



LIGHT

THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

MAR.-APR. 1998

Predators on God's Property: Who can you trust?

A refuge in the night, a safe port in a storm. Society considers the church a safe, protecting environment where the evil of the world is securely shut outside. Yet one of the world's ugliest predators may be creeping onto your church's property, lurking to snatch another youngster's innocence.

See article, page 3



Pornography: Satan's Wicked Design

BY DR. RICHARD D. LAND, PRESIDENT, ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



Pornography is a rav-
enous cancer destroy-
ing modern society.
It is Satan's corruption of God's
design for us as sexual beings.
It is one of the most wicked and
powerful weapons in Satan's
arsenal as he seeks to encourage
an ever-increasing sexual lust
that will enslave and consume
its victims.

In the last quarter century
America has been literally
engulfed in a polluted tidal
wave of hard-core pornography.
According to *U.S. News and
World Report* (Feb. 10, 1997),
pornography is now an \$8 bil-
lion a year industry in the U.S.
(25 years ago it was a \$5-\$10
million a year business). To
furnish some perspective on
the enormity of porn's avail-
ability in America, *U.S. News*
explained that porn now
takes in more money "than
Hollywood's domestic box
office receipts" and more
"than all the revenues gen-
erated by rock and country
music recordings."

Tragically, America is
the world's leading pro-
ducer of pornography as well as
one of its leading consumers.
There are now at least five times
as many hard-core pornography
outlets in America as there are
McDonald's restaurants. And

pornography's nearly universal
availability in America has
recently been vastly increased
through cyberporn on the
Internet.

Just as in 1986 the *Attorney
General's Commission on
Pornography Report* (still an
excellent resource on this critical
issue) noted technological
advances had vastly increased
porn's availability through video
porn and Dial-a-Porn telephone
sex, the Internet has provided a
new quantum-leap in greater
availability of pornography.

Through the Internet we are
faced not only with a tidal wave
of hard-core pornography, but
with an almost invisible, subter-
ranean, electronic river of
pornographic slime which is
pure undistilled evil and threat-
ens our nation's basic moral
fabric. U.S. Deputy Solicitor
General Seth Waxman has
warned that "the Internet threat-
ens to render irrelevant all prior
efforts to protect children from
indecent material" and "threat-
ens to give every child a free
pass into the equivalent of every
adult video store in the country."

Subject matter available only
in the worst back alleys of the
worst parts of the worst cities in
America is now available to
anyone with access to the
Internet. The material readily

available even to children on the
Internet is vile, obscene, and
perverse. It includes graphic
depictions and descriptions of
bestiality, incest, pedophilia,
necrophilia, defecation, urina-
tion, and the torture, bondage,
and rape of women and children
(*Newsweek*, July 3, 1995,
USA Today, March 19, 1997).

Pornographic Web sites are
already the third largest source
of revenue on the Internet "with
annual gains of \$100 million
spread over hundreds of porn
sites" (*USA Today*, Mar. 19,
1997), with a score or more
new sites emerging each day.

The impact of this radio-
active filth on our nation has
been devastating. Rapists and
sex offenders "are 15 times as
likely as non-offenders to have
had exposure to 'hard-core'
pornography during childhood
or between six and ten years
old" (*Attorney General's
Commission Report*). One
University of New Hampshire
study clearly "demonstrated a
higher rape rate in states with
broader availability of porno-
graphic material" (*Christianity
Today*, Sept. 12, 1994). Also, for
many men and boys (porn users
are overwhelmingly male), this
material is highly addictive, and
exposure to it often leads to
socially destructive behavior

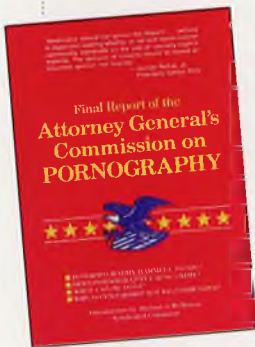
both to themselves and to their
victims.

Another study revealed
that the FBI interviewed two
dozen multiple sex murderers
in prison, and 81% said the
"biggest sexual interest was
ready pornography" (*Attorney
General's Commission Report*,
p. xvii).

The evidence is overwhelm-
ing that pornography is training
rapists, child molesters, and
murderers. As Dr. Dobson con-
cluded, after seeing the *Attorney
General's Commission Report*,
"Pornography is the theory; rape
is the practice."

Do not be naive.
Pornography is in your church,
in your family, on your street,
and maybe in your home.
Recently I was speaking about
this issue and the pastor of a
rural church in South Carolina
confided to me that just the pre-
vious week a godly, fine young
deacon in his church came to
him visibly shaken and upset.
He had been cruising the
Internet and came upon a Web
site featuring sex between chil-
dren and animals, and the site
encouraged him to go molest his
own son because "it would be
good for him." The deacon told
the pastor that he felt as if he
were "looking into the face of
the devil himself." He was! ■

Available
from the
ERLC while
supplies
last:



Ordering
information
below!

PRODUCTS OFFERED BY THE ERLC:

Final Report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography

From its inception, the *U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography Report* has been at the center of controversy. Assailed by some as an attack on constitutional guarantees of free speech, it was the first government study to claim that research is "virtually unanimous" that "there is a casual relationship between exposure to sexually violent materials and an increase in aggressive behavior directed toward women." *Contains extremely explicit material not suitable for minors.* **BKATT \$10.00 ea.**

Pornography Pamphlet Series

This series offers insights from Scripture on the evils of pornography as well as pertinent details about pornography laws, the infiltration of pornography on the Internet, and steps Christians can take to combat this evil in their communities.

"Pornography: Biblical Insights"	POBIB	\$22 ea.
"Pornography and the Law"	POLAW	\$22 ea.
"Children, Pornography and Cyberspace"	POCHI	\$22 ea.
"What To Do About Pornography"	POWHA	\$22 ea.
"Pornography: The Issue"	POISS	\$22 ea.



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

901 COMMERCE, #550 ■ NASHVILLE, TN 37203-3696
(615) 244-2495 ■ FAX: (615) 242-0065 ■ www.erc.com

Light, a Christian ethics, public policy and religious liberty publication for pastors, teachers, state and national denominational workers, and others interested in applied Christianity, is published six times a year by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. *Light* is sent free to those who request it. Voluntary subscriptions, for those who wish to help defray costs of printing and mailing and to help underwrite a growing mailing list, are \$10 annually. Checks should be made payable to *Light*. Canceled checks serve as tax-deductible receipts. Permission to quote material from *Light* is granted; please cite our name and address when doing so.

©1998 Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention
Richard D. Land, President • Dwayne Hastings, Editor (kdhastings@erlc.com)

Predators on God's Property: Who can you trust?

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

Whether our children are in the classroom or on the playground, traveling to a youth retreat or at a churchwide fellowship, the church must do everything in its power to minimize the risk of child abuse.

In this era of sensitivity to strangers, we teach our children that those we know are those we can trust. And indeed it used to be the people outside our church and outside our neighborhood we didn't trust, but now more than ever the people we dare not trust are much closer. In nearly 80 percent of child abuse cases, the abuser is known to the victim.

"We all think that we are immune; we think that the church is a safe haven and hopefully it is, but there are indications in every denomination and faith that there are problems," Bill Young says.

"There was a time when the church was a safe haven, but you just can't take chances anymore," adds Young, a consultant for early and middle childhood education from Franklin, Tenn.

The church needs to be involved in "preventative maintenance" on the issue, he says, while avoiding spreading "paranoia" within the congregation.

The need for a comprehensive policy protecting youngsters in the church is the result of the culture's "desensitized approach to sexuality," says Ernest J. Zarra III, author of *It Should Never Happen Here*.

Noting that hard-core pornography is an accepted fact of life in America—both on the nation's Main Streets and modems—Zarra says the dramatic rise in reports of sexual abuse of children is tragic but not surprising.

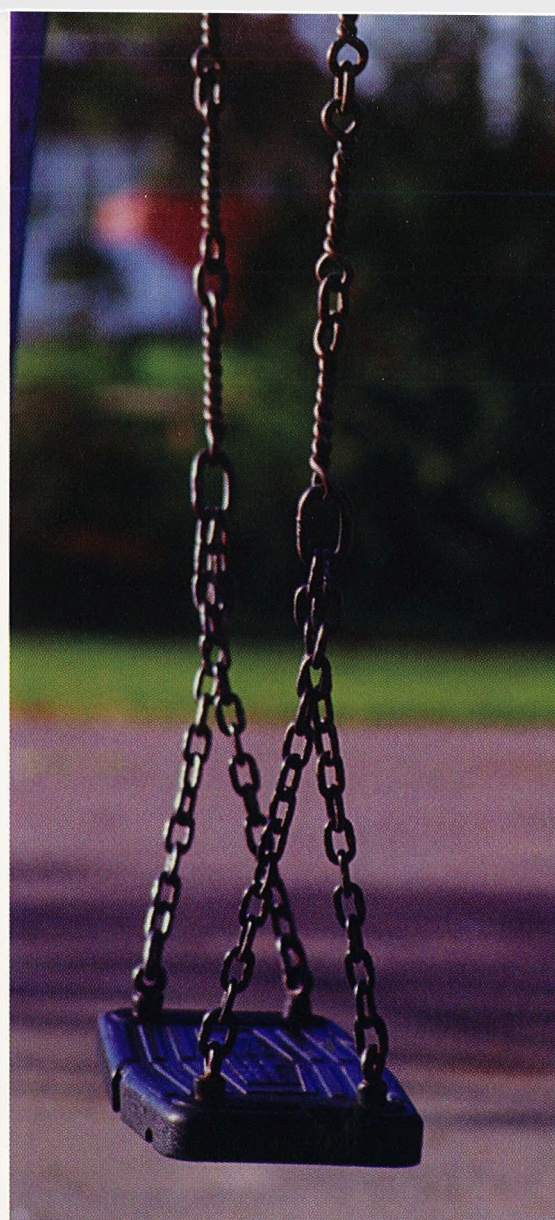
In 1996, over three million children were reported for any kind of child abuse to child pro-

tective agencies, 47 out of every 1,000 children, according to the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse. Thirteen percent of the reports involve sexual abuse. While the abuse numbers for children in day care and other institutional settings are estimated to be much lower—just under 9 per 1,000—youth and children's ministries provide prime openings for such maltreatment.

And in this environment, those in the church must recognize their vulnerability, Zarra continues. "Churches are easy targets for sexual predators." Experts note that wherever children and adults gather, there is the risk of child abuse, Zarra explains, adding the risk increases dramatically where measures of protection and screening are lacking.

In our country as moral levels decline, the church has more and more people who have serious behavioral problems coming through the door. And other institutions like Boy Scouts and Big Brothers have experienced problems and developed procedures to trim the number of similar problems from happening, says David Epstein, an Indianapolis attorney with over 20 years experience advising ministries how to avoid problems in this area. He indicates that safeguards of organizations such as these are prompting individuals with behavioral problems to "come knocking on the door of the church because that is the last really large opportunity for access to children."

The average age in which
Continued on p. 4.



Screening Children's Ministry Workers is a Ministry to Families

The most common excuse for not screening children's ministry workers is the claim that the church is understaffed and therefore unable to handle the additional duties, yet Ernest Zarra insists screening is a ministry itself. He explodes three off-heard objections to instituting a screening program.

Denial and doubt: Typical in smaller churches, Zarra notes, as no one wants to question the integrity of members of the church "family." Yet "the real issue is not mistrusting fellow believers, but rather ensuring safety for children and families by discouraging predators from participating in children's ministries."

