

than now. If we can help to stop the persecution we have a duty to do so.

I would like to place an article from the website of the Bible League into the RECORD at this time, Madam Speaker. It has further details about the persecution of Christians.

“HE HEARD OUR FEARS AND PRAYERS”

Nearly two years after the establishment of anti-conversion laws, Indian Christians are celebrating the effects of their repeal. Only time will tell the long-term blessings of this legal change, but several resulting miracles have already taken place. In the first month alone, a group of 50 Indian church planters reports having baptized over 1,200 new Christians!

Christians throughout India were stunned when the pro-Hindu government was overturned in the Spring 2004 national election, and several state governments annulled local anti-conversion laws.

Said one local Bible League-trained Christian, “I praise God for enabling us to spread the Gospel in our country. He heard our fears and prayers regarding the election. God gave us an extra bonus when He made our state government remove the anti-conversion law which was in force until now. Hallelujah!”

UNDETERRED BY FEAR

Indian Christians have faced many hardships in sharing the Gospel. Bible League-trained Christians in India report that they or fellow believers have faced threats, physical attacks, and jail time for sharing their faith.

Baptisms, in particular, became a significant challenge for local churches. Under the anti-conversion laws, anyone who chose to become baptized was legally obligated to seek permission from the government, as well as provide them with the name of the person performing the baptism. Fearing repercussions, many new Christians did not make this outward profession of faith until after the laws were repealed.

Still, thousands of Indians were undeterred in their faith. A local Bible League-trained Christian, while under the anti-conversion law, wrote, “We continue to encourage Christians through the Word of God. We remind them of the promises (Matthew 28:20) and the testimonies of the great martyrs. We are encouraged to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ, regardless of what happens to us. We are prepared for imprisonment, punishment, and even death for the sake of Christ.”

RELYING ON GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

Continue to pray for the Church in India. The repeal of state anti-conversion laws has been a tremendous miracle—but challenges still remain. One state continues to uphold anti-conversion laws, and persecution persists throughout the country.

Yet God has been faithful to His children in India, and they are recognizing Him as their Savior by the thousands. Praise God for increasing opportunities to share His Word with the lost.

THE GREAT COMMISSION—MATTHEW 28:19–20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR WAYNE R. BELL FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, Sergeant Major Bell was born in Washington, DC, on 17 January 1957. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on 28 February 1977 in Boston, MA. Upon completion of recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, SC, he was assigned to AA V School at 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion Camp Lejeune, NC. Upon completion of school he reported to Company D for duty as an AAV crewman.

In February 1978, Sergeant Major Bell was ordered to Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Brigade, Kaneohe Bay, HI for three years. In November 1978 he was meritoriously promoted to Corporal and deployed with Battalion Landing Team 2/3 on West PAC 79 as a crew chief. In October 1980, he was promoted to Sergeant.

In April 1981, Sergeant Major Bell was transferred to School’s Battalion, Assault Amphibian School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA where he served as a crew chief and classroom instructor. During this tour of duty he helped implement a new course of instruction for the LVTP7A1 family of vehicles. In March 1984, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and attended the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy in Quantico, VA.

In June 1984, Sergeant Major Bell was transferred to the 3d Marine Division for duty with 1st Track Vehicle Battalion, Okinawa, Japan. He served with both Companies A and B and deployed to Thailand, Korea and the Philippines.

In May 1985, Sergeant Major Bell returned to CONUS and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA, for duty with 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion. He served in a variety of billets from section leader to Company Gunnery Sergeant. Promoted to Gunnery Sergeant in January 1990, he was transferred to Marine Corps Security Forces Battalion, Diego Garcia and assumed the duties as Guard Chief and Training Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge. In March 1993, he was assigned to Company A, 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion and deployed with 13th MEU (SOC), Battalion Landing Team 1/9, West PAC 93–94, as the AAV Detachment Platoon Sergeant.

