

The Good News TODAY

FREE

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Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. - Psalm 51:10

UNWAVERING FAITH

By Judith Ryder

Gordon & Diane McLean (photo below)

For over thirty years, I've been friends with Diane. Her husband, Gordon, died of bladder cancer three years ago, and now she herself is battling bladder cancer. We recently drove to Boston for a day of pre-operative testing. In a waiting room with probably 25 other pre-op patients seeing various nurses and technicians, Diane was startled whenever a particular name was called. Before her last appointment, and just as the man in question prepared to leave, she mustered the courage to approach him. "By any chance, are you from the Westport area?" she asked. "Why, yes I am!" replied the surprised gentleman. "Does the name 'Diane S___' mean anything to you?" inquired



Diane. "...Oh, Diane!!!!" exclaimed the man, hugging her as tears welled up in his eyes. "After all these years!!! And I was so sad to hear about the little boy -- I've never forgotten that, Diane...." Adeptly brushing aside that last comment, Diane introduced me to George as her long-lost cousin, while George held her at arm's length and took a long, emotional look at her. It had been over fifty years since they had last met! He told her he was facing surgery for an abdominal aneurism, and she told him she was fighting cancer. They exchanged contact information, and in she went for her appointment. As he left, George explained, "Diane and I aren't really 'blood' cousins,

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A Home for Healing Teens

By Ralph Davis

"A war is raging for the hearts and souls of our youth. The casualties are real. America's future depends on rescuing her teenagers. There is no better, more successful or needed ministry for America's teens than House of Hope. With Christ as the center of this ministry, the name says it all. This ministry is truly a House of Hope for hurting teens and families." (From the National House of Hope's website)



The Board of directors for House of Hope Rhode Island - left to right - Jane Stach, Lee Sperdutti, Dana Altland, Andrew Altland. Melissa Mastrostefano not shown in the photo.

residential program where hurting, troubled teens can learn to accept responsibility, submit to authority, get along with peers and adults and come to a saving knowledge of our LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. The emphasis in this CHRIST-centered environment is on healing and restoring teens and their families." Their hearts were touched by what they learned.

Jane Stach, along with co-founder Dana Altland, attended a Women of Faith conference ten years ago. It was there that they first heard about House of Hope which was presented by former teacher and founder, Sara Trollinger. They found out that it is "a

Jane, Dana and Andrew Altland are members of the Quiddisset Baptist Church in North Kingstown, R.I. Andrew is very active in the youth ministries there. Both

Teens continued Page 11

Selective Constitutionalism

By Chuck Baldwin

Many conservatives are up in arms regarding the charge that President-elect Barack Obama may not have been born in the United States and is, therefore, not qualified under the U.S. Constitution to be President of the United States.



Article. II. Section. 1. of the U.S.

Constitution states, "No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President" Some accuse Mr. Obama of not being born in the State of Hawaii as claimed, but in Kenya, Africa. Several people have filed various lawsuits challenging Mr. Obama's U.S.

citizenship.

Historically, "natural born Citizen" has always been understood to mean someone born in the United States of America. If Barack Obama was not born in the United States, he is absolutely unqualified to be President. Hawaii's secretary of state says Obama was indeed born in that state. However, to date, Obama's actual birth certificate has not been publicly released, which only serves to add fuel to the accusations that he was not born in Hawaii.

Many conservatives seem to be obsessed with this controversy, calling it a "constitu-

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AMERICA ON THE BRINK

By Paul Walter

PREDICTIONS

Political Correctness and Freedom of Speech

The first thing that Socialists do when they gain power is try to silence free speech. Conservative Talk radio hosts such as Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Glen Beck, Laura Ingram, Lou Dobbs, etc. are already being criticized by "Progressives" in Congress. There is a serious effort underway right now to bring back a failed law, the oxymoronic "Fairness Doctrine," in a bold, open attempt to silence opposing political views. Internet news sites such as WorldNetDaily.com, NewsWithViews.com, DrudgeReport.com, InfoWars.com and many others will be

silenced along with talk radio. In order for darkness (lies) to prevail, light (truth) has to be snuffed out.

Public scrutiny and criticism of elected officials will be forbidden. Any person exposing political corruption will be labeled anti-government. If they persist in attempting to correct that political corruption, they will be called a terrorist! All police departments around the country will be required to have terrorist units.



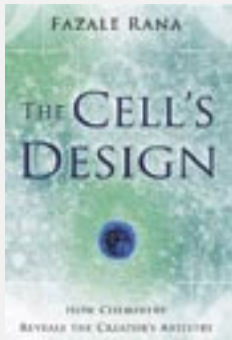
[In the communist country of my birth I remember that one could criticize any capitalist country one wishes as long as it wasn't yours or another communist country. Criticism of any official brought police in black uniform to

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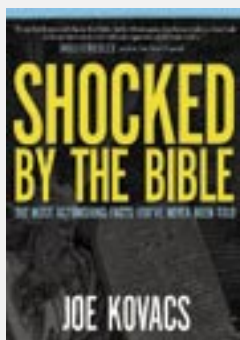
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Shocked by the Bible P. 9

Sports



Kurt Warner P. 9

Entertainment



Thomas Kinkade P. 12

We first heard of House of Hope at a Women of Faith Conference in Connecticut 10 years ago... and now HOHRI is coming to New England!

Please pray about how you can be a part of this ministry!



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-Malachi 4:6

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From National House of Hope's website:

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Dean of Liberty University School of Law
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but my grandmother took her in as a foster child, so we grew up together. I love her so much!"

When Diane returned, we had a quick lunch before hustling to another building for her CT scan appointment. Upon arrival, Diane received instructions to drink within the next hour two large bottles of foul-tasting cold slime deceptively labeled "Vanilla Smoothie" and "Berry Smoothie". Uncapping the first, she turned to me with glistening eyes and asked a monumental question: "Do you want to hear my story?" Of course I said yes, having become highly intrigued by the events of the morning. I realized how very little I actually knew about Diane's early life. She had earned my admiration and deep appreciation many years ago when she used to accompany me to the RI State House where I lobbied the Legislature on pro-family issues. Although preferring not to testify personally at legislative hearings, she provided prayer cover for my efforts, and often opened her home for the monthly meetings of the group I headed. We have gone through much together -- weddings, moving, sicknesses, and death -- and have become close friends who share traditional family values and a strong faith in Christ.

"At the age of 18 days," Diane began, "I was taken from the hospital by my 'guardian', a man whom I came to know as 'Uncle Al'. He delivered me to the Westport, RI home of Mrs. Handy, a divorced woman who took in foster children to earn a living. I lived there for eleven years. In the same home were Joanne, the daughter of traveling entertainers who had abandoned her, and Richard, Mrs. Handy's grandchild, whose father had entered the military, resulting in his mother abandoning them both.

Diane commented that foster parenting was primarily a "business" to Mrs. Handy, and she was very strict, but she was nice. Every Sunday Mrs. Handy sent little Diane to the nearby Westport Factory Church, but did not accompany her. Diane joined Pioneer Girls there. At their out-of-state camp during the summer she turned eleven, Diane publicly invited Jesus Christ to come into her heart and be her Savior. She can never remember a time when she did not love the Lord.

The timing of her conversion proved providential, for just a week after returning from camp, she was whisked away by "Uncle Al" for a "vacation" at his Wickford, RI home, a lovely

large farm that rolled down to the water. Diane packed her small suitcase with the few clothes she thought she would need. While there, she was very lonely for her "family" in Westport, but as September approached, "Uncle Al" told Diane that she would not be returning to Mrs. Handy's and would be living with him, instead. Although grief-stricken and emotionally devastated, she was made to telephone Mrs. Handy with the news. That was the only home she had ever known, and now she was being summarily separated from the only "family" she had ever had. Her heart was overwhelmed with sadness.

An extremely wealthy man, "Uncle Al" enjoyed the weekend visits of a woman named Jeannie (whom Diane called his "mistress") from Greenville, RI. Before long, his mistress had persuaded "Uncle Al" to let her take Diane to live with her in Greenville so that, ostensibly, Diane could go to school there and would have Mistress Jeannie's daughter for a playmate. Besides the daughter, also named Jeannie, Mistress Jeannie's two single adult siblings lived there. Upon arrival, it became readily apparent to Diane that none of them wanted her there. Diane soon observed that young Jeannie was doted upon by all the adults and spoiled. Diane remembers when Mistress Jeannie packed school lunches for her daughter and Diane, she would put extra treats of cookies and candies in Jeannie's bag, but not in Diane's. Eventually the household moved to New Bedford and then to Dartmouth. Diane never felt wanted or loved during this time of her life. However, she did become good friends with Joyce McLean, a niece of Mistress Jeannie's. Joyce had a brother, Gordon, who fell in love with Diane and when she was 18, they married. At last someone truly loved Diane! Thus far in life she had always felt ashamed of having no identity. Whenever she had asked about her parents, she had been told she would find out when she was old enough to understand, but that time never came. Now she was Gordon's wife, and their family began to grow, as one by one they lovingly welcomed four beautiful girls and.....the little boy.

Diane paused to open the Berry Smoothie. Having just covered a great deal of ground, we began retracing some steps in order to nail down a few details. While in Greenville, Diane recalled, she and Mistress Jeannie would usually spend weekends in Wickford with "Uncle Al". Occasionally Diane would get home from

school on a Friday afternoon to discover that Mistress Jeannie had already departed early for a weekend alone with "Uncle Al", but usually Diane went, too. (She was told that whenever Mistress Jeannie and "Uncle Al" went to their bedroom, one would sleep under the covers and one on top of them. Not until later did she reconsider her innocent acceptance of this unbidden information.) Diane also recalls that whenever a certain man named "Carl" drove up with a delivery of grain for the farm, "Uncle Al" would tell her to hide in a closet until he had left. Being introverted and shy as a child, Diane never asked why, but merely did as she was told. She was rather afraid of "Uncle Al", whose manner was gruff and forbidding, so she found it best just to go along to get along.

Almost finished with her Berry Smoothie now, Diane confided that in retrospect she could see how Mistress Jeannie's actions had been designed to put a wedge between Diane and "Uncle Al". He was, after all, extremely affluent, and could easily have provided a college education for Diane,

Diane has nevertheless emerged as a faith-filled woman whose trust in God has never wavered, not even once.

given her whatever she needed and wanted, and left her a healthy inheritance besides. But none of that ever happened. After he died, Mistress Jeannie telephoned Diane to inform her that not only had he left his entire fortune to Mistress Jeannie, but also that "Uncle Al" was, in truth.... Diane's grandfather! Apparently, his college-aged daughter, Dorothy, had become pregnant out of wedlock and, after Diane's birth in May, 1939, "Uncle Al" dutifully assumed guardianship of his baby granddaughter. Diane never has learned her father's identity.

Later Diane figured out why she had to hide whenever "Carl" came. It was because Carl married Dorothy some time after Diane's birth, but was not apprised of her existence. Diane, who never met her mother, believes they probably looked just alike, and that "Uncle Al" believed it would jeopardize Dorothy's marriage if her new husband ever put two and two together. Dorothy died at the early age of 40 (of cancer, Diane wonders?) and Carl eventually remarried and moved to North Scituate, RI.

Now Diane told me what ultimately became of Mistress

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Jeannie's daughter. A pretty girl, young Jeannie married, moved next door, got divorced a couple of years later, and then remarried. Meanwhile, her boss at work fell madly in love with her and a brief affair ensued. Feeling guilty about what was happening, Jeannie tried to break it off with him one night after work but, unbeknownst to her, he followed her home. Then, in the driveway, while Jeannie's husband waited for her inside, her boss took out a gun, shot and killed her, and then himself.

Diane shivered as she finally finished the second icy, slimy drink.

Returning to the subject of her own marriage, she now gingerly approached the matter of "the little boy" to whom George had alluded earlier in the day. As she began to tell me what happened, I let her know that revisiting the story wouldn't be necessary. You see, I explained, even before I'd ever met her over thirty years ago, I had already learned of the terrible tragedy: One day Gordon, who owned and drove huge construction vehicles, backed up, ran over, and killed his only son. Gordon, Jr., age three, while hidden from his father's view, had been riding

his little tricycle behind the truck in their driveway. Since Diane had never mentioned this to me, I had never mentioned it to her. At long last, the unutterable burden of a secret of many years had, mercifully, slipped from her shoulders. "Diane?" called a nurse, emerging from the darkened corridor leading to the CT scan machines. Diane tossed the empty bottles in the trash and left for her CT scan, as I began to ponder all that I had just heard.

Throughout those many years, starting with a childhood nearly totally devoid of people who loved her, any real sense of "family", or even any mentors to take a true interest in her, Diane has nevertheless emerged as a faith-filled woman whose trust in God has never wavered, not even once. I have yet to hear a bitter word against God escape from her lips. She learned from the time she was a child, sitting in that little Westport Factory Church, that Jesus loved her, and so....she loved Him. She has always trusted implicitly in His sovereignty and judgment while basking in His love for her, regardless of all her trials and

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Constitution from Page 1
 tional crisis." The fact is, however, we have been in a "constitutional crisis" for years! The problem is, most conservatives only get worked up over a potential abridgement of constitutional government when it serves their partisan political purposes. In other words, when a Democrat appears guilty of constitutional conflict, conservatives "go ballistic," but when Republicans are equally culpable of constitutional conflict, they yawn with utter indifference.

For example, the one man who has the notoriety and political clout to actually bring about some meaningful investigation and resolution to the Obama citizenship brouhaha is none other than Senator John McCain. After all, he was Obama's principal opponent in the race for the White House. Plus, as the standard-bearer for the only other major political party, he has the attention of the national media, as well as the national legislative and judicial branches of government. So, why is John McCain not at all interested in the Obama citizenship issue?

Perhaps one reason that John McCain is so uninterested in where Barack Obama was born is because he, John McCain, was not born in the United States. He was born in the country of Panama. So, let me ask readers a question: Does anyone believe if John McCain had been elected President instead of Barack Obama that any notable conservative would have been distressed about a "constitutional crisis"? Get real!

Yes, I know McCain was born to a naval officer serving in Panama at the time. That fact changes nothing. John McCain was still born in a foreign country, and under a strict interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, is not qualified to be President of the United States. Even our current State Depart-

ment policy (7 FAM 1100) reads: "Despite widespread popular belief, U.S. military installations abroad and U.S. diplomatic or consular facilities are not part of the United States within the meaning of the 14th Amendment. A child born on the premises of such a facility is not subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and does not acquire U.S. citizenship by reason of birth."

Does anyone not remember the controversy surrounding the potential Presidential campaign of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger? Born in Austria, Schwarzenegger is a naturalized citizen of the United States and is now Governor of California. However, since Schwarzenegger is a naturalized citizen, but not a natural born citizen, he is considered unqualified to run for President.

But, again, most conservatives care little about the Constitution's requirement that a President be

Do we have a "constitutional crisis"? You bet we do...

a "natural born Citizen." Like liberals, most conservatives are afflicted with a very debilitating disease that I call Selective Constitutionalism. They only want to apply constitutional government when it helps Republicans or hurts Democrats. Most of them really could not care less about adherence to the Constitution. If they did, they would have been up in arms for the last eight years as President George W. Bush repeatedly ignored--and even trampled--the U.S. Constitution.