Sentiment against intrusion: Zarra notes Americans' cynicism and distrust of the legal system, public education, and the local church stems in part from citizens' "tendency to resent any intrusion into our personal lives" which is seen as an invasion of a sacred right to privacy.

"When a minister, priest, or pastor weighs the risk of making waves with the church board, denomination, or diocese and the probable outcry by members of the congregation, the overworked pastor often concludes that there is, for the moment, more to risk by screening workers than by leaving things as they are," Zarra writes.

Yet the risk of intruding into members' personal lives is in reality heightened by failing to properly screen children's ministry workers, Zarra counters. In the event of an allegation of child sexual abuse, the court will dig much deeper with far less compassion than any screening program.

We've always done it this way!: The cry heard 'round every church building when change is suggested. "Church leaders must guard against the tendency to hold traditional ministry lines at the expense of risking harm to children." In fact, Zarra notes, the wise way to assure continuity in ministry is to seek to ensure "safety for children and security for families."



Predators on God's Property (from p. 3)

sexual abuse is discovered is 9.3 years, Bill Young says, noting one in four girls and one in ten boys under the age of 18 have been molested. And with such broad-based percentages, Young agreed the church is not immune to assaults on children.

Young believes the incidence of abuse within churches is underreported, resulting in a disparity in actual statistics which reveal only two percent of reported cases occur in a ministry setting.

"Unfortunately we have a tendency to think it is going to happen somewhere else, in someone else's organization, or elsewhere in society, but it is happening in churches," Young said.

An allegation of child sexual abuse by a worker or staff member can "literally destroy the church," says Epstein.

There is no good reason not to institute a program to screen volunteers and workers, Epstein adds, explaining "a relatively simple process can eliminate 99 percent of these kind of incidents by just using common sense."

Church leaders should provide no less protection for the children in ministry situations than they would for their own children, Epstein says. "If you wouldn't solicit volunteers indiscriminately to care for your own family members, you probably shouldn't do it in a church setting," he says, noting asking for volunteers without screening is an "invitation to disaster."

Too often in the church no one is "minding the store," increasing the risk that a child might be maltreated, Epstein says. "It's such a terrible kind of incident people just don't want to talk about it, because they are horrified just to think about it," he continues, adding, "The only thing that is more horrifying than talking about it is living through it."

"Churches are always hungry for volunteers," Epstein notes, explaining this openness provides a dangerous opening for workers with less-than-honorable intentions. "They [churches] don't adequately take into account people who may appear to be very helpful in volunteering may have some horrible ulterior motives."

Epstein urges churches to avoid placing new members with children and youth until they have been at the church for 12 months: "If you didn't have

anyone in contact with children until he had been a member of the church for at least a year, then you nearly eliminate the problem of child sexual abuse, because pedophiles and others with such behavioral disorders require instant gratification.

"They want access to children right away; these individuals are not going to sit around for a year and wait," Epstein continues, acknowledging the rule "makes it a little bit harder to fill volunteer positions."

The danger inherent in

staffing a children's care ministry with one person per room or "off-the-street" volunteers is multiplied when considering an average child molester will abuse more than sixty children in his or her lifetime.

Zarra reports cases of sexual abuse of children in ministry situations have been on the upswing since 1990—the reports ranging from alleged inappropriate touches to multiple sex acts over a number of years. He suggests there is a generation of youngsters who have been conditioned to shrink back from strangers, but who are defenseless to the wiles of sex offenders within the safe environs of the church building.

"The goal of screening children's ministries workers is to discourage sexual predators from gaining access to children through involvement in children's ministries," Zarra says.

Potential abusers will avoid ministries where there is a risk of being discovered. Screening will possibly uncover more of a volunteer's background that may impact their participation in a children's ministry—history of child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, or a criminal record.

"Word of mouth, trust in outgoing personalities, and a need for staffing" are poor and dangerous substitutes for staffing children's ministries, Zarra insists.

He says "not everyone is a potential abuser, and the purpose is not to cause hysteria." Screening is not designed to be invasive, he says. "It is meant to be preventive."

Background checks and screening of workers need to be non-negotiables in children's and youth ministry, Bill Young agrees, pointing out parents and teachers need to understand "we are trying to prevent something rather than indicating something has already happened."

Continued on p. 12.

Nursery (Birth through Preschool)

Following are policies for this age group:

- Nursery supervisors should be members of the church. The crib nursery should be staffed by adult women only. Nursery workers in the ones to threes rooms should be at least sixteen years old. Any younger helpers should be assistants rather than scheduled workers.
- Younger helpers who have siblings in the nursery should never be expected to serve as the drop-off or pick-up person. The presence of the parents is an added safety feature, because the workers will know they might be observed as they care for the children.
- Parents should be welcome in the nursery rooms at any time, especially when their children need their attention.
- Children should be signed in and checked out by a parent or another authorized adult. A child should never be released to a person unfamiliar to the nursery staff.
- Nurseries should follow the two-adults rule at all times. No adult worker should be alone with any child behind a closed door. Exception can be made only if the worker is the child's parent, when parental permission is given ahead of time, or in case of an emergency.
- The two-adults rule also applies to escorting a child into a closed-door restroom. Several children, with at least two adults, should enter the restroom together.
- Rooms should be well lit, preferably with windows in the doors for viewing from outside or Dutch doors that can be left open. There should also be no hidden corners, closets, or storage rooms.



From It Should Never Happen Here: A Guide for Minimizing the Risk of Child Abuse in Ministry, Ernest J. Zarra III, Baker Books, 1997.

Acts of Christian Persecution Continued Unabated in 1997

TRUE LIFE ACCOUNTS OF
SOME OF THE 160,000
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND
SISTERS KILLED FOR THEIR
FAITH LAST YEAR ALONE

EGYPTIAN ARMY AGAIN ATTACKS CHRISTIAN LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT

Egyptian soldiers attacked a Christian farm outside Cairo without warning for the second time in six weeks, destroying 600 meters of the stone walls surrounding the 100-acre land reclamation project on January 30. The surprise attack followed a previous assault on the farm on December 15, 1996, when troops from the same Second Unit Army Camp 15 miles east of Cairo sacked and bulldozed three agricultural buildings and a center designed for mentally disabled children.

RAMPAGING MUSLIMS SET FIRE TO CHURCHES IN PAKISTAN

Convinced that unidentified Christians had desecrated a copy of the Koran, a mob of 30,000 Muslim rioters went on the rampage in Pakistan's Punjab province on February 6, burning down churches, homes, and shops of their Christian neighbors. At least three churches in Khanewal and the nearby Christian village of Shantinagar were torched and destroyed by the agitators.

MUSLIM MILITANTS KILL 10 CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN EGYPT

Ten Coptic Christians were killed at a church in Abu Qurqas, southern Egypt, when suspected Muslim extremists opened fire with automatic rifles February 12.

SCORES OF HOUSE CHURCH LEADERS ARRESTED IN CHINA

Chinese authorities arrested and jailed over 100 house church leaders in the first three months of 1997. Some were released after three days,

but Compass has learned that approximately 55 leaders still remain in prison.

NINE BAPTISTS BEATEN BY ORTHODOX MOB IN ROMANIA

A group of Baptists meeting in a rented room in the village of Ruginoasa, in northeast Romania, were assaulted and beaten by a furious mob of Orthodox believers on Easter Sunday. During the service, a crowd of about 700 Orthodox, led by their priest, surrounded the house they were using for worship. The crowd was joined by another 150 people carrying crosses and icons from a neighboring village. When the Baptists came out of the building, the crowd started to beat and kick them.

A KURD WHO DARED TO CONFESS CHRIST OPENLY

Mansour Hussein Sifer, a Kurdish convert to Christianity in Northern Iraq, was murdered by an unknown assassin on the morning of April 21 in the Christian bookshop where he worked in Arbil. No clear motive was known for the killing, apart from the victim's profession of faith in Christ which had provoked some threats against his life.

TWO FILIPINO CHRISTIANS BEHEADED BY SAUDI ARABIA

Two Filipino Christians involved in Bible studies and Christian prayers in the Saudi prison where they were jailed were beheaded by the sword on May 4 in Riyadh.

SECURITY AGENTS EJECT CHRISTIANS FROM NIGERIAN CHURCH

Nigerian security agents, in collaboration with Islamic leaders, stormed Victory Christian Church in

Maiduguri town in northern Nigeria on May 15. The pastor and church members were forcefully ejected from the church by a contingent of the Nigeria Police Force.

PROTESTANT CHURCHES IN ETHIOPIA ATTACKED BY ORTHODOX MOB

At least 51 Ethiopian Protestants were seriously injured May 17 after a stone-throwing mob of Orthodox church members and street youths attacked a spiritual conference in the southern Ethiopian city of Arba Minch.

INDIAN EVANGELIST KILLED IN BIHAR STATE

Anti-Christian groups in the East Indian state of Bihar attacked a group of Christian evangelists in July, killing their leader, Mangal Pande, and injuring five others seriously. Pande was conducting Gospel meetings when the attack occurred.

VIETNAMESE HOUSE CHURCH RAIDED, LEADERS BRACE FOR MORE TROUBLE

A major house church meeting point was raided in Ho Chi Minh City in late July. Police seized over 500 Bibles, training books, and videos from the District One site of the 16,000-member Assemblies of God (AOG) in Vietnam. The AOG is recognized by AOG worldwide, but not by the Vietnamese government.

MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE FIREBOMBED IN ISRAEL

A messianic synagogue in a Haifa suburb was badly damaged on October 21 in what investigators believe was a deliberate arson attack. Violent attacks against messianic Jews have increased dramatically.

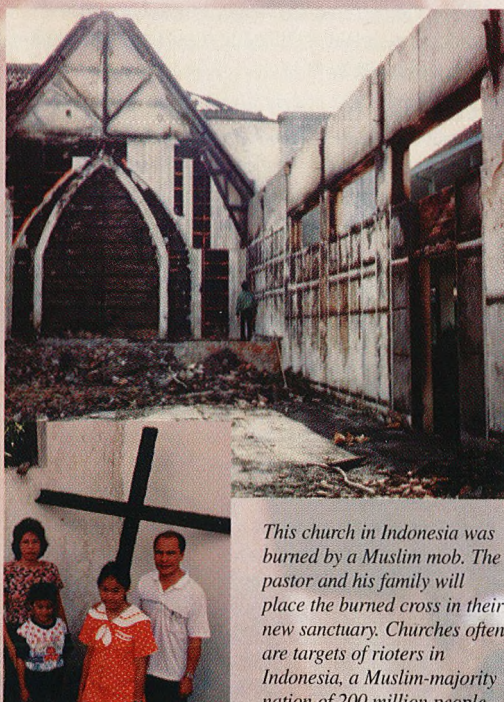


Sudanese Christian women.

CATHOLIC CENTER DESTROYED IN SUDAN

Police drove a bulldozer through a Catholic church and school in a shanty town south of Khartoum a day after parishioners celebrated Easter. The destruction followed similar moves by authorities in December and January, when a Catholic church, three schools, and a community center were leveled in Khartoum North and Omdurman.

Continued on p. 6.



This church in Indonesia was burned by a Muslim mob. The pastor and his family will place the burned cross in their new sanctuary. Churches often are targets of rioters in Indonesia, a Muslim-majority nation of 200 million people.

Acts of Christian Persecution (from p. 5)

TWO HUNDRED HOUSE CHURCHES CLOSED IN WENZHO, CHINA

Two hundred house church congregations in Wenzhou, southern Zhejiang province, have had their church buildings demolished or closed by government officials since the beginning of 1997, when a campaign to force unofficial churches to register was kicked into a higher gear. Approximately 40 Christians were arrested during the month of June, though many were released after a 500 Yuan (\$65) fine.

