation, he spent ten years in the logistics business until God called him to fulfill His plan for his life. Samaritan's Feet was formed in 2003 and four years later over 500,000 pairs of shoes have been donated.

Coach Hunter was so moved by Manny's story that, after much thought and prayer, he decided

to coach in his bare feet for the IUPUI basketball game on January 24th against Oakland.

Why would he do this?

Hunter said: "Dr. Martin Luther King Day was January 21, 2008. Therefore, in recognition of what Dr. King did for our country, I want to honor his life by standing for the children around the world who don't have a voice. I have always looked up to Dr. Martin Luther King and what he stood for. 2008 is the 40th anniversary of his death. I want to honor the late Dr. King by raising 40,000 pairs of shoes for children throughout the world. There are hundreds of millions of children who don't have shoes. They suffer from diseases, infection and many other ailments because they don't have shoes to wear. Needless to say, they can't play sports without shoes. We have been given an incredible opportunity and platform as coaches to use our status as role models for others and help children in need."

Hunter added: "I am asking you to join me to accomplish the task of putting 40,000 pairs of shoes on children's feet. Give the children

hope in our country and around the world by displaying courage in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. He had courage, I know you do too."

According to www.Indystar.com, the internet presence of the Indianapolis Star newspaper, coach Hunter got his game victory, his pedicure and, as a bonus, more athletic shoes than he'll ever be able to carry to Africa in July. All on bare feet.

Hunter completed one of the most inspirational walks in this year's college basketball season by coaching Thursday night's game shoeless for children of impover-



Overwhelmed: IUPUI's Ron Hunter, surrounded by fans, shows a few of the thousands of shoes donated to Samaritan's Feet. -Rob Goebel / The Star

ished homes.

An announced crowd of 1,059 were on hand at IUPUI Gymnasium for the 82-69 victory over Oakland and only a few of them went barefoot, but significantly more nationwide recognized Hunter's effort, the newspaper reported.

IUPUI announced that the Department of Homeland Security, which offered 10,000 pairs, told Samaritan's Feet to hang loose while officials determine how many

more shoes they can donate.

Hunter, who appeared on ESPN's top morning shows Thursday and was featured as ABC's Person of the Week Friday on "World News Tonight," was humbled by the response. His goal was 40,000 pairs of shoes, a figure symbolic of the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He had that many by lunch.

The newspaper reported that Soles4Souls, a Nashville, Tennessee-based charity, donated 40,000 pairs. Wal-Mart gave 25,000; Nine West, a women's shoe company, offered another 5,200. During Hunter's appearance on ESPN Radio's "Mike & Mike in the Morning" show, a Converse representative joined the program and promised another 15,000.

Most were directly shipped to Charlotte, N.C., where Samaritan's Feet is based. Hunter's office took all it could hold, becoming an impromptu warehouse. An estimated 500 pairs arrived at the gym prior to the game. At one point in the afternoon, Hunter looked up to find 20 bags of shoes dropped off. They came without a name, just a note that read, "Coach, hope this helps."

"When we started this I thought 40,000 was going to be tough," Hunter said. "When they told me before the game we already had 100,000, honestly, I almost broke down in tears." And, at that moment, he cried. "Imagine if every coach would pick a game to coach barefoot and use their influence," said Emmanuel 'Manny' Ohonme, a Nigerian who founded the charity four years ago. "We'd

exceed our goals pretty quickly.

"And we're getting e-mails every couple of minutes from people who want more information or to say they just bought a pair," he said. "Plus, there's all these high school coaches around the country who say they want to coach a game barefoot."

The newspaper noted for the record, Hunter's exposed feet weren't stepped on during the game and commented: "It bears noting that he almost never sits down when the action -- and the feet -- are flowing." "My feet hurt so bad," he said after the game. "But imagine a child or a human going their whole lives without shoes."

Hunter, 43, said his month-long association with Samaritan's Feet has already affected him, and he knows it could be on the verge of changing the lives of others, the newspaper said. Several of his players have vowed to join him on the summer trip, which he'd like to take to Cameroon, home to Jaguars freshman guard Christian Siakam. In Siakam's family, shoes are a luxury; not everyone has them.

Now, a man with no ties to IUPUI has offered to charter a jet to fly the team to Africa, pending NCAA approval, of course. "I knew when I saw Siakam's face we were doing the right thing," Hunter said.

If you are interested in supporting Coach Hunter's cause, please contact him at rehunter@iupui.edu or Samaritan's Feet Marketing Director, Todd Melloh at 317-417-3525 or tmelloh@samaritansfeet.org. To donate, log-on to www.samaritansfeet.org or call (866)833-SHOE.

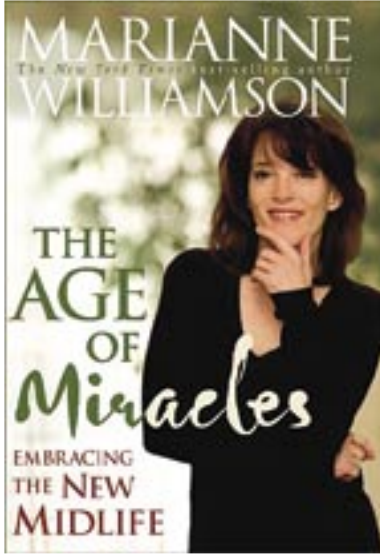
Oprah from Page 1
 evil, no devil, and that God is “in” everyone and everything. *A Course in Miracles* teaches its students to *rethink* everything they believe about God and life. The *Course Workbook* bluntly states: “This is a course in mind training”⁵ and is dedicated to “thought reversal.”⁶

Teaching *A Course in Miracles* will be Oprah’s longtime friend and special XM Satellite Radio reporter Marianne Williamson—who also happens to be one of today’s premier New Age leaders. She and *Conversations with God* author Neale Donald Walsch co-founded the American Renaissance Alliance in 1997, that later became the Global Renaissance Alliance of New Age leaders, that changed its name again in 2005 to the Peace Alliance. This Peace Alliance seeks to usher in an era of global peace founded on the principles of a New Age/New Spirituality that they are now referring to as a “civil rights movement for the soul.”⁷ They all agree that the principles of this New Age/New Spirituality are clearly articulated in *A Course in Miracles*—which is fast becoming the New Age Bible. So what is *A Course in Miracles* and what does it teach?

A Course in Miracles is allegedly “new revelation” from “Jesus” to help humanity work through these troubled times. This “Jesus”—who bears no doctrinal resemblance to the Bible’s Jesus Christ—began delivering his channeled teachings in 1965 to a Columbia University Professor of Medical Psychology by the name of Helen Schucman.

One day Schucman heard an “inner voice” stating, “This is a course in miracles. Please take notes.”⁸ For seven years she diligently took spiritual dictation from this inner voice that described himself as “Jesus.” *A Course in Miracles* was quietly published in 1975 by

the Foundation for Inner Peace. For many years “the Course” was an underground cult classic for New Age seekers who studied “the Course” individually, with friends, or in small study groups.



As a former New Age follower and devoted student of *A Course in Miracles*, I eventually discovered that the *Course in Miracles* was—in reality—the truth of the Bible turned upside down. Not having a true understanding

of the Bible at the time of my involvement, I was led to believe that *A Course in Miracles* was “a gift from God” to help everyone understand the “real” meaning of the Bible and to help bring peace to the world. Little did I know that the New Age “Christ” and the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles* were everything the real Jesus Christ warned us to watch out for. In Matthew 24 Jesus warned about false teachers, false teachings and the false “Christs” who would pretend to be Him.

When I left the New Age “Christ” to follow the Bible’s Jesus Christ, I had come to understand that the “Jesus” of *A Course in Miracles* was a false “Christ,” and that his *Course in Miracles* was dangerously deceptive. Here are some quotes from the “Jesus” of *A Course in Miracles*:

- “There is no sin. . . .”⁹
- A “slain Christ has no meaning.”¹⁰
- “The journey to the cross should be the last ‘useless journey.’”¹¹
- “Do not make the pathetic error of ‘clinging to the old rugged cross.’”¹²
- “The Name of Jesus Christ as such is but a symbol... It is a symbol that is safely used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you pray.”¹³
- “God is in everything I see.”¹⁴

- “The recognition of God is the recognition of yourself.”¹⁵
- “The oneness of the Creator and the creation is your wholeness, your sanity and your limitless power.”¹⁶
- “The Atonement is the final lesson he [man] need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation.”¹⁷

Most Christians recognize that these teachings are the **opposite of what the Bible teaches**. In the Bible, Jesus Christ’s atoning death on the cross of Calvary was hardly a “useless journey.” His triumph on the cross provides salvation to all those who confess their sin, accept Him and follow Him as their Lord and Saviour. His victory on the cross rings throughout the New Testament. It has been gloriously sung about in beloved hymns through the ages and is at the heart of our Christian testimony.

I found the Jesus of the Bible to be wholly believable as He taught God’s truth and warned about the spiritual deception that would come in His name. The “Jesus” of *A Course in Miracles* reveals himself to be an **imposter** when he blasphemes the true Jesus Christ by saying that a “slain Christ has no meaning” and that we are all “God” and that we are all “Christ.” It was by reading the Bible’s true teachings of Jesus Christ that I came to understand how deceived I had been by *A Course in Miracles* and my other New Age teachings.