Where were these "constitutional" conservatives when George W. Bush was assuming dictatorial-style powers and contravening Fourth Amendment prohibitions against warrantless searches and seizures? Where were they when Bush was ordering our emails, letters, and phone calls to be

intercepted by federal police agencies without court oversight? Where were they when Bush was obliterating the Fifth and Eighth Amendments? Where were they when Bush overturned Posse Comitatus by Executive Order? Where were they when Bush dismantled the constitutional right of Habeas Corpus? Where were they when Bush lied to the American people about the invasion of Iraq and took the United States to war without a Declaration of War from Congress? Where were conservatives when Bush turned nine U.S. military installations over to the United Arab Emirates? Where were they when Bush ordered his Department of Transportation to open up America's airlines to foreign ownership? Where were they when President Bush nullified (using "signing statements") over 1,100 statutes he did not like? Where were they as President Bush and his fellow Republicans reauthorized one of the most egregiously unconstitutional pieces of legislation in modern

memory: the USA Patriot Act? Where were they when Bush signed the blatantly unconstitutional McCain/Feingold Act? I could go on and on.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Republican Party has been just as culpable in violating constitutional government as the Democrat Party has--maybe more so! If the Republican and Democrat parties had any allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, neither John McCain nor Barack Obama would have been chosen as their respective Presidential nominees.

While we are on the subject, if anyone cared about constitutional government, Hillary Clinton (or any other U.S. Senator or House Member) would obviously be determined as ineligible to be given any appointment in the Obama administration under Article. I. Section. 6. of the U.S. Constitution. Why? Because the

After their children married, Diane and Gordon sold their lovely old home in Pascoag and moved into an antique "half house" they also owned in Smithfield. Following Gordon's cancer diagnosis, they sold that and, with a trailer hitched to their car, traveled south to spend the winter with their various children in KS, KY, SC and FL, returning to RI in the summer so Gordon could wrap up his business. They parked their trailer on the property of various friends for a time until they felt they should move on. After a time-consuming search for an affordable home with enough property for Gordon's heavy equipment, they finally located a fixer-upper ranch house in Putnam, CT. Gordon was now in the final throes of the relentless cancer. A master of many trades, he did as much as humanly possible to turn the house into a comfortable home for Diane. However, as his illness progressed, he simply ran out of time and energy. During this period, their children helped as much as they could, faithful to come whenever needed, and always keeping in close touch with their parents.

On a beautiful September day in 2005, Gordon was laid to rest next

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Constitution prohibits House or Senate members taking Presidential posts if the salary of the job they would take was raised while they were in Congress.

However, several past Presidents have skirted this constitutional prohibition (including Presidents Taft, Nixon, and Carter) by lowering the salary of the job back to what it was so the nominee could accept the job without receiving the pay increase that was approved while the appointee was in Congress. In fact, this sleight of hand actually has a political name. It is called "the Saxbe fix," after Nixon's appointment of Senator William Saxbe to be attorney general.

Do we have a "constitutional crisis"? You bet we do; but it is not limited to Barack Obama or the Democrat Party. The real constitutional crisis is the manner in which the American people have, for years, allowed civil magistrates from both major parties to routinely violate their oaths to

preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. God help us!

Chuck Baldwin is Founder-Pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. In 1985 the church was recognized by President Ronald Reagan for its unusual growth and influence. Dr. Baldwin is the host of a lively, hard-hitting syndicated radio talk show on the Genesis Communications Network called, "Chuck Baldwin Live" This is a daily, one hour long call-in show in which Dr. Baldwin addresses current event topics from a conservative Christian point of view. Pastor Baldwin writes weekly articles on the internet http://www.ChuckBaldwinLive.com and newspapers. To learn more about his radio talk show please visit his web site at: www.chuckbaldwinlive.com. When responding, please include your name, city and state. E-mail: chuck@chuckbaldwinlive.com

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 tribulations. She has steadfastly believed that He was and is totally in control of her life, even when unspeakable events have occurred. She is persuaded without a doubt that His ways are best.

Diane and Gordon successfully transmitted their unwavering Christian faith to their four exemplary daughters, whom they provided with Christian schooling, often at great financial sacrifice to themselves, and all of whom came to trust Christ as their personal Savior. Now married, they either furnish Christian schooling for their children or homeschool them.

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to the tiny grave of his little son. Scottish bagpipers sounded their mournful notes as many family and friends gathered around, choosing to stay and mingle with one another even after the funeral home attendant dismissed them to their cars. A lovely luncheon followed, underwritten by some close friends, and soon Diane was alone.....again.

Since that bleak time in her life, with her children married and living out of state, she has had to oversee countless additional necessary repairs to her home including leaks, a flooded basement, and a wayward sump pump, in addition to the installation of a new roof,

bathroom, furnace, and a remodeled kitchen. Frugal and resourceful, Diane did much of the actual work on these projects herself. Still, to make ends meet, she had to start working at night caring for the elderly, as well as continuing part-time work at a florist.

Gifted as a creative homemaker, talented gardener, heirloom sewer, excellent cook, authority on antiques, and in so many other ways, Diane typically uses her talents to help others. A woman of great moral character despite having had no parents to teach her the way in which she should go, she is an appreciative, loyal friend, a staunch witness for the Lord, and

totally devoted to Him. She takes advantage of Bible studies at her church and is always quick to volunteer her help. She has sewn elaborately beaded long christening dresses for most of her eleven grandchildren, and made exquisite wedding dresses and bridesmaids dresses for her daughters' and others' weddings. Thus, her informal advice has often been sought about weddings, and she has even baked wedding cakes, arranged the flowers, and offered expert complimentary tailoring and fittings to her friends.

In recent years, Diane has undergone several operations, some cancer-related and some not. Soon after Gordon's death she endured a particularly difficult recovery from surgery to remove a cancerous kidney. As the battle against bladder cancer continues, she is keenly aware of having just one kidney. Presently recovering from yet another surgery to keep the cancer at bay, her demeanor remains calm and cheerful, hopeful about her options, yet always realistic. In other words, nothing has changed because for Diane, as for Paul, "... to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)

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your door usually at night when everyone was asleep.]

Religious Persecution and Sharia Law

Traditional churches will be attacked by Socialists, Feminists and Homosexuals. Christians will increasingly be ridiculed and called bigots because of their religious beliefs. Church services will be regularly disrupted. Under pressure, many church leaders will give-in, capitulating for the sake of peace. They will give up their moral principles, or face the anti-discrimination laws that will be passed to force churches, organizations and people to comply with the immoral doctrines of the socialist, secular humanists.

Since Christians are extremely apathetic today anyway, Islam will begin to become "acceptable" as an alternative to Christianity in America. It's already spreading like wildfire in America's prisons. Islamic (religious) Sharia law has gained a foothold in Great Britain and other European countries, with little or no opposition from Christian leadership. Sharia Law is not compatible with the U.S. Constitution or America's concept of religious freedom.

Civilian National Security Force & Community Service

Already we hear the call for mandatory national, community service for our young people. This thinly disguised program will be used to turn one part of our citizenry against the other, by creating a supreme sense of "duty" and "obedience" by one group that will instill a sense of "fear and obedience" in another group. It is nothing more than a sinister monitoring and control system where neighbors monitor and report on neighbors.

To make sure the community service system works, the other component of this "control system" is some form of a "Civilian Security Force." The first community service program will be used as a recruiting pool for placing the "right people" in these roles. By right people, I mean those who are fully indoctrinated into a socialist mindset. They'll become the eyes and ears of "Big Brother." What will it be called here in America? Something patriotic sounding and acceptable.

The next step would be compulsory community service programs for everyone, regardless of age. You will be forced to "volunteer" your free labor to serve the community; all for the good of the state. Public schools will be used as reeducation centers for all citizens. Hitler and Stalin did the same.

Re-distribution of Wealth and Economics

Once all of the above have been implemented, the "haves" will be forced to share with the "have-nots." Remember, Government doesn't create wealth; it gets its money from those who work.

Due to the severe economic conditions we are all seeing getting worse by the day, the bankrupt financial industry, dead real estate market, failing auto manufacturing, and empty retail stores, all set the stage for the epic economic collapse of America.

Most of you do not understand the extreme nature of this problem. Huge government spending, massive stimulus packages and bailouts cannot be sustained. Add to that the promised huge Public Works programs that the next president wants enacted and the federal budget deficit will soar exponentially.

None of it will help. The full financial burden will be continually and increasingly placed onto the backs of taxpayers (you and me).

Expect first deflation as the economy fails and then high inflation will kick in for anything of real value, and then the depression will begin as the entire economy collapses.

Retirement and Euthanasia

If you have more than one retirement income on top of your Social Security you will only be allowed to keep one and forced to give up the rest, all in the name of saving the bankrupt country that was created by the socialists in the first place.

Euthanasia, also known as "Death with Dignity," will be expanded to all 50 states. The real purpose is to reduce the numbers of the older generation that they say are "sucking on society." Stalin and Hitler referred to the elderly as "useless eaters" who are no longer productive and represent a real burden on the bankrupted economy.

Forced Vaccinations

Forced vaccinations are on the horizon, as part of a national health plan that will "be needed" to address a national health crises. Forced vaccinations by the police for all citizens will follow, regardless of your objections. There will be no recourse to their possible deadly side effects. You will not be able to sue. Laws protecting the government, drug manufacturers, doctors and county health official from liability and lawsuits are already on the books. You will be stuck with the medical bills.

Food Shortages

Starvation of biblical proportions are coming. Religious groups and people with just a little insight of the future, who prepare and store food for emergencies, will be targeted and labeled as "Food Hoarders." Neighbors will be

encouraged to report on their neighbors' food supply. The insightful who have prepared will have their food confiscated by the police "for the common good" of course. It is wise to have at least 60 day supply of storable food on hand for any emergency.

Population Control and the Environment

Various methods will be used to force rural residents off their land and into cities where they can be controlled. Some of the methods already being used are excessive taxation, regulation and condemning your septic system all in the name of public health of course.

Another way to control a rural population, is to stop you from heating your home with wood, all

in the name of global warming, carbon emissions, and to help seniors with asthma, etc. It is already happening in California, where the new smoke police are driving around looking for smoke coming from people's wood-

stoves or fireplaces and writing hefty tickets.

Unopposed Compliance

Despots and dictators count on the loyalty of the police to carry out their orders and dirty work. Without their loyalty and obedience they can't be dictators. It will be done the same way here. Stalin used the police to go door to door to confiscate the people's food and enforce obedience to the state. Those who refused to comply were shot on the spot. Stalin was also hero worshipped. Is history repeating itself? (see History Channel DVD titled: "Stalin Man of Steel").

Hitler's police sold their soul for a paycheck to round up Jewish men, women and children and anyone else he considered undesirable, and then shipped them to extermination camps. Two thousand years ago Roman cops sold their soul for a bag of salt by obeying orders to nail an innocent man to the cross. Let's hope that our men and women in uniform will see the light, wake up to the evil sweeping this country, because their children and grandchildren will be enslaved too.

I am a fervent believer and supporter of our police. I know most of them are decent, and would never comply with or obey such orders. But the scoundrels among them will.

Second Amendment

America's Socialists will make every attempt to disarm the American population, just as their counterparts have done in other

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

socialist countries. Dictators can only rule unarmed populations. Despots always fear an armed populace.

In Conclusion

Over the last 20 years and at great expense, I have been paying for ads in the local newspaper and writing letters to the editor alerting the public to the dangers that are emerging locally and nationally. I make no claim to being the brightest star in the sky, but I can surely see what is coming.

The courthouse good-old-boys are not stupid. They also know what is coming, yet they do nothing to inform the public, instead, they assassinate the character of those that do. Why are they keeping this information from the public? Because an enlightened informed public can not be controlled, only the ignorant can. Some local officials have tried to discredit me by assassinating my character. They are afraid you'll learn the truth, and THAT scares them.

My family managed to escape the slavery of communism in 1956. Therefore I have first hand knowledge of what communism/socialism is. I know how it operates. Let me be clear, socialism/communism mean the same thing. Socialism is a watered down, politically correct word used by communists to "con" unsuspecting people into "accepting" this political system. Communism has a bad name in the Western world, that's why communists now call themselves socialists, or in the United States, they also call themselves "Progressives." There is no dif-

ference, both want government control of your life and business from cradle to grave. Eventually peoples lives and businesses get so over regulated that the country dies from within.


Socialism robs people of the incentive to create and produce wealth because through oppressive taxes and regulations, they are not allowed to keep the fruits of their labor. Under socialism, patriotism, individualism and entrepreneurship are destroyed.

I served 3 years in the U.S. armed forces and I was proud to become a U.S. citizen. I was at awe when I came to America that a country existed on this planet where a person could own their own business. Through hard work, the sky was the limit! I love America, and that is why I hate to see it descend into the very socialism my family fought so hard to escape from. Under socialism/communism with all the regulations and taxes it's almost impossible to stay in business and keep any money the business generates.

Since America gave me an opportunity for a life of liberty and created an environment that allows all of us the pursuit of happiness, I feel I owe something in return to this country, in its hour of need. This is why I speak out when I see corruption and/or incompetence in government.

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National News

HLI Challenges Pastor Warren's Participation in Obama Inauguration

FRONT ROYAL, VA. (LifeSiteNews.com) - The Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, president of Human Life International (HLI), today challenged Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA to reconsider his participation in the upcoming inaugural ceremonies for President-elect Barack Obama.

"We applaud Pastor Warren's support of pro-life causes as well as his defense of traditional marriage," said Pastor Euteneuer. "This is why we are concerned that his high-profile and explicitly Christian prayerful invocation at President-elect Obama's inauguration may be perceived as an endorsement, even a blessing, of what will likely be the most anti-life administration in the history of this country."

President-elect Obama has promised to sign into law the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), a massive assault on the dignity of life. He is also widely expected to reverse President George W. Bush's executive order reinstating the Mexico City Policy, which prevents funding of international groups and

programs that advocate abortion, as well as funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which, among other anti-life activities, has been demonstrated to support coercive "family planning" measures in China, including forced abortions and sterilizations.

"President-elect Obama has given every indication that he has no respect for the lives of the unborn, and whenever given the opportunity, has promised to enforce the most extreme demands of anti-life groups," said Pastor Euteneuer. "This extremist agenda should not be seen to have the endorsement of pro-life leaders such as Pastor Warren."

"I respect the personal relationship that Pastor Warren has with Mr. Obama," said Father Euteneuer. "But such a public and explicitly Christian endorsement as this invocation is certainly confusing to those who know Mr. Obama's record on life issues. We respectfully ask Pastor Warren to reconsider his participation in the inaugural ceremonies, given Mr. Obama's extremist anti-life views."

Maine Prepares for Battle over Same-Sex 'Marriage'

(EP News)--Family advocates and gay activists in Maine are gearing up for a legislative battle over gay "marriage." The Associated Press reported. The pro-gay group Equality Maine reportedly has collected more than 33,000 signatures to be sent to lawmakers as a show of support for same-sex "marriage." Michael Heath, executive director of the Maine Family Policy Council, said it won't be that easy. "We will continue, as we have since this all started decades ago, to object to this with every resource that we can," he said.

N.Y. Lists Two Moms, Two Dads on Birth Certificates

(EP News)--New York Gov. David Paterson has ordered state workers to accommodate same-sex couples by listing two moms or two dads on birth certificates. Duane Motley, founder and president of New Yorker's Family Research Foundation, said the executive order follows a familiar pattern. "He has already — through executive order — required that the state give

benefits to homosexual couples who are legally 'married' in other jurisdictions," he said, referring to Paterson's order issued in May. Gay activists are "moving ahead by inches and soon they're going to have just about everything they need except the marriage certificate," Motley said. The Alliance Defense Fund is suing the state of New York over the governor's recent actions.

