

SonBurst News

A CONSERVATIVE VOICE INFORMING, EDUCATING, AND EDIFYING THE READER



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COMPLIMENTARY

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

U.S. Churches Affirm Right to Free Speech During 2008 Elections

Tax-exempt status does not end first amendment rights

Some liberal watchdog groups believe a church's or a pastor's right to speak out on social and political issues ends when tax-exempt status starts. They are wrong.

In response to various attempts to silence pastors, five Christian organizations – Focus on the Family, Alliance Defense Fund, the Family Research Council, Concerned Women for America and the James Madison Center for Free Speech – have banded together to educate pastors on how to speak on issues relevant to the 2008 elections while staying within the lawful boundaries set for nonprofit organizations.

The joint letter is a response to misleading information sent to churches by organizations such as Americans United for Separation of Church and State. In addition, numerous churches have had

their tax-exempt status threatened or have been subjected to IRS investigations based on allegations from such private activist groups. The letter is also available online at www.telladf.org/UserDocs/PastorsGuidelinesLetter.pdf.

"American Pastors have a long tradition of providing their congregations with a biblical perspective on current events. From encouraging colonists to participate in the American Revolution to speaking out against the immorality of slavery, pastors have helped U.S. citizens navigate the waters of political issues," said Tom Minnery, senior vice president for Focus on the Family. "Not only is this a basic constitutional right, but the numbers show the majority of Americans believe churches and other houses of worship should speak out on social issues."

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"Third Historical Display Goes Up"

A "Foundations of American Law & Government Display" has been hung in the courthouse in Clayton County in Jonesboro, Georgia. In addition to a display hung in a community center owned by the city of Odum, Ga. they were also hung in the City Hall of Hartwell, Ga. earlier this year. The display in Jonesboro is the third state law approved display to go up but, the FIRST of its kind to go up in a county courthouse.

During a dedication ceremony the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Eldrin Bell spoke about the importance of communicating the facts about our country's founding. He also said that he was challenging all 159 county commission chairmen across the state to lead out in having the displays posted in their courthouse.



On July 1, 2006, Gov. Sonny Perdue signed into law H.B. 941 authorizing local governments to erect historical displays that include a copy of the Ten Commandments. These displays pave the way for communities to further educate their citizens regarding their citizens regarding historical facts about our country's founding.

These historical documents are being made available through the ministry of Ten Commandments GA, Inc. This is a great opportunity for private citizens, churches, civic clubs and organizations to purchase these documents and to present them for approval to their local governing boards, commissions and councils. TC-GA has beautifully designed to legal specifications the nine piece historical display.

The following documents may
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Republican Party Activists Say They will Keep GOP Pro-Life on Abortion

by Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com Editor

(LifeNews.com) -- Hundreds of prominent GOP activists met in Washington during August for their annual summer meeting. With a presidential race and a battle over the party's platform next year, several of the partisans said they would work overtime to keep the Republican Party's official pro-life stance in place.

Delegates to the Republican convention in Minneapolis next year will reconsider the party's 93-page platform that opposes abortion and supports President Bush's policy against using tax dollars to fund embryonic stem cell research.

The current GOP position on abortion advocates a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution that would afford legal protection to unborn children throughout pregnancy.

"As a country, we must keep our pledge to the first guarantee of the Declaration of Independence. That is why we say the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed," the platform reads. The Republican Party has supported a pro-life amendment to the Constitution since 1976, the first convention after the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

Some pro-life advocates are concerned the platform could be watered down if pro-abortion ex-New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani is nominated as the party's standard bearer for the presidential election. Should Giuliani get the GOP nod, he would be the first pro-abortion Republican to be the nominee since President Ford in 1976.

But pro-life advocates such as Jim Bopp, a leading pro-life attorney and an Indiana member of the Republican National Committee, say they will fight to keep the GOP pro-life.

"Evangelical and pro-life Catholics are a critical part of the GOP's electoral coalition," Bopp told the Washington Times. "The GOP cannot win in 2008 without their enthusiastic support."

Still, Bopp warned that whether the Republican Party will move away from its pro-life position "will be determined by who is nominated for president."

"Nominating Giuliani would seriously jeopardize the support of evangelicals and pro-life Catholics and would trigger a fight within the GOP on the pro-life plank and other matters related to social issues that would

cripple the party," he told the Times.

Rhode Island RNC member Robert Manning told the Times that moving away from stressing pro-life issues on a national level makes sense in an election that will likely revolve around non-related issues and foreign policy. Convention delegates could try to force the party to water down the platform in an effort to reach pro-abortion voters.

Some of the Republican presidential candidates have addressed the issue. Tommy Thompson was the most recent when he said at a debate that a GOP presidential nominee who supports abortion

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NEWS BRIEFS

Messianic Jews under Fire in Israel

Religion Today: "The state of Israel promises religious freedom to all faiths. However, in some Israeli towns, Jews who believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah face persecution. One of those places is in a town called Arad." This is how Chris Mitchell, who works for CBN News Jerusalem Bureau, began his recent report on what is happening in Arad, Israel, ASSIST News Service reports. He continued, "Arad sits in the middle of the Negev Desert, about a two hour drive south of Jerusalem. For most of the nearly 25,000 residents, it's a quiet setting. But for others, it's been the scene of noisy protests and almost daily harassment.

"An ultra-orthodox sect called the Gur harasses many of the Messianic Jews in the town." Mitchell quoted Yakim Figueros, a messianic pastor in Arad, as saying, "We meet at a congregation building. There's a narrow way to go in, I mean the gate. So they have two of their people standing on either side and reading curses against everyone that walks in: 'May his children be orphans. May their wives be widows' and so on. You know it's not nice for the simple people to come in and go through this." Mitchell went on to say, "The center of town is another place of harassment, where many retired Jewish immigrants gather."

Bill Destroys Core Mission of Children's Health Plan

Sadie Fields, Georgia Christian Alliance

The current debate in Congress regarding the State Children's Health Insurance Program is one that should concern us all.

The program, known as "PeachCare" in Georgia, was specifically designed to provide health insurance coverage to children in low-income families and pregnant women who are not eligible for Medicaid, but who do not make enough to purchase private health insurance. In Georgia, that means those who are below 235 percent of the federal poverty level (about \$48,528 for a family of four).

Government providing a safety net for those in need is a far cry from the Baucus-Grassley plan that recently passed the Senate by a vote of 68-31. This bill would expand the current program by \$35 billion over the next five years and include families who make upwards of \$80,000 per year, thereby creating a middle-class entitlement program.

S. 1224 increases the coverage to include adults (currently, Georgia's plan does not include adults), which is not the original intent of the program. It includes raising the federal tobacco tax, a regressive tax, because it falls disproportionately on low-income families — the very ones the program was designed to

help. It encourages parents to pull their children out of private plans in favor of this taxpayer-supported plan, which means that for every 1 million additional children SCHIP covers, an estimated 250,000-500,000 will switch from private coverage to the taxpayer funded program.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the total cost of the bill over the 2008-2017 period would be \$112 billion, which is significantly above the \$71 billion estimate in revenues provided by the tobacco tax. S. 1224, as written, will require the government to either drop millions of children off health care in 2013 or impose a new tax to raise the additional \$41 billion needed to sustain the increased levels of coverage. There is more to object to in this bill, but suffice it to say, it perverts the core mission of SCHIP.

Chambliss and Isakson are to be commended for voting against this bill. While expressing their desire to continue funding for those in need, they refuse to be a party to legislation that involves a tax increase, which will lead to a vast expansion of government, creating yet another bureaucratic nightmare. Thank you for Keeping The Faith.

www.gachristianalliance.org

International Day of Prayer

Jerusalem Prayer Unites Christians, Jews

The Christian Post reports that a global day of prayer for Jerusalem on the first Sunday of October, united Christians and Jews to pray for peace in the holy city where followers of both faiths trace their religious roots. Pastors, rabbis, and Israeli lawmakers in Jerusalem joined millions of people around the world for the fifth annual Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem (DPPJ). The event brought together more than 150 countries and over 150,000 churches worldwide in prayer for Israel, according to The Jerusalem Post. "The fact is, whatever our theological or political positions regarding Israel, we can all agree there is a biblical mandate and a current crisis that should cause us to pray," said the Rev. Robert Stearns of the ministry

Eagles' Wings, in a statement. Stearns organized DPPJ together with megachurch pastor Dr. Jack Hayford of The Church on the Way.

The International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem, instituted with the endorsement of hundreds of Christian leaders from around the world, representing tens of millions of Christians. The call for sustained, fervent, informed global intercession for the plans and purposes of God for Jerusalem and all her people.

This global grassroots prayer initiative coincides with the season of Yom Kippur, and for the first time in Church history, makes an effort at linking the Christian liturgical calendar with the Biblical, Jewish calendar.

Visit www.daytopray.com

Pope Speaks Out Again on Islam

Religion Today: The Pope has again risked provoking the wrath of the Islamic world, by criticizing its treatment of Christians, ASSIST News Service reports. Simon Caldwell, writing in the British Daily Mail, said, "Benedict XVI attacked Muslim nations where Christians are either persecuted or given the status of second-class citizens under the Shariah Islamic law. He also defended the rights of Muslims to convert to Christianity, an act which warrants the death penalty in many Islamic countries.

His comments came almost exactly a year after he provoked a wave of anger among Muslims by quoting a Byzantine emperor who

linked Islam to violence." The 80-year-old pontiff made a speech on Friday September 21 near Rome in "defense of religious liberty," which, he said "is a fundamental, irrepressible, inalienable and inviolable right." In a clear reference to Islam, he said: "The exercise of this freedom also includes the right to change religion, which should be guaranteed not only legally, but also in daily practice."

Addressing the problem of Islamic extremism, he added: "Terrorism is a serious problem whose perpetrators often claim to act in God's name and harbor an inexcusable contempt for human life."

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It is not our intent to teach doctrine or endorse any political party. We desire 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 and edifying our readers.

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Evangelicals Cool to Global Warming Hype

A survey released by the George Barna Group asked evangelicals "to indicate which of eleven changes were 'absolutely necessary' for the U.S. to address within the next ten years." The environment ranked last among the priorities of evangelicals. Family Research Council (FRC) President Tony Perkins made the following comments in his daily radio commentary which will air tomorrow on hundreds of radio stations across the country:

"What do evangelical Christians see as the top issues that our nation must get right in the coming decade? If you listened to the media you would be inclined to believe it was creating more government programs, which are supposed to help the poor, expand government education or to adopt radical policies to fight global warming. But if you actually lis-

ten to evangelicals you will find a much different answer. That is what George Barna did in his most recent survey of Americans.

"While Americans as a whole identified the overall care and resources devoted to children as the number one issue, which is laudable, the number one issue for evangelicals was improving the health of Christian churches followed by upgrading the state of marriage and families, and improving the spiritual condition of the U.S. Last on their list is the environment. So much for the global warming hype. Despite what the media may want to project upon evangelicals, they understand that if we, as a nation, get the spiritual issues right and build strong marriages and families - most of the other problems will be solved in the process."

ELCA Lutheran Church Trashes Pages From Bible

CWA: At the August meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), a decision was made that the ELCA would ignore the Bible's unequivocal condemnation of homosexual behavior as sinful and permit openly homosexual clergy to pastor ELCA churches. This has stirred up tension between the ELCA and other more Biblically sound factions within the Lutheran denomination.

In a statement, Gerald B. Kieschnick, president of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), noted, "This goes contrary to the historic and universal understanding of the Christian Church regarding what the Holy Scriptures teach about homosexual behavior as contrary to God's will and about the Biblical qualifications for holding the pastoral office."

Matt Barber, Policy Director for Cultural Issues with Concerned Women for America (CWA), said, "The word apostasy is a strong one. It shouldn't be used lightly. Unfortunately, the

ELCA's decision to endorse the sin of homosexuality, which Scripture clearly calls an 'abomination to God,' represents nothing short of apostasy.

"We're witnessing a growing trend within certain liberal sects of Christendom wherein leftist church leaders are pushing new-age, Bible-ala-carte spiritualism. The mindset is, 'If God's Word doesn't comport with my view on morality, then I'm right and God is wrong. He needs to get with the program. Murder pre-born children with abortion - Sure why not? Celebrate sexual deviancy? No problem.'

"This is America, and people are generally free to say and do what they want," continued Barber, "But if a formal church collective such as the ELCA is going to call itself Christian, the least it can do is honor the Bible, not rip out and trash the pages it doesn't like. There's nothing Christian about that."

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

America is Too Politically Correct

Christian Newswire -- We've finally become more politically correct in America than our common sense should allow. A Roman Catholic Bishop from the Netherlands, Tiny Muskens, believes we could ease tensions between Radical Islamic followers and Christians if we stopped calling God, God and started calling Him Allah.

