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"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

Political Lethargy in the Church

Will American Christians Awake before November 2008

by Rev Michael Bresciani

The Christian Church has barely weighed in and between IRS restrictions on 501-C organizations and the reticence of various Christian leaders to make a firm choice. The Church seems to be vacillating like the proverbial reed in the wind. Adding to this is the gross lack of interest, and want of general political savvy the church displays about the candidates. This may come down as the election that flat got away for the body ecclesia.

For the Church, the worst would be a near mortal wound to the sanctity of marriage as derived from biblical tenants, and the biggest setback to the dismantling of Roe V. Wade since its inception in 1973. When all the flag waving and promises are finished it won't be taxes, healthcare, oil or war that will leave the church reeling, but the reversal of all the hard won advances and skirmishes achieved so far in the defense of traditional marriage, and the fight against abortion.

If it is difficult for the church to understand the political issues, it can be said that it is nearly impossible for the secularists to understand why the attack on marriage and abortion is so critical for the church. Conservative Biblical theology is like cause and effect with a promise.

The biblically grounded believer knows that to continue with the attack against marriage and abortion rights, will produce a long range negative effect that can, in time, destroy the nation and bring judgment against us.

Liberalism seems to bring an attitude and a general cry for isolationism. It's the call for no intervention, no war, and no involvement with higher codes, principles, or morality. It's the fuel for "separation of church and state" advocates, and it smacks of cowardice at its worst, and unbridled self indulgence at its best. In the New Testament, when devils that inhabited a man were threatened by banishment, they replied to Christ "let us alone" (Mark 1:24). That cry is echoed in every liberal cause in our land today and is the precursor to both moral decline and national judgment.

Today the question is; does the Bible really say that homosexuality is a deadly sin that God hates? The simplest answer is, yes! It goes without saying that a homosexual person or group is not going to accept that answer. But that is only a partial answer and the weightier part of it comes as a replete and recurring theme of the Bible.



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The destruction of Sodom is not an isolated story from Genesis 19, but it is referred to time and again by the prophets, Christ and his apostles over a 3500 year long period. The theme, the promise, and the result are the same. The demise, and in some cases, the destruction of nations that defies the law of God and nature. Such is the case in the city of Sodom. Of course, most nations that were and are no more had essentially the same cry, epithet, epithet or last words, "Let us alone."

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Economics Takes Toll on Charitable Giving

Pole Shows Impact of Rising Prices

Nearly half of the Christian adults in America have reduced their charitable giving because of the economic downturn, according to a recent Wilson Research Strategies survey. "This shows the sharp rise in fuel costs have begun to impact giving by Christians who are the backbone of philanthropy in America," said Rick Dunham, president and CEO of Dunham+Company, which

specializes in fundraising for Christian ministries. "Christian nonprofits need to understand that now, more than ever, it's crucial to be proactive in communicating the importance of their mission and their organizational effectiveness to their donors in order to sustain the same share of donor dollars that are becoming more scarce."

Forty-six percent of the Christian adults surveyed - representing 62.5 million Americans - indicated that they have reduced their giving to charity. People older than 55, the segment of the population most supportive of nonprofit organizations, were most affected (53 percent) by the faltering economy.

However, the study found that those who attend church frequently are less likely to have the economy affect their giving, and those who rarely attend church

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President George W. Bush Meets with Bob Fu in White House

In Washington, on July 29, Bob Fu, President of China Aid Association, met with President Bush along with 4 other leaders advocating for human rights and religious freedom in China. This historic meeting sends a strong statement to the Chinese government officials of the President's priorities in his visit to the opening Beijing 2008 Olympic Games next week. President Bush explained his desire to talk to the Chinese officials about human rights violations, and also speak with the Chinese people about the importance of religious freedom. The President promised to discuss with President Hu Jintao that the Christians in his country are peace-loving and caring people, and that he should not be afraid of them. Bob Fu delivered "Prayer for China" wrist



Prayer bands that reads "Pray for China" in English and Chinese.

bands to the President and encouraged him to wear them as a symbol of solidarity with the Chinese people. In addition to explaining the deteriorating situation for religious freedom in China as the Olympics approach, Bob Fu also raised the case of house church leader Zhang Rongliang, who is serving his 7 1/2 year prison sentence and Bob asked President Bush to intercede in his behalf.

China has the largest and fastest growing evangelical Christian community on earth. But its members are brutally persecuted for their faith. They are harassed, beaten and arrested, humiliated, tortured and killed. Yet, most Western Christians have no idea of what is happening to their Chinese brothers and sisters. Learn more about religious persecution in China by visiting examining the history. Hear the first-hand accounts of violent oppression, visit www.chinaaid.org

The 2008 Olympic Games begin in Beijing, China, with more than 10,000 athletes from 200-plus countries. On August 8 at 8:08:08 p.m. local time.

UNPFA Loses \$235 Million

Due to Pro-Life Group's Efforts

Christian Newswire- The Bush administration has once again withheld nearly \$40 million from the UN Population Fund (UNPFA), marking the seventh consecutive year that the U.S. government has refused the organization. The Population Research Institute applauds this decision, which honors the Kemp-Kasten amendment of 1985 forbidding tax dollars from going to programs of forced abortion.

The groundwork for this decision was laid by the Population Research Institute, headed by Steven W. Mosher, which has sent teams of investigators to China over the years. These investigations have found that the UNPFA was deeply involved in programs of forced abortion and coercive sterilization in that country. The evidence presented to the U.S. Congress and the White House, left no doubt that the UNPFA was operating in China in violations of the Kemp-Kasten Amendment.

Reacting to PRI's findings, President Bush in 2001 decided to redirect \$34 million away from the UNPFA's coercive family-planning programs into child survival programs, anti-trafficking programs, and other programs. The UNPFA's subsequent efforts to cover-up its involvement in China, have been to no avail. No U.S. population funds have gone to the UNPFA for the past seven years, costing the organization a total of \$235 million.

"The evidence demonstrates that the UNPFA continues to aid and abet China's barbaric one-child policy," says PRI's President Steven Mosher. "It doesn't deserve one penny of U.S. money."

Mosher is the author of the newly published Population Control--Real Costs, Illusory Benefits, which documents the undeclared war that the Chinese government has carried out on its own population. His book is available at PRI's web site: www.pop.org, and at bookstores everywhere.

FRC Releases New Poll Voters Likely to Vote for Presidential Candidates Who Support Marriage

Family Research Council released the results of a commissioned national survey demonstrating the potential for significant political impact of marriage protection amendments on the November ballot in California, Florida, and Arizona. The survey conducted by Wilson Research Strategies asks likely voters if they "would be more or less likely to vote for a presidential candidate" who supports measures on the November ballot that would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The results of the poll demonstrate that marriage is an issue that many American voters care deeply about and one that could impact their choice for President.

* 58% of likely voters would be more likely to support a presidential candidate that favors state marriage protection amendments as opposed to only 29% who said that they would be less likely to support such a candidate. Intensity is strongest among those favoring state marriage amendments. 49% of likely voters are much more likely to support a pro-marriage amendment candidate vs. 20% who are much less likely.

* 54% of Independents are more likely to support a candidate favoring marriage amendments.

* 75% of Republicans and 47% of Democrats are more likely to support a candidate favoring marriage amendments.

<http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF08G19.pdf>



Can We Genuinely Pray the Lord's Prayer?

We cannot pray

- "our Father" if we do not have a personal relationship with God.
- "who art in heaven" if our interest is in earthly things.
- "hallowed be thy name" unless we use God's name with reverence and respect.
- "thy kingdom come" if we are not willing to accept God's reign in our lives.
- "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" unless we give ourselves to God's service.
- "give us this day our daily bread" if we ignore the needs of others.
- "forgive us our trespasses" if we harbor grudges and hard feelings against others.
- "deliver us from evil" if we are not prepared to use the weapon of prayer in resisting the temptations of Satan.
- "thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever" if we do not give God the highest priority in our lives.