Alleged Fraud Brings Down One Church And May Spread To Others

(EP News)--David Talbot seemed like a trustworthy Christian businessman to the members of New Horizon Fellowship, a new church starting up in Wyckoff, N.J. He "talked the talk" of an evangelical Christian, according to Bill Werner, one of the elders at New Horizon. But according to Werner, and now according to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, he may have "talked the talk," but he didn't "walk the walk." That is, if you don't count a "perp walk": Talbot has been sued by New Jersey because he "operated a fraud" by selling over \$500-thousand in unregistered securities "which promised high yield returns." The complaint, filed in the Superior Court of Bergen County on Aug. 8, further alleges that Talbot and two co-defendants "appealed to investors' religious beliefs because some investors were told a percentage of the profits were going to charitable purposes, including to purchase a church." Werner believes other churches in the Chicago area and throughout the Midwest may have been victims of similar frauds.

Abortions Pleds No Contest to Felonies, Faces up to 10 Years in Jail

LOS ANGELES, CA (LifeSiteNews.com) - Instead of proceeding with a scheduled jury selection, Bertha Pinedo Bugarin, 47, pleaded no contest yesterday to seven felony charges of committing abortions without a medical license. She was ordered to pay restitution of \$7,800 to 16 of her victims.

Nine additional counts are to be dismissed, according to her plea bargain agreement, when she is sentenced in January. She faces up to 10 years in jail. Bugarin's sister, Raquel, was also charged, but earlier took a plea bargain that would have made her testify against her sister if a trial would have proceeded.

"We are praying that Ms. Bugarin

goes to jail for a very long time," said Operation Rescue President Troy Newman, who for years has focused attention on exposing Bugarin's chain of seedy abortion mills that once blanketed Southern California.

"Bugarin is a cold-hearted predator who sought out human misery in order to profit from it. She showed no remorse or sorrow for the women she preyed upon. She has shown only contempt for the law," said Newman. "The only way to protect women from further exploitation at Bugarin's hands is to put her in jail, or, mark my words, she'll be back at it again."

Bugarin also faces 10 felonies and one misdemeanor in San Diego County that could net her nine additional years in jail.

Bugarin once ran eleven abortion mills in Southern California, with a stable of troubled abortionists that, one by one, lost their medical licenses. Most of her clinics have closed, and phone calls made Monday to her offices in Panorama City, Santa Ana, and Los Angeles referred the caller to a number that has been disconnected.

"Let's not make the mistake of thinking that Bugarin's crimes are an anomaly," said Newman. "She was just unfortunate enough to get caught. In reality, illegal practices take place every day at our nation's abortion mills. We haven't met an abortionist yet that did not think he or she was above the law. In this case, we are grateful for the prosecution of Bugarin, but saddened that it took so many years - and so many broken lives - to bring her to justice."

Abortion Activists Send Wish List to Obama

(EP News)--Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice America and more than 50 of their pro-abortion allies have laid out their priorities for the incoming president in a 55-page memo. They reportedly were not happy when President-elect Barack Obama made the memo public on his Web site. The document covers everything from suggested executive orders and presidential memorandums to legislative changes and regulatory initiatives.

"This document is really a road map to what we call the Obama abortion agenda, and it's a very

radical agenda," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee. "Regrettably, Obama has voted for a lot of these policies in the past or he's endorsed them during his presidential campaign, so I'm afraid this wish list is likely to be well-received."

The memo also calls for the slashing of abstinence funding and an aggressive abortion-friendly foreign policy. Dawn Vargo, bioethics analyst for Focus on the Family Action, called the requests a bit surprising. "It's ironic that our first African-American presi-

dent would be so quick to support policies that would so negatively impact the African-American community," she said.

Almost half of African-American pregnancies end in abortion, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control. About 13 percent of U.S. women are black, yet they account for more than 35 percent of all abortions.

Thankfully, pro-life Americans can make their voices heard. "Voters will have to be ready to take action on a number of bills throughout this Congress," Vargo said.

Evangelicals' "Top Lobbyist" Resigns Following Statements About Same-Sex "Marriage"

By Warren Cole Smith
(EP News)--Richard Cizik resigned from his vice presidential post at the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) after making comments in favor of same-sex "marriage." The resignation was effective Dec. 11.

Cizik has often been called evangelicals' "top lobbyist," but his views on a variety of issues have been increasingly criticized by the very evangelicals he is supposed to represent. The last straw came on the Dec. 2 "Fresh Air" broadcast on National Public Radio, when Cizik said he is "shifting" on gay "marriage" and favors civil unions.

Cizik, who had worked in the NAE's Washington office for 28 years. Earlier this year he said he voted for President-elect Barack Obama in the Virginia primary despite Obama's support of abortion rights.

Leith Anderson, a Minnesota pastor and president of the NAE, met with Cizik prior to the resignation announcement. Anderson said the conversation was long and wide-ranging, and the decision for Cizik to resign was a joint decision.

In the NPR interview, Cizik said, "I'm shifting, I have to admit," he said. "In other words, I wouldbe

willing to say I believe in civil unions. I don't officially support redefining marriage from its traditional definition, I don't think."

In explaining his departure, NAE President Leith Anderson, said Cizik had "made statements that did not appropriately represent the values and convictions of NAE and our constituents."

"It was time for him to go," Tom Minnery, senior vice president for government and public policy at Focus on the Family, told The Associated Press. "He no longer represents the view of evangelicalism. He has not represented those views for some time."

Another State Moves Toward Same-Sex "Marriage"

(EP News)--When New Jersey passed its civil-union law two years ago, a commission was created to evaluate the new policy. In its final report, the Civil Union Review Commission has concluded the civil union law is insufficient and is calling on the Legislature to legalize same-sex "marriage."


Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said the commission's report was a foregone conclusion. "When the civil-union law was drafted, the commission provision was included at the last minute at the

request of gay-activist organizations," he said. "The commission and its report are nothing other than window dressing for a strategy that was decided upon long ago."

New Jersey would be the first state to legislate gay "marriage." Connecticut and Massachusetts allow same-sex "marriage," thanks to orders from their highest courts. Pat Brannigan, executive director of New Jersey Catholic Conference, said the commission was stacked against traditional marriage.

"If you look at the membership of that committee, they're all advocates," he told The Associated Press. "It's an advocacy group. It doesn't mean that that is the conclusion that society and people in general will come to."

Thirty states have amended their constitutions to protect marriage from redefinition by the courts and their legislatures. In November, California, Arizona and Florida voted to support marriage as between one man and one woman.



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World News

Gaza truce ends, rockets rain down on Israel

By Ryan Jones

The often-violated six-month ceasefire between Israel and Hamas-ruled Gaza officially came to an end last Friday, and Gaza-based Palestinian terrorists promptly resumed their full-scale bombardment of Israeli towns.

The southern Israel towns of Sderot and Ashkelon, and a number of smaller communities in between, were pounded by at least a dozen rockets and mortar shells on Sunday morning. A foreign worker was wounded by one of the rockets, while another partially destroyed a family home in Sderot. The family managed to flee the home just before the rocket struck.

Nearly 40 rockets and mortar shells were fired at towns and communities in southern Israel on Saturday. One mortar scored a direct hit on a youth clubhouse, causing damage but no injuries. Israeli aircraft attacked some of

the rocket cells, killing at least one terrorist. At least five rockets were fired at Israel on Friday, and Palestinian gunmen operating near the Gaza security fence opened fire on Israeli farmers.

A Hamas spokesman told Ha'aretz that the group is also considering a resumption of suicide bomb attacks against Israeli civilians.

How to deal with the resurgent threat was the focus of Sunday's cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, where Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defense Minister Ehud Barak came under heavy fire from other ministers for failing to authorize strong military action.

Deputy Prime Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) was quoted by The Jerusalem Post as telling Olmert and Barak that if it were Tel Aviv being pounded by so many rockets on a daily basis, there would have been no hesitation to invade

Gaza.

Prior to the cabinet meeting, Vice Premier Haim Ramon (Kadima) told Israel Radio that Israel doesn't even need to send in ground forces in order to bring about an end to Hamas' rule in Gaza. Israel has the military, economic and political means to crush Hamas with minimal risk to its soldiers, Ramon noted, before blasting Barak for his failed policy of restraint.

Nevertheless, Olmert and Barak insisted that they would continue to take a slow and measured approach to the crisis, while seeking to avoid a large-scale armed clash with the terrorists.

Residents of southern Israel and observers around the country fear that the government will continue to avoid taking decisive action until the terrorists actually manage to kill large numbers of Israelis with their rockets.

Houston-Based Group Delivers Aid to Storm-Ravaged Haiti

PORT AU-PRINCE, HAITI (ANS) -- Houston-based charity Global Aid Partnership plans to distribute food and medical supplies to Ike-ravaged Haiti after feeling the punch of the same storm. "As bad as it got at home, Haitians here took the worst of it," said Royce Rex, executive vice president. "It's natural for people in Houston to want to help, especially during Christmas."

The distribution through some 150 local ministers and clinicians, begins Christmas week pending the signature of the Finance Minister. It includes about 600,000 servings of food staples along with medical supplies to stock at least 3 clinics.

"We want do more," Rex said, noting the many challenges. "Haiti's road to recovery could be a long one." Four recent storms polluted water supplies and washed out crops—all amidst local famine and a global food crisis. "It's desperate."

Nurse Lori Moise runs The Grace of the Good Samaritan Health Center, a clinic in Cazale set to receive aid. Caseloads for her staff alone have swelled to sometimes 500 people a day, many of them malnourished children on the brink of death. "The food staples are wonderful," she said. "They will be a big blessing in this time of hunger."

Dixie Bickel, director of God's Littlest Angels, an orphanage and clinic outside Pétionville, is

thrilled, too. "You can't find clean bandages in Haiti, and we're low," she said. One patient, Djemy, 2, suffered from a flesh-eating bacteria that claimed nearly half his nose. "He'll need these dressings until he can get reconstructive surgery in California." Of the rice received, Bickel intends to carry much of it to a nearby community also suffering storm effects. "This will help while they replant coffee and banana crops."

Haitian aid is actually the first overseas project for newly-formed

Global Aid Partnership. It began sending aid to Haiti while also helping Texan Ike victims during late summer. Even with the economy down, Rex is optimistic. "The projects just keep lining up, and each one is so compelling."

Without a top-heavy structure, Rex said, his team can do more. "Though we're new, we all have long histories in relief work. We love projects with strong local volunteers, and with our relationships in Haiti, we can really make progress," he added.

Survey: Most Britons do not believe in The Nativity

By Michael Ireland

UNITED KINGDOM (ANS) -- A new survey in the United Kingdom suggest the majority of Britons do not believe in the Biblical story of the birth of Jesus. Of 1,000 people questioned, 70 percent doubted the account, according to the British Market Research Bureau, cited by a BBC report.

Almost a quarter of people who described themselves as Christians shared their skepticism, the BBC said. More than a fifth of Christians who answered said they did not believe Jesus was both God and Man -- another central tenet of Christianity. And young people were particularly skeptical, the survey revealed.

BBC religious affairs correspondent Robert Piggott said the findings suggested a fading influence for the Church's teaching in a secular age. "They also reinforce

evidence that believers are increasingly willing to pick and choose which elements of the Bible's story they accept," he added.

St Helen's Church in Bishopsgate, London, which commissioned the survey, has produced a film of "sound evidence" supporting the Bible's account. Simon Gathercole, a New Testament scholar at Cambridge University, said people were skeptical because they were not aware the origins of Christianity were anchored in real history.

"Jesus was born while Augustus was emperor of Rome just before Herod died...we're talking about events that are anchored in real history not in ancient Greek myths." He also said some people think of Christmas as being religiously significant for purely nostalgic reasons. "There's something in us that misses that connection with God that we sometimes feel our historical forebears had," he said.

Twenty Years of Eugenic Abortion at Ontario Catholic Hospital

(LifeSiteNews.com) -- In a recent report it was revealed that a Catholic Hospital in London, Ontario has for the last 20 years permitted "early induction" abortions in cases of lethal fetal anomaly.

Recently LifeSiteNews obtained a copy of the hospital guidelines that permit the procedure, and spoke with the chief ethicist for the diocese of London who penned the guidelines. Fr. Michael Prieur attempted to defend the use of the procedure, saying that it is not abortion, and admitted, "We've been doing it for twenty years now."

In an "early induction" abortion, medical staff induce labor after in utero diagnosis determines that a baby is severely handicapped. Labor is induced at a point so early in pregnancy (21 weeks) that it would be impossible even for a healthy child to live outside the womb without highly specialized intensive care; under these circumstances a severely handicapped child is unlikely to survive more

than mere minutes.

Early induction in cases of lethal fetal anomaly has been condemned as illicit by the US Bishops' Doctrinal Committee and called "direct abortion" by the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC).

According to Fr. Prieur, the bishop of the London diocese, Bishop Ronald Fabbro, is aware of the fact that the hospital permits the early inductions. The Bishop, however, refused to comment on the situation.

Jim Hughes, National President of Campaign Life Coalition commented, saying, "All of this sounds pretty appalling to me. It sounds to me like this is nothing more than abortion dressed up in more attractive clothing." Hughes concluded: "Can some Catholic authority please put an end to the abortions going on at the Catholic hospital in London. Is this the only Catholic hospital that's doing this or is this widespread?"

London Hands Out the Pill to Teens without Prescription

(EP News) -- In January, women in London will be able to get birth-control pills without a prescription in an effort to reduce the number of teen pregnancies, The Telegraph reported. Women as young as 16 can obtain the pill in the two areas of London that report some of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country: Southwark and Lambeth. Officials say the initiative then may be implemented throughout England.

Amsterdam to Close Brothels, Gambling Parlors

(EP News) -- Amsterdam has unveiled a comprehensive plan to close up to half of its businesses that "generate criminality," including brothels, gambling parlors and marijuana cafes. Saturday's announcement also includes offering help for those who lose their jobs as a result of the plan. Amsterdam legalized prostitution in 2000. "It appears that the most liberal city in the world has reached the end of 'tolerance,'" said Daniel Weiss, senior analyst for media and sexuality at Focus on the Family Action. "They have stretched the bonds of so-called human freedom and found that it becomes violent, criminal and abusive -- a detriment to society. "Cultures, such as our own, ought to be wise by not allowing society to head toward such licentiousness."

Medical Group Suggests Delaying Puberty in Gender-Confused Youths

(EP News) -- The Endocrine Society suggests young people with gender-identity concerns be given drugs to block puberty, the

BBC reported. The organization -- which claims 14,000 members in more than 100 countries -- says the drugs would give adolescents time to decide which gender they prefer. The treatment was tested in the Netherlands on kids as young as 11; clinics in Canada, Australia, Germany and the U.S. have started prescribing the drugs.

Jimmy Carter proudly becomes Hamas advisor

By Ryan Jones

Former US President Jimmy Carter proudly announced on his website at the weekend that during his recent visit to Damascus he advised Hamas leader Khaled Mashal on what price to demand for hostage Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. In a trip report posted to the website of The Carter Center, the former president described Mashal and the other Hamas men he met with as respectable, suit-wearing professionals, and pointedly suggested that none of them are religious fanatics. Carter's visit to Lebanon and Syria last week, like a similar visit several months ago, greatly angered US officials and prominent American commentators. In addition to meeting with a Syrian regime that Washington is trying to isolate, Carter made a point of sitting down with Hamas and requesting an audience with Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Nasrallah refused the meeting. Carter insists that Hamas and Hizballah are powerful and legitimate players on the Middle East stage that must be engaged in dialogue, while his critics say it is because of people like Carter that groups like Hamas gain legitimacy and become impossible to defeat.

