

SonBurst News



A CONSERVATIVE VOICE INFORMING, EDUCATING, AND EDIFYING THE READER

Volume 16 Issue 2

COMPLIMENTARY

April - June 2008

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV



Portrait of a President

The American Bible Society has discovered what America wants in a President, based upon research done through a Zogby Poll.

A nationwide survey of likely voters shows that the majority of those questioned want someone who mirrors biblical ideals of leadership. Truthfulness and integrity, by far, topped the list of the characteristics respondents feel are most important. And they say they want a leader who is, in essence, a servant and mindful of accountability to God.

Three-quarters of the likely voters agree that it is appropriate that every President since George Washington has been sworn into office with a hand on a Bible. Also, about six in ten say that they would be more likely to vote for a presidential candidate who speaks publicly about following the example of admirable leaders from the Bible and who consistently uses the Bible for guidance in both public and personal matters.

A whopping 78 percent of respondents—86 percent of women and 68 percent of men—view candidates citing Scripture, when speaking about political positions, as positive.

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Millions of Americans Expected to Gather on May 1st, 2008 to Pray for America

Christian Newswire- Tens of thousands of prayer events are planned across the country on Thursday May 1, 2008 in recognition of the 57th Annual National Day of Prayer. In churches, parks and on courthouse steps, citizens will pray for our nation; government leaders, media, military, schools, churches, businesses and families.

This year's theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" is based on Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped." The Lord hears and responds to His children's cry for help. He is their strength, refuge, and courage in personal and national times of suffering, despair and loss.

"This is a critical time to be in prayer for our country. The biblical principles upon which America was founded are under attack in every segment of society," said Shirley Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

"We pray God will raise righteous leaders for our country."

Mrs. Dobson also announced Ravi Zacharias as the 2008 honorary chairman. He will address the National Observance at the Cannon House Office Bldg. and the Pentagon celebration, both in Washington, D.C. President of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, he is also an acclaimed Christian scholar, apologist, author and speaker. In honor of the National Day of Prayer, he has authored the book, "Is There Not a Cause", which links the story of Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem to the task that Christ has given us today to reach the lost. *See page 13 for more.*

About the National Day of Prayer: Recognizing that prayer has been and continues to be an integral part of our nation's history, Congress established the National Day of Prayer in 1952. This observance is currently held on the first Thursday each May, when all Americans are encouraged to exercise their religious freedom by gathering publicly to worship and pray for our land. Visit nationaldayofprayer.org to learn more.

Political Shifts Among Evangelicals

Christian Newswire-- Traditionally, evangelicals and other values voters have voted for conservative candidates who share their worldview and beliefs on the social issues. In a political climate where those values are not fully embraced by any of the candidates, political analysts contend that such voters are turning to the candidate who is most attractive or who "seems" to be "speaking their language."

Dr. Janice Shaw Crouse, former Bush 41 presidential speech writer and a spokesperson for Concerned Women for America, said, "Increasingly, the left is recognizing that the values voters are a huge voting bloc that is up for grabs in this election -- the same voting bloc that put George Bush in the White House. Many of those values voters have said that there is no place for them to go in this election, so they are considering sitting out the general election. The left is convinced that if they speak the rhetoric of values, they can lure those voters into their fold. Thus, we are hearing religious, social conservative lingo from the mouths of non-native speakers of the language."

Crouse concluded, "Much is made of the three-legged stool for political conservatives -- one leg for economic conservatives, another for social conservatives and the third for foreign policy hawks. Right now, the stool has only two legs -- the economic and foreign policy ones. While those legs are sturdy, it will take a third, strong social conservative leg to rally the values voters who are, first and foremost, pro-life, pro-marriage and pro-family. Without their voice in the November general election, the conservative stool will be very wobbly."

Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization.



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SonBurst News

Muslims to Outnumber Catholics in Britain within 10 Years

Jeremy Reynolds

LONDON (ANS)- A Britain's Telegraph newspaper reported that a study shows the number of Muslims worshipping at mosques in England and Wales will overtake the numbers of Roman Catholics going to church in just over a decade.

The Telegraph reported that the projections, published in April, estimate that if those trends continue, the number of Catholics attending Sunday Mass will fall to 679,000 by 2020. By that time, statisticians predict, the number of Muslims praying in mosques on Fridays will have increased to 683,000.

The Telegraph said that the figures, based on British government and academic sources and the latest edition of Christian Research's Religious Trends, come amid growing tensions over the place of Muslims in British society.

They follow heated debate over the extent to which Islamic law should be recognized, and claims that "no-go" areas for non-Muslims are emerging in parts of the country.

The Telegraph reported that Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, provoked criticism by saying the introduction of some aspects of sharia (Islamic law) into British society was "unavoidable."

The Bishop of Rochester, the Rt. Rev. Michael Nazir-Ali, faced death threats after writing in The Sunday Telegraph that Islamic extremism was turning some

communities into "no-go" areas, "where adherence to this ideology has become a mark of acceptability."

Peter Brierley, a former Government statistician who edited the latest Religious Trends, said that the continuing growth of the Muslim population since the 2001 census would have significant implications for society. The Daily Express recently revealed controversial plans to let Islamic imams (ministers) teach the Koran nationwide in state schools across Britain.

The Express reported that the man who compiled the latest figures, Peter Brierley, a former government statistician, said the trends were bound to have "massive implications" for society.

Nicola Bourque, professor of religious studies at Glasgow University, told the Express, "Attendance at Catholic churches is declining. Many people are Catholic but don't go to church. These days, mosques act as a community center in a way that churches don't."

The National Union of Teachers -- Britain's biggest teaching union -- is behind calls to teach the Koran.

The Express reported that Steve Sinnott, the general secretary, said it would "reunite" divided communities, and also demanded that Christian schools admit pupils from other faiths.

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Archeological Proof of Jesus' Life Abounds

Religion Today: While archeological proof of Jesus' birth may be scarce, there's no shortage of evidence supporting the reality of His life on earth, a seminary professor told Baptist Press. L. Scott Kellum, assistant professor of New Testament and Greek at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., gave examples including the identification of Peter's house at Capernaum and the limestone coffin -- called an ossuary -- of Caiaphas, the high-priest who interrogated Jesus.

Kellum also noted that archeologists have found a Christian burial site dated to A.D. 50 at Bethany; Jacob's well mentioned in John 4 in the story of the

woman at the well; the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus taught; the pool of Siloam; a fishing boat big enough to carry 13 men; the possible tomb of Lazarus; and other sites and finds that, to varying degrees, validate the Gospels and Jesus. "Even though rare, some sites regarding the nativity bear the stamp of probability," Kellum said.

"Under the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, there is a cave which probably was a first-century storeroom. Given the family of Mary is known to have lived in Nazareth well into the third century, the veneration of this site may mark the actual place where Gabriel spoke to the mother of Jesus."

Creation Museum Surpassing Expectations

Religion Today- Eight months after it opened, the Creation Museum near Cincinnati still has its secular detractors, but its success in attendance is erasing any doubts it can succeed, Baptist Press reports. Officials with the museum say they surpassed their one-year attendance goal in only seven months, drawing 290,000 visitors through the end of 2007. When the museum opened on Memorial Day, officials said their 12-month goal in attendance was 250,000. They passed the 300,000 mark Jan. 9. Kurt Wise, a consultant for the museum and professor of science and theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said, "A lot of Christians who are creationists want an alternative to the fabulous museums that we have -- the Field Museum [in Chicago] and the Smithsonian and so on. They like taking their kids to those places, but they want to see the creation model presented, and that's especially true for homeschool groups. It's filled a void that probably never had been filled." Mark Looy, a vice president for Answers in Genesis, said 200 media outlets have either visited the museum or conducted telephone interviews.

Grassfire.org

Grassfire.org is one of the nation's fastest growing grassroots organizations.

The leadership team holds a strong and unwavering commitment to conservative, pro-family and pro-faith values. It has become one of the most innovative and impactful online, conservative organizations in the country, giving a voice to concerned citizens.

Under the leadership of Steve Elliott, Grassfire.org has rallied citizens on a host of grassroots issues, including border security, tax reform, abortion, traditional marriage, supporting our troops, exposing media bias and defending the Pledge of Allegiance.



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A Conservative Voice
Informing, Educating, and Edifying
the Reader



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It is not our intent to teach doctrine or endorse any political party but to reach across communities and denominations to share the news and events that directly impact our faith, our families, and our freedom while promoting traditional family values.

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'Window to the Womb' Creator Puts 4D Ultrasound,

Pro-Life Video Footage on YouTube

Christian Newswire-- In 1990, Shari Richard pioneered the use of ultrasound technology in pregnancy centers, and created the video Window to the Womb to make that footage available to the largest possible audience. That same goal has now prompted her to post footage from her many productions on the video sharing website, YouTube.

In addition to footage from Shari's first two videos, Windows to the Womb and Eyewitness to the Earliest Days of Life of which over 500,000 copies were distributed and translated worldwide, footage from her new 4D ultrasound DVD Eyewitness 2: The Next Generation and The Heart of the Mission training program for pregnancy centers is also available for watching on YouTube.

The videos can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ragemedia>. Viewers are encouraged to take an active role by sharing and embedding the videos on their web sites, MySpace and FaceBook pages.

Previous videos and footage produced by Richard has educated millions on fetal development and child birth issues, as over 500,000 copies of her videos have been distributed and translated worldwide. Over the past 18 years, Richard's footage has been viewed on commercial ads and numerous local and national television documentaries. Her videos have been translated into several languages including Korean, Spanish, French, German, Russian, Romanian, Portuguese, Italian, and Hebrew.

In October 2007, Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) used ultrasound footage from Richard's videos during a House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing on the Mexico City Policy. Among the footage used was that of a baby named George, whose acrobatics are also available on YouTube.

"You are to be highly commended generally for using your professional skills and knowledge to raise public awareness about the beautiful, early stages of human life," said Rep. Smith.

Richard, who has appeared on national radio and television programs, has also lectured in schools and conducted workshops for pregnancy centers, and given presentations for other organizations. She is available for speaking engagements and media interviews.

