



the Vision

The Newsletter of Vision America

August 2002

Dear Vision America Family,

On June 16 I read my letter of resignation to the wonderful body of believers at First Baptist Church of Pearland whom I was privileged to serve since 1990. As you know I had been splitting time between my Vision America duties and my church responsibilities since April 1, however it became quite apparent to all who were close that the axiom that there are no part-time church jobs is true. On June 23 I concluded my ministry as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearland in order to devote all of my energies to this important work.

During the last 30 days I have preached rallies in a number of churches and spoken to numerous bodies, exhorting Christians and especially pastors to engage in the political process and to become Salt and Light in the culture, and defending their right to do so. The recent decision of a three judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is but the most recent example of what happens when Christians become silent. We must ... Stand Up! Speak Up! and Refuse to Give Up!"

Taking this dramatic step has been a leap of faith for Tommye and me. Leaving a secure position surrounded by loving and supportive people who were literally our family, has not been easy, but we became convinced it was the will of God for our lives.

Building a national ministry with the ultimate goal of restoring our nation to moral sanity is truly a God size task and one that keeps me up at night as I am daily reminded of my own shortcomings and inadequacies. We need your prayers and support now more than ever.

Many of you who receive this newsletter are good friends who have stood with us from the start. Thank you! We need hundreds of people across America praying for us daily and contributing to this work monthly if we are to succeed. Please prayerfully consider how you can assist us and stand with us in this worthy endeavor.

We have just over three months left in the Vision Texas project. I will be traveling extensively across Texas during that time conducting Pastor Policy Briefings and speaking in key churches encouraging thousands of Christians to register to vote, get informed on the issues and then vote November 5.

We will be utilizing direct mail and Christian Radio to blitz the state with our message of Christian responsibility right before the election. We need to raise several hundred thousand dollars above our operational expenses during this time in order to execute a well thought out and carefully crafted plan of action. If you can contribute



Since resigning as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearland, Scarborough has traveled to numerous churches to encourage Christians to become involved. His message is clear — "The church has become a silent partner to the growing despair and agony that is the national by-product of sin in the society, and today is the day that we must again, with deep dedication, say 'enough is enough' and stand up and be counted!"

to this project we would be ever so grateful.

Please pray for our travels this month. My schedule is on Page 2; however, it is important that you check the website frequently for changes.

I am ...

Your friend and servant,

Rick Scarborough



"America is at a crossroad," Rev. Jerry Falwell told pastors July 8, at Trinity Church in Lubbock, Texas. "Vision America needs to rally millions of conservative Christians to vote for persons — Democrat or Republican — who hold to biblical values."

Reporter says 'Falwell passing the torch'

Vision America catches the eye of secular press

[Information for the article below is used with permission from the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Lubbock, TX. To read the entire article, go to www.visionamerica.org.]

The Rev. Jerry Falwell, spokesman for the Religious Right, is passing the torch from the defunct Moral Majority to the Rev. Rick Scarborough and his Vision America, according to Beth Pratt, Religious Editor for the Lubbock newspaper.

Falwell was keynote speaker at a meeting sponsored by Vision America at Trinity Activity Center in Lubbock, TX, July 8. He urged pastors to be the "Prophet of God to this day" as Nehemiah was in the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and the reestablishment of religious law.

See 'Falwell', page 2 ...

... **Falwell** (continued from page 1)

Falwell emphasized that the idea that America was built upon the separation of church and state is a myth, drawing a scattering of “amens” from around the room.

Asked if he expects the government to establish the kingdom of God, Falwell said he does not, but added, “America is at a crossroads. ... Our contribution is to work for and pray for peace and righteousness in the culture.”

Falwell said that no Christian can vote in good conscience for candidates who are pro-choice in abortion, support homosexual rights legislation or object to military action in defense of the nation.

“Vision America needs to rally millions of conservative Christians to vote for persons — Democrat or Republican — who hold to biblical values,” Falwell said.

Scarborough, president of Vision America, resigned June 23 as pastor of First

Baptist Church of Pearland to give full attention to Vision America. He plans to mobilize pastors nationwide in a get-out-the-vote campaign.

Rev. Andy Hollinger, pastor of Slide Baptist Church, agreeing that Vision America has merit, said “We as Christians need to become more involved in influencing our community through the process. That’s what freedom is about.”

Scarborough asked pastors to teach Christian civic responsibilities from the pulpit, to bring voter registration cards to the church to urge all Christians to register and vote.

“It’s time for us to stand in the marketplace and defend our God,” Scarborough said. “We’ve been so good at presenting the light that we’ve ceased to be the salt.”

As an evangelist, he was discouraged that even the church paid no attention to his



Carl Toti, Pastor of Trinity Church, Lubbock, Jerry Falwell and Rick Scarborough discuss the Christian’s responsibility to vote for Godly candidates

message of renewal and revival. He says he does not expect to gather a majority following, but God can use a dedicated minority to accomplish his purposes. “We can no longer sit back and hope America gets well. Revival comes when people get off their knees and march for what is right.”

