

# The Good News TODAY

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That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. - 1 Corinthians 2:5

## Shattering the Silence

By Ralph C. Davis

It was at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Wrentham, Massachusetts where I first met Barbara Hansen on a slippery December night.

Slight of build and age 62 she was wearing a black leather vest with the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) emblem emblazoned on the back. She had a purposeful manner about her and she brought along a copy of her book, her press kit, related items and, of course, her Bible.



Barbara Hansen at Groundzero in NYC

She arrived at the restaurant a short time before me but had already captured the interest of many of the wait staff. They were initially drawn to her by the cover and title of her book and then by speaking with her about it. Some of them told

her that they had experienced some of the unhappy events described in the book themselves.

Barbara is becoming an increasingly sought after speaker. She has presented her story at conferences in New England, New York and twice at major conferences in California. She has written articles for a number of periodicals and her book has been advertised by major outlets.

Her topic is silence; the deafening silence of sexual abuse. For her it began with the lure of ice cream. Frequently her maternal grandfather, a respected man in the community and a church Elder, would take her out in his car, presumably for ice cream and during that time he would sexually molest her. He

Barbara Hansen continued Page 2

## Papal Promotion of Collective Ownership and Theft

By Richard Bennett and Robert J. Nicholson

The present pope, Benedict XVI, and his Vatican system teach that private property is not personal as such, but belongs to all people. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II stated, "Private property, in fact, is under a 'social mortgage,' which means that it has an intrinsically social function, based upon and justified precisely by the principle of the universal destination of goods."<sup>1</sup> The principle of "the universal destination of goods" is clearly observed in what the present pope endorses in the second part of his encyclical entitled "God is Love."<sup>2</sup> Benedict wholly sanctions the principle of the universal ownership of all

goods embalmed in the writings of popes Leo XIII, Pius XI, John XXIII, Paul VI, and John Paul II.<sup>3</sup> The phrase, "all goods," includes not only the goods found in nature but manufactured goods as well.



Opulent St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church building in the world

As John Paul II stated, "The vast majority of people can have access to those goods which are intended for common use: both the goods of nature and manufactured goods."<sup>4</sup> Another Vatican Council II document upholds the same principle

Papal continued Page 3

## BB in Drydock

The Story of USS Washington (BB-56) and its personal applications

by Lee Adler

Historical Setting

The Second World War sprung upon the American people in the flash of bombs and the surprise attack

by Japanese bombers and other aircraft at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on the morning of December 7, 1941. But those of us who have paid attention in civics classes, or who have researched the stragglings stories that cross our screens even today in the



USS Washington at sea

early years of the twenty-first century, some 62 years removed from the end of the conflict, know that war winds were blowing across the whole world. This was occurring even before Hitler mounted his invasion of Poland in 1939. Great debates and strong leadership led the United States and other nations who

would eventually form the Allied Powers to make decisions that would begin to prepare their several homelands for war.

Against such a backdrop, the keel of the USS Washington was laid in 1938 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Her mission was to provide naval support and protection against the enemy forces that were beginning to take a toll on the beleaguered British forces, and to show that the United States would not easily be defeated. This North Carolina class battleship initially saw duty protecting the vital shipping lanes in the North Atlantic. Subsequently, she transited the Panama Canal and took stations in the Pacific in support of American Marines and army contingents that were bringing the fight to the Japanese homeland. The Washington distinguished

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## Buy A Gun

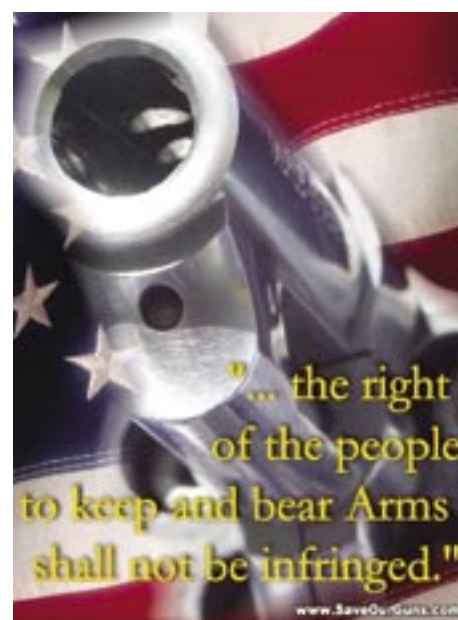
By Chuck Baldwin

"He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." (Luke 22:36 KJV)

Most of us are aware that the heroic actions of a brave woman at the New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado during December saved the lives of perhaps scores, or even hundreds, of people. However, her bravery would not have counted for much had she not been armed.

On that fateful December Sunday, a man by the name of Matthew Murray entered the church armed to the teeth. According to press reports, he was armed

with a semi-automatic rifle, two handguns, some smoke grenades, and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition.



By the time Murray arrived in the Colorado Springs church, he had already killed four people: two at a missionary training center miles away, and two in the church parking lot. He had wounded several others. No one realized it at the time, but the man was a serial killer in the midst of a rampage. He doubtless planned to kill as many

people as he could, as there were thousands of people inside the church. Had

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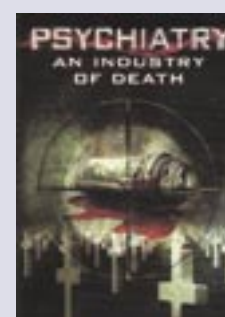
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would also spend time visiting with her while she was in the bathtub. He told her not to tell anyone so she didn't.

These behaviors occurred between the ages of two and eight and only halted because she completely shut him off from all attention or affection. The term used for sexual activities between family members is "incest." During our discussion, I learned that nearly 80% of all sexual abuse is incest; sexual offenders are rarely strangers!

Barbara's relief from molestation lasted about three years. The next perpetrator, at age 11, was the youth pastor at a Christian youth camp that she attended each summer! Looking back at a picture of her at age eleven, it is hard for her to figure why he would choose her. She was very thin, almost anorexic, probably due to the trauma and sadness that she was still experiencing as a result of her grandfathers wayward hands. Barbara returned to the same youth camp the following summer and was molested again by the same pastor!

Barbara said that during her pre and early-teen years "I felt lifeless inside but I did not know what was wrong with me. I was filled with shame, so scared and sad that my smile became forced and I had few close friends." It is very easy to understand her feelings of being all alone, singled out, and sharing the shame alone. Why her?

Yet, the statistics are startling! **One out of three girls and one out of five boys are sexually abused. A child is molested every two minutes.** Some pedophiles molest an average of 120 children before getting caught. Along with that, one woman is raped every five minutes.

Barbara was born in Newark, New York into a strong Christian home. Her father

was a pastor. She has one brother. Barbara said that she was very active in her church participating in youth groups and camps and most other events.

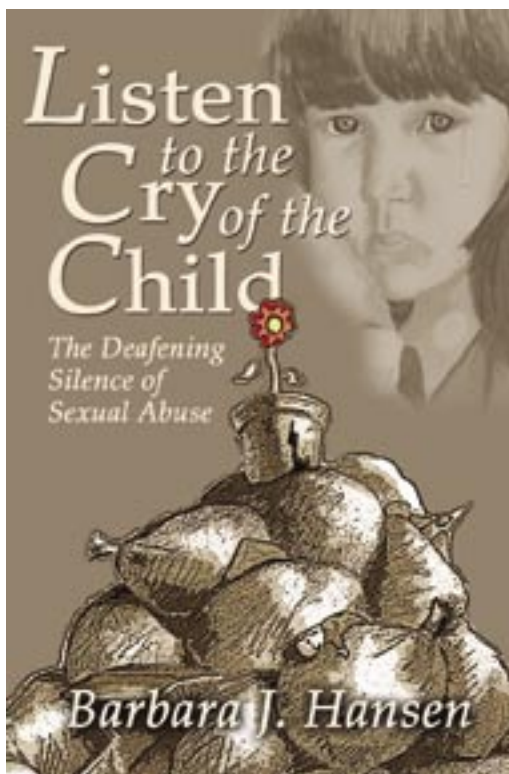
When she was five years old, she said, "At my daddy's knee the best decision I ever made was to accept Jesus and invite him into my heart." Barbara said that at that point in her life she knew Jesus but He did not become Lord of her life until she was an adult. There is a "huge difference between accepting Jesus and letting him into your life," Barbara emphatically stated.

For most of her young life, Barbara and her family lived in Buffalo, NY. Then her father was given the opportunity to pastor a church in Longview, Texas. They moved there when Barbara was age sixteen.

Due to her New 'Yawk' accent and perhaps other cultural reasons Barbara was mocked and never quite accepted by her high school peers. On the other hand, the cowboy hats and other traditional western attire were very odd to her too! So Barbara sought friendship elsewhere, outside of school; she began to hang out with crack addicts and other substance abusers. She never used drugs herself; she found it comforting that they accepted her and she learned to care for them each as individuals. Barbara believes that the period

of time she spent with the addicts laid the groundwork for empathy and understanding to be able to effectively help others. Today, she and Wayne have a ministry named "His Mission" to reach out to the broken and abused. They began working with drug addicts about twelve years ago.

At age eighteen, Barbara began working at nearby LeTourneau College as a secretary to two professors. It was there that she met Wayne Hansen, now a retired field engineer. They dated for three years and then married in 1965. They have three sons: Todd, Brian and Jonathan. She shared her terrible secret with Wayne and with him only.



Some readers by now might have asked themselves the logical question: why? Why would Barbara subject herself to several years of her grandfather's

repulsive touch without saying a word? How could she keep silent about the pastor? Next, of course, why did she return "to the scene of the crime" (the camp) the following year?

In her book she explains "Anyone who has never been abused cannot fully understand why we aren't able to tell until many years later. I have been asked why I didn't tell. I just *couldn't*; not until the time that God opened that door." (P 36) That being said, it takes great strength to break out of any

bondage and that strength resides solely in the hands of our Heavenly Father. The only way that you can heal is through God's Word and by emotional closure," Barbara said. She believes that "Unless you've been violated you don't understand how powerful Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is. It shut down my body just like amnesia! Those memories are blocked. You are absolutely unable to deal with that type of trauma as a child."

Barbara's book, published in 2003, is titled, *Listen to the Cry of the Child...The Deafening Silence of Sexual Abuse*. All of the illustrations were done by her very creative son Jonathan. Most exceptional of his work is the cover itself. In one corner a crying young girl with a very sad face is seen. The bottom half of the cover is almost filled with a heap of bags of garbage. On top of the pile is a cracked clay pot with a bright flower popping out. Jutting out from a few spaces in the garbage stack are a rag doll and a toy airplane.

Barbara said that she woke on three separate nights with the garbage heap vision. She said that "At first I tried to ignore the garbage heap. I questioned God: 'Why garbage?' I'm not garbage but the impression was still deep on my spirit. Jon drew the garbage bags; the stench of death; the fumes of garbage thrown out, like my life was thrown out as a very young child and then as a preteen. Just like the toy airplane and the rag doll with its mouth wide open with no sound coming from its mouth: like the child that couldn't tell!"

Barbara went on to say, "But someone threw out life onto that garbage heap!! The clay pot was thrown out with a seed inside that was going to grow out of that stench of death. Sexual abuse is a death-like experience,

Barbara Hansen continued Page 3



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## Precedent Set For Forced Vaccinations And Mandated Compliance To Government Whims

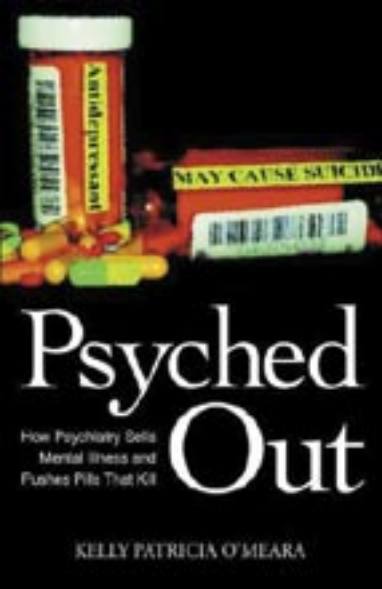
By Bill Wilson

Sinister forces within the United States government who want to mandate certain forms of healthcare for the "common good" scored a monumental, precedent-setting victory in the liberal state of Maryland. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Maryland government, armed with a court order, forced some 2,300 parents to vaccinate their children for chicken pox and hepatitis B in order for their kids to attend school. The officials cleverly walked a legal tightrope that leveraged court orders, the threat of fines and/or imprisonment of a minimum of ten days in jail to force parents to do the right thing by allowing the government to vaccinate their children.

Circuit Judge William D. Missouri, the county's administrative judge, and Circuit Judge C. Philip Nichols Jr., who handles juvenile matters, sent letters to the families after the schools had exhausted their efforts with letters, calls, and home visits to coerce compliance. Nichols's letter ordered the parents to show up at Prince George's Circuit Court for a court hearing and a free vaccine; Another letter warned that "unexcused absences by your child may subject you to a criminal charge." When parents showed up as requested, they were handed an information packet about the vaccinations and their children were herded through public health procedures and were vaccinated.

The clever deception was found in that parents were not notified of the exemptions to having their children vaccinated. The papers explaining the religious and medical exemptions were at a separate table from the information packets, according to several parents who attended the forced vaccinations. In addition, government officials did not mention the exemptions in explaining that children must be vaccinated. The pressure of a \$50 per day fine and jail time for parents was the focus of pressuring parents to get their children vaccinated. Many, if not most, parents were unaware that they did not have to get their children vaccinated if they applied for the religious or medical exemptions.

There are many issues surrounding government mandated vaccinations, such as high levels of the poisonous mercury that is used as a preservative in the vaccines. Despite evidence, the medial industry refuses to acknowledge that the mercury preservative triggers epilepsy, attention deficit disorders and even autism. Moreover, it is a type and shadow of how powerful governments will pressure citizens using their children. Revelation 13:16 speaks of the antichrist, "And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads" in order to buy and sell. Beware of mandated, government "health care." It is a forerunner to oppression.



**Papel from Page 1**

of the “universal ownership of all goods” and emphatically teaches, “If one is in extreme necessity, he has the right to procure for himself what he needs out of the riches of others.”<sup>5</sup>

The more this socialistic principle is legally accepted by various nations, the greater gain there is for the needy, particularly of the one billion Catholics worldwide. This doctrine of a claimed *prior* right to all goods, based on need, is what Benedict XVI proposes as the fundamental norm of the State: a share of the community’s goods is to be guaranteed to each person. In the pope’s own words, “It is true that the pursuit of justice must be a fundamental norm of the State and that the aim of a just social order is to guarantee to each person, according to the principle of subsidiarity, his share of the community’s goods.”<sup>6</sup>

Benedict’s Economic Principle Applied  
When Benedict’s principle is applied nation by nation, there are

dire consequences. For example, in the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ 1995 Pastoral letter, “Economic Justice for All,” the same principle is disseminated. It states, “In Catholic teaching, human rights include not only civil and political rights but also economic rights ... ‘all people have a right to life, food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, education, and employment.’”<sup>7</sup> The impact of this policy in the USA alone results in the redistribution of \$2.3 billion of tax payers’ money through the auspices of Catholic Charities each year. The *City Journal* states the following, “You would think that Catholic Charities USA would be a perfect model to emulate, getting the poor into the mainstream by emphasizing moral values and ethical conduct. But no: rather than trying to promote traditional values and God-fearing behavior, Catholic Charities ... has become over the last three decades an arm of the welfare state, with 65 percent of its \$2.3 billion annual budget now flowing from government sources and little that is explicitly religious, or even values-laden,

about most of the services its 1,400 member agencies and 46,000 paid employees provide.”<sup>8</sup>

On April 26, 2007, the website for Catholic Charities USA stated the following, “Washington, DC Catholic Charities USA took its ‘Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America’ directly to Congress today, with a briefing on the struggles of 35 million Americans who experience hunger...Poverty in America is a moral and social crisis. It threatens the health and economic well-being of our families and our nation as a whole. In response to this crisis, Catholic Charities USA has launched the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America.”<sup>9</sup>

Where some of the money is spent is reported by *The California Catholic Daily*. “San Francisco Archbishop George Niederauer said he is ‘really very happy’ about a compromise plan that makes it possible for Catholic Charities adoption workers in his archdiocese to refer homosexual

couples to adopt children. *The California Catholic Daily* made a transcript of the on-air interview Archbishop Niederauer gave to San Francisco’s KCBS available on Feb. 7.”<sup>10</sup> Taxpayers’ money paying for children to be adopted by homosexual couples does **not**

spell “health and economic well-being” but rather moral irresponsibility and sin. Nevertheless, “The Campaign to Reduce Poverty” in America continues with the 1,400 agencies of Catholic Charities USA. To rake in addi-

**Papel continued Page 12**

**Barbara Hansen from Page 2**

but there was life in that clay pot! The flower that came out was me. The only thing with color on the front of my book is the beautiful flower.” No wonder the waitresses at the restaurant were attracted by the cover!

Barbara began to work her way out of her bondage after carrying it with her for over thirty-five years. She began to realize that nobody, including her church, could help her out of her misery. She turned to the Bible. I started getting hope and thinking, ‘God, you’ve gotta heal me!’ It was then that I cried out and I just cried and cried.” For three years she “embraced God;” she began to actively read the Bible regularly. She viewed herself at Lazarus’ tomb, coming out with the stinking bandages and Jesus said “unbind him and let him go.”



Wayne and Barb Hansen

She has learned to forgive. “In

1999, with the support of my childhood denomination, God freed my wounded soul when I courageously faced the clergy who had abused me in adolescence and forgave him. It was the hardest thing I have ever done. Even though I wanted to know ‘why’ and ‘how come’ after offering my forgiveness, I was finally able to let the ember of hatred go from my heart. Forgiveness doesn’t delete the memory. It simply releases the desire to take revenge, and leaves the wrong doing between the abuser and God. It released the ember burning in my soul. I could then begin the grieving process and begin to heal. I was the one who was changed and set free! Seven weeks later, this pastor fell down the stairs and broke his back and died. Had I not faced myself and looked deep within, I would never be whole.”

The hardest part about coming out of the “closet of abuse,” Barbara

wrote in her book (34) was telling her family. Her husband and children knew but somehow it had become, she said, “our secret.” Her dad had insisted she keep quiet about it and she did for over three years and she remained numb and in denial for that period. When she told her mother, she learned that she had been abused by him, her own father, also. When she opened up at a family gathering, she was criticized for telling and some people in her family told her that they never wanted to see her again. “Why wasn’t it ok for me to come clean? I had done nothing to cause this sin.” She realized that she had the choice to keep quiet, to listen to the people in my extended family and say no more, or to obey the voice of God.”

She had to ward off the persistent urgings of her family, husband, church and others that she *not tell*. She had a week off from her job as a nanny and, with great conviction, she dove into writing her book. Looking back she still finds it remarkable how quickly the book came together. She brought a portion of the book to show Wayne as she was writing it and told him, “This book is not just about sexual abuse this is about losses never dealt with, never grieved, never acknowledged, or never worked through by inner healing.

“My husband and I have now celebrated forty one years together. God is using us to give back with the mission we are on to free others from the prison they are in. Many in our churches need comforting, an awakening and much awareness. My husband and I are co-Chaplains of our Christian Motorcycle Association “*His Riders*” Chapter in Massachusetts. We freely speak whenever and wherever God opens doors. In addition, she has been very active in a prison ministry.”

For the past several years God has led her to facilitate the “*Beauty out of Ashes*” support group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Support is essential so that trauma survivors are not alone. We need to cry with them and believe in them

to help unravel the pain so they can be heard in a safe place. It is in the telling that the secrets no longer hold power over us!”

Buy her book; buy two and give one away. This extraordinary moving story as told and written by Barbara opens our eyes to the ever present problem of the sexual molestation of children and the alarming fact that the greater percentage of it involves a family member. We are made aware of the enormous pain and denial experienced by its victims. We learn that the sound a child makes when sexually violated is SILENCE.

Barbara does not portray herself as anything more than what she is... a survivor, and one who finally let God into her life. By courageously going forth and sharing her story and the resulting ministries she and her husband have formed, she is abiding in His Word. She has an exciting life ahead of her; she will be speaking in Fort Lauderdale, Florida next month and it seems she might appear on the Montel Williams show to present her story and solutions. Please pray for this much needed ministry. Her web address is [www.listentothecri.org](http://www.listentothecri.org). You can write to her at [barb@listentothecri.org](mailto:barb@listentothecri.org) or call her at 508-473-1280.

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**BB-56 from Page 1**

herself by being the only United States battleship to sink an enemy battleship by itself, thanks to its massive sixteen-inch naval rifles and five-inch cannons. Her mission also included support for smaller vessels, notably by refueling destroyers at sea, which is not an easy task even under ideal peace-time conditions. She also served as a troop transport; one of her final missions was to help ferry returning soldiers from Europe back home to the United States. Notably, she was able to complete her missions without once taking a hit from enemy action, or losing a man in combat.

This is not to say she emerged from the war unscathed. Sadly, early in her history the flag officer in charge of her task force was lost overboard shortly after sailing from Portland, Maine en route to the European Theater. Later she would feel the effect of depth charges from underneath her keel as a task force ship sliced a destroyer in two. The destroyer's depth charges, set to find enemy U-boats at a given distance from the surface, instead detonated and shook up the *Washington* as she passed over the site of the accident, receiving minor systems and fuel storage damage. In 1944, a collision with *USS Indiana* (BB-58) during nighttime refueling operations smashed 60 feet of *Washington's*

bow, besides leaving a major gash in the side of *Indiana*. Sadly men lost their lives on both ships, and the resulting repairs deprived



Photo © 1953-54 USN Washington off the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, April 1948

the Pacific fleet of *Washington's* presence for three months. Still the legacy of *Washington* is that of invaluable service to the cause of freedom, freedom that we must cherish today.

