

The Good News TODAY

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FREE

The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation - Exodus 15:2

Walking "The Land" Chapter 2

By Lawrence L. Lepore

Our tour of Israel, a country which would fit into Lake Michigan 2.5 times, continues as we head north along the Mediterranean coast from Jaffa. Within an hour we arrived at the magnificent port of Caesarea, a city dedicated by Herod to Caesar Augustus and built for the goddess Roma. Herod is known for his colossal building projects in Jerusalem and other parts of the ancient world, including the construction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, sometimes referred to as Herod's Temple. Yes, he's the same Herod, infamous for the "Murder of the Innocents" discussed in Matthew 2, also father of Herod Antipas who arrested and executed John the Baptist. Looking at the incredible architectural feats orchestrated by this man one walks away reminded how the pride of man can so easily lead to damnation. As with every place that we visited in Israel, Caesarea made the scriptures come alive.

foundation which then leased it back to the State of Israel and a management company was formed which oversees it's operation today. Caesarea is the only municipality in Israel that operates in this manner. The Company transfers all profits from the development of Caesarea to the Foundation,



The ancient city of Caesarea with beach (left).

which in turn contributes to organizations that advance higher education and culture across Israel. Travelers might easily spend an entire day, week or even a lifetime in this beautiful oceanside community with emperical roots, we had a few hours.

Today Caesarea National Park offers something for everyone, including the locals who use it for functions as varied as weddings and banquets to major jazz concerts and symphony orchestras. Visitors can view a computerized cinematic journey called the Caesarea Experience and an unforgettable interactive 3-D encounter with some of Caesarea's historic figures, like Herod, Paul and Saladin and even ask them questions and receive their answers in an exhibit called Caesarea's Stars. Both exhibits help to piece together the history of the port and Israel in an interesting yet simplistic format which would intrigue even the most disinterested historian. If history isn't

your thing how about browsing the shops, art galleries, cafes and restaurants, a tour of Herod's summer palace, an ancient hippodrome, made famous after the movie Ben Hur, or a Roman theatre or coliseum where animals fought against humans till the death after the Roman policy of Bread and Circus. If these options bore you, maybe a little time on a pristine beach will brighten your day or 18 holes of golf or perhaps some diving in the crystal clear

Walking "The Land" continued Page 5

Israel's rich Biblical history is highlighted well in the ruins at the Caesarea National Park. Built by King Herod the Great in 22 BC, utilizing Jewish slave labor, it took twelve years to complete.



The ruins of Herod's palace (left) make a nice setting for a modern jazz concert.

Caesarea was the capital of Judaea and the residence of Pontius Pilate. This coastal city also is where Peter baptized Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10, 11) and Apostle Paul was jailed here for two years (Acts 9-25).

Today this exclusive community of 4200 boasts of famous residents like Benjamin Netanyahu and Baron Benjamin de Rothschild. In the early 1950's the Rothschild family donated the land to a

Conservative Republicans Have Only One Choice In 2008

By Pastor Chuck Baldwin

Let's cut to the chase: conservative Republicans have only one choice for President in 2008: Congressman Ron Paul of Texas. Unlike the GOP frontrunners, Paul is the real deal.

No real conservative could support Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, John McCain, Fred Thompson, or Newt Gingrich. When it comes to historic conservative principles, each of these men is as phony as a three dollar bill. That they are now attempting to cast themselves as conservatives is more than laughable: it is downright hilarious.

For an ongoing review of the major presidential aspirants, I invite readers to visit <http://www.chuckbaldwinlive.com/election2008.php>

The more that conservatives (and the rest of America) learn about the GOP's "top tier" candidates, the more they will dislike them. This fact does not bode well for the GOP



2008 Presidential candidate Dr. Ron Paul

in the 2008 general election should one of these five men obtain the nomination. Plus, G.W. Bush has forever wasted the antiquated "lesser of two evils" philosophy. As they say here in the south, "That dog won't hunt." Not anymore.

Ron Paul continued Page 4

Hope for Men = Men of Hope

By Ralph C. Davis

Man, oh man; it is so hard to be a man! Unlike the opposite sex, we keep things bottled up. It does not occur to us to be open with other men, to expose our thoughts and feelings. Instead, we mask our thoughts, our anguish, our weaknesses and our hurts with bravado or indifference which only leads to loneliness and unhappiness.

"See ya next week," might be a common expression at the end of a church service. We've done our time, our church bit, and now it's off to watch the game or other form of recreation. Factor in work and other obligations and it gets downright hard to pay any attention to God until the following Sunday's church appearance.

The cycle goes on and on. Men work together, play together and have the roles of husband, father and breadwinner yet seldom



John Mentus, spokesman for R.I. Men of Hope

talk about anything personal or meaningful. Little do we know that the man next to us might be experiencing the same problems and emotions that we are. Sadly, we do not view one another as resources. Worse, we often do not view the church as a significant part of our lives.

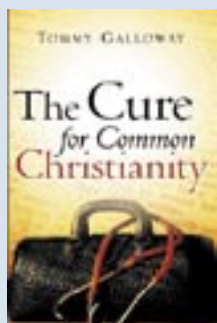
Fortunately, there is a group of men who have formed an organization named the Rhode Island Men of Hope Task Force (www.menofhope.org) whose mission is: "Reaching Men for Christ." Their objective is "...to bring men of New England together in spiritual unity

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Men of Hope from Page 1

through prayer, by sponsoring special events and training and to organize men's ministries in local churches. Their interest is on the individual man; they are less interested in "numbers" than building up one man at a time.

At six foot, three inches tall John Mentus, known as "Big John", is one of the founders and spokesperson for R.I. Men of Hope. John was born in Peabody MA in 1938 to a dad who was pastor of a Russian Baptist Church. He met his wife Joyce at that church and they have been married for 48 years. They have three daughters: Becky, Laura and Susan, and four grandchildren with one on the way.

At age eleven John thought he was on a bus en-route to a sportsman show at Mechanics Hall in Boston with his church. Instead he found himself at a Billy Graham crusade. It was during this presentation that he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Joyce also accepted the Lord as her Savior at a young age and they both were baptized at the same time.

By age fifteen, John had become a rebel; he hated being known as a "PK" or the "Pastors Kid." He began to hate going to church and wanted nothing to do with it. He had a job working at a gas station during this period where he learned about pornography and all of the swear words. He could, John said, "Swear with the best of them."

As he matured he made the decision to settle into a church and he and his wife became more active there, attending Bible studies and serving on committees. There are few roles that John and Joyce have not served at their church and eventually John started to feel restless. It was at age fifty-six that John began to recognize that this restlessness he was feeling was due primarily to not using his talents as God had intended. With some others, he saw the need to form cohesive men's groups and to unite them in various churches.

It was 1994 when John and a few other like-minded church members began an effort to unite other churches to attend a Promise Keepers gathering. They formed a

"task force" with the main thrust of reaching men for Christ and getting them to know where they stand in their walk with God. Since then eight churches have become active in the ministry.

According to the Men of Hope, "Men are *conditioned* to maintain safety and distance from others while women are 'relational'." This is certainly one of the reasons why Church attendance for men has been lower than women. The idea is to break down those walls to get men into relational situations." In addition John said that "There must be 'intentionality.' By this I mean taking things to a greater level, deliberately intending to seek the truth instead of just the superficial in relationships."

The most typical problem with men is that they do not read the Bible. They also, John said, "have been dummed down so much by television that they actually love the programs." The Men of Hope see so many men like their former selves; men doing all kinds of

Phil 2:3-4 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests but also the interests of others."

That scripture is hardly the prescription for being a "successful" worldly man; in fact, it is the opposite of what the world teaches or values. Yet this is one of the scriptures that the Men of Hope stands on. "Why?" John asks; "Because we are brothers in Christ." It is time to lessen our own self preoccupation and focus on the needs of our brothers.

A common way for John to begin a talk with a group of unfamiliar men might begin with him asking if they would be willing to give him just five minutes of their time. He then directs them to read just five minutes worth of the first chapter of the book of Proverbs. Proverbs, you ask? Try it; this book immediately boils down the need for wisdom and understanding and imparts a better understanding of our role in the eyes of God. "Once they start reading," says John, "it becomes ten, twenty and more minutes as their eyes are opened."

Interesting opportunities to help men through the Men of Hope occur frequently. One example is a man in desperate straits who looked up the word "Hope" on Google which led him to the RI Men of Hope so he called. The man had been cheating on his wife and they seemed headed for divorce. John met with him at a Dunkin Donuts and now, three years later they still get together and the mans life has changed dramatically with Jesus Christ working through John to help him.

The RI Men of Hope are actively seeking opportunities to help form men's groups in other churches. They do so because they know that men are hungry for God, they need authentic brotherhood in Christ, they have valuable spiritual skills to offer their church and men are searching for

significance. They urge pastors to understand that their aim is not to take men out of their church but to make men stronger in Christ in the church and to help support the pastor more effectively.

If you would like to learn more about the Men of Hope, to arrange a speaking engagement at your church or for any other reason,



The Rhode Island Men of Hope will be sponsoring their annual Men's Prayer Gathering on October 20, 2007, 9am-12 noon at the Salvation Army on 201 Pitman St. in Providence, RI. The keynote speaker will be ABC Sportscaster Ken Bell! For more information call 401-383-9967 or visit www.menofhope.org.

things that don't accomplish anything. "It's like the guy who is trying to climb the ladder of success only to find out that he has the ladder on the wrong building. And the fall is so great, they get discouraged. These men need support, a listening, non judgmental ear, and especially prayer," John said.



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John can be reached at 401-433-2030 (available 24/7) or Andre Thomas at 401-781-5863. Better yet, you can meet members of the group in person by attending a meeting at the Barrington Baptist Church any Wednesday at 7pm.

So you see, men, you are not alone in your isolated struggling to get by in life in this sorry, confused world in which we live; there is hope. Other men share many of your problems. Take this opportunity to contact men who genuinely want to help you sort things out, and lead you towards a more meaningful life in Jesus Christ.

Or, as a start, grab a Bible and flip to Proverbs Chapter One and just start reading...

Big John Mentus leaves us with the following scripture, a motto of sorts for the Men of Hope: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-24.

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Ron Paul from Page 1

On the whole, Duncan Hunter and Tom Tancredo are head and shoulders above the aforementioned "top tier" candidates, especially on the very important illegal immigration issue. They are also opposed to so-called "free trade" agreements, and they are both pro-Second Amendment. This is a plus. Hunter supports preemptive war, however, and he voted for both the Patriot Act and the Military Commissions Act, which disqualifies him for President, in my judgment. I confess to liking Tom Tancredo. He strikes me as an honest man and was a bulldog in fighting Bush's amnesty for illegal aliens proposal. However, he also voted for the Patriot Act and Military Commissions Act. Mike Huckabee and Sam Brownback are strong on the life issue, but they are dismal on immigration and Big Brother issues. All that said, it is Ron Paul alone who contains the "whole package."

He has a twenty-year record as a conservative congressman that is virtually unblemished. Unlike the vast majority of congressmen

and senators in Washington, D.C., Paul consistently honors his oath of office to support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. That, all by itself, should be worth a conservative's support.

In fact, Ron Paul has voted against so many unconstitutional bills offered by both Democrats and Republicans that he is known on Capitol Hill as "Dr. No." This moniker comes from both his "no" votes and the fact that Paul is a former medical doctor, an OB/GYN physician who has delivered more than four thousand babies.

If one wants a true photograph of how a congressman or senator votes on conservative, constitutional issues, the best place to look is the Freedom Index in the New American Magazine. Ron Paul almost always ranks as the most conservative congressman from either chamber or either party. His current ranking is 100%, which is a score that few congressmen or senators, except Ron Paul, ever achieve. And Paul does it routinely.

Ron Paul's commitment to the sanctity of human life goes beyond rhetoric. He is the man who sponsored H.R. 776, entitled the "Sanctity of Life Act of 2005." Had it passed, H.R. 776 would have recognized the personhood of all unborn babies by declaring that "human life shall be deemed to exist from conception." The bill also recognized the authority of each State to protect the lives of unborn children. In addition, H.R. 776 would have removed abortion from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, thereby nullifying the Roe v. Wade decision, and would have denied funding for abortion providers. In plain language, H.R. 776 would have ended abortion on demand. (It is more than interesting to me that none of the Religious Right's pet politicians, including George W. Bush, even bothered to support Paul's pro-life bill.)

In addition to being willing to stop the illegal alien invasion, Ron Paul is one of only a handful of congressmen that dares speak out against the emerging North American Union, NAFTA super-highway, and the Security and Prosperity Partnership agreement, all of which are being promoted by the White House in concert with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

Another critical issue in next year's election is the gun issue (it is always a critical issue where freedom is concerned). On this issue, Ron Paul stands atop the field. Because Paul truly supports the Constitution, he truly supports "the right of the people to keep and bear arms." Period. Should Ron Paul become President, gun owners would have the best friend they ever had.

For a comprehensive review of the presidential contenders' records on the Second Amendment, visit www.gunowners.org/pres08.

Regarding the war in Iraq and other foreign policy issues, Paul is a traditional conservative of the order of George Washington and Robert Taft. Not ignorant of military matters (he is an Air Force veteran), Paul subscribes to a historical American approach of no entanglements with foreign nations. In fact, in the area of foreign policy, Ron Paul stands alone as a traditional, constitutional, American statesman.

Unlike his neocon counterparts,

Ron Paul believes in an independent America. He believes that it is not America's responsibility to police the world. He believes America's political leaders are duty-bound to protect the interests of the United States, not the interests of internationalists. Accordingly, he opposed the unprovoked and preemptive invasion of Iraq. Time has certainly vindicated Dr. Paul's principled position.

In fact, those conservatives who have followed President Bush's preemptive war doctrine are the ones who have abandoned historical conservative principles. Before G.W. Bush changed the landscape, conservatives, especially Christian conservatives, mostly subscribed to Augustine's "just war" theory regarding accepted protocols for the conduct of war. Today, however, many professing conservatives have foolishly followed Bush's "preemptive war" theory, which, before now, was practiced mostly by pagan emperors. Not so with Ron Paul. As a Christian, he still subscribes to "just war."

Of course, Ron Paul believes in protecting America from terrorists. He authored H.R. 3076, the September 11 Marque and Reprisal Act of 2001. According to Paul, "A letter of marque and reprisal is

instead of being more vulnerable, which is the case today.

And speaking of Christianity, Ron Paul's testimony is clear. He has publicly acknowledged Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. And for Paul, this is not political posturing; it is a genuine personal commitment. This is easily demonstrated by the fact that he does not wear his Christianity on his sleeve, as do so many politicians (of both parties).

Just recently, Ron Paul said these words, "I have never been one who is comfortable talking about my faith in the political arena. In fact, the pandering that typically occurs in the election season I find to be distasteful. But for those who have asked, I freely confess that Jesus Christ is my personal Savior, and that I seek His guidance in all that I do. I know, as you do, that our freedoms come not from man, but from God. My record of public service reflects my reverence for the Natural Rights with which we have been endowed by a loving Creator."

Could conservative Christians ask for a testimony that is any clearer?

Should Ron Paul win the Republican nomination, he would almost certainly win the general election. His constitutional, common sense ideals would be attractive to such a broad range of voters. I dare say that he would win

a landslide victory, no matter who the Democrats nominated. Conservatives, independents, libertarians, union members, and even some liberals (mostly those who oppose the war in Iraq and Bush's Big Brother schemes) would support Ron Paul. The challenge is winning the Republican nomination.

Face it: the big money interests, the Chamber of Commerce crowd, the international bankers and GOP hierarchy will never support Dr. Paul. He is too honest, too ethical, too constitutional, and too independent for their liking. Therefore, the only chance Ron Paul has of winning the Republican nomination is for every Christian, every conservative, and every constitutionalist within the GOP to get behind him.

Conservative Republicans have only one choice for President in 2008: Ron Paul.



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

Walking "The Land" from Page 1

waters of this Mediterranean port where over 100 Roman warships once called home and countless battles took place. For additional information about Caesarea you can visit www.caesarea.org.il

many important battles throughout history and even today is looked at as a very important strategic position to hold, because of the wide open flatlands surrounded by hills and mountains at the foot of the "crossroads of the world".

About a half hour drive north-east from the sea we stopped at Tel Megiddo or Armageddon the name most recognizable to bible students. Tel Megiddo, or Hill of Megiddo consists of 26 layers of ancient civilizations, overlooking the fertile valley of Jezreel. This is where the final battle between good and evil mentioned in Revelation 16 will take place.



Valley of Jezreel from Tel Megiddo

Climbing the hill, many excavation sites were open offering a glimpse into centuries past.



Waterworks at Tel Megiddo

One site of particular interest was believed to be a vast system of stables, which could only have been owned by a very wealthy man; all indications point to Solomon. At the northern observation point there is a majestic view of the Jezreel Valley, currently used for farming, the Nazareth Mountains, and Mount Gilboa; the southern observation point looks out on the pilgrim prayer booth, the stable complex, and the remarkable waterworks. Our guide Ikey Korin, understanding our scriptural foundations pointed out that this valley has been the location of

After looking out over the future battle field of Armageddon, we ventured deep into a water system which even by today's standards is nothing less than spectacular. The waterworks included a 25-meter-deep shaft, which reached bedrock and most of our group enjoyed the temporary escape from the warm afternoon sun, experiencing natural air-conditioning. A 70-meter long, three-meter-high tunnel was excavated at the bottom of the shaft, and the inhabitants of Tel Megiddo could draw water using ropes and buckets without actually entering the tunnel. A wall built near the spring kept it from view. The Megiddo waterworks are evidence of impressive engineering skill and equally creditable industriousness.



Rani, an Arab Christian guide standing in an ancient winepress. Hospital in background.

