



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

SEEKER FRIENDLY CHURCHES.

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This is now all the rage, church services geared to getting in the unsaved. Church is made to order for the ungodly. All must be easy-going and entertaining. There is no fear of God, neither is there judgment, sin, repentance or hell! The people they are trying to win will not come and listen to those things. However, one researcher said that in reality, only 10% -15% of the attendees are from among the unchurched. Most of their "converts" are siphoned off from smaller churches, being drawn by the carnal attractions. Willow Creek (Bill Hybels) and Saddleback (Rick Warren) are prime movers in this pseudo-gospel endeavor. A recent visitor to Willow Creek spoke of swans gliding across a mirror lake, an extensive eating area, supplied by five vendors, where one can watch the service on a giant screen while enjoying a meal. Rick Warren, whose book *The Purpose Driven Life* has sold over 7 million copies, majors in religious entertainment. Also, his book is full of psychological principles. "The reader is told that his genetic makeup, physical features, talents, personality, the details of his daily life, are exactly what God has foreordained." His church sponsors many "12 Step" programs (similar to Alcoholics Anonymous). Here are a few examples: Adult Children of Chemical Addicted, Codependency, Co-Addicted Women in a Relationship, Sexually Addicted Men, etc. Warren has attended Robert Schuller's school. Shuller has claimed that he is the true originator of the "marketing approach to Christianity." No doubt he is! You will find no real Gospel in his church, for he says that what we need to be saved from is a negative self image. Most, if not all, of the churches sponsoring this sort of thing have rock bands, short sermons filled with jokes or amusing stories, come as you are philosophy, etc. It is religion designed to please the carnal nature of the unsaved. They are getting people in, but they are not bringing people to a true knowledge of Jesus Christ. How can you do that without preaching on sin, hell and repentance? God's message never has been popular - just read the Bible. About one hundred and twenty-five years ago Spurgeon spoke of a similar trend: "The tendency of the time is towards bigness, parade, and show of power... men are getting tired of the divine plan; they are going to be saved by the priest...by the music...by the theatricals."

While the above is a product of the New Evangelical crowd, some fundamental Baptists are buying into it. Many fundamental Baptist churches have removed "Baptist" from their names. It is too offensive. Why is that? While there are many liberal Baptist churches today, those who do preach the old-time Gospel are largely Baptist - try to find many other groups that are preaching the true Word of God. Many once fundamental Baptist churches are buying into the "Purpose Driven" philosophy. A recent *FBIS News Service* article dealt with several. I'll just mention two. The first is the well-known Temple Baptist Church of Detroit. "This church was pastored by Frank Norris and then G. Beauchamp Vick from 1950 to 1975. Vick was one of the founders of the BBFI in 1950. It was a church that eschewed ecumenism, preached strong Baptist doctrine, promoted holy living, and separation from the world. It also used only the King James Bible. Vick said: 'It's become fashionable to use many versions of the Bible today...This King James Bible, our English Bible, the Bible of our fathers and our mothers is the one that has come floating down to us upon the blood of the Christian martyrs, our forefathers. (Continued on page 3)

CORNERSTONE NEWS

FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE
JULY 11 - 16, 2004



PASTOR BRYAN SPERONI
Pascoag, RI
PASTOR BOBBY MITCHELL
Brunswick, ME
PASTOR JOE SCEARBO
W. Lebanon, NH
PASTOR RICK MOSHER
Bellingham, MA

Sunday: 9:30, 10:45 & 6:00
Monday - Friday: 10:00, 11:00 & 7:00

THEME
"STANDING IN AN EVIL DAY"

This is a great Family Week!
Invite others to attend with you.
Information call: 617-489-2498

CHILDREN'S MEETINGS
Monday-Friday 10 am
Transportation
Belmont & Arlington
617-489-2498

SUMMER SERVICES
SUNDAY: Sunday School 9:30 / Church 10:45, 6:00
WEDNESDAY: Prayer and Bible Study 7:30

WE APPRECIATE YOUR LETTERS:

From Idaho: I'm no longer getting the Cornerstone Challenge. I miss it and would love to be placed on your mailing list again. There's no other paper I know of that uncompromisingly hits things that are wrong in this country and in professing Christianity. (80 yr old Pastor)

From Florida: I recently received the Challenge (after not getting it for some months). I am writing to ask you to keep me on your mailing list, and to send me some of the back issues. (Prisoner).

