

“The Art of Deception”

The Hypocrisy of Shame

In the Lord’s Name

Between Church and State

Haggard admits ‘sexual immorality,’ apologizes

Evangelical leader contrite after dismissal from Colorado mega church



Erik Stenbakken / New Life Church via AP

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - Saying that he was a “**deceiver and liar**” who had given in to his dark side, the Rev. Ted Haggard confessed to **sexual immorality** Sunday in a letter read from the pulpit of the mega church he founded.

The disgraced former president of the National Evangelical Association, which represents **30 million evangelical Christians**, apologized and said “because of pride, I began **deceiving** those I love the most because I didn’t want to hurt or disappoint them.”

“The fact is I am guilty of sexual immorality. And I take responsibility for the entire problem. **I am a deceiver and a liar**. There’s a part of my life that is so repulsive and dark that I have been warring against it for all of my adult life,” he said.

Haggard, 50, resigned last week as **NEA president**, where he held sway in Washington and **condemned homosexuality**, after a man claimed to have had drug-fueled homosexual trysts with him. Haggard also placed himself on administrative leave from the 14,000-member New Life Church, which he founded in the 1980s. Its independent Overseer Board fired him Saturday.

The letter was read to the New Life Church by another clergyman, the Rev. Larry Stockstill, senior pastor of Bethany World Prayer Center in Baker, La., and a member of the board that fired him. Neither Haggard nor his wife, Gayle, attended. In his letter, Haggard said “the accusations made against me are not all true but enough of them are that I was appropriately removed from his church leadership position.” He did not give details on which accusations were true. Haggard had acknowledged on Friday that he paid Mike Jones of Denver for a massage and for methamphetamine, but said he did not have sex with him and did not take the drug.



Evangelical leader
steps down
Nov. 4: The Rev.
Ted Haggard
resigned from
Colorado’s New
Life Church on
Saturday after a
board ruled the
pastor had
committed
“sexually immoral
conduct.” NBC’s
George Lewis
reports. Nightly
News

The Overseer Board, made up clergy from various churches, used stronger language. “Our investigation and Pastor Haggard’s public statements have proven without a doubt that he has committed sexually immoral conduct,” the board said in a statement. At the New Life church, youngsters were sent from the room before elders began discussing the church crisis. “Worshippers are always challenged by crisis. And when tragedy and crisis strikes it is at that moment that you truly decide if you are a worshipper of the highest God. And today as the worship pastor of this church I am very proud of you,” said the Rev. Ross Parsley, who has replaced Haggard. Ryan Price and his fiancée, Karen Geyer, was impressed. “It seemed genuine — from the heart. It’s unfortunate but it happens,” said Geyer. “He’s reaching out and asking for forgiveness,” said Price. **Jones, who said he is gay, said he was upset when he discovered who Haggard was and that New Life opposed same-sex marriage** — a key issue in Colorado, with a pair of issues on Tuesday’s ballot. “I am sad for him and his family. I know this is a tough day for him also,” he said in a telephone interview Sunday. “I wish him well. I wish his family well. **My intent was never to destroy his family. My intent was to expose a hypocrite.**” **The scandal has disappointed Christian conservatives, whom President Bush and other Republicans are courting heavily in the run-up to Tuesday’s election, failure to deliver big gains on social issues even before the congressional page scandal involving former Rep. Mark Foley. Haggard, who had been NEA president since 2003, has participated in conference calls with White House staffers and lobbied Congress last year on Supreme Court nominees.**

I understand the scripture, of what Matt. 7:1 says of, Judge Not Lest Ye Be Judged! And Let He Who is without Sin Cast the First Stone **Matt. 7:1 includes you and me and the coconut tree of all of his follows, however the point here is not to condemn his inherent-inborn homosexuality tendencies, but how he himself hypocritically condemned it through deception to all of his 14,000-congregational-members of his New Life Church, but also to his world-wide outreach of followers who trusted in him as their integrity minded spitual leader.**

I have my own beliefs about life and if you’ve read my essay of (Compilation/Conclusion) you will find that I believe in the reincarnation of a second third or fourth chance to get it right with God before he gives up on us. Therefore, I believe that homosexuality is none other than the reincarnation of sex trapped in the wrong body, that’s the only thing that makes sense to me. I have met gay people with good personalities that I would much rather be around than straight people with bad personalities and I’m straight.

Evangelical Exposé: Bush's Faith-Based Fraud



Evangelical David Kuo's new book "Tempting Faith" is rocking the 30 year old marriage between evangelicals and the Republican Party. The earliest reports, first on Keith Olbermann's Countdown [VIDEO] and then on 60 Minutes [VIDEO], reveal a disingenuous and calculating program to keep up appearances with only the barest of commitments to Bush's Faith-Based Initiatives program.

Below is a handy guide, cherry picking the most dastardly passages...

