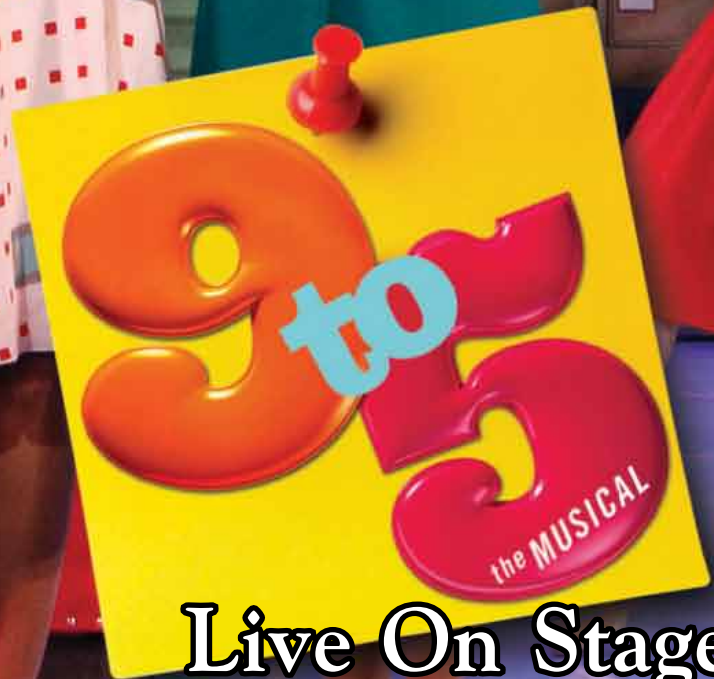
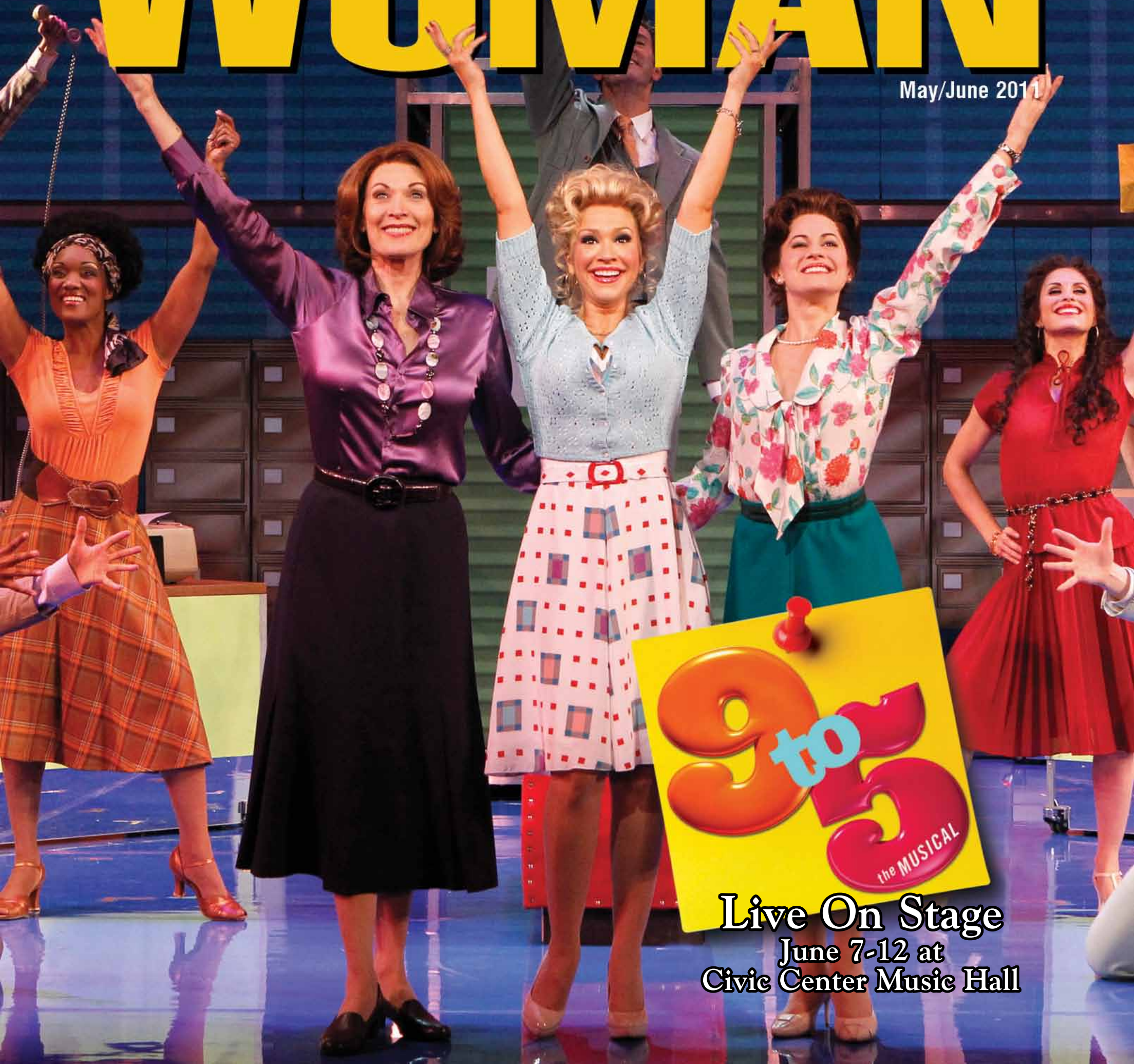


