Pastors to challenge IRS restrictions with Pulpit Freedom Sunday

By Lori Arnold

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Americans United for Separation of Church and State has sent out 60,000 letters to clergy warning the spiritual leaders not to intervene in partisan campaigns.

“You don’t join churches because they want to be told how to vote,” said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. “Our letter reminds religious leaders about what the law requires, why it makes sense and how it could affect them.”

The letter, announced Sept. 12, comes as evangelical leaders across the country are gearing up get-out-the-vote initiatives and just weeks before national Pulpit Freedom Sunday in which more than 1,000 churches are expected to challenge Internal Revenue Service regulations that prohibit pastors from endorsing candidates during worship services.

The Oct. 7 Pulpit Freedom event is asking pastors to directly challenge the IRS guidelines during their Sunday services and then sending the sermon tapes to the federal agency. Many evangelical pastors believe the guidelines are unconstitutional and are hoping to bring a lawsuit if the IRS seeks action against a pastor or church.

The 2,200 lawyers affiliated with Alliance Defending Freedom, the event sponsor, have pledged to provide pro bono representation to any pastor or church that finds its tax-exempt status in jeopardy for defying the regulations.

The event has drawn the attention of former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who highlighted it in mid-September during his Fox News show. Featured on the show is Southern California Pastor Jim Carlow, who is also involved with the coalition backing Pulpit Freedom Sunday.

“While the Democrats are trying

Approaching election spawns numerous prayer campaigns

By Lori Arnold

WHITTIER — From pledges to prayers evangelical Christians across the country are preparing their heads, hearts and knees for the November presidential election.

Saying they are dismayed by anti-family legislation that widens homosexual rights, extends taxpayer-funded abortions and eliminates religious conscience, numerous evangelical leaders have launched campaigns to encourage Christians to seek divine guidance before heading to the polls.

One effort, 40 Days to Save America, declares that the United States is in a “national tribulation” and asks Christians to focus on the promises of 2 Chronicles 7:14. “While we are deeply troubled by the direction in which our nation is headed this is not a political effort, said Dr. Rick Scarborough, president of Vision America. “The political problems which beset us are symptoms of a deeper spiritual malaise. In times of national tribulation, our people have often been urged to humbly turn to God in prayer.”

Scarborough and a coalition of Christian leaders have teamed up for the Save America campaign that calls for prayer, fasting and action from Sept. 28 to Nov. 6. The coalition, including Gen. Jerry Boykin, Bishop Harry Jackson, Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, Mat Staver, Ron Luce, Tim Wildmon and Bishop E.W. Jackson, Sr., is asking pastors to prepare sermons or special programming to initiate and conclude the campaign.

Southern California participants Canary Chapel Big Bear, Century Christian Center in Lynwood, Skyline Church in La Mesa, Christian Center of National City, Word of Life Ministries International Church in Riverside, Church on

The Love Trap

Keeping teens from the tricks of traffickers

By Patti Townley-Covert

RIVERSIDE — A giggling group of high school girls shop for homecoming at the local mall. While the others head for the dressing rooms, one girl lags behind. Her father is unemployed, so she has no money. Besides, no one’s asked her for a date. She eyes an emerald green strapless gown while waiting for her friends.

“Parents want to watch for a friendly young woman—will lure girls with gifts, Singleton said.

“Parents want to watch for a friendly young woman—will lure girls with gifts, Singleton said.
PULPIT... Continued from page 1

that matter most to their congrega-

tions. Huckabee said while intro-
ducing the segment.

"It's a pretty bold thing to say on Oct. 7. bunch of pastors, maybe hundreds, major thousands across the country are going to stand in their pulpits and essentially say the IRS cannot tell us what we can or cannot say."

Garlow, a student of American and church history, explained that the IRS regulations, enacted by Congress through the 1954 Johnson Amendment, violate the inten-
tions of the founding fathers who placed a premium on religious freedoms. Then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson pushed for the regulations after several business owners used their non-profit status to campaign after several business owners used their non-profit status to campaign for political candidates. "But there are very vo-

lectual or ideological misconduct and political advocacy of no government intru-
sion upon churches."