Ninth Circuit Court says “under God” is unconstitutional

BY RICK SCARBOROUGH

As George Washington prepared to enter private life at the conclusion of his valiant and storied career, he delivered his farewell address to the nation. In it he stated:

“In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The new politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked where is the security for prosperity for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in the courts of justice?”

And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. Tis substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government ... Can it not be that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue.”

Since 1962, with the unprecedented ruling by the Supreme Court that the United States

Constitution forbade prayer in the public schools, there has been an unrelenting assault on religion in America. The Courts of our land simply declared war on God. For a brief moment following September 11, there was a wonderfully affirming resurgence of national recognition that America needed God. Prayer and patriotism reappeared as the national psyche was terrorized and suddenly reminded that we needed His guidance and protection. I contributed an article to Whistleblower Magazine in December, along with Dr. James Dobson and other religious leaders acknowledging America’s dependence on God. My article was entitled **Welcome Back, God** which was intended to remind readers that, in fact, God had never left America, but rather we had left Him.

On June 22, 2002, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-to-1 decision, ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional. What’s next? The Declaration of Independence? The Court stated “a profession that we are a nation ‘under God’ is identical, for Establishment Clause purposes, to a profession that we are a nation ‘under Jesus,’ ‘under Vishnu,’ a nation ‘under Zeus,’ or a nation ‘under no God.’”

Judge Fernandez issued a dissent from the opinion that stated, “we will soon find ourselves prohibited from using our album of patriotic songs in many public settings. ‘God Bless America’ and ‘America the Beautiful’

will be gone for sure, and while use of the first and second stanzas of the ‘Star Spangled Banner’ will be permissible, we will be precluded from straying into the third. And currency beware.”

Polling data consistently reveals that 96 percent of the American people believe in a Supreme Being. The writings of our Founding Fathers make it clear that they believed in a Supreme Being. The justification for a revolution and a war with England for our independence was predicated by unalienable rights bestowed on all mankind by the Creator... nature’s God.

Americans need to be reminded that in this case the “Courts” are not to blame, but rather two appointed judges who have names and an agenda. Scripture states, “strike a scoffer and strife will cease.” When a man armed with a lifetime appointment, unaccountable to the electorate, chooses to rewrite the laws of the land counteracting the will of the people, in direct contradiction to the intent of our Founders, they should be removed. Impeachment proceedings should be initiated immediately. Now is the time for Pastors across America to “stand up, speak up and refuse to give up.” If we won’t stand for God, why should we expect Him to stand for us?

Mat Staver, legal authority and founder of Liberty Counsel stated, “The absurdity of this opinion is what mandates that it

See ‘Ninth Circuit Court’ on page 4 ...

What Pastors Can Do

Pastors and their spouses are invited to join us at Vision America's exciting event -- the **2002 Houston Gala** as we celebrate our honorees for the **Hero of Faith Award**.

The Honorable Roy S. Moore, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, nationally praised for keeping the Ten Commandments and prayer in his courtroom, is the National Honoree.

The Gala general reception will begin at 6:15 p.m., Thursday, August 22, at the Westin Galleria Hotel. Dinner will follow. As our guests, there is no charge for pastors and their spouses.

For reservations, please send your name, address and telephone number to Vision America, 2019 State Street, Houston, Texas 77007, or call us at 713-869-1413 for further information.

Rick Scarborough Speaking Schedule

August 04, 2002, 10:45 a.m.

First Baptist Church, Littlefield

806.385.4414

Hosting pastor Joe Stewart

August 11, 2002, 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

First Baptist Church, Houston

713.681.8000

Hosting pastor David Self

August 18, 2002, 10:30 a.m.

Birchman Baptist Church, Ft Worth

817.244.6590

Hosting pastor Bob Pearle

August 19, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

Area Wide Rally

Solid Rock Baptist Church

254.968.8118

Hosting pastor Dwaine Clower

August 20, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

Area Wide Rally

First Baptist Church, Buffalo Gap

915.572.3449,

Hosting pastor Dwaine Clower

August 25, 2002, 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church, Katy

281.391.1100

Justice Roy S. Moore to be honored at Vision America Annual Gala



Alabama State Supreme Court Chief Justice Judge Roy Moore is a modern, real life David, who has proven that Christians can make a difference if they're willing to face

ostracism and criticism for their faith.

On August 22, Judge Moore will be in Houston to be honored by Vision America at our annual Gala and Celebration at the Westin Galleria Hotel. Reservations for this wonderful event are available by calling the Vision America offices at 1-877-486-6633 or by visiting our web site at www.visionamerica.org and clicking on **2002 Houston Gala Banquet**. Pastors and their spouses are invited to attend at no charge as guests of Vision America.

Chief Justice Moore gained national notoriety in 1992 when he posted a copy of the Ten Commandments in his court room. The ACLU et al filed a lawsuit to have the Commandments removed, citing the First Amendment and alleging that the posting of the Ten Commandments in effect was a state endorsement of religion.