**Personal Application**

In my life, I have experienced some joy and some regret. In that way, I am no different than any other person on the face of the earth. But in recent months an unprecedented situation has come upon me. In younger years, as I graduated from a Bible school on the East Coast, I saw my future as full of promise. I knew I had

the wherewithal to bring help and healing to people in need of God's Word and His love. But what I didn't have was maturity. In my eagerness to set things in order, I began to order things and folks around. Needless to say, the folks didn't take to that too kindly, and after six months or so I was asked to leave. I eventually stopped in the Providence, Rhode Island area, where my wife and I have made our home for the last twenty-six years. Throughout all these things, through the birth of three children and their subsequent growth into adulthood, and even in their choice of God and Christ as Lord and Savior, we have been mightily blessed.

Until recently, I have been working as a wholesale delivery driver for a local dairy. A fall from my truck dislocated my shoulder and ended my career as a milkman. (Just as well, though; I am lactose-intolerant!) This has brought a change in the ways that I view things and has allowed me to redirect some of the energy that had been designated for wage-earning into other pursuits. I was able to return to college and receive my degree. I spent more time at home. But as the time has passed it seems that many of the things I took for granted

were not so after all. I have a great deal of skill with words and sales and teaching and customer service; yet I don't seem to be the right candidate. I have an acceptance to a graduate study program, but can't get all the needs to line up. All this time I have continued to trust that God in Christ has been and remains in control, so that I don't need to worry about seeming successful if I am doing what He says.

A stripping away process has begun in my life and that of my family. We are still together and trusting Him, but some of the places where we have hung our hats over the course of time have been removed. All we can do, according to our pastor, is to watch and wait for the work to be completed.

**What about Washington?**

As I thought about things after a talk with my pastor, I cast about in my mind for an image to try and sum up the process that seems to be occurring in my life. In a manner that only God can engineer, for He made us after all, I thought about what happens to a ship in drydock.

After a prolonged stint at sea, or after serious damage, a ship is hauled out of the water for repairs to parts of the hull that would be inaccessible while afloat. Smaller vessels are picked up out of the water by heavy machinery; but large warships are brought into a *drydock* where the water is pumped out, allowing the vessel to rest on cradles that were placed on the bottom of the drydock before

the ship arrived. Then major repairs can begin without further water damage to the ship.

Other damage is still ahead. Broken pieces have to be cut away using heavy duty torches, and surfaces prepared with industrial grinders. Also while the ship is out of the water, paint is removed and a fresh coat applied. Armaments and ordnance can be upgraded. New areas are designed as the mission of the vessel changes and they are installed most easily when the ship is out of the water



The bow of the *Washington* after the collision with *Indiana*. The picture was taken of Majuro Lagoon on February 2, 1944. Only the anchor chains prevent the main deck from totally collapsing.

for repairs. A complete overhaul is done, and all the quicker because the ship is right there, compliant, willing to be improved.

As I said, I believe God gave me the image of a drydocked vessel. The Holy Spirit, continuing His inimitable way of dealing with people, reawakened an interest in me. I loved reading and studying information about ships and the Navy. I also thought about my lovely wife, who often calls me "B-B." And taking a page out of popular thinking, I thought to look for ships that used part of my birth year in their designator.

Enter the Internet and the story of BB-56, *USS Washington*. How inspiring to read of the efforts of the brave sailors, Marines, and officers who guided that great ship through both Atlantic and Pacific in the cause of freedom. And what courage they displayed in all their efforts, notably in the defense of *South Dakota* in sinking its Japanese attacker. But my eyes fell upon the sight of *Washington* with her nose bashed in by her collision with *USS Indiana* (BB-58). How scary that must have been for both crews, and how tragic the loss of life as a result of the collision.

But also how inspiring the efforts of the crews and support teams to get the crippled ship back to Pearl, and then to Bremerton Navy Yard where she was fitted with a new bow and continued on her mission after about three months.


I believe the Lord showed me in the history of *Washington* something about my own life and the stage I am in currently. I basically had my nose bashed in as I attempted to minister as a young man, and it wasn't by the enemy. Even so, I survived and now I am in a place where I am in virtual drydock. I am being prepared to set out again. The refit is almost complete. The fresh paint is being applied. My armament and ordnance are upgraded, and I wait now for the sea water to be pumped back into the dock, so I can be about my mission.

My mission, as I picture it, mirrors that of the *USS Washington*. I want to defend freedom in the faith as long as it is true to Christ and His Word. I want to provide a vehicle for weary soldiers of the Cross to return and be refreshed. I want to sink enemy battleships and refuel friendly destroyers. I want to deliver to the world the precious cargo that God has entrusted to me, the Gospel of peace, even though it is imaged in war. May God smile upon the remaining members of the crew of *USS Washington*. I pray that the same devotion to duty pervades my life when I finally get back to sea. For additional information about the *USS Washington* and her crew please visit [www.bb56.com](http://www.bb56.com).



USS Washington at drydock

## USS WASHINGTON BB-56



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there not been an armed citizen in the church house, the death toll would have been massive.

According to church spokesmen, the congregation has over a dozen members who volunteered to serve as security personnel for the church. Jeanne Assam was one of those volunteers.

A former police officer, Assam said, "I saw him [Murray] coming through the doors, and I took cover, and I waited for him to get closer. I came out of cover, I identified myself and engaged him and took him down." Murray died in the exchange. Although Assam shot him several times with her 9mm pistol, the coroner's office said that Murray actually succumbed to a self-inflicted gunshot wound. After being incapacitated by Assam's gunfire, Murray apparently turned one of his weapons on himself.

Chalk one up for the good guys, or in this case, good gals.

Have you noticed how the media dropped the Colorado story as soon as it was discovered that a lawfully armed citizen ended the potential massacre by using her own handgun? Had the killer been successful in

murdering scores of people, however, it would have been at the top of the news for weeks. As it is, the story is already buried in the dungeon section of the news, if it is in the news at all.

One thing the national news media will always ignore is the practice of lawful self-defense. For example, most people are probably not aware of the fact that American citizens use a firearm to defend themselves more than 2.4 million times EVERY YEAR. That is more than 6,500 times EVERY DAY. This means that, each year, firearms are used 60 times more often to protect the lives of honest citizens than to take lives. Furthermore, of the 2.4 million self-defense cases, more than 192,000 are by women defending themselves against sexual assault. And in less than eight percent of those occasions is a shot actually fired. The vast majority of the time (92%), the mere presence of a firearm helps to avert a major crime from occurring. That is what Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) concluded after extensive research. According to Rep. Bartlett, the number of defensive uses is four times the number of crimes reported committed with guns.

John Lott, senior research scientist at the University of Maryland, agrees with Bartlett. His book "More Guns, Less Crime" documents the fact that--instead of being a cause of crime--firearms in the hands of private citizens are actually a major deterrent to crime.

Another fact conveniently ignored by the major media is the connection between wanton killings and so-called "gun-free" zones. For an example of this, look no further than the Virginia Tech massacre. In spite of Virginia state laws that allow citizens to carry concealed weapons for self-defense, Virginia Tech forbade its students and faculty from carrying weapons for self-defense on campus. Had a student or faculty member been armed--as was Ms. Assam in the Colorado Springs attack--no doubt many, if not most, of the Virginia Tech victims would not have died. Obviously, bad guys do not pay any attention to "gun-free" zones, except to note that such zones create a free-killing environment.

Is it any wonder that those states and cities with the most restrictive gun control laws tend to also be home to the highest crime rates? The old saying is still true. "When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." There is another

**Is it any wonder that those states and cities with the most restrictive gun control laws tend to also be home to the highest crime rates?**

saying I like even better. "When guns are outlawed, I will be an outlaw."

Even our Lord understood and validated the right of every person to arm themselves for personal self-defense. He said, "He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." (Luke 22:36 KJV) The old Roman sword was the First Century equivalent of a modern handgun. It was the most practical and convenient form of self-defense available at that time. Also, please note that at least two of Jesus' disciples (one of whom was Simon Peter) were in the habit of carrying their own personal swords, and Jesus never rebuked them. (See Luke 22:38.)

Jesus also acknowledged, "When a strong man ARMED [emphasis added] keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace." (Luke 11: 21)

Furthermore, the Apostle Paul said, emphatically, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is

worse than an infidel." (1 Tim. 5:8) Does "not providing for his own" include, not providing protection? Of course it does.

The right and, yes, obligation of personal self-defense is entrenched in both Christian and American tradition. People who would deny citizens the right to arm themselves are either naïvely ignorant or deliberately duplicitous. As Robert Heinlein said, "An armed society is a polite society."

America's Founding Fathers agreed with Heinlein. Thomas Jefferson said, "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms." He also said, "Laws that forbid the carrying of arms . . . disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes . . . Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

Samuel Adams said, "[T]he said Constitution [shall] be never construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press, or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms."

James Madison said, "To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms."

Thomas Paine said, "[A]rms discourage and keep the invader and plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property . . . Horrid mischief would ensue were the law-abiding deprived of the use of them."

George Washington called the private collections of arms "the people's liberty's teeth."

America must always preserve the right to keep and bear arms. To do any less is to invite oppression and tyranny, not to mention acts of violence.

Some years back, Alan Rice of the Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership (JPFO) wrote, "Since 1900 at least seven major genocides have occurred resulting in the murder of 50-60 million people:

- \*Ottoman Turkey, 1915-17; 1-1.5 million Armenians murdered;
- \*Soviet Union, 1929-53; 20 million anti-Communists and anti-Stalinists murdered;
- \*Nazi Germany & Occupied Europe, 1933-45; 13 million Jews, Gypsies, and Anti-Nazis murdered;
- \*China, 1949-52, 1957-60 & 1966-1976; 20 million anti-Communists murdered;
- \*Guatemala, 1960-1981; 100,000 Mayan Indians murdered;
- \*Uganda, 1971-1979; 300,000

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Christians and Political Rivals of Idi Amin murdered; \*Cambodia, 1975-1979; 1 million murdered."

Rice continued to say, "In all seven of the genocides summarized above, gun control laws were in force before the genocide occurred, in some cases decades before. In five of the seven genocides, the lethal law, the gun control law was in force before the genocide regime took power."

Rice also said, "Gun control laws are usually enacted during a crisis or a perceived crisis." He then said, "Government officials, not hate groups or common criminals, were responsible for these seven genocides. In most of these cases

the murder victims outnumbered their murderers; yet they were powerless to defend themselves because they were disarmed."

Do the math yourself. Absent an armed citizen, 32 innocent people lost their lives at Virginia Tech, while the presence of 1 armed citizen resulted in 2 innocent deaths in Colorado Springs. Furthermore, the presence of over 200 million firearms in the possession of the American people has done more to keep America free than any other human element--bar none!

Therefore, to help keep your family safe and your country free, go buy a gun.

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# National News

## Out of Control School Board to Teach About Sex to 4th Graders

**PORT ST. LUCIE, Florida,** Christian Newswire - With a 4 - 1 vote, the St. Lucie County, FL School Board approved a graphic, explicit, risky Condom Ed Curriculum. Only Troy Ingersol had the wisdom and courage to reject this outrageous curriculum. Kathryn Hensley, Carol Hilson, John Carvelli, and Judi Miller all followed the recommendation of Planned Parenthood's Michael Panella to support the following:

For 4th Graders, the curriculum instructs teachers to: "Read students the following statement of fact: 'The AIDS virus is transmitted only through blood, semen, and vaginal fluids; people most commonly contract the virus by using needles contaminated with the blood of someone who's infected or by having sexual intercourse with someone who's infected.' Ask if anyone was surprised by the facts."

The curriculum changes implemented began as a curriculum for grades 9-12. Then, curriculum opponents found that condom education would begin in 8th grade, but finding out that 4th graders were going to learn details of how HIV is contracted shocked Port St. Lucie Pastor Bryan Longworth.

Longworth, who was one of only 5 private citizens to review the curriculum, read the above curriculum quote to the board prior to its vote. Longworth comments, "I was appalled to learn that 9 and 10 year olds will be exposed to sexual content. In teaching this to 4th graders, the school board will rob children of their childhood. I have not met one person who is in favor of teaching sexual content to 4th graders. Even some supporters of this curriculum think this goes too far." Longworth, who has already picketed one school board member's house, plans to publish flyers of the school board members next to quotes from the curriculum. Longworth promised, "We're going to let the community know which board members voted to teach sexual content to 4th graders. The community can then decide whether the board members are fit to make decisions about their children's future."

Pastor Bryan Longworth is the associate pastor of Covenant Tabernacle in Port St. Lucie, FL, cofounder of Youth for America, and is part of a group of parents and concerned citizens that gathered over 3,750 petitions in opposition to "Get Real about AIDS."

## Judge threatens home-school mom with jail

By Rusty Pugh

Bruce Shortt, a nationally-recognized expert on home schooling, says a case in Utah in which a home-school mother was threatened with jail time if she did not enroll her children in public schools is just the latest example of how liberals want government to take control away from parents.

Denise Mafi home schools her three children, but she has been forced to enroll them in the government-run school system. The problem started when Mafi sent in her home-school affidavit to the school district, which it claims it did not receive. Mafi says the school district is the one who lost it. As a result, Judge Scott Johansen, whom Mafi describes as "extremely anti-home schooling," ordered her to enroll the children in public school.

Bruce Shortt, an author who writes on the topic of home schooling, says the judge is determined to usurp parental rights with governmental authority.

"And this is something that is

really consistent with a certain strain of liberal thinking across the country. There are many academics in the universities who despise home schooling, and particularly oppose home-schooling freedom," Shortt continues. "[T]hey believe that it allows children to be outside of an institution that basically they control ideologically, and therefore those children won't receive the worldview that the left would like them to have."

Shortt says the case is reminiscent of what is happening in Germany, where a Nazi-era law makes home schooling illegal.

## R.I. court says no to 'gay divorce'

By Staff

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (BP)--The Rhode Island Supreme Court Dec. 7 handed conservatives another victory in the nationwide legal battle over "gay marriage," ruling that a same-sex couple who obtained a marriage license in Massachusetts could not get a "divorce" back home in Rhode Island.

The seemingly obscure case was being closely watched by pro-family organizations who feared that it could be used as a backdoor way to legalizing "gay marriage" itself in the state. The case involved two lesbian women, Margaret Chambers and Cassandra Ormiston, who were "married" in Massachusetts in 2004 only subsequently to file for a divorce in Rhode Island.

In a 3-2 decision, the court ruled that Rhode Island law

## 911 Call Reveals Cold-Hearted Attitude Toward Massachusetts Woman's Abortion Death

**HYANNIS, Mass** Christian Newswire - Audio files and transcripts obtained by Operation Rescue of a 911 call and subsequent communications between emergency responders reveals a cold-hearted dispassion concerning the death of a Massachusetts woman during an abortion in September.

Records show that a woman named Kim, who was an employee of "Women's Health Center," an abortion office owned and operated by Rapin Osathanondh, made a 911 call to the Hyannis Fire Department on September 13 requesting medical assistance for a woman who had aspirated and was not breathing. That woman, 18-year old Laura Hope Smith, died during an abortion.

Smith's mother, Eileen Smith, told Operation Rescue that she was surprised at the lack of emotion she

heard during the call. She said she had expected to hear panic and perhaps background noise indicating efforts to revive her daughter, but instead there was just a matter-of-fact pronouncement that her daughter was "not breathing."

"I've heard people order pizza with more emotion than that clinic worker had when calling help for Laura," said Operation Rescue spokesperson Cheryl Sullenger.

"In contrast, it appears that the emergency workers did all they could for Laura. The amount of units that responded, and the call to the Captain indicated that they took the situation very seriously."

Eileen Smith has been pursuing action to bring Osathanondh to justice for the death of her daughter. However, all action awaits an autopsy report that should have

taken about four weeks, but three months later has yet to materialize.

Without the autopsy report, the District Attorney cannot make any decision about criminal prosecution in the case, and any consideration of disciplinary action by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine remains on hold.

"All the delay in releasing the autopsy report is accomplishing is continued pain to Laura's family, who cannot find closure until the legal issues are resolved," said Sullenger. "In the meantime, the abortionist continues to ply his trade on unsuspecting women, who are at risk of suffering the same fate as Laura. We pray that the report will be released with all speed, so that this matter can move forward as it should."

## Cross-dressing day sparks school exodus Parents pull students from district, citing conflicts with Biblical rules

By Bob Unruh

2007 WorldNetDaily.com A public school's "gender-bender" cross-dressing event, where boys were supposed to dress as girls and girls as boys, has prompted at least dozens, perhaps hundreds, of students to flee the tax-supported institutions in Iowa.

Many of the parents apparently are members of the Christ Apostolic Temple in Des Moines, which

teaches a biblically based doctrine of rejecting the world's values.

"Christ Apostolic Temple Inc. Fellowship ... is a Bible-based organization that believes one must 'come out from among them and be ye separate.' (2 Cor. 6:14-17)," the organization's website says.

That apparently includes cross-dressing, an event which has found sponsorship in other arenas from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight

Education Network, which has promoted a school lesson plan for teaching boys and girls to cross-dress.

State officials in Des Moines confirmed to WND that at least 80 children whose parents were alarmed by the "Gender-Bender Day" during homecoming week at the city's East High School have moved their children from the various districts in the area into homeschooling plans.

## Pat Robertson hands over Christian Broadcasting Network to his son Gordon Robertson, who will become CEO of the network

By Michael Ireland ASSIST News Service

**VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA (ANS)** -- Another "founding father" of Christian broadcasting has turned over the baton to his son.

Pat Robertson announced at the quarterly meeting of the CBN Board of Directors his desire to continue as Chairman of the Board, but to relinquish his duties as Chief Executive Officer of The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), effective immediately. Robertson, who will be 78 in March, founded CBN in 1960. He has been the ministry's Chief

Executive Officer since its founding.

From a tiny rundown UHF television station in Portsmouth, Virginia, CBN has grown to a worldwide ministry employing approximately 2,800 and having sent out programs in 99 languages to over 225 countries with domestic studios in Virginia Beach and Nashville, and overseas studios in Manila, Jakarta, New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Kiev. Its humanitarian arm, Operation Blessing International, is responsible for humanitarian and disaster relief caring for an estimated 9.5 million people worldwide in 2007.

As Chairman, Pat Robertson will continue active involvement in the ministry he founded as well as the Presidency of Regent University.

The CBN Board voted unanimously to appoint Gordon Robertson as Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and Vice Chairman of the Board, reporting to the Chairman.

Gordon Robertson holds a baccalaureate degree from Yale University and a juris doctor degree from Washington & Lee Law School.

Upon graduation from law school,

**Robertson continued next page**

clearly defines marriage as being between one man and one woman and that the state's family court -- which rules on divorces -- has no authority to grant a "divorce" to a homosexual couple.

"With respect to the case at hand, there is absolutely no reason to believe that, when the act creating the Family Court became law in 1961, the legislators understood the word marriage to refer to any state other than 'the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex,'" the court wrote.

The Supreme Court's role, the majority asserted, simply is to "interpret what was enacted" and not to change the law.

"The role of the judicial branch

is not to make policy, but simply to determine the legislative intent as expressed in the statutes enacted by the General Assembly," the majority ruled.

The ruling was somewhat surprising, given that Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch, a Democratic, and Gov. Donald L. Carcieri, a Republican, each filed briefs arguing that the court legally could grant the divorce. Lynch supports "gay marriage"; Carcieri does not.

When the justices heard oral arguments in October, conservative attorneys left the courtroom pessimistic.

The Alliance Defense Fund filed a friend-of-the-court

brief encouraging the court not to allow the "divorce."

"Marriage has always been one man and one woman in Rhode Island. Everything else is counterfeit. The Supreme Court of Rhode Island ruled correctly," ADF attorney Austin Nimocks said in a statement. "Not only is [the] ruling a victory for marriage, it's also a tremendous step forward against judicial activism. Rhode Island's highest court acknowledged that it is the role of the legislature, and not the judiciary, to establish public policy."

For the "divorce" to be granted, one of the women now must move to Massachusetts, an attorney for one of the women said.

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# National News

## Romney -- \$50 Abortions in Massachusetts

**MC LEAN, Va.,** Christian Newswire - Romney claims to be pro-life. But under his health care plan, Massachusetts residents now have access to taxpayer-funded abortions for \$50.

**Romney's Health Care Plan:** Provides Taxpayer-Funded Abortions. Abortions are covered in the Commonwealth Care program that Romney created as Governor. Under the program, abortions are available for a copay of \$50.

Romney's legislation created an advisory board and guarantees, by law, that Planned Parenthood has a seat at the table. Romney's plan

established a MassHealth payment policy advisory board, and one member of the Board must be from Planned Parenthood. No pro-life organization is represented.

Romney used his line-item veto authority to strike eight sections of the bill that he found objectionable, including the expansion of dental benefits to Medicaid recipients. Yet, he did not strike Planned Parenthood's guaranteed Board representation and he did nothing to prohibit taxpayer-funded abortions as part of his plan. ("Romney's Health Care Vetoes," *Associated Press*, 4/12/06)

## The Supreme Court is Listening; Thirty-Five Years After 'Roe v. Wade' -- What's New?

**SAN ANTONIO,** Christian Newswire - In the recent Supreme Court decision which upheld the partial birth abortion ban the Justice Foundation's Amicus Brief was the only brief cited by the Court. In Justice Kennedy's opinion he quoted from the Justice Foundation's Brief on behalf of Sandra Cano, the former "Doe" of *Doe v. Bolton* and 180 Women Hurt By Abortion. The Supreme Court said that abortion hurts some women causing severe depression and loss of self-esteem.

The Court listened to the women of Operation Outcry, The Justice Foundation's project to end legalized abortion by mobilizing men and women who have had abortions to tell the courts the truth that abortion hurts women. See [www.operationoutcry.org](http://www.operationoutcry.org).