"The law hangs over us like a Da-
mokles sword, in essence chilling pastors, to be religious leaders, intimidat-
gardors," Garlow told Huckabee.

"The result is, often times, pastors that try to be biblical, speak on issues that are biblical, tearing up a baby in the womb, for example, or the practice of homosexuality or the definition of marriage. People say 'Oh, you are too political, you are too political.' No, we are simply being biblical, but people don't rec-
ognize biblical sermons anymore. That's the challenge. That's why pastors are rising up and reclaiming that which is biblical as biblical, and being bold in the pulpit."

But Lyn, the advocate for separa-
tion of church and state, disagreed. "Most clergy of all faiths know it's inappropriate to use their pulpits to stump for political candidates," he said in a statement announcing the clergy letters. "But there are very se-
oricals misguided religious and political forces that constantly prod religious
to castigate political candidates. The 90-minute program, co-host-
ated by Family Research Council and American Family Associa-
tion, featured Tony Perkins, Bishop Harry Jackson, Kirk Cameron and Sen.

Pledge Sunday

Earlier in September, another coalition launched Pledge

Sunday: A Call to Faith, Family, and Freedom. It was launched with

a nationwide simulcast to 2,000 congregations and is still available

to churches wishing to encourage

congregations in Southern California participated.

The 90-minute program, co-host-
ed by Family Research Council and American Family Associa-
tion, featured Tony Perkins, Bishop Harry

Jackson, Kirk Cameron and Sen.

Rick Santorum.

"Thousands of congregations and home groups will be informed, equipped and challenged to pray for the upcoming election, prepare by registering themselves and oth-
ers to vote and participate by voting on Election Day," Perkins said in

advance of the event.

The coalition's message for that campaign is to pray for the election, prepare through registering self and others and voting on Nov. 6. An VoterAl-

ues Voter Toolkit, including a DVD, is available online as is a pledge

form.

America for Jesus

On Sept. 28 and 29, several thou-

sand people gathered at Indepen-
dence Hall in Philadelphia for a solemn assembly called "America for Jesus for Prayer. The national call to prayer was the latest in a series of gatherings, which were held in 1960, 1980, 1996, 2004 and 2007.

The leadership team for America for Jesus included Anne Graham Lotz, the national chairwoman; Cindy Ja-

cobs, Generals International; Lou Engle, The Call; Harry Jackson, High Impact Leadership; Jane Han-

sen, AGLOW; Samuel Rodriguez, National Hispanic Leadership Conference; Jim Garlow, Renewing America Leadership and Paul Ce-

Dar, Mission America Coalition.

"America is in a state of emergency evidenced by the symptoms of wide-
domestic, educational" the gathering's website said. "Education, government, and man's wickedness have done this. There is only one remedy that truly can 'heal the Land.'"

As a result, the group selected

2 Kings 21:22 as its theme Scrip-
ture, which organizers said fits with God's call for "This is the people to bring the salt," which is the church, to the head of the waters where the foundation of our American liberty was birthed in Philadelphia and to intercede for God to heal the land.

The Summons is Psalm 50:1-6.

Finally, there is an ongoing ef-
fort called the "Presidential Prayer Team." The national prayer min-
istry was launched in 2001, after the terrorist attacks on America. Through it millions of people pray each day for the president, national leaders and the military.

The Hispanic vote: What matters to them
Evangelical Hispanics drawn to issues of life, family, faith

By Lori Arnold

SACRAMENTO — As the Democratic Party platform rhetoric moved to the left, the committee on life, faith and family of the party’s National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, said, it was the right time to present the message of compassion and justice.

“We find that to be more moral, more righteous and egre- gious, and it runs counter to our religious liberty and even to the First Amendment to a great degree so we are pushing back as a community,” Rodriguez said.

“The Democratic value system embedded in their platform doesn’t resonate well with the Hispanic community,” said Ro- driguez, whose group represents 40,000 churches in a region that wants to reach the Latino community, that has reached it for years based on issues of social justice and education reform. Now it’s coming across the wall that some Latinos are saying away from the Democratic Party because it has turned too far to the left,”

Particularly disturbing to Rodriguez and his constituents was the recent floor debate at the Democratic National Convention over the removal of the word “God” from the par- ity platform. It took three conflicting votes on live TV and a robust chorus of yes, nay and “maybe” votes.