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Informing, Educating, and Edifying the Reader*



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Congressional Pro-Life Leadership Meets with African American Leaders on Planned Parenthood, Racism

Christian Newswire- Dr. Alveda King, Pastoral Associate of Priests for Life and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., joined African American leaders on Capitol Hill in June to ask Congress to stop funding Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion business.

"The curtain over Planned Parenthood's racism has been pulled away," said Dr. King. "It's on record as being willing to accept donations to abort only black babies. Congress wouldn't give the public's money to the Klan, it shouldn't give it to Planned Parenthood."

The group, which included several African American religious leaders, met with pro-life Congressional leaders to urge support for Rep. Pence's Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act. The group also asked Georgia Congressman Sanford

Bishop to support the measure, which would insure that all federal family planning funding would be given to groups that do not perform abortions. Last year alone, Planned Parenthood received over \$300 million in government grants and contracts while performing over 250,000 abortions.

"Planned Parenthood admits that it made over \$100 million in profits last year from its businesses," added Dr. King. "There's no reason, none at all, for Congress to be giving our money to a billion dollar enterprise like Planned Parenthood that preys on women and targets African Americans and other minorities with its deadly offerings."

Priests for Life is the nation's largest Catholic pro-life organization. For more information, visit www.priestsforlife.org.

Political Lethargy in the Church

Continued from page 1

Live and let live may work fine for recovering alcoholics, but when used in liberal politics it fosters an attitude that always produces a typical question. It seems like a legitimate question, but if investigated further it would be seen that no one pauses long enough or is serious enough to wait for the answer. Such a question was asked by Kirsten Powers in the New York Post July 8, 2008 in an article entitled "The GOP Gay-Marriage Con" The question posed said "Gays and lesbians make up an estimated 5 percent to 10 percent of the US population. How much damage can they do by committing themselves to one another?" The damage can be irreparable and irreversible and has brought down the mightiest nations in history.

If unbridled licentiousness can bring down a nation then where does the slaughter of uncounted millions of unborn human beings come into the picture? It is the number one reason for the decline of civilization itself, much less the decline of a single nation. It is a looming factor in the final coming judgments of all mankind, and a prime factor and pre-cursor to Armageddon. That's theology with a promise. "Thus saith the Lord; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place... But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the Lord, that this house shall become a desolation." (Jeremiah 22:3, 5)

It is this kind of warning that should be guiding the church in its decision about who to vote for in the 2008 election. When Christ told the church to be as wise as a serpent, but as harmless as a dove (Mt 10: 16), it is understood that he was not leaving political savvy out of the picture. Unfortunately, the church is leaning toward the dove side of the equation.

Recently, I heard a minister describe his observations of doves nesting around his property. He said they must be the dumbest bird in the ornithological roster. They build nests in dangerous places, lose their young to predators, and are prey to every vicious and marauding bird in the area. I thought of the church and of why Christ demanded that we don't just function as doves. The "be ye wise as serpents" aspect of his admonition is the first essential instruction the church gives up as it starts a slide into apostasy.

If a candidate thinks marriage is an open ended deal for any and all combinations of sexes and persuasions they may be a poor choice. Above all, if they do not regard the innocent and helpless who are struggling for life inside a mother's womb, then they don't deserve to be considered as a leader.

Christ often said "he that hath ears to hear let him hear." The leaders of the church, those who call themselves Christian, or any good American, should set themselves aside, and quietly listen. There may be a voice that echoes back from the 50 million previously aborted human beings that says, "I want to live... does your candidate want me to live?"

Rev. Bresciani is an author and columnist for several publications. www.americanprophet.org

Pro-life Groups Plans Major Pro-life Witness at the Democratic National Convention

in Denver this August

Christians from across the nation will join together in Denver to participate in prayerful events at the DNC, to call upon the Democratic Party to renounce their party plank of death on demand – abortion.

The Christian Defense Coalition, Survivors, Operation Rescue and other pro-life groups plan to have a series of prayer vigils, rallies, demonstrations, concerts and public events at the DNC to expose the radical pro-abortion of Senator Barack Obama at the Democratic Party.

The pro-life organizations will be praying and calling for the Democratic Party to end this tragic war against America's children which has resulted in over 50,000,000 abortions.

Rev. Patrick J. Mahoney, Director of the Washington, D.C. based Christian Defense Coalition, states, "We are coming to Denver to pray and seek God to

end this tragic taking of innocent life through abortion. We will also be peacefully and prayerfully on the streets of Denver to expose the radical pro-abortion policies the Democratic Party.

"This generation is coming to Denver to pray and cry out for change and believe that we will one day see a nation where all human life is treated with dignity and respect."

Operation Rescue is one of the leading pro-life Christian activist organizations in the nation. Operation Rescue recently made headlines when it bought and closed an abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas and has become the voice of the pro-life activist movement in America. Its activities are on the cutting edge of the abortion issue, taking direct action to restore legal personhood to the pre-born and stop abortion in obedience to biblical mandates.

For more information visit
<http://aprayerforchange.com>
www.operationrescue.org

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CAN A NATION BE CHANGED IN ONE DAY?

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Faith & Values

Cowboy Churches Lassoing America

By Rachel Mehlhaff



(ABP) -- The "cowboy churches" that are springing up throughout the

United States are about more than worshipping God while wearing boots and cowboy hats. They are about finding ways to be relevant in the rodeo-circuit, country/Western culture.

In many ways, congregations that identify with the so-called "Western Heritage" movement are like traditional ones, with minor differences. For example, boots placed at the back of the worship space as receptacles sometimes replace collection plates and offertories. Baptisms often take place in horse troughs. And, of course, country/Western, Southern gospel and bluegrass music often feature prominently in worship services.

Ron Nolen, founder of the Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches, said that some traditionalists have criticized cowboy churches for building rodeo arenas. But Nolen believes "we have got to get the gospel to the people in America." "Western Heritage is one way of getting the gospel to the people of this nation." The cowboy-church movement has spread significantly among evangelicals in the last 10 years.

In 2000, Nolen, whose son competed in rodeos as a roper, wanted to reach the rodeo community, and helped to found the

Cowboy Church of Ellis County, in Waxahachie, Texas. With an average weekly attendance of more than 1,200, the congregation bills itself as "the largest cowboy church in the world." And it was one of a growing movement. "People began to see there was an open door here," Nolen said.

The group has 129 affiliated congregations, and it cooperates with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. "The AFCC is in the embryonic stages of coming together," Nolen said. "What is happening in Texas is also attempting to happen across America."

Todd Hervey, AFCC's nationwide strategist, believes that the spread of cowboy churches is just getting started. He said many people who identify with country and Western culture feel intimidated in traditional churches. "We are trying to remove the barriers that have kept lost men from coming to church," he said.

"God is moving in this and the people are responding," said Jeff Smith, executive director of the network. Smith said cowboy churches and traditional churches are "different only in flavor." Cowboy churches, he added, have been popular among unpretentious rodeo lovers because of their down-to-earth atmosphere.

But not all people understand the need for cowboy churches. Smith said he has been asked, "Can you worship in a barn?" His response? "Jesus was born in a barn."

Special needs Sunday Schools on the rise



Carly Hunter, right, Wilma Hensley, and Wayne Lavender, all of Calvary Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C., participate in a scrapbooking activity in the Special Needs ministry. Photo by James Yates

(BP) Special needs advocates are fond of pointing out that Jesus spent much of His ministry among people with disabilities. However, the message of His ministry was for everyone, said Carlton McDaniel, special needs specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. "The second half of that story is that by meeting the needs of those He helped and gravitating to people in need, He really modeled love to the able-bodied," McDaniel said during the July 11-14 Sunday School Week at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C. "I see people with disabilities being more visible in the community, more included in life and not shut behind doors anymore, praise God," said Jo Ann Banks of Weaverville, N.C. "God has shown me we have to look at their abilities and not their disabilities," Banks said. McDaniel said there is hesitancy among churches, mostly because of the unknown in beginning a special needs ministry. "We've heard people say, 'I don't feel equipped,'" McDaniel said.

