

News Updates

WEBSITE OFFERS POST-RAPTURE MESSAGING SERVICE

Worried about getting caught up in the Rapture and not being able to bestow to your unsaved family members one last call to the Gospel — or, at the very least, a means for them to recover all your earthly treasures? A new website may well be the answer to such concerns. YouveBeenLeftBehind.com identifies itself as a “Document storage and ‘Rapture’ triggered email messaging system,” and says its “purpose is to get one last message to the lost, at a time, when they might just be willing to hear it for the first and last time.”

Subscribers to the online service will be able to store encrypted documents containing personal private correspondence, including essential information about financial holdings and other assets. Six days following the Rapture, the documents will be emailed to a dozen of your closest family and friends — those who have been “left behind.” A second, unencrypted, level of files will be dispatched to another 50 email addresses of your choosing. The initial cost is \$40 for the first year, but the cost for resubscriptions is expected to decrease as more subscribers sign on to the service.

According to the website, the company is “programmed and run by Christians, for Christians.” An overview of the services says the corporation has “set up a system to send documents by email, to the addresses you provide, 6 days after the ‘Rapture’ of the Church. This occurs when 3 of our 5 team members scattered around the U.S. fail to log in over a 3 day period. Another 3 days are given to fail safe any false triggering of the system.”

—MKG

STRANGE — AND NOT SO STRANGE — BEDFELLOWS

Robert Schuller pledged that his “Rethink Conference,” held last January, would be “an unprecedented convergence of influential Christian and global leaders” where attendees would learn from cultural icons and experience “30 Aha! Moments from 30 Leading Influencers.” It was “about getting into the minds of the most influential thinkers, innovators and leaders” to develop “fresh perspective and new directions for your work, your

ministry and your life.” All of this sounded quite impressive; however, the only thing missing from the conference was the Word of God.

“It was the exception and not the rule when God’s Word was referred to in any way. A few speakers mentioned the need of receiving Jesus Christ, but very few. The subjects of ‘sin’ and ‘Hell’ apparently were off-limits,” said Ralph G. Colas, Executive Secretary of the American Council of Christian Churches.

Schuller, who is described as “the godfather of doing church differently,” acquired acclaimed speakers for the three days of meetings including former president George H.W. Bush, broadcaster Larry King, emerging church leaders Erwin McManus, Dan Kimball, and Miles McPherson, pollster George Barna, clinical psychologists Henry Cloud and John Townsend, apologist Lee Strobel, economist Ben Stein, former heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman, Nancy Ortberg, former teaching pastor at Willow Creek Community Church, and Kay Warren, wife of Rick Warren of Saddleback Church.

Colas described the event as “a mishmash of liberalism, New Age teaching, self-esteem philosophy with a lot of psycho-babble thrown into the mix.” It was reported that 2,500 attended the conference, with tens of thousands of others viewing via satellite simulcast to 44 cities in the U.S.

“Believers do not need to ‘rethink’ God’s truths but should ‘rethink’ accepting the multiplied errors offered by those like Robert Schuller,” Colas said.

—MKG

PORN FILM GETS “THUMBS UP” FROM CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE

For many believers, the thought of a Christian publication giving an enthusiastic review to a movie laced with all types of debauchery is unthinkable. Yet that’s just what *Christianity Today* magazine did for the summer theatrical release of *Sex and the City*, the big-screen version of the HBO television series.

In the critique, posted on the magazine’s website in late May, the film was given three stars out of a possible four. Camerin Courtney, who wrote the review, opined that the cable network series, which ran for six seasons
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