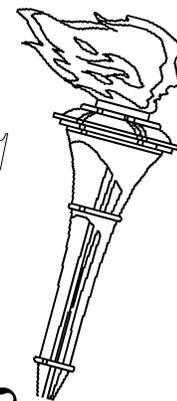


THE LIBERTY LIGHT



Volume 10, Issue 1

January/February 2007

Church Activities:

Church Phone: 376-0154

Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:45 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Awana 6:20 PM

Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM

ALCOHOL: DO WE NEED MORE?

BY PASTOR MIKE GRIFFIN

The issue of whether or not to have Sunday alcohol sales has been mistakenly framed in an overly religious tone. While it is agreed that many of the original reasons for restricting Sunday sales were related to Christianity and its roots in our founding society; it is not limited to that reason.

I believe the broader and more far reaching reason to maintain Sunday restrictions has more to do with basic public health and safety than with someone's religious conviction. Now, I don't say this to negate the fact that personally I don't believe in drinking. However, when it comes to public policy it must address more than my personal conviction. Therefore, the real issue in continuing "any" restrictions on the use of alcohol needs to be based on basic public health and safety issues.

This being true, the question is not whether the use of alcohol agrees with my religious tenet, but is it in the best interest of our community's health and safety to have more availability for the consumption of alcohol?

As Joe Friday might say, "let's look at the facts and nothing but the facts..." Did you know that almost half of all traffic fatalities are in some way alcohol related? A fourth of all emergency room admissions are alcohol related. A third of all suicides and half of all domestic violence homicides are alcohol related. In fact, alcohol consumption is the third highest cause of death in the United States. And according to another source, alcohol abuse is America's number one

drug problem.

Here is a statistic that I was not aware of. A study done between 1997 and 2002 showed that of the nearly 2,400 children who died in traffic accidents involving alcohol, 1588 (68%) were passengers with drivers who were under the influence of alcohol!

I could go on and on with other outrageous statistics but I think your own experiences with family and friends will further substantiate these facts. However, I will mention one more documented fact.

"...is the public health and safety of our community better served by more alcohol?"

Increased availability, accessibility and frequency of use of alcohol increases the dangers to public health and safety!

Whether it is violent assaults, problems associated with interpersonal relationships, or spouse and child abuse, all are enhanced and

increased when alcohol is more readily available and accessible. Those are the facts!

Which brings us back to the Sunday sales issue. Sure, it started out as a religious issue mainly related to Christians. But, then again so were murder, stealing, and lying. I cannot imagine anyone wanting to repeal the laws related to those acts imply because Christians think they are wrong. These are also public health and safety issues that just happen to be deeply rooted in traditionally held moral beliefs. This point was also seen when abstinence teaching was first introduced into the public schools. It was eventually brought to the U.S. Supreme Court for a ruling. They ruled in

Upcoming Events/ Opportunities

- **Marriage Retreat Feb. 15-17, 2007**
- **Spring Revival March 25-28, 2007**
- **Awana Games March 20, 2007**
- **Sunday School Weekend March 16-17, 2007**

"Piercing the darkness with the truth of God's Word"



NEW MEMBERS UNDER WATCHCARE

By Baptism

Mitch & Amy

Bennett

173 S. Jackson St.

Hartwell, GA

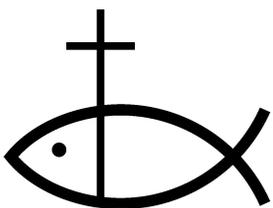
706-377-4917

You can now access Bro. Mike's message, "Lies About Liberty" on our website. There is a link on our homepage. The website is listed below.



We're On The Web!

www.libertybc.ws



ALCOHOL: DO WE NEED MORE? (CONT.)

religious reasons some may have had for the support of the teaching.

You see, the public health and safety concern is something we can all agree on. So, I ask the question: "is the public health and safety of our community better served by more alcohol?" Folks, we realized the effects of smoking on our society and made changes to better protect ourselves and future generations. When smoking and the consumption of alcohol are compared which seems worse? While it has been proven that smoking adversely affects even the non-smoker; it has never been asserted that smoking while driving endangers others. Yet, we know that alcohol not only has long-term effects on the one who drinks, but it also impairs their ability to drive and can even cause traffic fatalities. So, why shouldn't we realize the

detrimental impact that more alcohol sales would have on our society and therefore continue to have restrictions?

Case in point. When New Mexico lifted the ban on Sunday sales of packaged alcohol, alcohol related crashes increased by 29% and alcohol related fatalities increased by 42% on Sundays alone. These increases were connected to a five year period following the repeal of blue laws regarding Sunday alcohol sales. This was a sharp contrast to what was promised by advocates who said the repeal would reduce alcohol related crashes and fatalities. In fact, it had just the opposite effect.

So, I ask the question again, "Alcohol, do we really need more?" I think not. Not even on Sundays.

MARRIAGE RETREAT



February 15-17, 2007
Georgia Baptist Conference Center
Toccoa, Georgia

Cost per couple:
\$150.00 (2 nights & 3 meals)
\$100.00 (1 night & 3 meals)

We are looking forward to our 4th Liberty Marriage Retreat. Last year was a great time with 20 couples learning how to strengthen their marriage and spending quality time together. This year will be no exception.

Bro. Mike and Liza will lead the conference again. They are studying some new material that promises to enrich and encourage those who come.

On Thursday night we will enjoy a meal at a local restaurant and then some free time back at the conference center.

