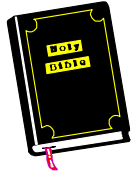


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

DEBATING THE ATHEISTS

On Thursday, Feb.12, 2009 a full-capacity crowd packed the Russell House Ballroom on the University of South Carolina campus to listen to a debate on the existence of the God of the Bible. The champion for the atheists was Dan Barker, co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation who is very competent in the debate arena having participated in over sixty debates on this topic. His opponent was Kyle Butt, a gospel preacher and staff member of Apologetics Press. This was his first debate and it was obvious to all that Kyle came well prepared and held his ground against a professional in the spirit of Christ.

Hundreds of Christians traveled throughout the day from several different states to attend and I was overjoyed to see so many preachers, classmates and brethren. I heard several atheists talking before the debate about how entertaining it was going to be and yet I was nervous for Kyle because of the gravity of what was about to take place. His task was to defend the God of heaven against a cunning, deceitful attacker whose sole purpose in life is to promote atheism and destroy Christianity, the Bible and the concept of God.

Mr. Barker had been in this arena many times before and knew that because of time constraints and the format of the debate that Kyle would never be in a position to overpower him. Mr. Barker simply presented so many ideas, concepts and supposed facts that very little of what was mentioned could be discussed. He shrewdly presented the Bible as a book of ridiculous contradictions, the historicity of Jesus Christ as a fabrication, the science of Darwinism as flawless and accepted by all, the God of the Bible as murderous and monstrous, and morality as “reciprocal altruism” emanating from the masses. To give Mr. Barker credibility he is touted as a former evangelical preacher and Bible scholar who claims, “I was a true believer. I felt the Holy Spirit. I preached. I saw converts. I was a missionary, an evangelist, a Christian songwriter, but I changed my mind when I found out that Christianity is not true.”

- (Continued on page 3)

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 08 February 22, 2009

RECORDS 2/15/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 63
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 96
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 61
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 59
CONTRIBUTION: \$1816

SERMONS 2/22/2009

AM: Jerry Manning
Answering The Atheists
PM: Jerry Manning
Running The Race Before Us

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” - Ephesians 4:13

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided
Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS
2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- We've heard from our brother **Lamar Reeves**. He has been very ill in Greenville and unable to communicate with us. He was diagnosed with colon cancer and had extensive surgery for it. He's lost a tremendous amount of weight and is very weak. He is staying with his Aunt and uncle at:
813 Coleman Street, Newberry, SC 29108, Phone (803) 405-0573
Pray for Lamar. Send him a card to let him know your love for him.
- **Jean Boyd** is doing well after shoulder surgery.
- **Eddie Sheppard** is doing well after eyelid surgery.
- **Tommy White** requests prayers for the **James Roberts** family; he passed away.
- It was good to have the **Banks** back with us this past Sunday.
- **Stephanie Rinehart** requests prayers for a friend **Denise Martin** who had a heart attack; **Julie Wilcox** who has a recurrence of cancer and **Robert Green**, her nephew who got a staph infection after surgery.
- We have many that are ill and especially need our prayers: **Ron Banks**, **Marilyn Brooks**, **Margaret Herring**, **Carolyn Lee**, **Beryl Parks**, **Anna Porter**, **Ruth Raines**, **Lamar Reeves**, **Carolyn Stidham**.
- Remember our brother **Darius Silbawa** who has not been with us.
- Remember all these and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." -
Psalm 27:13

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Pantry Items needed!** We regularly give quite a bit away to those in need. Pop top lids are good, and things that don't need cooking or preparation, such as Lance cracker/cookie packs, canned fruit, Vienna sausages, beanie-weenies, etc.
- **Bible Bowl**, Saturday Feb 28 at the St. Andrews Road church of Christ.
- **Carolina Men's Fellowship**, Saturday March 14, 2009., sponsored by the Charlotte Avenue church, meeting at the Goldsboro church of Christ in Fort Mill.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" - 2 Corinthians 9:6

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 2/22—C 3/1—D 3/8—A 3/15—B

Check your Work Team assignment—your participation is vital!

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

DEBATING THE ATHEISTS - (continued from page 1)

What Mr. Barker fails to understand is that he was not a Christian, he did not feel the Holy Spirit, he was never a Bible scholar, he does not understand what Christianity is, and he does not even begin to grasp the concept of God. He did however draw the proper conclusion that the religion he was subjected to and the doctrine he was taught was false; as 99% of all religion in this world is. Unfortunately he swung so far to the left that the very idea of God is now bitter to him and he is willing to "empty the bathwater, baby and all."

Not everything taught in a false religion is false. Jesus Christ is not a fraud just because he established a religion and all other religions are false. I am afraid that Mr. Barker's bad religious experience may prevent him from evaluating the true evidences of God logically and without bigotry. This has happened to millions of people and is a result of a very successful strategy Satan uses to completely destroy one's faith. Jesus warned of wolves in sheep's clothing (Mat.7:15) and to the Corinthians the apostle Paul stated, "**And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness**" (2 Cor.11:14-15). With such a diabolical force against truth how can it ever stand or be discovered? Jesus said, "**you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**" (John 8:32) and (1 Peter 1:25) tells us that "**the word of the Lord endures forever.**" Bible truth will always stand because it was written by God and is being preserved by God.

The debate was successful in that our brother Kyle Butt did an excellent job getting the discussion started. But it is not about winning a debate, it is about sparking the interest and then fanning the fire. Apologetics Press came prepared to make that happen; handing out dvds, tracks and beautifully illustrated books all free to the public. The information is available for those willing to investigate and for those concerned about giving sound answers (1 Pet.3:15). I hope there is a follow-up to not only reproduce the debate but answer every single accusation Mr. Barker made against the Bible and the God of Heaven. Even though the atheists came to be entertained and watch their champion "combat with comedic relief," there is nothing funny about their agenda, presence on our college campuses and the vast number they are influencing. Kyle Butt must not be an anomaly, we must all be able to stand and competently present sound arguments with solid evidence so that the lies and deception of sin will be exposed and truth will prevail.

- **Jerry Manning**, Evangelist, West Columbia church of Christ

"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." - Galatians 3:6,7