Shari Richard is an Obstetrical Ultrasound Expert and Educator whose medical experience spans 32 years. She is the founder of Sound Wave Images through which she produced the videos, Window to the Womb, Eyewitness To The Earliest Days Of Life, Eyewitness 2 -The Next Generation and the CD 9 Months... from Conception to Birth and Beyond.

For more information, visit www.unborn.com.

"The Church's calling is to challenge secularism,
not to surrender to it."

John Stott

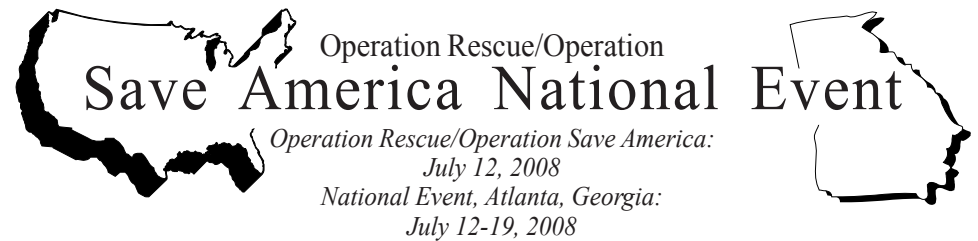
Faith, Family and Freedom



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God bless America!
God bless our troops!

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Twenty years ago in Atlanta, Georgia, God birthed a movement fueled by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and immersed in a single word -

"repentance."

This move of God radically changed the face of American Christianity and the pro-life movement. This took place twenty years ago at the Democratic National Convention in downtown Atlanta. It was here that the Church of Jesus Christ dared to allow the theology of the church to become biography in the streets.

I stood amazed as I watched by television in Dallas, Texas. Precious Christians were laying their lives down in front of abortion mill doors so that others, who could not speak for themselves, could live. I saw gentle Christians, young and old, black and white, male and female, being thrown into paddy wagons and carted off to the County Jail because they were living out their faith.

The national media, already in Atlanta to cover the Democratic National Convention, ran to the scene of these "Rescues." It recorded for the entire world to see, Christianity coming out of the closet and expressing, by its actions that children in the womb deserved a defense better than politicians could give. The media spent more time covering the "Rescues" than the Convention. No doubt the Democratic ticket that year (Michael Dukakis and Geraldine Ferraro) inspired no one. But it was God Himself who was orchestrating His platform. He had something to say to America.

For the first time in my life, I saw real Christianity lived out in the streets by large numbers of Christians. I was overwhelmed by the power and authority that they carried throughout the city. I wanted to be one of them.

Rescue became a national phenomenon that summer of 1988 because, to the astonishment of all, the Light of the World actually became the light of the world. God's Church came out! People were getting saved, babies were being saved, hearts were being changed, and Christians were begin-

ning to realize that they had power from heaven when they accepted their responsibility to storm the gates of hell. They weren't waiting for the Democrats or the Republicans to get it right.

Twenty years ago in Atlanta, we saw what God would do if we simply gave Him an opportunity. It is time for us to do it again. The saints in Atlanta are discouraged after the recent defeat of the "Paramount Human Life Amendment" (HR536) on February 20, 2008. So called "Republican friends" felt HR 536 went too far and would never be passed. These politicians promoted compromise above biblical principle. They would not give the saints in Atlanta a chance to fight and win. They simply surrendered, and we all lost.

This July 12-19, we are asking you to join us in Atlanta, as we bring the Church of Jesus Christ to the very gates of hell - the local abortion mills. There are eleven free standing abortion mills in this city. Those faithful saints who have been fighting this battle for years are greatly encouraged that we are coming. Let's give 'em heaven in Atlanta and see what God Himself will do. When we take our position of responsibility, God's authority (power) will follow.

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord, of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!" Psalm 84:11-12

Operation Rescue/Operation Save America unashamedly takes up the cause of preborn children in the name of Jesus Christ. We employ only biblical principles. The Bible is our foundation; the Cross of Christ is our strategy; the repentance of the Church of Jesus Christ is our ultimate goal. As the Church changes its heart toward unborn children, God Himself will hear from heaven, forgive our sin, and bring healing to our land.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only answer to the abortion holocaust. It is upon our active repentance in the streets of our cities that the Gospel is visibly lived out. We become to the church, to our city, and to our nation living parables which rightly represent God's heart toward His helpless children. There are no cheap political solutions to the holocaust presently ravaging our nation. Like slavery before it, abortion is preeminently a Gospel issue. The Cross of Christ is the only solution.

Christian Living

Why Religious People Still Trust Their Houses of Worship with Financial Support Author, Expert in Philanthropy Explains Why Even

Scandals Won't Stop The Charitable Spirit

By Dr. Steve McSwain

The lion-share of charity is given each year by individuals. This year will be no exception and, by far, the largest percentage of it will be directed to churches, synagogues and temples. With the abuses of televangelists over the years and the reports of abuse by clergy reported almost daily, why do religious people continue to support their agencies and houses of worship?

Most religious people give to their church, synagogue or temple, first and foremost, as an act of personal devotion. That means they view their charity as a spiritual exchange--a kind of human/divine connection. That gives their charitable inclinations an indomitable quality capable of surviving setbacks--even scandals.

When this is not the case, however, and charitable giving is done for any reason other than this, their charitable spirit is vulnerable to scandal and will quickly lose its enduring capacity. A spiritual motivation is the highest motivation to give. As long as it stays that way, generosity will abound.

Religious people, whose giving to houses of worship constitute a staggering thirty-two percent of the total given to charity last year - or, nearly \$100 billion of the \$300 billion given, do so simply because they believe their gifts support ministries and services that are having a positive impact on their culture and community. If religious leaders will make it their aim to provide visible evidence that a donor's generosity is being invested in worthwhile causes, these religious leaders and their agencies will always have

the donor's financial support. The converse, however, is equally true. Religious leaders may be saying to donors, "Show us the money!" but donors will always say, "Show me the results!" The more a donor knows, the more a donor gives.

Fraud, waste, and organizational inefficiency will kill a public charity, as the Wall Street Journal recently reported (12/10/07). And, while the same can have a devastating impact on a church, synagogue, or temple, the consequences are not normally as terminal. This is not true of media ministries, however. They operate more like public charities. At first, religious people may give to these charismatic personalities but, once they are exposed for fraud, extravagance, or operational inefficiency, donors will jump ship just as quickly as they do with any other public charity.

Religious leaders should be transparent with ALL financial matters. By and large, people want to trust their religious leaders and agencies to do the right thing. Therefore, leaders must guard against anything that would undermine that sacred trust.

In recent years, for example, there's been a tendency in some agencies to become more secretive with things like clergy salaries and expenditures, on the argument that clergy deserve to enjoy privacy and shouldn't have their salaries publicly disclosed. In many places, the real reason salaries are not openly revealed is because they are higher than the majority of worshipers enjoy themselves.

Religious organizations that make available a complete accounting of funds will succeed in building a foundation of trust that already exists.

Religious people who regularly practice generosity are healthier and happier people. Recently, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Maryland, studied the brain activity of nineteen men and women each of whom was given 128 dollars and asked to make decisions about whether to keep it all or give some or all of it away. Most chose to give it away and researchers discovered that giving, even when it did not cost the donor anything personal still activated two areas of the brain. One is that region of the brain that enables people to form and maintain meaningful relationships. The other area is where the chemical dopamine is produced which gives pleasurable feelings during activities like eating.

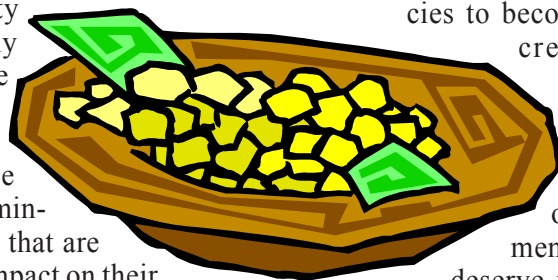
The study concluded, when people give, they not only feel better, they are better. Generous people have known this centuries, if only innately. The spiritual leader himself once said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It's as if a spirit of giving is written into the DNA of every person. Giving is the principle purpose of human existence, as I describe in greater detail in the book, *The Giving Myths: Giving then Getting the Life You've Always Wanted*. The life everyone really wants is not found in getting, but in giving.



Survey Shows there are 5 Types of U.S. Christians

According to ChristianityToday, even though the United States is described as largely Christian (between 70-80 percent), not all within this vast group of Christians are alike.

Christianity Today International partnered with Zondervan Publishers to commission Knowledge Networks to conduct attitudinal and behavioral research of U.S. Christians. In September 2006, they surveyed more than 1,000 self-identified Christians of at least 18 years of age. Subjects were surveyed on their religious beliefs and practices. What emerged were portraits five distinct segments of American Christianity: Active Christians 19 percent, Professing Christians 20 percent, Liturgical Christians 16 percent, Private Christians 24 percent, and Cultural Christians 21 percent.



Dr. Steve McSwain is Senior Vice President of Cargill Associates, Inc., an industry leader in philanthropy and fund-raising with more than 30 years of service, thousands of clients, and billions raised for charitable causes. He is an expert in the fields of philanthropy, annual and capital fund-raising, personal growth, and spiritual development. A dynamic communicator, Dr. McSwain speaks to thousands each year on how to find the meaning of life in giving yourself away and sharing your abundance with the world.



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GOOD NEWS!

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."
John 8:32 KJV

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:
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Portrait of a President

continued from page 1

A surprising number of respondents (95 percent) said they have some interaction with the Bible, ranging from well aware to exploring the contents of the Bible.

Interestingly, younger respondents are more likely to vote for a presidential candidate who sees the office as a privilege to serve others, with a responsibility to God. Some 84 percent of those 18-29 said this would have an impact on their vote, while only 62 percent of respondents 50-64 said this would influence their decision.

In addition, nearly 50 percent of likely voters indicated that they would not vote for a presidential candidate who does not believe in God, while

20 percent said they would vote for such a candidate and another 20 percent agree that this would not affect their vote.

Participants in the poll, conducted January 25-27, were evenly divided geographically and mirror the U.S. population with reference to age and race. The survey of 1008 adults has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percent.