I was introduced to *A Course in Miracles* by Dr. Gerald Jampolsky’s book *Love is Letting Go of Fear*. Jampolsky declared in his easy-to-read book how the teachings of *A Course in Miracles* had changed his life. As an ambassador for *A Course in Miracles* over the years, Jampolsky has been featured not only in New Age circles but at least twice on Robert Schuller’s Hour of Power. While Schuller introduced Jampolsky and his “fabulous”¹⁸ *Course in Miracles*-based books to his worldwide television audience, it was Marianne Williamson’s appearance on a 1992 Oprah Winfrey Show that really shook the rafters.

On that program, Oprah enthusiastically endorsed Williamson’s book, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles*. Oprah told her television audience that Williamson’s book about *A Course in Miracles* was one of her favorite books, and

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that she had already bought a thousand copies and would be handing them out to everyone in her studio audience. Oprah’s endorsement skyrocketed Williamson’s book about *A Course in Miracles* to the top of the New York Times best-seller list. Ironically, all of this was happening after I had left the *Course* and the New Age. In fact, I was doing the final editing on my book “The Light That Was Dark” that warned about the dangers of the New Age—and in particular



A Course in Miracles.

After being introduced to the world on Oprah, Marianne Williamson has continued to grow in popularity and, as previously mentioned, has become one of today’s foremost New Age leaders. Williamson credits Winfrey for bringing her book about *A Course in Miracles* before the world: “For that, my deepest thanks to Oprah Winfrey. Her enthusiasm and generosity have given the book, and me, an audience we would never otherwise have had.”¹⁹ In her 2004 book, *The Gift of Change*, Williamson wrote:

“Twenty years ago, I saw the guidance of the *Course* as key to changing one’s personal life; today, I see its guidance as key to changing the world. More than anything else, I see how deeply the two are connected.”²⁰

Thus the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles* are about to be taught by Marianne Wil-

liamson to millions of listeners on Oprah’s XM Satellite Radio program. Listeners are encouraged to buy *A Course in Miracles* for the year-long course. An audio version of *A Course in Miracles* recited by Richard (John Boy Walton) Thomas is also available on compact disc.

Popular author Wayne Dyer told his PBS television audience that the “brilliant writing” of *A Course in Miracles* would produce more peace in the world.²¹ Williamson’s New Age colleague, Neale Donald Walsch, said his “God” stated that “the era of the Single Saviour is over”²² and that he (“God”) was responsible for authoring the teachings of *A Course in Miracles*.²³

Meanwhile, Gerald Jampolsky’s *Course in Miracles*-based book, *Forgiveness*, continues to be sold in Robert Schuller’s Crystal Cathedral bookstore as Schuller hosted the “Rethink Conference” at his Crystal Cathedral.²⁴

At this critical time in the history of the world, the New Gospel/New Spirituality is coming right at the world and the church with its New Age teachings and its New Age Peace Plan. But this New Age Peace Plan has at its deceptive core the bottom-line teaching from *A Course in Miracles* that “we are all one” because God is “in” everyone and everything. But the Bible is clear that we are not God (Ezekiel 28:2; Hosea 11:9). And per Galatians 3:26-28, our only oneness is in Jesus Christ—not in ourselves as “God” and “Christ.” What Oprah and Marianne Williamson and the world will learn one day is that humanity’s only real and lasting peace is with the true

continued next page



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Christian bookstore is fulfillment of dream

By REBECCA AUBUT
Standard-Times correspondent

Born in Portugal, Acushnet resident Cesar Marcelino has fond memories of being raised in the North End of New Bedford. He especially remembers the neighborhood pet shop. It wasn't so much the puppies in the window that got his attention, but the pet shop's side business of reconditioning bicycles that caught his eye.

"I had my nose pressed up against the window of this shop," recalled Mr. Marcelino, and spying the boy in the window, the owner invited him in and offered the 8-year-old a job. "I actually started cleaning bird cages and dog cages, which was not the most desirable job at the time," he said laughing at the memory, "but I soon got into working on bicycles."

When Mr. Marcelino was 13, the shop closed and moved to Hatha-way Road — the business would eventually become Yesteryear Cyclery — with Mr. Marcelino following and staying with them for 25 years. He then branched out and opened Cesar's Cyclery on Ashley Boulevard in 1987 and ran that business for the next 18 years.

Raised as a Catholic, Mr. Marcelino met his wife, Maria, in 1972 and credits her with his spiritual

growth. They wed six months later, eventually became the parents of two children and attended Mass every Sunday "without fail." The family was involved with the Charismatic Movement during the 1980s.



Cesar and Maria Marcelino

"It was really wonderful, the presence of God was there; we were really in love with Jesus," he said. But things changed when their 16-year-old daughter left the church for the son of a local preacher, whom she married four years later. His daughter gave him a book, which made him question his faith.

"As Catholics, we weren't really taught to read the Bible; we were given a catechism that to us was the Bible," he said. "Upon reading this book, I began to search the word of God and to see what God's word said. The question I started asking myself is: Am I going to believe what man says or what God says? The choice was clear: I had to believe what God says."

That's when the couple decided to follow and join their daughter as

members of His Love Reaching Church in New Bedford. They have been members there for the past four years.

Two years ago, Mr. Marcelino found himself ready for a change in careers. "I was just burned out," he said, "and I always wanted to open up a Christian bookstore. At the time the Lighthouse Christian Bookstore was already in existence, but the Lord told me to wait."

But last October, the Marcelinos heard that the Christian Lighthouse Bookstore was for sale. Everything began to fall into place, and with Mrs. Marcelino retiring after working as a school teacher in the New Bedford school system for 34 years, both realized they could devote their full attention to his dream.

On Jan. 2, after spending New Year's Day reorganizing the layout of the store and adding to the inventory, the new owners of the Christian Lighthouse Bookstore in Dartmouth opened their doors and, as Mr. Marcelino likes to joke, the Marcelinos went from tuning up bikes to tuning up souls.

"It's more than just a business; it's also a ministry," said Mr. Marcelino, who greets his customers with "God bless you" and offers a book for customers to write in their "needs." He and his wife open and

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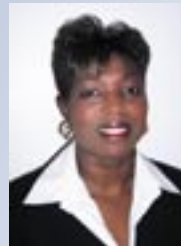
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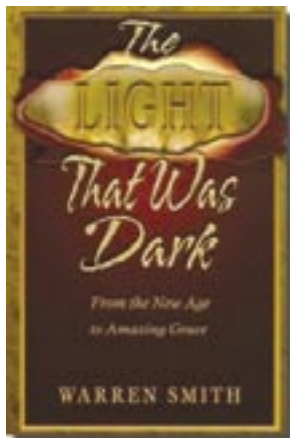
Stop in and visit Cesar and Maria the next time that you are in the neighborhood and let them know of your needs. You'll find the Lighthouse Christian Bookstore

at 88A State Rd, North Dartmouth, MA. If you have a special request give them a call at 508-997-1165.

This article was previously published in the Standard-Times. Reprinted with permission.

from previous page

Jesus Christ who is described and quoted in the Holy Bible (Romans 5:1).



not the same Jesus Christ who is so clearly and authoritatively presented in the pages of the Bible.

Warren Smith is a former New Age follower who at one time was deeply involved in the New Age teachings of A Course in Miracles. He is the author of these insightful books:

Deceived on Purpose, The Light that was Dark and Reinventing Jesus Christ (2nd edition which is posted online): <http://www.reinventingjesuschrist.com>

Endnotes:

1. <http://marianne.com/books/index/htm>
2. *A Course in Miracles: Combined Volume* (Glen Ellen, California: Foundation for Inner Peace, 1975), (Workbook), p. 45.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 102.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 119.
5. *Ibid.*, (Text), p. 16.
6. *Ibid.*, (Preface), p. ix.
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8. Robert Skutch, *Journey Without Distance: The Story behind "A Course in Miracles"* (Berkeley, California: Celestial Arts, 1984), p. 54.
9. *A Course in Miracles: Combined Volume*, (Workbook), p. 183.
10. *Ibid.*, (Text), p. 425.
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12. *Ibid.*
13. *Ibid.*, (Teachers Manual), p. 58.
14. *Ibid.*, (Workbook), p. 45.
15. *Ibid.*, (Text), p. 147.
16. *Ibid.*, p. 125.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 237.
18. http://www.hourofpower.org/interviews/interviews_detail.cfm?ArticleID=3079
19. Marianne Williamson, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles A Course in Miracles* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1996), p. ix.

20. Marianne Williamson, *The Gift Of Change: Spiritual Guidance for a Radically New Life* (San Francisco: HarperSan Francisco, 2004), p. 5.
21. Wayne Dyer, "There's a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem," Public Broadcasting System broadcast in 2001.
22. Neale Donald Walsch, *The New Revelations: A Conversation with God* (New York: Atria Books, 2002), p. 157.
23. Neale Donald Walsch, *Conversations with God: an uncommon dialogue, Book 1* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1996), p. 90.
24. <http://www.rethinkconference.com/> (See also WorldNetDaily.com 10/30/07 "What is Robert Schuller 'rethinking'?" by Joseph Farah and "Rethinking Robert Schuller" by Warren Smith. See also Here-scope: "Rethinking Culture" and "Rethinking and Reinventing" (10/30/07)

Oprah Winfrey's misplaced faith in Marianne Williamson and the New Age teachings of *A Course in Miracles* is a sure sign of the times. But an even surer sign of the times is that most Christians are not taking heed to what is happening in the world and in the church. We are not contending for the faith as the Bible admonishes us to do (Jude 3).

It is time for all of our Purpose-Driven and Emerging church pastors to address the real issue of the day. **Our true Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is being reinvented, redefined, and blasphemed right in front of our eyes and hardly anyone seems to notice or care.** If we want the world to know who Jesus Christ is, we need to also warn them about who He is not. There is a false New Age "Christ" making huge inroads into the world and into the church. The Apostle Paul said that "it is a shame" we have to even talk about these things, but talk about them we must (Ephesians 5:12-16).