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Health News

Biochemist says cell design reveals Creator's artistry

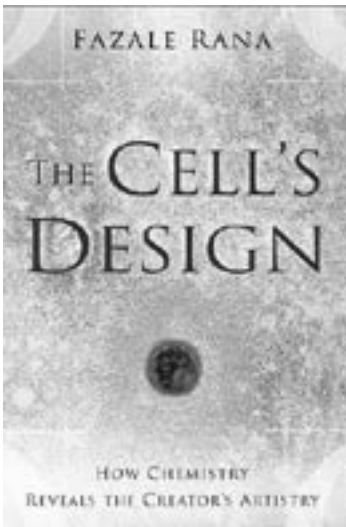
By Patti Townley-Covert

Glendora, CA. Global celebrations throughout 2009 will tout Darwin's theory, but there was so much he didn't know that Christian publications can use this opportunity to set forth a positive scientific case for creation.

In *The Cell's Design: How Chemistry Reveals the Creator's Artistry*, biochemist Fazale Rana, PhD, uses scientific reasoning to build a weight of evidence for biblical creation. "Pattern recognition," says Rana, "uses what scientists already know about life's chemistry and about the organization of biochemical systems as reflections of human-designed systems, not on what science does not know."

Taking readers far beyond Darwin's *Black Box* by Michael Behe, Rana unveils more than a dozen different systems inside each cell that have never before been discussed in Christian apologetics

works. He illustrates how these systems reflect the mind of the Creator in whose image humans are made. "The cell possesses veritable assembly-line manufacturing operations that employ quality control, chicken-and-egg systems, communications and information methods, even editing processes, along with a multitude of other integrated features. In all ways the cell reveals elegance of form and function, an exquisite beauty characteristic of the biblical Creator."



Rana is the leading Christian expert on origins of life. As Vice President of Research and Apologetics at Reasons To Believe, his work has received favorable peer review in technical journals, at scientific meetings, and on secular university campuses. His experience suggests that good science garners the respect of the scientific community, even when it supports creation.

Blueberries Reverse Memory Loss; Contain Natural Medicines to Prevent Alzheimer's

By Mike Adams,
the Health Ranger

If you're looking for yet another reason to eat blueberries, scientists at the University of Reading have just found one for you: Blueberry flavonoids have now been found to activate the parts of the human brain that control memory and learning.



The research was published in the journal *Free Radical Biology*

and *Medicine*. It has opened new avenues of research into the ability of blueberries to prevent Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions.

But don't think you can just go out and buy "blueberry" food products at the grocery store. Most blueberry cereals, breads and snack bars are actually made with propylene glycol (antifreeze fluid), high-fructose corn syrup and

artificial coloring chemicals. If you want REAL blueberries, you have to look for it on the label. You can also just buy frozen blueberries and blend them into fresh vegetable juices (it's delicious!).

Scientists will no doubt be studying blueberries in an effort to replicate the medicinal molecules so they can synthesize expensive pharmaceuticals. But you don't need Big Pharma to enjoy the benefits of God's creation. Just eat blueberries and let your body heal itself!

Death by Gift Certificate

by Dr. R. Albert Mohler Jr.

Gift certificates are now a big part of the American economy. Along with electronic gift cards, gift certificates represent a growing segment of the consumer market -- and for good reason. Who wouldn't welcome and appreciate a gift certificate to a favorite store or service provider?

Well, what if the product is abortion? Planned Parenthood of Indiana is now selling gift certificates redeemable "for services or the recipient's choice of birth control method." Those "methods" include abortion.

As *The Washington Times* reports: *Indiana residents in need of a quick*

stocking stuffer this holiday season have an unusual option: Planned Parenthood gift certificates. The group's Hoosier State chapter on Wednesday began selling gift certificates redeemable at any of its 35 facilities for any service provided -- from basic health screenings to birth control to abortions.

Planned Parenthood claims that it is doing this in the name of women's health. "Our patients are principally low-income women, and so, needless to say, those patients are more challenged now than ever," said Betty Cockrum, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Indiana. "We find that when women are [financially] strapped, they're more worried about putting food on the table and gas in their car, and their health care is often put by the wayside."

A gift certificate for health services might be a thoughtful and meaningful, if unusual, gift. But Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion provider, performing multiple thousands of abortions nationwide each year. The organization also receives hundreds of millions of dollars in income from performing these abortions. Abortion is a big business, and Planned Parenthood is the market leader.

Recently I tuned in A.M. Radio and picked up this guy talking about why cough medicines often do more harm than good, due to the chemical makeup of these strong drugs so, I listened. I was surprised to hear that Vicks was found to be more effective than prescribed medicines for children at bedtime, in addition to having a soothing and calming effect on sick children who then went on to sleep soundly.

My wife tried it on herself when she had a very deep constant and persistent cough a few weeks ago and it worked 100%! She said that it felt like a warm blanket had enveloped her, coughing stopped in a few minutes and believe me, this was a deep, (incredibly annoying!) every few seconds uncontrollable cough, and she slept cough-free for hours every night that she used it.

If you have grandchildren, pass this on. If you end up sick, try it yourself and you will be absolutely amazed at how it works.

Information on the Indiana group's Web site indicates that the certificates may be used for a basic health exam for \$58, or on a range of services including abortions, which may cost up to \$900 in the baby's first trimester.

As *The Washington Times* also reports: *The program has been endorsed by Dr. Judy Monroe, Indiana health commissioner, who called it "really a meaningful gift." The certificates, which come in \$25 increments, work like cash and come with no restrictions and no expiration date. They can be purchased at many of the group's Indiana clinics and online, and can be used for some insurance co-payments and medication.*

There are several ominous aspects related to this story, and the whole picture points to the threatening reach of the Culture of Death. When Indiana's health commissioner speaks of an unrestricted Planned Parenthood gift certificate as "really a meaningful gift," the obvious question is this -- meaningful for whom?

What about unborn babies in Indiana? The "meaning" these certificates could have for them is death by surgical mutilation or other means of abortion. According to *The Los Angeles Times*, the Indiana chapter of Planned Parenthood performs about 5,000 abortions a year.

The Planned Parenthood gift certificates have been called "tasteless," but a better description of these gift certificates is *deadly*. There is every reason to believe that some babies will have their lives ended by means of these gift certificates.

The Culture of Death creeps forward all around us. The state of Washington opts for physician-assisted suicide, other states move forward with funding for human embryonic stem cell research, and pro-abortion forces are expecting the incoming Obama administration to act swiftly to reverse policies now in place that restrict abortions or abortion funding.

The gift certificates from Planned Parenthood represent a brazen and ill-disguised effort to package abortion as a gift. When the state's health commissioner calls these certificates as "really a meaningful gift," she adds her influence to the effort. So this Christmas shopping season came with something new -- an offer of death by gift certificate.

Abortion Empire Collapses as Abortionist Pleads Guilty to 9 Felonies

Cheryl Sullenger, Senior Policy Advisor, Operation Rescue

SAN DIEGO, In a surprise appearance, abortionist Bertha Pinedo Bugarin, 48, walked into a San Diego County courtroom on Thursday, December 4, 2008, and pled guilty to nine felony counts of committing abortions without a medical license. Just three days

these women's lives in serious danger."

Bugarin once owned a chain of 11 abortion mills, staffed by abortionists who, one by one, lost their licenses or left due to offences ranging from medical negligence to Medi-Cal fraud. One of Bugarin's abortionists, Laurence Reich, was stripped of his license after being convicted a second time for sex crimes. Reich was arrested earlier this year for continuing to do abortions at Bugarin's clinics without a license. He faces his own trial sometime next year.

Operation Rescue began to focus on Bugarin's clinics in 1999, documenting and exposing the dangerous nature of the abortion chain to the public. Within a year, several of Bugarin's abortionists, including co-owner Nicholas Braemer, lost their medical licenses.

Operation Rescue continued over the years to expose and report wrong-doing by Bugarin and her abortionists, and brought public pressure to bear.

Today, eviction and utility shut-off notices are posted on Bugarin's former abortion offices. Only one, the Santa Ana location, has been reopened under a new owner and continues to operate under another name.

"This is a huge victory for the pro-life movement, and a prime

example of how we can use the laws that are on the books to close abortion mills forever," said Operation Rescue President Troy Newman. "Bugarin acted as if she was above the law, as so many abortionists do. The prosecutors did not agree, and now Bugarin should remain behind bars for many years. Thank God!"

Vick's Vapor Rub

Sent by Liz Williamson

During a lecture on Essential Oils, they told us how the foot soles can absorb oils. Their example: Put garlic on your feet and within 20 minutes you can 'taste' it.

Some of us have used Vicks Vapor Rub for years for everything from chapped lips to sore toes and many body parts in between. But I've never heard of this. And don't laugh, it works 100% of the time, although the scientists who discovered it aren't sure why.

To stop night time coughing in a child (or adult as we found out personally), put Vicks Vapor Rub generously on the bottom of the feet at bedtime, then cover with socks. Even persistent, heavy, deep coughs will stop in about 5 minutes and stay stopped for many, many hours of relief. Works 100% of the time and is more effective in children than even very strong prescription cough medicine. In addition it is extremely soothing and comforting and they will sleep soundly.



earlier, Bugarin plead no contest to seven comparable felonies in Los Angeles.

Her entire abortion empire has collapsed and every abortion mill in her infamous Clinica Medica Para La Mujer abortion chain has permanently closed.

Bugarin now faces up to nine years in jail for her convictions in San Diego County, and up to ten more years for her Los Angeles case. She is scheduled for sentencing in Los Angeles on January 20, and in San Diego on February 6, 2009.

San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis stated, "This criminal preyed on women in the Hispanic community and has now been held accountable. By passing herself off as a doctor, she put

Book Reviews

Are Christmas customs *not* from the Bible?

By WorldNetDaily

Imagine for a moment it's late December, and there's an excitement in the air that spreads joy throughout the community. People are holding parties, feasting, drinking, singing carols and exchanging gifts in celebration of the birthday of the deity. They're lighting candles and decorating trees with silver and gold ornaments. There's plenty of holly around, and some people are seen kissing under the mistletoe. Sounds like a typical Christmas these days, right?

Well, it just might stun you to find out that all this was taking place many years before Jesus was even born! It's true. These customs were established hundreds, even thousands of years before Jesus, as pagan worshippers celebrated the winter solstice or the birthday of the "invincible sun" god.

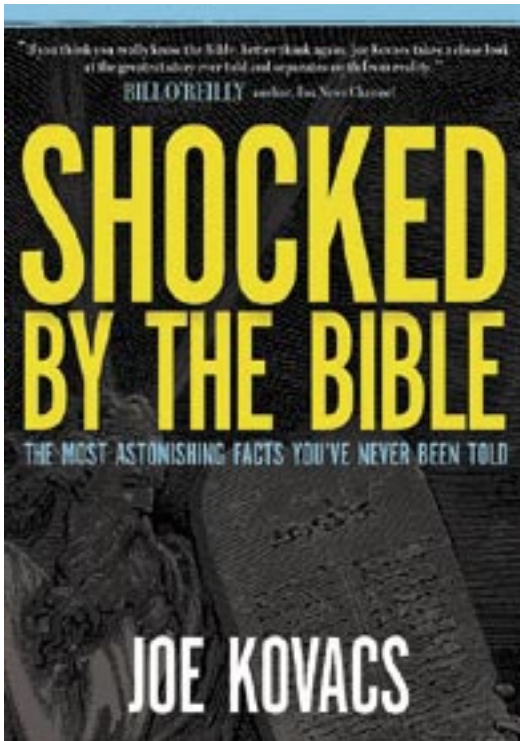
This is just some of the eye-opening information revealed in "Shocked by the Bible: The Most Astonishing Facts You've Never Been Told" by WND Executive News Editor Joe Kovacs.

"It's amazing what people don't know about the most popular

"Yes, two gospels in the New Testament document the birth of Jesus," says Kovacs. "You'll find majestic announcements from an angel, and Joseph and Mary eluding a bloodthirsty king who sought to slay the young Savior of mankind. What you won't find are 'Three Wise Men' or any wise men at the manger the night Jesus was born. And despite Christmas cartoons, there's no mention of a little drummer boy. In Scripture, there's no Saint Nicholas, no candy canes, no dreaded fruitcake and no one's grandma got run over by a reindeer."

"Shocked by the Bible" explains how December 25th was celebrated as the birthday of the unconquered sun god, and why ancient cultures associated mistletoe with sex and fertility. The disclosures about holiday customs are just some of the Christmas goodies revealed in "Shocked by the Bible."

Kovacs explores the history of the holiday, and the concerns many of America's founders had, even banning its celebration in colonial New England. Many myths and misconceptions are shattered about the Christmas story, including:



"Three Wise Men" are mentioned nowhere in the story of Jesus' birth, and no wise men at all saw baby Jesus in a manger. (They saw Jesus for the first time as a young child in a house). The Bible never specifically mentions the day, month, year or even season Jesus was born. There's no mention of a Christmas tree or any tree in the gospels recording Jesus' birth. However, there is a custom mentioned

holiday of all time," said Kovacs, who is standing up for the absolute truth of the Bible. "Millions are simply unaware of the origins of their beloved holiday traditions, because many of them are certainly not from the Bible."

The well-researched book, published by Thomas Nelson, explains what exactly is included in Scripture, and what's not.

in the Old Testament that shows people decorating trees with silver and gold. You might be astounded to find out what God says about such a practice.

"I know that Christmas is a very sacred and special time to countless millions," says Kovacs. "But so many people are still in the dark about what's actually in their own Bible, and what's not. I just want

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Kurt Warner - The player and the person

By Brett Maragni

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)-When it comes to Kurt Warner as a player, his football career has been better than a movie script.

An undrafted quarterback out of the University of Northern Iowa, Warner experienced some success in the Arena Football League and with NFL Europe. Then he secured the backup role to Trent Green with the St. Louis Rams entering the 1999 season.

When Green went down in the preseason with an injury, Kurt took the reins and blazed a path few will forget anytime soon. In leading the Rams to a 13-3 record, he produced one of the greatest seasons for any quarterback in the history of the NFL, leading the Rams through the playoffs and on to victory in Super Bowl XXXIV. Along the way, he was awarded NFL MVP and Super Bowl MVP.

For the next two seasons, Warner was at the top of football, taking his Rams back to the Super Bowl

in 2001 and earning another NFL MVP award. But Warner's stellar career slipped. The Rams released him. He lost his starting job in New York. He had two average seasons with his current team, the Arizona



Cardinals. As Warner was facing the twilight of his career, some were probably thinking he was more of a "flash in the pan" than a bona fide NFL superstar.

This season Warner is back on track. His current play has him in contention for another NFL MVP award and on a trajectory for a sure spot in Canton's Hall of Fame.

But Warner the player is not as impressive as Warner the person. In the three times he's lost his starting job, he has enthusiastically taken on the role of backup, cheerleader and even mentor to the younger men who have moved ahead of him on the depth chart -- all without losing the competitive fire that has kept him in a position to return to a starting role.

Warner's charitable work has been well profiled. In a recent Sports Illustrated article, Peter King gives example after example of Warner's sterling character. King shares a personal anecdote of the time when he asked Warner to send an autographed item to a fan who was serving in Iraq. Warner did more than that. Not only did he send him an autographed mini-helmet, upon hearing that

Sports

the young man was home on leave, he called him (or at least he attempted to) -- five times. Most stars would give up after one call, if they called at all.

This is just one small example of Warner's commitment to help people. Other examples, among many, include funding a recreation center in a children's hospital, spending every Christmas day with foster children who have no family to spend Christmas with, championing Habitat for Humanity and taking "Making a Wish" families to Disney World.

The key to understanding Warner as a person is to look at the source of his strength: Jesus Christ. In 1996, when Warner was dating his future wife, Brenda, a tornado killed her parents. In an interview several years back with CBN, Warner discussed the impact that event had on his life.

"That situation showed me that you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow," Warner said. "You have to live life for today and for this moment. It was at that point that I realized the Lord needed to be at the center of my life. I couldn't wait until tomorrow or next year. It needed to be right now."

