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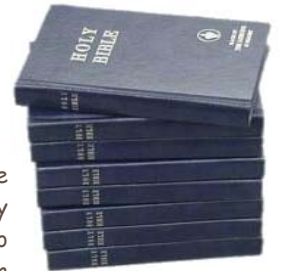


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# Savior's Seasonings

HELPING FAMILIES SAFELY NAVIGATE THROUGH TODAY'S SPIRITUAL & CULTURAL STORMS SINCE 1996

## The GRINCH Strikes Early — More Hotels BANNING Gideon Bibles!



Each Gideon Bible placed in a hotel room has the potential to reach up to 2,300 people in its estimated six-year life span, and about 25% of travelers read the Bibles in their hotel rooms, according to *The Gideons International*, a group that has been placing Bibles in hotel rooms since 1908. The Gideons say they receive testimonies almost daily of countless lives changed because of the Bibles they've placed, including one man who



planned to commit suicide on Christmas Eve. The man said he threw the Bible onto the hotel room floor and it fell open to John 14, where Jesus says He gives peace. Now the man is a pastor and his family has been

restored. But a growing number of hotels are opting not to allow the placement of Gideon Bibles, according to a recent article in *Newsweek* magazine. Since 2001, the number of hotels with religious materials in the rooms (e.g. Gideon Bibles) have dropped over 18% according to the American Hotel and Lodging Association. "In the rooms of Manhattan's trendy Soho Grand Hotel guests can enjoy an eclectic selection of underground music, iPod docking stations, flat-screen TVs and even the living company of a complimentary goldfish. But, alas, the word of God is nowhere to be found," the article begins. Such hotels say society is evolving and a younger, hipper generation has no interest in the Bible. In some luxury hotels, the Gideon Bible has been replaced by

romantic 'intimacy kits' which can include sex games/toys, condoms, and a variety of flavored body oils. Such hotels also state that to keep the Gideon Bibles in their rooms would mean they would have to cater to a variety of other belief systems to avoid singling out Christianity which would appear as 'special treatment.' R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, noted the tragedy that awaits if people aren't given the chance to encounter God's Word when they find themselves troubled in a hotel room. "Are they now to look for salvation and solace from an iPod docking station or a goldfish?" Mohler wrote on his blogsite. "... This development is another reminder that we are living in a time of tremendous cultural and moral change. The absence of Gideons Bibles from an increasing number of hotel rooms tells us something about the secularization, sexualization, and extreme sensitivities of our age," Mohler said. "It also tells us that there will be no Bibles available in those hotel rooms when travelers need them, and that is a tragedy by any measure," he added. "Think of this the next time you are in a hotel room. Check the bedside table for a Gideon Bible. When you find one, thank the hotel management. And, when you have the opportunity, thank the Gideons."

— BaptistPress (12.7.2007), [www.AlbertMohler.com](http://www.AlbertMohler.com) (11.12.2007)

Pray for the evangelistic work of the Gideons International servants and their godly witness thru the placement of Bibles in thousands of hotel rooms around the world. (Matthew 28:19-20)

### North Carolina School District Slams Door on Gideon Bibles

Attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund have offered free legal representation to a North Carolina school district that, after being threatened by the ACLU, has barred Gideons International members from distributing Bibles on elementary school campuses. Hartnett County School District officials recently banned the practice, a long-standing tradition, after the ACLU claimed that it violated the Constitution. "A religious organization such as the Gideons is not second class to other groups that are allowed to distribute literature for voluntary reading at public schools," said ADF Senior Legal Counsel David Cortman. "The ACLU's claim that the district has somehow broken the law by honoring those equal access rights is not supported by current Supreme Court precedent." Representatives from the ACLU contacted school district officials after receiving a complaint. As a result, Harnett officials made the decision to ban the distribution, rather than face possible legal action. - [www.alliancedefensefund.org](http://www.alliancedefensefund.org), 12.4.2007



<Study God's Word on the Hatred of God: Matthew 10:22 & 16:18, Mark 13:13, Luke 6:22 & 21:17, John 7:7 & 15:18-20>



