

# Savior's Seasonings

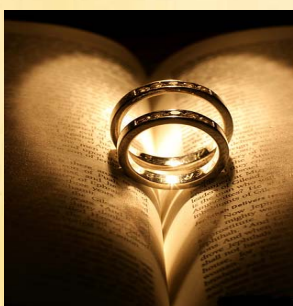
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## Growing Number See Marriage As 'Unnecessary'

Half of Americans 20 to 69 years of age believe marriage is not necessary according to a new study. Zogby International and AOL surveyed more than 7,000 Americans in that age bracket and found 44% who said "marriage is not necessary in order to have a committed, fulfilling, life-long relationship."

Mike McManus, president of Marriage Savers - a group that works to help churches reduce divorce rates, finds that number shocking. "People who are married live longer, they're healthier, they're happier; they're wealthier," he points out. "A man who's single, for whatever reason, will live ten



years less than a married man; a woman, about four years less." Most of the survey respondents also said that they would prefer living together before getting married. "Unfortunately, the marriage message just

doesn't seem to be getting out to the public," continues McManus. "And what we have is a reflection of Hollywood morals ... in the culture."

Fear may be the motivating factor in this study, says McManus. "Since 1970 there's been one divorce for every two marriages, every year. And that means there's a whole generation of young adults whose parents divorced and who are,

therefore, fearful of marriage commitments

... And they're fearful that if they marry they'll end up being divorced - and their antidote is to cohabit." But research by Rutgers University's National Marriage Project indicates that couples who live together before marriage are 46% more likely to divorce and significantly more likely to experience domestic violence within their relationships. McManus believes the church shares some of the blame for this trend. "Churches really aren't very 'marriage-minded' - they're 'wedding-minded.' They are equipped to be able to help couples have weddings, but they really don't (seem to) know how to build marriages," he argues. "The problem is the pastors are picking safe subjects (to preach), and they're avoiding the subjects that could help us learn how to build relationships that can go the distance." The pro-marriage advocate expects similar survey results in the future if churches do not do a better job promoting the benefits of marriage and exposing the pitfalls of cohabitation. — OneNewsNow.com, 1.7.2008

### OUR FAITH RESPONSE...

First, spend time reflecting / studying over God's Holy Word as He details His design for His institution of "Holy Marriage:" Psalms 127, Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:22-33, 1 Corinthians 7: 1-16, Hebrews 13:4-7, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Joshua 24:15 & Matthew 7:24-27

Next, **PRAY** for today's families, for government leaders and for Pastors/Church leaders as they influence this godly institution. Finally, be available for God to use YOU thru mentoring a young couple, leading a small group (Bible study/fellowship) for married couples, encouraging a family thru work-church-neighborhood with God's love and truth ... Let's go 'do the Word!' (James 1:22)

This newsletter may be reproduced without change and in its entirety for non-commercial purposes without prior written permission from Christian Impact Ministries. Crediting of any use of this newsletter is deeply appreciated and honoring to our Lord. We strongly encourage pastors, evangelists, church leaders, lay leaders and families to use this monthly newsletter as a mission tool to be informed of today's issues and Biblically equipped with God's Word to engage today's culture for the glory of Jesus Christ!

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## Rhode Island School to Track Students with RFID Tags

A Rhode Island school district is to begin using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to track students. But the plan is not without opposition. Neal McCluskey with the Cato Institute says while the program may have good intentions, it is still a bad idea. The Middletown, Rhode Island, school district will attach RFID tags to the book bags of about 80 children who ride buses to and from school. The system is supposed to allow the district and parents to know whether their children are on the bus. Global Positioning System (GPS) devices will also allow officials and parents to locate buses. A spokesperson for the district told the Associated Press that the system will improve accountability and efficiency of the schools'

transportation services. But McCluskey, education policy analyst for the Cato Institute, says Americans should be concerned any time any government entity, like a public school, wants to gather more information about them. "...I think a lot of people, with good reason, see this ... as the camel's nose under the tent of greater tracking, more intrusion on personal freedom and independence ... It'll all be cast in terms like 'It's for their safety. It's for efficiency' - which, you know, might be legitimate reasons to do it," the Cato Institute analyst acknowledges. "But when it comes from a government entity ... unless it's truly, fully voluntary, people are very worried that it's going to become something much bigger than it starts out as and that's a legitimate concern." In addition to privacy concerns and fears of expanded use of such electronic monitoring of children, security experts point out that the system would only track whether the RFID tag, not the actual child, is or is not on the bus. Advocates for school choice say the program is evidence of the laziness of some public school administrators, who should - they say - already have systems in place to know the location of every student for the entire school day. - OneNewsNow.com, 1.11.2008 <📖Study Revelation 13:6-18, 14:9-10>



