

AFA Suspends Boycott Against Ford



The [American Family Association](#) (AFA) has suspended its boycott of Ford Motor Company for the time being. AFA launched the boycott Tuesday, May 31, 2005, and in less than a week more than 110,000 people signed a pledge to join the pro-family organization's boycott against Ford because of the auto company's officially stated support for same-sex marriage. However AFA representatives met with a group of Ford dealers, who requested time to see if the concerns raised in AFA's recent boycott announcement could be addressed by the dealers in cooperation with Ford Motor Company officials. As a result of the meeting, the pro-family organization consented to put the boycott on hold for six months. "We believe the dealers were making a good faith effort and we agreed to accept their request," says AFA chairman Donald Wildmon. "Therefore, we accepted the suspension request and will work with the dealers in attempting to resolve our differences." The pro-family leader says AFA is urging its constituency to disregard the boycott announcement until December 1, 2005. On or around that date, he adds, "we will notify our supporters as to the status of the boycott." [Jenni Parker, *Agape Press*]

Prohibition of Bible Reading at Recess Results in Lawsuit By Jim Brown

(AgapePress) - A Tennessee elementary school is being sued for barring a ten-year-old boy from reading his Bible during recess.

Knox County School officials have been served with a federal lawsuit alleging they violated the free-speech rights of fourth-grader Luke Whitson. The young student was recently prohibited from reading his Bible with a few friends on the playground at Karns Elementary School in Knoxville. The school claims recess is not "free time," but in fact instructional time -- and thus, the Bible reading during recess violates the so-called separation of church and state.



Whitson's attorney, Chuck Pope with the [Alliance Defense Fund](#), says the school is trampling the boy's constitutional rights and should stop immediately.

"He was under the impression that they were telling him there he was something wrong with his Christian faith -- that there was something wrong with him reading his Bible," Pope explains. "He was, in fact, treated like a second-class citizen."

Prior to the suit being filed, the district contended in a response through the media that recess is not "free time." But ADF points out that recess has long been regarded as non-instructional time, during which students are free to read or discuss a wide range of literature -- including the Bible. Pope says his firm and his clients had hoped to avoid litigation.

"At the outset, our hope was to resolve the situation and have the school make a policy statement protecting Luke's constitutional rights, as well as those kids that are similarly situated to him, that children do have a right under the Constitution to read their Bible during free time," Pope states. "And ... that's an important emphasis -- this is non-instructional time."

The attorney explains that the school principal, Cathy Summa, ordered the students to end their Bible reading after one parent complained about the activity. Pope says as a result of the Whitson incident, other children at Karns Elementary have been afraid to even bring their Bibles to school.

Kingdom Briefs

Fantasia's *Baby Mama* Strikes Controversial Chord

A song by *American Idol* winner Fantasia Barrino has stirred up a bit of controversy. "Baby Mama," one of the songs on her new CD, is a tribute to single mothers. Barrino, 20, is a single mother with a three-year-old daughter. The singer says the song is not intended to encourage teen girls to have sex, but some critics say the song sends the wrong message. Brenda Miller, executive director of the D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, reports that teenagers who become single parents are much less likely to finish high school -- and their own children are more likely to repeat the pattern. At the same time, she and other critics, acknowledge the need to support young mothers because of the obstacles they face. In the meantime, Barrino's new CD, *Free Yourself*, has sold more than a million copies. (Source: [NPR](#))

University Runs Out of 'Bob' Presidents

For 78 years, Bob Jones University has been run by a -- what else? -- Bob Jones. Bob Jones Sr. founded Bob Jones College in College Point, Fla., in 1927, and moved it to Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1933. In 1947, the name was changed to Bob Jones University. Bob Jones III took over as president in 1971, but at 65 he will now become its chancellor. Bob Jones IV, long expected to take over the school, has instead pursued a publishing career. His brother, Stephen Jones, is the new president. (Source: [Los Angeles Times](#))

Jerusalem Postpones Homosexual Pride Event

Jerusalem WorldPride 2005, a homosexual pride event schedule to take place August 6-12 in the Holy City, has been postponed for at least a year. Organizers say the event was postponed because it would have conflicted with Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza and West Bank settlements. However, Gary Bauer of the conservative group, American Values, is hoping the event will never come off. He feels it would be an absolute tragedy if thousands of homosexuals are allowed to flaunt their lifestyle in the streets of Jerusalem this summer or any other time. The pro-family activist believes that homosexual organizers are deliberately picking "areas that are of deep religiously significance to millions of believers." (Source: [Agape News](#))

(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 60% returns

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

eHarmony Ends a Blossoming Affair With Focus on the Family

Contrary to its image, eHarmony.com is breaking up a relationship rather than bringing one together. The famous online matchmaker is discontinuing an association with Focus on the Family that began before it was actually launched. Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family said he is accepting the decision by eHarmony.com founder Dr. Neil Clark Warren "with reluctance and regret."

