

Newsletter **Christian Coalition of Pinellas County** Newsletter

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+++You are cordially invited to our Jan. 3, 2009 MEETING AT Panera Bread +++

see address and directions after #7 at the end.

eNewsletter **Christian Coalition of Pinellas County January 2009** eNewsletter

Meetings begin at 10:00a.m. the First Saturday of each month

Meeting address and Location Information and 'to contact us' information page3

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- 1. Thinking Right by Dr. Vance Lackore**
- 2. Tampa Bay Values Initiative is Set to Change the Bay**
- 3. Brief American History by Ron Scheffler**
- 4. Congress gets pay raise**
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- 6. Religious Freedom Sunday in churches and in Public Schools**
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1.. Thinking Right for January 2009AC, Amended, ready for publication!

Isaiah 42:9, "The past events have indeed happened. Now I declare new events; I announce them to you before they occur." Philippians 3:13-14, But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead,

Taking both Isaiah and Paul's advice, let's forget about 2008 and concentrate on what challenges the US will face in the coming year. In no particular order of importance, we face the threat of a malignant, massive terrorist threat probably from within our own country; an increasing attack on the family by militant homosexual groups and increased pressure for tolerance from the media; the proponents of 'Political Correctness' demanding abortion as a Constitutional right; a looming financial crisis that will not go away because our financial boat can't be bailed out; a creeping socialistic mindset in Government to regulate and control far in excess of the dreams of FDR, the New Deal or the Communist Party of the '40's; a calculated attack on the individual right to bear arms and the right to free expression, both explicitly guaranteed in the Bill of Rights to our Constitution; an abandonment of the U S policy in the Mideast endangering Israel and emboldening Islamic Fundamentalists. And what else but a few predictions: First, the expanding corruption and influence peddling scandal in Illinois will spread, even into the Federal Government causing a major upheaval across Washington. Next, an attempt to explode a 'dirty' bomb in a major population center will be prevented by diligent effort on the part of law enforcement.

2009 will be a year of major changes in our world. The UN will make a major effort to assert its dominance over the National Governments of the world, including the US by endeavoring to enforce a global tax. Of course this will impact the United States more severely than other nations and will start the downward spiral that will make the US a secondary power unless we stand strong against that effort. There will be bright spots in these clouds, a return to Biblical thinking in many moderate or 'progressive' churches will spark a renewed interest in God's Word, the saving power of Jesus and a revival will begin. The Conservative

members of Congress will make their presence known in many ways, including stalling or preventing a vote on some legislation in both the House and Senate. The 2010 elections will show the direction in which our national thinking is headed - Conservative or Liberal. It is critical we keep a strong conservative voice in the electorate to keep the voters aware of the issues and dangers we face.

In the Isaiah passage God is announcing to His people that he will neither forget nor forsake those who love Him, but will favor them with good things. In Philippians, the Apostle Paul states it is his desire to concentrate on what he can do for his God and Savior in the days left to him on this earth. I pray for each of you that you may rightfully expect great things from your Heavenly Father and that you will strive to do great things for His glory in the year 2009.

I'm Vance, and I'm thinking right!

"Religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness."

-Samuel Adams, letter to John Trumbull, 16 October 1778

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2. Our January 3 meeting speaker was to be Terry Kemple, Founder of the Community Issues Council, Terry will be out of state with family and cannot be at our January meeting to discuss goals and vision for our Bay Area. He has rescheduled to be with us at our March 7th meeting.

Feb. 7 Sol Pitchon, President and CEO, of Pregnancy Center of Pinellas will update us on their new Birthing center, and the wonderful successes with that great pro-life work.

Our January 3rd meeting will be focused on two subjects: Conservatism and the 2009 Presidential Election, and an analysis of 'Global Warming', and the true scientific evidence.

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**"Competition seeks improvement and breeds excellence.
Socialism involves an elitist government and breeds poverty."**

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James Madison, 4th President , "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the ability of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity to each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD.

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3. Brief American History story: Once upon a time, August 4, 1977 then US President Jimmy Carter created a new Presidential Cabinet Department and named it the Department of Energy with the mandate: "**Lessen our national dependence on foreign oil.**" In the following 31 years billions of taxpayer dollars and have come and gone and the Department of Energy is now currently operating with true bureaucratic efficiency and a annual budget of \$24.2 Billion, and approximately 100,000 contract employees..

When gas was over \$4. a gallon retail, and citizens/voters were demanding that the US Congress make attractive legislation the way for major oil companies to provide domestic gas at the pump, "Drill baby, drill", etc., and this looked like the only way the US House could go, Speaker Pelosi showed real creativity and recessed the House. Some House Conservatives wanting to resolve this the American way were left holding the bag as she ordered the House shut down...

Speaker Pelosi allowed the House to open again just in time to begin the "Bail out" fiasco, and "lessen our national dependence on foreign oil", energy legislation, 'Drill baby, drill' fell off the radar screen, crowded out by these Trillions of

Dollars given to a congressional select few to bail out the certain few.