The sessions at Sunday School Week varied from understanding learning needs and learning styles of individuals with special needs to introducing tools and materials to help special needs ministries. LifeWay developed its "Special Buddies Bible Studies for Kids" curriculum, released in the fall of 2007, with an adaptable format geared to developmental levels that allows for plenty of repetition, application and review of biblical concepts. "Pastors are very interested, but it's an incredible responsibility to take on a ministry that is this labor-intensive," McDaniel said.

For Banks, leading a Sunday School class for adults with special needs also is an outreach to the group-home workers

who accompany residents to church. "We've found that 98 percent of group-home workers are not believers," Banks said. "Sometimes the only exposure they have is watching how you behave on Sunday." Having a ministry in place also provides natural opportunities for individuals with special needs to feel needed, Banks said. "They want to serve. They want to feel like they're part of society and they have a purpose for being here." Banks said her

daughter Kelly "has such a servant's heart. She does better to serve others than to be served." Starting a special ministry requires a "people-centered" outlook rather than one that is people-driven, McDaniel said.

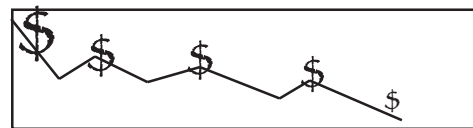
That's what happened at Thompson Station Church in Tennessee, adult Sunday School teacher Mike Yates said. When he noticed two couples seemed to "tag-team" coming to church, he found both couples had a child with special needs, with the spouses switching to provide care on alternate weeks. The church started a special needs Sunday School along with a monthly respite program to give a night out for parents.

Reagan Wagoner, youth and missions pastor at Thompson Station Church, said in the short time the program has been operating, at least 25 different families have been reached. "If you go into the schools, there are specially trained people, even one-on-one attention, for the kids with special needs," Wagoner said. "Why should the church be any different?"

Andrea Higgins is a writer in Raleigh, N.C.

Economic Downturn

Continued from page 1



are more likely to decrease their giving. Those attending non-denominational churches overwhelmingly say the economy has not impacted their giving (62 percent).

The skyrocketing price of gasoline is cited as the primary reason for the decrease in charitable giving by a large number of the respondents (49 percent), while nearly one in four (22 percent) cited the increase in food prices the driving force.

The greater the household income, the less impact the sagging economy has on charitable contributions. Fifty-five percent of households with incomes of \$40,000-\$60,000 say the economy has

limited their contributions, but only 40 percent of households of \$60,000-\$100,000 income concur. Approximately one in three (31 percent) households with incomes more than \$100,000 say the economy is affecting their support of charities.

According to the poll, just 6 percent of Christian donors referenced the volatility of the stock market as having an impact on their giving.

This study was part of Wilson Research Strategies May Christian Omnibus Study of randomly selected 1,000 Christian adults nationwide. All respondents were screened to ensure that they were Christians.

- Christian Newswire



Church Attendance Beneficial to Marriage

Michael Gryboski

(CNSNews.com) - Married couples who attend church together tend to be happier than couples who rarely or never attend services, according to sociologist W. Bradford Wilcox of the University of Virginia.

Using three nationally representative surveys - the General Social Survey (GSS), the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH), and the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) - Wilcox found that married church-going Americans across denominational and racial classifications were more likely to describe themselves as "very happy" than their non-religious counterparts.

Couples who attended church regularly were also less likely to divorce than couples who seldom attended church services, Wilcox found. "Attending church only seems to help couples when they attend together," Wilcox said. "But when they do, they are significantly happier in their marriages, and they are much less likely to divorce, compared to couples who do not attend church. I would say that church attendance is a beneficial component of marriage when it is done together."

Wilcox explained that regular church attendance offers certain positive benefits to a married couple: "Churches supply moral norms like sexual fidelity and forgiveness, family-friendly social networks that lend support to couples facing the ordinary joys and challenges of married life, and a faith that helps couples make sense of the difficulties in their lives-from unemployment to illness-that can harm their marriages." "So, in a word, the couple that prays together stays together," said Wilcox.

However, Tom Flynn, editor of Free Inquiry, took issue with the findings. In an interview with Cybercast News Service, Flynn questioned whether there is an actual cause-and-effect relationship between church attendance and good marriages. "Some studies have reported a correlation between church attendance and successful marriages," Flynn said. "That may reflect the fact that

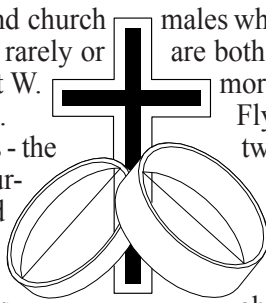
males who are settled in their lives and highly socialized are both more likely to succeed in their marriages and more likely to attend church."

Flynn said other studies have suggested a link between church membership and better health or longer life. "That doesn't necessarily mean that believing in God makes you healthier," he said. "Once again, it may mean that folks who have their lives together tend to avoid substance abuse, practice good health habits, and go to church."

Skeptics of the claim that religion is beneficial to marriage point to a 2001 Barna Research poll that showed that individuals who describe themselves as "born-again" Christians were just as likely or more likely to divorce than other Christians and non-Christians. "A few studies have shown that seculars who do marry have a better track record at staying married than members of Southern Baptists and other conservative denominations," Flynn said. "Those seculars who bother to marry may be marrying more successful than very traditional, male-authoritarian Christians."

Wilcox, while acknowledging there is truth to the Barna findings, pointed out that his research goes beyond "just looking at people's beliefs." "Men and women who hold a religious faith and put that faith into practice by attending church on a regular basis do look different in the marital realm," Wilcox said. "At least in the marriage arena, faith alone doesn't work. You've got to combine faith and works to enjoy a happy and stable marriage. You need the consistent message, the accountability, and the support a church community can provide to really benefit from religious faith," he added.

Wilcox presented his findings in a new book, "Is Religion an Answer? Marriage, Fatherhood, and the Male Problematic," published by the Institute for American Values.



Traditional Values Still Ideal

A Barna Group study finds that faith, integrity, purpose, and family still top the list when Americans rank what's important in life, reports the Christian Post. More than 75 percent of all American adults said their ideal life includes having good physical health (listed by 85 percent), living with a high degree of integrity (85 percent), having one marriage partner for life (80 percent), having a clear purpose for living (77 percent), having a close relationship with God (75 percent), and having close, personal friendships (74 percent), according to the survey. "Stability rules," George Barna, who has overseen this research since 1991, noted. "Out of nineteen factors, only two have seen even a ten-point shift in nearly two decades. That's rather remarkable consistency."



"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:32 KJV

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Record Fuel Prices Slam Charities

Record fuel prices have hit Christian ministry and charity organizations doubly hard this summer, reports the Christian Post. "We're finding the price of food is going up due to transportation costs, and production costs are going up as well. When those two things are put together, then all of a sudden the amount of money you had available for food is strained even more. There's just less available," Gary Zander, communications coordinator for Food for the Hungry, told Mission News Network. "We could serve 100,000 people two years ago, now we're only able to help 66,000 people," said Bruce Whitmire of Living Water International, whose organization supplies clean water for thousands of people around the globe. Higher fuel costs make it more difficult to conduct daily operations, he said. At the same time, many look to the current situation as an opportunity to trust God. "God still supplies our needs according to His riches and not according to ours," said Al Joslyn of Bible Pathway Ministries.

Where are the Children?

Barbara Scott - June 5, 1989

(Remembering the Tiananmen Square protests and massacre in Beijing China of June 4, 1989)

A nation that murders its youth must be
A country ruled with stupidity
Watch the eyes of the young and see
The misery of life filled with uncertainty.

The pendulum swings both to and fro
Today it's here, tomorrow it'll go
Offering us wisdom, but we'll never know
Governments killing children, what a might blow!

The pre-born cry from their mother's womb
Having to hide in a living tomb.
Their flower of youth may never bloom
Our future must hold inevitable doom

Where are the children, where have they gone?
None are laughing on the lawn.
We've used them up, a chessman's pawn
To freedom no longer can they be drawn.

Spring has come, smell the air
Wait, is that bloodshed over there?
Death and Justice, a likely pair
Liberty, a freedom we don't share.

Were are the children
Have you seen them there?
They are all bloody, lying in the Square.
Here the gunshots, hear their cries,
Caution humanity, watch and listen with care.

Integrity, Justice and Freedom of Speech,
We suck in our rights much like a leech
Spending our holidays at the beach
Small cries to our hearts will never reach.

Seek simplicity in the star shine
Watch the moon peep through whispering pine
God forgive our silence, send us a sign,
And heal the aching heart of mine.

Local Ministry helps to stretch food dollar

Angel food Ministries was started in 1994 by Pastor Joe Wingo and is a non-profit, non-denominational food program. There are no applications or pre-qualifiers to participate in Angel Food. This is for EVERYONE! It is a savings that will help expand your food budget every month.

Phil & Vicki Johnson have been a part of this ministry for several years. "We love it because we are serving GOD in helping others and because it's open to anyone and everyone. We want everyone to know about Angel Food. We want to help anyone who is interested in savings or in need."

Orders which are taken and distributed once a month, consists of both fresh and frozen food. There's not a limit on the number of boxes an individual or family can purchase. This is a way for people to eat ALL year and not just at holiday time (Thanksgiving/Christmas). The menu changes each month and ordering is optional.

Today, Angel Food Ministries is in operation in 35 states and helps 500,000 families monthly. If an individual or business makes a food purchase to donate to someone it is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Churches interested in becoming a host site, or for more information, can call 770-227-5776. Angel Food donates \$1.00 from each box sold to the host site's benevolent or out-reach fund. Angel Food has contributed over 9 million dollars to these funds.

The Celebration of Faith

RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS AND THEIR MEANING

AUGUST:

1: Lammas (Christian): *In English-speaking countries, August 1 is Lammas Day (loaf-mass day), the festival of the first wheat harvest of the year.*

6: Transfiguration of Our Lord (Orthodox Christian)

Christian commemoration of the experience on Mt Tabor when Jesus' physical appearance became brilliant as his connection with traditional Jewish holy figures became evident to the disciples.

SEPTEMBER 2008

1: Church year begins (Orthodox Christian):

24: See You at the Pole™ The suggested starting time is 7 a.m. a student-initiated, student organized, and student-led event. That means this is all about students meeting at their school flagpole to pray—for their school, friends teachers, government, and their nation.

OCTOBER:

Saint Francis Day: *Christian recognition of service to people and appreciation of the natural world, as practiced by St Francis and the Franciscan Monastic Order.*

27: Reformation Day (Protestant Christian): *Protestant Christian anniversary of their tradition and its emphasis on the place of the Bible and religious freedom. On October 31, 1517 c.e. Martin Luther posted a belief statement on Wittenberg Church door.*

31: All Saints Day (Christian): *Christian day for honoring saints, known and unknown. A Holy Day of Obligation in the Roman Catholic Church where saints have special formal status. In general, saints are persons with reputation for unusual lives of holiness and devotion to God.*

<http://spiritrestoration.org>



Fund Raiser

Help raise money to feed people in need!

Prizes include: SS jewelry, watches, handmade blankets, towels, restaurant gift certificates, etc.

Winner's will be selected in December 2008, before Christmas. You do not have to order food boxes or be present to participate.

Please send entry form with \$1.00 donation per entry to:

Angel Food Ministries
Phil & Vicki Johnson
P.O. Box 667
Hampton, GA 30228

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Do not mail cash. All donations are tax deductible and go toward feeding people in need. Call 770-227-5776 for more information.

The Seventh Anniversary of 9/11: Remembering Lives Lost and Heroic Sacrifices Made



From the White House: America Remembers The Innocent Who Lost Their Lives In The Most Barbaric Attack In Our Nation's History. We remember the heroic men and women who risked and sacrificed their lives so others might survive; we extend our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of those who were lost; and we honor the selfless men and women of our Armed Forces, the dedicated members of our law enforcement and intelligence communities, and the thousands of others at the local, State, and Federal levels who protect our country, secure our liberty, and work to prevent future attacks.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

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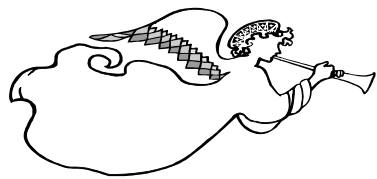
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MINISTRIES



AUGUST 2008 MENU

1.5 lb. Ribeye Steaks (4 x 6 oz.)
5 lb. Chicken Leg Quarters
28 oz. Chicken Breast Nuggets
28 oz. Salisbury Steak Dinner Entrée
32 oz. Breaded Chicken Breast Filets
12 oz. Smoked Sausage
16 oz. California Blend Frozen Vegetables
16 oz. Frozen Carrots
16 oz. Frozen Chopped Spinach

10 ct. Frozen Waffles
16 oz. Bean Soup Mix
1 lb. Rice
9 oz. Instant Potatoes (14 servings)
15 oz. Sliced Peaches
32 oz. Borden Shelf Stable Milk
One Dozen Eggs
One Desert Item

ALL THIS FOR THE LOW COST OF JUST \$30.00

One or More Specials Available Only with the Purchase of a Regular Box Above

AUGUST SPECIAL #1 **\$20.00**

7 lb. Family Assorted Grill Box

1.5 lb Baseball Cut Sirloin Filet (4 x 6 oz.) (Thick-Cut)
2 lbs Juicy Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast
2 lbs St. Louis-Style Ribs
1.5 lb Hamburger Patties (4 x 6 oz.)

AUGUST SPECIAL #2 **\$20.00**

4.5 lb. Steak and Meat Combo

1.5 lb. New York Strips (2 x 12 oz.)
1.5 lb. Bacon-Wrapped Beef Filet (4 x 6 oz.)
1.5 lb. Bacon-Wrapped Pork Filet (4 x 6 oz.)

AUGUST SPECIAL #3 **\$18.00**

4.5 lb. Stuffed Chicken Breast Combo

1.5 lb. Cordon Bleu (4 x 6 oz.)
1.5 lb. Broccoli Cheese (4 x 6 oz.)
1.5 lb. Chicken Breast Kiev (4 x 6 oz.)

AUGUST SPECIAL #4 **\$18.00**

Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box

4 Red Delicious Apples
4 lb Bag of Oranges
1 Cello-wrapped Lettuce
1 Large Cabbage
6 Russet Potatoes
2 Cucumbers
1 Cantaloupe
1 Honeydew Melon

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Angel Food Ministries Reserves the Right to Substitute
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Phil & Vicki Johnson

P.O. Box 667 • Hampton, GA 30228

For more information contact The Johnson's at

770-227-5776

Please make all checks payable to Phil Johnson

**** Call for September Menu ****



Cancer Protection Vital If You Grill

It's summer and millions of Americans grill regularly throughout the warm summer months. Backyard barbecues are a summer tradition, but feasting regularly on grilled meats - or any seared or overcooked meats - can increase your risk of developing cancer.

This is hardly new information - it has been known for over 20 years and evidence continues to accumulate. When meats, fish or even vegetables are overcooked in a frying pan or on a grill, special chemicals called "heterocyclic amines" form on the seared surface.

These chemicals have been shown to cause cancer in a number of animals. The disease was generally found in the gastrointestinal tract (stomach and colon) but was also located in the liver, lungs, and breasts. Even lymphomas formed.

