

HOUSE JOURNAL

First Regular Session of the Forty-ninth Legislature

of the State of Oklahoma

Ninth Legislative Day, Thursday, February 13, 2003

The House was called to order by Speaker Pro Tempore Hilliard.

The roll was called with 98 Members present.

The following Members were excused: Stanley, Taylor, Worthen.—3.

The Speaker Pro Tempore declared a quorum present.

Prayer was offered by Pastor Roger Velasquez, Shekinah Fellowship Church, Oklahoma City.

The Journal for the last legislative day was approved.

REMARKS

Upon unanimous consent request of Representative Greenwood, Pastor Velasquez's remarks were ordered printed as follows:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank Representative Joan Greenwood for inviting me to be here. It's been an honor to come and pray with you every morning. As a minister, I from time-to-time see miracles happen. Maybe this morning, we're going to experience a miracle. And that miracle is, having to share in such a short time, what takes me normally Sunday morning to do. But I guess if God could sum up all that He is, in three words, God is love. I think I can share a little bit with you this morning in the short period of time.

First of all, we would all like to know that we have a purpose in life. And no doubt many of us here feel that we have that purpose and we understand our purpose in life. But what I'm talking about this morning is not the temporal short span of life that we live here on earth, but I'm talking about an eternal purpose.

You see, before God created the heavens and the earth, the Bible says that He planned you for His purpose. Note, it did not say for a purpose, but for His purpose. There's a big difference. Your purpose in life will extend far beyond the few years that you have in this life.

There are a lot of self-help books that suggest that we discover the meaning and purpose of our life by looking within. And I guess from time to time that's a good thing to do. But what I am talking about this morning is something that is beyond us. Looking within can be a very lonely thing from time to time. When we look into ourselves and realize that we don't have the answers to all the questions of life, I would suggest that we start looking at the one who created us. He gave us the purpose for living, even before we were born.

The Bible says you were called by name even before He created the heavens and the earth. Even while you were in your mother's womb, the Bible says God called you by name.

When we discover His purpose for our lives it will reduce stress, it will simplify our decisions and give us meaning for life. But most of all it prepares us for eternity.

You see, I have an expression or a word I love to use, and that word is trans-generational. What I mean by that is that our life is more than just this temporary life span we live. Really, our life is eternal. There is a movie that I love so much, it's about a general, a roman general speaking to his soldiers before they go into battle and when he rides on his horse and he comes up to them he says to them, "Men, what we do today will echo through eternity".

And I thought about it, and said you know, there is really scriptural basis for that, because what we do in this life will outlive us. It is eternal, it has eternal consequences. That's why it's important that we discover God's plan, God's will, and God's purpose for our lives.

To give you a biblical example that is not used very often, you all know the story of Cain and Abel, how Cain killed his brother Abel. And the Bible says that God came looking for Cain and spoke to him and he said, "Cain, the blood of your brother, Abel, cries out to me".

But in reality when you study in the Greek text, the original language of the Bible, the word blood is not singular. It's plural, which is not usual. Because you would usually use the term blood. But God specifically used the plural term, bloods. In other words, God said, the bloods of your brother, Cain, cries out to me.

What God was saying is, and the way God sees things is, not only did Cain kill Abel but he killed all of his offspring that would come from generations on. See, that's God's perspective of purpose in life. And that should be the same with us as well.

In Ephesians, Chapter 1, verse 11, the Bible says -- listen to this, it's beautiful -- "It's in Christ we find out who we are and what we are living for." Long before we ever heard of Christ he had his eyes on us and had designed on us for glorious living, which is part of the overall purpose which he is working out in everything and everyone.

God's eyes are upon us today and he has a glorious purpose for each one of our lives. You were made by God and for God. Until you understand that, life will never completely make sense. We will flounder and yes, maybe have some successes in life, but we always hit a wall because we don't recognize God.

In the book of Proverbs, Chapter 11 in verse 28, the Bible says, "a life devoted to things is like a dead tree. A God-shaped life, is a flourishing tree." That's in Proverbs 11-28.

The Bible also says, that without a vision the people perish. Another word for vision is purpose. Without a purpose we will perish.

The great commission of God, the great commandment of God is that we would love him. If we begin our purpose by seeking him and to love him, then we will begin to find meaning for life and recognize that our lives are really trans-generational with the awesome responsibilities that ladies and gentlemen, you have in this place, recognizing that decisions that you make in this place are going to outlive you, will even echo throughout eternity.

What a wonderful thing it is when we can come and live life and make decisions based on God's purpose. There is nothing quite like going to the One who created us.

When I had a problem with my computer recently I talked to a lot of people about it but it took the calling of the people who made my computer to quickly get the answer to the problem I had. And if we really believe that God created us, then whenever we have a problem and a need, isn't it wonderful to note that we can come to Him and He can give us purpose in our lives and give us direction. It is wisdom the Bible says, that we would seek God all the days of our life and seek him for direction in our lives.

Let us pray.

God, you created us with a mission. And you desire to unveil that mission and that purpose for our lives. Father, we come to you once again, and what an honor it has been to be able to pray together with all of these precious men and women here today. We thank you for the life that you have given to us. But you said that you wanted to give to us abundant life. We know abundant life only comes from you. May our hearts always be set on seeking and pursuing you. And for any here today who may not understand fully the purpose of their life, may it begin by them seeking you and turning their life to you in all things.

