

Mid Ohio *A*theists

A Newsletter For Atheists in the Mansfield Ohio Area

ELEVENTH Issue

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March's Meeting

The group met again at Barnes and Noble in Ontario on Sunday, March 20th. There were two more people that joined. We are pleased that more people continue to find us and we continue to grow.

We discussed many topics. The first one was the upcoming road trip to the American Atheists National Convention in April. So far we have five members who are going.

We also discussed the Adopt a Highway program, the ODOT Rep said the signs should be up very soon. After they are put up, we will schedule a day to go out and do our first litter pickup.

Another topic was the upcoming visit of Ken Ham to the Crossroads Community Church in Mansfield on March 26-28. Some members plan on going just to see what he has to say.

A change to the website was discussed, we need of a forum so members can communicate in private. Members will need to have accounts set up so they can log in.

We decided to have the next monthly meeting at the Ocean Buffet in Ontario. With the growing size of our group, the café at Barnes and Noble is getting a little cramped. The buffet has banquet rooms that we can use that will also give us a little more privacy. We are also looking into being able to meet on the OSU campus. ♦

Atheist Quote

The doubter is the safe man; the man who can be depended upon. He does not build upon a foundation of guesswork, and the structure he erects will stand. Let us not fear doubt, but rather fear to have falsehood passed for truth.

- Lemuel K Washburn, [Is The Bible Worth Reading? and Other Essays](#)

Rock Beyond Belief Cancelled

The Charlotte North Carolina-based Billy Graham Evangelistic Association organized the Rock the Fort event of September 25th, 2010, which was funded by the U.S. Army. After complaints that the Army should not be financially supporting religious events, Lieutenant General Frank G. Helmick, the Fort Bragg commander, commented "[Fort Bragg] would be willing and able to provide the same support to comparable events..."

Sgt. Justin Griffith decided to take him up on that offer. Griffith organized a secular event entitled Rock Beyond Belief and had many big name atheists and other nonreligious celebrities lined up to be speakers or performers at the event. Many thousands of people were expected to attend. It was open to the public just like Rock the Fort had been.

On March 1st, just one month before the event was scheduled to occur, Griffith received the final decision letter from the commander and was devastated when he saw the level of support for the event had been reduced to practically nothing. This had been without warning as until then, Griffith had been told his requests for money and venues were going to be fully granted. These were even at a much lower level than Rock the Fort had been supported.

On March 4th, Sgt. Justin Griffith announce the Rock Beyond Belief event had been cancelled. He said that with the level of support from the Army being drastically reduced, there was no way the event could be held.

Maybe the commander would have been more accurate if he had initially said "We will provide similar levels of support to any other group... as long as they are evangelical Christians." ♦

Oregon Protects Kids

The Oregon House approved a bill on March 10th that would remove legal protection for parents who choose faith healing over medical intervention when treating their children.

The bill passed unanimously, though two Republican representatives raised concerns that the legislation was taking the issue away from juries and sending the state down a slippery slope.

The legislation comes in response to an Oregon City church, the Followers of Christ, that has a long history of child deaths even though the conditions from which the children died were medically treatable.

Currently, spiritual treatment can be used as a defense against all homicide charges. The bill would eliminate that defense and subject parents who chose faith healing over medical treatment at the expense of their child's life to mandatory sentencing under Measure 11.

"In the past two years alone, two children have died and another had been severely disfigured due to lack of medical care," said Democratic Rep. Carolyn Tomei, one of the bill's sponsors. "These children suffered needlessly. Their deaths were avoidable. ♦

**Mid Ohio Atheists Newsletter
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Barton or Die!

Mike Huckabee, Theocrat for President

Former Arkansas Governor and Fox News host Mike Huckabee (who is also thinking of running for president again) recently appeared at a Christian supremacist conference. He was introduced by history revisionist David Barton.

After Barton left the stage, Huckabee said "I almost wish that there would be, like, a simultaneous telecast, and all Americans would be forced—forced at gunpoint no less—to listen to every David Barton message, and I think our country would be better for it. I wish it'd happen."

Huckabee had one of his ear to ear grins when he said this, but someone has to think that even if he was joking, for our safety, he should be no where near the oval office.

Author Chris Rodda had this to say about the attempt of the sponsor of the conference, United in Purpose, to conceal Huckabee's telling statement.

"I was quite surprised... to come across a video clip from this conference on the People for the American Way (PFAW) Right Wing Watch blog with the headline "Huckabee: Americans Should Be Forced, At Gunpoint, To Learn From David Barton." I had watched Huckabee's speech. How on earth could I have missed a statement like that? Well, I didn't. It had been edited out of the webcast that I had watched.

