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Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Space Shuttle Columbia

Rick Husband, Mike Anderson 'fervently lived for God'



HOUSTON (BP)Astronauts Rick

Husband and Michael Anderson were remembered in their home church Feb. 2 as men who fervently lived for God more than having achieved their childhood dreams of space flight.

Husband, 45, commander of the Space Shuttle Columbia, and payload commander Anderson, 43, were among the seven astronauts killed Feb. 1 when the spacecraft broke apart and disintegrated over north Texas just 16 minutes from their landing in Florida.

Both astronauts attended Grace Community Church, an interdenominational church in the southeastern Houston suburb of Clear Lake.

"Rick and Mike were men who fervently lived for God," senior pastor Steve Riggle told thousands of mourners at three morning services Feb. 2, the AP

reported. "We celebrate they are in the hands of the Lord."

Husband, father of a son and a daughter, sang in the choir at Grace Community and led a weekly



Post. He had been a member for eight years.

Anderson, married with two daughters, had been at the church for four years. Although described as kind of quiet, The Post reported that Anderson one of a few African American astronauts was aware of his status as a role model.

prayer group for fathers called Dads in the Gap, executive pastor Garrett Booth told The Washington

■ Please see... Colombia Shuttle continued p.4

The Long and Winding Road: The Story of Healing After Abortion

By Karen Robinson

The first time I stepped into an abortion clinic I was in my early twenties. I am ashamed to say that I do not remember the date nor the time my first child left my womb - only that I felt an emptiness that I had never experienced before.

I had known loss in my life, having come from a broken family, but nothing prepared me for this. When I was a year old, my parents got divorced and my mother moved my sister and I to California. We saw our dad once in a while, but mostly I remember *not* seeing him. Somewhere along the line, my mother married another man (who I don't even remember). She later found out that he was married to another woman in another state and so that marriage was annulled. I'm not sure when, but she got married again to a man who I'm told drank a lot and hit her. Needless to say, that marriage didn't last long either.

Then, when I was about five and a half, she married Neil. I have two



■ Please see...Healing after abortion continued p.7

God's Existence pt.2

by Kelly Greene

(If you would like to read part one of this article, it is on-line at www.ou.edu/beaconou in the January issue.pdf adobe file.)

A second scientific argument for the universe having begun is found in a very simple law of physics, not a theory, which is known as *entropy* or the *second law of thermodynamics*. (Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, pg. 113) We empirically experience entropy everyday. The law states that all energy or processes in the universe are ultimately moving towards a state of equilibrium. Here is a common example: You make a hot cup of coffee in the morning, but only have time to drink half of it. An hour later, it is yucky and cold. This is entropy. Heat is a form of usable energy because it is matter in motion. The energetic heat in the coffee has gone out of the cup and it moved towards equilibrium throughout the kitchen and ultimately the universe as well. This is what is happening to the whole universe in terms of energy.

The universe is moving towards what scientists call "heat death." Eventually, the universe's energy will have reached total equilibrium and thus become completely

motionless and dead. It is insinuated that the distance between an electron and a positron will become the width of our current galaxy. Regardless of the length of time this will take, if the universe had existed forever then it should already be dead, since forever is plenty of time to get the things equalized. Entropy alone has devastated every alternative model of the universe that challenges the "Big Bang" theory, whether it be Steady State, Oscillating, or Quantum theories. Not only does this physical law demand a finite universe, but it also supports the "Big Bang", our first scientific argument for the universe having begun.

Now is a good time to go back to what the kalam cosmological argument states:

- 1) Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
- 2) The universe began to exist.
- 3) Therefore, the universe has a cause.

We have seen that it is nonsense to say that something that begins to exist does not have a cause. Something does not come from nothing. There

■ Please see...God's existence on p3

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Letters to the Editor

The letters to the Editor is my favorite section of every newspaper that I read. We love to hear from our readers. Remember, all letters to the Editor may be reprinted in a latter editon of the Beacon unless specific request is made by the sender not to publish their letter. E-mail us at beaconou@ou.edu. www.ou.edu/beaconou. Let your opinion be heard. Rose's Mormon Testimony is included on page 4. Rick Thomas, Editor.



spontaneously appear without cause. Doesn't that disprove point one?

Keep trying,
Cameron E. Westphal
History Senior.

PS: We didn't evolve from monkeys. Monkeys, apes, and humans all evolved from a similar ancestor. Would all Creationists please learn that!

Response:

Dear Mr. Westphal,

I enjoyed reading your thoughts on evolution and the cosmological argument. I did not write the article on evolution, yet I did write the article on the Kalam Cosmological argument, *God's Existence pt. 1*. (Only part one of my two part article was published at the time I received your letter.) I have taken the liberty to respond to all of your letter.

You wrote, "The fossil record alone is a powerful piece of evidence for macroevolution in that it shows that there is a gradualism, or evolution/change, of species throughout time as one evolved species replaces another." I am not an expert on fossils so I would ask you to consider what these following fossil experts who happen to be evolutionists have stated. Harvard evolutionist, Stephen J. Gould wrote, "The history of most fossil species includes two features particularly inconsistent with gradualism:

1. Stasis. Most species exhibit no directional change during their tenure on earth. They appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they disappear; Morphological change is usually limited and directionless.

2. Sudden Appearance. In any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once and fully formed." (Gould, Natural History, 1977, 13-14) Evolutionist Colin Patterson wrote in a letter dated 4/10/1979, "I fully agree with your comments on the lack of direct illustration of the evolutionary transitions in my book. So, much as I should like to oblige you by jumping to the defense of gradualism, and fleshing out the transitions between the major types of animals and plants, I find myself a bit short of the intellectual justification necessary for the job."

As for your comments on DNA and common ancestry, there are organisms that share almost the exact DNA coding with other organisms and those two organisms are radically different, such as one being an insect and another being a mammal. You would be amazed at what a fruit-fly compares to genetically.