Historians believe that the waterworks were begun during King Solomon's time. Initially a troth between two parallel walls led to the spring which flowed under the wall in the western part of the hill. Later - apparently during King Ahab's reign - a far more complex water system was created, designed to disguise the spring and to enable the residents to draw water without their having to exit the city walls. Leaving Megiddo, we discussed the future end time battle and how significant this land, that we had just walked, has been and will be.

As we headed for the bus our tour guide impressed upon us again that Israel is filled with artifacts and that we could be walking over some at that moment. "Israel is one of the only countries left that still allows the sale of artifacts" stated Ikey. As if to drill that point even deeper, we passed a federal prison located on the outskirts of Megiddo generating questions from the group. Ikey pointed out that it was speculated to contain the remains of the oldest church still in existence in the Holy lands. An Israeli archeologist had recently discovered the site during prison expansion plans. After finding a large well preserved Mosaic, dating back to the 3rd century, with a Greek inscription stating "dedicated to the god Jesus Christ", the State of Israel has started to consider moving the prison.

A mere half hour away we'd stop at our next destination, Nazareth, the place where Jesus lived, also the largest Arab city in Israel, a busy city with a population of approximately 70,000 people. For nearly 2,000 years hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have found their way to the setting which shaped the Man who changed the course of history.

away from where he grew up. Included in the village are cultivated terraces and vineyards, an ancient winepress carved right into the stone, village residents dressed and working as they would have during that time. There are working olive presses and a threshing floor, the village well; all of these are seen along the Parable Walk, where pilgrims are lead through



A shepherd in Nazareth Village

the teachings of Jesus.

The village is operated by mostly volunteers that have come from all over the world to live by faith, some while also working their way through college. Our tour through Nazareth Village was guided by an Arab Christian named Rani Espanioli who attends the Bethlehem Bible College. He told us, "The village



Local Nazareth Villiage woman

was reproduced painstakingly after a discovery of some artifacts was made while excavating for a new wing of a local hospital. We were all quite astounded by this man of Muslim descent who lived and worked in an Arab city who had such a grasp of the scriptures and the English language. He informed us that most of the volunteers spoke at least 3 languages as they could.

Rani explained to us that people come from all over the world to meet the people and experience first-century hospitality as it was in our Lords time. In the courtyard we peer into the cistern, a vital part of any household. Hand-hewn caves stored wheat and other supplies. As we



A ceiling of a synagogue in Nazareth

stepped through a stone doorway into the dim interior, and smelled the smoke from the oil lamps, we began to imagine life in another time, when Jesus lived here in Nazareth.

Nazareth Village is one of the most inspiring biblical sites in the Holy Land visited by heads of state from all over the world. Our group was in total agreement with President Jimmy Carter's statement about the village, "Jesus' life and teachings come alive for all who witness this recreation of first-century Nazareth." If you have an opportunity to make a trip to Israel, be sure to include a stop in this very special place and experience life and culture as it was 200 years ago, you'll never be the same.

Our day's journey was capped off by an hour long ride to Tiberius, a historical resort town on the Sea of Galilee, one of Israel's four holy cities, where we checked into the beautiful Hotel Rimoni Galei Kinnereth, overlooking the water. After checking in we drove 5 minutes away to "Deck's", a South American Grill Restaurant. The restaurant was built on a pier over the Sea of Galilee and as we ate steak, chicken and fish cooked over open fires, we discussed the day, all were amazed by what we had seen and heard. As if we hadn't had enough stimulation for one day, Israel dazzled us a little more as we enjoyed an incredible array of desserts, while overhead in the starlit sky a fireworks display commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the 6 Day War.



Deck's Restaurant on the Sea of Galilee

Next month we will visit some of the sites around Galilee, Capernaum, the Mt. of Beatitudes, Bethsaida and the Dead Sea. Come along on the journey and learn some more about "The Land."

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National News

Boston Baptists offend for the sake of the gospel

By Ed Thomas

For 30 years, a church in downtown Medford, Massachusetts, has been choosing to use its front signboard to address people's consciences through what some call "offensive" and "divisive" messages. But the church's pastor says, though controversial, the messages are more about the congregation being salt and light than agreeing with a world that may have a sinful perspective

New England Baptist Church Pastor Thomas Michael says he is used to it -- new messages getting approved and posted about once a week, and a time or two in six months, getting a strong reaction from the public. "Some congratulate us for taking a bold stand that most churches don't take; and others, of course, are offended," he shares.

Messages such as "New Orleans: Natural disaster or God's anger with sin?" -- "If we didn't abort our children, the U.S. wouldn't have to hire illegals" -- and "Homosexuality is sin" are the kind that locals

find "disturbing," "offensive," and creating "dissension," according to an August 9 media report on the Boston Globe's website.

Michael says the church is not intentionally trying to get people angry at them, but to remind them that "salt," which the Bible uses to describe believers, is also an irritant as well as a preservative.

"That was his challenge: that salt [also] can be an irritant [as well] as a preservative, [and] that believers are left here to speak out for truth and righteousness," the pastor states. "Jesus, when he was here on earth, he was controversial, as we know. He's the one that said [as part of the Sermon on the Mount] we should be salt and light in this present, dark world."

Michael believes the Christian's job of speaking out for truth and righteousness is not always what the world wants to hear, but must be done to warn them of sin -- however, he says so few do it, the ones that do are seen as out-of-step with the community thinking.

Marriott criticized for peddling porn

(EP News)--Robert Peters, president of Morality in Media, is calling on the CEO of Marriott International Inc. to get out of the pornography business.

Peters said he had been under the assumption that Bill Marriott, being Mormon, would have nothing to do with pornography. But in a stay at a Marriott, Peters found dozens of titles that promised "hard-core action." In a letter to Marriott, Peters wrote, "It is my earnest hope ... you will do the right thing for your family, church and nation."

"I personally have a boycott against Marriott and any of the bigger chains that carry this pornography," Peters said. "When I have a choice, I choose not to stay at a hotel that distributes pornography."

Vickie Burrell of Citizens for Community Values has also petitioned the chain to come clean. "We have

approached Marriott several times before about getting out of the pornography business and it being the right thing to do," she said. "They have refused." Burrell operates CleanHotels.com, a Web site that lists facilities that do not offer in-room pornographic movies. Marriott is not on the list.

Pat Trueman, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, said in his view the material offered by Marriott could be prosecuted. "Marriott, as well as many other hotel chains, look the other way on the consequences," he said, "because the bottom line to them is profits."

Rusty Leonard, of Stewardship Partners, manages a \$240-million stock fund. He already refuses to invest in companies that produce and distribute pornography. "Marriott is one of several hotel stocks that we screen out," Leonard said. "Boycotts and petitions are helpful, but Christians can also get the message to the management of these companies that their behavior is unacceptable by simply refusing to buy their stock. There is no reason a Christian would want to be a co-owner of Marriott and be profiting from porn with the Lord's money."

Communities nationwide gear up for '40 Days for Life'

By Rusty Pugh and Jody Brown

Communities across America are joining in an effort to bring an end to the horror of abortion. Twenty-two cities have signed up so far for a pro-life campaign of prayer and fasting known as "40 Days for Life."

Numerous stories in the Bible demonstrate that God used 40-day periods to bring about major transformation -- and over the past three years, a handful of communities in America has conducted "40 Days for Life" campaigns in hopes of seeing lives transformed and saved. Participants in Green Bay, Wisconsin, report seeing two babies saved from abortion during the first hour of their campaign. As a result of the campaign in College Station, Texas, the local abortion rate dropped 28 percent. And in nearby Houston, one of the most notorious abortion clinics shut

down after 20 years of operation when concerned Christians undertook the campaign and followed the directives found in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Group spokeswoman Carmen Pate explains that the pro-life campaign is built on coalitions of local churches and believers.

"40 Days for Life is really a gathering of believers, to come together, really in repentance, asking for God's mercy and grace, to help end abortion in America," says Pate, who is co-host of Point of View on the USA Radio Network. "You know, we've tried legislatively, we have tried through the courts -- but we know that ultimately, ending abortion is in God's hands."

Early leaders of the campaign -- seeing how God has worked through their efforts to save the lives of unborn children and trans-

form communities -- decided earlier this year to take the campaign nationwide. They have designated a 40-day period this fall (September 26 - November 4) as a time for simultaneous campaigns in communities across the U.S.

While providing such resources as training modules, community case studies, and public relations assistance, the campaign literature points out that the simplicity of the campaign is one of its strengths: prayer and fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach (via petitions and church involvement).

"We feel that as a nation, we need to be called to repentance and [to] prayer and fasting," says Pate. "That's what it's about." More information on the campaign is available on the Internet at 40DaysforLife.com.

Church Refuses to Hold Funeral for Homosexual Man because it Would Include Gay Propaganda

By Elizabeth O'Brien

ARLINGTON (LifeSiteNews.com) - A Christian Church in Texas has refused to hold a funeral for a homosexual man because the family wanted to display a multimedia memorial presentation that condoned his actively homosexual lifestyle.

High Point Church is a large, non-denominational parish that believes that active homosexuality is a sin, Dallas News Morning Reports. When 46-year old Navy veteran Cecil Sinclair died on Monday, High Point initially agreed to hold a service for him because his brother was a member of the church. Sinclair himself was not affiliated with any church.

As Sinclair was dying of a heart condition, the church community prayed for him. After he died, High Point responded by sending a member to visit and minister to the family.

The Church also agreed to provide a large memorial service complete with a meal and a multimedia presentation in honor of the late Mr. Sinclair. However, when the church ministry saw some of the photos beforehand, they were shocked to find that they explicitly portrayed Sinclair as being in a homosexual relationship.

Upon discovering that Sinclair had been an active homosexual,

the church realized that a funeral in which these pictures were displayed would be a public statement in support of the homosexual lifestyle. Basing its decision on these moral grounds, the church decided that it could not go ahead with the service.

"Some of those photos had very strong homosexual images of kissing and hugging," said Pastor Gary Simons. "My ministry associates were taken aback."

During his Sunday sermon, Simons firmly explained his rejection of the homosexual man's funeral amidst the applause of the church community. He said that the family "requested an open-microphone format to allow anyone in attendance to speak." In addition, the service would be presided over by someone who was not a member at High Point Church. "It appeared to the church staff that the family was requesting an openly homosexual service at High Point Church, which is not our policy to allow," he said. In addition, an openly gay choir, the Turtle Creek Chorale, was also set to perform at the service.

Sinclair's mother Ms. Bowers was

upset by the decision, saying that a compromise could have been reached that might have enabled the memorial service to proceed. Nevertheless, Pastor Simons asked, "Can you hold the event and condone the sin and compromise our principles?" he said. "We can't."

Causing outrage among Sinclair's friends and family as well as many homosexual activists, Simons stated that he did not object to having a funeral for a homosexual man. Rather, he objected to the blatant condoning of the man's homosexual lifestyle. He made the analogy that while the church would not object to having a funeral service for a murderer whose mother was a member of the parish, the church could not allow photos of his crimes to be nostalgically displayed during the service.

In spite of High Point's moral objections to the Sinclair's lifestyle, the church made every effort to show the family that it was loved and cared for. They offered to pay for the service at another facility, and when the family refused, they sent food and representatives to the funeral.

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Gas station owners sue three big oil companies for price

(AP-San Francisco) - Oil companies Shell, Chevron and Saudi Refining are being accused of conspiring to fix gas prices for 23,000 franchise owners nationwide. Nearly two-dozen gas station owners in California have filed suit in San Francisco federal court and are seeking class-action status.

The station owners say chairmen of the three oil companies met privately nearly every month starting in 1996 to collude on prices. The suit contends they jacked up the wholesale price by 20 to 40 cents a gallon in nearly every state from 1999 to 2001.

A plaintiffs lawyer says gas prices soared for franchise owners at a time when inflation-adjusted crude oil prices had hit their lowest levels since the Great Depression. The suit says dealers were forced to either cut profits or pass on the cost to their customers. The U.S. Supreme Court threw out a similar suit last year.

Creation Museum attendance exceeds expectations

(EP News)--Even its creators are surprised by the popularity of the new Creation Museum in northern Kentucky. Not even 2 months old, the 60,000-square-foot institution near Cincinnati exceeded expectations by passing the 100,000-visitors milestone last weekend. An official said the Creation Museum should easily exceed the 250,000 visitors organizers had hoped to get in the first year. Because of huge crowds, the parent organization, Answers in Genesis (AiG), is seeking permission to add 600 parking spots. The Creation Museum reflects AiG's "young Earth" view of creationism with displays including the Garden of Eden, animatronic dinosaurs, large models and real dinosaur bones and eggs. Detractors have accused it of "indoctrination" of young people in an anti-science ideology.

Abortion is No. 1 killer in black community

(EP News)--Since 1973, more than 13 million black babies have been killed by abortion, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's more than twice the number of black deaths attributed to AIDS, violent crimes, accidents, cancer and heart disease during that period.

"Planned Parenthood kills more

black people in three days than the Klan has killed in its entire history of existence," said Joseph Parker, pastor of Campbell Chapel AME Church in Pulaski, Tenn., the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan. "Yet many in the African-American community don't even see Planned Parenthood as an enemy, (they) would see them as a friend. "Right now the biggest killer of the African-American community is abortion."

Dawn Vargo, associate bioethics analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said, "Pro-abortionists — with the help of anti-life organizations like Planned Parenthood — often succeed in making women think abortion is their only choice. This 'choice,' which isn't true choice at all, hurts both mother and child.

"It's important for women to realize that abortion is not their only option. There are many life-affirming choices for women facing an unplanned pregnancy."

San Diego firefighters subjected to "degrading spectacle"

(EP News)--Four San Diego firefighters were subjected to "vile sexual taunts" at the city's Gay Pride parade after they were ordered against their will to participate, according to a complaint filed by the Thomas More Law Center.

Attorney Charles LiMandri, West Coast director for the law center, said the "inexcusable" incident violated sexual-harassment laws as the men were subjected to gross sexual gestures, indecent exposure and countless verbal taunts. One firefighter was quoted as saying, "If any crew member were to hang up pictures at the station of what we saw, we would be disciplined."

The men said Fire Chief Tracy Jarman, who is lesbian-identified, ordered them to participate.

Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said, "This degrading spectacle would have been, in the past, a clear violation of the firefighters' employment rights as well as their constitutional rights, with damages awarded for subjecting them to emotional distress by forcing their compliance with the fire chief's personal agenda of promoting homosexuality."

But he added that as California has caved in to the homosexual agenda, the outcome of such cases is less clear. "Hopefully, the law and the courts will protect the rights of these men and send a strong message to the city that such strong-arm tactics are still

unacceptable in this country."

Religious groups fund companies they preach against

(EP News)--Thrivent Financial Services, a group formed by the merger of Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood controls over \$70 billion in investment funds. But many of these dollars are invested in companies involved in abortion, pornography, and other immoral activities, according to Stewardship Partners' Rusty Leonard. "On Sunday, Lutheran pastors often preach against vice. But the other six days a week they are unknowingly invested in companies involved in the very vices they preach against," said Rusty Leonard, founder of Stewardship Partners, who manages what he calls a Biblically Responsible Investment (BRI) fund that screens out companies involved in activities of concern to Christians. Thrivent's investment portfolio includes Howard Stern's satellite radio broadcaster, Sirius Satellite Radio, and corporate America's largest contributor to abortion provider Planned Parenthood: J.P. Morgan Chase — among many other offenders. "Christians should pursue with vigor any possibility that allows them to honor God — even using His money that they have temporary stewardship over," Leonard said.

American Heritage Girls a growing Christian alternative to the Girl Scouts

(EP News)--As Girl Scouts of the USA becomes increasingly liberal in its outlook, a new organization, American Heritage Girls (AHG), is stepping in to offer a Christian alternative. In the past five years, the Girl Scouts have lost more than 100,000 members, in large part because the group has caved in to political correctness, removing references to God and country from its motto and lessons. In 1993, when the Girl Scouts removed God from its motto, some scout leaders formed AHG. The group is operating in 33 states, with a goal of having troops in all 50 states by 2008.

Gay Lutherans challenge celibacy policy

(EP News)--Dozens of gay-identified clergy and seminarians "outed" themselves before the national assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in Chicago on Aug. 7 to challenge the denomination's requirement that homosexual clergy remain celibate. They sang hymns and distributed a devotional book listing 80 pastors and seminarians prevented from ministering because of the policy, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. The 4.8 million-member ELCA denomination is headquartered in Chicago.

Gambling cities linked to drug abuse

(EP News)--An effort by researchers to find out which cities have the biggest drug problems has led to a startling connection -- drug abuse correlates with gambling. A study conducted by Oregon State University and the Univer-

TX governor rapped for paving way for construction of Trans-Texas Corridor

By Chad Groening

Texas Governor Rick Perry is being called to task by an author and investigative journalist for vetoing bills that would have blocked construction of the controversial Trans-Texas Corridor.

Dr. Jerome Corsi has been one of the leading voices warning the American public about the consequences of the Trans-Texas Corridor, which will be part of a superhighway -- purported to be four football fields wide -- that will allow Mexican trucks to enter the U.S. and traverse the core of the country all the way to Canada. The best-selling author asserts that Governor Perry cleared the way for construction to begin in his state when he vetoed several bills passed by the Legislature that would have stalled the project.

"Governor Perry has been 100 percent gung-ho in building this

sity of Washington took the novel approach of testing wastewater for traces of methamphetamines. Researchers took samples from 10 unnamed cities and found those with casinos showed five times more drug use. Evelio Silvera, executive director of Casino Watch, said it should serve as a warning for communities that think casinos would solve their budget woes. "What research like this does," he said, "is provide yet another common-sense, practical, tangible measure of what needs to be taken into consideration before you fall in love with all the supposed advantages of inviting a casino into your neighborhood."

that abortion hurts women, and that is obviously a conclusion that they did not want to reach."