"Kyle Mantyla over at PFAW's Right Wing Watch had recorded Huckabee's speech when it was streamed live on Thursday, and posted the 'forced at gunpoint' clip on Friday. By Saturday, when I watched the webcast on the United in Purpose website, that part of Huckabee's speech had been edited out.

"The webcast that I saw showed Barton leaving the stage as he ended his presentation, then the screen going black for a moment, and then what appeared to be the beginning of Huckabee's speech. What was edited out was Barton returning to the stage to introduce Huckabee, and the first two minutes and forty-five

seconds of Huckabee's speech, during which Huckabee made his 'gunpoint' comment and praised David Lane, the man behind all of the American "Renewal" and "Restoration" projects that have popped up across the country during the past few elections."

Chris Rodda knows quite a bit about Barton. She wrote a book called Liars for Jesus (reviewed in the July 2010 issue) where she talked about the efforts to twist our nation's history to try to prove the founders were very religious and meant this to be a Christian Nation. Barton prominently appears over and over in Rodda's book.

Rodda has a great website with many videos concerning Barton. It is well worth the time to go there and view them. Her website is-

<http://www.liarsforjesus.com> ♦

Adopt a Highway

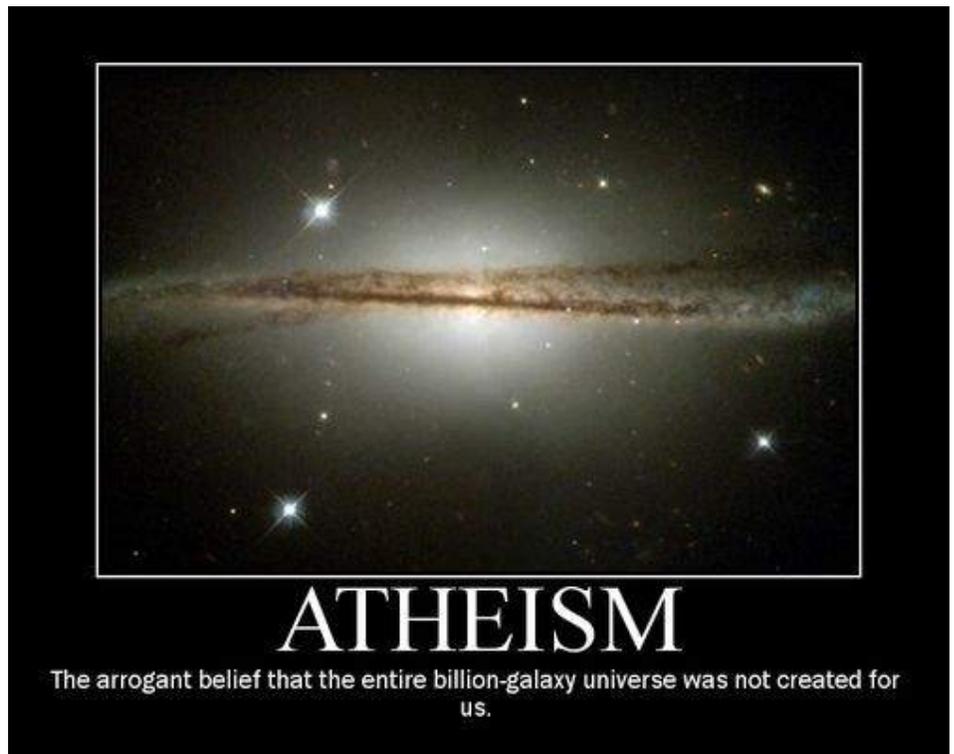
The signs are finally up for our two mile stretch of Interstate 71. This is a great way to get the word out that our group is here, since thousands of people will be driving past the signs daily.

We want to make sure we are keeping up with the cleanups as this will directly reflect on us. I drove past the area the other day and the accumulation from over the winter is very evident. We will be scheduling a pickup day very soon, it will most likely be early on a Saturday.

As a reminder, you must have signed the release form for the state in order to participate in the cleanups. Also, we need to do a minimum of 4 cleanups a year and when requested by ODOT. ♦

Atheist Humor

To make a mega church, you have to break a few nest eggs. ♦



April Meeting

This month's meeting will be on Sunday, the 17th, at the Ocean Buffet in Ontario at 11:00 AM. Anyone that is atheist friendly is welcome to attend. ♦

We're also on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
midohioatheists](http://www.facebook.com/midohioatheists)