



September 18, 2009

Dear Friends:

PAY TO PRAY

Just the other day, after some Cracker Jack detective work, one of our state newspapers released some special findings. It seems that our Governor has been skipping out to attend church services. He has been seen fraternizing with the likes of Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, AG's and Independents with some Pentecostals thrown in for some extra oomph and good music.

The big transgression was that the Governor had been flying to services on a state helicopter and taking two State Troopers for aid and security. The records report, over a five month period, he attended 14 different churches. The tab to the State was about 45K so let the pious moan, "How dangerous and thoughtless could he be?" I mean, we could have probably used that money to Green up some little politico's office cubby.

It has been laughingly said that our politicians deserve two terms, one in office and one in prison. And now, we have a man who loves the Lord, his family and his State who is regularly attending church services across Louisiana but the shrill insist he can't do that on the State's nickel. Seems some are quaking afraid that the Guv might dare fire up those crazy Christian voters. Gawd forbid.

One state has recently been experiencing great embarrassment and anger because their asinine Governor discovered he had, unbeknownst to his mortified wife and suffering children, found his "soul mate" in South America. Puleeze!

Their State is not alone in the Embarrassed State Support Group.

For almost 100 years, our nation has laughed at the goofy ineptitude of our past State leaders; books have been written, movies have been made. Oh, we've been some good entertainment! In fact, we are still paying for the sins of Uncle Huey's "Every man a king" shell games and the decades of unbelievable blatant corruption. "Yeah, but they are our crooks".

Additionally, there is nothing new about church visits. For years, many of the "Leaders" have hung around the churches and many of them were skillful enough to be able to take a text and have the clueless on their feet and shouting the victory in mere moments. But, the side wink and the frequent embarrassing follow-up proclivities let us all know it was but a meager sideshow.

We've also seen to the sad shenanigans, donut deliveries and money rains on the religious marionettes that could be counted on to "look the other way" and get out the vote. Wonder how much all that cost? Thank God, that has changed. Or has it?

I fully realize and support the fact (and freedom) that Mr. Jindal is Governor of all the people and that he was elected Governor, not Pope or Pastor, of the State. But, if the Governor had been visiting at any non Christian worship houses, Acorn functions, Decadence parades or a series of Planned Parenthood ribbon cuttings, the printing presses would have likely remained silent and the TV cameras switched to the OFF mode. If any coverage ensued, it would have always been tenderly wrapped in the compassionate, inclusive package.

No, you haven't heard a squeak about the need to watch our money until now, when our Governor, a committed Christian public servant, is singled out and subject to the inspection microscope of the "concerned". What about that scary little congress lady who flies from DC to San Francisco each weekend on a 737? Just one fill up on that sucker runs over \$16,000 a pop. Anybody checking on that?

Maybe we need to go back and check the archives and itineraries to see where they all went and see who paid the bill. Maybe we can reclaim a few of the squandered dollars to help rebuild our noble State.

Think about it. It could be a windfall!

Then, this same logic could be applied to every Strawberry Festival, ball game, fish fry, crawfish boil, Bar Mitzvah and school fair the Governor attends. And don't forget every congratulatory letter he sends out to school kids, 50 Year Anniversary Couples and the folks that have just turned 100. Since they all may be possible voters, shouldn't we just bill him for each contact/appearance he makes? Nothing too over the top, what about a dollar a head? Perhaps we need to realize, the media has been used by a Higher Power to lift our miserable souls out of this pit. With their help, we're in the money!

Got a better idea, if the Governor still insists on visiting churches, let's get him a year old minivan (we'll save 20% right up front) with the State Seal glued on the door. Cut his security detail down to only one Barney Fife per trip. For a good PR move, the deputy's day rate could be covered by The World Council of Churches or People for the American Way. Then, at the end of each service, each church would be required to gas up the van and give them both a bag lunch and a Barq's for the drive back to Baton Rouge.

While we're at it, let's make sure his kids aren't stealing pens and legal pads from the Governor's Mansion; don't forget to count the silverware!

How small, how myopic, how dribbly?

While we are quibbling over trips to church, finally burying Michael Jackson and some goofball at an awards show, we are quickly drifting down the drains of destruction on every level. We better wake up and focus on the big stuff.

Regarding the trips to church, there are more than a few crazies out there and it should be vitally important for our President and our Governors to be protected and even comfortable enough to be at their best every day. It is not likely that they will be able to get out for the late night specials at Target or Piggly Wiggly and they deserve the extra care and shielding but not arrogant misuse. Didn't the President just recently skip out for Broadway date night? Who paid the tab? We did and I'm glad he got a night out with his lady in the sleeveless dress.

Like the President, I realize our Governor works in a pressure cooker and he might need a periodic date night with the wife to decompress and his troopers should drive him. But, if he needs a good worship service to get rejuvenated, he really needs to know that he'd better stay out of a Christian church unless he is prepared to sow his own "seed faith" offering to foot the bill.

Michael

The
LifeGate