

State of the Black Union Conference Considers Planks for New Agenda

The role of socially conservative black pastors in politics was a recurrent theme at the sixth State of the Black Union, an annual event hosted by journalist and political commentator Tavis Smiley, according to a report in the Los Angeles Times.

Smiley invited the panelists – among them Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, civil rights leader Joseph Lowery and the Rev. Al Sharpton – to consider what planks might appear in a “Black Contract With America on Moral Values,” which could be used to hold politicians accountable. The event was held at the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, where Bishop Eddie Long is pastor.



The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a Democrat and well-known liberal, delivered a “stirring declamation on social justice,” said the Times. Bishop Harry R. Jackson Jr., a Democrat who supported President Bush in the November election, announced the dawn of a new black agenda based on the Bible and emanating from megachurches.

“My concern is: Have we allowed one party to take the black agenda and hold it hostage at gunpoint to the issue of gay rights?” asked Bishop Jackson, senior pastor of Hope Christian Church in College Park, Maryland.

Jesse Jackson sounded familiar themes of the civil rights movement. He decried racial disparities in income and life expectancy, and cautioned that voting rights were in jeopardy. “We’ve already got an agenda,” he said. “Martin Luther King left us with an agenda.”

Bishop Jackson is one of a number of conservative African American ministers that held the first of several planned moral values summits in Los Angeles last month. The black ministers were urged to join white evangelicals on the front lines of the nation’s culture wars – especially in the fight against gay marriage.

One goal of that group was to “foster a political realignment with the Republican Party that, if successful, would challenge the Democrats’ decades-long lock on the loyalty of black voters.”

At that meeting, which was held at Crenshaw Christian Center, Bishop Jackson introduced his Black Contract With America on Moral Values.

The contract has six major points:

- **Marriage:** Focus on prohibiting same-sex marriage.
- **Wealth creation:** Private Social Security investment accounts and encouraging home ownership.
- **Education:** School vouchers, charter schools and boosting black enrollment in higher education.
- **Prison reform:** Including a “Second Chance Act,” re-entry programs and laws restoring the rights of felons.
- **Africa:** Intervention in Sudan and penalties against corporations that explore for oil in the region.
- **Health Care reform:** Including programs that cover the poor

Kingdom Briefs

Nations Gear Up for Global Day of Prayer

The Global Day of Prayer planned for May 15 has three components, according to organizers: From May 6-15, there will be ten days of fasting and prayer among congregations, cities and towns. On May 15, towns, countries and continents will unite to pray in stadiums, churches, market squares, etc. Following May 15, there will be “90 Days of Blessing,” which may include such things as evangelism, help for the poor and needy, and other types of outreach. About 200 million Christians are expected to join in. The website is www.globaldayofprayer.com.

Gene Scott Dies Following Stroke

Television preacher Gene Scott has died after suffering a stroke. He was 75. Scott had fought prostate cancer for more than five years and had suffered a heart attack eight years ago. His death was mourned by thousands of worshipers in his two congregations at the Los Angeles University Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles and Kings House in Glendale, California, as well as worldwide radio and television audiences in 180 countries. (Source: **Los Angeles Times**)

After Tsunami, Buddhists See Example of Jesus

Two evangelists working in Southeast Asia report that the recent tsunami has helped unite Christians and Buddhists in Sri Lanka. More than 50,000 people died in the disaster there. “For so long churches have been persecuted, but today we see everybody joining hands,” said Raymond Mooi, who founded the School of Acts in Malaysia and ministers in countries throughout Asia. K.P. Yohannan, president of Gospel for Asia, concurs. He said Christians have been reaching out to Buddhists who lost everything in the disaster. He said one Buddhist man told him, “I never knew your Jesus made you do things like this.” Still, Mooi said Christians should exercise caution when sharing their faith. (Source: **Charisma**)

Churches Continue Fight to Retain County Seal

Thousands of parishioners from scores of Los Angeles County churches have shown their displeasure over the redesign of the county seal by signing petitions in support of the old county seal. At issue is last September’s vote by the Board of Supervisors to remove a small image of the cross that had adorned the seal since 1957. Rather than defend the seal against a threatened lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Board voted to approve a new seal. The move was seen as a rebuke to Southern California’s missionary history and a challenge to Christianity. (Source: **Los Angeles Times**)

(Continued on page two)

THE PERFECT FUNDRAISER! GREAT FOR ANY SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION!