The Court also said it does not have reliable data on the size of the problem. In response to this The Justice Foundation's goal is to collect 1,000,000 declarations (legally admissible evidence) from men and women who have

had abortions. This will be especially timely in January as we approach the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

Two of The Justice Foundation's lawyers, Allan Parker, President, and Clayton Trotter, General Counsel, are available to discuss the partial birth abortion ban decision. Allan Parker and Clayton Trotter also represent Norma McCorvey, the Roe of *Roe v. Wade* and Sandra Cano, the Doe of *Doe v. Bolton*, the two cases that brought abortion to America and these women are now trying to reverse their cases.

Operation Outcry women across the country are also available for interviews. These women powerfully describe the devastation that abortion caused in their lives. The Justice Foundation Operation Outcry project includes a 24/7 day a week toll free helpline number staffed by women who have had abortions to provide help and spiritual counseling to those affected, 1-866-482-LIFE.

**Robertson from Page 6**  
he began a law career with the Norfolk law firm Vandeventer, Black and became a partner specializing in real estate and corporate law. He left the practice of law to serve the ministry of CBN.

Robertson lived in Manila in the Philippines for five years and was placed in charge of CBN's Asian operations in China, India, Indonesia, and Southeast Asia.

At present, Gordon Robertson has assumed expanded responsibilities in addition to Asia to include the

production of CBN's flagship program, The 700 Club, its national and international news, and its digital media division. As CEO, he will lead an expanded effort to enlarge the scope of CBN's penetration into all phases of digital communications.

Gordon Robertson is married to the former Katharyn Banks. Katharyn was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of William and Mary. The couple has three children and resides in Norfolk, Virginia.

## Jews for Jesus puts gospel message in major daily newspapers

By Allie Martin

A well-known ministry is taking the gospel of Christ to millions through a newspaper ad campaign.

The group Jews for Jesus has placed full-page ads in several of the largest cities in the nation, along with *USA Today*. The effort is part of a long-standing campaign targeting secular media around the Christmas season. The ads feature a salvation message that reaches out to all readers, but more specifically to the Jewish demographic.

However, the ad campaign has run into some resistance. The Tribune

Company, which owns several daily newspapers in major markets, initially refused to allow any of its papers to run the ad. But Susan Perlman, associate executive director of Jews for Jesus, says that policy was appealed and subsequently modified.

"We prayed and we asked others to pray. David Brickner, our executive director, asked me to push further up the chain of command [at Tribune]. So we contacted the ombudsman for the paper," says Perlman.

Perlman says her organization received a welcoming response from the ombudsman. She

believes the prayers of supporters were heard, and Tribune has since changed their stance on the ad. Company officials decided that each individual newspaper would decide whether to accept or reject the ad. So far *The Los Angeles Times* has not made a decision, she says; however, *The Chicago Tribune* has already run the ad.

According to Perlman, people tend to be more receptive to the salvation message during the Christmas season because of the religious tone and symbols of the holiday. People are asking questions, she says, and God wants to answer them.

## Religion writers name evangelicals in election as 2007's top story

(EP News) — Members of the Religion Newswriters Association have picked the top 10 religion stories of 2007. They are:

1. Evangelical voters ponder whether they will be able to support the eventual Republican candidate, as they did in 2004, because of questions about the leaders' faith and/or platform. Many say they would be reluctant to vote for Mormon Mitt Romney.
2. Leading Democratic presidential candidates make conscious efforts to woo faith-based voters after admitting failure to do so in 2004.
3. The role of gays and lesbians in clergy continues as a deeply dividing issue. An Episcopal Church promise to exercise restraint on gay issues fails to stem the number of congregations seeking to leave the mainline denomination, while in a close vote, Canadian Anglican bishops vote to nullify lay and clerical approval of same-sex

blessings. Meanwhile, Conservative Jews become more open to gay leadership.

4. Global warming rises in importance among religious groups, with many Mainline leaders giving it high priority and evangelical leaders split over its importance compared to other social and moral causes

5. The question of what to do about illegal immigration is debated by religious leaders and groups on both sides of the issue. Some take an active role in supporting undocumented immigrants.

6. Thousands of Buddhist monks lead pro-democracy protest in Myanmar, which is brutally crushed after a week.

7. Some Conservative U.S. Episcopalians realign with Anglican bishops in Africa and elsewhere in the global South, initiating legal disputes about church property ownership.

8. The Supreme Court by a 5-4 vote rules on the conservative side in three major cases with religious implications: upholding a ban on partial-birth abortions, allowing schools to establish some limits on students' free speech, and denying a challenge to the Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

9. Death takes evangelical leaders known, among other things, for their television work: Jerry Falwell, Rex Humbard, D. James Kennedy, plus Billy Graham's wife, Ruth, and Jim Bakker, s ex-wife, Tammy Faye Messner. Other deaths include Gilbert Patterson, presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ, and Bible scholar Bruce Metzger.

10. The cost of priestly sex-abuse to the Roman Catholic Church in the United States surpasses \$2.1 billion with a record \$660 million settlement involving the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and earlier settlements this year totaling \$100 million in Portland, Ore., and Spokane, Wash.

## Trump considers MA casino

Boston - MFI - According to the owner of Wonderland Greyhound Park in Revere, talks have begun between him and Donald Trump about teaming up on a resort casino proposal. According to the *Boston Globe*, Trump telephoned Wonderland owner Charles Sarkis recently and set the talks in motion during a 15-minute conversation. The owner of nearby Suffolk Downs, Richard Fields, also plans to bid on one of the state's three casino licenses proposed by Gov. Deval Patrick, setting the stage for a potential turf war pitting Trump against his former friend Fields. The two casino moguls had a falling out over a casino partnership and are currently embroiled

in a \$1billion lawsuit in Florida's Broward County.

According to the *Globe*, Trump executives have been scouring the state for potential casino sites, including the Holyoke Mall, Plainridge Racecourse, and sites in Fall River, New Bedford, and Warren. The talks with Sarkis confirm that Trump is also looking at the Boston area.

Gov. Patrick filed legislation in October that would license one resort casino in each of three separate regions - western Massachusetts (including Worcester), southeastern Massachusetts, and metropolitan Boston. The proposal is facing opposition in the State House, where Speaker Salvatore DiMasi has expressed skepticism, and said that not-yet-scheduled hearings won't take place until next year.

Discussions have been ongoing for nearly a year between Sarkis and Fields in the hope that the two tracks, located only 2 miles apart from each other, would be able to partner and concentrate their efforts on getting Patrick's proposal approved instead of fighting for position. A deal is close to being finalized between


Fields and Sarkis, but other Suffolk Downs officials did not want to sign because they thought it was too generous to Sarkis.

In other casino news, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce announced last week that it has commissioned an independent study to examine the potential impact of casino gambling in Massachusetts. The chamber has retained the Boston office of UHY Advisors FLVS Inc., a business consulting firm, to conduct an economic analysis that considers the job-creation and the socioeconomic implications that would result from casino gambling in Massachusetts. The chamber said it expects the study to be completed "by the first part of 2008."

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# World News

## The Vicar Of Baghdad Says Christians Are Worse Off Now Than Under Saddam

By Dan Wooding

**BAGHDAD, IRAQ (ANS)** -- Canon Andrew White is one of the great heroes of the church. He's an Anglican clergyman in Baghdad, who has seen his flock murdered and forced into exile by Muslim extremists, and he says Christians there are worse off now than under Saddam's rule and are probably suffering more than any time in history.

Now millions of viewers in the United States can see White, known as

the Vicar of Baghdad, as he speaks to Scott Pelley for a segment on the persecution of Christians in Iraq to be broadcast on 60 MINUTES, Sunday Dec. 2 (7:00-8:00 PM, ET/PT), on the CBS Television Network.

"There's no comparison between Iraq now and [under Saddam]," says White. "Things are the most difficult they have ever been for Christians - probably ever in history," he tells Pelley, referring to the nearly 2,000 years of Christian history in the area. That's because White estimates that 90 percent of Iraq's Christians, once thought to number over a million, have either fled or have been murdered by Islamic extremists during the religious civil war.

That includes his own church leaders and most of the men of his parish. "They are mainly killed. Some are kidnapped," says White. "Here in this church, all of my leadership were originally taken and killed." Their bodies were never recovered. "This is one of the problems. I regularly do funerals here, but it's not easy to get the bodies," White tells Pelley.

A CBS news release says that White invited 60 MINUTES cameras to an underground Baghdad service for what's left of his congregation, mostly the old, the ill and those who cannot afford to flee. The purge is almost complete in the Dora neighborhood of Baghdad, once a Christian stronghold, and the recent surge of American troops also has stemmed some of the violence.

"I don't see a lot of [Christian murder victims] anymore," says Army Col. Rick Gibbs. "But when we first arrived, we saw lots of that. It would not surprise my soldiers to walk down a street on patrol and see three or four bodies lying in the street with a bullet behind their head," says Gibbs.

At the height of the violence, churches were bombed and the Army did not guard them, Gibbs says. "[Christians] feel that if we are overtly protecting the churches, that someone under-  
*The Good News TODAY*

ground covertly will come in and murder the Christians because they are collaborating with the U.S. forces," Gibbs tells Pelley.

It all started after the invasion, says a young Christian who did not want to be identified. "[Muslim extremists] were telling us that Christians were against Islam, that we're infidels, that women shouldn't drive and that a woman who doesn't wear a head scarf should get her head cut off," he says. "I thought, 'What are we, going back to the Middle Ages?'"

It's all happening because religion can go wrong, says White. "When religion goes wrong, it kills others. [Islam] has [gone wrong] and in the past, Christianity has gone wrong," he says.

What makes Canon Andrew White life and ministry so extraordinary and inspiring is that he suffers from Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a chronic, long-term condition that affects the central nervous system, which includes the brain and spinal cord. MS is an autoimmune disease, which means that the body's immune system mistakenly attacks itself, targeting the cells, tissues, and organs. Because of his condition, White is forced to walk with a stick.

Over recent years, Andrew White has acted as negotiator in many areas of conflict, including the siege at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the bloody riots between Christians and Muslims in northern Nigeria. He has been awarded several significant prizes for his peace work, including the International Sternberg prize and the ICCJ Prize for Sustained Intellectual Contribution to Jewish-Christian Relations.

Andrew is married to Caroline, who is a lawyer, and has two young sons.



Canon Andrew White in full body armor with his cross  
(Photo: Daily Mail, UK)

## Russian sect prays to Putin icons; claims he is the 'chosen one'

By Dan Wooding

**MOSCOW, RUSSIA (ANS)** -- Vladimir Putin may be popular in Russia for saving the nation from the chaos of the 1990s, but a sect in the country has taken its devotion a step further by praying to "presidential icons."

According to the (RIA Novosti web site), the Bolshaya Elnya village in the Nizhny Novgorod Region is home to the "Rus' Resurrecting" sect, a group of local residents who believe that President Putin was both the Apostle Paul and King Solomon in previous lives.

Rus' is the term used for the medieval East Slavic nation that gave its name to modern Russia. "We didn't choose Putin," Mother Fontinya told the Moskovsky Komsomolets paper, expounding on the first time she laid eyes on the "holy one."

"It was when Yeltsin was naming him as his successor [during a live New Year's Eve TV broadcast in 1999]. My soul exploded with joy!"

"An ubermensch! God himself has chosen him!" I cried. "Yeltsin was the destroyer, and God replaced him with his creation," claimed Fontinya.

The sect possesses a President Putin icon that Fontinya claims miraculously appeared one day. "He has given us everything," she said, pointing to the sky.

A special newspaper published by the sect - "The Temple of Light" - features interviews with long-dead religious figures, including the Apostle Paul. The sect members are also convinced that President Putin knows about and supports the actions of their 'Mother Superior.'

Russian Christian sects have long been known for their unusual choices of icons, some of them praying to portraits of such well-known "holy men" as Stalin and Ivan the Terrible.

"Another Russian sect is currently holed up in an underground shelter in the country's central Penza Region and has threatened

to commit mass suicide if any attempt is made to bring them to the surface," said the RIA Novosti story.

"Religion was tightly controlled in the U.S.S.R. and the collapse of the Soviet Union saw an explosion in sects and cults, as well as interest in New Age philosophies and beliefs. "The back pages of many Russian tabloid newspapers are full of advertisements for 'healers' and 'magicians' who promise to bring happiness in love, success in business, as well as a range of other services.

"One of the most well-known sects in Russia has its base near the southern Siberian town of Abakan, where thousands of people, both Russian and foreign, worship a former provincial traffic policeman, Sergei Torop, as the second coming of Christ."

The RIA Novosti story concluded by saying that there are currently believed to be around 500-700 such sects in Russia, containing some 600,000-800,000 people.

## House Church Christmas services raided throughout multiple provinces

By Michael Ireland

**HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA (ANS)** -- In spite of increasing persecution, Chinese house church members remain adamant and vocal about celebrating the Christmas season. Services continue to be held celebrating the birth of Christ, as members gather to sing songs and worship despite fears of arrest and imprisonment.

Less than two weeks before Christmas, China Aid has learned that, Pastor Liang Qi Zhen, Vice President of the Chinese House Church Alliance, was detained by PSB officials in Er Qi District.

After disbursing Liang's congregation, police officials took him by force and transported him to an undisclosed location where he was tortured for several hours. Liang's ears and right hand were injured during the lengthy assault.

After being released, Liang was able to identify the one who tortured him as Er Qi Security Bureau policeman, Li Seng. No legal pro-

cedure was established during the entire incident. PSB officials continue to threaten the church members to abstain from gathering.

Meanwhile, in Jiangsu Province a house church in Chang Zhou City was attacked by police officials in December during a Christmas celebration. The church, led by Pastor Bu Ge Qiao, was in the midst of a Christmas service when police raided the gathering and detained four female members.

During the apprehension police assaulted one of the members until she became unconscious. She was later taken to the hospital. Her condition remains unknown.

Also, In Yunan Province, on December 5, policemen and members of the Bureau of Ethnic and Religious Affairs raided a house church meeting in Kunming, and detained several members including, Ms. Piao Guihua, the renter of the property.

After searching the building, police seized several hundred Christian books and note-pads, and then burned them outside the residence. Police also destroyed the identification cards of three of the church members. After several hours of interrogation, the members were released and told to remove all property from the residence by 10am. The landlord of the building was also instructed to cease rental agreements with Ms. Piao. The same house church has been raided on several occasions beginning in December of 2004, September 2007, November 3, 2007, and November 29 2007. In each instance, police officials have confiscated the offering donations along with Bibles and other Christian literature. In every raid, police officials have failed to issue legal documentation of the property taken.

In Henan Province, on Tuesday, December 4, policeman in Lu Yi district, Henan Province, assailed a local house church prayer meeting. Five church members were detained and taken to the local police station for interrogation. Their names are: Shao Guang Rong (the pastor of the church), his wife Zhang Ji Zhi, Yan Qi Ying, Cui LianZhi and Wang Xiao Jian.

The members were released on bail after 5 days detention, but not before being forced to pay an 800 Yuen fee for food consumed during their incarceration. According to several house church members, at the same time their leaders were taken by the police, dozens of believers in another town of the same district were also detained. No word concerning their release has been heard.

House church members, labeled by police officials as "cultists," are often sentenced to labor camps when they are detained by police. The members detained in Henan Province are likely to face one-year imprisonment in such a labor camp.

"To arbitrarily arrest peaceful Christians for celebrating Christmas, shows how much religious freedom Chinese people have," said Bob Fu, President of China Aid Association. "The international community should be concerned for the increasing religious persecution in China in recent months especially in light of the Beijing Olympics just a few months away."

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# World News

## Former Northern Irish Terrorist Now a Pastor

By Jeremy Reynolds

**Ulster, Northern Ireland (ANS)** -- After leaving school at 15 with no qualifications, Kenny McClinton worked first as a laborer, then a Merchant seaman, before joining the British Army in 1972.

From there, he said he "drifted quite naturally" into the Protestant Ulster Defense Association (UDA).

"Because of my violent nature and my previous British Army training, I was promoted to First Lieutenant of an active service unit within a mere three weeks," McClinton told Inspire Magazine.

He said, "It wasn't long before I 'graduated' to the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), an even more militant and much feared Protestant terrorist group. "It was at this time, I am ashamed to say, that I shot and killed two men and attempted to murder a number of others."

McClinton told Inspire Magazine that after a major bombing campaign, he spent two weeks drinking hard.

He said, "I remember waking up one morning feeling disgusted with what I had become - a terrorist murderer. For some reason I prayed, 'I am tired of my life. Please help me to have a new start.'"

The following Mon. morning, Aug. 29 1977, he was arrested, questioned for five days and charged with two counts of murder and a number of other terrorism charges.

"I obviously did not relish losing my freedom, but in some ways it was a relief because I knew there was no other way but death in which I could get out of the life I was living as a terrorist," McClinton told Inspire Magazine. "I was trapped by my reputation and what my fellow terrorists expected from me."

Even in prison his militant tendencies continued. Dubbed "that maniac McClinton" by prison staff, Inspire said that McClinton was one of the original instigators of the 'Loyalist Blanket Brigade,' who refused to wear prison clothes and follow prison rules.

To help the time pass more quickly while he was in solitary confinement, McClinton started reading the Bible.

"I found I quite enjoyed all the stories in the early chapters of the Bible. I could closely relate to the whole tribal attitudes and nomadic experiences; the wars; the plots; the political intrigue," he told Inspire.

McClinton was eventually given two life sentences and sent to the Maze Prison where he studied the New Testament in his Bible readings. "Things were never quite the

same after that," he said.

A new start was ahead for McClinton, when on Aug. 12 1979 he fell down on his knees in his cell, crying out to God in repentance.

He had read that one of the conditions of becoming a true Christian was a public profession of his faith, so he called for a 'meeting' with some of his fellow Blanket Protesters.

Inspire said that McClinton told them, "Today I have taken the most important step of my life. I have renounced violence. I have repented of my sins. I have asked Jesus Christ into my life and to save me - and I believe he has saved me."

He added, "From this day forth I cease to be a Military Commander of the UFF, and wish only to be a mere volunteer in the army of the Lord Jesus Christ. I will seek to serve him to the best of my ability."

Inspire wrote that when McClinton first went into prison he was semi-literate. After becoming a Christian, he took various courses and gained a degree in criminology and the social sciences. Since leaving prison in 1993 he has gained a Master's Degree in Theology, a Ph.D. in Philosophy and a second Doctorate in Literature.

He was ordained as a pastor in an international missions ministry, Moments of Faith International, based in Texas, USA in 1995, and formed the Ulster/American Christian Fellowship Ministry. He attends, and sometimes ministers at, his local Baptist church in Portadown.

According to Inspire, employment experts have deemed McClinton "unemployable," as a result of his high political profile and the way in which he has spoken out against both terrorist violence and state oppression.

Over the past decade, Inspire said that McClinton and his family have endured death threats, slander and barely enough money to make

## Full Abortions Shown On Spanish Television - First In History

By Matthew Cullinan Hoffman

MADRID, (LifeSiteNews.com) - For what is probably the first time in history, a television network in Spain has shown an abortion on national television.

The video, shot during a hidden-camera exposé on Spain's abortion industry, shows a nurse injecting deadly poison into the fetus through the vagina of a pregnant woman, who then expels her dead child, about five months old. The doctor immediately covers the body.

"The baby is born dead. His cradle: a trash can," says the commentator in voice-over on the tape. An abortion of the baby of a second woman is also shown. After showing the second abortion, the commentator remarks. "As soon as the baby is born, the doctor must cover it up. No one looks at it. No one examines it."

Later, the undercover reporter examines one of the dead children. "Hands, feet, a face. The cadaver of a human being," the commentator notes. The doctor, a woman, remarks that the baby is 21 months old, but says she "never" looks at the bodies of the fetuses.

"Never?" asks the undercover reporter, who is posing as a doctor looking for work at the clinic. "Never," the woman repeats "Never, never, never again!" When asked why, the doctor says "Because I don't like it." "Of course, you are a mother, I assume, right?" the reporter asks. No answer is given.

All of the patients preparing for abortions were over five months pregnant, "a period in which the fetus is completely formed and in possession of all of its senses," notes the voice-over. One of the patients is only 15 years old.

The doctor explicitly acknowledges in the video that many of the patients have no valid reason for their abortions. However, she assures the reporter ends meet - yet God has always supplied their needs.

Inspire wrote that the former 'maniac McClinton' is now a living testimony to God's transforming power.



that the clinic has a psychiatrist who will automatically sign the necessary forms to authorize it because of "psychological" need as required under Spanish law.

"Here they sign everything," she says. "The psychiatrist is a member of the clinic and everything is done in house." The test she gives is "a mere procedure."

"Here, whoever wants an abortion, gets one," says the commentator, noting that such procedures described are illegal. The doctor admits that this is business as usual.

The clinic, which is called "El Bosque de Madrid" (<http://www.clinica-el-bosque.com>), is a member of the Association of Accredited Clinics for the Interruption of Pregnancy (ACAI), which has been accused repeatedly of criminal behavior by pro-life activists.

The report, "Asi se aborta en España" (This is How Abortions are Done in Spain) was made by Intereconomia TV, a national network in Spain, in which the reporter posed as a doctor seeking a job doing abortions at El Bosque. As soon as he tells the receptionist why he's there, she rushes him in to see the owner. The clinic is in desperate need of personnel, explains the commentator.

In the video, the owner explains that they used to have the nurses do the abortions, although the law will no longer allow this. He blithely describes the procedure as it was done by nurses, telling the undercover reporter (who is posing as a job applicant) that it is only necessary to "wait until the woman expels it (the fetus), and to take it out by its rear end. If the placenta doesn't come out they call me."

He assures the undercover reporter that if that happens "you grab the pincers...and 'pin pin pin' and

that's it," waving his hands around with a casual look on his face.