The decision by Warren was detailed recently in a USA Today article that stated that Warren was trying to distance himself from Dobson and the Focus of the Family ministry, which published several of Warren's books.

"We're trying to reach the whole world – people of all spiritual orientations, all political philosophies, all racial backgrounds," Warren told USA Today in explaining his position. "And if indeed, we have Focus of the Family on the top of our books, it is a killer. Because people do recognize them as occupying a very precise political position in this society and a very precise spiritual position."

Further, Warren told USA Today that he would no longer appear on Dobson's radio show, and he had purchased back rights to three books Focus on the Family had published so he can drop the Focus on the Family name from the books' covers. The books are *Finding the Love of Your Life*, *Make Anger Your Ally*, and *Learning With the Love of Your Life*.

Dobson said he regrets how Warren feels, but accepts the decision to separate. "I introduced Dr. Warren and his books – and eHarmony, more recently – to our listeners

specifically because he was and it decidedly Christian in nature," Dobson said. "Dr. Warren is anxious to change that direction, so we will accept that.



We will go our separate ways – and we'll do that with reluctance and regret."

According to the USA Today article, eHarmony has grown to become the fourth largest "dating site" on the Internet. It charges subscribers about \$50 a month, significantly more than the top three matchmaking websites – Match.com, Yahoo! And Spark Networks.

Kingdom Briefs

Continued from page one

Sex-Education Program Drops Homosexual Bias

In the face of a federal lawsuit, Maryland's largest school district – Montgomery County – has decided to scrap portions of its controversial sex-education program. The curriculum came under fire for implying that homosexuality is a biological trait and for showing, on a video, how to put on a condom, using a cucumber. The decision comes weeks after Florida-based [Liberty Counsel](#) filed a lawsuit on behalf of two parent groups that said the course did not do enough to stress abstinence or give opposing views on homosexuality. The plaintiffs charged that the curriculum highlighted the views of churches that condone homosexuality while dismissing the views of more traditional churches. (Source: [Agape Press](#))

Pornographers Must Prove Actors Are Not Minors

On May 17, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales signed a rule that requires pornography producers to keep records that prove their actors are not minors. The record-keeping requirement is designed to protect minors from being exploited in pornographic films. Minors, by definition, cannot give consent to perform sex acts and are often forced to do so by pornographers. Violations of the requirements of this law are criminal offenses punishable by prison for up to five years for the first offense and up to 10 years for subsequent offenses. To learn more about the Child Protection and Obscenity Enforcement Act, access the Department of Justice web site: [Child Exploitation and Obscenity Home page](#). (Source: [Traditional Value Coalition](#))

Boxer Bill Would Force Abortion on All Doctors

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is attempting to pass a bill that would force health care providers with pro-life views to provide, pay for, or refer for abortion. The Boxer bill would repeal the Hyde-Weldon Conscience Protection Provision, a pro-life law currently in place. Many pro-life medical personnel have refused to provide services that end in the death of an unborn child. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has published two documents explaining why this conscience clause law is in place and why attempts to repeal it are wrong: [The Hyde-Weldon Conscience Protection Amendment](#) and [Hyde-Weldon and Family Planning Guidelines](#). (Source: [Traditional Values Coalition](#))

Mary Kay Decides It's Not 'Desperate' After All

It looks like Mary Kay cosmetics won't be sold on Wisteria Lane. After protests by a Christian group, the Mary Kay corporation suspended plans to advertise on ABC's popular *Desperate Housewives* program. [American Family Association](#) chairman Don Wildmon wondered how a company whose official philosophy is "God first, family second and career third" could align itself with a show that, he says, promotes infidelity, seduction and promiscuity. He urged Mary Kay consultants and customers to tell the company that they oppose a *Desperate Housewives* ad campaign. Mary Kay spokeswoman Shannon Summers says that after receiving a number of calls, the cosmetics firm is revising its media mix and "will not have *Desperate Housewives* in that mix." Last year, AFA was successful in influencing Lowe's, Tyson Foods and Kellogg's, among other advertisers, to pull their ad dollars from *Housewives*. The companies pulled out after receiving emails, letters and phone calls from members. (Source: [Agape Press](#))

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.



Land of the Free and the Home of the Icons

Having just celebrated Memorial Day and now facing Independence Day, this would seem a good time to highlight four of the nation's better known patriotic icons. How much do you know about the origin of the term Uncle Sam, or how the bald eagle became a symbol of the nation, the history of the flag, or the great seal? The following information, with some editing changes, was taken from an article by Letitia L. Star in the Fall 2004 issue of Geico Direct magazine.



