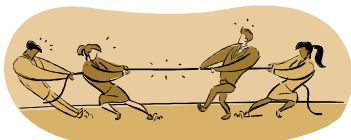


HAPPY New Year  TO OUR TEAM
JANUARY 2006



TEAM WORK TAKES TENACITY

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers...authorities...the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Eph 6:12

Let’s see now. Do Christians avoid getting involved in politics because the system is ‘crooked and corrupt,’ or is the system ‘crooked and corrupt’ because Christians avoid getting involved? If Jesus deemed it necessary to eat dinners with sinners—some of which were *tax collectors*—are we expected to do less?

It wasn’t Joseph’s plan to live among and rule over the Egyptians. He yearned to be with his own people, yet if he escaped, who would have launched the “Feed the Hungry Program” that kept the Egyptians and Israelites from starving?

Each of us has a purpose and a calling in this life. We are not clones, but who is going to stop the trend toward cloning? Is it a political issue? You bet it is, just like abortion, same sex marriage, taxes, embryonic stem cell research, gambling and a litany of nonstop problems.

We can be doctors, lawyers, teachers, mothers, dads, or athletes, and many other diverse careers of influence and affluence. No matter what our main career or calling, it does not take a lot of time to become informed and involved in the political process. Our opponents seem to be winning the tenacity struggle as our Constitution, religious traditions and moral values are being railroaded by political correctness and being diminished and demonized in our courts, media and educational system.

COME CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS. COME, JOIN OUR TEAM!

❖❖❖ **January Meeting Schedules** ❖❖❖

CENTRAL PINELLAS: Meeting, January 7, 10:00 AM
Meets every first Saturday at Panera Bread, Bardmoor Shopping Center, Bryan Dairy and Starkey Rd.

Co-Chair: Vance Lackore, 776-7194,
vlackore@tampabay.rr.com

Co-Chair: Ron Scheffler, 595-6971, rmscheffler@cfaith.com

North Pinellas: Meeting, Tuesday, January 3, 6:30 pm

Palm Harbor Public Library, Riviera & Nebraska.

Chapter President: John Hicks, 785-2066,
nobnoj@msn.com

Visit our Website: www.cpcfl.org

❖❖❖ **DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS** ❖❖❖

Central Pinellas State Rep. Leslie Waters did a great job of informing us of the FL Legislature’s Special Session. There were ten issues involved but the one of most concern for Florida conservatives is the slots.

Slots Implementation Regulation (HB 1B) - As directed by a voter-approved constitutional amendment, the Legislature developed regulations for slot machines in four Broward County pari-mutuel facilities. No facility may have more than 1,500 machines, and each machine must have a minimum payout of 85%. A tax of 50% will be levied against all slot machine revenues, the proceeds of which will directly benefit the state education system. The Legislature will continue to ensure slot machine gaming will be limited, localized, and regulated. (See related article, ‘Don’t...page 3.)

Bev Myers blessed us with her sweet voice and getting us all in a very ‘Merry Christmas’ mood.

North Pinellas Among other things, President and CEO of the Pregnancy Center, Sol Pitchon, spoke about the new birthing center, Breath of Life. Construction will begin this year in Largo

Don't Bet On It. The Odds Are Against You!

(Sources: *Priority One Resources;

** FI Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) By Katy Heyl

***SMART MONEY 8/2000 "What the Gambling Industry Won't Tell You,"
by Brian O'Keefe (Reader's Digest)

*Curst is the Wretch Enslaved to such a Vice,
Who Ventures Life and Soul upon the Dice—Horace.*

Tantalized by the demon of chance, *three percent of the adult population will experience a serious problem with gambling. Hooked on the high that is derived from the game of chance, life on the fast track is "curst" by unmanageable wrong turns. Somewhere between the loss of a shirt and the loss of a mortgage, laws are violated and lives are destroyed by guilt, the behavior and the crimes of the gambler.

We can't put the entire blame on the godfathers of chance for slipping slots into our states' neighborhoods—expanding gambling borders. Unfortunately, it is far too easy to amend our Florida Constitution and uninformed voters, seeing gambling as just another form of entertainment, approved this constitutional amendment in the past election.

Vice never stays the same: "...evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." (II Tim. 3:13) Gambling is a no-win situation for those who wager their wages. The spoils belong to those who collect the wagers' wages—the unknown faces behind the Gaming Institution. They are the ones calling the shots.

