

# The Good News Today

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FREE

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. - John 6:37

## Walking "The Land" Chapter 3

By Lawrence L. Lepore

**M**any who have been to Israel say, "Visit Israel and you will never be the same", but I will tell you, that's an understatement. There's something so indescribable about waking



The Sea of Galilee as seen from the Golan Heights

up in the morning and looking out over the Sea of Galilee where much of Jesus ministry occurred. I had to pinch myself as I walked down to breakfast looking out over this historic and amazingly beautiful scene imagining what it may have looked like 2000 years ago.

We enjoyed another sumptuous breakfast as we looked out over the Galilee while discussing the history of the region with our guide Ikey Korin. He explained, "The Sea of Galilee is not actually a sea at all, but rather a lake. Yes, a lake..." I was amazed having often read about how Jesus recruited four of his apostles (can you name them?) from its shores. "The Sermon on the Mount, was given on a hill overlooking the Galilee. His walking on water, calming a storm, feeding five thousand people (in Tabgha), and many other miracles took place all around Galilee."



Yuval Lufan, one of two brothers that discovered the Jesus boat.

The Sea of Galilee is Israel's largest freshwater lake fed by underground springs and the Jordan River. It is approximately 33 miles in circumference, 13 miles long and 8 miles wide with a maximum depth of about 141 ft. At 685 feet below sea level, it is the lowest freshwater lake on Earth, second only to the Dead Sea, a saltwater lake also in Israel.

Being the lake is so low and surrounded by mountains often storms will come upon it without warning. Sometimes it appears on maps as *Lake Galilee* or *Lake Tiberias*. In the Bible, it is called the "Sea of Kinneret" (Numbers 34:11; Joshua 13:27). The name may originate from the Hebrew word *kinnor* ("harp" or "lyre") in view of the shape of the lake. Some Christian texts call it *Lake of Gennesaret* or *Sea of Gennesaret* (Luke 5:1), after a small fertile plain that lies on its western side. No matter which you prefer to call it...it's magnificent.

As we entered the bus and headed toward our first stop of the day we learned that Tiberius is one of Israel's four holy cities, home to about 30,000 people today, having flourished after the establishment of the state of Israel. Tiberius is a city named in honor of the Roman Emperor Tiberius, though modern historians will tell you he named it after himself, while still alive. Though the Emperor was not highly favored by most Jews, nonetheless, Tiberius was an important Jewish spiritual center where

The Mishna was completed in 200 C.E. under the supervision of Rabbi Yehuda Ha-Nasi ("Judah the Prince").

After a 15 minute drive along the shores of the Galilee we arrived at Kibbutz Ginosar where we would visit Yigal Allon Centre-Man in the Galilee Museum. This is the location of the Ancient Galilee Boat more commonly known as "The Jesus Boat." A Kibbutz is a collective settlement similar to a commune where people live and work together.

Kibbutz Ginosar is the home of two brothers, Moshe and Yuval Lufan, second generation fisherman, that grew up on the muddy shores of the Galilee and discovered the Jesus Boat.

Walking "The Land" continued Page 12

## Pro-Life vs Pro-Murder

By Ralph Davis

**I** have considered myself "pro-life" throughout my entire life, but it was not until a few years back that I began to see and better understand the way the "other side" operates. It is not a pretty sight; money governs the hearts and souls of people who are willing to snuff out human life for profit.

Under the guise of "choice" the operators of the killing mills don't offer choices, they sell abortions. They also spew out blatant lies. For example they might say that it's the "only choice," or imply that the woman's health depends on it and even insist that the procedure is "painless." They describe your live embryo or fetus as being nothing more than

a blob of tissue. They will not show you an ultrasound image because they know they could lose their prize; a woman who sees an image of her baby often backs out. The bottom line is that if the assassins were not making a lot of money doing abortions, they wouldn't do them.

There are very few of us alive who can attest to having no knowledge or opinion about the sanctity of human life. We are either for it, against it, or indifferent which is just another form of being against it. Abortion is defined as "the termination of pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus."

Pro-Life continued Page 4



Alyssa Thompson - Pro-Life - future reader of The Good News Today

## Halloween...Kid's Treat or Pagan Trick?

By Jack Chick

**M**any Christians celebrate holidays, such as Halloween, without thinking about their origins or true meaning. It is impossible to separate Halloween from the Druids because they originated the "holiday."

For several hundred years before Christ, the Celts inhabited what is now France, Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland. Celtic priests were called Druids. These people were eventually conquered by the Romans. Information about the Celts and Druids comes from Caesar and the Roman historians, Greek writings from about 200 B.C., and very early records found in Ireland. Greek and Roman writings about the Druids dwell heavily on their frequent and barbaric human sacrifices. The ancient Irish texts say little about human sacrifices, but detail the Druids' use of magic to raise storms, lay curses on places, kill by the use of spells, and create magical obstacles.

### Human Sacrifices

Davies, however, a 16th century writer who traced his family lineage directly back to



Druidic ceremony at Stonehenge

Druid priests who fought against Caesar, clearly describes the human sacrifices of his ancestors and the secret sacrifices still performed regularly by the Druids of his time. By 47 A.D., Rome finally defeated the Druids in Britain and outlawed human sacrifices. The few remaining Druids went

Halloween continued Page 3

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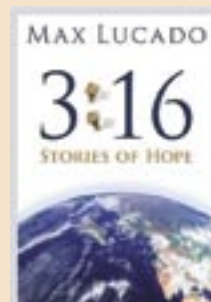
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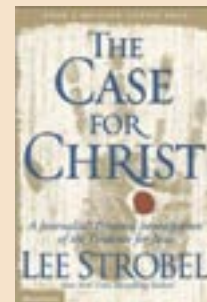


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**Halloween from Page 1**

underground.

Today a growing group of people claiming to be of direct Druid descent, still practice their religion, including human sacrifice. Those in England still perform ceremonies at Stonehenge. November 1st was the Celtic new year October 31st was celebrated by the Druids with many human sacrifices and a festival honoring their sun god and Samhain, the lord of the dead. They believed that the sinful souls of those who died during the year were in a place of torment, and would be released only if Samhain was pleased with their sacrifices.

hain. They carved demonic faces into pumpkins or large turnips, placing a candle in them to keep the evil spirits away from their homes.

The tradition of bobbing for apples and giving out nuts came from a Roman addition to the Druidic



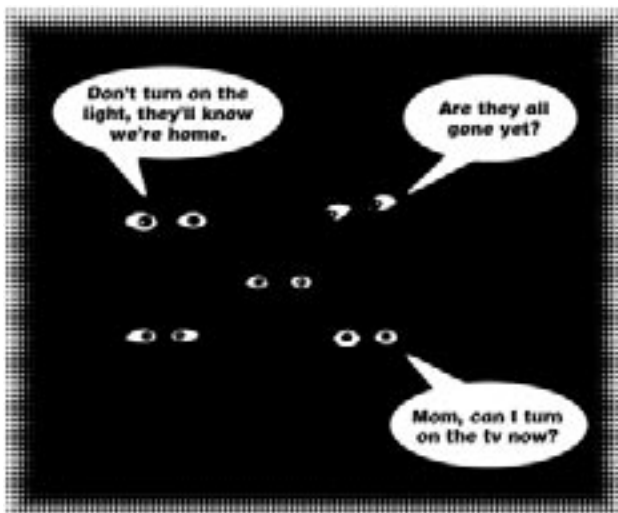
**Monks Fascinated By Druids**

Irish records tell of the fascination the Catholic monks had with the powerful Druids, and Druids soon became important members of their monasteries. Pope Gregory the Great decided to incorporate the Druids' holiday into the church. He made the proclamation, "They are no longer to sacrifice beasts to the devil, but they may kill them for food to the praise of God, and give thanks to the giver of all gifts for His bounty." Pope Gregory III moved the church festival of October 31st to November 1st and called it All Hallows or All Saints' Day. Pope Gregory IV decreed that the day was to be a universal church observance. The term Halloween comes from All Hallows Eve.

New Year's eve. The Romans worshiped Pomona who was the goddess of the harvest. They combined their harvest festival to Pomona with Halloween.

Very little archeological evidence of the Druids has been found, but there is excellent agreement between the Roman and Irish documents. Both clearly state that the knowledge of the Druids was never committed to writing but passed from generation to generation by oral teaching. This was to protect their secrets. In his writings, Davies indicates that he came under much persecution by his family for putting in writing his information about Druids. The same is true today. Nothing is put into writing. The Druids continue on secretly with much the same traditions.

The founding fathers of America refused to permit the holiday to be observed because they knew it was a pagan holiday. Halloween was not widely celebrated in the U.S. until about 1900. In the 1840's there was a terrible potato famine in Ireland which sent thousands of Catholic Irish to America. They brought Halloween with them.



The widespread problem of harmful substances such as razor blades, drugs, poisons, needles, etc. being placed in the Halloween treats here in America is no accident. Testimonies of several ex-Satanists show that these children killed and injured by the "treats" are sacrifices to Satan (or Samhain). Satanists throughout the world continue to perform human sacrifices on Halloween. Is this something you want YOUR child to participate in?

**Halloween.....witnessing**

**doesn't get any easier.**

Every Halloween, a parade of children stream to your door asking for a treat. By dropping a Chick tract or two (along with some candy) into their bags, in one night you can give the gospel to lots of kids (and their families)...all without leaving your home. Join the growing number of Christians who take advantage of this once-a-year witnessing opportunity.

**It's fun to hear what they say when they get tracts.**

After you've done it once, you will understand how much kids love these things. Here are some of the things we have heard them say, "Wow, comic books!" "Hey, they've got the good stuff here!" "I've already got this one. Can I have that one instead?"

The kids aren't the only ones who will read them. There a lot of good parents who really care what their kids eat, and read. They go through the Halloween candy bag and sort things out. You can bet that those parents will read the "comic books" that are in their kids' bags. And they will get the gospel, too.

How many of them will remember that their folks took them to Sunday School? Then they'll realize, "I need to do the same." You may never have had the opportunity to give that parent a tract, so this is a great chance for them to read the Gospel. Don't forget what happens to kids . . .

they grow up, and are replaced by more kids. That means that, every year, there will be new kids coming that have never received a gospel tract. You may have put tracts in Halloween bags for the last several years, but don't forget there will be new children every year.

**Don't let this be you!**

Let's be honest. How many of us have hidden in the back of the house, with the porch light off, hoping the kids will leave us alone? We don't like Halloween and its occultic history, and we don't celebrate it. So we hide our light, instead of letting it shine. Is that what Jesus called us to do?

**What are we teaching our kids?**

Many Christians just try to avoid

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Halloween, and take their kids to a "Harvest Festival" at the church. That's fine and good, but it's teaching our kids to avoid the world, instead of changing it. If you will get them involved in putting the tracts and candy in bags at the front door, they will enjoy it. Just tell them you will make sure they have plenty of candy, without having to be a ghost or goblin. As they take part in giving the gospel to your visitors, they will learn to be a witness, not hide! As they learn to view Halloween as a witnessing opportunity, instead of an occultic party, they will grow up without being tempted by the whole satanic Halloween scene. Just try it!

**Do you think you have room in your life for a blessing?**

Who doesn't, right? Well God's blessing comes to those who choose to obey Him. Every time you put a comic tract in a child's bag, you are obeying Jesus, who told us to "preach the gospel to every living creature." It's not just a good feeling. Obedience opens the door to God's blessing in your life! Who doesn't have room for that? Go to your local Christian bookstore or visit www.Chick.com or call (909) 987-0771 (7:00 AM - 5:00 PM PST Monday - Friday) to order tracts.

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### Pro-Life from Page 1

The fact is, at least 4000 abortions occur in this country each day. That is about three babies killed per minute; every minute, of every day. Since 1973, when baby murder became legal, almost 50 million viable human lives have been extinguished.

One thing is certain, legalized murder of babies is a hot topic in this country and has been for quite some time. People become angry; one side declares the "sanctity of life," the other, "choice; woman have the right to killing what's within her body because it is *her* body.

Those who believe in the sanctity of life believe that God created human life and it should be preserved; nothing is more important than the life God has given. Every life has a purpose and God destined (or meant) for each of us to be born. God, and only God, decides when life begins and ends. Murder is clearly forbidden in His Ten Commandments.

Atheists, humanists and many religious liberals reject the concept of God *the* life-giver who lovingly creates each and every person. They like to debate issues with meaningless arguments about precisely when life starts rather than its worth. Many pro-choice advocates do not believe that personhood begins at conception; they believe that it begins later in the pregnancy or at child birth. This is part of their deception.

Absent in the thought process of those who work the killing fields is any concern for the victim, the

person left behind when the life is terminated. The woman suffers greatly as do many men. This is one of the raw, ugly sides to the owners of the abortion shops; they have collected their money they are not interested in wasting time on the woman any longer or what physical or emotional damage they've caused.

Rhode Island has a very dubious distinction: New England's first birth control clinic was established in Providence, RI in 1931 and was called "The Rhode Island Birth Control League." This was eventually changed to "Planned Parenthood of RI which is a spoke in the wheel known as Planned Parenthood Federation of America. The "federation" is split into 120 individual Planned Parenthood's with 860 locations.

The mission of Planned Parenthood "is to advance the fundamental right of every person to reproductive self-determination through education, advocacy, protection of the right to privacy and access to comprehensive, quality health care services." Kind of gives you a warm and cozy feeling inside, doesn't it?

Yet, during the 2005-2006 fiscal years, the "non-profit" Planned Parenthood performed a record 264,943 abortions. For the year they received \$345.1 million in clinic income, \$305.3 million in taxpayer funding and \$212.2 million in donations. Total income

reached \$902.8 million while total expenses came to \$847.0 million, leaving a profit of \$55.8 million. Big chunk of change, huh?

Planned Parenthood does not discuss options; as a business they must push to sell their most profitable commodity, killing innocent babies. One 19 year-old woman named Barbara visited a clinic in the Midwest fully intending to birth her child. She just wanted support and advice from the staff. She ended up having an abortion that very day!

According to Barbara, "The woman at the center started spewing out facts so fast...they told me just enough to scare me... They mentioned all three points but made adoption sound negative and birth tragic, then really pushed abortion. She went on to say, "I told them I was more than 14 weeks (the cutoff for trimester abortions). They said, 'I'd have to do it really quick because they couldn't do more than 14 weeks and pushed to make the appointment that day.

During the abortion Barbara nearly passed out from the pain in the

known for instructing others here and overseas how to perform abortions and destroy unborn human life with efficiency. He was recently appointed chairperson with the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals and is a prominent media personality and spokesperson with a radio talk show that airs in RI each morning He and his family live quite comfortably in a house valued at over \$500,000 nestled in a patch of woods about a five minute walk to Narragansett Bay. It causes me to wonder what percentage Dr. Pablo gets for each life extinguished in his clinics.

The Pablo's of this world are beginning to diminish. Recent data indicate that the rate of physicians performing abortions has dropped from 4-5 percent to about 2 percent and there are about half the number of killing centers that there were ten years ago. Many doctors, having faced the reality of abortion have quit. Perhaps they now acknowledge that the heart starts to beat in 18 days and at 48 days the baby has brainwaves. Perhaps some are tired of the process of ripping a human life to shreds, crushing skulls to expedite

removal, scraping and vacuuming... Whatever the cause of the decrease, it is not enough since the killing goes on; perhaps 30-50 innocents have been killed in the time it's taken you to read this article so far. Are you mad yet?

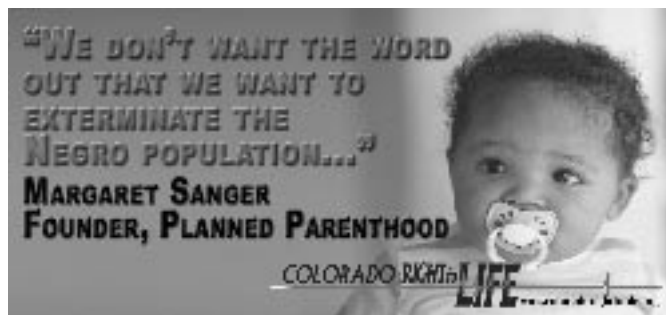
As grim as this article has been there are plenty of options available to check out before racing off to the innocuous sounding Planned Parenthood. The largest of these is Care Net. Established in 1975, Care Net is a national network of

the answers." To find a center near you, you can call, 24/7, the "Option line" at 800-395-HELP (4357). Rhode Islanders can reach them at 941-4357. Their website is [www.carenetri.org](http://www.carenetri.org).

Rhode Islanders are also blessed with the RI Right to Life (RIRTL) organization. RIRTL lobbies for legislation that advances the cause of the Sanctity of Human Life and has state and federal political action committees. They have an educational component that they present at churches and other organizations and provide outreach and referral to pregnant women. The director Rita Parquette can be reached at 401-521-1860 Email: [info@rirtl.org](mailto:info@rirtl.org) or visit their website at [www.rirtl.org](http://www.rirtl.org)

CareNet, RIRTL and other pro-life organizations help women explore all of the issues regarding their pregnancy. They are also available to counsel women *and* men after an abortion. The emotional fallout following and abortion is immense. It is not uncommon for the victim of the killing centers to experience depression, anger, regret and remorse, self-hatred, flashbacks, and even suicidal tendencies. It has been seen that many men experience similar reactions to the baby that they helped terminate. Once the act is completed there is, or course, no turning back.

So, now you know the story too; probably more than you wanted to know about a sick system bent on abusing women's minds and body for financial gain. Above all, it's legal and that's the leverage the killing mills have. Now that you possess this information, what shall you do with it? A common response is to say, "Oh my...that's terrible!" and "Someone should do something, but what, it's the law..." Some might even whip out a check to a pro-life organization so they can sleep better.



Recently a billboard was stolen stating that "Planned Parenthood Kills Babies" quoting the founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, which read "we don't want the word to get out that we want to exterminate the negro population."

"painless" procedure.

"They played on my emotions," she said "I didn't get time to think about it, and then it was over. When I came back for a checkup, they didn't care anymore."

There's plenty of money for the entrepreneurs wanting to turn a quick buck selling abortions. Carol Everett owned and operated abortion clinics in the Dallas/Forth Worth area for six years. She said, "The abortion industry is not about choices, it's about money. Abortion is a skillfully marketed product sold to a woman at a crisis time in her life." And boy, do they sell! In her last month in business she made \$13,365. at the rate of \$25. per abortion. In addition she said that the abortionist usually makes 20-50% of the total cost and can perform 10-12 abortions per hour!" An abortion can cost from \$450. to over \$3000. for late term abortions.

Abortionists often appear squeaky clean, likeable and are often revered for their wealth and success. Our local example is Pablo Rodriguez, MD. Rodriguez has presided over the deaths of countless lives here in the state. He is the medical director of Planned Parenthood of RI and he has three very busy clinics in RI. He is well



A type of abortion called Dilation and Evacuation, or D&E. Because the baby is older, its bones and skull have become calcified, which means that the abortionist must use a pliers-like instrument to crush the skull and snap the spine. The baby receives no anesthesia or medication to lessen the pain as the abortionist grips a body part with the instrument, and then tears it from the baby's body. This is repeated again and again until the baby is reassembled outside of the mother, insuring that it has been completely removed. This is one of the most violent methods of abortion, as the baby can now feel pain. However, it is still completely the mother's choice to have this type of abortion.

over 1050 crises pregnancy centers that offer long-term assistance to women facing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Care Net operates along a pro-life philosophy. Thus, its centers do not perform, recommend, or refer clients for abortions.