Father Jonathan Morris said on Fox News recently, "It is really all about what language you are speaking and if you are speaking Arabic then you should call him Allah, if you are speaking English you should call Him God."

Don Swarthout, President of Christians Reviving America's Values said, "This thinking implies that we worship the same god taught by Islam, but we do not. I cannot believe the suggestion that Christians should call God by another name which

would mean you are accepting another god and another religion. How can you even think about calling Allah your god when Allah wants you to kill innocent men, women and children in his name?"

"The Bible warns us very clearly about being deceived and against accepting the teachings of false prophets. Yet, according to some people, if we were to totally give up on God we would be politically correct. I don't know about you, but I will never stop calling God, God or Jesus Christ our Savior." Swarthout continued.

At least 80% of Americans say that they are Christians. Even if you are not a Christian, how would you feel about forsaking your country and the Democracy we have had since our nation began? Islamic followers believe that we should institute Sharia

Law and do away with our Constitution. Maybe that would make us politically correct in their eyes.

One has to wonder, when America will wake up to the fact that being politically correct is ruining our country, our values and our future. If being politically correct means that you have to give up what America stands for and accept beliefs you strongly disagree with and that is just wrong.

According to Swarthout, "Being politically correct is something that has been forced on all of us in America and it really has nothing to do with what you believe. Instead of believing in being politically correct, let's return to the idea that thinking for yourself is an American principle that we can all accept. We must do what is right for America and not what we are told is politically correct."

Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust to Confront Democratic Party

at 2008 Convention in Denver

Christian Newswire -- The Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust, along with the Christian Defense Coalition, will be holding demonstrations, prayer vigils, and rallies surrounding the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado in August 2008.

The prominent pro-life youth activist organization is based out of Southern California, with chapters and projects across the country. The Survivors have led successful events at previous political conventions, including the Democratic National Conven-

tions in Los Angeles in 2000 and Boston in 2004.

Danielle Versluys, Director of Special Events for the Survivors, states, "we are coming to the Democratic National Convention to be a voice for the voiceless minority - the thousands of innocent children who die every day in America. Our elected leaders are responsible for all American lives, whether born or preborn, and it is time for the youth of America to say enough is enough. We are calling the Democratic Party to account for their embra-

sure of the genocide."

"As a Survivor of America's abortion holocaust, I am disgusted and outraged that the Democratic Party continues to uphold murder as an American value," says James Conrad, age 22. "My family was torn apart by abortion, and I know firsthand what the effects of that terrible decision can be. I will be at the Convention on behalf of my generation, exposing the lie of abortion that has resulted in the murder of over 45,000,000 of my peers."

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President Bush Defunds UN Agency Involved in Forced Abortions

Reallocates money from UN agency that supports China's one-child policy

CWA: President Bush has transferred \$34 million that Congress allocated for the notorious United Nations Population Fund to instead help children through the "Child Survival and Health Programs Fund." The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supports the coercive one-child policy in China that fines, jails, forcibly aborts and punishes the families of women who attempt to choose the number and spacing of their children.

Wendy Wright, President of Concerned Women for America (CWA) stated, "We thank President Bush for his commitment to upholding the law which protects vulnerable women in foreign countries from forced abortions

and sterilizations. Chinese women and families have suffered forced late-term abortions, destruction of their homes, massive fines, and threats. The abuses have been so extreme that recently villagers in China rioted against family planning officials. UNFPA blatantly continues its involvement and support of China's family planning agency and its one-child policy and should not receive U.S. tax dollars.

"It is appalling that congressmen insist on funding this wretched agency that abuses women. U.S. lawmakers should respect the rights of women in foreign nations to have children and not use our tax dollars to perpetrate violence and forced abortion. We are grateful to President

Bush and his staff for confronting and correcting this error in allocating money to the anti-woman and anti-child UNFPA."

This is the sixth year President Bush has followed the Kemp-Kasten provision requiring the president to ensure that no U.S. tax funding goes to organizations involved in forced abortions or sterilizations. The provision was enacted in 1985 because of UNFPA's support of China's horrific one-child policy. Kemp-Kasten states, "none of the funds made available in this Act... may be made available to any organization or program which... supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization."

GOP Pro-Life

Continued from page 1

would cause problems for "the party of pro-life."

Recently, Mitt Romney said that only a pro-life Republican would help the party win next year. "I think we can't win the presidency without a pro-life, pro-family Republican," he said. "I expect that evangelical Christians who believe in life and family values are going to vote for someone who shares their views and has a real prospect of being nominated by our party and becoming president," Romney added.

Sam Brownback's campaign has also addressed the issue as well and says he supports keeping the platform pro-life.

Polling data confirms abortion is a winning issue for GOP presidential candidates who are pro-life. Post-election polling after the 2004 presidential elections found that President Bush's pro-life stance gave him an edge over pro-abortion Sen. John Kerry.

Free Speech

Continued from page 1

Among rights churches maintain in spite of their nonprofit status are issue-oriented speech, which includes the discussion of issues of public concern, the actions of government officials in office and the positions of candidates on issues; distribution of incumbents' voter records; sponsoring of nonpartisan voter registration activities. In addition,

A 2004 Wirthlin Worldwide post-election poll found that 39 percent of voters said abortion affected the way they voted for president. Twenty-four percent of voters cast their ballots for President Bush while 15% voted for Kerry, giving Bush a 9 percent advantage on the issue of abortion.

Eight percent of voters in the Wirthlin poll indicated abortion was the "most important" issue affecting their votes and Bush won among those voters by a six to two percent margin, leading Kerry by four percentage points among the most intense abortion voters.

Looking at the GOP platform, it also states the party's opposition to funding abortions with tax dollars, providing practical support to pregnant women, "for whose difficult situation we have only compassion."

The platform lauds crisis pregnancy centers, promotes remov-

ing barriers to adoption, and backs parental notification before teenagers can have an abortion.

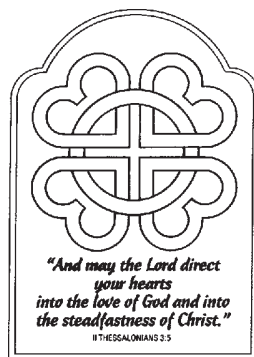
The Republican platform also takes positions on assisted suicide and stem cell research. It backs the Bush administration's effort to ensure that federally-controlled drugs can't be used in assisted suicides in Oregon. All of the patients who have died under the state's lone pro-suicide law have used such drugs.

The GOP platform also includes language backing President Bush's August 2001 policy prohibiting the federal funding of any new embryonic stem cell research. He has vetoed two bills that would have forced taxpayers to fund research.

"We strongly support the president's policy that prevents taxpayer dollars from being used to encourage the future destruction of human embryos," the proposed language reads.

pastors keep their right to participate in political campaigns as an individual and not in the name of the church; give financial contributions to political candidates; endorse a political candidate.

Today 47 percent of American adults attend church in a typical weekend. "They, too, have the right to be educated in a nonpartisan manner on how to vote in a way that is consistent with their faith," Minnery said.



Operation Rescue to Protest 2008 Democratic National Convention

Christian Newswire -- Operation Rescue announced that it will join with the Christian Defense Coalition, the Survivors, and a coalition of other pro-life groups in protesting the August 2008 Democratic National Convention, which will be held in Denver, Colorado.

"Operation Rescue is committed to peaceful protest to draw attention to the horrors of abortion, which the Democratic Party supports," said Operation Rescue President Troy Newman. "Abortion is one of the top issues with the American people, and if the Democrats are going to support it, they should be exposed to what it really does to women and pre-born babies. We call on pro-life supporters to come to Denver next August and stand for the cause of Life."

Operation Rescue operates a fleet of Truth Trucks that display large graphic images of aborted babies. During the 2004 Presidential campaign, the Truth Trucks made headlines with a tour of swing states in the final days before the election.

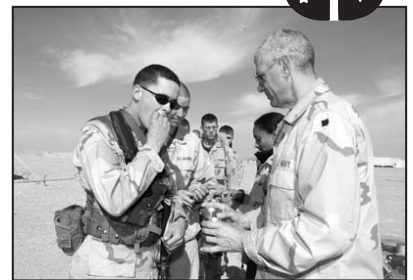
Operation Rescue is one of the leading pro-life Christian activist organizations in the nation. Operation Rescue recently made headlines when it bought and closed an abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas and has become the voice of the pro-life activist movement in America. Its activities are on the cutting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

Help Put The Scriptures In Their Hands



"It's hard to come by a good Bible here." — U.S. soldier serving in Iraq.

As U.S. troops are deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and other dangerous locations around the world, you can help put Bibles into the hands of our military personnel. Facing life and death situations every day, they need the support and spiritual nourishment



A US Navy Chaplain offers Communion to members of his unit in Kuwait.

that only God's Word can supply. While military training has equipped them physically and mentally, it is essential that they also be equipped spiritually to be able to withstand whatever challenges they meet.

The Military Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ is working overtime to provide vital spiritual resources in the form of *Rapid Deployment Kits* (RDKs). Each pocket-size, waterproof RDK contains a special camouflage New Testament (including Psalms, Proverbs, and additional help for soldiers), a *How to Know God Personally* booklet, and a 90-day daily devotional.

Distribution of the RDK's has been ongoing since 9/11, and requests still average about 15,000 per month as chaplains desire to spiritually outfit every military member. Each *Rapid Deployment Kit* costs only \$3.25 and will strengthen and encourage the faith of a Christian soldier, or lead an unsaved one to Jesus. One chaplain in Iraq shares, "We are seeing lives changed for Christ on a daily basis."

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Christian Newswire-- It isn't as though we are unfamiliar with the concept of the speeding train and the foolish driver who believes that they can outrun that train across the tracks; only to be crushed beyond recognition. But when you look at America, some Americans are wondering if we are in a similar race for our very own existence. Of course any person can point out some of the top dangers to America, whether it's bio-terrorism, illegal immigration or nuclear war. But the maddening reality is that we do not understand that WE are our own worst enemies. Here are a few examples that should make us wonder if we are the largest group to commit collective suicide.

We want to protect ourselves from the onslaught of illegal immigrants and yet we have created the demand for cheap labor by having cheap abortion which kills millions of pre born Americans. Additionally, millions of Baby Boomers have looked forward to their retirement and yet they have promoted the aborting of millions of children who could have financially supported the now failing social security system. To add injury to insult, many children who did survive this abortion holocaust have been taught by their parents that it is acceptable to get rid of pre-born babies if they are expensive and inconvenient. This widespread belief will make the case in the future, that parents should also be euthanized if they are the same kind of burden to their children. In the interest of not offending anyone, the vast majority of Pastors will not speak on the issue of abortion from their pulpits. Yet these same Pastors will wonder why their churches are not filled with the youthful voices of children, who might have brought the gospel to their community.

We have clearly patted ourselves on the back for being so tolerant of homosexuals, the cohabitation of heterosexuals and no fault divorce; when all the while destroying the very institution that is meant to keep our society stable; a godly marriage. But in typical hypocrisy we will

The Speeding Train and the Foolish Driver 'America's Worst Enemy, Itself'

Phil Magnan, Director, Biblical Family Advocates

continue to pity the broken home and the single parent family when we ourselves have encouraged it to continue by tolerating immoral relationships. Public schools are teaching promiscuity and homosexuality and are trying to figure out why so many young people have STD's and HIV.

We are so rightfully concerned about the environment, when the environment of our soul is so stagnant with hedonism, pride and materialism. With this kind of spiritual wasteland, we simply cannot offer the spring water of Christ to those who need it. It also seems rather strange that most environmentalists are very silent about our waterways being filled with the waste water of chemical abortifacient drugs that are destroying the very sexual makeup of ponds and rivers. They also seem very silent on the environment of the womb being destroyed by abortion and multiple sex partners. When will they actually care about pre-born children as much as they care about baby seals?

We invite people to come to our country to become citizens and yet we fall all over ourselves to accommodate their culture and their ways, instead of expecting that they become real Americans. We have somehow forgotten that they have come to our country because of the value of what we are as a nation. We should never replace that with the very culture that people flee. To make matters worse, we invite the people who are religiously bound to overthrow the countries they live in, whether by law or sword to come to our beloved country, living among us, giving sanctuary to those who want to destroy us.

Remarkably we go all over the world to teach countries about representative government and yet Americans are seldom represented by their elected officials.

Parties prop up people that do not represent our best and brightest, but rather many wealthy, power hungry elitists. Most parties play both sides of the political fence thus misrepresenting their own party platform. Many of us are still waiting for real statesmen who fear God and obey His Word. It would be refreshing to have leaders who are not afraid

to utter the words, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord" and "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord", and actually mean it.

We had such great disdain for being under the tyrants of Britain and were willing to pay the ultimate price to be free. But now we cower before the Federal government as though we're not a land 'for and by the people.' States have given up their constitutional sovereignty and instead wait in line to be blessed once again, by the kings of Washington DC. Our representatives are enamored with taxes and spending without restraint as they continue to create departments and programs outside of their God given authority and outside of the U.S. Constitution. Many times law enforcement, government leaders and judges punish the righteous, while funding and praising those who do evil.