If people want to follow Oprah Winfrey and the New Age "Christ" of *A Course in Miracles* they certainly have that right. But let them be warned that the New Age "Christ" they are following is

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22
7:30 PM

Entertainment

Missionary #1 On U.S. Chart For 10 Weeks

By Dan Wooding

(ANS) - You may not have heard of Debbie Scott... yet, her single has been #1 on the Christian Retail Weekly IAA Chart for ten weeks. *All This For Me* is the single released from her album *Crossover* which is available from Lifeway stores and her website: www.debbiemusic.com

Debbie was born and raised in Cosenza, southern Italy. From early childhood she was immersed in a creative family. Her mom is an Italian artist and her dad is a Thai architect. The ethnic mix of her parents gave Debbie her exotic features. Her cultural background changed dramatically at age 11 when the family relocated to Bangkok, Thailand.

While in High School she became fluent in English and during this

time she pursued a career in modeling working for companies such as Jantzen, Esprit, Benetton and Lee Jeans. When she became a Christian at age 15, Debbie was passionate about her new faith. After graduating from high school she was signed to a secular recording company but later quit the music business to enroll in the Domata Bible School in Bangkok and it was during this time she met American missionary Bob Scott who is now her husband.

Today, Bob and Debbie run "Life in Christ Ministries" in Bangkok, Thailand. Their emphasis is on evangelism, training indigenous pastors and church planting in regions where there are no Christian churches. They are pastoring the first church they planted in Samutprakan Province and are already in the process of pioneering their third church plant.

Bob and Debbie co-ordinate mass evangelism events for John Smithwick and his teams, and have seen over 20,000 people receive Christ in the past three years. In addition, they mentor local pastors such as Pastor Wittaya who has been in ministry for over 20 years.

Pastor Wittaya had seen very little growth in his church since it started. In the past few years however, working side by side with Bob and Debbie and the training they've provided, he has caught the fire for soul-winning. His church literally doubled in size within the first month. Now, as he is being trained through Life in Christ, he is also able to train future leaders for his growing church.

Bob and Debbie's goal in pastoring a church is to teach the congregation to live a victorious life through Jesus. Most of their church members have amazing testimonies which they share each week. Many have been miraculously healed, including

two who had AIDS and have now been pronounced 'out of danger' by doctors. Just last weekend, Bob

The Scotts are also dedicated to strengthen and equip the church in the rest of Southeast Asia and have held several Pastors Training Meetings in Burma over the last 3 years. The ministry is planning to co-ordinate mass evangelism events every year, pioneer church plants and disciple leaders to take care of the harvest. Their goal is to see half a million people come to Christ over the next 10 years.

On top of their grassroots ministry, Debbie also co-hosts the Thai version of The 700 Club which broadcasts on Thailand's national television. She has also co-hosted The 700 Club program in The U.S. with Gordon Robertson.

If you would like to support Debbie and Bob in their ministry, please contact: North Records (757) 383 8327 or email: info@northentertainment.com. For further information visit Debbie's website: www.debbiemusic.com



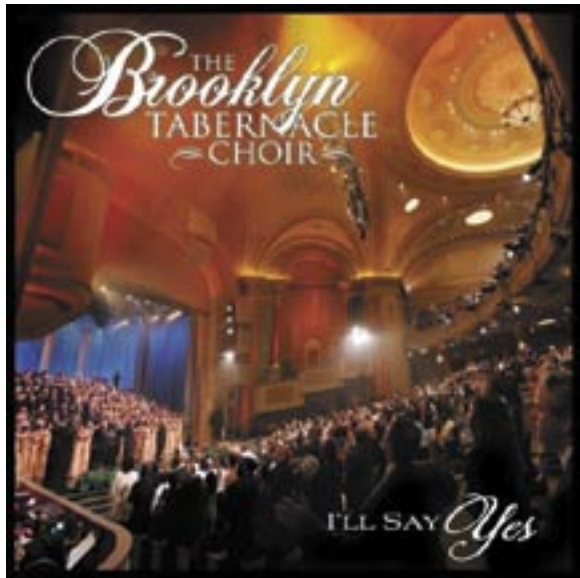
Missionary and singer Debbie Scott

and Debbie taught hands-on evangelism to their congregation by holding a "children's day" activity. The church saw over 100 children give their hearts to Jesus!

Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir releases new CD

By Michael Ireland

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK (ANS) - World-renowned and six-time Grammy(R) Award winner The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir will release its new album, "I'll Say Yes", on January 29.



To mark the release, the Brooklyn Tabernacle will hold two free concert premieres for the public at their 17 Smith Street address (between Fulton and Livingston streets) in NY. The concerts will take place at 3:30pm on the afternoons of Sunday, January 27 and Sunday, February 3. Each concert will feature the internationally lauded gospel choir performing music from the new project.

According to a media release, "I'll Say Yes" is the Brooklyn Tabernacle's 26th album in a recording history that stretches back to 1981 and includes seven Dove Awards and over 4 million albums sold in addition to their Grammy(R) wins. The album was recorded live at the Brooklyn Tabernacle and was produced by choir founder and director Carol Cymbala, the wife of Pastor Jim Cymbala.

Now, distributed exclusively by Integrity Music, this CD will be available in retail outlets worldwide beginning January 29 and will also be available online at www.integritydirect.com or www.TheGoodNewsTODAY.com

[.brooklyntabernacle.org](http://www.brooklyntabernacle.org).

The ministry of The Brooklyn Tabernacle was birthed out of a prayer meeting and has quickly grown as the direct result of God's people faithfully continuing to pray and lift up the name of the Lord.

From a small handful of people to a congregation of several thousands the Brooklyn Tabernacle has become a beacon of spiritual light and a place of prayer for people seeking God's

help for their lives.

Carol Cymbala writes on The Brooklyn Tabernacle website:

"It's exciting to know we have friends from around the world who take the time to visit our website. I would like to thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement. Ministering here in the inner city of New York presents us with many challenges, but we are grateful and confident that our God is greater than any obstacle we might face.

She adds: "We just recorded a new project entitled 'I'll Say Yes,' (Release Date- January 29, 2008) which will be different than anything we've ever done. Half of the songs will be sung by the Choir, while the rest will be new praise and worship choruses sung by the congregation in a live, spontaneous setting. An accompanying DVD will also be produced so that you can see both the Choir minister and the congregation sing praises to the Lord. Pray with us that God will

both help and bless our efforts."

Cymbala says: "We recently enlarged our choir by adding new members. Twice a year, I audition and interview prospective choir members. God has given us some precious people who have not only beautiful voices, but also sincere loving hearts that glorify His name. The choir now numbers close to 300 members. Our goal and purpose is to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread in New York City and around the world. Singing for our Savior and seeing many come to know Him remains our greatest joy."

The church websites states The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir is directed by Carol Cymbala, the wife of Senior Pastor Jim Cymbala and the daughter of the church founder, the late Rev. Clair Hutchins.

Epiphany Prizes Honor Inspirational Movies & TV

LOS ANGELES, CA (ANS) - MOVIEGUIDE®, a family guide to movies and entertainment, announced in January that the John Templeton Foundation will be sponsoring the Epiphany Prizes for Inspiring Movies & TV for the next three years.

The winners of the two \$50,000 prizes for 2007 will be announced at the 16th Annual Movieguide® Faith & Values Awards Gala and Report to the Entertainment Industry, to be held Feb. 12 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. "This will ensure the continuity of the Epiphany Prizes for the foreseeable future," said Dr. Ted Baehr, founder and publisher of Movieguide®.

The Epiphany Prizes are given to the best movie and television program that leads to a great increase in man's love and understanding of God. Past prize winners have included "Dead Man Walk-

"Although the Choir is composed of vocally untrained church members, it has been used by the Lord to present the love of God all over the world. The 285-voice choir has recorded three videos, two DVDs, and numerous albums, winning six Grammy Awards," the site explains.

"The choir represents all different walks of life and every kind of sin," Pastor Cymbala says. "You name it and we have someone who has been saved out of it, standing next to another one who has grown up in the church."

In the early 1980's, Carol Cymbala decided to "make a little tape for the church," and when she had trouble finding enough appropriate songs, she began writing them. Although she cannot read or write music, the Lord has given her a special gift to direct and create from the heart through the power

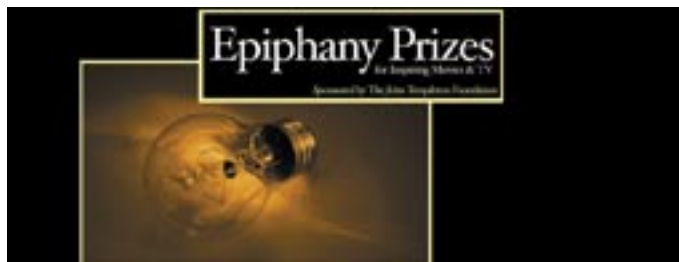
of the Holy Spirit. After 25 years of recording and live performances, the Lord continues to use the Choir to carry the message of the Gospel around the world.

The site goes on to state: "It is a highly unlikely ensemble, a mixture of ethnic and economic backgrounds, in the heart of a city synonymous with coldness and decay. The choir is made up of attorneys and street people, nurses and ex-crack addicts, a unique cross section of humanity.

