

# SALT



*"You are the salt of the earth"* Matthew 5:13

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## *CLC on SBCNet*

The Christian Life Commission has joined SBCNet, the Southern Baptist data communications network found on CompuServe. The CLC plans to post on a regular basis articles from *Salt* and *Light*, as well as news releases, commentaries, information about new resources, alerts regarding pending legislation and other items.

Free SBCNet membership kits are distributed by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Kits, which provide access to services of CompuServe and SBCNet, contain software, account information, credit for a free month of CompuServe's basic services and a \$25 credit. They are available in DOS, Macintosh and Windows versions and may be ordered by calling 1-800-325-7749.

Users pay for the CompuServe standard plan plus any additional charges for extended services. The cost of SBCNet is a flat rate of \$7.95 monthly, plus CompuServe's standard plan charge of \$9.95 monthly.

## Pro-lifers target RU 486 with FDA citizen petition

By James A. Smith  
Director of Government Relations

The latest salvo of the pro-life movement against RU 486, the French abortion pill, was fired during a Feb. 28 news conference in Washington by Americans United for Life, 23 members of Congress and seven physicians and scientists who announced the filing of a "citizen petition" with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Southern Baptists who are concerned about this new method of killing unborn children can help advance this petition.

The citizen petition is an important opportunity for the pro-life movement in fighting RU 486. The Clinton administration has been aggressively pursuing the introduction of the drug into the United States since President Clinton's third day in office, when he signed an executive order directing the FDA to pursue lifting the ban on the

## Adopt a leader

Christians seeking to make a difference in their country, state and community may adopt a leader to pray for under a new project sponsored by the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

Under the Adopt-a-Leader program, individuals, families or groups will select a local, state or national decision-maker to pray for and communicate with for a year. You may order an Adopt-a-Leader kit by calling 1-800-444-8828.

The National Day of Prayer will be observed May 4. More than 10,000 organized prayer events will occur throughout the country.

importation of RU 486. Last May, Roussel Uclaf donated its United States  
(See *Pro-lifers* on Page 4)

## Religious equality amendment taking shape

Supporters of a religious liberty amendment to the U.S. Constitution continue to work on language for introduction in Congress.

Representatives from several Christian and conservative advocacy organizations met March 13 with Rep. Ernest Istook, R.-Okla., to craft an amendment from several proposals. It is unknown when the final language for introduction will be announced, said Michael Whitehead, general counsel

of the Christian Life Commission.

While the proposal has been labeled a school prayer amendment, Whitehead said it "will likely protect more than just school prayer."

"Consensus is forming around a religious equality approach, which will command that government treat prayer and other religious expression equally with other kinds of speech," said Whitehead, who participated in the meeting. "This approach would apply not

just to students in public schools but to all persons in public settings. Whether in the classroom or in city hall, if nonreligious speech is permitted by private citizens, then religious speech must be treated equally."

In addition to the CLC, other organizations with representatives at the meeting were Christian Legal Society, American Center for Law and Justice, National Association of Evangelicals,  
(See *Religious* on Page 3)

## 'Vilifying the Right'

By Richard D. Land

I recently obtained a remarkable book entitled *How to Win: A Practical Guide to Defeating the Radical Right in Your Community*. This 252-page manual, published in 1994 by the Radical Right Task Force has sections on "Using Religious Voices to Confront the Religious Right," "The San Diego Model: A Community Battles the Religious Right" and "Missionaries in Public Schools." Other articles provide strategy and talking points for opposing creationism, prayer in public schools and for supporting "comprehensive sexuality education." The article on missionaries in public schools argues for opposing "fundamentalist missionaries" such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes from operating in public schools. There are also sections on censorship, gay and lesbian rights, "choice" and the environment.

Who are the sponsors of this manual? The publishers gave "special thanks" to individuals on the editorial and media committees from Americans United for Separation of Church and State, People for the American Way, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Southern Baptists will be interested to know that in addition to being singled out for "special thanks," three of the manual's chapters were written by Joint Committee staff. The Baptist Joint Committee is also listed in the "Directory of Contributing Associations" with staff contact and phone number, along with such sterling organizations as the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund; National Abortion Federation; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Penthouse International; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

One chapter entitled "The Sex Panic: Fighting the Myth That Censorship is Good for Women" opposes anti-pornography campaigns and cites the thoroughly discredited 1970 Commission on Obscenity and Pornography to argue against pornography's role in crimes of sexual violence against women and children. Another item of interest to Southern Baptists is the citing of Paul Simmons, former Southern Baptist Seminary ethics professor, as arguing that "the biblical portrait of a person is one of a 'complex, many-sided creature with god-like abilities and the moral responsibility to make choices'—a definition which he says does not fit the fetus until, at best, the second half of gestation" and that Simmons argues instead "that abortion is a 'god-like' decision, which should be made by a woman 'reflecting on her own well-being, the genetic health of the fetus and the survival of the human race.'"