The godly prophets are considered fools and yet the fools are proclaimed wise. The profane is now called holy and evil is called good. We are certainly in trouble. Though I am very worried about bioterrorism, illegal immigration and nuclear war; the most frightful and troubling thought is that we are not only driving that car in a race with the train, but most Americans seem indifferent to the real coming train wreck of America. It appears that few are trying to stop and consider whether it worth losing such a race; but then again, we might either offend someone or be accused of being hateful. But shouldn't we be recapturing what it means to really love God, our neighbor and even ourselves?

Phil Magnan is the director of Biblical Family Advocates, a Christian pro family ministry. Phil has been active in the pro-life/pro-family movement for nearly 20 years. Through speaking and teaching in churches and in the community, and interviews on radio and TV, he has advocated biblical pro-family issues in many States throughout the U.S. and in Europe. He challenges the culture with the mandates and truths of Scripture and the gospel of Jesus Christ. phil@bfamilyadvocates.com

Is SCHIP bill gov't-run socialized healthcare?

Jim Brown, OneNewsNow.com



A healthcare reform expert says the Democrat-led Congress is attempting to make the state children's health insurance program (SCHIP) a new middle-class entitlement. The Senate is likely to override President Bush's promised veto of a \$35 billion increase for SCHIP, but House Republicans believe they will have enough votes to sustain the veto.

The program was originally designed ten years ago to provide health insurance for lower-income children whose parents make too much to qualify for Medicaid, yet do not have the resources or the good jobs that are likely to provide health insurance. Grace Marie Turner, president of the Galen Institute, says Congress has tried to "dramatically overreach" by seeking to turn SCHIP into a national program through which all American children would get their health insurance. Turner notes most of the children who would be added to the program already have private coverage.

"Seventy-five percent of them in the next step up, then 95 percent at the top level that they would cover already have private coverage," she observes. "So the question is, do we want to replace publicly supported coverage with this private coverage that the children already have?"

I contend that we really need to be spending our resources on children who are eligible but [who are] not enrolled in this program," says Turner.

She says if states are given the option to put onto a public program those children whose families make up to \$80,000 or \$90,000 a year, they are going to have much less of an incentive to enroll the children who are eligible but not yet signed up for the program.

"It's much more difficult -- families should know this -- to get a physician to see a child when they are enrolled in a state children's health insurance program rather than when they are on private insurance," she says. "And that's because these state children's health insurance programs pay so much less to physicians than private insurance does," states Turner. The result, she argues, will be compromised access for children who have either the state or private insurance, as well as a bigger burden on the taxpayer to support health insurance for children who already have it.

Since the House likely will have enough votes to expand President Bush's veto of the SCHIP legislation, Congress likely will be forced back to the drawing board on the issue.

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Grassfire.org Impacts Key Issues

Grassfire.org Alliance has a goal to impact key issues in our nation by equipping hundreds of thousands of citizens with tools that give partners a real impact on issues. Through online petitions and breakthrough media efforts, Grassfire.org is building a proactive Alliance of conservative citizens who can make a difference in our nation.

Grassroots President, Steve Elliott, has a background in communications and public policy. He developed Grassfire while searching for a way to utilize the Internet to expand the impact of conservative and pro-family citizens. They have rallied hundreds

of thousands of citizens and is growing tens of thousands each month as team members take part in key issues and spread the "grassfire" to their friends!

Grassfire.org's leadership team holds a strong and unwavering commitment to conservative, pro-family and pro-faith values. These values guide the decision-making process.

The Grassfire team invests many hours surveying, and monitoring important issues of the day then strategically addresses high-impact issues.

Visitors can read and support the efforts behind key issues by signing a petition at www.grassfire.net.



Back In The Day

Tracing Your Family History
Courtney Cannon Scott

Everyone Has One ...

What is it that every person has, yet no two are alike? Yes, it's a family! Everyone also has a valuable family history. Tracing that family history, also called genealogy, is very easy. Genealogy or the study of [family] heritage / history is one of the most popular pastimes of people the world over.

Your heritage begins with you. To start documenting your heritage, begin by writing down facts about yourself and your immediate family members such as parents and grandparents. If you are unable to get any information about parents or grandparents directly from them or another relative, do not be discouraged. You are still in luck and may be able to find out what you want to know elsewhere. The facts you are looking for are a matter of public record. Names, birthdates and birth places or dates and places of death are available in records such as wills, marriage papers, deeds, birth or death certificates, police reports, military service records,

the census, and state or local histories.

Some of this is available on the internet, but may not be accurate and will still have to be verified by comparison with an original document. If you do not have access to the internet, you can request the information needed by postal mail, just as people did before the internet and e-mail was used. It will take longer to get the information, but at least you can still get it.

For locations of neighborhood Mormon family history centers, look in the white pages of your local telephone directory under the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or call them toll-free at 1-800-240-2331.

There are nineteen regional NARA records facilities plus online resources. NARA stands for National Archives and Records Administration. To learn what (U.S.) federal census information and records are open to the public, ask for General Information Leaflets: #22, CFF 4, CFF 5, and CFF 18 by writing to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Wash-

ington, DC 20233 or by viewing the NARA website at www.nara.gov/regional. The federal census has been taken every ten years since 1790. Due to a 72-year privacy restriction, the 1930 census is the most current one available for public viewing.

There are many ways to collect family history data. Once you start gathering names of ancestors, look in history books for information on the times in which they lived. This makes history understandable. Once it becomes 'personal,' history will also be interesting. I know this for a fact. I disliked history in high school. Now, I am discovering with great pleasure and eagerness, many of the things I should have learned *back in the day*!!!

Courtney Cannon Scott: Nationally syndicated columnist and noted public speaker. Specializing in [family] heritage research, documentation and preservation. Available for individuals and families wanting to trace their ancestry back in time. Visit www.backintheday.org Ask her questions on our forum at sonburstnews.info



a journey of 1600 kilometers
begins with 1.6 steps

HELPFUL HINTS

~ Tea Bag Uses ~

- Use wet tea bags on itching skin, on a burn, to stop bleeding after a tooth extraction or even on pet's hot spots.
- Use a warm tea bag on a cold sore. Press it to your mouth for 20-30 mins.

I didn't believe this when someone told me, but I tried it - and the next morning it had (almost) disappeared!



GARDEN REMINDERS

Saving Seeds for Next Year

Collect seeds from non-hybrid annuals and perennials. Spread seeds on newspaper for a week to allow them to dry thoroughly, then store them in a sealed jar. For maximum storage life, put the jar in the refrigerator or better yet, the freezer.

HINT: Did you know that Marigolds planted in a garden help to keep pests away?

Dave Roever visits First Assembly of God

Griffin, Georgia



Evangelist Dave Roever, Vietnam survivor and war hero, details plans to open Eagles Summit Ranch, a retreat for Wounded Warriors.

World renowned evangelist Dave Roever visited Griffin First Assembly of God recently and spoke of a new recovery ranch for "wounded worriers" in the mountains of Colorado called "Eagles Summit Ranch, helping wounded warriors find their way home". His goal is to train these young heroes to turn their tragedy to triumph and show to a hurting world the difference Christ can make in life.



Dave Roever encourages Cpl. Eric W. Smith.

In conclusion, he honored all military in attendance "for what they are doing and what they have done for our freedom." He then shook each of their hands and express appreciation for their service to our country.



Senior Pastor Randy Valimont prayed for active and retired servicemen along with their families in a recent Sunday's service at First Assembly of God.

Family members were asked to join their soldiers for prayer. Senior Pastor Randy Valimont stated that his father served in the military for 30 years and he understood that when one member of the family went to war, the whole family was involved in the fight. The congregation stood to their feet and applauded these "men and women of courage"

For more information Griffin First Assembly of God, visit www.firsttouch.org. To learn more about the ministry of Dave Roever, visit www.daverover.net

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I Love Autumn

by Betty Castleberry

I love autumn. The dance of a brisk fall breeze signals colder days ahead, and maple trees punctuate the landscape with bright tartan colors. Flower beds sing with a chorus of vividly colored pansies and mums. Roadside stands beckon travelers to stop and fill rustic wooden baskets with firm red apples. Front porches are adorned with scarecrows and hay bales. Chatter at the local grocery stores often turns to which team will win the Friday night football game, or when the first freeze will occur.

Our nation's countryside is sprinkled with autumn celebrations. They may be called fall festivals, harvest festivals, or something entirely different, but their common thread is to applaud the autumn season. I dare anyone to leave one of these wonderful gatherings without being wooed by a sweet funnel cake, or a spicy homemade candle.

The animals know when it is autumn. My hummingbird feeder, a place in spring and summer for the tiny winged ones to congregate, is now abandoned. At the same time, crows are abundant. They convene on high wires and in tree tops, greeting the day with a cacophony of calls. Other creatures tend to the business of preparing for winter. Sometimes, I think they are wiser than we are. They don't neglect their chores, but go about them with gusto, gathering and storing and hiding.



Autumn is the perfect season for making pumpkin pie. There is nothing like the aroma of cinnamon and ginger to make a kitchen extra cozy. Sharing a piece of warm pumpkin pie with a loved one is one of life's vastly underrated pleasures.

Some people do not like to see autumn arrive. They view it as

an end to lazy summer days, instead of heralding in a new season filled with brilliant color. As I enter the autumn of my life, I realize how blessed I am. My life is dotted with the rich hues of children and grandchildren. I no longer receive a pay check, but I am quite wealthy. Watching a toddler, head bowed in prayer, is the most wonderful harvest anyone could reap.

The cooler autumn days do not bother me. I welcome them, knowing soon it will be winter, and the winter of my life will soon arrive as well. I'm not afraid. If it's as wonderful as my autumn, I'm going to have a ball.

Copyright 2006 Betty Castleberry
The author is a retired-early-by-choice RN who lives in Texas with her husband and three parrots. She has a daughter, step daughter, and five grandchildren. She is a published author, and loves to write for the Lord.
Email her @ doncastleberry@sbcglobal.net
Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com>

Heirloom Preservation - A Keepsake Box

by Jessica Gerald

I love scrapbook journaling, but there are times when everything won't fit in a scrapbook. That's when a keepsake box can be just the thing you need.

My husband and I recently celebrated our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. My mother, sister, and best friend planned a beautiful celebration at the church in which we were married. I had fully intended to create a scrapbook of the occasion.

But as I looked over the mementos of the evening, I realized that a scrapbook would not suit my needs. That's when I decided to use an alternative form of remembering the celebration. I would create a keepsake box just for my twenty-fifth anniversary

memories. Here are some ideas that may help you in a similar project.

The first step is to get an archival box. These come in many sizes. An archival box will preserve the contents from environmental damage and fading. I will make sure and label it for easy identification later on.

Here are some of the things I will put in the box:

- *The guest book
- *A copy of the invitation that was sent
- *The cake knives that my sister bought for the party
- *All the cards I received
- *Pieces of crepe paper, silver garland, and other small decorations

Those are just a few possibilities. Now I still want to include photos and a written journal of the event. So I will write out the menu, and who prepared it. I will also write a couple pages of the planning of the event, and an account of the evening. Lastly, I will put the pictures on scrapbook paper with captions telling who the people are. The pictures and writings will be inserted in archival plastic sleeves and also added to the box.

I think it is important to do a project like this as soon as possible after the experience. You always think you will remember the details, but if you're like me, you don't.

A keepsake box can be used for many occasions. Hopefully these ideas can help you preserve some of the priceless memories of your life.

By Jessica Gerald
<http://www.ladiesprayerministry.com>



Cooking In The House October & The Caramel Apple

by Jennifer Cote

School's been in session over a month now, which to me means: The holidays are just around the corner. But the pace is good. Thanksgiving menu ideas can still be put off a month, and Christmas shopping isn't a priority yet. We can sit back and enjoy! Harvest Festivals remind us that a new season is upon us, without demanding too much effort. Keeping with traditions, if we could acquire The Perfect Caramel Apple, would we need anything else in this Harvest Season?!

Some time ago, I aspired to begin a tradition with our then-toddler son, to have caramel apples at his October 31st birthday parties. No expert at that point, I purchased the pre-packaged, wrapped caramels, following the directions on the bag. That's what you're supposed to do, right? But why didn't I ask mom?! She could've told me: If you want an exceptional apple, you have to make the caramel yourself. And she'd be right. As I watched her caramelize the sugar in a hot pan, the white granules dissolved into a golden syrup. Was it really just white sugar? Yes! She then poured half as much cream into the hot syrup, slowly, and the perfect caramel dipping sauce was created.