Selected to First Sergeant in April 1994, Sergeant Major Bell’s assignments as a First Sergeant included: Company C and H&S Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division (April 1994–March 1996); United States Naval Academy Company, Marine Barracks 8th and I, Washington D.C. (April 1996–May 1997) where he was subsequently selected for promotion to Sergeant Major. He was assigned to the Assault Amphibian School Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA, as the Battalion Sergeant Major from June 1997–March 1999. In April 1999, he was reassigned as the Squadron Sergeant Major for HMM 268, MAG 39, 3d MAW, MCAS Camp Pendleton, CA, where he

deployed with the 11th MEU as the Air Combat Element Sergeant Major.

In April 2002 Sergeant Major Bell was reassigned to the 11th Marine Regiment where he deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In July 2003, he was assigned as the Sergeant Major of 1st Marine Division and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II from Feb 2004–Mar 2005. He was assigned to his current billet as Marine Corps Installations West Sergeant Major on 24 February 2006.

Sergeant Major Bell’s personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal w/2 Gold Stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal w/2 Gold Stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Sergeant Major Bell is married to the former Ms. Crystal Nadine Bynoe of Boston, MA. They have three sons, Sherman (31), Shannon (29), and Wayne Jr. (22), and five grandchildren Temarah (9), Julius (8), Micah (4), Jayden (2), Nia (1).

On behalf of the people of the United States whom Master Sergeant Bell spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

STEM CELL RESEARCH  
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it’s unethical to end one life in pursuit of helping others.

I am for stem-cell research. I am for scientific sound, ethical, adult stem-cell research.

The failure of embryonic stem-cell experiments has dried up private research dollars. Consequently, proponents have no alternative but to pressure Congress for funding.

Today, the House of Representatives passed legislation that requires taxpayers to fund science that ends innocent human lives for the questionable potential of improving the lives of others.

This legislation would divert resources from truly promising treatments in favor of controversial research whose benefits remain speculative.

To conduct scientific research of this type, thousands of embryos, persons at the beginning of life, must be killed. The debate is about the inherent value of human life at its earliest stage. Supporters of embryonic stem-cell research will not take a position on when life begins. They know that if they do, they cannot sustain their argument.

Moral arguments aside, it is a fact that other forms of stem-cell research are resulting in treatments for people who suffer from debilitating diseases. Adult stem cells, which are extracted from umbilical-cord blood, placenta,

bone marrow, nasal mucosa, hair follicles and fact cells, are today successfully used in treating real people who suffer from at least 72 specific diseases. Successes include, among the 72 diseases, Parkinson's Disease, Crohn's Disease, diabetes, spinal-cord injury, strokes, arthritis and numerous cancers, including breast, brain and leukemia.

Conversely, proponents cannot name a single person with improved health due to embryonic stem-cell research. Embryonic stem cells may never produce a safe and effective treatment for any disease. The political hype declaring them a cure-all today cannot be sustained by the facts. If successful, however, the necessary next step must be to clone the cells. It is logistically impossible to provide enough embryonic stem cells without human cloning.

Another falsehood is the excuse that the embryos would otherwise be thrown away. None of the embryos were created for research. Every embryo was created for the sole purpose of giving parenthood to those who yearn for it. Over 90 percent of frozen embryos are now stored by their parents, who hope to have more children or to provide for embryo adoption to other couples. At least 500,000 couples are on waiting lists to adopt children. For each available embryo, 45 couples wait in line to adopt that child.

So far, more than 80 formerly frozen embryos have been adopted by families. Now these "snowflake babies" are giggle, screaming, playful children. It is a glorious miracle for couples who imagined they would never experience parenthood, much less pregnancy and childbirth. These "snowflakes," some of whom were frozen for 9 years, are as worthy of our protection as every child. They are not medical waste.

Proponents of this research say they cannot look a paraplegic in the eye and say, "We can't experiment on frozen embryos." I ask them, can you hold the "snowflake babies" in your arms and look their moms and dads in the eye and tell them, "I wish we had experimented on your children before they learn to walk, to talk, to love, to laugh and play?"

The American medical community has many times refused the results of critical research because the findings were achieved unethically. International standards for Permissible Medical Experiments are clear. The subject must be a volunteer, there must be no alternative, results of animal experimentation must have been proven successful, they subject must be able to voluntarily end the experiment, there must be no possibility of injury, disability, or death, and the promise must outweigh the risk.

