

Atlanta Freethought News

An AFS Publication • Volume 9 Number 1 • January 2003

Our January Meeting

Our January 12 AFS meeting will feature an open forum discussion of the current challenges to the separation of Church and State, including the new Republican Senate and President Bush's Faith-Based Initiative. We'll also talk about what we can do as individuals and as a group to counteract those who want religion in government. (Read the articles in this issue of AFNews to prepare for the meeting.)

The meeting will be at 1:00 at the **AFS Center**, Suite 500, 1170 Grimes Bridge Road, in Roswell, GA. To get there from Atlanta, take I-400 north past I-285 by 8 miles to Exit 7B, which is GA-140. Take GA-140 (Holcomb Bridge Road) west about 1 mile and turn left at Grimes Bridge Road. Go 0.2 miles to 1170 Grimes Bridge Rd., which is on the right.

SOS Meets at AFS Center

The **Secular Organizations for Sobriety** meets at the AFS Center every Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM. SOS is the secular replacement for AA (Alcoholics Anonymous).

Fellowship of Reason Meeting

The **Fellowship of Reason** will have their next meeting at 12:30 PM on February 2 at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1025 Mount Vernon Hwy, in Atlanta. For details, see www.fellowshipofreason.com.

Publications Committee Needs You

The Publications Committee, chaired by Bill Burton, needs more members for decision-making and review of material for publication. Can you do this? If so, please see Bill Burton or email him at waburton@mindspring.com.

Email Version of AFNews

The Atlanta Freethought News is now available by email in Adobe Acrobat® format. Please consider receiving your newsletter this way; it will save AFS about \$1.00 per newsletter.

To receive AFNews by email, request this issue in an e-mail to SteveYoth@aol.com. If there is any problem, just let Steve know and he can return you to the paper mailing list.

AFS Meetings and Activities

Jan 12: AFS General Meeting at AFS Center, 1:00 PM.
Jan 17: AFS Social, Las Margaritas Restaurant, 7:00 PM.
Jan 19: AFS Board Meeting, AFS Center, 2:00 PM.
Jan 19: AFS Dinner, Panahar Restaurant, 6:30 PM.

AFS Activities

The **AFS Discussion Group** will **not** meet this month. Instead, we will have a Fund-Raising Dinner at Panahar Restaurant. (See the article on the dinner on page 5.)

There will be no **AFS Hike** this month.

The next **AFS Social** will be at Las Margaritas Restaurant at 1842 Cheshire Bridge Road (Atlanta) on Friday, January 17, at 7:00 PM.

To get there from the north, take I-85 to the Cheshire Bridge Road exit (Exit 88). Turn left at the light and go about 1.5 miles. The restaurant will be on the right.

To get there from the south, take Piedmont Rd. north to Cheshire Bridge Road. Turn right at Cheshire Bridge Road and go about 0.5 miles. The restaurant will be on the left.

The Tuesday Lunch Bunch

A group of AFS members meets every Tuesday at 12:00 at Panahar Restaurant. The address is 3375 Buford Hwy, Suite 1060, in Atlanta. Come on down and enjoy the Bangladeshi food buffet and the great company.

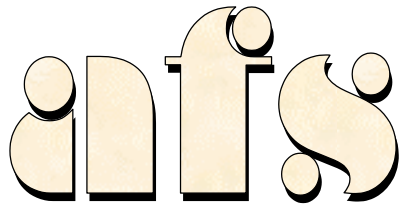
AAI Member of New Coalition

The Atheist Alliance International (of which AFS is a member group) is now a founding member of the Secular Coalition for America, a new political partnership of national freethought groups. Founding organizations with AAI are the Institute for Humanist Studies, the Internet Infidels and the Secular Student Alliance.

The group's website (<http://www.secular.org/>) speaks of "refreshingly bold freethought activism" and offers links to sites which locate your congressional representatives or the media of a given area. The site publishes a position statement, which says, in part, "Informed by experience and inspired by compassion, we encourage the pursuit of knowledge, meaning, and responsible ethical codes without reference to supernatural forces. We affirm the secular form of government as a necessary condition for the interdependent rights of religious freedom and religious dissent."

In order to move beyond the lobbying restrictions placed on educational non-profits, the SCA has incorporated as a 501(c)(4) organization. This tax status will enable the Coalition to engage in organized political activism to an extent previously unknown in the non-theistic community.

