



Breath of Life

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GOOD CHRISTIANS

A message from brought to you by WELS and www.WhatAboutJesus.com

...A man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified...For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing! (Galatians 2:16,19-21)

What makes people good Christians? Is it the fact that they are in church almost every single Sunday? Or that they give 10% or more of their income to the work of the church? Or that they always seem to be helping a neighbor in need? These certainly are wonderful fruits of the Christian faith, but they do not make someone a good Christian.

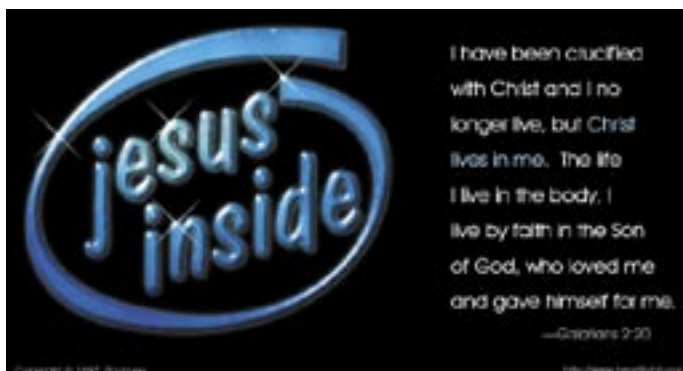
In the Apostle Paul's day there were some who thought being a good Christian meant keeping certain Old Testament laws like eating the right foods, observing the right holidays, and being circumcised. Unfortunately, they began to think that doing such things somehow contributed

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

to their salvation. They believed that their obedience to certain laws played some part in being declared innocent of their sins before God.

Being a good Christian has never been about keeping God's law, and if it were, none of us would be good Christians. "A man is not justified by observing the law," the Bible says. That's because the law demands 100% obedience 100% of the time. According to God's law, even one slip-up means total failure. Just one filthy thought, one hurtful word, or one unkind action disqualifies us from being declared not guilty by a holy and perfect God. God's verdict in his law on mankind is absolutely true: "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). There are no good Christians when it comes to observing the law.

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And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Pray, Praise and Give Thanks



Once again we are thankful for gentle reminders that not a single work from one of us makes a single mote of difference in where any of us will spend eternity. Do you know this without fail? Are you able to share what you know? At the Center, this is probably the most commonly misunderstood of our fundamental beliefs. Praise be to God that our volunteers continue to witness to His truth about salvation: full and free through Jesus alone!

Thanks for gifts to the Center in memory or tribute:

Given By: _____ **In Honor Of:** _____

Mark & Julie Huebner	Gloria's 75th birthday
Erv & Glo Huebner	their 55th Wedding Anniversary
Pastor Martin & Janice Stuebs	
	Pastor Lance Hoff's 60th birthday

Given By: _____ **In Memory Of:** _____

Robert & Ruth Huebner	Vollmer Memorial
Sharon & Jim Greenwald	Walter Waters & Edward Schmidt
Jim & Kimara Winters	
Erv & Gloria Huebner	Edward Sell
Jim & Shirley Degner	Dianne Brokmeier

Volunteers needed: could this be you?

- Receptionist
- Helpline
- Counselor
- Congregational Contact Person

Our ministry continues to ask you to prayerfully consider joining our efforts in using pregnancy help and practical assistance for families as a bridge to the Gospel for those in need within our communities. Now is the perfect time to join an organization that needs more hands to do the work there to do. The first step for WELS members is to ask for no-obligation info about whether it might work with your schedule. Call 261-9207 or 800-924-6073 or e-mail office@alphalifecenter.org



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Good Christians, from p. 1

This is why we so desperately need Christ. He is the only one who perfectly observed God's law, and he did it in our place. As the Bible teaches, "If righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" But Christ didn't die for nothing. He died for all of our failures to keep God's law. Through faith in him we are declared not guilty before God. We are connected to Christ in his death and resurrection and set free to live our lives in thankful obedience to God's law. Not to be good Christians, but because through faith in Jesus we already are.

Dear Jesus, help me to continually see that my obedience to your law has nothing to do with my status before your heavenly Father. Lead me to trust in your righteousness alone which becomes mine freely through faith in you. Amen.

Alpha Center Wish List

- ** cribs and mattresses **
- ** carseats, any size **
- ** pack-n-play type fold up playpens **
- disposable diapers (sz 2 and up)
- baby wipes
- Christian children's books
- baby hygiene items (wash, lotion, etc.)
- paper towels, tissues, laundry detergent, toilet paper (ofc)
- children's clothes up to size 6 (especially the larger sizes...they wear out so much more often, we don't get as many donations of them, but the need is just as strong as for baby clothes) We have recently added sizes 5 & 6 to our inventory! Please consider donating your gently used clothes.

