

Joel Osteen Plans Reality TV Show With 'Survivor' Producer

Joel Osteen already pastors the largest church in America and his motivational messages broadcast into more than 10 million homes every week.

Now, the charismatic preacher from Lakewood Church is getting ready to let the masses see how he walks out his faith in a new reality TV series that will inspire people to help people.

Osteen is joining forces with *Survivor* producer Mark Burnett on the prime-time network show that will begin airing in 2012. Burnett told TMZ the premise of the show is that ordinary people will give up several days or longer to go on a mission with Osteen. The missions aim to "start fixing things."

"A big part of our ministry is we're blessed to be a blessing to somebody else," Osteen told FOX 26 in Houston. "The thought is people would give up their time and not necessarily know where they're going that day, but show up, load up in planes and head out and make a difference in the world. We're going to be ambassadors of goodwill, hope and faith, and have fun along the way."

This isn't the first time Osteen has been approached about a prime-time show. Lakewood spokesperson Don Iloff told the *Houston Chronicle* that just about every Hollywood studio has pitched show ideas to the Osteens over the years. The difference with Burnett seems to be relationship. The Osteens are friends with Burnett and his wife, Roma Downey, who are professing Christians.

"When you talk reality TV, on one end there's *Extreme Home Makeover*, and on the other end there's *Jersey Shore*. We're on the *Home Makeover* end," Iloff said.

The program doesn't have a network or a name yet, but the episodes will reportedly focus on service projects like Generation Hope in Washington, D.C. Generation Hope is a movement of the next generation to awaken, unite and mobilize young adults to bring hope to the hurting and lost world by tangibly serving the community.

"We do these projects without the cameras rolling," said Iloff. "But Jesus said, 'Let your light shine. Don't hide it under a bushel.'"

His Faith and Our Faith

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." **—Romans 1:17**

Boot Camp

The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. **—Psalm 37:31**

Judge Refuses to Dismiss Suit Against New York Same-Sex Marriage

Judge Robert Wiggins dealt a major setback to New York Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bloomberg on the same-sex marriage front this week.

In response to the flagrant violations of the New York state constitutional and legal procedures, Liberty Counsel filed suit in the New York Supreme Court against the Act, which Cuomo signed into law on June 24.

The state asked the court to dismiss the case, but Judge Wiggins on Monday afternoon sided with Liberty Counsel on the Open Meetings complaint, ruling that the case may proceed to trial. Liberty Counsel represents New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms and several other plaintiffs.

New York law requires that a bill be printed and in its final form on the desks of the legislators three days prior to a vote, unless an emergency exists. Cuomo ignored the provision and declared an emergency, stating that waiting three days would deprive same-sex couples of marriage.

In his decision, Judge Wiggins said the Cuomo's cite is disingenuous. As he sees it, the review of such concept-altering legislation for three days after generations of existing definitions would not so damage same-sex couples as to necessitate an avoidance of rules meant to ensure full review and discussion prior to any vote.

"This is a victory for the people of New York and a setback to the political arm-twisters who tried to thwart the open meetings process," says Mathew Staver, founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel. "Discovery will show that the arm-twisting

and closed-room deals to force passage of this same-sex marriage law were defiant violations of the Open Meetings law.”

The judge also wrote that “although the disregard for the statute seems evident, the court feels constrained to not rule on the governor’s certification of necessity.” However, on the Open Meetings complaint, Judge Wiggins wrote that “clear arm-twisting by the executive on the legislative permeates this entire process.”

The court noted that New York law requires every meeting of a public body to “be open to the general public,” with few exceptions, none of which apply here. On this significant aspect of the complaint, the court allowed the case to proceed to trial.

Liberty Counsel will now pursue discovery on the Open Meetings violations, including the depositions of Cuomo, Michael Bloomberg and the president of the senate.

“When government operates in secret and freezes out the very people it is supposed to represent, the entire system fails,” Staver says. “The law should be set aside, and the process should begin again to allow the people a voice in the process.”

Faith Groups Displaying Live Nativity Scene at Supreme

Court

United States Supreme Court justices may get an eyeful on Wednesday as they make their way into the chambers. That's because faith-based groups are joining forces to display a live nativity scene in front of the landmark building—complete with animals.

The display is part of The Nativity Project, a nationwide campaign to share the message of Christmas and confront the erosion and hostility toward public expressions of faith. Sponsored by Faith and Action and The Christian Defense Coalition, the live nativity scene will be on display beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

Patrick Mahoney, director of the Christian Defense Coalition, calls The Nativity Project a reminder that the U.S. Constitution provides freedom “of” religion not freedom “from” religion.

“By encouraging people of good will to publicly display nativity scenes all across America, we are not only supporting religious liberty and First Amendment freedoms but we are loudly proclaiming the powerful message of Christmas,” Mahoney says. “That timeless message needs to be heard now more than ever: ‘Peace on earth and goodwill toward man.’”

Mahoney's hope and prayer is that many people will secure permits to display nativity scenes in front of public buildings all across the United States. He also encourages believers to put nativity scenes on the lawns of their homes.

The faith groups will meet at 109 2nd Street NE, right behind the Supreme Court, at 10:30 a.m. From there, there will be a processional featuring live animals and actors. The processional will pass in front of the Supreme Court and past the U.S. Capitol Building and end back at 109 2nd Street. Organizers expect the live nativity scene to be on the public

sidewalk in front of the Supreme Court around 11 a.m.

Rob Schenck, president of Faith and Action, says the traditional creche, portraying Mary, Joseph and the Christ child, along with angels, shepherds, wise men and animals, remind us of what Christmas is all about.

“The fact that we have been granted a permit to hold this live nativity scene in front of the Supreme Court ensures the right for every American to set up these public displays in communities all across America,” Schenck says. “We like to refer to this effort as keeping Christ mass in the nation’s capital and throughout the nation.”

NFL Player-Turned-Pastor Calls for End to Church Segregation

Former NFL player and current pastor [Derwin Gray](#) spoke in Monday’s convocation at Liberty University about “God’s dream” to see salvation for the world and unity in the church amongst different nationalities and races.

“At the core of the dream is you, me and humanity,” Gray said. “There has never been a moment where God has not thought about you or His purpose for you. That purpose is found in His story that is about His glory.”

Gray shared his personal story of salvation. As an NFL football player, one of his teammates was a Christian and consistently shared the gospel with him in the locker room after practice. Growing up on the west side of San Antonio,

Gray said “football defined [him],” but after talking with his teammate, he realized “God’s dream” for his life was to know and love Him.

“I fell head over heels for Jesus because he was head over heels for me,” Gray said.

After playing five years with the Indianapolis Colts and one year with the Carolina Panthers, Gray began pursuing ministry.

As a new Christian he noticed that many churches were “segregated” and not multi-ethnic while the neighborhoods and cities had a diverse population. He said most churches in America are 95 percent mono-ethnic and segregation occurs 10 times more on a Sunday morning than any other time.

“God’s eternal dream is to see Jews and Gentiles as equals and a part of the same body,” Gray said. “In John 17, Jesus says the world will know my Father sent me by your unity.”

Gray’s desire is to live out this mission. In 2010 he founded and now pastors Transformation Church, “a multi-ethnic, multi-generational, mission-shaped community” located in Indian Land, S.C., just south of Charlotte, N.C. He said his desire for the church is to be biblically based and to live out God’s dream of unity amongst believers from “every fabric of society.”

A Charisma Exclusive With Dennis Balcombe

A Christian Revival in the Muslim World

How Does God Punish Sin?

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.
—Romans 1:26

The Days of Lot

In the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. —Luke 17:28-30