Church group sues N.J. over free exercise of religion

(EP News)--A Christian group filed a federal lawsuit against New Jersey officials on Saturday after the state began investigating the group's religious practices. The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights has threatened to prosecute The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association of the United Methodist Church for refusing to allow a same-sex civil-union ceremony at one of its worship facilities. "The government can't force a private Christian organization to use its property in a way that would violate its own religious beliefs," said Brian Raum, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, which is representing the Camp Meeting Association. "This action by the state of New Jersey

road," says Corsi. "The Legislature voted a two-year moratorium, it voted a redefinition of eminent domain -- [and] Governor Perry vetoed them. [On] at least one of those measures, he waited until the Texas Legislature was out of session so it couldn't even override his veto."

Corsi says it is unfortunate that there has been political pressure to get the project started. "The Federal Highway Administration's lawyer wrote letters threatening the Texas Legislature to cut off federal highway funds if they got in the way of this Trans-Texas Corridor," he says.

Corsi believes the same pressure will be applied on other states, like Oklahoma, to go along with the project. He suggests that would mean a loss of more American jobs and could pose a threat to U.S. sovereignty.

is a gross violation of the First Amendment." Civil-union ceremonies are specifically prohibited by the doctrines and beliefs of the United Methodist Church.

Abortionists avoid PBA ban by killing baby first

(EP News)--To steer clear of the federal partial-birth abortion (PBA) ban, abortionists are injecting preborn babies with a lethal drug dose before aborting them, according to *The Boston Globe*. The National Abortion Federation is training doctors to inject potassium chloride into a baby's heart. Since the procedure kills the baby while in the mother's womb, abortionists argue they cannot be prosecuted under the ban. Dr. Gene Rudd with the Christian Medical Association called it an appalling situation. "In an effort to circumvent the partial-birth abortion ban," he said, "abortionists have basically moved the death of the baby by just a few inches and a few minutes." He also points out that if potassium chloride gets into the mother's system, it could place her health at risk. "We have breached a major tenet of medical ethics," Rudd explained. "We're not really doing what's in her best interest. We're doing what's in the physician's best interest." Denise Burke, staff counsel for Americans United for Life, said potassium chloride is used to execute death row inmates. "It is ironic that they're using drugs to end an innocent life," she said, "using the exact same drugs that we use to execute prisoners who've had all their due process rights."

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World News

Chinese Government launches nationwide campaign against uncontrolled religious activities

By Michael Ireland

MIDLAND, TEXAS (ANS) -- The Chinese central government has launched a nationwide targeted campaign to clamp down the so-called "illegal religious activities" since mid-July 2007.

China Aid Association (CAA) www.chinaaid.org says reports indicate massive arrests have occurred in at least 8 provinces including Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Jiangsu, Henan, Shandong, Shanxi and Anhui. Some are still being detained for receiving bibles while some were persecuted by having their water and electricity cut off by the government because of hosting Sunday schools at home.

According to a report posted at the official website on July 6 by the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Mr. LIU Jianguo, deputy Minister of MPS, urged all local officials to start a one month campaign to "severely crack down illegal religion and evil religious activities" in order to eliminate the political unstable elements in the countryside. (The Chinese text of his speech can be viewed in both the official news report and MPS website)

CAA investigators reports that seven house church leaders have been detained since August 21 from a house church meeting in Inner Mongolia. Four pastors from Liaoning province including pastor QIN Tao (29 year-old), WANG Cong (34 year-old), WANG Shengjun (34 year-old), WANG Youjun (47 year-old) along with three Christian women leaders from Inner Mongolia were taken away from their worship location at Leizhiwa village, Kouhe town, Kulun Qi, Inner Mongolia.

They are detained at the PSB office of Kulun Qi now..

One church leader was detained with two others and all three were wounded during a raid of a house church at Jianhu city, Jiangsu province on August 19 while the believers were having their Sunday worship service. That same church was attacked on July

11 when they hosted a summer VBS for 150 children.

Three church leaders from Henan, Anhui and Shanxi were detained for five days when they took some Sunday school literature from a house church at Zaolin village, Guanjin town, Xincai county, Henan province on August 17.

Three church leaders were detained from 5 to 10 days as administrative punishment on August 9 while they were having a worship meeting at Qinghe town, Yutai town, Shandong province. The names of the detained are pastor DU Dafeng, CHENG Zhenan and Ms. Yue Ying.

CAA says a well-known Christian businessman Mr. ZHOU Heng has been under criminal detention since August 3. He was arrested when he tried to pick up 2 tons of Bibles at a bus station sent by someone from another province to distribute to local believers. A number of local house church leaders and believers had been questioned since then. According to his detention paper sent to Mr. ZHOU's wife CHEN Jihong, brother Zhou Heng was put "on criminal detention on suspicion of illegal business operation at 21:00 on August 3, 2007." He could face up to 15 years imprisonment if convicted.

Currently, ZHOU Heng is being detained at Xishan Detention Center by Urumqi Municipal Public Security Bureau, Xinjiang. The Chinese government only allows the official sanctioned churches to

print and distribute limited number of bibles.

On July 14, 2007, Sister Kong Lingrong and several young Christians between the ages of 10 to 15 were

On July 14, 2007, Sister Kong Lingrong and several young Christians between the ages of 10 to 15 were reading the Bible and praying in the house when members of the Communist Party of China, came in and said this was an illegal gathering and that children are not allowed to believe in Jesus.

reading the Bible and praying in the house when Li Zhizhong, head of Company 4, Regiment 31, 2nd Agricultural Division of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps of the Communist Party of China, Wang Cairong, deputy director of the company, Zhang Chunlan, the political director, and Jiang Wei, member of the security staff of the company, came in and said

Former Cannibal tribe in Papua New Guinea makes belated apology for eating four Fijian missionaries

By Dan Wooding

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (ANS) -- A former cannibal tribe in Papua New Guinea has apologized for killing and eating four 19th-century missionaries who were under the command of a British clergyman, reports the Irish Independent (www.independent.ie).



Reverend George Brown and 'Natives', New Guinea

The story said, "The four Fijians were on a proselytizing mission on the island of New Britain when they were massacred by Tolai tribesmen in 1878. "They were murdered on the orders of a local warrior chief, Taleli, and were then cooked and eaten.

Reverend George Brown and 'Natives', New Guinea "They had been sent by the Reverend George Brown, a Wesleyan missionary from County Durham who spent most of his life spreading the word of God in the South Seas."

Last week thousands of villagers attended a reconciliation ceremony near Rabaul, the capital of East New Britain province, once

notorious for its ferocious cannibals. "Their leaders apologized for their forefathers' taste for human flesh to a Fijian delegation led by Fiji's high commissioner to Papua New Guinea," the story continued. "They laid wreaths at the Fijians' feet and placed strands of sacred shells around their necks."

The story added that cannibalism was once common in many parts of the South Pacific -- Fiji was formerly known as the Cannibal Isles -- and dozens of missionaries were killed by hostile islanders.

Reverend

Brown was familiar with the gory traditions of the region. He was born at Barnard Castle, but emigrated to New Zealand as a young man and served as a missionary in Samoa before moving with his wife and children to New Guinea.

A tribe in Papua New Guinea He once described a visit to a village in which he counted 35 smoke-blackened human jaw bones that were dangling from a hut. He told the Royal Geographical Society: "A human hand, smoke-dried, was hanging in the same house. "And outside I counted 76 notches in a coconut tree, each notch of which represented a human body which had been cooked and eaten

there."

Even so, he was shocked when told that four of his staff had been eaten. "They were killed simply because they were foreigners.

"The natives who killed them did so for no other reason than their desire to eat them," he wrote. He agreed to launch a punitive expedition, ordering his men to burn down villages that were implicated in the murders and destroy wooden canoes.

The story concluded by saying that at least 10 tribe members blamed for the attack were killed.



A tribe in Papua New Guinea

Reverend Brown claimed the raids made the region safe for Europeans. In a letter to the general secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, he wrote: "The natives respect us more than they did, and as they all acknowledge the justice of our cause, they bear no ill will towards us."

But the reprisals attracted fierce criticism from the press, particularly in Australia.

Two Missionaries Beaten in North India

By Gospel for Asia

NORTH INDIA (ANS) -- A Gospel for Asia missionary and a Bible college student were attacked August 15 after distributing Gospel tracts to people in North India.

The injured missionary was one of more than 200 GFA missionaries and Bible college students taking part in an urban outreach. They were divided into groups and working in a large urban area handing out tracts. Things were going well for the first few hours as most people accepted the literature and listened to the Gospel presentations. But then

this was an illegal gathering and that children are not allowed to believe in Jesus.

Sister Kong Lingrong told them that she was only reading some Bible passages to them and telling them how to be a true human being. Sister Kong also showed them a copy of "United Nations Convention on Children's Rights." They asked: "Where did you get these things?" They questioned the students and asked them which grades they are in and who are their class instructors. After that, the persecution against sister KONG intensified. Sister KONG was told she conducted illegal gatherings at her home. They also ordered her to write a statement of self-criticism and self-examination on this matter. On July 20, Wu Zhilu, deputy political commissar of the company, four policemen from the local police station, six leaders

a few men who had received the tracts accused the missionaries and students of trying to forcefully convert everyone in the town to Christianity.

Seeing that these men were stirring up trouble, the missionaries decided it would be wise to move this team to another area. The missionaries in charge drove one team of the Bible college students to the new location, but when they came back to pick up the remainder, the troublemakers recognized their vehicle. By then the hostile group had grown to 30 people.

When GFA missionary Chetan got

and over 20 people from the TV station, water station, and five to six other work units, stopped electricity and water services to Sister Kong Lingrong's house. It was reported in that night's news program on the company's TV channel.

"The Chinese church believers are faithful peace-makers in building a stable moral society in China," said Rev. Bob Fu, President of CAA. "We call upon the Chinese government to correct this grave misunderstanding by allowing these faithful to contribute more social service without fear of arrest and retribution."

You may address your concerns to:

Ruan Boping: Regiment leader of Regiment 31, 2nd Agricultural Division, Xinjiang Construction Corps. Office Tel: +86-996-435-0666

out of the vehicle, they chased him down, kicked and beat him with sticks. Chetan sustained severe injuries to his face, stomach, back and head. They also slashed the hand of a Bible college student named Jitendra as he was climbing back into the vehicle.

Amazingly, Chetan was able to stand up to the men who were attacking him. "I was distributing tracts to whoever would receive them, but if you do not want them, I won't get angry," Chetan said. "Why are you beating me? You can beat me and kill me if that's what you want."

After hearing his words, the angry men left.

By the time the missionaries reached the hospital, Chetan could not even speak properly. GFA leaders in his area filed a report and sought protection from the police.

GFA field leaders request prayer for Chetan and Jitendra's quick recovery and God's protection for all the missionaries in this area. Also, please pray that God would change the hearts of the men who assaulted the missionaries.

Political Commissar of Regiment 31, 2nd Agricultural Division, Xinjiang Construction Corps. Office Tel: +86-996-435-0046 Comprehensive Management Office of Regiment 31, 2nd Agricultural Division, Xinjiang Construction Corps. Office Tel: +86-996-435-0015 Phone number of Sister Kong Lingrong's residence +86-996-435-3020 Public Security Bureau

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World Shorts

Evangelicals call for two-state solution in Middle East

(EP News)--About 4500 evangelical Christians who hold this view met in Washington last week for the second annual "Christian Friends of Israel" gathering, led by San Antonio pastor John Hagee. Hagee, Pat Robertson, and other so-called "Christian Zionists" have become powerful voices within evangelicalism for the state of Israel. They believe the current Israeli government, and the establishment of Israel's boundaries according to boundaries mentioned in the Old Testament, are among the essential conditions for the return of Christ. But not all Christians share this view of the end of days. On July 29, just days after Hagee's group met, another group of evangelicals issued a statement pledging a strong love for Israel, but also calling for an end to war, saying that a "two-state solution" -- which would grant sovereignty to the Palestinian Authority -- is the only way to create a lasting peace. This statement attracted attention because it was signed not only by Ron Sider, Tony Campolo, and the "usual suspects" of the evangelical left, but also by Billy Graham's brother-in-law Leighton Ford, Christianity Today Editor David Neff, and Bert

Waggoner, the National Director of the charismatic Vineyard USA denomination.

Pregnant Chinese women find safe haven in Hong Kong

(EP News)--Benny Mak, a Hong Kong real estate broker who is married to a China mainlander, said that when his wife became pregnant with their second child, the doctor recommended an abortion. "If we stay in China, they could arrest my wife while she is still pregnant, make her get an abortion and pay a big fine," he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It would all be legal." Since the countries were reunited in 1997, mainland women are heading to Hong Kong not just to take advantage of a superior public health system but also to protect the lives of their unborn children -- China's one-child policy does not apply in Hong Kong. In the 1990s, a few hundred mainland babies were born in Hong Kong. In the first 10 months of 2006, that number topped 20,000. Under rules imposed in February, pregnant mainlanders entering the territory who appear to be in their third trimester are charged \$5,000 to guarantee a spot in a Hong Kong maternity ward. Otherwise, they're not allowed to cross the border.

Mexican gov't harming U.S. sovereignty

By Chad Groening

The Justice Department is once again conducting a "dubious" prosecution of a U.S. Border Patrol agent who has been charged in the shooting death of an illegal immigrant, according to a public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption.

The charges were apparently filed only after the Mexican government got involved in the incident. An Arizona judge has ordered agent Nicholas Corbett to be tried on charges of second-degree murder for the January 12 death of Francisco Dominquez Rivera, who had illegally crossed the U.S. border in the Arizona desert between Douglas and Naco. Corbett claims he shot the illegal alien because the man threatened him with a rock.

Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton says this case reminds him of the highly publicized case of agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean who received stiff sentences for shooting a fleeing illegal in the El Paso area.

"These prosecutions send a message to Border Patrol agents not to aggressively enforce their nation's immigration laws," says

Fitton. "[That message says] don't interact. Don't go after the drug dealers. Don't confront the Mexican military that's crossing the border. Don't do anything to upset the Mexican government."

He questions why Mexican consular officials were allowed to speak to witnesses prior to U.S. authorities, and that those witnesses just happened to be relatives of the man who was shot by the agent.

Fitton states that in this case, the fact that the Mexican government involved itself in the prosecution of a United States citizen makes the prosecution suspect and harms U.S. sovereignty.

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Jesus Caricature Draws Flak in Malaysia

By James Varghese

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (ANS) -- A local Tamil-language newspaper in Malaysia is in hot water for publishing a derogatory caricature of Jesus Christ on its front page.

Malaysia's Muslim-led government slapped a one-month publishing ban on a newspaper on Friday for printing a caricature of Jesus holding a cigarette and a can of beer.

According to *The Times of India* newspaper, *Makkal Osai*, the Tamil daily, printed the picture in its Tuesday, August 21st edition with a caption quoting Christ as saying, "If someone repents for his mistakes, then heaven awaits them." The caricature, taken from the Internet, was used to illustrate

its quote for the day.

A police report against the paper has been lodged by a member of the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) alleging that the picture was a "threat to national harmony," the *New Straits Times* reported on Thursday.

The daily apologized for the publication, but MIC deputy president G. Palanivel urged the country's internal security ministry to act against the newspaper for hurting the feelings of Christians in the country.

The MIC youth submitted a four page memorandum to the prime minister's office asking the government to revoke *Makkal Osai*'s publication permit. *Makkal Osai* General Manager said the offending picture published on its front

page was "a mistake."

Reuters has reported that just over half of Malaysia's roughly 26 million people are Muslims, almost all of them ethnic Malays, who are deemed to be Muslim by birth. The large non-Muslim minority is largely made up of Buddhists, Hindus and Christians.

"Malaysia has maintained peaceful relations between the races and religions since riots in 1969, in which hundreds were killed. Since then, the ruling multi-racial coalition has kept a tight rein on public debate over contentious religious issues," said the Reuters story.

"Some Muslim groups joined church groups this week in calling for action to be taken against the newspaper. Christ is also considered a holy figure in Islam."

Food For The Poor provides Haiti hurricane relief

By Michael Ireland

COCONUTCREEK, FLORIDA (ANS) -- Food For The Poor, the foremost international relief organization working in Haiti, is responding to the recent damages caused by Hurricane Dean in the southernmost region of the country.

In a media release FFTP says that although the hurricane brushed close to the island, initial government reports list nine deaths, and more than 12,000 people who have been displaced or lost their homes. At least 4,000 homes have been partially or completely destroyed.

Food For The Poor maintains facilities in Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien, where supplies of food, medicine and emergency relief supplies are available and will be directed to the affected areas. In addition, Food For The Poor has already sent additional containers of medical supplies, clothing, food and other essentials to Haiti.

Food For The Poor is the largest NGO operating in Haiti today, serving more than 1,100,000 people in all areas of the country. A distribution network, consisting of over 2,000 churches, missionaries, orphanages, hospitals and schools is already in place, and is the most effective means to ensure that aid reaches the poorest of the people who are in need.

According to Robin Mahfood, president of Food For The Poor, "Our dedicated staff and facilities are prepared to handle this emergency, and we are able to swiftly

aid the victims of Hurricane Dean in Haiti."

The organization continues to fulfill its commitment to the entire Caribbean area through its major involvement with ongoing relief efforts to the islands of Dominica, St. Lucia, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, areas which have also experienced severe hurricane damage. Major relief efforts, including the delivery of food, emergency supplies, building materials and medical assistance, are all underway in these countries, as well as in Peru, Belize and Mexico.