Donations of any new or clean, gently used baby clothing or maternity clothing or other children items and equipment are always welcome and can be dropped off at the center during our office hours. Any questions, contact Donations Manager Nancy Schmitz at 920-253-8984.

News about Life ... know it, use it, share it!

Thinking twice about...the American Cancer Society

Many people in our community are faithful supporters of the American Cancer Society. ACS has historically been perceived to be on the forefront of cancer research, support programs and educational efforts. Many of us have donated to the ACS for precisely these reasons.

Some of us have begun to think twice about how our donations to the ACS are being spent. This article is not meant to put down the efforts of anyone involved with Relay for Life, or to mandate a boycott of this organization. The following information is provided for you to prayerfully consider as you make choices regarding your cancer research donations. A list of cancer research/foundations that you might consider in the future are listed at the end.

Reasons why some are reconsidering their donations to the American Cancer Society

1. The American Cancer Society provides support for human embryo research. American Life League, the "100% No Exceptions, No Compromise" national pro-life organization, offers compelling information about ACS's involvement in embryo research, including its funding of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and its involvement in the Patients' Coalition for Urgent Research (CURE). See http://www.all.org/charities/#American_Cancer_Society
2. The ACS actively lobbied in support of the controversial HPV vaccine mandate for 12 year-old Wisconsin girls. During the 2007-08 Legislative Session, ACS testified in favor of and lobbied for Assembly Bill 492/ Senate Bill 252 (www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AB492hst.html), a bill mandating the promotion of controversial cervical cancer vaccines like Gardasil for 6th-grade girls in Wisconsin's public, private, and homeschooled.

While pro-life activists were able to ward off this attempt, ACS needs to be recognized as having aligned itself with such financial beneficiaries as Planned Parenthood in this legislation.

Based on how hard the Wisconsin Association of Christian Schools, Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent, and various Pro-Family Groups worked to defeat this extreme mandate, it makes one pause to think why Christian churches and schools should continue to fund American Cancer Society when it spends donated dollars on offensive agendas such as this.

If you are unfamiliar with the widely publicized vaccine Gardasil manufactured by Merck, Judicial Watch's website offers copies of medical reports detailing deaths, cases of paralysis and other injuries from this vaccine that was fast-tracked through the FDA's approval process. <<http://www.judicialwatch.org/gardasil>>

To see how ACS lobbied in Wisconsin in 2009-10, go to <http://ethics.state.wi.us/scripts/CurrentSession/BandrLobbied.asp?PrinID=2573&start=A&start2=>

3. ACS political action money negatively targets fiscal conservatives. An active lobbying group in Wisconsin and nationally, ACS has been involved in lobbying and media campaigns that impugn conservatives for voting against bills that the ACS wanted passed, bills that would have cost taxpayers significantly. It's certainly OK for ACS to take positions on bills, but do we want our ACS donations to be spent on campaigns to vote out fiscal conservatives? It seems a sketchy use of cancer research dollars at best, and may strike some as an outright abuse of donated funds.
4. Conflicts of Interest. The Cancer Prevention Coalition offers compelling data in its article "American Cancer Society: The World's Wealthiest 'Nonprofit' Institution" by Samuel S. Epstein, MD. (www.preventcancer.com/losing/acs/wealthiest_links.htm) Dr. Epstein's article details the inner workings of the ACS, from the generous salaries and pensions, excessive overhead, and the Hollywood-style manner in which it selects its Board of Directors. Epstein states:

"...for every \$1 spent on direct service, approximately \$6.40 is spent on compensation and overhead."

"The current budget of ACS is \$380 Million and its cash reserves approach \$1 Billion."

"Fund-raising appeals routinely stated that the ACS needed more funds to support its cancer programs, all the while holding more than \$750 Million in cash and real estate assets."

If you give a \$10 donation, did you know that less than \$2.50 is going to medical research or programs? Compared to many other cancer research organizations, this is a terrible ratio. ACS spend 20% of its revenue on fundraising efforts, and almost 60% on salaries and overhead. Ouch. That from a billion dollar a year — yes, that's a B — charity. Ouch. Ouch. Makes my \$10 seem not a penny, doesn't it?

Do know there are several alternative groups who have much more efficient ratios and less political involvement, who are making significant contributions to the field of cancer cures and preventions. Included in these are: The V Foundation, the National Cancer Coalition, Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (see profiles on www.charitynavigator.org). Thanks for your thoughtful consideration of this info.

