

From: Citizen Link <CitizenLink@FOTF.ORG>
To: LinkMembers@LISTSERV.FAMILY.ORG
Date: Tue, 24 Jul 2001 16:24:56 -0600
Subject: Daily Update (July 24, 2001)

////// CITIZENLINK ////
July 24, 2001

HOUSE PASSES FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE:
Despite attempts by Democrats to derail it in the House,
the track record of faith-based groups hit home.
<http://www.family.org/cforum/fnif/news/A0016948.html>

PK TO PROVIDE SAFE INTERNET ACCESS:
Promise Keepers will offer safe Internet access, but the
ministry won't make a penny, unless you choose to contribute.
<http://www.family.org/cforum/fnif/news/A0016947.html>

LIVING PROOF: THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS
A 16-year-old from Denver is living proof that you don't
have to take life to save life.
<http://www.family.org/cforum/fnif/news/A0016946.html>

LESBIANS RENT GIRL SCOUT CAMP:
A summer camp that overtly promotes the gay lifestyle
will take place at a Girl Scout camp in New Jersey.
<http://www.family.org/cforum/fnif/news/A0016945.html>

A DIRTY INDUSTRY, A CRYING NEED:
Pro-life state legislators and activists are beginning to
win the war over regulating abortion clinics.
<http://www.family.org/cforum/citizenmag/departments/a0016635.html>

Encourage a friend to sign up for this e-mail:
<http://www.family.org/cforum/clinksignup.cfm>

To visit our Web site:
<http://www.citizenlink.org>

To contact your congressman or senators:
<http://www.family.org/citizenaction>

++++
EDITOR'S PICKS: Tools for Engaging Your World
"Physician-Assisted Suicide: Not Worth Living?"
<http://www.family.org/resources/itempg.cfm?itemid=1245&refcd=1CEGCZL&tvar=no>
=no

Who decides when someone should die? Many people
today view euthanasia as a compassionate response to
end the suffering of dying people. But is it really that
simple? Find out what the Bible says about this hot topic
in the video "Physician-Assisted Suicide: Not Worth
Living?" Running time approx. 26 minutes.
++++

FAMILY NEWS IN FOCUS STORIES:

-
House Passes Faith-Based Initiative

By Chuck MiVille, Washington, D.C., correspondent

SUMMARY: Despite attempts by a host of Democrats to derail it in the House, the track record of faith-based groups hit home.

A bill that would expand the ability of religious groups to fund social programs with federal dollars is on its way to the Senate. It passed the House despite Democratic objections that recipients would be exempted from federal anti-discrimination rules.

Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, explained why he was one of 15 Democrats to vote for House passage of the president's faith-based initiative.

"The money should go out according to the results," Hall said.

Despite challenges to the bill's hiring exemption, Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., joined with 15 other Democrats to allow faith-based groups to compete for federal funds.

"The bottom line will outweigh any potential difficulties that we've seen on the horizon and that it's going to be a good program for all the people in this country," Davis said.

On the GOP side, alongside the bill's sponsor, Rep. J.C. Watts, R-Okla., one key supporter is Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind.

"We had to make a lot of compromises in this bill but we now have a constitutional bill that, hopefully, can move forward in the United States Senate," Souder said.

In the Senate, the bill will face more efforts to restrict the rights of faith-based providers to hire according to the dictates of their faith and conscience. Yet Richard Cizik, of the National Association of Evangelicals, said, "You've got to believe."

"(You've got to believe) in religious freedom, believe in God and believe in what is right for America because this battle can be won," Cizik said.

He added that the House's passage of the faith-based initiative was a "profound victory for religious freedom and a defeat for religious bigotry."

If the Senate also passes the bill -- and it may be next year before it's even debated -- it will also provide tax benefits to encourage private and charitable giving. The main concern among some conservatives is what some see as the danger of the money giving government eventual control over religion.

-
PK to Provide Safe Internet Access
By Stuart Shepard, correspondent

SUMMARY: Promise Keepers will offer safe Internet access, but the Christian ministry won't make a penny, unless you choose to contribute.

Promise Keepers (PK) has announced it will provide filtered Internet access.

PK spokesman Ted Padwe said going on the computer Internet is like opening a window.

"If you don't have a screen on your door or your windows, then you're going to get some bugs, mosquitoes, or other things that you really didn't want in your house," Padwe said.

He said filtered Internet service is analogous to that screen, letting some things in while keeping bad material out.

In general, when you hear the term "filtered Internet" you should probably figure that it will cost you a couple of bucks more than the going rate. But PK is actually undercutting most of the mainline providers.

"Promise Keepers believes so strongly in the need for filtering that Promise Keepers would make no money at all on providing that service at \$15.95," Padwe said.

Bart Wiley -- who is with 711.net, the company PK is partnering with -- said that each week there are about 50,000 to 60,000 different sites that come online.

"A majority of those are pornographic sites," Wiley said.

Wiley said that by filtering content before it gets into your house, it's far more difficult to circumvent a filter. Ted Padwe says the idea to provide Internet service grew from his group's seven basic promises.