When California Senator Alex Padilla (D, Los Angeles) asked Leader Antonio Villaraigosa declared the delegates had successfully voted to reinstate God into the platform.

“We was the only omission of God, it was the response from the crowd,” the national leader said. “We all saw it. We all heard it. We all know the majority of the people on that floor were not in favor of reincorporating the term God. We saw it as a nation. The world heard it. Through parliamentary manipulation the result was otherwise.

“Now you can imagine a Hispanic believer saying, ‘Why do I want to be a part of a party who has a problem with God?’ The Christian worldview is not just something for the Hispanic faith community. It’s everything. It’s the optic that drives us.”

The party line, he said, can be confusing for Hispanic evangelicals.

“The hard-line stance against immigration by Republicans is also a game changer for evangelicals who believe the Christian response should be more com- passionate and charitable on social justice issues.

“The Republicans have a good platform, but the rhetoric kind of pushes us, alienates us,” he said. “We want to be part of the party that talks about a big table. Immigration rhetoric invokes a message of either-or.

“I find it a little strange that saying evangelical because some of our evangelical brothers and sisters do not have the same feelings we do, do not have the same issues that we do,”

Those differences, he said — speaking not with harshness, but out of resolution tempered from his years of studying social ethics — make it dif- ficult for many Hispanic Christians to buy into the ideals and promises of the Republican Party. “I see some change, but it is long and slow.

Law vs. compassion

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Evangelical Hispanics drawn to issues of life, family, faith

By Lori Arnold

COSTA MESA — Dr. Jesse Miranda is an Assemblies of God pastor, Christian university professor and CEO of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference. Just don’t call him an evangelical.

“We use a term in Spanish, evangélico, to differ from the evangelical mainstream because I think there are differences, especially cultural, and that are doctrinal and theological similarities or common issues,” said Jesse Miranda Center for His-panic Leadership at Vanguard University. “The interpretation and application of those theo- logical, doctrinal studies or knowledge are not the same. Don’t put in one big tent by saying evangelical because some of our evangelical brothers and sisters do not have the same feelings we do,”

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Dealers in hope: Poverty's superior solution

If you can change the way a person sees himself, you can change his whole life.

Jim Noble, restaurant owner

One way to grasp what kind of nation we wanted to be is to look closely at what we've abandoned.

The debate over whether America is a Christian nation has been raging for decades. On the one hand you have those who believe that the founders of our nation were devout Christians and the ideas that sparked the American Revolution were as secular as those that drove the French Revolution.

From this perspective, our best way to understand the sign that's for those of us who are a little lost, is to position it as a little lost in the public square and maintain a radical separation of church and state. The differences are small, but others like Jefferson and Franklin certainly shared the Judeo-Christian understanding of human nature, that the human good is the pursuit of freedom, liberty may be endangered by the abuses of liberty as well as by a lack of virtue, and that the risk of freedom is that when freedom is achieved, it often leads to a sense of entitlement, justifying whatever lifestyle choices we want to enjoy. Unbridled license undermines liberty.

The debate over who was a devout Christian is of little consequence, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, based on their analysis. In August 2010, homelessness among families increased 21 percent in Charlotte from one year ago.

Noble owns a for-profit restaurant downtown Charlotte, but the King's Kitchen, a nonprofit one called The King's Kitchen.

We are dealers in hope; we give people hope," he said. The King's Kitchen may be unique among restaurants. It earned non-profit status from the IRS because of its focus on job development and training. "We have Bible discipleship and church in the restaurant on Sundays," Noble explains. "They have to attend and we give them leadership classes and teach social, emotional and physical skills. They go through a one-year program and then they can either get out and get a job, or stay on with us.

Noble says to overcome hopelessness and poverty, those who serve must develop a new look on themselves and on life. If you can change the way a person sees himself, you can change his whole life. If they can just reconnect with the dreams they had when they lost their own wealth around to help the needy.