Lured by the promises of increased tourism and revenue (especially for education), the impostors caused an epidemic of greed as state after state bowed to the moneychangers—the faceless enemies within. Did anyone ever hear someone say that they go to the riverboats to gamble so they can help fund education and bring revenue to the state??? (I didn't think so.) The economic spin-offs for education in Florida amount to a pitiful pittance.

Gamblers are unsuspecting pawns for criminal activity. Some of the locations where the games people play with their money are breeding grounds for street crimes, drugs, prostitution, theft and serious injury.

**The National Opinion Research Council (NORC), conducted a study in 1998 with the National Gambling Impact Study Commission. It revealed that overall, problem and pathological gamblers in the U.S. cost society approximately \$5 billion per year and an additional \$40 billion in lifetime costs for productivity reductions, social services and creditor losses. (Calculations are conservative and reflect minimums.)

*** "Addicts keep us in the money."

In a study conducted by two professors at Duke University for the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, they found that ten percent of lottery players account for 68% of lottery sales. At the University of Illinois, Earl Grinols estimates that up to one-third of casino revenue comes from problem or pathological gamblers.

*** "You're children are getting hooked..."

Today, more kids gamble than are involved with drugs, smoking or drinking, according to Jeff Derevensky, a psychology professor at McGill University in Montreal. He also found that the addiction rate among youths is two to four times that of the population at large.

Though it's illegal to play most lotteries if you're younger than 18 or 19, studies show that a high share of adolescents buy tickets—32% in Louisiana, 34% in Texas and 35% in Connecticut. How? Ticket sales are not always monitored. Plus, automated machines in public places like airports and stores...make it easy for young people to play.



Tom Talley was the first certified National Gambling Counselor in Florida and is Vice President of the Florida Council of Compulsive Gambling. He has been involved in Gambling and Family Intervention for 25 years.

When Talley arrived in Florida 15 years ago, there was only one meeting in the area. Now there are 18 meetings in five area cities, including Tampa and Clearwater. There is no doubt that he is sadly aware of the following findings.

*Supporting Statistics

- ~ Three percent of the adult population will experience a serious problem with gambling that will result in significant debt, family disruption, job losses, criminal activity, or suicide.
- ~ A survey of compulsive gamblers found 22% divorced because of gambling, 40 % had lost or quit a job due to gambling, 49% stole from work to pay gambling debts, 23% alcoholic, 25 % compulsive overeaters, 63% had contemplated suicide and 79% said they wanted to dies. (Henry Lesieur and Christopher Anderson.)
- ~ One study conducted for insurance companies suggests that 40% of white collar crime can be traced to gambling. Usually those involved have no prior criminal record.
- ~ The suicide rates for problem gamblers is significantly higher that it is for the general population. One out of five attempt suicide, a higher rate that for alcoholism of drug addiction.
- ~ Costs to society of the problem gambler vary from the most conservative estimate of \$13,200 to \$30,000 a year.

"Gambling limits our aspirations" Gov. Jeb Bush, '05

GAS TAX INCREASE WILL HURT PINELLAS

The increased gas tax proposal would hurt small businesses and the working-class of Pinellas County. First of all, it will hit the tourism industry that is the backbone of the Pinellas County economy. Many tourists drive into and around Pinellas County while on vacation. If they have to spend more on gasoline then they will spend less at restaurants, coffee shops, and other beach-oriented shops in Pinellas.

Secondly, the working-class citizens of Pinellas County will be hit especially hard. The waiters, waitresses, bartenders, and hotel staff will have to pay a larger portion of their wages for gasoline which will hurt them. But even worse, the gas tax will actually cause their working-class wages to go down because the more money tourists have to pay for gas, the less money they will have to "tip" the previously mentioned workers.

The Lord gives the pro-gas tax politicians a warning when he says: "Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out. And the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." (James 5:4 NKJV) The politicians of Pinellas County have been poor stewards of God's gifts. They need to cut spending and run a better and more efficient government that is less wasteful.

Finally, I will offer two solutions for the politicians of Pinellas County that will help them get out of the mess they have created by wasteful spending. First of all, we should make "purveyors of sin" pay their fare share of service fees. We should increase the amount of what strip-clubs and adult establishments have to pay in liquor licenses and other services and licensing fees. Secondly, and more importantly, we should have more churches and faith-based organizations provide social services locally. Studies have shown they perform better and at a lower cost than government run programs.