Those responding tended to be rather well-educated, with 75 percent reporting some college education or having a college degree. And nearly one quarter said they were born-again.

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.Bibles.com.



From the Editor

We are truly blessed to be able to bring this publication ministry to you. Every issue is a victory celebration of a spiritual battle fought. This publication is a true labor of love and dedication to the written word, and the impact it can have on a society. I am very excited to bring this particular issue to you, it is filled with important information about news that directly impacts our faith, our families and our freedoms.

This year, we've entered into the political arena, filled with controversy and personal agendas. The results of voters decisions will forever change our society and many of its freedoms. When speaking with people, I am amazed how steadfast they are to vote for a peculiar leader, and their reasoning behind their choice. Usually, it has to do with the economy. When asked, I reply that I have to vote my conscience, and therefore the most conservative, family orientated politician will get my support. We each have to personally decide the most desired outcome of this election - how do we want the next president to shape America's values and freedoms? I wonder how many citizens will actually take the time and effort to educate themselves on the important issues at stake. There are many resources available on the various platforms and the candidate's stand.

It's our goal to be that conservative voice in our communities and to celebrate family traditions as well as educate and edify our readers. The last issue was distributed via email all across the United States, in a matter of only minutes! In addition, local churches and business receive SonBurst News free of charge. SonBurst News can be sent directly to your email as a .pdf file. Just let us know where to send it. Then we ask that you forward the email and .pdf file to everyone you know. The most recent issues of SonBurst News are available on our website for free, easy download.

We plead for your prayers and would love to hear your comments or ideas. As SonBurst News reaches across the country and denominations to support the efforts of other ministries, we are trusting in our Lord to meet the needs of this publication ministry.

In His Service,

Barbara Scott
Publisher/Editor



"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"
2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (New Living Translation)

Internet Evangelist Bill Keller 'Debates' Oprah,

Calling her the High Priestess of the New Age Movement

Christian Newswire- Founder of Liveprayer.com, Bill Keller has engaged in a "high tech cyber debate" with the most powerful woman in the media, Oprah Winfrey, who Keller called "the most dangerous woman on the planet" in a recent FOX News appearance. During this web debate, Keller is seen responding to comments made by Oprah.

Keller, who reaches over 2.4 million subscribers worldwide every day with his Daily Devotional, and hundreds of thousands more on his "live" TV program seen now exclusively at LivePrayer.com ever Mon-Fri at 10pm EDT, has been exposing Oprah for years to his audience as a false prophet.

Keller contends the New Age teachings Oprah promotes, lead people away from Biblical Truth and faith in Jesus Christ, which the Bible states is the only way to be saved. Keller has called these New Age teachings "spiritual crack," since they make people feel good for a short period, but leave them wanting more, and ultimately put them on a road to destruction.

Keller commented, "Oprah is free to believe whatever she wants. However, she claims to be a Christian, yet denies that Jesus is the only way to be saved,



and the Bible is the only Truth. She clearly has no idea what being a Christian means, since she is being used ... to lead the souls of men to hell with these New Age lies she promotes."

You can see this "high tech cyber debate" at: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=3BjL4Y9UOpw>

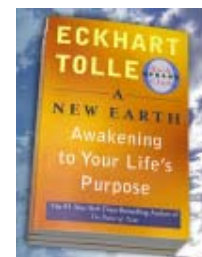
About Bill Keller

The press has crowned him the Dr. Phil of Prayer and the next big thing in mass media religion. Bill Keller is the host of Live Prayer with Bill Keller, the nation's only live call-in faith and values-based program airing exclusively on the internet. The program deals head-on with issues ranging from divorce, homosexuality, abortion, sexual abuse, pornography, drug addiction, radical Islam, race relations, spousal abuse, false prophets and more, from a conservative, biblical worldview. Live Prayer is unscripted and unedited, giving it a fresh and totally spontaneous approach to problem solving. The program can be seen live, Monday through Friday from 10PM to 11AM EST, and 24/7 through programs archived on LivePrayer.com. Live Prayer with Bill Keller is positioned to become the world's most-watched internet television broadcast. For information please visit www.liveprayer.com

About Live Prayer.com

In 1999, Keller launched LivePrayer.com, which has become the most successful online faith outreach in history. Since its inception, LivePrayer.com has responded personally to more than 60 million online requests for prayer. Additionally, Keller's Live Prayer devotional is received daily by nearly 2.5 million email subscribers, making Keller devotional one of the most read e-communications in the world. For information on where to watch Live Prayer in your area, visit www.liveprayer.com

Oprah Winfrey Denies Jesus Christ?



According to Christian Newswire, Oprah Winfrey has recently taken up preaching - including pushing Eckhart Tolle's new book A New Earth - on the idea there are now millions of ways to get to heaven. Now, Winfrey has in effect denied the teachings of the Bible and of Jesus by asking her viewing audience, "How can there be only one way to heaven or to God?" When a woman in her audience asked, "What about Jesus?" Oprah answered by repeating the question, "What about Jesus?" She then explained she had been a Baptist until she heard a charismatic pastor say God was a jealous God. In her opinion God was simply love, and God being described as jealous made her really stop and think.

Don Swarthout, President of Christians Reviving America's Values said, "Oprah Winfrey has in reality just exposed her own lack of understanding

about the God of Christianity... for Oprah to come out against [biblical] teaching so strongly is simply appalling." Rebecca Chadwick of CRAVE commented, "All cults share the same premise; they misrepresent the nature of God. Let's pray for Oprah and Tolle... and all those who are lost."

Additional notes - you decide:

Eckhart Tolle bio states that he "is a contemporary spiritual teacher who is not aligned with any particular religion or tradition. In his writing and seminars, he conveys a simple yet profound message with the timeless and uncomplicated clarity of the ancient spiritual masters."

Oprah Winfrey states on her website that "Being able to share this material with you is a gift and a part of the fulfillment of my life's purpose." She added, "It was an awakening for me that I want for you, too." The 10 week course includes inner Meditations, breathing exercises, and Awakening exercises to help achieve these objectives.

Home & Family

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Poll Confirms

Parents' Influence on Teens' Religious Activities

When parents read the Bible, pray and attend worship services, teens do too



Christian Newswire- When it comes to attending church, praying and reading the Bible, the apple does not fall far from the tree. A recent poll of teens and their parents overwhelmingly confirms that parents have the most influence on their children's religious activity.

A survey -- the first to examine teens' and their parents' views of the Bible -- commissioned by the American Bible Society and conducted by Weekly Reader Research, found that almost 80 percent of America's 30.2 million 12-18 year olds think the Bible is important and 87 percent of parents think the Bible is important. However, the results show that parents still have work to do. Of the 47 percent of teens who think the Bible is very important, only 11 percent read the Bible daily.

Ten percent of America's 12-18 year-olds participate in daily Bible reading, a higher level than reported in a June 2006 survey done by the Bible Society. In that measurement, six percent of teens said they read the Bible daily. A third of teens attend weekly worship services and more than 80 percent believe their prayers are answered some or all the time.

Children mirror their parents' behavior. Parents who attend church weekly tend to have teens that worship weekly, while 78 percent of parents who never attend worship services have teens who never attend. The same correlation applies to Bible reading and prayer habits. Parents who responded positively to the question of whether it is important to raise children with religious or spiritual values had children who were significantly involved with faith.

This survey corroborates one of the findings of June 2006 The Bible Society/Weekly Reader Research poll of teens about their heroes. That poll revealed that 67.7% of 12-18-year-olds believe parents are the most important role models in today's society.

This survey mirrored the U.S. population with reference to geography, age and race. The survey of 3095 participants has a margin of error of +/- 2.2 percent.



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.Bibles.com.



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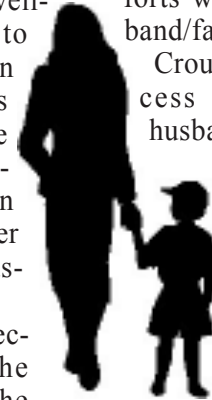
Well-Educated Women Breaking Glass Ceiling of Home

Christian Newswire- While feminists are bemoaning the return of well-educated, fast-track women to their homes to raise their own children, many of today's women are unwilling to make the kind of trade-offs that previous generations of career women made when climbing the career ladder meant not having a husband or children.

Dr. Janice Shaw Crouse, Director and Senior Fellow of the Beverly LaHaye Institute (the think tank for Concerned Women for America) said, "Both male and female professionals today rate personal and family goals higher than career goals. These findings indicate a profound shift of attitude in the workforce. Further, they reveal a partnership among parents that was lacking in previous

generations where all the family efforts were concentrated on the husband/father's career."

Crouse added, "A wife's career success pales in comparison to a husband's attitudes in breaking the glass ceiling of home. A husband's beliefs about family, the value of marriage, desire for children and respect for traditional gender roles determines whether a wife reports happiness with the love and affection of her husband. This family fact may reveal more about the career choices being made by today's well-educated women than all the statistics and workplace data. In the final analysis, perhaps breaking the ceiling at home is more important to women than breaking the corporate ceilings."



Christian Youth Expert Says

Most Teens Swayed by Society, Not God

OneNewsNow.com reports that Christian author and youth expert Jeffrey Dean says many teenagers are caught up in a race to survive and are missing out on the abundant life promised by Christ. Dean, an author and speaker to teenagers at conferences, seminars, and retreats, says many Christian teenagers are confused at the messages they hear from secular media. In particular, teenage girls must see themselves as God sees them. "It is our desire to really help girls understand -- even Genesis 1:27, where it says, you were created in God's image -- [that they] are the mirror of God. When he sees you, he sees something beautiful. And how are you mirroring that to the world? And let me help you understand -- your definition of womanhood has nothing to do with the world's standards; it's not about your body size, your chest size, the color of your hair or who's taking you to the prom. It's about God's created you for a purpose." Dean is also perplexed that so many youth do not have a daily quiet time with God.

Statistics Show Traditional Families on the Rebound

OneNewsNow reports that statistics released by the Census Bureau are being acknowledged by many pro-family advocates as a good development for the traditional notion of two-parent families. The Census Bureau's report of 2004 surveys says nearly 62 percent of the nation's 73 million children live with both biological parents.