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May/June 2011



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THEN YOU WILL KNOW THAT *I am the Lord*

This Week's Feature Article by Jack Kelley – www.gracethrufaith.com

Some form of the phrase “then you will know that I am the Lord” appears in the Book of Ezekiel 50 times. Prior to the Babylonian captivity (605-535 BC) the Lord used it most often in the context of judgment, whether against Israel’s leaders (Ezekiel 11:10), the nation as a whole (Ezekiel 12:20) or its enemies (Ezek 25-35).

The Lord had given the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar authority over the whole world (Daniel 2:36-38) to be His agency for judgment (Jeremiah 25:8-9). This action began the period of time known as Gentile Dominion that continues to this day and will not be fully concluded until the 2nd Coming. He ordered Israel and all its neighbors to either sur-

render to Nebuchadnezzar or be destroyed (Jeremiah 27:1-8).

The Lord had determined to punish Israel and all the surrounding nations and make His existence known to all people, even if it took destroying them to do so. In some cases that’s exactly what happened. By the time Nebuchadnezzar was finished, Israel had gone into captivity, Tyre and Sidon (Lebanon) had been laid waste, Egypt had been scattered, and Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia no longer existed.

Israel was punished for practicing idolatry. The surrounding nations were punished for celebrating Israel’s punishment. The Lord felt the need to remind all of them who was God and who was not.

That Was Then, This Is Now
But beginning in Ezekiel 36, after Nebuchadnezzar had taken the Jews to Babylon and burned Jerusalem to the ground, the Lord began using the phrase in a different way. He said the restoration of Israel in the latter days would be the way He would show both Israel and the nations of our day that He is the Lord.

Although the Lord’s promise of restoration was partially fulfilled during the time between Israel’s return from Babylon and the Lord’s first coming, the language in chapters 36 and following make it clear Ezekiel was speaking of the time preceding the Second Coming. Here are some examples.

Speaking to the mountains of Israel, the Lord said. “No longer will I make you hear the taunts of the nations, and no longer will you suffer the scorn of the peoples or cause your nation to fall, declares the Sovereign LORD” (Ezek. 36:15).

Obviously Israel fell to the Romans after their return from Babylon.

‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms” (Ezekiel 37: 21-22).