Concerning the cosmological argument you asked, "How do you get from the universe has a cause to the creator god of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims?" I assume you are referring to monotheism. First, for anything to exist at all something has had to exist infinitely. By definition only one thing can be infinite in its being, for how would one infinite being differ from another infinite being. For there to be multiples of anything their has to be some difference that identifies one from the other. An unlimited being cannot differ from another unlimited being. Therefore, only monotheism is even logically possible. (One does not arrive at the Allah of Islam due to the fact that God must be infinite in all His being including the attribute of love, and Allah is not all loving.) Secondly, in science and philosophy we apply the rule known as *Ockham's Razor*. Ockham's Razor states that causes should not be multiplied

beyond necessity. Why posit multiple gods needlessly when one is all that is needed and while there is a logical argument for the existences of only one creator, such as I have just given? As for the personal agency of the universe's cause I refer you to *God's Existence pt.2*.

All this answers your next question, "Couldn't Amun-Ra or me, for instance, have caused it just the same?" Amun-Ra is part of a pantheon of gods, which as I just showed is logically impossible. Ra like yourself is finite. Seeing that you only came into existence a finite time ago, I will assume that you didn't exist prior to yourself in that you were able to cause the beginning of your own existence.

Mr. Westphal, your next question was premature, "What's wrong with the Big Bang?" Nothing's wrong with the Big Bang! Had you waited till

God's Existence pt 2 you would not have asked this question. I am quite surprised that you were not aware that the Big Bang theory is not rejected by theists but is used as part of their arguments.

Lastly you stated, "...and there are scientific investigations currently on certain particles that seem to spontaneously appear without cause. Doesn't that disprove point one?" Mr. Westphal, what you are saying here is that the universe just began from nothing on one real groovy Tuesday. I say that again...FROM NOTHING! Mr. Westphal, I feel I have to inform you respectfully yet firmly that from nothing, nothing comes. If this is really the position that you are assuming is the more intellectually sound I suggest you examine your motives in moving to such a radically logic defying position.

-Kelly G. Greene

Do you have a desire to grow in your relationship with Christ and knowledge of God? Here are some favorite links of mine that may help in your personal studies. I may not agree with the full content of the web-sites, but they had some awesome free resources that I think would benefit all Christians. I think that you will be amazed by the content. www.christiananswers.net, More resources than I could ever list, a lot of videos on-line.

www.higherpraise.com, More resources than I could ever list, a lot of videos on-line.

www.icr.org, www.ou.edu/css, and www.drduino.com, includes a lot of evolution and creation research.

www.livingwaters.com, includes Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort stuff, videos, and audios.

www.biblegateway.com, is the searchable Bible on-line.

www.cbn.com, is a Christian news web-site.

www.ag.org, is the assemblies of God site with a lot of current issues in society addressed.

I found this incredible offer that I think you should check out. It's a **free** 37 volume Logos Bible Software CD that this nonprofit ministry gives away (they do make you pick up the shipping). Check out the www.higherpraise.com site first, they had some of this stuff for free on-line. You can get the free CD at this ministries website: www.FreeBibleSoftware.com or by calling 866-66-BIBLE (866-662-4253).

In Christ, Rick Thomas www.ou.edu/beaconou

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■ Cosmo-God's Existence pt.2 cont. from p.1

are three strong arguments in support of the universe beginning to exist. The first one is mathematics in the form of set theory. The second is logically and mathematically understanding that infinity cannot grow or be added to in order to form a collection of past events. Thirdly, cosmology states that the universe had a beginning. Therefore, we have seen that the kalam cosmological argument makes it very clear that the universe has a cause to its beginning.

Though this argument appears to be a powerful one for the existence of God, it is not complete. We need to specifically show that the cause of the universe is personal. Then we will really have a good argument for what theists mean when they say "God exists."

Not all causes have to be personal, but some causes are personal, such as I am freely choosing to write this sentence. Impersonal causes remain constant unless acted upon by other entities or conditions. But personal causes can stop or start entirely upon volitional will. For example, only a personal cause can create the effect of this

sentence being read. Banks are not robbed due to impersonal causation; people willfully cause a bank to be robbed. This is why guns are not put on trial for murder; people are.



This can be applied to the beginning of the universe. The cause of the universe brought space and time into existence. Therefore, this cause has no extension in space because it created space. It is timeless, therefore changeless, because it brought time into existence. Now if the cause is impersonal and changeless then the effect of the universe existing would have existed eternally, yet we know that the universe actually does have a beginning and it is clearly not eternal. Based on the presented evidence, the cause of the universe being impersonal is definitely ruled out. Therefore, the only other type of cause left

is a personal cause. This is known as "agent causation." Philosopher William Lane Craig explains the universe's agent causation this way, "Because the agent is free he can initiate new effects by freely bringing about conditions, which were not previously present. For example, a man sitting from eternity could freely will to stand up; thus, a temporal effect arises from an eternally existing agent...By "choose" one need not mean that the Creator changes his mind about the decision to create, but that He freely and eternally intends to create a world with a beginning. By exercising his causal power, he therefore brings it about that a world with a beginning comes to existence. So the cause is eternal, but the effect is not." (pg. 117)

An infinitely existing impersonal yet changeless cause could never have just *begun* the universe. The effect being caused would obviously have been existing from infinity as well. The problem is that our universe has begun to exist instead of always existing. Therefore, our situation demands that the cause of the universe is personal due to the fact that only

a personal cause with volitional will can be changeless and cause the beginning of the universe as well.

One may ask, "But didn't the personal cause have to change from one moment he is not creating and the next moment he creates. Isn't this a time sensitive change from one moment to another?" The answer is no. Remember, this personal agent would have created time. It would not be a matter of chronological description. (Geisler, *Knowing the Truth about Creation*, pg. 60) This is the equivalent of saying, "When was time created?" There would be no "when" about it. There would merely be creation of time. The closest one could get to describing it chronologically would be to answer the question, "Time was created at the beginning of time." It would be better to say that this personal agent has from timelessness eternally willed creation of a finite universe with a beginning to it and, as Craig pointed out, he freely and eternally intended this creation. Therefore, there was never a time when he had just decided to create.



