

California Gay Ruling May Spark Evangelical Activism

Harry R. Jackson Jr., senior pastor of Hope Christian Church, told Charisma Thursday that the decision by the California Supreme Court to overturn two state laws defining marriage as between one man and one woman may propel evangelicals to greater political activism.



[] Christian observers say Thursday's decision by the California Supreme Court to overturn two state laws defining marriage as between one man and one woman may propel evangelicals to greater political activism.

During a Strang-sponsored teleconference Thursday night, Harry R. Jackson Jr., senior pastor of Maryland-based Hope Christian Church, told *Charisma's* publisher, Stephen Strang, that the 4-3 decision went against Californians' popular opinion and that the decision may "wake the sleeping giant of evangelical activism to reinsert itself in this election."

"Until now, the litmus test issues of abortion and gay marriage have not been the mainstay of the faith community's discussion," Jackson said. "This ruling will change everything."

The decision, which could go into effect next month, drew a firestorm of reactions from citizens and leaders across the nation.

Opponents of the decision want the court to stay the ruling until November when a proposed state constitutional amendment that garnered 1 million signatures and has already been submitted to election officials is expected to be on the ballot. If passed the amendment could reverse the Supreme Court's decision and once again define marriage in California as only between a man and a woman.

Louis P. Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition, says the recent verdict only makes the need for a national constitutional amendment more urgent.

“This only sharpens into focus the need for a national, federal amendment to the U.S. Constitution to fully protect marriage between a man and a woman,” he said. “Forty-four states have constitutional or statutory prohibitions against same-sex marriage; therefore, a constitutional amendment at the federal level has a basis within these states.”

Listen to the Strang-sponsored teleconference with Harry Jackson.

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

Overall Prince Caspian is highly entertaining. It offers just the right mix of intrigue, action and humor. But the biblical principles and lessons woven throughout make this more than just another movie.



[] Confession: I have never read a C.S. Lewis book. At least for now I can just see the movies based on his Chronicles of Narnia series.

When I was watching the latest film, *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*, I had one moment when I thought about Lewis and wondered what he pictured in his mind's eye when he was writing these fantasy scenes. Even though I know some liberties had to be taken with special effects (which were great), I'm sure Lewis would appreciate the depiction (wait, I've not read the books, how would I know).

I truly enjoyed *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch*

and the Wardrobe, but I must say I like *Prince Caspian* even more. I am sure in part because of the adorable mouse Reepicheep (I'm a sucker for cute creatures) but also for the adventure and the spiritual lessons presented.

When Prince Caspian of Narnia is in danger he calls out for help. Little did he realize that he would summon the Kings and Queens of Narnia, the four Pevensie children transported from England. Their year in England means 1,300 years in Narnia have passed and things are not the same. The Telmarines have taken over, led by the evil King Miraz, Prince Caspian's uncle, who is plotting to kill the prince so his own son can take over the throne.

The Pevensie siblings set out to restore Prince Caspian to his rightful position with the help of the Narnians, a talking badger and other captivating characters. Along the way, the group wonders where Aslan is and why he isn't there to help them. Lucy has the faith to see Aslan, but the others don't and they don't believe her. She begins to question herself. All the warriors strive to take out the enemy in their own strength—but they fail.

I hate to give anything in a movie away, but I will encourage you to pay close attention to Lucy's encounters with Aslan. Their affection for each other gives us a wonderful picture of how God feels about us and how we can approach Him—sans the fur of course. I appreciate so much when God uses modern things, even movies, to help me better understand Him.

Overall *Prince Caspian* is highly entertaining. It offers just the right mix of intrigue, action (the battle scenes are exhilarating but not gruesome) and humor. But the biblical principles and lessons woven throughout make this more than just another movie.

This film is rated PG for the battle scenes. There is also a scene that involves several dark, evil creatures that would make this movie inappropriate for young children.

Leigh DeVore is the assistant editor of *Charisma*. She is determined to one day read some of C.S. Lewis' writings.

Seven Steps to Being Spirit-Filled

Some people have suggested that the baptism in the Holy Spirit was only for the early disciples who needed an extra "charge" or a unique gift to get Christianity started. Well, we need it too! God's power is for today. You can have your own personal experience with the Spirit

At a Glance

Remember that the Holy Spirit is holy

Understand that this gift is for you

Hunger for all God has for you

Ask God to baptize you in the Holy Spirit

Believe that God will give you the promise by faith

By faith, worship God in the new language He gives you

Live by the Spirit

1. Remember that the Holy Spirit is holy. He will not enter an unclean vessel. Only Christians receive this experience. It belongs to no other religion and cannot occur unless a person accepts Jesus as his or her personal Lord and Savior.