Following the broadcast of the report, an anonymous source brought the remains of a twenty-two week old fetus chopped into several large pieces to the offices of Intereconomia.

Upon receiving the remains, one station employee told the Spanish media that they thought the remains were a "joke". "We thought it was made of plastic."


The workers at Intereconomia, shocked at what they were seeing, tried to hide it from a fellow employee who had recently lost a child. They filmed the remains, which have been displayed widely in the Spanish media. They then called the courthouse to ask what they should do with them. They were told to call the police.

"We quickly took the remains to nearby police station and filed a report," said Xavier Horcajo, director of Intereconomia TV. Horcajo stated that he was told by police that "on many occasions, an abortion practice is to cut up the child inside of the mother so he can come out more easily."

Troy Newman, President of Operation Rescue, noted the importance of the event. "I believe that if we have a straight up debate on abortion, on exactly what abortion is, exactly what it does to the baby, the detrimental effects on the mother, the pro-life movement wins hands down one hundred percent of the time," he told LifeSiteNews.

"The debate in Europe is phenomenally important. It's pivotal in the crusade to end abortion worldwide, and I would hope that this would begin to spill over into American politics."

Asked why the American media has never shown such images to the public, Newman said that "there is an active coverup within the media to deny the actual truth about what goes on during an abortion," attributing the situation to liberal, pro-abortion bias.




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# Book Reviews

## 'Be Not Deceived' Awarded Prestigious FaithWriters' 'Outstanding Read' Seal of Approval

Christian Newswire - Ed Mrkvicka's popular and controversial new book, "Be Not Deceived," has been lauded by the over 30 thousand member FaithWriters worldwide association of religious writers.

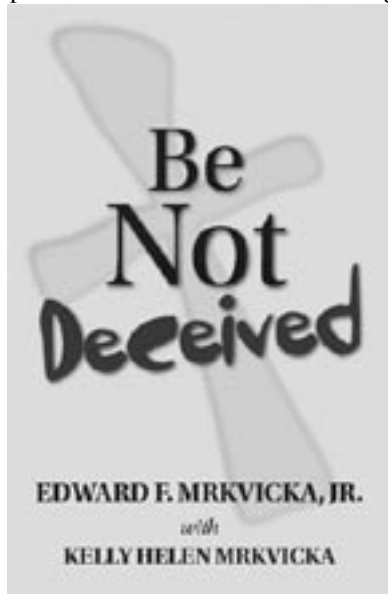
The FaithWriters' review written by Linda Germain says: "Get ready for a spiritual sledgehammer right between the eyes of your heart: The majority of us will spend eternity in hell.

That is the premise of this very well written and Scripture supported book. The author is unflinching in his warnings to re-assess the once-saved-always-saved belief. God's grace is not an insurance policy that covers willful disobedience. He does not send us to Hell. We send ourselves by the choices we make.

A short review of such an outstanding book cannot begin to encompass its depth. I have quoted

liberally from its passages, since Mr. Mrkvicka's words are so effective in piercing to the heart of the matter. To try to put the author's offering in perspective, he reminds us over and over, "...we declare ourselves Christian, but if we do not exhibit the works of our Lord and Savior, we will not be believed by the One who matters. We can fool others. We can even fool ourselves. But we cannot fool God!" (P. 172)

Although this is well written and easy to understand, I do not consider it light reading. Gaining insight into our relationship with our Creator, the one who holds



our eternal lives in His hands, is as serious as it gets.

This is a hi-liter and pen-in-hand kind of study. No matter on which side of salvation theology you stand, I highly recommend this book as part of any seeking, thinking Christian's library."

Based on Ms. Germain's review, FaithWriters awarded "Be Not Deceived" its highly coveted Seal of Approval, with a notation of being an "Outstanding" and "Excellent Read."

Mrkvicka stated, "'Be Not Deceived' answers the question: Are you saved, or do you just think you're saved? More importantly, if you have been deceived into

losing your salvation, 'Be Not Deceived' will help you reclaim God's gift of everlasting life. Having FaithWriters acknowledge my effort on this important subject is a true honor for which I am most thankful."

## Building on higher ground

By Dan Wooding

IRVINE, CA (ANS) -- Milton Fuller is an extraordinary man. From humble beginnings in Alabama, Fuller rose to become a young, self-made millionaire. A graduate of Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., and the University of Alabama Law School in Tuscaloosa, he and a college friend began a marketing firm while still in school. Fuller's business expertise and entrepreneurial drive made him a millionaire at age 29.

He and his wife Linda went onto found Habitat for Humanity in 1976 which has built more than 225,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1 million people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

But then after 29 years of service with Habitat, Milton and Linda in 2005 moved on to start yet another project to help the poor called The Fuller Center for Housing.



I caught up with 72-year-old Milton Fuller recently and interviewed him for the Great Commission Channel on Safe Worlds IPTV (Internet Protocol TV) in Irvine, California and asked him why he and his wife had begun this new project.

"The Fuller Center for Housing was started because even though Habitat for Humanity had built housing for more than a million people and continues to build thousands of houses each year, when you look at the vast need in the world, that's only a speck or a drop in the bucket," he said. "And even though I'm at what is traditionally considered retirement age, I'm in good health; I'm in high spirits; and I rejoice in doing what I do.

"And also as a Christian, I have not found anywhere in the Bible that it says take up the cross and follow me until you're sixty-five or seventy then put it down and take up a fishing pole."

Milton Fuller went on to say, "I don't feel old. I feel very young. I water ski. I ride motor cycles. I climb mountains and I build houses.

"So we started the Fuller Center for Housing to continue what I had devoted my life to for nearly three decades and God has been blessing it in amazing ways. We are building new houses using pretty much the same methodology of Habitat for Humanity which is: no profit, no interest, long term to pay, and volunteer labor.

"However, we have introduced a revolutionary new concept of the 'Greater Blessings Box' where we are largely renovating houses mostly for senior citizens on limited incomes whose house maybe needs a new front porch or the bathroom leaks or their windows are broken or the roof leaks.

"We bring volunteers in and they do the necessary work and, instead of putting a legal obligation on somebody who's eighty-five years old, we give them literally a little wooden box which is called a 'Greater Blessings Box' and put envelopes in there and give them the privilege to receive the greater blessing because the Bible says that while it is blessed to receive, it is more blessed to give. And we give them the opportunity to give the money back that we spent on renovating their house knowing that if they do we'll use it to help somebody else."

I asked him if he was building news houses as well.

## Trusting God's People Again

When the church injures, God's Word offers healing

DALLAS/Christian Newswire - Depending on whose statistics you believe, anywhere from 15% to 40% of Christian believers today have felt betrayed or wounded by the church at some point. Many of them are spiritually incapacitated and just sitting on the sidelines. What if we found a way to bring them healing and to reinvest them in kingdom work?

In their new book, *Trusting God's People...Again*, authors Blake Coffee and Debbie Taylor Williams offer hope and biblical direction for those who have been wounded at the hands of God's own people. The book acknowledges a fact that is often forgotten, namely that "the church" is made up of flawed people who still sin. When that many sinners gather in one place, someone is bound to get hurt.

"When we talk of those who have stopped trusting the church, we tend to think of people who have been molested by a member of the clergy or have been disillusioned by the public moral downfall of a high-profile minister," Coffee states. "The reality is that those people represent a very small percentage of the people who feel betrayed by the church. The vast majority are

those whose feelings were hurt because of an administrative conflict or who were treated unkindly or otherwise wronged by some individual(s) in the church. These folks are experiencing some very real pain-and many of them would rather not take the risk of coming to church again."

"Part of the story of *Trusting God's People...Again* is focusing on the true enemy," Williams stresses. "Divisiveness is one of Satan's favorite strategies, and Christians are a prime target today, especially Christian leaders. I hope readers will be encouraged to seek the Lord of the church and to understand that the church is made up of saved sinners who are in the process of being sanctified."



For those who are spiritually incapacitated by the wounds they've suffered at church, the authors offer these words of encouragement: "You are not alone. You are not the first person to be injured by God's people and you will not be the last, but

God's Word really does show you a pathway toward healing. He loves you and wants you to experience that love even in the midst of your pain."

"We're building new houses in addition to the renovation work," he said. "But, when we build a new house, we do put a legal obligation on it but it's a special mortgage at no profit and no interest and we're building already in thirteen states in the US in two years and six other countries and we're in correspondence with at least forty other states that have notified us that they want to start work in their respective locations."

I asked Milton Fuller if his Christian faith was behind his tireless activities.

"Absolutely," he said. "I believe that the imperative of the Gospel is to be light; to be leaven; to be an influence -- a positive influence in society, not only to go to church -- and I think going to church is very important to worship God and to learn and to be motivated and inspired.

"But we are called to be light in dark places. So while it's important to go to church, it is even more important to let your light shine out in dark places and one of the ways to do that is by doing what Jesus himself said that we should do, such as invite in strangers so that they will have a decent place in which to live.

I then asked Milton Fuller what Christians should care about the poor.

"Because God cares about the poor," he said firmly. "You can not read the Bible without coming away with the clear message that God has a special love for all of humanity, but a very special love for those who are marginalized, for those who are being left out for those who are poor. Since God's love is special for the poor then I think people who love God and who want to be disciples of Jesus should also have a special love for those who are marginalized and are poor and are being left out."

Now an inspiring new book about the Fullers called *The House That Love Built* by Bettie B. Youngs has been new book has been released. For more information on the book and the work of the Fullers, go to [www.fullercenter.org](http://www.fullercenter.org).

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## Icons and idols

by Brad Locke

TUPELO, Miss. (BP)—I recently read in Sports Illustrated actor Michael Imperioli's account of meeting Muhammad Ali during a movie shoot. "I brought him in, and he got an ovation from the whole crew. Everyone stopped working for a half hour. Some people were crying," Imperioli said.

I've never cried, but I have been awestruck in the presence of athletic greats. I've had the thrill of meeting people like Albert Pujols, Roy Oswalt, Raymond Berry and Jeff Gordon. The more I meet people like this, though, the more I realize that they are just that: people. They can do special things, but in the end, are they really worth so much attention and devotion?

The Ali phenomenon especially perplexes me. He's an icon, no

doubt, but icons are essentially defined by how their actions are refracted through their society's historical perspective and current cultural norms. Icons are not necessarily to be admired, especially self-absorbed womanizers who made a living hitting people.

Really, no human is to be admired too much. It's so easy to cross the line from icon to idol. Brett Favre, who was named Sports Illustrated's 2007 Sportsman of the Year, is a football legend; Lance Armstrong is praised by countless people for whipping cancer and winning seven straight Tour de France titles; and personally, I find it real hard not to put Pujols, a Christian, up on a pedestal as the perfect Adonis/apostle blend.

It's a curious thing, our fascination with the famous. I'm sure it's tied to our psychological need for self-validation. Not just as individuals, but as a race. We delude ourselves into thinking that humans are capable of reach-



Muhammed Ali (left)

ing some vaguely defined state of bliss, via their own greatness, and these icons become the standard. My, how low we are aiming.

Now, let's imagine what would have happened if Jesus had walked onto the set of Imperioli's current movie. Knowing the Hollywood type — and knowing human nature, being a human myself — I doubt any tears would

have been shed. If no one knew who He was, He'd likely be ignored. If they did know, He'd likely be shunned. There's plenty of precedent for that kind of treatment.

That's ironic, because Jesus is the picture of literal perfection. Most would not admit it, but I think the majority of us are intimidated by that standard, which is why moral

relativism is so rampant. It's why we look up to fellow humans, who — and we know this deep down — are just as fallible as you and I. That makes it easier for us to accept our own shortcomings.

I'm not sure exactly what made those people cry in Ali's presence, but I suspect it had much to do with their belief that he represented some heroic ideal. To them, Ali is a "good person." Well, not compared to Jesus he isn't. None of us are.

We're all the same, from the icons to the low-lives. Just sinners who should be crying out for Jesus, not for each other.

Brad Locke is a sports writer for the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal. Write to him at [checkswinger@gmail.com](mailto:checkswinger@gmail.com).

## Heisman winner has priorities in order

by Joni B. Hannigan/ managing editor of the Florida Baptist Witness

NEW YORK (BP)—Football rates a mere fourth on his list of priorities behind God, family and academics. Even so, in New York City Dec. 8 Tim Tebow became the first college sophomore to win the famed Heisman Trophy in the 70-plus years of the award.

The University of Florida quarterback was a finalist along with Arkansas running back Darren McFadden, Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan and Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel. The trophy is one of the most prestigious individual awards in all of sports.

"I'd just like to first start off by thanking my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave me the ability to play football and gave me a great family and a support group and great coaches and everything around me," a breathless Tebow said at the ceremony, moments after the award was announced. Going on to thank teammates, high school coaches, his parents and siblings, Tebow repeated thanks to Jesus Christ and drew laughter when pledging his love for his chosen school for the third time.

"I love the University of Florida, I love being a Gator. I love Gator Nation," Tebow said. A home-school student who played for Nease High School in Ponte Vedra Beach, Tebow helped Florida win a national title last season as the Gators' backup. He is the first major college player to run for at least 20 touchdowns and throw 20 TD passes in the same season. This year's 22 rushing TDs are tied for the FBS record (formerly Division I-A) for rushing TDs in a season by a quarterback.

Tebow, affectionately referred to as "Timmy" by his family, is the youngest child of Bob and Pam Tebow, missionaries to the Philippines through Bob Tebow Evangelistic Ministries, supported by First Baptist Church in Jacksonville. In a profile aired on ESPN during the Heisman award

ceremony, Tebow said his priorities are: "number one, my faith in God; number two, my family and my relationships with my family; number three, academics; and number four is football."

His mother, Pam Tebow, in the profile, said she declined the advice of a doctor to get an abortion after she became seriously ill and dehydrated when pregnant with Tim, her fifth child while living overseas. Bob Tebow said his son is a "miracle baby and so we have reminded him that hundreds of times." He was homeschooled but allowed to play high school football thanks to a Florida law.

Tebow said in the profile he wants to be a standout both on and off the field.

"Through everything that I do in football, in school, in living, I want people to see that in me," Tebow said. "I don't want to be just another guy who's walking down the street. I want when people see me they say, 'Hey, there's something different about this guy, and that's because he has a relationship with Jesus Christ.'"

Crediting his family with teaching him priorities, Tebow said his dad taught him about character and his mom taught him to memorize Scripture verses. Brothers and sisters created a path for him by which he is able to "just follow in their footsteps," he said.

"God gave me the ability to play football and I'm just trying to go out there and honor Him with it and just be as passionate and enthusiastic about it as I can," Tebow reiterated. "It's a game that I love and you've got to remember that He gave me the ability and the opportunity to play and it can be gone at any moment."

After receiving the Heisman, Tebow was thorough in his thanks and praise of those who have shaped and taught him, inside and out.

"I am fortunate for a lot of things. God has truly blessed me and I am blessed with so much stuff," Tebow said. "I'm just thankful and this is such an honor and I am so happy to be here."



Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, a member of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, set several records this year, including becoming the first major college QB to run for 20 touchdowns and throw for 20 TDs in the same season. Photo by Marc Serota/Getty Images.

His pastor at FBC Jacksonville, Mac Brunson, said he knew of the Tebow family's reputation when he was pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas before coming to Jacksonville nearly 18 months ago. Tebow's sister, Christy Tebow-Allen, and her husband were members of First Baptist Dallas while her husband studied at Dallas Theological Seminary, and Brunson knew the youngest Tebow was being highly recruited as a high school senior and had an excellent Christian testimony.

His reputation was so sterling Brunson almost landed him as a youth speaker in Dallas but scheduling conflicts with the University of Florida prevented that from taking place.

"We knew of his testimony, we knew what a great athlete he was," Brunson told the Florida Baptist Witness. On moving on to the ministry at First Baptist in Jacksonville, Brunson said he met Tebow's parents and gained

even more insight into the family dynamic.

"I think who he is is a great tribute to his mom and his dad, in fact the whole family," Brunson said. "It's a family that's incredibly dedicated to the Lord, dedicated to missions. They walk the walk. They just don't



talk about it; they really walk the walk. It's a close family, and you have to admire the family, not just Tim, but the entire family as well for their commitment to the Lord and the Lord's work.

"They are really an example of what a family can be under Christ because all of them are so gifted in so many different ways," Brunson continued. "He's got a brother who is an incredible athlete. He has a sister who is an incredible teacher. His mother speaks, his dad preaches and has this mission effort in the Philippines. They're all just talented, gifted. They're close. They're a great example of what a family can be when Christ is Lord of everyone's life."

Brunson said he believes Tebow has had a "phenomenal" sophomore year statistically, but even better are the postgame interviews and the ongoing Christian witness that's quickly becoming his trademark.

"He's just a great witness. He recognizes that his ability is a God-given gift," Brunson said. "Tim Tebow is the All-American athletic hero. He is clean cut, he comes from a solid family, he has great athletic ability, he's humble with it, [and] it's not gone to his head."

Calling Tebow a "real leader," Brunson said the young athlete understands leading by example as an athlete and as a Christian.

"I'm happy for him. I really do what Paul says, I'm rejoicing with my brother in not only what God has done in his life, but in what God is doing in his life. I think this is so good for those of us who are Christians that the world gets to see a young man that is so stable and secure and founded in his walk with the Lord."


Tebow isn't the only major college quarterback who is a member of FBC Jacksonville. Florida Atlantic QB Rusty Smith, whose team is placing in the New Orleans Bowl Dec. 21, is, too.

"We are probably the only church in the country that has two starting QBs at 1-A schools and both of them are going to be in bowls," Brunson said. "We're just turning out QBs down here."

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tional funds sometimes, graphic images, persuasive words, and intense pseudo-spiritual manipulation are employed to excite a sense of public guilt in governments and individual culpability in private donors. An example is the well-known quotation from Vatican Council II, "Since there are so many people prostrate with hunger in the world, this Sacred Council urges all, both individuals and governments, to remember the aphorism of the Fathers, 'feed the man dying of hunger, because if you have not fed him, you have killed him.'"11 Statements like this are routinely presented in the accusative case.

It is very significant that in 2002, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, likewise, stated publicly that their goal in evangelization is to encounter the modern world with the Catholic Church's teaching of the "preferential option for the poor." They assert the following principles that "the 'preferential option for the poor' and 'walking with the poor in mission' have a particular priority."<sup>12</sup>

How such evangelization is put into effect is seen in news reports as, for example, on May 6, 2007, "The head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, has called for the government to consider an amnesty for illegal immigrants in the UK."<sup>13</sup> This type of appeal to come to the aid of presumably poor illegal aliens is similar to the work done by Catholic Charities in the USA, of which *The New Tribune* reports, "Churches in five big U.S. cities plan to protect illegal immigrants from deportation, offering their buildings as sanctuary if need be, as they pressure lawmakers to create a path to citizenship for the nation's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants."<sup>14</sup> On May 9, 2007, Fox News reported that, "Beginning Wednesday afternoon, a Catholic church in downtown Los Angeles and a Lutheran church in North Hollywood each intend to shelter one person as part of the 'New Sanctuary Movement.' A handful of churches in other U.S. cities plan similar efforts in the months

ahead to spotlight the plight of illegal immigrants. 'We want to put a human face to very complex immigration laws and awaken the consciousness of the human spirit,' said Father Richard Estrada of Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Los Angeles, where one illegal immigrant will live. Organizers don't believe immigration agents will make arrests inside the churches."<sup>15</sup>

Helping illegal aliens, some of whom are known criminals, and encouraging them to break laws and avoid law enforcement in the UK or in the USA is not only illegal, it is contrary to the Bible.<sup>16</sup> Violating charitable



Pope Benedict XVI

trust by blatant misuse of public funds, particularly by encouraging lawlessness against the civil government from whom the charity is received, is an affront both to governments and their tax-paying citizens. Campaigns of passive, civil lawbreaking have their roots in Gandhi's philosophy and the like, but not Christianity.

A Biblical Critique of the Economic Philosophy of Papal Rome Catholic evangelization through economics is not the kind of democratic socialism employed by many of the nations of the world. It is something quite unique. The Papacy reasserted its historic views on the nature of private property at Vatican Council II. We must examine this teaching carefully. The Roman Catholic Church's idea of private property and wealth is that all goods have a universal purpose to help all men. Hence, Rome's view is that the wealth of rich nations and private economically competent citizens is **not** their legitimate possession by either moral right, legal earn-

ing, or inherited possession. The Vatican Council makes much of the wide disparity between rich and poor nations. As its solution, the Vatican teaches the **redistribution of goods to those in extreme need**. Her official words are,

"Whatever the forms of property may be, as adapted to the legitimate institutions of peoples, according to diverse and changeable circumstances, attention must always be paid to this universal destination of earthly goods. In using them, therefore, man should regard the external things that he legitimately possesses not only as his own but also as common in the sense that they should be able to benefit not only him but also others. On the other hand, the right of having a share of earthly goods sufficient for oneself and one's family belongs to everyone. The Fathers and Doctors of the Church held this opinion, teaching that men are obliged to come to the relief of the poor and to do so not merely out of their superfluous goods. **If one is in extreme necessity, he has the right to procure for himself what he needs out of the riches of others.**"<sup>17</sup>

However, the Bible states, "*Thou shalt not steal.. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house ...nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.*"<sup>18</sup> The Vatican philosophy is simply a justification for theft—whether on an individual level or governmental level. As for the sin of stealing, even if it were brought on by extreme necessity, such a reason is not permissible before the Lord God. He declares, "*Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; but if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.*"<sup>19</sup> The Lord Jesus Christ clearly addressed the crux of the issue concerning physical needs, "*For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"<sup>20</sup> This is God's promise, that He will provide the necessities of food and clothing for His own, who walk uprightly<sup>21</sup>, nor will He contravene His laws in doing so, for this would blemish His holiness, which is not possible. But the Vatican, having apostatized from the Gospel nearly five hundred years ago, cannot teach its followers to depend on God, whom they do not know. Thus they have taken into their hand man-made methods that are anti-biblical and an affront to God Himself.