**United States** - Parents who feel their unruly, young children need an old-fashioned spanking now and then have the support of the American College of Pediatricians (ACP). Research from the group finds that spanking "can be a useful and necessary part of a successful disciplinary plan." Dr. Den Trumbull, the report's principal author, said: "Spanking is,



at times, necessary with young children, because reasoning and explanation are insufficient in persuading them to have good behavior. "Spanking should be used proactively. The child should be forewarned; it should always be administered in private, and followed by a loving embrace of the child with an explanation for the reason of the spanking." The ACP statement puts it in direct opposition to the American Medical Association, which condemns spanking and links it to youth violence. Marjorie Lindner-Gunnoe, a psychology professor at Calvin College, said the ACP position is refreshing. "It's nice to see a little bit more balanced approach," she said. "We're getting some multiple views. In the past, the views have been quite one-sided."<sup>1</sup> © (📖 Proverbs 3:11-12 & 12:1 & 13:24 & 19:18 & 22:15 & 23:14 & 29:15, Hebrews 12:5-6 and Revelations 3:19)

**Massachusetts** - Harvard administrators have now decided that Massachusetts' legalization of same-sex "marriage" in 2003 presents a new opportunity. Harvard's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Law Clinic will provide free and low-cost legal services to



low-income GLBT clients. The clinic will take up cases involving divorce, custody, child support, adoption and other family-law issues, along with advocacy work in the promotion of the GLBT lifestyle. Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family Action, said this story illustrates the hidden societal consequences of a single act of judicial activism. "In the aftermath of the Massachusetts *Goodridge* decision in 2003...this legal clinic's wide-ranging areas of work reveals (that) no area of family law is off-limits to social engineering (so as to) ... maximize the impact of what the *Goodridge* court decision started." <sup>2</sup> © (📖 Romans 1:16,24-27,

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Isaiah 5:20, Genesis 13:13, Mark 12:28-31, John 13:34, Hebrews 13:4 & Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13)

**United States**—According to the latest survey by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), abortions in the U.S.

News Sources for aCROSS His Land:

- <sup>1</sup> CitizenLink.com, 12.11.2007

- <sup>2</sup> CitizenLink.com, 12.5.2007

- <sup>3</sup> IFA First Friday newsletter, 1.2008

have hit their *lowest* mark since the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that *legalized abortion-on-demand* in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

© (📖 Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Psalms 82:3-4 & 127:3, 139:13-16, 106:38; Jeremiah 1:5, Exodus 20:13, Isaiah 5:20 & 3:11)



♦Please pray about how God could use *YOU* in helping meet the *critical spiritual & financial needs* for CIM each month!  
♦Thank you for uplifting our family before the Lord thru your *faithful prayers* for God's provision-strength-peace-healing for David's on-going health struggles/life battles (i.e. "thorns in the flesh;" 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Philippians 4:13) which remain *very intense!*  
♦Please uplift our church family & mission in your prayers — **Journey 2427** (please visit us at <http://journey2427.blogspot.com> for mission / ministry updates)!

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

\*sagacious: defn. wisdom, discernment through deep reflection & experience

"You can be certain that if you try to accomplish anything righteous in this world, opposition will rise up to block your path (2 Timothy 3:12, John 16:33) ...



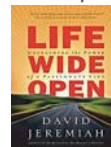
**"The Christmas GRINCH is Alive & Healthy in 2007..."**



In Mount Pleasant, Michigan, "Christmas" is evidently a bad word. City officials, influenced by a school district policy that bans the word, have changed the name of the local "Dickens Christmas Festival" to "Dickens Holiday Festival." The festival is based on the popular Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*.

— OneNewsNow.com, 12.10.2007

After the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce dropped sponsorship of the annual "Hollywood Christmas Parade," the Los Angeles City Council took over and renamed it the "Hollywood Santa Parade." - [www.catholicleague.org](http://www.catholicleague.org), 11.27.2007



There is not a hero in the Bible who didn't have a counterpart fighting to keep the kingdom of God from advancing ... the greater your (kingdom) goal, the greater will be the opposition ... just remember that God is (always) greater still."

- Dr. David Jeremiah, Pastor-Teacher of *Shadow Mountain Community Church*; reprinted from his book, *Life Wide Open*, 2003, pg. 69.