2. Understand that this gift is for you. Some are afraid of the experience because they grew up in a denomination that was critical of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. But you have nothing to fear from any of the gifts He has for you. Jesus said, "'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'" (Luke 11:11-13, NIV). The promise is for anyone who asks!

3. Hunger for all God has for you. There must be a holy ambition, a desire for more of Jesus, and a pure devotion in our hearts when we seek anything from God. There can be no impure motivations or any desire to have the gift so that we can use it for our own benefit.

4. Ask God to baptize you in the Holy Spirit. Some people receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit at the time of their salvation. Others come into this experience decades after their conversions. For whatever reason, they did not ask for it. If you want to receive it, schedule a time to be alone with God or to attend a Bible study or church where this experience is common. Then ask Him to baptize you in the Spirit.

5. Believe that God will give you the promise by faith. When my wife and I give birthday gifts to our grandchildren, they reach out their hands and take the gifts. We are eager to give and they are happy to receive. They do not need to beg us. So it is with the infilling of the Spirit. It brings God great pleasure to give you this gift.

6. By faith, worship God in the new language He gives you. When you begin praying in tongues, remember that your spirit is praying. The devil has no idea what you are saying, but God understands the language of your spirit. You may not know what you are saying to God (see I Cor. 14:2), but you can sense that you are communicating with Him from your heart.

7. Live by the Spirit. Every day you can choose to live a holy life, be sensitive to God's will and serve God with all your heart. When people live by the Spirit they have a tender heart toward the things of God and are sensitive to the needs of others. Their lifestyle will include repentance, forgiveness, holiness, boldness, courage and power. As you walk in the Spirit you will discover a spiritual power that is greater than human strength. Now is the time to plug in!

Tips for Healing After an Affair

Here are some steps to take to begin the process of healing from an affair:

1. Cease all contact with the person outside the marriage who was involved in the affair.
2. Express feelings related to the crisis.
3. Identify what made you vulnerable to an affair.
4. Figure out what the affair meant. Did you lose your spiritual grounding or want to hurt your partner? Are you afraid of intimacy, or is there some other reason for it occurring?
5. Forgive. Unforgiveness leads to bitterness and a host of physical and psychological problems.
6. Build caring moments into the relationship again.
7. Move toward reconciliation. Restore trust by trustworthy behavior and assurance. Don't live in fear of a recurrence. Determine to do things God's way.
8. Get counseling that incorporates the Word, prayer and leading of the Holy Spirit. There may be multiple wounds to be healed.
9. Don't live in continual condemnation after trust and true repentance have been established.
10. Believe God can restore what was broken and lost. This is His business. Your past is not a prologue to your future in God.

Why Tongues?

The gift of tongues is still very much in evidence today. It is not meant to replace normal Christian responsibilities or minimize the importance of the Bible, but it will enhance all the good things of God already in your life.

At a Glance

Personal evidence

Praise declaration

Impetus for the Great Commission

Uniform experience

Spirit-inspired prayer

Same-Spirit continuity

1. **Personal evidence.** The Holy Spirit uses tongues as a miraculous, abiding sign. Miracle languages confirm the inner presence of the Spirit by using the body member most dependent on volitional, human intelligence—the tongue (see Acts 2:4; 10:44-47; 19:6; James 3:8).

2. **Praise declaration.** Tongues initiates a prophetic gush of inspired worship and causes the heart to soar in adoration and worship unattainable by human means, creating “the fruit of the lips” (see Is. 57:19; Heb. 13:15; John 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3).

3. **Impetus for the Great Commission.** Tongues reaffirms our call to the nations and the urgency of the Great Commission. The baptism with the Holy Spirit ignites, through various languages, a burning passion to proclaim Christ to every ethnic group (see Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-17; Luke 24:47-49).

4. **Uniform experience.** The expression of tongues at the time of Spirit baptism authenticates the experience as genuine and gives evidence that it is the same as that of believers everywhere. It reverses Babel's curse of separation and instead initiates unity (see Gen. 11:7-9; Acts 10:46; 11:15-16; 15:8).