Mastering the skill of caramelizing sugar welcomes other applications. For the caramelized walnuts that we add to one of our chicken salads at the deli, I "melt" the sugar in a pan, then stir in walnuts, which I turn out into a bowl to cool. I end up with crunchy, sweet walnuts, which go well with the raisins, celery, and dash of red wine vinegar in that particular recipe.

On any given weekend, we may have some ice cream on hand. With some sugar in the cupboard and a bit of cream available, we've had many a Sundae with Hot Caramel Sauce. If you're going to do the crime and pacify that sweet tooth, might as well make it worth it! Once you've had homemade caramel sauce, it's hard to settle for less.

CARAMEL APPLES

Granny Smith and Pippin Apples work well for this; the tart crunchiness goes with the gooey sweetness of the caramel. Otherwise, whatever's available will do well enough. You can get more creative and decadent by adding mini-chocolate chips. Makes 6 to 12 apples, depending on size.

Directions

Lightly oil a sheet of wax paper, to use for setting dipped apples on.

Chop finely: 2 c. roasted, salted, skinless peanuts
(or substitute nuts of your choice)

Push popsicle sticks firmly into stem end of apples, using 6 large apples, or more if smaller
Get medium skillet (preferable iron or enamel) quite hot, then pour sugar over its surface, shaking the pan to get sugar dispersed over any hot spots, using: 1 c. white sugar

Let sugar "melt" completely, turning into a golden brown syrup.

Remove from heat, and slowly stir in (a bit at a time):

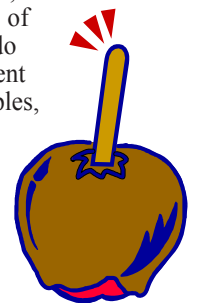
1 c. heavy cream

Let caramel cool a few minutes to get a thicker coat onto the apples. Pour into a small bowl to dip apples into, or leave in pan, spooning caramel over apples to coat. Roll dipped apples into chopped nuts (and any other toppings you choose). Set on wax paper to firm up. Will keep several days. Around our house, they last a few hours max.

Check out Jennifer Cote's cookbook/devotional, *From the Land of Milk and Honey*, at <http://fromthelandofmilkandhoney.com> Jennifer Cote and husband Tom opened *The New Deli* in Pinole, CA in 1985. Jen's cookbook/devotional is filled with favorite recipes, scripture, and more.

Email Jennifer at getrecipes@hotmail.com, about her newsletter and cooking show.

Or visit <http://fromthelandofmilkandhoney.com> for book details.





Promenade Pictures Set to Release The Ten Commandments

Christian Newswire-- Promenade Pictures has announced that it will release its inaugural big screen feature film as the first of 12 Epic Stories of the Bible franchise...The Ten Commandments. Scheduled to release in theaters nationwide on October 26 2007. This full-length, 3D CGI animation brings the Bible classic to life in a film that uncovers the true meaning of faith and God's message of love to humankind - known as The Ten Commandments.

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

Filled with high adventure and a gentle sense of humor, the miraculous story of The Ten Commandments showcases Moses, an ordinary man with an extraordinary calling. He was the only man in Biblical history to behold the face of God and call Him friend. The film takes a unique approach to highlighting the humanity of Moses and displaying the power of God.

The film will be distributed by Promenade Pictures; a full-service production, distribution and marketing company specializing in the distribution of theatrical motion pictures and home entertainment. Promenade stands on the belief that they are the only U.S. distribution entity whose priority is to effectively market and distribute quality family entertainment in a way that is enjoyable and engaging, yet cost effective.

"We at Promenade are extremely proud to present The Ten Commandments as our first motion picture release," declares Frank Yablans (former president of Paramount and former CEO of MGM/UA), chairman and CEO of Promenade Pictures. "Promenade Pictures is in a unique position to facilitate the production



and distribution of quality values based entertainment to families worldwide. Not since the young Walt Disney and his brother Roy has a similar vision in 1938 has an opportunity like this been present."

Founded in 2003, Promenade Pictures was structured by an exceptional management team, all of whom have excelled in various management positions in the entertainment world. The company is now strategically positioned to produce, market, distribute and fully service independent filmmakers with production budgets ranging \$5 million to \$30 million. Promenade has entered into contracts and associations teaming them with many of the most recognized moral-valued authors, filmmakers and brands.

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

"Not since my years working with Walt Disney have I been so happy to bring motion pictures to families. I truly feel that we are helping accomplish God's work in bringing stories to film that will make a difference in the lives of people," reports Yablans.

The Ten Commandments will open nationwide in theaters on October 26, 2007. For more information, visit www.promenadepictures.com.

Christian Entertainers Confront Actor Kathy Griffin's Jesus Bashing and Hollywood's Attitudes of Insensitivity D-List Slander of Jesus Sparks Grass Roots Campaign

Christian Newswire: "Enough is enough!" is the headline of a full-page USA Today ad purchased by a consortium of Christian actors, singers, dancers, crew and managers sending a message about hurtful and insensitive attitudes toward the Christian faith coming out of Hollywood. Kathy Griffin's blasphemous Emmy Award acceptance speech that slandered Jesus Christ and was bleeped out during the national awards show telecast on E!-provoked action from The Miracle Theater of Pigeon Forge, TN that ran the almost \$100,000 ad on Monday, September 17. That evening before millions of viewers, Larry King on his nightly CNN broadcast held up the ad and bantered with the "D-List" star about growing public discontent.

Most recently, The Miracle Theater's cast and management have expanded the campaign to give the public a voice on the matter, and thousands of concerned Americans have already responded by signing the "One Million for Christ" petition at (www.MiracleTheater.com). It states, "The name of Jesus Christ

should not be mocked, nor should those who love Him be slandered for their beliefs. It is time for people of faith around the country to stand firm against religious slander, bias, and bigotry of all types including Christianity." Russ Hollingsworth, The Miracle Theater General Manager, says, "It seems like Christianity is the only religion that it's acceptable to persecute. It made my heart sick to see people in the audience at the Emmy's laughing at Griffin's remarks. It should not be acceptable to mock anyone's faith. We have to start changing the hearts and minds of people on this subject!"

"We believe that every American has the right to worship freely and to speak freely," Hollingsworth continues. "We believe, however, that as Christians, we should not accept mockery of our Lord quietly. When word reached our cast that a Hollywood celebrity had stood before TV cameras and said such vulgar things about Christ, they were moved to do something. It's not okay anymore to mock Christians and Jesus with impunity."

The idea for the "One Million for Christ" petition came about after the theater's ad appeared Monday morning in USA TODAY; many people were looking for a way to speak out on the matter. Those interested in standing alongside the theater to defend the Christian faith can sign the petition online at www.MiracleTheater.com. In the end, the petition will be presented to the media.

"Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus was mocked and few stood up for him," begins The USA Today ad that launched the grass roots campaign. "We, at the Miracle Theater, consider it an honor to stand for Jesus today. We may never win a national award. We may never be household names. We may never be seen in Hollywood. Although others may choose to use their national platform to slander our God, we are honored as professional entertainers to stand for Christ."

The Miracle Theater produces wholesome family entertainment and faith-based live theatrical productions. They launched the "One Million for Christ" petition drive on Sept. 16. www.MiracleTheater.com

Trinity Broadcasting Network to Air Long Awaited State of the Art Children's "God Rocks" Cartoon Series

Trinity Broadcasting brings the Good News to kids via latest high tech animation media. Starting October 1st at 2:30 pm Pacific M-F on TBNs "Smile of a Child TV" and on TBN weekly beginning Sat. Oct 6th at 8:30am Pacific weekly with state of the art animation and a quality to match anything Saturday morning cartoon shows now offer, here comes "God Rocks," with a Christian message, inspirational songs and the God Rocks Bibletoons video shorts.

God Rocks original music teaches kids important lessons from the Bible in a fun and entertaining way. The premise of God Rocks and all of the characters are based on a well known verse of

the Bible, Luke 19:40 "If the people fall silent, the stones will cry out." Fun "rock" characters including main character "Chip Livingstone," live in the imaginary town of Rocky Ridge, where they live to sing and praise God. Just in case the people fall silent!

God Rocks has won numerous awards for best children's series and music. God Rocks is produced by Chelsea Road Productions Inc, a Canadian based production company established in 1994. The mission of Chelsea Road Productions is "To serve the public and its clients through the creation and production of quality family programming that both entertain and inspire."

Smile of a Child TV offers quality Christian Children's programming 24 hours per day. The network is all about helping children develop positive social and spiritual skills at a young age bringing the best moral and biblical teaching through fun and constructive television. Smile of a Child TV is available in 57 U.S. cities reaching 2.3 million households and growing and the world wide audience reach is over 100 million souls. Additionally it is available live on the web via video streaming.

To find out more about the Smile of a Child TV Network, visit www.smileofachild.tv

Christmas Comes Early to Branson
**Dolly's Christmas at Dixie Showcases
 'The Reason for the Season'**



Christian Newswire-- Folks who visit Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede during the Christmas season will be amazed by the unbelievable transformation. Opening Wednesday, October 24th, Christmas at Dixie Stampede converts the dinner and show into a beautiful holiday spectacular. From the festive show theme and the full-scale live nativity scene including camels, donkeys and sheep to the gorgeous decorations throughout the building and the warmth of traditional holiday music.

Back by popular demand this year, Dixie Stampede Dinner and Show adds a touch of grace to the holidays with a special performance by professional Adagio ice skaters, Alicia Cavanaugh & Michal Przyk.

Alicia is a USA triple gold medalist (singles, pairs & 'moves-in-the-field') and was a US National team member in 2001. She accepted her first professional contract in 2002 and since then Alicia has performed as a principal soloist around the world including shows such as Holiday on Ice, Festival on Ice and on board the Royal Caribbean Cruise line ships to name a few. Michal (known as "Mikki") is from Poland and was a Polish National Dance competitor for several years. Mikki also toured with Holiday on Ice as a dance pair soloist and has also been featured in productions in the USA, Germany and throughout Eastern Western Europe. Combined, their style, grace and strength are becoming well known throughout the professional skating world. Alicia's and Mikki's goals for the future include seeing the world and entertaining audiences together for years to come!

"We wanted to give families more joyful entertainment during the Christmas season," says owner, Dolly Parton. "The special effects like the ice skaters and live nativity scene really bring the holiday season to life. I can't wait for folks to experience this year's Christmas show - it's going to be great."

Christmas at Dixie features a seasonal twist with a friendly rivalry between the North and South Poles full of equestrian feats, graceful riders, and audience participation games like wreath tossing and a "stick" reindeer race. The 90-minute production is highlighted with ice skaters descending from the ceiling on a specially designed skating platform and gliding under the "stars" to a brisk holiday soundtrack.

Celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus is brought to life with Mary, Joseph, the wise men, and a living nativity of live camels, donkeys, and sheep. In addition, Santa himself makes an appearance in his sleigh, as Dixie's 1100-seat arena is transformed into a winter wonderland of fresh fallen snow.

Christmas at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede is complimented by a holiday feast of a whole rotisserie chicken, hickory smoked barbecue pork loin, herb-basted potato, buttery corn on the cob, creamy vegetable soup, homemade biscuit, and an apple turnover for dessert.

Christmas at Dixie Stampede runs October 24th, 2007 through December 31st, 2007. One ticket price includes the Carriage Room pre-show, the main arena Christmas At Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show and a collector Souvenir Boot Mug with a speciality soft drink.

Visit <http://www.dixiestampede.com/christmas.php> for more information

October/December 2007

*PTC Calls on Airlines to Set More Responsible
 Standards for In-Flight Entertainment*

The Parents Television Council™ voiced the strong concerns of its members and the general public by asking the airline industry to set and adhere to family-friendly guidelines for in-flight entertainment. The PTC statement comes on the heels of legislation that was introduced in September in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the growing number of violent or sexually charged in-flight programs and "R" or "PG-13" rated movies that are being shown on monitors throughout airplane cabins with no realistic way to shield children.

According to PTC President Tim Winter, "We are asking the airline industry to take responsibility for the new barrage of adult-oriented entertainment they are forcing on captive audiences in the form of in-flight entertainment. It is ridiculous that this issue has become so commonplace, so outrageous, that our elected officials feel they have been left with no choice but to intervene. Why can't the airlines rectify the problem voluntarily and nullify any need for legislation in the first place?"

"Air travelers don't purchase tickets based on the airline's sexual or violent content on the in-flight entertainment system; therefore, there is no market demand for this type of material on airplanes with mixed audiences that regularly include children. The problem could be solved quickly and easily if the airlines would simply adopt media guidelines that are consistent with their corporate values and the values of their own customers.