"When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad. That's my religion." — Abraham Lincoln, from *The Speaker's Book of Quotations*



**Atlanta
Freethought
Society**

Programs and Speakers

All programs are on the second Sunday of each month at the AFS Center, 1170 Grimes Bridge Road, Roswell, GA, unless otherwise noted. Programs start at 1:00 PM, but feel free to arrive at 12:00 for socializing. Visitors are always welcome.

Jan 12: This meeting will feature a discussion of separation of Church and State, including the new Republican Senate and President Bush's Faith-Based Initiative. (Prepare for this meeting by reading articles from this issue of AFNews.)

Feb 9: Bobbie Kirkhart, President of Atheist Alliance, Inc., will speak on the AAI, Gora and positive atheism. (Gora was a man who worked with Gandhi for the liberation of India. After independence, he established the Atheist Centre of India, which is a founding member group of the Atheist Alliance.)

Mar 9: TBD

To join the AFS Forum e-mail list, send a blank message to AFSforum-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To join the AFS Announcements list, send a blank email to afs-announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To join the Georgia Freethinkers Letter Writing Cooperative, send a blank email to flwc-ga-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

You can unsubscribe by sending an email to xxxx-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

The Atlanta Freethought Society is a member-run organization dedicated to advancing freethought and protecting the rights and reputation of freethinkers, agnostics, atheists and humanists. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about the advantages of living life free of religious dogma through speeches, debates, discussions, protests, letters to the editor, broadcast appearances, and any other reasonable and civil means available.

We define freethought as "the forming of opinions about life in general and religion in particular on the basis of reason and the evidence of our senses, independently of tradition, authority, or established belief."

We actively support a strict separation of church and state as the best means to guarantee liberty for all, regardless of religious belief or, especially, lack of belief.

We seek to educate ourselves on many topics but especially on religion and non-religion, primarily through having a series of thought-provoking speakers and programs and by maintaining and using our own extensive library of freethought, religious, and related books, pamphlets, videotapes, and audiotapes.

We provide an organization where freethinkers and non-theists can develop friendships, talk freely, socialize and enjoy each other's company. We do not discriminate against anyone on such irrelevant grounds as race, sexual orientation, age, gender, class, or physical disability. We welcome members and leaders of all political parties and preferences.

Because we are designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) educational organization, contributions to AFS are tax deductible.

Any who are like-minded are welcome to join us.

Atlanta Freethought News
an AFS publication

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Steve Yothment

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Bush Faith-Based Directive Authorizes Discrimination

On December 12, President Bush enacted key pieces of his divisive "faith-based initiative," including one that lets federal contractors display religious favoritism in their hiring.

Hoping to involve churches and religious organizations more deeply in government efforts to address social ills, Bush signed an executive order aimed at giving those groups a leg up in the competition for federal money, administration officials said. His plan was also the subject of a speech to religious and charitable leaders in Philadelphia.

The president began pushing the issue on Capitol Hill in his second week in office and ran into a fierce debate over how religious groups could get government money without running afoul of the constitutional separation of Church and State.

He was successful in the House but the Senate wouldn't even give him a watered-down version that focused on tax breaks for charitable giving.

Even with next year's total Republican control of Congress sure to create a more friendly environment, Bush decided to forge ahead on his own.

By far the most explosive of the changes is Bush's directive informing federal agencies that religious organizations refusing to hire people of any faith (or no faith) can still win contracts.

New regulations from the departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development

also preserve the right of religious groups providing certain government-financed services to hire based on religion.

Broadly, Bush's executive order tells federal agencies to ensure religious groups are treated equally with others in all respects, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Federal contractors also can no longer be denied federal money for displaying religious icons, such as a cross or a menorah.

The hiring issue was one of the central disputes as lawmakers considered Bush's proposals before. Civil rights law bars discrimination on the basis of religion; constitutional problems arise when government money is involved.

Bush's aim is not to favor religious groups, merely to erase barriers to give them as fair a shake as any others, one senior official said. And the executive order restates that organizations cannot use federal funds to preach a particular faith, worship or provide religious instruction.

Joe Conn, a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said religious groups would be allowed to discriminate in hiring while other groups could not.

"It's not equal treatment," he said. "It's special treatment for religious groups. ... In essence, the government is going to be funding religious discrimination."