From Washington: Enclosed is a check for our subscription. The Baptist Church we were going to used the KJV, but didn't believe it. You know, only the originals were inspired! We do appreciate the Challenge and the stand you take.

From Missouri: Hi folks! Sending a gift in appreciation of your stand for the truth in the Challenge. Please send me ten copies of the March 2004 issue. Pastors are promoting the "Passion" film and that is a good answer. God bless your faithfulness.

YOUTH CORNER

CORRECTING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!

Many years ago an artist was engaged to retouch some paintings in a church in Belgium. He was required to render and itemized bill, part of which was as follows:

- For correcting the Ten Commandments.....\$5.12
- For renewing Heaven and adjusting stars.....7.34
- For brightening up the flames of hell, etc.....7.17
- For putting new stone in David's sling, etc.....6.13
- For putting new tail on Peter's rooster.....2.20

There were others. The one that struck me is "*For Correcting the Ten Commandments.*" We have many Bible correctors in our day and they do not limit themselves to the Ten Commandments! Modern Bible correctors fear not to tamper with the HOLY WORD OF GOD. **"For I testify to every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life..."** ~Revelation 22:18-19

WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS. Will Rogers said, "*What this country needs is dirtier finger nails and a cleaner mind.*" By "dirtier finger nails" he meant that we need more hard work. That's abundantly true today. Someone has said that the sloth could well be our national emblem. The lazy person will not go far with God, nor with anyone! God says, **"The way of the slothful (lazy) man is an hedge of thorns..."** He just can't seem to make it. I once read of a tombstone in an old graveyard that said: "*Here rests John Brown. That is all he ever did.*" Then, there was the one that read:

*"Here lies the body of a man who did no good,
And if he had lived, he never would.
Where he's gone and how he fares,
Nobody knows and nobody cares."*

The Bible says, **"Be not slothful..."** God has no time for lazy people. God made man to work and the Scriptures often speak of service and labor. As for the cleaner mind, American minds are filthier than ever! Young person, you'll never be a serious Christian as long as you watch the average daily fare on television. TV, the internet and a lot of other things, will have to go if you expect to get close to God. If you are not close to God, you must be close to the devil. **"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or, who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart..."** The mind is an amazing thing; what you put into it will come back to bless or to haunt you. (See *Philippians 4:8*)

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

(continued from page 1) It has been the one text of the Baptist Bible College (no longer true), and it will be as long as I have anything to do with this school.' In 1990 the church got a young new pastor. The church began having CCM concerts in the early 1990's. By 1996 they featured Michael Card, who is radically ecumenical. By 2000 the church changed its name to Northridge Church of Plymouth (no Baptist). The music has gotten ever more hard. In September 2003 they hosted Sonic Flood, and Charlie Hall was scheduled to be there in October. The church is scheduled to host Darlene Zschech, who promotes ecumenism and unscriptural charismatic practices. Landmark Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH was pastored by John Rawlings for 43 years (1951-94). In 1996 the church featured a Campus Crusade band playing 'high energy '50's and '60's rock and roll.' The church website says, 'Being a firm believer that church should be fun and on the edge, Matt puts all his energy into making Landmark a place where everyone belongs.' The pop group Jump5 is scheduled to perform at Landmark..." These people say, "We're not changing the message, just the methods." That was the cry of Billy Graham 50 years ago. First of all, God is not pleased when you package the Gospel in the filthy garb of the world. It doesn't take much discernment to see that the message must also change if you are going to cater to the worldly crowd. **"Ye cannot serve God and mammon."** (See II Corinthians 6:14-17, Ephesians 5:11, etc.)

TV - IT JUST GETS WORSE. For 25 years, Dr. Ted Baehr has reviewed movies and shows from a Christian perspective. Baehr says that sex and violence are so common in television and movies... By age 17, the average child has spent anywhere between 40,000 and 63,000 hours watching TV and movies and playing video games. "That is a tremendous amount of time when you consider they only spend up to 11,000 hours at church... They have seen 50,000 murders; children today have seen over a million sex acts - things that you wouldn't have thought of years ago." The American Medical Association said violence in the media is leading to increased violent behavior in teens and young adults. *-Religion Today* (11/11/03). Ed. We can understand the world's penchant for the stuff that is on TV, etc., but what is appalling is the many professed Bible believers who imbibe this filth. *Christian, throw out the TV!*

HARD TO BELIEVE - BUT TRUE! A 35-year old French woman was married to her boyfriend 18 months after he was killed in a car accident. Christel Demichel, who wore black, was married...in the presence of friends and relatives at city hall in the southern city of Nice. Christel, who was pregnant at the time, was in the same accident and lost her baby. Posthumous marriage is allowed in France under a law introduced by former President Charles de Gaulle. Unreal!