As the third-largest international

relief and development organization in the nation and the largest charity in Florida, FFTP does much more than simply feed millions of the hungry poor in 16 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. Since 1982, we have provided clean water, medicines, educational materials, homes, support for orphans and the aged, skills training and emergency relief, with more than 96 percent of all donations going directly to programs that help the poor.

To assist with the work of Food For The Poor, please visit the Web site at www.foodforthe poor.org or call 800-487-1158

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Book Reviews

Believers encouraged to find the 'cure for common Christianity'

By Allie Martin

A new book has hit shelves claiming that Christianity in America has caught a chronic case of apathy and encouraging believers to get back to the basics of the Bible.

In his new book *The Cure for Common Christianity*, Pastor Tommy Galloway says the modern church in the United States should be having a greater impact for God's kingdom and glory. Galloway says there is a spiritually sick world waiting for

a healthy church to offer it hope. But for many churches, he says, the Great Commission has become the "great omission" -- "because we have omitted to do what Jesus said to do."

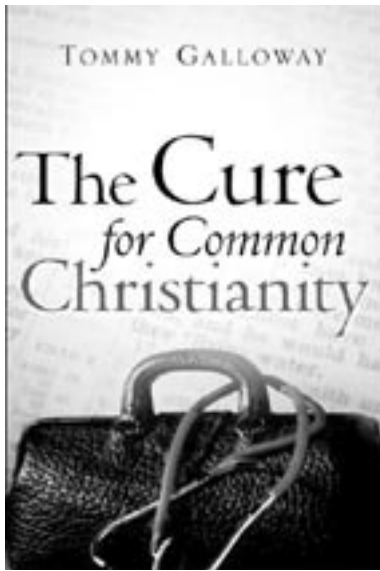
In one chapter called "Candy-Coated Cross," the author says many churches today do not preach the full counsel of God's Word. "I really think that we have candy-coated or sugar-coated the gospel of Jesus Christ," explains Galloway. "The Bible says that in the last days, people will come and

'tell me what I want to hear.'"

The pastor and author says many of the messages heard in pulpits today are meant to please people -- "Itching ears is what the Bible calls it," says the pastor -- and do not talk about the cost of following Christ.

"I believe you can come just as you are," Galloway acknowledges, "but Jesus said 'take up your cross and follow me.' I've got a thing in

the Candy-Coated Cross [chapter] about 'peppermint preachers' and 'taffy teachers' saying things that are pleasing to our ears."



And the pastor implies that when they do not hear what they find pleasing, some believers go to great measures seeking it out. "[W]hen children play with each other and they get upset, they take their toys and go home," he explains. In a similar vein, he says, "church members take their

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(Luke 12:15, Proverbs 22:7, Psalm 37:21)
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membership and change churches -- and they go from church to church."

Galloway is pastor of Word of Life Church in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Christian Words, Un-Christian Actions

By John Stoddard Klar

Cor 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ

America has entered troubling times. Our nation's debt load is staggering, yet our ability to consume more than we earn only increases. We are engaged in an expensive war which we're told will not end in our lifetimes, if ever... Our country's goodwill has been sullied by its use of torture, America is increasingly alienated from the rest of the world, and we are more dependent on oil than a junkie is on heroin. Wealth disparity and racial tension increasingly foster disorder, while the family unit and even our community ties are frayed and deteriorating.

Who do we blame for these conditions? Do we blame the politicians we elect; the lawyers we hire? Do we blame auto manufacturers for selling us the cars we demand? The junk food producers for providing the nutritionless food we desire? Do we blame the banks and foreign governments for loaning us money? Our teachers for our children's failings?

Whether or not we accept responsibility for the condition of modern America, we have no choice as to the consequences. Do we accept responsibility to achieve solutions, or is that someone else's also?

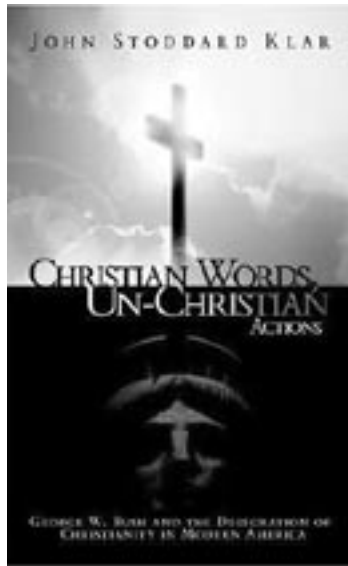
The goal of *Christian Words*

Unchristian Actions is to lead us toward solutions. The matter at hand is to define the moral code which is America's. If America is a nation of good, then it must be held to a standard of goodness. If Americans share a consensus that our nation should not torture, initiate expensive, unjustified and unpopular wars, neglect its poor or its environment, fail to educate its children, or live beyond its means, then why are all of these problems so immense in today's America?

We possess the power to change...

The first step in reaching a solution is to identify the problem. In today's America more than ever before, corporate and special interests dominate the political process, manipulating not only the government but the information Americans receive through media and advertising. Political candidates from both parties seek the votes of individual Americans, but their paymasters are the business and other interests who finance their campaigns. The checks and balances of government have weakened, and the power of the executive branch is now immensely greater than intended by the framers. But more crucially, the balance of power has shifted such that the American people are being dominated by the government which is supposed to serve them. This imbalance will increase, for government only grows larger, and profit-driven business interests only seek greater profits.

America has become Orwell's anti-Utopian vision, where those with power and influence dominate those whose noses are too close to the grindstone to have the luxury to seek escape. The "rags to riches" American Dream is realized by



fewer and fewer Americans, while more and more people struggle just to avoid economic decline. Like in Orwell's 1984, we are at endless war with vague and shifting foreign enemies, our attention shifted abroad; our government expands its control, employing torture and propaganda to exert its righteousness.

And George W. Bush, pretending to be a common man who cuts brush and goes fishing, is the worldly leader of this massive federal behemoth. He gained office by feigning a Christian faith that was driven by political aspiration, and once in power he demonstrated his true heart by his actions - in an immoral war that has drained energies better spent protecting America from Islamic extremism; in the use of torture, which he then blamed on the loyal troops who did as he bade them; in the draining of our nation's wealth through massive bureaucratic spending coupled with tax refunds to the wealthy. All in Christ's name, for Bush has represented himself to be a born-again Christian.

The first step toward a solution of America's diverse and dire problems is to hold the "accountability president" accountable to the ethical code he said he'd follow but didn't: but also to hold America to that same code. Because with Christianity, one may not have one's cake and eat it too - if America is to call itself a Christian nation, it had best stop proudly proclaiming itself to be "the greatest nation in the world," and start addressing its moral failings. For what would Jesus say of our nation? And what does the Bible teach will become of nations who turn away from God?

Make the most of each day -- and don't sabotage it

By Allie Martin

A best-selling Christian author and pastor is encouraging believers to make the most of every day, for God's glory, and to stop sabotaging their days.

In his new book *Every Day Deserves a Chance*, Max Lucado says many Christians sabotage their days without trying. Christians must accept God's grace daily, he counsels, and commit to seek and extend forgiveness.

"Most people really struggle to believe that God has completely forgiven all their mistakes. I know I do," Lucado admits. "I stumble, or I fall, I lose my focus -- and then I think, 'man, how long is God going to keep forgiving me? Do I ever exhaust his grace?'

"Well, the truth of the matter is," he continues, "by all human accounts, I exhausted the logic of grace the first time I asked for forgiveness. We receive grace by its nature, his

undeserved favor."

Every Day Deserves a Chance also reminds believers that they can have peace in anxious days and live every day with purpose. Lucado says most people -- even Christians -- are prone to be anxious and assume the worst from every situation.

"The fact of the matter is, still even on our worst days our blessings really do outweigh our burdens," he shares. "But we have God's presence among us -- we have his forgiveness around us, we have his eternal home ahead of us. And so he has demonstrated that he is faithful to take care of us." The popular author also encourages Christians to focus on service and evangelism, and to get the focus off themselves.

Lucado has a daily radio ministry -- UpWords with Max Lucado -- and is also senior minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas.



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Mike Coolbaugh was killed by a line drive during a game on July 22nd.

Worth the risk

By Brad Locke - Guest Columnist

Some things in life, simply by their nature, involve risk -- otherwise they really wouldn't be worth the effort. Oftentimes we observe those things from the sideline, and occasionally put ourselves at risk in the process. At other times, we are hip-deep and actively involved because it's something for which we are willing to risk most anything. The gospel of Christ, for example.

After minor league coach Mike Coolbaugh was killed by a line drive during a game on July 22,

several stories were written about how base coaches, players and fans could protect themselves from injury or death at the ballpark. Should coaches wear helmets, or at least a protective shield under their caps? Should they be moved farther down the lines? Should infielders and fans wear helmets, too?

Questions about safety always arise when such tragedies happen, but they don't usually spark immediate change. Major leaguer Carl Mays died when struck by a pitched ball in 1920, but batting helmets weren't standard attire for another 30-some years. Football helmets were slow in evolving as well, though some new safety innovation seems to pop up every season. In 2002, a young girl was killed by a hockey puck that flew into the stands, and that did lead to many arenas installing more protective netting, though often to the dismay of fans who complained of reduced visibility.

But the question still hangs there: What more can be done to ensure a fun, safe day at the game? The unfortunate answer is, not much.

While the knee-jerkers might demand immediate, stricter safety measures, the reality is that most measures can do little, if anything,

to prevent the next tragedy. Athletes, coaches and most fans understand the inherent risk in playing sports, especially when bodies and hard objects are flying around at high speeds.

After the Coolbaugh tragedy, several major league coaches and players were asked what could be done to make themselves safer, and many responded with this kind of question: Where does it stop?

Tigers third-base coach Gene LaMont told the *Associated Press*, when asked about coaches wearing helmets, "If you're going to do that, you're going to need to offer helmets to all the fans that come in."

On a humorous note, a fan post at SportingNews.com a couple of years ago said, "Possibly we should encase each and every player (regardless of their sport) in a protective inflatable bubble. Fans would be issued bubbles at the door to the stadium."

Our world is as safety-conscious as it's ever been. Kids have to wear helmets to ride their bicycles, children's bathing suits now come with built-in life vests, houses can be baby-proofed, etc. That's all fine and good, but I fear it's created the perception that we

can eliminate risk in this world.

Well, I'm sure most of us realize we can't do that, but just because Utopian ideals can't be reached doesn't mean folks won't pursue them.

Safety and comfort have become high priorities. The truth is, any worthy pursuit will have some element of risk, whether it's fighting for your country or stepping into the batter's box. It should be noted that many unworthy pursuits also entail risk, but such pursuits -- a la those of Johnny Knoxville and friends -- are attractive to some because of the high risk factor. Something's just wrong with those people.

We need to accept that sometimes, bad things will happen. The most noble endeavors, though, don't always carry physical risk.

Living the Christian life involves risk. Too many people try to live risk-free Christian lives -- I've attempted it -- and that's impossible to do. God didn't call us to live timidly, but to live boldly (Proverbs 28:1, Acts 4:31, Ephesians 3:12). Living this way has cost Christians many things -- reputations, jobs, relationships, money, even their very lives. It is easy in a country like America to

Sports

forget how to live boldly, and even though our faith is facing more hostility than ever before, it's not like we're risking life and limb to declare the gospel. This has, on the whole, made us complacent.

It's places like China and Africa, where religious oppression is the norm, that you see such rapid and robust growth of the church. It seems the higher the risk, the more the gospel thrives.

I don't want being a Christian in America to be real risky, but maybe that is what it will take to spark a revival. There is a passel of trendy religions and philosophies that offer little to no risk, which is why they've become so popular. But that kind of thinking -- the kind behind kabbalah and *The Secret*, for example -- is laughable.

Christianity is becoming increasingly unpopular, and many try to soften it by trying to declaw it, if you will. Sorry, but if there wasn't so much at stake, so much to be risked, I wouldn't want any part of it.

Hollenbach looking for QB job, but waiting for God's leading

By Joshua Cooley

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--If he closes his eyes, Sam Hollenbach can still picture the "sea of red."

It was late December last year, and the entrance to the University of Maryland football team's hotel in Orlando, Fla., was teeming with hundreds of fans. They had traveled south, like migratory birds seeking shelter from harsh winters past -- namely the consecutive 5-6 seasons in 2004 and 2005 that deflated the previous optimism in College Park generated by a 31-8 stretch in 2001-03.

The Terps' faithful were rewarded with a dominant 24-7 win over Purdue in the Champs Sports Bowl, capping a 9-4 season in which the team also defeated traditional powerhouses Florida State and Miami.

Hollenbach basked in the glow. Hours earlier, Maryland's 6-foot-4, 215-pound senior quarterback had put on a clinic of precise, veteran leadership, throwing for 223 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions and earning bowl MVP honors. Now, he was being mobbed by the cheering masses like a Roman general returning from conquest. It took Hollenbach a half-hour to wade through the exultant fans and get into the hotel.

"Those moments at that exact time were unbelievable," he said. "There was a lot of joy. Seeing the guys after the game and seeing all the fans at the hotel, I'll never forget it."

Now, though, as Hollenbach peers into the future, there is no sea of red. Only a grey fog. After being passed over in April's NFL draft, the 23-year-old immediately signed with the Washington Redskins as free agent. He participated in several minicamps



Sam Hollenbach: "It's hard because I really want the football thing to work, but I'm trying to be faithful and know that God has the best plan for me."

but got cut on July 16, leaving his football career in jeopardy.

"I was really kind of shocked at their decision, especially the lateness of it -- 10 days before [training] camp," said Hollenbach, who was competing with 2007 NFL Europa champion Casey Bramlet and 2007 sixth-round draft pick Jordan Palmer for the Redskins' fourth-string spot. "I guess I'm new in the business, so I have to learn some of these things."

The uncertainty surrounding Hollenbach's future evokes memories of his first several years at Maryland, when he got buried on the depth chart and nearly transferred. When he finally became the starter as a junior in 2005, he threw for 2,539 yards, but his interceptions (15) outnumbered his touchdowns (13), and the Terps stumbled to a sub-.500 record.

"I lost a lot of sleep over those games," he said. "I think God was

just teaching me character and perseverance and that football is just a game."

Matt Nichols, the campus leader of the Christian group Navigators, helped guide Hollenbach through the difficult times. Hollenbach had a firm foundation -- growing up in a Christian home outside Philadelphia and accepted Christ around age 7 -- but he still learned "a lot of things" through football, according to Nichols, like "how not to let football be his god, how to face disappointment, how to be a faithful man whether he felt like it or not." Hollenbach put the lessons he was learn-

ing to good use, helping to start a Fellowship of Christian Athletes group on campus and co-leading a Bible study for football players.

During his senior year, it all came together. He threw for 2,371 yards and 15 touchdowns and returned the Terps to postseason glory. Despite all the early turmoil, Hollenbach still finished his college career as only the fourth quarterback in school history to eclipse the 5,000-yard career mark, joining the likes of Maryland greats Boomer Esiason and Scott McBrien.

"It's a great story of perseverance, hard work and the whole bit," Maryland quarterbacks coach John Donovan said. "He kept his nose to the grindstone and kept working. Good things happen to those who work hard, and that was certainly the case with Sam."

Now, Hollenbach is playing the

waiting game, hoping to get a phone call from an NFL team that needs a young arm. He flew to Seattle for a one-day workout with the Seahawks last month, and the Carolina Panthers and New York Giants have both called. His agent, George Mavrikes, is working the phones, trying to drum up some more interest.

But Hollenbach knows his chances to latch on somewhere have decreased now that training camps have started. Wanting to play at least several more years before falling back on his mechanical engineering degree, he said he'd also consider the Canadian Football League, which is already well into its 2007 season.

Mavrikes, though, is convinced Hollenbach has a future in foot-

ball's top league.

"I think he'll be in the NFL," Mavrikes said. "Too many people like him. Too many people said good things about him. Something will happen. I don't know when, but it will happen."

So Hollenbach waits. Each time the phone rings, it could mean a possible career. And each day that passes silently is another test of faith.

"With the Redskins thing, I learned that I really have no idea about the future," Hollenbach said. "I don't want to selfishly follow my own path. I want to be aware of that and follow where God leads me. It's hard because I really want the football thing to work, but I'm trying to be faithful and know that God has the best plan for me."



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True Love

By The Good News Today staff

The 10th anniversary of Soulfest, Celebrating *True Love: The Revolution Jesus Started* took place on August 1-4, 2007 at the Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, New Hampshire. The event included six stages with over 100 music artists, about fifty speakers and workshops, and eighty vendors. Blazing heat with high humidity governed the days with cool nights to offset the heat.

The first Soul festival took place in 1998 in Loon Mountain, NH. There were three performance stages and the event lasted about two days. Attendance that first year was just over five thousand and there were about one hundred volunteers.

According to Dan Russell, Soulfest's co-founder, the first festival got its roots when a group of music-minded individuals and spiritually grounded folks got together and "endeavored to create an event that would attract believers from across New England, who were hungry to grow and would not be afraid to get out of the boat and onto the water. The events primary purpose would be to encourage all who attended to live the gospel, live the revolution that Jesus started, and become beacons of True Love in our homes and beyond."

The theme of Soulfest this year was *True Love* and, as the program stated, "Throughout the gospels, Jesus reveals God's perspective towards all humans, towards every soul. Jesus was not here to condemn anyone but to reveal His Father's love, true love for all of us. If True Love becomes our pursuit, if we take the message to heart then we will be living a personal revolution: True Love is the Revolution Jesus Started. It was the vision of the Soulfest staff that attendees would begin to choose True Love over false love, hope over cynicism, courage over fear and action over talk. True Love should be our weapon of choice." This weapon was shared with over 12,000 people in attendance this year.