Embryonic stem-cell research violates each of these principles. Principles for Permissible Medical Experiments may be found in the military tribunals under Control Council Law No. 10, October, 1946, Nuremberg.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID GONZALEZ

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David Gonzalez on his retirement from the Rural Development Agency of the

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 3rd, 2007.

David Gonzalez began his career with the USDA Rural Development Agency, which was previously known as Farmers Home Administration, on May 26, 1971 as a student trainee in San Diego, Texas. He received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Texas A&M University at Kingsville in 1972 and returned back to work with the Farmers Home Administration in San Benito, Texas, as an assistant county supervisor. Five years later, he was promoted to county supervisor for Willacy County and then transferred to Edinburg in Hidalgo County.

Mr. Gonzalez's commitment to his service with the agency was recognized with his next promotion to assistant district director in Rio Grande City in 1980 and then to area director for the Rio Grande Valley in 1991. He served with distinction and honor for 16 years in the Rio Grande Valley, and helped to provide crucial funding to the communities in the area. Mr. Gonzalez has given back so much to the community in the Rio Grande Valley in his tenure with the Rural Development Agency. After working tirelessly for nearly two decades, he will enjoy his retirement with his wife, Edna, and his five grandchildren, Daniel David, Jorge Alberto, Zenon David, Dayna Dalinda, and Dennis David.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of David Gonzalez to the Rio Grande Valley community.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT

### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress in 1984, I have consistently supported efforts to protect and conserve many wildlife species. I am an enthusiastic defender of the Endangered Species Act and have voted in favor of the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000, the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004.

In fact, several of these laws were reauthorized or initially enacted during my 6-year tenure as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans. During this period, I conducted numerous oversight hearings on these conservation programs and I became intimately aware of the plight of Asian elephants. Frankly, I was startled to learn that in the early 1990s there were less than 40,000 Asian elephants living throughout the world in the wild. These wild populations were located in 13 south and southeastern Asian countries. In addition, there were only 14 populations of 1,000 or more individual elephants in a contiguous area which greatly reduced the long-term viability of this species.

In response to this international wildlife crisis, I introduced the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997. After hearings, markups and

floor debate, I was honored that President Bill Clinton signed this important legislation into law on November 7, 1997. The fundamental goal of Public Law 105-96 was to create the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund.

During the past decade, the Secretary of the Interior has carefully reviewed nearly 300 conservation grant proposals to assist beleaguered Asian elephants. I am pleased to report that 171 grants have been awarded to various governmental and non-governmental entities. These grants have received \$7.8 million in Federal funds and in excess of \$10 million in private matching money.

The types of approved projects funded include emergency elephant conservation support for those countries adversely affected by the tsunami disaster in Indonesia; erecting fences in Sri Lanka; establishing an elephant conservation working group in Thailand; promoting eco-tourism of elephants; increase the capacity of wildlife rangers in India; assess the habitat needs of elephants in Malaysia and implement a program for monitoring the illegal killing of elephants. Among the recipients of these grants were the Conservation International, Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wild Fund for Nature and Wildlife Trust of India.

Madam Speaker, these conservation funds have had a profound impact on protecting these irreplaceable species and in the long run I am convinced they will help to ensure that they will not disappear in the future. By allowing a small amount of Federal funds, our Government has been able to finance worthwhile projects to stop the extinction of Asian elephants.

The legislation I am proposing today, the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act, will extend this vital law at existing authorization levels until September 30, 2012. This will allow the Secretary of the Interior to approve additional meritorious projects in the future.

Ten years ago, during the initial hearing on my bill, H.R. 1787, a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service testified that: "the Asian Elephant Conservation Act would . . . send a strong message to the world that the people of the United States care deeply about Asian elephants and that the U.S. Government is committed to helping preserve this keystone species."

There is no question that we need to reauthorize this important law and I urge my colleagues to work with me to make this a reality. As President Theodore Roosevelt once noted, "the nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation, increased and not impaired in value." The road to extinction is a one-way street and we must work to ensure that the Asian elephant does not make that journey.

#### HONORING ARMY PFC EMILY S. PETTIGREW

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and commitment of Emily S. Pettigrew, an honorable soldier who