During the time of their captivity the Jews were held in Babylon, and they were the ones who resettled the land afterward. There was no official regathering from all the nations as Ezekiel prophesied will take place after the Gog Magog battle (Ezekiel 39:28).

Also, prior to the first coming the promised land had been divided among various members of the Herod family and Rome. It was not a single entity with a single king.

Here’s How You Will Know

Each step along the way to Israel’s complete restoration is meant to be a sign to show both Israel and the nations that God is the Lord. Each of these signs is identified by some

form of the phrase “You will know that I am the Lord” and there are ten of them.

In effect He was saying, “You will know that I am the Lord,

When I settle people in the land and they become fruitful and prosperous (Ezekiel 36:11)

When I show Myself holy through Israel before the eyes of the nations (Ezekiel 36:23)

When I have rebuilt what was destroyed and replanted what was desolate (Ezekiel 36:36)

When I fill the rebuilt cities with people (Ezekiel 36:38).

When I bring back to life a people long dead (Ezekiel 37:6)

When I open their graves and bring My people up from them (Ezekiel 37:13)

When I put My spirit in them and settle them in their own land (Ezekiel 37:14)

When My sanctuary stands among them forever (Ezekiel 37:28)

When I defeat the Gog Magog coalition (Ezekiel 38:23)

When I have finished calling My people back to Israel, not leaving any behind” (Ezekiel 39:28).

Here’s How It All Began

The desire for a Jewish homeland was awakened in the hearts of Jewish people toward the end of the 19th Century with the First Zionist Congress organized by Theodor Herzl in 1897. The 1917 Balfour declaration made Great Britain’s support for the creation of a Jewish homeland official. Then in 1948 the United Nations declared Israel to be a sovereign nation.

During this 50 year interim Jewish people from all over the world had been coming to Israel to help reclaim the Promised Land. Barren land was made fertile and malaria infested swamps were drained and cultivated. Since then cities have been rebuilt, more desolate land reclaimed, millions of trees planted,

Jack Kelley • See Page 3

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Jack Kelley • From Page 2

and what had been largely wasteland has been made into some of the most productive farmland on the planet. People have come to fill the cities and a nation long considered to be dead has been brought back to life and resettled in its historic lands after an absence of nearly 2,000 years.

This was the beginning of God's plan to reveal Himself to Israel and the nations in the end times. It had first been foretold in a prophecy that was ancient even in Ezekiel's time. Centuries earlier, Moses told the Israelites,

Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers (Deut. 30:4-5).

And then the Lord had Ezekiel tell the people,

It is not for your sake, O house of

Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone (Ezekiel 36:22).

Though scoffers continue to deny it, the rebirth of Israel is a conspicuous fulfillment of prophecy. It's a sure sign that the end of the age is upon us because to a greater or lesser degree these ten signs, intended by God to show Israel and the nations that He is the Lord, are all evident today. Obviously they are not in chronological order, but are listed as they appear in the Book of Ezekiel. Some are already fulfilled and others won't be completely fulfilled until the Second Coming, but all are somewhere in the process of fulfillment as you read this.

Ten is one of the perfect numbers and signifies the perfection of divine order. These ten signs are the Lord's way of saying, "Here is everything that's necessary for Israel and the nations to know that I am the Lord." Are you getting the message? You can almost hear the footsteps of the Messiah.



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Vick's Nyquil 6 oz \$8.35.....	\$178.13 per gallon
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The Deaconess Hospital Healthy Woman program meets on the second Thursday of the month, from 6 -7 p.m. Sign up online at www.healthywomanonline.com or call 604-4444 for more information.

Who Inspires *You?*

BY BECKY SCHNEIDER

Many of us reflect on our school years and identify a teacher who was much more than a teacher. They showed a desire for learning as well as love and compassion to us and these individuals helped us define who we wanted to become, as well, helped us to become that person. They inspired us.