For his Philadelphia announcement,

Bush chose a presidential-election battleground state with the fifth-largest cache of electoral votes. The visit was Bush's 17th to Pennsylvania — the most to any state.

Behind the president's push to expand the role of churches in addressing poverty, hunger, homelessness and drug abuse is his belief that they can be more effective than other groups in helping the needy.

His administration—fueled by the religious conservative constituency that forms Bush's political base—contends that religious groups face unfair barriers.

White House officials cited the examples of the Victory Center Rescue Mission in Iowa, which was threatened with losing \$100,000 in federal money because its governing board wasn't secular enough, and the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty in New York, told it could not apply for a federal grant because the word "Jewish" was part of its name.

In other administrative changes announced by Bush, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will now allow religious nonprofits such as schools and soup kitchens to get federal aid after natural disasters. The change was made retroactive to the beginning of Bush's term.

Finally, Bush created offices to help shepherd religious groups through the bureaucracy in two departments, Agriculture and the U.S. Agency for International Development. That



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Bush Faith-Based Directive (*continued*)

brings the total number of agencies with such offices to seven.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, which has actively opposed Bush's faith-based initiative, denounced the move.

"Bush is on a crusade to bring about an unprecedented merger of religion and government," said the Rev. Barry Lynn, AU's executive director. "We will explore every opportunity to challenge this in the courts."

"Bush is giving his official blessing to publicly funded religious discrimination," Lynn continued. "He is rolling back all Americans' civil rights and civil liberties... Under this scheme, taxpayers will be forced to support churches they don't believe in, and workers will be denied publicly funded jobs because they don't conform to

religious mandates."

"Most religious and civil rights groups strongly oppose the Bush plan," Lynn added. "Even the president's own denomination—the United Methodist Church—is strongly opposed to much of the Bush initiative."

"Bush failed to get his controversial faith-based initiative through Congress, so now he's trying an administrative end-run."

In a December 12 speech at the youth center at the Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, President Bush said, "If a charity is helping the needy, it should not matter if there is a rabbi on the board or a cross or a crescent on the wall or a religious commitment in the charter. The days of discriminating against religious groups just because they are religious

are coming to an end... "When decisions are made on public funding, we should not focus on the religion you practice. We should focus on the results you deliver."

"I recognize that government has no business endorsing a religious creed or directly funding religious worship or religious teaching," Bush said in Philadelphia. "That is not the business of the government. Yet government can and should support social services provided by religious people as long as those services go to anyone in need, regardless of their faith. And when government gives that support, charities and faith-based programs should not be forced to change their character or compromise their mission."

[This article is from a December 16 FoxNews.com article and a December 12 press release from www.au.org.]

Proposed Georgia Bill Requires Death Warrant for Abortion

SEE THE BILL AT [HTTP://WWW2.STATE.GA.US/LEGIS/2003_04/FULLTEXT/HB1.HTM](http://www2.state.ga.us/legis/2003_04/fulltext/hb1.htm)

Georgia legislators will introduce a bill in January that refers to abortion as an "execution" and will require any mother seeking an abortion to go to court to obtain a death warrant.

"A mother would have to argue why the child should die and why her rights would take priority over the rights of the child," said Rep. Bobby Franklin, R-Marietta, who sponsored the legislation.

Once a mother filed for a death warrant, a guardian would be appointed to protect the rights of the fetus. That guardian would be authorized to demand a jury trial in which the rights of the fetus would be balanced against the rights of the mother seeking to have the "execution" performed.

"It's a grotesque violation of a woman's right to choose," said Ebony Barley of the Georgia Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

"Think about the women in rural Georgia. They'll be required to talk about their personal health experiences in court... It's the highest form of humiliation," she said.

The court would be able to hold a trial within 30 days of the filing of the petition and a death warrant would be signed only if the court finds that the rights of the person seeking to have the abortion are superior to the right of the fetus to live. Either side could appeal.

"It's an attempt to restore the 14th Amendment due-process rights of the unborn. It's a constitutional protection that we all have that's not being adhered to when it comes to dealing with unborn children," Franklin said. "The first thing we do as state representatives is take an oath of office to support the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Georgia. Both ensure no person will be deprived of life or liberty without due process. We just want to make sure that's adhered to. Right now, the unborn child is losing his or her life without a trial."

Those favoring unrestricted abortion on demand describe the bill as "the most extreme" attempt to overturn Roe v. Wade.

