

# Church of the Open Bible

(Church of God General Conference, Atlanta GA)  
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Pastor Rex F. Cain / 440.232.3970 / January 13, 2008

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**The Gideons International**  
**We Welcome Mr. Robert Wentzch as**  
**Our Speaker for Today!**

## GIDEONS IN THE NEWS:

### **GIDEONS EXONERATED!**

#### **Florida Judge Dismisses Charges against Gideons**

*OneNewsNow.com* reports that charges have been dropped against two individuals after they were accused of trespassing on a sidewalk outside of a Florida public school. The two men had been handing out Bibles. On January 19, police arrested Ernest Simpson and Anthony Mirto for trespassing after the principal of Key Largo School called police to complain, according to David Cortman, an attorney for the two men. The two men were with the organization Gideons International and were distributing Bibles.

#### **Liberty Counsel Defends Gideons**

A federal appeals court has heard arguments in a case involving Gideon Bible distribution in a Missouri public school district. For years, the South Iron R-1 School District in Annapolis, Missouri, has allowed various groups to hand out literature and information to students on school property; but now, in an effort to stop the Bible hand-out, the American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the school's equal access policy.

In the case of *Doe v. South Iron R-1 School District*, federal district Judge Catherine Perry issued a preliminary injunction barring the school from allowing any outside group to offer Bibles to students on school property at any time, including non-instructional time.

The pro-family legal group [Liberty Counsel](#) represents the school district and has appealed the injunction, arguing it is unconstitutional because it requires the district to discriminate against a particular religious message -- namely, the Bible. Attorney Mat Staver, founder of Liberty Counsel, says the First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects equal access policies.

"Clearly the First Amendment provides that community groups must receive equal treatment under an open-access policy, as in this case, in that the Bible clearly is not a radioactive device that harms children," Staver contends. "Religious viewpoints are obviously protected under the First Amendment," he says.

"And even though the ACLU might not like the fact that an equal-access policy means equal access for religious speech," the Liberty Counsel attorney points out, "equal treatment is indeed required by the Constitution." What is at stake in this case "is the ability to be able to share the gospel at least on an equal platform, an equal playing field," he says.

"If everyone can use a public forum or everyone can have access through an open-access policy but the Bible, that turns the First Amendment on its head," Staver asserts. "Indeed," he adds, "the First Amendment was designed to protect and give preeminence to religious free speech."

Liberty Counsel presented oral arguments before the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A decision is expected later this year.

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**USE THE BASKET on the back table for a "Love Offering" to help the Gideons with their very important work of spreading God's Word around the world!**

**LIKE CHRISTIANITY IN GENERAL**, you can see by only the 2 articles above that the Gideons (who only hand out Bibles) are being harassed legally and otherwise. Anti Christian forces are trying to stop them from putting Bibles in hotels and are often threatened with arrest. Gideons International distributes God's Word in 176 countries and over 80 languages ... now placing over 1 million copies each week into the hands of the lost (the majority of these Scriptures are being sent to countries in the former Soviet Union and those 3rd world countries in South America, Africa, and Indonesia). Scriptures are delivered to those in motels / hotels, prisons, military installations,

public / private schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, convalescent homes, medical clinics, doctor offices and lawyer offices. Funds to purchase these Scriptures are raised from Christian churches

**OUR VERY OLD AND OBSOLETE** analog photocopy machine quit working and replacement parts are no longer available. Thus, we called an unscheduled board meeting last Sunday where we quickly voted to purchase a new digital copier – it arrived last Friday. We settled on a \$1300 machine. We will pay for it immediately from the church funds but since it is an unexpected and not a budgeted item, we decided to seek contributions to help offset the cost. If our distant Bedford friends would like to help, a donation can be sent to 689 Adams St / Bedford OH 44146.

**RODGER AND RUTH SCHULD** would covet our prayers as Ruth recovers from major surgery she underwent last Friday and as Rodger makes plans to spend a year in Iraq beginning in June. Both of these matters produce stress and concern, so they really need the strength and comfort God alone provides.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Feb. 21-24, 2008, will be a N.E. PROPHECY Conference (and Conf. business) at Brushcreek Church near Dayton with guests, Anthony Buzzard, Bill Wachtel, Wally Winner and Arlen Rankin. More details later.

### ***China's New Bestseller: The Bible***

According to *Time* magazine's online site, Amity Printing has printed some 50 million books in the last 20 years, tame by publishing standards. However, Amity focuses on one title -- the Bible -- and primarily one market, China, where the company is the largest printer of Christian literature in the atheist country. Amity has printed 41 million Bibles for Chinese believers at its plant outside the southern city of Nanjing, including more than 3 million copies last year. (About nine million copies have been exported to Africa, other parts of Asia and Central Europe.) Amity Printing, a joint venture between the Amity Foundation, a Chinese Christian charity, and the United Bible Societies, is acting entirely within the law. Its chief customer is the China Christian Council, the supervisory body for the country's state-controlled Protestant churches. Peter Dean, a New Zealander and the resident consultant for the United Bible Society at Amity's Nanjing

plant, says, "In the case of Bibles, the government took a step in 1979 and extended trust toward the church to assemble, worship and print its own materials. I think it's important to make full use of the trust that was extended. That helps build the future that everybody wants." A poll earlier this year indicated there could be close to 300 million believers in China.