5. **Spirit-inspired prayer.** The miraculous gift of tongues, which is activated by the Holy Spirit, brings glorious new dimension of prayer into our lives. Though of course we should pray in our native languages as well, praying in tongues allows us to relate to God through our spirits rather than our minds (see Rom. 8:15; 1 Cor. 14:2; Eph. 6:18; Jude 20).

6. **Same-Spirit continuity.** Speaking in tongues authenticates the continuing, abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in both the individual and the body of Christ. Miraculous tongues continue as a convincing witness and evidence of the Spirit of Pentecost wherever the Gospel is preached: “And these signs will follow those who believe. ... They will speak with new tongues” (Mark 16:17).

Christians Assist Victims of Myanmar Cyclone

World Vision, the Christian humanitarian organization, has nearly 600 staff members on the ground assisting victims affected by Cyclone Nargis.



[] The day after Myanmar’s isolationist government allowed one U.S. military cargo plane access to the cyclone-ravaged nation, World Vision already had nearly 600 staff members on the ground assisting victims.

Ever since Cyclone Nargis made landfall on May 3, the Christian humanitarian organization, which has had offices in Myanmar for the last 40 years, has helped nearly 80,000 victims of the natural disaster, providing \$175,000 worth of food, water and medicine from local vendors.

Though many have been assisted so far, World Vision said many more remain and with little time to spare.

“We have a very narrow window of opportunity to ensure people have access to potable drinking water and sanitation,” said Samson Jeyakumar, a child development specialist with World Vision. “Disease outbreaks spread by dirty water, poor sanitation and mosquitoes are a major concern. Our priority will be to save children and their families from diseases that

spread quickly, such as diarrhea, dysentery, malaria and others in the wake of disasters such as this.”

In the Irrawaddy delta, one of the worst hit coastal areas, workers have been feverishly working to chlorinate wells, provide drinking tanks and disinfect camps to help offset diseases that could arise from the tens of thousands of people and animals living in close quarters.

Recent reports of the death toll from the country have risen to 32,000. At least 40,000 are still missing. Many in the international community are chiding Myanmar’s authoritarian regime for not allowing more trained aid workers into the country before the death toll rises higher.

“Unless more aid gets into the country—very quickly—we face an outbreak of infectious diseases that could dwarf today's crisis,” said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, according to the Associated Press. “I therefore call, in the most strenuous terms, on the government of Myanmar to put its people's lives first.”

Paul Cain ~ Totally Misunderstood™ at Lakeland Revival

Paul Cain stirred controversy last week when he made comments before thousands of worshippers in Lakeland, Fla., that seemed to deny his past moral failings.



[] Paul Cain stirred controversy last week when he made comments before thousands of worshippers in Lakeland, Fla., that seemed to deny his past moral failings.

The prominent 78-year-old prophetic minister told a crowd at a revival meeting in Lakeland that “allegations” and rumors circulating about him were not true.

The comments made many wonder whether, in alluding to his past, Cain was withdrawing his confession from three years ago, when he publicly acknowledged his failings involving alcoholism and homosexuality.

But a senior spokesperson affiliated with what’s dubbed the Florida Outpouring told *Charisma* that Cain was not denying his sins, but instead was attempting to refute any perception that he had not repented of them.

“It was unfortunate that Paul said something [May 4] that has now been misunderstood,” said Stephen Strader, senior pastor at Ignited Church, a converted storefront on the north side of Lakeland that traveling evangelist Todd Bentley quickly outgrew after revival broke out on April 2.

“Initial reaction to Cain’s statements caused many to believe he was denying [his past sin],” Strader said. “But Paul was referring to the rumors that he had not been restored and had not gone through a restoration process. It was just totally misunderstood.”

Three prominent Spirit-filled leaders—Mike Bickle, Rick Joyner and Jack Deere—urged Cain to submit to a specific process of restoration and healing after his dramatic public confession in 2005. But Cain eventually refused their recommendations and was deemed “fully restored” by a somewhat unknown ministry in California.

Because the three men were not familiar with the process Cain underwent, Bickle, Joyner and Deere released a statement last year saying: “We cannot say with confidence that this is a genuine restoration.”

Strader believes Cain’s restoration could be genuine. “Whether or not we agree with the group that restored him is irrelevant. He feels he’s been restored. Many people feel he’s

been restored. We simply invited Paul to be present for when we replayed his prophecy from 1999.”