We have seen that the cause of the universe must be either personal or impersonal. It cannot be impersonal; therefore, it must be personal. We have no good reasons to object to the cause being personal; therefore, we have arrived at good evidence for the cause of the universe being non-spatial, because he created space. He is timeless and changeless because he created time. He is personal because only a personal cause can be spaceless, timeless, and yet able to cause a space and time temporal effect. Therefore, we have very reasonable grounds for believing that God does in fact exist.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. [Genesis 1:1]

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. [Romans 1:2]

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Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the Truth with the world. Our source of funding is God. His Holy Spirit moves on His people's hearts to give financially to support printing.

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We will soon have a web-site up and running at www.ou.edu/beaconou. Praise God. We have the right to print or not to print any article submitted. President: Rick Thomas. Vice-President: Darci Montgomery. Secretary: Asia Smith. Treasurer: Ketiesha Brown.

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Page 4 Space Shuttle Columbia

Continued from Page 1: The newspaper said he often spoke at schools, encouraging students to follow their dreams.

Video tapes of both men recorded before their Columbia mission were played during the Feb. 2 services at Grace Community Church.

"If I ended up at the end of my life having been an astronaut, but having sacrificed my family along the way or living my life in a way that didn't glorify God, then I would look back on it with great regret", Husband said on the video. "Having become an astronaut would not really have mattered all that much".



"And I finally came to realize that what really meant the most to me was to try and live my life the way God wanted me to and to try and be a good husband to Evelyn and to be a good father to my children".

Anderson's tape included a mention that both he and Husband had faced a lot of challenges during their training. "Rick and I both feel we were put on this mission for a reason and we have tried to meet all those challenges with prayer," Anderson said in his video.

"Through these days of tragedy there comes, somehow, the light of triumph," Riggle told the congregation, according to the Houston Chronicle. "I don't think you have one without the other, unless when tragedy comes, you quit."



Recounting visits with the wives of both victims the evening the disaster occurred, Riggle told of Evelyn Husband showing the pastor documents her late husband had to sign in case of something tragic happening on the mission.

At the bottom of the documents, Husband wrote a special note to his pastor which said, "Tell them about Jesus. He means everything to me," Riggle recounted.

Many Johnson Space Center employees wore their identification badges on lanyards around their necks to the services, the Chronicle reported.

Members of the Grace Community choir had an especially difficult time dealing with the absence of their famous member, posting a picture of Husband in his uniform in the

choir room and sharing brief remembrances before turning to the task of comforting the congregation, the newspaper reported.

They described him as a warm and caring man with a beautiful voice, the newspaper reported. Husband had sung a solo on the church's recording, "Rise Up and Praise Him," and had participated in numerous Christmas and Easter productions.

While much of the spotlight fell on Sunday services held the day after the tragedy shocked the nation, the newspaper reported that Grace Community opened its doors all day Feb. 1 to members of the community who wanted to share their grief.

"Rick Husband is probably the godliest man I've ever met," Steve O'Donohue, one of the church's ministers and a close friend of the astronaut, told Crosswalk.com during a phone interview Feb. 1. "He was such a lover of God and a worker for God, a kind person to everyone else. He's the type of person everyone wants to be like. His wife is the same way."



O'Donohue noted, "The only time Rick was not at church is when he was doing NASA business."

The minister, referencing Anderson as well, said, "I know this much, I know that Rick and Mike are in heaven. I'm just sad because they are not with me. But we'll be together again someday. I know that it would have been better for us for Rick and Mike to live, but they're with Jesus now, and that's better for them."

Husband had told the Fresno Bee in an interview, "I am a strong believer and a Christian," while training for the mission at the Johnson Space Center. "I look out that window at what a beautiful creation God has made."

Executive pastor Booth told The Post that Husband had a personable quality and was eager to sign autographs for children at church events. "Even with all the successes, you could sit down and talk to him for a few minutes and feel like he was one of the guys," Booth said.

In an official pre-flight interview with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Husband said, "... I think apart from NASA, the most enjoyable part of my life has been my time with my family. And, if you think about, probably, the pinnacle or the most exciting or memorable events, I would say probably my marriage and then the birth of our two children, and being there with my wife, and just the awesome experience of seeing a baby

come into the world. And just being so overwhelmed with God's goodness in blessing us with two wonderful children."

Husband listed singing as one of his hobbies, going back to when he sang in the church choir as a boy. He sang throughout his formative years, joined the Texas Tech choir in college, participated in barbershop singing and then began singing at his Houston-area church.

Husband said he enjoys singing a song "if it's something that you really think is a beautiful song and you can really belt it out, or sing it with the kind of precision that's necessary to sing, just depending on the type of song it is. ... I think [it] gives you a feeling of teamwork with the other members of the choir. It also gives you a feeling of almost release, in my particular case, because, it's, I'd say, very relaxing. And then, especially with some of the songs that we sing in church, just being able to sing a song to tell God how much I love him, it just feels great. It really does. And I think it's probably almost as good as exercising."

Anderson, in his pre-flight interview with NASA, said hundreds of people had inspired and influenced him during his life. He listed his parents, teachers and ministers as examples.



"The people that you just came into contact with at the right time that just may have said something that turned a light on in your head and led you down a certain path," Anderson said. "You know, those people you really just can't thank enough."

"And as you look back at your life, there are just a million different things that have happened, just in the right way, to allow you to make your dreams come true. And you know, someone has all that under control."

Anderson's life also was celebrated in Spokane, Wash., at a small Baptist church he attended as a child and where his parents still worship. "He was a young man who would always think deep," the pastor, Freeman Simmons said of Anderson, according to the AP. "He never said much. ... He would listen to what I said, especially scientific things."

Anderson's mother, Barbara, interviewed on CBS' "Early Show" Feb. 3, recounted, "He told me some years ago the word 'can't' should be taken out of the dictionary because there wasn't nothing that can't be done." (BP) photos posted in the BP Photo Library at <http://www.bpnews.net>. Photo titles: RICK HUSBAND and MIKE ANDERSON. Other photos are from NASA.

MyTime As a Flower in the Wind

(blown about by the doctrine of men)

By Rose Creswick

Luke 22:312-31 says, "*Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.*"

Growing up, I never felt loved. In fact, by Junior High, I considered myself unlovable and wondered if I was even capable of such an emotion. My behavior, self-esteem and associations reflected my mentality. A lot could be said about that period of my life but let's just say that Love found me when I stopped looking. I had known about God and I understood a great deal about Christianity but reasoned that surely God did not love me. He proved me wrong, however, and during my senior year of high school I fell in love with Jesus Christ. I can emphatically state that my encounter with the living and resurrected Lord changed everything.