As the accolades have been rolling in again this season, Warner has been quick to give the glory to God. After a Monday Night Football win in November, Warner was asked, "With all the ups and downs, when something like that is happening at the end of the game, where does your mind go?"

Warner responded, "My mind goes to how awesome God is. He blesses me over and over again. I just can't say enough about the position he puts me in."

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He has received many awards for news excellence from the Associated Press and United Press International. He's run television, radio and print newsrooms in the U.S., as well as Budapest, Hungary. Kovacs is also regarded as one of the premier creative headline writers in the news business today.

Pick up a copy and find out why it's still ranked near the top of Amazon's Most Wanted For List for all Bible-related books..



By The Cub Reporter

Whether you are a “first time reader”, or a “monthly regular” please allow me to share an eye opening experience with you! This newcomer, this cub reporter, was recently given an opportunity to have just a few moments, with one of today’s most successful, productive and innovative multimedia evangelists, New Zealand native, now a 20 year resident of the United States, **Mr. Ray Comfort!**

I, myself, had never even heard his name until last Wednesday! But this was my first assignment and now my eyes have been opened to: How to Master the tools for a new way to evangelize by actually returning to the original way, hence the name of the ministry, “The Way of the Master”.

The Master being Jesus Christ, not only the door to salvation but also the original teacher! Yes, He is the original master of street evangelism! He had a very direct and personal approach to winning lost souls...He called it as it

is...sin and man falling away from his heavenly Father is the reason for His mission...and the ten commandments were His tools, which HE narrowed down to two...Love the Lord THY GOD with all thy heart and soul, and love thy neighbor as you love yourself!

This new century, radical, and yet, very basic street ministry, originally called, “Living Waters Ministries”, was an undertaking of Ray’s while still living in his homeland of New Zealand. He was “invited” to The United States with his family to bring this unique ministry to the Modern Church in America! “Living Waters Ministries” was the original name of the free printed publication that Ray authored and distributed during those early days of developing and administering



Kirk Cameron

his style of “open air ministry”.

It is this passionet man from New Zealand, Ray Comfort who later combined his ministry with Kirk Cameron, who was so radically changed after listening to the early CD that Ray produced, “Hell’s Best Kept Secret”. (Kirk Cameron is also known for his early years in television sitcoms and also the film series, “Left Behind”). It was after they met in person that they decided to take their talents and “the tools” (lessons) as they call it...to share the Gospel to the masses via the media/marketing of our modern society. They started with the circulation of many books that Ray has authored, then CD’s,

followed by television programs, radio broadcasts, then DVD’s for a classroom format, for churches or individuals, as well as through their multi-faceted website...all just to introduce America and abroad to the need for the training up of new laborers.

Often they utilize radical new print media methods such as the innovative attention grabber the “Million Dollar” Gospel Tract. Their vision is not only to inspire every Christian to be passionate about the Great Commission, but to raise

up laborers to embrace “biblical evangelism”! Note the word, ‘biblical’ which Ray mentioned quite often during the interview because he feels that today’s modern evangelism creates “false converts” much of the time...he states, “the current status of the Modern Church is that ...”up to 90% fall away from the Church”.

There’s MORE!

Together, Ray and Kirk have started an online school!!! Yes, an online academy! The Way of the Master School of Biblical Evangelism is now offering over 101 online lessons, 45 audio lessons, study books, graduation certificates and more. Given the need to squeeze so much into our day, Ray and Kirk, have combined their talents, and God given gifts for communication, to offer evangelism training over the airwaves, by radio, internet and through their television program, “the Way of the Master”, which is now seen in over 70 countries, on 31 networks. As of this fall, TBN has kicked off their third season of broadcasting this award winning program, hosted by Kirk Cameron.

Ray has dedicated a great portion of his ministry to print media.



Ray Comfort preaching open air

He has published over 70 books, written original creative tracts, and developed his own “cure for the disease of “evangelism frustration”, “HELL’S BEST KEPT SECRET”. All of these these methods combined are how he teaches the “cure for the disease of sin, which is the Good News”, administered only after the “disease has been diagnosed”! He

has a unique way of stating that SIN is a disease, and if man is taught that he is suffering from sin, then man will seek out the cure! Actually, Ray refers back to the methods of the great doctors of the past, such as Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley, & George Whitefield.

Are you interested in “joining forces” to help maintain and grow this ministry?? Tomorrow, you could be working with over 350 new instructors, well trained evangelists and ambassadors, all networked through the Ambassador’s Alliance. If so, then by all means take a few minutes to hear their short video by simply visiting their website at www.thewayofthemaster.com. I can tell you, that as a result of this interview, there’s always something new to learn! Shalom!

Where Hymns Were Sung

By Mary Brizard

Of late my mind and heart has been burdened of strange words and strange sounds that have mostly come through the media. So what is new? However, it is easy to get fearful of what might be but what a restful thing it is to hearken to the words “Do not fear” ...”Do not fear what they fear” ... Out of the need for respite my mind has wandered over the subject of hymns and it is on this subject that with you, the reader, I would like to ponder.

If we could, with our minds eye, take a trip, say, back to the eighteen hundreds, to a night like tonight so many years ago. Smoke would be pluming out of houses and windows glimmering and flickering with candle light. It is said, by people in the know, that these inhabitants of this time and place pondered on the word of the Lord and when there was leisure, however sparse a commodity giv-

en, they would crack open their bibles. They would discuss and consider the words therein. These words would build in their minds to take shape and form, perhaps in behavior or a perception or perhaps ... in song.

What would it be like to be within the walls of such a given house, to hear the words as they were first sung? “What a friend we have in Jesus “or “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine oh what a foretaste of Glory divine”, are some examples. The elements would be barely kept in check outside but hearts made warm by divine inspiration put to a melody that the ear can seek out and weave within the notes intricately given. What preciousness would it have been to rest within such divinity so beautifully expressed within such humble walls.

Let us, for purposes of illustration, sweep across the Atlantic; its turbulent and cold waters crashing against English shorelines. To the north are the moors, a desolate and windswept place with foreboding clouds, and a presence of weather and landscape so bitter and unfriendly to its inhabitants. However inside one house, on a table, would be the writings of a then small and inconspicuous young lady by the name of Charlotte Bronte. Her writings in eighteen twenty five would then become published,



Charlotte Brontë

with her cryptic observations of Anglican sentimentalities of the day quietly inserted, and it would set the literary world off balance. Jane Eyre would then become a literary masterpiece and English literature would not be the same thereafter. However words and works and voices like these were becoming sparse. It is just like the Lord to use such an unlikely figure, comments of Anglican errors of the day probably causing offense and irritation. However, is it any accident that that institution has become more of a cultural entity only, its role simply subjected to and at the mercy of something at one time uniquely British; it is called an “unwritten constitution”.

Yes, reader, take heed.

If we swept across the century, as a sweep of a paintbrush, like we swept across the ocean we would see a different landscape. In Europe there were other kinds of words. These words were forming a strange wind and a strange time yet unknown to western civilization. Over dinner tables and cafe’s it was words like “survival of the fittest” ... or “the Rule of Law is subject to the will of the masses”. These words were passed on and generated to other folks in other places who would later say things like “might makes right”. It would take time and another century for words like these to have built false foundations, something like

a tower of Babel, bearing up hope as a flag where there is nothing but destitution.

To complete this illustration, let us quickly return to this area at the time. Even to Bellevue Av, Newport RI, in horse and carriage meandering by the grand mansions on the left and right. Their owners would have gone home for the season and only a passerby or two under lamplight would have noticed the exquisite architecture and properties such displayed, now empty of its revelry. Meander further down and notice the strange monument on the left rumored to have been built by the Vikings. Further on down and pass by the fire station maintained by the aristocracy in protection of their properties. Go down the hill and notice a synagogue singularly perched upon almost the base of



A Newport mansion

the hill. It is facing due east. Go through the gates and you will notice a stone monument. On top you will notice some writings etched and authored by George Washington. He is writing to the Jews in this land.

In very ornate and elegant language, words carefully spoken and written he says things like “worship freely”. “Be blessed”.

Ideas like, there is a hedge of protection. From that point if you look straight ahead of you, to the houses down that windy street or even turn and face due east facing the houses further down on the point you might ask ... how many houses are filled tonight with hymns and notes and melodies sung to the Lord. How many thoughts, words and conversation are bent over such precious pages of the Good Book.

While strange winds and words were blowing overseas, what a precious place to have been, to be amongst these shores and within the walls of a house where a hymn, written down and sung, known and unknown, was first heard. Where a praise or revelation was joyfully sung to our Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour to all the world. For He is the word who came to His own and his own received him not. But to those who received him he gave eternal life. Let us rejoice in this life. Blessed be the Name of the Lord Jesus. Today as there is even an overload of words let us hearken to The Word who has come and will come again and let us not be troubled by sights or sounds that will only one day be a whisper in the thresholds of the kinds of things that will take place. Let us then give, in this time and place, our hearts hearkening as they did long ago, Glory to the Lord of Hosts, the Lord Jehovah, Y’shua our Saviour. Let us continue the hymns that were of such divine inspiration and add a few of our own. Let his church ring out soundly: praise be given to the Name of the Lord.

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Teens from Page 1

Jane and Dana run an AWANA group. The goal of AWANA Clubs is to reach boys and girls for Christ and train them to serve Him. It was by running these groups and becoming close to some of the teens that they began to see a trend; many of the teens were discouraged and not performing well in school and some had behavior problems. They often saw that there were problems in their home life as well.

For Dana, it was experiences with her husband Andrew and 15 year old step son that heightened her awareness of the plight of many teenagers and the meager resources available to help them. The boy had many behavioral problems and there were only ineffective "secular" programs to which they were referred. She believes that his is not an isolated case. Also, she recognized demonic influences in the schools brought about through drugs and cultic like practices and the lack of God in the curriculum. Jane and Dana were very encouraged by the House of Hope model and began to pray for His guidance to help establish one in Rhode Island.

For many of her years as an educator, Sara Trollinger taught emotionally handicapped teens in public schools and state-operated detention centers. Often the youths entered and returned with no solution to their problems. During her time in prayer with God, Sara envisioned starting a home for run-aways. The home would also serve as a place to teach teens Christian principles, while addressing their personal struggles. Sara scouted a site in Orlando, Fla., that seemed perfect. To her surprise, the owners of the site reduced the price from \$117,000 to \$95,000 with no negotiating from her. She founded the House of Hope for teenage girls in 1985. Sara started this faith ministry with five people praying and \$200!

Sarah is committed to seeing dysfunctional families healed by first reaching the teen and then his or her parents. Consequently, the House of Hope strategy is very proactive toward the teen **and** the parents. Teens come to House of Hope via several avenues, including word of mouth, church recommendation, and court assignment. The parents can't see their teen for the first two weeks, but from that point on, both parents and teens are actively involved in a strategy of counseling, visits, and assignments designed to return a well-adjusted teen to his or her home and family. The average stay is 9 to 18 months.

The real proof of the effectiveness of House of Hope's ministry is that they have a 95-percent success rate. Sara attributes this to the fact that the parents are *required* to be involved with their child through this process. She points out that dysfunctional homes are the biggest problem

teens face as they mature. "If you can get a teen saved and set free of his or her anger towards his or her own situation, the parents will often follow the young person into salvation and a solid family foundation can be established." Sara says that "parents are too occupied with themselves, their need for money and things, and don't realize kids need parents' time, guidance, and love.

There are many testimonies that have come forth during the twenty-three years that House of Hope has been operating. Here are a few compelling ones, beginning with

Tasha's story...

"It all started with my step dad. He sexually abused me from when I was three until I was 13. I had a lot of hurts and a lot of walls built up over the years. I started fighting with my mom, getting expelled from school and acting as though I didn't have a single care in the world. My mom decided she was sick of my behavior, and sent me to a non-Christian program. I was very rebellious, cursing out the staff until they finally had to let me go. At this point in my life, I was confused, frightened and wanted help - but couldn't let go of my hurts. My mom found out about House of Hope and brought me here. My life began to change with the help of God and the love of the staff. My hurts are being healed, day by day, through counseling. My relationship with my mom is much better and God is still working on me!"

Then Josh...

"I am 16 years old. When I was

would brutally beat me while my babysitter watched. When my father finally realized what was going on they got a divorce.

I had no respect for authority. I was always in trouble or in a fight.

Towards the end of 6th grade I got suspended for fighting. One day one of my best friends and I were riding our bikes when he was hit and killed by a drunk driver. There was nothing I could do; he died instantly right in front of me. A year later another friend was killed in a similar manner. I was so overcome with grief that I took a handful of pills and started cutting

my wrists. My dad found me and the next day I was in a psychiatric hospital which did not help.

My life consisted of using drugs, getting expelled from school several times and many arrests. I was court ordered to House of Hope which meant having to submit to authority and stay clean or else it was right back to jail. I hated the idea of staying clean until I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. Ever since then I have had the strength and will to stay committed to catching up in school, staying clean and living a new life in Jesus Christ. I now feel loved and I have a lot of mothers at House of Hope - who really show me they care."

In March, 2005 Jane and Dana went to Orlando for training. They did whatever was necessary to become official affiliates with National House of Hope. Since then they have developed a board of directors and a website. One of the board members, Lee Sperduti has seen it all. A mother of two children, she is employed by the Rhode Island Training School (RITS) which is a highly structured, secure residential facility

where youth are placed by order of the Family Court. With the twenty-plus years that Lee has been involved with RITS, she can cite many examples of teen-family breakdowns leading to incarceration. She believes, "more than anything, there is a need for God

in the lives of teens."

There are now nine fully operational residential House of Hope facilities and ten Non-residential counseling centers. There are about thirty proposed throughout the country. It is the vision of Sara Trollinger to have one open in every state by 2010. God's great providence has been seen as these facilities have been built by prayer, hard work and the generosity of the communities. In Michigan and one other state the property was purchased outright for the houses by individuals touched by the House of Hope mission!

Jane Stach, Andrew and Dana Altland and Lee Sperduti have recently been blessed with a new member of their team, Melissa Mastrostefano, who will assume one of the Christian counselor roles. The needs of House of Hope Rhode Island described by this core group are as follows:

"Our primary need is **Prayer Support**. House of Hope stresses that the foundation of this organization is prayer. We know that

unless the LORD builds the house, we labor in vain. Our prayer is that we would only move forward as the LORD leads and provides. We are a faith based organization, whose primary goal is to see the LORD glorified and to see lives eternally changed for HIS KINGDOM!

Would you consider keeping us in your prayers daily, weekly or monthly? If you are interested in being an intercessor, starting up a prayer group for House of Hope or if you would like to receive our prayer/newsletter would you please contact us to let us know?"

"We are in need of volunteers of all types. Presently, we need those willing to do public relations, phone contacts, mailings, printing, accounting, book-keeping and legal assistance. We would welcome Christian counselors who would eventually become paid staff. When we acquire property, we will need builders, electricians, plumbers, grounds keepers and people willing to clean, paint and whatever other needs that will arise."

"Our desire is to have a campus to house both girls and boys, with a school, chapel and administration building. National House of Hope's model is a 10 acre campus. We are open to whatever the LORD would give us! Presently, we are looking for a location to start up non-residential Christian Counseling."

"All donations are tax deductible...our need is great but we know that our GOD is able to make all grace abound toward us and supply all of our needs according to HIS riches in CHRIST JESUS."