MOB BURNS DOWN CHURCH NEAR INDONESIAN CAPITAL

A mob burned down a church outside the Indonesian capital of Jakarta December 24. No one was injured, police and church leaders said. The Rev. Frank Magnis-Suseno of the Driyarkara School of Philosophy said the small church was set on fire in the Bumi Serpong Damai district by a crowd that attacked and ransacked the building. Magnis-Suseno said he had not heard of any casualties in the attack, the motive of which was unclear. Other officials said police had been dispatched to the area and tensions had waned, Reuters news reported. Magnis-Suseno said the congregation in the Protestant church had celebrated Christmas on Tuesday. "This morning, the church was burned down. I don't know why," he said Wednesday. "It was attacked by a mass of people."

Churches often are targets of rioters in Indonesia, a Muslim-majority nation of 200 million people. About a year ago, at least four people were killed when mobs rampaged through the Central Java town of Tasikmalaya and set churches on fire after reports that police had attacked Muslim teachers. In October 1996, a temple and 25 churches were burned down and five people were killed in riots in the Situbondo area of East Java. ■

Source: World Evangelical Fellowship's Religious Liberty E-mail Conference as reported by Compass Direct News

BELOW: Attendees at the religious persecution meeting sponsored by the ERLC in Washington February 4 included Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship president; Dr. Richard Land, ERLC president; Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.; William Bennett, former Education Secretary and federal drug czar; and A.M. Rosenthal, New York Times columnist.

Remember the Persecuted...

In an effort to raise awareness for persecuted Christians, Voice of the Martyrs, Inc., has prepared yard signs (right) and bumper stickers (below) saying, "remember the persecuted." VOM's goal is to see 25,000 churches place these in front of their buildings by July 1 to urge Christians worldwide to pray for persecuted brothers and sisters. For yard signs, contact VOM at 1-800-747-0085. Bumper stickers may be ordered from the ERLC at 1-800-475-9127.



PRICES

Sign (24" x 18")	\$15.00 ea.
Sign (30" x 24")	\$18.00 ea.
Bumper stickers	\$15.00/25

Quantity discounts are available.

Persecuted Christians Topic at ERLC's Washington Summit

A religious persecution summit meeting sponsored by the ERLC demonstrated a new depth of support for a legislative remedy to the plight of believers overseas. Much of the February 4 summit, held at a hotel near the Capitol, was a rally for a revised version of the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act, sponsored by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va.

Gary Bauer, president of Family Research Council, said he thought "everybody, including Congressman Wolf and Senator Specter, would like even a stronger bill, and it has

been disappointing to see some of the business community opposing this. But this is a great first step, and it will send an incredible message not only around our country but around the world if it successfully passes, and then we'll build on that."

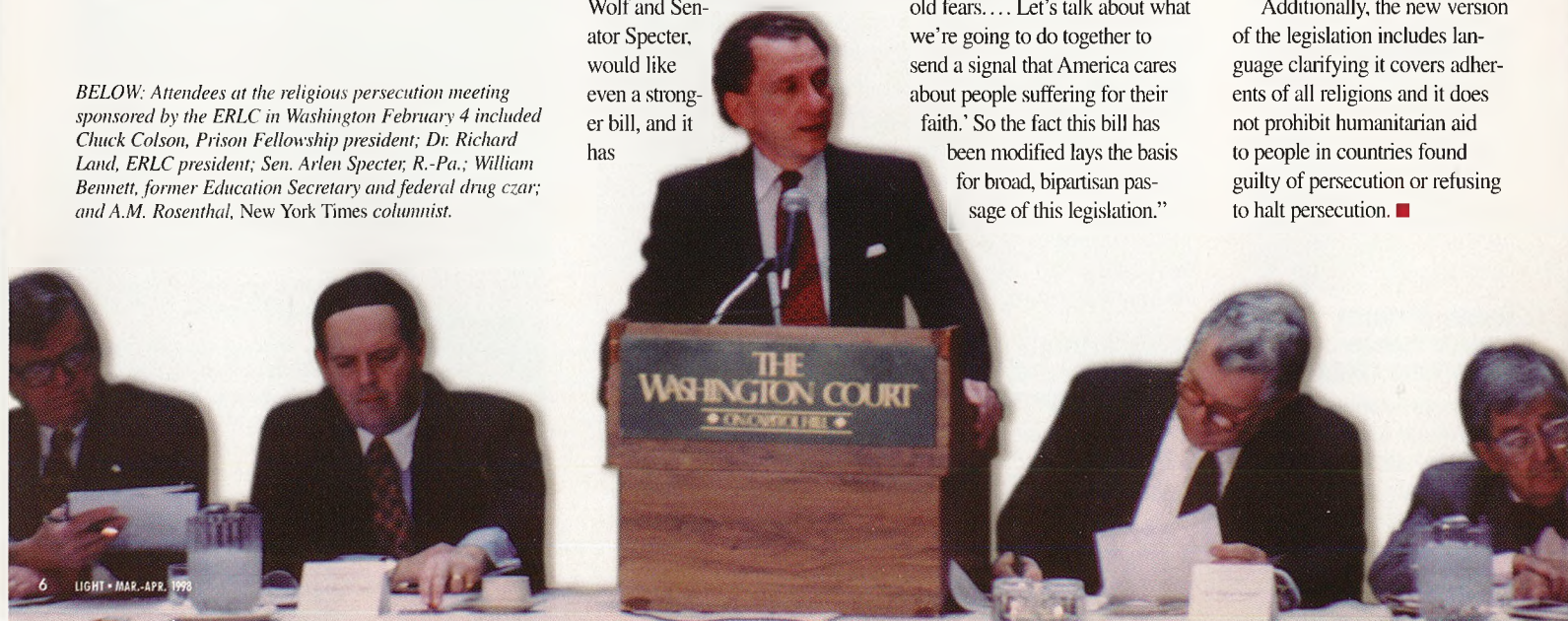
The Clinton administration opposes the legislation.

John Carr of the Catholic Conference said, "Our hope now is to go back to people and say, 'The concerns you've had have been addressed. Let's deal with this piece of legislation, not the old fears. ... Let's talk about what we're going to do together to send a signal that America cares about people suffering for their faith.' So the fact this bill has been modified lays the basis for broad, bipartisan passage of this legislation."

The Freedom From Religious Persecution Act is intended to reduce and eliminate religious persecution in other countries. The changes, which will be made in a House committee in March, include:

- Moving the office of religious persecution monitoring from the White House to the State Department;
- Giving the president authority to waive the bill's penalties not only in the interest of national security but if it would further the bill's objectives.

Additionally, the new version of the legislation includes language clarifying it covers adherents of all religions and it does not prohibit humanitarian aid to people in countries found guilty of persecution or refusing to halt persecution. ■



Why a Church Needs an HIV/AIDS Policy

BY FRED LOPER, M.D.

Whenever Mike Hawkins was teaching about HIV/AIDS, he would often be asked a question. The words and phrasing were different, but the substance was always the same. "How can a church begin to learn about HIV/AIDS, especially if the church body is not even sure whether they want to be involved at all?" Mike's answer was always the same: "Write an HIV/AIDS policy."

This was a bold and courageous thing to say because Mike himself had AIDS. He was well aware that people, whether Christian or not, often respond to the issue of HIV/AIDS out of fear, ignorance, or anger. However, he believed that followers of Christ could be trusted to respond to those affected and infected by HIV the way that Jesus Himself would. After all, Jesus showed us long ago how to behave toward people who have been touched by deadly and infectious diseases. This is true whether it is leprosy in His day or HIV/AIDS in ours.

An HIV/AIDS policy can be very helpful to any church in a variety of ways. It is debatable whether the policy itself or the process a church must go through in writing one is the most valuable benefit.

Writing a policy demands that a church learn about HIV/AIDS in great detail. The medical and scientific facts about HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases will help to determine how to prevent the transmission of these diseases in the church setting.

The biblical perspective

provides information about how to minister to those who have been touched by this disease. Individual and joint prayer will stimulate the church to apply the policy to its ministry and outreach. Writing an HIV/AIDS policy will be an education for everyone involved.

Another advantage offered by an HIV/AIDS policy is that it helps a church be prepared for the time when an HIV/AIDS-infected person arrives. Churches in the U.S. have already been affected by this disease whether they realize it or not. Most of them have been touched directly; those that have not will be. The reality is that HIV/AIDS will demand a response from every church and church member. People generally do not respond well to difficult situations for which they are not prepared. It can be a big challenge for Christians to behave like Christ towards those affected by HIV/AIDS. The facts that it is infectious, usually fatal, and often associated with behavior that is defined as sinful by the Bible can tempt Christians to respond out of fear or judgment rather than redemptive love. Writing an HIV/AIDS policy helps the church to plan ahead for its first contact with this disease and thus respond in a more Christ-like way.

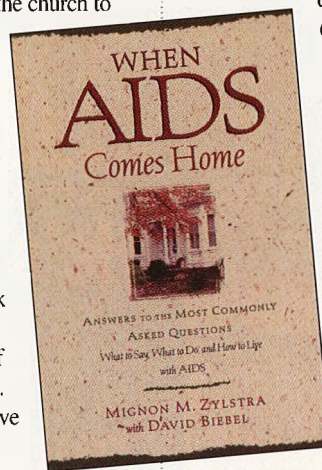
An HIV/AIDS policy also allows a church to express itself formally about this disease to its community. People touched by HIV/AIDS are usually very cautious and may have been injured by their contacts with the church in the past.

Members of the church are usually reluctant to tell the story of how they have been touched by HIV/AIDS because they fear the response they may receive. A policy provides a powerful way for the church to communicate its posture of compassion and willingness to minister to these people.

Finally, HIV/AIDS has provided the church with an opportunity to look at how it prevents the transmission of infectious diseases. Many churches have neglected their responsibility to prevent the spread of diseases such as chicken pox in the nursery and hepatitis A in the kitchen. Fortunately, HIV/AIDS is not spread through casual contact. It requires no new measures for control beyond those that should already be in place in any church. It has, however, provided the stimulus for churches to implement infectious disease policies which already should have been in place.

An HIV/AIDS policy can be an exceptional tool for the church. It can stimulate learning, compassion, and growth in ministry. It can stimulate the church to follow Jesus, the Greatest Physician, in speech and behavior. It would also have made Mike Hawkins (who died from AIDS in 1995) happy! ■

Dr. Fred Loper is a national missionary for medical missions with the North American Mission Board (NAMB).



We resolve that...

During the summer of 1987 Calvin College and Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, formed a taskforce on communicable disease to develop "an institutional response to the AIDS crisis." Its report includes a "pastoral statement" from which the following is excerpted.

God helping us, we resolve that we shall be a reformed Christian community of persons that:

1. FLEES WHAT IS SINFUL

- Never shall we desert out of fear and disgust those who are stricken with AIDS.
- Never shall we resort to a censoriousness and persecution born of hate and individualism.
- Never shall we cherish and cultivate a judging spirit that spends more time on assessing fault than in ministering to the ill.
- Never shall we be unwilling to take Christ-like risks of help and compassion that might endanger our reputation, our good name, or our health, lest we be guilty of shunning and pharisaism.
- Never shall we be blithely smug and unconcerned.
- Never shall we cavalierly and easily assign a causal connection between sinful behavior and sad circumstances and illnesses.
- Never shall we exclude another out of pride.