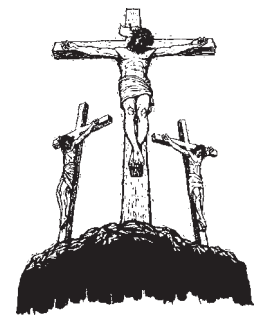
"Personally, on separate United flights carrying dozens of school-aged children, I've seen in-flight programming with sexual situations and coarse language on NBC's Las Vegas and Desperate Housewives. PTC members have spoken out about the airing of HBO's drama Rome that has been described as sadistic. And the film Fracture, which features a graphic depiction of Anthony Hopkins shooting his wife in the face, seems to be an airline darling, having been exhibited on United, Delta and Continental Airlines. On my family's summer vacation, the R-rated Hopkins film was beamed across every monitor in the airplane cabin," Winter continued.

"The historical airline standard that nothing would be shown in-flight that couldn't be safely viewed by all passengers – including the children traveling on the plane – is clearly nonexistent. The airline industry is showing great disrespect for passengers and the public by making irresponsible entertainment choices. We urge each airline to address this issue by setting in-flight entertainment guidelines and making judicious programming choices in the future," Winter concluded.

The Parents Television Council was founded in 1995 to ensure that children are not constantly assaulted by sex, violence and profanity on television and in other media. This national grassroots organization has over one million members across the United States, and works with television producers, broadcasters, networks and sponsors in an effort to stem the flow of harmful and negative messages targeted to children. The PTC also works with elected and appointed government officials to enforce broadcast decency standards. Most importantly, the PTC produces critical research and publications documenting the dramatic increase in sex, violence and profanity in entertainment. This information is provided free of charge so parents can make informed viewing choices for their own families. www.parentstv.org

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

"For 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 sonburstnews@bellsouth.net

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NewsMax.com

Health Alerts



The Blaylock Wellness Report

Living a Long Healthy Life

Edited by Russell L. Blaylock, M.D.



Coffee, Exercise Fight Skin Cancer

Coffee is quickly rising from the rank of nutritional "bad boy" to super-nutrient star status. A new study shows that a double espresso daily combined with exercise can prevent skin cancer.

It joins other studies that show coffee helps keep a myriad of diseases, including diabetes, colon cancer, Parkinson's, and liver cancer at bay, while protecting the memory of older women.

The study at Rutgers University in New Jersey divided hairless mice into four groups. One group drank caffeinated water that was the equivalent of two cups of coffee daily. The second group ran on a running wheel the equivalent of a person running between two and two and a half miles daily.

The third group drank caffeinated water and exercised while the fourth group, which was the control group, did neither. All mice were exposed to lamps that generated enough UVB radiation to damage the DNA of skin cells.

Researchers discovered that the group of mice that drank caffeinated water and exercised killed off damaged cells "those that would potentially lead to skin cancer" best of all. The mice that drank caffeine water only killed off damaged skin cells 96 percent better than the control group, and the exercise-only group killed off damaged cells 120 percent better. But the group that both drank caffeine and exercised killed off almost 400 percent more damaged cells.



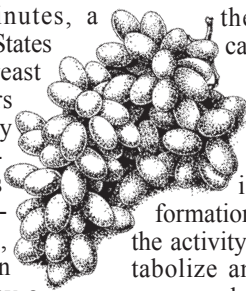
Regardless, people should still take care to protect themselves against the damaging rays of the sun. "You should not give up the sunblock," said Dr. Allan H. Conney, senior author of the study. It's the only proven way, say experts, to protect yourself from the damaging rays of the sun that can lead to skin cancer.

Grape Juice May Protect Against Breast Cancer

Every three minutes, a woman in the United States is diagnosed with breast cancer. While factors like age and heredity can contribute significantly to a woman's likelihood of contracting this disease, lifestyle and nutrition choices may also play a role.

One dietary choice that may help provide protection against breast cancer is a glass of 100 percent grape juice made from deep purple Concord grapes.

According to a new study, published in the current issue of the Journal of Medicinal Foods, natural compounds in Concord grape juice protected healthy human breast cells from DNA damage. Healthy human breast cells were exposed in a test tube to an environmental carcinogen, benzo(a)pyrene, that is able to initiate a chain of events leading to breast cancer. However, the introduction of Concord grape juice compounds blocked



the connection of the carcinogen to the DNA of the healthy cells.

"The purple grape compounds demonstrated the capacity to inhibit DNA adduct formation as well as to increase the activity of enzymes that metabolize and detoxify carcinogens, and suppress potentially cancer-causing oxidative stress," said Dr. Keith Singletary, nutrition professor and lead researcher at the University of Illinois. "These new data suggest that anthocyanins present in Concord grape juice, as well as some other fruits and juices, warrant further study for their breast cancer chemo-preventive potential."

This research is the latest to suggest that Concord grape juice may be of value in maintaining breast health by suppressing oxidative stress and inhibiting DNA damage to cells that can lead to the initiation of cancer, or in helping to slow the progression of breast cancer by slowing the multiplication of cancer cells.

Diets high in natural antioxidants have been associated with a reduced risk of some types of cancers, and Welch's 100% Grape Juice made from Concord grapes is particularly high in anthocyanins, potent natural antioxidants that give the juice its characteristic deep purple color.

At the same time, drinking 100 percent grape juice made from Concord grapes can help your heart and perhaps your breast health according to this study.

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

His credentials include 26 years of experience in neurosurgery, editorship of the respected Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons and Journal of the American Nutriceutical Association.

He is now editing Blaylock Wellness Report (published by NewsMax) because he believes that too many Americans are not getting the best advice on preventing and dealing with cancer, heart disease, diabetes, brain diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, and dozens of other health problems now plaguing Americans.

The Miracle of Tunguska



View from Kirensk, two seconds before the explosion.
Painting © William K. Hartmann

The Tunguska Story

After nearly a century of study and research, scientists still can't explain precisely what occurred deep in the Siberian wilderness of Tunguska, Russia on June 30, 1908. Some have theorized a comet or the airburst of a meteor 5 or 6 miles above the earth, which still does not account for the unexpected and unexplainable botanical benefits to the area.

This much has been proven: A cataclysmic event more dramatic than any since the biblical Flood felled more than 200 million trees over 850 square miles. The event had the effect of impregnating the soil with a dense organic infusion resulting in "miracle harvests" of the herbs, roots, and other plants grown in that region.

As reports slowly began to arrive in Europe, scientists heard that a burst of light was witnessed more than 100 miles from the epicenter. The blast was calculated to have the power of 10 to 15 megatons ...but without the contamination or crater an explosion would create. Rather than making a desert of Tunguska, the burst of light made a kind of Garden of Eden, an oasis of fertility only partly explained by the nourishing influence of the felled forests.



For more information, visit www.barbsblast.cyberwize.com

Enhanced Botanicals

Thousands of trees, herbs, and other plants cultivated in the sub-arctic conditions of Tunguska, grow up to four times the rate and larger than similar vegetation elsewhere. CyberWize, a leading provider of safe, effective nutritional products for more than seven years, chose the ten with the most powerful therapeutic properties for a nutritional supplement called Tunguska Blast. These enhanced plants include herbs, roots, and fruits that have been shown to possess natural nutritional benefits.

CyberWize formulated these rich botanicals unique to Tunguska as a core nutritional technology, co-extracting essential oils and blending them to magnify their potency. This proprietary blend of ten rare plants has been enhanced for optimum response and benefit, delivered with a sensational flavor.

Affiliate Program

The miracle of Tunguska lies not only in a nutritionally powerful product, but also in the opportunity of the Tunguska Affiliate Program.

CyberWize has experienced explosive growth with the introduction of Tunguska Blast, and is poised for worldwide expansion. CyberWize provides everything to make the most of your Tunguska Opportunity, including: a state-of-the-art digital office, a personalized website, and thorough training.



Cornerstone Community Church

www.cornerstone.2truth.com
William Mueller, Pastor
192 W. Campground Rd., McDn, GA
678.898.6490

Celebrate Recovery

Friday, 6:30 p.m.
A 12 step Christ centered recovery program based on the eight principles from the beatitudes. Classes include substance abuse, co-dependency, and divorce care. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., praise and worship at 7:15 p.m., and small groups at 8:00 p.m. Child care is available.

Tribulation Trail: is an interactive walk through the book of Revelation. A combined effort of several local churches, the trail takes place every Friday and Saturday Night in the month of October on the Mount Vernon Baptist Church (info@mvbefocus.org) campus at 2178 GA Highway 138 East, Stockbridge, GA. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and should be purchased in advance through TicketMaster online or Publix Supermarket.

Historical Display

Continued from page 1

now be legally posted in local government buildings:

1. The Ten Commandments
2. The Mayflower Compact, 1620
3. The Declaration of Independence
4. Magna Carta
5. 'The Star-Spangled Banner' by Francis Scott Key
6. The National Motto: "In God We Trust"
7. The Preamble to the Georgia Constitution
8. The Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution
9. The description on the image of Lady Justice

These documents may be viewed and purchased at: www.thoushalt.org



First Assembly of God

www.griffinfirst.org
Randy Valimont, Pastor
2000 West McIntosh Rd., Griffin, GA
770.228.2307

Fall Festival 2007:

Wednesday, Oct. 31.
Activities include: Inflatables, petting zoo, pony rides, trackless train and carnival games. Free admission with 2 canned goods per person. Scary masks/costumes are not allowed.

Art at the Depot

Hampton, GA
Friday, Nov. 9, 7:00 p.m.

Local Henry County artists will show original art during an Opening Reception, "Evening at the Depot". Exhibits will include photography, sculpture, textiles, jewelry, metal works, as well as paintings. Many pieces will be available for purchase at completion of the display, which will run through early January. The public is invited to this free event.

Joyce Meyer with Hillsong London

www.joycemeyer.org/Conferences/home.htm
Location
The Arena at Gwinnett Center
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Atlanta, GA
(770) 813-7500

Nov. 1-2, 2007
Thursday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Sessions includes a powerful message from Joyce and features worship with Hillsong London.

Holidays

November
4: Daylight Savings Time End "Fall Back"
11: Veteran's Day
22: Thanksgiving

December
5: Hanukkah
25: Christmas Day

January
1: New Year's Day

The Christian and Family Business Expo

Cobb Galleria Centre
December 15 - 16 10:00am - 7:00pm

A faith based open floor marketplace where businesses, corporations, companies, churches, ministries, organizations, institutions, media and independent contract can market, promote, network and sell their products in an environment where there are hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of consumers. The public is invited and welcome to attend the Expo. For more information visit www.christianbusinessexpo.net

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OCTOBER 29TH

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ON THE LAWN - IN FRONT OF PARTNERS II PIZZA

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD



Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday activities for all ages: 7:00 p.m.

Alive, a gathering for young adults 18 to 20-something meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Center

Griffin First Assembly

visit us online for more information
and upcoming events

www.griffinfirst.org

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE

In this age of spiritual expansion, wondering souls are searching for fulfillment.



Mystic Searching ...



Darkness and shadows
Gloom and doom
Vision of emptiness
Filling a tomb.

Hidden secrets
No one will know
Lonely helplessness
Not letting it show.

Swords and dragons
Spells and strife
Demons galore
Ending your life.

Seeing the spiritual
Wanting power inside
Darkness allures
Lightness to hide.

Games in our mind
Our bodies a tool
Satan will take you
And make you a fool.

Implanting spiritualism
Teaching a lie
Mystic and mythical
Training souls to die.

Barbara Scott

Humanity has romanticized spiritualism. The desire to control and manipulate our destiny has caused us to seek supernatural abilities. Dissatisfied with church experiences, or the concept of serving one supreme God, many have searched answers and ways to enhance their spiritual experience.

Mystical seekers will often follow after any flash of spiritual light or insight. They are drawn to it like moths to the flame, willing to do whatever it takes to gain the power to change and control their own destiny. What they find however, is not always true spiritual enlightenment.

In the spiritual realm, certain fundamental rules govern various types of mystical endeavors. For example, faith in your own personal mystical ability is governed by spiritual darkness, whereas

faith in God's ability to intervene on our behalf is spiritual light.

The New Age philosophy teaches that faith is simply using the thought process to control circumstances. You can manifest your desires and dreams if you believe hard enough, say the right phrases over and over again, and direct universal energy to work in your behalf. In the occult it is referred to as "mind over matter".

Organizations such as the Psychic Hotline promise that through astrology, fortune telling, tarot cards, palm reading, etc., you can be guided into making the right decisions about your future. They promise you that by using positive thinking, white witchcraft, ESP, lucky keys or crystal power you can create success in marriage, business, health, money, and anything else you desire.

But God, who controls all things, condemns all such practices. "Let no one be found among you who ... practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells or who is a medium or spiritualist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord" (Deut. 18:10-12).

If mankind's higher spiritual (psychic), emotional and physical potential is not reached during this life time, mystic searchers want the promise of another chance. Reincarnation is their hope of a second chance at life. Taught throughout time, and currently being kept alive by the teaching of the New Age religion, it is the belief that after death, your soul implants itself in another newborn body. This theory suggest that eventually, life after life, you'll evolve into a supreme person.