## Indiana Senate Drops Prayers Due to ACLU Legal Threats

Sen. Patricia L. Miller, R-Indianapolis, recently opened the state Senate's proceedings with a nonsectarian prayer, following threats in December 2007 of a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana. The prayer lasted about a minute and did not mention Jesus Christ or any other "deity." Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action, responded to the decision, "Legislative invocations are a time-honored, constitutionally protected practice ... It is unfortunate, however, that the ACLU uses that very case to argue that any legislative prayer mentioning Jesus Christ crosses some sort of constitutional line. Hopefully, we now have a Supreme Court that will clear up that misconception. Our Founders, who both drafted the First Amendment and hired the first legislative chaplains, placed no such gag orders on their prayers." The ACLU won a federal court case against the Indiana House on the issue in 2005. An appeals court overturned that decision, and the ACLU has now asked the full 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider the case. In lieu of this reconsideration, the Indiana Senate decided to remove any references to Jesus Christ or other 'deities' in the opening prayers. - CitizenLink, 1.10.2008 <📖Study Matthew 10:22 & 16:18, Mark 13:13, Luke 6:22 & 21:17, John 7:7 & 15:18-20, Psalms 37:32-33 and 1 Chronicles 16:11>



## Sagacious\* Sips of the Savior's Truth

\*sagacious: *defn.* - wisdom, discernment through deep reflection & experience  
 "I fear we do not sufficiently realize the extreme subtlety of our soul's disease (sin). We are too apt to forget that temptation to sin will rarely present itself to us in its true colours ... Mark it down: There is no such thing as a 'small sin.'

Every unconfessed sin is a seed that will produce a multiplied harvest. As Charles Spurgeon warned, 'Those who tolerate sin in what they think to be little things, will soon indulge it in greater matters.'  
 - Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Writer/Speaker, excerpted from *Holiness*, 2004, pp. 80-81.



Quotable Quote for this month ...

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation (truly) gone under." President Ronald Reagan (1984)



...aCROSS His Land

**United States** — Beginning in 2009, the national motto "In God



We Trust" will return to the front or back of the \$1 coin. According to the Thomas More Law Center in Michigan, newly minted \$1 Presidential coins - under a 2005 law - had relegated the phrase "In God We Trust" to the "virtually unreadable edge of

the coin," fueling fears that one day it may be completely removed from the currency. In this location, the national motto "appeared to be merely scratches on the edge, unless one looked for it with a magnifying glass." But President Bush recently signed into law a spending bill that included a special "In God We Trust" provision returning the national motto to the face of the coin. Senator Sam Brownback (R-Kansas), a co-sponsor of the provision, shares that he believes Americans in general are tiring of efforts to remove religion from public venues. <sup>1</sup> ©

**California** —A Catholic hospital in San Francisco is being sued



after refusing, on religious grounds, to perform breast-enhancement surgery on a man. The man, who has had sex-change surgery to look like a woman, claims the Seton Medical Center told him it wasn't God's will that he have the surgery. The case will be heard in San Francisco Superior Court.

Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, has offered to represent the hospital. "If this hospital is required to deny its religious beliefs in order to function as a hospital," he said, "then the protection of religious entities — even churches — could be on the chopping block tomorrow." <sup>2</sup> ©

<sup>1</sup> OneNewsNow.com, 1.7.2008

<sup>2</sup> CitizenLink.com, 1.11.2008



**...Our 'Daily Salt' Needs**

**Our Operating Mission Need:  
\$ 2,500.00/month**

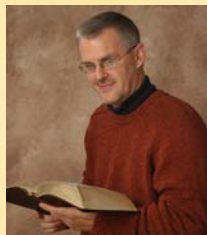
**"20" donations were received during December 2007 totaling:  
✚ \$ 1458.19 (~58.3% budget)**

"Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my *partners in spreading the Good News about (Jesus) Christ...*" **Philippians 1:4-5a**

**Christian Impact Ministries (CIM)** is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit ministry whose God-given vision/direction since 1996 has been "to engage today's culture with the timeless truth of God's Word."



Operating from a biblical worldview, CIM seeks to help educate and equip Christians with a genuine understanding of the spiritual and moral issues in today's culture and equip



**Rev. David Haltom**

them with both scripture and Biblically-based resources so that they may obediently "be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

Rev. David Haltom, a licensed/ordained minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, serves thru CIM as a Vocational Evangelist/Revivalist and holds endorsements from the North American Mission Board

(NAMB), the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) and the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE).

In addition to serving at CIM, Rev. Haltom serves as founding Pastor/Elder of Journey 2427, an evangelical church plant in the Concord-Kannapolis area ([www.journey2427.org](http://www.journey2427.org)). We welcome the honor to serve you and your church community through God's power in preaching-teaching-speaking events as the Lord would so lead.

**"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."** 2 Timothy 4:2

**... A Modern Day Prophet Speaks**



The challenging, 'prophetic' words of Chuck Colson spoken and written a short time ago now appear even more poignant and needful in light of a new LifeWay Research national survey. In the survey of people who do not attend church (unchurched), many claim some kind of relationship with a 'supreme being.'