2. DOES WHAT IS GOOD

- We shall identify with everyone who suffers, regardless of the cause.
- We shall strive to give the person with AIDS what he or she, like every other human being, needs: understanding, acceptance, agapic love, trust, compassion, forgiveness, touch.
- We shall be guided by Christian compassion, prayer, and the best judgments of medical science as we strive to determine whether or not the person with AIDS may continue to live and study within our community.
- We shall pray faithfully with other Christians that our God will bring us a cure for this dreaded disease.
- We shall be a community that encourages a "holy sexuality."
- We shall continually affirm that sinful behavior does indeed have sad but predictable consequences.

CONCLUSION

The AIDS epidemic will force all of us to make hard choices, choices that reveal clearly what kind of people we are choosing to be. As many in smug and callous unconcern call for deserting and even persecuting the person with AIDS, let us resolve now to follow Jesus our Master, who willingly took risks, crossed barriers, touched lepers, met freely with the despised, took the blame, bore the stigma, and finally went "outside the camp" for us to bear our sins away.

From *When Aids Comes Home*, Mignon M. Zylstra with David Biebel, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996



For Faith & Family

is the new live, call-in talk show with Dr. Richard Land. And it's already being described as "challenging," "bold," "provocative."

What else would you expect from the Princeton-educated, Oxford-trained president of

For Faith & Family
is broadcast live
via SRN satellite
weekdays at
11:30 a.m. CST

the Southern
Baptist Con-
vention's
Ethics and
Religious
Liberty

Commission?

Dr. Land's forceful opinions on hot topics like the persecution of Christians overseas, religious liberty at home, and the Disney boycott are widely respected—and sought after. Enough so that when programs like

60 Minutes, *The News Hour with Jim*



**He's addressed
national TV
audiences and
testified before
the U.S. Congress.
Now he's ready
to talk with you.**

Lehrer, and *Nightline* want to discuss issues of faith and family values with a nation, they call Dr. Land.

So do leaders in churches and on Capitol Hill.

And for 30 minutes a

day, *For Faith & Family* gives this national leader a chance to discuss biblically based viewpoints on social issues with listeners who wrestle with issues of faith in a

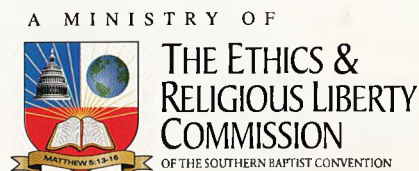
culture that has blurred the lines between right and wrong.

Richard Land clarifies those lines once again—and makes *For Faith & Family* required listening for Christians nationwide.

**Live broadcasts
of *For Faith & Family*
can be
heard on
LightSource on
AudioNet.™**

(www.audionet.com/lightsource)

For a complete list of stations in your area carrying the program, contact the ERLC at (615) 244-2495.



FOR FAITH & Family

THE RADIO MINISTRY OF THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

ALABAMA (5)

Carrollton	WALN-FM	89.3	10:00 p.m.
Enterprise	FM-TRANS	90.5	10:00 p.m.
Troy	FM-TRANS	91.1	10:00 p.m.
Selma	WAQU-FM	91.1	10:00 p.m.
Sheffield	WAKD-FM	89.9	10:00 p.m.

ARIZONA (5)

Phoenix	KPXQ-AM	960	10:30 a.m.*
Fredonia	FM-TRANS	89.1	9:00 p.m.
Holbrook	FM-TRANS	90.3	9:00 p.m.
Mesa	FM-TRANS	89.1	9:00 p.m.
Winslow	FM-TRANS	91.3	9:00 p.m.

ARKANSAS (15)

Arkadelphia	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Bentonville	FM-TRANS	88.1	10:00 p.m.
Blytheville	FM-TRANS	91.5	10:00 p.m.
Clarksville	FM-TRANS	89.9	10:00 p.m.
Crossett	FM-TRANS	91.7	10:00 p.m.
El Dorado	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Fayetteville	FM-TRANS	90.1	10:00 p.m.
Forrest City	FM-TRANS	91.5	10:00 p.m.
Fort Smith	KAOW-FM	88.9	10:00 p.m.
Jonesboro	KAOG-FM	90.5	10:00 p.m.
Piggott	FM-TRANS	88.1	10:00 p.m.
Pine Bluff	KANX-FM	91.1	10:00 p.m.
Pocahontas	FM-TRANS	91.1	10:00 p.m.
Prescott	FM-TRANS	88.9	10:00 p.m.
Warren	FM-TRANS	91.3	10:00 p.m.

CALIFORNIA (1)

Quincy	KNLF-FM	95.9	8:00 p.m.
--------	---------	------	-----------

COLORADO (1)

Trinidad	FM-TRANS	91.7	9:00 p.m.
----------	----------	------	-----------

GEORGIA (7)

Atlanta	WFTD-AM	1080	1:30 p.m.
Americus	FM-TRANS	90.3	11:00 p.m.
Cordele	FM-TRANS	90.3	11:00 p.m.
Cuthbert	FM-TRANS	89.3	11:00 p.m.
Dublin	FM-TRANS	91.9	11:00 p.m.
Griffin	WMVV-FM	90.7	11:00 p.m.
Waycross	WASW-FM	91.9	11:00 p.m.

ILLINOIS (6)

Mt. Vernon	WAPQ-FM	90.5	10:00 p.m.
Effingham	FM-TRANS	91.3	10:00 p.m.
Flora	FM-TRANS	88.5	10:00 p.m.
Kankakee	FM-TRANS	88.1	10:00 p.m.
Pana	FM-TRANS	88.5	10:00 p.m.
Salem	FM-TRANS	91.3	10:00 p.m.

INDIANA (4)

Ft. Wayne	WFCV-AM	1090	12:30 p.m.*
Michigan City	FM-TRANS	88.5	11:00 p.m.
Terre Haute	WAPC-FM	91.9	11:00 p.m.
Vincennes	FM-TRANS	89.9	11:00 p.m.

IOWA (3)

Fairfield	FM-TRANS	88.7	10:00 p.m.
Ottumwa	FM-TRANS	88.1	10:00 p.m.
Sioux City	KAYA-FM	91.3	10:00 p.m.

KANSAS (9)

Arkansas City	FM-TRANS	89.7	10:00 p.m.
Enterprise	FM-TRANS	88.7	10:00 p.m.
Great Bend	FM-TRANS	89.7	10:00 p.m.
Hays	FM-TRANS	89.7	10:00 p.m.
Independence	KARF-FM	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Norton	FM-TRANS	91.5	10:00 p.m.
Ottawa	KRBW-FM	90.5	10:00 p.m.
Topeka	KBUZ-FM	90.3	10:00 p.m.
Wichita	KCFN-FM	91.1	10:00 p.m.

KENTUCKY (4)

Ashland	FM-TRANS	91.1	11:00 p.m.
Campbellsville	WAPD-FM	91.7	11:00 p.m.
Louisville	WFIA-AM	900	9:00 p.m.
Mt. Sterling	FM-TRANS	88.1	11:00 p.m.

LOUISIANA (10)

Alexandria	KAPM-FM	91.7	10:00 p.m.
Houma	FM-TRANS	97.7	2:00 p.m.
Jonesboro	FM-TRANS	89.7	10:00 p.m.
Jonesville	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Lafayette	KSIY-FM	90.9	10:00 p.m.
Many	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Monroe	FM-TRANS	94.9	10:00 p.m.
New Orleans	WBSN-FM	89.1	2:00 p.m.
Ruston	KAPI-FM	88.3	10:00 p.m.
St. Joseph	FM-TRANS	89.9	10:00 p.m.

MINNESOTA (3)

Montevideo	FM-TRANS	89.7	10:00 p.m.
Windom	FM-TRANS	90.9	10:00 p.m.
Worthington	FM-TRANS	88.1	10:00 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI (15)

Ackerman	FM-TRANS	96.9	10:00 p.m.
Brookhaven	FM-TRANS	90.5	10:00 p.m.
Cleveland	WDFX-FM	98.3	10:00 p.m.
Columbia	FM-TRANS	90.9	10:00 p.m.
Forest	WQST-FM	92.5	10:00 p.m.
Gulfport	WAOY-FM	91.7	10:00 p.m.
Hattiesburg	WAIL-FM	89.3	10:00 p.m.
Laurel	WAIP-FM	90.7	10:00 p.m.
McComb	FM-TRANS	90.5	10:00 p.m.
Natchez	FM-TRANS	91.1	10:00 p.m.
Oxford	FM-TRANS	101.3	10:00 p.m.
Starkville	FM-TRANS	88.9	10:00 p.m.
Tupelo	WAFR-FM	88.3	10:00 p.m.
Vicksburg	FM-TRANS	93.3	10:00 p.m.
West Point	FM-TRANS	96.9	10:00 p.m.

MISSOURI (8)

Brookfield	FM-TRANS	91.5	10:00 p.m.
Cabool	FM-TRANS	89.9	10:00 p.m.
Kansas City	KCCV-AM	760	11:30 a.m.*
Kennett	KAUF-FM	89.9	10:00 p.m.
Memphis	FM-TRANS	91.5	10:00 p.m.
Park Hills	FM-TRANS	91.1	10:00 p.m.
Springfield	KAKU-FM	90.1	10:00 p.m.
St. Louis	KSIV-AM	1320	11:30 a.m.*

NEBRASKA (3)

Chadron	FM-TRANS	89.3	9:00 p.m.
Hastings	FM-TRANS	91.7	10:00 p.m.
Hubbard	KAYA-FM	91.3	10:00 p.m.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (1)

Manchester	WLMW-FM	90.7	11:00 p.m.
------------	---------	------	------------

NEW MEXICO (5)

Clovis	KAQF-FM	91.1	9:00 p.m.
Clayton	FM-TRANS	91.3	9:00 p.m.
Hobbs	FM-TRANS	91.5	9:00 p.m.
Las Vegas	FM-TRANS	90.3	9:00 p.m.
Raton	FM-TRANS	90.1	9:00 p.m.

NEW YORK (1)

Batavia	FM-TRANS	89.5	11:00 p.m.
---------	----------	------	------------

NORTH CAROLINA (6)

Ahoskie	FM-TRANS	91.9	11:00 p.m.
Beaufort	FM-TRANS	91.5	11:00 p.m.
New Bern	WAAE-FM	91.9	11:00 p.m.
Mt. Airy	FM-TRANS	90.3	11:00 p.m.
Raleigh	WRDT-AM	570	1:00 p.m.
Sanford	FM-TRANS	88.7	11:00 p.m.

NORTH DAKOTA (4)

Harvey	FM-TRANS	91.1	10:00 p.m.
Jamestown	FM-TRANS	90.7	10:00 p.m.
Watford City	FM-TRANS	89.1	10:00 p.m.
Williston	FM-TRANS	91.7	10:00 p.m.

OHIO (4)

Martin's Ferry	FM-TRANS	91.1	11:00 p.m.
Shelby	FM-TRANS	89.9	11:00 p.m.
Steubenville	FM-TRANS	88.9	11:00 p.m.
West Carrollton	WQRP-FM	88.1	11:00 p.m.

OKLAHOMA (11)

Ada	FM-TRANS	88.7	10:00 p.m.
Ardmore	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Aroka	FM-TRANS	91.7	10:00 p.m.
Durant	FM-TRANS	89.3	10:00 p.m.
Elk City	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Idabel	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Norman	FM-TRANS	89.3	10:00 p.m.
Oklahoma City	KQCV-AM	800	2:00 p.m.
Poteau	KARG-FM	91.7	10:00 p.m.
Stillwater	FM-TRANS	89.7	10:00 p.m.
Weatherford	FM-TRANS	90.5	10:00 p.m.