Karl Rove: "Just Get Me a F-ing Faith Based Thing. Got it?" "Three days later, a Tuesday, Karl rove summoned [Don] Willett to his office to announce that the entire faith-based initiative would be rolled out the following Monday. Willett asked just how without a director, or plan the president could do that. Rove looked at him, took a deep breath, and said, 'I don't know. Just get me a fucking faith based-thing. Got it?' Willett was shown the door." [pp. 140-141]

Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings: "Just Get Me a Damn Faith Bill." "Yet for our House Republican friends, the initiative was primarily useful for politics, and for some of my White House colleagues, the initiative wasn't even on their radar screen....Margaret [Spellings] listened cheerfully and said, 'David, darlin', you are doing a good job. Great job.' Then, lightly but seriously, 'but David, please. Just get me a damn faith bill. Any bill. I don't care what kind of bill. Just get me a damn faith bill.'" [p.166]

From the Beginning, Now-White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolton and Senior White House Staff Did Not Consider the Faith Based Office a Priority. "Even with the speeches and meetings, officials in charge of the Bush transition were ignoring the faith-based effort. In late December [2000], Josh Bolton, later to become deputy chief of staff for policy head of the Office of Management and Budget, and the White House chief of staff, responded to a pastor's inquiry about the initiative by saying, 'as far as I know, no one is in charge of the undertaking yet.' His disregard was surprising not only because he had been the campaign's top policy guru, but because he had the same role during the transition. As it turned out, it wasn't just that nobody had been named to shepherd the initiative through the crucial transition period, it was that nobody at the senior levels of the transition team was even paying attention to the problem. [p.138]

The Reality of Faith Based Legislation and Funding

Bush Was Directly Responsible for...

...the Faith Based Initiatives' Funding Shortfalls. "After leaving I learned that all budget decisions were made by three people once a year. President Bush, Karl Rove, and Andy Card would sit in the Oval Office and the president would go over the big numbers. Unlike his wonky predecessor, Bush didn't dig down into specific programs. It wasn't his style. He was America's CEO. He wanted to dictate the big picture and leave it to others to implement. That meant that while he may not have known the details of his compassion agenda, he knew it was languishing and had no problem with that." [p. 257]

Josh Bolton Told Kuo's Office They Weren't 'Winning Any Friends' By Pushing the Faith Based Bill. "In October and November we met with Majority Leader Daschle's staff and with Daschle himself. He had minor objections but we could get past them. We had a bill supported by everyone. All we needed was a go ahead from Josh Bolton or Andy Card. Bridge [John Bridgeland] pestered them day after day. Josh finally took him aside. 'Bridge, you aren't winning any friends here. Just keep it down.'" [p.196]

White House Told Kuo's Office That Faith Based Legislation Was Too Expensive. "Our bill needed nothing more than an 'Okay', and it would have been done. Senator Santorum tried lobbying the White House and so did Senator Grassley. Still, nothing. It was 'too expensive'. By mid December as Congress was about to adjourn we had a final chance. Late one evening Daschle's office called and said they could attach the bill to another bill and get it done in hours. Would the White House support it? Bridge [John Bridgeland] went to Nick, Margaret, and Karl one last time. 'Not now, Bridge, not now. Maybe next year.' [p.196]

Hastert and DeLay Wanted Red Meat Legislation for the Base, Not an Actual Bill. "We called it the Charity Aid, Recovery. And Empowerment (CARE) Act. In addition to Lieberman and Santorum, Senator Clinton supported it. Max Baucus, Democratic chairman of the Senate Finance Committee supported it. So did Charles Grassley, his Republican counterpart. Unfortunately, a lot of other people didn't like it. DeLay and Hastert's offices didn't like it. We were 'watering down the employment provisions.' Instead of fighting the divisive battle over hiring, we added provisions prohibiting the federal government from disallowing faith-based groups to apply for grants just because they displayed religious icons, had religious names or had clergy members on their boards. Our Unlevel Playing Field report showed those were somewhat problematic, or at least as problematic as hiring rights. Nevertheless, the House staffers actually tried to get some of the conservative Christian groups to oppose it." [p. 195]

President Bush Broke Promises to Direct Millions to Faith Based Initiatives. "Billions had been promised - \$8 billion in the first year alone. We were \$7,969,000,000 short of that promise. This was halfway through the next year. There should have been \$16 billion. All we had managed to get in the federal budget for the Compassion Capital fund was \$30 million. The difference had nothing to do with 9/11. It had everything to do with White House indifference, bipartisan Capitol Hill indifference, and interest group indifference." [p. 211]

Using Christians for Politics:

“For years I had wondered what it would be like to work in the White House improving and influencing our culture and politics for Jesus, I thought the enemy was the prevailing anti-God cultural and political forces, that is, Democrats and secularists. I never thought to worry about Republicans using Christians for their own political ends – Republicans like me.” [p. 230]

“Now, however, George W. Bush’s White House was doing the same thing: it was deceiving the public, and in doing so it was mocking the trust of the American people. More disappointing, it was mocking the millions of faithful Christians who had put their trust and hope in the president and his administration.” [p. 253]

On the Faith Based Initiative, President Bush Was All Talk, No Action. “Within three weeks of the president’s grand announcement it became clear the White House wasn’t going to fight for mentoring or vouchers any harder than it had fought for compassion programs. It wasn’t a big secret. Friends at the Office of Management and Budget let me know that they would try to get some money for the program but that they couldn’t make any promises.” [p. 226]

