

In the News: We need to be praying for our country and our state when we consider some of the things going on around us right now:

“Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child!”



Sally Lieber

On 2-22-08 Sally Lieber, liberal Democrat California Assembly woman of Mt. View has introduced legislation (AB 2943) to ban spanking of any kind. She calls all spanking “beating” and “hitting”; she makes no distinction between controlled discipline and real child abuse. Her bill is making headway, having passed the Public Safety Committee and now has been assigned to the Appropriations Committee with a hearing date to be set soon. God said, *“The rod and reproof give wisdom” (Proverbs 29:15)*. Spanking has already been outlawed in 15 countries—pray that California won’t be the first foothold for undermining God’s Word on this issue here in the US.

The CA Court of Appeals (2nd District) agreed to reconsider a Feb 28 decision by a 3 judge panel that would make most home-schooling illegal in the state. In the ruling, Justice H. Walter Croskey opined, *“parents do not have a constitutional right to homeschool their children.”* There are about 166,000 home-schoolers in California. The court will likely re-hear the case in June. God commanded parents to *“teach... diligently...your children...in your household...you shall fear only the LORD your God...do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you” (Deut 6:7, 13,18)*. Pray that Croskey will be overruled & God’s Word will be upheld here in the Golden State.



Croskey

“Who’s afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?”



Larry Lessig

Stanford Law Professor and **Barak Obama** adviser, Larry Lessig, has recently been challenged regarding the blasphemous video he uses in his lectures to students. The video depicts an effeminate mock-Christ walking down Hollywood in a diaper, who then gets hit by a bus. God’s Word predicted unconscionable days like ours would come: *“In the last days, difficult times will come; for men will be...revilers, unholy,...haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than, lovers of God...inventors of evil” (2 Tim 3:1-5; Rom 1:30)*. *“God cannot be mocked” (Gal 6:7)*.

Now for some good and exciting news. Dr. Steve Nelson and I had the amazing opportunity of spending time with John MacArthur this month at the Billy Graham Center (*The Cove*) for a Bible conference. We were his 'companions' for 5 days. John was invited to speak at *The Cove* by Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham, who oversees the conference center. This is the first time John has been invited to speak there. John spoke 10 times and in the off hours Steve and I spent about 12 hours of personal time with John and his wife Patricia, talking in his cabin, sipping coffee, picking his brain, listening to amazing stories of the MacArthurs from their experiences around the world and from their personal ministry, going to lunches and dinner, and answering some questions for them as well. Of the countless stories John told us, one of the best was about his recent interactions with James Dobson, who has called on John recently for personal pastoral encouragement. John was blessed to be able to minister to Dr. Dobson in an extended personal way. Another highlight was spending time with Franklin Graham and his son Will. They were humble, gracious hosts and are unreservedly committed to the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. This whole trip was possible because of Dr. Felix Martin del Campo, a mutual friend of MacArthur, Franklin Graham and Steve Nelson. He was a fantastic liaison and catalyst for the whole event, attentive to the smallest details that made this trip unforgettable. Thanks brother Felix! Some pictorial highlights...



Cliff, Felix Martin del Campo, Jr. and Will Graham at *The Cove*



Franklin & John at dinner talking about their dads who preached together in the '50's



John at his best, 'bringin' the Word'



Pastor Cliff reunited with his former pastor, Johnny Mac, after 13 years, in Ruth Graham's cabin



Patricia MacArthur, taking good care of us...preparing fresh, yummy coffee



Dr. Steve Nelson & Johnny Mac discussing periodontics and the implications of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