OREGON (2)

Baker City	FM-TRANS	90.7	8:00 p.m.
Grants Pass	KAPK-FM	91.1	8:00 p.m.

PENNSYLVANIA (1)

Red Lion	WTHM-AM	1440	12:30 p.m.*
----------	---------	------	-------------

SOUTH DAKOTA (2)

Aberdeen	FM-TRANS	90.1	10:00 p.m.
Spearfish	FM-TRANS	90.1	8:00 p.m.

TENNESSEE (12)

Bristol	FM-TRANS	90.5	11:00 p.m.
Dyersburg	FM-TRANS	89.7	10:00 p.m.
Hohenwald	FM-TRANS	89.7	10:00 p.m.
Jackson	WAMP-FM	88.1	10:00 p.m.
Lawrenceberg	FM-TRANS	89.9	10:00 p.m.
Milan	FM-TRANS	99.1	10:00 p.m.
Memphis	WCRV-AM	640	2:00 p.m.
Nashville	WENO-AM	760	11:30 a.m.*
Savannah	FM-TRANS	88.1	10:00 p.m.
Shelbyville	FM-TRANS	91.3	10:00 p.m.
Tullahoma	FM-TRANS	88.5	10:00 p.m.
Waynesboro	FM-TRANS	89.9	10:00 p.m.

TEXAS (24)

Abilene	KAQD-FM	91.3	10:00 p.m.
Amarillo	KAVW-FM	90.7	10:00 p.m.
Big Spring	FM-TRANS	91.5	10:00 p.m.
Bonham	FM-TRANS	91.1	10:00 p.m.
Borger	KAVO-FM	91.5	10:00 p.m.
Breckenridge	FM-TRANS	90.7	10:00 p.m.
Brownfield	FM-TRANS	90.7	10:00 p.m.
Crockett	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Dalhart	FM-TRANS	91.7	10:00 p.m.
Dallas	KWRD-FM	94.9	11:30 a.m.*
Del Rio	FM-TRANS	89.9	10:00 p.m.
Dumas	FM-TRANS	91.7	10:00 p.m.
Hereford	FM-TRANS	90.7	10:00 p.m.
Houston	KKHT-FM	106.9	2:00 p.m.
Lamesa	FM-TRANS	91.3	10:00 p.m.
Levelland	FM-TRANS	91.9	10:00 p.m.
Lockhart	FM-TRANS	88.5	10:00 p.m.
Midland	FM-TRANS	89.5	10:00 p.m.
Pampa	FM-TRANS	90.9	10:00 p.m.
Pecos	FM-TRANS	91.3	10:00 p.m.
Plainview	FM-TRANS	90.7	10:00 p.m.
Stephenville	FM-TRANS	90.5	10:00 p.m.
Van Horn	FM-TRANS	89.9	10:00 p.m.
Victoria	FM-TRANS	88.5	10:00 p.m.

UTAH (1)

St. George	FM-TRANS	88.7	9:00 p.m.
------------	----------	------	-----------

VIRGINIA (3)

Bristol	FM-TRANS	90.5	11:00 p.m.
Culpeper	WARN-FM	91.5	11:00 p.m.

WASHINGTON (1)

Sunnyside	KAYB-FM	88.1	8:00 p.m.
-----------	---------	------	-----------

WYOMING (1)

Gillette	KAXG-FM	89.7	9:00 p.m.
----------	---------	------	-----------

Total States	32
Markets	178

LISTEN ON THE INTERNET!

"For Faith & Family" can also be heard on LightSource on AudioNet.™
(www.audionet.com/lightsource)

1998 "For Faith & Family" Guest Overview

Dr. Adrian Rogers, Senior Pastor

Bellevue Baptist Church •
Memphis, TN

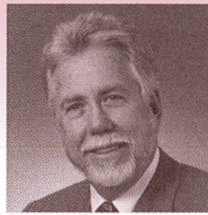
Dr. Rogers, Pastor and nationally known speaker, shares the dangers that many families face today and the ten principles that God expects parents to pass on to their children.



Norm Miller, Chairman of the Board

Interstate Batteries •
Dallas, TX

Norm tells the tremendous story of how he overcame the challenges of being an alcoholic and rose to the top of the business world when he came to know Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior.



Dr. Paige Patterson, President

Southeastern Seminary •
Wake Forest, NC

The President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina for years, Dr. Patterson is one of the most influential writers and speakers among Southern Baptists today.



O.S. Hawkins, President

Southern Baptist
Convention Annuity
Board • Dallas, TX

Dr. Hawkins raises high the standards of moral purity, and reveals how we can overcome temptation. Dr. Land and Dr. Hawkins will also deal with the restoration process involved when ministering to those who have fallen.



Zig Ziglar, Chairman of the Board

The Zig Ziglar
Corporation

Zig Ziglar is an all American success story. Affected early in life by his father's death, Zig shares from his life experience of how the Lord has worked in his life and family. These programs were recorded from his home in Dallas, Texas.



W.A. Criswell, Pastor Emeritus

First Baptist Dallas •
Dallas, TX

Dr. Criswell shares from his experience of fifty years as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Jack Graham, Senior Pastor

Prestonwood Baptist
Church • Dallas, TX

Dr. Graham shares from his heart about the murder of his father and the biblical truths found in the scriptures that have ministered to him and many in his ministry.



Tommy Nelson, Senior Pastor

Denton Bible Church •
Denton, TX

Tommy Nelson and Dr. Land look to the Song of Solomon for a biblical perspective on the subjects of dating, romance, love, marriage, commitment and sex.



Carol Everett, Director

The Heidi Group •
Austin, TX

Former abortion clinic owner and director Carol Everett draws back the curtain of secrecy, revealing facts about the abortion industry that prey on women in crisis pregnancies.

John Trent, President

Encouraging Words •
Colorado Springs, CO

Dr. Trent discusses the choice that every person and parent makes: either to bless, or to curse. The daily choice to bless or curse is enormously important in today's culture.



Dr. Steve Farrar, Founder & Chairman

Men's Leadership
Ministries • College
Station, TX

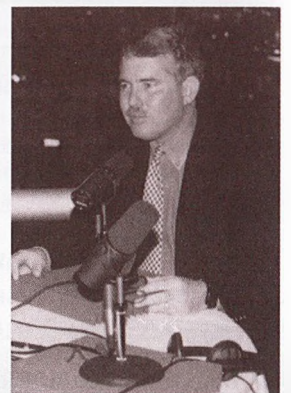
Dr. Land and Dr. Farrar talk about the role of men as leaders in the moral chaos of these days in which we live. This program is design to help men effectively lead their families.



Dr. Ed Young, Senior Pastor

Second Baptist •
Houston, TX

What is our culture crying for today? Purity in sexual matters... Dr. Young and Dr. Land use this opportunity to share the life giving truth about God's plan for sexuality.

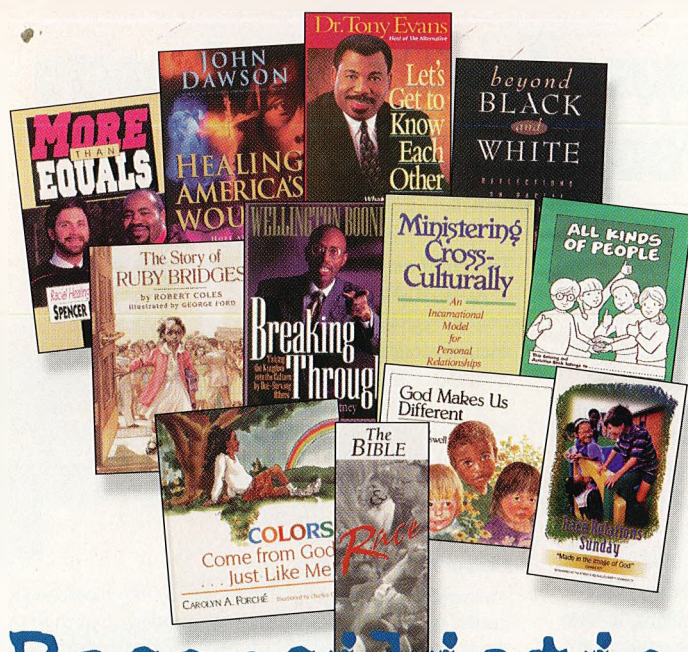


Top: "For Faith & Family" host Dr. Richard Land interviews Dr. Adrian Rogers, senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn. BOTTOM LEFT: Tommy Nelson, senior pastor of Denton Bible Church, Denton, Tex., is interviewed by "For Faith & Family" executive producer Harold Harper. BOTTOM RIGHT: Guest John Trent, president of Encouraging Words, Colorado Springs, Colo.

For faster service, call (615) 244-2495 or (800) 475-9127, FAX this form to (615) 242-0065, or e-mail to: erlc_orders@compuserve.com.

Total _____

Bill to (if other than above) _____



Reconciliation begins with understanding.

People of different races "don't know each other," says Laurie Lawson, a professor of social work at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., in exploring the foundation of race-based fears that divide our nation. We have a tendency to foster preconceived ideas based on what others "have told you or told me about a certain person, about their characteristics. Where there is lack of knowledge there are a lot of assumptions made, and we build on these assumptions..."

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission offers products for both adults and children to help build an understanding and bridge the gap between the races. These products are undated and can be used any time as we engage in the intentional process of racial reconciliation in our churches and communities. To order, complete the form in the center of this issue and mail, fax, or e-mail as instructed, or call the ERLC at 1-800-475-9127.

1998 Race Relations Bulletin Insert & Poster

The bulletin insert/informational hand-out is an invaluable aid when sharing scriptural insights about race relations (matching 11"x17" poster also available). Full color/undated. One of a series.

Bulletin Insert: RABUL \$.06 ea.
Poster: RAPOS \$.95 ea.

Children's Coloring Poster and Activities Booklet

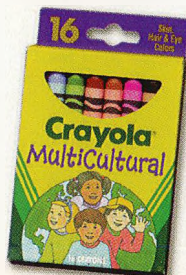
The 11"x17" poster includes a line drawing of children of all shapes and sizes in a neighborhood parade. The 8-page booklet, *All Kinds of People*, contains coloring and activities pages to help children recognize the similarities among people and teach them how to respond to the differences. Both products are wonderful teaching tools when promoting racial unity in the church or home.

Poster: RACHI \$.08 ea.
Activities Booklet: RAKIN \$.85 ea.

"Colors of the World"

This set of crayons includes a variety of skin, hair, and eye colors for coloring people of the world. When used with the children's coloring poster or activity booklet above, they make a great tool to teach children to "love one another" across racial and ethnic lines.

RACRA \$1.65 ea.



Healing America's Wounds

This book is a must-read for all who pray and labor toward a spiritual awakening to Christ in our nation. *Healing America's Wounds* is a compelling, biblical road map toward Christ-centered reconciliation.

BKHEA (280 pages) \$10.45 ea.

SALE

More Than Equals

Spencer Perkins and Chris Rice present a model of intentional unity, crossing barriers for the sake of racial harmony as well as the furtherance of the gospel.

BKMOR (254 pages) \$8.50 \$11.99 ea.

Breaking Through

Wellington Boone challenges Christians to break through to the next level in their faith and "take the Kingdom into the culture by out-serving others."

BKBRE (212 pages) \$15.90 ea.

Let's Get to Know Each Other

This book shares what white and black Christians need to know about each other, offering understanding and encouragement to help break the bonds of separation and build a foundation united by Christ's love and saving power for all people.

BKLET (166 pages) \$10.90 ea.

Beyond Black and White

Sociologist George Yancey answers the Christian's concerns about where he or she fits into God's plan for peace among the races.