Are you tired of the same old fundraisers that take lots of time and effort, but only bring a small return, if any at all?

Do you have a senior event or scheduled fundraiser coming soon?

Well, www.TheKingdomOfGod.biz has the **Perfect Fundraiser for you!**

Two Fundraisers in one! 100% and 40% returns

To know more about our Fundraiser Program, [Click Here!](#)

Passage of Houses of Worship Freedom of Speech Restoration Act Urged

Washington, DC – “Traditional Values Coalition is urging support for passage of the Houses of Worship Freedom of Speech Restoration Act,” said TVC Chairman Rev. Louis P. Sheldon recently. “This legislation is long overdue to give the right of political speech back to pastors—a right removed from them by Senator Lyndon B. Johnson in 1954.”



The [Houses of Worship Freedom of Speech Restoration Act \(H.R. 235\)](#) is sponsored by North Carolina Rep. Walter B. Jones. It will remove an IRS code restriction added by Senator Lyndon B. Johnson in revenge against two nonprofits who opposed his re-election to the U.S. Senate in 1954.

Once passed, HR 235 will allow America’s religious leaders to speak their conscience from the pulpit on moral and social issues of the day that have political implications.

“The IRS code prohibition must be removed,” said Rev. Sheldon, “to restore the constitutional right of pastors and nonprofit leaders to freely criticize political leaders without fear of losing their tax-exempt status. This is a right that was stripped away from them more than 40 years ago by a vengeful Senator Lyndon B. Johnson. It’s time this injustice was corrected!”

“Rep. Jones is to be commended for his willingness to sponsor this legislation and both the U.S. Senate and House should pass H.R. 235 immediately!” said Sheldon.

Charges Dropped Against Christian Protesters at Homosexual Rally

A judge has dismissed all criminal charges against the Philly 4, according to the American Family Association. The four members of Repent America were arrested on October 10, 2004, when they showed up to preach, read the Bible, pass out literature and wave banners with Christian messages at Outfest, a homosexual rally in Philadelphia.

However, when they tried to speak, they were surrounded by a group of radical homosexual activists called the Pink Angels, who jostled them, held up large pink symbols of angels in attempt to block their banners and blew whistles in attempt to drown them out. Though Repent America’s activities were assumed to be fully protected by the First Amendment, the four were arrested and faced charges amounting 47 years in prison and \$90,000 in fines.

Federal Justice Department agents with ties to the homosexual community were suspected of initiating the arrests. The AFA earlier reported that the Department of Justice was investigating whether homosexual agents may have advised the police to arrest the Christians.

AFA has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on behalf of the protesters against the city of Philadelphia and the district attorney’s office.

The lawsuit seeks to hold responsible the government, officials and individuals who were involved in the arrest, charging and prosecution of these Christians. The lawsuit alleges that the city and the district attorney’s office retaliated against the Christians for exercising their first amendment rights.

Kingdom Briefs

Continued from page one

Keith Butler Considering Run for Senate

Keith Butler, founding pastor of the 21,000-member Word of Faith International Christian Church in Southfield, Mich., reportedly told his congregation that he is considering a run for the U.S. Senate in 2006. Butler is a Republican and a former Detroit councilman. “I will be funning as a Republican who believes deeply in protecting the family in our society, securing America, keeping her safe, keeping American jobs.” (Source: **Ministries Today**)