"Franklin's goal in introducing a bill

that refers to abortion as an 'execution' is to open the floodgates to other anti-choice legislation," Barley added.

She said it's no coincidence the legislation is being introduced during the month that marks the 30th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision that legalizes abortion. She points out the bill stipulates it will be automatically repealed on the day following the day the U.S. Supreme Court issues a decision expressly declaring the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

"It's not outlawing abortion; it's just recognizing the child has rights, too," said Franklin.

The bill also mandates that no physician can perform an "execution" in the State without first obtaining a death warrant.

If a doctor performs an abortion without a "death warrant," he could be subject to up to five years imprisonment and permanent revocation of his medical license.

But, there's no penalty for women who have an abortion without first obtaining a "death warrant."

(*continued on page 6*)

The Judge Moore Trial: A Continuing Saga

Prior to the middle-of-the-night installation of a 5,280-pound Ten Commandments monument in the Alabama State Judicial Building, Chief Justice Roy Moore and his supporters anticipated a legal challenge to their actions. They even raised money to pay for his defense.

At that time, Moore pledged that the state would not have to pay lawyer expenses for any trial.

However, in a December 9 interview, Moore's spokesman Tom Parker said that Moore's legal defense fund would not be tapped. The state, he said, would foot the bill.

On Nov. 18, U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson ruled against Moore in finding that the Ten Commandments monument violated the First Amendment ban on state sponsorship of religion. He gave the chief justice 30 days to remove it. Moore has appealed the ruling.

On Dec. 2, lawyers for the plaintiffs who sued seeking removal of the monument filed a request asking Thompson to award them about \$700,000 for their time and expenses.

"When Chief Justice Moore first installed the memorial, he made a big to-do about using private funds and

the state not having to pay his legal fees," said Richard Cohen, the general counsel for the Montgomery-based Southern Poverty Law Center and one of the lawyers involved in the case.

Attorney General Bill Pryor said in an interview on December 15 that "The chief justice told the public that he was not going to charge the public for his (legal) representation, and the Ten Commandments Defense Fund is collecting money to pay his expenses."

But, according to Moore's spokesman, it looks like Moore will have the State of Alabama pay the expenses of the trial. As the state's chief judicial officer, Moore has the right to control litigation expenses involving his office.

In a speech this month to incoming legislators, Moore warned that the state's court system needs an additional \$7.3 million in emergency funds if it is to continue operating at full strength for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Should he lose the case -- and given statements by Parker that neither Moore nor his defense fund would pay the bill -- then the burden to pay lawyers would fall on the court system, according to state law.

Moore's decision to appeal Thomp-

son's ruling presents an additional financial risk for the state. That's because the amount of money sought by the plaintiffs lawyers promises to balloon as the case continues through the appeals process.

Moore's appeal will be considered by the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. District Court of Appeals. Should Moore lose at that level, he has said he would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court, however, agrees to hear only a small fraction of the cases that are presented to it. Expert commentary in national news stories about the case indicate that the Supreme Court would almost certainly refuse to hear the case.

Erik Stanley, a lawyer for the Liberty Council, which defends others in Ten Commandments cases across the nation, has distanced his organization from Moore and his case.

"The monument, and Moore's actions, are too overtly religious, and as such, the case could damage the movement to present religious symbols in government buildings should the U.S. Supreme Court choose to consider it," Stanley said.

[This story is from a December 15 article in the *Mobile Register*.]

"There are in fact four very different stumbling blocks in the way of grasping the truth, which hinder every man however learned, and scarcely allow anyone to win a clear title to wisdom, namely, the example of weak and unworthy authority, longstanding custom, the feeling of the ignorant crowd, and the hiding of our own ignorance while making a display of our apparent knowledge." — Roger Bacon

Fund-Raising Dinner at Panahar Restaurant

The August dinner was so much fun we've arranged to do it again on Sunday, January 19, at 6:30 PM. This time, we get the restaurant all to ourselves. Tickets are \$20 each in advance and will be available at the monthly meeting or by mail. We are limited to 60 seats (over 40 people came last time) so sign up early! Please feel free to bring any alcoholic beverage.

Panahar Restaurant is in the Northeast Plaza Shopping Center at 3375 Buford Highway in Atlanta. The restaurant is owned by AFS member Mirza Ameen.