The Booth

The *Good News Today* was prominently displayed at our booth in one of many large vendor tents consisting of ministries primarily from New England and some representing points across the globe. The editor and his wife/administrative assistant, Blonde L. Sammy, supported by a volunteer staff worked in shifts offering copies of the paper to those passing by. During the four days at least 1200 papers were handed out offering the opportunity to converse with many people from New England and beyond.

Giving out copies of the Good News to strangers is always an interesting experience and Soulfest is a great place to share the Good News. Many were curious and asked about our origin, circulation, and how they might get the paper in their church or how to subscribe. Some were interested in writing articles or poems for the paper. Some had insightful thoughts about the content and feature articles and

many offered stories of their own; the majority were very positive and a few argumentative. Most notable of the latter was a man named Steve, a pastor of a church in Leominster, Ma. In his role as pastor he writes a bi-monthly column in a secular newspaper. He informed me that, unlike us, he does not write "any of that mamby-pamby, God loves you, Jesus stuff" in his column!

The Bands

Soulfest provides ample opportunities to hear many of today's contemporary Christian bands all in one place. Attendees can choose from varying forms of Christian music from acoustic worship to heavy metal. Some of the bands now considered tried and true were Jeremy Camp, Jars of Clay, Rebecca St James, Natalie Grant, Steven Curtis Chapman, Chris Tomlin, Newsboys and many more. For the younger generation there were plenty of bands like The Chariot, Nailpoint, Maylene and more, which kept the adults scratching their heads wondering, "What did they say?" and "How could that be good for my kids?" One astute parent remarked, "Some of the bands with the worst "outer appearance" seemed to have the best testimonies, onstage anyway."

I was looking forward to attending a Casting Crowns concert at 9:30 Friday night yet when our group got closer to the stage, I decided to back out. I was exhausted, too much talking and perhaps too much heat had done me in; in no way could I sit at a loud concert. So the others went to hear them while I decided to stroll the grounds, perhaps indulge in a healthy grease laden doughboy. God had other ideas.

I heard a teenage voice asking if I would like to pray with his small circle of friends, to tell the truth my gut reaction was to say no, but I agreed anyway. There were three of us at first, the kid that invited me and another young man. Then a teenage girl joined in. Perhaps we felt a little clumsy as an impromptu group, so someone led off with the Lord's Prayer. For some reason I focused on the young man to my right and asked if he knew if he'd go to heaven when he died. He didn't, which led me to present the gospel story to him, after which, he decided to pray with me and accept Jesus Christ as his Savior right then and there! His eyes were misted over; he seemed sincere about what he had just done.

I had a chance to talk with a few of the others that night. They were from tough gang neighborhoods. One girl told me that she would trust in her knife first-before God- when in danger. We were able to discuss Jesus as being our shield and shining our light and loving others as a means to soften, rather than antagonize perceived enemies.

Casting Crowns would have been great to see but, hey, I've got the CD and they could not have come close to the unexpected joy I experienced being drawn into this group of needy teens; needy for His "true love" that is.

The People
An interesting,

unscientific, survey took place when we decided to approach people quite randomly and ask why they came to Soulfest and if they were getting what they expected. Following is a random sampling.

Holly Wicks, age 23, came to Soulfest with friends from Atlantic Baptist University in New Brunswick, Canada. She came wanting to be surrounded by lots of Christians and to get pumped and rejuvenated and "hoping that God would speak to me in a different way." She accomplished her goal, both she and a friend identified growth areas in their Christian walk and are developing an action plan, she said.

Katie Holtz, age 19, a Soulfest volunteer,

NH came because his 17 year-old daughter loves Soulfest so he always brings her. He also finds it refreshing to be around so many Christians. He was a volunteer with Soulfest security and in working with security he was involved in apprehending people who were trying to enter the Soulfest grounds without paying; some in very creative, yet devious ways.

Mareike Ebwer, 20, from Hamburg, Germany sat sunning herself outside of the main lodge while relishing in the temporary freedom she had from watching the four children she was employed to sit. Her role as nanny would last for six months. She came because the family brought her, but she also attends a Christian Church in Germany, so she really liked the concerts and being around so many "happy people."



SoulFest 2007

(From left to clockwise)

Casting Crowns
violinist Melodee,
crowd scene, children,
Superchic (k) Tricia,
Chris Tomlin guitarist
Daniel Carson.



came to meet up with some of her college friends from Zion Bible College. She and her group were volunteers which got them in for free, allowing them access to concerts. She said that she'd been to CreationFest many times and that this was her first Soulfest and that it's always fun to attend a Christian concert.

Brad Knudson, 33, has been to the past five Soulfests. He said that Gunstock is almost an hour closer for him to drive. He comes "for the music and the chicks," he said with a wide grin.

For Sara Barnes, age 23, it was her second time at Soulfest. She was there mostly to hear concerts. To her Soulfest is a nice break from being a cashier at a grocery store. She said that she was not as happy as she has been in the past with her experience at Soulfest; she cannot pinpoint it but feels like she had not been fed as well, so far has not felt closer to God.

Scott Fitzpatrick, 54, came with his wife and family. This was their third visit to Soulfest. They came because they love music but mainly to be a part of the community of worship and faith. He and his family and friends are from a Catholic Parish in Concord, NH and attend the mass at Soulfest each morning. After mass they move on to the workshops and enjoy music throughout the afternoon.

She said that people are much more enthusiastic here at Soulfest and at her employers church, than at home in Germany.

Matt Chambers, 15, seemed very out of place. He sat on the floor, back against a railing wearing all black with spiked hair and with a bit of black eyeliner carefully applied. Tattoos adorned his arms. His facial expression was sullen, his eyes revealed nothing. He seemed intent on a cell phone game. He warmed somewhat as our conversation progressed. In a nutshell, he was there because his parents made him come and they hoped it "would change" him. But, he says, he felt "nothing" being at Soulfest. He met a few girls there that were kind of like him-they didn't want to be there either. When I asked what he would be doing if her were at home in Topsham, Maine he said "just chillin with friends."

Chris Ramsey, 18, from Vermont came to Soulfest with a group of friends. He came to hear the bands, especially his favorite who is Chris Tomlin. Also, "What better way to spend the last weeks of summer before school than being with friends, family, God and awesome music?" He said that he has been educated this year by some of the workshops he attended and definitely feels closer to God. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior about two years ago and has tried to live a Christian life and that Soulfest certainly helped.

Toni Richardson, age 40, is from Augusta, Maine and was seated comfortably reading from the book of Isaiah when I approached

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her. Yet another volunteer, she was lured by the free admission and her role was crowd control at the main stage. This afforded her the opportunity to spend her days attending workshops and other things. She was pretty disappointed in people the first few days of her crowd control role. For their safety she would ask them, for example, to stand behind a certain line only to be met with refusals, gestures and rudeness. "This, from Christians," she thought.

Toni believes she has been humbled by the whole experience and somehow saw herself. She believes that the Lord told her that she needs to remember that she is a Christian also, not just when she is wearing her yellow shirt here at Soulfest but when she goes home with her husband and her children. The standard that she expects for the Christians at Soulfest is the same that He has for her also. She came to Soulfest with her agenda in mind; the Lord had another one she tearfully said: humility.

Peter and Jennifer Holt came from Berwick, Maine with several extended family and friends. Soulfest has been their family vacation for the past

a thing, which was kind of a let down.

It seemed as though "Chico" was her street name. She was there with a group from Syracuse, NY, she lived on the tough side of town where she said that she has to "watch her back" at all times. At seventeen years old, she seemed much older and this was her first time away from Syra-

themselves, often come away with the most precious nuggets of gold, even when they least expect it. The first week of August in the pristine mountains of New Hampshire at Soulfest 2007 would be no different for all in attendance including the Good News staff.

Some walked away happy to have seen or heard new bands or music for the first time. Some grew from prayer or teaching and preaching from ministries that they'd never known existed. Others walked away hot, miserable and dirty because they never gave God a chance.

My experience can best be summed up in the most innocuous conversation that I ever expected to take place at this time or place in my life. It was on the hottest day of the week. She came out of nowhere, nonchalantly walking up to our booth with a big grin from ear to ear, looking around taking everything in around her. She was unremarkably dressed; average in appearance, but wise beyond words as she made what I later realized was my grandest observation of the entire festival.

As I sat wondering what her comments about the paper or perspective on the festival might be, sweat dripping out of every pore of my flesh, she looked deeply into my eyes and simply stated, "Isn't it just like God, to get all of these Christians together in one place... and turn up the heat?" I thought deeply for a moment, without expression and before I realized it, she was on to the next booth and out of the tent.

No more profound a statement could have been uttered than this one at that very moment. Much time and effort goes into preparing for an event like this, for all involved, and as with any experience hard work pays off. After all, doesn't scripture teach to... observe the ant...you sluggard? Like with pearls, often you must work very hard to obtain, polish and then utilize them. Sometimes the journey gets downright cumbersome and discouraging, but when that pearl is discovered everything else seems to pale in comparison and the former things are gone.

This statement was not something she had dreamed up herself, it was nonetheless an answer to prayer from my Father in heaven delivered at just the right moment. He knew why each of us was there and answered my most simple of questions, "What is this all about, why are we here?"

Scripture teaches that iron sharpens iron and that vessels of honor are tried, as if by fire. Yes, we were all tried this week and some came up wanting, others came away with pearls, nevertheless, Soulfest was once again an opportunity to meet God on a mountain top and leave with His word etched on our hearts.

John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.



(From top to bottom)
Chris Tomlin, Natalie Grant, John Reuben

cuse. She loved the bands and being with her friends. She also liked some of "the church stuff."

The Message

Much like our life on this planet, Soulfest, in it's tenth year, just as in years past, had something to offer everyone. You can be a giver, a receiver or a taker. You can shut out much or all of what life has to offer, accept whatever easily comes your way or dive deep searching for a hidden pearl of great price.

In my short time on this planet I've often found that those who seek with intentions of finding Gods highest and best for

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Entertainment

Facing the Giants paves way for third movie from ministry

By Allie Martin

Plans are in the works for a third movie from the church which produced the surprise hit *Facing the Giants*. At the same time, Sherwood Pictures' initial venture into moviemaking is being prepared for worldwide release.

Facing the Giants was produced by Sherwood Pictures, a ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church of Albany, Georgia. The movie, which was made for \$100,000, has generated millions of dollars in sales and allowed the church to build an 82-acre sports complex as an outreach to the community.

Alex Kendrick, media pastor at Sherwood Baptist Church, is now in the process of hammering out a final script for Sherwood Pictures' new movie, *Fireproof*. Kendrick says the movie focuses on a firefighter who has a troubled marriage, seeks out and searches God's Word, and realizes his marriage cannot be fixed until he gets right with the Lord.

While the success of *Giants* means a bigger budget for *Fireproof*, Kendrick says everyone working on the movie will be asked about their relationship with the Lord. The actor/producer says they are not looking for perfect people, but

rather those who want to deepen their walk with the Lord.

"What's most important to us is that the people involved are doing it for the right reasons," the media pastor shares. "In other words, one question that we asked the cast and the crew is, 'Is there anything in your life that would prevent God from blessing your work on this movie?'"

Kendrick says when they asked that question of those involved with *Giants*, it was decision time. "There were quite a few people who said, 'yes, there are some things in my life I know the Lord is not pleased with' -- and so they stepped aside," he recalls.

Fireproof has a tentative release date of September 2008.

In the beginning...

Before *Facing the Giants*, Sherwood Baptist members and Kendrick produced *Flywheel*, a story about a used car salesman who comes to faith in Christ and turns his professional and personal life around. Kendrick says the movie was a surprise hit.

"We got it in our local theater, and it was supposed to go one week," he says, "[but it] ended up going six weeks -- and then Blockbuster Video picked it up nationwide."

As Kendrick explains, there is more to come for *Flywheel*. "Now Sony has picked it up to go worldwide, and they are putting it in numerous languages,



and it comes back out in a new re-released form"

Sony's re-release of *Flywheel* is scheduled for November.



By Michael Ireland

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE (ANS) -- Point of Grace, one of the most notable and successful female groups in Christian music history, is set to release its first new studio project in three years.

The award winning and Platinum-selling Word recording artist released its 11th studio project, *How You Live*, nationwide on August 28, 2007. The highly-anticipated project is the first new studio release in almost three years from the group. The recording promises

Point of Grace releases highly-anticipated new project, *How You Live*

to return the group to its musical roots, communicating a message that builds on a 15-year legacy.

After performing in front of hundreds of thousands of fans and selling over five million albums, Shelley Breen, Leigh Cappillino, Denise Jones and Heather Payne deliver a compelling collection of songs that invite the listener to examine their priorities and take stock of their lives on *How You Live*.

"This record is a constant reminder for us to celebrate life -- to celebrate it in the good and to celebrate it in the bad," says Cappillino. "It urges us to walk along those paths with our friends and family, as well as with strangers and to recognize God's goodness in all things. My hope is this record will motivate people to be captivated by God."

For 15 years, Point Of Grace has built an unprecedented career, delivering songs of substance. While the groups' lovely voices and soaring harmonies have entertained, its songs have illuminated the complexities of the human spirit and spurred listeners toward closer relationships with each other and with God. In the process, the group has taken the church by storm, winning eight Dove Awards, two Grammy nods and garnering two platinum and five gold records as well as 29 No. 1 singles, 24 of which were consecutive.

"We are honored to get to serve Point of Grace in the calling that they have had on their lives through music," says Rod Riley, Sr. VP of Marketing, Word Label Group. "Their music has been an inspiration to so many people over

the years and this record continues their calling in a vibrant way."

With producer Brown Bannister (Amy Grant, Building 429, Steven Curtis Chapman) at the helm, *How You Live* unites Americana musical influence with the classic vocal sound that has made Point Of Grace one of the world's most identifiable groups in any genre. The first single, "All the World," is a perfect example of the signature harmonies that have defined the group since its early days at Arkansas' Ouachita Baptist University. The song's upbeat message urges believers to look beyond their immediate circles to spread the gospel and "shine their light for everyone to see in all the world."

For years, the Point Of Grace members have never ceased to be a positive impact on this generation and culture, ever mindful of their position as role models to young women around the world (their

Girls of Grace conferences alone draw tens of thousands each year and continue to grow). They have been obedient to God in using that platform to uplift and encourage other believers and share news of His mercy within a hurting world. Through it all, they also made personal choices, each marrying and having children, learning along the way to deftly juggle family and faith with ministry and music -- making them even more relatable to their fans.

In support of the *How You Live* album release, Point Of Grace has scheduled a national tour to kick off in the Fall of 2007, followed by the annual "Winter Wonderland" Christmas tour. The group will also kick-off its new season of nationally recognized Girls of Grace conferences, with an unprecedented launch in February, 2008. For more information, visit www.pointofgrace.net.

Dennis Jernigan partners with CareNet

Nashville, Tenn. - Songwriter/singer Dennis Jernigan has partnered with Care Net, the largest affiliation network of pregnancy centers in the country. CareNet pregnancy centers offer free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, peer counseling services, post-abortion support, material needs assistance, and other practical, emotional, and spiritual help to empower women and men facing pregnancy related concerns. Jernigan, a father of nine children, feels the affiliation is a good one.

"My calling resonates with CareNet's purpose which is centered on life, healing, reconciliation and spiritual and emo-

tional freedom," says Jernigan. "CareNet's affiliates across the country provide practical and spiritual application to men, women and families who are struggling under the intense bondage of guilt, fear, broken relationships and crises of faith due to issues of sex, pregnancy and/or abortion. These warriors are on the front lines of real life showing God's amazing and merciful love to hurting and scared people."

"We're thrilled that Dennis has chosen to affiliate himself with our efforts," says Kristin Hansen, Vice President of Communications and Center Innovations for CareNet. "Dennis deeply under-

stands the hearts of those working in pregnancy centers as well as the healing of Christ that is freely available for women and men facing crisis pregnancies." Jernigan will introduce Care Net's ministry to his concert audiences as he tours across the country. CareNet will have information available at each concert event, and will assist in radio campaigns in each concert market.

Jernigan recently performed a concert to benefit Option Line, a joint venture of CareNet and Heartbeat International. Located in Columbus, Ohio, Option Line is a state of the art helpline that employs 30 trained phone consultants who are available 24/7 to assist women in crisis and to directly connect them to local pregnancy centers (800-395-HELP or www.optionline.org.)

The mission of CareNet is to support and promote the evangelistic, pro-life work of pregnancy centers all across North America. In turn, CareNet's more than 1050 affiliated pregnancy centers are committed to reaching women and men in crisis and offering practical, emotional, and spiritual support so that these clients may be empowered to make positive pregnancy and other life decisions.

Dennis Jernigan is one of Christian music's most prolific songwriters. His new CD entitled *I CRY HOLY* was released nationwide on July 17 (Infinity Distribution). In a music career that extends over two decades, Jernigan has amassed dozens of hit songs to his credit, recorded over 30 projects, and authored five books. His songs, such as "You Are My All In All," "Thank You, Lord," "We Will Worship the Lamb of Glory," among others, have been used in churches of every denomination across the globe, and consistently rank in the top 100 of CCLI's Most Performed Songs Chart. His song "Sit With Me Awhile" is a featured selection

at the grave of President Ronald Reagan. He travels around the world telling his story of healing and freedom from homosexuality. He and his wife Melinda have been married over 23 years and have nine children ranging in age from 13 to 23. For more information on Dennis Jernigan, visit www.dennisjernigan.com.