The New York Times reports that the statistics represent a major trend slow-

down between 2004 and a previous survey in 1990 versus a dramatic loss in two-parent homes and an increase in single-female parent homes between 1970 and 1990. Mike McManus, co-founder of Marriage Savers, calls the statistics "a good sign" and notes that "more and more marriages are staying together and fewer and fewer children are having [to suffer] these kinds of effects."

Promote Healthy Marriages and Families

'My administration will give unprecedented support to strengthening marriages.

Many good programs help couples who want to get married and stay married.' President Bush, Feb. 26, 2002



Christian Newswire- The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) convened April 15 for a Compassion in Action policy roundtable, highlighting innovative policies and partnerships to strengthen marriages and families. Hosted by OFBCI Director Jay Hein, the event explored effective models for Federal collaboration with faith-based and community organizations to help Americans who choose marriage succeed in marriage and, in turn, promote the well-being of our nation's communities.

Bringing together policymakers, business leaders, philanthropists, government officials and others, the Compassion in Action roundtable featured promising public-private partnerships, new research, and activities of philanthropic organizations to strengthen the institution of marriage. Featured speakers included Joyce Thomas, regional administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families; Wade Horn, director of Deloitte Consulting LLP; Randy Hicks, president of the Georgia Family Council; and representatives from other philanthropic and non-government organizations.

"Healthy marriages are a keystone to the success of our nation," said Director Jay Hein. "Working alongside community leaders to strengthen marriages in America, we help ensure a more hopeful future of our children and our society."

President Bush has led efforts to promote healthy marriages and parenting education, placing emphasis on innovative partnerships with community efforts to improve the well-being of families throughout the nation. For example, the Healthy Marriage Initiative at HHS' Administration for Children and Families provides couples with knowledge and guidance on sustaining healthy marriages

and parenting relationships. Additionally, HHS' Promoting Responsible Fatherhood initiative provides resources to help fathers play a positive role in their children's lives, particularly within a healthy marriage environment.

Evidence suggests that the health of marriage in America will play a key role in determining the future of our children, families and society itself. A study released today by the Institute for American Values titled, *The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing*, reveals the cost of family fragmentation to taxpayers and concludes that unnecessary divorce and unmarried childbearing carry profound public policy implications. The study also examines positive personal and societal impacts of healthy marriages and child rearing, which lead to decreased need for publicly-funded social programs.



Additionally, a 2005 study by HHS' Center for Marriage and Families titled, *Why Marriage Matters, Second Edition*, examines the importance of marriage on families and American society. The study indicates that, particularly among minorities, couples from disadvantaged backgrounds who marry and stay married are much less likely to suffer poverty or other material hardship. The research also concludes that married men are less likely to engage in violent and criminal activity. These and other family and marriage studies help shine a light on deep-seated societal issues in ways that can guide government and private-sector organi-

zations in determining ways to engage the root of these problems.

During the roundtable, Director Hein recognized business leader and philanthropist Truett Cathy, who received a lifetime President's Volunteer Service Award from President Bush in the Oval Office. Mr. Cathy was recognized for his lifetime of dedicated service to others in need, including his founding of WinShape Foundation, which provides various youth mentoring and marriage counseling services for individuals of all ages.

President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative (FBCI) is built from the conviction that the most effective way to address our communities' great needs is to draw upon the unique strengths of every willing community and faith-based partner. The President launched the FBCI in January 2001 to strengthen America's nonprofit sector and extend its work in partnership with government.

Since January 2007, the OFBCI has convened monthly Compassion in Action policy roundtables to discuss issues of interest to faith- and community-based organizations and honor the successes of dedicated Americans helping their neighbors in need. The roundtables convene and facilitate discussion between key government and private sector players around targeted issues.

Other programs include: Compassion Capital Fund, Mentoring Children of Prisoners, Access to Recovery, Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative, President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, President's Health Center Initiative, and the President's Malaria Initiative.

For more information on the OFBCI and the President's compassion agenda, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/>.

Cooking In The House

by Jennifer Cote

Food is a very important subject, hence the proliferation of Food Network Shows, Celebrity Chefs, and Domestic Divas. I don't have my own food show, but I've been plugging away in the kitchen professionally almost all my life, and have published a cookbook/devotional, *From The Land Of Milk And Honey*. So I guess I qualify to offer you a few hot tips, and recipes.

I hope to encourage a return to the kitchen. Convenience foods in the grocery aisles and fast food shops on every corner can steer us farther from that place. A concern for health has led me to develop recipes free of chemicals and additives, using whole food ingredients; basically, getting back to the basics.

It is the season of summer parties, weddings, showers, picnics. Let me share some ideas for one of those all-purpose components of most gatherings: The Veggie Tray with Ranch Dip. It looks good, it's fun and healthy to munch on, and it fills out a table that may be loaded with heavier fare. This homemade version will look much more inspired than a standard veggie tray from the grocery store, and the dip will be flavorful and chemical-free. Enjoy!



VEGGIE TRAY W/ RANCH DRESSING

For extra color, hollow out a red cabbage to serve the dip in. The leftover cabbage can be sliced up and mixed with any leftover Ranch Dip for a great side dish the next day. Makes 1 quart.

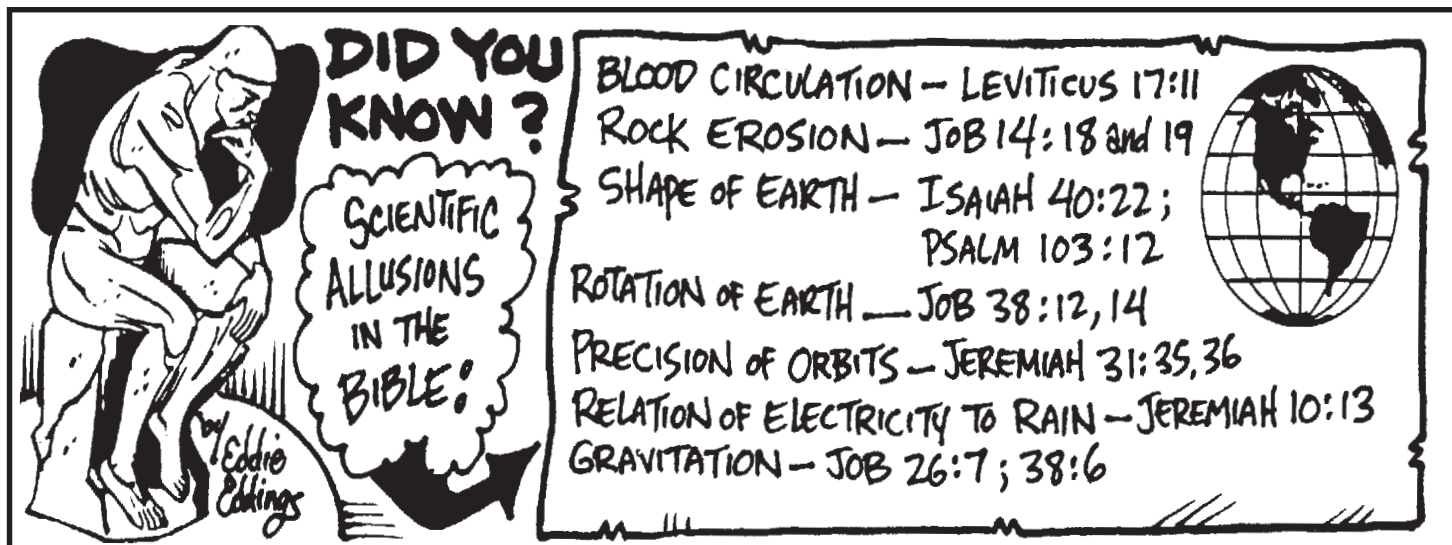
Mix the following in a bowl:

- > 2 c. mayonnaise
- > 1 pt. sour cream
- > 1 TBS. dill weed
- > 1 TBS. rubbed Italian herbs
- > 1/2 TBS. black pepper
- > 1 1/2 TBS. "VegeSal" (health food stores)
- > 2 TBS. sugar
- > 1/4 c. lemon juice

To assemble the tray, line a platter with some green-leaf lettuce (or ornamental kale). Set the hollowed-out cabbage in the center, filling with the dip just before serving. Arrange the following veggies on the platter: Carrots, Broccoli, Cucumbers, Red peppers and any other favorite veggie.

Jennifer Cote and husband Tom opened *The New Deli* in Pinole, CA in 1985. Visit pccuisine.com for more recipes, or to sign up for Jen's newsletter.

Source:
<http://www.faithwriters.com>-CHRISTIAN WRITERS



Art, Entertainment & Media

DIRECTV Launches Gospel Music Channel

Christian Newswire- Gospel Music Channel (GMC), the nation's first and only 24/7 all-Gospel/Christian music television network, and DIRECTV, Inc., announced that GMC will be available to DIRECTV customers nationally on channel 338.

"With the addition of DIRECTV, GMC is now available to nearly 40 million subscribers," said Charles Humbar, founder and president, Gospel Music Channel. "We look forward to providing DIRECTV customers with this unique and uplifting entertainment and we thank DIRECTV for their support."

"We recognize that fans of Christian/Gospel music are some of the most passionate viewers around and we're glad to bring this channel to

them," said Toby Berlin, vice president, Programming Acquisitions, DIRECTV, Inc. "We believe that GMC's positive and entertaining music television will deliver quality, inspirational and family-friendly programming, which will resonate with our customers."

Gospel Music Channel is the first and only 24/7 television network dedicated to the rich history and contemporary sounds of Gospel/Christian music and its many different genres and artists. From rock to rap, country to soul, southern to hip-hop, Gospel Music Channel crosses cultures and generations. The network's program schedule features biographies, music specials, live concerts, and hosted music videos for the entire family.

DIRECTV, Inc., the nation's leading satellite television service provider, presents the finest television experience available to more than 16.8 million customers in the United States and is leading the HD revolution with 92 national HD channels - more quality HD channels than any other television provider. For the most up-to-date information on DIRECTV, please visit www.directv.com.

The FCC Fights to Keep Our Airwaves Clean

Christian Newswire- The U.S. Supreme Court has granted certiorari in the Fox v. FCC case in which broadcasters are challenging a policy by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to crackdown on broadcast indecency.