A new study from The Barna Group shows that "only 3% of 16-to-29-year-old non-Christians express favorable views of evangelicals." Among Baby Boomers, by contrast, the figure stands at 25%. Young non-Christians view present-day Christianity as "judgmental (87%), hypocritical (85%), old-fashioned (78%), and too involved in politics (75%)." The vast majority (82%) think Christianity basically teaches the same ideas other religions do. A significant majority do think Christianity "has good values and principles (76%), is friendly (71%), and is a faith they respect (55%)." But the trend is toward an increasingly negative view of Christianity—as more and more Americans drop into the atheist or non-religious category.—Barna.org, 9.24.2007



"...a cord of *three strands* is not quickly broken" Ecclesiastes 4:12

**Our Monthly Operating Needs: \$ 2,500.00 (\$82.20/day)**

**"9" donations were received during November 2007 total: \$ 660.00 (~26.4% budget)**

Despite our sacrificial stewardship with the operational expenses of CIM, our monthly donations received continue to drop. We would be honored for your prayerful consideration for a year-end gift to help the mission work of CIM continue. We have no other recourse but to begin downsizing tHis mission unless finances increase — a most disappointing situation. Would you *faithfully* & *sincerely* PRAY & RESPOND in FAITH?

### Surfing for Net Nuggets (N<sup>2</sup>)...



Take a few moments to surf by our recently updated **SaltBlog**—another timely resource from the mission work of Christian Impact Ministries. We invite you to leave comments under various news stories posted at the site.



<http://impactforchrist.blogspot.com/>

In North Carolina, Fayetteville's Veterans Affairs hospital director Bruce Triplett has ordered a Bible and cross be taken out of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center's chapel, stating that federal directives allow the Catholic articles to stay in the chapel, but not Christian ones. Two veterans have criticized Triplett for ordering the Bible and cross moved from the chapel's altar to the chaplains' office. The two veterans have argued that the hospital is suppressing Christians' freedom of religion by taking the Bible and cross out of the chapel. A Catholic display, including a crucifix, kneeler and Catholic Bible, has been allowed to remain in the chapel, though it has been partitioned off from the main part of the room. Interestingly, crosses are shown in several of the chapel's stained-glass windows. Triplett said those images were OK because the windows also showed other images. "Because of the changing demographic of our military and the fact that we have people of all faiths participating in the military, more so than ever. It just makes sense that our chapel be available and comfortable to people of all faiths," said Triplett. That is, except for people of the Christian faith! - AFA Action Alert, 12.5.2007  
**Act in Faith (James 1:22):** Contact Director Bruce Triplett, and ask him to return the Bible & cross to the hospital chapel: Bruce Triplett, Director Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical Center 2300 Rasmey Street Fayetteville, NC 28301 phone: (910) 822-7059 Email: Bruce.Triplett2@va.gov *Please be Christ-like in your request!*



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 & equip Christians with a genuine understanding of the spiritual and moral issues in today's culture and equip 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, Rev. Haltom serves as founding pastor of Journey 2427, an evangelical church plant in the Concord-Kannapolis area (www.journey2427.org). We welcome your prayerful consideration for preaching-teaching-special speaking events as the Lord would so lead.



Atheist Michael Newdow is back in federal court, this time challenging the mention of God in the U.S. national motto and the Pledge of Allegiance. His demands will be decided by a court notorious for its liberal decisions — the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit. A decision on the two cases could take several months. The reference to God on U.S. currency was authorized by Congress in the mid-1800s. But Newdow claims in court documents that "In God We Trust" violates the religion of his atheist church and makes it difficult for him to tithe (to whom?). "He also contends that when he goes to other countries, and he has to give U.S. currency to change over to other currency, that he's being forced to act like a missionary because it has the word 'God' on it," said Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute. Calling "God" unconstitutional is an old tactic for Newdow: He's been stirring up these cases since 2000. "What he's trying to do is have the government operate on his behalf to dictate his beliefs, which is completely wrong," said Judge Roy Moore, chairman of the Foundation for Moral Law. Doug Napier with the Alliance Defense Fund said references to "God" are constitutional. "America has a long tradition of recognizing beliefs and faiths, and our Founding Fathers attributed the nation's success in God," he said. "One atheist shouldn't spoil it for the rest of us."