The latest studies have determined that women who eat grilled meats every day have a 350 percent higher incidence of breast cancer, while both men and women are in even more jeopardy of developing colon cancer.

Fortunately, there are ways you can protect yourself. Vitamin C slashes the risk, but more impressive is the ability of plant flavonoids (some 5,000 exist in fruits and vegetables) to neutralize the cancer-causing ability of heterocyclic amines.

At least one study found that eating three to five servings of fruits and vegetables with grilled or pancooked meats and fish dramatically reduced risk. Various studies have also shown that flavonoids in teas (especially green tea) can powerfully inhibit carcinogens. But the problem with drinking green tea is that it is high in fluoride, which is a carcinogen itself.

Nitrosamines are another nasty substance — they take shape in the stomach, evolving from nitrites in the foods we eat. Nitrites are used as food preservatives — especially in bacon, hot dogs, and other processed meats.

They pose a major threat as they are prone to induce stomach cancer. But vitamin C neutralizes a good deal of their cancer-causing ability.

Since vitamin C was added to a number of foods, this supplement is thought to have accounted for the disease's rather dramatic regression. However, the presence of carcinogens in overcooked foods and nitrites in pregnant women's diets may explain the 430 percent increased risk of brain cancer (especially the deadly medulloblastoma) for children who don't eat any fruits or vegetables in the first year of life. Other studies have established a link between a mother's nitrite intake and her child's susceptibility to brain cancer.

Aside from vitamin C, two flavonoids found in fruits — caffeic and ferulic acid — have proven powerful in preventing nitrosamine formation. High concentrations of these flavonoids are found in plums, blueberries and apples.

Then there is ellagic acid, which is found in strawberries, raspberries and blackberries and is 80 to 300 times more effective than vitamin C in neutralizing nitrosamines. It is important to keep in mind that deep-frying, baking, broiling, or roasting meat and fish will produce significantly fewer carcinogens.

Dr. Russell L. Blaylock is a respected medical doctor who is unafraid to challenge establishment thinking. He is a nationally recognized, board-certified neurosurgeon, health practitioner, author and lecturer. He has more than a quarter-century of medical experience.

Dr. Blaylock's credentials include 26 years of experience in neurosurgery, editorship of the respected Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons and Journal of the American Nutraceutical Association. He previously served as Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS, and is currently a visiting professor of Biology at the Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi. He is now editing Blaylock Wellness Report (published by Newsmax at newsmax.com) because he believes that too many Americans are not getting the best advice on preventing and dealing with cancer, heart disease, diabetes, brain diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, and dozens of other health problems now plaguing Americans.

Leading Eating Disorder Treatment Center Identifies Popular Diet Myths



Christian Newswire- Remuda Programs for Eating Disorders, the nation's leading eating disorder treatment center, reports that many myths surround the nation's obsession with dieting. As the dieting industry continues to surge at \$50 billion a year, Americans continue to lose and gain weight in dangerous cycles.

"Research tells us that weight cycling may elevate blood pressure, reduce good cholesterol, deplete the body of heart-protective omega-3 fatty acids and increase risk for gall bladder disease, kidney and breast cancer," said Juliet Zuercher, registered dietitian and director of nutrition services at Remuda Programs for Eating Disorders. "Additionally, the repeated failure of diets can be demoralizing and psychologically damaging, which can lead into a full blown eating disorder."

Popular myths about dieting include:

1. Dieting will result in weight loss and thus improve health.

Ninety-five percent of diets fail. A continued focus on weight loss as a means to health will in all likelihood only result in poorer health. A shift to wellness by caring for the body as a whole-mind, body and spirit-is more effective in achieving metabolic fitness. This means getting and staying active without turning into a compulsive exerciser and eating intuitively with balance, variety and moderation.

2. If I don't have rules around eating, I will be out of control.

Part of normal eating involves trusting the body's natural hunger and fullness cues. Eat when you are hungry or have a craving. Choose foods that you believe will satisfy you. Stay connected to your body and eat with awareness and enjoyment. Stop eating when you're full or satisfied.

3. Anyone can weigh what he or she wants just diet and exercise hard enough.

Contrary to popular belief, one of the strongest determinates of healthy body weight is our genetic code that was configured in the womb. We can only alter this natural set point a small amount with diet and exercise. Fat doesn't always mean unhealthy and thin doesn't always mean fit.

4. Dieting means I have strong will power and I'm morally good.

Labeling food as "good" or "bad" has dire consequences. What happens when an individual eats a food that is perceived as "bad" for them? They may feel guilty and want to get rid of or purge those calories by exercise or fasting for the next day or two. If there are limits about never eating "bad" food, when an individual feels emotionally vulnerable, what might be the first food that he or she seeks? The "bad" food, and usually not in moderate portions. Keeping food neutral is key. When food is kept in its proper place in life, with no inherent moral value, intuitive eating is a natural result.

5. Everyone diets, it's just the way it is.

Just because many people are stuck in the cycle of dangerous dieting, doesn't mean it's the best way or that you have to follow. The best thing one can do for overall peace of mind and wellness is to cease the cycle. Individuals on diets are often irritable, fatigued and have difficulty concentrating or engaging in enjoyable social settings that involve food.

"Because there are so many diet myths out there, the best resource for truth is a registered dietitian or medical doctor," adds Zuercher. "Unfortunately, eating disorders often develop after dabbling with diets. Beware of the underlying dangers in this cultural phenomenon."

Remuda Programs for Eating Disorders offers Christian inpatient and residential treatment for women and girls of all faiths suffering from an eating disorder. Each patient is treated by a multi-disciplinary team including a Psychiatric and a Primary Care Provider, Registered Dietitian, Masters Level therapist, Psychologist and Registered Nurse. The professional staff equips each patient with the right tools to live a healthy, productive life. For more information, call 1-800-445-1900 or visit www.remudaranch.com.

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Art, Entertainment & Media

National Gospel Music Month Proclaimed

Initiative Unveiled at GRAMMY®s on the Hill event at U.S. Capitol



Pictured at the event at the Capitol (Left to Right): Gospel Music advocate Carl Davis, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), GMC Founder and President Charles Humbard, Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack (R-Calif.), President/CEO of The Recording Academy® Neil Portnow, and GMC Senior Director of Music Development Alvin Williams.

Christian Newswire- Gospel Music Channel television network joined with distinguished members of Congress and The Recording Academy® to announced the new "Gospel Music Heritage Month" initiative.

The legislation in the House of Representatives (H.Con. Res. 370) and the Senate (S. Res. 595) designates September 2008 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month," honoring Gospel music for its valuable long-standing contributions to American culture.

The initiative was created by Gospel Music Channel, the country's first and only 24/7 television network devoted to all forms of Gospel/Christian music and was publicly unveiled at The Recording Academy's GRAMMY®s on the Hill event at the U.S. Capitol on June 18.

For more information on "Gospel Music Heritage Month" resolution visit: www.GospelMusicChannel.com

Gospel Music Channel is the fastest-growing network in television today and can be seen in nearly 40 million homes on various cable systems around the country and on DIRECTV.

KINGDOMWOOD CHRISTIAN FILM FESTIVAL

IN LITHONIA, GEORGIA

The first Annual Kingdomwood Christian Film Festival (KCFF) Festival will be held Thursday, October 9th thru Saturday, October 11 in Lithonia, Georgia. KCFF will promote the works of independent filmmakers producing films with faith-based story lines. The organizers are developing a festival that will serve an underserved market in the film industry, the Christian audience. Film studios are already developing proprieties to address this audience, companies like FoxFaith, a division of 20th Century Fox, and Lionsgate, are producing religious-oriented films targeting this market.

Founders of the festival, Audrey Thomas and Joe Williams (Driven Film Developers) and Angela Smith, (EJA Communications, Inc) are finalizing plans for locations and screening sites. KCFF is now seeking sponsors to underwrite programs and events for the festival. Volunteers are also needed to serve on committees.