A motto of CareNet is "You have big decisions to make and many questions to consider-Care Net will partner with you to explore

The bottom line is what *has* been done has saved some lives but it has not been enough. Many a nasty letter has been sent to pro-choice elected officials. There have been some protests, sit-ins, and a number of attempts to get the law reversed but with only a marginal effect. Why? Because the profits of the executioners are huge and unless that is somehow threatened, there is no incentive for them to change.

Well folks, now there is a major threat to Planned Parenthood and to all of the Pablo's out there who benefit financially. It is known as the *Forty Days For Life Campaign*. "On September 26, more than 89 cities in 33 states began to follow the courageous example set by Aurora, Illinois, and joined together for the largest and longest simultaneous pro-life mobilization in American history," said David Bereit national director of the 40 Days for Life Campaign. The 40-day pro-life campaign in Aurora

Pro-Life continued next page

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# The Perils Of Being The Son Of A Journalist

By Andrew Wooding

**SHEFFIELD, UK (ANS)** -- I grew up in the home of a Fleet Street\* journalist in Surrey, England. He didn't mind. That's because I was his son.

In the 1970s my dad, Dan Wooding, worked for such papers as the Sunday Mirror and the Sunday People. There were perks to this. Free tickets to concerts and football (soccer) matches, review copies of books and records brought home to keep, and occasional visits to the homes of British celebrities of the time: such as Barbara Windsor, Diana Dors, dinner at Larry Grayson's house, and even afternoon tea in a high rise block of flats with Mrs. Kray, the mum of the infamous gangsters Ronnie and Reggie. She had pictures of her adorable little sons in photo frames dotted around the house.

I remember visiting Cliff Richard's house as well, with Dad and my brother. Cliff kept us waiting because he was having a bath, so me and my brother Peter, being curious youngsters, had a rummage through some of Cliff's drawers while no one was looking. Would you have done the same? From that day on, I was the only person in my school to be able to truthfully claim that I had handled Cliff Richard's underwear!

One drawback to growing up in a journalist's house was the telephone. I might have exaggerated

the memory in my mind over the years, but it seems that through the seventies the phone was ringing constantly. There was no internet and no mobile phones, the fax and email hadn't been heard of, so the only form of instant communication was the telephone. And we didn't have an answering machine, so every call had to be answered because it might be another scoop for the newspaper.

Dad had dealings with gangsters and people on the run from the law, whose lurid stories formed the backbone of the Sunday tabloids. Because of this, I was convinced our phone was tapped for a while. Every time I picked it up there would be a click as if someone was monitoring us. This was too good an opportunity not to have fun with.

A number of times I would talk to school friends on the phone

it was because our voices hadn't broken yet, that MI5 didn't come knocking on our door to lock us up as dangers to national security.

But by far the most memorable phone call - for all the wrong reasons - was when someone threatened to kill me. My voice had broken by this time, and even though I was in my early teenage years I sounded exactly like my dad on the phone. (Come to think of it, I still do!)

One quiet afternoon I was alone in the house when the phone rang. No surprise there - it rang quite a lot! I dutifully answered it, and the female voice on the other end said: "Is Dan Wooding there?"

I truthfully responded with: "No," but this wasn't good enough for her.

"It's you, isn't it?"

I couldn't argue with that. "Yes, it is me," I agreed. "I've always been me." "You're Dan Wooding."

Now, this I could argue with. "I'm not Dan Wooding. I'm Dan Wooding's son."

The lady insisted: "You're Dan Wooding." And she followed this up with: "I'm going to come round and kill you!"

I burst out laughing. This was hilarious. It was obviously one

of the reporters from Dad's office playing a joke. Whoever she was, she was almost as good an actor as me and my school friends pretending to be international spies.

For the next twenty minutes we had a bizarre conversation in

after that, and for once I was glad that our phone might be tapped!

Needless to say, the death threat was never followed through with and we're all still alive and well more than 20 years on. Mum and Dad run a ministry called ASSIST in California, USA, and Dad still writes lots of articles. My brother, Peter, works on the news department of a national British radio station (he recently interviewed Cliff Richard!). And I am a Christian writer and editor, working with Church Army in England.

Would I change anything about growing up in the seventies?

Not a thing, except maybe telling the inventor of the answering machine to get a move on!

\* Fleet Street was at that time, the center of Britain's newspaper industry.

Note: This is a special article that Andrew Wooding wrote for [www.fromtabloidtotruth.com](http://www.fromtabloidtotruth.com) where you can purchase a copy of Dan Wooding's latest book, From Tabloid to Truth (Theatron Books) and also read other stories about his life and see a photo display of his many years in journalism.

**Fleet Street, the one-time center of Britain's newspaper industry**



which she detailed all the ways she wanted to kill me, and every time I laughed at her she got a little more angry and came back with another threatened method of torture or murder. I was enjoying every minute.

But when Mum and Dad came back later that afternoon, I found out to my horror that this wasn't a prank. Dad had recently written a story exposing a corrupt witch, and it was that witch who had somehow got hold of our home telephone number.

I hesitated to answer any calls



**Dan Wooding with the late British comedian, Larry Grayson**

as if we were international spies arranging a secret rendezvous or exchanging vital government secrets. Maybe it was because we weren't very good actors, or maybe

Bereit can be reached directly for interviews at [david@40daysforlife.com](mailto:david@40daysforlife.com) or 202-280-8993

The Bible instructs us to "hate that which is evil" and that "the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil". Men and women have forsaken conscience and pity for those pregnant women in need and have treated their bodies as commodities. The Bible also teaches that God will forgive all who repent and ask His forgiveness. Pray for those who work in and benefit by the abortion industry that they might turn away from their evil deeds and turn to God instead. Pray for all those who work in the centers who love and provide healthy options to the women. Finally, pray for any men and women who are in a predicament, which they believe can only be sloved by abortion.

of proven results in seven cities. More information can be found at: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

Said Bereit, "If it takes all of Planned Parenthood's national efforts to respond to 40 days of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism in one city, we can only imagine the impact it will have on the entire abortion industry when more than 89 cities join together for 40 Days for Life. The events in Aurora have inspired unprecedented levels of pro-life activity all across the nation, forming a 'perfect storm' which we believe could mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America."

Finally, pray that you will not just toss this paper aside with this new knowledge within you and not act;

your voice and your actions are needed right now.

## Pro-Life from Page 4

that thwarted the scheduled opening of a new Planned Parenthood abortion facility was inspired by the ministry 40 Days for Life.

"Not by might nor power, but by My spirit says the Lord" is what is making the change. No yelling, no anger, nothing dark or sinister. 40 Days for Life is an intensive pro-life campaign that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. This fall's nationwide campaign builds on a track record

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# National News

## Texas seminaries win freedom from state regulation

By Stephen Adams

(EP News)--In an important ruling for religious freedom, the Supreme Court of Texas has ruled in favor of three theological seminaries in an eight-year tug-of-war over state regulation.

The 8-0 ruling overturns two lower-court opinions and a Texas law that gave the state power over seminaries and their training of pastors and religious leaders for the ministry. The state had fined Tyndale Theological Seminary \$173,000 for issuing degrees and calling itself a seminary without state approval of its curriculum, professors and board.

The Texas law was designed to crack down on diploma mills that require little or no course work. The Supreme Court, however, said the state's interference "impermissibly intrudes upon religious freedom protected by the United States and Texas Constitutions."

Tyndale will get its \$173,000 back, according to Liberty Legal Institute (LLI), which brought the case. The other seminaries were Hispanic Bible Institute in San Antonio and Southern Bible Institute in Dallas.

"This decision is a huge victory for all seminaries, not only in Texas but nationwide," said Kelly Shackelford, LLI chief counsel. "This ruling now gives freedom to many small seminaries that had been quashed by an attempted government takeover of religious teaching and training."

Hiram Sasser, director of litigation for LLI, said the Texas law would have precluded Billy Graham from teaching a seminary class, because he didn't have an earned master's degree. Only two other governments have taken seminary regulation that far, he said — Vietnam and China.

Sasser said the case illustrates the original meaning of the "separation of church and state" that Thomas Jefferson wrote about in a letter to a Connecticut religious group.

"He was trying to assure the Danbury Baptists that the government wasn't going to come in and tell them how to run their church," Sasser said. "That's the separation that he was referring to, and that's the separation that our Founding Fathers understood, a separation protecting the church from the government, not the other way around."

Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said the Texas law had good intentions, but "its application to seminaries and other religious schools crossed a First Amendment boundary and entangled the state of Texas with defining and approving proper theological training."

"We can't have the government defining 'what is religion' or 'what is proper religious training,' and forcing religious institutions to comply with those standards. That's what the 'establishment of religion' prohibition in the First Amendment is all about."

## ENDA seeks to enshrine sexual orientation in federal law

(EP News)--The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is making its way toward a vote in the U.S. House. It would prevent businesses and organizations from taking sexual orientation or gender identity into consideration when hiring, promoting or firing. That could spell trouble for Christian business owners, churches and faith-based groups.

Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said if

ENDA passes, it would create a crisis for Christians. "Not being able to hire people based on their agreement with your sense of the principles and values of the institution would be devastating," he said.

Proponents of the bill quickly point to a "religious exemption" in the bill, but Blunt called it a sham. "The court has to decide if your purpose is sufficiently religious enough in character," he explained. "Are you a church? Do you have a daycare center?"

And there's nothing to stop Congress from removing the limited exemption later. Ashley Horne, federal policy analyst for Focus on

## Christian men announce final "Surge" toward historic gathering in nation's capital

By Michael Ireland

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ANS) -- At 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 6, thousands of men brought together for a once-a-decade gathering of Christian men from across the country planned on the grounds of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. will be called to worship by a thunderous, live trumpet call.

Efforts are being made by event organizers to recruit 1,000 trumpeters, making it the largest live trumpet call ever sounded, says Rev. Marty Granger, the event's national chairman. Granger says the trumpet call, "signifies the biblical warrant in First Corinthians 14:8, ".if the trumpet does not

sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?"

Granger is one among many Christian leaders who say "America's cultural walls are broken down, its gates burned with fire and its people are in trouble and disgrace." "What the prophet Nehemiah said of ancient Israel also aptly describes our cultural condition today," says Granger, "and its root cause is that men have largely abandoned their God-given roles and responsibilities, are passive and under-encouraged, and live largely isolated, unaccountable lives."

He continues: "We are calling out men of all ages, stages and

backgrounds to the nation's front lawn to meet with God and stand shoulder-to-shoulder to rebuild what is broken in our lives, families, churches, communities and cultural institutions. War is being waged against the sacred and the men of God must take their places in the battle lines. The stakes are enormous because they are eternal."

Program details and plans for the event called "Stand in the Gap 2007" can be found on their website ([www.standinthegap2007.org](http://www.standinthegap2007.org)) or it's co-sponsors, the National Coalition of Men's Ministries ([www.ncmm.org](http://www.ncmm.org)) -- the nation's largest Christian men's organization.

## The Theology of Therapy... God's Word Trumps Secular Psychology

DALLAS, Texas/Christian News-wire/- When Jeremy Lelek applied for his first job as a licensed professional counselor, his potential employer asked him what he thought about Biblical counseling. His reply? "It's simplistic." Lelek's goal was to become a Christian counselor-a professional whose approach includes both secular psychology and some use of the Bible. Although he felt that the Bible was not sufficient to treat many of the problems a counselor must address, he agreed to receive training in Biblical counseling. In his words, "I came in a skeptic, but left convinced."

Lelek now serves as the president of the Association of Biblical Counselors, an organization that offers resources designed to equip professional counselors, pastoral staff and everyday Christians to provide wise counsel that comes straight from Scripture. Like a growing number of LPCs, he can testify to the true and lasting changes he witnessed in his clients when he decided to set aside the integrated approach used by most Christian counselors and began

the Family Action, said gay activists have a goal. "The real agenda behind the innocuously named Employment Non-Discrimination Act is a push to enshrine homosexuality and transgenderism into national policy," she said.

The bill's sponsors aren't allowing the public much time to respond to the legislation. "ENDA has been fast tracked," she said. "Constituents haven't had a chance to weigh in, so we really need to get the word out."

counseling from the Bible alone.

"Your basic view of human nature should determine the methods of counsel. It gives you a target, something to change," Lelek explains. "As believers, our view of human nature is at odds with secular psychology. Psychology is defined as the study of the soul. At ABC, we believe that Scripture provides the best and only true psychology. The Bible answers

every single question that psychology tries to answer."

ABC offers the information that can transform a counseling practice or a church body, specifically when there is no professional counselor on the pastoral staff. Memberships are available for professional counselors, pastoral staff, laypersons and students. For more info visit [www.christiancounseling.com](http://www.christiancounseling.com).

## WTP Initiates National "Clean Elections" Lawsuit

Ten states are being sued to prevent the use of computerized voting systems during the 2008 primary and general elections and beyond. The lawsuit seeks to halt the use of machine-based voting systems and vote counting procedures that hide the ballots and the counting of votes from the People.

The complaint challenges the constitutionality of current voting procedures in the states, claiming that they "heighten the possibility of confusion, deception, frustration, and fraud." It contends that the existing practices are constitutionally deficient and prevent open, verifiable, transparent voting, and that the use of discredited electronic voting machines and flawed vote counting procedures drastically increase the likelihood of error and election fraud. The lawsuit calls for a visible chain of ballot custody with paper ballots kept in full public view throughout the voting, counting, and tallying process.

The lawsuit asks the Court to prohibit the states from conducting elections that are not open, verifiable, transparent and machine and

computer free.

The US Supreme Court has declared the meaning of the Right to vote, as guaranteed by the US Constitution. Individuals not only have the Right to cast a vote, they have the Right to cast an effective vote, meaning they have the Right to have their vote counted accurately.

"We need to bring transparency and accountability to the voting process throughout the states," said Bob Schulz, who wrote the brief and is spearheading the nationwide effort. "We need to reclaim our vote and ensure that our voices are heard and that our votes are accurately counted. The only sure way to do that is to have the People, in the light of day, observe, verify, and secure the votes cast on paper ballots and to count those ballots before the public by hand."

The ten states that have been sued thus far include New York, New Hampshire, Illinois, South Carolina, Florida, Ohio, Iowa, Texas, California and Oregon.

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# National Shorts

## Massachusetts governor pushes casino plan

(EP News)--On Sept. 17, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick announced a proposal to allow three resort-style casinos in the state, *The New York Times* reported. The revenues, he said, would help the commonwealth pay for road and bridge repair, and provide property tax relief to homeowners. Officials said the casinos were expected to generate \$400 million in annual revenue and thousands of jobs. But Chad Hills, analyst for gambling research and policy at Focus on the Family Action, said Patrick is fixing short-term budget woes by saddling Massachusetts families with long-term burdens of three resort-style casinos. Once casinos enter state borders, they begin to metastasize in vital state programs and make states dependent on casino revenues. The ABCs of gambling are addiction, bankruptcy, crime and destruction of marriages and families. "Secondly, Gov. Patrick underestimates the danger of opening Massachusetts to tribal gambling," Hills said. "What you give one tribe, you are obligated to give other tribes."

## New study says people can leave homosexuality

(EP News)--A new study confirms that long-term change away from homosexuality is possible. The full results were released last week in the book *Ex-Gays? A Longitudinal Study of Religiously Mediated Change in Sexual Orientation* by Stanton L. Jones and Mark A. Yarhouse. It is the world's first longitudinal, peer-reviewed study of its kind. At the end of the three-year study, 67 percent of participants either reported a change toward heterosexual orientation or were successfully continuing work toward that goal. "While we've known all along that long-term change is possible for people with unwanted same-sex attractions, it's interesting to note how high the percentage of reported change was," said Melissa Fryrear, director of Focus on the Family's gender issues department. "These results are comparable with the success rates for dealing with other difficult issues, like depression, and more favorable than those reported by U.S. Department of Labor tax-funded programs in overcoming substance abuse."

## Florida chaplain fired after praying in Jesus' name

(EP News)--A Florida chaplain claims he was fired from the hospital where he worked because

he prayed in Jesus' name. The Rev. Danny Harvey was chaplain at Leesburg Regional Medical Center for more than seven years, but was forced to resign for what the hospital said were "concerns" raised by patients. Harvey does not take God lightly. "He's done everything for me," he told a Fox affiliate in Orlando, Fla. "He is my Savior; He is my Redeemer; He is the Restorer of who I am." But those beliefs appear to have cost him his job. In a statement, hospital officials said Harvey's pastoral care was "not consistent with and respectful of various faith beliefs." Harvey said he never pushed his faith on anyone. Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said asking a Christian chaplain not to pray in Jesus' name is like asking a carpenter to work without a hammer. --*CitizenLink*

## Pennsylvania School Supports Witches over the Bible

(EP News)--Wesley Busch was excited about his mom coming to his Pennsylvania kindergarten class to read from his favorite book. But when she stood to read from the Psalms, the teacher stopped her. "The principal was brought in and the decision was made, 'You can't read that,'" said Jeremy Tedesco, with the Alliance Defense Fund. Instead, it was suggested Mrs. Busch read a book about "witches and Halloween." School officials labeled her actions as "proselytizing" and "promoting a specific religious point of view" even though another parent was allowed to read a book about Hanukkah and explain the holiday. The ADF brought a suit against the school, but a federal district court sided with the school. That decision is being appealed.

## More families choose homeschooling

(EP News)--The homeschooling movement continues to see a dramatic increase in the U.S. Experts estimate it has been growing at 7 to 12 percent annually, with perhaps more than 2 million students being taught at home this school year. Brian Ray, president of the National Home Education Research Institute, said homeschooling has a strong appeal for parents because it offers a solid academic education and it allows parents to teach children their values. Michael Smith, with the Home School Foundation, said homeschool students inspire others who otherwise might not choose to teach their kids at home. "They see that they function socially as normal people," he said. "They also see that these families that are homeschooling are being drawn closer together as a result of having the children at home."

## Lesbian is finalist for Chicago Episcopal bishop

(EP News)--A lesbian priest is one of five finalists for bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, despite the worldwide Anglican Communion's demand that the U.S. branch pledge to stop consecrating openly homosexual bishops by Sept. 30. If elected Nov.

10, the Rev. Tracey Lind, dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, would be the second Episcopal bishop living with a same-sex partner, according to The Associated Press. New Hampshire Bishop V. Gene Robinson, who has a male partner, was consecrated in 2003, pushing the Anglican Communion to the brink of schism. U.S. Episcopal bishops meet in September to decide whether they should agree to Anglican demands that they unequivocally pledge by September 30 not to consecrate another openly gay bishop. If the bishops say no, the church could lose its full membership in the 77 million-member communion.