The difference between his "liberalism" and that of the Democratic National Convention meeting a few blocks away is that he is liberal with the money he makes and he holds accountable those on the receiving end. There is another difference: His program far better success rate than the government's, which does not and cannot change human nature. Of course, Noble says he is a political conservative, but "socially liberal" in the sense he is not afraid to help the poor.

Noble says there are enough churches in Charlotte that if each one helped just five or 10 of their less poor, the problem would be effectively solved. Also, good works performed by church and independent organizations groups around the country, but The King's Kitchen could be one of a couple and the visions they had for caring for such people. What scripture calls the "lead of these.

A footnote: Jim Noble says he is the political conservative, but "socially liberal" in the sense he is not afraid to help the poor.

Eric Metaxas

A christian nation? Faith, freedom and virtue

The American founders wanted downtown Charlotte to become a Christian nation, a new "city on the hill," that's for those of us who are a little lost. The difference between his "liberalism" and that of the Democratic National Convention meeting a few blocks away is that he is liberal with the money he makes and he holds accountable those on the receiving end. There is another difference: His program far better success rate than the government's, which does not and cannot change human nature. Of course, Noble says he is a political conservative, but "socially liberal" in the sense he is not afraid to help the poor.

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"The Obama administration’s mandate introduced over the year long appeal is a direct challenge to our religious convictions, which is part of a broader intent to squash all religious freedoms of the private Christian university. "The Obama administration’s mandate introduces the argument as solely a reproductive rights issue. The concept of freedom of worship, Mackey said, implies that it should be limited inside the walls of the church, marginalizing faith to a private activity, which I think is a mischaracterization," he said.

Mackey said the issues raised by the church essentially, to a private area of worship, instead of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion. The concept of freedom of worship, Mackey said, implies that it should be limited inside the walls of the church, marginalizing faith to a private activity, which I think is a mischaracterization," he said.

"We feel that is definitely something worth opposing." For more information, visit www.alliancedefendingfreedom.org.

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**Biola challenges HHS regulation as unconstitutional**

By Lori Arnold

LA MIRADA — Biola University is leading a lawsuit against the Obama administration alleging federal mandates in the Affordable Care Act violate the religious freedom of the private Christian university. "The Obama administration’s mandate introduces the argument as solely a reproductive rights issue. The concept of freedom of worship, Mackey said, implies that it should be limited inside the walls of the church, marginalizing faith to a private activity, which I think is a mischaracterization," he said.

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Purse, the relief organization operated by her father Franklin Graham.

Many days I took up to eight pills.

I felt disappointed because I was not his...
TRAFFICKING...
Continued from page 1

prostitution, the battle becomes far more fierce.

“That’s why I wrote ‘The Love Trap,’” Singleton said of the program used by Million Kids, a non-profit formed in 2008 by Kerry Decker to combat trafficking in Southeast Asia. Million Kids soon became involved with the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. After training more than 800 government officials and 4,000-plus pastors, civic leaders, city personnel, corporations and public health officials on how to identify and report human trafficking and assist victims, Singleton said she realized that trafficking in the U.S. is more diverse and brutal than in developing countries because gangs have developed teen prostitution into an industry.

Using “The Love Trap,” Million Kids has already educated more than 2,000 individuals on how to understand “the sounds of a predator.”

“Recognizing the techniques, psychology and methods they use to cultivate relationships with vulnerable young people” can help teens avoid modern-day slavery.

Broken homes a risk

Singleton said her research has revealed that though 40 percent of trafficking victims come from foster homes, another 40 percent of trafficking victims come from homes in crisis. During the critical life-event years of 13 to 15, a family crisis such as a parent’s divorce, affair, unemployment or even the death of a beloved grandparent can make young people especially vulnerable. Their response to such painful events is the potential to change their lives forever. Traffickers respond to kids in crisis and use a variety of tricks to entrap them.

According to Singleton, their strategy includes the following:

Love Trap—This “love” exploits rather than empowers.

Internet Trap—Predators access their victims using technology, then sell their services using niche marketing.

Baby Trap—When a pimp gets a girl pregnant, the hope of making enough money to support her baby keeps her imprisoned.

Runaway Trap—Within 48 hours, at least 35 percent of the more than 1.6 million kids who run away each year engage in survival sex. That leads to rape, beatings and forced prostitution.