That prophecy, according to Cain’s Web site, involved a vision he had in 1999 where he saw “stadiums being filled in the last days” in Florida. Cain said astonishing miracles would take place and that the impact would eventually be felt globally.

“It would be presumptuous for us to say that this is it, but there is every indication that this is it,” Strader said of the prophecy. More than 10,000 people attended meetings each evening last weekend in Lakeland. Venues have included an arena, an open field and a stadium.

“This is day 41 and we are now fulfilling that prophecy, not because we wanted to, but because we’ve had to,” he said. “We did not plan to go to a stadium. It never even crossed our mind to go to a stadium. We were forced into a stadium because there wasn’t a large enough facility available to us.

“The only thing Paul was invited for was to honor him, honor the gift. We love Paul. He was not invited as a speaker. We honored the man, honored his years of service, and that was it. We did not restore him to ministry or anything.”

Though he did not respond to *Charisma*’s attempt to seek further clarification, the following statement was posted on Cain’s Web site: “The allegations that Paul was referring to on Sunday in Florida as being untrue were simply allegations that he was unrepentant. Paul has repented of any wrongdoing publicly and has been fully forgiven and restored.”

Strader told *Charisma* Cain had a stroke shortly after the incident last week, but is reportedly stable and recovering.

Now in its sixth consecutive week, the Florida Outpouring is an ongoing phenomenon of twice-daily revival meetings conducted by Bentley in large venues throughout Lakeland.

In addition to reports of miraculous healings and euphoric worship, millions worldwide watching the meetings on GOD TV or

the Internet have fueled the revival. Bentley has characterized it as possibly the first “21st century revival.” –PAUL STEVEN GHIRINGHELLI

Gospel Legend Dottie Rambo Dies in Bus Accident

Gospel singer and songwriter Dottie Rambo died after her tour bus ran off the highway and struck an embankment. She was 74.



[] Gospel singer and songwriter Dottie Rambo died after her tour bus ran off the highway and struck an embankment while on her way to perform a Mother’s Day concert in North Richland Hills, Texas. She was 74.

Six other people were on the tour bus when it crashed at about 2 a.m. on May 11 a couple miles east of Mount Vernon, Mo., reported the Associated Press (AP). The remaining passengers were transported to a Missouri hospital with moderate to severe injuries, according to early AP reports.

Authorities said they were uncertain whether or not the accident was caused by deadly weekend storms and tornadoes in Missouri and Oklahoma that have made national headlines.

In a message posted on their Web site, Bill and Gloria Gaither called Rambo a beloved friend and gospel music legend.

“In this time of profound sadness, what a wonderful consolation it is to know that Dottie Rambo is face to face with her Savior right now, undoubtedly realizing that everything she wrote about Him is truer than she ever would have dared to imagine,” the couple said.

The gospel giant, who lived in Nashville, Tenn., influenced

the gospel industry through her numerous songs, receiving a myriad of accolades for her accomplishments. Some well-known songs she composed included: "He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need"; "We Shall Behold Him"; and "I Go to the Rock," which was recorded by Whitney Houston in the 1996 movie *The Preacher's Wife*.

She also composed for Elvis Presley, Barbara Mandrell, Bill Monroe, Johnny Cash, Vince Gill, Dottie West, Pat Boone, Sandi Patty, the Oak Ridge Boys and many others.

During the duration of her career she was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2007, the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in 2006 and was dubbed Songwriter of the Century by the Christian Country Music Association in 1994.

Dolly Parton also recorded some of her songs and received numerous awards for them. "I know Dottie is in heaven in the arms of God right now, but our earth angel will surely be missed," Parton commented, according to the AP. "Dottie was a dear friend, a fellow singer, songwriter and entertainer, and as of late my duet singing partner."

Rambo is survived by her daughter, Reba Rambo-McGuire. Funeral arrangements are yet to be announced.

Leaders Seek to Reclaim the "Evangelical" Label

Dozens of evangelical leaders including Os Guinness signed a manifesto urging U.S. Christians to be "evangelicals" as an expression of their faith, not their voting preferences.



[] Dozens of prominent evangelical leaders signed a manifesto

Wednesday urging Christians in the U.S. to be “evangelicals” as an expression of their faith, not their voting preferences.

Addressed to fellow believers as well as the American public, the document dubbed “An Evangelical Manifesto: A Declaration of Evangelical Identity and Public Commitment” states that “the confusions and corruptions that attend the term evangelical” have grown so deep that “the character of what [evangelical] means has been obscured and its importance lost.”