Many mystic searchers have recreated an ancient religion involving spiritualism and universal light or energy. This may also include the worship of Nature (Mother Earth). Believers imply that all of creation, the land, all humans and animals are brothers and should be respected as such. Recent movies aimed at

indoctrinating children and society into this way of thinking are very popular. There is also the belief that God is all things, so all things must be treated as God. Some environmentalists suggest human beings should be considered equal to animals and other created life. Only man however, was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26, 27), and we must be careful not to exalt creation over the Creator (Rom. 1:25).

It is a dangerous ambition to desire to become god-like. Isaiah 13:12-15 teaches the fall of Lucifer was caused by his desire to exalt himself and become god-like. Lucifer rebelled against God and was cast out of Heaven with his followers, other fallen angels. Satan has a real, destructive hate aimed at Christ and His followers. He knows that humans crave spiritual fulfillment and will use any means he can to deceive mankind into believing a spiritual lie. II Corinthians 4:4 warns us that "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." True "enlightenment" comes through knowing who God is, and what His goal is for our life.

The longing for spiritual enlightenment is one of the natural ways we, as spiritual beings, seek fulfillment. The Holy Spirit draws us to a higher understanding of spiritual truths, yet we often allow ourselves to be sidetracked by the great counterfeiter, satan. The entertainment business has bombarded our society with mediums, wizards, witches, and underworld creatures. Most cartoons, children's books, television shows, and movies have some type of super power demonstrated in an enticing way. Whatever mystical powers or abilities found in a worldly society however, will pale in comparison to the spiritual manifestations found through the Holy Spirit.

Mathew 10:1 explains that Jesus should be the source of our spiritual power. Through Him, we can obtain the ability to do the work of the Kingdom. According to scripture, Christ is the only

true doorway (John 10:7-9), all other doors lead to spiritual destruction and eternal death. He said that "No man comes to the Father except by me" (John 14:6). Faith in Christ is the only spiritual truth, all other variations are false.

God provides each of us the right to choose whomever we will trust enough to serve and follow into eternity. We demonstrate our beliefs by the way we live and what we put our faith in. By choosing our "God" we choose where our soul will travel after death, Heaven or Hell.

It may be more popular to believe that by living a good life, full of good works will earn us a place in Heaven. Our salvation is not based on works. Romans 3:10 explains that no one is righteous or good enough to get into heaven through their own works.

Halloween Spooks: Should We 'Talk to the Dead'

Christian Newswire -- Halloween is also called "Night of the Dead" because it is believed that on this night "the veil that separates our world from the Otherworld is at its thinnest," and "the spirits of the dead roam freely among the living."

Tradition or not, Hollywood's obsession with dialog with the deceased is eerily evident. Thrillers like *White Noise* and *The Sixth Sense*, prime time TV series such as *Medium*, *Ghost Whisperer*, and *Lisa Williams: Talking to the Dead*, combined with the spooky insights of psychic mediums like Allison Dubois, John Edward, and Sylvia Browne have catapulted the notion of 'talking to dead people' into mainstream society. Even J.K. Rowling's climactic *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* depicts an end-of-the-series conversation between Harry Potter and his dead mentor, Albus Dumbledore. Are such dialogs possible? Can the dead speak from *The Other Side*?

"Definitely not!" warns media veteran and bestselling author Steve Wohlberg, whose newest book, *Demons in Disguise: The*

Good works are a result of our salvation, a sign of our spiritual focus and obedience, and a desire to share a loving touch from God.

As the End of Time approaches, the desire for spiritual fulfillment has increased. God has promised to pour out His Spirit upon all man (Joel 2:23, 28-29). To find true spiritual fulfillment we must first go to the Cross of Calvary and confess our inability to "be good enough" to pay the price for eternal life.

There, our past sins are forgiven and we are reborn spiritually out of this sinful world and into a world of light and hope. The spiritual hunger in our souls will be filled with the love and goodness of God. The righteousness of Christ will bring us to a place of spiritual fulfillment and eternal peace in the presence of God.

Dangers of Talking to the Dead (Destiny Image, 2007) raises a clarion Red Alert against this spooky practice. "I realize how painful the death of a loved one can be," Wohlberg clarifies, "yet seeking solace from a dead relative is fraught with risks. Lying spirits exist 'beyond the veil.'"

A biblical expert with B.A. and M-Div Degrees in theology, Wohlberg demonstrates conclusively that, in spite Hollywood's glorification of 'necromancy' (dialog with the dead), the practice is strictly forbidden in the Bible (see Deut. 18:11); and for good reason. "Deceptive ghosts can easily impersonate dead loved ones," Wohlberg warns. With penetrating insight, his eye-opening book not only provides sensible answers to the perplexing question of what lies "beyond death's door," but also offers tender comfort and solid hope of a future reunion with deceased relatives and friends.

Steve Wohlberg is the Speaker/Director of White Horse Media (Fresno, CA). TV producer, radio host, and the author of 15 books, he's been on over 500 radio and TV shows. For more information, visit www.avoidthedeath.com

Reading Horoscopes is an Abomination

According to ChristiaNet.com Poll

Christian Newswire -- ChristiaNet.com, the world's largest Christian portal with twelve million monthly page loads, recently asked, "Is reading a horoscope a sin?" President of ChristiaNet, Bill Cooper, stated, "Christians should avoid all forms of evil especially any forms of witchcraft."

The majority of Christians, regardless if they chose "Yes", "No" or "Unsure", believed putting one's faith in horoscopes is a sin. 61% of the 1,186 polled answered "Yes" that it is a sin. In this group's opinion, the simple act of reading a horoscope means the reader is relying upon something other than God for guidance in their life. Many Believers had comments like "Only trust in God" and "God is in control." Others in this group considered horoscopes as a form of witchcraft or idolatry.

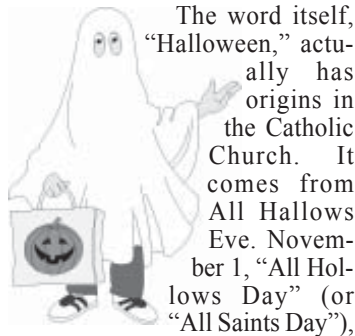
The remaining thirty-nine percent of the participants chose either "No" or "Unsure". The comments from these two groups reflected a type of dualism on this topic. They considered reading horoscopes just entertainment provided the reader does not believe or act upon the message. They determined whether this form of entertainment is a sin based on the motive or attitude of the reader. One participant said, "It's just for fun, I don't take it seriously." While another put the burden of discernment upon the Holy Spirit by saying, "If the Holy Spirit convicts you, then you should not do it."

The Bible states in Deuteronomy that divination or consulting with enchanters or witches is an abomination to God. In the Book of Acts, Paul encountered a girl who had a spirit of divination in her. She was telling people's future for money until Paul cast out the evil spirit in the name of Jesus Christ. While many Christians felt that it's acceptable to read one's future as long as the motive is pure, the Bible clearly prohibits the act regardless if the motivation is for entertainment or real decision making purposes.

History and Customs of Halloween

A Christian Perspective

Halloween is celebrated annually. But just how and when did this peculiar custom originate? Isn't Halloween just harmless fun?



The word itself, "Halloween," actually has origins in the Catholic Church. It comes from All Hallows Eve. November 1, "All Hallows Day" (or "All Saints Day"), a Catholic day of observance in honor of saints. In Celtic Ireland, summer officially ended on October 31. The holiday was called Samhain (sow-en), the Celtic New year. Samhain, a Druid god of the dead was honored at Halloween in Britain, France, Germany and the Celtic countries. Samhain called together all wicked souls who died within the past year and that were destined to inhabit animals. This celebration of the dead honored the god of the dead on this particular night.

One story says that, on that day, the disembodied spirits of all those who had died throughout the preceding year would come back in search of living bodies to possess for the next year. It was believed to be their only hope for the afterlife, (Panati). The Celts believed all laws of space and time were suspended during this time, allowing the spirit world to intermingle with the living, (Gahagan). Naturally, the still-living did not want to be possessed. So on the night of October 31, villagers would extinguish the fires in their homes, to

make them cold and undesirable. They would then dress up in all manner of ghoulish costumes and noisily paraded around the neighborhood, being as destructive as possible in order to frighten away spirits looking for bodies to possess, (Panati).

Suitable food and shelter was provided for these spirits or else they would cast spells, cause havoc, steal infants, destroy crops, kill farm animals and create terror as they haunted the living. The spirits demanded placating by giving them a type of worship and offering. This is the action that "Trick-or-Treat" emulates today. Black cats were considered to be reincarnated beings with the ability to divine the future. During this festival supernatural beings terrified the populace. Even today witchcraft practitioners declare October 31st as the most conducive time to practice their arts.

The Christian church tried to eliminate the Druid celebration by offering All Saint's Day as a substitute. As Christianity spread over Europe and the British Isles, it attempted to replace the pre-existing pagan cult worship of Apollo, Diana or Ymir, but to no avail. Although the outward forms of such worship disappeared, the belief in these deities did not. They found an outlet during the Middle Ages in the open practice of witchcraft which is presently enjoying a revival in many countries, including the United States. Traditional Halloween symbols appeared in the U.S. during the late 1800's. Witches, black cats, death's head cut from a pumpkin, candles, masks, parties and pranks were used.

Every act around Halloween is in honor of false gods, which are spirits in the realm of the Satanic. Those who have been deeply involved in witchcraft and who are now free, declare that even those who say they worship spirits of nature are in actuality contacting the Satanic realm without knowing it. Practices have also changed over time to become more ritualized. As belief in spirit possession waned, the practice of dressing up like hobgoblins, ghosts, and witches took on a more ceremonial role.

During the 1800s Irish Potato Famine, 700,000 immigrants came to America, bringing with them many traditions including the use of Jack-O-Lanterns. Traditionally, the lantern was carved from a turnip, potato, or beet and lit with a burning lump of coal or a candle.

These lanterns represented the souls of the departed loved ones and were placed in windows or set on porches to welcome the deceased. They also served as protection against malevolent spirits or goblins freed from the dead. In America, Turnips and gourds were not as readily available, so pumpkins were used.

The Bible instructs us to have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness.

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret." (Eph. 5:11-12)

Christian and Jew are forbidden to participate in the occult practices listed in Deuteronomy 18:10. Necromancing is the delving into contacting the dead. God said all such practice is an abomination to Him.

© 1995-2007 by Jerry Wilson. References: Charles Panati, *Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things*, 1987; and Dr. Joseph Gahagan, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Personal letter*, 1997. Copyright © 2003 by Jerry Wilson. Used with Permission. Also: Excerpts from an article by Mrs. Gloria Phillips titled: "Halloween - What It Is From A Christian Perspective"

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Concern for American Evangelicals

The Christian Post reports that leaders of the country's largest evangelical organization say dealing with changes in American culture is of utmost concern. The National Association of Evangelicals recently surveyed its leadership and found little concern centered on national politics or the war in Iraq. Culture concerns including consumerism, materialism, family finances, and the preservation of traditional families

were listed as top issues of concern to the evangelical leaders representing about 30 million members. Highest in culture concerns was reduction of abortions and defense of the sanctity of human life, according to NAE president Leith Anderson. The next likely issue of concern identified by evangelical leaders was helping the hurting, which included HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction and immigration reform.



Give Thanks

*When the summer's drought was broken,
Did you thank God for the rain?
When the crops were safely garnered,
Did you thank Him for the grain?*

*When you watched Fall's flaming beauty
Clothing all the forest land,
Did you thank God for the picture
From the Master Painter's hand?*

*When you read of ragged children
Begging for a crust of bread,
Did you thank the Heavenly Father
That your own were clothed and fed?*

*When death-dealing bombs were bursting
And the war planes zoomed afar,
Did you whisper, "Lord, I'm thankful
That our land is free from war?"*

*Have you counted all your blessings,
Tried to name them, one by one,
Friends and health and work and shelter?
See! You've only just begun.*

*Blessings, yes, we have so many,
We could never name them all;
Let's lift our hearts in glad thanksgiving
For all blessings, great and small.*

-Bina T. Sarver



With Thanksgiving

by Jerry Ousley

The holidays are fun aren't they? Well aren't they? In a few days we will be feasting on Thanksgiving Dinner, watching football and then on to Christmas shopping. I'll never understand why the ladies want to get up before dawn the day after Thanksgiving, hit the road to their favorite mall and turn from ladies to raging maniacs. I'd much rather spend the day watching action movies or something.

The holidays are times when a lot of us put on a few extra pounds due to multiple dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We all know what it's like to want to please all those extended families. I've known of some who have eaten as many as three full dinners on Thanksgiving Day. How can you not put on some extra tonnage? I'd like to think that my current weight situation is due to the many holiday dinners I've had over the years, but that's probably just a good excuse on my part.