## Maryland parents move to halt student indoctrination

(EP News)--Three pro-family groups have filed for a stay in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Md., to block implementation of "a scientifically flawed and politically biased sexuality curriculum" targeted to middle and high school students there. They are appealing a decision by the state Board of Education to go ahead with the controversial curriculum, which describes homosexuality as "innate" and exposes kids to propaganda. One example from the curriculum: "It took me a while to figure out that I am bisexual. I've had great relationships with men and with women." The appeal is not scheduled to be heard until January, after classes are scheduled to begin in October. The groups are Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum (CRC), Family Leader Network and Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays (PFOX), assisted by the Thomas More Law Center.

## ADF defends 'Be Happy, Not Gay' t-shirt

(EP News)--Attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) have once again asked a federal district court to stop an Illinois high school from banning a T-shirt that reads, "Be Happy, Not Gay" while the case concerning the shirt proceeds. ADF filed a lawsuit in March for a student who has moved on, now they are asking Neuqua Valley High School to allow sophomore Alex Nuxoll to wear the shirt as an expression of his religious conviction that homosexual behavior does not lead to happiness. Nate Kellum, ADF senior counsel, said the school prohibits speech that is critical of homosexual conduct, but allows students to promote and advocate it, particularly on the pro-gay Day of Silence, held in April each year. The T-shirt in question was worn as a counter to that school-sanctioned protest. "Alex's First Amendment right to free speech is important," Kellum said, "and should be thoroughly considered."

## Nebraska state senator sues God

(EP News)--A Nebraska senator sued God, ordering Him to "cease certain harmful activities and the making of terrorist threats." State Sen. Ernie Chambers filed a lawsuit Sept. 14 against God for causing "calamitous catastrophes resulting in the wide-spread death, destruction and terrorization

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## Episcopal church faces large departures over gay bishops

By Allie Martin

A spokesman with the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD) says the U.S. Episcopal Church is at a crossroads.

This week, the House of Bishops plans to meet with conservative leaders in the church --known as primates. The conservative leaders will ask for assurance, that by September 30 the church will no longer approve the consecration of bishops living in homosexual relationships, or approve same sex blessings.

Ralph Webb is IRD director of Anglican Action and he says liberal leaders have not given any indication they will meet demands of the conservative leaders. "They have expressed dismay at the pri-

mates, for making such requests of the church. And, so, sadly, it doesn't look like we're going to see something positive," he says.

Three of the largest dioceses in the Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, Pittsburgh and Quincy, have all signaled they are prepared to depart the denomination if it does not reverse course. Webb says that thousands of people have already left the denomination and the Episcopal Church is writing that off as a "small percentage of parishes." But according to Webb, the people who have already left make up a good percentage of the "total population" of the church.

The Episcopal Church made headlines back in 2003 when it consecrated V. Gene Robinson, an open homosexual, as bishop.

of millions upon millions of the Earth's inhabitants." Chambers insists he doesn't have a personal complaint with God, but is simply trying to make a point about frivolous lawsuits. However, Bruce Housknecht, judicial analyst with Focus on the Family Action, said, filing a frivolous lawsuit is not a "productive method for addressing the issue."

## Kansas sex shops taken to court

(EP News)--Concerned citizens and a tenacious district attorney are on the brink of ridding Topeka, Kan., of several pornography outlets. Shawnee County District Judge Evelyn Wilson has dismissed the pretrial motions of a sex-shop owner who wanted the case thrown out. Phillip Cosby of the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families said District Attorney

Robert Hecht stood firm because he knew the people were behind him. "That prosecutor was so overwhelmed by the thousands of registered voters that called for grand juries," Cosby said, "that he successfully delivered indictments against every pornography outlet in Topeka." The case now heads to a jury, and more indictments could be on the way.

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# World News

## Messianic Jews under Fire in Israel

By Dan Wooding

**ARAD, ISRAEL (ANS)** -- "The state of Israel promises religious freedom to all faiths. However, in some Israeli towns, Jews who believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah face persecution. One of those places is in a town called Arad."

Mitchell added, "They provide a place to play chess and dominoes which are games these men love. The club set up chess tournaments and also supply used clothing for Bedouins and anyone in the community."

This is how Chris Mitchell, who works for CBN News Jerusalem Bureau, began his recent report on what is happening in Arad, Israel.



Some of the Ultra Orthodox protesters in Arad

He continued,

"Arad sits in the middle of the Negev Desert, about a two hour drive south of Jerusalem. For most of the nearly 25,000 residents, it's a quiet setting. But for others, it's been the scene of noisy protests and almost daily harassment. "An ultra-orthodox sect called the Gur harasses many of the Messianic Jews in the town."

Mitchell quoted Yakim Figueros, a messianic pastor in Arad, as saying, "We meet at a congregation building. There's a narrow way to go in, I mean the gate. So they have two of their people standing on either side and reading curses against everyone that walks in: 'May his children be orphans. May their wives be widows' and so on. You know it's not nice for the simple people to come in and go through this."

Mitchell went on to say, "The center of town is another place of harassment, where many retired Jewish immigrants gather. Most of the men here are retired senior citizens from the former Soviet Union. Some are holocaust survivors. They come here to play their favorite game at this chess club called The King's Men. He said that Eddie and Laura Beckford established the chess club as a way to serve these men."

"We have books and Bibles in all the languages," Eddie said. "We always keep a stock of Russian Bibles - Old Testament, New Testament. They have a hunger for knowledge, reading and stuff because I guess books were abandoned behind the Iron Curtain."

Laura added, "And we try to meet their physical needs too. Like there's one man here who needs a hearing aid, so we're working on that. We're trying to get the funds for a hearing aid or other physical things, whatever is needed."

"But the chess club has been vandalized and firebombed. Many suspect it is the work of the ultra-orthodox sect. Many of the Messianic Jews have also had their names

and faces placed on flyers distributed throughout Arad."

Rebecca Fry is one of those on the flyers, he added. Ironically, she grew up in an ultra-orthodox Gur home. Now she believes in Jesus. "I know exactly where they're coming from because when I was a child, I was taught the same thing about the Christians," she said. "The Christians are crazy people, bad people who kidnap children and baptize them and take them to monasteries or convents and lock them up there.' So I know exactly where they're coming from. They actually teach you that all the time when you're growing up - to hate Christians."

Mitchell said that Arad's mayor hopes these two groups will find a way to live together. "I try to make both communities try to figure out how to work together, because this is how I believe. I came to the desert for peace not for fight. My feeling is at the end of the day, they will find ways to live. In the meantime, the situation is not so good," he said.

In the meantime, the Messianic Jews of Arad are relying on and asking for prayer. "It helped me to pray for them," Laura told Mitchell. "I feel sorry for them so it helps me to know where to pray for them and where they're coming from. But it's hard when you're standing there in front of someone who's yelling and cursing and shouting. It's hard to see any perspective. But in retrospect, it helps when you pray for them."

"So pray for a revival, pray for His kingdom, for His Name to be glorified here in Arad and not for the persecution to stop," she said. "And pray for people to have the courage and strength to stand firmly in the faith."

## Chief Rabbinate forbids Jews to attend Succot March

By Dan Wooding

**JERUSALEM, ISRAEL (ANS)**

-- Israel's Chief Rabbinate has issued a ban forbidding Jews on halahkic grounds from taking part in the Christian Embassy's upcoming Feast of Tabernacles celebration and the annual Jerusalem March, citing suspicions of missionary efforts by some of the Christian participants.

The ICEJ's Feast gathering is Israel's largest annual tourist event, drawing thousands of Christian pilgrims worldwide and pumping millions of dollars into the Israeli economy. The march through the streets of Jerusalem is a highlight for the Feast pilgrims, and draws tens of thousands of Israeli viewers.

According to a story on the ICEJ website ([www.icej.org](http://www.icej.org)), the Rabbinate's Committee for the Prevention of the Spread of Missionary activity in Israel said, "According to information we have, part of the organization convening in the

International Convention Center are active - among other things - in converting Jewish people away from our faith. Those who fear for their souls should distance themselves," the committee ruled.

ICEJ executive director Malcolm Hedding expressed "disappointment" with the decision. Hedding said, "The truth is that these Feast pilgrims are coming up to Jerusalem at Succot because the Bible invites them, and the members of the Rabbinate know this well." He stated that the ruling would be a departure from the biblical tradition of welcoming Gentiles to Jerusalem at Succot."

"Sadly, some in Israel are alarmed by a Christianity that is no longer intimidating or hostile toward Jews," Hedding added.

So far, the municipality of Jerusalem, which sponsors the march, has ignored the rabbinic ruling, while MK Benny Elon, an Ortho-

dox rabbi and head of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus, also called it into question.

"It is very severe that, without properly investigating the matter, certain rabbis have been misled, and are now causing a dangerous misunderstanding in Israel's relations with countries around the world... The prophecy of Zechariah whereby all the nations will come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Succot holiday has been undertaken with great sensitivity and honor by the Christian Embassy for years now, and is not only one of the most important tourist events of the year, but also a very deep and significant event for Christians and Jews alike," Elon told The Jerusalem Post.

The 28th annual ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles gathering starts on September 27 and could draw a record 7,000 Christians from nearly 100 countries this year.

## Three World Vision International aid workers shot in Darfur while delivering humanitarian aid

By Michael Ireland

**NEW YORK (ANS)** -- A convoy of two World Vision International (WVI) vehicles with eight people on board was ambushed on September 20 in South Darfur near Bulbul Timisgo, a small village on the main road between Nyala and Kass. The vehicles were clearly marked as humanitarian transport.

According to the UN Office of Humanitarian Affairs, two WVI staff were shot in the head, and a third in the arm. The remaining staff suffered minor injuries caused by glass fragments and shrapnel. On the request of the non-governmental organization (NGO), the United Nations arranged for medical evacuation.

Upon arrival in Nyala, two of those shot were flown to Khartoum for medical attention, while one was treated in Nyala due to the severity of his injuries. The other five World Vision staff were treated and released. All have survived the attack.

"This is a horrifying and brutal attack on aid staff who are working to save the lives of Sudanese people," said John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

"We call on the Government of Sudan to act with all speed to identify those responsible and ensure that they are held accountable for their crime," he added.

Clashes among rival Arab tribes in this area in 2007 have caused significant levels of destruction and displacement. The area is also beset by banditry and violence. World Vision, one of the world's largest NGOs, provides a wide range of relief assistance in South Darfur, with projects in food aid, nutrition, water, education, sanitation, and agriculture, among others. They employ several hundred staff there.

Attacks against relief workers increased by 150% from June 2006 to June 2007. Since the start of the year, some 98 vehicles have been hijacked, some 105 staff were temporarily taken hostage, more than 66 humanitarian personnel have been physically or sexually assaulted, and 61 convoys have been ambushed and looted.

Those responsible are groups of armed men whose origins are often hard to ascertain with certainty. In other words, those who have come to help the population are increasingly targeted themselves. In 2007, the aid community has sought \$1.25 billion for humanitarian action in Sudan, including \$652 million for Darfur.

## Monsoon flooding kills more than 2200 in India

(EP News)--According to the Government of India, 2,217 people have lost their lives in India to the southwest monsoon since June. And with heavy rainfall predicted for the rest of this week, the number is expected to rise.

Close to 3,200 people in South Asia have died as the heavy monsoon rains and floods have taken their toll. Rivers are overflowing, tens of thousands of villages have been washed out, and refugees have numbered in the tens of millions. The number of people affected will rise as floodwaters recede and water-borne diseases continue to spread. Outbreaks of diarrhea and cholera have been confirmed.

In Bihar, the hardest hit state in India, almost 10,000 villages with a combined population of over 20 million have been affected in the state's worst flooding in 30 years. More than 530 medical teams and 7,000 boats have been deployed in the state to provide medical care to the survivors, according to govern-

ment sources. Military helicopters have dropped thousands of food packets to those affected.

In the eastern state of Orissa, state health workers were working to contain an outbreak of cholera. "People in several low-lying areas--where roads were submerged and water gushed into houses--suffered enormous panic," wrote a local source in Cuttack, Orissa.

The U.S.-based relief and development agency India Partners, Gospel for Asia, World Vision, and other organizations are at work in the region. All three groups continue to seek funding to provide food, blankets, medicine, water, and temporary shelter for flood survivors. "We are requesting assistance from individuals, foundations, corporations, and churches--anyone who would like to join us in helping and comforting the individuals and families struggling for their lives at this time," says India Partners President Brent Hample.

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# World Shorts

## Afghanistan: Should Christian Agencies Pull Out?

By Wolfgang Polzera

### Christian organizations contribute to Peruvian relief

(EP News)--The tremor lasts only a moment, but Amparo Guerra told Baptist Press that she couldn't mistake the familiar feel of the earth moving in waves beneath her feet. She instantly knew the sensation of being in an earthquake. She immediately ushered her sons, Aldais, 12, and Jeanpeer, 11, away from the brick wall in Pisco, Peru. Guerra, her husband and two sons now sleep in a tent on the street following the Aug. 15, 8.0-magnitude earthquake that destroyed their rented apartment in Pisco. The Southern Baptist Church is just one of scores of organizations that have already sent relief aid to Peru in the aftermath of the quake. Samaritan's Purse, Lutheran World Relief, Compassion International, and other Christian groups have dispatched aid to the region.

### Abbas-Olmert talks aim to outline two-state solution

(EP News)--An Aug. 28 meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas ended with an assessment that they had had a "productive parley" in talks to outline a two-state solution. However, both sides were vehemently denying media reports claiming a written document exists containing an emerging agreement on core final status issues. In their televised reports on the Olmert-Abbas meeting yesterday, Al-Jazeera displayed portions of what they claimed was a two-page draft agreement of principles signed by the two sides on Aug. 28, which dealt with Jerusalem, borders, and refugees. But both Israeli and PA officials insisted that no such document exists and no agreements were made.

### Threat to cut power to Gaza condemned by PA, UN

(EP News)--The Israeli government decided on Sept. 19 to declare the Gaza Strip an "enemy entity" in preparation for possibly cutting off electricity to the crowded coastal strip, a move that was condemned by Palestinian officials as well as UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The Israeli decision was based on a plan presented by Defense Minister Ehud Barak in which he recommended that electricity be cut off to Gaza's 1.4 million

Palestinian residents as a means of forcing them to end Kassam rocket barrages aimed at western Negev communities. Reacting to the development after meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that the Hamas-run Gaza "is a hostile entity to us as well," but she added that "the U.S. will not abandon the innocent Palestinians in Gaza."

### Christian MP killed in Lebanon

(EP News)--An anti-Syrian Lebanese MP has been killed in an apparent car bomb attack in a mainly Christian suburb of the Lebanese capital, Beirut. Antoine Ghanim and at least six others died when his car exploded in the eastern Sin al-Fil district. The blast also damaged several nearby buildings, according to BBC reports. Five other high-profile anti-Syrian Lebanese figures have been killed since the assassination of the former Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, in 2005. The Syrian government has denied any involvement in the killings. The White House said it fitted a pattern of assassinations and attempted assassinations in Lebanon.

### International conference tackles assisted suicide

(EP News)--The first International Symposium on Euthanasia, "Current Issues and Future Directions," is set for Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Toronto. It is being organized by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of Canada, and will allow leaders to discuss strategies for stopping the euthanasia movement. "The conference is going to bring together leaders and people concerned about euthanasia from all around the world," said Rita Marker, executive director of the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. "We definitely have to be concerned about what is happening everywhere." Marker pointed out that assisted-suicide supporters from Oregon traveled to Britain to study its policies before Oregon passed its own law in 1997. "There are different ways we address this," she said. "At the same time, we have to recognize that Oregon is being used as the model for 'problem-free, gentle suicide' everywhere." The next U.S. battleground is Washington state. The "Oregon, plus one" initiative aims to put assisted suicide on the ballot in Washington next

**KABUL (ANS) --** It would be a tragedy for the Afghan people if Christian aid agencies were to pull out of Afghanistan in the wake of recent abductions.

A withdrawal would not only be tragic for the hundreds of Afghan workers and families employed by Christian organizations, but - more importantly - for the thousands of citizens who profit from the projects in the fields of education, health and economy.

Albrecht Hauser, chairman of the Islam committee of the German Evangelical Alliance, expressed this view in an interview with the evangelical news agency "idea". Hauser himself was active in development projects in Afghanistan about 30 years ago.

Despite the risk of further abductions and the deal struck by South Korean negotiators with the radical Islamic Taliban for the release of 19 hostages Hauser is confident that most Christian agencies will remain.

They had been working in Afghanistan even under Taliban rule, he said. But Hauser is concerned that the concessions made by Korean negotiators - to withdraw soldiers and Christian missionaries by the end of the year - could encourage Muslim extremists in other places. Textbooks for abductions were already published on the Internet.

Hauser expressed joy and relief about the release of the last Korean hostages, August 30. 23 members of a Presbyterian church in Bandung were abducted, July 19, on their way to social institutions in the Afghan province of Ghazni, where they wanted to assist in relief projects.

The Taliban first killed two men and released two women. After negotiations with South Korean officials the other hostages were set free in small groups. The Afghan government did not meet the demand for the release of Taliban prisoners.

South Korea has been criticized for negotiating with terrorists and

upgrading the political influence of the Taliban. Concern has also been expressed that the deal may encourage further abductions of Christians.

The Christian relief and development agency Ora International does not intend to pull out of Afghanistan. Their administrative manager in Kabul, Christina Meier, was recently abducted. She was liberated 36 hours later and has since returned to her native Germany.

In an interview with "idea television" Ora's spokesman Ulf Baumann said his organization had no intention of withdrawing from Afghanistan so far. Security for the 20 international workers and their families had been tightened, though.

Baumann emphasized the entirely humanitarian nature of Ora's projects in Afghanistan. These include two clinics, HIV/Aids education programs and micro-economic projects for women.

## Hopegivers' team discovers great ministry progress in Haiti

By Michael Ireland

### COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

**(ANS) --** Enrollment in Hopegivers' Haitian school more than doubled between last fall and early summer, a new well provided by the ministry is serving more than 1,000 people, a local church has grown in numbers, and an orphanage has taken in more children.

"Just to see the progression in less than a year -- it's just mind-boggling," says Hopegivers' Robby Brumberg, who is just back from a visit to Haiti in June, his first since last fall.

The school's enrollment has grown to 823, from just more than 400 this year. And the new well provides daily outreach opportunities, Brumberg said. "Pastor Willio is able to tell them about the Lord when they come and get

year, Marker said. "It will make an impact in every state," she said. "What happens in Washington doesn't stay in Washington." In addition to Marker, the list of speakers includes: Dr. William Toffler, national director of Physicians for Compassionate Care in Portland, Ore.; Diane Coleman, founder of NOT DEAD YET, a leading disability rights group in the U.S.; Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; and Bobby Schindler, brother of Terri Schiavo.

the fresh water for the day," said Brumberg.

Both the new well and expanding the school to fit the exploding number of students was accomplished with the help of Hopegivers' sponsors. All this growth has contributed to increasing numbers for church attendance as well.