Concerned Women for America (CWA) stated they are pleased the FCC is working attentively to make sure airwaves clear of indecent material. They are glad this case will go before the Supreme Court for judicial review. Our only hope is that the justices will recognize the need to protect our children from profane and indecent language and overturn the lower court's decision.

Shari Rendall, Director of Legislation and Public Policy, said, "We applaud the Supreme Court's decision to review this case, and we are very pleased that the FCC and this Administration are working so hard to protect our children from broadcast smut. We hope that Congress will act as well to reaffirm that a single use of certain words may be considered indecent by bringing S. 1780, Protecting Children From Indecent Programming Act, to the floor for a vote.

Mario Diaz, Esq., Policy Director for Legal Issues, also noted that, "We are thrilled that the Supreme Court will hear arguments in this case. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, the Second Circuit was supposed to give great deference to the FCC's determination that even a single use of the 'F-word' was not appropriate for children to be exposed to because of its plain vulgarity and inescapably sexual connotation. The Second Circuit ignored the FCC's determination and substituted its own belief, a move which clearly runs contrary to the rule of law."

Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization.

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Churches Urged Be More Artist-Friendly, Transform Culture

The Christian Post reported that hundreds of pastors, church leaders and artists gathered for the first Church and the Arts conference to learn how the Church can reach out to artists and encourage them to transform culture in a biblical way. "Transforming Culture: A Vision for the Church and the Arts" stems from the sense that too often pastors do not know how to connect with artists or nurture their talents to advance the kingdom of God. "A journalist name Steve Turner noted that when Time magazine compiled a list of the 100 most significant people in the twentieth-century for art and entertainment, there were only five who have shown any public sign of the Christian faith," co-organizer David Taylor, arts pastor at Hope Chapel in Austin, Texas, highlighted to The Christian Post. A recent Barna Group study found that the average American spends 20 times more hours with the media than in religious activities.

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Filmmakers Answer James Dobson's Call

for a New Generation of Christian Leaders

Christian Newswire- Advent Film Group (AFG), founded to rebuild culture for Christ in cinema, heeds Dr. James Dobson's call for a new generation of Christian leaders "to carry the banner when this generation of leaders is gone," Dobson told an audience of nearly 1,400 at the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) convention. "The question is, will the younger generation heed the call? Who will defend the unborn child in the years to come?"

AFG's first film answers Dobson's appeal directly and immediately. Advent is training a new generation of Christian filmmakers, drawn from the homeschooling community nationwide, to make socially relevant stories with moral integrity and fidelity to a Biblical worldview.

Advent's filmmakers are charged to go beyond the film industry's "fuzzy faith-based" movies by tackling tough moral and social issues head-on. AFG also seeks to address the distressing lack of qualified Christian filmmakers needed to fill key positions as directors of big-budget movies. Case in point: "Amazing Grace" and "The Chronicles of Narnia," two success-

ful Christian-themed movies, were both directed by secular filmmakers. "Though legions of Christians work in the industry, apparently none could be entrusted to direct major motion pictures," Escobar observes.

A born again believer and homeschooling dad, Escobar is a former American Film Institute Producing Fellow and recent VP of Product Development for Discovery and Executive Director for AOL Video.

Advent is attracting wide attention because of its homeschool roots and Hollywood-insider savvy. "We have a powerful new model that combines digital filmmaking, homeschool student leadership training, social relevancy, and Web 2.0 marketing. We are providing a fresh alternative to Hollywood fare. "Homeschoolers have already successfully turned the public education monopoly upside down; we will now do the same in cinema."

Advent Film Group was founded by Christian filmmakers to champion the mission and vision of Patrick Henry College and other like-minded organizations to shape our culture through media. See the movie trailer at www.adventfilmgroup.com.

Christian Superhero Training Guide Released

Christian Newswire- Kenneth Clifton (B.S. Degree in Religion - Bible Concentration, Liberty University) has issued a new book calling for Christians to rise up to meet their own world's challenges. The Christian Superhero Training Guide is a call for Christians to stand in the role and power that God assigned for them to have in this life. It includes Bible examples of Christian superheroes, superhero gifts by God, arch foes, and resources to aid current day Christian superhero (believers).

The first part of the book covers superheroes found in Scripture and each chapter contains the background, powers, power use, summary, lessons learned, and Scriptures related to each superhero.

The guide also covers the five negative superheroes that Clifton says all believers must face: The Condemned (Demons), The Living Dead (the World), Biological Weapons (The Flesh), Faith Infection (Doubt), and Glory Sunspots (Pride). Each chapter lists the background, powers, power use, summary, lessons learned, and Scriptures for each arch foe.

Clifton adds resources to benefit Christian superheroes. The first resource is the Ten Demonic Lies Answered with Logic and Scripture, including that Demons Don't Exist, God Doesn't Love You, Jesus Was Just a Man, and others. Each lie is defeated with logical and Scriptural answers.

The final resources are 100 Scriptures about God's Providence, Silver Bullet Arguments (that help Christians win debates about creationism and more), and poetry written by Clifton about Heaven. "God didn't plan and empower us to be ruled by evil but to rule it," Clifton says. "We are God's Body on the earth, but many want that body to have no power to heal or help those in need. We are God's light in the darkness, but many want that light to not offend the darkness. We have God's promises in Scripture, but many want to selfishly keep that treasure to themselves, if they use it at all. This guide seeks to change that."

The Christian Superhero Training Guide can be found at amazon.com, bn.com, etc., or it can be ordered through most bookstores through Ingram. The e-book can be found and downloaded through Clifton's site christiansuperhero.com.

April - June 2008

FROM THE CREATORS OF FACING THE GIANTS

FIREPROOF

A Union of Marriage Advocates

ALBANY, Ga.

Christian Newswire- "Fireproof," the new action/relationship film from the creators of "Facing the Giants" and "Flywheel," releases this September from Sherwood Pictures and Provident Films. Already the movie is uniting marriage advocates from across the U.S.

National groups such as Focus on the Family, Outreach, FamilyLife, The Marriage CoMission, America's Family Coaches, AMFM, Marriage Alive Communications, and MarriageToday endorse the movie and are urging their constituencies to see it. Influencers such as marriage expert Gary Smalley and Bubba Cathy of Chick-fil-A are also working to spread the word.

It's no secret that U.S. marriages are in crisis. The U.S. Census Bureau and marriage organizations vary on the stats but agree that nearly half of all weddings lead to divorce--with rates highest in the Bible belt. Some 25 percent of U.S. adults divorce at least once; and given the abundance of poor marriages, many couples skip it outright.



"Fireproof" mirrors the problems of many marriages, in this case through a firefighter whose high-stress job spills into his home life. Hitting on pain points common to married life--from indifference to insults to emotional affairs and internet porn--the story opens with a couple's disintegration.

"Most movies are about relationships that lead to marriage," Michael Catt, of Sherwood Pictures said. "'Fireproof' picks up seven years into a marriage headed for divorce. And the question is: Can a cold marriage revive? Why stay together?"

Given that firefighters have one of the nation's highest divorce rates, "Fireproof" also has the support of many firefighters and related organizations. John White, former head of the Los Angeles Fire Department's Search & Rescue Team, is urging firefighters across the country to see it.



Bubba Cathy of Chick-fil-A doubles as movie promoter to every audience he addresses: "Since visiting the 'Fireproof' set, I've been Fireproof's biggest fan," he says. "On top of a powerful message and the potential to change lives and marriages, this is one great movie!"

People like Bob Waliszewski, director of Focus on the Family's Plugged in and Scott Evans, founder and CEO of Outreach, Inc., are excited about the movie's potential to inspire people to want to heal their marriages and actually show them how. "The clips have me excited about the potential of this film to give hope to struggling marriages," Waliszewski said.

"We all know marriages are in trouble," Evans said. "[What] a powerful and relevant way to address the need and provide hope for healing."

Dr. Jeff S. Fray, chair of The Marriage CoMission, echoes Evans and Waliszewski: "Fireproof's challenge to 'never leave your partner behind' brings to us a dramatic experience of the power of sacrifice and forgiveness. I expect this film to give viewers more confidence that great marriages can be a reality."

Dennis Rainey, president of FamilyLife, sees this one movie's impact far beyond weekend movie-going. "'Fireproof' is going to do more than entertain and stir hearts when it comes to movie theaters," he said.

"This movie is about fireproofing your most important earthly relationship," Executive Producer Jim McBride says on behalf of the filmmakers. "Our hope and prayer is that people will be touched by the story of Caleb and Catherine and commit to fireproofing their marriages--no matter what state those marriages are currently in."

Sherwood's aim to "reach the world from Albany, GA" rides on first-rate entertainment packing powerful messages. Now "Fireproof" asks what makes a true hero.

For more information about "Fireproof," how individuals and organizations can get involved, and in what theaters the movie will open, stay current with www.FireprooftheMovie.com.

SonBurst News 9

Drudge Report for Christians

www.CrossActionNews.com

Christian Newswire- Created back in March of 2007, Cross Action News.com has become the one-stop-shop for news that affects Christian Conservatives. People from all over the world are discovering Cross Action News' comprehensive approach to news from all over the globe. The site was created to inform Christian Conservatives about various news that the main stream media (MSM) fails to report.

There are "news of the day" articles, but mostly what you will find on Cross Action News is stories that are usually buried on the back pages. With strict attention to detail, each story is hand-picked to give the reader a comprehensive view of the stories that

Christian Conservatives need to be aware of.

Cross Action News.com focuses on Christian Issues, Israel, Domestic and International News, Middle East news, Terrorism, The Culture War, Christian Persecution, Editorials and much more.

Cross Action News has been called the Drudge Report for Christians. It is constantly updated and does not shy away from controversial stories like abortion, the homosexual agenda and terrorism.

With nationally syndicated writers, Cross Action News is a must see on your journey through the World Wide Web. It is controversial minus the beer and lingerie ads.



