

in 2006" by the readers of Church Report Magazine.

PREPARED FOR GOD'S CALLING

Joel, the son of John Osteen, a highly respected minister of the Gospel and the founder of Lakewood Church, attended Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he studied radio and television communications.

In 1982, Joel returned to Houston and founded Lakewood's television ministry where he produced John Osteen's televised sermons for 17 years until January 1999 when his father passed away suddenly from a heart attack.

For many years, John Osteen encouraged Joel to preach, but he always declined preferring to work behind the scenes. But, in early 1999 Joel felt compelled to accept his father's invitation and he preached his first sermon on January 17th of that year. Little did anyone know that would be the last Sunday of John Osteen's life. Two weeks later, Joel began preaching and later that year was installed as the new Senior Pastor of Lakewood Church.

A NEW VISION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Almost immediately, weekly attendance began to grow at an extraordinary rate and in 2005, Joel moved Lakewood Church into its present location, the former Compaq Center, a 16,000-seat arena that was once home to the Houston Rockets professional basketball team. Now, with his wife Victoria, and the leadership staff at Lakewood, the innovative church is poised for the new millennium.

Joel's extraordinary success can be found in his core message: "That our God is a good God who desires to bless those who are obedient and faithful to Him through Jesus Christ."

It is Joel's deepest desire that his own life be an example of that principle and that everyone who hears this message of hope and encouragement would choose to accept God's goodness and mercy and to become all that God wants them to be.

JOEL'S BACKGROUND

Born in Houston, Texas, Osteen married Victoria L. Iloff on April 4, 1987. They have two children, Jonathan and Alexandra.

Joel, son of John and Dolores (Dodie) Pilgrim, is one of five children. His older siblings, Paul, Lisa, and Tamara, and his younger sister, April, are also involved in full-time ministry.

Joel's half-brother Justin does missionary work out of New York.

Joel's father, John Osteen, a former Southern Baptist pastor who became Charismatic in the late 1950s, founded Lakewood Church on Mother's Day, 1959.

Osteen's father developed Lakewood into a body of approximately 6,000 members with an active television ministry, conferences, missionary support and food distribution.

Currently, Osteen and several Lakewood Church personnel travel across the nation, presenting programs in large arenas. The event, titled "A Night of Hope," includes worship music led by the church's music ministry, a testimony by Joel's mother Dodie and a sermon from Osteen. In 2007, the tour expanded to include stops in several other countries, including Canada, England, Northern Ireland and Israel.

MISSION/VISION OF LAKEWOOD

LAKEWOOD CHURCH

Vision Paragraph: Lakewood seeks to become a vibrant community for God growing

deeper in faith, knowledge, love and relationship with Him. We desire to express the spirit of Jesus through the individual members of the body; through uplifting public worship and intimate small group fellowship; and through committed prayer and dedication to God's will. We strive to offer a welcoming environment for truth-seekers irrespective of knowledge, experience, and background. We want to follow God wherever He leads to make a difference in others' lives by identifying individual talents and preparing people for kingdom service locally, nationally and globally. We desire to do this with humility and love giving God the glory!

Community: God wants me to be a MEMBER of His family—This is the purpose of fellowship. Following Christ is not just a matter of believing; it also includes belonging. The Christian life is not a solo act. God has given us the church as a spiritual family for our own benefit. You are members of God's very own family . . . and you belong in God's household with every other Christian (Ephesians 2:19).

Loving God: God wants me to be a MAGNIFIER of His name—We are called to worship God. O Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together (Psalm 34:3). There is an inborn urge to worship in every human being. If we don't worship God, we will find a replacement. We may worship our job, family, money, a sport, or even ourselves. That is why the very first commandment says, "Thou shalt have no other god's before Me." (Exodus 20:3)

Loving Others: God wants me to be a MESSENGER of His love—Once we have been born again, we become messengers of the Good News to others. It is part of the job description for every believer. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love He offers you—be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

Loving Others: God wants me to be a MINISTER of His grace—A responsibility of every Christian is service. God expects us to use the gifts, talents, and opportunities He gives us to benefit others. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10).

Imitating Christ: God wants me to be a MODEL of his character—The goal of discipleship is becoming just like Christ. For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son (Romans 8:29). In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul describes specific areas where we are to model the character of Christ . . . set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. Notice that maturity is not measured by one's learning but by one's lifestyle.

USC HONORS COLLEGE NAMED TOP HONORS COLLEGE IN NATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, based upon their rigorous curriculum, retention and graduation rates, honors housing, study abroad programs, and enrichment opportunities for students, the University of South Carolina Honors College was recently named the number one honors

program by the Public University Honors organization. This achievement will be published in "A Review of 50 Public University Honors Programs" later this month.