A girl I worked with a year later once said, "Rose, you amaze me. You love other people so much that you'd give up anything for them. Sometimes I worry that you will." Her compliment was undeserved but her fear was later validated.

My sophomore year of college I became concerned about my Mormon friends and worried about their eternal destinations. I wanted them to understand what they were lacking but in our conversations I found us talking about apples and oranges and calling them both cherries. It was entirely unfruitful. I decided, therefore, that I needed to learn about their faith so that I could be a better instrument in God's hands. In reality, Christ could have used me either way, but I failed to recognize that truth.

At the same time I started talking with the Mormon missionaries, however, my life began to change drastically. To start with, a friend came to me and explained how she had been doing her quiet time and had come across Luke 22:31-32 (written out at the beginning of this chapter). For some reason my name had come to her mind and neither of us knew why. Within a few days, however,

a gun was put to my face during an armed robbery. A little while after that my grandfather died. A week later I was told my twin sister had lost her entire immune system and that my mom had been stuck with an AIDS needle. A week or so after that, my dad discovered a heart murmur, and the list goes on. It was a dramatic semester and I was entirely overwhelmed. Unfortunately, as far as those verses are concerned, the "sifting" had just begun.

My Christian friends cared for me but they didn't know how to help and so they gave me "space" when I needed their closeness most. They didn't know what to do . . . so they walked away. Oddly enough, I didn't blame them and I realize that I was letting my pain drive us apart. Nevertheless, I couldn't help but notice how the missionaries stuck by me and spent the hardest moments by my side. Eventually, my motivation to talk with the missionaries became two-fold. I loved my Mormon friends and desired their salvation but I also wanted to be loved.

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MyTime As a Flower in the Wind

Continued from p.4

The missionaries were a **tangible** source of compassion and comfort even though, in my head, I knew God was a **better** source. Unfortunately the love of the missionaries came with a price and that price was baptism. Feeling like I owed them, I agreed and we set a baptism date.

At the last moment, however, I said no. I didn't believe in Joseph Smith or in the Book of Mormon or in the Church. In a set of very unusual circumstances, however, I was baptized anyway.

I came home that afternoon and checked the phone messages only to be bombarded with news of another personal disaster. Even so, I called the missionaries and told them I was through and would NOT go the rest of the way towards becoming a Latter Day Saint (called "confirmation"). That was Saturday and on Tuesday my friend Tana Jo died. She was awesome and so many of us had prayed for her healing from a rare form of cancer that claims each of its victims. I really thought she would be cured and so her death on top of everything else overwhelmed me. The missionaries, when they found out, shook their heads gravely and said, "Well you know, it's because the adversary is attacking you. If you'd go through the rest of this process these things wouldn't be happening. If you continue to refuse that, we're afraid something worse will take place."

Desperate, and feeling guilty, I became a full-fledged member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints—otherwise known as the Mormon Church.

At that point I hoped everything would return to normal and I would have a chance to pick up the broken pieces of my life. Unfortunately, that dream was thwarted as my remaining Christians friends decided to practice "tough love" and walk out of my life entirely. Also, I was ashamed to be "Mormon" and I shuddered inwardly whenever I heard that label. I began to hate myself with a passion I'd never felt before. On a physical level I wasn't suicidal but on a spiritual level I was willing to flush faith entirely out of my life. I didn't deserve God. I recognized that it had been my bad decisions and my poor choices that had brought me to where I was and no matter how much manipulation had been used against me, I would

answer to God for every bit of it. Ironically, however, I was completely unrepentant and my heart was hardened to the voice of God calling me back. The "sifting" continued.

As months passed I decided to separate myself from the LDS Church. I couldn't handle living my life in such complete hypocrisy. I sent letters to my Branch President and made my intentions clear to friends. Unfortunately, however, the church responded by sending missionaries after me. I still longed to be loved and I felt so estranged from God that I was willing to accept comfort from almost any source. Although I knew better, I listened to the missionaries when they came over and sometimes I even invited them to spend time with me just because they showed love and concern. They were constantly at my apartment and, when they weren't, I was often at theirs. We did everything together and they became my closest friends. I began to love those missionaries so much that I couldn't stand to think that they were going to hell. My faulty reasoning led me to believe that they, therefore, had to be right. How could such wonderful, sincere people possibly be wrong?

Within three days, my life did a complete 180-degree turn. At least in a few eyes, I became an AWESOME Mormon. I felt like I was really popular. They loved me and I loved them. Honestly, it felt great and I stuffed my conscience as far in the back of my mind as it could possibly go. I began to sincerely believe.

As time progressed I was asked to demonstrate my faith. I detest speaking but I was asked to for everything from Church meetings to Missionary Conferences and even a large youth gathering. It was great and I absolutely loved the limelight! I was constantly being told how great a church member I was and how much of an asset I was to the church. In my Patriarchal blessing, they prophesied that I would one day be a woman of authority in their church and of great influence on the world. With all this flattery in mind, I decided to become a missionary and everyone applauded my decision. I would be awesome they all said. I was honestly excited at the prospect of sharing what I had come to **know**

as truth. Of course, I didn't really know anything but I thought I did—as does any faithful Mormon.

I was surrounded by the love I had sought above all else and yet, somehow, my heart was torn. Although I was a good Mormon and



people acted like everything I did was wonderful, I became terrified. People drew strength from my "sterling example" but, before God, I was a basket case. More often than I care to remember I prayed, "God, PLEASE don't let me die this way. Don't break me of it but PLEASE, PLEASE don't let me die this way. I can't come before you like this." I didn't know why, but something was desperately wrong. The LDS Church had become my identity and I couldn't imagine life without it and yet I shuddered to imagine death with it. It made no sense.