To get there, take I-85 to the Druid Hills Road Exit (Exit 89). Go west on Druid Hills Road 0.4 miles. Turn right onto Buford Highway and go 0.8 miles. Turn right into the Northeast Plaza Shopping Center; veer left. Panahar Restaurant is across from "Planet Fitness".

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The Judge Moore Trial (*continued*)

ATHEISTS PROTEST AT MOORE RALLY

MONTGOMERY — Christians and Atheists met on the street corner in front of the Alabama State Capital Building on December 16, both groups protesting for or against Judge Roy Moore and his Ten Commandments monument.

A group of Christians, about 400 of them, filled the steps of the Capital, rallying in support of Moore and the Ten Commandments monument. With the atmosphere of a church revival, people often shouted "Hallelujah" and "Amen."

Including among them was a group called American Veterans In Domestic Defense (AVIDD).

James R. Cabaniss, an Army veteran and president of AVIDD, said "We're going to stand up for the Constitution, the Ten Commandments and Judge Moore."

The Houston-based organization was started two years ago and Cabaniss said it has a membership of several hundred in 22 states.

"One of our goals is to search out and identify the many domestic enemies and then put together a strategy for neutralizing their negative impact on society," Cabaniss said. "Our judicial system is running roughshod over the American people and is aiding and abetting the enemy and destroying our Christian heritage."

Cabaniss's perspective struck Larry Darby, the state's director of American Atheists and organizer of the counter-rally, as "scary." He added that people who hold differing views should not be described as enemies.

"This country is big enough and our government should be smart enough to allow all sorts of religious views and non-religious views. These people don't want it that way," Darby said. "We don't have a Christian heritage in our government."

The atheists at the rally, about a dozen, filled a small patch of grass across the street. Their signs indicated "Moore's Theocracy is Treason!" "One Nation, Under One Constitution."

"No 'higher law' than U.S. Constitution." "No More Moore!"

"We can obey the law without religion," said Olga Cornelius, a member of the Birmingham Atheists.

"Yes, we don't need it carved in stone in our judicial buildings," said Carol Moore, also a member of Birmingham Atheists.

Wally Langford, a supporter of keeping the monument in the courts building, held a sign saying, "Standing for Jesus and the Ten Commandments."

"I believe God's judgment will be harsh if we remove the Ten Commandments," said Langford, a Baptist preacher who traveled with his family from Monroe, Ga., for the rally. "Our nation was founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ. God deals with all nations who forget him."

[This story is from a Dec. 16 article by Robert Bluey in CNSNews.com.]

MISCONDUCT CHARGED AGAINST MOORE'S ATTORNEYS

MONTGOMERY — The Southern Poverty Law Center has a motion pending before U.S. Magistrate Judge Delores Boyd requesting that the court reprimand Moore's attorneys for alleged unethical conduct.

The charges stem from a July letter that SPLC co-founder Morris Dees sent to co-counsel Ayesha Khan of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The letter outlined Dees' strategy for the upcoming trial to paint Moore's installation of the monument in the rotunda of the State Judicial Building as "the act of a lone religious nut in partnership with a fanatical church."

The church mentioned is Coral Ridge Ministries, which has helped raise money for Moore's legal defense and was granted exclusive rights to film the installation of the monument.

"This is the story that will make this case so dirty that no appeals court will reverse (U.S. District Judge) Thompson to make new law," the letter continued.

By mistake, the letter also went to Moore's three attorneys, Stephen Melchior, Herb Titus and Phillip Jarregui. When Dees realized the gaffe, he requested that Melchior return all three copies without copying them or sharing them because they were privileged and confidential correspondence between two attorneys about a case.

Melchior, Moore's lead attorney, did send back three copies of the letter, but also apparently kept at least one copy at Moore's request. A copy of that letter was then shared with the Christian Coalition of Alabama and other media before the trial began.

"There are ethical rules in this district that attorneys have to shoot straight with each other, even if they are on opposing sides," said Danielle Lipow, an SPLC attorney. "Moore and his attorneys used the letter in their efforts to depict the plaintiffs as 'immoral, unethical, intolerant anti-religious extremists.' They saw this as an opportunity to portray the case more beneficially to their public relations and fundraising campaigns."

Boyd set January 17 as the deadline for plaintiffs' attorneys to spell out specifically what ethical violations they believe Moore's attorneys committed and recommend appropriate sanctions.

[This story is from a December 29 article in the *Montgomery Advertiser*.]