"The church has really just grown exponentially in the last several months. Pastor Willio has about 200 members there now, and people come from all over just to hear him speak. They know of him now because they know that he's running the orphanage, he's running the school, and he's got a fresh-water well at his place," Brumberg said.

The growth hasn't stopped there, said Brumberg. Willio has taken in nine new children at the orphanage in Ouanaminthe, and the lack of

space isn't confining his desire to help even more.

"So many have no education, so many have no kind of shelter, so many don't have enough food, and we want to be able to take in more kids. We've got about 30 now, but Pastor Willio has expressed a desire to take in at least 100. To do that, we're going to need a bigger orphanage," said Brumberg. To accomplish its goals, Hopegivers needs even more support from its supporters across the world, Brumberg said.

**H o p e g i v e r s** (www.hopegivers.org) is a faith-based, not-for-profit humanitarian agency based in Columbus, Ga. Hopegivers exists to bring "help for today and hope for eternity" by supporting homeless children, widows, the sick and needy, regardless of caste or creed.

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

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# Book Reviews

## Can I Lose My Salvation?

By Shane Idleman

A common question for many is, "Can I lose my salvation?" I've heard both sides of the argument, and only God truly knows a person's heart, but I can share a few thoughts. One thing is for certain: salvation is a gift from God that cannot be earned.

One school of thought suggests that salvation cannot be lost, as in losing your car keys, but that it can be left, as in walking away from it. This may be why Jesus spoke of the man who said in his "heart": *my master delays His coming; therefore, I will turn from living a godly life.* When the master returned unexpectedly, the servant was banished because he chose to turn from what he knew to be right. In another passage, Jesus said, "You have left your first love," when speaking to the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:4). James 5:19-20 adds, *if anyone wanders from the truth and someone turns him back, a soul is saved from death.* If anything, these Scriptures, and many more, reinforce the fact that we have certain responsibilities. We should never turn from what we know to be right. Jesus encouraged His followers to be watchful, prepared, and ready for His return. Are we

watchful? Are we prepared? Are we ready? You don't want to live your life with a question mark here. (Read Matthew 24:45-51; Luke 21:34.)

The other school of thought suggests that some of those passages are dealing with people who never fully surrendered to Christ. As a result, they fell away. They heard the gospel, but never fully embraced it and turned from their sins; they only had "intellectual" knowledge of salvation. According to this view, the real question isn't, "Can a person lose their salvation?" but, "Was the person really saved to begin with?" Titus 1:16 and James 2:14 both conclude that many people "say" that they know God, but deny Him by their lifestyle. I John 2:19 suggests that those who acknowledge Christ initially, but deny Him later, are not saved to begin with: "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us."

We all sin and fall short, but the important question to ask is what is the condition of your heart—have you truly repented and trusted in Christ as your Lord and Savior, or are you trusting in religion and tradition? This may be why Paul said in II Corinthians 13:5, "Examine

yourself as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?" Our actions do reveal a great deal about our relationship with Christ. A.W. Tozer said: "When people find that after being in the church for years they are not making much progress, they ought to examine themselves and wonder whether they have been truly converted." He added: "True conversion means radical repentance, a changed life, conscious forgiveness of sin, and a spiritual rebirth." Hebrews 3:13 warns us not to "be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Has your heart become so hard as to reject Jesus Christ? If so, you can change that today. I'm aware that I'm driving this point home, but I'd rather err on the side of speaking too much about a committed relationship with Jesus than too little.

As a word of encouragement to those who are struggling, consider this comparison that I heard. A pig and a lamb both find their way to the mud. The mud represents the sin that we all fall into from time to time. The pig wallows in and enjoys the mud, and may even lead others in; the lamb hates its condition and cries out. That's the difference: do you continually return and enjoy wallowing in sin, or do you regret and hate your condition

when you slip in? The person who has made sin a lifestyle enjoys the sin; a follower of Christ regrets it, does what he or she can to avoid it, and cries out for forgiveness when

God seeks them first; and if any of you are seeking him today it is because he has first sought you." The relationship between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility is interwoven throughout the Scriptures. Our responsibility is to repent and to believe, and to live a life that reflects that decision. "God's law will not save me, but it can instruct, warn, and guide me" (J.I. Packer).

Granted, life will seem unclear and confusing at times, but God promises that He will guide you. Had I become angry and unwilling to change my rebellious attitude toward God, only the Lord knows where I'd be today. Don't let discouragement and failure stand in your way. I could write an entire book on my failures, but instead, I strive to follow the apostle Paul's advice and I encourage you to do the same: *forget about those*

*stuck. It's not about perfection but direction.*

Although we've discussed personal choices and things we can do, we cannot forget the fact that we don't choose God as if He's sitting in heaven waiting to be chosen. He chooses us. He invites us. He calls us. In John 6:44 Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." Charles Spurgeon said, "Men do not seek God first;

*things that are behind you. Instead reach forward to those things that are ahead of you* (Philippians 3:13). Forget your past mistakes, but remember the lessons learned because of them.

This excerpt was taken from *What Works for Young Adults—Solid Choices In Unstable Times*, © 2007 by El Paseo Publications ([www.elpasopublications.com](http://www.elpasopublications.com))

## New Biblical Astronomy Book Restores Lost Traditions



and shorter over the span of the year," says Ryan. "More people have heard of 'black holes' than understand how the seasons change."

It was for such reasons that Ryan wrote "Signs & Seasons," to help our generation reclaim its lost astronomical heritage. Lavishly illustrated with over 400 images, "Signs & Seasons" shows the reader what to look for in the sky.

Most importantly, "Signs & Seasons" is created to the glory of God, with ample quotations from Scripture. Many other historical sources are also quoted, literary and scientific, to illustrate the extensive astronomical tradition throughout western history.

"Signs & Seasons" shows the astronomical elements behind Biblical feasts, how Passover and Easter and calculated from the cycles of the Sun and Moon. "Signs & Seasons" also debunks popular misconceptions about astrology, demonstrating how this ancient superstition has stolen and distorted elements from legitimate science.

Though created as a homeschool curriculum, "Signs & Seasons" is very useful to adults seeking to better understand this formerly well-known science and glorify the Creator who placed such a wonderful order over our heads.

Published by Fourth Day Press, "Signs & Seasons" is available through many book sellers or can be ordered directly online.

**CLEVELAND/Christian News-wire/** - The autumnal equinox arrived on September 23, but what exactly does that mean? Did you know that the equinox is actually part of the LORD's created order, a seasonal signpost for measuring time over the span of the year? Why isn't this taught by secular education and pop media, which focus instead on evolutionary theories? Many such topics are finally explained in "Signs & Seasons" by Jay Ryan, newly published by Fourth Day Press.

In "Signs & Seasons," Ryan explains that the Sun, Moon and stars were created for the purpose of measuring time... "for signs and for seasons, and for days and years." (Genesis 1:14). For centuries, the God-given lights in the sky were used in this way, as did the Founding Fathers of the United States. Somewhere down the line, our connection to the "forgotten sky" was broken.

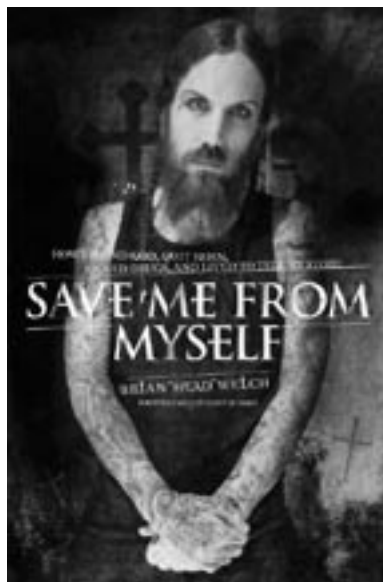
"Very few people today understand why the days grow longer  
**The Good News TODAY**

## Former rocker's bestseller details rise to fame, depression, new life in Christ

by Allie Martin

A former rock star who came to Christ two years ago hopes his story will encourage others to look to Christ for meaning, purpose and hope.

Brian Welch, founder of the heavy metal band Korn, soon found



himself and members of the band wealthy after their debut album sold millions. However, Welch says along with the money came depression and an addiction to methamphetamines. Welch details this rise to fame, depression and drug addiction, and his turning to Christ in a new book titled *Save Me From Myself*.

"At first I wasn't even sure if I wanted to do a book because I'm a musician. I wanted to do a record, you know, but once I started writing it I was like this is God because it just started flowing out of me and I'm just thankful that he's blessing it and so many people are getting

inspired by it," says Welch.

Among those inspired by the book are former drug addicts and current drug addicts. Welch says that he had tried to get off drugs before Christ, but found only temporary relief.

"When you quit speed, you can't wake up, because ... everything is shut down and all you do is crave sugar, and your eyelids are like glued shut and you just are like knocked unconscious because you're so high for so long that you just crash when you're done," he says.

In 2005, when Welch came to Christ, he was finally delivered from his drug addiction. He then went into seclusion for a period of discipleship -- and now Welch wants others to know that true freedom is possible through Christ.

"[I secluded myself] like Paul went away for years with the Lord. I felt led by God; it wasn't nothing [sic]

that I did like, 'Well, I'm going to go away like Paul' -- it was just [that] I was like trying to go out there and do everything at first. And then God caused circumstances to happen to where I would have to go," he explains.

With the release of his new book, Welch says his story is being told to a broad audience that includes old Korn fans. Welch is planning to release a solo record later this year.

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# Sports

## Some sports figures to respect

By Staff

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Michael Vick will serve prison time for his role in a dog fighting ring. The New England Patriots lost a draft pick and Coach Bill Belichick got fined for spying on the New York Jets and stealing their signals.

Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy pleaded guilty to providing inside information to gamblers and betting on the outcome of games. And of course, the accusations of performance enhancing drug use in Major League Baseball continue to swirl.

The sports world has had its share of controversy in recent weeks. But not everything or everyone associated with sports is criminal or rogue. Plenty of athletes and coaches are upstanding people who love God and play by the rules.

It's always good to be reminded of that fact, so what follows is a sampling from BP Sports stories in recent weeks about those who -- though not perfect -- are striving to live responsibly and in ways

that honor the Lord.

### Jake Westbrook



Cleveland Indians pitcher Jake Westbrook struggled early in the season and was sidelined with an injury for almost six weeks. But he has turned things around, and is one of the reasons why the Indians will most likely win the American League Central.

"Everything that I've been given, the success that I've had, I know it comes from Jesus Christ," Westbrook said. "I feel like it's my part to let everybody know that and kind of live my life accordingly and let people see Him through my actions and my speech. The things I have and the things I've accomplished aren't anything I've done, but are blessings that have been given to me by God."

### Dwight Howard



The Orlando Magic center completed his third NBA season and is still only 21 years old. But despite his youth, Howard is one of the league's top performers.

"I want to lead by example," Howard said. "I try to make the right decisions in life and stay out of wrong places. I always get fed by the Word."

To Howard, nothing is more important than the Lord.

"He's my everything," Howard said. "He is my heavenly Father. He's been there in every situation. Without Him, I'm nothing."

### Sylvia Hatchell



The head women's basketball coach for the University of North Carolina, Hatchell led the Tar

Heels to a school record 34 wins in 2006-2007, including a runner-up finish in the NCAA women's tournament.

"Faith is the foundation of my program," Hatchell said. "My program is based on Christian principles, which is how to be successful. I give them little things all the time about how to be successful, but the majority of the time it's something biblical."

### Tony Dungy



The head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, Dungy became first African-American coach to lead his team to a

Super Bowl title. His new book, "Quiet Strength," is the first NFL-related book in history to grab the top spot on the New York Times best seller list. The book has been on the list for eight weeks.

"I'm very proud to be the first African American head coach in the Super Bowl along with my friend

Lovie Smith," Dungy said during Super Bowl week, "but more than that the fact you have two Christian coaches who show you can do things a different way.

"You have coaches who have firm Christian values, and the country and the world need to see that this week," Dungy said. "I'm more proud of that than anything else."

### Zach Johnson



Johnson was a surprise winner of The Masters in April -- on Resurrection Sun-

day, to be exact.

"Being Easter, my goal was to glorify God and hopefully I did that today," Johnson said after his victory. "On the 18th green, seeing my wife and our new baby, my parents and brother, I started to get emotional. I tried to stay in the moment and just started praying."

## The latest Dagon

By Brad Locke - Guest Columnist

In this day and age, we shouldn't be surprised when our heroes let us down. The human condition -- inherent sinfulness -- should discourage us from falling into that trap. But why do we keep propping them back up, setting the stage for further disappointment?



I've been pulling for Rick Ankiel ever since his disgraceful exit from the major leagues in 2000, when severe control problems sidetracked a most promising career as a pitcher. I wanted to see him regain control and be the dominant player he'd shown flashes of being. As his struggles continued in the depths of the minors, I began hoping he could make the bigs in another way -- as a position player. We'd all seen his powerful bat, after all.

Finally, earlier this summer, Ankiel made it back with the St. Louis Cardinals, as an outfielder. In his first 23 games, he smashed nine home runs and had helped vault the Cards back into the National League Central race. It was easily the feel-good story of the year -- any sport, anywhere -- and I imagine even Cubs fans were pulling for him.

Then, on Sept. 7, it was revealed that Ankiel had received shipments of human growth hormone (HGH) in 2004. I admit to being a bit crushed, and yet I was not terribly surprised.

I've been burned too many times to be completely trusting of an athlete anymore. Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro -- they jaded us all.

The cynicism became embedded in our psyche, and so that's why I wasn't totally stunned when I heard the story.

For the record, Ankiel insists the HGH was prescribed by a doctor to help him recover from Tommy John surgery. Even if that's true, he received the shipments from a company now under investigation for handing

out illegal prescriptions. It just smells fishy, and the stench has overwhelmed the sweetness of Ankiel's comeback.

I think another reason I wasn't completely surprised is that I've learned the futility of placing total faith in another human. Our athletes have been letting us down for years, from the Black Sox to Pete Rose to Kobe Bryant. Our idols continue to crumble, and yet we continue gluing them back together. Anyone remember Dagon? (See I Samuel 5)

It's astounding to hear the excuses being made for Ankiel. But this column isn't about his guilt or innocence; it's about the lengths we'll go to just so we can mend our security blankets. Humans are inherently unreliable, and yet we keep pinning enormous hopes on them.

This is one way we avoid God. He is the only reliable One, the only One who will never let us down or jade us. Yet because he's not physically visible, and doesn't inspire us with amazing feats of strength or agility, we gravitate toward the humans who do such fleeting things. We are so spiritually nearsighted, which makes us unable to perceive the true Source of inspiration, the only Being worthy of our devotion.

## IFI asks NFL Commissioner For More Wholesome Commercials

IFI asks NFL Commissioner For More Wholesome Commercials Christian Newswire - Illinois Family Institute's Executive Director David E. Smith sent the following letter today to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell calling for family-friendly content during football games.

Dear Commissioner Goodell,

Millions of families enjoy watching NFL games. As a lifelong Chicago resident, I am -- and always will be -- a diehard Chicago Bears fan. And as the father of two young boys under the age of six, I greatly anticipate being able to share "manly" activities with them, such as sports, fishing, and hunting. To that end, I am already teaching my older son the rules of football while we watch Sunday afternoon Bears games on television.

However, far too many of the advertisements and network promotional spots that are aired during game breaks are completely inappropriate for children. Some of the ads are questionable for adults as well. While many of the commercials are downright funny, a growing number of them are sexually suggestive, and some are even blatantly sexual.

Rick Ankiel is human. He's prone to mess up. That's not to say we should excuse his or any others' actions, but we should be careful about attaching ourselves to so-called heroes. It's a sure way to get heartbroken.

Doesn't feel good, does it?

Brad Locke  
([checkswinger@gmail.com](mailto:checkswinger@gmail.com)) is a sports journalist in Tupelo, Mississippi.

These advertisements and promos seem to be in a pandering context, producing material that survives solely on its shock value or sexual emphasis. As we know all too well, Janet Jackson's exposure on national television during the Super Bowl half-time show was merely the exclamation point that stressed just how debased the entire entertainment industry has become. Despite the national outcry, the situation has not improved. I applaud the NFL's efforts to insure that subsequent Super Bowl half-time productions are more suitable for families and younger viewers, but more needs to be done on a weekly basis to safeguard the NFL's youngest fans from the onslaught of sexualization.

As a Christian, I realize that my first and utmost obligation is to foster my children's spiritual and intellectual well-being. As I am able, I will continue to switch stations during game breaks in an effort to avoid the tasteless and irresponsible commercials that dominate NFL games.

Yet, my circle of influence is fairly small. Undoubtedly there are tens of thousands of children and young adults who watch the NFL every week. Doesn't the

NFL have a responsibility to this generation of viewers? Commercials that promote hedonistic behavior serve only to desensitize an impressionable audience and normalize risky and unhealthy lifestyles. In short, by allowing these commercials to be part of game day programming, the NFL family is failing to uphold the values that are important to a large segment of its viewership.

My appeal is simple; require television networks that broadcast NFL games to choose responsible sponsors and promotional spots that will not alienate families with young children in the audience. I would like to be able to enjoy NFL games on Sunday after church with my sons; however, I will choose to go to local high school and college games instead, in order to avoid exposing my boys to a barrage of indecent commercials.

Commissioner Goodell, please raise the standard and do what you can to eliminate the indecent content aired during NFL games. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Walking "The Land" from Page 1**

In the lobby we met, Marina Banai, one of the museums managers who informed us that we were in for a special treat, one of the brothers was there to meet with us. Marina led us into the wing built specially for the Jesus Boat giving us historical notes about the Kibbutz and museum. Soon Yuval Lufan joined us, one of the most humble gentlemen, I have ever met, and began to share how the boat came into their life and greatly change it.

"In 1986 during a severe drought the lowered waters of the Sea were very muddy and my brother and I walked along the seashore we were discussing how difficult our lives were. My brother was very disappointed at how poor and difficult our lives were and almost ready to give up. I suggested, that one day the sea, ... she would bless us, you'll see." Yuval went on to explain, "looking down as we walked I saw a very old nail. I pushed the sand away and found more nails and some wood buried in the sand." With a tear in his eye, (and ours also) Yuval continued, "suddenly a double rainbow appeared in the sky and I knew it was a sign, that everything would be alright. We were connected to this lake, this earth and this boat for everlasting. Somehow everything was going to be alright."

After bringing the nails home and showing them to friends, the brothers soon returned to the spot with the Israel Antiquity Authority, members of Ginosar and many volunteers. A remarkable 12 day excavation followed and the boat was rescued having been preserved



**Jesus boat on display at Yigal Allon Centre**

in the seabeds sediment. Excavators packaged the weak and waterlogged hull in a cocoon of fiberglass and polyurethane foam, and then successfully floated it to the nearby Yigal Allon Centre, where it underwent an eleven year conservation process.

Marina added, "Numerous repairs with varying wood types suggest that this vessel had a long work life and an owner of meager means. Based on several criteria the Galilee Boat is firmly dated to the first century. An

analysis of crew sizes suggests that this boat was the type used among Jesus' disciples and during the Great Revolt of the Jews against the Romans during that fateful first century A.D. This humble vessel may have been a ferry or a fishing boat but either way it is a porthole into the past providing a clearer view of Galilean seafaring."