In conclusion, this has allowed the Department of Energy to return to 'business as usual', working . "**Lessen our dependence on foreign oil.**" This ends our 'Brief American History story' and salute to the Department of Energy

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4. **Congress gets a pay raise.** Under existing law, as part of a deal to give up outside income from speeches and other sources, Congress receives an automatic pay raise unless it votes otherwise. In January, Congress will receive a raise of \$4,700. This will increase the average members pay to \$174,000., a 2.8% percent raise. A bill was introduced to reject the pay increases, but it died in committee. Guess which side of the isle introduced the bill that died in committee?

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5. SARAH PALIN: CONSERVATIVE OF THE YEAR

Exerts from Ann Coulter's front page story: 'HUMAN EVENTS', Dec. 22, 2008

" Sarah Palin wins the Human Events prestigious "Conservative of the Year for 2008 her genius in annoying all the right people. The last woman to get liberals this hot under the collar would have been...let's see now....oh, yeah, Me!."

It is a fine article, too long for me to write here. I will try to bring some copies to the Jan. 3, 2009 meeting.

There is also an excellent EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW with John Gizzi, political editor.

SHE WAS A TRUE BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN A DIFFICULT CAMPAIGN TIME AND HER SPARKLING PERSONALITY AND WISDOM ARE PRESENT..

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6. Promoting Religious Freedom in Public Schools

Education is bringing national attention to **2 important dates: January. Sunday, January 11th and Friday the 16th.** They will provide two good opportunities for pastors, parents, teachers, and students to promote religious freedom in their local public schools. It also is a good opportunity to introduce Alliance Defense Fund and Gateways to your local churches through a unique co-branded pamphlet. We need your help in spreading the word!

Each year, **the President declares January 16th to be Religious Freedom Day,** and calls upon Americans to "observe this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship." It is the anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom in 1786. Thomas Jefferson drafted the legislation that protected the civil rights of people to express their religious beliefs without suffering discrimination. Today, that protection is as important as ever. In too many instances, **public school teachers tell Christian students they cannot include their faith in their homework assignments or classroom discussions. However, the U.S. Department of Education has issued guidelines explaining students' religious liberties. Students can pray, read their Bibles, and talk about their faith at school during school hours. They can also express their faith in their class work and homework.**

January 11th is Religious Freedom Sunday—a nationwide initiative established by Gateways to Better Education to bring greater awareness to Religious Freedom Day (Friday, January 16, 2009) and help public schools become more faith friendly.

Religious Freedom Sunday calls churches to 'proclaim liberty throughout the land' (Lev.25:10) by honoring the educators within their congregations and informing the students, parents, and educators in the church about students' religious liberty in their public schools.

To help churches in this task and highlight the legal assistance ADF can give to individuals, Gateways has published "Free to Speak"—a pocket-sized summary of the U.S. Department of Education guidelines explaining students' religious liberties. January 11th is a time when churches across America will distribute "Free to Speak" to its students and their families. For more information about ordering this pocket-sized pamphlet, visit www.gtbe.org/store or call (800) 929-1163.

Gateways to Better Education and the Alliance Defense Fund have joined efforts for Religious Freedom Day. We share a common goal to create a public school environment where students and school employees are free to

share and live out their Christian faith.

Rebecca O'Dell Townsend [Rebecca.odell@verizon.net] for this important information
Many quotations of our National Founders words have been sent by Rebecca. Sincere thanks, Rebecca

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IMPORTANT : SAVE YOUR Panera Bread Receipts for Joan and Martha

We prove to Panera Bread that we are not freeloaders, but spend enough to justify free use of the meeting room, Thank you.

**FLORIDA PRO-FAMILY LEADERS DECRY EXPANSION OF GAMBLING
AS REMEDY FOR STATE ECONOMIC WOES**

Dennis Baxley, CHRISTIAN COALITION OF FLORIDA,; John Stemberger and Nathan Dunn of Florida Family Policy Council; and Bill Bunkley, Legislative Consultant of FL Baptist Convention and Radio Talk Host, thank the FL House for courage and principled leadership in holding the line against expanding gambling in FL.

A half million Floridians have suffered from serious to severe related difficulties that lead to Addiction, Bankruptcy and crime, and destroyed marriages.

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+++OUR Jan. 3 MEETING WILL BE AT Panera Bread as usual +++

Meetings begin at 10:00a.m. the First Saturday of each month

Meeting Location Information and 'to contact us' information

DIRECTIONS: Meeting place is located at 10808 Starkey Road, Seminole, in the Strip Stores on the corner of Starkey Road and Bryan Dairy Road.

Keene Road, CR 1 from Clearwater is the same Road as Starkey Road in Largo/ Seminole/Pinellas Park area, and Park Street in St. Petersburg.

From Tampa via Howard Franklin Bridge on I-275, the first exit is 4th St., the 2nd is Ulmerton Road, **the 3rd is 126th Ave. North, exit here.** Immediately at the fork in the road take the **left side.** Road will make a 180 degree turn and bring you to traffic light.

Turn left onto Bryan Dairy Road. Travel west about 8 miles.

This is the road Bardmoor Shopping Plaza and Panera Bread are located on left side of road.

**WE PRAY THAT 2009 WILL BE A BLESSED,
PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR ALL OF YOU SPECIAL PEOPLE**

**Thank you, God Bless You and God Bless America
Vance and Ronnie, Co-Chairmen, Christian Coalition of Pinellas,**