Upcoming Events



Atlanta Fest 2008

Thurs. June 19 - Saturday, June 21
Moving to Stone Mountain Park

Presented by Chick-fil-A, Atlanta Fest, the South's premier Christian music festival is coming to Stone Mountain Park for its 22nd year of music and ministry. Featured artists include Casting Crowns, Jeremy Camp, TobyMac, BarlowGirl, Big Daddy Weave, Shane and Shane, Day of Fire, Building 429 and 40 more on the event's three non-stop music stages. Camping is free for Atlanta Fest guests.

"Atlanta Fest is more than great Christian rock music," said Bob Thompson, one of the festival's organizers. "Atlanta Fest is the perfect opportunity for a family with teens or a church youth group to experience God in a real-world setting. Mixed in the natural beauty and attractions of Stone Mountain Park and non-stop music stages are seminars for Christian living, Bible studies, a multimedia "Prayer Path", a talent search competition and even Christian karaoke!"

Each one-price admission ticket to Atlanta Fest provides full access to all Atlanta Fest stages and venues plus most Stone Mountain Park rides and attractions. Tickets are available now online at www.atlantafest.com or by calling 1-800-783-8839. Tickets are also available at the gate for one, two or all three days of the event.

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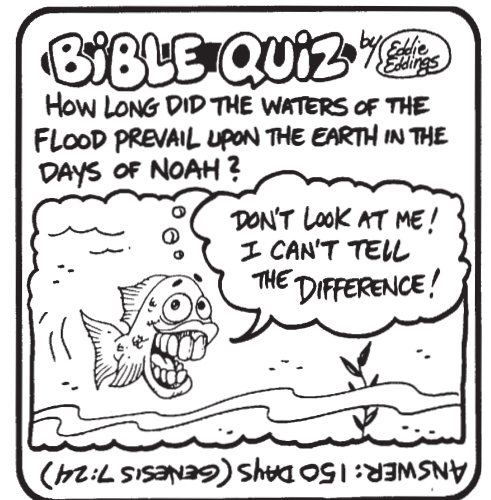
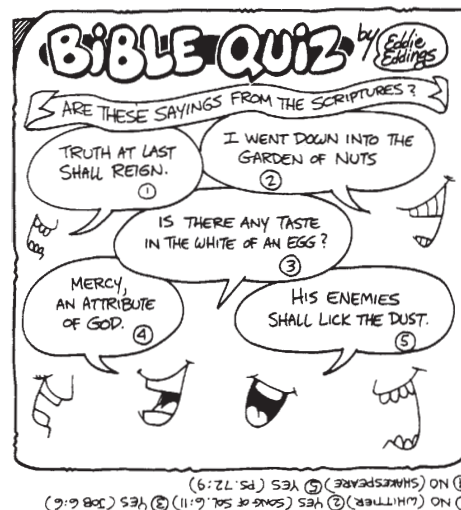
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The Sign of the Fish



The earliest followers of Jesus were persecuted and forced to worship in secret locations. They adopted a secret symbol... The fish. Often these persecuted Christians scratched the fish symbol on the ground before them to help them identify fellow believers.

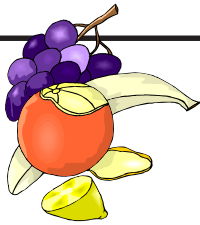
The letters in the Greek word for *fish* (ΙΧΘΕ) stand for:
I-Jesus, X-Christ, O-God's, Y-Son, E-Savior.

The fish symbol transcend differences in cultures and denominations. From generation to generation, the fish symbolizes true followers of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

"And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17

Healthy Living

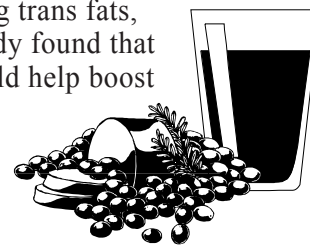


Achieving Better Heart Health

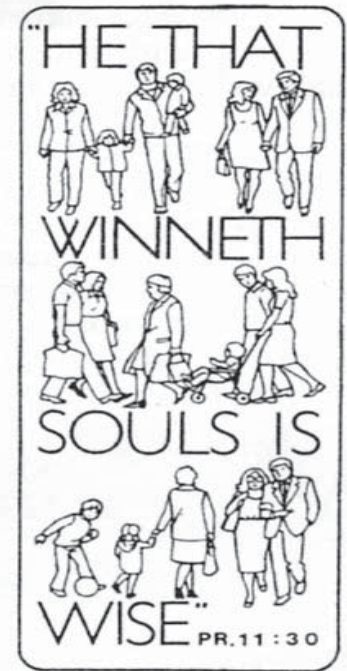
Top 10 Tips



- 1. Fill up on fiber.** Not only does fiber help lower levels of LDL ("bad") cholesterol, it can aid weight management. Being overweight raises your risk of heart failure by a third, while being obese doubles it. While two-thirds of Americans are too heavy, only half get enough fiber. Top sources include oats, beans, raspberries, blackberries, oranges and green peas.
- 2. Go bananas.** 99 percent of women and 90 percent of men don't get enough potassium in their diet. Responsible for regulating the fluid balance in our cells, potassium also blunts the effects of excess sodium. Too much sodium and too little potassium is a recipe for high blood pressure. Strike a healthier balance by cutting back on salt and increasing potassium intake with bananas, potatoes, broccoli and kiwi.
- 3. Say "no" to that extra cup of joe.** Four or more cups of daily brew could elevate blood levels of homocysteine, an amino acid associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Drinking more than two cups of coffee a day can harden the arteries and contribute to arteriosclerosis. Switch to tea; its heart-healthy benefits include lower blood pressure and reduced inflammation.
- 4. "Beet" heart disease.** Beets contain the antioxidant betanin, which can help keep LDL cholesterol from clogging your arteries, according to a study published in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry. Moreover, this root vegetable is a good source of folic acid, which helps to break down that heart-hurtin' homocysteine. Top sources of folic acid include spinach, broccoli, romaine lettuce and papaya.
- 5. Become a better listener.** University of Baltimore researchers found that people with "dominant personalities" had a 47 percent higher risk of heart disease when compared to their more patient, passive peers. So how do you know if you're "dominant"? Another study identified several markers — including the tendency to interrupt!
- 6. The "L" word your heart truly longs for: lycopene.** This heart-healthy phytonutrient — found in tomatoes, watermelon and pink grapefruit — may lower cholesterol levels and reduce inflammation. Harvard researchers found that eating seven or more servings of tomatoes a week might reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease by 30 percent.
- 7. Choose healthy fats.** Monounsaturated fats (olive oil, avocado, nuts) — when used in place of saturated fats (butter, bacon, beef) - help lower cholesterol. Another healthy fat — omega-3 — helps reduce inflammation. Omega-3 sources include wild salmon, walnuts and flaxseed.
- 8. Don't turn breakfast into break-feast.** While skipping breakfast actually lowers your metabolism, going overboard is no better. A new study done at the University at Buffalo found that big fatty breakfasts trigger the release of inflammatory chemicals associated with clogged arteries. So skip the stack of flapjacks and opt for a strawberry-banana smoothie.
- 9. Ode to soy.** Twenty-five grams of soy protein per day can help lower cholesterol, according to the American Heart Association. Soy's other heart-healthy nutrients include folic acid and magnesium (which helps maintain normal blood pressure). Soymilk, edamame, tofu and soynuts are just some of the many ways to enjoy soy.
- 10. Go for a raise.** In HDL cholesterol, that is. Higher levels of this "good" cholesterol can be almost as important as low levels of LDL cholesterol at keeping cardiovascular disease at bay. In addition to exercise, quitting smoking and limiting trans fats, a University of Scranton study found that drinking cranberry juice could help boost HDL levels.



(NewsUSA)



A GIFT FOR YOU

Cut this out, laminate it and keep it in your Bible for a handy reference.



Jesus
is the Way
the Truth
and
the Life

John 14:6

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

John 8:32 KJV



Visit us at: www.SonBurstNews.info



Fruit Punch May Help Limit Prostate Cancer

An Australian fruit punch made with blueberry juice, grape juice, and a potpourri of other juices and spices may help limit the growth of prostate cancer, according to researchers at the University of Sydney in Australia. In just two weeks, the cocktail of ingredients, sold as Blueberry Punch, reduced by 25 percent the growth of tumors in mice with a human version of the disease.

In addition to concentrates from blueberries and grapes, the punch also contains the herb tarragon and the spices ginger and turmeric, which contains an anti-inflammatory, as well as olive leaves and green tea, which contains an antioxidant. Researchers said studies on individual components of the punch have already been shown to suppress cell growth in lab cultures. When exposed to concentrations of the drink, cancer cells are reported to began reducing in size after 72 hours.

Who Moved My Jesus?

Commentary by Al Boyce

For those who have not read "Who Moved My Cheese," I'll offer a brief synopsis before beginning "the rest of the story."

Four characters -- two mice and two small humans -- live in a maze and look for cheese, symbolizing happiness and success. Once they find cheese, everyone is happy. But when cheese runs out, the humans spend their time pointing fingers and lamenting, while the mice work to find more cheese. Ultimately, the humans "evolve" into beings who philosophically accept the constant quest for cheese.

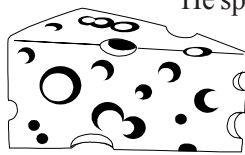
OK. As a Christian, I had some concerns about worshipping cheese from the get-go. So here is how I proposed completing the story:

There was someone else in the maze besides the mice and men -- a small human in well-worn robes. When he first entered the maze, he prayed and felt called to explore it until he had discovered every corner.

Along the way he, too, found some

cheese. He gave thanks to God and ate some, then saved some for later. When he found Sniff and Scramble, still looking for their cheese, he paused and gave them his cheese, saying, "Please take this as a gift of God and a demonstration of my faith that He will always provide for my needs."

He wandered further and found Hem and Haw in their elaborate Cheese Station 3. "What can I offer these two," he wondered to himself. "They have more cheese than I can offer, yet they are empty inside. Still, the only language they understand right now is the language of cheese."



He spoke to them briefly.

Hem and Haw were slightly upset that he had stumbled upon their cheese stash.

They worried he might want some for himself. But he said only, "I see that God has blessed you with much. I pray that you are worthy stewards of this blessing. What you give away he will return many times over."