The holidays can also cause us to be anxious. Don't you just love the way TV commercials advertise the latest and best in toys, video games and clothing styles this time of year? I guess who can blame them. After all they're just trying to make a living too. But then we've got to get to the mall the morning after Thanksgiving, stand in line for possibly hours waiting for the store to open, then

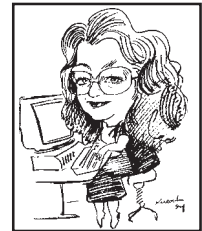
rush like we're racing for a million bucks to get one of those items that are the ones every kid wants for Christmas but there's only a limited supply. Man, I think I'd rather face line of blockers. At least they only want control of the ball and don't want to step on your face to beat you in line all to spend your hard earned money for a gift that little Johnny will play with for two weeks and then put on the shelf as another Christmas memento.

As Thanksgiving begins, let's first of all remember what the original holiday was all about. It was to give thanks to God for a good harvest and for having enough food to get through the next hard winter. I'd say that Americans have come a long way since those first days wouldn't you?

Giving thanks to God is something that should be a daily routine for us. Giving thanks with an attitude of real gratitude can work wonders in our lives. It causes us to slow down and think about all those simple, daily things we so easily take for granted. It also helps to ease those anxious emotions that have been proven to aggravate and actually cause sickness and disease. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Try it this season. It will make all the difference in your world.

Jerry D. Ousley is the Author of three books, "Soul Challenge", "Soul Journey" and "Ordeal." Listen to our daily broadcast Spirit Bread. Find out more by visiting www.spiritbread.com or email us at jousley@spiritbread.com Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com>

From The Editor



Seasons are changing and life is rapidly moving forward. We've moved into the final quarter of the year and our thoughts and energies turn towards family traditions and holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This issue of SonBurst News discusses not only these upcoming holidays, but also several intense issues including the political debate and the mystical side of spiritualism. I believe it has been quite a spiritual (and physical) battle just to get this issue completed and in your hands. Because it is several weeks late, it will cover the Christmas holidays as well.

With several feature sections, we pray that every reader will find something interesting and challenging. It's our goal to celebrate family traditions as well as educate and edify our readers. It's easier to focus on our own personal circle of life and turn our eyes away from the larger, more contrite environment in which we now live. There are situations which need to be exposed as they will impact our lives, eventually.

If you're interested in becoming our "Partners in Publishing" a rare "opportunity is knocking", page 20 has more details. Last issue was distributed via email all across the United States, in a matter of only minutes! You can receive SonBurst News directly into 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. This is a "grass-roots" effort, I'll take all the help I can get! If you have community news or church events send us an email with the information and/or a 'photograph (optional) and a paragraph' and we'll try to include it the next issue, FREE!

I hope you enjoy this publication, it's a true labor of love. We plead for your prayers and would love to hear your comments or ideas. There is a response form on page 20 as well as information about an internet forum you could join for FREE. If you'd like to have the SonBurst News distributed at your business or church, just let us know - we deliver! Feel free to "grab a handful" to put in your church foyer or business.

In His Service,
Barbara Scott
Publisher/Editor



Lord, we thank you for your love for us, your provisions, and your guidance.

We thank you for our family, our friends, and those you send our way to impact our lives for the better. Thank you Lord, for our church families and leaders. And Lord, we thank you for our ministries and the opportunity to share the Gospel with others. **Amen**



To the men and women who died for our freedom:

We Thank You

Veteran's Day - November 11

We Salute Their Bravery

An Advent Celebration

Advent is a celebration of Christ's advent—that is, of Christ's coming into the world. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, and culminates with the celebration of Christmas itself. There are varying degrees of traditions, symbolism, and celebrations for Advent, but it is basically a time for believers set aside for reflection and anticipation.

The beginning of Advent is a time for the hanging of the green, decoration of the church and home with evergreen wreaths, boughs, or trees that help to symbolize the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus the Christ.

With its association with Christmas, Advent is a natural time to involve children in activities at home that directly connect with worship at church. In the home an Advent wreath is often placed on the dining table and lighted at meals, with Scripture readings preceding the lighting of the candles, especially on Sunday.

The Advent wreath is a circular evergreen wreath with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.

Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. There is one candle for each of the four Sundays of Advent, and a fifth one for Christmas day. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

Traditionally, three candles are purple (or royal blue which some use to represent the joy which differentiates the celebration of Advent from the penitence of Lent) and the fourth is rose. The purple colors, representing royalty, longing, and preparation, are lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays (the "penitential" Sundays), and the rose-colored candle is lit on the third Sunday ("Gaudete" or the joyful Sunday in Advent). The fifth candle (the Christ candle) is white and is placed in the center of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve.

Usually when a candle is lit, a Scripture is read, a short devotional or reading is given, and a prayer offered. The lighted candles remind us of the light Christ brought in to the world, and the light from the candles grows brighter each week as we come closer to Christmas.

The first Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of "Hope". During the



first week of Advent we light a single purple candle (the Prophecy Candle which announces the period of waiting), remembering the hope that Jesus provided when He was born in Bethlehem and gave light to the world. This is also a time for looking forward to His second coming in power to deliver His people.

The second candle (also a purple candle) is the Bethlehem candle which is symbolic of the preparations made for the coming of the Christ child. The first candle is lit as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us. Then a second purple candle is lit as we remember that He brings peace that surpasses all understanding to all who trust Him.

The third candle (the rose-colored candle) is the Shepherd's candle (also known as the Joy candle) and typifies the act of sharing Christ. We begin by lighting the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace. Then we light the third candle of Advent.

The fourth candle (the final purple candle) is the Angels' candle representing love and the final coming. The preceding three candles are lit in order to remind us of Hope, Peace, and Joy as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting joy.

The final purple candle is lit to remind us of the love that God has for us, and how that perfect love is found in Jesus. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

On Christmas Eve we celebrate the birth of the One who is the light of the world, Jesus Christ, born this night in Bethlehem of Judea. We again light the candle of hope to remind us of the promises made by all the prophets that God would raise up a saviour for His people. Christ is this hope. We again light the candle of peace to remind us that it is only with God and by following in His path that true peace can be found. Christ makes this peace possible. We again light the candle of joy to remind us that God gives joy to every heart that abides in Him. Christ's birth in us brings us this joy. And we again light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus is God's gift of love to us - and that in Him, the light of love triumphs over darkness. Perfect love is found in Christ.

Now we light the fifth candle, which is white and in the center of the wreath -- the "Christ" candle. This Christ candle marks the culmination of the promise of a coming savior. We light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of the world was born on this night. On Christmas Eve, as that last candle is lit, remember the words of scripture, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

Advent celebrations provide the opportunity for family devotion and prayer together. Consid-

ering this is a historical tradition, the opportunities for Biblical education and spiritual growth are very important and relevant for believers of today. The daily or weekly observations will help teach Faith to children, especially if they are involved in reading the Scriptures.

It is common in many homes to try to mark the beginning of Advent in other ways as well, for the same purpose of instruction in the faith. Some families decorate the house for the beginning of Advent, or bake special cookies or treats, or simply begin to use table coverings for meals.

An Advent Calendar is a way to keep children involved in the entire season. There are a wide variety of Advent calendars, but usually they are simply a card or poster with windows that can be opened, one each day of Advent, to reveal some symbol or picture associated with the Old Testament story leading up to the birth of Jesus. These provide opportunities to teach children the significance of this sacred time, and to remind ourselves of it as well.

In congregational worship, the Advent wreath is often the central teaching symbol of the season, the focal point for drawing the congregation into the beginning of the story of redemption that will unfold throughout the church year.

*This is a great link for more information including an interactive, educational Advent calendar: www.crivoice.org
Some sections from CRI/Voice
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Wise men still seek Him



Don't Cancel Christmas, Please!

American Family Association has reported that a school in a suburb of Chicago has just cancelled Christmas. The reason; a Muslim woman registered a complaint.

When I read this I became enraged, to say the least. Our great country, the good old USA, was founded by men and women who desired to worship Jesus Christ, the Son of God. They founded our country with this religious freedom foremost on their minds.

Yes, our freedoms allow peoples of all faiths to come to our country and worship what ever god they bring with them and to build their temples too. But, we have to stop letting them tell us how, when, and who to worship! This is our country and our God.

Never forget that our God is a jealous God and has commanded that we have NO OTHER GODS BEFORE HIM. This is not a suggestion, it is a command! Anyone who worships false gods will be punished by the one, true, trine God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life..."

I implore other Christians not to let what happened in the school at Oak Lawn, Illinois happen at your child's school. We must stand up for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must not let Christmas get cancelled, anywhere.

Continue to keep Christ in your heart, your family, your school, your community, and your church! Don't let Christmas get cancelled anywhere!

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THE CREATIVE WITNESS

"You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard." Acts 22:15



ANGEL TREE

Angel Tree Christmas gives churches and ministries an opportunity to share Christ's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. Participating in Angel Tree is a powerful way for the church community to lovingly answer the biblical call to minister to the least of these. Many churches make an annual commitment to this highly rewarding program, and recognize it as a way to care for some of the most overlooked members of our culture.

Angel Tree Christmas works by connecting parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. In most cases, local church volunteers purchase and deliver gifts and the gospel to children in the name of their prisoner-parent.

Angel Tree will provide you with everything you need to get started, and support you every step of the way. On the website there are important links for more information: www.angeltree.org

Golf Provides Path for the Gospel

Religion Today: According to Baptist Press, golf pro Scott Lehman discovered a principle that many church men's ministries are discovering as well: Where there is a common interest in an activity, there is an in-road to a man's heart. About 10 years ago, Lehman for the first time in his life entered a Christian bookstore seeking help for his then-failing marriage. He soon noticed a book with a golf theme -- the devotional "In His Grip" by Jim Sheard and Wally Armstrong. He picked it up and began reading it. "In golf, the most important key fundamental is the grip

and how your hands are placed on the club," Lehman told BP. "The book started to talk about how the key fundamental in life is living a lifestyle in His grip. God began to open my heart to the message."

Now Lehman's greatest passion is to reach other golfers through In His Grip Golf Association (inhisgrip.com), a ministry he founded that uses the golf course as a mission field and golf as an evangelistic tool. In 2006 Lehman focused full time on developing the ministry.



Faith Organizations to Display Nativity Scene at U.S. Capitol to Kick Off

National Campaign 'The Nativity Project'

'The Nativity Project' is a national effort that encourages citizens to set up Nativity Displays outside of public buildings, city halls and state capitols during the Christmas season.

Christian Newswire-- The Christian Defense Coalition and Faith and Action, the organizers of the campaign, discussed plans at a news conference during October for 'The Nativity Project.'

The news conference and the Nativity Display were on the lower western plaza of the United States Capitol building. The groups also discussed the controversy surrounding the removal of God from Capitol flag certificates.

Rev. Patrick J. Mahoney, Director of the Christian Defense Coalition, comments, "Sadly, we are seeing an erosion and crushing of religious freedoms

across America. This is especially true during the Christmas season where there is an open hostility toward public expressions of faith. And, now we are seeing it by removing God from Capitol flag certificates. We must constantly remind our public officials that the Constitution promises freedom 'of' religion not freedom 'from' religion.

"'The Nativity Project' offers an opportunity for people of faith to enter the public square and share the glorious news of Christmas. And this is, 'Peace on earth, goodwill toward man.' It is essential that the faith community not be intimidated or discouraged into surrendering their God given First Amendment freedoms which offers to all Americans the right to publicly worship God free from government interference or harassment."

Share Your Talents!

Enter the SonBurst News "CREATIVE WITNESS" CONTEST

SonBurst News is pleased to sponsor a contest which provides the opportunity to "share your talents" with our readers! The three 3 categories for the contests in which you may submit are: POEM, SHORT STORY, or ART.

Each submission must have a Christian theme and be your original work. These must be new submissions, not entered in other contests. Top submissions in each category will be printed in the next issue of SonBurst News for our readers to vote on.

Finalists from each category will receive a certificate and be entered in an annual competition. The award for the "best in show" to be presented at our ...

First Annual "CREATIVE WITNESS GALA".

Winners will be announced later in SonBurst News and appear on our website. Please mark your submission for the CONTEST after you review the guidelines on the [submission](#) page at sonburstnews.info

Deadline for January issue is December 20, 2007

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A Teen's
Voice of Hope
Bethany Scott

Keeping Faith

There comes a time in every teenager's life when they stumble across some tough decisions. That's just one of the "oh so great" perks of growing up. With every bad or good decision you make, God has planted a lesson for you to learn from this decision.

Two things teens are struggling with these days are friendships and relationships. When it comes to friendships you have to be picky in a way. Everyone needs friends to talk to but, sometimes friends don't turn out how you thought they would. For example, I know these two really close friends. They did everything together. They raised their children together and they became best friends too. One day, though, they had a disagreement over parenting styles and they decided not to hang out together anymore. Just like that, a 15 year friendship was over.