Gay Marriage Ceremony Riles School, Parents

Eighteen students at Silverado High School in Victorville, California, held a mock gay marriage ceremony during lunchtime and immediately drew the ire of the school community, including a number of parents. Though the weather was rainy and chilly, about 40 parents came out to protest the event. The “wedding” ceremony of six female couples and three male couples in the school outdoor central gathering area were part of a demonstration in support of same-sex marriage. Some protesters objected to the school rules barring religious demonstrations on campus. “I’m Christian. I’m not allowed to bring my Bible, preaching to people,” said Christina Wilson, 15, a Silverado sophomore. (Source: **Los Angeles Times**)

Montana Won’t Okay Law to Protect Gays

The Montana House killed a bill that would have extended the state’s hate crimes law to protect gays. The bill would have made it a crime to target people based on such factors as age, economic condition, disability, gender or sexual orientation. It was rejected 54-46. Montana law already outlaws intimidating or harassing someone because of race, religion, color, creed or national origin. Offenses carry a minimum two-year prison term. Republicans, who accounted for all but five of the opposing votes, warned the bill would stifle free speech and could prevent clergy from speaking out against homosexuality in sermons. (Source: **Associated Press**)

Chinese Church Leader Held

Chinese church leader Zhang Rongliang was reportedly taken into custody in December at his apartment in Henan province. Zhang is said to lead one of the largest house church networks in China, with an estimated 10 million members. Readers are asked to send letters of protest to Ambassador Yang Jiechi, Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, 2300 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. (Source: **Ministries Today**)

Top 10 Influencers in the Church

In a recent survey of pastors conducted by The Barna Group to determine the top 10 influencers on churches, a number of surprises turned up – President George W. Bush and Pope John Paul II were two. The survey was conducted by telephone in December 2004 to 614 senior pastors of protestant churches. Thirty-four percent of the respondents listed evangelist Billy Graham as “the greatest influence on churches.” The others, in order of preference, were: Rick Warren (26%) George W. Bush (14%), James Dobson (11%), Bill Hybels (9%), T.D. Jakes (7%), John Maxwell (6%), George Barna (5%), Pope John Paul II (5%) and Max Lucado (4%) (Source: **Ministries Today**)

On the Trail of Good News

Hey, we’re sniffing around for news and other uplifting information that might appeal to our national audience. If you know of a unique Christian business, ministry or personality, or of something happening on the news front, give us a heads-up. You might want to send a clipping from your local newspaper or invite us to track down a story from the details you provide. Remember, all our stories are Christ-based and nationally oriented, though they may cut across entertainment, business, lifestyle, political or other lines. E-mail us at newsletter@tkog.biz or mail us your clippings at The Kingdom of God, P.O. Box 1147, Claremont, CA 91711.

Kansas Attorney General Seeks to Prosecute Statutory Rape

By **ANDREA LAFFERTY**

Executive Director, Traditional Values Coalition

Washington, DC – The abortion industry is going into spasms over the efforts of Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline to prosecute rape cases against underage girls.

Kline is seeking the records of girls under the age of 14 who have had abortions in Kansas—especially late-term abortions. Under Kansas law, a girl



under 14 who becomes pregnant is considered to have been a victim of rape or sexual assault. In addition, it is illegal to perform abortions after 22 weeks in Kansas.

Kline is determined to keep the identity of the girls confidential, but he is

equally determined to prosecute the rapists or molesters who have sexually assaulted these children.

Planned Parenthood and other abortion industry groups are outraged that the attorney general is seeking to prosecute child predators. Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Federation have both been exposed for their willingness to cover up cases of statutory rape. Several years ago, Mark Crutcher with [Life Dynamics, Inc.](#), had a woman call abortion clinics throughout the United States to see if the clinics would cover up statutory rape. The woman pretended to be a 13-year-old impregnated by her 21-year-old boyfriend. In the majority of cases, the abortion counselor agreed to hide the rape. In other cases, the counselor coached the girl on ways to avoid detection and how to circumvent parental consent or notification laws. Crutcher taped many of these conversations and the Traditional Values Coalition has [posted](#) these on our website.