Pastor Carol explains: "None of us would have met if it weren't for Christ. Our backgrounds are just too diverse. But all of us have one thing in common: we have all been lifted up and saved. So the Choir sings -- not about a theological position -- but about what has happened to them. It's not a theory; it's a reality."

ing," "Amistad," "7th Heaven," "Touched by an Angel," "The Prince of Egypt," "The Passion of the Christ," "The Nativity Story," "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "Love Comes Softly," "Doc," and "Walker, Texas Ranger."

For years, Hollywood and advertising executives have told themselves, that sex and violence sell. However, 2007 box office returns tell a different story from the conventional wisdom that mass media and advertising gurus have been spouting. "That's why Spider-Man 3 was the top movie this summer in the United States and Canada. It also explains why American Idol was by far the top rated show on network television."



"Hollywood is beginning to understand what movies Americans want to see. They want to see good conquer evil, truth triumph over lies and justice prevail over injustice," says Dr. Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission and publisher of Movieguide.org. "They would also like to take their whole family, including their grandparents, to the movies more often", says Dr. Baehr.

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Is the FDA concerned about your health?

By Byron J. Richards, CCN

The FDA Is Sued

The New Year brings a surprise for the FDA – a lawsuit filed by Public Citizen seeking to force the FDA to do its pretended job of protecting American citizens from the dangers of drugs. Of course, the real FDA job, as prioritized by top FDA management, is to protect the sales of Big Pharma and create new market opportunities for Big Pharma and Big Biotech while using Americans for experimental purposes.

The current suit revolves around the dangers of toxic fluoride-containing antibiotics. The two brand names involved are Johnson & Johnson's Levaquin and Bayer's Cipro. The German

company, Bayer, has a long and colorful history of injuring Americans while its executives laugh all the way to the bank.

These dangerous antibiotics cause ruptured and damaged tendons. Public Citizen had petitioned the FDA for a clear black box warning, rather than a warning buried deep in the fine print that no person fighting an illness would have the energy to read. The FDA refused to force the drug companies to make the warning clear, knowing that such a warning would reduce sales of the drugs and open the companies to lawsuits by those who have been injured.

Now the FDA will get a chance to defend its pro Big Pharma anti-American position in court. Happy New Year, FDA. Hopefully this is the start of a new trend.

Spotlight Shines on Ineptitude of Medical Sinus Treatments

The *Journal of the American Medical Association* has just published a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study showing

that the use of antibiotics and nasal steroids is ineffective at treating sinusitis.

Each year there are 25 million visits to a doctor in the United States to treat sinus problems; the overwhelming majority are viral in nature. Despite repeated warnings of germ resistance from antibiotic prescription overuse, U.S. physicians still prescribe an antibiotic at least 85 percent of the time. Now there is iron-clad scientific proof that this strategy does not work.



What is not discussed in this study is the rampant epidemic of *Candida Albicans* that is caused by this flagrant malpractice of medicine. Physicians routinely cause life-long infections with *Candida Albicans* which seriously deteriorate the health and quality of life of their patients who receive repeating doses of antibiotics.

It is now also quite clear that repeated doses of antibiotics in infants is a cause of the epidemic of asthma in children (mostly as a side effect of *Candida* infection).

It is becoming painfully obvious to everyone that medical doctors cannot be trusted to do a competent job and are guilty of practicing medicine with a useless license. Thankfully, many natural remedies can easily take care of sinus problems without damaging a person's health for life.

Common Diabetes Drug Causes Bone Loss – Medical Profession in a Funk

The commonly used and much maligned diabetes drug, Avandia, just took another spill down the

stairs. A new mouse study shows that the drug weakens bones and is likely to cause osteoporosis in the millions of users in the United States. The drug was shown to get directly in the way of healthy bone function, causing accelerated bone loss and slowed bone growth.

Senior study author Ron Evans, not wanting to step on Glaxo-SmithKline's toes, had this to say about Avandia "We do not recommend that people stop their treatment. You must balance the benefits against the complications."

So how do the millions of people taking this drug balance the risks against the benefits? Well maybe they go to the FDA website where they will find that in May the FDA warned of "a potentially significant

increase in the risk of heart attack and heart-related deaths in patients taking Avandia." Yes, that is a 43% increased risk.

So now we have a drug that causes serious bone disease and heart disease. The FDA has left it on the market so that you the consumer and your too-busy doctor can sort out if this poison is right for you.

The drug-pushing quick-fix paradigm of Western Medicine, existing almost solely to prop up the profits of multi-national drug companies and rape the American public of wealth, is a scam gone wild.

Doctors are overworked and generally inept at fixing anything without drugs, especially a complex and labor-intensive problem like diabetes. Consumers are naive to think that years of poor choices and a polluted food supply can be fixed by drugs.

Diabetes is a project. There are no quick fixes. Individuals must be consistent with many healthy habits if they are to have a chance of recovering their health.

homosexual men may soon spread it to the general population.

Matt Barber, Policy Director for Cultural issues with Concerned Women for America (CWA), said, "The medical community has known for years that homosexual conduct, especially among males, creates a breeding ground for often deadly disease. In recent years we have seen a profound resurgence in cases of HIV/AIDS, syphilis, rectal gonorrhea and many other STDs among those who call themselves 'gay.'"

"The human body is quite callous in how it handles mistreatment and the perversion of its natural functions. When two men mimic the act of heterosexual intercourse with one another, they create an environment, a biological counterfeit, wherein disease can thrive. Unnatural behaviors beget natural consequences."

"In recent years our culture has adopted a laissez faire attitude toward sexual deviancy. Television shows like Will and Grace glorify the homosexual lifestyle while our children are taught in schools that homosexuality is a perfectly healthy, alternative sexual 'orientation.' 'Stay out of our bedrooms!' we're often commanded by militant 'gay' activists.

"Well, now the dangerous and possibly deadly consequence of what occurs in those bedrooms is spilling over into the general population. It's not only frightening, it's infuriating.

"Citizens, especially parents, need to stand up and say, 'No More! We will no longer sit idly by while politically correct cultural elites endanger our children and larger communities through propagandist promotion of this demonstrably deadly lifestyle.'"

Experience winter veggies while you can

By Steve Petusevsky

I dedicate this column to neglected seasonal vegetables. Most home cooks pass on these because they don't know what to do with them. It's intimidating to tackle a strange ingredient, even though most winter vegetables are simple to prepare. Leeks, turnips, rutabagas, beets, Brussels sprouts, parsnips and kohlrabi can be steamed and eaten with a sprinkle of salt and pepper or drizzle of extra-virgin olive oil or melted butter. However, here are additional ways to enjoy these and more of my favorite winter treats.

BEETS

• **Prep:** If you've never tried fresh beets you are in for something special. Boil them in salted water about 10 minutes. Remove them and let cool or plunge into cold water to cool immediately. Rub off their skins with a kitchen towel that you don't really want as it will be dyed bright red. Or use a pan sponge that has a slightly abrasive surface. If peeling raw beets, wear plastic gloves and peel with a vegetable peeler. Then you can grate them for salads.

• **Cook:** After boiling and peeling, cut into wedges and place in a baking dish. Add a splash of orange juice and a drizzle of honey or maple syrup. Bake in a 375-degree oven about 20 minutes until tender. Season with salt and pepper.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

• **Prep:** Cut the stem end off and then cut a cross into the bottom with a paring knife, which allows them to cook quickly. Remove the outer leaves from the sprouts.

• **Cook:** Cook in boiling water until almost tender; drain. Heat a mixture of olive oil and a bit of butter in a skillet over medium heat. Saute the par-cooked sprouts until golden. Season with salt and pepper and toss with some chopped scallions or chives.

KOHLRABI

• **Prep:** Peel tough outer skin with a sharp paring knife. Slice or shred the remaining tender bulb.

• **Cook:** Kohlrabi is sweet and can be eaten raw in salads. It is also wonderful sauteed in olive oil with fresh dill and lemon.

LEEKS

• **Prep:** They are always very sandy so the key to enjoying leeks is proper cleaning. Cut off the top 6 inches of dark green leaves and the bottom root end; discard. Either slice the remaining leek in 1/2-inch-thick discs and rinse well in several changes of water or cut in half lengthwise and rinse each

"Why does it take a potentially deadly staph epidemic for people to acknowledge reality? Will that even do it? Enough is enough!" concluded Barber.

layer of leaves until all the sand is removed.

• **Cook:** Leeks are delicious sauteed in butter or olive oil until caramelized. They can be sauteed with diced tomatoes until a thick sauce or ragu forms. This leek ragu is good over rice, pasta or grilled vegetables.

PARSNIPS

• **Prep:** Peel as you would a carrot and slice into 1/2-inch-thick discs or quarter lengthwise and then cut into 2-inch lengths.

• **Cook:** Parsnips are great boiled with potatoes and mashed with butter, salt, pepper and a pinch nutmeg. I also like them roasted along with other root vegetables. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Toss the cut parsnips with olive oil, salt, pepper and any chopped herbs. Place in a roasting pan and roast 45 minutes until tender and golden.

RADISHES

• **Prep:** Wash them well then snip off both ends and slice thinly.

• **Cook:** I don't cook these but find that the classic way to eat them is delicious: Put them on bread with sweet butter and a sprinkle of salt. I also like them tossed with Asian sesame oil, tamari and rice vinegar.

RUTABAGAS

• **Prep:** Rutabagas come waxed and are difficult to peel. Cut off both ends first so the rutabaga sits flat on a cutting board. With a sharp knife, cut from top to bottom under the skin and wax. After peeling, cut into 1-inch chunks or small wedges.

• **Cook:** Roasting rutabagas brings out their natural sugars. Roast the chunks or wedges following the instructions for roasting parsnips.