Many students at Mustang High School have such a person in Mrs. Jenny Yates. Mrs. Yates has been a math teacher at Mustang High School for years; inspiring students to achieve their best. With each generation, Mrs. Yates passes on her knowledge and love to the kids who roam the halls of Mustang. Parents are often excited to hear the very teacher who inspired and taught them in their youth, Mrs. Yates, will be teaching their own children as well. She is a much loved and admired woman.

Yes, Mrs. Yates is loved and didn't

know the realm of that love until recently when she went to the doctor for some tests. In early November, she was diagnosed with inoperable, stage 4 colorectal cancer which has spread to her liver. As she puts it, "It totally caught me and my doctors off guard... a total shock!" And, a total shock for the student body as well. As word spread, the students at Mustang High School were devastated but then, motivated to do things to help this beloved teacher and mentor. There are many groups supporting her by making T-Shirts, and "Ribbons on Tuesdays for Mrs. Yates". These students see the greatness in Mrs. Yates NOW and want to give her the support and inspiration she has been giving them all those years.

As word is spreading throughout the community, people are showing their love and support for Mrs. Yates and her family. A donation fund has been set up at the YNB bank in Mustang for Mrs. Yates. Simply mention her name and the tellers will be happy to assist you; they know Mrs. Yates as well... she was also their teacher or their kids' teacher, too!

Fortunately, her chemotherapy treatments haven't been too difficult so far. She frequently talks about the blessings in her life and how many people have shown their love and concern since her diagnosis and is able to continue working the job she loves and does, so very well.

She is enjoying spending time with her favorite 10th grader, Jill; her awesome daughter. Jill is already following her mom's caring footsteps and has started a Relay for Life team named after her Mom. Their goal is to raise money for the young boy the High School 'adopted' this year. (who is this young boy and why did the high school adopt him?) Jill is becoming an inspiration to others as well, just like her mother.

As a community, we are so blessed to have such a wonderful, inspiring person teaching our teenagers! Mrs. Yates, we do love you and wish you the best!

Osama Bin Laden to Cause U.S. Hyperinflation

National Inflation Association - www.Inflation.us

NIA is very pleased that Osama Bin Laden has been neutralized and is no longer a threat to American citizens. During a White House press event yesterday, counterterrorism adviser John Brennan was answering reporters questions and made the comment that al Qaeda "is becoming increasingly bankrupt". Unfortunately, Mr. Brennan got this backwards. The United States is becoming increasingly bankrupt as a result of al Qaeda.

Although America has been safe since 9/11, we need to look at what the cost has been. The U.S. military is currently spending just as much as all other militaries around the world combined. If the U.S. experiences hyperinflation as a result of our military spending, we will no longer be able to protect ourselves from terrorism in the future. The U.S. is currently spending about \$1 trillion annually on maintaining a military empire around the world. This is unsustainable, as we are relying on borrowing and printing money to fund this, and Americans are now paying the price with massive inflation in food and energy prices.

The U.S. military captured Bin Laden in Pakistan using a special team comprised of about two dozen navy seals. In other words, the trillions we have spent fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were all for nothing. We could have captured Bin Laden without our operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and have much smaller annual budget deficits and a much lower national debt today, with a much stronger U.S. dollar.

NIA believes that with the capture of Bin Laden, now is the time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. There is also no reason for the U.S. to be supporting the war in Libya, when Libya presents no threat to the U.S. In recent U.S. led NATO strikes in Libya, we killed Muammar Gadhafi's son and several of his grandchildren who were under the age of 12. There was absolutely no reason for us to take the lives of Gadhafi's innocent young grandchildren. Yes, Libya did kill some of their own citizens who were protesting the government, but it is possible that U.S. led NATO forces have now killed more innocent civilians in Libya than the Libyan government. Syria has been killing a lot more anti-government protesters than Libya. If our military is currently occupying Libya, it only makes sense for the U.S. military to invade Syria as well, but NIA believes there is no reason for us to attack either. We can't police the entire world when we simply don't collect enough tax revenues to fund it.