The University of South Carolina Honors College was established in 1978 and has more than 8,000 alumni spread across the world. Since its founding, USC Honors College students have won over 363 national awards, including the Rhodes, Marshall, Goldwater, and others.

The 2011 incoming Honors College class had an average SAT score of 1427 and an average weighted GPA of 4.61. Congratulations, Dr. Steve Lynn, dean of the Honors College, and university president, Harris Pastides, on their leadership and accomplishments.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1410

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WE THE PEOPLE

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, this year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. Since We the People began in 1987, more than 30 million high school students and 90,000 teachers have participated in this valuable program that promotes the understanding of the constitutional principles that shape and guide our Nation and instills a sense of civic responsibility in young people.

This year, more than 1,000 students from every part of our country will take part in the National Finals here in Washington. The competition will test students' knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, showcasing their intelligence, determination, and teamwork.

I want to recognize 24 exceptionally talented and hardworking students from Saipan Southern High School in the Northern Mariana Islands who return to the Finals as repeat regional champions. Working together and striving for excellence are defining traits of this time. I congratulate them and their teachers and coaches, and wish them all success in this year's We the People competition.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHUCK COLSON

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, Chuck Colson, a former Nixon administration lawyer, founder of Prison Fellowship, and a good friend, passed away.

I first got to know Colson through his incredible ministry. I knew of his

time serving in Maxwell prison in Alabama, and after he was released, I invited him, as a young State legislator in Pennsylvania, to come and speak to a dinner in my district. I had 535 people show up. He spoke and shared the concept that he had gotten as he served in prison of this idea of Prison Fellowship.

He asked me and another fellow to go up to a couple of Federal prisons in Pennsylvania and select four prisoners to bring to Washington for the first time of this group, and I did. I went to Lewisburg and Allenwood, met over six weekends with the little Christian fellowship in those prisons, and they selected two from each prison. One was a bank robber, a hijacker, a labor union racketeer, and a drug dealer.

And without guards, the prison officials permitted me to drive them to Washington. We dropped them off here, left them for a week, and then I came and picked them up and took them back. But this idea of Prison Fellowship started back then. Chuck, when he would speak to me many times, would call me his first prison volunteer.

It was a wonderful ministry. Chuck is going to be greatly missed. Chuck Colson's story is really one of grace, grace that was given to him, that he worked tirelessly to spread across the Nation and across the world. He will be sorely missed.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FEDERAL CONTRACTING ACT

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, this House has a critical opportunity to reform the Federal contracting process, save the taxpayers billions of dollars, and spur job creation. Last Thursday, I introduced the Fiscal Responsibility in Federal Contracting Act to suspend the Davis-Bacon Act for 10 years.

The Davis-Bacon Act requires the Department of Labor to, essentially, set wage rates for workers on Federal construction projects. The metrics used to come up with these wages are deeply flawed and inflate the labor costs of Federal construction projects by 22 percent.

Suspending this act, as Presidents of both parties have done in the past, would save the taxpayers billions per year and empower Federal contractors to employ more people on their projects. Imagine getting five Federal projects for the price of four. That's a win/win for the U.S. taxpayer and construction workers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this important reform bill by cosponsoring H.R. 4403.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 24, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 24, 2012 at 12:45 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 4348.

Senate requests a conference with the House and appoints conferees.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS SURVEY, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1038) to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1038

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS SURVEY, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may convey by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the two parcels of land described in sub-

section (b) to a person or legal entity that represents (by power of attorney) the majority of landowners with private property adjacent to the two parcels. These parcels are within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest and contain private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The two parcels of land authorized for conveyance under subsection (a) consist of approximately 2.67 acres described in the Bureau of Land Management's Survey Plat titled Subdivision and Metes and Bounds Surveys in secs. 28 and 29, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian approved February 2, 2010, as follows:

(1) Lot 2, sec. 28, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, Arizona.

(2) Lot 1, sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 7 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Coconino County, Arizona.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance of the two parcels under subsection (a), the person or legal entity that represents (by power of attorney) the majority of landowners with private property adjacent to the parcels shall pay to the Secretary consideration in the amount of \$20,000.

(2) DEPOSIT.—The Secretary shall deposit the consideration received under this subsection in a special account in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

(3) USE.—The deposited funds shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended, for acquisition of land in the National Forest System.

(d) REVOCATION OF ORDERS.—Any public orders withdrawing any of the Federal land from appropriation or disposal under the public land laws are revoked to the extent necessary to permit conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (a).

(e) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land authorized for conveyance under subsection (a) is withdrawn from all forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws until the date which the conveyance is completed.

(f) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance authorized by subsection (a) shall be subject only to those surveys and clearances as needed to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under this section shall terminate three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. And for some obvious reasons, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), the sponsor of this bill that solves some real problems, for the introduction of this particular bill.