TURNIPS

• **Prep:** Peel and dice into large cubes, shred or slice thinly.

• **Cook:** Simply boil them in salted water, drain them and add some butter to serve. But my favorite method is to cook them with an equal amount of peeled potatoes. When the turnips and potatoes are tender, drain and mash them, adding some warm milk and a pat of butter or some olive oil and a sprinkling of salt, pepper and nutmeg. They are like super-charged mashed potatoes.

Epidemic Feared - 'Gays' May Spread Deadly Staph Infection to General Population

WASHINGTON, Christian News-wire - Reuters has reported that, "A drug-resistant strain of potentially deadly bacteria has moved beyond the borders of U.S. hospitals and is being transmitted among gay men during sex, researchers said on Monday.

"They said methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, is beginning to appear outside hospitals in San Francisco, Boston, New York and Los Angeles."

"Once this reaches the general population, it will be truly unstoppable," said Binh Diep, a researcher at the University of California, San Francisco who led the study."

According to the study, at this point, homosexual men are 13 times more likely to contract the potentially deadly, drug-resistant strain of staph infection, but the fear is that, because the infection is spread via skin-to-skin contact,

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Editorials

Chilling 2500 Year Old Prophecy May Be In Play

By Bill Wilson

A chilling 2,500 year old prophecy by Obadiah may be in play as President Bush sells his vision of a new Middle East. One picture shows President Bush with an Arab sword resting on his shoulder having a good laugh with Saudi Arabian Prince Salman. The double edge of the sword is indicative of the very nature of Bush's mission as he embarked on a whirlwind tour of Islamic nations to bolster support against a nuclear Iran and in favor of his initiatives to establish a Palestinian

state. In his enthusiasm, however, is a gift bag of sophisticated weaponry and political favors to curry support from some of Israel's most passionate enemies.

One has to wonder if these Islamic rulers pictured with Bush are smiling because they see the American President as a catalytic agent in surrendering the long term sovereignty of the United States to Islam and selling out the only true and peaceful democratic state in the Middle East—Israel. Islam has convinced the West that the Sunnis and the Shiites are stron-

ger enemies against one another than they are collectively against the United States and Israel. So the Bush strategy is to get as many Sunni Muslims on his side against the Iranian Shiite Muslims. He doesn't seem to understand that when it comes to Israel or the United States, the Sunnis and Shiites are an army of one.

The Saudi army soon will include \$123 million worth of sophisticated "smart bomb" technology, giving Saudi forces highly accurate targeting abilities. The Bush Administration already has notified Congress of five other packages to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait that include Patriot missiles, estimating the total amount of sales in



this "Gulf Security Dialogue" at \$20 billion. The concern is that Bush and other American leaders are blind to the true Islamic threat. And by arming them with sophisticated American weapons,

the enemies of America and Israel get a leg up in the War of Islamic Aggression.

Could these Arab leaders be feigning peaceful relations with

our President while preparing to murder innocent Americans and Israelis with our own weapons? All the while, the Saudis are pushing for relaxed visa requirements even though they were the majority that participated in the 9/11 attack—a Sunni attack that Shiite Iran applauded enthusiastically. There is a chilling prophecy in Obadiah. Verse 4 says, "Though you exalt thyself as the eagle, and though you set your nest among the stars, thence will I bring you down, says the Lord." And in verse 7 Obadiah prophesies, "All the men of your confederacy have brought you even to the border: the men that were at peace with you have deceived you, and prevailed against you." Pray for our nation.

SPIRITUAL DIABETES

By Coach Dave Daubenmire

"For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." -- Hebrews 5:13-14

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it." -- Amos 8: 11-14

America is dying from malnutrition. How long can a people survive eating junk-food? I turn on the TV or radio and listen to the sugar being fed to the listeners and I nearly fall into a diabetic coma.

Yesterday as I took a rare trip to the mall I passed by the Walden's Book Store and I was shocked to see that the featured book displayed at the entrance of the store was Joel Osteen's "Becoming a Better You," Christian cotton-candy for the masses. "Wow," I thought out-loud. "A secular bookstore is featuring a Christian book."

What is wrong with this picture? Self-help Christianity is all the rage. If we were capable of helping ourselves, if WE were the answer to our problems, Jesus put on His earth suit for nothing.

I expect this type of "preaching" from Dr. Phil, or Oprah, or a myriad of "psychobabalists" who dot the world of plasma TV's. But it is tragic that the best selling Christian books in America today happen to be of this ilk. "Self-help Christianity" (Your Best Life Now, Purpose Driven Life, Becoming a Better You) has replaced the Bible as the most popular reading among church-going folks. Instead of meat, church-goers are eating candy. Is it any wonder our nation is in the condition it is in?

I'm sure the temptation is great for pastors. How can a man watch Mr. Osteen with his 30,000 The Good News TODAY

member congregation, worldwide television ministry, and cadre of best selling books and not be envious? Rick Warren sold millions of "Purpose Driven" books. Pastors and church leaders adopted the resources as a means of training their flocks to a more "successful" Christian-life. Like an infant crying for milk in the middle of the night American's are squealing for food. As harsh as it may sound, and as judgmental as you may like to think I am, the Truth is, instead of feeding God's children milk, and eventually meat, our people-pleasing pulpiteers have served up a steady diet of sugar-water.

America's pulpits have caused spiritual diabetes to destroy the church. If we are to regain our spiritual-health our pastors must once again preach the Word not a warmed-over plate of "Christian maple syrup." It is our only hope. Why is the preaching of the word so important?

The Word restores the authority of God into the lives of people. Whenever anything is substituted for the Word, God's authority over souls is usurped. The Word of God does not need the dime-store psychology of man to enhance It's power. Can you think of anything more disrespectful of God than to use anything besides His Word when feeding his sheep? Do you love me? FEED MY SHEEP! Stop passing out candy!

The Word reinforces Jesus as the ultimate authority in the church. The purpose of the advent of Christ was the annihilation of sin. The appeasement of sin by the modern "cotton candy dispensers" has caused the Gospel to be compromised and the power to destroy sin is minimized. The direct result is a taking of the Name of the Lord in vain. Jesus came to deliver us from evil, not make us comfortable rubbing shoulders with it. The famine of the Word has filled the church with false converts.

The Word allows the Holy Spirit to do His work. The Word is God's instrument of regeneration. The law is a "schoolmaster that leads to Christ." "The Words that I say unto you they are Spirit and they are life." The result of the Word not being preached is

shallow conversions that produce spiritually-lame Christians. It is God's Word that will not return void! No one comes to the Father unless the Spirit draws Him! The Spirit rides on the Word not the opinions of feeble men.

Preaching of the Word develops the mind of Christ. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. America's pulpits have become so concerned with being "relevant to the culture" that they have permitted the leaven of the world to pollute the incorruptible Word of God. The world has become the "salt of the church." Our inability to speak the Word, and defend the Word has made the "Word of God of none effect." We read the gospel according to Rick Warren, Joel Osteen, Bill Hybels, and Joyce Meyer and ignore the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Word allows the voice of God to be heard on the moral issues of the day. Is it any wonder that there is so much confusion about what the Bible teaches regarding homosexuality, marriage, and abortion? God's Word is the moral compass for mankind. Remove the reading, teaching, and preaching of God's Word and we are sure to find ourselves shipwrecked. God's Word is the anchor of Truth and the rudder that directs the ship. It keeps the nation on course.

The Word introduces people to their One True source of help. Failure to preach the Word robs us of the ability to submit to Divine Authority. Focusing on the "felt needs" of those in the pew creates a self-centered Christianity. The result of this "happiness-preaching" is the elevation of the needs of man above the will of the Lord. Divorce becomes justified if it makes one happy. Biblical authority will not work if a man sees his happiness as the purpose of Christ's death.

The Word brings true repentance and conversion. Sin is soul-sickness and just like any sickness it requires a cure. However, failure to preach the Truth of sin prevents the diagnosis of life's problems from ever being exposed. Would you seek cancer treatments if you didn't know you had cancer? Would you seek a Savior if you didn't know you needed one?

Today's "easy-believism" is convincing folks to trade what they cannot earn to accumulate what they cannot keep. Those in the church are seeking the same things as the pagans seek...and they think Jesus will help them get it. I've never seen a Brink's truck following a hearse.

Here are the long-term symptoms of diabetes.

- Heart Disease. (Where your heart is, there shall your treasure be.)
- Kidney Disease. (Eliminates the impurities from the body.)
- Blindness (Israel's Watchmen are blind. Isaiah 56:10)
- Nerve Damage (The inability to feel and react to stimuli.)

State of the Union Casts New Vision

By Bill Wilson

President George W. Bush's last State of the Union speech was an outline of government replacing individualism domestically and a vision of an American world order internationally. The President, while toting tax deductions for Americans, went on to paint a vision of America that held the government becoming the provider in nearly every aspect of American life. Instead of promoting school choice, he shifted direction toward liberalism by suggesting government grants for underprivileged children to abandon ineffective public schools and attend private schools; Bush called for a tax free bond system where the government would bail out homeowners who cannot afford their mortgages.

Domestically, the government according to Bush, should be involved in health care, determine how to pay for increased entitlements—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare, and find ways to help scientists do their research. The government should fund ways to get other nations to comply with pollution standards—but no mention of the \$3.00 a gallon gasoline that is eating away our disposable income. And Bush intends to expand the North American Union through meetings with Mexico and Canada as well as trade agreements with Columbia and Panama. These, Bush said, would increase trade and jobs. Jobs for who? Traditionally, these trade agreements have exported jobs.

