



# 05-08-06 EUR GOSPEL: Pastor Marvin L. Winans Presents The 17th Annual Holy Convocation 2006

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS SUPPORT STAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS:** Biblical laws are still standing

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is in a choke-hold on the matter of displaying the Ten Commandments in public buildings. Various politicians, whether based on their personal beliefs, sensitivity to the Constitution or pressure from constituents are supporting the public display of the Ten Commandments.

Over the last several years the ACLU has argued that the presence of the commandments were a matter of separation of church and state. The ACLJ (the Christian equivalent to the ACLU, the American Center for Law and Justice) has answered their debate with compelling arguments as to the constitutionality of the Commandments being displayed. Those arguments along with the prominent voices of certain elected officials are finally paying off.

According to Agape Press here are some of the recent victories:

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue signed a bill permitting the display of God's sacred laws in public buildings. And the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Ten Commandments display in Elkhart County, Indiana v Brooks. Mat Staver, president and general counsel of Liberty Counsel, says courts are approving historic rulings when it comes to the public display of the Ten Commandments.

Earlier this month, Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher also signed a bill that would place a Ten Commandments monument on the Capitol grounds. And last week, the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voted 19-5 to uphold the "Foundations of American Law and Government" display at a Kentucky courthouse. In addition, a federal district court in Ohio -- as well as the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals -- upheld stand-alone Ten Commandments displays.

To ensure that your First Amendment rights are being protected contact your local or state officials.

## **GAYS AND GOSPEL A PRESENTATION OF THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM** continued

When you go the Chicago History Museum (CHM) you'll see Mahalia Jackson's choir robe. That's conceivable. Last week we reported on Gays and Gospel, a program of the CHM. That a museum would offer an event of that nature might be surprising to some. We have since connected with one of the presenters and gotten more information on what motivated the event.

According to Anna Bahtke of the CHM marketing department the museum broached the subject because, "CHM has a diversity initiative by which [we] explore all groups and issues that are relevant to Chicagoans." Issues of a social or academic nature are presented quarterly.

The event, which consisted of musical performances and discussion, drew 200 attendees. Although it was held at a church, there was no backlash. Dr. E. Patrick Johnson, one of the presenters said, "We have had nothing but great feedback from the event. In fact, most of the feedback we have received has been requests to repeat the lecture in different venues, including the Gay Games in Chicago. I initially thought there might be some backlash, not from people who attended the event, but from those who didn't who may have seen all of the publicity. So far, however, that has not been the case."

Bahtke says Chicago has a huge gay population with residential neighborhoods that the city recognizes as gay areas. Past programs as a part of meeting their diversity agenda have included discussion on teens, Polish people and African-Americans.

The event was held at the Chicago Temple church due to the current construction at the museum.

## **BET'S NEW RELIGIOS PROGRAM 'MEET THE FAITH' AIRS: Impressive first airing makes new program a God-send**

BET has added another faith-based program to its Sunday morning line-up. "Meet the Faith" is a news/talk show hosted by CNN's Carlos Watson, which aired for the first time Sunday. The show tackles current issues from a moral and spiritual perspective in a round-table format. Topics included prosperity gospel and gays in the church. The mixture of guests is an "unexpected blend" (Comedian Joe Clair for instance) and the topics are unusual yet relevant.

Bishop TD Jakes and Paul Morton were interviewed as two highly visible prosperity Bishops. They were both able to explain how the “name it and claim it” gospel actually has impact on their communities.

The guests were boisterous and unabashed in mini-debates on the subjects. Don't expect to see this barber-shop meets the hair salon fashion of truth telling on other networks.

The half hour program airs on BET, Sundays at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET/PT.

## **SURVEY SAYS MORE PEOPLE ARE READING THE BIBLE AND ATTENDING CHURCH: US still largely "one nation under God"**

Have you read The Word on your own time lately? Do you go to church? Similar questions were posed in a survey of about a thousand random adults concerning religious behaviors in the US and the results affirm that many seek God on a regular basis. Bible reading and church attendance have increased since just two years ago the report says.

(BP) – “Forty-seven percent of American adults read the Bible during a typical week other than when they are at church, according to a study by The Barna Group released in April.

Researchers found a significant increase in religious activity related to five of seven core religious behaviors, and Bible reading led the pack. Barna said only 31 percent of Americans were reading the Bible in 1995, but numbers started increasing in 2004.

Church attendance increased from 37 percent in 1996 to 47 percent in 2006, Barna said, and involvement in small, church-related groups has reached a new high of 23 percent this year. A decade ago only 17 percent of adults participated in small groups.

Church volunteerism increased to 27 percent while adult Sunday School attendance has risen to 24 percent from the 17 percent recorded in 1995, Barna said.

Prayer and evangelism were the two categories that did not show a change over recent years. Eighty-four percent of Americans said they had prayed in the past week, and six out of 10 Christians claimed to have shared their faith during a given time span.

## **PASTOR MARVIN L. WINANS PRESENTS THE 17TH ANNUAL HOLY CONVOCATION 2006:** Winans is "Taking the Kingdom" with powerful speakers

This major event is an epi-center for spiritual change and progress. Advancing the Kingdom with relevancy and empowering people spiritually, socially, economically and politically is the heartbeat and thrust of the 17th Annual Holy Convocation, May 21st - May 28th in Detroit, MI. Movers and Shakers, Politicians, Major Business Owners, Entertainers, Nationally and Internationally acclaimed Ministers are coming together for Kingdom Advancement.

Guest Speakers include: Bishop Tudor Bismark, Bishop George Bloomer, Pastor Sheryl Brady, Pastor Jackie McCullough, Bishop Noel Jones, Pastor Donnie McClurkin, Elder Chris Pryor, Pastor Hezekiah Walker and the Host, Pastor Marvin L. Winans. The incredible vocalist Kim Burrell will share some of the techniques and secrets that she has mastered to become known as one of the Gospel music industry's most talented psalmist of the 21st century.

This year's Musical Guests include: Evelyn Turrentine-Agee, Minister Byron Cage, Tye Tribbett, The Kentwood Concert Choir, The Love Fellowship Choir and The Perfecting Praise Mass Choir. All nightly services begin at 7pm at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall, 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI and will be streamed live via the Internet. The incredible vocalist Kim Burrell will share some of the techniques and secrets that she has mastered to become known as one of the Gospel music industry's most talented psalmist of the 21st century.

Workshops will be held at Perfecting Church, 7616 E. Nevada Street, Detroit, MI, Tuesday, May 23rd - Thursday, May 25th.

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