Uncle Sam

Did you know that Uncle Sam was a real man? Most experts think the term originated with the owner of a Troy, New York, meat-packing plant that supplied food for U.S. troops during the War of 1812. His name was Sam Wilson, and he was born in 1766 near Arlington, Massachusetts, the seventh of thirteenth children in a patriotic family.

"He was very jovial," says Teresa Bateman, author of *Red, White, Blue and Uncle Who? The Stories Behind Some of America's Patriotic Symbols*. "He was called Uncle Sam by his many nieces and nephews, as well as the many who knew him."

Wilson's work as a meat inspector played a key part in creating the Uncle Sam icon. "At that time, the United States was abbreviated as 'U. States,'" says Bateman. "However, all the barrels he inspected were simply stamped 'U.S.' People were confused and workers joked that U.S. stood for 'Uncle Sam.' Soldiers began to call themselves 'Uncle Sam's army' and their rations 'Uncle Sam's meat.' Soon all government property stamped with U.S. was called 'Uncle Sam's.' "

The cartoon character depicting Uncle Sam is another matter. The figure originated in the 1830s with a hatless, clean-shaven gentleman, dressed in a red, white, and blue suit. The character became popular on military recruiting posters, pointing to anyone who read it, and demanding: "Uncle Sam wants you!" The character's beard and hat were added after the Civil War. Most people believe the beard was inspired by Abraham Lincoln.

Uncle Sam was adopted as a national symbol in 1961.

Bald Eagle



symbol.

The bald eagle can be found as a symbol on the Great Seal, the president's flag, and all U.S. currency, but the eagle was not a symbol that Benjamin Franklin supported as our national emblem. Franklin wanted the wild turkey, and one can only imagine the fun humorists and political cartoonists would have had with such a

"Franklin argued that the turkey was noble; it also was a true original native of North America," Bateman says. But the great statesman-editor-inventor "was against the bald eagle for a couple of reasons. First, he said the bird was one of 'bad moral character' because it stole food from other birds," Bateman explains. In addition, Franklin cited the fact that many European monarchies used the golden eagle as part of their symbology, and he wanted our national emblem to be associated with "our new democratic state." Congress, however, disagreed.



The Flag

If you thought Betsy Ross made the first American flag, think again. Ross did sew many American flags, but historians agree that she neither sewed nor designed the first one in 1776 at the birth of our nation. It is more likely that the first flag was designed by a committee of people, though no one can prove who stitched the initial version.

Congress passed the first Flag Resolution, which mandated that the flag would have thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, in 1777. However, there were not specific instructions concerning design. As a consequence, early flags varied on how stars were arranged. The flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write *The Star-Spangled Banner* had 15 stars and stripes because two new states had joined the Union.

Finally, in 1818, Congress decided that the flag would have 13 stripes and a star to represent each state. "During the Civil War, some wanted to remove the stars of the states that seceded," Bateman says. "Lincoln stood firm because he honestly believed that we would be united under the same flag again."

The Great Seal

Though far less known as a symbol, the Great Seal of the United States is among the richest in symbolism. The actual seal is cast out of metal, stored in the exhibit Hall at the Department of State, and used to stamp official documents. The seal is the emblem and the "coat of arms"



representing the spirit of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams were on the committee appointed in 1776 by the Continental Congress to design a national seal. Thomas

Jefferson and John Adams proposed allegorical scenes, with figures such as Moses, Hercules and the children of Israel lost in the wilderness, but those ideas didn't go over well. The actual design that Congress approved in 1782 represented several things:

- One of the eagle's talons clutches an olive branch alluding to peace, while the other holds thirteen arrows for war.
- The shield's thirteen red and white stripes represent the original thirteen colonies. The top blue bar represents Congress.
- "E pluribus unum" is the U.S. motto in Latin, which means "out of many, one."
- On the seal's reverse side, the pyramid has thirteen layers with the Roman numeral date of 1776.
- "Annuit coeptis" means "God has favored our undertaking." "Novus order seclorum" means "a new order of the ages."
- You likely have your own copies of both sides of the Great Seal. Carefully examine the back of a dollar bill. The right circle is the seal's front; the left circle is the less familiar reverse, which is never used as an official stamp and only found here.

Chinese Martyr's Death, Other Christian Persecutions Reported

The Voice of the Martyrs has recently reported the death of Ms. Jiang Zongxiu, which apparently occurred about a year ago, according to a report from the American Family Association. Jiang, 34, who lived in Baishi Village, China, and her sister-in-law were arrested on June 17, 2004, for distributing Bibles and gospel tracts. They were ordered to prison for fifteen days, but the following day Jiang was pronounced dead by the PSB office of Tongji County.

Authorities said Jiang died of "natural causes," but the Voice of Martyrs believes she died of wounds caused by beatings during the interrogation. Jiang is survived by her husband, four-year-old son, and her parents. Her family has requested a second autopsy and a further investigation into the cause of death.