Plans for the festival include screenings of shorts, documentaries and features; panels and workshops on industry trends in faith-based filmmaking; a youth component featuring a short film competition and mentoring program, opening night reception and closing night gospel awards show. KCFF also plans to partner with a major studio to screen a first run release at the festival opening.

Kingdomwood is now accepting film submissions. Contact Audrey Thomas, (404) 915-6117, for submission information and criteria. For sponsorships and to receive a sponsorship package, contact Joe Williams, (404) 641-4557. For more information visit: <http://www.kingdomwood.com/>

'Focus on the Family' Inducted into Radio Hall of Fame

The "Focus on the Family" radio program will soon be inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in the "national active" category, marking "at least 10 years of significant contributions to the industry on the national level." According to the Christian Post. "I've made a living putting thoughts into words throughout my adult life, but it is difficult to express how I feel about this honor," said Dr. James Dobson today at a staff assembly. "I am especially pleased because the wonderful people at Focus on the Family deserve it. Our radio program has not been a solo effort. It has been a symphony performed by more than 10,000 people over the past 32 years. I am indebted to them all.

Focus on the Family President and CEO Jim Daly added: "To have 'Focus on the Family' honored in this manner means we've made a difference in families all over the world. That Dr. Dobson's listeners recognized the excellence and relevance of the content of the daily broadcast and voted to give him a much-deserved win shows Dr. Dobson's influence is as strong as ever in the hearts of his fans, as well as in the culture."

The Christian Post reports that the program is heard on more than 1,000 stations across the United States by millions of listeners weekly, the 30-minute program is one of the largest and most respected resources for practical, emotional and spiritual support for families in the world.

New PBS program says Bible isn't true

Your tax dollars helped fund "The Bible's Buried Secrets"

Congress gives The Public Broadcasting System (PBS), hundreds of millions of tax dollars to help support the network. Probably the most liberal network in America, it will present a program this fall that says the Old Testament is a bunch of made-up stories that never happened. "The Bible's Buried Secrets" says the Bible is not true. It is scheduled to air on November 18.

Producer Paula Apsell said: "...It's (The Bible's Buried Secrets) designed for intelligent people who are willing to change their mind. ...it will give intelligent people who want to read the Bible in a modern way a chance. If we insist on reading the Bible literally, in 25 years, nobody will read it any longer."

Among highlights of "The Bible's Buried Secrets":



- The Old Testament was written in the sixth century BC and hundreds of authors contributed.
- Abraham, Sarah and their offspring didn't exist.
- There is no archaeological evidence of the Exodus.
- Monotheism was a process that took hundreds of years.
- The Israelites were actually Canaanites.
- The Israelites believed that God had a wife.

The American Family Association (AFA) has introduced a petition that urges Congress to stop using tax dollars to fund PBS. "Let PBS operate like every other non-commercial network, raising its own money from its viewers instead of using tax money."

For more information, visit <http://www.afa.net/>

the PROJECT GUY

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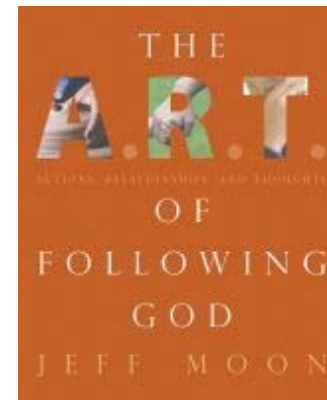
The A.R.T. of Living the Good Life

New Author Focuses on Faith

The Associated Press and MTV released a study in August connecting religion and spirituality to the overall happiness for most American young people. Forty-four percent claim "religion and spirituality are either a very important or the single most important thing in their lives." The road to happiness involves a variety of elements, the study discovered. Other contributing factors besides spirituality are parents, family, and relationships.

New author and ordained minister Jeff Moon agrees. Individuals are complex, and their needs are complex. "But when we live life like we are designed to, life is at its best, and we thrive. When we live apart from God's design, we cannot reach our potential and thrive."

Based on the words of Jesus found in Mark 12, Moon draws a connection between Maslow's hierarchy of needs and a



four-fold need for God: heart, soul, mind, and strength. "God has designed us to know a quality of life, a peace, a wisdom, that is ours for the taking. The Bible says we all need God. We are incomplete as long as we are not connected in a relationship with him."

Jeff Moon's book, "The A.R.T. of Following God" breaks spirituality down to three aspects: Actions, Relationships, and Thoughts.

"By seeking God with your whole person--your heart, soul, mind, and strength--you will discover the secret to living the good life. Put your trust in Jesus, take your faith to a new level, and allow God to speak to you through the A.R.T. of loving Him."

An ordained minister with the Full Gospel Fellowship since 1994, Jeff holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Certificate in Bible, and an Associate of Science degree in Mathematics and Physical Science.

- Christian Newswire

Hampton Train Depot Art Exhibit & Contest

Trains, Planes & Automobiles

August 30, 2008

A fun-filled family affair celebrating Hampton's spot in the history of Georgia Transportation.

Downtown Hampton, Georgia

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Patti Battle, City of Hampton 770-946-4306

Sponsored by the Downtown development Authority of Hampton.
Proceeds go to improving the downtown district of Hampton.

The Mission Field

Hopegivers International Transforming 1,000 Orphans into College Graduates

Georgia-based humanitarian-aid organization Hopegivers International recently celebrated the graduation of 1,000 students from the Hopegivers Bible college program in India. Most of the graduates are former orphans who were rescued by Hopegivers, then raised and educated in a Hopegivers-sponsored Hope Home.

"I am continually in amazement and awe of the transforming work I have seen in recent days," said Dr. Samuel Thomas, president of Hopegivers. "More than 1,000 faithful graduates will go out and spread the love and peace of God, and because of this many more lives will be changed."

Upon graduation, the students took an oath pledging to work for the Lord no matter the cost, even unto death. These graduates will likely become teachers, pastors, nurses, and Hope Home leaders, striving to uplift their communities by using the life skills gained through their Hopegivers-sponsored education.

Nearly all of the graduates will embark on the next stage of their lives virtually unsupported, with only a strong desire to serve God and people in need. They receive a bicycle and a small amount of money, and are then commissioned to start ministries to the needy in their surrounding communities.

"I am confident that God will use these faithful graduates to transform and uplift a world filled with lost and needy kids, kids who were just like them," Thomas said. "This celebration is a testament to not only God's covenant, but the diligent work of our highly skilled staff, donors, and volunteers who dedicate their lives to making a difference to those who are less fortunate."

Hopegivers began its schooling efforts for orphans in India in 1967, with an Emmanuel Day School started by Dr. M.A. Thomas, founder of Hopegivers and father of Dr. Samuel Thomas. Then, in 1972, M.A. Thomas launched a leadership training institute, which was the launching point for the more than 100 Hopegivers Bible institutes operating today.

About Hopegivers International: Founded by Dr. M.A. Thomas, Hopegivers International provides help for today and hope for eternity through strategic ministry initiatives that rescue orphaned and abandoned children, assist the needy and oppressed, and empower the work of the gospel. The faith-based, 501 (c) (3) nonprofit humanitarian agency is headquartered in Columbus, Georgia, and supports outreaches in India, Haiti, and Malawi

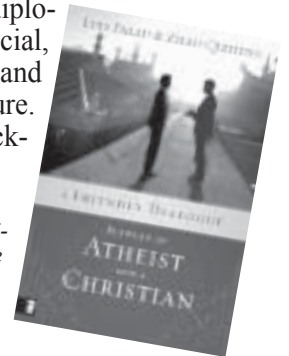
(Christian Newswire)

Gospels Approved for China Olympics

The Christian Post reports that although Chinese authorities had earlier said Olympic tourists would not be allowed to bring Bibles for "distribution or propaganda," officials are allowing the printing of 50,000 Gospel booklets for athletes, printers recently announced. In addition to the booklets, Amity Printing Press in Nanjing - the world's largest Bible production factory - is working in conjunction with the Bible Society to publish 30,000 Chinese-English New Testaments and 10,000 Chinese-English entire Bibles. "This great sporting event presents a unique opportunity to make the life-changing message of the Bible available to thousands of athletes and visitors from all over China -- and all over the world," said James Catford, chief executive of Bible Society. An estimated two million visitors and 16,000 athletes and officials will attend the Beijing Olympics, which begin Aug. 8.