Hence, the economic principles of the Roman Catholic Church are anti-biblical and sinful. When applied by Catholic Charities they have disastrous effects. Ignoring, belittling, and opposing the biblical-moral teaching given by God while professing to be Christian is the Vatican's favored tactic for secularizing the principles and objectives of Christian charity. This allows it to keep its own hand buried deep in the public purse and, therefore, has been a colossal, hypocritical imposition on modern government, replete with dire consequences for the poor. The same principle is implemented in Latin America, the Philippines, and Zimbabwe as "liberation theology." Such liberation theology has been the root cause of revolutions in many nations in South America. Even with its failure, many persist in trying to implement its fantasies. The revolutionary fervor of the 1970s and '80s has not abolished the grueling poverty in Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica; rather, it has been in these and other nations a demoralizing economic and social influence.

**Bible Exposes Catholic Idea of Economic Justice**

The U.S. Catholic Bishops' 1995 Pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All," states, "In Catholic teaching, human rights include not only civil and political rights but also

**Hence, the economic principles of the Roman Catholic Church are anti-biblical and sinful.**

economic rights ... 'all people have a right to life, food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, education, and employment.'" The Catholic Church's conception of what God gives out of His providential grace is skewed because the Bible does not speak in terms of rights. The Bible speaks rather in terms of man's sin and God's graciousness both to unregenerate sinners<sup>22</sup> and to those who are His own because they trust on the Lord Jesus Christ alone for their salvation.<sup>23</sup> Those who are in Christ Jesus learn to trust His providential care for all that they need. This trust frees them from abject slavery to individuals, governments, and institu-

tions, whether religious or civil.

Nor does the Bible teach that justice means equality of material conditions among all men. The key requirements of justice among men are revealed in the Ten Commandments and the civil and judicial laws governing economic relations that are given throughout Scripture. The Apostle Paul expressed the relationship between faith and God's moral law, "*Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*"<sup>24</sup> For example, Scripture teaches that all men are not due equal wages



Duomo di S. Maria Nascente, Milano, Italy, third largest in the world

for their labor regardless of their behavior. The biblical standard is "*The workman is worthy of his meat,*" and "*...the laborer is worthy of his hire.*"<sup>25</sup>

Further, the Lord is our provider and He expects that we deal justly with


our fellow man in all principles of exchange value for goods or labor, "*Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.*"<sup>26</sup> The Bible severely condemns all violations of the Commandment, "*Thou shalt not steal,*"<sup>27</sup> whether it be on the part of governments, employers, employees, or churches. Any society, civil or religious, that ignores the moral standards of the Bible is heading for strife and difficulties within

families and in the lives of individuals. Contrary to the official teaching of Rome, the Bible shows that individuals are under no obligation to give up their private property and inheritance; rather their obligation is to deal with it responsibly according to the commands of the Lord as given in His written Word. The Lord absolutely forbids the invading of any man's rightful possessions and the taking of that which is not our own by fraudulent acts, "*Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.*"<sup>28</sup> God, the Holy Spirit, enforces the point of individual responsibility regarding one's private property by pre-

Papel continued next page

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serving for us His account of the infamous case of deceitful dealing, such as that of Ananias and Sapphira where Peter acknowledged, "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control?"<sup>29</sup> Private property is to be retained, managed, or disposed of by believers as they see fit as responsible stewards under God, according to the principles of justice published in His Word.

Therefore, it is worthy of serious reflection that as one of

the wealthiest corporations in the world, the Roman Catholic Church stands solidly in direct contravention of the Bible, which is God's infallible Word.

The Roman Church consistently uses its considerable resources to teach that private property has an intrinsically social function with the corollary that one in extreme necessity has the right to procure for himself what he needs out of the riches of others. The Vatican does practice what it preaches regarding procurement of other peoples' resources for its own purposes. It is the outstanding hypocrisy of the Vatican that while it maintains an unbiblical and parasitic attachment to civil governments across the world by sucking up their capital and resources into funding Catholic social action—thereby taking from others what is not its own—it rarely if ever parts with a penny of its own enormous assets to help the poor. David Yallop documented something of the Vatican assets in his book, *In God's Name*.

"To count the wealth of the Vatican... Apart from banks, he [Bernardino Nogara] acquired for the Vatican controlling interests in companies in the fields of insurance, steel, financing, flour and spaghetti, mechanical industry, cement, and real estate. With regard to the last-named his purchase of at least 15 percent of the Italian giant Immobiliare gave the Church a share of an astonishing array of property. Societa General Immobiliare is Italy's oldest construction company. Through its ownership of the building firm, Sogene, Immobiliare and therefore to a significant degree the Vatican after its 15 percent acquisition owned the Rome Hilton, Italo Americana Nuovi Alberghi, Alberghi Ambrosiani (Milan), Compagnia Italiana Alberghi Cavalieri, and Societa Italiani Alberghi Moderni. These are just the major hotels in Italy. The list of major buildings and industrial companies owned by Immobiliare is twice as long. In France it built a huge block of offices and shops at 90 Avenue des Champs Elysees, and other of 61 Rue de

Ponthieu, and another at 6 Rue de Berry. In Canada it owned one of the world's tallest skyscrapers (the Stock Exchange Tower, situated in Montreal), the Port Royal Tower, a 224-apartment block, a huge

residential area in Greensdale, Montreal... In the United States it had five huge apartment blocks in Washington D.C., including the Watergate Hotel, and in New York, a residential area of 227 acres at Oyster Bay. In Mexico it owned an entire satellite city of Mexico City called Lomas Verdes. This list of properties is by no means exhaustive. Nogara also bought into General Motors, Shell, Gulf Oil, General Electric, Bethlehem Steel, IBM and TWA. If the shares moved, and moved upward, men like Nogara created the movement."<sup>30</sup>



Watergate Hotel, Washington, D.C.

With even these few of its many assets in mind, it is clear that the Vatican conveniently ignores its own dictum

that "the right of having a share of earthly goods sufficient for oneself and one's family belongs to everyone. The Fathers and Doctors of the Church held this opinion, teaching that men are obliged to come to the relief of the poor and to do so not merely out of their superfluous goods." Clearly the Vatican has **not** included itself in the necessity to "come to the relief of the poor and to do so not merely out of their superfluous goods." Nor has the exorbitantly wealthy



Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal

Papacy observed its own Vatican Council II dictum that if you do not feed a dying man, you have killed him. Thus comes the Papacy's necessity to fund its practice of charity by wheedling from others



Aldrich Mansion, Warwick, RI on Narragansett Bay is owned by the Diocese of Providence

through deception and assignment of guilt—particularly from its own carefully taught, loyal people and from civil governments—what the Vatican itself will not supply from its own vast treasuries.

The Catholic Church further exacerbates the economic problems of the poor by laying on them rituals which deliver nothing but cruel deception and deeper poverty. Instead of looking to the Father in heaven and His Word to learn biblical stewardship of their money and property, the Catholics are taught to look to Holy Mother Church. The official teaching of the Roman Church states, "No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother."<sup>31</sup> The same "Mother Church" teaches them to pay money for masses for the dead, who are being purified in Purgatory. Like Limbo, however, Purgatory is nonexistent. Nevertheless, she states, "From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God."<sup>32</sup> Masses said for the dead are one of the biggest money spinners of the Catholic Church. Hence, the money that the poor do manage to scrape together often goes to pay for worthless religious rituals rather than for provisions for their families or for capital to start a small business to provide for their families.<sup>33</sup> Truly through her teaching, the Roman Catholic Church has for centuries promoted and continues to promote grinding poverty, in spite of her centuries-long seeming concern.

**Conclusion**

The same Lord, who created heaven and earth and all that in them is, requires His own to depend increasingly on Him and not on their own power and resourcefulness. It is from this biblical perspective that one must view the machinations of the Roman Catholic social teaching and practice. Evangelicals ought to think carefully about the economic principles laid out in the Bible and compare those to what the Roman Catholic Church is promoting, with gathering success, as her social policy. It is signal that the Roman Catholic Church's social policy is one of its primary tools of evangelism, two others being education and medicine.

The reason is clear enough. The Catholic Church formally went apostate at the Council of Trent in 1546 when she denied the Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation.<sup>34</sup> Present day dogma of the Vatican not only upholds the teaching of the Council of Trent but also declares that such Councils are infallible.<sup>35</sup> Hence it is clear that the Catholic Church must evangelize by the strength of her own ingenuity and power.

The Lord God of heaven and earth continues His work of

drawing men, women, and children to His righteousness and true salvation in the Son of God. As the Apostle Paul proclaimed, "for He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."<sup>36</sup> The Lord is personally All Holy; yet as the substitute for the believer's sin, He rendered Himself legally responsible to the wrath of God. The consequence of Christ's



faithfulness in all that He did, culminating in His death on the cross, is that His righteousness is credited to the believer. It was

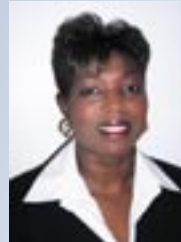
God who legally constituted Christ to be "sin for us." He was "made sin" because the sins of all of His people were transferred to Him, and in like manner, the believer is made "the righteousness of God in Him" by God's reckoning to the believer Christ's faithfulness to the precepts of the law. Quite clearly, therefore, the Gospel is the gracious act of God whereby a believing sinner has legal right standing in Christ.

In face of spiritual death and economic disaster reigning through Vatican teaching and practice, we look to the "God of all grace."<sup>37</sup> To withstand and counter the apostasy we have documented, we need to see the Lord's principle in His Word and pray for its application, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."<sup>38</sup>

**(Endnotes)**

- <sup>1</sup> Encyclical, "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis", John Paul II, Sect. 42
- <sup>2</sup> www.vatican.va/holy\_father/benedict\_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf\_ben-xvi\_enc\_20051225\_deus-caritas-est\_en.html
- <sup>3</sup> Encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est", Sect. 27
- <sup>4</sup> Encyclical, "Laborem Exercens", 1981, John Paul II, Sect. 19
- <sup>5</sup> "Gaudium et Spes", Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents, Para. 69. Text is also on the Internet at: http://www.osjspm.org/cst/gs\_cos2.htm
- <sup>6</sup> Encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est", Sect. 26
- <sup>7</sup> National Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.osjspm.org/rights\_and\_duties.aspx 2/7/2007
- <sup>8</sup> www.city-journal.org/html/10\_1\_how\_catholic\_charities.html Also: www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/will020501.asp
- <sup>9</sup> www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/news/content\_displays.cfm?fuseaction=display\_document&id=960&location=3
- <sup>10</sup> www.catholic.org/national/national\_story.php?id=22980 5/9/2007
- <sup>11</sup> Vatican II Document No. 64, Gaudium et Spes, 1965, Section 69
- <sup>12</sup> www.caseresources.org/resources/resources\_research.htm 6/6/2007
- <sup>13</sup> http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1829121/posts 5/10/2007
- <sup>14</sup> www.thenewstribune.com/888/story/58267.html
- <sup>15</sup> www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,271009,00.html
- <sup>16</sup> I Peter 2:13-14
- <sup>17</sup> Vatican II Documents No. 64, "Gaudium et Spes", Para 69
- <sup>18</sup> Exodus 20:15, 17
- <sup>19</sup> Proverbs 6:30-31
- <sup>20</sup> Luke 12:30, 31
- <sup>21</sup> Psalm 84:11
- <sup>22</sup> Matthew 5:45b & c
- <sup>23</sup> Matthew 6:24-34
- <sup>24</sup> Romans 3:31
- <sup>25</sup> Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7
- <sup>26</sup> Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 25:15; Proverbs 11:1, 16:11, 20:10; Jeremiah 22:13; Luke 3:13; James 5:4
- <sup>27</sup> Exodus 20:15
- <sup>28</sup> Deuteronomy 19:14
- <sup>29</sup> Acts 2:4
- <sup>30</sup> David Yallop, *In God's Name: An Investigation into the Murder of Pope John Paul I* (New York: Bantam Books, 1984) pp. 92, 93, 97, 98
- <sup>31</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Liguori Publications, 1994) Para. 181
- <sup>32</sup> *Catechism*, Para. 1032
- <sup>33</sup> See John W. Robbins, *Ecclesiastical Megalomania: The Economic and Political Thought of the Roman Catholic Church* (The Trinity Foundation, 1999, 2006) ISBN 978-0-940931-75-6
- <sup>34</sup> Henry Denzinger, *The Sources of Catholic Dogma*, Tr. by Roy J. Deferrari from the Thirtieth Ed. of Denzinger's *Enchiridion Symbolorum* (St. Louis, MO: B. Herder Book Co., 1957) # 822, Canon 12, "If anyone shall say that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in the divine mercy which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone by which we are justified: let him be anathema [cursed]."
- <sup>35</sup> *Catechism*, Para. 891.
- <sup>36</sup> II Corinthians 5:21
- <sup>37</sup> I Peter 5:10.
- <sup>38</sup> Romans 5:20

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# Entertainment

## Saving Sarah Cain - a heart-warming family drama

CENTURY CITY, CA (ANS) -- At her estranged sister's death, a self-absorbed, metropolitan newspaper columnist becomes the legal guardian of her five devout Amish nieces and nephews in the heart-warming family drama Saving Sarah Cain, arriving January 15, 2008 on DVD from Fox Faith, the faith-based programming label from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment.



Based on the beloved best-selling novel The Redemption of Sarah Cain by award-winning novelist Beverly Lewis and published by Bethany House, Saving Sarah Cain takes the title character on a heartfelt, spiritual journey from the secular to the sacred as she must determine whether to make a new life for her Amish charges in Portland or to sacrifice her successful career and raise her newfound family in the heartland of Lancaster County, PA.

From director/producer Michael Landon, Jr., (The Last Sin Eater, Love's Abiding Joy) and writer/producer Brian Bird ("Touched By An Angel," The Last Sin Eater), Saving Sarah Cain is a touching and uplifting story of love, sorrow, faith and redemption that binds a family together, featuring triumphant performances from Academy Award(R) and Golden Globe(R) nominees Elliott Gould (M\*A\*S\*H) and Tess Harper (Tender Mercies) plus newcomer Lisa Pepper in the lead role. Honored with the Family Approved Seal by The Dove Foundation, Saving Sarah Cain also features the popular song "How You Live" from the award-winning group Point of Grace on the film's soundtrack.

The film made its debut at the International Christian Retail Show in July where it was met with an enthusiastic response from attendees like Shannon Long of Study Bookstore at Church of the King in Mandeville, LA who noted in Christian Retailing Magazine: "It was great. The whole idea of someone being far away from Jesus and being brought back by their love of old family relationships really touched me. We always pray for our family to be *The Good News* TODAY

touched by Jesus, and she was able to accomplish that."

"Saving Sarah Cain is a story that is especially dear to my heart and I'm excited to have families across the country see it in their homes with their loved ones," noted author Beverly Lewis. "Seeing my book turned into such a wonderful film was a fantastic ride for me. I'm especially grateful to Twentieth Century Fox for putting together such a fine cast and to producers Michael Landon, Jr. and Brian Bird for bringing it to the screen in such an entertaining and redemptive way."

"You are always looking for fish-out-of-water stories to tell, and there couldn't be a more intriguing collision of two worlds than seeing five Amish kids trying to keep their values and cope with life in the big city," noted producer Brian Bird. "This was a labor of love for both Michael Landon Jr. and myself. Based on the reactions of audiences who have seen it so far, we think this film is going to be well-received by a lot of viewers across the country."

**Synopsis:**

When successful, self-absorbed Sarah Cain (Lisa Pepper) travels to Amish country to attend her sister's funeral, she discovers that she is now the legal guardian to her five Amish nieces and nephews! Faced not only with instant motherhood, but also with the culture shock of a lifetime, she must decide whether to raise the children in the city or return them to their Amish roots.

## Rebecca St. James – a passionate voice for Compassion

By Michael Ireland Chief Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE (ANS) -- In the midst of her travels in concert to more than 30 nations of the world, Rebecca St. James has long remained a passionate voice for the work of Compassion International.

As an artist who through her personal involvement has been responsible for sponsorship of more than 30,000 of the world's neediest children, Rebecca St. James' voice in '08 holds the promise of capturing even more new ministry territory for the Grammy and multi-Dove Award winner as she will lend her influence globally to raise awareness of 'World Malaria Day,' to be observed on April 25th.

Her efforts will include hosting an April radio special, 'Malaria: A Plague of the Poor,' being presented by Compassion International, and spotlighting their frontline efforts against the disease that kills more than 1 million people annually in the world's poorest nations.

About her new mission she notes: "Most of those who die from this treatable, preventable disease are

children. Compassion assisted children and their families receive the resources they so desperately need to fight malaria including access to medical treatment, and education on prevention."

As a follow up to Rebecca visiting Rwanda on a Compassion mission in 2006, a Wait For Me foundation has been established in South Africa to offer aid, education, and relief as a counter measure against the ravages of the HIV/AIDS epidemic--an inspirational/developmental outgrowth of both her self written, globally popular anthem on abstinence -- Wait For Me, and her best selling book of the same title.



Rebecca St. James at SoulFest (PHOTO DAVID CIOLFI)

In the midst of thoughts of the New Year, Rebecca St. James has been given two early Christmas gifts this year that she definitely won't be in line to exchange.



Rebecca St. James is a longtime supporter of Compassion International

The Australian born singer has for the 7th consecutive year been given the honor of being named "Best Female Artist" in Contemporary Christian Music by readers

of CCM Magazine, the industry's flagship Christian music consumer publication which will make the announcement in their January issue, now on its way to newsstands. Remarkably, she has held the #1 spot with CCM readers since 2001. Rebecca has this month also repeated the honor of being voted "Best Female Artist of 2007" by one of Christian music's most respected

and highest traffic music sites -- Christianitytoday.com -- her 5th consecutive year to be given this award in their Reader's Choice voting.

## Axiom.tv to Launch its Family Focused Internet TV Channel

ROCHESTER, Mich. Christian Newswire - The Internet media solution that parents, corporate sponsors and the movie industry have been waiting for is finally here. Axiom.TV, Inc., a Rochester, MI based entertainment company will Beta launch the first comprehensive technology to make Internet TV user-friendly, legal and safe for families. To celebrate its international Beta launch,

Axiom.TV will give away one of the most beloved family movies of all time - "Benji" - to the first 33,000 families.

"It's an appropriate promotion, because 33 years ago 'Benji' was released in every drive-in theater and became the first big screen movie that the Internet generation can remember," explained Dan Cobb, president of Axiom.TV. "Now the 'Benji' generation is grown up, they want to enjoy these movies all over again, but with their kids."

Axiom.TV is currently in final negotiations with several of the major studios for additional movie content, soon to be released. While in negotiations, Axiom.TV will offer discounts on traditional DVD sales by mail. Axiom.TV has almost 1,000 of the most popular DVDs including "Cars," the "Chronicles of Narnia," and even all of those hard to find retro-family shows that we loved watching as kids including "Treasure Island", the original "Tarzan," "Flubber" and, of course, "Benji."


Axiom.TV offers a family-focused video library, screened by a panel of moms and faith-based movie review partners, so protective parents can shop without concern. In order to build awareness of its new movie downloading service, Axiom.TV, has reduced its traditional DVDs to be among the lowest prices on the Internet.

Some of these DVDs are less than \$6.50 plus shipping of only \$1.73. During the Beta launch, Axiom.TV downloads will sell as low as \$2.00 or even free.

The new service is powered by the VeriSign® Intelligent CDN, which leverages VeriSign's global infrastructure and patented peer-assisted Kontiki® Delivery Management System to offer faster downloads and a superior viewing experience for end users at a fraction of the cost of traditional content delivery networks.

Axiom.TV will be the world's first Internet TV channel created to combat the recent trends in online piracy and pornography. Axiom.TV has developed a website that makes the movie download process user-friendly for all ages and for all computer skill-levels, taking the next necessary step to blur the line between a user's PC, TV and DVD player.

Axiom.TV will offer only family approved movies that are legally licensed for Internet distribution. Axiom.TV will deliver full screen DVD and HDTV quality video clips to any PC-based device through its web site at www.axiom.tv. Axiom will distribute its movies as pay-per-view downloads to its customers with discounts that will be subsidized by advertising sponsors. The consumer launch of the full download library is planned for early 2008.



# MASTERS

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# Not surprised at what happened in Omaha

By Mike Adams, the Health Ranger

A 19-year-old gunman who killed eight people and then himself Wednesday at the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Nebraska, left a suicide note, police said. (Source: CNN)

The people of Omaha may be surprised at what happened there last month, **but I'm not**. Why? Because the shooter, Robert Hawkins, had a history of being "treated" for both depression and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). (Source: Associated Press)

And what is the standard American psychiatric "treatment" for these conditions? Mind-altering drugs, of course.

ADHD, for example, is treated with a drug that used to be an illegal street drug called "speed." It's an amphetamine, and recent research published in the August, 2007 issue of the *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* reveals that Ritalin and other ADHD drugs actually stunt the growth of children, causing their brains and bodies to be physically altered.

Depression, of course, is treated with SSRI drugs, none of which have ever been safety approved by the FDA for use on children or teens. In other words, the use of these drugs on teenagers is a grand, mind-altering medical experiment, and what we just witnessed in Omaha is one result of that experiment.

There will be more. I hate to be accurate about this grisly prediction, because I grieve for the families of those lost to **pharmaceutically-induced violence**, but the truth is that **until we stop drugging our children with psychotropic drugs, the shootings are not going to stop.**

Big Pharma is to blame for this one, not the manufacturer of the gun. That gun has a trigger, you see, and the trigger was pulled by a finger. The finger was connected via a series of nerves to a brain, and **that brain was altered by psychotropic drugs.** The brain wasn't functioning like a normal, healthy, well-nourished brain; it was functioning like a zoned out "zombie" brain permanently distorted by psychiatric drugs.