They exchanged puzzled looks as if to say, "What, is he crazy? He thinks we'll give away this cheese after all our hard work?" And the man in well-worn robes went on his way.

He continued to find cheese when he needed it. But he also found that God led him down paths he would never have chosen; paths that led to wonderful enlightenment and peace. Sometimes he went days without finding cheese, but he had prophetic visions that foretold of how he would one day help many others find hope -- hope beyond cheese.

When Hem and Haw ran out of cheese, when Hem had his "rebirth" and learned the value of embracing change, the first seeds were sewn for them to find true happiness. But there was also the clear danger that this "awakening"

would simply lead them into a new maze -- with different "cheese."

Was Hem really better off, now that he was able to quickly adjust to finding cheese? At the end of the day, the meaning of his life was still tied to cheddar, or mozzarella; gouda or camembert.

The man in the worn robes returned to find Hem trying to proselytize Haw on the merits of his new-found "religion."

"Welcome stranger," Hem said. "You may be interested in hearing this as well. I am trying to convince my friend, Haw, to give up his useless attempt to hold on to the same old cheese and embrace a new life of ever-changing cheese!"

The robed man looked puzzled, then said, "Certainly it is better to be open to change than to be mired in the old ways. But you have simply gone from worshipping cheese to worshipping the pursuit of cheese. Both are false gods. At the end of the day, Haw will be suffering whether he has cheese or not, because he will always be afraid it may go away. You are certainly better off, for you know you will always find cheese. But at the end of the day, cheese is all you will have."

"Well, what do YOU suggest," sneered Hem. "You have been wandering this maze as long as the rest of us and you have no more cheese than you had when you started."

"But I have shared what I had with the mice," the man said. "And they began to understand that God will provide for them as long as they follow His path -- regardless of whether it leads to cheese."

"I have seen every corner of this maze and never have I been in want. Never have I feared I would run out of cheese. Never have I worried about finding new and better ways to rationalize my pursuit of cheese."

He paused, then added, "Every time I take a step for God, He magnifies my efforts. He blesses me with new gifts. He empowers me to be greater than I was."



"God has showed me something even more wonderful -- the way OUT of the maze, into a world of freedom and beauty and glory. I came back to share that with you. If you listen to His voice, instead of your stomach's grumbling for cheese, He will lead you there as well."

With that, the robed man raised his hands, whispered a prayer, and disappeared in a brilliant blaze of light. Hem and Haw exchanged glances, then each dropped his piece of cheese. They tentatively joined hands, bowed their heads, and prayed -- for the first of many times.

Al Boyce is a former writer and reporter for The Associated Press. He lives in Raleigh, NC, where he now writes for God.

Handy Bible Reference



When in sorrow	John 14
When men fail you	Psalms 27
When you have sinned	Psalms 51
When you worry	Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger	Psalms 91
When God seems far away	Psalms 139
When your faith needs stirring	Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful	Psalms 23
When you grow bitter and critical	I Corinthians 13
When you feel down and out	Romans 8:31
When you want peace and rest	Matthew 11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God	Psalms 90
When you want Christian assurance	Romans 8:1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel	Psalms 121
When your prayers grown narrow or selfish	Psalms 67
When you want courage for a task	Joshua 1
When you think of investments and returns	Mark 10
If you are depressed	Psalms 27
If your pocketbook is empty	Psalms 37
If you are losing confidence in people	I Corinthians 13
If people seem unkind	John 15
If discouraged about your work	Psalms 126
If self pride/greatness takes hold	Psalms 19
If you want to be fruitful	John 15
For understanding of Christianity	II Corinthians 5:15-19
For a great invention/opportunity	Isaiah 55
For how to get along with fellow men	Romans 12
For Paul's secret to happiness	Colossians 3:12-17
For dealing with fear	Psalms 34:7
For security	Psalms 121:3
For reassurance	Psalms 145:18

DRIVE SOBER
OR DON'T DRIVE AT ALL!



www.madd.org

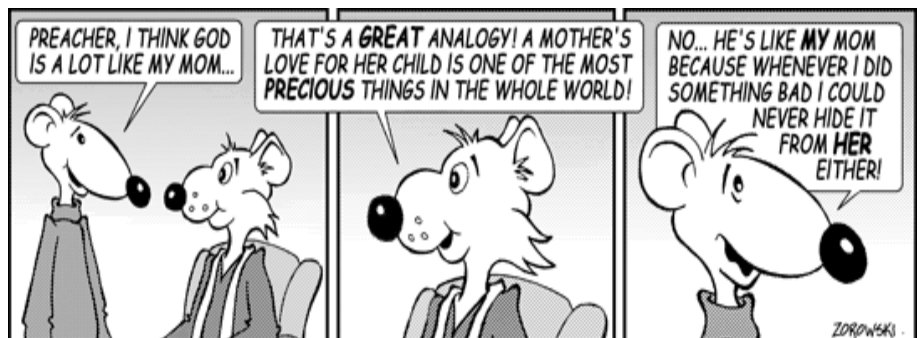
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Church Mice

A Christian comic by Karl Zorowski



Copyright 2007 Karl A. Zorowski



<http://www.zorowski.com/churchmice>

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Christians Pray at Least One Hour a Week

According to ChristiaNet.com Poll

ChristiaNet.com, the world's largest Christian portal with twelve million monthly page loads, recently asked, "Do you pray at least one hour a week?" ChristiaNet's president, Bill Cooper, stated, "Christians should communicate with the Lord through daily prayer." Most surveyed said they prayed well over one hour.



Out of 1,200 Christians surveyed, a whopping 82% said that they prayed daily upon rising and before going to bed which totaled, "well over one hour a week." Reasons cited included, "Praying is the way we communicate with God, if you don't pray to Him, then you don't have much of a relationship" and "I pray for others mostly, because they need it." A lesser amount in this category said that they only pray when they have a problem or need something, but it amounted to over an hour a week, "I pray if I really need to talk to God about something important, or if something good happened and I want to thank Him."

Only eleven percent said they did not feel that their week totaled even an hour. The most popular reasons given were that they were too busy in life, or just plain forgot, "I wish I could remember before I go to bed, but I am just too tired." Some wish they could pray more often, "I really want to pray more, but I just don't." Others just say small prayers, "I say quick and short prayers, I doubt it amounts to an hour a week though."

Seven percent were unsure about whether or not their prayer time totaled an hour. The most common reason given was that they don't time themselves, "I don't keep a timetable of my prayers, so I don't know." Survey takers in this category say that they pray, but it is just not consistent, "I try to pray, but some days I do and some I don't. It's hard to keep track." The remaining pollers in this group claim to say mini prayers all day long and do not know if they amount to over an hour per week, "I say short little prayers constantly throughout the day, they may or may not equal an hour."

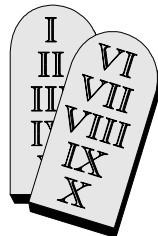


The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:3-17 NIV

And God spoke all these words:

- "You shall have no other gods before me.
- "You shall not make for yourself an idol
- "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God
- "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- "Honor your father and your mother
- "You shall not murder.
- "You shall not commit adultery.
- "You shall not steal.
- "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- "You shall not covet



"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34



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

John 8:32 KJV

www.sonburstnews.info

2008 National Day of Prayer

Official Website: <http://www.ndptf.org/home/index.cfm>

This year's theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield"



"The Lord is my strength and shield;
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped."

Psalms 28:7:

Prayer for Our Nation

Dr. Ravi Zacharias

2008 Honorary Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

(A prayer we can all pray from our hearts to join forces on this special day.)

Holy Father, in a world where so many are hungry,
You have given us food in abundance;

In a world where so many are hurting,
You offer to bind up our wounds;

In a world where so many are lonely,
You offer friendship to every heart;

In a world longing for peace,
You offer hope.

Yet, we are so stubborn and resistant.
Have mercy upon us, Lord.

Our nation is at a crossroads this year;
we look to you to be our strength and shield.

Please give us the guidance to elect one who will honor you
and to respond to the wisdom from above
so that our hope may be renewed and our blessings be treasured.

In God's holy name.



Scheduled Events for Thursday, May 1, 2008

24 Hour Webcast on House Of Prayer TV

Find many more listings at: <http://www.missionariesofprayer.org>

ALABAMA:

- Anniston: Parker Memorial Baptist Church, 1205 Quintard Ave. - 7:00 AM
- Birmingham/Chelsea: North Shelby Baptist Church, 4100 Blecher Dr. - 9:30 AM
- Headland: Gazebo, downtown Headland, 1 Park St. - 12:00 PM
- Huntsville: Prayer Breakfast, Von Braun Ctr., 700 Monroe St. SW - 7:00 AM
- Mobile: Government Plaza, 205 Government St. - 12:00 PM

FLORIDA:

- Central Florida: 23 City Halls and County Courthouses, Downtown - 12:00 PM
- Jacksonville: Jacksonville City Hall, 117 West Duval St. - 12:00 PM

GEORGIA:

- Atlanta: Mount Paran Church of God, 2055 Mount Paran Road NW - 12:00 PM
- Fayetteville: Villages Amphitheatre - 302 LaFayette Ave. - 7:00 PM
- Griffin: Spalding County court house steps, W. Solomon & 6th St. - 12:00 PM
- Jackson: Butts County Courthouse Flagpole, on the Square - 12:00 PM
- Lawrenceville: Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, Downtown - 7:00 PM
- Macon: Macon City Hall, Poplar Ave. - 11:45 AM
- Newnan: Historic Sanctuary 1st Baptist, Washington at Brown St. - 7:00 PM

+++++

Interesting event: *Prayer Flight: Private pilots from around the country are banding together to fly over and pray for all 50 state capitols.*

A Child's Faith



IMAGINE IT!

Garolyn Bowen,
Owner All I Can Imagine

Purchasing Safe Children's Toys

New challenges for parents and teachers looking for safe toys.

With the ever increasing concern about buying a safe child's toy, parents and teachers will now need to educate themselves about Green toys and what to look for when you purchase wooden puzzles, playsets and other children toys that are painted.