American evangelist Luis Palau has been given permission to distribute copies of his book, *A Friendly Dialogue Between an Atheist and a Christian*, to athletes in Beijing. The book records a conversation between atheist Chinese diplomat Zhao Qizheng, a high-ranking Chinese government official, and Palau. The book offers a summary of Christian beliefs and philosophy of religion from the perspective of Chinese culture. Government approval for this book contrasts reports of crackdown on Christians, pastors and house churches.

Founded in 1816 and headquartered in New York City, the mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so that all people may experience its life-changing message. The American Bible Society Web site is www.americanbible.org.



"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."

- Matthew 28:19-20 (CEV)

LOCAL...


When Car Seats Become Church Pews

Like drive-in movies? Then maybe drive-in church is for you, according to an Associate Press story. "I think it's incredible," said Kapone's owner, Renee Ford-Murphy, who's been a member at New Hope United Methodist Church in Marietta, Ga., for three years. "I've never had an opportunity to worship in the open air like this." New Hope's pastor, Rev. Norman Markle, said there are 11 churches across the country that have drive-in services today, including Armbrust Wesleyan Church in

Armbrust, Pa., where the Markle got the idea. The service has all the markings of a traditional service - hymns, Scripture reading and a sermon - except attendees stay in their car or spread out a blanket. Markle hopes to attract new visitors to his 150-year-old church with this unique experience. "Maybe they don't have a church or don't care to get dressed up to go to church; let's find a way to eliminate all that," Markle said. "People go where they're comfortable."

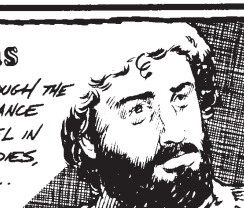
DID YOU KNOW?
by Eddie Eddings

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DID YOU KNOW ??
BY EDDIE EDDINGS

Thomas
WAS RUN THROUGH THE BODY WITH A LANCE AT CORAMANDEL IN THE EAST INDIES.



NOT A LEAF MOVES ON THE TREES UNLESS THE LORD HIMSELF DOETH PLEASE.

"IF A MAN GETS DRUNK AND GOES OUT AND BREAKS HIS LEG, SO THAT IT MUST BE AMPUTATED, GOD WILL FORGIVE HIM IF HE ASKS IT, BUT HE WILL HAVE TO HOP AROUND ON ONE LEG ALL HIS LIFE." — D.L. MOODY

The Merry Heart

Church mice
A Christian comic by Karl Zorowski

Church mice
Copyright 2007 Karl A. Zorowski

Panel 1: I'M NOT A RIGHTEOUS MAN, OH LORD... HOW CAN YOU LOVE ME?
You are special to me...

Panel 2: I've even got your picture on the front of my refrigerator...
COOL!

Panel 3: Mind you, it used to be on top of my stove!

<http://www.zorowski.com/churchmice>
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Panel 1: I WOULD BE JUST OUR LUCK FOR CHURCH TO BE RAPTURED NOW THAT WE'VE FINALLY PUT THE KIDS THROUGH COLLEGE AND PAID OFF THE MORTGAGE.

Panel 2: WHAT YOU JUST READ IN TODAY'S PAPER SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT I JUST READ ABOUT SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance..."
Proverbs 15:13 KJV

Panel 1: GOD THINKS I SHOULD SLEEP IN HERE 'TIL HE'S FINISHED MAKIN' IT THUNDER AN' LIGHTNIN'.

Panel 2: WITH THE AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM OUT, YOU YOUNG FELLOWS KNOW, WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO GO TO CHURCH IN THE 'GOOD OLD DAYS'.

Panel 1: THE MARKET PLACE ON SUNDAY IS A SEETHING DISGRACE...

Panel 2: BUSINESSES WIDE OPEN, COMPETING FOR THE DOLLAR...

Panel 3: DESECRATING THE LORD'S DAY TO THE TUNE OF THE CASH REGISTERS

Panel 4: MAYBE IT WON'T HURT TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING BEFORE CHURCH TONIGHT

Panel 1: JESUS SAID COMPEL THEM TO COME IN

Panel 2: FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, REACHING THE UNREACHED IS VITAL

Panel 3: I MUST GIVE IT EMPHASIS EQUAL TO MY TEACHING

Panel 4: ERMA BROWN? I CAN'T TALK TO HER ABOUT RELIGION—SHE'S MY NEIGHBOR!

Panel 5: PROSPECTS

Panel 1: THAT KIND OF STEWARDSHIP SERMON REALLY MAKES US THINK

Panel 2: I'M RESOLVING NOW TO HELP MORE WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF MY CHURCH

Panel 3: IN FACT, I'M GOING TO DOUBLE MY OFFERING

Panel 4: EVERY SUNDAY FROM NOW ON I'M GIVING A DOLLAR!

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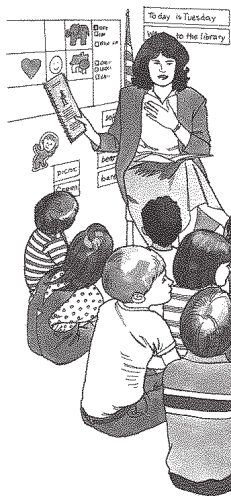
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Imagine It!

Garolyn Bown, Owner: All I Can Imagine

An Adventure in Reading – Teaching Your Preschooler to Read

Summer time and the livin' is easy – or so they say. But if you have preschoolers and it is time to begin teaching them their ABC's and introducing them to the wonderful world of letter sounds and words

you may have your work cut out for you.

Wise parents who want their children to become better learners throughout their school years, and especially in the early grades, will need to dig in and create fun learning times to begin the learning process of reading.

For parents with access to the Internet your resources are unlimited to help provide you with unique techniques and tools to make learning fun for both you and your child. Giving your child a good start in reading is important so let's talk about a few things you may want to consider.

If you are timid about beginning because you do not think you are especially skilled in reading, many public libraries offer adult literacy programs that involve reading to children as a way to improve literacy skills for the family. So to begin with your child's reading instruction, begin by teaching him his abc's and their sounds.

Spend time each day with your child and provide opportunities for him/her to practice with the sounds that make up words. Teach your child to recognize their letter names and that each letter has a unique sound. Provide a variety of "props" such as Little Reader Sight Word Blocks by ImagiPLAY. This set of 18 color coded blocks will introduce your preschooler to over 100 beginner sight words and make it fun because they will have fun playing with the bright colored blocks. Available online at <http://www.blocksand3dpuzzles.com/product/3018>.

As you continue to introduce new words to your child remember the importance of reading to your child. And, by setting an example when you yourself are reading, your child will be more likely to ask you to read to him. The quality of time you spend with your child is more important than the amount of time; just remember to be consistent. Make reading a part of each day – the more a child reads and is read to he will come to love the stories and the time you are spending with him.

It is important to choose stories of subjects that interest your child. I am a firm believer of taking children to the library as soon as they are old enough and allowing them to experience the excitement of all the variety of subjects available. Participate in the story times your library offers encourage your child to select a few new books to check out after each visit to the library.

After reading a book several times over to your child he will want to begin reading on his own. Patiently encourage him to sound out words he does not know instantly. Take his books with you on the road when ever you travel. Instead of plopping your child in front of the waiting room TV, the time will pass quicker when you pull out a book and suggest reading together.