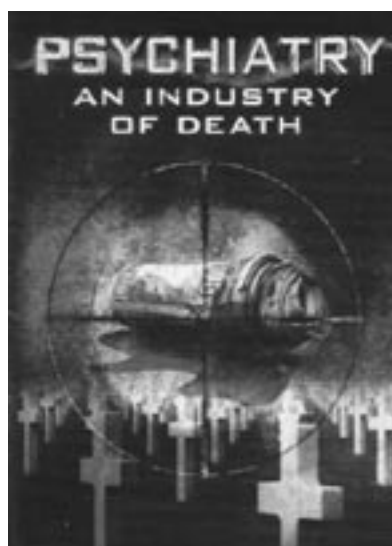
Sending a teenager out into the public doped up on mind-altering drugs that we KNOW are linked to violence -- and jacked up on junk foods (he worked at McDonald's) -- is a certain recipe for disaster. Big Pharma executives, drug reps

may have pulled the trigger, but modern psychiatry drugged him with violence-inducing chemicals. The fact that such drugs promote violence isn't even disputed. **It's printed right on the warning labels of those drugs!**

And as sad as this tragedy is for all those affected by this medication-induced violence, the truly sad part is that **America still hasn't learned this lesson.** If you drug the children with chemicals that cause violence, you're going to see more shootings. It's as simple as that. And if you take away the guns, you'll see bombs, knives or machetes used in these attacks. When disturbed young boys are doped up on psychotropic drugs that promote violence -- and they're drugged by the hundreds of thousands -- it's like playing a national game of Russian roulette (with apologies to Russia). Sooner or later, another kid whose mind has been altered by Ritalin, Prozac or some other drug is going to walk into yet another school or mall and start killing people. This kind of behavior is a direct product of chemical-based psychiatric "treatment."

### The criminals running modern psychiatry

In fact, I predict we'll see another such shooting in the next 30 days, if not sooner. And yet, even with the increasing frequency of these events, the unholy alliance between Big Pharma and the immensely evil psychiatric industry will continue. Yet more children will be put on mind-altering drugs that stunt their growth, alter their brain chemistry, and turn them into



mind-numbed massacre drones who acquire dangerous weapons and open fire in public places.

The psychiatric industry, though, thinks that yet MORE children need "treatment" with drugs for ADHD and depression. In fact, an industry press release recently claimed that only one-third of those children "suffering" from ADHD are receiving appropriate "treatment" for the condition. Of course, those are just code words for "drugging the children with high-profit pharmaceuticals." When the psychiatric authorities say "treatment," what they mean is "more drugging."

Want to learn the horrifying, yet true, history of modern psychiatry? Check out [www.CCHR.org](http://www.CCHR.org) - the Citizens' Commission on Human Rights. They have a documentary so downright shocking that I couldn't even finish watching the whole thing. It's called *Psychiatry: An Industry of Death*.

Also be sure to check out the shocking book by Kelly Patricia O'Meara called *Psyched Out: How Psychiatry Sells Mental Illness and Pushes Pills That Kill*. This book explains exactly why kids like Robert Hawkins who have been treated with psychiatric drugs end up shooting innocents.

### What could have healed Robert Hawkins and saved lives

So what's the solution to all this? Robert Hawkins could have been

# Health

healed with a radical change in diet that supports healthy brain chemistry. His parents or caretakers should have stopped the junk food, ended the medication and put him on raw, living foods and daily superfood smoothies, fresh vegetable juices, raw nuts and seeds and other wholesome, non-processed foods. Nutrition is the single most powerful factor determining healthy moods and behavior, and virtually all young men who commit violent acts (including the vast majority of those imprisoned in the U.S. today) suffer from wild nutritional deficiencies.

Robert Hawkins could have been a healthy, stable and normal kid with the help of some real food, real nutrition and real love from a supporting family. Instead, he lived on junk food, worked at McDonald's and took medication pills as directed by his psychiatric doctor. The results speak for themselves: This recipe of processed food and mind-altering drugs created a monster, and last month in Omaha, that monster exploded in a rage of violence.

If we don't learn from all this and stop drugging our nation's children, then those innocents in Omaha will have died in vain. And I ask the question: **How many more innocent Americans must pay the price for medication-induced violence?**

Ask yourself one question: Why does the FDA continue to allow these dangerous drugs to be prescribed to children and teens when 1) They have never been tested on children or teens, and 2) Other countries have already banned the prescribing of these drugs to children and teens?

Please protect our children from Big Pharma! For additional health related information please visit [www.newstarget.com](http://www.newstarget.com)



## 'The Cure' Zooms to Number 1 on Bestseller List

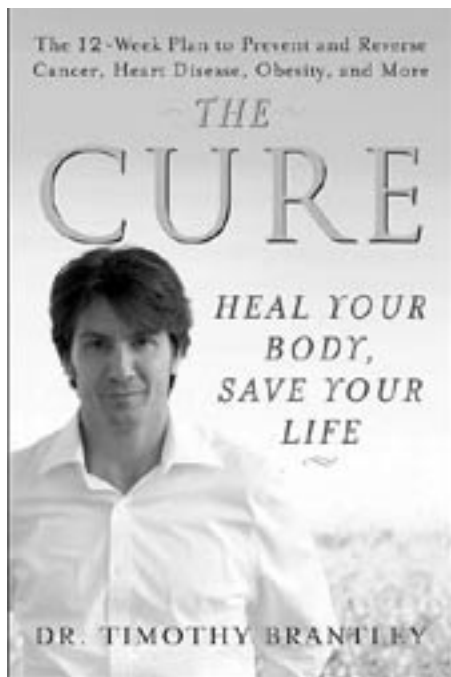
Dr. Timothy Brantley's

Research Proves Foods from Creation Can Reverse Cancer, Heart Disease, Obesity and More

LOS ANGELES Christian News-wire - Following Dr. Timothy Brantley's powerful appearances on The Rachel Ray Show and The Montel Williams Show, **THE CURE: Heal Your Body, Save Your Life**, soared to #1 Bestselling book in Amazon's Health, Mind & Body category and #8 on Amazon's Bestsellers in ALL books.

Montel introduced Rick Redick, who described to a riveted studio audience how, after being diagnosed with cancer, he cancelled an operation to remove his thyroid at the 11th hour. After being inspired by Dr. Brantley, he opted for a "healing regime" of natural food, healthy waters and powerful herbal formulas that were designed and formulated by Dr. Brantley. Within 3 months his malignant thyroid tumor was shrinking dramatically and within 9 months there was nothing left of

the cancer but scar tissue. In **THE CURE**, Dr. Brantley



tells the moving story of his own health quest that began in his teens, watching the agonizing death of

his mother from breast cancer and his father's pre-mature death from heart disease, which propelled him on a difficult quest to find the truth about illness and health. He states, "As challenged as I was, I stayed on the path, knowing that God was beside me, guiding me through the bumps in the road and finally leading me to the answers."

Dr. Brantley's work has proven that the leading causes of death - cancer, heart disease and obesity - are not caused by genetics or germs, but by dehydration, junk food and a lifetime of eating processed foods. Drawing on his groundbreaking research in nutritional healing, Dr. Brantley developed a program to flush toxins from the body, restore balance, promote natural recovery processes, and achieve vitality. His program helped many patients suffering from serious and "incurable" dis-

ease achieve renewed health. His testimonials include well-known celebrities, such as Sylvester Stallone, Kelsey Grammer and 'The O.C.'s Kelly Rowan.

"My life has been one big treasure hunt where one clue lead to another, to another, and then another, with God beckoning just ahead of me, waiting for me to catch up.," Dr. Brantley explains in **THE CURE**.

"Over years of research with people suffering from the most critical illnesses, I discovered

how to help trigger the body's natural mechanism to heal itself," said Dr. Brantley. "This is not a hit and miss system. It supports the way our body works. If you understand this truth and follow God's principles, you can heal yourself naturally from disease and enjoy phenomenal, beautiful health."

A remarkable proven breakthrough, **THE CURE** outlines a personal plan to help readers regain their health and save their lives. Dr. Brantley provides additional information on his website, [www.BrantleyCure.com](http://www.BrantleyCure.com).

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# Editorials

## Christian Leaders Betray Christ For World Peace

By Paul Proctor

Once again, leaders from the so-called "church growth movement" are demonstrating for us the Hegelian Dialectic - that transformational Marxist process of compromise and consensus made famous by Georg William Friedreich Hegel which seeks to rid the world of its divisive absolutes in the interest of global peace and unity.

Here's the formula: Thesis + Antithesis = Synthesis

The Christian Post reported the following in a November 23rd article titled, *Christian Leaders Invite Muslims to Love God, Neighbors Together*:

Christian leaders across denominational lines responded to the unprecedented open letter signed last month by 138 representative Muslim leaders with their own letter, calling on the two Abrahamic faiths to love God and neighbors together.

The key word here is "together."

To begin with, nowhere in scripture are Christians instructed to unite with other religions and their deities to *do anything*. Such a plan doesn't display a love for God at all, but only a disregard for Him and His only begotten Son.

Among other things, the dialectic process redefines "love" to mean *tolerance* instead of *obedience*, and calls Christianity and Islam

"Abrahamic faiths" as if the two groups have some moral obligation to unite under a god of common ground.

*"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* - James 4:4

The Bible is uncompromisingly clear on this issue both in 2nd Corinthians 6:14-17, where we are specifically commanded to *not yoke ourselves with unbelievers*, and again in Ephesians 5:11, where we are instructed to *"have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness."*

Jesus Himself said: *"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth."* (Matthew 12:30, Luke 11:23)

How then can Christians join Muslims to *love God together* and not *be* an abomination before Him? We're talking about two entirely different "Gods" here - not the same God with differing names. And that's the big lie hidden in this global agenda. By swapping love letters with Muslims, these "Christian leaders" endeavor to legitimize the illegitimate by setting aside the whole counsel of God for Results & Relationships.

Jesus Christ *is not* the Son of Allah; and to even imply that He *is* by claiming to love the same "God" as Muslims is not only

being dangerously deceitful - it's blasphemy!

But that's what the Hegelian Dialectic does to the Christian faith - it unites opposites and enemies under a guise of goodness - all at the Lord's expense; and that *is* and always has been the modus operandi of the "church growth movement" - to mingle the sheep with the goats until they are indistinguishable.

Christianity (thesis) + Islam (antithesis) = One World Religion (synthesis)

It should come as no surprise to the readers of my column that two of the reported signers of this letter who *"share the sentiments"* of Muslim leaders are none other than pastors Rick Warren of Purpose Driven Life fame, and the seeker-sensitive Bill Hybels from Willow Creek Community Church.

The CP article went on to say:

"Peaceful relations between Muslims and Christians stand as one of the central challenges of this century, and perhaps of the whole present epoch," wrote the Christian leaders.

I thought the Great Commission was our central challenge as Christians - to love God and our neighbor by faithfully and obediently proclaiming His Gospel - to preach the cross - to call sinners to repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ!

Have we now abandoned that for an ecumenical Plan B to world peace?

"If we can achieve religious peace between these two religious com-

munities, peace in the world will clearly be easier to attain."

But Jesus said in Matthew 10:34, *"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword"* which is the Word of God that divides us, not just from the strange fire of other religions, but oftentimes from our own beloved family members.

*"For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."* - Matthew 10:35-36

Do Warren and Hybels believe the Bible or not?

You be the judge:

Christian leaders urged for an interfaith dialogue that moves beyond "polite" ecumenical talks between selected leaders. Instead, leaders of both faiths should hold dialogues to build relations that will "reshape" the two communities to "genuinely reflect our common love for God and for one another," the Christian letter stated.

*My*, how this bunch loves to *re-imagine, re-interpret, re-define, re-envision, re-invent, re-think* and *re-shape* the world to suit them!

*"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."* - Jeremiah 6:16a

You see, they're not just seeking to *shake hands* with Muslims on the street, at work or in the grocery store - the objective here is

to *"hold dialogues to build relations."* That's the *dialectic* process I referred to earlier that relieves participants of their divisive absolutes for a compromised collective conscience, resulting in a *synthesis* of spiritual beliefs that both can embrace together peacefully. (i.e., religious groupthink)

Why do they want to *"hold dialogues to build relations?"*

To *"reshape the two communities"* so as to *"genuinely reflect our common love for God."*

Which "God" - theirs or ours?

And that's what this is really all about - systematically merging the two faiths into one through the dialectic process - not merely finding *"common ground"* or *"reflecting"* a *"common love for God,"* but actually *creating* a common god for the common good.

Who stands to benefit from this? The coming antichrist, of course. Kind of gives a whole new meaning to the term "church growth movement," doesn't it? In spite of their seemingly benevolent agenda, Jesus Christ came to offer peace with God - not peace with Allah.

*"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds"* - 2nd John 1: 9-11

## Deadly Danger To Your Child - Public School Illiteracy

By Joel Turtel

It may seem obvious to many people why literacy is so important in our technologically advanced society. However, many parents may not fully realize the emotional pain and life-long damage illiteracy can cause their children. Literacy, the ability to read well, is the *foundation* of children's education. If children can't read well, every subject they try to learn will frustrate them. If they can't read math, history, or science textbooks, if they stumble over the words, they will soon give up reading out of frustration. Asking children who are poor readers to study these subjects is like asking them to climb a rope with one arm.

Kids learn to read in their most formative years, which is why reading can profoundly affect their self-esteem. When children learn to read, they also start learning how to think abstractly, because words convey ideas and relationships between ideas. How well they read therefore affects your children's feelings about their ability to learn. This in turn affects how your kids feel about themselves generally - whether they think they are smart or stupid. Children who struggle with reading often blame themselves and feel ashamed of themselves.

As Donald L. Nathanson, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Jefferson Medical College noted: "First reading itself, and then the whole education process, becomes so imbued with, stuffed with, amplified, magnified by shame that children can develop an aversion to everything that is education."

Often, poor readers will struggle just to graduate from high school. They can lose general confidence in themselves, and therefore the confidence to try for college or pursue a career. Their job opportunities can dry up. Their poor reading skills and low self-confidence can strangle their ability to earn money. They can struggle financially their whole lives. If they marry and have children, they can struggle even more.

Life for illiterate adults can easily degenerate into misery, poverty, failure, and hopelessness. According to a 1992 study by the National Institute for Literacy, "43 % of Americans with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty and 70 % have no job or a part-time job. Only 5% of Americans with strong literacy skills live in poverty."

As Dr. Grover Whitehurst, former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, said,

"Reading is absolutely fundamental. It's almost trite to say that. But in our society, the inability to be fluent consigns children to failure in school and consigns adults to the lowest strata of job and life opportunities."

Illiteracy also perpetuates social injustice. It keeps many low-income black, hispanic, and other inner-city minorities in poverty. It perpetuates the cycle of failure in minority communities. It pushes many minority children into drugs

### **Parents, have you investigated how your local public school teaches your child to read?**

and crime, because too often they don't see any other way out of their poverty. As David Boulton, organizational learning theorist and co-producer of the Children of the Code PBS Television Documentary Series, noted:

"Even if you cut the numbers in half, statistically, more children are at risk of suffering long-term life harm from the consequences of not learning to read well than from parental abuse, accidents, and all known childhood diseases and disorders combined. Even if you cut the numbers in half, the national cost of reading-related difficulties is greater than the cost of the wars on crime, drugs, and terror combined."

That is what illiteracy can mean, what it does mean for millions of public-school children who can barely read. Does any parent want this kind of future for his or her children? Do you want this kind of future for *your* child?

Well, consider the following about public schools and illiteracy.

In most public schools today, the schools still use variations of a reading-instruction method called "whole-language." The schools often disguise this fact by calling their teaching methods "balanced-

literacy" instruction or some other name they dream up to throw smoke into parent's eyes. Whole-language, or any variation of it, is reading-instruction poison. It can and does literally cripple your child's ability to read. It is an anti-phonics program that forces children to "read" by memorizing what words "look" like, as if the words were pictures, rather than by sounding out the letters of words with phonics.

The disastrous whole-language "reading" instruction method continues to cripple millions of public-school children's ability to read, and therefore cripples their future. It could be crippling *your* child's ability to read, right now.

Parents, have you investigated how your local public school

teaches your child to read? Do you see any real progress with your child's reading and writing skills, after years of mind-numbing public-school classes? Do your children's writing assignments get glowing "A" and "B" marks from their public-school teachers, but your children's writing looks like chicken scrawl, and their reading skills are pathetic?

If so, I ask you this question again: Have you investigated how your local public school teaches your child to read? Have you demanded to sit in on your child's classes while the teacher gives "reading" instruction to her class? Don't you think that would be a good idea?

Finally, you love your children and want the best for them. Do you want their lives crippled by illiteracy, aided and abetted by your local public school?

The best solution? Consider taking your child out of public school, permanently, *before it is too late*. There are great new and low-cost education alternatives you can take advantage of, right now. These include low-cost internet private schools, easy home schooling curriculum, parent-group neighborhood schools, the unbelievable K-12 education software and resources on the internet and private Christian schools. Isn't your child's future worth looking into these alternatives?

## LET IT SNOW! MINISTRY TIP

By Rev. Doug Forbes

Winter is my favorite time of year! I love to ski, ice skate and snowmobile with my family and friends. Most children love winter too, and their favorite activities include making snowmen, snowwomen and snow angels. Your young people will have fun making their own snowperson card to enjoy or share with a family member.

For the **Let It Snow** activity you need: Bibles, Bible concordances, construction paper, white copier paper, google eyes, cotton balls, tacky glue, fine tipped markers, glitter glue and any other items at hand that you can decorate with.

Ask your young people to use their Bibles and concordances to discover Bible passages about snow. Allow time for each child to share his or her findings. Write the Bible verses you wish to use inside the cards on the board.

Read Isaiah 1:18 to your class. Explain that even if their sins are like scarlet (really bad), God can forgive them and make them white as snow. In other words, no matter what they have done wrong, God will forgive them if they ask Him.

Give each child a piece of construction paper and have them fold it sideways. Instruct them do the same thing with a sheet of copier paper and then place it inside the construction paper folded edge against folded edge so that they have a little booklet.

Make a snowperson out of cotton balls and glue it to the front of the construction paper in the center. Add google eyes and use construction paper and glitter glue to create other features. For instance, you could cut a cone shaped piece of orange construction paper for a nose. Write "Let It Snow!" at the top of the construction paper, and decorate the rest of the cover with whatever materials are on hand.

Ask your students to open both sheets to the very center and have them write Bible verses about snow with references on the right inside page. Read John 3:16 to your class and explain that Jesus came to earth, taught us many wonderful things and died on the cross to forgive our sins and all they have to do is ask Him.

Close in prayer thanking God for His great love, and ask Him to forgive your sins, come into your heart and make you a member of His family.

## The Evangelical Subculture

By Jim Baumgaertel

When I became a follower of Jesus Christ I underwent two different conversions, although I didn't realize it at the time. First, I was converted from my old life into the Body of Christ by reconciliation with God through Jesus. Hallelujah! At about the same time I bought into the Evangelical Subculture under the false impression that it WAS the Body of Christ. It took me years to realize the difference between the two.

I had been aware of "Christendom": that worldly religious structure consisting of political and economic empires and bureaucracies, both Protestant and Catholic, that had fought religious wars and undertaken crusades to retake the "Holy Land", that had burned people at the stake, that continued to preach false Christs and false gospels of works, and that continues to talk about the counterfeit unity called Ecumenicalism.

But I had not understood the nature of the Evangelical Subculture, that is a part of the worldly structure of "Christendom". This subculture has its own organizations and institutions, denominations, parachurch organizations; its own magazines and radio stations and TV networks; its own schools and colleges and universities; its own celebrities; its own music industry and book stores; its own marketing and advertising worlds.

The tragedy of the Evangelical Subculture is that people who have a sincere desire to follow Jesus get side tracked into a zeal for being a part of this worldly system. It is like joining a club. The club member begins to wear the clothes and trinkets bought at the "Christian" book stores;

watch "Christian" TV and listen to "Christian" radio; buy the latest fad books that sweep the "Christian media"; subscribe to the "Christian" magazines; worship the "Christian" celebrities; use all the latest jargon promoted in the latest books by the celebrity authors.

A cult-like mentality develops among people who see this Evangelical system as identical to the Body of Christ. Their zeal is for the trappings of the subculture. It is its own religion. If someone tries to point out the unbiblical nature of some aspect of this subculture people will take offense because you are criticizing their religion. The subculture becomes the message. The "gospel" that people preach is for conversion to the system, not really to Jesus Christ.

The pop culture of Evangelicalism feeds on institutionalism, denominationalism, "non-denominational" institutional church organizations, and the professional clergy system. The professional clergy and their church organizations, in turn, find an indoctrinated constituency to fill their pews and programs. Both the subculture and the institutional churches turn a relationship with Jesus and his people into a participation in a religion and a lifestyle.

This Evangelical Subculture has played a major role in setting professing Christians up for deception. It seduces people to think and act like the subculture instead of reading the Bible for themselves and deriving their understanding from the Bible. It has been this subculture that has infected the Evangelicals with psychology, self-esteem, political action and social activism, unity at the expense of sound doctrine,

## Commentary / Letters to the Editor

### Option Ultrasound™ Gives Familiar Technology New Life

#### CareNet-Rhode Island Joins a Growing National Trend

Cranston, RI - Pregnancy resource centers across the United States are taking on a new identity. No longer simply counseling centers, they are now becoming medical facilities as well, thanks to a program called Option Ultrasound.

Developed and partially funded by Focus on the Family - an international nonprofit Christian ministry - Option Ultrasound was recently implemented at CareNet-Rhode Island. Implementation came on the heels of research supporting the effectiveness of ultrasound examinations in unplanned pregnancies.