One of our group asked Yuval if he felt their good fortune was from God, and he answered, "I knew when the rainbow came into the sky that God was the orchestrator of our good fortune, but my brother was not so sure." As he spoke it was evident that he

had become a follower of Jesus, so I asked him when he had first believed, and he said "shortly after realizing the boat was dated to the first century and I saw, Jews and Arabs and Christians working together restoring the boat, creating a worldwide awareness, I knew for certain that this Jesus was the Prince of Peace." That was enough to incite teary-eyed applause from our entire group and hugs for everyone.

We half-heartedly left the museum and Yuval behind and walked a short distance to the shore and an awaiting replica of the Jesus Boat, on which we would sail the Galilee. In

1991, two friends came up with an idea to authenticate the recently found Jesus Boat so that pilgrims could experience the peace and tranquility while sailing the Galilee. Holyland Sailing built the first two boats and named them Peter and John and thanks to their success Matthew, Mark, Simon, Noah, Paul and Luke joined the family.

A sail on the Galilee is a must if you visit Israel and you can't go wrong with Holyland Sailing. The moment we walked on board there was that familiar feeling that you were among a family of believers. As we set sail, we listened to our favorite hymns and worship songs looking out over the water watching fishermen casting nets much as they did 2000 years ago. Once we made it into the middle of the lake the captain shut the engine down and we gathered in a circle in the center of the boat for Holy-Spirit led prayer. After the prayer we watched our captain toss a net into the sea, but he must have cast on the wrong side because he

didn't catch anything. As we drifted in the middle of the lake our host turned the music up and encouraged us to come together in a circle and dance. If you are having a hard time getting your congregation moving to the spirit of God, might I suggest a group trip to Israel? If that's all it takes to get a crusty group of hardened journalists moving to the flow of the music, I'm certain it could work for anyone.

A short drive down the road and we were at the Mount of Beatitudes. The traditional location for the Mount of Beatitudes is on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Gennesaret. The actual location of the Sermon on the Mount is not certain, but the present site (also known as Mount Eremos) has been commemorated for more than 1600 years. The site is very near Tabgha, where Jesus walked along the shore and called out to Simon Peter and Andrew and two other brothers, James and John who were preparing their nets with their father Zebedee, calling all of these men to follow him.

A Byzantine church was erected near the current site but not as close to the water as the 4th century chapel and it was used until the 7th century. Remains of a cistern and a monastery are still visible today. The current Roman Catholic Franciscan chapel was built in 1938. The architecture is fantastic and the gardens serene. There's a magnificent view from atop the mountain and one can easily imagine listening to Jesus preach to the multitudes.

Back in the bus and a 15 minute drive away we came to the town of Capernaum. Ikey explains to us that "in its day, Capernaum stretched for two-thirds of a mile along the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Its harbor for fishing boats extended for over half a mile. Capernaum existed for more than a thousand years, from the second century B.C. until the eleventh century A.D. Fishing was the town's major industry and many residents were also engaged in supporting enterprises as tying fishing nets and repairing boats. In addition to fishing, agriculture thrived in the fertile soil of the region."

Capernaum was the major center of trade and commerce in Galilee and the international trade route from Egypt through Palestine to Syria and Mesopotamia, passed near Capernaum. Located only three miles west of the eastern border of Galilee at the Jordan River, the town became a port of entry and customs checkpoint. A collector of customs from passing caravans, Matthew would also collect fees for fish caught in the lake, levied by Herod Antipas who owned the lake.

Ikey continued, "Roman military personnel were stationed at Capernaum under the command of a centurion. Recent excavations indi-



**Praying aboard the Jesus boat replica.**

cate that a military garrison was quartered east of the town. These mercenary troops enjoyed a complete bath installation and other excellent facilities. This would have been the residence of the centurion who built the synagogue in which Jesus taught (Matt 8:1-13; Luke 7:1-10). This garrison served Herod Antipas, the governor of Galilee, under Roman authority."

"After being rejected in His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus moved to Capernaum,



**Roman Catholic Franciscan chapel built in 1938 on top of the Mount of the Beatitudes.**

making it the base of His ministry (Matt 4:12-16). A fourth century synagogue of white limestone stands in Capernaum. The foundation of this synagogue is constructed of black basaltic stone, probably dating to the first century syna-

gogue built by the Roman centurion who was stationed in Capernaum (Luke 7:5). At the request of this centurion, and encouraged by the synagogue elders, Jesus healed the centurion's servant."


"Although Peter was born in Bethsaida (John 1:44), he lived in Capernaum. Apparently his move there was related to his marrying a woman of Capernaum (Mark 1:29-30). Recently 2<sup>nd</sup> century graffiti honoring Jesus and Peter, has been found in a home



**A fourth century synagogue of white limestone in Capernaum**

across the street from the synagogue which was identified as Peter's mother's house.

Capernaum forms the southwestern corner of the "evangelical triangle" on the north side of the Sea of Galilee. It was in this region, in Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida, that Jesus performed most of His Galilean miracles. In Capernaum, Jesus healed the paralytic who had been lowered through the roof of the house in which Jesus had been



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House where Peter may have lived

teaching (Mark 2:1-12). It was also in Capernaum that the "Beelzebub confrontation" occurred, an event that changed the focus of Jesus' subsequent ministry.

In spite of the miracles Jesus had performed there, Jesus rebuked



Remains of a 5th Century Christian church found inside of the largest Byzantine monastery in Kursi, Israel.

Capernaum for its lack of repentance (Matt 11:23-24). Looking out over the ruins of this once thriving city you realize quickly that a curse from Jesus is something you would want to avoid at all costs.

A little further down the road is where many archeologists believe Bethsaida was; only Jerusalem and Capernaum are mentioned more frequently in the New Testament. It was the birthplace of Peter, Andrew and Philip and the site of the fishes and loaves (Luke 9: 12-17), the healing of a blind man (Mark 8:22-25) and where witnesses reported seeing Jesus walk on the water (Mark 6:45-51). Bethsaida has been hidden from view



Ruins of ancient Bethsaida

for nearly two thousand years. No single place was absolutely identified as Bethsaida. Known

as a village on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, explorers were searching in the wrong places. In the early 1980's Father Pixner, a Benedictine monk, began a search for Bethsaida and discovered an e-Tell (literally: the mound) approximately two miles from the Sea of Galilee which proved to many that this must be the site. Geological experts determined that a significant earthquake in 363 A.D. and deposits from the Jordan River had changed the area and the sea had receded.

Exploration continues today and very little has actually been discovered, but the most significant find was a ninth century B.C. gate. Foundations to a few houses have also been discovered and one telltale sign was "the Fisherman's house" named such because fishing weights from the period were found inside. Bethsaida actually means "House of the Fisherman."

Jesus condemned this city also stating, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes." (Matthew 11:21).

Around the corner from Bethsaida is our next stop, Kursi; actually the Arabic name for the ruins of a fishing village, known as Gergasa, often called Gadara or the Gadarenes in various manuscripts. It was near Kursi that Jesus healed a man possessed by demons and cast the demons into a herd of pigs which then leaped into the Sea of Galilee and drowned. (Mark 5: 1-20 and Matthew 8:28-33 and Luke 8:26-39) Although the gospels do not mention the precise

town, Christian tradition has held that it was Kursi.

Like Bethsaida, Kursi remained hidden until around 1976, when excavations for a road revealed the remnants of the town. The major discovery was the remains of the largest Byzantine monastery in Israel (375 feet by 435 feet). Inside the monastery the remains of a 5th Century A.D. Christian church have been discovered. The church was damaged during the Persian invasion (614 A.D.), but repaired and abandoned in the 8th Century A.D after an earthquake; never to be used again. Because Kursi and Bethsaida are so close, some associate the feeding of the multitudes with Kursi; rather than Bethsaida (Mark 8). Lending credibility to the feeding of the multitudes near Kursi, the mosaics on the floor of the church depict baskets full of fish and bread.

In 1980, remains of a small chapel were discovered built above a cave. Many believe this was the home of the demon possessed man healed by Jesus, and revered by early Christians. Some scholars consider Kursi to be the birthplace of Western Christianity. Our guide explained that at the time of Christ, the residents were not Jewish, but Gentiles and considering pigs are



Cave dwelling of the demon possessed man from Kursi

forbidden to Jews, and Christ sent the demons into a nearby herd of pigs it is unlikely that this was a Jewish settlement. Most of the people that Jesus healed were told to remain quiet, but after healing the man of his demons, he told him to "go home and show what great things God hath done." It was his healing that many believe caused the foundation of this town and church on the shores of Galilee.

Our day was capped off by another scrumptious dinner at "Fish on the River" Restaurant overlooking a traditional Baptismal site for Christians on the Jordan River. One of our crew took the opportunity to take a plunge in the Jordan, getting baptized in the same river where John the Baptist dipped many a believer and the Son of God.

Israel has so much to offer a Christian, those in our group often discussed the possibilities of living there one day and one editor from Kansas is actually planning to retire there one day. In attempting to explain how magnificent this country is and all that it has to offer, it's a bit like explaining a tree to someone that has never seen one. If you have the opportunity, or can make an opportunity, go to Israel you will never be the same.

Next month we will visit the Dead Sea Region, discover Masada and visit the Holy City of Jerusalem as we continue our walk through "The Land."

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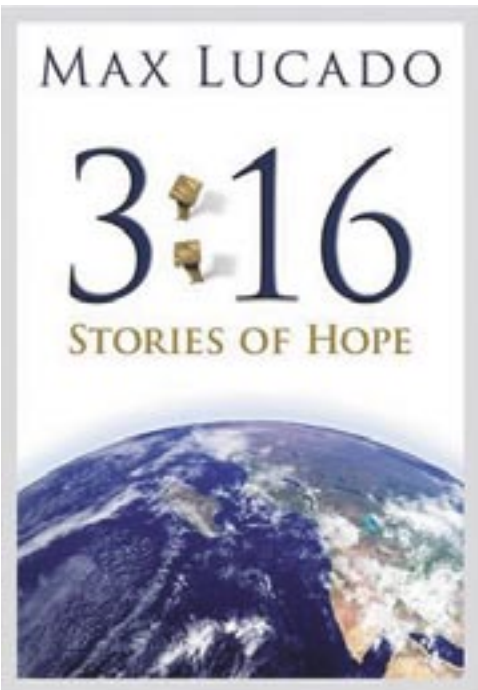
# Entertainment

## Imagine Hollywood Promoting Salvation

By Dr. Ted Baehr, Publisher of MOVIEGUIDE®

**HOLLYWOOD, CA (ANS)** -- Imagine a Hollywood studio promoting the most significant salvation verse in the Bible, John 3:16 and one of the most powerful apologetic, evangelistic DVDs ever made, entitled THE CASE FOR CHRIST, with gigantic displays in Wal-Mart, Costco and bookstores (both Christian and secular) around the country. That is exactly what's happening with Lionsgate's Sept. 11 DVD release of best-selling author Max Lucado's evangelistic meditations on John 3:16, 3:16 STORIES OF HOPE and Lee Strobel's investigation of the claims of Jesus Christ in the DVD entitled THE CASE FOR CHRIST.

emotional personal reflections by Max Lucado, America's No. 1 inspirational author, aimed at helping the audience understand



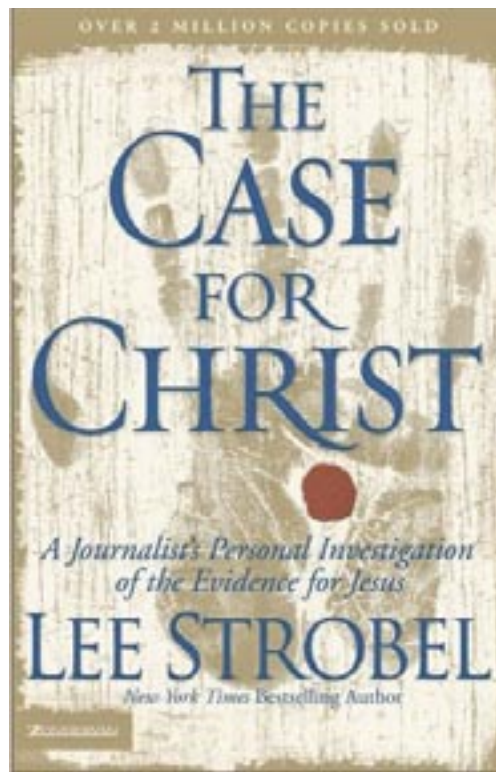
3:16 STORIES OF HOPE contains 12 short meditations complete with poignant,

the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They include

messages about hope, Heaven, belief, Hell, love, and the Bible. This video is so impressive that this reviewer wanted to immediately send it to his friends and family. At the end, there is a 20-minute prodigal daughter movie helping the contemporary generation which is drifting away from God understand the selfless love of the Father. The theology in 3:16 STORIES OF HOPE is balanced, orthodox and clearly presented. This is one of the best evangelistic tools ever made.

In THE CASE FOR CHRIST, Ivy League-educated journalist Lee Strobel discusses growing up a committed atheist and becoming an award-winning reporter for the Chicago Tribune. When his wife converted to Christianity more than 25 years ago, Lee set out to disprove her faith in Jesus Christ. As a conscientious reporter, he examined the evidence

logically. This wonderful DVD recreates Lee Strobel's investigation into the truth of Christianity. He



asks all the important questions, such as, Are the New Testament manuscripts reliable? Could the prophecies have really been fulfilled? Were the eyewitnesses reliable? Step by step, Lee proves that the evidence demands one logical

verdict - that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man and the Savior of all who believe on him.

This is one of the most powerful conversion stories ever presented. Every Christian should get a copy and show it to their children, friends, relatives, and anyone else. Lee examines the evidence by talking with the leading experts on religion and ancient history. He leaves no stone unturned. He is relentless in his investigation. Therefore, no one who watches this can escape the truth that it presents - that Jesus Christ is Lord of All, and that is the very Truth that will set them free from sin and death.

Lionsgate should be commended for releasing THE CASE FOR CHRIST and 3:16 STORIES OF HOPE.

The thought that these powerful evangelistic DVDs would be in major secular stores gives one the hope that revival might even break out throughout the country.

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Animated Movie is First in a Series on Epic Stories of the Bible

By Dr. Ted Baehr, Publisher of MOVIEGUIDE®

**HOLLYWOOD, CA (ANS)** -- Promenade Pictures movie, "The Ten Commandments," will open Oct. 19 in theaters nationwide. The first in the Epic Stories of the Bible series, it is a full-length, animated movie that brings the Bible to life. This initial movie reveals the true meaning of faith and God's love for mankind.

Directed by Bill Boyce ("Hermie & Friends") and John Stronach ("Ben Hur," "Cahoots"), "The Ten Commandments" features an award-winning talent line up including Ben Kingsley (narrator voice), Christian Slater (Moses' voice), Alfred Molina (Ramses' voice), and Elliott Gould (God's voice) as well as acclaimed family screenwriter Ed Naha ("Honey, I Shrank the Kids").

Filled with adventure and a gentle sense of humor, the movie showcases the miraculous story of Moses, an ordinary man with an extraordinary calling. Moses is the only man in Biblical history to behold the face of God and call Him friend. The movie takes a unique approach in highlighting the humanity of Moses and dis-



playing the power of God.

Promenade Pictures is a production, distribution and marketing company specializing in quality family motion pictures and home entertainment. "We at Promenade are extremely proud to present 'The Ten Commandments' as our first motion picture release," declares Frank Yablans (former president of Paramount and former CEO of MGM/U A), chairman and CEO of Promenade Pictures.

"Promenade Pictures is in a unique position to facilitate the production and distribution of quality values-based entertainment to families worldwide. Not since the young Walt Disney and his brother Roy had a similar vision in 1938 has an opportunity like this been present."

Founded in 2003, Promenade Pictures' experienced management team plans to produce, market, distribute, and service independent filmmakers with production budgets ranging from \$5 million to \$20 million. Promenade has entered into contracts and associations with many of the most recognized moral-valued authors, filmmakers and brands.

"We are thrilled to finally bring 'The Ten Commandments' to life in an epic way the entire family can enjoy together," explains Cindy Bond, president and chief operating officer of Promenade Pictures. "We are also happy that this film will not only be entertaining, but also educational about the Ten Commandments."

Promenade Pictures is currently in production on its second film in the Epic Stories of the Bible franchise. Entitled "Noah's Ark - The New Beginning," the movie is scheduled for release in 2008. "Not since my years working with Walt Disney have I been so happy to bring motion pictures to families," Yablans reports. "I truly feel that we are helping accomplish God's work in bringing stories to film that will make a difference in the lives of people."

"The Ten Commandments" opens nationwide in theaters on Oct. 19, 2007. For more information, visit [www.promenadepictures.com](http://www.promenadepictures.com) or [www.10commandmentsmovie.com](http://www.10commandmentsmovie.com)

## Donnie McClurkin Receives 2007 Recording Academy Honors

**LOS ANGELES**-Christian News-wire - Grammy award -winning gospel singer, Donnie McClurkin has been named a recipient of the New York Chapter's Recording Academy Honors 2007 for his significant contributions and achievements that has enriched the musical community.

McClurkin joined an elite host of honorees including music veteran Bon Jovi, R&B artist Alicia Keys and the creators of "West Side Story" for a black tie gala during Sept at New York City's Cipriani Wall Street. The event attracted recording artists, key entertainment executives and community leaders. The Recording Academy Honors celebrates outstanding individuals whose work embodies excellence and integrity and who have improved the environment for the creative community.

Noted as Gospel's premier male vocalist, a master songwriter and profound minister, McClurkin became a household name after the release of his self-titled CD in 1996. The debut CD led to other gold albums including Again and the double platinum-selling Live From London And More, recorded in England at the Fairfield Hall. McClurkin expanded beyond the gospel base with the hit single "We Fall Down," which was heard internationally on R&B, and adult contemporary radio formats as well.

McClurkin reached even greater heights with his latest platinum-selling Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs, a collection of church favorites coupled with renditions of Richard Smallwood's "Total Praise" and "Ooh Child" featuring Kirk Franklin. The double disk CD set has crossed both Christian and

Gospel genres with McClurkin's unique and original style, taking you from church to worship. His many successes are evident by the number of awards he has received including: a 2007 Trumpet Award; two Grammy awards, a NAACP Image Award, a BET Award, a Soul Train Music Award and two Doves and numerous Stellar Awards.

McClurkin's accomplishments have placed him on an international platform as a highly requested psalmist and preacher. Also during Sept he shared the stage with an all-star line up - Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Jessye Norman, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Carlos Santana, Garth Brooks, Queen Latifah, John



Legend, Baby Face among others-for The Dream Concert to benefit the building of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation. The concert was held at the Radio City Music Hall and will benefit the construction of the King memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C.

Whether it is behind the pulpit on Sunday mornings or singing in a large arena, McClurkin's mission is to reach people by spreading the gospel.