I continued to get ready for my mission and, as it drew closer, I was admitted into the LDS Temple. Partially due to my experiences in the Temple and partially through other things, I sadly came to the conclusion that the true god of the LDS Church is Satan himself. That may seem like a sensationalized statement but I believe it is devastatingly accurate.

My mission drew closer and closer and God's voice became softer and softer. If there is a line past which no one can return, I came incredibly close to crossing it. I willfully chose to live in direct opposition to everything I had once stood for and became dependant on the LDS Church for my salvation, social life, self-esteem and everything else. Especially after the temple, I was not ignorant of my sin by any means but frankly, it was fun and I enjoyed it. The LDS Church fosters a mentality that there is nothing worth living for or worth believing in outside the Church and I had bought into that thought pattern

hook, line and sinker. As the previously mentioned verses [Luke 22:31-32] state, however, I was being prayed for and my name was being brought before the Father.

Again, I was terrified to die and that fear began to overcome me and

12:6 which says, "*Cry out and shout though inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.*" When I came across that verse I was reminded of God's presence—even in Zion.

Despite my location, I grew tremendously. God's grace was amazing. He opened my eyes more and more to the lies surrounding me and protected me from the spiritual forces of darkness in ways I cannot describe. He never left me alone even when I had tried to leave Him behind. The person who arrived in Utah on May 8th is not the same person who left in August

He has also provided for me incredibly since my return to the Bible belt. I am

surrounded by wonderful people who love the Lord and I've been given the strength to tell missionaries things I never had the backbone to say before. [As incredibly sad as it makes me, they are going to hell and allowing them to believe otherwise is a grave mistake.] Repeatedly I've witnessed the miracle of salvation experienced in the lives of others and I've found a ministry in which I can serve the true and living God with my life. Furthermore, this summer I will be leaving to serve Him overseas on a long-term basis. I could go on and on listing example after example of what God has done but, in short, the battle over my soul is over and Christ won. God's grace has literally amazed me and I feel like I could repeat this truth over and over and never do it justice!! My search is completed because I re-found **true** love and, when I do die, I will find so much more.

Needless to say, I didn't go on my mission and that's a good thing. Due to extenuating circumstances, however, I continued on to Utah and I spent the summer in the stronghold of the Mormon Faith. Many Latter-Day Saints refer to Utah as "Zion," and upon my arrival, one lady made a point of welcoming me to "life behind the Zion Curtain." Considering her statement, I found great comfort in Isaiah

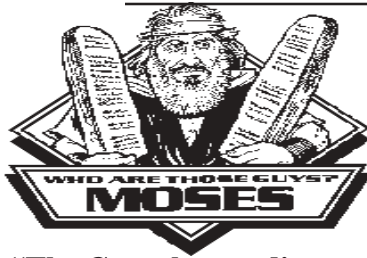


EVEN



ODD

Upcoming Events For Campus Ministries



"The Gospel according to Moses."

Want to learn how the book of Exodus is a shadow of the Messiah and things to come? From studying the Book of Exodus, you will receive a clearer understanding of the New Testament. Understand the book of Revelations through studying Exodus and Jewish Traditions.

Jacob's Ladder Bible Study meets on Thursday nights at Christ on Campus from 7:30 to 8:30. 824 Elm Ave.

LifeStream

Charlie Hall Live
On February 13th 9p.m.
at Journey Church 3400 W. Main (Old Wal-mart across from Sooner Mall) LifeStream will be hosting a night of worship with Charlie Hall. **Brad Baker- College Pastor** (Brad@journeyonline.tv)
JourneyChurch 217-8700

Chi Alpha XA Has a

Tuesday night, XALive 7:30P.M. at Rome XII above Papa John's in Stubbeman Village Mall. Come check out our new office on the third floor of the Union/ Conoco Leadership Wing Praise God! He has increased our meeting space. We now have the other side of Rome XII and some major renovation has taken place. Come check it out! Greg & Susan Tiffany OUXA Campus Pastors office - OMU / Conoco Leadership Wing **OUreach Center - Rome XII / Stubbeman Village Mall** phone: (405) 325-1377e-address: OUXA@aol.com website: www.ou.edu/student/xa www.romeXII.com

Creation Science Society

February 10, 2003 - Dr. Jeff Harwell - Detecting Design and Eliminating Chance 7:30 p.m. - Dale Hall Room 206

February 24, 2003 - Chris Schaeffer - Intelligent Design

Lectures are open to the James Wickett merechristian@ou.edu

OUChristian Faculty and Staff

holds LUNCH-
For Faculty and Staff only
Discussion topic: "All truth is God's truth." **Every other Tuesday, 12:00 pm**, Alma Wilson Rm., OMU.

Right on Time WinterJam Concert

By Ketiesha Brown

Our country experienced a loss that has reminded some of how short life may be, the explosion of the Space Shuttle Columbia. Because of this tragedy many flocked to God. Our photographer, Rose overheard a story being told to some of the performers backstage, "... some teenage girls had come to Christ the preceding night rather than committing their already planned-out suicide attempts." This is just an example of what God can do through music and lives that glorify Him. It doesn't matter what type, Rap, R&B, Contemporary, or Rock. God's loving and forgiving spirit shines through it all.

At Winter Jam 2003 God didn't disappoint. He was there from the beginning. "It's gonna rock!" said 11 year old Hannah. The evening began with KJ-52 and According to John to warm things up. Followed by explosive Daily Planet and Natalie Grant. With the crowd revved-up and ready to receive, the four host Newsong delivered an awesome praise performance only to be followed by CARMAN and a vibrant performance that rocked the house by Plus One. The treat of the night, for me, was Tait of DC Talk. They closed the show with the DC Talk hit "Jesus Freak".

Note from Editor: A lot of youth came to Christ at this event. I have had the opportunity to speak with "Carmen" many times in the past at a hotel that I used to work at. I am glad to see the constant example of the love of Jesus active in his life. Tait of DC Talk reminded me of how much 20 seconds of my time could make a difference in someone's life. Plus One was great and KJ-52 busted out a rhyme that made my mind work overtime. Over all, was it worth it? After seeing the throngs of teens come for prayer and knowing that the concert helps support Compassion International, I believe so. I am truly convinced that God can use anyone to preach the gospel. I hope that the artists and promoters keep their focus on what truly matters, 1 John 3:18. P.S Sorry there are no photos added we ran out of space.

public contact

Help Support a Local Missionary

Help support a local missionary and visit her web-site where she has these items for sale.