Focus has found that 88 percent

### HIS LIGHT

By Dick Evans

*1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us. (NLT)*

So often we listen to man tell us we have to qualify for this and for that. We think it takes a certain amount of schooling to become a pastor of His children. We even have become comfortable with the idea that it is man who ordains those called to become pastors and teachers and evangelists and prophets and apostles.

What about a man who says he is one of those five fold people? Is he or is he not? How can we tell? It is not by the piece of paper he holds from this school or that, and it is not by the certificate he holds from some higher authority in the religious world either.

No, we know who God calls by their fruit. We know by the unconditional love they have for others. God lives in each and every one of us who believe Jesus is the risen son of God. He lives in us and His love is expressed through us when we allow Him to have full authority in our lives.

Even with the maker of the universe living inside of us, we have the power to choose. We choose to die to our earthly condition and let Him work through us, or we choose to keep control over everything leaving Him stuck inside our mortal existence.

Isn't it time to choose death to ourself so others can see His light through us?

mysticism, and cult attachments to gurus, movements, and organizations. Ultimately, the end of this deception is a merging of the Evangelical Subculture with the global counterfeit religious vision.

We ought to be content with the simplicity of following Jesus and being the Body of Christ together with those the Lord provides for fellowship, according to the teachings of the Apostles in the New Testament.

of abortion-risk women who visit pregnancy clinics and receive a combination of counseling and ultrasound services leave with intentions of carrying their babies to term. These findings were supported by a similar survey from The Polling Company and Care Net, a national organization providing professional assistance and other aid to pregnancy resource centers. After polling more than 800 women across the nation, the survey revealed that nine in 10 women believe ultrasound access is a "very important" priority in women's health, especially for unplanned pregnancies.

For Janet Evanco, Executive Director of CareNet-Rhode Island, Option Ultrasound provides help that many women would otherwise

go without.

"For many of the women we help, life isn't filled with easy choices. But by providing state-of-the-art sonography capabilities, CareNet-RI helps ensure women have truthful information with which to make healthy decisions," she says. "When they see the miracle growing inside of them with waving arms, kicking legs and a rapidly beating heart, they see the truth of life."

**The public is cordially invited to an Open House at CareNet-RI, 245 Phenix Ave., Cranston, on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, from 4 - 8 PM.**

### New Years Prayer

By Joanna Fuchs

Dear Lord,  
In the new year, we pray  
that You will guide us each new day  
in paths that are pleasing to You.  
Lord, the new year gives us another chance  
to rededicate our lives to You,  
to study Your Word  
so that we know right from wrong  
and to act in accordance with Your commands.  
Thank you for the sense of  
direction, purpose and peace we get  
from aligning our lives with Your Holy will.  
We pray for the strength and the will to obey You  
each and every day of the new year,  
and when we fail, we pray for Your mercy,  
Your compassion, Your grace and Your love.  
Help us in the new year to be your faithful servants.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### Bush Dresses Pigs In Tuxedos While Endangering America's Prophetic Future

By Bill Wilson

President George W. Bush has placed the United States as the final "judge" over the implementation of a peace agreement between Israel and Palestinian terrorists that will include giving up Israel's Biblical land to establish a Palestinian nation with a major terrorist organization as the head of the Palestinian government. Because of Islamic demands that Israel give up control of East Jerusalem in order for there to be peace, Bush's actions may well have set in motion the prophetic destiny of America as depicted by ancient prophecies such as Zechariah 12:9 that says "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."

The "Joint Understanding" read by Bush at the close of the Annapolis Summit said, "Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, implementation of the future peace treaty will be subject to the implementation of the road map, as judged by the United States." There are many, many outstanding issues that are monumental roadblocks to the so-called "road map." Among them are the right of return for so-called Palestinians who were displaced by Israel becoming a nation; the splitting up of Jerusalem and its establishment as the Palestinian state's capital; and the relinquishing of control by Israel of the strategic Golan Heights—all demands on Israel by the terrorist side.

The problem with all this is that

the Bush Administration has propped up Mahmoud Abbas and the Fatah terrorist organization as the party to bring about peace. Within Fatah are terrorist militia such as the al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and others that perpetrate acts of terror on Israeli citizens. The Bush Administration has sent hundreds of millions of dollars in American weapons and trainers to arm and train Fatah to defend the Palestinian ideal against another democratically-elected terrorist group, Hamas. During working hours the American-trained Fatah patrols on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, but after hours they work together with Hamas using American weapons and tactics against Israel.

The Palestinian movement is part of an overall strategic war of aggression conducted by Islam against the United States and Israel. This is an unrecognized world war of Islamic domination. It is waged on many fronts. Any dialogue, any negotiation, any ceasefire, any pull out, any diplomatic attention is considered a victory by Islam—not a victory to bring about peace as defined by the West, but victory to bring about Islamic peace and justice as defined by Sharia law—an encouragement to regroup and attack even harder. The Bush Administration's effort to turn a terrorist organization into a respectable government will fail. A pig dressed in a tuxedo is still a pig—a very dangerous one when it helps to fulfill prophecy.

# Inspiration

## A New Life

Sent in by Bob Levesque

The man slowly looked up. This was a woman clearly accustomed to the finer things of life. Her coat was new. She looked like she had never missed a meal in her life. His first thought was that she wanted to make fun of him, like so many others had done before.

"Leave me alone," he growled. To his amazement, the woman continued standing. She was smiling -- her even white teeth displayed in dazzling rows. "Are you hungry?" she asked. "No," he answered sarcastically. "I've just come from dining with the president. Now go away." The woman's smile became even broader. Suddenly the man felt a gentle hand under his arm. "What are you doing, lady?" the man asked angrily. "I said to leave me alone."

Just then a policeman came up. "Is there any problem, ma'am?" he asked. "No problem here, officer," the woman answered. "I'm just trying to get this man to his feet. Will you help me?" The officer scratched his head. "That's old Jack. He's been a fixture around here for a couple of years. What do you want with him?"

"See that cafeteria over there?" she asked. "I'm going to get him something to eat and get him out of the

cold for awhile." "Are you crazy, lady?" the homeless man resisted. "I don't want to go in there!"

Then he felt strong hands grab his other arm and lift him up. "Let me go, officer. I didn't do anything." "This is a good deal for you, Jack," the officer answered. "Don't blow it."

Finally, and with some difficulty, the woman and the police officer got Jack into the cafeteria and sat him at a table in a remote corner. It was the middle of the morning, so most of the breakfast crowd had already left and the lunch bunch had not yet arrived. The manager strode across the cafeteria and stood by his table.

"What's going on here, officer?" he asked. "What is all this. Is this man in trouble?" "This lady brought this man in here to be fed," the policeman answered. "Not in here!" the manager replied angrily. "Having a person like that here is bad for business." Old Jack smiled a toothless grin. "See, lady. I told you so. Now if you'll let me go. I didn't want

to come here in the first place."

The woman turned to the cafeteria manager and smiled. "Sir, are you familiar with Eddy and Associates, the banking firm down the street?" "Of course I am," the manager answered impatiently. "They hold their weekly meetings in one of my banquet rooms."

"And do you make a goodly amount of money providing food at these



"I thought that might make a difference."

She glanced at the cop who was busy stifling a giggle. "Would you like to join us in a cup of coffee and a meal, officer?" "No thanks, ma'am," the officer replied. "I'm on duty." "Then, perhaps, a cup of coffee to go?" "Yes, ma'am. That would be very nice"

The cafeteria manager turned on his heel "I'll get your coffee for you right away, officer." The officer watched him walk away. "You certainly put him in his place," he said. "That

was not my intent. Believe it or not, I have a reason for all this."

She sat down at the table across from her amazed dinner guest. She stared at him intently. "Jack, do you remember me?" Old Jack searched her face with his old, rheumy eyes "I think so - I mean you do look familiar."

"I'm a little older perhaps," she said. "Maybe I've even filled out more than in my younger days when you worked here, and I came through that very door, cold and hungry."

"Ma'am?" the officer said questioningly. He couldn't believe that such a magnificently turned out woman could ever have been hungry.

"I was just out of college," the woman began. "I had come to the city looking for a job, but I couldn't find anything. Finally I was down to my last few cents and had been kicked out of my apartment. I walked the streets for days. It was February and I was cold and nearly starving. I saw this place and walked in on the off chance that I could get something to eat."

Jack lit up with a smile. "Now I remember," he said. "I was behind the serving counter. You came up and asked me if you could work for something to eat. I said that it was against company policy."

"I know," the woman continued. "Then you made me the biggest roast beef sandwich that I had ever seen, gave me a cup of coffee, and told me to go over to a corner

table and enjoy it. I was afraid that you would get into trouble. Then, when I looked over, I saw you put the price of my food in the cash register I knew then that everything would be all right."

"So you started your own business?" Old Jack said. "I got a job that very afternoon. I worked my way up. Eventually I started my own business, that, with the help of God, prospered." She opened her purse and pulled out a business card. "When you are finished here, I want you to pay a visit to a Mr. Lyons. He's the personnel director of my company. I'll go talk to him now and I'm certain he'll find something for you to do around the office." She smiled. "I think he might even find the funds to give you a little advance so that you can buy some clothes and get a place to live until you get on your feet. If you ever need anything, my door is always opened to you."

There were tears in the old man's eyes. "How can I ever thank you?" he said. "Don't thank me," the woman answered. "To God goes the glory. Thank Jesus. He led me to you."

Outside the cafeteria, the officer and the woman paused at the entrance before going their separate ways. "Thank you for all your help, officer," she said. "On the contrary, Ms. Eddy," he answered. "Thank you. I saw a miracle today, something that I will never forget. And...and thank you for the coffee."

## The Greatest Gift

By Randy Kilgore

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life -John 3:16*

Subways are not a place for secrets. Hurtling through man-made tunnels at what feels like roller-coaster speeds, there is still an amazing amount of time for piecing together stories from bits of information overheard en route.

This particular day, there was more time than usual because the Boston subway car I was riding in was stopped. Seated behind me was a burly man wearing a mechanic's jacket covered with engine oil, and a young boy, I guessed to be about twelve? In the silence of the stopped train, everyone could hear everything they said.

(Huge sigh) "How could you embarrass me like that?" the father said. Silence from the boy. (Rolled head, rolled eyes, big sigh) "I mean it. How could you do that to me?" Still no response from the boy. "Answer me!" the father says loudly, and to my ear, menacingly. "I want an answer and I want it right now!" he shouted, oblivious to the rest of us in the car. Still the young boy didn't answer him.

Now the father's really getting

angry, and I'm getting uncomfortable because the dad is really big and the boy is really not big, and I'm really not big, either; but I'm thinking this doesn't feel like it's going to stop with words.

Then something incredible happened.

I mean, I wish I'd been watching the faces of this father and son because there must have been a thousand pages of poetry in the expressions they exchanged in the next few seconds. But I didn't see any of that because I was still trying to give the boy some pretense that nobody else was listening. But here's what I heard: One last long huge sigh, and then the father said, "I'm really sorry, son. I don't know what I'm thinking," and with those words he started to cry.

Only then did the young boy speak, and timidly at that. "I'm really scared, Dad." He started to cry too.

Come to think of it, I'm betting they weren't the only two people crying in that downtown subway train that day. In fact, I know they weren't, because I saw the guy across from me with the Wall Street look wiping his eyes while pretending like me that we didn't hear a thing.

I don't know what the boy did that had him scared and embarrassed his dad, but that really isn't impor-

tant. What matters is that when I stood up to get off the train as it finally moved to the next stop, that big burly dad was cradling that not so big little boy, and the two of them could care less what the rest of the world thought. I remember thinking they must have loved each other very much.



As a group, we humans often embarrass God in ways that are incomprehensible to eternal audiences; indeed, even incomprehensible to us. As individuals, we often live the kind of lives that embarrass God in the eyes of those trying to find Him. Especially as His children, we sometimes choose to do what suits us while not caring a whit what it says to others about who He is.

Despite all that, when Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son, the father in that story raced to the broken son. Raced to him! And when the world could find no way to restore itself to God, He raced toward that world Himself, entering it for the first time as a Baby in a manger.

Each of us who find our way to that Baby born so long ago discovers that the journey leads not to a crib or a child but instead to the Father who gathers us in a loving embrace; one that starts today and never, ever ceases. It's the greatest gift that will ever be offered to us.

Are you waiting for that moment of unconditional love, that accept-

ing embrace of forgiveness? We've all suffered difficult experiences in life and often don't understand the reasons why. On the first of the year we usually make resolutions which last little more than the time it took to make them, hoping for some kind of change in our life. We all need change and relief from this world around us but that can only come through the love and forgiveness of God. That's why He sent His Son Jesus, into the world. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

I know it sounds to simple to be true, but it is. Only believe and you will be saved. Say a simple prayer something like this:

*Jesus, please forgive me for my sin. I know I haven't done everything that I should with my life and I regret it. I constantly make mistakes and can't bear to go on without you. I know that you died for me upon that cross and that you have a plan for my life. Please*

*teach me your ways and help me to live my life for you, free from the fears of this world and the next. I want to be prepared for eternity with you. In Jesus name, Amen*

Congratulations, if you have just prayed this prayer and meant it, the Bible says, "Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17) Our Father understands your troubles and desire to change; 'that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.' Romans 10:9 Now, go and tell someone about your decision.

If you have just prayed this prayer for the first time or are renewing your commitment to take up your cross and follow Christ, please write to us and let us know so that we might pray for you in your new life.

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## My three sons



Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You remember how mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."

Soon thereafter, mom sent out her letters of thanks:

"Milton," she wrote one son, "The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house." "Gerald," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!" "Dearest Donald," she wrote to her third son, "You have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious."

### CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I said Merry Christmas in public... what are you in for?"

## WANTED



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## Exchanging angels Underwear

By Lovia Larkin

As a mother of rough and rowdy four year old who felt that bathing was something best completed by

running through the sprinklers, I found myself growing more frustrated at just how to convince him that crevices could not be cleaned by sprinkling. The bath time ritual was a nightmare, but what brought the night terrors was the fact that he absolutely could not fathom a reason to change his underwear!

Spider man is cool you know and it you only have one pair you can't spare them to the washer. He even found them in the garbage can once when I had thought to be so sly as to slip them



in one day while he was actually "scuba diving" in the tub. I dumb-founded by the dilemma.

Then one day the problem was just gone. I had noticed that my son had started changing his underwear daily, sometimes more than once daily. I didn't want to question, but was curious as to why the change? Could he have actually been listening to me? Ah, motherly pride until . . . He came to me one day and said. "I heard what Pastor said and I know why you

need have clean underwear." A bit caught off guard I continued to listen. "He said it. Its cause someday you might be exchanging Angels underwear!"

## - Government Red Tape -

One of the best examples of how ridiculous government paperwork can be is illustrated by a recent case in Louisiana. A company president was trying to buy some land in Louisiana for a plant expansion, and he wanted to finance this new facility with a government loan.

His lawyer filled out all the necessary forms, including the abstract--tracing the title to the land back to 1803. The government reviewed his application and abstract and sent the following reply:

'We received today your letter enclosing application for your client supported by abstract of title. We have observed, however, that you have not traced the title previous to 1803, and before final approval, it will be necessary that the title be traced previous to that year. Yours truly.'

As a result, the lawyer sent the following letter to the government:

'Gentlemen, your letter regarding title received. I note you wish title to be claimed back further than I have done it.

'I was unaware that any educated man failed to know that Louisiana was purchased by the United States from France in 1803. The title of the land was acquired by France by right of conquest of Spain. The land came into possession of Spain in 1492 by right of discovery by a Spanish-Portuguese sailor named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by Queen Isabella.

'The good queen, being a pious woman and careful about title, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope of Rome upon Columbus' voyage before she sold her jewels to help him.

'Now the Pope, as you know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God. And God made the world.

Therefore, I believe it is safe to assume that He also made that part of the United States called Louisiana, and I now hope you're satisfied.'

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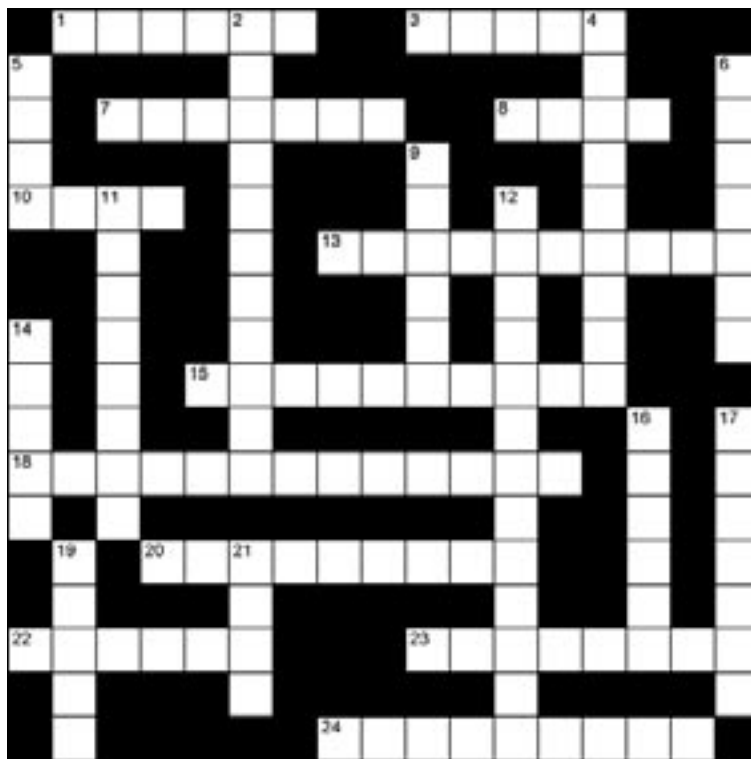
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# Soul Food

A crossword based on the Sermon on the Mount. This crossword uses the King James Version of the Bible.



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(Solution on the calendar page)

### Across

- 1 Not to be put under a bushel.
- 3 Let yours shine before men!
- 7 Moth and rust will do this to your earthly store.
- 8 If you do this, you will find.
- 10 These should not be done in view of men.
- 13 The eight sayings by Christ at the beginning of his sermon.
- 15 They sound trumpets in the streets when they are being charitable.
- 18 The peacemakers will be called this.
- 20 They were with Jesus when he gave the sermon.
- 22 You can't serve God and this.
- 23 Fellow believers.
- 24 The earth is this to God.

### Down

- 2 Jesus gave this as example of how to communicate with God.
- 4 Don't lay these upon the earth.
- 5 Whoever says this to his brother shall be in danger of the council.
- 6 Those who are given happiness and good fortune.
- 9 When engaging in this, you should enter into your closet and shut the door.
- 11 Where the sermon was given.
- 12 You should search for this first, before worrying about food and clothing.
- 14 What you should do to your eye if it offends.
- 16 They which do this shall be filled.
- 17 The hypocrites disfigured their faces while doing this.
- 19 If you are forced to go a mile with someone, this is how far you should go.
- 21 The foolish man built his house on this.



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Give me help from trouble; for vain is the help of man. Psalm 108:12

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 Carl D. Jefferson M.Div. Pastor  
 Service Time & Location  
 Sunday Morning Service 9-11am  
 684 Silver Spring St.  
 Providence, RI  
 For more info or directions contact  
 401-952-0634

**Ocean State Baptist Church**  
 600 Douglas Pike Smithfield, RI 02917  
 (401)231-1980 • www.osbc.org  
 Sunday Services  
 Sunday School 10:00 am  
 Morning Worship 11:00 am  
 Evening Worship 6:00 pm  
 Wednesday Service  
 Adult Bible Study, Children & Teen Programs 7:30 pm

**Christian Assembly**  
 1494 Fall River Ave • Seekonk, MA 02771  
 508-336-4023  
 www.cachurch.org  
 Weekly Service Schedule:  
 Sunday 9:00 am - Portuguese Service  
 10:00 am - Sunday School Adults & Children  
 10:45 am - English Worship Service  
 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study - Portuguese  
 Friday 7:00 p.m. Youth Service  
 Adult Bible Study • Portuguese Bible Study

**Faith Bible Chapel**  
 115 Ashway Rd (Rt 3)  
 Westerly, RI 02891  
 (401) 348-9637  
 Pastor Bernie Norman  
 Sunday services:  
 Adult Sunday School 9:00 am  
 Sunday Worship services: 10:30 am

**LIVING HOPE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
 100 BROADWAY  
 PAWTUCKET RI 02860  
 401-723-2039  
 Tuesday Prayer- 7:00 -8:30 pm  
 Friday- midweek service 7:00-8:30 pm  
 Sunday- 10:00 AM

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

SERVICE TIMES	
Sunday School	10:00AM
English Service	11:00AM
Portuguese Service	6:30PM
Tabernacle	
Youth Service	6:30PM
Women's	
Portuguese Bible Study	7:00PM
Thursday	
English Bible Study	7:00PM

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTER**  
 818 Church Street  
 New Bedford, Massachusetts 02745  
 508-995-9996  
 Website: www.cfc818.org  
 Rev. Kenn Bongiorno, Senior Pastor  
 Brother Joe Vargo, Pastoral Care  
 Rev. Ray Rios, Pastor of Worship

**Faith Tabernacle**  
 687 Hartford Pike (Rte 101)  
 North Scituate, RI 02857  
 401-934-1414  
 www.faithtabernacleonline.org  
 Weekly Services:  
 Sunday - Morning Worship 10:00 am  
 Sunday - Children's Church 10:00 am  
 Wednesday - Bible Study 7:00 pm  
 Wednesday - Youth Group 7:00 pm

casual - contemporary - relevant  
**MESHANTICUT PARK CHURCH**  
 180 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston RI  
 Pastor Bob Lancia  
 942-4616  
 www.mpcr.org  
 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Childcare provided. Elevator accessible.