The survey includes these two convicting findings: first, 61% say that the God of the Bible is no different from the gods or spiritual beings depicted by the world religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc; second, 79% believe that Christianity today is more about organized religion than about loving God and loving people. We must take earnest heed to Colson's call when he declares, "We need to take stock of ourselves. I believe Christians these days belong on their knees; repenting of our self-indulgence; repenting of going to church but not making any difference in our society; repenting of the fact that we have not learned how to defend and live out our faith." If we cannot get the two greatest commandment right - loving God and loving people (Matthew 22:34-40) - we cannot hope that much else will go well either. — FRC's 'The Watchman Report,' 1.10.2008

**Ministry Officers**

Rev. David W. Haltom Executive Director/Evangelist

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." Proverbs 15:22

**Board of Directors**

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William Barnhardt, 2000, Concord, N.C.

Ann M. Wall, 1998, Honorary, Concord, N.C.  
Traci K. Haltom, 2003, Concord, N.C.



## ... DiscipleDave's Jots & Tittles



2 Timothy 1:6

"I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you..."

**2 Timothy 1:6**, Amplified Bible  
Recently I shared a message from the Lord with our church family, Journey 2427, on "Passion." Godly passion is a driving force which propels us to action in this journey of life. A quick survey of the hearts of God's churches today find many to be 'passionless' - that isn't to say that there isn't

activity, for many are 'busy' in programs, meetings and church functions. But that isn't true passion! True passion is birthed from within our hearts—a fire which is kindled/stoked daily through time with God in prayer and meditation upon His Word. True passion stirs us from inaction to action in the things of God. James Arthur Baldwin, a 20th Century American Essayist-Playwright and Novelist, once shared, "Fires can't be made with dead embers, nor can (godly) enthusiasm be stirred by spiritless men." Sadly, as echoed by Evangelist-Pastor Greg Laurie and the honorable Reverend Billy Graham, perhaps as many as 50% of today's church members may hold such 'spiritless lives' (i.e. unregenerate souls / unsaved). This condition has served as a contributor to the rise and acceptance of many false teachers today, as well as the legitimization of sinful lifestyles and choices within the church. We must understand that a true passion for Christ will lead to a true pursuit of the holiness of God in the believer's life <Hebrews 12:14>. This pursuit releases even more passion for the things of God, eventually producing 'enthusiasm' (i.e. passion—zeal). God tells us in Romans 12:11 (Amplified Bible) to "Never lag in *zeal (passion)* and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord." The New Living Translation of this verse reads, "Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord *enthusiastically* (with

passion)." So for 2008, we prayerfully challenge (exhort) you to 'stir up those embers' in your heart for loving Christ and serving His holy purpose! We humbly ask for your prayers for God's power, God's presence and God's peace to be upon our family & our mission service for His kingdom both in CIM and in Journey 2427! Thank you for the honor to minister to you in 2008 and beyond! *Carpe Leo!* (Seize the Lion! 2 Chronicles 23:20)

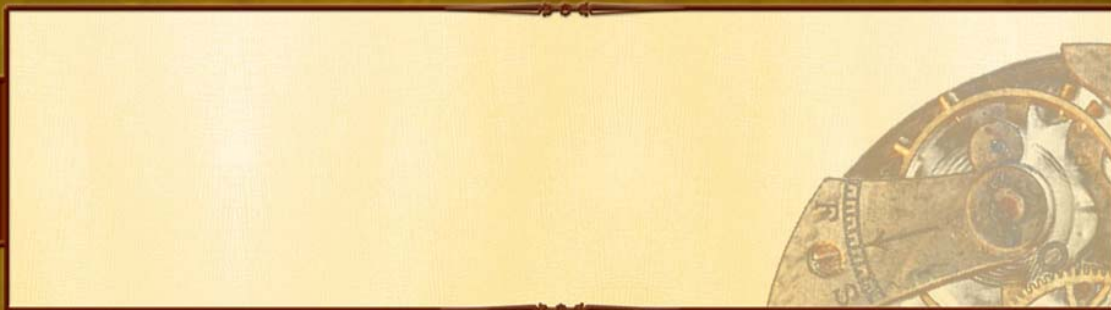
### The ABC'S of Having a Personal Love Relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ...

- A** – Admit that you have sinned (i.e. disobeyed God's Law; 1 John 1:8, Romans 3:23)
  - B** - Believe that Jesus Christ is the sole Son of God, your Lord (i.e. ruler of your life) and your personal Savior (John 3:16, Acts 16:31)
  - C** - Confess (i.e. agree w/God) & Repent (i.e. change of heart-mind-actions) of your sins (1 John 1:9, Acts 3:19)
  - S** - Surrender to and Commit your entire life daily to the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:13, Luke 9:23)
- "... Today is the day of Salvation!" <2 Corinthians 6:2>



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"Be on your guard; stand firm  
in the faith; be men (& women)  
of courage; be strong."  
1 Corinthians 16:13