When it comes to relationships, most teens are searching for the perfect one. Most young people aren't ready for long commitment type relationships. In all honesty, we're still young and we shouldn't be looking for our future spouse. Instead, I think we should look for people who will grow with us. We really need people who will spend time with us and share some of life experiences. Girls who choose a guy over a best friend will probably get hurt, because most guys (and some girls) are not in a relationship for very long, even one that seems very serious.

The most important relationship and friend you can have is Jesus. He wants us to learn and grow in Him. Proverbs 18:24 promises us that Jesus "is a friend who sticks closer than a brother". So even though things get rough, and best friends walk away, don't lose faith in God and His love for you.

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

Why is Wicca Witchcraft so popular?

by Debra Lohrere

Wicca witchcraft is said to be the fastest growing religion amongst high school and college students in America. It is also now practiced by people in many different walks of life, including professionals like lawyers and teachers.

Wiccans practice what they call White magic, which they believe is 'good' and differs from the 'bad' black magic.

The motivation behind getting involved in wicca is not sinister in any way. The people involved are wanting to tap into the good "forces" in nature, and direct them in a positive manner. They are seeking the 'power' to be able to perform good magic, and often times to also find a popular group to belong to. The number of witches covens is increasing daily. Wiccans promote good moral values like honesty.

Books like the Harry Potter series, and TV shows like "Buffy", "Sabrina the teenage Witch", "Charmed" and other similar shows have skyrocketed the popularity of wicca witchcraft, in a way that is unprecedented.

The term witch, no longer seems to be associated with an ugly old woman wearing black and riding on a broomstick, it has taken on the guise of sexy young females, or young teenage boys.

Wiccans are not evil people seeking to destroy the world, but unfortunately they are oblivious to the true nature of the powers they are tapping into.

Wiccans don't believe in the devil, or demons and this is the greatest tragedy. They don't realize that the source of the magic they are delving into is not from "nature" but from the sinister master of the evil invisible world. Deceiving spirits of demons are hard at work, luring the unknowing into a destructive cycle that can devastate their lives. It is not until people are heavily involved in wicca that they find they start to encounter "bad spirits", "psychic attacks", "bad energies" and "harmful voices" in their heads among other things. At this stage they need to start practicing what they call "protection magic".

There really are supernatural forces of good and evil at play behind the scenes in this world and the Bible reveals to us what these forces are.

Wiccans believe in reincarnation, but the Bible says, Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Wiccans don't believe in the devil, and yet the Bible clearly shows that he exists. Probably the most tragic thing though is that wiccans don't think they need to have a saviour, but the Bible teaches that

Jesus Christ gave His life so that all could be forgiven, if they accept Him as Lord of their lives. 1 Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

The devil is alive and well in this world and out to harm as many of God's blessed creations as he can. If you are involved in wicca, or know someone who is, you would be well advised to have a look at both sides of the equation, and at least consider what the Bible reveals about occult practices and the source of their power.

The Bible foretells that in the end times there will be many occult manifestations

Deceiving spirits will seek to deceive even the elect.

We need to be really careful not to open up the wrong spiritual gateways. We need to seek the truth.

For more information on this topic please visit www.the-ten-commandments.org Debra Lohrere is the author of Christian Prophecy and Investment books www.investmentpropertybooks.com/christianbooks.html

HELPLINES & HOTLINES

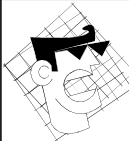


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IMAGINE IT!

Garolyn Bowen

Thanksgiving fun.

Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays can bring up fond memories of your childhood and the traditions that your parents instilled in your upbringing. It is also a wonderful time of the year to spend more time with your family and begin some of your own traditions.

You can get your children interested in the holiday festivities by letting them help make decorations for your home and your holiday table. Spending time with your children while guiding them in various craft projects will bring you new opportunities to get to know your child better.

Teaching opportunities during craft time will increase your children's social skills as well as expand their capacity to play creatively. There are cute, easy craft ideas for all occasions at familyfun.go.com – paper Pilgrims and Native Americans made from tissue tubes. Hats, clothes and decorations can be

added with scraps of paper and markers. These decorations will add focal points on your table, bookcase, or with some other Thanksgiving arrangement.

Before you begin this project gets some facts about the Pilgrims and Native Americans to teach your children. Then, while they are making their project, you will be able to turn it into an interesting lesson. Ask your children open-ended questions to start the fun!

When I was a child I was fascinated with Native American Indians and their culture. Today's generation of children also need to learn about America's early history including the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Finding books, crafts and play sets that have Pilgrim and/or Indian themes is a good idea in helping your children learn more about our great country.

One such play available from *All I Can Imagine* is Vision

Quest. This "take 'n play set" includes nine hand-painted wood figures including an Indian Chief and his horse that pack up inside a Velcro-closure tipi. This play set is geared for kids 3 up.



Since Christmas follows closely behind Thanksgiving, consider how to incorporate fun learning in this holiday too. The Helping Hand Wreath is an easy craft/decoration your children will enjoy creating and using for decoration. Simply trace and cut out different colored hand prints from your children. Then overlap them onto a piece of cardboard cut into a circle. Each handprint can be decorated, or you may choose to write a good deed or blessing message on them.

While you're making crafts, wrapping gifts, and sucking on candy canes take the opportunity to share about other cultures around the world. Have you wondered how kids in England and Mexico celebrate Christmas? To

spice up your own Christmas this year, maybe you could incorporate one of the traditions from England or Mexico. It could be fun and would create another memorable Christmas.

In England boys and girls hang Christmas cards from their trees! They also put little candles on the branches of their trees. Instead of mailing their letters to Santa Claus they throw their letters in the fireplace. They also eat roast beef and plum pudding instead of our traditional turkey and pumpkin pie.

If you were to spend Christmas in Mexico you would be helping decorate homes with colored paper lanterns and flowers. They also celebrate with a presebra (a replica of the manger scene). Mexican children write letters to the Christ child and on the eve of the Epiphany, January 6th, they put their shoes at the end of their beds for the Three Magi to fill!

All I Can Imagine offers another seasonal 3D Wooden Puzzle called the Nativity Scene.



Whatever you do remember to keep Christ in your Christmas and enjoy celebrating Jesus' birthday! Make this holiday season special by spending more time with your children and incorporating fun crafts and games; it will be a holiday they will remember for years to come.

As you begin your Christmas shopping for your children's toys take care to check the quality of the toy. Our government is doing all it can to inspect all toys coming into our country from China. Quality craftsman in China make most all of the wood toys that are made. But, unfortunately, not all factories are careful enough in the monitoring of the content in their paint their factories are using. *All I Can Imagine* confirm's that our paint is from a large and very reputable paint company that specializes specifically in non-toxic paint for children's toys. The paints are all triple tested. You will want to confirm that wood toys you purchase make the same claim!

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. www.blocksand3dpuzzles.com

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Devotions

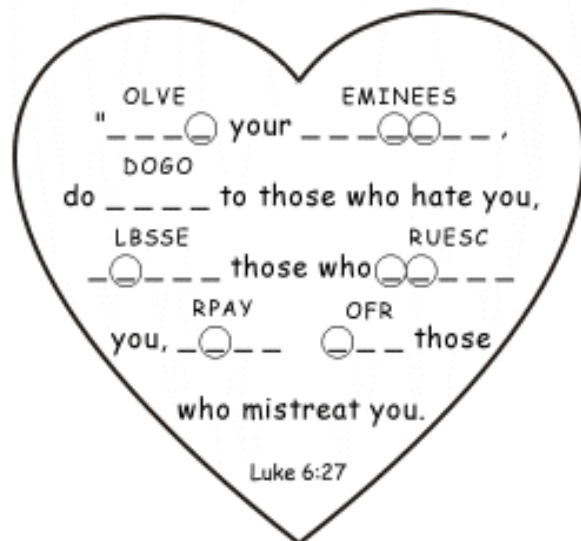
Love Your Enemies

Luke 6:27-36 (NIV)

One of the important things Jesus told the people was that they should love others, just as God loved them. Not only should they love their friends, but they should also love their enemies.

Unscramble the words below and fill in the blanks to see what Jesus said about this in Luke 6:27

Unscramble the letters in the circles to find the word that fits both blanks below.



"Be _____ just
as your Father (God) is
_____. (vs36)

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Blessed Attitudes

Matthew 5:3-10 (NIV)

Jesus traveled around the area of the Sea of Galilee and taught the people about God. He also healed many of their diseases. One of these times he went up on a mountainside and taught a large group of his disciples about the things that we should do and attitudes that God would bless. Read about them in Matthew 5:3-10 and complete the crossword puzzle below.

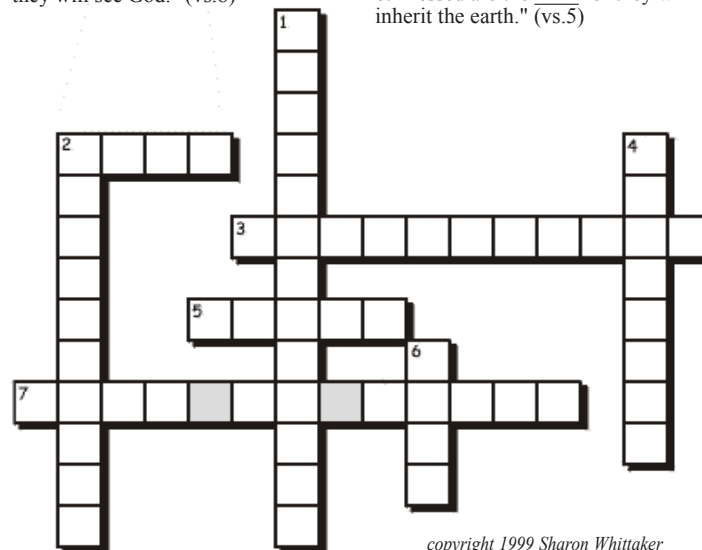


Across:

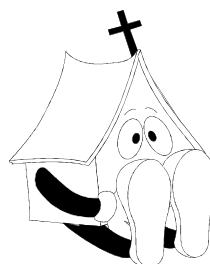
- Blessed are the _____ in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. (vs.3)
- Blessed are the _____, for they will be called the sons of God. (vs.9)
- Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted. (vs. 4)
- Blessed are the _____, for they will see God." (vs.8)

Down:

- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after _____, for they will be filled." (vs.6)
- Blessed are those who are _____ because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. (vs.10)
- Blessed are the _____ for they will be shown mercy. (vs.7)
- Blessed are the _____ for they will inherit the earth." (vs.5)



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Parent's Safety Check

Make this safety check. See that your children know and understand these basic truths:

- The character of God never changes (Malachi 3:6). The things that pleased and displeased God in Bible times still do today.
- All have sinned (Romans 3:23), and the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- God sent His Son Jesus to redeem man (John 3:16), and He is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).
- 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).
- 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).
- False prophets are all around us (Matthew 24:4,5), but the Holy Spirit will guide you to the truth (John 16:13).
- Jesus is coming again for His church (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18). He that endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:12,13).

Donna Sparks



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Devotional

Guard Your Heart With All Diligence

by Pam Frey

Keep and guard you heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life. (Emphasis mine) Proverbs 4:23 Amplified

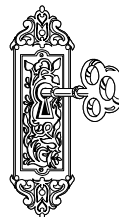
When I read the words "above all that you guard" it made me stop and take a good look at the importance of the subject of the heart. The Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines the word spring as a place where water naturally flows out from the ground. One definition in the Strong's Lexicon for life, is water. Just as water flows naturally out of the heart of the earth through springs, our life flows naturally out of the spring of our heart. Whatever is in our hearts will naturally flow out into our lives. If we are full of anger, bitterness and resentment, that's what will flow out of us. If we are full of love, peace and joy, that will flow out into our lives. It goes without saying that what flows out of our hearts will naturally affect us and those around us. If we allow negative emotions to remain in our hearts, relationships can be destroyed, children emotionally damaged, aside from the fact that our own lives will be full of misery.

How do I guard my heart, you may ask? The word "keep" in the Strong's Lexicon is the Hebrew word natsar and is defined as "to protect, maintain, and obey". The instructions from the father to his son in this proverb were "My son, attend to my words; consent and submit to my saying. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh." (Proverbs 4:20-22 Amp.). We can protect our hearts from the negative things that try to enter through offense by attending to the Word of God, consenting and submitting to its instructions. God told Joshua to meditate on the Word day and night. We may not be able to keep a Bible in our laps all day long, but we can meditate on the Word all day. The word "meditate" is the Hebrew word hagah and it means to murmur, to ponder, imagine, mutter, speak, study, talk, utter. If we keep the Word of God in the center of our hearts and humbly consent and submit to it's instructions, we can keep our hearts free from the things that would try to enter and defile it, make it polluted and unclean. (See Matthew 15:18-20)



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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