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

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Please join us on Thursday,  
 between 4 pm and 8 pm.  
 245 Phenix Avenue, Cranston, RI  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
 For more information,  
 call CareNet at 941-2051.  
 Thursday, January 10, 2008  
 This is your invitation to tour our facility, meet the staff, and learn about our services, including the new limited ultrasound!  
**Rhode Island CareNet**  
 Pregnancy Resource Center

**Spirit & Truth**  
 United Pentecostal Church  
 45 Shawmut Ave  
 Central Falls, RI 02863  
 (401) 722-8001  
 Sunday Service: 3:00 p.m.

**Victory Assembly of God**  
 321 Veazie St Providence, RI 02904  
 401-455-0060  
 Pastor Richard P. Slemen

**World Covenant Life Ministries Center**  
 25 Market Street Unit #6  
 Swansea MA  
 508-493-3701  
 e-mail: wclministries@comcast.net  
 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 am  
 Power Study Night - 7:30 pm

# JANUARY Calendar

## January Highlights

**Jan 19- Lamont Hiebert; from Ten Shekel Shirt in concert at the Community Coffeehouse** Community of Cross Chapel, 7 Madison Ave, Danbury Ct. 06810. www1heartonline.org for the time.

**Newport Seal Watch Tours-** Aboard its Marine education vessel "Aletta Morris" - Educators provide expert commentary on the Bay's migratory Seals. Binoculars 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 Tuesday

#### New Years Day

**7p.m. Healing Streams Prayer Service - (No Meeting This Month).** 1st Tuesday of each month for healing & prayer gathering. Healing and peace in body, soul & spirit with Gods healing touch. New Life Worship Center 915 Douglas Pike Smithfield, RI. more info call: 401-232-5200

**10 am - Women's Bible Study,** meets every Tuesday (**No Meeting New Years Day**) at New Hope Christian Church, 1436 G.A.R. Highway Swansea MA (508)-324-4500

### 2 Wednesday

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

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

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

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

### 3 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.

### 4 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. - "Satellite" Youth Night (Grades 9 - 12)** and "Flip Side" Jr. High Night 6th -8th grade. Every Friday. Christian Hill Community Church. 1745 Main Street, West Warwick. 401-823-0285

### 5 Saturday

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

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

**7:30p.m.- "PS.32"** Christian Contemporary/Rock/Blues . The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI, 401-823-5330 www.theartmission.org

### 6 Sunday

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

**7-10p.m. -Men of Covenant Men's Meeting** 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

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

### 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

### 8 Tuesday

**10 am - Women's Bible Study,** meets every Tuesday (**No Meeting New Years Day**) at New Hope Christian Church, 1436 G.A.R. Highway Swansea MA (508)-324-4500

### 9 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

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

### 10 Thursday

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

**4 p.m - 8 p.m. Open House at Care-Net.** Tour the facility, meet the staff, learn about their services, including the new limited ultra-sound machine. 245 Phenix Avenue, Cranston, RI. For more information, call CareNet at 941-2051.

**7p.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

### 12 Saturday

**7:30 p.m.- "Redemption"** Christian Jazz/Blues. The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.theartmission.org

### 16 Wednesday

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

### 17 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

### 19 Saturday

**Lamont Hiebert; from Ten Shekel Shirt in concert at the Community Coffeehouse** Community of Cross Chapel, 7 Madison Ave, Danbury Ct. 06810. www1heartonline.org for time

**7:30p.m. - "Mark Cipriano & The Good News R&B Band"** The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.theartmission.org

### 23 Wednesday

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

### 24 Thursday

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

**7p.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

### 25 Friday

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

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

### 26 Saturday

**7:30 p.m.- Solid Rock Church Worship Team.** The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.theartmission.org

### 27 Sunday

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

### 30 Wednesday

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

## Sneak Peek into February 2008

**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 413-733-2500

## For Whom & Why are You Working?

Face reality: work is part of life! (Gen 2:15, 3:17-19; 2 Thess 3:10)  
**Work with a Godly attitude!** (Colossians 3:23-24)  
**Be a smart worker!** (James 1:5)  
**Ask God to reveal where He has called and gifted you!** (1 Corinthians 12)  
**Spend the fruits of your labors wisely!** (Luke 12:15, Proverbs 22:7, Psalm 37:21)  
**Remember: your retirement is in heaven, not on earth!** (Matthew 6:19-34)



Call 800-JOY-9075 or www.ChristAtWork.org

## Volunteer to deliver

**The Good News TODAY** in your area  
**401.619.0418**

## Rest Stop Coffee House

sponsored by Christian Fellowship Center  
 818 Church Street • New Bedford  
 7 PM to 9 PM



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

crossword solution:



## AMARAL'S BAKERY

241 Globe Street  
 Fall River, MA 02724-1384  
 Call 508-674-8988

Muffins, Rolls and Portuguese Sweet Breads

# Classifieds

## FOR RENT

**Westerly 3 bedrooms** smoke/pet free \$1500.00 /month 401-732-3340. cell - 924-2532

**Portsmouth, 2 brm/ 1 bath**, high ceiling with skylights, fully applianced, walkout basement, garage. \$1,400 Plus utilities. 401-683-8110

## HELP WANTED

**Cumberland woman in need of part-time home health aide** (weekend afternoons) light duty. Experience necessary. Submit resume to rdi@rdi.necoxmail.com or fax to 401-231-2360

**Head Teacher Needed** 25/40 hours. At Lori's Little Lambs Christian Day -Care Center. Need a BA in Early Childhood Education. Also, Teachers Aide 15/20 hours. For more information call 401-726-0049

## JOBS WANTED

**GHOST WRITER AT LARGE** If you can't get the wording just right, call me! Tracts, booklets, mission statements, articles and more. Call Ralph at 837-0861 Fees very negotiable.

**Visiting hairdresser** for disabled women and children. Call Michelle for a visit. 401-935-6497

**Photography/Type Term Papers/Mentoring** You say you do not have time to type up your own term papers or you need a mentor for you child or even have a hard finding a inexpensive photographer than I am your man. For more information please call Peter Sfougaris at (508) 673-0001 or (774) 955 -8589

**Personal Care Provider**, experienced, providing elderly with companionship, Light housekeeping, cooking. Call Jeanne at 401-391-2944 or 508-252-6416

## MINISTRIES

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

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

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

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

# BUSINESS CARDS

Want to reach the Christian Community? How about passing out 16,000 copies of your business card to over 300 churches and 200 businesses? We can do that for you for only \$25. per month. Run it for a year and it's only \$20. per month plus we'll do a story about your business or ministry. Call today at 401-619-0418 or email Cheryl@goodnewsinri.org for information.

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1026 Mineral Spring Ave. North Providence, RI 02904 (401) 725-6739 sarah@SarahInsurance.com website: sarahinsurance.com

**MINISTRIES**

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

**ROOMMATE WANTED**

Aaron Spilka is looking for an apartment in a Christian family home. Looking for stable family who are fairly quiet. Preferably in Pawtucket, Providence, Lincoln, East Providence area Call 401-729-7499

**Select Financial MORTGAGE CORPORATION**

386 Market Street • Warren, RI 02885 www.selectfinancial.com

Brian R. Marzilli Loan Officer

RI Lender/Broker MC3069/MC3392 MC4121/MC4341 MC4516

Cell: 401-418-4423 Office: 401-247-7400 Office: 401-769-4335 Fax: 401-247-7995 Email: BrianRMarx@selectfinancial.com

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

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

**SERVICES**

**Precision Auto. A Total Collision Repair Center** 100 South Street Johnston Tel: 231-8520. 24 Hour Towing. Now accepting all Major Credit Cards.

**NO MORE 9 to 5!** Stop being a slave to the clock and make time for the things that really matter. Set your own hours. Set your own limits. Get on the road to financial success. I can help. Call 401-524-3845

**Your ad could be here for only \$20 a month\***

Call 401.619.0418

\*For 12 months

**Your ad could be here for only \$20 a month\***

Call 401.619.0418

\*For 12 months

**MUSIC**

**Drum/Guitar lessons for beginners** \$15.00 per hour call Rick 401-277-9610

**WANTED**



**SALESPEOPLE to help spread The Good News 401 619-0418**

**Place A Classified Ad**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: 15th OF THE MONTH

RATES \$5.00 up to 10 words PER MONTH \$0.25 per additional word

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Daytime ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed for classified advertisement \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Month \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Month \_\_\_\_\_

Mail, email goodnewsinri@cox.net or Fax 401-619-0418 the information on this form to **The Good News TODAY**. Checks only, please paid before the 15th of the month prior to running your ad.

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17	18	19	20

Mail this form today to: **The Good News Today Classifieds • PO Box 2558, Providence, RI 02906**

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Mail this form today with your check to reserve your next issue!

# Why did I spend \$85,000 to support Presidential Candidate Ron Paul? Because I care about my family and your family.

Recently, I placed a full-page ad in *USA Today* supporting the presidential candidacy of Congressman Ron Paul. Why? Because I believe **Ron Paul is different** from every other individual who carries the title "politician." In fact, he is a medical doctor by training and has delivered 4,000 babies. After medicine he entered politics, and he is a true public servant...a *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, type of guy. No political lobbyists or vested interests will support him—but I will—and you should too.

Given the troubling developments in our world, I believe that as a nation we face a very important choice. We need to make a decision as to what we want America to represent, and to become. History will record the outcome of our decision. If we make the wrong choice, more innocent people will die, and history will not be kind. As I say to my closest friends, I do not want to have to explain to my children that I stood silent as others destroyed this country.

**The America that I grew up in believed in the rule of law, not the rule of men.**

The America that I grew up in believed in telling the truth. The America that I grew up in believed in following Judeo-Christian values, and yet made room for those of different faiths and backgrounds. The America I grew up in had a religious flavor, but we were wary of those who wore their religion on their sleeves. The America that I grew up in believed in the golden rule: treat people the way we would like them to treat us. The America that I grew up in believed that you did not lie, cheat or steal. The America that I grew up in believed in the inherent goodness of most men, but recognized that evil exists.

**Nevertheless, the America that I grew up in did not believe in an eye for an eye, or retribution. It believed in protecting oneself from evil, but in the process of doing so we were cautioned not to become what we were protecting against.**

In short, the America that I grew up in was a place where one could be proud of one's country, and thankful to the men and women who had sacrificed so much in the past to give us this heritage. I wake up today as a 50 year old husband and father, and I wonder where that America has gone. I see a President who ignores the U.S. Constitution by issuing "signing statements" that have the effect of law. He replaced a President who blatantly lied to the American public. Admittedly, the lie was about something that was none of the public's business. However, when a country's President is a liar, it lowers that country's level of discourse and makes lying seem acceptable.

It is not. Think about it. Are these the best leaders this Country can produce? I see that second President's wife running for President and now claiming she will end the war. Of course, she initially voted for the war, and recently voted for a resolution against Iran that makes another war more likely. Do Americans really believe she will act in our best interests given all the money she has received from lobbyists and the military industrial complex?

Will she end the war as she now has begun claiming in her political advertisements?

Or is this just a tactic to gain anti-war votes now that her closest rival is breathing down her neck? Is this new position just another hard to believe statement, like the story she told us about how she traded "cattle futures" so successfully? I see the U.S. involved in an aggressive, undeclared war against a country that did not represent a threat to us in any way. We were lead into this war using false and inaccurate information.

**In my opinion, we are far less safe now than we were before we invaded Iraq.**

This war has increased the number of emotionally charged enemies who conspire to attack us.

**Ron Paul voted against invading Iraq. He was a lonely voice speaking in the House against military involvement in Iraq long before the first Congressional vote.**

Rather than attack an entire nation, he introduced legislation to convince Congress and our President to strategically target the terrorists responsible for 9/11.

**The current Administration has failed to capture and eliminate the criminals who perpetrated this crime against us. Those responsible are still at large, our borders are wide open, and our troops are spread thin all over the globe.**

We need a leader who will protect us with a strong national defense and keep us out of foreign entanglements that in the end create more enemies than friends. We need a President who will put the national security of the American people, and the safety of our troops first. To date, this war has lasted longer than World War II, and between 100,000 and 1,000,000 innocent people have died. These figures are between 30 and 300 times the number of people killed on 9/11/2001. Do two wrongs make a right? Furthermore, the majority of the 9/11 hijackers were Saudis. Not Iraqis. We are allies with Saudi Arabia and yet Saudi Arabia is far from being a democracy. Yet we were told we went to war to create a democracy in Iraq and set an example for the Middle East.

**The hypocrisy is staggering. The mistakes that were made are enormous. Why anyone believes one thing that is said by the people who led us into this war is a mystery to me.**

"We will be greeted as liberators." Wrong. "Oil revenues will pay the cost." Wrong. "A secular democracy will emerge and be an inspiration for other countries." Wrong. The list of misjudgments goes on and on. Were the civilian Iraqis killed by our preemptive war just "collateral damage"? Has anyone taken the time to look at their pictures on the Web? Does ignoring them make their deaths less real?

**I wonder how their relatives and friends feel about the United States? I wonder if they are more or less likely to become terrorists as a result of the actions of this Administration.**

I see a country that has violated the Geneva Conventions. I see a country that has violated the Christian Doctrine of Just War. I see a country that has started a war that is illegal under international law. I see a country that has completely changed since President Eisenhower said, "Preventive war was an invention of Hitler. Frankly, I would not listen to anyone who seriously talked about such a thing". I see a flock of Presidential candidates, most of whom voted for this war and many of whom believe "all options should be on the table" in dealing with Iran. For those who are not current on this subject, that language is code for: we should be prepared to attack Iran with conventional or nuclear weapons.

**Think about that for a moment. Leaders in this Country are actually talking about using a nuclear weapon preemptively against a country that has not attacked us. Are they insane?**

I hear Neocon pundits calling for the beginning of World War III. I see a country that has suspended *habeas corpus*. I see a country that has stripped its citizens of the constitutional protections against an overreaching government. I see a country that has sanctioned "rendition" which is just another term for the kidnapping of anyone, anywhere, throughout the world, and spiriting them off to a remote location where they can be subject to "enhanced interrogation techniques," which we are told are not torture. Another lie. I see a country that has engaged in

torture. **One leading presidential candidate wants to "double Guantanamo" and thinks his sons' campaigning for him is equivalent to serving in the military.** Of course, that candidate got a deferment to avoid serving in Vietnam. Other candidates for the highest office in this land are not any better.

**I see a war hero candidate who sings "bomb Iran" to the tune of The Beach Boy's song, Barbara Ann. How can he make light of killing people? Joking about bombing a foreign country and killing innocent people is a disgrace.**

However, at least that candidate is a veteran. Most of the other top advocates of war have never fought in one. Worse yet, they sought and obtained deferments when others were fighting. You cannot make this stuff up. The irony is incredible. If, as I believe, you reap what you sow, then the ultimate payback for these injustices will be staggering.

**I see a Country that thinks that it owns and controls the world. I believe this is ethically wrong and politically stupid.**

Furthermore, we cannot afford it, so even attempting to run the world is self-defeating. I see a country that thinks it should have bases in the Middle East for the next fifty years. I see a country building an embassy the size of the Vatican in Iraq. I see a country where the dominant political group, the Neocons, believe the world is a dark and evil place. I believe the people who feel this way are projecting their own views onto the rest of the world. I wonder if America has lost its sense of what is right and what is wrong. Out of malfeasance, fear, ignorance, or incompetence, we have implemented the wrong policies and taken the wrong course. Since this is true, then effectively the terrorists are winning. God surely has a great sense of humor. Irony abounds.

**The Federal Government we have today does NOT represent me. I further believe it does not represent a majority of Americans.**

As citizens, each and every one of us is somewhat responsible for the actions of our government. **In fact, the Constitution states that we are the government.** It has been said that all it takes for evil to flourish is for good people to do nothing. So, has America lost its soul? Yes or no? I would submit that while the current U.S. Administration and the vast majority of the Senate and Congress have lost their souls, the American people have not. Nearly 70% of the American population is against this war, and yet the war goes on. The vast majority of the American people want peace. People know what is right, yet the government does the wrong thing. How can this be? We are supposed to be a government OF, FOR and BY the People. Are we? What do you think? Does our government really represent the American people? Do you think the U.S. government should kill innocent Iraqis or Iranians to make us safer? Would you advocate killing a man who lives down the street just because you think he might do you harm in the future, even though he has done nothing to you yet? I would not, and I believe most Americans would not.

**The huge disconnect between what a majority of this country wants and what our government is doing is the elephant in the room that no one will discuss.**

We need a President who is intelligent enough to recognize, and honest enough to admit, that the resentment and hatred directed towards America are the unintended consequences

of decades of maintaining a foreign policy of interference and occupation. They don't "hate us because we're free". They hate us because we're there, or because we are aiding their enemies. We have great power and military superiority and we should use these abilities to protect ourselves. With these powers come enormous responsibilities. We are a Constitutional Republic, not an empire. I believe there is a power higher than my government and that the Founders drew upon this power when they drafted the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal." That reads "All men." Not "all Americans." The Founders believed, as do I, that All men have God-given rights. Governments are made to protect these rights, not destroy them.

**If it sounds like I am angry. That is right.**

I am angry that my money becomes worth less every year because the Federal Reserve can print money out of thin air. I am angry that the U.S. Government inflation statistics are a lie, thanks to Bill Clinton's changing of the CPI calculation. I am angry that this change and the Federal Reserve have put the economy on a roller coaster leading to boom and bust cycles that benefit financiers at the expense of the middle class, retirees and the poor. I am angry that Wall Street titans and speculators have been rewarded while savers and honest labor have been punished. I am angry that honesty is considered quaint and naive by the political classes. I am angry at the arrogance of those who hold power in Washington, DC. I am angry that the actions of some men in my country have taken away the moral high ground that the U.S. used to occupy. I am angry that my tax dollars are used for weapons rather than for peaceful purposes. I do not want the blood of innocents on my hands.

As individuals, Americans are great people. **If 70% of us are opposed to the war, then there is still hope.** Of course the mainstream media, and the vested industrial and political interests would have us all believe that we cannot make a difference. They dictate to us that we should have to choose between the two war mongering candidates that they serve up to us. They determine who the two front runners are, and we are discouraged from looking elsewhere. They work to insure that no other candidate stands a chance. But this time I think they are in for a surprise. I would submit that the outcome of this election is not so clear. The establishment dam has sprung a leak which is small now, but it is growing. The word is spreading.

The lines could not be more clearly drawn.

**Ron Paul's message is clear and righteous and true. It resonates with people. When you hear it you say, "that's right, that's what I believe".**

This is why his popularity is rising faster than any other candidate. Yet, the media still ignore him and treat him poorly. It is beautiful irony that every attack on him only brings him more attention as intelligent Americans wonder, "who is this guy that everyone keeps attacking ... I wonder if there is a reason?" They say he cannot win. I strongly disagree. First, I think he will be our next President. Second, I think he has won already because he has inspired hundreds of thousands across the country to fight to restore everything that is good, right and true about America. **He has won by putting forth the message of a limited constitutional government dedicated to freedom—and people like what they hear.** The message is spreading like an uncontrollable wildfire. It cannot be stopped. History will record the Ron Paul Freedom Movement as a seminal event in U.S. politics. If you want to see what the future of U.S. politics will look like, this is it.

**It is an honor to support this man, Ron Paul. We should be so lucky as to have him for our President.**

Having said that, we could all help history along a little bit by supporting the Ron Paul campaign. My favorite movie is, *It's A Wonderful Life*. To me, the message of that movie is that we all make a difference. Individually, none of us have the power of the Neocons and the political classes, but collectively, if we self-organize and unite, we have them greatly outnumbered. They are terrified, and they should be. The growth in this movement is amazing. We can and will win this struggle. I ran the *USA Today* Advertisement because I wanted to plant a seed and make a difference. **WE ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** Every conversation, every person enlightened, every email, every effort, it all counts. What a beautiful thing. The trend is changing and it is fun to watch the old guard struggle as their fortress crumbles. **So what can you do?** Join our effort to elect Ron Paul as the next President of the United States. Spread the word that we have an opportunity to elect an honest statesman with an impeccable record of voting in line with our Constitution. **Vote for peace. Vote for freedom. Vote for OUR national security.**

**Each contribution represents another American who has said, "enough is enough."**

Donate to his campaign! Every contribution helps. \$10 is not too little. Think about it. What is freedom worth? I would submit that it is priceless. On December 16th, our collective voices were heard when grassroots supporters for Ron Paul succeeded in organizing the largest oneday fundraiser in political history. Over 58,000 ordinary Americans spoke with their wallets by donating more than \$6 million dollars to the Ron Paul campaign in a single day. Together, *We the People* are proving to be a force not to be ignored.

**If you care about the future of this country, I know that Ron Paul will not let you down. If you care about our troops, then you must vote for Ron Paul. He will bring them home to defend America instead of someone else's country.**

Ron Paul has received more donations from active military personnel than any other candidate. Why do you think that is? Have you heard about it from the Mainstream Media? I suspect not.

**Fellow Americans—this is it—a once in a lifetime opportunity. We may never see a candidate with more integrity and a better message or track record.**

Has our country ever been so far off track? Our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honors in order to establish this Nation. Perhaps we have taken for granted the risks they took and the sacrifices they made. But we are being called. We are being tested.

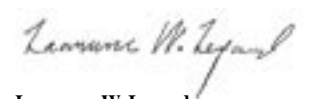
**So what are you going to do? Are you going to be a Loyalist or a Patriot?**

Americans are brave people. I believe that together we can set this country back on the right track and that America will experience a renaissance of Peace, Freedom and Prosperity. **Vote Ron Paul for President.**

**The danger to our Constitutional Republic is real. We must act now!**

Remember, each one of us makes a difference. **Please vote for Ron Paul in your state's Republican Primary and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.**

Sincerely,



Lawrence W. Lepard  
a concerned American citizen

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