UNCONSCIONABLE MORAL DEPRAVITY! Here is a story that may make you sick - it did me! I try to be discreet in what we print. I debated whether to print it, but I think God's people need to know how bad things are in this land. This was reported in *Yahoo! News* (3/3/04): "In Crawford Texas some families are boycotting Girl Scout cookies. Parents were upset that the local Girl Scout organization had given a 'woman of distinction award' last year to a Planned Parenthood executive. Then, they found out the Girl Scouts have been giving its endorsement for years to a PP sex-ed program where boys and girls were given literature on homosexuality, masturbation and condoms... Some 400 - 700 fifth through ninth-graders attend the half-day *Nobody's Fool* conference in Waco each July. The youngsters receive a book with chapters on homosexuality and masturbation, and illustrations of couples having sex, people examining their naked bodies, and a boy putting on a condom." This is going on all over the country. No wonder we have so many sex crimes and teenage pregnancies. These people should be arrested!

"PASSION" FILM'S DECIDED CATHOLICISM. Reconverted Catholic (he was a Catholic, then he wasn't, and now he is a Catholic) Tom Allen writes: "As someone involved in the distribution and marketing of the film, I noticed early the fervor which many Protestant communities were preparing to use the film for evangelistic purposes...Yet, for all the sophisticated evangelization strategies, the irony is that our Protestant brothers and sisters cannot adequately speak to many of the issues and questions the film invokes because *the film is so distinctly Marian, so obviously Eucharist, so quintessentially Catholic* - as is the New testament." - *TBC This Week* (3/19/04). He is right except for it being New Testament. Who are the Protestants seeking to use this Catholic film? I haven't seen nor heard of one liberal group - they don't care about evangelism. It is the New Evangelicals and Fundamental Baptists. I think they must either be blind, stupid or unsaved!

HIGH PRICE OF THE SELF-LIFE!

Most people are living for this present world (including many Christians) - but they hope that no evil will befall them and that they will safely land in Heaven when it is all over. Alas, how disappointed they will be! The rich man in *Luke 12* was doing quite well when he said, “**Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years, take thine ease...**” But God said, “**Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee!**” Esau was far more interested in the moment than in eternity and paid the price of the unconverted. Achan, for some gold and a beautiful garment caused the death of his entire family. Lot, a believer, according to the Word of God, sacrificed his family by going to wicked Sodom for material gain. David, that mighty man of God, for a fleeting moment of fleshly gratification, paid the price of untold misery and grief both for himself and his family. Friend, you can pay the price of being a true follower of Jesus Christ or you can one day pay the price of doing your own thing! Thank God, there are few examples of those who made the right choice and while they suffered as followers of God, they did not suffer as evil doers. You can believe they are not sorry! One thinks of that godly young man named Joseph. Rather than yield to the flesh, he fled and ended up in jail. But the record testifies that it was worth it! Then, there is that mighty man of God named Moses. It is said of him: “*Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.*” What will you choose?

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P.O. Box 438

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www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

IF THE BIBLE IS TRUE...

“**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.**” ~*Psalms 14:1*. I don't think there are many real atheists in the world, but there are many individuals who live as if they were. Multitudes have no fear of God whatever, and they live as though this present world is all there is. I read of one atheist's concern for the future. He said, “There is one thing that mars all the pleasure of my life. I am afraid that the Bible may be true. If I could know for a certainty that death is only an eternal sleep, I should be happy. But here is what pierces my soul; *if the Bible is true then I am lost forever.*” This only proves what the Bible teaches, that man has a conscience and something inside him says, there is a God and there is a judgment. “**...it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment.**” ~*Hebrews 9:27*. If there is no God, there is no judgment and if there is no judgment, live as you please, there is nothing to worry about. Why are men afraid to die? The Bible gives the answer. There is a “*stinger*” in death. *I Corinthians 15:56* says, “**The sting of death is sin...**” That is why we read in *Hebrews 2* that Jesus died to “**deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**” I have never heard of one who was not a Christian who cheerfully faced death. One atheist, Voltaire, said he would give the doctor half of all he had for six more months of life. Whether you are an atheist or not, there is hope - only One! “**Christ died for our sins...**” ~*I Corinthians 15:3*. “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.**”