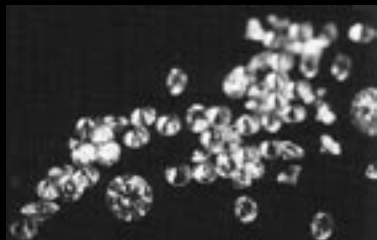
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Challenging The Vaccination Dogma

By Dr. Sherri Tenpenny, DO

A chilling, consistent pattern exists in stories told by parents: "My child was happy, healthy and normal. He was walking, learning to talk and interacting with his siblings. He was normal in every way, until his one-year well-baby check up. The doctor said it was time for his next round of shots. Unquestioning, the shots were given. Within weeks, he was autistic."

The reports vary slightly in content and timing, but the descriptions of thousands of children who suddenly regress into the isolated world of autism are eerily the same.

What is dogma?

Webster's defines dogma as "a doctrine; a positive arrogant assertion of opinion" and medical dogmas certainly abound. Many have existed for decades simply because a claim of effectiveness was made and never disputed. Over time, the allegations were melded into medical jargon, presumed to be facts.

An early example of dogma in the vaccine industry occurred in 1913 when Dr. Simon Flexnor held out that polio was a disease caused by a virus entering the body through the nose and mouth. He postulated that paralysis arose when the virus traveled directly from the sinuses to the brain and the spinal cord. Flexnor's assertions about the mode of paralysis were never reproduced and it is now known that polio is a gastrointestinal virus, not a respiratory virus.

Difficulties in developing a vaccine occurred because he propagated a dogma that the polio virus would only grow in neurological tissue, a culture media that was associated with life-threatening encephalitis in experimental animals. No one attempted to use other types of tissue cultures to grow polioviruses. His solo paper remained unquestioned dogma for 25 years until Dr. John Enders found, serendipitously, that the virus would indeed grow in a variety of different tissues. When Enders' revolutionary discovery was published in *Science*, January 28, 1949, the entire virology community immediately accepted the new findings. The polio vaccine was produced within five years. A scientific claim passed off as dogma vanished when challenged by scientific fact.

Present day vaccine dogma is promoted by The Institute of Medicine (IOM), a group of ostensibly impartial physicians, scientists and researchers. After reviewing the industry-funded research papers concluding there is no connection between vaccines and autism, the IOM similarly concludes there is no connection between vaccines and autism. How could they come to any other conclusion?

The phrase, "temporal association does not prove causality" means that even though two events occur at the same time, one event does not cause the other." The IOM supports the dogma purported by the

American Academy of Pediatrics: Since autism occurs chronologically around the same time as the first year vaccinations, angry parents need something to blame.

Parents blame the vaccine, but medical officials blame the defective child, a position supported by the government at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC.) The following statement was published in the CDC's publication on infection diseases, referred to as *The Pink Book*:

"There is no distinct syndrome from vaccine administration, and therefore, many temporally associated adverse events probably represent background illness rather than illness caused by the vaccine., the [vaccine] may stimulate or precipitate inevitable symptoms of underlying CNS disorder, such as seizures, infantile spasms, epilepsy or SIDS. By chance alone, some of these cases will seem to be temporally related to [the vaccine]."

Current investigations are searching for a genetic cause for autism. The identification of corrupt genes will give ammunition to public health and medical officials who are quick to point an incriminating finger at defective parents.

Safety assumptions

The classic example of unquestioned dogma is the long held notion that the sun rotated around the earth. In 1530, Copernicus challenged the assumption with evidence that the earth rotated on its axis once daily and traveled around the sun once yearly. A fantastic concept for the times, the new information was considered heresy. Copernicus was imprisoned, subjected to a trial by Holy Inquisitioners, and forced to withdraw his evidence to save his own life.

Similarly, parents are forced into vaccination decisions by modern day medical inquisitioners. Threats include expulsion from the medical practice and calls to children's protective services with accusations of medical neglect. Parents are told vaccines are safe and necessary for keeping children healthy. But are they really safe?

Vaccination is a medical treatment, and, like dogmas, assumptions regarding the effectiveness of medical practices abound. A report published by The Government Accounting Office (GAO) in 1978 concluded that "only 10 to 20 percent of all procedures currently used in medical practice have been shown to be efficacious by controlled trials." In other words, up to 90 percent of accepted medical practices are assumed to be effective without proof. Vaccination falls into this category.

Contrary to repeated claims by the government and the pharmaceutical industry, vaccines have never been proven to be safe by the gold standard of medical research: The double-blind, placebo controlled investigation. In a placebo-con-

trolled study, the safety of a medication is determined by comparing it to a neutral substance, such as a sugar pill. In vaccine safety trials, a new vaccine is not compared to an inert compound such as a shot of sterile water. Instead, the "placebo" is another vaccine. If the number of side effects caused by the experimental vaccine is found to be the same as the number of reactions caused by the placebo-vaccine, manufacturers declare the new vaccine to be "as safe as placebo."

Another trick used by investigators to promote the safety of vaccines is to discount any part of the study's



data that suggests a problem. The following excerpt from a clinical trial demonstrates how a placebo-vaccine is used and the elimination of negative data occurs. The study was designed to determine the safety of Comvax®, a vaccine combining the Haemophilus influenza vaccine (HiB) and the hepatitis B vaccine into one shot.

"During the study, 17 children (1.9 percent) had an event within 14 days of vaccination that met one of the defining criteria of a serious adverse experience. These experiences included seizure, asthma, diarrhea, apnea (stopped breathing) [and others.] Virtually all of these adverse experiences were classified as serious because they involved a hospitalization. None was judged by the study investigators to be causally related [caused by] Comvax® or the placebo [the two vaccines given separately.] In addition, three deaths among participants in this study were attributed to sudden infant death syndrome [SIDS] occurred greater than 14 days after administration of a dose of vaccine (on days 29, 31, and 38, respectively.) Again, none [of the deaths] was judged by the investigators to be related to vaccination."

The placebo in this study, the HiB and the hepatitis b vaccines, was a vaccine given as two separate shots. Because the number of side effects from the single shot was similar to the number of side effects induced by the separate shots, Comvax® was declared to be "as safe as placebo." Investigators nullified the association between the vaccines and SIDS with a stroke of the pen. Comvax® was declared to be "well-tolerated."

Defining effective

Researchers define an effective vaccine as one that creates antibodies after being deposited into the bloodstream, a response

called "positive seroconversion." One vaccine is considered to be more effective than another, from a researcher's perspective, if the first vaccine induces a larger antibody response than the second.

The medical community and the general public define an effective vaccine as a vaccine that protects a person from the infection they have been vaccinated against. For example, the chickenpox vaccine is considered to be effective by doctors if, in the case of an outbreak, those vaccinated do not contract chickenpox.

The definitions differ substantially and have considerably different ramifications, mostly because the presence of an antibody does not assure the person will be protected from infection. Many outbreaks have occurred in fully vaccinated populations. One example was an outbreak of measles that occurred in a group where more than 99 percent of the population had been vaccinated. Many outbreaks of chickenpox and mumps have occurred when children were fully vaccinated

A substantial body of evidence demonstrates that antibodies do not assure that a will be vaccine clinically effective. The package insert of the HiBTiter®, a vaccine to protect against an infection by the H. influenza b bacteria, clearly states "the contribution [antibodies make] to clinical protection is unknown." Similar findings have been reported about the pertussis vaccine: "The findings of efficacy studies have not

Sales of 'morning-after' pill boom following new over-the-counter policy

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sales of a "morning-after" pill that can cause an abortion are expected to double in the year since the federal government approved its non-prescription distribution.

Barr Pharmaceuticals, which manufactures the drug, said sales of Plan B have increased from about \$40 million a year to a total it expects will be near \$80 million for 2007, The Washington Post reported July 13.

The Food and Drug Administration announced Aug. 24 of last year that it would make Plan B available without a prescription for use by women 18 and older. Under the new FDA policy, females 17 and under need a prescription, a requirement previously for women of all ages. Under the government guidelines, Plan B is to be kept in stock behind the counter at each pharmacy, so proof of age can be checked.

Plan B is basically a heavier dose of birth control pills. Under the regimen, a woman takes two pills within 72 hours of sexual intercourse and another dose 12 hours later. The "morning-after" pill, also known as emergency contraception, works to restrict ovulation in a woman. But it also can act after conception, thereby causing an abortion, pro-lifers point out. This mechanism of

Health

demonstrated a direct correlation between antibody response and protection against pertussis disease." Even tetanus has occurred in patients with high anti-tetanus antibody levels. The esteemed medical journal, *Vaccine*, states clearly, "It is known that, in many instances, antibody titers do not correlate with protection."

The dogma that vaccines are safe and effective has become a medical sacred cow, an icon regarded to be above criticism or attack. Challenges to vaccination have often been written off as conspiracy theories. Parents have learned through experience the difficulties of challenging their pediatrician's vaccine mandates. Nonetheless, many are resisting the medical profession's dogmas about vaccines and many are refusing vaccinations for their children.

A benchmark in a civilized society is the absence of infectious diseases, a doctrine that emerged during the pre-antibiotic era. Public health officials attribute low infection rates to mandatory vaccination policies rather than giving credit to improved personal hygiene and modern conveniences such as indoor plumbing. It is time for the truth about vaccines to be widely known. Vaccine safety has not been proven. Vaccines provide false security about protection. Vaccines can cause harm. It is time to dispense with the "safe and effective" dogma before one more person is harmed.

the drug blocks implantation of a tiny embryo in the uterine wall.

Under the new FDA policy, a prescription is required for birth control pills but not for stronger doses of the same drug.

As they had when the FDA announced its policy change last year, pro-life and abortion rights advocates reacted quite differently to the news of Plan B's flourishing sales.

Charmaine Yoest, the Family Research Council's vice president for communications, said the announcement provided further evidence of a flawed decision.

"This is a drug that is a stronger version of contraceptives which do require doctor's supervision for everyone. To think that you could take a stronger version of the drug and not use supervision really defies common sense," Yoest said, according to NBC News.

Vanessa Cullins, vice president for medical affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said, according to NBC News, "This is what we expected if Plan B went over the counter. Every woman deserves every chance to prevent unintended pregnancy."

The FDA approved Plan B for sale by prescription in 1999.

Editorials

Honoring Godly Grandparents

By Evelyn T. Thompson

National Grandparents Day originated with Marian McQuade of Fayette County, West Virginia. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter made a proclamation that National Grandparents Day would be celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day. Our world needs grandparents and senior adults who model godly characteristics, and mentor those coming after them in the Christian faith.

When Joshua was 85 years old he was still looking toward the future by driving out the enemy and taking the land God had promised. At that age he had not

given up the fight. Today our grandparents need to be looking toward the future as well. We are in a spiritual battle for the bodies and souls of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Our big task is to (1) Model faith; (2) Model love; (3) Model hope; and (4) Model holy living. Communicate "I Love You" as often as possible and reassure our young people that no matter what is happening around them, they can have the confidence that God is in control. May the Lord bless each Grandmother and Grandfather as they try to help and encourage their growing families.

Are We Goin' to San Fransisco?

by Dr. Peter Jones

In 1974, when I left the States to teach in "godless" France, the cultural revolution was a Left coast/San Fran' phenom', and America was still "Christian." When I returned in 1991, I was in for culture shock, but still never imagined what lay ahead.

One man warned us. In 1978, Pastor Charles McIlhenny recorded his experiences after his church fired a homosexual organist (When the Wicked Seize a City). Church property was repeatedly vandalized and his family almost killed by a firebomb. "Law enforcement" never found the culprits. McIlhenny used San Francisco as a striking example of what America might become. Are we "goin' to San Francisco?" as the 60s hit song asked?

Last May, San Francisco elected Theresa Sparks president of its Police Commission. Theresa is a transgendered Vietnam veteran, twice-divorced and father of three grown children. In 2003 s/he was both the chief executive officer of the sex-toy retailer Good Vibrations, and the city's Woman of the Year. It may be "only San Francisco," but remember that Nancy Pelosi, congresswoman from San Francisco, is third in line for the presidency. As the 1967 song predicted: "All across the nation such a strange vibration. There's a whole generation with a new explanation."

The "new explanation" appears in a May 2007 Gallup poll: 57% of Americans now view homosexuality as "an acceptable alternative lifestyle" (34% in 1982)

Here is this "whole new generation": 75% of 18-34 year olds, and 72% of Democrats consider homosexuality an acceptable alternative lifestyle

Homosexuals represent only 2% of the population, but culture unwinds once sexuality is "liberated." The worldwide unwinding is fanned by the media. The Los Angeles Times recently ran a front-page article on gays in sport, concluding that it is no big deal. The BBC World Service series on "Coming Out," communicated a similar no-

big-deal message. Is it a big deal?

I see the change everywhere I go. In October, 2007, I will teach on homosexuality in Bogotá, Colombia, a city that wants to become the gay capital of the world. In Brazil I learned that the legislature was criminalizing "anti-homosexual speech." Homosexuality has a powerful voice in the EU and at the UN. Much of the world is changing. Here's how it happens:

Language Changes: "Free speech" is curtailed by those who define "hate speech." Members of the European Parliament from France, the Netherlands and Italy vilified Poland as "hateful" and "repulsive" for refusing to promote homosexuality in schools.

Education Changes: In 2007 the California Senate passed Bill SB 777, prohibiting all classes, school activities, textbooks, and teachers from instruction that "reflects or promotes bias against" homosexuals, transgenders, and bisexuals in public schools (including kindergarten). The executive committee of the National Education Association is urging its members to make sexual orientation training a requirement for those earning a license to teach.

Therapy Changes: The American Psychological Association is considering a denunciation of any attempt by therapists to change sexual orientation.

Church Changes: In 2004, Gene Robinson, a homosexual priest, living publicly with a male lover, was ordained bishop in the Episcopal Church, setting off a fire-storm of controversy in the world-wide Anglican communion.

Public Service Changes: Dr. James Holsinger, a quality candidate for Surgeon General, committed one fatal error- he once opposed a decision that sought to name a practicing lesbian as an associate pastor. Holsinger's fate may indicate that the place of biblical Christians in government service is in jeopardy.

Law Enforcement Changes: How a transgendered promoter of sex toys enforces public morals in the Bay Area may become a pro-

Calling all Black Regiment pastors

By Chuck Baldwin

Recently I asked readers to help me locate The Black Regiment. These are patriot-preachers who have "understanding of the times, to know what [America] ought to do." (To borrow from I Chron. 12:32.)

Specifically, The Black Regiment is comprised of pastors who believe in constitutional government. They support the principles contained in the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. Their loyalties lie with Biblical and historic American principles, not political parties or politicians. They understand the importance of national sovereignty and independence. They oppose any attempt to merge the United States into any kind of regional or hemispheric government, whether it be political or commercial. They oppose preemptive wars of aggression. They refuse to surrender their individual liberties under the rubric of "security," which means they oppose warrantless wiretaps and eavesdropping and any other encroachment of our freedoms.

Black Regiment preachers are not pantywaists. They are not controlled by church committees

or boards. They preach the Word of God without fear or favor. They call a spade a spade. They cannot be bought or bullied.

I am happy to say that I have received nearly 500 responses to my initial appeal. However, I know that there are many hundreds more such men out there. I am confident that there are still "7000" who have not bowed the knee to Baal. I am asking readers to help me find them. I need their name, church name, city and state, and contact information.

I will be posting this information on a special "Black Regiment" web page, so people around the country who hunger to hear and worship with such a pastor will be able to locate him. I receive scores of emails and letters every week from people all over America begging me to recommend such a preacher to them. This list will help me do just that. Please help me.

I am aware that there are some who are hesitant to provide such information for fear that the "wrong people" will copy the list and target these men. I suppose that could happen. However, I ask such people to remember the sagacious

words of Benjamin Franklin, who after the Declaration was signed, said, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Do you really believe that by remaining anonymous you can remain free (and safe)? What will you do when all the rest of us are gone? Will you then find the courage to speak? When you are all alone (and right now you are NOT alone), will you then be willing to sound the clarion call for freedom and independence?

The time to speak out, the time to stand, the time to hold high the message of liberty is now. If we fall, let us fall fighting.

Once more, I ask readers to help me locate The Black Regiment. Remember, too, that a name without an address or contact information does not help me. Please send your responses to chuck@chuckbaldwinlive.com

When our list is compiled, we will publish it on my web site, which is located at www.chuckbaldwinlive.com

So, for all of you folks who are desperately seeking a Black Regiment-type preacher in your area: stay tuned.

Electing Career Politicians and the National Insanity Plea

By Bill Wilson

A slang definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results. With the approval rating of the President hovering around only 30% and Congressional job approval ratings even lower in the mid-20's, American's are faced with a grim ultimatum come the 2008 elections.

Do more of the same by electing career politicians to offices where they will grow the government out of control, continue raising the tax burden on American citizens, and continue conducting foreign policy with same worn out concepts, or dump the whole bunch of them and recruit, vote for and elect anybody except a career politician.

I would wager that the average American has more common sense than does a career politician. Somewhere, somehow along the way, Americans got caught up in a paradigm that only career politicians can govern best. But look where it has gotten us. The country, thanks to career

politicians on both sides of the political spectrum, has become an immoral and financial shell of what it once was. Everybody has more rights than what the Constitution provides. The right to free speech has been extended to pornographers and haters of America, while the rights of those who would call on the name of

Everybody has more rights than what the Constitution provides. The right to free speech has been extended to pornographers and haters of America, while the rights of those who would call on the name of God in the public square have been severely curtailed.

God in the public square have been severely curtailed.

The rights of a perverse sexual group of people have trumped the protection of the citizenry in the name of tolerance. The rights of animals have more standing in America than those of pre-born American citizens. American citizens no longer own property because it is taxed to the extent that if taxes are not paid, their property can be taken from them and sold. Property can be seized

even if the taxes are paid if some entity wants to build a mall or an apartment complex and the politicians agree it is in the best interest of the common good. All these things have been accomplished by electing the same old career politicians to do more of the same.

In a nation of over 300 million people, surely there is one person who isn't a career politician and has the common sense and integrity to lead a country. But if we, as Americans, cannot look at the reason why

we do not approve of Congress or the President, and act on it, who is to blame? Could it be said, that the current crop of Presidential candidates, for example, are completely unqualified to lead the nation because they are responsible for its sorry state? Jesus said in Matthew 15:14, "Leave them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." That ditch can be mighty deep if it's the cavernous government dug by career politicians.

totype as gay and lesbian judges are appointed all over the country.

In all these areas the 2% determine how the 98% must behave. How, do Christians live in a "San-Francisco" world? What should YOU do?

Vote (but don't count on it); understand sexuality in its theological context, as a part of the defense of the honor of God as Creator and the dignity of man in the image of

God, in order to make sense of the Gospel message in today's world;

By the power of Christ and his Spirit, preach and witness to this Gospel publicly for all you are worth, both as churches and as individual believers. We cannot allow our mouths to be closed. As Paul said: "Pray for me that I might open my mouth with boldness; to speak what I must speak" (Ephesians 6:20);

If necessary, go to jail. A Brazilian Christian in Rio this spring asked me: "What should we do in light of this new law prohibiting anti-homosexual speech?" I replied: "Are you ready to go to jail?" which is precisely where Paul was!

Do you still say, "This will never happen in my town. I don't live in San Francisco !!"?

Charles Finney

By Bill Federer

Charles Finney was an attorney that saw so many Scripture references in Blackstone's Law Commentaries that he bought a Bible and came to faith.

Finney's 1835 Revival Lectures inspired George Williams to found the YMCA-Young Men's Christian Association in 1844, and inspired William Booth to found The Salvation Army in 1865.

Finney formed the Benevolent Empire - a network of volunteer organizations to aid with social problems - which by 1834 had a budget which rivaled the Federal Government.

Concerning the Kingdom of God, Finney wrote: "Every member



must work or quit. No honorary members."

While president of Oberlin College, 1851-1866, it served as a station on the Underground Railroad secretly bringing slaves to freedom, and it granted the first degree in the U.S. to a black woman, Mary Jane Patterson.

Charles Finney wrote: "The time has come for Christians to vote for honest men, and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them...Politics are a part of a religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to their country as a part of their duty to God."

Charles Finney concluded: "God will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics."

DISTRACTION

By Dick Evans

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent. (NLT)

Just as the serpent was a deceiver in the time of Adam and Eve, he is a deceiver today. He speaks to us through the media, books we read, and even the people we associate with.

As it was with Eve, his deception is subtle. We may not even notice what is happening to us until after it happens. Think about all the violence in the movies and all the sex even in simple newspaper ads. What was horrifying years ago is acceptable by society and even by most of us today. The television shows depict an imbalance of various lifestyles and we are beginning

to think what we see on television is the norm.

We began over two hundred years ago with "freedom of the press". It was designed to allow the people to not be sanctioned by the government. Now we have a media that not only reports the news, they seem to be in the business of creating the news.

We must continue to focus on what God has for us to do. Like Jesus when He walked the earth, we need to not be distracted by the serpent. Satan would love to continue to have us focus on the situations, the problems of society.

Jesus did not tell us to go forth and solve society's issues of the day. He told us to go out and tell the story. Tell the world what Jesus is doing in our life. It is God that changes things.

Where you distracted today?

Ministry Tip - Bible Verse Hopscotch

By Rev. Doug Forbes

Young children thrive on movement! Regarding children, Henrietta Mears once said: "God put the wiggles in, and we can't take them out." Bible Verse Hopscotch is a wonderful way for young people to learn through movement."

For Bible Verse Hopscotch you need: Bibles, Bible concordances, a still and/or video camera, scissors, bubble wrap and packing tape.

Ask your students to use their Bibles and concordances to discover Bible verses and passages that speak of travel or movement. Allow time for each child to share his or her findings.

Select one Bible verse that refers to movement or travel and help the children to memorize it. You may wish to use: "Being in the way, the Lord led me." Genesis 24:27D. Psalm 37: 23 and Psalm 119:105 are also good verses to use.

Cut out one foot squares of bubble wrap and create a hopscotch course. Secure each square to the floor by either reverse taping the squares or simply tape the edges.

Now it's time to hopscotch! Tell the children that they can move forward one space as they recite one word from the verse they have memorized together. They complete the course by saying the entire verse, but you may provide help with the verse as needed. There should be lots of smiles and lots of noise, so take lots of pictures and/or video.

If you have a large class, set up two or more hopscotch courses or replace the bubble wrap as it wears out. Post the photographs on the wall and make sure that all the parents and guardians see them. If you make a video, plan a special time for its "screening," and make sure to pop lots of popcorn!

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

Commentary / Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last night my wife and I took our 12 year old nephew visiting from New Jersey to his first Water Fire. We got there in time for the "lighting of the fires" ceremony a first for us also. I'm telling you it was scary, my skin crawled as I watched this eerie event. Thousands filled the banks of the canal watching as black robed figures in 3 separate boats silently made their way down the canal in a demonic procession including one boat with a solitary woman that could only have been a witch dressed in black from head to toe banging a gong as she passed by each cauldron awaiting its flame. Their faces were expressionless as if they were in some type of trance bent upon lighting the sacrificial fires of hell.

As we walked along the canal we couldn't help but notice the same trance-like look on those watching this eerie event taking place. The music was something from a dark and distant period the kind most frequently used in a horror

flick. One's imagination could easily muster up every sinister movie scene ever witnessed just listening to it. Visions of the Inquisition and the Crucifixion of Christ passed through our minds as we watched and listened. You would think most sane people would grab their children and lock them behind doors away from the demons that were certain to inhabit such an event as this.

I asked people that we passed by, "What's going on?" They looked dumbfounded. I asked again, "Are they getting ready for a sacrifice?" Some seemed to thoughtfully consider it, others laughed, only one said no, as if that were impossible. Yet as I watched and considered the event further it seemed that this was some type of ceremony honoring their god. This strange god seemed to inhabit a very large and sinister building covered with mirrors at the end of the canal, more than likely so that its prideful servants could admire themselves as they walked by his home.

As we made our way closer to the building we saw a large circle that the majority of worshipers sat around with cauldrons encircling the area. Those entranced were hanging from bridges, sitting on stairs and the banks of the river clamoring to get a closer glimpse of this most amazing event. As we crossed the bridge in front of the demons homestead we realized that his name was G-tech and all of his worshipers, those who lust after the world's riches, were exactly where they wanted to be. Nothing could move them, nobody cared to try.

On our way to the car, feeling somber with heads hanging low after an evening of darkness we witnessed a single glimmer of hope. It seems that someone had placed copies of the Good News Today on all of the cars parked on surrounding streets of the Waterfire. We prayed that the Lord would reach some of those folks who had seemingly traded their souls for all the world's riches.

An anonymous reader

Dear Friends,

"Like a lot of folks in this state I have a job. I work, they pay me. I pay my taxes and the government distributes my taxes as it sees fit. In order to get that paycheck, I am required to pass a random urine test, with which I have no problem.

What I do have a problem with is the redistribution of my taxes to people who don't have to pass a urine test. Shouldn't one have to pass a urine test to get a welfare check, because I have to pass one to earn it for them??

Please understand, I have no problem with helping people get back on their feet. I do on the other hand

have a problem with helping someone, that does nothing but sit on their butt watching Oprah. Could you imagine how much money the state would save if people had to pass a urine test to get a public assistance check????? Something has to change in this country and soon!!!!!"

a concerned American

First-ever "Healed @ Work" Conference In Historic Sturbridge, Massachusetts October 18-20, 2007

STURBRIDGE, MA - Every workplace in America has "issues." On October 18-20, 2007, the first-ever "Healed @ Work Conference" will be held at the Sturbridge Worship Center in historic Sturbridge, Massachusetts to bring healing to workplace problems, relationships, and issues. The conference will feature top-notch speakers from across the United States, who have decades of experience in bringing emotional healing to wounded and broken people. Presenters will share through general sessions, workshops, and personal sessions. Breakout groups will be held for top management, middle management, employees, and entrepreneurs.

The Healed @ Work Conference is being organized by a variety of churches, ministries and

businesses that share a desire to reduce workplace violence and dysfunction. Dysfunction affects every business, school, church, non-profit, institution, and government agency in the world. Billions of dollars in productivity are lost each year through workplace stress, sexual harassment, lack of integrity, illness, interpersonal conflicts, violence and theft.

Keynote speakers will include (in alphabetical order) Pat Baldrige, President and Co-Founder of Women's Initiative Network in Charlotte, NC; the Rev. Dan Lee, Director of Lion's Den Ministries in Sturbridge, MA; the Rev. H.B. London, Vice President of Church and Clergy for Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, CO; Dr. Ed Smith, Founder of Theophostic Prayer Ministry in

Campbellsville, KY; and the Rev. Ken Unger, Founder of Sunrise Retreats in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. Music will be led by nationally-acclaimed singer Michele Wagner of Cleveland, OH and the Sturbridge Worship Center Praise and Worship Team.

The organizers deliberately selected Sturbridge during beautiful peak New England fall foliage season. The facility is near historic Old Sturbridge Village and the Massachusetts Turnpike, within a one-hour drive of Boston, Providence, and Hartford. Discounted early registration is just \$199 for individuals and \$299 for married couples. For details, please call toll-free 1-800-JOY-9075 or visit www.healedatwork.org.

FRC Helps Parents with Free Back-to-School Resources

By Tony Perkins

As the new school year approaches, American youth are more than ever faced with daunting challenges that go beyond good ol' reading, writing and 'rithmetic. Supported by such groups as Planned Parenthood, the ACLU and even the National Education Association, issues such as abortion, HPV vaccination, and homosexuality continue to creep into our public schools and our very own households. Day after day, parents find it increasingly difficult to raise young men and women of integrity without being bombarded by the immoral influ-

ences fanned by the radical left. But you can make a difference in the lives of those who will shape our nation's future.

To help parents do this, Family Research Council is offering free back-to-school-resources. These informative pamphlets, including **Homosexuality in Your Child's School** and **Internet Guide for Parents**, face head-on family issues such as pro-homosexuality education in our public schools and internet pornography. Also you can obtain our latest publication, **Gardasil: What Every Parent Should Know about the HPV Vaccine**. This pamphlet tackles the

tough questions for parents about this pressing health issue.

Each of these pamphlets can be ordered free of charge by .pdf download to your computer. Additional printed copies are available for bulk order for your PTO, home school association, or adult Sunday School class. Order your *Back to School Resource Kit* today and share it with your friends, family and neighbors. This kit is sure to help parents safeguard our most precious and valuable resource--our children.

To order, visit www.frc.org or call us at 1-888-372-2284.

The Good News TODAY

Inspiration

Who Was P. Edgar Thompson???

By Evelyn T. Thompson

Some people might think the letter "P" meant PEST--they would be right! He loved to pester, tease, joke and laugh. He was born in Claytonia, Pennsylvania--the first child of a coal-miner and homemaker. Ed was the oldest of 5 children--had 3 sisters and 1 brother. His given name was Perry Edgar Thompson. His family called him "Edgar". His Dad, also Perry, was called "Jack"! Here in New England my husband was "Ed".

When Ed first became a Christian, he had heard the expression "Standing On The Promises", referring to Scripture verses. He took that very literally. One day he and a friend went to church, took off their shoes, and stood on the Bible they had placed on the floor! They were standing on the promises! Once he saw some beautiful strawberries in a neighbor's back yard. Hoping to earn some money, he picked a basket of berries and then went to the front door and sold the man his own berries! After God convicted him of his evil ways, Ed went back and made restitution. One night he agreed to drive a young lady home from church. It was dark and he didn't know that Marilyn's mom had hung out a wash. He drove around the house and took down Mrs. Huff's clothesline with all her laundry!

Ed was a curious person. His home had an old pump organ. He was very intrigued about it and simply asked the Lord to teach him how to play it! The Lord honored that simple request. Ed, with no lessons at all, mastered the organ, piano, accordion and guitar! How

I miss the many hours at church when we played organ and piano duets for our own relaxation!

We met at Eastern Nazarene College. The love bug bit us so Ed wrote my Dad a letter asking for my HAND in marriage. He was not prepared for Dad's answer: "NO-- if you can't take all of her, you can't have just her hand"! During our engagement Ed drove up to my parent's home in New Hampshire to meet his future in-laws. At that time I showed him the church (one-room schoolhouse) in which I was raised and attending. He was NOT impressed! In fact, he said to me: "IF THE LORD EVER CALLED ME INTO THE MINISTRY, I'D HOPE HE WOULDN'T CALL ME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS." The Lord has a sense of humor because that was Ed's first church! He would share that happening at times and then say "And the Lord made me do penance for 16 years."

One Sunday, while pastoring the Hooksett Church, we invited my cousin, who was a nun, to our home for lunch so she could see our new church building. During the meal, Ed put his foot in his mouth when he blurted out: "Well, THIS has certainly been an UNPLEASANT surprise!" We all laughed so hard we were wiping tears from our eyes.

A Sunday-school pupil rode her bike into our yard one day. Ed went out and asked Penny what was wrong with her bike...the back wheel was going forward. She walked the bike home and told her Dad what the Pastor had said. Leonard later said, "Like a fool I

was trying to see how to fix it!"

Here in Rhode Island Ed spotted the Jewish Cemetery in Warwick. He told our church people he had seen the cemetery with a light in every grave. Well, the church folks tried without success to find it. Finally he admitted that it was the Jewish Cemetery with an Israelite in every grave!

Ed delighted in having a good time. But he was very serious about God's call on his life. He was a Bible Scholar and a man of prayer. Many Scripture verses are marked in his Bible but one of his favorite verses was this one: "FOR TO ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST, AND TO DIE IS GAIN." (Philippians 1:21 KJV). The next article will tell about the tributes that were done in his memory and how his possessions were shared around the world.

Sharing Our Departed Servant Around The World

By Evelyn T. Thompson

News of Ed's death traveled quickly. Our denomination's headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri sent me a beautiful Minister's Commemorative Medallion which was mounted on the grave stone above the name Thompson. It identified him as a minister in the Church of the Nazarene. Memorial gifts of money began to come in. Knowing how much Ed loved and supported missions, \$1,500 was divided between our denomination's radio/television ministry which services 77 countries in 30 languages and dialects, and the Compassion Ministries programs which help needy people in the 151 world areas where our denomination now ministers. In addition, Ed's name was placed onto several Memorial Roll Certificates at the cost of \$50 each. This money is used to pay the medical expenses of our 800 missionaries who presently serve in 151 countries.

reach out and take hold of the hand of the One who sees in the dark. Feel the warmth of His love, the safety of His protection. Be still and listen as He reminds you of His promise to guide your steps and light your path.

He guides us in Proverbs 3:5,6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

And He protects us in Mathew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

He loves us in John 3:16, and then calls us in Romans 10:9, "confess with your mouth, that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart

Our District Missionary President and several people from our area were on a Work and Witness trip at the time of Ed's death. They were working on one of the 33 churches in the Barbados where we have a total of 2,500 church members. A lovely plaque was put into the church announcing that the improvement to the WESTERN LIGHT CHURCH building was done in memory of P. Edgar Thompson.

I had decided that Ed's library of over 300 books needed to find a new home. A list of each book and its author was duplicated so that each Pastor on our District could select the books he wanted. Also I had learned that the son of the Pastor who preceded us in the Providence Church got up one morning to see his church in Ohio totally engulfed in flames. I contacted Calvin, sent him the list, and was happy that some of Ed's books found their way to his home. Meanwhile I still had 104 books left after Pastors and Calvin had chosen the ones they wanted! I contacted a missionary friend who suggested that the Field Director for Australia and New Zealand would be interested in having the books for one of the extension programs involving pastoral training. The local post office assisted me by providing 2 mailbags that contained a total of 75 lbs. of books. I was thrilled when I received a letter with good news from some grateful people telling me that both bags had arrived safely and the books would be placed in the growing library connected with our Theological College in Brisbane, Australia.

Knowing how many times that Ed would spend time sharing and counseling young men from our District College, who were planning on going into the ministry, I felt he would be pleased to know that his books would be useful in a pastoral training course. I was grateful that God allowed me to successfully undertake that big job.

that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved." If you've never done that before, or if you need to recommit your life to God, then ask Him now in a prayer like this:

Father, please forgive my sin. I know that I haven't always been the person that I should be, I've made so many mistakes. I accept the sacrifice of your Son Jesus and I ask you to help me live the rest of my life for you. You alone have the answers and can teach me of your plan for my life. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Ed had enjoyed a wonderful ministry. During the 16 years he pastored the Hooksett Church, he celebrated that church's 50th anniversary. Then during the 18 years he pastored in Providence, he celebrated the 100th anniversary of that church. One special event he did miss--our 50th wedding anniversary--but he was now experiencing and celebrating something much better!

How well I can identify with Moses when in Exodus 15:2 we read: "The Lord is my strength and song..." In the weeks following Ed's death, I was involved in 2 funerals, spoke in 3 different church services, relocated my belongings, and found a place to live while continuing to fulfill my local church responsibilities. The tears finally came 6 weeks after his death.