BKBEY (173 pages) \$11.55 ea.

Ministering Cross-Culturally

Missionaries and pastors invariably experience tension and conflict when ministering to people from different cultural and social backgrounds. This book draws on Scripture to offer ways to improve those relationships.

BKMIN (125 pages) \$7.50 ea.

God Makes Us Different

This book shows young readers that although we all have different personalities and physical traits, all of us are beautiful and special in God's eyes.

BKGOD (softcover) \$5.60 ea.

Colors Come from God... Just Like Me!

This story is told by an African-American girl who shares about the many things God created and their beauty in the diversity of colors God gave them.

BKCOL (hardcover) \$11.00 ea.

The Story of Ruby Bridges

The first black child to attend an all-white elementary school, Ruby faces angry protesters as she is escorted to and from first grade by federal marshalls. With courage beyond her years, she becomes an important part of history and an example for all Americans.

BKSTO (hardcover) \$13.40 ea.

"The Bible & Race"

This pamphlet by Paul Griffin Jones and Elizabeth King Holmes identifies then clarifies passages from Scripture often misinterpreted and used to support and perpetuate racist attitudes.

RABIB \$.35 ea.

Substance Abuse Increasing Among Young People; Often Fatal

From the 1998 ERLC fact sheet, "Alcohol & Other Drugs: The Facts"

SOURCES:

Centers for Disease Control Web site
Dec. 5, 1997

New York Times
Dec. 5, 1997

USA Today
Dec. 23, 1997

New York Times
Dec. 21, 1997

Youthviews,
Gallup Institute,
November 1997

Time
September 1996

Tennessean
Jan. 15, 1998

Is substance abuse placing America's children and young adults at risk? Consider these startling statistics:

- The highest intoxication rates in fatal crashes in 1995 (27.8 percent) were recorded for drivers aged 21-24 years.
- One-fifth of all traffic deaths among children younger than age 15 involve alcohol. From 1985 to 1996, 8,482 children under the age of 15 died in accidents involving a drunken driver.
- A 1997 University of Michigan study found that 54 percent of 51,000 high school seniors had used drugs, compared with 44 percent in 1991.
- Of the 18,600 eighth graders surveyed in 1997 by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, 29.4 percent said they had tried an illegal drug, usually marijuana, at least once, compared with 31.2 percent in 1996 and 28.5 percent in 1995.
- Forty-one percent of teenagers name drug abuse as the top problem facing people their age.
- According to a Gallup youth survey, the proportion of teens who reported that they smoked a cigarette in the last 30 days has risen from 14 percent in 1992 to 19 percent in 1997.
- Ninety percent of all new smokers are under the age of 18.
- In addition, corporations have been known to target young buyers. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company released documents on January 14, 1998, that show that the company designed marketing strategies to appeal to teenagers, despite sworn testimony by company executives that the company did not target teens.

Ministers and church leaders are increasingly called on to minister to families in the aftermath of substance abuse. But can anything be done to address the issues before tragedy strikes? The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission offers these resources to help your church build a strong ministry against substance abuse:

The Word on Sex, Drugs & Rock 'n' Roll

This is a high-involvement, discussion-oriented, and Bible-centered resource for those working with youth. Filled with action-packed exercises, this study guide directs teens to find answers in God's Word.

BKWOR (186 pages) \$15.60 ea.

Drugproof Your Kids

An increasing number of young people say they have experimented with intoxicating substances, including children from strong Christian families. *Drugproof Your Kids* gives practical, biblical steps one can take to head off, or if necessary, work through a drug crisis. It includes a personal study guide and discussion leader's guide. In addition, it is offered on video with a complete syllabus that can be used for parents, kids, teachers, and youth pastors.

Book: BKDRU (222 pages)

Video: VTDRU (1/2" VHS, 90 min. (two 45-min. segments))

\$9.90 ea.

\$18.60 ea.

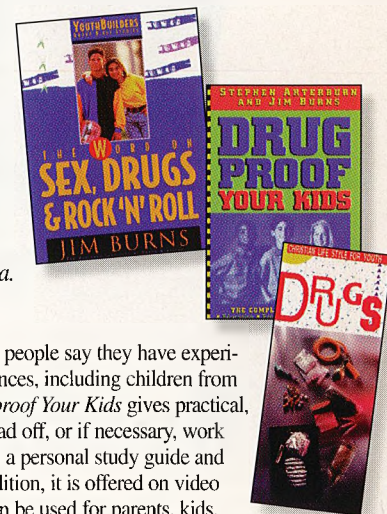
Christian Life Style for Youth: Drugs

This revised and updated pamphlet takes a look at some reasons teenagers experiment with drugs, specific drugs and their effects, Christian principles to apply to drug usage, and where young people can go for help. In addition, it includes a section on crack and herbs as drugs.

YODRU

\$3.35 ea.

To order these products, complete the form in the center of this issue or call 1-800-475-9127. Please specify the product code when ordering.



"I am an alcoholic. I know what it's like to burn with a desire to drink that is so overpowering that family, jobs, and friends mean nothing compared to the desire for liquor. I know what it is like to wake up in a hotel room not knowing where I am or how I got there. I also know the joy of complete deliverance from the power of alcohol addiction and never cease to praise God for such deliverance."

Jerry Dunn, author
God is for the Alcoholic

God provided Jerry's escape from alcoholism at the end of a two-year drunk, when he picked up a Bible in a Texas prison. This is his remarkable story of deliverance. Available from the ERLC.

BKGODIS (236 pages) \$10.45 ea.

A Parent's Worst Nightmare

On July 10, 1990, Gary and Peggy Cuozzo received a phone call that is every parent's worst nightmare. A Miami homicide detective was on the line... there had been a shooting... a young man was dead... the body matched the description of their son, Chip.

Chip Cuozzo had everything necessary to succeed in life—he was athletically gifted, academically brilliant, handsome, and he had a strong family background.

But it wasn't enough.

Like many other people his age, Chip was also deeply insecure. His insecurity and shyness, combined with peer pressure, eventually led him down a path to a final, fatal choice.

In *CHOICES: The Chip Cuozzo Story*, the entire Cuozzo family shares their eyewitness accounts of Chip's struggle to find identity and purpose in today's world. It is a heartbreaking journey to tragedy with an inspiring discovery of hope we can all find if we make the ultimate choice.

The video *CHOICES: The Chip Cuozzo Story* is available from the ERLC. To order, complete the form in the center of this issue or call 1-800-475-9127. Please specify the product code below when ordering.

VTCHO (1/2" VHS, 35 min.)

\$13.50 ea.



Portrait of a Gentle Activist

BY KAREN ATWOOD COLE

"Ask the Lord to show you where He's working—then join Him at work." That sums up the conviction of Dr. James Powell, a retired physician from Ellensburg, Wash. After a career in family medicine and general surgery, Dr. Powell was looking forward to having more time to

although a couple of my partners did some in the 1970s. I was silently critical of them, but not particularly pro-life. I counseled patients to stay pregnant, but did refer them to abortion providers, especially one I knew who counseled."

Dr. Powell's attitude

spokesperson on many fronts, including sanctity of human life and education issues.

As a result of Jim's interest and personal involvement, the Northwest Baptist Convention organized its own Christian Life Committee in 1994. The group publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Salt & Light*, which is distributed to almost 450 SBC pastors and other contacts throughout Washington, Oregon, and the panhandle of Idaho. They held the first annual "Rainbow of Hope" training seminar in 1997 on pro-life issues and ministry; the 1998 event will focus on local and legislative activism in pornography issues and on ministry to homosexuals. Jim has not forsaken local issues for the larger arena, however. He and his wife are active in Chestnut Street Baptist Church in Ellensburg. Jim was on the steering committee that led a group of evangelical churches to open the Ellensburg Pregnancy Care Center, where Joyce leads post-abortion counseling and education classes. In 1997, he ran for his local school board but was narrowly defeated after powerful opposition by educators who disagreed with his views on abstinence-based sex education.

Dr. Powell has words of challenge for seniors who hesitate to get involved in active ministry.

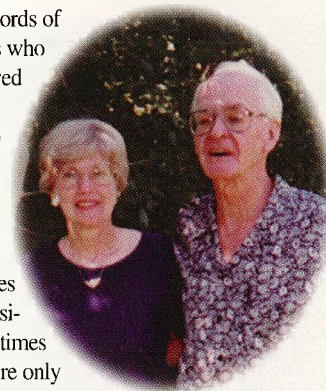
"Those who retire to a life of leisure have a problem. The lack of challenge, both mentally and physically, often accelerates both mental and physical problems. Many times I have seen folks retire only to develop serious physical, mental, or emotional problems. I have a friend and former patient, a retired university professor, who is in his nineties, takes part in physical activities, writes economics books, attends church, is active in ethical issues, and is sharp.

"Retirement freedom, combined with the freedom and boldness we have because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, gives a benefit that seniors haven't had before. We don't have to be concerned about parenting young children or making a living.

"Older Christians need to use their experience and wisdom to help improve this world. Take a stand for the principles God has set down. Make a statement in the 'right versus wrong' debate. Too many Christians stay 'neutral' to avoid conflict or controversy. Jesus was never neutral. His life of ministry

swirled with conflict and controversy.

"Moral problems have always been with us, but they are particularly egregious today. Abortion, pornography, promiscuity, racism, hunger, persecution of Christians, etc.—pick your interest. Ask the Lord to show you where He's working—then join Him at work." ■



Retiree Dr. James Powell (above with wife Joyce and left with some of his 10 grandchildren) has become known as a person who is willing to take a stand and has added a new dimension to the ministry and profile of the Northwest Baptist Convention. "Jim Powell is a good example of a person who is tirelessly investing his life in changing the culture for Jesus Christ," said Jeff Iorg, executive director of the state convention.



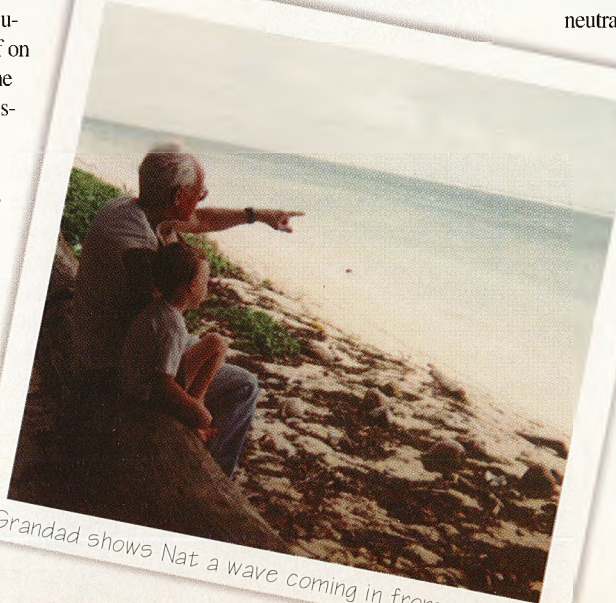
Granddad shows how to "shuck" a coconut on Palau

call his own. He had no firm retirement plans, but envisioned unlimited fishing and hiking near his cabin in the mountains and traveling with his wife, Joyce, to visit their four children and 10 grandchildren.

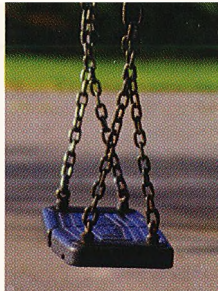
In 1992, Jim was in the process of phasing out his practice when he was elected to represent the Northwest Baptist Convention on what was then the SBC's Christian Life Commission. He had a general concern about declining morality, but he had no idea of the new direction God had for his life and the significance of his election to this new post.