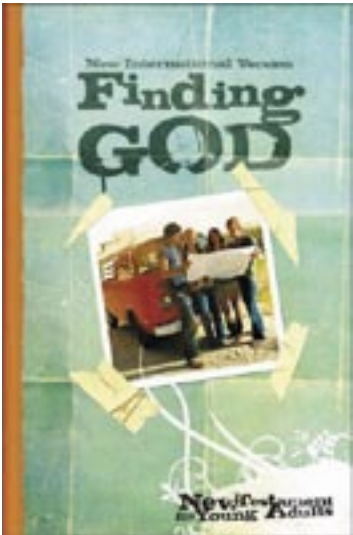
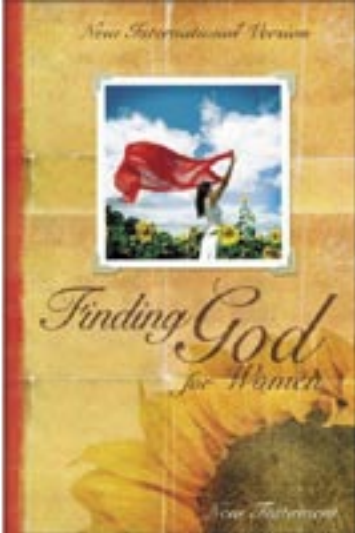
ALPHA'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Libraries all over the place promote summer reading programs. Both children and adults can choose their genres, choose their clubs, choose their rewards, all in an effort to keep a focus on reading. Not a bad focus!

At the Center, we have our own intentions toward getting our visitors to read, and it's not just in summer. As most of you are well aware, as we help families with clothes, diapers and other assistance, our underlying hope is to nurture conversations that lead our visitors into closer relationships with their Savior. One of the ways we often start these conversations is by asking whether a client has a Bible, or, if she seems reluctant to go there, whether she would like a storybook for her child. Children can often serve as God-provided bridges to speaking about the Word to parents!

Offering a gift of a Bible or devotional is certainly a low pressure way to provide an opening for the Spirit to work His wonders. The Alpha Center has been giving away Bibles and devotionals for years, and several of our clients have come in and asked for a different title in addition to the ones we've already given them.

We always have on hand some basic NIV Bibles, in English and some in an English-Spanish parallel edition; we never doubt that the Word can speak for itself. Sometimes, however, we like to vary the offering in order to encourage the visitor to understand the Bible as a book that has immediate application to issues in her life. The book on the above right, titled *Finding God for Women*, is the New Testament with extra perks: in the front are 75 questions that seekers may ask, which makes it an often helpful tool in our encouragement to Center visitors. For instance, questions listed include, "What is the purpose of going to church?" and "Isn't it true that if I become a Christian, I won't be able to have fun anymore?" and "Won't having a man solve all my problems?" Those questions refer the reader to an essay answer also in the book that's followed up with several Bible references that corroborate the answers provided. Sometimes when new readers of the Bible aren't sure where to start, jumping off points like this are the answer (sometimes they're pretty great for those of us familiar with it as well...).



Sometimes counselors will photocopy the questions and related passages from the book and mail it to a client with a particular issue. Counselors have also used this book right in the counseling room, as it is well-laid out and easy to reference. The Bibles you see pictured on this page are NIV New Testament (the kids' Bible is only the Gospel of Mark). We've been using the women's version for some time, and hope to begin utilizing the young adult edition very soon. If you'd ever want to contribute toward stocking our supply, just make a note on your donation that you'd like it to apply toward Bibles and devotionals, and we'll make it so. Better yet, come share the Word with our visitors yourself!



You are invited!

Tri-County Chapter, Christian Life Resources

ALPHA LIFE RESOURCE CENTER

presents its annual

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2010

ST. MARK SCHOOL COMMONS

706 JONES ST. • WATERTOWN

10 AM-1 PM



Come for lunch...

homemade hot turkey or beef sandwiches

hot dogs, potato salads, beans and other sides

Stay for dessert...

Mullen's ice cream for splits, sundaes or ala mode for
your choice of dozens of homemade pies and tortes!

COME CELEBRATE 25 YEARS WITH US!

Please celebrate 25 years of Gospel-motivated ministry to our area congregations and communities *as we dine in St. Mark's new school commons area*. You can access the cafeteria from the playground across the street from where the social has been for years.

When you come to our ice cream social on July 11, please bring a new or gently used children's Bible, devotional or Christian storybook. Family devotionals are also in great demand. There will be a box in the cafeteria for you to place your donation. Our counselors will use your donation to encourage a whole new generation of believers who come to the Center looking for assistance. Thanks for your support!

Alpha Banquet & Auction • October 16

Our newest tradition continues to grow! Mark your calendar and talk to your friends about a fun night out enjoying fellowship, shopping, eating and supporting our ministry. Luther Prep is again hosting the event that will include a social hour and catered meal, as well as 100s of wonderful items to buy, including trips and one-of-a-kind treasures. Our silver anniversary will be celebrated in an extra special way at this event as well!

National Convention • November 13

The early word if that teh Convention is themed "Guide Me" and will again be hosted by St. Paul in Slinger. If you've been, you know how much Gospel-centered, educational, inspirational material is presented at this event. If you've never been, this yar is your year. You will not regret giving up this Saturday to learn more about God's Word on Life. More info to come later this summer.