Easy Money Trap—Money for casual sex is used as bait.

Damaged Goods Trap—Predators sell their victims enslaved by creating a mental prison.

Earlier this year, the Riverside Board of Supervisors chose Singleton to be one of three key representatives from Riverside County schools. Even the boys paid close attention to this proprietary program because they, too, can be targets for traffickers. The interest was so intense on all levels that this fall Singleton said she’ll be presenting “The Love Trap” at several high schools in Riverside County.

Continued from page 1

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Call 1-800-404-5516, ext. 213

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Have your event listed FREE!
Send us your Christian activity event for next month, and we'll list it in THE CALENDAR at no charge. The deadline is the 18th of the prior month. Send to: The Christian Examiner, P.O. Box 2066, El Cajon, CA 92021. Or fax to 1-888-305-4947. Or e-mail event@christianexaminer.com. We regret we cannot list Sunday morning services.

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**OCT 4 • THURSDAY**

**OCT 5 • SATURDAY**
14th Annual Walk for Life. 10 am, Corona City Park, Rimpas & E. Grand. Corona, CA. Hosted by Corona Life Services. (951) 272-3670, walkforcorazonca.com


**OCT 7 • SUNDAY**
Annual National Life Chain. 2-3:30 pm, Pregnancy Care Resource Center, 116 E Airport St., San Bernardino, CA. (909) 382-4555, nulsan.org

Teen MOPS. 5:30-7:45 pm, Canyon Lake Community Church, 20515 Railroad Canyon Rd., Canyon Lake. teenmops@gmail.com

Freedom-Up Fest, with the Divide & Greg Opean. 6 pm, Packhouse Amphitheater, 27165 San Bernardino Ave., Redlands, CA. (909) 793-8744

**OCT 8 • MONDAY**
Glenwood Christian Women’s Connection. 11:30 am-12:30 pm, 2201 Avocado, Redlands. (909) 793-8744

**OCT 9 • TUESDAY**
Covina Women’s Connection. 11 am-1 pm, The Courtyard Bistro, 1006 San Bernardino Rd., Covina, CA. (626) 919-1446, (626) 857-1043

**OCT 10 • WEDNESDAY**
2012 Resurgence Conference, with Rick Warren, Greg Laurie, Leece, Nick Vujicic, Miles McPherson, James Macdonald, Chris Groggesso & Mark Driscoll. 9:45 am-6 pm, Mariners Church, Irvine. www.resurgence.com conference

**OCT 11 • THURSDAY**
The National Worship Leadership Conference, with Jeremy Begbie, David Nasser, Leonard Scott, Smith & more. Emmanuel Faith Community Church, Escondido. www.worshipleader.net/cmc

**OCT 11 • THURSDAY**
Impact 2012 Pastors Conference, with Rick Warren, Kenneth Leiter, Shaw Thompson and more. 8:30 am-6 pm, First Event Center, Azusa Pacific University. Azusa. Sponsored by KXLA. Free. 1-888-744-3777, kxla.com

**OCT 12 • FRIDAY**
Birth Choice of Temecula, Respect Life Banquet, with Kathleen Eaton, Keith Potter & Rhonda Parish. Rancher Community Church, 31300 Rancho Community Way, Temecula. info@birthcetu.com

**OCT 13 • SATURDAY**
Live Proof Living, with Beth Moore & Travis Cottrell. Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, Long Beach, CA. 8-10 pm. 1-800-254-0222, proof.org

**OCT 18 • THURSDAY**

**OCT 20 • SATURDAY**
7th Annual Yard Sale, Single Moms Ministry 7 am-3 pm, Crossroads Church, 27165 San Bernardino Rd., Temecula, CA. (951) 234-1404

**OCT 20 • SATURDAY**
If My People, Prayer Conference, with Dr. Joseph Kelder, Kevin Velley, James Moon & more. Fri 7 pm & Sat 9 am, Loma Linda University Church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. luc.org/2012prayconference

**OCT 21 • SUNDAY**
5th Annual Faith at Work Conference, with Art Bartes, Noel Massie & more. 8:15-11:45 am, Concordia University, Irvine. www.faithandworklife.org. (714) 272-7865