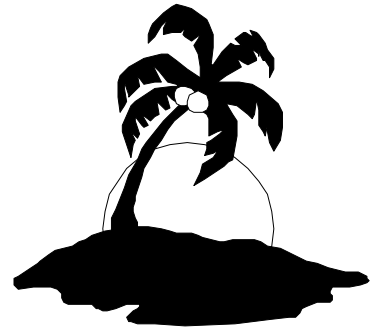
(*continued from page 4.*)

Franklin, who has co-sponsored other anti-abortion legislation in the past, said medical practitioners have the most at stake because they're the ones who would be performing the "execution."

Franklin will officially introduce the bill at the beginning of the legislative session on January 13. He said he hopes it will make it out of committee and then be called up for a vote by the whole House.

[This article is from a December 9 article by Felicia Dionisio in WorldNetDaily.com.]

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Clipped Letters to the Editor from AFS Members

Tony King's letter was in *CNSNews.com* on December 23. Bill Jager's letter was in the *Douglas County Sentinel* on December 29. Larry Darby's letter was in the *Montgomery Advertiser* on December 16.

Comments Not Right

I find James R. Cabaniss comments to be one of ignorance regarding the demographics of American veterans, as well as ignorant of the Constitution itself that he claims he defends by excluding atheists from the public marketplace of ideas and infringing on their civil rights as a result of said exclusion.

First of all, the First Amendment clearly states that government should be neutral as to religion (Congress shall make no law regarding the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof). Judge Moore's monument of the Ten Commandments in a government building is a clear violation of that.

Secondly, there have always been atheists in foxholes since the foundation of the Republic, which means that atheists have fought just as much, just as hard, and sacrificed just as much blood as theistic servicemen.

I want all theists to know that atheists are not your enemy. It is your fundamentalist brethren who are upsetting the applecart of democracy.

William King
Toccoa, GA

Rely on Reason, Thinking

Jim Davidson used an interesting analogy in describing computer viruses and anti-virus programs running in the back ground to protect a computer from becoming contaminated (*Douglas County Sentinel*, December 14, 2002). He compared the anti-virus program to being armed with the word of God to filter out information that does not go along with his religious beliefs.

A computer does not rely on beliefs to produce information. The computer is a logical operating machine where one plus one will always equal three, not one. It is those who are contaminated with the "word of God" that can not distinguish fantasy from reality, blow up abortion clinics, use airplanes to crash into buildings that kill thousands of innocent people and condemn everyone that do not believe as they do.

The "word of God" acts very much like a virus that creates a dysfunction in a person's ability to reason. The way to protect oneself from being contaminated with the word of God virus is to rely on reason and critical thinking. A person does not need to rely on an outdated religious myth to be an honest, caring, decent and compassionate human being.

Bill Jager
Douglasville

Bush's Action Dictatorial Fiat

On Dec. 12, President Bush issued a fiat allowing religious organizations to directly receive federal taxpayer money under the guise of charitable works.

A dictatorial fiat was necessary because Congress had previously refused to impose such a religion tax on all citizens, whether atheists or theists.

It's laughable that Bush stated no money will be used to directly support inherently religious activities. That concept defies common sense in that it's impossible to separate a church from its mission to promote religiosity. But a review of Bush's speeches indicate that he is as much intellectually bankrupt as the Catholic church is morally bankrupt.

This marriage of God and government was feared by our Constitution's framers.

Benjamin Franklin pinpointed the issues at hand: "When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself, and God does not take care to support it so that its professors are obliged to call for help of the civil power, it is a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one."

Welfare payments for religious organizations indicate how far away America is from the Age of Enlightenment, which inspired the framers to divorce God and government.

Larry Darby
Montgomery

Minutes for December AFS Board Meeting

In attendance: Judy Thompson, Tony King, Bill Burton, Steve Yothment, Lew Southern, Joel Kollin, Kelly Wilhoit.

Minutes taken by: Steve Yothment

Time/Date of meeting: 2:00 PM, December 15, 2002

- ▶ The board agreed to not have a Discussion Group meeting in January, since it would be on January 19, the day of the Fund-Raising Dinner at Panahar Restaurant. We will have the board meeting on that day at 2:00 PM.
- ▶ Prez Judy thanked Pierce for his service on the board for this past year. Since an insufficient number of people were nominated for board positions, Judy assigned Kelly Wilhoit and John Schwartz to be board members. The board agreed. Judy will contact John Schwartz to let him know he is now a board member.
- ▶ Lew indicated that he and Kelly will send out the Pledge Forms to AFS members this week. Steve agreed to generate mailing labels and will get them and the needed

envelopes to the AFS Center on Monday. Kelly will get stamps and make copies of the Pledge Form for the mailing.