Healthy House Institute suggests you look at Co-op America's www.SafeGreenToys.org, a special section of the Co-op America Web site. Toys recommended are completely non-toxic and manufactured with the highest labor standards. All toy-producing firms and their products have been screened for their environmental, workplace, community relations, and product safety practices to help consumers find the safest and most responsible products for their families, including great toys for infants and toddlers.

Will the recent recalls cause more products to be made in America? A lot of people say they won't buy toys imported from China. But with 80 percent of the toys made there, that won't be easy. It is more important to know how a toy is made rather than where a toy is made.

One of the industry's leading manufacturers of eco-friendly, non-toxic educational toys that combine open-

ended play with a love for the environment is ImagiPLAY. Thanks to their unique product differentiation, ImagiPLAY natural-made toys have seen a surge in popularity with endorsements from parents and retailers alike, as an innovative green alternative to recent concerns over product recalls.

ImagiPLAY's process of producing toys is unique in the industry because they "consider much more than profit, marketability and price," according to Barbera Aimes, ImagiPLAY Founder. "We place our emphasis on product safety, impact on the planet and its inhabitants, as well as making our toys educational and fun for children everywhere," she says.

ImagiPLAY appeal not only stems from its environmental sensitivity, but also from its toys' ability to inspire imagination, stimulate young minds and nurture a sense of discovery. The company produces a collection of uniquely designed juvenile products. The toys are available at many fine boutiques, specialty retailers and on our website at

www.blocksand3dpuzzles.com.

Enduring toys are the ones that simply act as a catalyst, leaving your children to discover the world on their

own terms. Open-ended toys such as the toys manufactured by ImagiPLAY enable children to explore and discover how to control their own environment and manipulate objects that exist in their own ecosystem.

While it may be impossible to keep all the junk out of your home, even one natural toy—one healthy for the environment and growing bodies—makes a difference. It decreases a child's overall exposure to pollutants, creates more demand for sustainable products and reduces the environmental damage caused by pesticides, plastics and toxic chemicals. What's more, when the natural alternatives happen to be both beautiful and fun, they're less likely to be tossed aside. Here are two types of toys that can endure from one generation to the next in your family—instead of in the landfill.

ImagiBRICKS

These giant cardboard building block toys are the time-test blocks your grandparents used to play with. They are made in the USA with 50% recycled materials. Not only are they guaranteed crush proof they now come with a drool resistant coating for easy cleanups. These blocks are perfect for home use as well as schools and waiting rooms. They are durable and one of the safest child's toys on the market today. These "brick" blocks are one of children's favorite toys and one of the best educational toy you can give your children.

Wood Toys

Any solid wood is preferable to pressed woods, such as plywood and

particleboard, which are formed with glues that give off toxic fumes like carcinogenic formaldehyde. You often can see the layers of pressed wood when looking at the edges of toys and puzzle pieces. Wood toys made with non-toxic paints and finish also use and release fewer toxins. Finishes of natural oil, such as linseed and walnut oils, are safest, as is beeswax.

Look for wooden toys produced from the Rubberwood tree. Wood from these trees renders splinter-proof wood toys you will feel confident giving your children. You can't go wrong when you use wood indoor playsets and 3d wooden puzzles for your home, school or waiting room when they are painted with lead-free paint as well as made from this very hard wood.

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



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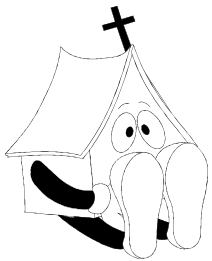


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Parent's Spiritual Safety Check

Make sure your children know and understand these basic truths:

1. The character of God never changes. The things that pleased and displeased God in Bible times still do today. (Malachi 3:6).
2. All have sinned, and the penalty for sin is death. (Romans 3:23 & 6:23).
3. God sent His Son Jesus to redeem man, and He is the only way to the Father. (John 3:16 & 14:6).
4. Satan is your enemy, and he comes to destroy (1 Peter 5:8). His weapon is deception. The Bible says there is no truth in him (John 8:44).
5. There is a battle to fight, and you need help to win. Satan has all his forces coming against you (Ephesians 6:12), and your strength must come from God (Ephesians 6:10).
6. False prophets are all around us (Matthew 24:4,5), but the Holy Spirit will guide you to the truth (John 16:13).
7. Jesus is coming again for His church (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18). He that endures to the end will be saved (Mat. 24:12,13).

Donna Sparks



The pretzel derived its criss-cross shape from the folded arms of **CHILDREN IN PRAYER!**

The Medieval Italian monk who created the pretzel (A.D. 610) used his confection to reward children for **MEMORIZING PRAYERS!**

KIDS Devotions

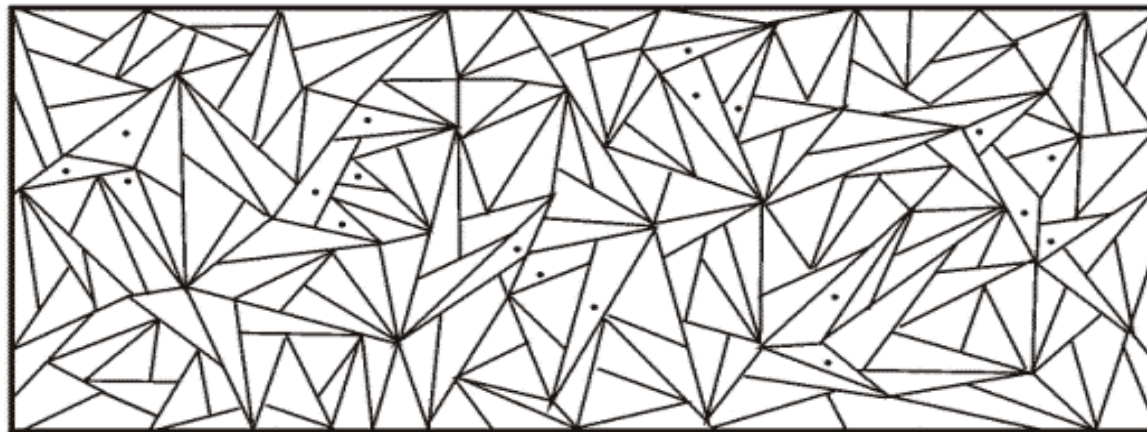
Jesus as a Boy

Luke 2:40-51 (NIV)

Jesus "grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40

Jesus and his family went to Jerusalem every year for a Jewish celebration called the Feast of Tabernacles. When Jesus was twelve years they went once again. After they started to go back home Joseph and Mary discovered that Jesus was not with them, so they turned around and went back to Jerusalem to find him.

Color all the spaces below that have a dot in them to see where they found him.



Read Luke 2:46 and fill in the blanks to see what he was doing when they found him.

"Sitting among the teachers and _____
to them and asking them _____
Everyone who heard him was _____
at his understanding and his _____."



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an online toy store



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- Boosts your child's attention span and level of concentration
- By exploring and constructing in different ways children are doing hands-on problem solving and becoming divergent thinkers
- Skills such as eye-hand coordination, matching, sorting, estimating space, observing and comparing lay the foundation for reading, writing, math and science



Award-Winning Toddler educational & development toys. Mega Castle Building Block Toys by ImagiPLAY. A wonderful toddler and preschool toy!

Check out our newest line of Christian products and gifts!

The Legend of the First Robin

One day, long ago, a little bird in Galilee saw a large crowd gathered around a Man carrying a heavy wooden cross. On the Man's head was a crown made from a thorn branch. The thorns were long and sharp. The little bird saw that the thorns were hurting the Man and it wanted to help Him. It flew down and took the longest, sharpest thorn in its tiny beak.

The bird tugged and pulled until the thorn snapped from the branch. Then a strange thing happened. A drop of blood fell onto the bird's breast, staining it bright red.

The stain never went away. And so today the robin proudly wears a red breast, because it helped a Man named Jesus.



May God bless you today,
And keep you all year through.
May God give you all the faith it takes,
To make your dreams come true.
May His love and wisdom always help,
To guide you on your way.
May His light shine down upon you now,
To bell your every day.

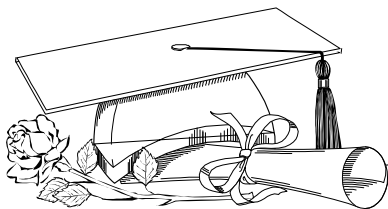
- Author Unknown -

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CLASS OF 2008

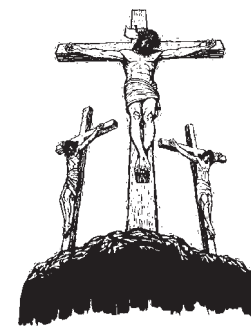
The future lies before you
Like a field of driven snow,
Be careful how you tread it,
For every step will show.

~Author Unknown



10 Things That Won't Save Your Soul

1. Church Membership
2. Baptism
3. The Lord's Supper
4. Confirmation
5. Almsgiving, saying prayers
6. Keeping the Ten Commandments
7. Obeying the "Golden Rule"
8. Doing the "best you can"
9. Dying for your country
10. Memberships



"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" Rom. 3:23
 "The Lord hath laid on him (Jesus Christ) the iniquity (sins) of us all" Is. 53:6
 "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" 1 John 1:7
 "If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
 and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9
 "By grace are ye saved, through faith, ... it is the gift of God: NOT of works ..." Eph. 2:8-9
 Jesus said: "I am the door, if anyone enters by me, he will be saved..." John 10:9.
 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13.

Prayer of Salvation

"Dear Jesus, I believe in You. I believe You are the Son of God, that You died for my sins, and that You were buried and rose again as written in the Bible. I'm sorry for the things I've done that hurt You. Forgive me for all my sins. Come into my heart, take charge of my life and make me the way You want me to be. With Your ever present help, I renounce all my sinful practices of the past. Cleanse my heart with Your precious blood. Write my name in Your Book of Life. I confess You now as my Lord and Savior. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Thank You, Jesus! In Jesus' Name, Amen."

If you prayed the Prayer of Salvation, we'd love to hear from you at
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"The SWORD of the SPIRIT

is the WORD of GOD." Eph. 6:17

Truth Spoken in Love

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead,
 and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools,
 but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise,
 but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Eph. 5:14-17



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