Judge Moore refused to remove the Commandments. Remaining steadfast in his belief that Christians must stand up for what they believe, Judge Moore said "God demands of us our faith ... I don't have any doubt that no matter what happens to me or my case, God is going to prevail, because we're not taking

down the Ten Commandments and we're not stopping prayer."

When ordered to so by the Court in January 1997, Judge Moore still refused to remove the Ten Commandments. "I consider it my duty to acknowledge God," he said. "To take down the Ten Commandments would be a violation of that duty. To stop prayer would be a violation of that duty. I will not take down the Ten Commandments. I will not stop prayer."

The ACLU was outraged, but the good citizens of Alabama rewarded him by overwhelmingly electing him as the Chief Justice to the State Supreme Court.

In February of this year he again championed his faith by writing a classic opinion legally defending the unanimous decision of the Court rejecting a lower court decision to allow custody of three children to their mother and her homosexual partner.

Citing judicial precedence, he traced the court's decision through other court decisions defining homosexual unions as deviant and immoral and defining family as consisting of a male and a female.

"To disfavor practicing homosexuals in custody matters is not invidious discrimination, nor is it legislating personal morality. On the contrary ... [it] promotes the general welfare of the people of our State in accordance with our law, which is the duty of its public servants. The family unit does consist, and always has consisted, of a 'father, mother and their children, [and] their immediate kindred, constituting [the] fundamental social unit in civilized society.'

To reward a parent, who steps outside that unit by committing a 'crime against

nature' with custody of a child would represent a reprehensible affront to the laws of family government that the State must preserve. The best interests of children is not promoted by such a subversion of fundamental law, the very foundation of the family and of society itself. The State may not -- must not -- encourage the destruction of the family."

Uncommonly courageous and unyielding, Justice Moore stood firm for Christian values -- for the laws of the state of Alabama -- and more importantly, the laws of God. And Christians across America are praising his concurring opinion in the "gay parenting" case!

Tom Jipping, writing for Concerned Women for America, reported that Judge Moore has received letters of support from 184 pastors from across the United States, and several foreign countries thanking him for defending normal, mother-father parenting as best for children.

Pastor Ralph Ovadal, Director, Wisconsin Christians United said "[The Alabama Supreme Court] ruling should be celebrated by thankful Christians all across America. It should likewise encourage men and women of principle everywhere that the battle for God-defined liberty and God-ordained law is not lost. May the Lord bless and strengthen Judge Roy Moore and the Alabama Supreme Court in the coming days."

Pro-homosexual activists condemn Judge Moore, claiming the Chief Justice relied solely on what they call bigoted, Christian bias. Of course, in their fervor to condemn him, they seem to conveniently forget that it was a unanimous decision by all nine Justices ... not merely Justice Moore.



Vision America
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Stand up! Speak up! And refuse to Give up!

... Ninth Circuit Court *(continued from page 2)*

be overturned. There is absolutely nothing unconstitutional about the phrase 'under God' in our pledge. To simply allow one person who is offended to overturn such a vital piece of our national heritage is an outrage ... the Federal Court spit in the face of our veterans who shed their blood for the freedom we enjoy... the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is the most reversed Court in the country by the Supreme Court. The decision will certainly be overturned."

This case was initiated by Michael Newdow, a professed atheist. He argued that "his second grade daughter was injured by listening to other students recite the pledge of allegiance, even though she herself was not required to recite it."

Of course, when Newdow brought suit on behalf of his daughter, whom he said was "offended" by recitation of the Pledge, he conveniently forgot to mention that his

daughter actually attends Sunday school and loves the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since the ruling, the girl's mother, Sandra Banning, has sent a statement to members of Congress clearly saying it is the father, not the daughter who is offended.

In her discussions with a Jerry Falwell Ministries staff member, Mrs. Banning "expressed sadness about the decision." She said that her daughter had told her that she will still whisper 'one nation under God' so no one will hear her and know she is breaking the law."

Mrs. Banning also stressed that she was concerned that "the American public would be led to believe that my daughter is an atheist." Of course, that's precisely what people have been led to believe.

Newdow's latest claim is that recitation of the Pledge injures **his right** as a parent to direct the religious upbringing of his child.

It is blatantly apparent that Newdow will do anything, including manipulating his own daughter, to further his personal quest.

Meanwhile, millions of children have been harmed by a small minority of malicious and activist judges who have systematically created a secular state that is anti-religious and hostile to people of faith.

While our children have not been forced to believe in evolution or deny that God exists, they have been injured by listening to lectures devoid of values that convinced them they are evolutionary species without Divine assistance and accountable to no one.

Reared in society without God and therefore without hope, they now find themselves in a sea of immorality and growing lawlessness. Perhaps it is time for you and me to be outraged and defend our belief that God IS and to demand that our judges reflect our values.

Vision America Online

Keep informed about Vision America publications, activities and events by frequently going online to our newly re-designed web site. You'll find calendars, action alerts, updates and more at:

www.visionamerica.org

Mission Statement

The mission of Vision America is to inform, encourage and mobilize pastors and congregations to be proactive in restoring Judeo-Christian values into the culture and civil institutions in our nation.

Vision America

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