- ▶ Steve agreed to try to mail out newsletters by the first of each month. Steve also agreed to put AFS Board Meetings on the first page of the newsletter in the Activities box. Steve will add Harriet Harris to the AFS leaders email list.
 - ▶ Judy agreed to contact Richard Whisenhunt (a new AFS member) and tell him how to contact Ken Cummings so that he can help manage the AFS website.
 - ▶ Steve agreed to put a request in the newsletter for more people to be on the Publications Committee.
 - ▶ Steve will put a notice on the AFS Forum email list about Mirza's dinner on December 24. Steve will contact Mirza for more details on the dinner.
 - ▶ Bill reported that Mike Ledo is working on a Second Edition of his Bible Bloopers book.
- The meeting ended at 3:35 PM.

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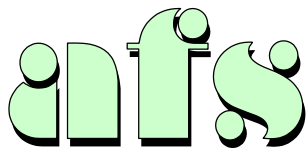
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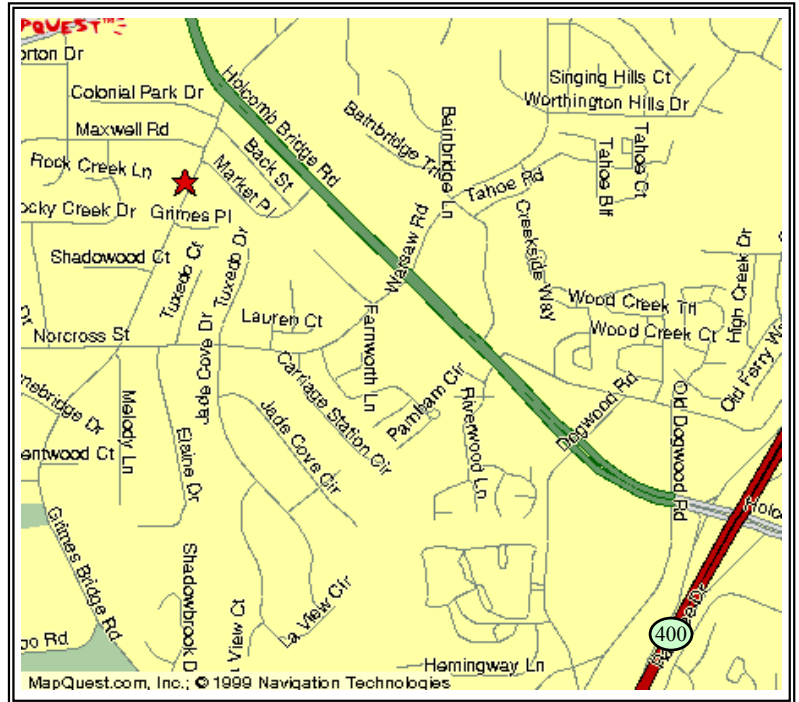
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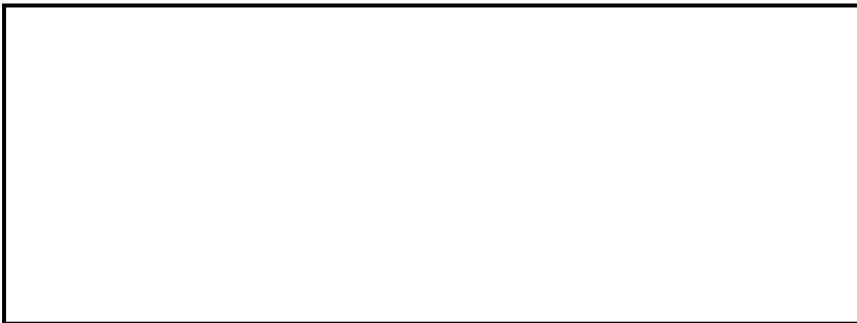
**Atlanta
Freethought
Society**

**The January Meeting:
Sunday, January 12
1:00 PM at the AFS Center
1170 Grimes Bridge Road,
Roswell, GA**

**This Month's Meeting:
A Discussion of President
Bush's Faith-Based Initiative**



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