I, along with the rest of the faith-based community in Pinellas County, will be watching how our local officials act on the gas-tax increase issue. And as the Lord says: "he will render to each one according to his deeds." (Romans 2:6 NKJV)

God Bless. *John Giotis*

(Dr. Giotis has been a longtime friend and part of our Christian Coalition of Pinellas County. His work has kept him first in Atlanta and now in New Jersey, but his heart is in Pinellas County. He can be reached at Jgiotis.com.)



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COALITION

William J. Murray, Chairman

Supreme Court Nominations Last week I mentioned that several Hollywood actresses participated in a fund raising event for People for the American Way that garnered several hundred thousand dollars to buy TV ads to bash Judge Samuel Alito. I have inside information that the PAW, the NAACP, George Soros and others funded organizations intending to try to play the race card on Alito. They have found an obscure case in which a policeman shot a black criminal who was fleeing. They will claim that Alito's siding with the police officer proves that he is a racist. (Yes, this is a real stretch, but the PAW and groups like it don't run honest advertising campaigns.) Insiders are estimating that more than \$50 million has been raised to bash Alito which is more money than is spent on some Senate races. Some economic conservative groups have come forward with some funds to run ads, believing that Alito will side with big business on the Court. Most conservatives, however, are not putting up bucks to back Alito. Ford Motor Company, AT&T and Wal-Mart have given funds to groups opposing Alito. The anti-Alito ads will begin airing the day after Christmas.

The Alito Nomination [Majority Leader Frist](#) made it clear that he will change Senate rules if the Democrats attempt to filibuster the confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito. Senator Frist told a [Sunday news show](#) that "...Supreme Court nominees deserve an up or down vote." Although by Senate rules it takes 60 votes to stop a filibuster, it takes only 51 votes to change any Senate rule. Because the Republicans control 55 seats, they can do away with the filibuster rule as it is applied to judicial nominations. The Republicans would make no attempt to eliminate the rule in its entirety. (Please pray that Alito's nomination will move quickly and smoothly.)

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Visit our website: www.cpcfl.org.

Please mail to and make checks payable to: Christian Coalition of Pinellas Cte., 13563 Cordova Dr., Largo, FL 33774 (727-595-6971)

Contributions, including membership fees, are not tax deductible.

Illegal immigration has become an epidemic throughout the United States. Shipping containers containing illegal immigrants from Mainland China were intercepted at the shipping docks in Harbor Island, Washington; thousands of immigrants cross from Mexico into the U.S. weekly, many repeating the trip on a regular basis. This problem is not problematic only in those States that border Mexico, police departments across the Midwest, and even in the Northeast refuse to check the status of many illegals, stating the Federal officials will not back up their arrest or take the illegals into custody. Illegals are not just from Mexico, but from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Arab Mideast, China and many other countries. Florida is currently number 4 in the number of illegal immigrants.

Some of the economic disadvantages to the U.S. are the nearly total absence of minimum wage jobs available to American students and young people because they are filled by immigrants, millions of dollars sent back to the countries of origin affecting our international balance of trade, the load on our welfare and health care systems, unemployment and disability payments reducing our available currency at home with an annual cost in the U.S. of roughly \$500 per year for every American head of household. Proponents of unrestricted borders point to what they see as a sharp increase in construction costs, farm and produce production and other unskilled labor positions filled by approximately 1.3 million illegals should immigration be curtailed. Uncounted costs to the U.S. are the threat of terrorism, crime, and human trafficking in smuggling these immigrants into the country.

There is no way to know or track the number of violent terrorists that have infiltrated our country via our porous borders but it is impossible to deny the existence of terrorists already in the country. At least 51 people who crossed the border illegally have been arrested on suspicion of terrorism since such tracking began 14 months ago, according to figures released to Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo. by the Department of Homeland Security.

It is because of our dedicated law enforcement agencies that we have had no terrorist attacks since 2003 but they depend upon our vigilance to remain a country free from restrictive governmental surveillance and unconstitutional legislation. Let's contact our legislators and President Bush and encourage them to put into place reasonable immigration caps, close the borders to all illegal immigration, and deport the illegals now in our country.

I'm Vance and I'm thinking right.