"I was not a committed pro-lifer and did not try to address or even acknowledge many of our society's serious ethical problems," he said. "In my practice I did no abortions,

changed when he became involved in the work of the CLC. At trustee meetings he witnessed the passion of Dr. Richard Land and the trustees about abortion and other moral issues. He determined to educate himself on topics that he had previously overlooked. Today, he is a knowledgeable



Granddad shows Nat a wave coming in from reef



Background checks and screening of workers need to be non-negotiables in children's and youth ministry. "Without adequate screening of workers, churches will be held negligent by the courts..." Ernest Zarra explains. Even more serious, he continues, is the fact the church is taking chances with the lives of children and families entrusted to its care. And child abuse not only shatters the innocence of young lives, an abuse experience might very well stand in the way of that child ever trusting in Christ.

Predators on God's Property (from p. 4)

When a church makes the decision to forgo safeguards in staffing children's and youth ministries, it is making a decision which could place itself liable for harm done by an unscreened worker. "And the small church is just as vulnerable as the large," Zarra says.

Even for the average-sized church with only a pastoral staff of one, there is no good objection to screening, responds Zarra. "If you want to continue ministry in the 20th century where we have this host of

problems, where we are all lawsuit-happy, and where it seems that pedophiles are looking for an easy in you must screen. The trouble it takes to implement a screening process is minimal compared to any allegation or incident that occurs at that church because you haven't done your homework."

According to Zarra, the judge will ask this question: "What have you done to protect the children at your church?" And don't give the excuse you are too busy,

because the perpetrator is not too busy to abuse at your facility. You need to measure the risk. And if you can't do excellent ministry for God, shut it down.

"Without adequate screening of workers, churches will be held negligent by the courts," Zarra explains, "regardless of objection or denial." Even more serious, he continues, is the fact the church is taking chances with the lives of children and families entrusted to its care. And child abuse not only shat-

ters the innocence of young lives, an abuse experience might very well stand in the way of that child ever trusting in Christ.

"The corporate church should do all it can to make certain that nothing gets in the way of the little ones coming to Jesus," Zarra writes. "Screening should be seen as a way to lead children into a safe and meaningful relationship of trust with Jesus."

Zarra views screening of workers, paid and unpaid, as an expansion of the ministry. And he realizes placing restrictions on who can work with children and on the ministry environment may mean combining or shutting down some segments of a children's ministry due to a lack of workers. He insists this is not a sign of failure but of good stewardship.

"God's work should be done sensibly and with wisdom, and placing children in risky situations is certainly neither sensible nor wise," Zarra says. "We do not fail in ministry when we make the safety of children a priority." ■



Breaking the abuse cycle

According to Bill Young, the church has a critical role to fill in breaking the abuse cycle. Simply by providing parenting classes and home visitation programs to young parents, the church is displaying a willingness to extend a caring hand to families on the edge. "Abusive parents usually experienced abuse or neglect from their parents," Young says, noting these mothers and fathers don't understand the needs of their children and often lack parenting skills. "Most of us were never trained how to parent; we either copied our parents or did the opposite because we didn't like it," Young continues. Parents may not be aware of a child's capabilities and limitations at different developmental stages so they have unrealistic expectations of their child's behavior, setting the stage for possible abuse out of frustration, he explains. "Young families are isolated from neighbors and extended family now more than ever, leaving new parents alone to handle the pressures of child-rearing. There are real ministry opportunities for a caring church to extend a lifeline to these parents and children," Young says.

THE VICTORY IS OURS

With the close of the Olympic Winter games in Nagano, Japan, the talk of medal counts by country, the thrill of Picabo Street in the Super G Downhill, and the agony of the U.S. Men's Hockey team have all but subsided.

For all the appreciation we have for the athletes who rigorously train for years in hopes of capturing a gold medal, there is only room for one to stand atop that highest block. Yet for the rest and all of us looking on, a greater victory is within our grasp. Undeterred by ill-placed moguls, icy patches, or judges voting in block, there is in Jesus Christ an award which for all eternity will never tarnish nor crumble, and parenthetically, that no random drug test can steal. And He searches not for the well-trained or morally fit; by faith alone is given this indescribable gift. No years of training and preparation

required; in an instant you will be changed. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor. 5:17).

How can you know this One who provides victory in the face of defeat?

- Cease your struggles and admit you are a sinner, realizing your works are nothing apart from God (Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:23).

- Come to God seeking a relationship by trusting in His Son who while worthy became unworthy but for a time for our sakes (Rom. 10:13; 5:8).

- Be assured that once you have acknowledged your disobedience to and before God, which is common to all. He will forgive your sins and restore your relationship with Him (John 3:16).

- Share your decision to accept Christ. Rejoice in your new life. Hoist His standard of morality as your solitary guide and rule.

His Dream for Mine

BY CINDY MORGAN

Do you ever wonder if your life has a purpose? Is it really worth all the sacrifices you make?

These are questions most people who blindly and eagerly stumble into the music business world—or perhaps the business world in general—ask themselves. Do you remember the days when you were at the cusp of breaking into this “business”? I remember all too well.

I had recorded a demo which John Mays, then A&R director for Word Records, had received. After many phone calls and a few meetings, I took a step of faith and off to Music City USA I went.

I worked as a waitress in Nashville, Tenn., for several months while writing for my first record. I remember changing out of my uniform in a restroom at Wendy’s, then heading up to Word, excited to be working on music. It was a time of adventure and wonder I will always cherish.

Now, five years later, it almost seems like another life. Touring, imaging, re-imaging, recording, “be yourself, don’t be yourself”—it’s crazy. If you’re not careful, in the middle of the chaos, you forget why you’re even here. This past year, something made me remember and I’d like to share it with you.

My daddy, Cova Morgan, made a trip to Nashville 25 years ago to be a songwriter, and he met with some folks in country music publishing. Impressed by his writing and believing he had real potential, they asked him to stay in town to meet with some other “music people” and even invited him backstage at the Grand Ole Opry. My dad explained he had no money for a hotel and his family was expecting him back that night.

They then told him, “If you want to pursue writing country, Nashville is where you have to be.” Daddy said his goodbyes, and he and his songs came back home to east Tennessee. He then spent the next 20 years being a Volkswagen mechanic—and the most loving and kind father, always there for us.

Every day when he came home from work, I would climb up into our big, ugly green recliner and sit on his lap. We would then laugh our way through the nightly episode of “Andy Griffith.” I have often wondered what life would have been like if he’d made a different choice.

While I was writing for my current record, *Listen*, a song Daddy had written when I was just a little girl kept running through my head. A few days later, I found the same song on an old cassette with Mom singing and Dad playing guitar. I called up my guitarist/writer friend, Drew Ramsey, and we got together and wrote new music to Dad’s words. We recorded the song for the new album but kept it a secret from Daddy about three months.

We sprang the song on him at a Knoxville, Tenn., concert last fall. After playing it for him we brought him up on stage, and there wasn’t a dry eye in the house. Everyone was on their feet cheering the Volkswagen mechanic whose dream had just come true.

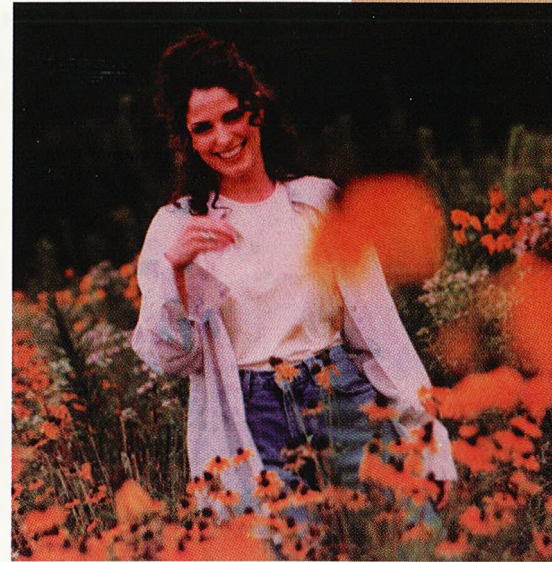
That song is “Listen,” the title track of my latest record. The single stayed at number one for three weeks. Daddy was so excited.

But what I learned from Dad really has nothing to do with records or number one songs. What really matters is not “success” but purpose. Are we becoming more dependent on our relationship with

Christ? Are we movers and shakers, or menders and helpers?

It is difficult to forsake your own dreams and desires and give your life’s work to serve someone else. I think that’s the beautiful thing about what my father did when he traded his dreams for mine. The servant who was a slave to humility and love was a king in his heart. He gave our family the most precious gift of all—his time—and it changed my life.

The influence of time is a miraculous thing. I have a long way to go and so much left to surrender to God, but I pray we would all be challenged to trust our lives, our purpose, and our time to God. After all, He is the One who really can make all our dreams come true—the true King of hearts. ■



Singer/songwriter Cindy Morgan recently released her fourth recording, *Listen*, on the Word label. When she’s not on tour, she divides her time between Nashville, Tenn., and Alberta, Canada.

LISTEN

By Cindy Morgan, Cova Morgan, and Andrew Ramsey

Would you listen, would you listen
There’s a baby crying down in Bethlehem
Would you listen, would you listen
To the voice of hope that’s ringing through
the land
People listen, listen
But still don’t understand

Would you listen, would you listen
There’s a great man preaching sending
out His Word
Would You listen, would you listen
To the truth He speaks and still He is not heard
Would you listen, would you listen
To a great man preaching turn your head
around
People listen, listen
But still don’t understand

Chorus: But don’t you know
His love will shine down on you
Oh and yes His peace will come in and rescue
Don’t you know His blood will cleanse you
and save
If you will open your heart and listen

Would you listen, would you listen
There’s a hammer ringing, ringing through
the land
Would you listen, would you listen
To a cruel, cruel message
Crucify the man
People listen, listen, listen
‘Cause His blood is falling in the sand

Chorus
When the baby cried we closed our ears
to wisdom
When the word was preached we closed our
minds to love
And when the hammer rang we closed our
hearts to Jesus
Now you listen, listen, listen

Chorus
Open up your ears, open your heart
Open up your mind and open up your soul
Open up your heart, yeah, open up your heart
and listen.

©1996 Lola Max Music/Word Music/ASCAP/Drew’s Grove Publishing/BMI

Pro-lifers Receive Encouragement on Grim, 25th Anniversary

BY TOM STRODE

The 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision

legalizing abortion passed with tens of thousands of Americans again marching in Washington, with two of the accessories to abortion's legalization offering apologies and with some encouraging news for the pro-life movement.

As they have every year since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* opinions by the high court, pro-lifers from many states gathered January 22 in the capital to march on behalf of the unborn. This year, they heard from the women whose cases resulted in the court legalizing abortion on demand throughout pregnancy. Those women, Norma McCorvey and Sandra Cano, told the crowd gathered between the Washington Monument and the White House before the march they were wrong and were opposed to abortion rights, according to a report in *The Washington Times*.

McCorvey, "Jane Roe" in the *Roe v. Wade* case, said, "I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to each and every one of you here today. I lied, and I'm sorry. I've repented and asked Jesus into my heart," *The Times* reported.

McCorvey, who never had an abortion, made a public profession of faith in Christ in 1995 and became pro-life in the months that followed.

According to *The Times*, Cano, the plaintiff in *Doe v. Bolton*, told the crowd, "I was poor, pregnant, uneducated, seeking assistance, and getting a divorce from a man who was a convicted child molester. Instead of the help I sought, a feminist attorney turned my circumstances into a tool to achieve her agenda—legalizing abortion.