**OCT 21 • SUNDAY**

**OCT 21 • SUNDAY**
Felix Joel, in concert. 7 pm, The River Church, 459 E Highland Ave., Redlands. Free. 1-909-790-2221

**OCT 13-NOV 11**
“Peter Pan.” Fri 7:30 pm; Sat 2:15 pm & 7:30 pm; Sun 2:15 pm, Lifehouse Theater, 1135 N Church St., Redlands. $17.48. www.lifehousetheater.com

**OCT 24 • SUNDAY**
Freedom-Up Fest, with Evan Wickham & Greg Opean. 6 pm, Packhouse Amphitheater, 27165 San Bernardino Ave., Redlands, CA. Free. (909) 793-8744

**OCT 25 • THURSDAY**
VeggieTales Live, “God Made You Special.” 5 pm, Loma Linda University Church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. $10-30. (909) 307-4849

**OCT 16 • TUESDAY**
On the Front Line with Israel, with Dr. Jack Hayford, (the Jewish Day & more). 7 pm, Ambassador Auditorium, 131 S St John Ave., Pasadena. Presented by Israel Christian News • israelnews.org

**OCT 17 • WEDNESDAY**
On the Front Line with Israel, with Dr. Jack Hayford, (the Jewish Day & more). The Rock, 295 E Orangehove Ave., Anaheim. Presented by Israel Christian News • israelnews.org

**OCT 18 • THURSDAY**
The Rock, 295 E Orangehove Ave., Anaheim. Presented by Israel Christian News • israelnews.org

**OCT 20 • SATURDAY**
Freedom-Up Fest Series, with Urban Reconnect, Audrey Asas & Rend Collective Experiment. Fri 7 pm & Sat 7:30 pm. 234-1404

**OCT 20 • SATURDAY**
Tenth Avenue North, the Struggle Tour, with Aubrey & Rose Collective. 7 pm, The Rose Bowl, Pasadena. Preparation, intercession and worship for the Oct. 27 Faith Dome Encounter • alineinthesand.info. (626) 372-4163

**OCT 21 • SUNDAY**
Tenth Avenue North, the Struggle Tour, with Aubrey & Rose Collective. 7 pm, The Rose Bowl, Pasadena. Presented by transparontproductions.com

**OCT 27 • SATURDAY**
The 5:11 Cry for the 9:11 Call. 10 am-7 pm, Tenth Avenue North, 301 S Garey Ave., Pomona, CA. a lineinthesand.info, (909) 933-9331 or (951) 277-3228 by email at info@tenthavenue.com

**OCT 28 • SUNDAY**
Freedom-Up Fest Series, with Urban Reconnect, with Greg Opean, 6 pm, Packhouse Amphitheater, 27165 San Bernardino Ave., Redlands, CA. Free. (909) 793-8744

The 5:11 Cry for the 9:11 Call. 5:11-6:30 pm, Tenth Avenue North, 301 S Garey Ave., Pomona, CA. a lineinthesand.info, (909) 933-9331 or (951) 277-3228 by email at info@tenthavenue.com

Switchfoot, in concert, 8 pm, Crystal Cathedral of Anaheim, 2200 E Katella Ave., Anaheim, CA. 813.50 • ticketmaster.com

**OCT 31 • WEDNESDAY**
Hallevah Night 2012. 5:30 pm, Faith Center Ministries, 20470 Yellow Brick Rd., Walnut, CA. Free. (626) 484-5758

Harvest Festival. 6:30 pm, Hesperia First Assembly, 11161 Hesperia Rd., Hesperia, CA. Free. (760) 244-5330

NOV 1 • THURSDAY
The Reckoning Tour, with Needtobreathe & Parachute, Drew Holcomb. 7 pm, Humphreys Concerts By the Bay, 2241 Broadway St., San Diego, CA. 813.50 • ticketmaster.com

NOV 1-3 • THURSDAY
Defined by God Conference. Refeshing Pastors’ Wives, for Ministry, with Aron Groesche, Janet Ortlund, Lauren Chandler & more. Shadow Mountain Community Church, El Cajon, CA. Free. 1-800-875-8467, faithwomenlive.com

The Reckoning Tour, with Needtobreathe & Parachute, Drew Holcomb. 7 pm, The Fox Theater, 315 S Garey Ave., Pomona, CA. 813.50 • ticketmaster.com

**MORE EVENTS online now at ChristianExaminer.com**

Future events for LA County not listed in this issue.