Please contact us at: info@houseofhoperi.org or House of Hope Rhode Island, P.O. Box 1224, North Kingstown, RI 02852 or visit our website at www.houseofhoperi.org

"to return the hearts of the fathers and mothers to the children and the hearts of the children to the mothers and fathers" Malachi 4:6



National House of Hope headquarters is on the campus of HOH Orlando



Sara Trollinger

five days old my mother passed away while I was sleeping in my crib upstairs. A few years later my father remarried to a woman who turned out to be an alcoholic. My dad was a college basketball coach and was on the road all the time. While he was a way my stepmother


The Good News TODAY

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Entertainment

FIREPROOF ON DVD

By Nancy Lovell

Nashville, TN - The Special Collector's Edition DVD of *Fireproof*, the highest-grossing Christian film after *The Passion of Christ*, hits stores Jan. 27, 2009. Pre-sales to Christian bookstores have begun for what is expected to be next year's hottest item. Starring Kirk Cameron, *Fireproof* is the micro-budget movie from Sherwood Pictures in Albany, Georgia, that opened at no. 4 in the nation and spent three weeks in the top 10 (eight weeks in the top 13). Current box office is \$31.5 million and the movie continues in 815 theaters this weekend.

Fireproof, marketed by Provi-

dent Films, is the story of a fireman, Caleb Holt (Cameron), who rescues strangers but can't save his own marriage. *The Love Dare*, a book/plot device in the movie, also is a book by Stephen and Alex Kendrick that has spent four weeks atop a New York Times bestseller list.

Now in time for Valentine's Day and National Marriage Month, Christian bookstores across the nation will premier the exclusive Christian retail version—The Special Collector's Edition—of “the movie that became a movement.” The DVD available in Christian bookstores contains all the bonus material sold outside the Christian market plus 32 minutes of exclusive CBA-only material: a movie-production video blog, bringing behind-the-scenes to life; “Fun with Mr. Rudolph” (film fans know

Caleb Holt's next door neighbor); additional firehouse commentary from Wayne (Caleb's fellow fire fighter), and the Casting Crowns video of the movie's hit song, *Slow Fade* (from the band's gold-selling album: *The Altar and The Door*). Couples, organizations, pastors, churches, classes, groups, therapists and ministry leaders (and a host of parents and friends) are lining up to spread the movie's strengthening message wrapped in a great story. “Entertainment is just the beginning,” said Terry A. Hemmings, president and CEO, Provident Music Group. “Thousands of emails, letters, calls, and personal accounts confirm that God is using this movie to change lives.”

Fireproof is the third movie from Sherwood Pictures, headed by Sherwood Church Senior Pastor Michael Catt, Executive Pastor Jim McBride, and Ministers Alex Kendrick and Stephen Kendrick. Sherwood's first film, *Flywheel*, in 2004, has sold 200,000-plus DVDs. Its second, *Facing the Giants* (2006) earned \$10.1 million at the box office and has sold more than 1.6 million DVDs in 58 countries (14 languages). *Fireproof* also stars an all-volunteer cast of almost all first-time actors. It was co-written by brothers Alex (director) and Stephen Kendrick (producer) and produced by a 1,200-member cast and crew.

Fireproof is dubbed in Spanish and has subtitles in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, Korean, and Arabic. The movie's total running time is 1 hour and 58 minutes. For more info visit www.FireprooftheMovie.com.



Thomas Kinkade – Painter of Light

By Rev. Anthony Harper, Ph.D.,
IMCNews publisher

Mr. Kinkade,

1. When and how did you come to faith in Christ Jesus as your personal Savior?

When I was a kid, my mother was a woman of prayer and she raised us to believe in what she would call ‘little miracles.’ If she got a \$5 extra fee as a Notary Public, then that to her was a miracle. She believed that miracles were an every day occurrence, not just something that was dramatic like the parting of the waters of the Red Sea. She believed that miracles were as simple as a kind word or a small gesture or some opportunity that came your way that you didn't expect. When I went off to college, she said “Son, I'm going to be praying for you that God will always reach out and touch your life.” It was during my years at Berkeley, I began to notice that God's hand was at work – first in the professors that I had, second in the way in which I found my faith getting reinforced, and thirdly sometimes by the way He closed doors. It wasn't just a question of Him opening doors all the time. I began to notice that sometimes when He closed doors, it was the greatest blessing as well. I went to southern California to go to Art school – when I was there, I went with friends to a Tent Revival meeting and that was the time I recommitted my life to Christ. I was about 20 years old at the time and I think that was a time where my faith emerged not just as a byproduct of my Mom's faith, but as my own personal faith.

2. How has Christ Jesus inspired you in your art work?

Well, there's no doubt that God created the world with a desire to give us pleasure. There is beauty in every sunset, there is hope in every sunrise and there's a great sense of the abundance and diversity of the world itself. Color reminds me that God gave us senses that we can celebrate beauty. The world probably could have been just as

easily created in black and white, but because we have a sense of color, we can celebrate nature in all its diversity. My belief is that the artist has a great chance to hold up a mirror to God's creation and remind people of God's love by reveling in the beauty of the forms He created. We pass through the beauty of this world without stopping to take notice of God's hand of creation. His

their own. If someone opens the Bible and looks it up, then it's been worth putting on my paintings.

4. In your experience with art, how old were you when you started doing sketching and later painting?

Well, I was in art as a baby. I definitely had a God given talent from an early age, but it was truly



To those who observe with a knowing eye and an understanding heart, the natural world is rich with allegories of profound spiritual truths. “Alight in the Storm” is a visual analogy to Jesus' proclamation “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12)

-Thomas Kinkade

an opportunity to watch God's hand at work. When I was 14 years old, an old artist moved into the neighborhood and became my mentor. Looking back, that was one of the greatest miracles of my life. In fact, that story, the story of how Glen Wessels moved to the neighborhood and adopted me as his protégé, friend and studio assistant, was told in a major Hollywood movie entitled ‘Thomas Kinkade's Christmas Cottage’. And this movie tells the story of this miracle in my life – the time that God brought an aging artist who needed a young friend and helper into my community and gave me a chance to work with him.

5. What else would you like to share with our readers?

My mom always said that God gives us talents for a reason – that when God gives you a talent that's His gift to you, but that how you use your talent is your gift to God. I believe each of us in our own way, have talents and that the obligation of our talents is to let the light of God shine. Humans don't glow in the physical sense, but we glow with God's love as reflected in the way in which we treat one another. Jesus said you'll know my children by their love for one another. This is truly a core scripture for me. I try in every way to exude love. When I meet with strangers at an event, or when I'm standing on the stage or when I'm in my daily dealings with people, I try to operate on the principle of love. I think love is the brightest light of all.

My work radiates light. The light that I try to paint is not just the visual light of perception, but also the light of God's radiant love.

That is just a testimony to my faith in Christ. The core of the Gospel is John 3:16 because we realize that God loved the whole world, not just the bits and pieces of it that we think are desirable or worthy of His love, but God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That's a pretty powerful love. I put that scripture on my paintings as a testimony to my love for God and also to God's love for me. The hope is that people will be curious about that scripture verse and will seek to understand it on

More information is also available at the web sites: www.thomaskinkade.com and www.thechristmascottagemovie.com



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*Thank God for his son,
his gift too wonderful
for words.*

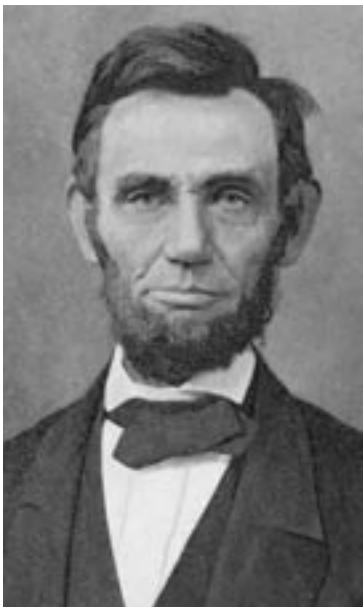
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Editorials / Commentary / Letters to the Editor



American Minute with Bill Federer

Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon Portland Chase, reported that September 1862, President Lincoln commented to his Cabinet after the Confederate Army lost the Battle of Antietam: "The time for the annunciation of the emancipation policy can no longer be delayed. Public sentiment will sustain it, many of my warmest friends and supporters demand it, and I have promised God that I will do it." When asked about the last statement, Lincoln replied: "I made a solemn vow before God, that if General Lee were driven back from Pennsylvania, I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves." The Emancipation Proclamation stated: "I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as commander-in-chief...do, on the FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three...publicly proclaim...that all persons held as slaves...are, and henceforward shall be, free... And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence... and... recommend... they labor faithfully for reasonable wages." Lincoln concluded: "And upon this act...I invoke...the gracious favor of Almighty God."



Thousands in Rhode Island are waiting to hear the Gospel in public schools in partnership with CEF® of RI and this summer at summer fairs. They will follow Jesus Christ if someone will tell them the Good News! "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah 6:8

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THE LINE

By Dick Evans

1 John 2:15 Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you. (NLT)

How easy it is to get caught up in the things the world has to offer. Years ago there was drinking and tobacco and parties which offered much to the pleasure seeking public. Wrapped around

Dear Editor,

I am sending you a prophecy that the Lord gave me just before my family and I went on a Missionary trip to El Salvador. I received it with much trembling. I handed it over to my church, The Fountain of Life Center, where it was presented twice to our congregation by our Pastors. Our church is considered the most influential church in central New Jersey because of all the ministries that stem from it.

Our leadership in this country is trying to convince us that everything will be OK. I feel led to share this with you, because everything will not be OK. They are giving us a false hope. Our only hope is the God that this great nation was founded upon. The Prophecy is as follows:

It is here! Woe to the United States. The pulling away of my hand of protection has begun. The handwriting is on the wall.

Open your eyes and look around you. Look at the heinous crimes as demonic activity increases. Feel as the earth erupts and shakes. Listen as economic woes are cried out. These are only the beginning.

"Why are you in awe?" says the LORD God of heaven and Earth. Wasn't I with the United States from the very beginning? You were a peculiar nation designed to be a light to the world with the gospel. I was along side you when you struggled for independence, as you sought to abolish slavery, and as you struggled through world wars. But now you have turned your back on me. You are pushing Me out of every aspect of your existence. You have blotted out the word 'sin' from your vocabulary. Your greed, perversion, and bloodshed cry out as a testimony against you. Even though your money still states "In God We Trust", it is but lip service to Me.

Just as it was in the days of Jeremiah, it will be now. No more

will the days be allowed for pastors and prophets to keep the so called 'negative talk' from the sheep. They are commanded to sound the alarm! If not I will hold them responsible. Woe to them that continue to preach peace and prosperity! Woe to them that continue to say, "don't worry, God is still with our nation". Chaos will sweep across the nation and cities will be ablaze. Stability will be a thing of the past and life as you know it will never be the same. As everything begins to crumble all around, the only hope to be preached is a personal protection of one's own soul through the blood of my son Jesus Christ. The paving of the way for the wrath of the Lamb is at hand. Pray for my dunamis power. Many will be called to be martyrs.

Fear not for I am on the throne and the Holy Spirit is still at work. My judgments are redemptive. Weep! Weep for the lost. Weep for your loved ones. Weep for your own soul. For I am the God of grace and mercy. You will witness many

mighty miracles as the wheat is gathered. Gird yourselves up in preparation with prayer. Continually seek My face as I long to have communion with you.

Jeremiah 5:29-31 Should I not punish them for this? declares the LORD. Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this? A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

Jeremiah 6:17-19 I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.' Therefore hear, you nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people—the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not heeded My words nor My law, but rejected it.

Con Con Is a Terrible Idea

By Phyllis Schlafly

The mind-boggling amounts of the bailouts Congress has passed and is still debating, plus shocking Wall Street frauds, seem to have plunged some lawmakers into a silly season. Ohio state legislators this month held a surprise hearing on a resolution calling for a national constitutional convention, and then canceled a vote after dozens of citizens showed up to speak against it.

We already have a U.S. Constitution that has withstood the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune for more than two centuries, and we don't need a new constitution. There is nothing wrong with the one we have except that politicians are not obeying it and

judges are indulging in too much activism.

The idea that adding new words to the Constitution to require balancing the federal budget, or to give President Barack Obama a line-item veto so he can veto the extravagant spending he has already endorsed, is delusionary. The only thing more outlandish is the fanciful notion that a 2009 Con Con could adopt such requirements while avoiding other mistakes.

The most influential players in any new constitutional convention (colloquially known as a Con Con) would be Big Media giving us round-the-clock television coverage. The 2008 presidential campaign proved that the media consider themselves actors in the political process, not merely reporters.

Outside of a Con Con hall, demonstrators would hold court demanding constitutional changes. These would be staged by gay activists and their opponents, pro-abortionists and pro-lifers, radical feminists, the environmentalists, gun control advocates, animal rights extremists, D.C. Statehood agitators, those who want to relax immigration and those who would restrict it, mortgage defaulters, and the unions -- all demanding consideration of amendments to recognize their claimed rights.

and the parties. There is more out there that is evil.

Movies, books, television shows, and the Internet all offer things to the general public that far outweigh what was once considered evil. There are things on prime time television shows that were considered pornographic less than fifty years ago. We have all grown to love evil a little bit at a time. The graphic presentations we look for in movies numb us to the reality of evil. The line between good

Article V requires Congress to call a new Constitutional Convention to consider "amendments" (note the plural) if two-thirds (34) of the states pass resolutions calling for it. There are no other rules in the Constitution or in federal law to list or limit a Con Con's purpose, procedure, agenda, or election of delegates.

The whole process would be a prescription for political chaos, controversy, confrontation, litigation, and judicial activism. Just about the only thing we can predict with certainty is that it could not be secret from the media and the public, as was the original 1787 Constitutional Convention.

Many prestigious constitutional authorities say it is impossible for Congress or anyone else to restrict what a Con Con does. The late Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote, "There is no effective way to limit or muzzle the actions of a Constitutional Convention. After a Convention is convened, it will be too late to stop the Convention if we don't like its agenda."

Powerful and politically active pressure groups, from both the right and the left, are working for other significant constitutional changes including changes in the First Amendment's treatment of religion, getting rid of the Electoral College, term limitation, and modifying our Separation of Powers (which they call "gridlock") in order to move us toward a parliamentary form of

and evil used to be pretty thick. It was obvious what was good. You knew when the line was about to be crossed. Now it is a very fine line and moving all the time.

The only way to know is to listen to what the Holy Spirit is telling you. Listen for His still small voice directing your every path. Do what the Father tells you to do and there will be no doubt. You will have the love of the Father in you. Which side of the line were you on today?

government.

It is not credible that politically active groups would pass up the chance to force a Con Con to vote for their special interest. It's not believable that the powerful forces working to take away our right to own guns would overlook a golden opportunity to rescind the Second Amendment.

The confusion, uncertainty, and court cases involved in a Con Con would make us look foolish in the eyes of the world. A constitutional convention could not be the formula to restore respect for our government when a Con Con would start off making the world wonder if our American system of government will survive.

There is NO public support across America for a constitutional convention. A flurry of pro-Con Con activity during the Jimmy Carter Administration died out, no state has passed a Con Con resolution in the last 25 years, during the 1980s five states voted down a call for a Con Con, and three states repealed their earlier Con Con resolutions.

The miracle of our great United States Constitution is that it has lasted for 220 years, accommodating our great geographic and economic expansion and political problems, while preserving individual liberties. We are now witnessing, following November's election, how Americans are peacefully accepting a transfer of power from one party to the other.

I don't see any James Madisons, George Washingtons, Ben Franklins or Alexander Hamiltons around today who could do as good a job as was done in 1787, and I'm very concerned about the politicians who think they can improve on our Founding Fathers. Ohio state legislators will make themselves a national laughing stock if they persist in the foolish pursuit of a new constitutional convention.

The Good News TODAY

Inspiration

A Perspective About Old Barns

Only years of standing in the weather, bearing the storms and scorching sun, only that can produce beautiful barn wood.