Planned Parenthood's Teenwire web site recently posted an article titled, "[Does Age Matter?](#)" and then linked to the "Age of Consent" website, clearly created by pedophiles. One editorial on the "Age of Consent" site said simply: "Possession of Child Porn Should Be Legal." Shortly after this was exposed by blogger [Dawn Eden](#), recently, Teenwire changed the article and removed the "Age of Consent" link on its home page. Eden, however, has a screen shot of the original Teenwire web page.

So what is going on here? We know that Planned Parenthood counselors throughout the U.S. are willing to cover up statutory rape and are protecting child predators. And, until caught, PP's Teenwire was directing teens to a pedophile site. Teenwire editor Susan Yudt also apparently thinks it's helpful to send teens to Scarleteen, a lesbian pornography site. On Scarleteen, kids can purchase sex products.

Perhaps it's time for other state attorney generals to consider a full investigation into the linkage between the abortion industry, statutory rape, and the normalization of pedophilia in our culture.

News From Iran: Testimonies and Tears

By **Reza Safa**

When Azam, who lives in Tehran, called she sounded very confused and fretful. She asked if I could pray to change the sex of the child in her womb. She is four months pregnant and when her husband found out that it was a girl he told her he didn't want the child and that she should abort it. Since they already have a daughter, he wants a boy. I assured her that such a prayer would not be answered and that she should repent of the idea. "What shall I do?" she asked in a very anxious voice. She didn't want to have an abortion, but her husband wasn't leaving her any choice. She accepted the Lord and we prayed that the Lord would move on her husband's heart. Please keep Azam and her husband in your prayers.

*

Fredrick, Tehran. A few weeks ago the Lord healed Fredrick, an Armenian, from hemorrhoids when he saw our program and touched the TV set. Recently he called and accepted Jesus and asked for prayer for his wife, who is attacked by confusion.

*

Neda, Tehran. Neda accepted the Lord through our program last month, but she is still praying her Muslim prayers five times daily. She didn't know how else to pray. She also wanted prayer for her five children.

*

Zohreh, Tehran. Zohreh is fighting depression after her divorce. She has three daughters and accepted the Lord last week through our program.

*

Leila & Ismail, Shiraz. This couple accepted the Lord with their two children and want to know more about Jesus. He has an anxiety problem and needs healing for it.

*

Hossein, Brojerd. This veterinarian accepted the Lord through our program about two months ago. He has been addicted to opium for the past 17 years and was instantly delivered as he touched the TV set while watching our program. He wants to serve the Lord and be strengthened in his faith.

*

Samaneh, Hamedan. Samaneh is 13-year-old girl who accepted Jesus and needs healing in her arm and in her leg, which was paralyzed from birth.

We have been so busy these past few weeks. The numbers of phone calls from Iran are increasing due to the fact that every Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays our programs are seen in prime time in Iran. We give God all the glory, at the same time we feel weary. Several days last week, we let the answering machine take care of the calls. We just simply did not have enough manpower to handle the volume. We desperately need a phone system that can divide the calls into English and Farsi. The new phone system, which will take a heavy burden off our English-speaking employees, would cost about 2,500. We would greatly appreciate your help with this need, if the Lord leads you.

The harvest is truly plentiful but there are only a few laborers. Please pray for more laborers in Iran. We have started an office in Iran and our man in Iran is already overloaded with the follow-up work. We are starting a few home groups in several cities and we need more laborers.

Please pray for our missionary friend, H.G. from Sweden. He is visiting Iran soon and is planning to get involved with our work there. Pray for safety and wisdom for him.

We truly appreciate your prayers and your partnership with us in this great harvest time in Iran. May the Lord richly bless you.

Reza Safa is an Iranian-born American who is taking the Gospel to his homeland through his Nejat (Salvation) Project, a historic outreach to win souls in the Muslim world. He is also founder and president of The Harvesters World Outreach in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He can be reached through his website addresses at www.nejattv.org and www.rezasafa.com. Mr. Safa has continually warned Americans of the attempt by some to infuse our public schools with Islamic propaganda.