Events for Orange County, the Inland Empire and San Diego County.

Weekly and monthly ongoing meetings: Bible Studies, Evangelism, Fellowships (Men, Women, Seniors, Singles, Youth, MOPS), Motorcycle Ministries, Music/Entertainment, Prayer Groups, Recovery and Support groups (Alcohol, Divorce, Domestic Violence/Abuse, Food, Sexual, Grandparenting, Grief, Celebrate Recovery. The Most Excellent Way and many more), Seminars/Classes, Health/fitness.

**CALENDAR cont. on page 10**
Eaton to headline at Respect Life Banquet

TEMECULA — Birth Choice of Temecula will hold its Respect Life Banquet from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 12 at Rancho Community Church. The keynote speaker will be Kathleen Eaton, founder and CEO of Birth Choice Health Clinics. Eaton has earned national acclaim for her work creating several faith-based, pro-life ministries, including fully licensed medical clinics that she strategically placed near or next to California abortion clinics.

Also speaking will be Dr. Keith Potter, an author and outreach pastor at Sunridge Community Church.

Music will be provided by Rhonda Parish and the St. Martha's Children's Choir and Katie Hess of the Revival Christian Fellowship Praise Band.

The church is located at 3310 Rancho Community Way.

For more information, visit www.birthchoiceoftemecula.com or call (951) 699-9880, ext. 103.

ACTS Center moves to a new 600-seat home

REDLANDS — The ACTS Center, a charismatic church, is moving to a new location with a 600-seat auditorium.

An opening reception was scheduled for Oct. 7. With the move, the church’s services will be held on Sunday morning instead of Saturday night.

The new facility will also allow for a weekly Wednesday morning prayer session from 6 to 8 a.m. The new location is at 10455 Corporate Drive.

For more information, visit www.actcenter.com or call (909) 907-9228.

Inner Beauty to hold kick-off conference

RIVERSIDE — Inner Beauty Ministries will hold its kick-off conference from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 20 at the Highgrove Library.

The theme of the event, extracted from 1 Peter 3:3-4, is “Find Out What God Has for You and Experience Unfading Beauty.”

The guest speaker will be ministry founder and CEO Victoria Ruth Taylor. Other women’s ministry leaders are also expected to participate.

Although childcare is not provided, the event is open to girls 3 and up, with activities planned for them.

The library is located at 530 W. Center St.

For more information, visit www.innerbeautyministriesweb.com or call (951) 290-4329.

Art in the Vineyards fundraiser for kids

TEMECULA — An Evening of Art in the Vineyards, a fundraiser for Rancho Damacitas Children’s Home, will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 at Ponte Family Estate Winery.

The evening will include an art show, featuring the works of artist Ron DiCianni. His piece “Spiritu...
Iranian pastor says God provided during his three years in prison

By Paul Batura

Grace. I have been put to the test, the test of faith which is, according to the Scriptures ‘more precious than perishable gold,’ the pastor, Youcef Nadarkhani, wrote Sept. 8 in a letter.

In September 2011, Nadarkhani was given four chances to recant his faith in court and refused each time. ACLJ reported one of his court exchanges.

‘Reign means to return. What should I return to? To the blasphemy that I had before my faith in Christ?’ Nadarkhani asked.

‘To the religion of your ancestors, Islam,’ the judge reportedly replied.

‘I cannot,’ the pastor responded. Below is the full text of his open letter:

’Salaam! (Peace be upon you!)

‘I glorify and give grace to the Lord with all my heart. I am grateful for all the blessings that He gave me during my whole life. I am especially grateful for His goodnes and divine protection that characterized the time of my detention.

‘I also want to express my gratitude to those who, all around the world, have worked for my cause, or should I say the cause that I defend. I want to express my gratitude to all of those who have supported me, openly or in complete secrecy. You are all very dear to my heart. May the Lord bless you and give you His perfect and sovereign Grace.’