On Friday morning, we will head to Clarkesville, Georgia for lunch and an afternoon of shopping and sightseeing. We will return to the conference center late afternoon to join the rest of the group for dinner. Breakfast and lunch on Friday will be eaten off-campus.

The actual teaching begins on Friday night after supper. The topic for this conference is *Cracking the Communication Code*. We will conclude the conference on Saturday.

NEW LIBERTY TRAVEL MUGS

We now have available new travel mugs that will be used for visitation. If you are interested in one of these

mugs they are available for purchase. Come by the Liberty table to see the mug. Mugs cost \$4 each.



Dr. Jody Hice, President
Rev. Michael R Griffin, Sr., Executive Director

Ten Commandments Georgia
PO Box 941
Hartwell, GA 30643

706-856-2524
www.thoushalt.org

Ten Commandments Update - 1/15/07

“Historical Displays Ready for Distribution”

On July 1, 2006 Governor Sonny Perdue signed into law H.B. 941 authorizing local governments to erect historical displays that include a copy of the Ten Commandments. The “Foundations of American Law & Government Display” paves the way for communities to further educate their citizens regarding historical facts about our country’s founding.

The following documents may now be legally posted in local government buildings:

1. The Ten Commandments
2. The Mayflower Compact, 1620
3. The Declaration of Independence
4. Magna Carta
5. ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ by Francis Scott Key
6. The National Motto: “In God We Trust’
7. The Preamble to the Georgia Constitution
8. The Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution
9. The description on the image of Lady Justice

These historical documents are being made available through the ministry of Ten Commandments GA, Inc. This is a great opportunity for private citizens, churches, civic clubs and organizations to purchase these documents and to present them for approval to their local governing boards, commissions and councils.

TC-GA has beautifully designed to legal specifications the nine piece historical display. You may view these unique designs by logging onto to www.thoushalt.org

They may be purchased by contacting TC-GA on the web, calling 706-856-2524, or by mail at TC-GA , P. O. Box 941, Hartwell, GA 30643. You may also view the actual bill that was passed in the 2006 legislative year at: http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_2006/fulltext/hb941.htm

FINANCIAL CLASS

Begins: Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007

Each class will deal with a specific subject. You do not have to attend all classes but may choose to attend certain ones. Each Sunday morning we will remind you what the class topic will be for that day’s session.

Sessions include: budgeting, saving, bargain shopping, balancing a checkbook, long range planning and wills. We will have Clarke Gulley, an attorney, to be with us on Sunday, February 25 during the class session.

LIBERTY LIGHT **BROADCAST**

7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Mornings
WKLY AM 980

Continue to pray for and support Liberty’s radio program. If you are interested in sponsoring one week or several weeks let Bro. Mike know. The cost for each program is \$29.00. The program may be sponsored by a business or in memory of a loved one.

MORNING **DEVOTION**

Bro. Mike has begun a new radio program during the week. It’s a morning devotion that starts at 6:59 AM, Monday - Friday on WKLY. So remember to tune in!

OUTREACH **VISITATION**

Thursday, February 8
7:00 PM

You will have scheduled opportunities to go visiting, but you may choose to go at another time more convenient to your schedule. Get a partner, pray together, and go out and share the gospel with someone.

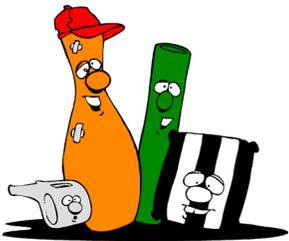


AWANA NEWS!!

T & T Bible Quiz
Saturday
February 10

AWANA Games
Saturday
March 10th
Prince Ave. Baptist
Athens GA

Practices
Each Friday Night
beginning
February 2nd



Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor
Mike Griffin
376-8118

Assistant Pastors
Andy Buchanan
376-0124

Forrest Ferguson
245-9553

Church Office
376-0154

SUNDAY SCHOOL WEEKEND

March 16-17, 2007

We are excited to announce that we will have Bro. John Yates with us on this weekend. Bro. John is from Morningside Baptist Church, Valdosta, GA. He will encourage us in our Sunday School program as well as meet with each age group teacher to offer advice. Mark your calendars now for this important weekend.

Friday night will begin with a banquet for all teachers and their spouses. Bro. John will speak to the entire group. The banquet time will end at 7:30. Bro. John will meet with each of 4 age divisions beginning with the first group on Friday night after the banquet. The schedule for the age division meetings are as follows:

Friday Night Banquet
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Adult Age Division
Friday Night 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Youth Age Division
Saturday Morning 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Preschool Age Division
Saturday Morning 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Children's Age Division
Saturday Morning 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

Spring Revival
Speaker: Bro. Bill Sturm
March 25-28, 2007

Home School Conference
Atlanta, GA
May 3 - 5, 2007

See Carren or Liza for more details.

Last Night of Awana
Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Awana Leader's Banquet
Saturday, May 19, 2007

Awana Awards Night
Sunday, May 20, 2007

Pre-Fourth Celebration
Saturday, June 30, 2007

Northeast Georgia Bible Conference
July 22 - 25, 2007

LADIES MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



*Wedding Shower
honoring
Janna Morris
Bride elect of
Brenton McCollum
February 24th*



**Baby Shower
honoring
Sherry Fleming
March 3rd**

Liberty Baptist Church
PO Box 811
Hartwell, GA 30643

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