Who does the *How to Win* manual consider its opposition to be? Under "Directories" it lists "Selected Influential Organizations and Periodicals Promoting an Orthodox View of Culture and Society (including Conservative, Ultra-Conservative, Religious Right, Secular Right, Traditionalist, Anti-Obscenity, and Far Right Institutions)." Some of the groups listed are: Americans United for Life; Birthright; Campus Crusade for Christ ("an influential Christian right ministry"); Christian Coalition; Concerned Women for America ("rigidly homophobic"); Coral Ridge Ministries ("a major Christian right ministry"); Eagle Forum; Focus on the Family; Josh McDowell Ministries; National Association of Evangelicals; National Right to Life Committee; and the National Coalition Against Pornography.

Neither the Christian Life Commission nor any other Southern Baptist entity is

(See *Vilifying on Page 3*)

## They said it

"We should not flinch from admitting this unsettling truth: We live in a culture which seems dedicated to the corruption of the young, to assuring the loss of their innocence before their time. 'It dawned on me recently,' the anthropologist David Murray has written, 'that we have now become the kind of society that in the 19th century almost every Christian denomination felt compelled to missionize.'" — **Former Secretary of Education William Bennett** in the March issue of *Commentary*.

Rejecting a running mate who supports abortion rights would be similar to "saying you are not going to have anybody who is right-handed or left-handed. My view is that we are all Republicans, good Republicans." — **Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole** in the March 5 issue of *The New York Times Magazine*.

"I don't believe there's a consensus in the country to amend the Constitution. We recognize . . . that we don't have unity of purpose on abortion, that we're going to have to recognize that there are good Republicans who differ." — **GOP candidate Phil Gramm** in saying on NBC's "Meet the Press" he would not propose an amendment to restrict abortion, *The Washington Post* reported.

"I think you should warn the Republican presidential hopefuls that it will be impossible to skirt the moral issues in 1996. They may choose to waffle on the things that matter most, and indeed, several have already done that. But they will not be able to double-talk, side step, obfuscate and ignore the concerns that burn within our hearts. You have my word on that." — **Focus on the Family President James Dobson** in a March 6 letter to Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour.



*Salt* is the public policy newsletter of the Christian Life Commission. The CLC is the moral concerns, public policy and religious liberty agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. For information, contact the Christian Life Commission, 505 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 547-8105.

*Salt* is published six times a year. It is mailed without charge to individuals who request it. Voluntary subscriptions are \$10 annually. Subscribers to *Salt* also will receive *Light*, the CLC's ethics magazine. Checks should be made payable to the Christian Life Commission. Your canceled check will serve as your tax-deductible receipt. Please send requests for subscriptions or extra copies of issues to the Christian Life Commission, 901 Commerce, #550, Nashville, TN 37203-3696. *Salt* is printed on recycled paper.

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# Court accepts Colorado homosexual case

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments in an important case in the country's ongoing struggle over the question of homosexual rights.

The Court announced in mid-February it had agreed to review an appeal of a Colorado Supreme Court opinion which ruled as unconstitutional a 1992 initiative prohibiting the passage or enforcement of laws granting civil rights status to homosexuals. In a 6-1 vote announced in October, the Colorado Supreme Court

upheld a lower-court ruling against Amendment 2, the first state provision against homosexual rights.

Oral arguments in the case will not be heard until the fall.

While the Court may rule on the issue of homosexual rights, it could determine the case without deciding whether homosexuals make up a class deserving of legal protection. Voters' rights also constitute an important issue in the case.

The amendment, which passed with 54 percent of the vote, overturned homosexual rights ordinances already in force in Denver, Boulder and Aspen.

The Colorado Supreme Court's majority opinion said the amendment was unconstitutional because it denied homosexuals an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.

Homosexuals, however, were able to participate in the process, Michael Whitehead of the Christian Life Commission said

"Supporters of gay rights laws lost the

election fair and square after spending a fortune and doing all they could to scuttle Amendment 2," said Whitehead, the CLC's general counsel. "Now they are asking the courts to thwart the will of the people. The majority of the voters believe that gay rights laws give special rights to a sexual lifestyle choice.

"It is anti-democratic to say that a majority of the people in a state cannot amend their constitution to remove certain subjects from the whim of local legislatures. That is the nature of constitutional law.

"It is rudimentary that elected public officials may be held accountable to the public and restrained by the constitution," Whitehead said. "Passing gay rights is not a fundamental right."

Southern Baptist leaders in Colorado were among those publicly supporting the amendment during the '92 campaign. The executive board of the Colorado Baptist General Convention unanimously endorsed it.

## 'Vilifying the Right'

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mentioned in any of its lists. And, there is good reason for that. Even by the *How to Win* manual's rather expansive parameters, the Christian Life Commission is not a religious right organization. The CLC is the moral and social concerns and public policy and religious liberty agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination. As such, the CLC allocates as much money and staff time to fighting hunger as it does to fighting abortion and to fighting for racial reconciliation as it does to fighting against pornography. Now, it is true that the religious right agrees with the CLC on numerous issues such as abortion, pornography, freedom for religious expression in society, and the need for Christians to be involved in the public policy process. When the religious right agrees with the CLC on such issues, we applaud its good sense and excellent judgment. That does not make the CLC part of the religious right.