• Impotence (The Gospel is the Power...no Gospel, no power. Romans 1:16)

The battle for the culture will be won in the pews. Judgment must first begin in the house of God. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." 2 Timothy 4: 2 Reprove and rebuke. Those are harsh words. They infer correction and judgment.

Paul preached "Christ Crucified." We should do the same. America has spiritual diabetes. The Word of God is the insulin. Preach the Word. Anything else is junk food.

On foreign policy, the Bush stated goal is to spread liberty abroad while protecting the nation. Much was said about the war on terror and how terrorists and other extremists were standing against the spread of freedom and democracy. What was not said was that the terrorists and extremists are Islam and that the world is at war over the choice of freedom or the acceptance of Islamic fascism. Bush's answer—defend liberty worldwide and defend the United States. He intends to do this by military might, utilizing failed United Nations programs such as the Millennium Challenge Account, and by purchasing crops directly from farmers in poor countries.

President Bush said, "the secret of our strength, the miracle of America, is that our greatness lies not in our government, but in the spirit and determination of our people." If this is the secret, the American people are going to have to muster a lot of strength and determination to pay for the government replacing their spirit. The President has overstepped the charter of this great nation by casting a vision of domestic socialism and America the World. Jesus said in Matthew 22:21, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." This nation, built in covenant with God, is given over to Caesar by its deceptive leaders and patriots ought to act to stop it.

GET OUT OF JAIL FREE

By Dick Evans

Colossians 1:14 God has purchased our freedom with his blood and has forgiven all our sins. (NLT)

Remember playing Monopoly? When I was a young teenager I used to enjoy spending hours playing that game with my friends. The goal in Monopoly is to own as much as you can in property and have others pay you rent. You try to become the richest player in the game.

Isn't this a lot like the world today? Aren't most people seeking fame and fortune? Those that have want more and those that have not want. Gambling casinos abound and lottery tickets are available all over town.

One part of Monopoly has you collecting cards that give you special options like taking extra turns or going to specific places on the board. One of those places is jail. When you go to jail you have to stay there for three turns unless you roll doubles with the dice. But

there is another way. If you have a get out of jail free card, you simply walk out on your next turn.

We were all born in bondage, in jail. We were born under the rule of satan carrying the sins of the past with us all the way back to Adam. We were born with an Adamic nature no matter who we were. The best of the best may have been born into a family of fame and fortune, but they still came into this world with that original sin.

God sent His only Son to earth to live and die for you and I. When He died on the cross, He shed His blood for you and for me. He became our get out of jail free card. When we are in Christ and He is in us, no jail of satan can hold us. We have been forgiven of all of our personal sins and of all generational sin including Adam's.

All God wants from us is to tell others our story. Preach His message every where you go. Did you tell someone today about their get out of jail free card?

SHOUT BALL (youth ministry tip)

By Rev. Doug Forbes

One of the most important things we can learn about a person is their name. One way to remember a person's name is to hear it repeated several times. Shout Ball requires us to repeat and therefore remember names.

To play Shout Ball you need: Bibles, Bible concordances, several soft balls, copier paper, self-stick name badges and pens.

Instruct the students to write their name on a badge and wear it in plain sight. Gather the children in a circle and hand a ball to one child. The child is to yell the name of a person on the other side of the circle and throw them the ball. Each child is to repeat this until every young person has caught the ball.

Tell the students that they did a good job so far, but now they will play the game at the advanced level. Pass out several balls and instruct them to play the same game with several balls going at once. As the game progresses,

encourage them to play faster and faster until everyone is confused.

Break the young people up into several teams and ask them to sit together. Distribute Bibles and concordances and instruct each group to make a list of peoples' names from the Bible. After a set period of time everyone must stop. Allow each group time to read their list of names, and share the total number of names they found. (Some of the pronunciations could be quite interesting!) The group with the most names wins! You may wish to distribute pieces of wrapped candy or some other small items for prizes.

Explain to your students that peoples' names are important and we should do our best to learn them. Remind your students that God knows our names and everything else about us. Remind them that God knows them, cares for them and loves them very much. Some Bible passages you may wish to share with your students include: John 3:16, Psalm 23, Psalm 46:1, Psalm 50:15, Isaiah 40:31, Joshua 1:9, Psalm 27:1, and Psalm 121:2.

"Good Evening Mr. Phelps..."

... is exactly how one of my favorite shows began while I was growing up. You may remember it - "Mission Impossible." The line was delivered by a tape player which explained Jim's impossible mission of the week.

The tape concluded by assuring the man with the mission that if he was caught, any knowledge of his mission would be denied and the tape would self-destruct in smoke (which it did within seconds). I loved that show.

The plan unfolded with lots of clever twists to the plot. Each

member of the team had a different specialty and played a different role, but the objective, the mission, was shared and the commitment to it was absolute.

- We too have a mission. Jesus said we are to make disciples (apprentices) of Jesus all over the world wherever we go (Matthew 28:18-20). That includes your work environment.
- This seems impossible, which is why the Holy Spirit's supernatural help is promised in conjunction with this assignment (Acts 1:8).
- Each of us has a different spe-

Commentary / Letters to the Editor

Comparisons between the Roman Empire and the United States

By Nick Matrone

American Frontiers Undefended

On July 18, 64 AD, fire broke out in the merchant area of the city of Rome. The flames quickly spread through the Imperial City. The fire fed for six days and seven nights and left seventy percent of the city in smoldering ruins. The guardian of the city, Emperor Nero, was seen standing on the summit playing his lyre as flames devoured the world around him.

Fast-forward to 2007

Liken unto the barbarians coming over the Danube and Rhine province. With the tsunami tide of illegal aliens, 12-20 million, swallowing the southwest and the manufacturing base of American jobs heading for the bone yard, it is time to evaluate the fruits of our leader's labors.

6 million people have broken into America since this President took office. 5000 a day come through Arizona. One out of twelve have criminal records. T.R called such a policy "A boarding house for the

world." What guarantee is there that the thousands annually who break in are Mexicans wanting to pick apples and oranges? As this wave disappears into society, is it reasonable to believe that some are here to do us harm? The enemy has reached the gates and found the frontiers that James Polk won undefended.

Why is our boarder not secure six years after 9/11?

Answer: Corporate republicans get to dump their American workers and hire cheap labor from Tijuana, pay zero costs in health insurance and social security. Democrats need the votes. Seeing as how immigrants vote for those who promise more social spending, it is no wonder usted habla espanol is the new slogan at the DNC conventions.

The nation has awoken to find a two party system gone wild. From Bill Clinton's assertion that "the time of big government is over", while proceeding to give us Nafta, higher taxes and the Somalia mess to President Bush's determination to "end tyranny on earth." Hearing Bush 43 speak about secure bor-

ders was like listening to Bush 41's "read my lips" speech on taxes.

The republic is governed by farmers and blue collars, no longer. It is dictated by wealthy special interests who sit in high places.

So how do millions that don't have millions get heard? Hollywood would have us believe we are homophobes, xenophobes, racists and un-enlightened as the enlightened ones fill our televisions with pornography. In 2008 we will take our quiet protests to the polls and vote as we have for decades. 80% want voluntary prayer back in schools, 90% want illegal immigration stopped cold. All want fiscal discipline. Does anyone expect to see such reflected in policy?

Benjamin Franklin was asked at the constitutional convention: "what have you given us sir?" "A republic, if you can keep it" said that wise old man.

Ut sementem feceris ita metes. As you sow, so you shall reap. - Roman statesman Marcus Cicero

Dear Brethren,

Should the US government continue to spend money to boost other countries' economies when the US budget is in a deficit? No. Here is why:

Today, one-fourth of America's national debt is traceable to foreign aid. Where is the morality or justice for a Constitutional Democratic Republic to take from its citizens without their consent, hand it over to poorer countries, when we have forgotten Americans at home? Fix the mess here, then we'll talk.

If we want to overlook the position that taking something, which hasn't been voluntarily given up, is stealing. Fine.

However, our government is a self-governed country by definition. Against our will, America is being bankrupted by a bloated federal bureaucracy of foreign

aid, we never voted for. The vast majority of folks do not see the logic in dumping billions on third world countries. Most of whom are: wasteful, corrupt, despot-dictators. Three-quarters vote against

welfare recipient. Loves to feed but doesn't work.

Any business that mirrored D.C. would have been either bankrupted or hauled off to jail. Please explain



us in the UN. Some of the most effective social programs are private charities. Not Governmental. Let alone a congress gone wild.

In colonial days when George Washington went to war the people were asked to "pitch in". Since the Boston tea party, we have forgotten what role a government should have. That it has no real money of its own. For ours is a faceless machine, resembling a glutinous

how being 6 trillion plus in the hole, it helps to dig your way out by giving away an already falling currency?

If an individual is burdened to help, there are plenty of charities to donate to. I would only ask you not take from my well, which has run dry.

Yours in Christ, Nick Matrone

cialty to bring, but the mission is the same. We are each involved in the "apprentice-making" mission, all needing to be in contact with people who don't know Jesus. Sharing our unique stories, we encourage them to follow Jesus as well. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

- Our mission is dangerous. Some will lose their lives in the process. Some will have insults heaped upon them; all will suffer to at least some small degree (2 Timothy 3:12).

- Unlike Jim Phelps and his team, we will never be denied, disowned, or disavowed if we are caught, captured or just mess up (Hebrews 13:5).

This mission is an adventure that we were born to live! It is through your life there at work that you most likely interact with more people who need Jesus Christ than at any other place. Why? Because God has strategically placed you there for this very

purpose. He is working with you at work for this purpose and for His Kingdom.