The summer sun's beat down on that old barn till all the paint's gone, and the wood has turned silver gray. Now the old building

building down the road. He said you couldn't get paint that beautiful. Only years of standing in the weather, bearing the storms and scorching sun, only that can produce beautiful barn wood.

It came to me then. We're a lot like that, you and me. Only it's on the inside that the beauty grows with us.

A stranger came by the other day with an offer that set me to thinking. He wanted to buy the old barn that sits out by the highway. I told him right off he was crazy. He was a city type, you could tell by his clothes, his car, his hands, and the way he talked. He said he was driving by and saw that beautiful barn sitting out in the tall grass and wanted to know if it was for sale. I told him he had a funny idea of beauty.



Sure, it was a handsome building in its day. But then, there's been a lot of winters pass with their snow and ice and howling wind.

leans a good deal, looking kind of tired. Yet, that fellow called it beautiful.

That set me to thinking. I walked out to the field and just stood there, gazing at that old barn. The stranger said he planned to use the lumber to line the walls of his den in a new country home he's

Sure we turn silver gray too... and lean a bit more than we did when we were young and full of sap. But the Good Lord knows what He's doing. And as the years pass He's busy using the hard weather of our lives, the dry spells and the stormy seasons to do a job of

beautifying our souls that nothing else can produce. And to think how often folks holler because they want life easy!

They took the old barn down today and hauled it away to beautify a rich man's house. And I reckon someday you and I'll be hauled off to Heaven to take on what-

CLASS CURTAIN *MINISTRY TIP*

By Rev. Doug Forbes

Young people enjoy having a special place of their own that they can decorate as they wish. A place where they can relax and be comfortable. The Class Curtain project is a great way to decorate their meeting room.

For the Class Curtain activity you need: Bibles, Bible concordances, muslin or plain cotton fabric (not finished or shiny), fabric markers, pencils, curtain hooks and a curtain rod.

Before class, pick a wall that you would like to display your class curtain on and measure it. Install a curtain rod along the top of the wall and cut a piece of fabric to the size of the wall. You may wish to fold over the edges of the fabric and sew them for a more finished look.

Ask your students to use their Bibles and concordances to choose a favorite Bible story, religious motto, symbol, thought or slogan they would like to illustrate. Allow

time for each child to share his or her findings with the class. Offer additional suggestions to each child to enhance their artwork.

Lay the sheet of fabric on a firm surface such as a linoleum floor or a table and ask the children to help you draw your class/group name or motto in the center of the material first with pencils and then with fabric markers. Next, ask the children to begin outlining their personal artwork with pencils. Provide gentle advice on their progress as needed. When the sketches are complete, the young people can color in their work with the fabric markers.

Attach curtain hooks to the top of your work of art and hang it on the curtain rod. Take a photo of your young people in front of their curtain, and make a copy for each child to bring home as a keepsake. Invite the parents and guardians to visit the class as a group and have each class member explain their portion of their beautiful Class Curtain.

ever chores the Good Lord has for us on the Great Sky Ranch. And I suspect we'll be more beautiful then for the seasons we've been

through here... and just maybe even add a bit of beauty to our Father's house.

If This Were Your Last Year...

By Steve Brown – Plain Truth Ministries

Just before he died, Hubert Humphrey called his old political adversary, Richard Nixon. Jesse Jackson heard about the phone call and asked Humphrey why he would do such a thing. This is what Humphrey said to Jackson: "Jesse, from this vantage point, with the sun setting in my life, all of the speeches, the political conventions, the crowds and the great fights are behind me now. At a time like this you are forced to deal with your irreducible essence, forced to grapple with that which is really important to you. And what I have concluded about life, when all is said and done, is that we must forgive each other, and redeem each other and then move on."

I know, I know. Death probably isn't the best subject to discuss when one is approaching a new year. After all, the beginning of a new year is the time when you start over, when you make new resolutions and when you begin with a clean slate. But, let me ask you a question: How would you live this year differently if you knew this would be your last year of life on earth? What would you do differently? How would you act? In other words, if you were cramming for finals, what would be important to you?

After reading that quote of Hubert Humphrey's (and you have no idea what it costs for this old Republican to quote a Democrat), I started thinking about this year and what I would do differently if I knew

this were the last year of my life.

As a result of this kind of thinking, New Year's resolutions take on a different light. Of course I believe in heaven. I believe that death, for the Christian, is just a doorway into a new life...I just wasn't planning on going so soon. No matter how strongly we believe in heaven, the prospect of one's own death does tend to clear one's mind.

No Unfinished Business

If I knew this were my last year, I would make sure I was clear in my relationships. Jesus said, "Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24, NKJV).

Did you hear about the man who, on his deathbed, said to his wife, "My dear, I want to forgive your brother, my brother-in-law. So after my death, tell him that I forgive him. But wait until I'm dead." I don't want to do that. I want to get it straight before I die. If I knew I was going to die this year, I wouldn't want to leave any unfinished business. I know of nothing that stifles prayer more than an unforgiving heart.

If I knew this were my last year of life, I would express my love more to my wife, Anna, and to our daughters and sons-in-law. I would make sure my friends knew how much I appreciated them, and I would write a lot of letters to people I have offended (and who have offended me) to ask them to forgive me.

You Can't Take It With You

Second, I would treat all the "stuff" I have with a little less respect. Pocket change doesn't do you any good in a cemetery, and nobody has ever seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul. Jesus was making the same point I'm trying to make when, in Luke 12, he told about the farmer who looked out over his rich harvest, lit a cigar, decided to put his acreage in a soil bank and said to himself, "I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink and be merry'" (verses 18-19, NKJV). Remember God's words to the farmer, "You fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" (verse 20).

Third, if I were cramming for finals this year, I would spend a little less time doing "religious" things and a lot more time with God (Ecclesiastes 12:6-8). I wouldn't give up church altogether (after all, my pastor would have to do my funeral, and I wouldn't want to offend him on the way out), but I don't think I would spend any time whatsoever trying to enhance my religious reputation.

All Is Vanity

Fourth, if I knew this were the last year of my life, I would "goof off" a whole lot more than I do. I doubt any man ever thought on his deathbed, I wish I had spent more time at the office. The preacher in Ecclesiastes said, "Vanity of vanities...all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes

12:8, NKJV). All I do may not be vanity, but a lot of it is. I spend too much time trying to get people to like me, too much time saying and doing the "right" things and too much time at the office working on stuff that really doesn't matter.

Finally, I think I would spend the last year of my life looking at my sin and God's grace. That way, I would go home in a wonderful state of praise. When Newton died, he had a friend put a banner on the wall facing his deathbed. He had the opening words of the 32nd Psalm on that banner: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

On the first of the year we usually make resolutions which last little more than the time it took to make them, hoping for a change in our lives. We all need change and relief from this world around us but that can only come through forgiveness for our sin. That's why God 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 He understands your troubles and desire to change

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

Jesus, please forgive my sin. I know I haven't done everything that I should with my life and I regret it. I know that you died for me and that you have a plan for my life. Please teach me your ways and help me to live my life for you, free from the fears of this world and the next. I want to be ready for eternity with you. Amen

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

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



Reason for writing:

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A Modern Parable

A Japanese company (**Toyota**) and an American company (**Ford Motors**) decided to have a canoe race on the Missouri River. Both teams practiced long and hard to reach their peak performance before the race. On the big day, the Japanese won by a mile.

The Americans, very discouraged and depressed, decided to investigate the reason for the crushing defeat. A management team made up of senior management was formed to investigate and recommend appropriate action. Their conclusion was the Japanese had 8 people rowing and 1 person steering, while the American team had 7 people steering and 2 people rowing.

Feeling a deeper study was in order; American management hired a consulting company and paid them a large amount of money for a second opinion. They advised, of course, that too many people were steering the boat, while not enough people were rowing.

Not sure of how to utilize that information, but wanting to prevent another loss to the Japanese,

the rowing team's management structure was totally reorganized to 4 steering supervisors, 2 area steering superintendents and 1 assistant superintendent steering manager.

They also implemented a new performance system that would give the 2 people rowing the boat greater incentive to work harder. It was called the 'Rowing Team



Quality First Program,' with meetings, dinners and free pens for the rowers. There was discussion of getting new paddles, canoes and other equipment, extra vacation days for practices and bonuses. The pension program was trimmed to 'equal the competition' and some of the resultant savings were channeled into morale boosting programs and teamwork posters.

The next year the Japa-

nese won by two miles.

Humiliated, the American management laid-off one rower, halted development of a new canoe, sold all the paddles, and canceled all capital investments for new equipment. The money saved was distributed to the Senior Executives as bonuses.

The next year, try as he might, the lone designated rower was unable to even finish the race (having no paddles,) so he was laid off for unacceptable performance, all canoe equipment was sold and the next year's racing team was out-sourced to India. Sadly...The End.

Here's something else to think about: Ford has spent the last thirty

years moving all its factories out of the US, claiming they can't make money paying American wages. TOYOTA has spent the last thirty years building more than a dozen plants inside the US. The last quarter's results: TOYOTA makes 4 billion in profits while Ford racked up 9 billion in losses. Ford folks are still scratching their heads, and collecting bonuses... if this weren't true, it might be funny.

Old Home

We purchased an old home in Northern New York State from two elderly sisters. Winter was fast approaching and I was concerned about the house's lack of insulation. "If they could live here all those years, so can we!" my husband confidently declared.

One November night the temperature plunged to below zero, and we woke up to find interior walls covered with frost. My husband called the sisters to ask how they had kept the house warm. After a rather brief conversation, he hung up. "For the past 30 years," he muttered, "they've gone to Florida for the winter."

New Year's Day Prayer for one and all

Dear Lord, So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent.

I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen

Lessons we can learn from a snowman

Wearing white is always in style - even after Labor Day. Getting outside in the winter is good for your health. It's fun just to hang out in your front yard. We're all made up of mostly water. Accessories don't have to be expensive.



Don't get too much sun! If you're a little bottom heavy - hey, that's okay! You know you've made it when they write a song about you. If you look down and can't see your feet - you're probably not very active. Sometimes sweating too much can have disastrous results.

How Many Do You Know?

1. Do you know the city in which Jesus lived as a boy? (Luke 2: 39-40)
2. Do you know who is called the "Weeping Prophet"?
3. Do you know the name of the first Christian martyr? (Acts 7: 54-60)
4. Do you know where the ravens fed Elijah? (1 Kings 17:5-6)
5. Do you know the names of the two people who were never born?
6. Do you know the names of the two people who never died?
7. Do you know in which book

of the Bible the name of God is not found?
 8. Do you know who told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again"? (John 3)
 9. Do you know who turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back? (Genesis 19:15, 26)
 10. Do you know what is "quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword"? (Hebrews 4:12)

Quidnick Baptist Church

484 Fairview Avenue
Coventry, RI 02816
821-2465

Services:
 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
 Childrens Sunday School 10:45 am
 Bible Study ~ Tuesday 7 pm

- How Many Do You Know? Answers
1. Nazareth
 2. Jeremiah
 3. Stephen
 4. At the brook Cherith
 5. Adam and Eve
 6. Enoch and Elijah
 7. Esther
 8. Jesus
 9. Lot's wife
 10. The Word of God

Soul Food

The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

The New Year is a good time to start reading through the bible...these children did and look what they learned.

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humorty father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible

guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

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)

Keep this with you. We can speak at your church or event!

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Apostolic Pentecostal Church of RI
And Ye Shall Know The Truth
 537 Elm Street • Woonsocket, RI 02895
 401-534-0172 • acts238@aperi.com
 Service Times
 Sunday Morning: 10:00 am
 Tuesday Evening Prayer: 6:30 pm
 Tuesday Evening Interactive Bible Study: 7:30 pm
 Thursday Evening: 7:30 pm

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

Matt. 28:18-20

HIS PRESENCE CHURCH
 595 St. Paul Street
 North Smithfield, RI - 02896
 (401) 762-4463
 www.hispresencechurch.org
 Rev. Al Berja - Senior Pastor
 Sunday Christian Education: 9:30
 Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
 Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
 Friday Intercessory Prayer: 7:00 pm

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

CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

 385 Ashley Blvd
 New Bedford MA 02745
 Pastor I. Garcia 508-984-0454
 Sunday Services: Sunday School FOR ALL AGES @ 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service @ 7:00 pm
 Tuesday: Bible Study @ 7:00pm

The Evans Ministries
 CELEBRATION HOUSE
 ONE EVANS WAY
 CRANSTON, RI
 401-946-6500
 EVERY 1ST SATURDAY: SITE OF HEALING 8PM
 CALL FOR OTHER MEETINGS & EVENTS
 DICK AND DIANNE EVANS
 WWW.THEEVANS.ORG


Hosanna Lighthouse Ministries, Inc.
 Christian Counseling offices in MA & RI
 Jan Shepard, Director (401) 765-4364
 PO Box 22 • 632 River St. Woonsocket, RI 02895


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

Calvary Pentecostal
 33 Braley Rd. E. Freetown, MA 02717
 508-763-8343
 Rev. Curtis D. Dias, Pastor
 Services - Sunday 11:00AM
 Sunday 7:00 PM - Movie Night
 Tuesday 6:00PM - Celebrate Recovery
 Wednesday 7:00PM - Bible Study,
 "Experience the presence of the Lord"

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

House of Prayer
Deliverance Church of All Nations
 38 Anthony Street, Seekonk, MA 02771
 (508) 336-4427
Bishop A.M. Johnson, spiritual leader
 Service times: Mondays 7 p.m. - Prayer, Wednesdays 7 p.m. - Prayer & Bible Study, Fridays, 8 pm - Prayer, Sunday School, 9:30 am, Morning Worship, 11:00 am (401) 354-8287

THE ORCHARD CHURCH
 180 Oaklawn Ave, Cranston, RI 02920
 Pastor Bob Lancia (401) 942-4616
 www.orchardri.org
 Join us for contemporary worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.
 Wednesday night is family night starting with a light supper at 6:30 pm followed by classes for all ages at 7:00 pm.
 Childcare provided. Elevator accessible.