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## The Killing of California Almonds (and why dead foods lead to dead people)

By Mike Adams

As NewsTarget reported earlier this year, the Almond Board of California (ABC) has decided that all almonds grown in that state must be pasteurized, irradiated or otherwise killed, even when they're labeled "raw." This is necessary, the ABC tells us, for "safety reasons." But who's safety? Certainly not the safety of the consumer, since dead or cooked nuts are far less nutritious than living, raw nuts. It turns out the focus is on *the safety of the industry*, and killing all the almonds before allowing them to be sold to consumers is a way to insulate the almond industry from lawsuits stemming from rare salmonella outbreaks that afflict a tiny number of consumers with compromised immune systems.

So rather than take the risk that a few raw almonds might occasionally be contaminated and harm a few individuals, the industry believes that **it's better to harm everyone equally by making sure all almonds are pasteurized or irradiated**, rendering them nutritionally deficient. Or, to put it another way, the industry will knowingly put out a nutritionally inferior product to the masses in exchange for a little legal immunity of its own.

Of course, the Almond Board of California knows virtually nothing about nutrition and so does not even acknowledge any difference between raw almonds and dead almonds. It makes me wonder if the board is, itself, occupied by expired persons that the few remaining living members simply haven't bothered to remove. They seem incapable of distinguishing between living organisms and dead ones, after all. And yet the differences are tremendous: Cooked almonds have most of their natural phytonutrients destroyed by excess heat (or radiation). Protein content is diminished, fats are molecularly altered and sugars are broken down into less healthy forms. All this seems to be of no concern to the ABC, which remains convinced that cooked, dead almonds are virtually identical to raw almonds in taste, texture and nutrition.

Many almond growers, not surprisingly, are hopping mad at the ABC for this "pasteurization tyranny" that will now require almond growers to kill a perfectly good product before they can sell it to consumers. It's almost like being in the flower business and, after growing beautiful orchids for your customers, some stupid state agency comes along and says you have to cook all the flowers before you can sell them because somebody once stuck their nose in a pot of orchids and sniffed up a creepy crawler. Cooked orchids, alas, are not nearly as beautiful as living orchids.

But the ABC will hear none of it. They're determined to kill their almonds, even if it means compromising the integrity of the entire industry due to the planned false labeling that would classify dead almonds as "raw." Starting in September, when consumers

pick up a bag of "raw almonds" at a health food store, they have no way of knowing if those almonds are actually raw, or if they're just pretend raw because the ABC voted to have them pasteurized (cooked) and then labeled as raw. Virtually all almonds sold in North America are grown in California, by the way. This ruling therefore impacts the whole industry.

The ABC does not even seem committed to honest labeling. If the almonds are to be pasteurized, shouldn't they be labeled, "Pasteurized"? It seems stubbornly dishonest to cook all the almonds while labeling them "raw." It's an insult to the consumer, too, but it's also par for the course when it comes to food safety: The FDA, after all, insists that both irradiated foods and GMO foods should not be labeled as such because the labels might "confuse consumers." That's right: Too much information is dangerous to consumers! Knowledge might cause them to make the wrong purchasing decision!

As a consumer, I've never felt so insulted in my entire life. Except, perhaps, for the one time a radio show host accidentally called me a doctor.

### Singling out almonds

Certainly, there have been a handful of deaths due to salmonella poisoning from raw almonds. To put this in perspective, *so what?* Over 16,000 people died last year from drunk driving, and I don't see the feds banning cars. Over 100,000 Americans died from pharmaceuticals, and yet those remain heavily advertised everywhere. Countless millions of children have died over the years from cancers stemming from chemical food additives like sodium nitrite, hydrogenated oils and petrochemical food coloring, yet you don't see anybody jumping up and down to save those kids. But when five people croak from eating raw almonds, they treat it like it's a national emergency. Maybe terrorists are now using salmonella as a biological weapon...

But let's get real here: Eating food comes with some risk. You can die from salmonella poisoning in alfalfa sprouts, too, if you have a really weak immune system, or you could keel over from eating raw sushi at the local Japanese diner. You might croak after drinking a gallon of raw milk that went really, really bad, or you could buy the farm after eating a salad contaminated by salmonella from the knife you used to slice that contaminated chicken (70% of store-bought raw chicken meat is contaminated with salmonella,

did you know?). These are inherent risks in life. Food sometimes kills you, and even when it doesn't, you sometimes get diarrhea so bad that you wish it had.

**The defense against food poisoning is to have a healthy immune system and a really healthy population of friendly flora in your gut.** These two things can protect you against almost any common food-borne organisms. And yet so many Americans are diseased, immunosuppressed and intestinally imbalanced (due to

really wanted to kill everyone, they could just force the population to watch endless reruns of televised speeches from President Bush, and that would drive countless voters to kill themselves far more quickly.

But suppose the theories have an element of truth? Mandating the killing of fresh foods would certainly be an effective way to accelerate the diseasification and death of the population. It's also a great cover story: "We're killing all your food to HELP you! Because we care!"



I suspect, however, that the real explanation here is nothing more complicated than *mass incompetence* by the ABC, USDA, FDA and just about every government agency with 3 or 4 letters. Real knowledge about the nutritional value of living foods remains disturbingly rare. Conventional medicine still

hasn't even accepted the idea that the human body has any real nutritional needs whatsoever (except, perhaps, for basic synthetic vitamins to prevent rickets and pellagra). Medical doctors still aren't taught nutrition in med school, and the whole raw foods movement is only starting to gain mainstream momentum. Sure, in twenty years, most people will understand there's a huge difference between living foods and dead foods, but right now, most health authorities and consumers are stuck in the world of immutable macronutrients that have no "living" properties whatsoever.

Whether you believe that the plan to destroy the nutritional value of the

food supply is due to widespread incompetence or some evil plot to reduce the human population by nutritionally starving the masses, one thing remains inarguably true: Each year, more and more of your food is getting irradiated, pasteurized, homogenized, milled, processed, steam treated, dipped, bleached or otherwise altered. The result is that **mainstream food is less nutritious with each passing year**, and that doesn't even consider the mass mineral depletion of the soils that further contributes to the nutritional deficiency of foods.

It all comes back to the same fundamentals: **If you want to be a healthy person, you'll need to source real food grown by real people who live real close by.** Buy local. Support Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) organizations ([www.LocalHarvest.org](http://www.LocalHarvest.org)). Visit local farmer co-ops, and grow what you can in your own garden. Buy organic, and research the companies you're buying from. Know what you're putting in your mouth before chewing and swallowing.

After all, there are health authorities who are working hard right now to make sure that every bite you take has been sterilized *for your own protection*. Living matter may soon no longer allowed to be consumed by the public. Gee, isn't it nice to know the authorities are looking out for our welfare yet again? I think we should all send kind letters to the Almond Board of California, thanking them for making our food purchasing decisions so simple that even complete idiots can now eat themselves into a state of sustained malnourishment without giving it a second thought.

It is a fascinating sign of the times when the authorities in charge of the food supply seem dead set on making foods as nutritionally worthless as possible.

## D.C. council members want to repeal HPV vaccine mandate

(EP News)--In April, the Washington, D.C., City Council voted 7-3 to require sixth-grade girls to be vaccinated against the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection. Now two council members, who won special elections and took office a month after the vote, want to repeal the law and give the responsibility of vaccines back to parents. Yvette M. Alexander and Muriel Bowser say they are not convinced that the city should be involved in requir-

ing young girls to be vaccinated with a drug that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration a little over a year ago, the *Washington Post* reports. "People are saying it's a wonder drug. Based on what?" Bowser asked. Alexander said, "I think certain things government should be left out of." With Alexander and Bowser on the council, there could be five votes against the law and enough momentum to overturn it, the *Post* reports.

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I'm not sure I totally believe this plan, but some of what's happening with CODEX Alimentarius sure seems suspicious (as in, why would they make therapeutic doses of vitamins illegal, anyway?). On the other hand, if world leaders

# Editorials

## Attention Churches: Recall On Sinners Prayer

By Ray Baumann

Attention all churches! This is an information recall on the sinner's prayer that has been repeated over and over again for the last 100 years. This recall is an effort to repent before God for negligence in evangelism and to prevent more damage by producing more false converts. For years churches thought that all a person had to do was repeat a prayer to be saved. The "sinner's prayer" is not found anywhere in the New Testament, nor is there a single instance of any sinner directed to pray for their salvation. In churches of all denominations, it is rare for people to mourn their sin. Instead, churchgoers are encouraged to just believe and repeat a prayer, which is meant to signify that they've accepted Christ as their personal savior.

The sinner's prayer goes a little like this:

"Repeat after me, Jesus I now confess to you all of the wrong and sinful things that I have ever done in my life. I ask that you please forgive me and wash away

all of my sins by the blood that you have personally shed for me on the cross. I am now ready to accept you as my personal Lord and Savior. I now ask that you come into my life and live with me for all of eternity. I now believe that I am truly saved and born again."

Just believing in Jesus doesn't make you a Christian, just like believing in Osama Bin Ladin doesn't make you a terrorist. It is not a belief that recognizes someone's existence in history either, because even the devil believes in Christ. "You believe that God is one, You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder," James 2: 19. It's a belief that changes who you are from the inside out.

This recall is exposing churches that make light of repentance and claim it is the same as faith, or redefine it so that it has nothing to do with sin. The sinner's prayer is not the Biblical pattern for evangelism. Churches that use this technique are following a manmade formula. Throughout history, Bible preachers and

prophets have always proclaimed repentance.

After extensive study and research it has been discovered that repeating a prayer does nothing. As a result, this recall will affect millions of churchgoers that have a false sense of eternal security because they have been affirmed by the local church for taking this action. We have found that repeating a sinner's prayer has no link to salvation in Jesus Christ. People affected by this recall include anyone who has ever attended church, a camp meeting and crusades and/or repeated the sinner's prayer.

As of Aug 31, 2007 there is an unofficial moratorium of the sinner's prayer.

Studies are showing that repeating the sinner's prayer has no saving power, no matter if it was repeated in front of one person or 10,000. No matter who led you in the prayer, whether it was Billy Graham or Bill Clinton, a signed pledge card will not save you. Salvation can not be found through repeating a prayer. Action must be taken for those who trust their eternity to a repeated prayer to save them from the judgment to come.

Effective immediately, every person must examine themselves



**Fisher Ames** helped ratify the U.S. Constitution and authored the House language of the First Amendment.

At age 46, he was elected Harvard's president, but declined due to an illness which led to his death on July 4, 1808. An orator, Fisher Ames stated no one could be eloquent "without being a constant reader of the Bible and an admirer of the purity and sublimity of its language."

as instructed in 2 Corinthians 13: 5. "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves; that Jesus Christ is in you unless indeed you fail the test?"

Has there been a change in your life?

This recall will be very costly for the church and they may or may not embrace this message. It will be too embarrassing for many churches to find out that the majority of their attendees are unsaved. There will be a clear, defining line between believers and make-believers. Many will continue in cheapening the gospel message that makes a mockery out of Christianity.

There is a big difference between

thinking you are saved and being born again. Someone who is truly born again identifies with the sacrifice Christ made on the cross for their sin. The debt that they could not pay and an eternal gratitude exists that reprioritizes one's life.

True saving faith (belief) is followed by obedience to the Word of God. It's a dying to self and to sin to protect the new relationship with an Almighty God. A believer's testimony is more than recalling a prayer that was recited. It must recall the events that brought them to the realization of the sin in their life and that their greatest need is to be forgiven by repenting and turning from their old life and walking with Christ.

For further self examinations please see 1 John 5.

## Are We Teaching Children To Lie?

By Coach Dave Daubenmire

We are so blind. Sometimes I feel like I am the only one who can see. I know that sounds prideful, sort of like I am a know-it-all, but that is not really what I mean. For the life of me I can't understand how Christians and our leadership have become so blind.

I often wonder if I am what many emailers accuse me of "full of hate," "close-minded," or my favorite, "bigoted." Like I said in an earlier commentary, I call them like I see them. Suffice it to say that I don't see things better...but differently. I haven't figured out whether it is a gift or a curse.

As some of you might be aware I have begun to coach high school football again. I don't work as a teacher, but I am starting a football team at a local Christian school. I figured rather than complain about the condition of Christianity in America my time might be better spent engaging the next generation of Christian leaders.

I took the plunge, not so much to train football players, but to train young Christians how to be men. Many of our churches are producing passive Christian boys whose greatest Christian attribute is "niceness." Our guys are nice. Too nice. I happen to think Christianity could use an influx of testosterone. "Being nice" is only going to make our submission to the Devil less confrontational. Heaven forbid Christian men would stand and fight. The secularists tell us that things would go so much better in America if the Christians would just be nice.

The Devil's team plays to win. I happen to think God's team should

as well. Go ahead; throw a flag on me for unsportsmanlike conduct. Christians are supposed to be pushovers. No wonder everyone wants our new team on their schedule. But, once again, I am down a bunny trail....

Do you realize that we are teaching our children to lie? "That's preposterous, Coach," you are probably thinking. "We teach our children to be truthful." Really?

Let me ask you something. What is political correctness? To quote from Wikipedia, "*The term 'political correctness' is derived from Marxist-Leninist vocabulary, and was used to describe the appropriate 'party line,' [7] commonly referred to as the 'correct line.' [8] The term was used in communist countries, and by communist and Trotskyist parties.*

Note: (For those of you who think I have gone off of the deep end by quoting from Wikipedia, I would hope you give me more credit. I use Wikipedia because it is the enemy's dictionary. Using their sources makes it tougher for them to discredit what I say.)

Have you ever said to your child, "Oh Honey, don't say that. That's not nice." Aren't you in fact asking them to not say what they are thinking?

Now I understand the importance of manners and of having the civility to not say something that might hurt another's feelings. However, should we be teaching our children

to be more concerned about other's feelings at the risk of sacrificing the truth?

Political correctness teaches that it is not proper to say what you think. Instead, we must teach them how NOT to say what they think. In my way of thinking (I know that is dangerous) we are teaching them to lie. Let me give you an example.

The other night I was on the way home from practice and one of the players on the team was riding with me. Michael Savage came on the radio and this intelligent, alert, very informed 15 year-old riding with me (he had been home-schooled previously) asked me what I thought of Savage.

**What you THINK matters more than what you say. If I love you, I will speak the truth.**

"How do you mean that?" I asked. "Well," he said, "*It seems to me that he says such outrageous things sometimes and that causes his message to get lost in the way he says it.*"

"You mean he says what he thinks?" I continued. "Well, not so much that. It's just that I think some of the things he says would have more impact if he didn't turn off so many people with the way he says it."

"Do you mean he would be more effective if he was less truthful about his feelings?" I asked. He thought deeply before he responded, which is something rare in 15 year olds today. "*Not so much that, I guess, but he would be better if he said it differently.*"

"But what if that is really how he feels? What is wrong with saying what he believes? I think America would be better if we had a little more truth and a little less deception. Politicians get elected by saying what they don't really believe and we are surprised when they don't follow through on it. I think we need more honest talk. Wouldn't communication be more effective if I really understood your position, how you felt, rather than some sanitized version of what you were really thinking?"

"For instance," I continued, "wouldn't it be better to tell me that you hate dating fat girls before I fix you up with one? Wouldn't it be better for me to understand your thought process so that we could better have a discussion on the issue?" Would it be better if you told me something you didn't really believe, just because you wanted to be nice?"

John 8:32, "**And you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"

Truth sometimes can appear to be harsh. No one likes their shortcomings exposed. But as followers of Jesus we are to speak the truth in love. We are teaching our children just the opposite. "Go along to get along" is the modern-day mantra. Didn't Paul say "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*"

What you THINK matters more than what you say. If I love you, I will speak the truth.

Therein is where the battle lies, over truth. We do our children and our Lord a dis-service by teaching them it is wrong to speak it. The sooner we teach them to speak the truth, the more effective they will become in defending it.

I'll never forget one Saturday morning outside of a local abortion clinic. A young man and woman climbed out of their car and headed into the killing center. I had only a minute to speak the truth about the life-changing decision they were getting ready to make. I prayed for the words to speak.

As they made their way up the steps I cried out with the words that came to me.

"Sir, please, look at how beautiful your girlfriend is. Your daughter is going to look just like her. In a year that pretty little thing's picture will be hanging on your refrigerator."

I could have told him that Jesus loved him. I could have told him he was committing murder. I could have told him he was on his way to hell. I could have told him it was their choice. I could have told him Jesus would forgive him.

Ten minutes later the door swung open and the couple walked smiling towards me. Goosebumps ran down my spin. "*Are you keeping your baby?*" I screamed. He nodded yes as he walked and embraced me. "*Thanks for being here, man. Thanks for telling me the truth.*"

A child is alive and a couple is free from guilt because we cared enough to speak the truth. Let's stop teaching our children to lie. Only the truth can bring freedom.

## American Minute for October 31st:

Upon signing the Declaration of Independence, Samuel Adams stated: "This day, I trust, the reign of political Protestantism will commence." The 56 signers were mostly Protestant, with a notable exception being Catholic Charles Carroll of Maryland. New York University Professor Emeritus Patricia Bonomi, in her article "The Middle Colonies as the Birthplace of American Religious Pluralism" wrote: "The colonists were about 98 percent Protestant." British Statesman Edmund Burke addressed Parliament, 1775: "All Protestantism...is a sort of dissent. But the religion most prevalent in our Northern Colonies is a refinement on the principle of resistance; it is the dissidence of dissent, and the Protestantism of the Protestant religion."

Protestantism traces its origins to OCTOBER 31, 1517, when Martin Luther posted 95 ques-

tions on the door of Wittenberg Church. Summoned to stand trial before 21-year-old Emperor Charles V, Luther was declared an outlaw. Frederick of Saxony hid him in Wartburg castle where he translated the New Testament into German.



Luther later wrote: "I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth."

## Why Can't I Work For a "Christian" Company?

by Regi Campbell

When I first became a Christian and left AT&T shortly thereafter, nothing would have pleased me more than to go to work for a "Christian" company. How cool would it be to have Bible study and prayer right there in the office...I mean even on "company time"!

Imagine. No gossip, no back biting, no office politics. No guys running around on their wives...how awesome would that be. We could have time off to go on retreats and mission trips. The company could give money to support the poor and homeless when the church wanted to help them. It would be awesome.

But wait a minute. Church isn't even like that. How could I expect a "for profit" enterprise to be what a church isn't? Where in the world did I get this idea? It comes from our "built in" longing for heaven. We innately yearn for Eden, where we worked yet enjoyed it. Where there wasn't strife, pain, or office politics. God's perfect will was lived out unsullied. We wouldn't even mind work if it was in an environment like that, would we?

But there is no such environment here. And there is no such thing as a "Christian" company. I'm sorry to burst your bubble, but it's true. There are companies that are owned by Christians. There are companies who try their hardest to operate on Christian principles. But there is no such thing as a "Christian" company. Let me explain.

Corporations are legal entities set up to limit the liability of their owners. That's it. There will be no companies in heaven. Companies don't have "souls." Companies can't get "saved" or even "burn in hell," although I wish that were possible for some that I've dealt with. The best you can hope for is to find an organization that is led by

a committed Christian person. If he/she is empowered to create a "Christian-friendly" environment, then you might enjoy some of what I described above...freedom to openly discuss and express your faith, Bible study or prayer opportunities, company-backed charity efforts and a respectful and caring environment.