"(Our promises). . . about accountability, . . . sexual purity and. . . protection [of] the family all come into play when we start talking about bringing the Internet into a home," Padwe said.

The new service was rolled out just last month. If users pay a couple dollars over the monthly fee, Promise Keepers will receive \$5 a month. PK will soon be offering an option for high-speed access as well as the current dial-up service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: To inquire about the service, visit the Promise Keepers Web site at:
<http://www.pkfamily.org>

(NOTE: Referral to external Web sites does not

constitute an endorsement by Focus on the Family of that site's content.)

--

Living Proof: There are Alternatives to Embryonic Stem Cells

By Chuck MiVille, Washington, D.C., correspondent

SUMMARY: A 16-year-old from Denver is living proof that you don't have to take life to save life.

There's been a great debate on whether the president should continue the ban on federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research. But we haven't heard much about the alternatives to embryonic stem cells.

Consider Leslie Salley's 16-year-old son, Nathan.

Leslie and her husband said they felt a little like Abraham, when he was asked to sacrifice his son. They knew if they trusted God, He would make a way -- a way to save their son from cancer without destroying a life.

"He gave us an umbilical stem-cell cord transplant for our son and that was the ram in the thicket for us," Leslie Salley said.

Leslie's son, suffering from an acute form of leukemia, received his cord-cell transplant five years ago.

"As I'm talking here today, obviously it worked," said Nathan Salley.

Nathan, who testified before a Senate committee, said one reason why he is urging the president not to fund research that would cause the destruction of human embryos is that the alternatives -- such as cells derived from umbilical-cord blood -- have not been exhausted.

"Umbilical-cord and adult stem-cell research does work and that's what should be pursued," Nathan said.

Speaking after actor Michael J. Fox testified, Nathan told the hearing that performing research on a 4-day-old embryo will ensure that it never becomes a 5-day-old embryo -- much less a 30-year-old actor or a scientist who discovers a cure for a disease.

After her son gave his Senate testimony, Mrs. Salley said she had a chance to speak to the president's assistant. She asked him to tell President Bush that there is no reason to destroy a life to save a life.

"I said, 'You can look across the table and see Nathan with your own eyes; he is the recipient of this umbilical-cord research,' and he was writing down what I was saying and he said 'I'll take those comments back to the president.'"

Nathan's mom also asked that Bush be reminded that "God is the author of all life."

Best estimates are that 118,000 frozen embryos are facing destruction in the name of science at possible taxpayer expense.

TAKE ACTION: Please continue to contact President Bush and ask him to uphold the law, and not allow federal funding of stem-cell research.

President Bush
Comment line: 202-456-1111
E-Mail: president@whitehouse.gov

--

Lesbians Rent Girl Scout Camp
By Stuart Shepard, correspondent

SUMMARY: You might be surprised that a left-wing summer camp that overtly promotes the homosexual lifestyle will take place at a Girl Scout camp in New Jersey.

The Mountain Meadow camp is advertised as a "feminist camping experience [for] children of lesbian, gay, transgendered* and other progressive families." When children age 9 to 15 fill out the application, along with birth date and allergies, they must choose "Gender of camper: male / female / other (please explain)."

Bob Knight, director of the Culture and Family Institute, said it isn't surprising that the lesbian camp rented out space from a Girl Scout camp.

"This camp shows that the Girl Scouts are not only not vigilant about protecting girls from lesbianism, they don't mind if it gets promoted under their aegis and on their property," Knight said.

Knight said the Girl Scouts leadership is responsible for what takes place on their property.

"When (the Girl Scouts) go out selling cookies, everybody thinks this is for a good cause, and everybody buys Girl Scout cookies," Knight said. "I think most people who buy these cookies would be appalled to know the Girl Scouts are harboring organizations that openly promote homosexuality."

Mountain Meadow campers are asked to reveal thoughts on their family's sexual orientation.

Kathryn Lopez, with National Review magazine, who has written about the liberal swing of the Girl Scouts, said the lesbian camp is "a radicalized version" of something she has seen before -- "a tendency from the Girl Scouts to be liberal feminists and to bring issues of sex and sexual orientation into the Girl Scouts rather prominently."

RECOMMENDED READING:

--

"A dirty industry, a crying need" (July '01 Citizen)

By Karla Dial

<http://www.family.org/cforum/citizenmag/departments/a0016635.html>

Pro-life legislators and activists in several states are beginning to win the war over regulating abortion clinics.

1CEGCZL

=====
CITIZENLINK is a policy and culture information service of Focus on the Family, a ministry sustained by the contribution and prayers of supporters. This e-mail may not be used for commercial or political purposes.

If you would like further information on Family News in Focus stories, call (800) 782-8227.

REMOVAL INSTRUCTIONS: If you would like to be removed from the list, please send an e-mail to listserv@listserv.family.org with the text UNSUBSCRIBE LINKMEMBERS as the body of your message.

Copyright (c) 2001, Focus on the Family. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. You are encouraged to send this e-mail to others in its entirety, without any changes, for noncommercial and nonpolitical use only.

For permission to reprint any of these articles, please send your request in writing to permission@fotf.org or by fax at 719-548-4525.

=====