<http://www.rosecrewick.com2info/>

Book Shelf 1 height: 71.5 inches, width: 30 inches, depth: 12 inches, material: wood Price: **\$35** or best offer Retail Value: \$49

Picture Frame 2 Designed for 4x6 inch pictures NEVER BEEN USED! Black frame with silver cross on the right side. A couple scratches. height: 7.5 inches, width: 8.5 inches, material:

wood, Price: **\$8** or best offer Retail Value: \$15

Book Shelf 2 height: 35.5 inches, width: 24 inches, depth: 10 inches, material: wood, Price: **\$20** or best offer Retail Value: \$29

Picture Frame 1 Designed for 4x6 inch pictures NEVER BEEN USED! White frame with red and white lighthouse in lower left-hand corner; the lighthouse is topped with blue. height: 6.5 inches, width: 8.75 inches, material: wood, Price: **\$10** or best offer Retail Value: \$15

Cork Board 3 feet X 2 feet Color: Grayish with black frame Price: **\$10** or best offer Retail Value: >\$20

Living Room Rug 5x8 feet! Cream and Tan; excellent design; wonderful value; Price: **\$30** or best offer Retail Value: \$40

Camera Has ZOOM function! COMES WITH ORIGINAL PACKAGING AND INSTRUCTIONS! Black; Minolta Freedom Sightseer Zoom Works great! Comes w/ battery and roll of film Price: **\$40** or best offer.

Bunk Bed 2 height: about 5 feet length: about 8 feet width: full size mattress plus a few inches material: metal color: red FULL SIZE on bottom & TWIN SIZE on top price does not include mattresses good condition but a little squeaky Price: **\$90** or best offer Retail Value: >\$240

EVEN



ODD

The Long and Winding Road: Abortion

wonderful brothers from that marriage and dad even adopted my sister and I and changed our name so we could all have the same name. Dad was a “work-oholic” so we didn’t see much of him either. By the time I was in junior high school, that marriage ended and it was just mom and us kids. I was thrust into “motherhood”, having to watch my brothers, do laundry, learn to cook, etc. while mom worked long hours to support us. It seems that I lost part of my childhood as well.

I didn’t know it, but all this would lead into a pattern of people coming into my life and leaving again. I was so hungry for someone to love me.

I was living with the baby’s father when I got pregnant. He “said” he loved me, although some of the time he was with another woman. I thought I could be the one to “fix” all that was wrong with his life. When I found out I was pregnant, I thought it would bring us together and we could be a family. I thought everything would be okay. It was not. He insisted I have an abortion and because I loved him, and was afraid he would leave, I took the life of my unborn child. I didn’t know what an impact that would have on my life - not until many years later.

The people at the clinic were nice enough I guess, and seemed sympathetic to my predicament. I do not recall anyone offering to allow me to hear the heartbeat of the six-week-old baby in my womb. “After all”, they told me, “it is just a blob of tissue”. They just gave me a prescription for the nausea and scheduled an appointment for “surgery”. I didn’t know what they did during “surgery”. All abortion meant to me was that one minute I would be pregnant and the next I wouldn’t be. No one ever told me more than that. I don’t know whether I was just naive or whether I just pushed the truth about the baby into the deep recesses of my mind. I just wanted everything to be back to normal again. I didn’t know that this tiny little baby had measurable brain waves and little fingers and toes. Nobody at the clinic told me any of this and I was too scared to ask.

I awoke from “surgery” feeling groggy and very empty. The scared feeling was gone, only to be replaced by loss. The life of this little baby cut short by the very person God had chosen to nurture and take care of it! The second time I had an abortion, - oh yes, there was a second time.

Statistics tell us that if a person has one abortion, they are likely to have another. I am a “statistic”. This time, I was manipulated by my boss into having an abortion. She threatened to fire me if I did not. I didn’t know what to do. I reasoned that I needed my job to pay for my rent and food. I didn’t have a car, so how was I supposed to take care of a baby? The baby’s father wasn’t any help, and in case you’re wondering, I was still with the same person who had insisted I have an abortion before. Little had changed in our relationship. He was still drinking and carousing and I still had little or no self worth.

This time, I opted for local anesthetic, although to this day, I do not know why I chose to do that. Maybe I was punishing myself for being back in this situation again. I don’t remember much about that day, except for laying on the table counting the little holes in the ceiling tiles while they waited for me to become dilated enough for them to get their instruments in there to remove the baby.

What happened next, I was not prepared for. They turned on something that sounded like a vacuum cleaner. In fact, that was pretty much what it was. Somewhere along the line, I

allowed myself to drift off into another world as I experienced the worst cramping I had ever experienced in my life as my baby was separated from my womb.

And then, it was all over. They left the room to go on to the next young woman.

I tried to justify all the feelings of guilt I felt. “After all”, I tried to tell myself, “the baby probably would have been deformed or something since you’ve been drinking a lot. It was probably just as well.”

It wasn’t long before I left that job, and my boyfriend. But, I had

sacrificed my integrity and the lives of my children - and for what?

I wish I could say that this is when I started realizing how valuable I was as a person. I spent several years trying to cover it all up with drinking and partying - hoping it would all go away. It did not.

I did get a better job working in the legal department of a large corporation. I even got promoted after a couple of years. To all outward appearances, I had it all together, but inside, I was a total wreck!! It’s hard to carry around all that guilt. I continued to “look for love in all the wrong places” as that song says. Searching and searching for someone to fill that empty place in my heart. I quit my job to take a position that paid more money. But, even that didn’t help. **Nothing** seemed to make me happy.

Several years later, a friend told me that a guy we used to work with had broken up with his girlfriend. She happened to mention my name to him and said he seemed excited to know that she knew how to reach me. I was excited myself, and of course I said “yes” when he called to ask me out. It wasn’t long before I became pregnant again.

I’m sure by now, you must be asking why I didn’t use some form of birth control! I had tried everything from birth control pills, IUD, and diaphragms. Nothing worked for me.



The only thing I **didn’t** try, was abstinence!! I really hoped that he would be excited about the pregnancy - he wasn’t! In fact, he avoided me like the plague. When I finally got through to him, he said he wanted nothing to do with me *or* the baby!

Words cannot express how I felt. I was determined to have this baby - no matter what his response (or lack thereof). But, somewhere along the line, I started listening to the voices

that said, “How are you going to support yourself **and** a baby - you can hardly pay your bills now!” I felt so alone and very scared.

I checked the phone book to see if there was someone to help me. There was no one - no Birthright, no maternity home that would take me (they said I was too old). Excitement gave way to fear. I waited as long as the doctor said it would be safe to perform the abortion, hoping that the baby’s father would have a change of heart. He didn’t. My friend talked him into paying



for the abortion **and** into going with us. I remember laying on that table thinking that I was not going to do this by myself! I asked the nurse to go get him - this was his baby too - why should I have to go through this alone?! When they said it was almost over, I turned my face away, and with tears streaming down my face, I whispered, “God forgive me” as I realized it was too late to stop. I never saw or heard from Bob again.

No one ever told me this might be the last opportunity I might **ever** have to have a baby!

No one ever told me about the loss that I would feel for years to come - about the pain that doesn’t go away!

No one ever told me that I would forever wonder if my children were boys or girls!

No one ever told me that I would **long** to hear the word, “Mommy”, only to hear silence!

In March of 1987, I met the man who would later become my husband. He was a Christian, but he wasn’t serving the Lord with his whole heart. I had always considered myself to be a “Christian”. I believed that Jesus was the Son of God and that he died for my sins. I even remember praying the sinners prayer somewhere along the line, but I wasn’t serving the Lord either. John started reading the Bible to me and introduced me to TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network).

Then, on April 23, 1987, I met a man that would change my life forever. Like the Samaritan woman at the well, “He told me everything I had ever done”. That man was Jesus Christ. I can’t tell you who was the guest on the program that night. I can only tell you that I found myself

on the floor weeping like a baby as I realized that I was a sinner. All of my sin passed before me and I knew that I needed a Savior. I prayed and asked for forgiveness, once and for all surrendering my life to The One Who loved me most.

Sadness turned to joy, as I was washed in His Precious Blood! I finally found what I had been looking for - and He had been there all the time! He is the only One Who promised **never** to leave me and **never** forsake me and really mean it!

It took a long time before I understood that God had totally forgiven me of **all** of my sins and that He wasn’t mad at me! I had a hard time forgiving *myself* for what I had done. I was on the road to understanding who I was - not just an old sinner saved by grace, but a child of the Most High God - a new creation, created in Christ Jesus! I thank God for His mercy and grace!!

We were married on a beautiful afternoon in April of 1989, and had all the expectations of most newlyweds. We dreamed of owning our own home and filling it with children. John already had a daughter from a previous marriage and I wanted to experience the love I knew he had for her.

It is now 1998, and as of this writing, we are still believing God to bring children into our lives. It is difficult to express the disappointment we experience every month that we *do not* conceive. If it were not for the relationship we have with the Lord Jesus Christ, we would have a sense of hopelessness. But, He is our Comforter. He is our Hope. And we know that with Him all things are possible!

I do not care if the children come from my womb. The desire to be a mom far outweighs the desire to carry a baby. My husband and I agree, that if a little baby was placed in our arms through adoption, we would love that baby as much as if it were from our flesh. Possibly more, since to us he or she would be a gift from God. The Lord has also prepared our hearts to be open to adopting older children who need a loving home.

The Lord recently blessed us with a home large enough to accommodate more than just the two of us! The scripture in Isaiah 54:2 has more meaning to us now.

■ Please see... cont. p.8

EVEN



ODD

“Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.” Could it be that children are next? Like Abraham and Sarah, we are willing to stand in faith for as long as it takes! Several years ago, I was standing in my kitchen drinking a cup of coffee and praying a prayer based upon Isaiah 54, as I did every morning. When I got to the part that says, “All of thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children”, I rushed through it, as usual. All of a sudden, I heard the Lord say, “Why are you passing over that part?”, to which I responded, “Because I don’t have any children!” As clear as clear could be, I heard, “Yes you do and Who do you think is teaching them!!!”. I let out a gasp as I realized this powerful truth! I knew my children were in heaven, but I guess I never put two and two together!

It wasn’t long after this that I participated in a pro-life rally known as “Life Chain”. As I stood there on the corner holding that sign, the devils started yakking in my ear, saying, “You can’t do this - you’ve had abortions - you’re a hypocrite!” I just sighed a deep sigh and with tears in my eyes, I whispered, “Yes, I



did. But, it’s under the Blood and I’ve been forgiven!”

This was the beginning of what was to be a long healing process. The Lord is so gracious - He allowed me time and never pressed me. He just used a series of events to see me through to total victory! An article in Focus on the Family had a particular impact on me. It was about a young woman who volunteered her time in a crisis pregnancy center, who told how she had started to have an abortion, but was denied because she was too far along. She had her baby - he was now nine years old. She shared how difficult her life was - forever wondering how she was going to pay her rent - how she was still getting late notices on her electric bill. But, she also shared how much her son means to her and how she knows she made the right choice

when she decided **not** to go to the place she had been referred to for a late term abortion.

I realized how selfish I had been. Not only in taking my children’s lives, but in not taking the time to stop someone else from making a terrible choice. As I said before, I thank God for His mercy and grace!

Because of Him, I was able to start volunteering at Birthright. Without any formal training, I jumped in with both feet and started counseling pregnant girls and women. It wasn’t easy at first, but I just started sharing from my heart. To my knowledge, I have talked three girls out of having an abortion. There is nothing more satisfying than knowing that the devil’s plan was thwarted! It makes it easier to swallow my pride, knowing that sharing what I have experienced may stop someone else from going through the same.

We can’t tell these young women that they cannot abort their babies without being there to help them from start to finish. We can’t just be hearers of the Word, we must be **doers!** That’s what groups like Birthright are all about - being a doer. If we are not there to

provide maternity clothes, baby clothes, diapers, formula, or even a ride to a doctor’s appointment, these girls will end up making a choice that will effect them for the rest of their lives. If you or a loved one has participated in an abortion, please know this - there is forgiveness and healing in Jesus Christ. You too can walk free from the guilt and condemnation - all you have to do is ask. He is a loving and faithful God. You do not need to fear Him. Healing is the result of God’s grace and mercy. There is nothing you can do to earn it. You just have to receive what He has already bought and paid for with His precious Blood.

I do not have any unforgiveness or bitterness for the fathers of my babies. In fact, I often pray for them, as the Lord leads. This is only possible because of what **He** has done for me. I have learned that in order to be forgiven, I must forgive. If you have any unforgiveness in your heart towards someone because of an abortion, release that one into the hands of the Heavenly Father and walk free in His glorious liberty!

If you are pregnant and are considering having an abortion, I ask you to reconsider. There are **other** alternatives. Do not be fooled into thinking there is no way out. God will *make* a way. Go to Him don’t run from Him. I promise you will

never be sorry.

If you want to know the forgiveness that I have experienced, all you have to do is pray this simple prayer and trust Him.

Father, I come to you in the name of Your Son Jesus. I did not realize until I read this testimony that You would forgive me for all my sins, including taking the life of my child. Romans 10:9-10 says, “If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Jesus I believe You are the Son of God, that You died for my sins, and were raised from the dead. Your Word says, “...whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21), so Jesus I call upon You now. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins and to come into my heart and be my personal Savior. Thank You Jesus for paying the price for my sins with Your precious blood. I am now reborn! I am a child of God! I am saved! In Jesus Name, Amen.

About The Author: Karen Robinson is available to speak to churches, women’s groups and individuals. The Lord has placed upon her the desire to see women set free from the guilt and condemnation of abortion. Karen can be contacted by e-mailing beaconou@ou.edu. Photos from www.prolife.com and www.nrlc.org

EVEN

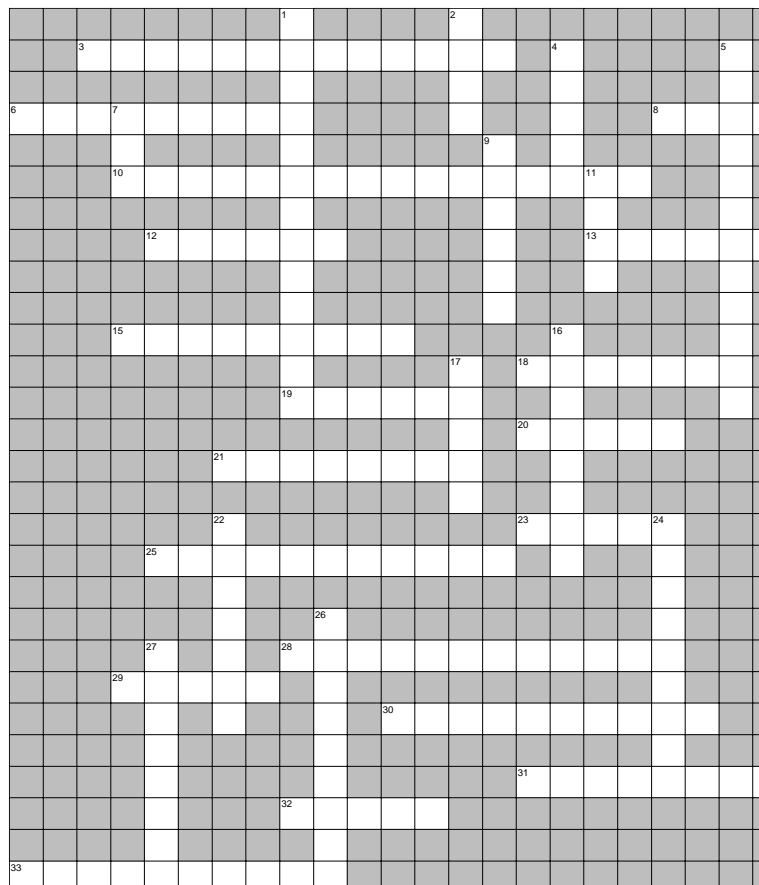


ODD



Across

3. Lack of _____ is a major problem in relationships.
6. The _____ of God is according to Truth.
8. Is the author of My Time as a Flower in the Wind.
10. Is the vice president of the BeaconOU and suggested using words from articles inside the BeaconOU for the Crossword puzzles.
12. One of the artist named in the article who performed at Winter Jam.
13. The _____ that you make today can change the rest of your life.
15. Kelly Greene explains the cosmological argument for the _____ of God.
18. _____ to the Editor can be sent to beaconou@ou.edu.
19. If the BeaconOU receives more sponsors we will go to a _____ page format. (P.S. send money)
20. _____ of the world.
21. Our new web-site is www.ou.edu/_____
23. The gospel according to _____. (Campus Events sec.)
25. be _____ by the renewing of your mind.
28. _____ day is the true Christian term for Easter.
29. And without _____ it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
30. Is a week long celebration on the campus of OU lifting up Faith in Jesus Christ and celebrating the Resurrection.
31. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is- His good, _____ and perfect will.
32. This is the _____ week of the semester.
33. _____ is sharing your faith with someone.



Created with EclipseCrossword — <http://www.eclipsecrossword.com>

Down

1. Over _____ percent of all marriages in the U.S. end in divorce.
2. _____ of money is the root of all evil.
4. X _____ meets on Tuesday nights
5. Two of the astronauts from the Space Shuttle Columbia claimed _____ as their Lord and Savior, read details inside.
7. Reason for this newspaper. (Son)
9. Rick Thomas’ choice Bible Book of the month that starts with an R.
11. _____ is feeling pretty stumped on thinking of clues for the crossword puzzle. (editor)
14. Mormons believe that _____ and Jesus are brothers.
16. _____ is for the weak minded.
17. Is _____ first in your life.
22. There is an announcement for the meetings of the OU Christian _____ in the campus events section.
24. And they admitted that they were aliens and _____ on the earth.
26. The Universe-(one verse) had a _____.
27. I have listed some _____ web links.