"For over 20 years now, my name has been synonymous with abortion. I was against abortion then. I am against abortion now. I never sought an abortion. I never had an abortion. Abortion is murder."

President Clinton, however, made no such confession. He reaffirmed his support for abortion rights on the anniversary. In a transcript of video-taped remarks released by the White House, the President said *Roe v. Wade* "has had a major positive impact on the health and well-being of American women and their families.

"I will continue to do everything I can to make sure that every child in America is a wanted child, raised in a loving, strong family. Ultimately, that idea is [what] the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* celebrates."

Clinton's abortion advocacy continued to be felt on Capitol Hill.

Pro-lifers in the Senate and House of Representatives continue to prepare for another attempt to override the President's veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act. Clinton twice has vetoed the legislation, most recently in October. The House has the two-thirds majority necessary

for an override, but the Senate fell three votes short in its most recent passage of the bill. The override attempt will occur some time this year.

Partial-birth abortion is a procedure performed normally in the fifth or sixth month of pregnancy in which a doctor delivers a baby feet first until only the head remains in the birth canal. He pierces the base of the baby's skull with surgical scissors and suctions out the brain.

In addition, the President's nominee as surgeon general, David Satcher, won confirmation by the Senate despite his opposition to a ban on partial-birth abortion. The Senate voted 63-35 to confirm Satcher, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, after easily turning back a filibuster attempt by Sen. John Ashcroft, R.-Mo., in a 75-23 vote. Nineteen Republicans joined all 44 Democrats to confirm Clinton's nominee. Ashcroft needed 41 votes to sustain a filibuster.

In addition to Satcher's refusal to support a ban on partial-birth abortion, Ashcroft cited the following reasons for his opposition:

- The nominee's endorsement of needle-exchange programs for drug users;
- Satcher's support of condom distribution to minors;
- As CDC director, his endorsement of research that refused to inform parents when their newborns tested positive for HIV;
- His support of CDC-sponsored research in Africa on women and infants infected with HIV that used a control group receiving no treatment.

In the midst of continued disappointments in the public policy arena, pro-lifers

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO BE PRO-LIFE:

Because of the vast scope of human need, the pro-life movement can involve us all—children, grandparents,

mothers, fathers, churches, businesses, youth groups, classrooms... Each suggestion is like a cleansing, preserving touch of salt.

Jesus doesn't ask that you be a whole box of salt, only a pinch of it (Matt. 5:13).

- Pray for a pro-life ministry.
- Organize or participate in "work days" at a pro-life ministry.
- Collect and donate pro-life books to your church.
- Wear a "precious feet" pin [available from ERLC].
- Organize or participate in a life chain.
- Investigate what your schools are teaching about sexuality and offer them alternatives.
- Invite a pro-life speaker to your school.
- Make your voice heard in the political arena.
- Volunteer at a pregnancy counseling center.
- Be a foster parent for an adoption agency.
- Be a special friend/advocate for a single mother.
- Be a labor coach for a single pregnant woman.
- Start a support group for women who have had abortions.
- Volunteer your computer for a pro-life cause.
- Write or sponsor a pamphlet.

From *52 Simple Things You Can Do To Be Pro-Life*, by Anne Pierson and Carol Risser, Bethany House Publishers, 1990. Available from the ERLC, 1-800-475-9127 (\$5.99 ea.; specify product code BKSIM).

Continued on p. 16.

In the Name of Jesus

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS REACH OUT TO THE HUNGRY AND HOMELESS IN FLORIDA



ABOVE: Christobal fled Cuba 25 years ago seeking a new life in America. For years he worked in food service and as a baggage handler until a traffic accident left him unable to stand. Multiple surgeries restored his mobility but not his ability to stand for long periods. This past summer, his food stamps were halted under welfare reform. Though in this country legally, he was told his alien status disqualified him from further benefits. He and thousands of other elderly immigrants in the United States found themselves on the horns of a dilemma. Fortunately, the Resurrection Baptist Church in Miami mobilized with volunteers and food supplied through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Now Christobal has a balanced diet, new friends, and a new walk with Jesus Christ.



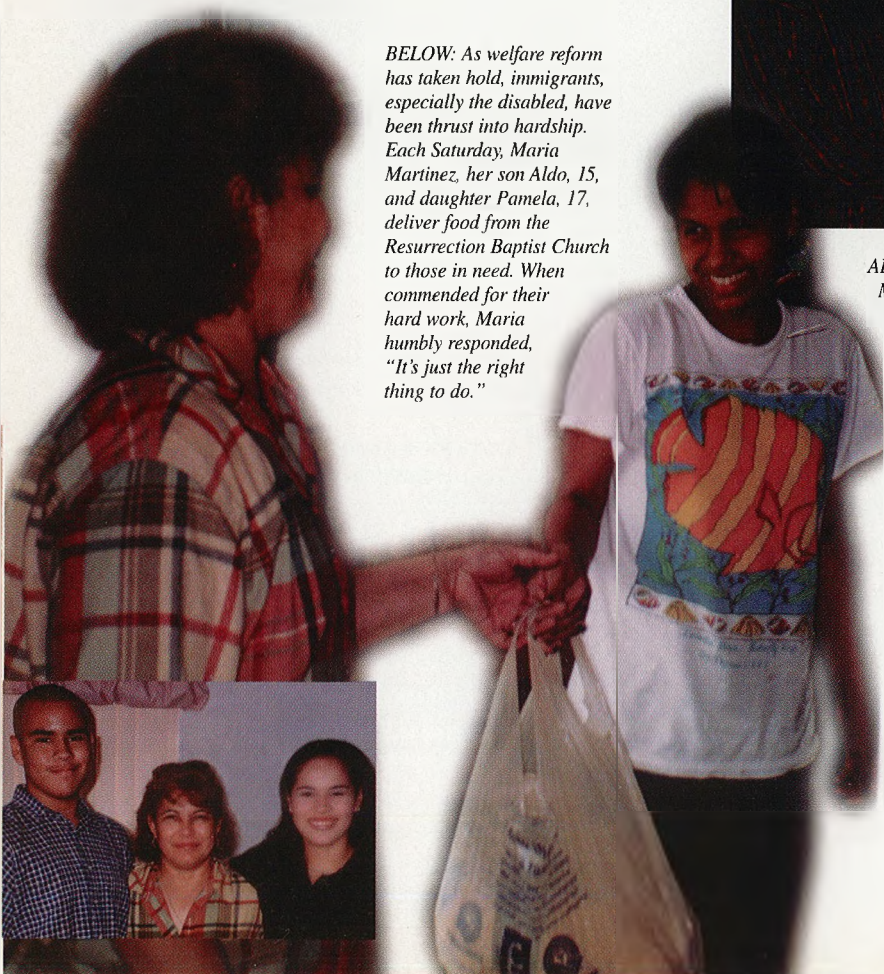
ABOVE: The Williams family gives thanks for their early Thanksgiving meal. Though bountiful, the meal may be the only one this family receives today as they dine under a tent with 150 other homeless people. Volunteers of the Central Baptist Church in downtown Miami mobilize every Sunday morning to feed 150 to 200 homeless people. They come from all backgrounds, cultures, and ages to attend chapel and receive a hot meal.



ABOVE: Mike Daily, Director of Church and Community Ministries for the Miami Baptist Association (right), explains the network of hunger ministries working throughout the Miami area to ERLC Director of Hunger Concerns Steve Nelson. Daily explains that the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund is supplying between \$90 and \$100 thousand this year for emergency food aid to the association.

BELOW: As welfare reform has taken hold, immigrants, especially the disabled, have been thrust into hardship. Each Saturday, Maria Martinez, her son Aldo, 15, and daughter Pamela, 17, deliver food from the Resurrection Baptist Church to those in need. When commended for their hard work, Maria humbly responded, "It's just the right thing to do."

RIGHT: From a metal folding chair in the back corner of a Sunday school room, Francis mans the phones for the hunger hotline of the Resurrection Baptist Church in Miami. She works 35 hours per week as a volunteer. When Maria Alvarez called, she was recuperating from surgery and had just received notice that her food stamps had been cut. She told Francis, "I feel like killing myself." But with food aid and a visit from an evangelism team, she now states, "Since that night, I do not cry anymore. God is healing my mind. I want to serve Him and help others however I can. I want to study God's Word and be with my church family."



ERLC's "For Faith & Family"
reaching and touching hearts across
the U.S. . . . see the special insert inside!

Your Church Can Touch the World

The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund uses 100% of the gifts received for hunger ministry . . . all in Jesus' name! The rice bowl ministry is a simple way for your church to touch the world. Years of use have shown the average bowl produces \$12.00 for world hunger.

How far can \$12.00 go for hunger?

- It will feed a Brazilian street child for one month. . .
 - and provide supplements for a flood victim in North Korea for one month. . .
 - and provide breakfast on Sunday morning for a needy child in Searcy, Ark. . .
- . . . All with nearly enough left over to provide milk for a hungry infant in Argentina for a month.

Rice bowls come in a box of 50 for \$24.00.
 To order, complete the form inside,
 specifying product code WHBOW.



**THE ETHICS &
 RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
 COMMISSION**

OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

901 Commerce, #550 ■ Nashville, TN 37203-3696

Non-profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Nashville, Tennessee
 Permit No. 518

VISIT THE ERLC'S WEB SITE . . .

<http://www.erlc.com>

Pro-lifers receive encouragement (from p. 14)

received some uplifting news from public opinion polls. Polls taken in early and mid-January showed support decreasing for an unrestricted right to abortion.

A Gallup poll taken for *USA Today* and CNN Jan. 16-18 showed only 23 percent of Americans support legal abortion in all circumstances. A survey performed for the Associated Press the week before found similar results.

That is an eight percent drop from a Gallup poll in September 1995. From 1975-95, Gallup surveys showed an increase in support for abortion in all circumstances, according to *USA Today*. The latest Gallup poll showed 58 percent believe abortion should be legal in some circumstances, while 17 percent support making abortion unlawful in all circumstances.

A *New York Times*/CBS News survey conducted in early January revealed a drop-off in support for abortion under certain circumstances, *The Times* reported. For example, the previous *Times*/CBS poll on abortion in 1989 showed 37 percent of Americans said a woman

should be able to have an abortion if her pregnancy would interrupt her career, while 56 percent said she should not. In the 1998 survey, only 25 percent said yes to such a scenario, while 70 percent said no.

The *Times*/CBS News poll found a majority of Americans had heard nothing or not much about the partial-birth abortion debate. The *Times*/CBS poll also revealed the American public is not well-informed on the 1973 decision legalizing abortion. "[M]any had to be told first what the decision entailed," *The Times* reported. When respondents were asked the status of abortion law, nearly 45 percent either gave an incorrect answer, said they did not follow the subject well enough to respond, or gave no answer.

Yet, the same poll showed support for legal abortion collapsed from 61 percent in the first three months of pregnancy to 15 percent in the second trimester and 7 percent in the final three months.

The *Roe* opinion, combined with the *Doe* ruling, had the practical effect of permitting a woman to have an abortion for any reason throughout her pregnancy. In the *Doe* case, the justices defined the mother's health in such a wide-ranging manner as to encompass emotional factors, age, and family as reasons for a legal abortion.

Gallup polls for *USA Today* and CNN revealed the greatest shifts are among liberals and women. Liberals supporting abortion under all circumstances declined from 52 percent in 1994-95 to 37 percent in 1996-98. Among Democratic women, support fell from 40 percent to 26 percent. Among liberal to moderate Republican women, it dropped from 40 percent to 25 percent. ■