

Prayer Censorship Case Hits Appellate Court

✘ The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit is busy these days. After hearing arguments for and against Obamacare on Tuesday, the appellate court will decide whether the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) can force censorship of prayer before public bodies on Thursday.

The case dates back to March 2007. That's when ACLU and AU attorneys sued the Forsyth County board in federal court on behalf of three individuals because it "does not have a policy which discourages or prohibits those whom [the board] has invited to deliver prayers from including references to Jesus Christ, or any other sectarian deity, as part of their prayers."

Porn Protesters Target Obamas With Petition

✘ On the heels of a three-day call-in that shutdown several phone lines at the U. S. Department of Justice, the War on Illegal Pornography on Wednesday launched the "Petition the President and First Lady on Illegal Pornography Project."

The goal of the effort is to gain the president's support in urging the U.S. Attorney General to enforce existing obscenity laws and to gain the voice of the First Lady in defense of those harmed by illegal pornography.

“We are writing to you because we know that you, like all American parents, are concerned with the protection of your children from the scourge of sexual exploitation in our pornified society,” the letter begins.

Three Reasons Why May 21 Prophecy Falls Flat

Here are three reasons why Harold Camping's end-times prediction should be ignored.

I spent the past week in Guyana, a South American nation where the people are friendly, the food is spicy and churches are growing at a healthy pace. But Christians there face a serious challenge because of the sad legacy of Jim Jones, the American cult leader who ordered his followers to drink poisoned Kool-Aid at their compound in Jonestown in 1978. The mass suicide, which killed 909 people (including Jones), went down in history as the world's worst example of religion gone wrong.

“Even today, the Jim Jones tragedy poses a problem of credibility for us,” one pastor in the city of Corriverton told me last week.

You can imagine my dismay when I arrived in Guyana and learned that groups of Americans

were combing the streets and passing out literature claiming that Jesus will rapture the church on May 21. These Christians apparently are so convinced of the prediction that they traveled to the only English-speaking country in South America to deliver a last-minute warning.

Appeals Court Hears Liberty's Case Against Obamacare

✘ A 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on Tuesday challenging the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare.

A Democratic-nominated three-judge panel listened to attorneys from both sides of the *Liberty University v. Geithner* case. Liberty University Counsel Mathew Staver contended that Congress lacks authority to regulate healthcare insurance purchase decisions.

"[This law] compels employees to contract with private companies for a benefit that has never been bargained for," Staver said.

58-Year-Old Walks 5 Million Steps for Jesus

✘ Moses was more than 80 years old when he climbed the mountain to meet God. So at 58, Charles Anderson didn't think taking five million steps along the Appalachian Trail was too much, especially since he was on a mission for Jesus.

Anderson set out to section-hike the entire length of America's most famous footpath for one simple reason: that's where the youth are. Indeed, Anderson discovered that many of America's youth were walking along the same path—and many of them are searching for the meaning of life. Anderson knew he had the answers they were looking for: Jesus Christ.

"I remember one young man who emerged from the fog near Neels Gap, Georgia," recalls Anderson, a former missionary to France. "I recognized him as one of the hikers at a stone shelter to whom I had given a tract."

Did Muslim Doctrine Bury Bin Laden at Sea?

✘ Many have questioned why Osama bin Laden's body was buried at sea—some have even criticized the decision, especially in the wake of President Obama's choice against showing photos of the terrorist leader's corpse.

The Obama administration said bin Laden was buried at sea because no other country would take his body—and because Muslim law mandates burial within 24 hours.

Dr. Christian van Gorder, an associate professor of religion at Baylor University who teaches world religions, is familiar with the many different Muslim burial customs around the world. He has an interesting theory on why the U.S. decided to bury bin Laden at sea.

Cheap Foreign Abortions Challenged in Czech Republic

✘ Does European law require the country to offer abortions to citizens from other European countries? Some seem to think so. That's why the Alliance Defense Fund submitted a legal opinion to the Czech Republic Ministry of Health Friday to dispell the notion.

It seems the Czech Parliament is considering whether to adopt legislation that would offer such abortions at inexpensive prices under the mistaken belief that binding interstate service provisions between European countries apply to abortion. But the reality is that the European Parliament and Council of Europe have made it clear that abortion is outside of their jurisdiction and is therefore not subject to the interstate service directives.

Malwai Evangelists Target

Children in 4/14 Window

- ✘ The “warm heart of Africa.” It’s a nickname fitting for the people and gorgeous landscapes of Malawi.

It’s also a picture of the body of Christ there, where believers are passionate about Him and are doing what they can to take the gospel to those who have not heard it.

For Grace Ministries International, they’re seeing a rewarding change as a result of the team’s approach. According to Titus and Kristy Lloyd, God has been using the children’s ministry at Grace Church in Malawi to begin bringing both children and parents to Christ.

‘Anti-Israel’ Event Gears Up in South Florida

- ✘ J Street, a controversial group that claims to represent the views of a large segment of the American Jewish and pro-Israel community, is sponsoring an event in Boca Raton, Fla. on Saturday night.

The purpose of the event: to call for the creation of a Palestinian state. J Street believes reaching a two-state solution is essential for Israel to live in peace. The event will take place at Congregation B’nai Israel at 7:30 pm.

“Ahead of the unilateral declaration at the UN on recognition of a Palestinian state this coming September, we find ourselves in a race against time to reach an agreement,” says J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami. “As Americans deeply

committed to Israel's security as a democracy and a Jewish homeland, we bring with us a sense of great urgency in calling on all parties to the conflict to take immediate steps to advance the peace process, and we stand determined to do our part in seeing a two-state solution achieved."

Bible Names Mega-Popular on Baby Names List

✘ Jacob and Isabella are king and queen of the crib again this year.

This is the 12th year in a row on the Social Security Administration list of popular baby names the biblical name Jacob has ranked supreme—and the second for Isabella.

The only new name to crawl into the top 10 on either list this year is Aiden, which replaces Joshua on the boys' side. But the overarching theme on this year's list is indeed Bible names. Here are the top 10 boys and girls names for 2010: