

April 2001

Patriot's Progress *Magazet*



Good Reading for students and friends of Patriot University



Announcements for Patriot University Students

We apologize for missing a couple of issues with your new *Patriot's Progress* magazine. We've been waiting to get some new equipment that will help us produce this publication each month.

Patriot University now accepts **DISCOVER CARD**, as well as **Visa** and **MasterCard**. Transactions are posted immediately, and will show up as *Patriot University* on your credit card statement.

Do you have **Email**? If so, would you please email us your current address, so we can set you up to receive news from us by email? Let us know if you are on the **internet**. We will soon conduct an important survey to determine interest in **online** course materials and other online services. Our email address is **patuniv@amigo.net**

PLAN A students should have received a **coupon book** and labels for use in sending your monthly offerings throughout the year. If you did not receive yours, please contact us immediately.

New Office Hours

The University Offices are open **Monday-Thursday**, except for holiday breaks. *Offices are closed on Friday.*

Please note time zone differences:

Eastern time office hours—11 to 7

Central time office hours—10 to 6

Mountain time office hours—9 to 5

Pacific time office hours—8 to 4

A student may request an evening phone appointment.



Easter

Holiday of All Holidays

By Dr. Lonnie Skinner

I like Easter! In fact, I see Easter as all of the great holidays rolled into one. Just think about it!

Easter is *Thanksgiving Day*. The bodies we live in, the air we breathe, the time we have, every good and right thing in our lives—all of this is brought to us through the courtesy of the *living*, Lord Jesus Christ. On this day, I thank the risen Savior for the life He is sponsoring for me!

Easter is *Memorial Day*. There is wisdom in remembering Pearl Harbor, the Maine and the Alamo. People gave their blood at those places to purchase the freedom we enjoy today. But above all, we should remember Calvary, where Jesus gave His blood to free us from our sins. Let me have the sense to realize the great value *of* both freedoms today.

Easter is *Father's Day*—a time to appreciate a wonderful Heavenly Father who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16.) And it is a time for all fathers to realize that He will supply what we need to provide God’s best for our children.

Easter is *Independence Day*. Jesus Christ has set us free: free to do right, free to say “no” to temptation, free to live a better life now and an eternal life forever. The apostle Paul said “...Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2). See Galatians 5:1.

Easter fulfills the promise of *Christmas*. Jesus was born to die. He died to live again. He did it all for us.

Easter is *Sunday*. We worship Him on the *first* day of the week in honor of His resurrection. It is also “the first day of the rest of your life.” Our Lord offers us a fresh start where “old things are passed away, and all things become new” (II Corinthians 5:17.)

We celebrate Easter in the Spring when the dead of Winter changes to signs of new life as flowers bloom, grass turns green and the trees that lost their leaves last Fall get brand new ones. This new beginning reminds us of the new life that can be ours because Christ passed from death into life.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is just as relevant in the 21st Century as it has ever been in history! Jesus Christ is alive! I know. I've talked with Him this very day. And so have many others.

The Lord has great plans for your life and mine! Why are we often willing to settle for so much less than He wants us to have?

Oh, I know we have problems. Some of you have health problems or financial problems. Others have family problems, employment problems or emotional problems. The Lord is ready to help us with any of these!

But the most serious problem is one we all face—the problem of sin. Jesus takes the subject of our sin seriously. In fact, in order to deal with it, He was willing to die at Calvary and then to rise from the grave. When He offers us forgiveness of sins, every one of us can say, “this means me.”

We have been tried and found guilty. “There is none righteous, no one.” “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” As a result, we have been sentenced to an “eternal death” (Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23). This penalty is much greater than we can pay.

“But God proved His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8.) Easter reminds us that Jesus Christ has paid our sin debt, and offers Himself with His payment to us as a gift.

We can never deserve this gift. We cannot earn it. To have it, we must simply receive it. “As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12.)

Easter reminds us that our hope is found in placing all of our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Someone has pointed out that the most tragic event in history—the crucifixion of our Lord—took place only *three days* before the most glorious event in history—His resurrection. There's a lesson for us in that. When we experience a terrible day, if we will wait three days before we jump off a bridge we will likely have a much better perspective. What we thought was the end of the world just might turn out to be the beginning of bigger and better things.

One thing is certain: our attitude toward the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ will have a direct bearing on our lives both now and forever?

Wit and Wisdom on Prayer

By None Other than Author Unknown

Two men were talking together. The first challenged the other, "If you are so religious, let's hear you quote the *Lord's Prayer*. I bet you \$20.00 you can't."

The second responded: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. And If I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." The first pulled out his wallet and handed over a twenty dollar bill, muttering, "I didn't think you could do it!"

Get in the Proper Position

"The proper way for man to pray," said Deacon Lemuel Keyes; "The only proper attitude is down upon his knees."

"Nay, I should say the way to pray," said Reverend Doctor Wise, "Is standing straight with outstretched arms with rapt and upturned eyes."

"Oh, no, no, no," said Elder Snow, "such posture is too proud." A man should pray with eyes fast-closed and head contritely bowed."

"It seems to me his hands should be austereclly clasped in front. With both thumbs pointing to the ground," said Reverend Doctor Blunt."

"Last year I fell in Hodgkin's well headfirst," said Cyril Brown. "With both my heels a-stickin' up, my head a-pointing' down; And I done prayed right then and there; best prayer I ever said, The prayin'est prayer I ever prayed, a-standin' on my head."

Just Watch What God Can Do!

Things looked bleak for the children of George Muller's orphanage at Ashleay Downs in England. It was time for breakfast, and there was no food. A small girl whose father was a close friend of Muller was visiting in the home. Muller took her hand and said, "Come and see what our Father will do."

In the dining room, long tables were set with empty plates and empty mugs. Not only was there no food in the kitchen, but there was no money in the home's account.

Muller stood to pray. "Dear Father, I have no idea how You plan to provide our breakfast. But we thank You now for what You are going to give us to eat."

Immediately, they heard a knock at the door. When they opened it, there stood the local baker. "Mr. Muller," he said, "I couldn't sleep last night. Somehow I felt you had no bread for breakfast, so I got up at 2 o'clock and baked fresh bread. Here it is."

Muller thanked him and gave praise to God. Soon, a second knock was heard. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. He said he would like to give the children the milk so he could empty the cart and repair it.

How To Build a Great Church!

Young Wilbur Chapman had just preached his first sermon as pastor of a church in Philadelphia when an old gentleman said to him, "You're pretty young to be pastor of this church. But you preach the Gospel, and I'm going to help you all I can. In fact, two others have promised to pray with me before every service that you may have the Holy Spirit's power upon you."

At first the new pastor thought the old man might be a crank. But he could use all the prayers he could get.

Then the three who met to pray for him became 10. These 10 became 20, and 20 became 50. Before long the 50 became 200 who met before every service to pray that the Holy Spirit might come upon their pastor.

Chapman later said, "I always went into my pulpit feeling that I would have God's anointing in answer to the prayers of those who had faithfully prayed for me. It was a joy to preach!"

The result: within three years the church added 1,100 by conversion, more than half of them adult men!

God is still a prayer-answering God! What would happen in your church today if a group of dedicated believers begged God for "the fire to fall" on their pastor as he preached each Sunday?



The Preacher and the Chicken

A True Story from Frontier Days

The circuit-riding preacher came to the small community every two weeks, preaching morning and evening at the country schoolhouse.

Between services the ladies of the congregation served a picnic lunch in the open air. Great platters of fried chicken were surrounded by stacks of biscuits, corn pone, hard-boiled eggs, cakes and other delicacies.

A number of lively boys were always at the front, hoping to get nearest to the platter of chicken. But on this Sunday the crowd was so great that the boys were told to wait until their elders were all served.

Angrily they went behind a nearby shed and started shooting dice, in revenge for the unkind way they felt they were being treated.

One lad was appointed “watcher” to keep them from being caught. He also kept tab on the way the food was disappearing.

This had gone on for about twenty minutes when the he suddenly said: “Look at that preacher! I can’t believe it! He’s eaten all he could and now—when he thinks no one sees him—he’s filling those big pockets in the tail of his long coat. The rascal is taking all the good pieces!”

The playing stopped. The boys’ blood boiled as they all watched.

About that time one of the women exclaimed: “Why, look at the preacher’s plate. You’re all neglecting him. Hand over the fried chicken.” And she heaped his plate up with appetizing pieces. He nibbled a few minutes. Then the boys watched him take two bandana handkerchiefs out of his pockets, which he filled with select pieces and quickly hid.

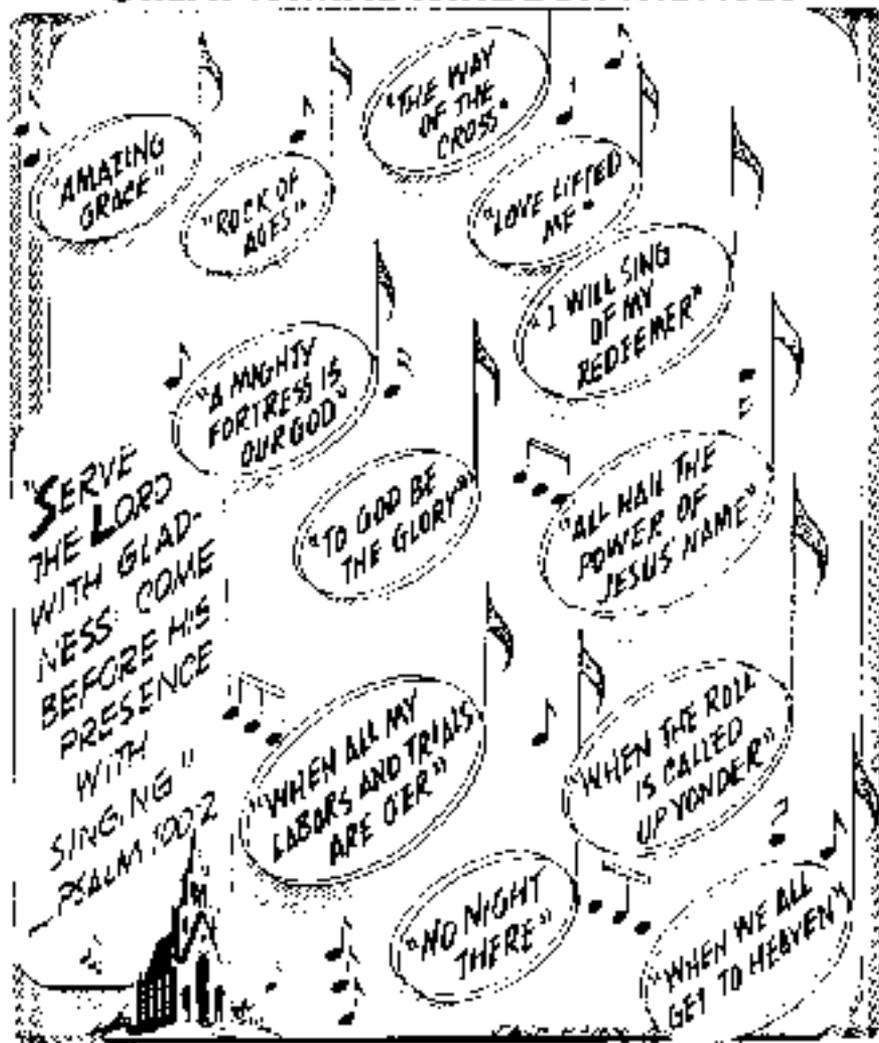
Rising with the others, the preacher then sneaked away from the crowd. The boys thought he was hiding his “loot” in his saddle bags. But after getting out of the crowd’s sight he turned and hurried toward the back of the barn and the angry group of teens.

“Boys,” he exclaimed, “I was afraid they were forgetting you, so I saved a lot of the white meat and the drumsticks for you.” Out came the four clean handkerchiefs and he passed the tender morsels around. Amazed, the boys eagerly accepted the dainties.

That was the day an unselfish preacher captured the love and attention of a group of teen boys. He soon led every one of them to Jesus Christ. Three of those boys became effective pastors. Several others were sent out as foreign missionaries.

It was the preacher’s unselfish spirit that gripped their hearts and won their confidence. Then his sermons reached their consciences and brought them to know his Savior. *“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”* (Philippians 2:4).

GREAT HYMNS THROUGH THE AGES



J.S. Bach said, "All music should have no other end and aim than the glory of God and the soul's refreshment; where this is not remembered there is no real music but only a devilish hub-bub."

Bach headed his compositions: "J.J." "Jesus Juva" which means "Jesus help me." He ended them "S.D.G." "Soli Dei gratia" which means "To God alone the praise."

"After theology, I give the highest place and greatest honor to music."

—Martin Luther.

God Works Through People

By Dr. Walt Hammonds

Robert McGee tells Tim Woodall's story in *The Search for Significance* (which is used in the Patriot University course by the same name).

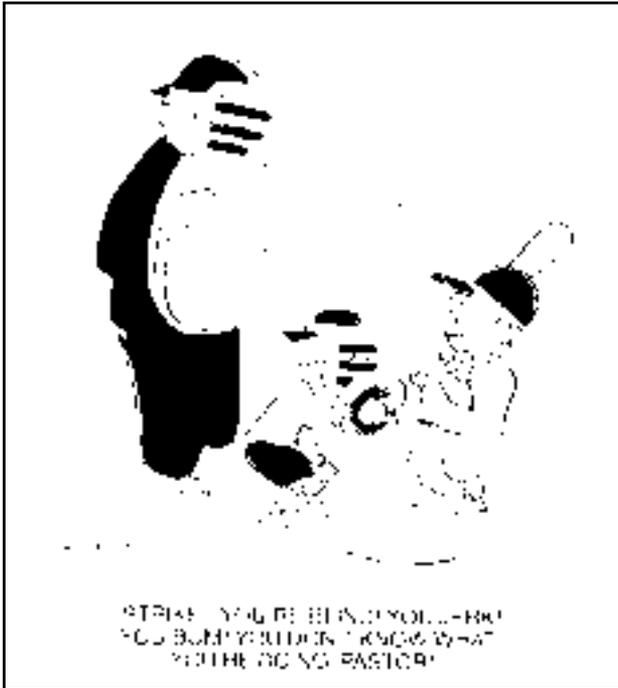
Tim, a field sales representative, fell asleep at the wheel while driving home late at night. After he hit an embankment and flipped the car, Tim climbed out, decided he was not in too bad shape, and struggled to reach the road. But he collapsed before he got there. About 45 minutes later, a couple drove by and spotted the overturned car and the injured man. Tim tried to get to his feet, but was unable to get up. He thought he was okay. But in reality he was very seriously injured.

McGee goes on to say that it's easy for people to suffer emotional injuries of which they are not aware. The struggles of being alone, the hurt from unkind fellow workers, the scars of parental rejection, the pain of not being loved. We cannot be objective when we are hurting. We may think we're emotionally okay when we're not. As McGee says, "we fail to see the reality of pain, hurt, and anger in our lives." It takes an objective, compassionate, Spirit-led individual to show us the emotional baggage we are carrying and the impact it is having on our lives.

God is the only source of healing. His timeless truths are given to us in God's Word. The beginning of wisdom and the culmination of wisdom are in Christ, and Christ alone. But handing a Bible to someone who is struggling with depression, fear, low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, or anorexia does not guarantee they will find the right prescription.

Why? Can't the Holy Spirit guide the emotionally wounded Christian into all truth? Of course He can! He definitely has the power to do so and has done so over and over again. But that is not the only way He works. God often works through others. If He didn't, we wouldn't need sermons or Godly writers to help us focus on the rich and infinitely varied ways that God's timeless Word applies to our modern dilemmas. We can all benefit from someone whom God is using to guide us around the emotional landmines of life and to show us the way back to our only hope.

God speaks through flesh and blood. It may be a pastor, a Spirit-led friend, or Christian counselor. God is the one who chooses whom to place in the life of a hurting or straying person at just the right time. God is the one who provides the principles and passages that the Holy Spirit will use for insight, conviction, healing, and spiritual restoration.



Income Tax Time

“Render unto Caesar...”

An IRS-funded survey revealed:

1/5 of filers admit to understating income.

1/10 to overstating deductions.

1/6 claim dependents illegally.

50% said they thought everyone would cheat if they felt they could get away with it.

The more tax evaders a person knows, the more likely he is to cheat.

When you made out your income tax return this year, we trust you remembered that it's better to give than to deceive.

Bits & Pieces

“Faith is putting all your eggs in God's basket, then counting your blessings before they hatch.”



Especially for Preachers & Teachers

The Art of Almost Saying Something



**By Vance
Havner**

THE ART OF ALMOST saying something is quite common these days. Politicians have long had the reputation of being able to talk out of both sides of their mouths. But, alas, this popular technique of almost saying something has gotten into some pulpits.

The speaker gets off to a good start; and you feel he will hit the nail on the head. But no. Just before he gets to the point, he deftly swerves to one side and makes a neat detour. He almost says it, but not quite. He never goes through and really names things. He sounds like he might do it any minute; and shallow listeners sometimes think he does. But when you have checked over the performance you find slim pickings. He said a lot, but not enough.

Finney had a sermon on “How to Preach So As to Convert Nobody.” One rule was: *Preach about sin in general, but never mention any of the sins of your present congregation.*

The woman at Jacob’s Well did not get under conviction while Jesus talked about the water of life and where was the best place to worship. But when He said, “Go, call thy husband,” things begin to happen. She told her townspeople, “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did.” Jesus did not generalize; he particularized. He said something every time.

This art shows up in prayer meeting when some dear brother gets no farther than, “We have done many things we should not have done, and we have left undone many things we should have done.” Who hasn’t?

But when men and women begin to confess gossiping, covetousness, backbiting, bad temper, worldliness, evil habits, and name them unmistakably, revival is near. When God’s Spirit convicts and men confess, nothing is done halfway. We come clean with it.

The art of almost saying something is clever; it sounds smart and will not offend anybody. It will help the speaker get ahead in this world—but this is not the right world to get ahead in. At the end of the road stands God, and God always says something. His Book does not *almost* state the case.

The man who says something will be *dogmatic*. And dogmatism is not very popular in many churches these days.

That's strange, since we want dogmatism elsewhere. When we get sick we want a dogmatic doctor who knows what ails us. Then we want our medicine to come from a dogmatic pharmacist, not from one who ignored the formula. When we ride a plane we want a dogmatic pilot, not one who disregards the instruments and goes by guess.

And yet, in the ministry of the Word of God, it has been fashionable to disobey orders from heavenly headquarters and substitute the opinions of men.

We need to be saying something these days about sin and judgment and salvation and godly living and the future. It is tragic the way some approach such subjects as worldliness or the Lordship of Christ, or the return of our Lord.

Our nation suffers today for the lack of leaders who believe something and say it. Political expediency has shut many a mouth and given us sycophants instead of statesmen.

God give us men in the pulpit who will remember they are not diplomats arranging a truce, but prophets declaring an ultimatum.

The pressure is terrific, and it's much easier to be a timeserver than a God-pleaser. God give us men in the pulpit who will remember they are not diplomats arranging a truce, but prophets declaring an ultimatum. Civilization has gone to pieces on tact, diplomacy and tolerance.

It is no time to almost say something. Let us hear from men with a double resolve: "I will hear what God the Lord will speak" (Psalm 85:8) and "What the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak" (I Kings 22:14).

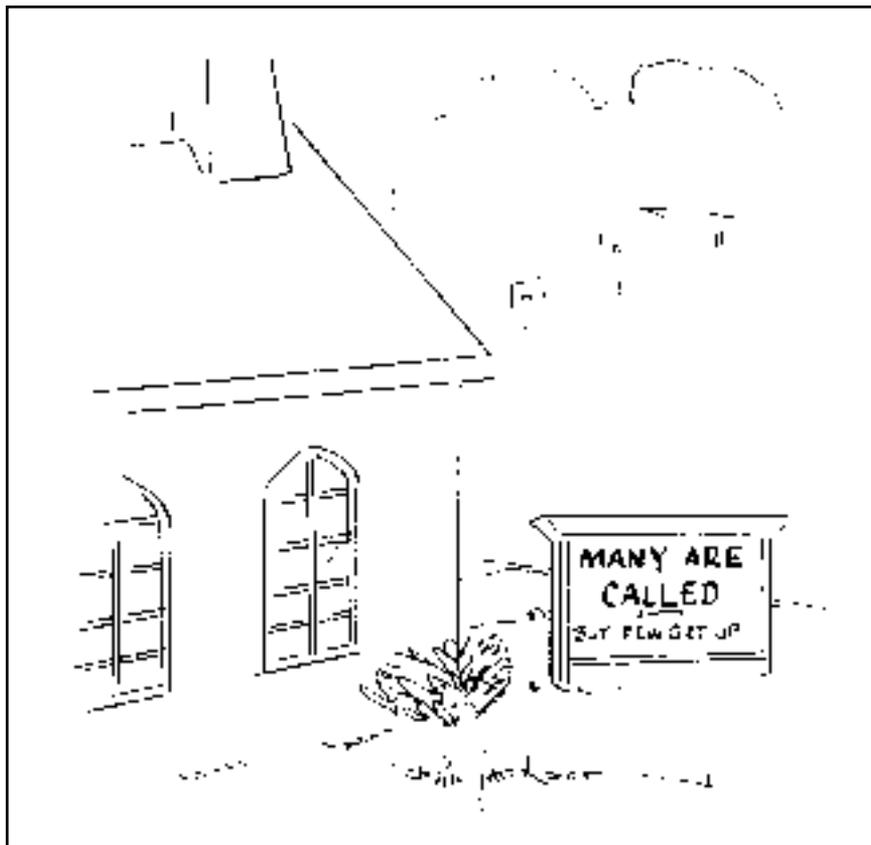
Not Negotiable

A new Decalogue has been adopted by some of our day, the first words of which reads, "Thou shalt not disagree." And a new set of beatitudes have also been added, beginning with "Blessed are they who tolerate everything, for they shall not be made accountable for anything."

It is now the accepted thing to talk over religious differences in public with the understanding that no one will try to convert another or point out errors in his belief. Imagine Moses agreeing to take part in a panel discussion with Israel over the golden calf, or Elijah engaging in a gentlemanly dialogue with the prophets of Baal. Or try to picture Jesus seeking a meeting of minds with the Pharisees to iron out differences

The blessing of God is promised to the *peacemaker*, but the religious *negotiator* had better watch his step. Darkness and light can never be brought together by talk. Some things are not negotiable.

—A.W. Tozer



Very
Interesting!



Who Needs Extra Income?

A Patriot University graduate recently called to tell us: "I just made nearly \$500 in one hour after showing a small businessman how to protect his family and business through Pre-Paid Legal. Of course I don't always do this well; but it's not uncommon for me to make a hundred dollars for an hour's work! People need to know about this!"

Do you know someone who needs to increase their income, perhaps to be able to free up some time for ministry or family? If so, perhaps they should check out the *Pre-Paid Legal* business opportunity.

For more information contact Dr. Lonnie Skinner here at Patriot, or go to the following web-site:

www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner

Save on Courses!

SALE

For Patriot University
Students

	Plan A	Plan B
BI 202 —Key Words of the Chr. Life	\$13	\$93
OT 321 —Song of Solomon	\$13	\$93
OT 412 —Psalm 119 (inc. cassette tape)	\$13	\$93
NT 316 —Colossians	\$13	\$93
NT 402 —Seven Churches of Revelation	\$13	\$93
CE 305 —Christian Ed. for the Real World	\$18	\$98
CM 202 —Holding a Child's Attention	\$13	\$93
CM 302—Integrity Crisis in the Church	\$12	\$92

Graduate

NT 523 —Practical Lessons from James	\$24	\$174
CC 601—Counseling Youth	\$25	\$175

Sale prices good only during the month of April, 2001!

Help us Look for New Students!

Did you know you can help your university, yourself and someone else by telling others about Patriot University?

When a new student enrolls in Patriot University, your school can expand, becoming stronger and more credible. The new student benefits from Biblical studies that lead to spiritual growth. You can feel good for the service you have given AND we offer a \$50 credit voucher to be used toward your tuition and/or book fees. *(Bible institutes and family members excluded from voucher offer).*



Equal Justice for all...

That's part of the American dream! Of course that won't actually happen until we get to Heaven, but for **less than the cost of a cup of coffee each day** we can now have some quality legal protection right here on earth.

Did You Know...

That you are three times more likely to be taken to court than you are to be in the hospital during the next year?

That 100 million lawsuits are filed in the U.S. each year?

That Satan has stirred certain factions of our society to declare "open-season" on Christian ministries and their workers, and that outrageous legal attacks against Christians are increasing dramatically?

Pre-Paid Legal Services includes:

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- ✍ Contract and Document Review
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- ✍ Help with Consumer Complaints
- ✍ Trial Defense and Pre-Trial Preparation
- ✍ IRS Audit Representation
- ✍ And Much More

Do You Have Your Pre-Paid Legal yet?

***If not, you can help your Patriot University
by getting it through us!***

For more information, contact Dr. Lonnie Skinner at Patriot or, better yet, go to the following web-site:

www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner

*Patriot University
Commencement Exercises
in
Colorado Springs
June 6, 2001*



Have you completed graduation requirements for your program? If not, are you getting close? Either way, you are invited to come to Colorado Springs to participate in commencement exercises Wednesday evening, June 6.

Why not make a vacation out of it, and plan to spend a few days seeing the sights! In the Colorado Springs area alone there are many attractions including Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, U.S. Air Force Academy, as well as headquarters for many Christian ministries such as *Focus on the Family*, *Navigators*, and *Compassion International*.

But *we need to hear from you soon if you plan to attend*, so we can begin to finalize our plans. If you fly, you will need to come into Colorado Springs. There are several motels in the area around *Hilltop Baptist Church*, where services will be held.

There will be a \$15 ceremony fee for graduates who attend. This will cover the rental of your cap and gown, your tassel, and a buffet meal with other graduates on Wednesday. (Other family members may join us for the meal at a subsidized price of \$5 per person).

Again, if you intend to come, please let us know immediately.

How to Contact

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