The Voice of Martyrs has urged the Chinese government to investigate this case and address the requests of Ms. Jiang's relatives. The group also asks that Christians write their congressperson and senators, as well as to the Chinese Embassy, to help bring justice for Jiang Zongxiu's family and to stop the persecution of other Christians in China.

Almost as confirmation of the Voice of Martyrs report, the June issue of Charisma magazine details the treatment of Sarah Lui, a member of South China Church, "one of the largest unregistered churches in China." Lui was imprisoned for four years, the magazine says, and was tortured repeatedly. According to Lui, one purpose of the prolonged torture was to force her to testify that the pastor of the church, Gong Shengliang, had raped her.

"In the end, two officers forced a weakened Lui to fingerprint some documents, one of which she said was otherwise blank. As a result of several similarly coerced accusations by women in the South China Church, pastor Gong and three church leaders were sentenced to death. The women, including Lui, were put in prison," the Charisma article reported.

However, "due to an overwhelming international outcry coordinated by China Aid and other international organizations that work to assist persecuted Christians, the Chinese believers received a second trial. Pastor Gong and those condemned to death were instead given life sentences. Lui and four other women were declared innocent and released," the magazine said.

Address your letters to:
Ambassador Yang Jiechi
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Ave. NW Washington, DC 20008
Tel: 202-328-2500, fax 202-588-0032
Director of religious affairs 202-328-2512

[Click here for a Free monthly subscription to the Voice of the Martyrs newsletter\](#)

[To get a list of district offices of elected officials, click here.](#)

Death Interrupts Evelyn, Oral Roberts' Long Partnership

Evelyn Lutman Roberts, wife and partner to evangelist Oral Roberts for sixty-six years, was memorialized on May 9 at the Mabee Center on the campus of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was 88. Mrs. Roberts died on May 4 in Newport Beach, California, after suffering a head injury during a fall in a parking lot. The accident caused massive internal bleeding.



Mrs. Roberts was born Evelyn Lutman Fahnestock on April 22, 1917, in Warsaw, Missouri, one of eight children. The family moved to Oklahoma, where she later attended Northeastern State University. She also attended Texas College of Arts and Industries in Kingsville, Texas, and taught school there for three years.

Oral and Evelyn married in Westville, Oklahoma, on Christmas Day, 1938. An article in the St. Petersburg Times on September 7, 1985, reported that they "met while both were playing guitars and singing at a camp meeting." She "was just as determined as Oral to escape poverty"

Mrs. Roberts played a vital role in her husband's worldwide ministry from its beginning in 1947. She was instrumental in helping build Oral Roberts University and many other outreaches of Oral Roberts Ministries. She served as a trustee for the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association and was spiritual lifetime regent for Oral Roberts University.

She wrote several books, including *His Darling Wife, Evelyn: The Autobiography of Mrs. Oral Roberts*, *Whither Thou Goest, Evelyn Roberts' Miracle Life Stories* and a children's book, *Heaven Has a Floor*.

Mrs. Roberts was preceded in death by a daughter and son-in-law, Rebecca Ann and Marshall Nash; a son, Ronald David Roberts; a sister, Ruth Swank; a brother, Bob Fahnestock, and one grandson. She is survived by her husband, Oral; a son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Lindsay Roberts; a daughter and son-in-law, Roberta and Ronald Potts; 13 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; two sisters, Kathleen Green and Bettye Hamblin; and three brothers, George Fahnestock, J.D. Fahnestock, and Paul Fahnestock.

Prior to her death Mrs. Roberts had requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the **Evelyn Roberts Memorial Scholarship Fund** to help further the education of ORU students.

(You can view the celebration service in either broadband or dial-up versions.)

Effort to Enlist Cell Phone Subscribers With Porn Will Impact Children, American Family Association Says



"Soon pornography will be available to our children over their cell phones," says Don Wildmon, chairman of the American Family Association. "Playboy hopes to make their porn available to the 170 million cell phone subscribers throughout North America. No doubt scores of other pornographers will follow Playboy's lead."

An independent study by IDC revealed that 33.2 percent of cell phone users in America, more than 55 million, are between the ages of five and nineteen.

Talk show host Paul McGuire of Los Angeles says of the Playboy effort: "...soon cell phones will open a tsunami of porn images..." He went on to say "just like the Internet, it will be hard to keep [this] sexual perversion from young people."

"We can expect our children to have pop-up ads on their cell phones pushing Playboy's pornography. Playboy says their new venture will allow more people to

experience 'the sexiness of the classic Playboy lifestyle.' Unfortunately, many of these people will be children.

"Pornographers are going after our children at a younger and younger age.

"Contact the Federal Communications Commission and ask them to set heavy fines for pornographers who send their porn to cell phones," says Wildmon.

CLICK HERE TO SEND YOUR LETTERS TO ALL FOUR FCC COMMISSIONERS.