During your daily living activities continue your child's learning phonics by pointing out words on boxes, magazines, labels, signs, and newspapers you are reading. Make learning fun and your child will love all the attention he is getting from you. As you continue to praise his efforts and successes you will build up your child's self confidence and encourage him to continue his love for reading.

When your child enters school you will want to find out about their reading programs and find ways that you can help. At school you will see that teachers are continuing in your child's phonics education that you began at home if your child happens to need more practice. Remember, that as on an average, children need about two years of instruction in phonics relationships to become the good reader you expect and to go on to be good at spelling as well.

If you have been reading to your child and discussing sounds, words, and their meanings, teachers will have an easier time introducing new words that are important to the understanding of new books in the classroom. Because teachers cannot possibly teach children the meaning of every new word they see it is important to have a children's dictionary in your home. Children will have fun learning how to use a dictionary with all the

pretty pictures that accompany the words and as your child sees all the other new words on a dictionary page many new teaching opportunities will arise.

Finally, to help build your child's reading comprehension you will want to talk with your child about what he is reading or what he read in school. Asking him about the characters, places and events will help him to realize what he has read and the meaning of it. As your child talks about the characters he is also building his communication skills and learning to express his thoughts and feelings.

As always, continue to encourage your child to read. When you do so you will be opening the doors to whole new worlds. You will be helping your child develop a love of stories and they will want to read more on their own. As your child becomes a reader their world is forever expanded and enriched. Helping your child become a reader is an adventure you will not want to miss.



Garolyn Bowen owns *All I Can Imagine* (a certified Family Friendly Website) that sells new eco friendly children's learning and fun toys. Website has parent and teacher resources, activities, and animal facts that coordinate with the animal puzzles. Visit www.blocksand3dpuzzles.com



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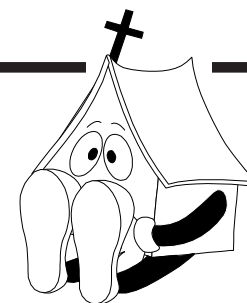


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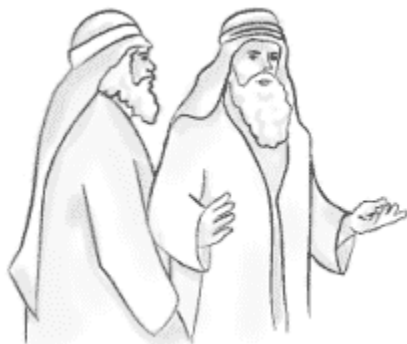
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KIDS

DEVOTIONS



Divided Kingdom



When King Solomon died Rehoboam, his son, became the next King. The people said to Rehoboam: "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor... and we will serve you." (1Kings 12:4 NIV) Rehoboam asked the elders for their advice and then asked the young men he grew up with for their advice. Read 1 Kings 12:7 (NIV) to see what the elders advised.

"If today you will be a _____ to these people and serve them and give them a _____ answer they will always be your _____."

Read 1 Kings 12:11 (NIV) to see what the young men advised.

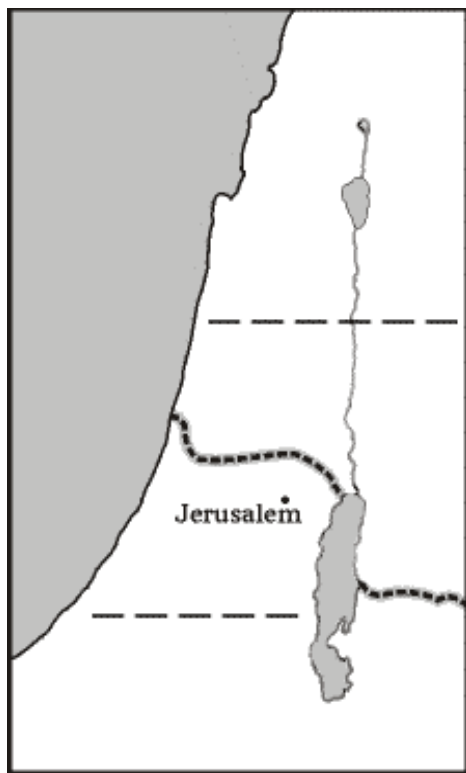


"Tell these people . . . "My _____ laid on you a _____ yoke; I will make it even _____."

Rehoboam took the advice of the young men. When the Israelites heard his answer they were very angry and said they wanted another man be their king. His name was Jeroboam. So the 10 tribes of Israel had Jeroboam as their king and the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin kept Rehoboam as their king.

Rehoboam wanted to go to war to force the 10 tribes to accept him as king but God told him not to. Israel was now divided into two kingdoms: Israel to the North and Judah to the South.

Fill in the blank spaces on the map with the names of the two Kingdoms.



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Divided Kingdom

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Read 1 Kings 12:7 (NIV) to see what the elders advised.

"If today you will be a _____ to these people and serve them and give them a _____ answer they will always be your _____."

Read 2 Kings 12:11 (NIV) to see what the young men advised.

"Tell these people . . . "My _____ laid on you a _____ yoke; I will make it even _____."

Rehoboam took the advice of the young men. When the Israelites heard his answer they were very angry and said they wanted another man be their king. His name was Jeroboam. So the 10 tribes of Israel had Jeroboam as their king and the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin kept Rehoboam as their king.

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Church Mice

A Christian Comic Strip by Karl Zorowski

The cartoon that dares to ask:
"What's so funny about church?"

Visit us on the web at:
<http://www.zorowski.com/churchmice>

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Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-3

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5 Ships Needed to Take Your Church into the Future

One of the most common mistakes made by leaders is changing courses to fast. A church is a lot like a ship. If you turn too fast, you will turn the boat over. The sea of life is full of sunken ships that would have survived if the leaders would have transitioned instead of forcing abrupt and immediate change. Change is not accepted merely because it is needed. Many people know things need to change, but would rather settle for mediocrity than venture into the unknown seas of an uncertain future. People will only accept change if their leader has enough influence, track record and integrity to ensure a safe trip into uncharted waters. Changing a church requires at least 5 ships: Leadership, Worship, Discipleship, Stewardship and Fellowship.

Leadership- Unless the leaders are on board, change will be resisted and confusion is imminent. All of the questions have to be answered among the leaders, before the visions is cast to the rest of the congregation. Corporate vision casting should never catch your leaders off guard.

Worship- The key to a successful worship service is flow. A worship service that doesn't have constant interruption points gives you a seamless experience with God. A service with flow gets you into His presence, and there your mind can be changed. Change must be perceived as spiritual growth. Nothing says that like a seamless flow in a worship experience.

Discipleship- Solve your problems in the smallest possible component. The quickest avenue of change is through small groups. Your discipleship program not only gives you the best results for personal growth, but also provided the perfect vehicle for corporate growth. Vision trickles down from the top. As the leaders cast the vision, the small groups leaders can have unprecedented influence in creating positive momentum.



Stewardship- The first question concerning change is, "can we afford it." Churches have got to start thinking outside the offering plate. Growing churches need to create income streams that fuel their ministry budgets. A stewardship plan up front makes a huge impact on how people perceive ideas for change.

Fellowship- The larger a church becomes, the better it has to do small. Connectivity is the key to cohesiveness. Never underestimate the power of a night of eating, laughing and enjoying each other. The church is in the relationship business. We create an environment where individuals can have a personal relationship with God and the family of God. Friends can change the hearts of another friend much quicker than the best ran campaign. All Aboard!

Written by Bryan Cutshall. www.churchtrainer.com

“And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.” II Thessalonians 3:5



Photo by Barbara Scott

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
 Where there is injury, pardon,
 Where there is doubt, faith,
 Where there is despair, hope,
 Where there is darkness, light,
 And where there is sadness, joy.
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not
 so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
 To be understood, as to understand;
 To be loved, as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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