But here's a challenge for you...will you make it your goal to create a "Christian-friendly" environment in your workplace, regardless of the faith of your superiors? Will you affirm the other Christians in your sphere of influence? Will you "go public" and let others at your work know of your faith? Couldn't you start a prayer group that meets before work? Will you take the lead to reach out to the poor, hurting and needy in your community by stirring up your coworkers to get involved and help? Will you do all you can to demonstrate love and acceptance to everyone you work with, whether or not you agree with their faith, politics or lifestyle? Will you, in an unashamed but non-confrontational way, let people know once and for all where you stand regarding Jesus Christ?

You can create your own "Christian-friendly" organization within your company. Ask God to "expand your territory" and bring others into your circle. Make "letting your light shine before men" be your mantra. That environment might not have been created for you, but you might have the ability to create it for yourself and those under your charge or influence.

You can't work for a "Christian company," but you can work in a Christian-friendly environment, even if you have to create it!

Lord God, please let me be as effective for You as possible at work. Help me to make my workplace more "Christian-friendly". Amen.

## Commentary / Letters to the Editor

### LISTEN TO GOD

By Dick Evans

Matthew 5:20 But I warn you-- unless you obey God better than the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees do, you can't enter the Kingdom of Heaven at all! (NLT)

When I was growing up, I had my heroes. I watched the original Superman movies at the local theater. They would run between the two shows of the double feature. I sat glued to my seat during the television shows each week as I saw Roy Rogers and Hopalong Cassidy save the day.

There is no person that can stand between us and God unless we place them in that position. Each of us may have our childhood heroes. Some of us may even have some great person we look up to, admire, and try to emulate. In some cases it is a boss at work. They may have mentored us; helped us to become skilled in the task we do there. But when the Father speaks we must obey Him even if someone we look up to speaks against His words to us.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a relationship with a Pastor or leader at our church. We have

been involved for years and have learned much under his teachings. This might even be from reading the words or listening to the tapes of a well known Preacher or Evangelist.

When the Father speaks we must obey Him even if someone we look up to speaks contrary words. The Lord wants a relationship with us directly. He does not want any person to come between Him and us.

Listen to the Father and do what He says for He will direct your feet toward the destiny He as for you.

Who did you listen to today?

## Sojourners says Rick Warren should be in prison

Imagine walking into your local library, planning to read a theological such as Reinhold Niebuhr or Karl Barth, or a popular inspirational work, such as Rick Warren's Purpose-Driven Life or Harold Kushner's When Bad Things Happen to Good People.

But instead of finding such important and popular titles, you discover that the religion section has been decimated stripped of any book that did not appear on a government-approved list.

That's exactly what's happening right now to inmates in federal prisons under a Bush administration policy. As The New York Times put it, "chaplains have been quietly carrying out a systematic purge of religious books and materials that were once available to prisoners in chapel libraries."

The news reports seem implausible. The idea of government bureaucrats drafting a list of approved books on religion seems like something out of Soviet-era Russia, not the United States of America, where freedom of religion even for those behind prison

walls is something we treasure.

But the reports are true. All of the books and authors named above have been removed from prison libraries. In some instances, according to the Times, chaplains have been forced to dismantle "libraries that had thousands of texts collected over decades, bought by the prisons, or donated by churches and religious groups."

To make matters worse, the contents of the "approved" list are extremely capricious. For example, "80 of the 120 titles on the list for Judaism are from the same Orthodox publishing house," and the list for Christianity "lack[s] materials from early church fathers, liberal theologians and major Protestant denominations."

The Bureau of Prisons says they merely want to ensure prisons are not recruiting grounds for terrorists and other militant groups. So why are they removing the vast majority of materials on faith and religion? And if prisoners are not free to pursue their own faith journeys, what cause for hope should

they have?

Christians from across the political and theological spectrum are justifiably outraged. As Mark Earley, president and chief executive officer of Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship, told the Times, "It's swatting a fly with a sledgehammer. There's no need to get rid of literally hundreds of thousands of books that are fine simply because you have a problem with an isolated book or piece of literature that presents extremism."

Stand up for inmates' religious freedom demand an end to censorship in prison libraries!

Thank you for all that you do, Kevin, Duane, Tim, and the rest of the team at Sojourners

Blessings,

P.S. To put an end to this absurd policy, we need the Bureau of Prisons to hear from thousands of outraged citizens. Can you share this message with 10 of your friends, family, and congregation members, asking them to join us in this campaign?

## Poisoned Food, Tainted Toys & Job Loss: Like The Results Of NAFTA? You'll LOVE The North American Union!

Coalition Urges President To "Tear Down The Wall Of Secrecy" At Quebec Merger Summit While U.S. Congressman Urges President To Build UP The Border Wall.

Lancaster, PA/ August 27, 2007 The recent Quebec Security and Prosperity Partnership Summit held at Montebello, Quebec drew attention to a proposed merger of the U.S., Mexico and Canada. The event, attended by President George Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexico's President Felipe Calderon drew hundreds opposed to the plan.

Former Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity and current Chairman of The Conservative Caucus and the Coalition to Block the North American Union, Howard Phillips addressed those gathered to oppose the SPP in Canada. Phillips said, "President Bush, tear down the wall of secrecy. Behind closed doors, step-by-step, the leaders (of the three nations) are setting the stage for...a North American Com-

munity and, ultimately a North American Union... (which means we would lose authority) over our economy, our judiciary and our lawmaking institutions".

Phillips founded the Constitution Party in 1992. The third largest party based on voter registration (Ballot Access News), the Constitution Party is the only political party with a resolution to oppose the SPP/NAU scheme as a threat to America's constitutional government.

President Bush asked by a Fox News reporter for explicit denial of a plan to integrate the three countries, demurred and ridiculed opponents instead. Dr. Jerome Corsi, author of the New York Times bestseller "The Late Great U.S.A: The Coming Merger with Mexico and Canada" commented: "That's exactly the same type of response Europeans got from their leaders, even as the EU noose was tightening around the necks of the millions who wanted nothing to do with a European super-state".

During the SPP Summit in Quebec, where Bush was called on to "tear down the wall of secrecy" surrounding the covert merger, a United States Congressman was calling on the president to build a wall to secure our border with Mexico. While the president was in Canada denying a plan to integrate North America, California Congressman Duncan Hunter delivered a letter to Bush saying, "It is my understanding that approximately \$800 million is currently available for (fence building). Despite this funding, only 17.9 of the 854 miles of fencing called for in the Secure Fence Act have been completed as of Aug. 10, 2007."

The Constitution Party joins Congressman Hunter in calling for immediate efforts to complete a wall at our southern border and joins with those opposed to the SPP/NAU calling for a tearing down of the wall of secrecy surrounding any plans to merge the United States, Mexico and Canada.

# Inspiration

## The history of Halloween

Halloween is one of the oldest holidays with origins going back thousands of years. The holiday we know as Halloween has had many influences from many cultures over the centuries. From the Roman's Pomona Day, to the Celtic festival of Samhain, to the Christian holidays of All Saints and All Souls Days.

Hundreds of years ago in what is now Great Britain and Northern France, lived the Celts. The Celts worshipped nature and had many gods, with the sun god as their favorite. It was "he" who commanded their work and their rest times, and who made the earth

beautiful and the crops grow.

The Celts celebrated their New Year on November 1st. It was celebrated every year with a festival and marked the end of the "season of the sun" and the beginning of "the season of darkness and cold."

On October 31st after the crops were all harvested and stored for the long winter the cooking fires in the homes would be extinguished. The Druids, the Celtic priests, would meet in the hilltop in the dark oak forest (oak trees were considered sacred). The Druids would light new fires and offer sacrifices of crops and animals. As

they danced around the fires, the season of the sun passed and the season of darkness would begin.

When the morning arrived the Druids would give an ember from their fires to each family who would then take them home to start new cooking fires. These fires would keep the homes warm and free from evil spirits.

The November 1st festival was called Samhain (pronounced "sow-en"). The festival would last for 3 days. Many people would parade in costumes made from the skins and heads of their animals. This festival would become the first Halloween.

During the first century the Romans invaded Britain. They brought with them many of their festivals and customs. One of these was the festival know as

Pomona Day, named for their goddess of fruits and gardens. It was also celebrated around the 1st of November. After hundreds of years of Roman rule the customs of the Celtic's Samhain festival and the Roman Pomona Day mixed becoming 1 major fall holiday.

The next influence came with the spread of the new Christian religion throughout Europe and Britain. In the year 835 AD the Roman Catholic Church would make November 1st a church holiday to honor all the saints. This day was called All Saint's Day, or Hallowmas, or All Hallows. Years later the Church would make November 2nd a holy day. It was called All Souls Day and was to honor the dead. It was celebrated with big bonfires, parades, and people dressing up as saints, angels and devils.

But the spread of Christianity did

not make people forget their early customs. On the eve of All Hallows, Oct. 31, people continued to celebrate the festivals of Samhain and Pomona Day. Over the years the customs from all these holidays mixed. October 31st became known as All Hallow Even, eventually All Hallow's Eve, Halloween, and then - Halloween.

The Halloween that many celebrate today includes all of these influences, Pomona Day's apples, nuts, and harvest, the Festival of Samhain's black cats, magic, evil spirits and death, and the ghosts, skeletons and skulls from All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day.



## The Halloween Story

It was a bright autumn afternoon. There was a slight chill in the air and the leaves on the trees were changing. Bobby was coming home from school and noticed all the orange and green decorations in the storefront windows and on the houses. He could not help but to think about this being his last year. He was getting to old for dressing up and going trick or treating but he will certainly miss all the free candy. He also felt a strong need to go out one more night.

On his front porch is a newly carved jack-o'-lantern on the front porch. This is the best year yet; the whole house is decorated with ghosts and goblins. Inside the front door is a bowl filled with candy. His Mom yells "Leave the candy for the kids!" Bobby grabs a hand full of candy and runs up to his room to get changed. He went all out this year because it was his last. He had ripped clothes, a knife, and lots of fake blood. All he could think about was scaring the little kids and getting the candy. This is the night that he could get away with the things that he was normally not allowed to do. He was going to have fun! The night went too fast but he has lots of great candy and will never forget the look on those kids' faces when he jumped out of the bushes.

The next day at school Bobby sees Jeff in the cafeteria. They had always went trick or treating together but last night Jeff was no where to be found. "You missed out on a great night last night," Bobby tells Jeff. Jeff answers, "No...I have out grown that stuff and anyway I had a better night then you did. I was with Victor last night and we had a real Halloween night." "Who's Victor?" Bobby asks. "He's a great guy...Do you want to meet him?" Jeff asks. There is a party tonight at Bill's house and Victor will be there. Bobby likes parties and agrees to meet Jeff there about seven o'clock. At the party Bobby

meets Victor and he invites Bobby to a gathering the next Saturday night. It will be in an old run down building in the middle of the woods. Bobby knows that no one goes there because it is haunted but he did not want to look like a wimp at the party. So he agrees to go.

The next Saturday rolls around and Jeff takes Bobby through the woods and into the dark old house. There is a strange silence that night and Bobby can feel something different about this place. As they walk in Bobby can see Victor. He is standing in front of a box made of wood and it looks like he is still wearing last weeks costume. He has on a dark cape trimmed in gold with a black shirt and a strange looking thing on his head. Bobby also sees six other boys standing around Victor and there is an odor in the room. Bobby thinks that this could be from the many candles around the room. As they get closer to Victor, all the other boys sit in a circle around the box with a single unlit candle on it. Jeff joins the circle but Bobby stands a few feet away. What are they doing Bobby wonders and why am I here?

Victor looks at Bobby with eyes that seem to be blacker then anything he has ever seen. Victor then invites him to join the circle. Bobby is scared but also a little excited so he joins the circle. Victor smiles as Bobby sits next to his friend Jeff and takes his hand. Victor then lights the candle on the box and lifts his hands. Bobby can feel a tug on his hand from Jeff and the boy next to him to lift his hands. He gives in and lifts his hands. All the boys start to say some very strange words. They keep saying the same words over and over again. Soon Bobby learns the words and repeats them with the other boys. His arms are tired but he can feel a power growing from inside. He wants to keep going as the boys chant faster and faster and louder and louder. Then they stop. Bobby is exhausted and energized at the same time.

Suddenly there seems to be a gray image behind Victor. At first

Bobby thinks it is Victor's shadow but it is not moving with him. It looks like a man but it is about eight feet tall. There is also a very bad smell in the air...like sulfur. Victor then reaches into the box and pulls out a small bottle. He raises it over his head and says what sounds like a prayer. As he prays he slowly pours what looks like blood around the candle. The design that Victor makes with the blood looks like a star although it is hard to tell. This was all looking too familiar to Bobby. He turned to Jeff and said that this looks a lot like Halloween. Victor stood when he heard what Bobby said and laughed.

Yes...Yes" Victor, said to Bobby. "Very good! We worship our Lord each week the way that others worship Him once a year. Halloween is our god's day. Each year He shows His power by making people dress in costumes and perform special ceremonies that He created. They read or watch stories about killing and torture. He is so pleased. His greatest joy is to see little children dressed up for Him. He knows that their parents are fooled into thinking that it is just for fun. What they do not realize is that it is for His pleasure and is His day. Many will learn to follow Him from the seeds that are planted on each Halloween. We, my good friend Bobby, are the fruit of those seeds. Year after year you and I went house to house as the early Druids did to celebrate the power of darkness. Now Bobby, it is your time to join us and follow our god!" At this point the boys next to Bobby and Jeff get ready because they know that they must not allow them to leave the house if they reject the invitation. Bobby and Jeff must join the brotherhood or else.

In his heart Bobby knew that Victor was right about Halloween. His Pastor had told everyone the same thing a few weeks ago! Now what was he going to do? He must decide to stay or go. He must choose between Victor and his god and the true living God. Bobby remembered how wonderful it felt when he asked Jesus Christ into his heart. He said a quick prayer to his Lord for strength.

As he looked towards Victor he noticed that the image behind him

had vanished. He quickly looked directly into Victor's cold eyes and said that he wanted no part of his god the devil. He knew that the devil is the prince of lies and anyone that follows him will end up in Hell. He turned to Jeff and asked him to go with him. Jeff also knew the peace that is only found in Jesus and believed that he would be forgiven if he just asked. All the other boys in the room felt something or someone pressing down on their shoulders so they could not stand. Bobby and Jeff left together, ran home and never returned.

They learned an important lesson that night about Halloween. Jesus said "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other." (Luke 16:13a)

Who do you love and who are you loyal to? Halloween may seem like nothing but fun. Then ask yourself who is honored by it? If you are a Christian then the answer will be clear. If you are not a Christian but realize that you have been following Satan and would like to change that, now is the time.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Sin is breaking Gods Law the "Ten Commandments." Have you ever told one lie, even a white lie? Stolen anything even a pen or paperclip? Hated someone? Felt lust for someone that you are not married to?

If so then the Bible says that you have committed **adultery** in your heart! Maybe you have **misused God's Name** or **not honored your parents**. There are more but all you need to do is break just one

and you have sinned. The Bible tells us that there will be a Day of Judgment. On that day Jesus will separate the righteous from the rest.

God's plan was that Jesus would pay the price for our sin. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Say a prayer something like this:

Heavenly Father,  
*Please forgive my sinful ways. I recognize that I have been on the wrong path and need your forgiveness. I have ignored your Son Jesus and all that He has done for me. Please come into my life today and help me to live my life for you. I want to be assured of an eternal life in heaven. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.*

Congratulations, if you have prayed this prayer the Bible says, "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10: 9-11

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...and don't forget to tell everyone about His love.

Reason for writing:

The Good News TODAY  
(401) 619-0418

- I have just prayed to receive Christ  
 I have renewed my commitment to the Lord  
 I am in need of a church  
 Send Bible or literature  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Good News Outreach  
PO Box 2558 • Providence, RI 02906

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Halloween Tracts Tell Trick-or-Treaters About Christ

By Michelle Wilson  
The 700 Club

CBN.com – “Once we found out what the origins of Halloween were, we just stopped,” says Merlin Buhl. “We said we’re not doing any of it.”

Like most Christians, Merlin and Theresa Buhl faced a difficult question: How could they let their children get involved with Halloween without compromising their Christian beliefs? The Buhl’s struggled for years until a local pastor challenged them to use this pagan holiday as a day of redemption.

“I thought, what would Jesus do, would He turn His light off and go in the basement, or would He decorate His house in bright themes and harvest themes? Matthew 5: 14 talks about that we are the light. We are the light on the hill, just like the song: ‘This little light of mine. I’m gonna let it shine. Hide it under a bushel...no!’ And so we see now that Halloween is an opportunity to turn on our light,” adds Theresa.

Four years ago, Merlin and Theresa decided to “turn on the lights” when they co-founded Halloween Outreach. The ministry provides an alternative for Christians who are searching for ways to share Jesus on Halloween.

“We developed some cards that were age specific,” says Merlin. Each card has a place to attach a piece of candy, but most importantly, the inside of each tract contains a special message that gives children a chance to know Jesus as Savior

And Merlin and Theresa haven’t forgotten parents who take their children trick-or-treating. They give a book by Max Lucado, *He*

*Did This Just for You*, to every adult who comes to the door. The book shares a simple gospel message and a prayer for parents to receive the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

“There is a response card that they can send back to us,” Merlin states. “They can also call the 1-888-”need him” (1-888-718-6640) number. There is a spiritual counselor right there. Hundreds have responded to receive Christ.”

Each card received is sent back to a local church in the community. To date, over 450,000 homes have been reached with the gospel message!

“That’s how we kind of answered that angst in our spirit,” says Merlin. “We don’t feel like we are condoning the holiday. We don’t feel like we are partaking in the occult practices. We’re saying no, let’s use this day for good. What Satan meant for harm God is going to use for good. Let’s redeem this day. Let’s see the church redeem this day.”

And for Christians who are still reluctant to get involved, Merlin poses this challenge.

“We have neighbors that are going to hell,” he says. “I mean, that is just plain and simple. If you believe the Bible and they don’t know Jesus, you know that if they die, they are going to hell and are going to spend an eternity without God. My challenge is to look within yourself and ask, ‘What would Jesus do? What would He do?’ Pray about it. Search the Scriptures. This is so easy to do. All you have to do is contact us,



get the cards, turn the light on, put some candy on it, and love on the kids when they come to the door. You just don’t know what the Lord’s going to do.”

*There are many creative ways to shine your light on this High Holy Day of Wicca. Why not pray about how God could use you to share the love of Christ this year instead of participating in and influencing others for Satan?*

## Noah’s Ark Cookies

By Rev. Doug Forbes

The story of Noah’s Ark has long been a favorite of children and adults. Making Noah’s Ark Cookies is a fun way to teach this important story to your class.

For the Noah’s Ark Cookie activity you need: Bibles, Bible concordances, pens, slice and bake sugar cookie dough, plates, plastic knives, colored sugar, sprinkles, raises and chocolate chips, a cookie sheet, no stick spray and an oven.