We hate to say it, but if the U.S. experiences hyperinflation within the next few years, it will be what Bin Laden wanted. If the incomes and savings of Americans no longer have enough purchasing power to put food on the table and heat homes, many more Americans will die from hyperinflation than were killed on 9/11. Yes, we finally got him, but we had to borrow and print trillions of dollars over nearly a decade and there are no signs of our military spending slowing down. The success of killing Bin Laden could potentially be used as an excuse to increase military spending to all new record highs. The purchasing power of the U.S. dollar is crashing to new all time lows on a daily basis. This is not an "orderly" collapse. The dollar is falling off of a cliff and a worldwide rush out of the dollar could be imminent. A weak U.S. dollar as a result of our massive budget deficits, largely from military spending, is the worst possible thing for the homeland security of our country.

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LATONJIA ROBERTS NAMED SINGLE MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Bethel Foundation names Ms. Roberts at recent Spring Clean Event



Single mother, LaTonjia Roberts was named Single Mother of the Year during Bethel Foundations Spring Clean Conference on Saturday, April 30, 2011. The Business Women's Organization received many nominations; however, Ms. Roberts was set apart from the other nominees for several reasons. As a single mother, she is raising her 15 year old son to become a responsible and independent adult. She also works directly to assist other parents to do the same as a Case Manager for the Oklahoma City Department of Human Services. Ms. Roberts continues to further her education and is currently attending UCO in Edmond seeking her Masters' of Science degree in Family and Child Studies. "She has set very high goals for herself and her family by providing a good example of what hard work and dedication can achieve" said Bethel Foundation CEO, Lynda Powell.

Ms. Roberts. LaTonjia Roberts is the true definition of "The Proverbs 31" woman. She keeps her sights on God, and has trusted Him to guide her in raising her son independently and also to help so many others in our world. We congratulate LaTonjia Roberts on this prestigious award.

During the Spring Clean Conference, Bethel helped over 80 single mothers to learn more about choosing a career path, interviewing skills and the importance of a good education. In 2010, the Bethel Foundation helped over 6,400 single mothers and children in our community. They are now planning for several camping programs for area children over the summer months as well as the annual All American Idol event, a very successful local talent contest coming this fall.

For more information, go to www.bethelfoundationusa.com for more information on Bethel Foundation services, and to find out how you can help single mothers in our community.

Jesus Christ: The Non-Biblical Records

Many who criticize the Christian faith do so because they know of only one record of His life and ministry, the Bible. First, it should be noted that the Bible is not one book, but a collection of 66 books, written over a 1,500 year period, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents, by 40 different authors. Furthermore, for those who question the supernatural element attributed to the Bible, you try collecting any set of 66 writings by 40 different authors over a 1,500 year period and arranging these writings into a cohesive unit from beginning to end. History attests to no other!

However, there are more than 20 non-Christian references in ancient literature to the very real existence of Jesus and/or the emergence of the Christian religion which followed His death (and resurrection). These sources include Tacitus, a great historian of Rome; Suetonius, also a historian; Pliny the Younger, one of the leaders of the Roman Empire, et al. Some wrote entire works about Jesus, such as Lucian, Celsus, Porphyry, Hieracles, and Julian the Apostate.

The great Roman historian Tacitus, born in A.D. 55, gave a thorough account of Christianity which included the following...

Christ, the founder of the Christian



sect, was put to death as a malefactor by Pontius Pilate;

Christianity began in Judea and spread in spite of Christ's ignominious death;


Christianity encountered hatred and contempt throughout the Roman Empire, and vast multitudes of Christians were cruelly put to death in Rome at the hands of Nero as late as A.D. 64;

The Jerusalem temple was destroyed, and the Jewish people were subjugated, which was a fulfillment of Christ's prophecy.