[Religion Today Summaries@crosswalkmail.com](mailto:Religion_Today_Summaries@crosswalkmail.com) / 12-19-70

**DAVE & KATHY ONDERDONK** are enjoying a cruise to the Dominican Republic & Samana peninsula on the island. He wrote it's 80 degrees with lots of sun. They wanted me to extend greetings to the congregation. We will see them again Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**PRAY FOR:** Ruth Schuld (surgery/biopsy on 1-11), Darlene Dejak (surgery, by SMay), Anita Cain, Ken-Kathy Cramer, Jeff Stoneman (cancer, by Whaley), Terry James (cancer, by Roper), Evelyn Pennington, / Pastor Beder (cancer, Peru), Jack Hearp, Ruby Korode, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, Edith Speer, Jacob Hinton\*, Kathy Reed\*, (\*by Skip), W.C. & Craig Blankenship, **College students:** Andrew Weaver, Jackie Schuld, Dan & Rachel Cain (internship / teaching degree), **Shut-ins:** Evelyn Pennington **Military:** Rodger Schuld, **Those serving in other countries:** Lupe Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Beder Ucañay-Peru, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. **Colleges / Churches:** RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

### **JANUARY 2008**

13 Gideon Speaker – Love Offering for their work

20 Sunday School staff meeting

**Future dates:** Feb 11-15 Minister's Conference, GA / Feb 21-24 NE prophecy & business Conf, Brushcreek

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45A.M.**  
**WORSHIP 10:45A.M.**

Musicians: Frank Roper and Sharon Cain  
Welcome / Announcements / Prayer  
Worship Hymns: Mark Cain  
210 Standing on the Promises  
470 Reach Out to Jesus

Prayer / Offering  
Gideon Message by Mr. Robert Wentzch  
(Check out Gideon display on table)  
440 My Hope Is Built



**MARTIN LUTHER** said of the Bible: "I study my Bible in the same way I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest may fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb I shake every branch and every twig. Thing I look under every leaf."

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## **BIBLE PROPHECY CONFERENCE**

*Article I. Feb. 21-24, 2008*

***“Again I Say “Watch!”***

Sponsored  
NORTHEAST CONFERENCE  
February 21-24  
at  
Brush Creek Church of God  
6370 S Kessler-Frederick Rd,  
Tipp City, Ohio 45371

### Conference Schedule

#### Thursday (2/21)

**7:00** Opening Conf. Service – North Hills Leaders  
“Loving the Coming Kingdom” – Wally Winner

#### Friday (2/22)

8:30 Early coffee  
9:15 **Opening Devotions of Joy** – Alan Cain  
9:45 **“Daniel & the Future”** – Wally Winner  
10:45 Break

11:00        **"Understanding Daniel's Seventieth Week: An  
Historicist Exegesis" (Part 1) Rankin & Wachtel**  
12:00        Lunch  
1:00        Songfest of Faith  
1:30        **"Understanding Daniel's Seventieth Week: An  
(i) Historicist Exegesis" (Part 2) Wachtel & Rankin**  
2:30        Break  
2:45        **"How Postmillennialism Became Amillennialism"  
- Buzzard**  
3:45        Break  
5:30        Evening Meal  
7:00        Service –

a) Our Heritage of Faith" – Arlen Rankin

8:15        Late Night Coffee & **NE Conf. Board Meeting**

### **Saturday (2/23)**

8:15        Continental Breakfast  
8:15        Early Coffee  
8:45        **Singing the Songs of Zion – Arlen Rankin**  
9:00        **"The Feet of Nebuchadnezzar's Image" – Winner**  
10:00        Break  
10:15        **"The Abomination of Desolation" - Buzzard**  
11:15        Break  
11:30        **"The Ages-to-Come – Eph. 2:7" – Rankin**  
12:30        Lunch  
1:15        **"Exegesis of 2 Thessalonians 2" – Wachtel**  
2:15        **NE Conf. Annual Business Meeting –**  
4:15        **Question-and-Answer Panel –**  
              a. Buzzard, Rankin, Wachtel & Winner  
5:30        Evening Meal  
6:45        **Robin Todd - Concert**  
7:30        "How Disaster Happened to the Hope of the Kingdom?" Buzzard  
8:45        Coffee, etc.

### **Sunday (2/24)**

9:30        **"Re-Discovering and Holding to the Faith Once  
Delivered" – Wally Winner**  
10:30        **"Behold! He Cometh With Ten Thousands of  
His Saints!" - Wachtel**  
12:00        Potluck Meal  
1:00        **"Hoping to See Him Before I Die: - Ross**