Instruct your students to use their Bibles and concordances to discover Bible passages about animals. Allow time for each child to share his or her findings.

Ask the young people to turn to Genesis 6:9-10:16 and have volunteers read the story of Noah from sections you have pre-selected. Review the story of Noah, and explain that we are all related through Adam and Eve, and again through Noah and his wife. Ask your class why people are not all alike and provide positive feedback to all who respond.

Explain that God delights in diversity. Our world would be very dull if every person, animal and flower were exactly the same. We are all made in God’s image, He made us special and He loves us very much.

Give each child a one-inch slice of cookie dough and help them shape it into the animal of their choice. Use colored sugar, sprinkles, raisins and chocolate chips to enhance features. Bake the cookies following the directions on the package. Place each child’s cookie on a separate plate and instruct them to write “God made you special, and He loves you very much.” around the rim.

Have the children show their cookies to their parents or guardians, tell them the story of Noah’s Ark and then allow them to enjoy their special treat.

(Rev. Doug Forbes is the Assistant Pastor at New Hope Christian Chapel in South Easton.)

## Soul Food

### “Questions That Haunt Me”

Can you cry under water? How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to “put your two cents in”... but it is only a “penny for your thoughts?” Where is that extra penny going? Once you are in heaven, are you stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box? What disease did cured ham actually have? How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they “slept like a baby” when babies wake up like every two hours? If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing? Why are you IN a movie, but you are ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground? Why do toasters always

have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him? Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane? If the professor on Gilligan’s Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can’t he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They are both dogs! If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME stuff, why didn’t he just buy dinner? If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons? Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune? Why did you just try singing the two songs above? Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog’s face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?



## Acorns and Pumpkins

By Author Unknown

An old poem describes a woman walking through a meadow, meditating on nature. While strolling about, she came upon a field of golden pumpkins. In the corner of the field stood a majestic, huge oak tree.

She sat under the oak tree musing on the strange twists in nature which put tiny acorns on huge branches and huge pumpkins on tiny vines. She thought to herself, “God blundered with Creation! He should have put the small acorns on the tiny vines and the large pumpkins on the huge branches.”

Nodding off, the woman stretched out under the oak tree for a nap. A few minutes after falling asleep she was awakened by a tiny acorn bouncing off her nose. Chuckling to herself, she rubbed her nose and thought, “Maybe God was right after all!”

## Seasons

Each season speaks a language all its own, and every season wears a different dress. While Autumn cloaks herself in amber tone, bare Winter’s gown is laced in quietness. Refreshing as a soft pastel bouquet, florescent Spring peeps out in tender green, while luscious Summer’s decked in full array and brazenly explodes upon the scene. Spring whispers with a voice as sweet as youth, while Summer shouts with hale and hardy breath; tired Autumn sighs with wisdom and with truth, while Winter’s hush is tantamount to death. All seasons have a voice that is unique, but God alone announces when they speak

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 WEDNESDAY 7:30

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# DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES & MINISTRIES

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 Email: goodnewsinri@cox.net  
 Website: www.thegoodnewstoday.org

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? -Micah 7:18

**Amazing Grace Church**  
 1500 Main Street  
 West Warwick  
 823-1777

**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 5:00p.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.

**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

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

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

**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

**Life Change Christian Church**  
 "Helping You win in Life!"  
 Carl D. Jefferson M.Div, Pastor  
 Service Time & Location  
 Sunday Morning Service 9-10am  
 464 Silver Spring St.  
 Providence, RI  
 For more info or directions contact  
 401-912-0634

**Oasis of Grace Christian Fellowship**  
 464 Silver Spring Street  
 Providence  
 356-1149

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

**The Evans Ministries**  
 One Evans Way  
 Cranston  
 946-6900  
 www.theEvans.org

**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

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

**Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly**  
 1860 Westminster St - 10 Troy Street  
 Providence, R.I. 02907  
 401-780-8900  
 www.cathedraloflife.com  
 (parking is on Troy Street)  
 empowered@cathedraloflife.com  
 Worship service: Sun. - 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

**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

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**MESHANTICUT PARK CHURCH**  
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 Pastor Bob Lancia  
 942-4616  
 www.mprci.org  
 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Childcare provided. Elevator accessible.

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

SERVICE TIMES	
Sunday Service	10:00AM
Evangelist Service	11:00AM
Pentecostal Service	6:30PM
Youth Service	6:30PM
Worship	
Pentecostal Band Show	7:00PM
Worship	
Evangelist Band Show	7:00PM

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

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

**New Covenant Church International**  
 1290 Westminster St  
 Providence, RI 02909  
 (401) 276-0220  
 Pastor Joseph Quainoo  
 www.nccinternational.org  
 • Sunday: Worship 10:00am - 12:30pm  
 • Monday: Evening Prayer 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
 • Wednesday: Evening Prayer 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
 • Friday: Evening Prayer 6:00pm - 7:00pm

**Quidnick Baptist Church**  
 484 Fairview Avenue  
 Coventry  
 821-2465  
 Sunday Service - 10:00 am  
 Children's Sunday School - 10:45 am  
 Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

**Trinity Temple**  
 "Bringing Families Together"  
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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. Stenemann  
 401-425-1891 • 1198 Fish Road, Tiverton, RI  
 www.christtempleupc.com

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

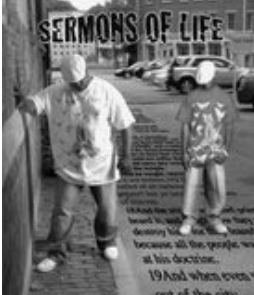
**New Hope Christian Church**  
 1436 G.A.R. Highway (Route 6)  
 Swansea, MA 02777  
 508-324-4500  
 www.nhcc.ws  
 Service Times:  
 Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Evenings: 7:00 p.m.  
 Prayer begins at 6:15

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

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

**New Life Worship Center**  
 915 Douglas Pike  
 Smithfield  
 282-5200  
 www.nlwcenter.org  
 Sundays Service 10:00am  
 Tuesday Men's Prayer 6:30am - Early prayer then breakfast fellowship  
 Friday - Ground Zero 7:00pm, Youth Service with Teen-Led Worship and Relevant Bible Teaching.

**World Covenant Life Ministries Center**  
 25 Market Street Unit #6  
 Swansea MA  
 508-493-3701  
 e-mail: wclministries@comcast.net  
 Sunday Worship Service - 9:00 am  
 Wednesday Bible Service - 7:30 pm

Trinity Rhode Productions will host its final  
**"Sound Reach" of 2007**  
 at the Black Repertory in downtown Providence  
**October 7, 2007**  
  
 Doors open at 3:30pm  
 and show starts at 5:30pm  
 Tickets are \$10.00  
 This last concert will feature TRP's artists, Lazarus and Paulo with invited special guests.  
 Exclusively for "Sound Reach", TRP will release its new album "Sermons of Life". Post show, the album will become available on October 9.  
 Find your peace, healing, and delivery through the music of God through Jesus Christ.  
 Trinity Rhode Productions is a dynamic musical movement led by the Spirit of God. Embodying musical production, mastering, engineering, and songwriting. TRP ministers through all musical genres of praise and worship, such as jazz, R&B, and hip hop.  
 Our mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ through melodic and harmonic sounds. We bring businesses, musicianship, and ministry together for the up-building of God's kingdom.  
 "Sound Reach" is sponsored by Buono Bakery, Charles Street Motors, Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Services, Linda Barros of Keller Williams Realty, Queen Ester's Series, West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation.

**Raise the Roof!**  
  
 A Fundraising Event for Quidnick Baptist Church  
  
  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007**  
**5:30 PM**  
 Tickets: \$15.00  
 Children 12 and under Free  
 Quidnick Baptist Church  
 484 Fairview Avenue • Coventry, RI  
 (401) 821-2465  
 † Proceeds to support the Roofing Project †

**COALITION FOR Marriage & Family**  
**LOBBY DAY!**  
 @ the State House  
**Tuesday, October 23, 2007**  
**10:30 AM - 3:00 PM**  
**Massachusetts State House - Room B-2**  
 This is the Coalition for Marriage & Family's FIRST Lobby Day and will concentrate on the Health Curriculum Frameworks, which would mandate comprehensive sex education, and the legalization of Casino Gambling. We will have a brief training session to assist attendees and to answer all questions. Pro-family legislators will also speak. All citizen lobbyists will be given materials to distribute to their legislators. Please RSVP for this event.  
 Increase your impact ... BRING YOUR FRIENDS!  
 There is nothing more effective and personal than speaking  
**Face-to-Face with your own legislator.**  
 Questions and RSVP to [info@coalitionformarriage.org](mailto:info@coalitionformarriage.org).

**October Highlights**

**First-Ever "Healed @ work" Conference in Historic Sturbridge, MA OCTOBER 18-20, 2007** Work Conference" will be held at the Sturbridge Worship Center For details, please call toll-free 1-800-JOY-9075

**Healing Workshop Weekend, Friday October 26; 6pm-9pm/ Sat October 27, 9am-6pm** registration starts Friday at 6pm: Evans Ministries; register on line www.TheEvans.org or 946-6900"

**Operaion Breakthrough" Micah 2:13** October 7th - 28th (21 Days of prayer & consecration)Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly 433 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI. 02907 401-780-8900 X19

**2 Tuesday**

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

**7:15 am - Men's Bible Study led by Dr. Dave Reid** every Tuesday. Faith Bible Chapel, 49 High St...., Westerly, RI 401-348-936

**3 Wednesday**

**6 p.m. - Fruit of the Spirit** - Every Wednesday. Worship for the mentally and physically challenged. Bethany Village, 516 Newport Ave. S. Attleboro, MA 508-761-7698.

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

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

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

**4 Thursday**

**5 p.m. - Pot Luck Dinner** - Every Thursday. Bethany Village. 516 Newport Ave., S. Attleboro, MA 508-761-7698

**October 6th - Christian Physical Therapists**

are sponsoring a continuing education course open to all therapists on

**"Differential Diagnosis: An Evidence Based Perspective"**

followed by a dinner for CPTI members and interested parties outside the Philadelphia area.

Pre-registration is required. To register online, obtain an application, or for further details, go to our website at www.cpti.org or call 800-248-2784.

**7 p.m. - Arise- Christian 12 step program-** Every Thursday. Get free from any addiction from Herseys to heroin Bethany Village. 516 Newport Ave., S. Attleboro, MA 508-761-7698

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

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

**5 Friday**

**7 p.m.- A New Beginnings Coffee House with Marc Dobson**, Church of the Apostles 170 Fairview Ave Coventry RI 821-7609, www.churchoftheapostlesri.org

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

**11 am - 3pm Downtown Farmers Market** Every Friday thru 10/26 the fresh foods and live music in the heart of the city. The 2007 Downtown Providence Market is a casual segue to your weekend. Downtown Providence, Kennedy Plaza, 401- 863- 6509

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

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

**7:30 p.m. - TGIF Coffee House.** Every Friday. Bethany Village. 516 Newport Ave, S. Attleboro, MA 508-761-7698

**6 Saturday**

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

**Autumnfest 2007 Columbus Day weekend** Oct. 6-8 at World War II Memorial State Park, Social Street, Woonsocket. Monday 10/8 Parade starts at 9:30 am, fireworks, arts & crafts, entertainment. www.autumnfest.org or 401-769 06

**10am-5pm Scituate Art Festival** Sat, Sun & Mon, Village Green Route 116 Scituate, RI www.scituatefestival.org

**11 am-9 p.m.- 15th Annual International Oktoberfest Weekend**, today -Monday a fall festival with German food and Bavarian music & dance, Sunday :11am-8pm & Monday: 11am-6pm Newport Yachting, 4 Commercial Wharf, Newport 846-1600

**SUNSET- WATERFIRE;** Providence, **A Great opportunity for witnessing.**

**7 Sunday**

**7-10pm Men of Covenant Men's Meeting** 433 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907

**7 - 8 p m C o n s e c r a t i o n Sunday** every Sunday evening "Prayer & Praise" at Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly, 1860 Westminster Street, Providence 401-780-8900 ext.19

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

**7pm - 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

**1pm- Respect Life Walk.** to aid Mothers & Children walk begins at 2pm, registration & Pre-Walk Celebration at 1pm. Meet at the Boston Common Bandstand (near the corner of Tremont & Boylston St.) more info 617-242-4199 or e-mail at info@masscitizensforlife.org

**6pm- Sound Reach 4- Sermons of Life:** at the Black Repertory Theater - 276 Westminster St. in Providence. Tickets are 10 dollars (includes food) and all are welcome. Phone: (401) 529-3802

**10 Wednesday**

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

**13 Saturday**

**Audubon Bird and Wildlife Carving Exposition** at Audubon Environmental Education Center. 1401 Hope Street (Rt. 114) Bristol 401-245-7500

**Bowen's Wharf Seafood Festival** "harvest of the sea" seafood dishes baked goods, cider, non-stop live music, face painting, games and more. America's Cup Avenue, Newport 401.849.2120 www.bowenwharf.com

**9 am-4 p.m. Great Barns of Gloucester Tour** Self-guided tours of 15 barns, starts at Gloucester Manton Public Library, 1137 Putnam Pike, Chepachet 401-568-6077 \$10 individual, \$20 per family, talk to the owners and discover the history and stores behind these great buildings. Bring your camera! www.johnpitocco.com/BarnTour.html

**Harvest Festival- Smith Castle** Corn husking festival with live entertainment & homemade treats, 55 Richard Smith Dr., Wickford 401-294-3521

**14 Saturday**

**Audubon Bird and Wildlife Carving Exposition** at Audubon Environmental Education Center. 1401 Hope Street (Rt. 114) Bristol 401-245-7500

**Bowen's Wharf Seafood Festival** "harvest of the sea" seafood dishes baked goods, cider, non-stop live music, face painting, games and more. America's Cup Avenue, Newport 401.849.2120 www.bowenwharf.com

**OCTOBER Calendar**

**19 Friday**

**7:30-9pm- Eternal Perks Coffee House is featuring Turning Point,** a 5-piece band from Wethersfield, CT. (turningpoint5.blogspot.com) Admission is Free, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1055 Randolph Rd, Middletown, Ct. Popcorn, desserts and beverages are included. 860-346-2641

**7pm- Massachusetts Family Institutes Annual Banquet,** Special Guest : U.S. Senator Tom Coburn M.D. Republican-Oklahoma. A staunch defender of Life, Marriage & Family. Seating is limited \$50 per person # 781-569-0400 or email info@mafamilly.org

**20 Saturday**

**5:30 p.m.- Raise the Roof!** A Fundraising Event for Quidnick Baptist Church, 484 Fairview Avenue, Coventry. Macaroni & Meatballs or Chicken Dinner With music by: NBJ Tickets: \$15.00, Children 12 and under Free, Call Mike - 723-0588 Proceeds to support the Roofing Project

**7:30pm- Chistopher Williams will be performing at Community Coffeeshouse,** Community of the Cross Chapel 7 Madison Ave. Danbury, Ct. . Admission is free -suggested donation \$5-10 more info, 203-748-4972 www.1heartonline.org

**9 am- 4pm Career Fair 2007-** A Free Career Fair & Conference "Get Motivated" "Words of inspiration" by Pastor William Hurt, Hynes Convention Center-Boston MA www.cedamistry.org/events\_mpct.htm

**Harvest Breakfast** Summit Hall Full breakfast with homemade pies, 12 Old Summit Road Coventry 401-397-7616

**Harvest Supper** - Dinner includes corn beef, mashed potatoes, carrots, butternut squash, pickled beets, indian pudding & pies. Chepachet Union Church, 1138 Putnam Pike, Chepachet RI 401-568-2518

**The First Baptist Church in Swansea will have their fifth Founders' Festival** Please contact the church at 508-379-9728 for more info.

**21 Sunday**

**Water Baptism** -2pm Providence Assembly of God, 353 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907

**25 Thursday**

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

**26 Friday**

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

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

**27 Saturday**

**SUNSET- WATERFIRE;** Providence, **A Great opportunity for witnessing.**

**7pm-Healing Workshop with Randy Marie Smith-** Ministering on "The Fathers Love" The Evans Ministry, One Evans Way, Cranston RI. 401-946-6900 or www.TheEvans.org

**28 Sunday**

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

**Sneak Peek into Nov 2007**

**Soulfest winter '07 Concert Series:**

**Steven Curtis Chapman Live In This Moment Tour** with Sanctus Real, & Bethany Dillon, November 9 in Bloomfield Ct, November 10 In Lowell MA. For info 978-346-4577

**David Crowder Band** with Phil Wickham & The Myriad, November 9 in Boston MA. For info 978-346-4577

**ON SALE NOW!**

Enter to win a chance to meet and greet passes for any show at the soulfest.com! For Tickets & more info call 978-346-4577

**Jackie Cox will be In Concert at the Zeiterion Theater** in New Bedford on Sunday, November 11th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. This concert is sponsored by First Congregational Church in New Bedford. Call 508-994-2900 or visit www.zeiterion.org for tickets \$15.00.



**Mercy's Mark Quartet**  
Friday, November 2nd at 7:00 PM  
Coventry High School, Coventry, RI

Call 401-828-4074 for information  
www.gospelmusictoday.com Saturday at 11:30 AM  
On cable television in Rhode Island P.O. Box 152, Hope, RI 02831 Cox 14, Full Channel 59, Verizon 33

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**Cumberland woman in need of part-time home health aide** (10-12 hours per week and 1 occasional night per month) light duty. Experience necessary. Submit resume to rdi@rdi.necoxmail.com or fax to 401-231-2360

## JOBS WANTED

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

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

## MINISTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

## MUSIC

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

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## Barrington Christian Academy

has recently received an unprecedented gift of half a million dollars which has been used to launch a campaign that has raised more than \$1 million towards its \$2 million goal.



Artist Rendering

The swell of support is directly related to the quality Christian education that has served hundreds of families over the past 3 decades. The demand for more classroom and meeting space and the expansion of a high school, is the direct result of more families choosing to send their children to Barrington Christian Academy.

An anonymous donor provided a lead gift of \$500,000 in which \$250,000 of that was a challenge gift that would be made available if donors matched the \$250,000. The matching gift has been satisfied within four months and the school is now launching the second phase of the campaign.

The \$2 million campaign will be presented to a large group of supporters from around New England on Friday evening, October 26th, at the Federal Reserve in Providence. The Campaign Gala will be an inspirational evening open to friends of BCA and will include a call to action asking individuals to consider pledging financial support to make the collective vision for BCA a reality.

For additional information visit [www.bcacademy.org](http://www.bcacademy.org) or contact Elsie Wright at [ewright@bcacademy.org](mailto:ewright@bcacademy.org). or your may call 401-246-0113.



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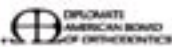
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- That the Lord Jesus Christ will return to this earth and judge all men.

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Morning Worship...10:00 AM

Evening Worship...6:00 PM

Home-based Sunday School

### WEDNESDAY

Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study...7:30 PM

Youth/Children's Bible Study...7:30 PM

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