Pliny the Younger, a contemporary of Tacitus, wrote a letter to the emperor, Trajan, in A.D. 112. Pliny related the following details...

"They were in the habit of meeting

Jesus • See Page 6



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on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft, or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; ...

Celsus was the first great anti-Christian writer. He authored *A True Discourse*, a 2nd century book dismissing Christianity. Celsus despised Christianity, yet he never considered claiming Jesus Christ did not live. There is actually no evidence in antiquity of anyone claiming Christ was not a real, historical person. That claim has only arisen in the past few centuries.

Celsus, while arguing against Christianity, gives strong evidence of the factual existence of Jesus Christ. Celsus refers to the gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John, and makes some eighty allusions to quotations from the New Testament. His criticisms of Christianity included mentioning the following beliefs...

He was born of a virgin in a small town in Judea;
 He was adored by wise men;
 His birth was followed by the slaughter of infants by order of Herod;
 He took flight to Egypt, where Celsus supposes Christ learned the charms of the magicians;
 After returning, He resided in Nazareth;
 He was baptized and the Holy Spirit descended on Him as a voice was heard from heaven;

He elected disciples;
 He cured the lame and blind;
 He raised people from the dead;
 He was betrayed by Judas;
 He was denied by Peter.

Celsus also refers to several details of Christ's passion, crucifixion, and resurrection. Although Celsus rejected the Christian faith, he certainly believed Jesus Christ was an historical person, not some mythological figure.

Will Durant was a noted historian who wrote a classic multi-volume history of the world titled *The Story of Civilization*. His third volume, *Caesar and Christ* (1944), stated his assertion regarding Christ's historicity. "The contradictions (in the gospels) are of minutiae, not substance; in essentials the synoptic gospels agree remarkably well, and form a consistent portrait of Christ. In the enthusiasm of its discoveries the Higher Criticism has applied to the New Testament tests of authenticity so severe that by them a hundred ancient worthies – e.g., Hammurabi, David, Socrates – would fade into legend.

So, the next time you meet someone who believes Jesus was just a myth let them know the historical facts. Virtually no scholar would risk his/her reputation by making such an absurd claim. Maybe they shouldn't either.

Most of the information used in this article came from the book, "Skeptics Answered," by Dr. D. James Kennedy. This paperback book is available from Coral Ridge Ministries for a price of \$10. For more information please visit their website @ www.coralridge.org.

State Agency Provides the Joy of Books to the Blind

BY JIM KETTLER



The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) provides free library services to Oklahomans who are blind, visually impaired, or have a learning disability or a physical limitation that makes it difficult to make use of standard printed materials. Included in this free service are talking books and magazines, also available in braille and other accessible

formats, and the Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center that provides materials and help for students with visual impairments from birth through grade 12. The AIM Center was recently recognized at the annual Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) award luncheon with the Outstanding Customer Service Award.

OLBPH is operated by the Division of Visual Services (within the DRS) as a part of the national network of libraries affiliated with the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Many volunteers contribute their time and talents to OLBPH to read books and periodicals as well as assisting with the production of the internet radio station, OTIS (Oklahoma Talking Information Service). OLBPH is currently serving approximately 5,000 patrons statewide on an ongoing basis.

Patrons often say that OLBPH has "given them their lives back" or "gives them something they would otherwise have to live without" or simply "blesses their lives." Talking book machines are provided free as are the books and periodicals available either on cassette or in digital format. Whereas the better-known cassette talking book machines are gradually being phased out in favor of digital talking book machines, both types of machines and media are available for the near future. If a patron's talking book machine becomes inoperable, they return it, postage-free, to the library and receive a replacement free of charge. OLBPH employs technicians to clean, refurbish and manage the inventory of machines provided by the Library. Professional Librarians are on staff to provide information and recommendations to patrons.