"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"  
Proverbs 4:5-6



May we NEVER forget our sovereign God ...  
<Jeremiah 7:28-29, Psalms 9:17, Deuteronomy 8:11, 19>



### Christian Impact Ministries "Engaging today's culture for Jesus Christ"

- I would like information about how I / Other can have a personal, abiding love-relationship with Jesus Christ (John 15:1-17)
- I would like to add my name / my friend / my church to CIM's Savior's Seasonings mailing list <Please secure their permission first>
- I would like to personally be added to the **Prayer Ministry Network Team** as a Prayer Warrior (e-mail address): \_\_\_\_\_
- Our family *prayerfully* supports the God-given vision/labor of CIM's ministry & would like to pledge our financial support to the CIM operating budget in 2008 as the Lord leads & enables us to give
- Our family / church / small group has added CIM to our PRAYER list
- I would like to make a special donation In Honor / In Memory of ...

(Please print information or email us at [cim@carolina.rr.com](mailto:cim@carolina.rr.com))

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Request/Praise/Testimony: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## ... DiscipleDave's Jots & Tittles

"While they were there (in Bethlehem), the time came for her to give birth. Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough ("manger," NIV)—because there was **no room for them at the inn.**" (Luke 2:6-7, HCSB) Each time I read that passage of scripture, I reflect how much is still the same as it was then—over 2,000 years ago. As Mary and Joseph desperately sought a safe place for Mary to give birth, they likely heard, "Sorry, would really like to help you out...but I just don't have any room." Many today, like that first Christmas Eve, have no room for Jesus Christ in their hearts and lives. Like that evening in Bethlehem, most folks today are preoccupied so much that they do not even recognize that the Savior (Immanuel) is amongst them ('God with us'). Making room in our

hearts & lives involves our making (or more accurately stated, 'adjusting') time for the Christ-child in our lives. Yet so many have succumbed to the devil's lie that we simply don't have time today for Jesus. Oh, we have time to talk about Him—to complain to Him how our lives are not what we think they should be; how so many seem to hate Him and hate His followers (as the fatal shootings in Colorado last week so accurately proved); how we would 'love' to have the time to read our Bibles, pray more, and serve Him...but we simply can't ever seem to get 'a round to it.' To have time with Jesus, one must make time for Jesus...every day! For the five killed in the Colorado shootings, their time on earth has ended—no more time here, no more Bible studies, no more church fellowships, no more witnessing opportunities, no more Father-daughter dates, no more Thanksgiving parades or Christmas trees ... no more excuses for why we don't have time to spend with the Savior of the World ... the Creator of our life! So think for a

moment over 2007 ... how did you spend your time? If you're reading this article, then you had the SAME time in 2007 that we all had (~525,950 minutes) ... how did you spend them? The Apostle Paul warned us in **Ephesians 5:15-16** to "look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity; redeeming the time," NKJV], because the days are evil." (Amplified Bible) By God's grace, we all have before us the same amount of time ... you and I have a **CHOICE** with how we will spend that gift of time ...time for tearing down or for building, time for scattering or gathering, time for (new) birth (LIFE) or death, time for planting or uprooting, time for mourning or 'dancing with God' ... (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, excerpted) which will **YOU** freely choose? **Choose LIFE**...for when you do...you always choose **JESUS!** (John 14:6) And we pray the we ALL find the time (room) for that ONE choice!



**God's Word—Our Spiritual Plumb Line for Life <Amos 7:7-8>**

### Ministry Officers:

**Rev. David W. Haltom**  
Executive Director/Evangelist

### Board of Directors:

**Pam Gillespie**, 1996,  
Honorary, New Bern, N.C.

**Rev. David W. Haltom**, 1996,  
Honorary, Concord, N.C.

**Ann M. Wall**, 1998  
Honorary, Concord, N.C.

**William Barnhardt**, 2000  
Honorary, Concord, N.C.

**Traci K. Haltom**, 2003  
Concord, N.C.



"Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us...keeping (fixing, NIV) our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish."  
Hebrews 12:1-2, NLT

### The ABC's of a Personal Love Relationship with 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 to the Lordship of Jesus Christ (**Romans 6:13, Luke 9:23**)

"Today is the day of Salvation!" <**2 Corinthians 6:2**>

### 1 Corinthians 16:13

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

**Christian Impact Ministries**  
James 1:22

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