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

 Office Hours
 Monday 10 - 5:30
 Wednesday 10 - 5:30
 Thursday 10 - 5:30
 Pregnancy Resource Center

Faith Christian Center
 95 Sagamore Road
 Seekonk, MA 02771
 www.faitchristiancenter.org
 508-336-4110
 Sunday Worship Hours 8:30 am & 11:00am
 Wednesday Bible Study-7:30pm

The "International" Church of the Nazarene
 278 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02745
 Rev. Manuel J. Chavier J. R.
 tel 508.993.8484 email icn@verizon.net
 fax 508.961.1137

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
Tuesday	
Youth Service	6:30PM
Wednesday	
Portuguese Bible Study	7:00PM
Thursday	
English Bible Study	7:00PM

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

Faith Tabernacle
 687 Hartford Pike (Rte 101)
 North Scituate, RI 02857
 401-934-1414
 www.faittabernacleonline.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

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


PEOPLE'S BAPTIST CHURCH
 1275 Elmwood Avenue • Cranston, RI 02907
 401-467-8220
Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM
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 www.peoplesbaptistchurchri.org

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTER A/G
 844 Acushnet Avenue • New Bedford, MA 02740
 508-995-9996 www.cfc818.org
 Rev. Kenn Bongiorno, Senior Pastor
Sunday Services
 10 AM, Zeitlerion Theater
 684 Purchase Street
 New Bedford MA
Wednesday Family Night
 7:00 PM

Garden City Baptist Church
 a house church
 126 Bracken Street
 Cranston, RI 02920
 232-1869
 www.gardencitybaptistchurch.org
 Sunday 11 AM & Wednesday 6:30 PM


MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
 262 Academy Ave, Providence RI 02908
 (401) 351 - 2347
 Rev. Dr. Paul Lawrence
 All ages Sunday School 9:30-10:30
 Sunday Worship 10:45-12:30
 Wednesday Night Prayer 7:30 PM
 Thursday Night Bible Study 7:30 PM

Quidnick Baptist Church
 484 Fairview Avenue
 Coventry
 821-2465
 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
 Childrens Sunday School 10:45 am
 Bible Study ~ Tuesday 7 pm


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 Sunday School & Worship 10 am
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 pm
 Free Home Bible studies
 Pastor Jay R. Stirnemann
 401-625-1891 • 1198 Fish Road, Tiverton, RI
 www.christtempleupc.com

God's Family Church
 1525 BROAD STREET
 CRANSTON, RI 02905
 Phone: (401) 467-0592
 www.godsfamilychurchri.org
 SUNDAY SERVICE : 9:30AM
 MONDAY EVENING PRAYER : 6:00PM
 TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY : 10:00AM & 7:00PM
 THURSDAY PRAYER WARRIORS : 7:00PM
 DAILY PRAYER MONDAY-FRIDAY : 12 NOON


New Hope Christian Church
 1436 G.A.R. Highway (Route 6)
 Swansea, MA 02777
 508-324-4500
 www.nhcc.ws
 Service Times:
 Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Evenings: 7:00 p.m.
 Prayer begins at 6:15


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


Church of the Apostles
 170 Fairview Ave • Coventry, RI • 401-821-7609
 www.churchoftheapostlesri.org
 e-mail: churchoffice@churchoftheapostlesri.org
 The Reverend Mark R. Galloway, Superintendent
 Worship Services:
 Saturday 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
 Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am
 Worship & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
 Our Mission is to Obey, Follow and Bear Witness to Jesus Christ.


Grace Family Church
 125 Washington St. - W. Warwick, RI
 Services: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
 Bible Study: Thursday 7:00 p.m.
 Biblical Counseling by Appointment
 Pastor Luciano Cozzi
 (401) 821-6869

New Life Worship Center
 915 Douglas Pike
 Smithfield
 232-5200
 www.nlwcenter.org
 Sundays Service 10:00am
 Tuesday Men's Prayer 6:30am Early prayer then breakfast fellowship
 Friday Ground Zero 7:00pm, Youth Service with Teen-Led Worship and Relevant Bible Teaching.


VICTORY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
 321 Veazie Street
 Providence, RI 02904
 401.455.0060 / 0064
 VICTORYAOG1@AOL.COM
 www.VictoryRI.org
 Richard P. Sfameni, Senior Pastor
SERVICES
 Sunday Christian Education 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 PM

The Church of the End Times
 19 Industrial Road
 Uxbridge, MA 01569
 1-877-247-PRAY
 www.thechurchoftheendtimes.com
 Wednesday Night Worship Service and Bible Study-7PM
 Saturday Night Worship Service and Sermon-5PM - 7PM


His Love Reaching Church
 Rev LJ Andrews, Pastor
 Services
 Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship Service
 Kingdom Kids Church (Ages 4-10)
 Monday: 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer
 Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
 651 Orchard St Suite 302
 New Bedford, MA 02747
 (508) 999-5683
 ...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, with the Lord of Hosts.

North Providence Assembly of God
 244 Lexington Avenue
 North Providence, RI 02904
 401-353-0670
 Saturday Service - 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday Service - 8:30 & 10:00 am
 Sunday -College & Young Adult Service - 6:00 p.m.
 Mid -Week - Adult & Youth Service 7:00 p.m.

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

FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE
 Jan 17 - 7 p.m.
Free Couples Movie Night
 Christian Hill Community Church
 56 Tiogue Ave, West Warwick, RI
 For more info: christianhill.com. or 401-823-0285

Grace Family Church of Rhode Island
 presents
Responding to Crises and Difficult Times
 a seminar with Pastor Luciano Cozzi
Saturday, February 21, 2009
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 125 Washington St., West Warwick, RI
Free Admission (lunch will be provided)
 a free-will offering will be gratefully received
 For additional information
(401) 821-6869

January's Highlights

Jan 10- 4:30 - 7p.m. ~ Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner/Fundraiser "Help Us Help You" Served at West warwick Senior Center. Food, fellowship, great music. DINNER IS FOOD. A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted. Raffles \$ Door prizes. Grace Family Church, 125 Washington St. W. Warwick 401-996-7703

Jan 17- 7p.m. ~ Fireproof Your Marriage ~ Free Couples Movie Night at Christian Hill Community Church, 56 Tiogue Ave, West Warwick, RI. For more info: christianhill.com. or 401-823-0285

1 Thursday

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

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

2 Friday

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

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

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

3 Saturday

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

6 p.m. ~ "A Night of Healing", 1st Saturday of every month at Celebration House, One Evans Way, Cranston, RI. 1st Saturday of every month 401-946-6900

6 - 8 p.m. ~ "Flip Side" Jr. High Night: (6th -8th grade) Every Saturday, Christian Hill Community Church. 1745 Main Street, West Warwick. 401-823-0285 www.christianhill.com

7 p.m. ~ "Unveiling Glory" Christian Contemporary/Worship. The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick RI, 401-823-5330 www.theupperroomri.org

6 Tuesday

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

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

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

7 Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

8 Thursday

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

10 Saturday

12-2p.m. ~ Matthew 25 Ministry ~ Food pantry/clothing/furnishings at Cathedral of Life. 401-780-8900 . 1860 Westminister Ave, Providence, RI.

7 p.m. ~ "Spirit N3D" Christian Contemporary/rock. The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick, RI. 401-823-5330 www.theupperroomri.org

11 Sunday

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

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

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

13 Tuesday

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

14 Wednesday

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

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

15 Thursday

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

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

17 Saturday

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

6 - 8 p.m. ~ "Flip Side" Jr. High Night: (6th -8th grade) Every Saturday, Christian Hill Community Church. 1745 Main Street, West Warwick. 401-823-0285 www.christianhill.com

7p.m. ~ Fireproof Your Marriage ~ Free Couples Movie Night at Christian Hill Community Church/ 56 Tiogue Ave, West Warwick, RI. For more info: christianhill.com. or 401-823-0285

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

JANUARY Calendar

7:30p.m. ~ Jinny Kim, Koo Chung/ Tom Conlon at Community of the Cross Coffeeshouse, 7 Madison Ave Danbuy Ct. www.1heartonline.org 203-748-4972

20 Tuesday

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

21 Wednesday

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

22 Thursday

9:30 a.m. ~ M.O.P.S Group meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday of every month; call holiday weeks for reschedule. New Hope Christian Center. 1436 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA (508) 324-4500

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

24 Saturday

12-2p.m. ~ Matthew 25 Ministry ~ Food pantry/clothing/furnishings at Cathedral of Life. 401-780-8900 . 1860 Westminister Ave, Providence, RI.

7 p.m. ~ "Banned Loot" Christian Contemporary/ Worship. The Upper Room. 1221 Main St, West Warwick RI, 401-823-5330 www.theupperroomri.org

25 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

28 Wednesday

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

30 Friday

7-9 p.m. Mens Covenant Meeting ~ at Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly. Last Friday of the month please call 401-780-8900 433 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI.

31 Saturday

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

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Year In Review 2008

Signs and Wonders

By Warren Cole Smith - EP News

Ed. Note: Every media organization under the sun offers a year in review. Taking that into consideration we offer you a different perspective on some items which don't fit neatly into most reviews. Nonetheless they reveal something about us as human beings, about the evangelical church, and about the world in which we live.

Planned Parenthood Passes \$1-Billion Mark. A new annual report from Planned Parenthood shows the nation's largest abortion business has made over \$1 billion in income for the first time in its history. The non-profit pro-abortion group shows the historical gain in its new annual report covering 2006-2007. While Planned Parenthood made \$972 million in its 2005-2006 annual report, last fiscal year it brought in \$1.017 billion. On its web site posting of the annual document, Planned Parenthood says it "highlights our advancements in providing and protecting trusted health care services and medically accurate sexuality education." Instead, the report finds Planned Parenthood doing more abortions than ever before. The report shows an increase in the number of provided abortions from 264,943 in 2005 to 289,650 in 2006. Planned Parenthood reveals it has doubled "excess of revenue over expenses" -- what the rest of us might call "profit" -- from \$55.7 million in 2005 to \$112 million in 2006.

For the First Time, Muslims Outnumber Catholics. The number of Muslims has overtaken the number of Roman Catholics in the world, a Vatican official said March 30. Muslims make up 19.2 percent of the world's population and Catholics 17.4 percent, Reuters reported, citing Vatican numbers. Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo, an Anglican priest and director of the International Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity, said as Islam grows, Christians need to grow in their understanding and discernment. "Western Christians who are concerned to react in an appropriate, loving, scriptural and Christ-like way to the presence of Islam in their societies must have a clear understanding of the nature of Islam -- its theology, ethics and culture -- so as to discern where there is common ground and where there are differences," he writes in his book *Islam: The Challenge to the Church*. "This will help in the crucial decisions that have to be made on how to approach Muslims, and how to respond to the approaches that they make to Christians."

Ted Turner Joins Religious Groups To Fight Malaria. Media mogul Ted Turner once called Christianity a "religion for losers." Now, he is aligning with Christian groups to launch a \$200 million dollar campaign to fight malaria in Africa. He also told the United Nations General Assembly "you've got to have faith to build a better world." He also said he regrets his "loser" comments as well as a 2001 incident when he called Christians who worked at CNN "Jesus freaks" who should be working for Fox News instead. The United Methodist Church will raise \$100 million. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will raise between \$75 million and \$100 million. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provided \$10 million to help promote the campaign in churches.

HIV Rate in U.S. Higher Than Estimated. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said in 2008 that it had underestimated the HIV rate in the U.S. over the past 12 years. The U.S. saw approximately 56,000 new HIV infections in 2006, 40 percent more than the estimated 40,000. The CDC said a better blood test and new statistical methods led them to revise their numbers. Male-to-male transmission accounted for almost 60 per-

cent of new infections in 2006, according to the CDC, while 34 percent occurred among people ages 13-29. "I feel great compassion for these men, because I've had different friends who are HIV-positive, friends who have died with AIDS," said Jeff Johnston, gender issues analyst for Focus on the Family Action. "Outside of a faithful marriage between a man and a woman, there is no 'safe sex.' It is irresponsible to teach people that you can have 'safe sex' or 'safer sex' outside of marriage." Johnston added: "For years, the gay community has been calling for approval of gay relationships, for promotion of homosexuality as a person's core identity, and for so-called sexual freedom. What they are finding is that there is a cost. Gay activists want the public to bear the cost of their behavior. People must take personal responsibility for their actions."

More U.S. Women are Childless. One in five U.S. women in their early 40s has no children, according to the Census Bureau. That's double the level from 30 years ago and a record high. Women age 40-44 who do have children have fewer than ever -- an average of 1.9, according to the report. "A lot of women are not having any children," Jane Lawler Dye, a Census Bureau researcher who did the report, told *The New York Times*. "It used to be sort of expected that there was a phase of life where you had children, and a lot of women aren't doing that now." Carrie Lukas, vice president for policy and economics at the Independent Women's Forum, said of the statistics: "So much of our culture has made kids seem like big sacrifices and a big inconvenience," she said. "There is something to being an increasingly secular society and being a little self-absorbed in not thinking about the legacy you want to leave."

Most Children Still Live in Two-Parent Homes. Of the nation's 73 million children, nearly 45 million (62 percent) live with their biological parents, according to a Census Bureau report released Feb. 20. Another 19 million live with their unmarried, biological mothers. The report, collected from 2004 surveys, also shows cohabiting families are on the rise, with 3.7 million children living with one biological parent and an unmarried partner.

Jehovah's Witnesses Grow And Episcopalians Decline. Jehovah's Witnesses are the fastest-growing church body in the U.S. and Canada, now with more than 1 million members, according to new figures released by the National Council of Churches. Jehovah's Witnesses ranked 24th on the list of 25 largest churches, they reported the largest growth rate -- 2.25 percent -- of all churches. The scandal- and controversy-plagued Episcopal Church reported the largest drop, at 4.15 percent. The 2008 Yearbook of Canadian and American Churches, produced by the New York-based National Council of Churches, used the latest available data from churches. For most denominations, that is 2006 data. The Yearbook contains information from 224 national church bodies, with a combined membership of 147 million Americans. The Roman Catholic Church, with 67.5 million members, remains the largest U.S. church body, with a 2006 increase of 0.87 percent. The second largest church, the Southern Baptist Convention (16.3 million) has more than twice the number of members as the United Methodist Church, the third largest, which documented 7.9 million U.S. members. Only the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Catholic Church, Southern Baptists, Mormons, the Assemblies of God (2.8 million) and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (1.4 million) reported increases. All other church bodies posted declines or flat membership from 2005.

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A Global Population Bust? As the media tell it, the world is running out of resources and space. But according to a new documentary called "Demographic Winter: The Decline of the Human Family," the world is actually running out of people. Worldwide, each woman of childbearing age needs to have an average of 2.1 children for the population to break even. But, according to documentary spokesman Don Feder, global birth rates have declined by 50 percent in the last half-century. Many countries in Europe are hovering at a birthrate of 1.3 children per woman of childbearing age. "Demographic Winter" claims this is the first time in history that social forces have led to a global decline in population. "They include secularization, abortion, widespread use of contraceptives, late marriage, cohabitation (and) people choosing lifestyles or careers over children," Feder said.

TransFigurations. Goldman Sachs, ranked No. 9 on *Fortune's* list of 100 Best Companies to Work For, has decided to "indulge the confusion" of its employees and pay for sex-change surgery. As part of a push last year to recruit and retain a more diverse workplace, the company added complete health-insurance coverage of sex-reassignment surgery, which can cost as much as \$150,000. "The American Psychiatric Association lists 'gender identity disorder' as a classifiable and treatable condition," said Caleb H. Price, Focus on the Family research analyst. "Rather than paying for people to indulge their confusion and undergo mutilating sex-change surgeries, Goldman Sachs should demonstrate ethical prudence and pursue mental health treatment options instead." A recent survey by the gay-activist Human Rights Campaign found that many companies, including Bank of America, Wachovia, Microsoft Corp. and General Motors Corp., also cover at least part of transgender treatments.

Teen Sexual Activity Up Slightly. Sexual

activity among U.S. teens is creeping up, according to a study released June 4 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Nearly 48 percent of 14,041 high school students said they have had sex, up 1 percentage point from the 2005 report but down from 54.1 percent in 1991. The report follows a CDC study that found 1 in 4 teenage girls has at least one sexually transmitted infection. The report didn't investigate the causes of the trend.

More than One Road to God? More than half of self-identified evangelical Christians believe there is more than one path to salvation, according to a poll released Monday by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. More than 35,000 Americans were surveyed. Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, said Christians may be reinventing their beliefs. "Americans seem to be fashioning their own beliefs on many of these things," he said, "because it doesn't seem to correspond to the official teachings that they're getting from their own church."

Poll: U.S. Is Blessed. Six in 10 Americans think the U.S. is "blessed" by God, but 79 percent think the country sometimes does more harm than good when it relates to the rest of the world. These are the results of a study by the television program "Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly" and the United Nations Foundation. Among other findings: 68 percent of people who attend services at least weekly said the country has a moral obligation to take part in world affairs, compared with 54 percent of less frequent attenders, and 67 percent of those with strong beliefs about God's unique blessing on America said the U.S. has a moral obligation to be a leader in world affairs, as did 72 percent of those who thought the U.S. should set a Christian example.

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