This is the final chapter. Thank you, Good News, for allowing me to share my husband's ministry with your readers. These articles have gone from Maine to the state of Washington and places in between. Your paper is being enjoyed by many new readers. Remember this: "WHEN THOU PASSEST THROUGH THE RIVERS, THEY SHALL NOT OVERFLOW THEE: WHEN THOU WALKEST THROUGH THE FIRE, THOU SHALT NOT BE BURNED; NEITHER SHALL THE FLAME KINDLE UPON THEE. FOR I AM THE LORD THY GOD"...Isaiah 43: 2-3a (KJV)

Editors note: *Thank you, Evelyn for your servanthood to our Lord and Savior, for not growing weary in well-doing and your willing obedience to share (testify- Rev12: 11) those rich memories with us. It has been a pleasure and blessing to relive them with you and we all hope and pray that the Lord will continue to bless you along that path which leads you closer to Him.*

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

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

When Darkness Comes

By Joni Eareckson Tada

"One summer, my family and I traveled to see a gigantic wonder called Carlsbad Caverns. I clasped my mother's hand as the tour guide led us down into the cavern. When we reached the bottom, our guide turned the lamps so we could see, just for a moment, how thick the darkness really was.

I gasped as oppressive and utter blackness enveloped me. Panic seized me and I thrust my hand into the darkness to reach for my mother. In an instant her hand was around mine, washing away my fear and anxiety. 'Joni,' she said, 'you're safe. I would never lose you.'

You probably have days that seem like cavernous holds.

You can't find your way and you search in vain for a single ray of light. Don't be alarmed! Remember that your walk is not by sight, but by faith. And God, according to Isaiah 50:10, agrees with you: There are times when it's hard to

see even a single ray of brightness in your circumstances. But even in the blackness, God promises you will find him, close by. He says, 'You're safe. I would never lose you!'"

Are you experiencing a time of darkness in your life just now? If so, then let me encourage you to





Who me! Lie, Never!

Two boys were arguing when the teacher entered the room. The teacher asked, "Why are you arguing?" One boy answered, "We found a ten-dollar bill and decided to give it to whoever tells the biggest lie." "You should be ashamed of yourselves," said the teacher. "When I was your age, I didn't even know what a lie was." The boys gave the ten dollars to the teacher.

Calling in Sick

A high school had a policy that the parents must call the school if a student was to be absent for the day. Kelly (name changed to

protect the guilty), deciding to skip school and go to the mall with her friends waited until her parents had left for work and called the school herself. This is the actual conversation of the telephone call...

Kelly: "Hi, I'm calling to report that Kelly Johnson is unable to make it to school today because she is ill. Secretary at high school: "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. I'll note her absence. Who is this calling?" Kelly: "This is my mother." Needless to say, she didn't pull it off!"

God is watching

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Christian elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Map reading 101

The teacher of the earth science class was lecturing on map

reading. After explaining about latitude, longitude, degrees and minutes the teacher asked, "Suppose I asked you to meet me for lunch at 23 degrees, 4 minutes north latitude and 45 degrees, 15 minutes east longitude...?" After a confused silence, a voice volunteered, "I guess you'd be eating alone."

Getting good marks

Little Johnny wasn't getting good marks in school. One day he surprised the teacher with an announcement. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, "I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't start getting better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking!"

Late for school

A man in a hurry taking his eight-year-old son to school made a turn at a red light where it was prohibited."Uh-oh, I think I just made an illegal turn!" the man said. "It's okay, Dad," the boy said. "The police car right behind us did the same thing."

in come the mountain bikes. 2. Reason why Moses and followers walked in desert for 40 years: They didn't want to ask directions and look like Freshmen. 1. Instead of God creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh, He would have put it off until the night before it was due and then pulled an all-nighter.

Psalm 23

in Cyberspace Language

by Marko Jauhainen

The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash. He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart, All of His commands are user friendly, His directory moves me to the right choices for His name's sake. Even though I scroll through the problems of life, I will fear no bugs, for You are my backup; Your password protects me; You prepare a menu before me in the presence of my enemies; Your help is only a key away. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, And my file will be merged with His and saved forever.

Soul Food

Subject: Christian One Liners

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach ten sermonsthan it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.



Fishing

In Sunday school, the teacher was asked what Noah and his family did while they were on the ark. The teacher said: "Well, I don't know, but maybe they were fishing". One little boy looked up at her and said: "I don't think they were fishing. At

least not very much." "Why not?" asked the teacher. "Because they only had two worms".

The New College Version

Top ten ways the Bible would be different if it were written by college students 10. Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning - cold. 9. The Ten Commandments are actually only five, double-spaced, and written in a large font . 8. New edition every two years in order to limit reselling. 7. Forbidden fruit would have been eaten because it wasn't cafeteria food. 6. Paul's letter to the Romans becomes Paul's e-mail to "abuse@romans.gov" 5. Reason Cain killed Abel: They were roommates. 4. The place where the end of the world occurs: Finals, not Armageddon. 3. Out go the mules,

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 Bible Classes 10:00 am
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 WEDNESDAY 7:30
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 Bible Mania for Teens * Nursery for Babies
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Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. - James 1:18

Amazing Grace Church
 1500 Main Street
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 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.
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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

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

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

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

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 Programs 7:30 pm

Bethesda House of Worship
 75a Providence St.
 West Warwick, RI 02893
 (401) 397-3604
 Weekly Schedule
 Sunday Service 11:00am (Sept-June)
 Sunday Service 10:00am (June-Sept)
 Evening Bible Study Thursday 7:00-8:00pm
 Childrens Sunday School 11:45am
 Sunday Pre-School 11:45am

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Pentecostal Assembly
 215 Sawyer Street
 New Bedford, MA
 508-996-9865
SERVICE TIMES
 Sunday Service 10:00AM
 Evening Service 11:00AM
 Pentecost Service 6:30PM
 Tuesday
 Youth Service 6:30PM
 Wednesday
 Pentecost Bible Study 7:00PM
 Thursday
 Evening Bible Study 7:00PM

245 Phenix Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920
 Help Line: (401) 941-4357
 Business Line: (401) 941-2051
 www.carenetri.org
Rhode Island CareNet
 Office Hours
 Monday 10 - 5:30
 Wednesday 10 - 5:30
 Thursday 10 - 5:30
 Pregnancy Resource Center

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 services: 10:30 am

New Covenant Church International
 1290 Westminster St
 Providence, RI 02909
 (401) 276-0220
 Pastor Joseph Quinoo
 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

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 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 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.

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

Faith Tabernacle
 687 Hartford Pike (Rte 101)
 North Scituate, RI 02857
 401-934-1414
 www.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 Life Worship Center
 915 Douglas Pike
 Smithfield
 232-5200
 www.nlwcenter.org
 Sundays Service 10:00am
 Tuesday Men's Prayer 6:30am Early prayer then breakfast fellowship
 Friday Ground Zero 7:00pm, Youth Service with Teen-Led Worship and Relevant Bible Teaching.

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Arm of God Ministries
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 Cranston
 946-3907

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 Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 pm
 Free Home Bible studies
 Pastor Jay R. Stiersmann
 401-625-1891 • 1198 Fish Road, Tiverton, RI
 www.christtemple.org

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

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 - 6:50 p.m.
 Mid-Week - Adult & Youth Service 7:00 p.m.

World Covenant Life Ministries
 25 Market Street Unit #6
 Swansea MA
 508-379-1256
 e-mail: wclministries@comcast.net
 Sunday Worship Service - 9:00 am
 Wednesday Bible Service - 7:30 pm

!!!VENDORS WANTED!!!

1st Annual "Red Balloon Fair" is looking for local vendors!!

The Red Balloon Fair is an annual faith based family fun day sponsored by local Northern Rhode Island Churches. Complete with food, live music, carnival style games and entertainment, the **Red Balloon Fair** offers fun for the whole family while raising funds to cure blood cancers.

This year the **Red Balloon Fair** will be held on Saturday, September 8th, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm, at River Island Park in the heart of Woonsocket, RI. As part of our fundraising initiative, we are inviting vendors to rent tables at the fair to showcase their services and products.

For more detailed information please contact:
Pastor Ken Jarrie
 537 Elm Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895
 (401)-744-4733 Cell • (401)534-0172 Office
 LREJOICEJC@yahoo.com Email

7th Annual Women of Prayer, Power & Destiny

"Women of Excellence" Ladies Conference

Friday & Saturday
 September 28 & 29, 2007

(Day & Evening sessions - 7:30 am & 7:30 p.m.)

at
The Rhode Island Convention Center
 (One Sabin Street, downtown Providence)

Free Registration - Limited Seating

Evangelist Bernita L. Wright, Conference Hostess

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 Hotel Accommodations: The Providence Courtyard Marriott (401) 272-1191

Partners' Luncheon
 Saturday September 29th
 RI Convention Center
 12:00-2:00 p.m.
 Special Guest Speaker:
 Apostle Thomas W. Weeks, Sr.
 Partner Donation \$100



Pre-Conference Banquet
 Thursday, September 27th
 Venus de Milo, Swansea, Massachusetts - 6:30 p.m.
 Guest Speaker: Evangelist Ann Davis
 Seafood Newburg Buffet: Donation \$40

SEPTEMBER Calendar

September Highlights

7pm-Sept 4-6, The Life Style Matters®SimpleSolutions® Seminar. How food choices affect a person's stress sensitivity and how living a balanced lifestyle helps cope with stress. The four part seminar will be offered at Seventh-day Adventist Churches. For more info call 401-822-3345 or www.risda.org

7:30 am & 7:30pm -7th Annual Women of Prayer, Power & Destiny Ladies' Conference- Fri & Sat September 28 & 29, Free Registration - Limited Seating. The Rhode Island Convention Center- For more info call 401-270-1570 or 401-781-5393.

1 Saturday

12:30-9:30pm- UNITED IN FAITH; An outdoor Festival of Christian Music, bands include: John Polce, Mark Cipriano & Good News Rhythm & Blues, Grafted In, Marc Dobson, Spirited & Truth Crimson Rain, Children's Stage Also/activities also. Church of The Apostles, 170 Fairview Ave, Coventry, RI. www.churchoftheapostlesri.org or call 401-821-7609

The Upper Room Closed For Labor Day. 1221 Main Street, West Warwick, RI 401-823-5330

6 pm- Night of Healing- Evans Ministry, first Saturday of every month, At Celebration House, Cranston,RI. www.TheEvans.org

3 Monday

7 - 8:30 pm - "Living Free 12 Steps to Freedom" seminar every Monday at the Word of Life church, 1308 Phenix Ave., Cranston, RI. This program is for men and women who want to renew their minds so that they are healed from past hurts, damaged emotions, addictions, and compulsions through the use of biblical principles as 12-step wisdom. NO childcare available

4 Tuesday

10am - Women's Bible Study, meets every Tuesday at New Hope Christain 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

5 Wednesday

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

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

7pm- Bible Study every Wednesday August - Sept. Cathedral of Life: Practical Truth University-Bible Study,1860 Westminster Street/Troy St. Providence 401-780-8900

7 pm- 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

6 Thursday

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

7 pm - Arise- Christian 12 step program- Every Thursday. Get free from any addiction from Hersheys to herion Bethany Village. 516 Newport Ave., S. Attleboro, MA 508-761-7698

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

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

7 Friday

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 Christain Church, 1436 G.A.R. Highway Swansea MA (508)-324-4500

7 pm - "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 pm - TGIF Coffee House. Every Friday. Bethany Village. 516 Newport Ave, S. Attleboro, MA 508-761-7698

12-10 pm-Greek Festival Greek food, pastry, dancing, gift items, books, icons, Church tours and children's activities. Held rain or shine. Annunciation Church,175 Oaklawn Ave. Rte. 5, Cranston 401-942-4188- www.annunciationri.org

8 Saturday

3-7 pm, The APC's 1st Annual Red Balloon Fair. River Island Park-169 Main St, Woonsocket,RI. A faith based family fun day. Complete with food, live music, carnival style games & entertainment, fun for the whole family while raising funds to cure blood cancers. contact Apostolic Pentecostal Church for more info: 401-534-0172

12-10 pm-Greek Festival Greek food, pastry, dancing, gift items, books, icons, Church tours and children's activities. Held rain or shine. Annunciation Church,175 Oaklawn Ave. Rte. 5, Cranston 401-942-4188;www.annunciationri.org

Apponaug Family Festival Crafts, food, music and kids' corner, which includes rides, clowns and animals. Warwick City Hall,3275 Post Rd,Warwick. 401-738-8088

23rd Annual Hopkinton Crafts Festival - Today and Sunday the 9th at Crandall Field- 188 Main Street, Route 3, Ashaway- Original and hand crafted farm products are offered throughout the weekend by various artists, live entertainment, children's activities. Horse drawn wagon rides, food vendors. Free parking and admission:401-377-7795

7 pm "Cross Back" Christian 50's, 60's,70's and Doo Woop,The Upper Room, 1221 Main Street, West Warwick, RI 401-823-5330

11AM-7PM- Eternal Perks Music Festival Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,1055 Randolph Road,Middletown, CT, Eternal Perks Coffee House is hosting an outdoor Music Festival with food, crafters, exhibits, volleyball, and playground on their 14-acre property.For more information call 860-346-2641 or visit www.gracemiddletown.org

9 Sunday

6 pm -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

6 pm- Ivan Parker in concert at Oakdale United Methodist Church, West Boylston, MA www.Ivanparker.com

12-9 pm-Greek Festival Greek food, pastry, dancing, gift items, books, icons, Church tours and children's activities. Held rain or shine. Annunciation Church,175 Oaklawn Ave. Rte. 5, Cranston 401-942-4188; www.annunciationri.org

12 Wednesday

12-1 pm - 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

14 Friday

7 -10PM, Men's Night Out; 1st Meeting of the season, Guest Speaker: Larry Johnson Homemade dinner from the Italian Kitchen, \$10 at door,\$7 under 18 years.The Fellowship, 604 Foundry St.,South Easton, Ma, for more info 508-230-0996/508-238-0406 orwww.mensnight.info

15 Saturday

6:30pm- Hope Night 2007, Christian Extravaganza; Lighthouse Christian Centre-39 Nooseneck Rd, West Greenwich (Rt 3)contact info 401-247-1189 www.lighthousechristiancentre.net

Fall Quest 07'- Six Flags New England Agawam, MA- A Christian Festival,Third Day,Thousand Foot Krutch, Koi, Siloam, For more info: 1-877-843-997www.fallquest.com

SUNSET- WATERFIRE; Providence, A great opportunity for witnessing.

RI Philharmonic at Slater Park The orchestra's last concert of their Summer Pop Series featuring conductor Francisco Noya. Fireworks after the concert. Rain Date: Sunday Sept. 16. Slater Memorial Park, off Armistice Boulevard. 401-724-5200

7 pm- "Grafted In" Christian contemporary/ Rock The Upper Room, 1221 Mai St, W. Warwick RI 401-823-5330

12 pm to 5 p.m- Swansea Family Fun Day! at New Hope Christian Church. We invite the surrounding community to join us for our 3rd annual Swansea Family Fun Day with an Antique Car Show, motorcycles, rides for the kids (free), burgers and hot dogs (free) and music, music, music! All proceeds will benefit the "Water For Life Project" to villages in Togo, West Africa. 508-324-4500 www.nhcc.ws

22 Saturday

11am-2pm Worldwide Day of Healing at The Celebration House, www.TheEvans.org or 946-6900 for directions.

7pm- NBJ" Christian Contemporary/ Rock: The Upper Room, 1221 Main St, W. Warwick RI 401-823-5330

7pm Ernie Couch & Revival at Bethany Baptist Church, Gardner, Ma. more info www.erniecouchandrevival.com

23 Sunday

Cluny County Fair, This fun-filled event features games, prizes, music, fantastic food and baked goods, a huge Elephant sale, raffles and much more. Event is free and benefits the children at Cluny School 75 Brenton Rd, Newport., 401-847-6043

27 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)

28 Friday

10 am- Senior Saint Bible Study (65 & older) last Friday of the month at New Hope Christain 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

29 Saturday

"White Stone" - Christian Contemporary The Upper Room, 1221 Main Street, West Warwick, RI 401-823-5330

30 Sunday

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

7 P M - The Blackwood Gospel Quartet at Memorial Baptist Church, Seekonk, www.blackwoodgospel.com

Sneak Peek into Oct 2007

First- Ever "Healed @ work" Conference in Historic Sturbridge, MA **OCTOBER 18-20, 2007** Every workplace in America has "issues." the first-ever "Healed @ Work Conference" will be held at the Sturbridge Worship Center in historic Sturbridge, Massachusetts to bring healing to workplace problems, relationships, and issues. The conference will feature top-notch speakers from across the United States, who have decades of experience in bringing emotional healing to wounded and broken people. Discounted early registration is just \$199 for individuals and \$299 for married couples. For details, please call toll-free 1-800-JOY-9075

Oct 20- The First Baptist Church in Swansea extends an invitation to all crafters, artists, musicians, public officials, poets and people to participate in our fifth **Founders' Festival** here at our meeting house in Swansea. The Festival is intended to be a community celebration which shares the history and spirit of our towns. Any organization that contributes to the health and well being of the intercity area (between Providence and Fall River, Attleboro and Bristol) is also encouraged to be a part of the party. Please contact the church at 508-379-9728.

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 (Dick or Dianne Evans)

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JOBS WANTED

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MINISTRIES

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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?

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

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It's just to lend a helping hand
It's just to give a tithe of self
That's something you can't buy with wealth
It's not for medals won with pride
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"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of the lord!" 1 Corinthians 10:31

WANTED



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Swansea Family Fun Day

September 15th 2007

New Hope Christian Church

(heading east before the mall)

1436 G. A. R. Highway (Route 6)

12 Noon to about 5 PM



Antique Car Show

3 trophies awarded



Motorcycle Show

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Free Posture and Stress Screening

Rides for the kids

Fun

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Music

A good time for everybody! All day long

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You are invited to

Rhode Island Right to Life's

Annual

Walk for Life



Saturday September 22, 2007

Registration 9-10 am

Begin walk at 10 am at

Right to Life Headquarters

266 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908

Parking available at St. Patrick's Church

For more information call 521-1860

The praise team from River of Life Church:

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