This WorkLife Lesson written by Ed Noble, Teaching Pastor, Journey Community Church, San Diego, CA. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Content edited and distributed by HisChurchatWork.org for non-profit educational purposes.

Inspiration

St. Valentine, The Real Story

By David Kithcart 700 Club
Producer

Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's day is all about, right? Well, maybe not.

The origin of this holiday for the expression of love really isn't romantic at all -- at least not in the traditional sense. Father Frank O'Gara of Whitefriars Street Church in Dublin, Ireland, tells the real story of the man behind the holiday -- St. Valentine.

"He was a Roman Priest at a time when there was an emperor called Claudius who persecuted the church at that particular time," Father O'Gara explains.

"He also had an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died."

"I think we must bear in mind that it was a very permissive society in which Valentine lived," says Father O'Gara. "Polygamy would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. And yet some of them seemed to be attracted to Christian faith. But obviously the church thought that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman for their life and that it was to be encouraged. And so it immediately

presented the problem to the Christian church of what to do about this."

"The idea of encouraging them to marry within the Christian church was what Valentine was about. And he secretly married them because of the edict."

Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against command of Emperor Claudius the second. There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison.

"One of the men who was to judge him in line with the Roman law at the time was a man called Asterius, who's daughter was blind. He was supposed to have prayed with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became Christian as a result."

In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution

of a beating, stoning, and finally decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it, "from your Valentine."

"What Valentine means to me as a priest," explains Father O'Gara, "is that there comes a time where you have to lay your life upon the line for what you believe. And with the power of the Holy Spirit we can do that -- even to the point of death."

Valentine's martyrdom has not gone unnoticed by the general public. In fact, Whitefriars Street Church is one of three churches that claim to house the remains of Valentine. Today, many people make the pilgrimage to the church to honor the courage and memory of this Christian saint.

"Valentine has come to be known as the patron saint of lovers. Before

you enter into a Christian marriage you want some sense of God in your life -- some great need of God in your life. And we know, particularly in the modern world, many people are meeting God through his Son, Jesus Christ. If Valentine were here today, he would say to married couples that there comes a time where you're going to have to suffer. It's not going to be easy to maintain your commitment and your vows in marriage. Don't be surprised if the "gushing" love that you have for someone changes to something less "gushing" but maybe much more mature. And the question is, will this young person be ready for that?"

"So on the day of the marriage they have to take that into context," Father O'Gara says. "Love -- human love and sexuality is wonderful, and blessed by God -- but also the shadow of the cross. That's what Valentine means to me."

Will work for food

I sat, with two friends, in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town-square. The food and the company were both especially good that day. As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying, a well-worn sign that read, "I will work for food." My heart sank.

I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief.

We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car.

Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: "Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square." Then with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the store front church, going through his sack.

I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

"Looking for the pastor?" I asked. "Not really," he replied, "just resting." "Have you eaten today?" "Oh, I ate something early this morn-

ing." "Would you like to have lunch with me?" "Do you have some work I could do for you?" "No work," I replied. "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch." "Sure," he replied with a smile.

As he began to gather his things, I asked some surface questions. Where you headed? "St. Louis." "Where you from?" "Oh, all over; mostly Florida." "How long you been walking?" "Fourteen years," came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, "Jesus is The Never Ending Story."

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought.

He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God. "Nothing's been the same since," he said, "I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now."

"Ever think of stopping?" I asked. "Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads."

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He

was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: "What's it like?" "What?" "To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?" "Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me."

My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said, "Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in."

I felt as if we were on holy ground. "Could you use another Bible?" I asked. He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite. "I've read through it 14 times," he said.

"I'm not sure we've got one of those, but let's stop by our church and see" I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful. "Where are you headed from here?" I asked. "Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon." "Are you hoping to hire on there for awhile?" "No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next."

He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town-square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things. "Would you sign my autograph



book?" he asked. "I like to keep messages from folks I meet."

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you; Plans to give you a future and a hope."

"Thanks, man," he said. "I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you." "I know," I said, "I love you, too." "The Lord is good!" "Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?" I asked. "A long time," he replied

And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, "See you in the New Jerusalem." "I'll be there!" was my reply.

He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, "When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?" "You bet," I shouted back, "God bless." "God bless." And that was the last I saw of him.

Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them... a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I

picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them.

Then I remembered his words: "If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. "See you in the New Jerusalem," he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will...

The question is dear reader, will you make it New Jerusalem? Do you feel that nobody in this world understands or cares about you? Maybe it's time for you to meet the one who loved you so much he was willing to die for you. If you've never received Christ as your personal Savior, do so without delay. Believe that He shed His blood on the cross to forgive your sins, and that He conquered death by rising from the grave. Then you too can be among those who will meet in New Jerusalem.

The Bible says that God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to die for our sins, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16) It also says that if you confess with your mouth, that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

Next Page please ▶▶▶

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Unfolding the Rose

A young, new preacher was walking with an older, more seasoned preacher in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice. The older preacher walked up to a rose bush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing any of the petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry. But, because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try and unfold the rosebud while keeping every petal intact ...

It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do. Noticing the young preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem:

It is only a tiny rosebud
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
Then, in my hands, they die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,

Don't wait another minute,
ask Him right now to show
you His perfect will for your
life.

*Jesus, please forgive my
sin. I know that you died for
me and that you have a plan
for my life. Please teach me
your ways and help me to
live my life for you. I'd like
to know of your unconditional
love. Amen*

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

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

An interview with an 80-year-old woman

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married -- for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation.

"He's a funeral director," she answered. "Interesting," the newsman thought. He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she first married a banker when she was in her early 20's, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's, later on a preacher when in her 60's, and now in her 80's, a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers. She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."

The flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So, I'll trust in Him for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to Him for His guidance
Each step of the Pilgrim's way.

The pathway that lies before me
Only my Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose.

Year Round Valentine

*I love you all through
February,
Not just on Valentine's
Day;
I cherish you when flowers
of spring
Appear in the midst of May.*

*I adore you in the summer,
When the air is filled with
heat;
Without you in my life each
day,
I wouldn't be complete.*

*I treasure you in fall,
When leaves are turning
gold;
I loved you when you were
younger;
I'll love you when you're old.*

*I prize you in the winter,
When colder days are here;
I love you, love you all the
time,
Every minute of the year.*

*So I'll give to you this
Valentine,
But I want to let you know,
It's not just today, but
always,
That I will love you so.*

By Joanna Fuchs

Long Hair

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut, then we will talk about it." A month later the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said, "Son, I'm real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!" The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair." His father replied, "Yes son, and they walked everywhere they went!"

Soul Food

Valentine questions: answered by kids

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY? to go for a second date. -- Martin, age 10

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR? I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. -- Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE? When they're rich. -- Pam, age 7

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED? The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. -- Curt, age 7

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED? The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. -- Howard, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED? It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. -- Anita, age 9 (bless you child)

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON? Both don't want any more kids. -- Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE? Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. -- Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED? There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? -- Kelvin, age 8

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For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 1 John 5:7

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Swansea MA
508-493-3701
e-mail: wclministries@comcast.net
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 am
Power Study Night - 7:30 pm

February Highlights

SoulFest Ski Days-Join SoulFest Artist for a day of fun & music at Gunstock Mountain Resort, NH Make a day of it! Ski, Tube, Ride and take a break from 11:30am-1:30pm to enjoy inspiring music in the lodge. The line up is as follows: (Concerts are free with lift or tubing pass)

Sun Feb 3- with Fort Pastor
Sat Feb 23- with Berlin Walls

Sun Feb 24 with Bobby Bishop

www.thesoulfest.com, or Call 978-346-4577

Friday February 15 -16- "The From the Garden to the Cross" seminar will be presented in Mapleville, RI

The four-part seminar will start at 7pm Friday & continue on Sat, Feb 16 beginning at 11:00 a.m. After that session, a free vegetarian buffet will be served followed by afternoon sessions. The program will conclude with a concert later in the afternoon. The program is free and open to the public. The seminar will be held in the Seventh-day Adventist Church at 854 Old Victory Highway in Mapleville. For more information, call 401-678-0035, or 508-883-3279, or go to the website:www.risda.org

Friday Feb 29 at 7:30 p.m. - Casting Crowns "The Altar and the Door Tour" in concert with Leeland and introducing John Waller. Mullins Center, 200 Common Wealth Ave, Amherst MA. contact in RockTheSound.com or 1-877-261-ROCK

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 vacation week, now thru May 08. Bowen's Ferry Landing, Newport. 401-324-6020 www.savebay.org

1 Friday

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

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

7 p.m. - Core- 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

2 Saturday

7 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

7 p.m.- Shawn Dennison & Friends, Christian Contemporary . The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI, 401-823-5330 www.theartmission.org

3 Sunday

9 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

7-10 p.m. -Men of Covenant Men's Meeting Cathedral of Life, 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. North Providence Assembly of God, 244 Lexington Avenue, N. Providence, RI 401-353-8330

7 p.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

7 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.highergroundministry.org

5 Tuesday

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

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

6 Wednesday

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

7 p.m. Family Night- Adult Bible Study, 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

7 p.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

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

7 Thursday

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

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

9 Saturday

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

7 p.m. Cross Back Christian 50's 60's & 70's Doo Woop . The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.theartmission.org

13 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

7 p.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

14 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

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

16 Saturday

7p.m. "ServantSong" Christian Contemporary/Worship, www.servantsong.com. The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick,RI.401-823-5330 www.theartmission.org

FEBRUARY Calendar

7:00p.m.- Eternal Perks Coffee House 3rd Saturday of every month. Different band each month. Free admission, coffee, soda, popcorn, & deserts at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 1055 Randolph Rd, Middletown Ct 06457. 860-346-2641 for more info & direction GraceMiddletown.org

7:30 p.m.-David Pettigrew & Ruth Schultz in concert at the Community of the Cross Chapel, 7 Madison Ave. Danbury, CT 06810 www.oneheartonline.org for more info.