The declaration, which was released Wednesday, was also meant as an appeal for other leaders to sign and adopt and was notably missing support from prominent Christian conservatives such as Focus on the Family’s James Dobson, Family Research Council’s Tony Perkins and Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention. “The closed group of people working on the [Evangelical Manifesto] apparently excludes traditional conservative and pro-family evangelical voices,” said Janice Shaw Crouse, senior fellow at the Beverly LaHaye Institute, a conservative think tank for the Washington, Concerned Women for America.

Crouse said the timing of the manifesto during a major election year causes it to emerge as a “political document” through which its authors and endorsers “appear to be making a power play to launch new public faces for evangelicalism.”

Yet the declaration is significantly self-critical, disapproving of all the political forms evangelicals might assume, both conservative and liberal. “As followers of ‘the narrow way,’ our concern is not for approval and popular esteem,” the document says. “Too many of the problems we face as evangelicals in the [U.S.] are those of our own making. If we protest, our protest has to begin with ourselves.”

Three “mandates” outlined in the 19-page document called on believers to reaffirm their Christian identity “according to the Good News of Jesus of Nazareth”; reform church behaviors to reflect true worship, sacrifice and discipleship and not

“commercial, diluted, and feel-good gospels of health, wealth, human potential, and religious happy talk”; and lastly, rethink Christians’ place in public life by not using Christian beliefs “as weapons for political interests.”

“Christians become ‘useful idiots’ for one political party or another,” the document warns of the consequences relating to the politicization of faith.

The document was drafted by several prominent evangelicals, including social critic Os Guinness, author and professor Dallas Willard and Rich Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary. Among the more than 70 charter signatories were Jack Hayford, president of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Stephen Strang, founder and publisher of *Charisma*; and Bible teacher Kay Arthur.

Revivalists Aim to Spark Worldwide Revival

Ché Ahn, senior pastor of Harvest Rock, along with several other leaders of major charismatic ministries have joined together and created an organization aimed at world evangelization.



[] Several major charismatic ministries known for stoking revival around the globe have joined together and created an organization aimed at world newly formed Revival Alliance officially launched in March during a conference at Harvest Rock Church in Pasadena, Calif., dubbed Releasing the Supernatural. Ché Ahn, senior pastor of Harvest Rock and co-founder of Revival Alliance, said he believes global transformation is possible if revivalists from large existing ministries link with smaller, lesser-known ones. “The concept

[is] to fulfill the prayers Jesus modeled in John 17 by capturing people's hearts for revival of the nations," he told Charisma.

The idea for a network of revival-based ministries stemmed from a prophecy given by apostolic minister Bob Jones to Rolland and Heidi Baker of Mozambique-based Iris Ministries. "[The alliance] seemed to come together effortlessly," said Rolland Baker, a co-founder of the alliance who credits Ahn as a major impetus. Things formed "simply because we like and enjoy one another, and not just because we all have large ministries."

In addition to Ahn and the Bakers, founding members of Revival Alliance include Bill Johnson, senior pastor of Bethel Church in Redding, Calif.; Randy Clark, head of Global Awakening; and John Arnott, founding pastor of Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship and leader of Partners in Harvest, an international network of churches.

Each of the leaders oversees large ministries that have spawned thousands of churches worldwide. "I've gone into 36 nations, and 5,000 churches have grown from our ministry," said Ahn, also pointing out that the Bakers have been catalysts for planting nearly 10,000 churches worldwide. "We and the others walk in unity and try to hear together what God is saying to us. There's great strength in unity."

The network's leaders and their spouses will meet during the year to fellowship and seek God to discern which direction they should move in. "The unique thing about this alliance is we want to give ourselves to other people's success," Johnson said. "We want to give whatever we have to others in the team. It's not at all about whose name is above the door."

In keeping with such a mind-set, Revival Alliance leaders prayed for two dozen mostly unknown young leaders during March's inaugural conference in Pasadena and commissioned them to minister around the world.

Johnson said one key goal of the alliance is to connect pastors and leaders who have established ministry work in order to build trust among them and to maximize their effectiveness. "We all have different focuses and don't want to duplicate one another's efforts," Johnson said. "The point is to maximize the spheres of influence each of us have.

"We get together as much to hold each other up in prayer as to pray for transformation of nations," he added. "The future of the network is rooted in servanthood and relationship."**Josie Newman**