Bush Did a Poor Job of Supporting Faith Based Initiatives. “He [President Bush] concluded by saying, ‘my job is to get the initiative going, is to stay on it, not yield, and then to ask the questions to the people responsible for getting the money out the door, how are we doing.’ If that was his job, he had done it very poorly.” [p. 249]

President Bush Broke His Promise to Include Charitable Tax Cuts in his Tax Legislation. “But something was missing; the president’s promised \$6 billion per year in tax credits for groups helping the poor. Those tax credits had been the center piece of compassionate conservative efforts for years and the centerpiece of the president’s own compassion agenda during the campaign.” [p. 161]

White House on Evangelicals

Rove Described Jerry Falwell as Someone “We Have to Put Up With.” “I told Karl about Jerry’s behavior at the Memorial Service ‘Listen, I don’t know. Would you just call Jerry, apologize and make things nice? We just have to put up with him.’” [p. 194]

Senior White House Officials Described Evangelicals as “Nuts” and “Boorish.” “For most of the rest of the White House staff, evangelical leaders were people to be tolerated, not people who were truly welcomed. No group was more eye-rolling about Christians than the political affairs shop. They know ‘the nuts’ were politically invaluable, but that was the extent of their usefulness. Sadly, the political affairs folks complained most often and most loudly about how boorish many politically involved Christians were.” [p. 229]

Senior White House Officials Also Described Evangelicals as “Ridiculous,” “Out of Control,” and “Goofy.” “Political Affairs was hardly alone. There wasn’t a week that went by that I didn’t hear someone in the middle to senior-levels making some comment or another about how annoying the Christians were or how tiresome they were, or how ‘handling’ them took so much time. National Christian leaders received hugs and smiles in person and then were dismissed behind their backs and described as ‘ridiculous’, ‘out of control’, and just plain ‘goofy.’” [pp. 229-230]

White House Officials Referred to the Faith Based Initiative as the "F-ing Faith Based Initiative." "The president had made great promises but they hadn't been delivered on. Worse than that, the white house (White House?) hadn't tried. Worse than that, we had used people of faith to further our political agenda and hadn't given them anything in return. I went on and on for a few minutes. He [Andy Card] sat their bug-eyed. 'Formality' meetings are supposed to be just that. 'And finally, sir, this thought. I don't know if you are aware of this, but your staff frequently refers to the faith-based initiative as the 'fucking faith-based initiative', that doesn't help." [p. 243]

White House Held Conference Calls with Evangelicals to Placate the Religious Right; Their Advice Was Never Taken. "The calls began with an overview of what the president would be talking about in the coming week. If necessary, participants were asked to talk to their people about whatever issue was pending. Talking points were distributed and advice was solicited. That advice rarely went much further than the conference call." [p.171]

Karl Rove Chose the Head of the Faith Based Office on His Political Connections to Clergy. "Karl wanted to know how connected Jim [Towey] was to the hierarchy of the American Catholic Church. If he wants the job, Karl told Jeb [Bush], tell him to get 'as many red hats as he knows to call on his behalf' 'Red hats' were cardinals, the highest-ranking officials in the Catholic Church beneath the pope, notable for their scarlet caps." [p. 200]

Ken Mehlman Used the Faith Based Office for Political Means; Deliberately Mised the Public on the Nature of Faith Based Roundtables. "A few days later, Jim and I were sitting with Ken Mehlman, head of Political Affairs. We laid out a plan whereby we would hold 'roundtable events' for threatened incumbents with faith and community leaders. Our office would do the work, using the aura of our White House power to get a diverse group of faiths and to help poor people in their area. Though the Republican candidate would host the roundtable, it would be a campaign event. The member of Congress was just taking time away from his or her campaign to serve the community. It would be perfect.....Ken loved the idea and gave us our marching orders. There were twenty targets. On the Senate side, priorities included Saxby Chambliss in Georgia, Wayne Allard in Colorado, and Tim Hutchinson in Arkansas. House priorities were Melissa Hart in Pennsylvania, Shelley Capito in West Virginia, and Anne Northup in Kentucky and John Shimkus in Illinois. 'This is good, very good, very, very good', Mehlman said. 'But we want to be careful, too. We can't be requesting the events; we'll have to have the candidates request them. And it can't come from the campaigns. That would make it look too political. It needs to come from the congressional offices. Well take care of that by having our guys call the office to request the visit.'" [pp. 201-202]

Faith Based Roundtables Were Partisan Events - Democrats Not Invited. "Our press shop responded with a statement: 'the bottom line is that Jim [Towey] travels all over the country to talk about the president's faith-based initiative, and he visits with people regardless of political affiliation. That was true in general. It was certainly not true of the roundtables. Democratic candidates were not invited.'" [pp. 206-207]

The following essay, (The Hypocrisy -- of Shame -- In the Lord's Name) is the addendum to this essay and should be read.

Written by
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End #6