19 Tuesday

7p.m. "Overview of America" Help Preserve Your Freedom! A video presentation which is intended to awaken the American public to the need to protect our freedoms, at the North Kingstown Library, 100 Boone St. North Kingstown, RI For more info call Mr. Charlie Morse(401) 943-9632 www.jbs.org

20 Wednesday

7 p.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

21 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

22 Friday

7 p.m.- Patrick Destoop in concert - Oasis Christian Coffeeshouse 464 Silver Spring St Providence. Call Luz 401-728-6945

23 Saturday

7 p.m.- "Kevin Sharpe Group" Contemporary/Gospel. www.kevinsharpe.net. The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI, 401-823-5330 www.theartmission.org

24 Sunday

6p.m.-"Tower of Praise" A free Praise and worship concert & open to the public. 11 piece Christian band, with an all new 5-piece horn section, please join us at Valley Bible EFC, 220 Turkey Hill Rd Haddam, Ct (860)345-8932

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

27 Wednesday

7 p.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

28 Thursday

6:45 p.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 Coalition Men's Ministry: call Big John Mentus(401-433-2030)

7 p.m.- Joshua's Men

2nd and 4th Thursday, we meet for prayer, bible study and mutual accountability, at Church of the Apostles 170 Fairview Ave, Coventry, for more info: 401-821-7609

29 Friday

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

7:30 p.m. - Casting Crowns "The Altar and the Door Tour" in concert, with Leeland and introducing John Waller. Mullins Center, 200 Common Wealth Ave, Amherst MA. contact in RockTheSound.com or 1-877-261-ROCK.

Sneak Peek into March 2008

March 7th- TobyMac, Jeremy Camp & Matthew West in concert at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E Merrimack, Lowell, Ma 01852, Call 978-346-4577 to reserve your seats now.

March 8th 7p.m.- ApologetiX in Concert with Guest, Dead to Rights & Armory at New Life Church 172 Hubburd Ave. Pittsfield Ma 413-212-6341 www.RTSTickets.com for more info & tickets.

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

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Why Are Ron Paul's Supporters So Angry?

By Chuck Baldwin

When Glenn Beck interviewed Congressman Ron Paul a few weeks ago, he said that he had received death threats from people purporting to be Ron Paul supporters. I have heard other journalists make similar accusations against Congressman Paul's supporters. Of course, I have no way of knowing whether any of this is true or not. And neither does anyone else.

My own experience has been that Congressman Paul's supporters have always demonstrated grace, patience, and courtesy. I have met and worked alongside Ron Paul supporters in at least four states, and I have never personally witnessed any of the anger and bitterness of which they are accused.

Not that Ron Paul's supporters do not have reason to be angry. They most certainly do. In fact, all of us should be angry.

Ron Paul's supporters have been subjected to the most overt and outlandish brand of humiliation and censorship ever seen in modern politics. The cable news Republican Presidential debates have been jokes. For every one question (and usually a stupid, irrelevant question at that) asked of Dr. Paul, the other participants will get three or four. Maybe more. Even though Ron Paul has received more money, more votes, and more delegates than Rudy Giuliani, the press continues to ignore Mr. Paul while showering Giuliani with coverage.

In addition, Ron Paul's own party continues to treat him and his supporters as second-class citizens--or perhaps even as aliens from a different planet. They are subjected to insults of every type. Not to mention enduring every conceivable method to censure or remove Dr. Paul from the politi-

cal process. He has been denied access to platforms, excluded from debates, removed from GOP Presidential lists, etc., ad infinitum, ad nauseam.

I say again: if anyone has a right to be angry, it is Ron Paul supporters. But perhaps the greater question is, Why are not all of us angry? No, I do not mean in a cruel or unkind way, but where is our outrage for what the ruling elite are doing to our country?

We should all be angry at the way politicians lie to us, deceive us, and manipulate us. We should all be angry at the way both major parties have completely ignored and trampled constitutional government.

Are we so gullible that we cannot see when a politician says one thing to one group of people and a totally opposite thing to another group of people? Are we so naïve that we cannot tell when a politician changes his beliefs simply in order to garner votes?

Come on folks, let's get real: do you really expect John McCain to abandon his efforts to grant amnesty to illegal aliens? Do you really expect Mitt Romney to be a champion for the unborn? Do you really expect Mike Huckabee to suddenly be the champion for limited government spending? Do you really expect Rudy Giuliani to keep his pants zipped?

Have the American people become so numbed to truth and reality that we cannot distinguish the genuine from the phony--even when it stands right in front of us? Perhaps so. However, if the American people had any of the character and resolve of our forebears, we would be steaming mad about what our political and business leaders have done to our country.

Yes, we should be angry at the way our government has repeatedly lied to us about the economy, about sending our jobs and manufacturing industries overseas, about Iraq, and about EVERYTHING! Yes, dear friends, they lie to us about everything. It has gotten to the point that, frankly, I believe NOTHING the government tells us. They have proven themselves to be totally disingenuous and downright duplicitous. And, frankly, I'm angry about it.

In addition, I can even understand whatever anger and exasperation Ron Paul's supporters feel regarding my fellow evangelical believers. Today's Christians--and especially our pastors--have become little more than toadies for the establishment elite. They apparently have never read our U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, or Bill of Rights. They are seemingly oblivious to our great American history and heritage. They seem to lack the most elementary understanding of even the most basic American principles.

For example, it makes absolutely no sense that Christian pastors would embrace the sudden pro-life candidacy of Mitt Romney and reject the proven, twenty-year pro-life record of Ron Paul. It makes no sense that evangelical Christians would embrace the pro-illegal amnesty, pro-McCain/Feingold, pro-No-Child-Left-Behind, pro-gun control John McCain and reject the proven, twenty-year no-amnesty, pro-freedom, anti-No-Child-Left-Behind, pro-Second Amendment record of Ron Paul. It makes absolutely no sense that Christians would fall for Mr. Big Government himself, Mike Huckabee, and reject the champion of limited government, Ron Paul.

Beyond that, how is it that pastors and evangelicals cannot see through the GOP's complicity in helping to establish a Luciferian New World Order? How can they be so blind and dumb regarding the global machinations of the Council on Foreign Relations? How can they not understand and reject the philosophy emanating from the Trilateral Commission and Bilderbergers?

Ask the average pastor and Christian about the CFR, the Trilateralists, or the Bilderbergers and they just stare into space. They are absolutely clueless. Ask them about the burgeoning NAFTA superhighway, North American Union, or Amero and they look stupefied. Again, they are absolutely clueless. And, yes, I am angry about it. I am saddened and angered at the lack of knowledge, perception, and discernment demonstrated by my Christian brethren.

I believe with all my heart that if the pastors and Christian people of America would come off their high horse and start supporting the principles of liberty, the U.S. Constitution, and limited government, not only would there be a rebirth of freedom in America, there would be a spiritual revival as well.

As it is, freedom-loving people cannot see past the ignorance, elitism, and partisan phyness of modern Christians in order that they might see Christ. The Scripture plainly says, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (II Corinthians 3:17)

When America's Colonial preachers and Christian people fought for liberty and independence, God gave us two Great Awakenings. I believe another Great Revival would come to America, if our Christians and pastors would stand on their hind legs and once again fight for liberty and independence. And, yes, I am also angry that they will not do that either.

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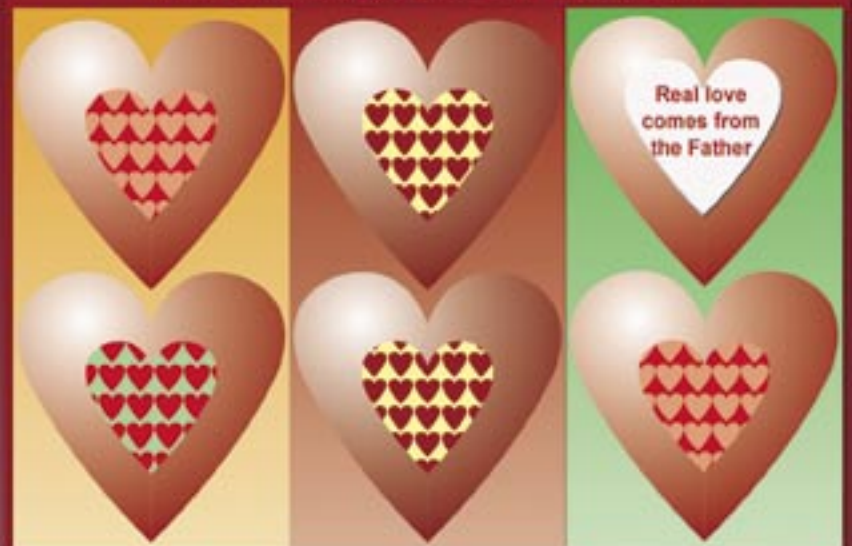
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PLEASE NOTE: Coupon does not apply to special orders, Veggie Tales, Event Tickets, Eldridge and Lucado books, Webkinz and church accounts. Only original coupon accepted and cannot be combined with other coupons and limited to one per family. Some other exclusions may apply. Valid until February 29, 2008