Library Director Paul Adams says that the most important aspect of the library's services is that "we are able to help our patrons enjoy a better day because they are able to access the reading material they want/need. Books help people connect to the world around them, whether purely for pleasure or for an education. In this way we provide our patrons with a very real connection to the world community."

Patrons can access the available services by contacting The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at (405) 521-3514 or toll-free at (800) 523-0288. They can also send mail to:

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 Check out the website at www.library.state.ok.us.

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photo by Fran Strine



COMING TO OKLAHOMA CITY!

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BY LONNIE MOORE

9 to 5, the movie, was a runaway hit in 1980, one of the highest-grossing comedy films ever, and is still much-loved by fans thirty years later. A lot of things have changed in the office environment in the last thirty years but even now the story has a message of encouragement and hope for anyone who ever bumped into the glass ceiling or struggled with some sort of authority figure. Plus, the story is outrageously funny. Three unlikely friends conspire to take control of their company and gain revenge on their sleazy, chauvinistic, sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot boss.

9 to 5 has been made into a Broadway musical, **9 to 5: THE MUSICAL**, nominated for four 2009 Tony® Awards including Original Score, and a record-breaking 15 Drama Desk nominations including Outstanding Musical. Dolly Parton wrote the theme song for the original movie and was a *must* when it was time to write music for the Broadway production. "I was fortunate to have written the theme song for the film. It really bolstered my recording career as an artist and certainly as a songwriter. Then when I was asked to write the music for the Broadway musical, I was just overwhelmed and overjoyed to have been given the chance. Writing for the musical was very different from writing for records and radio, not as limiting for me. For a musical it depends on what the character needs to say. It's more fun being able to write for so many different characters. It was challenging, mostly because I'd never done it before. But then again, I'd never even seen a movie made until I started **9 to 5**. I guess I did okay with that!

Dolly Parton made her movie debut in this film as secretary Doralee, voted favorite secretary of all time in a 2008 AOL poll. Dolly, Country Music Association's Female Artist of the year two consecutive years and 1978 CMA Entertainer of the Year, had previously been approached about doing a movie but had not been interested. Of **9 to 5** Dolly said "When Jane Fonda contacted me, told me the story and said that she and Lily Tomlin were going

to be in it, it felt like the perfect time to make my first movie. **9 to 5** is like a first love. It's the one I'll always remember the most. For me **9 to 5** is the gift that keeps on giving. You hope for the best outcome when you start any new project, but who could have ever known the success that **9 to 5** would bring? We were all so happy and surprised by the overwhelming success of it".

9 to 5: THE MUSICAL marked the Broadway debut of seven-time Grammy Award singer, songwriter and musician Dolly Parton as composer and lyricist. Of this Dolly Parton said "I couldn't have asked for a better experience on my first Broadway show. I've had the privilege of working with an amazing group of people who have become like family to me. I can't wait for people across the country to see why I'm so proud of everyone involved". "I wish only the very best for all of the new folks involved in **9 to 5: THE MUSICAL**, as well as us older folk. It's fun to see the new cast playing the parts that Jane, Lily, Dabney and I played. We have gotten such a kick out of sitting together in the audience watching them, and then seeing the people sitting in the audience watching us watching them...Oh, what fun this has been."

Welcomed by ONEOK, **9 to 5: THE MUSICAL** comes to Oklahoma City's Civic Center Music Hall June 7-12 for eight performances only. Tickets go on sale Friday, May 6 and may be purchased via phone (800) 869-1451, (405) 297-2264, online at www.CelebrityAttractions.com or in person at the Civic Center Music Hall Box Office. Groups of 10 or more may call (800) 869-1451 ext. 220 for a discount.

The Oklahoma City engagement of **9 to 5: THE MUSICAL** is presented by Celebrity Attractions and concludes the *Celebrity Attractions 2010-2011 Broadway Season*. Celebrity Attractions is proud to have had American Airlines, Magic 104.1 FM and *The Oklahoman* as sponsors for this spectacular season.

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Photos by Joan Marcus.



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