That said, the *How to Win* manual reveals the ugly, combative face of the secular left and its religious allies, a far more deeply entrenched and active phalanx of like-minded organizations which have been seeking to influence society and public policy on a multiplicity of levels for many years by doing the very things it now criticizes the religious right for attempting to do. The *How to Win* manual unmasks the hypocrisy as well as the influence and intent of the religious left as it seeks to "win" the culture war.

## Religious equality amendment to be introduced in Congress

(Continued from Page 1)

Liberty Council, The Rutherford Institute, Concerned Women for America, Christian Coalition, Family Research Council, American Family Association and Christian Action Network. School prayer advocates present were William Murray, son of atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair; author/speaker David Barton; and former Republican congressman William Dannemeyer.

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, R.-Ga., announced shortly after the election there would be a vote on a school prayer amendment by July 4. He chose Istook to lead the effort on such a proposal. Istook has met with different organizations, including the CLC, on the issue since the election, when Republicans won a majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

An amendment, not just another law, is needed, Whitehead said. "When people

ask, 'Why not just pass a statute?', you can point to the federal judge in Texas who has just declared unconstitutional the Religious Freedom Restoration Act," he said. "Supreme Court tinkering with the Constitution is hard to fix by statute, because the statute ultimately winds up before the Supreme Court, which may declare it unconstitutional, just as this trial judge has done. A constitutional amendment, on the other hand, cannot be declared unconstitutional."

A federal judge in Texas ruled RFRA unconstitutional on the same day as the latest meeting with Istook.

RFRA, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993, reversed the Supreme Court's 1990 *Employment Division v. Smith* opinion. In *Smith*, the Court ruled government no longer has to prove a "compelling interest" before restricting religious freedom. RFRA restored the "compelling interest" test.

## Pro-lifers target RU 486 on 2 fronts

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patent rights for RU 486 (mifepristone) to the Population Council, an American pro-abortion organization.

Last summer, the Christian Life Commission joined other pro-life organizations in announcing a boycott against Hoechst-Roussel Pharmaceuticals and Copley Pharmaceuticals, the American subsidiaries of Hoechst AG. Hoechst AG is the German company which owns Roussel Uclaf, the French manufacturer of RU 486.

While the American subsidiaries of Hoechst AG have not announced any intention to manufacture RU 486, pro-life organizations targeted them for boycott because Hoechst AG was repeatedly warned the pro-life movement would hold it responsible if RU 486 were brought to America. Without Hoechst AG's permission, the drug could not have been donated to the Population Council for development in America.

The CLC continues to encourage Southern Baptists to support the boycott. Postcards to the heads of the companies, as well as cards listing the boycott items, are available for a nominal fee from the National Right to Life Committee.

The petition, which exhaustively outlines the risks and dangers of this technology, requests the FDA to reject

***Express your opinion***

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The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

*White House Comment Line*  
(202) 456-1111

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

*Capitol Switchboard*  
(202) 224-3121

any new drug applications for mifepristone for use as a pharmaceutical abortifacient. It also calls upon the FDA not to expedite the approval process nor accept foreign clinical test data, in spite of earlier promises by FDA Commissioner David Kessler. Pro-life organizations have viewed Kessler's promises as a politicization of the FDA in order to satisfy the abortion lobby. Such "fast-tracking" of the approval process is deeply troubling in light of the serious medical concerns which have been raised by both pro-life and pro-abortion advocates regarding the long-term effects RU 486 will have on women.

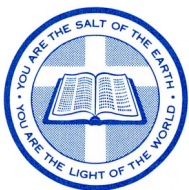
Among the members of Congress who joined in the petition was Rep. Thomas J. Bliley, R.-Va., who is chairman of the House Commerce Committee,

which has oversight of the FDA. AUL is seeking additional support for the petition from members of Congress, senators and professionals from medical and scientific fields.

The boycott effort and the citizen petition effort should be viewed as complementary, rather than competitive, efforts. Economic pressure is one method to use in opposing RU 486. Southern Baptists can help to promote the petition as a vital tool to educate the general public as well as policymakers as to the reasons RU 486 should not be manufactured, marketed or sold in America. The CLC strongly encourages Southern Baptists to participate in both efforts.

### What you can do

- Obtain an RU 486 product boycott postcards packet from the National Right to Life Committee, 419 7th St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20004, (202) 626-8800, ext. 225. The list of products can also be found in the CLC publication *Light*, Nov.-Dec., 1994, Page 7.
- Write the FDA to encourage it to seriously consider the concerns raised in the citizen petition filed by Americans United for Life and others Feb. 28. Address letters to: Ms. Mary Pendergast, Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.
- Write to your U.S. representative and two senators and ask them to add their names to the citizen petition.



**Christian Life  
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of the Southern  
Baptist Convention**

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