‘Indeed I have been put to the test, the test of faith which is, according to the Scriptures ‘more precious than perishable gold.’ But I have never felt loneliness, I was all the time aware of the fact that I wasn’t a solitary battle, for I have felt all the energy and support of those who obeyed their conscience and fought for the promotion of the justice and the rights of all human beings. ... The Lord has wonderfully provided through the trial, allowing me to face the challenges that were in front of me. As the Scriptures say, ‘He will not allow us to be tested beyond our strength ...’

‘Despite the fact that I have been found guilty of apostasy according to a certain reading of the Sharia, I am grateful that He gave the leaders of this evil the wisdom to break that judgment taking into account other facts of that same reality. The Iranian courts defended the rights of the Iranian righ and the legal experts have made an important effort to enforce the law and the right. I want to thank those who have defended the right until the end.

‘I am happy to live in a time where we can take a critical and constructive look to the past. This has allowed the writing of universal texts aiming at the promotion of the rights of all human beings, taking away from me a material needs, taking away from me a legal rights, that I have already served those much time. Nadarkhani leased him because he had already served three years in prison — then re-served that much time. Nadarkhani was arrested in Oct. 2009 while registering his church in Radat, Iran, although he instantly was arrested for protesting his children being taught Islam in school, according to ACLJ. He was charged with apostasy for supposedly abandoning Islam and later was given a death sentence.

Nadarkhani was acquitted in early September of apostasy, but the court found him guilty of evange- lism for his needs while behind bars and for his work for the promo- tion of the justice and the rights of all human beings. ... The Lord has wonderfully provided through the trial, allowing me to face the chal- lenges that were in front of me. As the Scriptures say, ‘He will not allow us to be tested beyond our strength ...’

‘Indeed I have been put to the test, the test of faith which is, according to the Scriptures ‘more precious than perishable gold.’ But I have never felt loneliness, I was all the time aware of the fact that I wasn’t a solitary battle, for I have felt all the energy and support of those who obeyed their conscience and fought for the promotion of the justice and the rights of all hu- man beings. Thanks to these ef- forts, God has provided me a life of His grace and mercy of God be multiplied to you. Amen.’

Pastor Jack Hayford will serve as chairman of Israel Christian Nexus after the passing of its leader and founder, Gen. Shimon Erem.

Iranian pastor says God provided during his three years in prison

Christian Examiner staff report

LOS ANGELES — Israel Christian Nexus, which has gained new visibility in the post-election phase of the past leader and founder, Gen. Shimon Erem, will break new ground in the West with the Integration of Israel and ‘Start the FrontLine With Israel’ in two Southern locations in October.

‘In 2002, Nexus focuses on building relationships between Christians and Jews in support of their means to face that difficult situation. In His Grace, He provided for their spiritual and ma- terial needs, taking away from me a heavy weight.’

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Pastor Jack Hayford will serve as chairman of Israel Christian Nexus after the passing of its leader and founder, Gen. Shimon Erem.
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How to personally know God

Realize that you are a sinner. No matter how good a life we try to live, we still fall miserably short of being a good person. That is because we are all sinners. We all fall short of God’s desire for us to be holy. The Bible says, “There is no one righteous—not even one” (Romans 3:10 NIV). This is because we cannot become who we are supposed to be without Jesus Christ.

Recognize that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. The Bible tells us, “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). This is the Good News, that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die in our place when we least deserved it.

Repent of your sin. The Bible tells us to “repent and turn to God” (Acts 3:19 NIV). The word repent means to change our direction in life. Instead of running from God, we can run toward Him.

Receive Christ into your life. Becoming a Christian is not merely believing some creed or going to church. It is having Christ Himself take residence in your life and heart.

If you would like to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, simply pray this prayer with complete sincerity.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe you died for my sins and rose again. Right now, I turn from my sins and open the door of my heart and life. I confess you as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

If you just prayed that prayer and meant it, Jesus Christ has now taken residence in your heart! Your decision to follow Christ means God has forgiven you and that you will spend eternity in heaven. The Bible tells us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9 NIV).

To put your faith in action, be sure to spend time with God by studying your Bible, praying, getting involved in a Bible-preaching church, and telling others about Christ.