

High School Grants Pro-life Group Equal Status

The Alliance Defense Fund dropped a federal lawsuit last week, against a high school who had denied a student-based, pro-life group permission to form on its campus.



[02.04.08] The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) dropped a federal lawsuit in late January against a high school in the San Jose, Calif., area that had denied a student-based, pro-life group permission to form on its campus.

The case dated back to October when Paria Amini, a 17-year-old student at Westmont High School, attempted to gain approval for her pro-life club but, according to the ADF, was denied official status along with all rights, benefits and privileges that other recognized groups receive.

School officials also allegedly denied her club any avenue for promotion and for telling other students the club even existed, because it was too controversial.

But ADF lawyer David Cortman said public schools must take the constitutional rights of pro-life students just as seriously as they do those of other students.

“Pro-life students shouldn’t be discriminated against because of their beliefs,” he said. “The students weren’t asking for special treatment.”

Suspect Denies Plan to Kill

Christian Publisher's Staff

The first of five young Turkish Muslims on trial for torturing and killing three Christians recently took the witness stand and vigorously denied that the group had planned to kill the evangelicals.



[02.01.08] The first of five young Turkish Muslims on trial for torturing and killing three Christians who worked at an evangelical publishing house in Turkey recently took the witness stand, vigorously denying that the group had planned to kill the evangelicals, Compass Direct News reported.

In the chilling testimony of the final hours of Necati Aydin, Ugur Yuksel and Tilmann Geske, accused killer Hamit Ceker told the Third Criminal Court in the southeastern Turkish province of Malatya on Jan. 14 that during the savage attack against the three at Zirve Publishing Company's office last April 18, he saw leading suspect Emre Gunaydin slit the throats of two of the Christians.

Although Ceker testified that they had brought along guns, rope, knives, plastic gloves and an Islamic protective prayer inscription, he insisted the purpose of the operation was to seize incriminating evidence against the Christians, not to kill them, Compass reported. The court is scheduled to resume interrogation of the remaining four suspects Feb. 25.

In a demonstration three years ago, local protesters had claimed Zirve's publishing and distribution activities constituted "proselytism" among Muslims and that the company should be closed down, Compass reported.

In a TV interview the day after the massacre, one of the men's wives forgave her husband's killers, following the example of Christ who pardoned His murderers and citing Jesus' prayer: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Zirve reopened last May after being sealed off for more than a month for the police investigation, the *Turkish Daily News* reported.

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Start the New Year With God's Word

Whether you need a new Bible for 2008 or a new way of delving into Scripture, options abound.

TheCall Meets in Florida

TheCall, a worship, prayer and fasting event, will convene this Saturday in Orlando, Fla. Organizers say Florida is critical for changing America's spiritual landscape.



[01.31.08] TheCall, a worship, prayer and fasting event that continues to draw tens of thousands of people to pray, convenes this Saturday in Orlando, Fla.

Lou Engle, who founded TheCall nearly eight years ago, believes that the prayer meeting in the sunshine state is critical for changing America's spiritual landscape.

"Not only is Florida a swing state for the elections, but also it is a swing state for revival in the nation," Engle said. He pointed out two cases in Florida's past—the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube and the controversial abortion of baby Rowan, both in 2005—as evidence of Florida's ground-zero status in America's battle over life issues.

This Saturday's prayer rally will be held in Orlando's Silver Spurs Arena and will focus on fasting, personal holiness and corporate repentance. Organizers emphasized that the event is not a festival, but a fast.

They said prayer would also be lifted up for the abortion

issue.

“For 12 hours, we gather not for entertainment but to turn to the Lord with fasting, brokenness and worship,” Engle said.

Leading up to Saturday’s prayer assembly a 21-day fast and a seven-day fast are in progress.

“Great moves of God have come out of Florida in the last 30 years,” Engle said. “The sounds of prayer that birthed those movements are rumbling again.”

TheCall travels to Montgomery, Ala., and San Diego this April, culminating in September on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., prior to the presidential election.

Christians Invade Extreme Sports Arena

A rising number of Christian competitors are making their presence felt in the dangerous arena of extreme sports.



[01.30.08] To most, extreme sports conjure up images of young thrill-seekers with hedonistic lifestyles.

But a rising number of Christian competitors are making their presence felt in this dangerous arena the *Denver Post* reported.

At the recent Winter X games in Aspen, Colo., snowboards featured Jesus stickers and Christian competitors opted out of the party scene, hoping to inspire others with their example.

“Snowboarding can only take you so far,” said Tommy Czeschin,

a 12-year pro boarder. "You can win lots of events but still be empty inside."

Photo Credit: Benjamin Earwicker

Winning Souls

Judy Bauer has a passion for discipleship. Through Kingdom Advancement Ministries she has been training Christians worldwide to evangelize the lost.



[01.29.08] Judy Bauer has a passion for discipleship. Through Kingdom Advancement Ministries, which she founded in 1979, she has been training Christians worldwide to evangelize the lost and help new believers grow in their relationships with Christ.

She says more than 100,000 people have come to Christ in the last 28 years, and some congregations have doubled in size as a result of their renewed emphasis on evangelism. Bauer, a former church secretary, says God gave her the system she calls Tools for the Trade.

"I just wrote for days as the Holy Spirit revealed God's heartbeat for equipping His people," she says.

The strategy teaches people to lead 10 Bible studies that address topics such as salvation, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, healing, prayer and faith. Now, almost 30 years since she first wrote the materials, Bauer believes there is a greater urgency to mobilize and equip the church to evangelize.

"We are escalating towards the time of Christ's return," Bauer

says. "Believers around the world are starving in the pews waiting and wanting to experience God's life and power working through them to set the captives free. The time of equipping is now. The opportunity is here." **—Mary Hudson**