Father, I thank you for every representative. And may you continue to bless them, and work through them to fulfill your purpose and your plan upon our precious and wonderful state.

I ask all of this in the wonderful, glorious name of Jesus. Amen.

God bless you.

RESOLUTIONS

The following were introduced and read:

HCR 1006 – By O'Neal.

A Concurrent Resolution relating to the appropriations process; making findings regarding appropriations made for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003; calling for action by Legislature to eliminate projected budget shortfall; requesting implementation of zero-based budgeting system; and providing for distribution.

HCR 1007 – By Sullivan.

A Concurrent Resolution supporting the President of the United States and the members of the United States Armed Services in the event of military action against Iraq; and directing distribution.

MEASURES REASSIGNED

By unanimous consent, the following were reassigned:

HB 1027 –Withdrawn from Transportation and referred to Rules.

HB 1032 –Withdrawn from Revenue and Taxation and referred to Rules.

HB 1424 –Withdrawn from Public Safety and Homeland Security and referred to Rules.

HB 1704 –Withdrawn from Appropriations and Budget and referred to Rules

HB 1753 –Withdrawn from Veterans and Military Affairs and referred to Rules.

HB 1768 –Withdrawn from Rules and referred to Higher Education.

HB 1769 –Withdrawn from Rules and referred to Economic Development.

HB 1770 –Withdrawn from Rules and referred to Economic Development.

HB 1785 –Withdrawn from Economic Development and referred to Rules.

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED

The following were withdrawn from the Calendar and referred to committee:

HCR 1003 – Common Education

HCR 1004 – Higher Education

HCR 1005 – Transportation

GENERAL ORDER

HB 1108 by Turner of the House and Shurden of the Senate was read and considered.

Representative Turner asked unanimous consent to amend **HB 1108** by striking the title, which was the order.

Representative Turner moved that **HB 1108** be advanced from General Order, which motion was declared adopted.

By unanimous consent, upon request of Representative Turner, **HB 1108** was considered engrossed and placed on Third Reading and Final Passage.

THIRD READING

HB 1108 was read at length for the third time. On passage of the measure and emergency, the roll call was as follows:

Aye: Adkins, Armes, Askins, Balkman, Bengé, Blackburn, Blackwell, Bonny, Boren, Braddock, Brannon, Calvey, Carey, Cargill, Claunch, Coleman, Covey, Cox, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, DeWitt, Dorman, Easley, Eddins, Ellis, Ericson, Erwin, Ferguson, Gilbert, Graves, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harrison, Hastings, Hefner, Hiatt, Hilliard, Hutchison, Ingmire, Jones, Kirby, Lamons, Langmacher, Leist, Lerblance, Lindley, Liotta, Maddux, McCarter, McClain, McIntyre, Miller (Doug), Miller (Ray), Mitchell, Morgan (Danny), Morgan (Fred), Nance, Nations, Newport, O'Neal, Paulk, Perry, Peters, Peterson, Pettigrew, Phillips, Piatt, Plunk, Pope, Reynolds, Rice, Roan, Roggow, Smaligo, Smith (Dale), Smith (Hopper), Smithson, Staggs, Steele, Sullivan, Sweeden, Tibbs, Toure, Trebilcock, Turner, Tyler, Vaughn, Walker, Wells, Wilson, Wilt, Winchester, Wright, Young, Mr. Speaker.--96.

Excused: Case, Roberts, Stanley, Taylor, Worthen.--5.

The measure and emergency passed.

HB 1108 was referred for engrossment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were reported by the committees named, ordered printed and placed on the Calendar unless otherwise indicated:

DO PASS:

HB 1030 – Career and Technology Education, Coauthored by Representative(s) Miller (Ray), Askins, Ingmire, Staggs, Tibbs, Tyler, and Authored by Senator Robinson (principal Senate author)

HB 1065 – Common Education, Coauthored by Representative(s) Deutschendorf, and Authored by Senator Crutchfield (principal Senate author)

HB 1150 – Commerce, Industry and Labor, Authored by Senator Milacek (principal Senate author)

HB 1386 – Transportation, Authored by Senator Milacek (principal Senate author)

HB 1414 – Common Education, Authored by Senator Pruitt (principal Senate author)

HB 1476 – Common Education, Authored by Senator Wilcoxson (principal Senate author)

HB 1533 – Commerce, Industry and Labor, Authored by Senator Aldridge (principal Senate author)

HB 1574 – Banking and Finance, Authored by Senator Coffee (principal Senate author)

HB 1580 – Banking and Finance, Authored by Senator Fisher (principal Senate author)

HB 1607 – Common Education, Authored by Senator Milacek (principal Senate author)

HB 1691 – Science and Technology, Authored by Senator Coffee (principal Senate author)

HB 1693 – Transportation, Authored by Senator Stipe (principal Senate author)

HB 1694 – Transportation, Authored by Senator Stipe (principal Senate author)

HB 1695 – Transportation, Authored by Senator Stipe (principal Senate author)

DO PASS, As Amended:

CS for HB 1068 – Career and Technology Education, Coauthored by Representative(s) Tyler, Wells, Askins, Ingmire, Reynolds, Staggs, and Authored by Senator Rozell (principal Senate author)

CS for HB 1140 – Commerce, Industry and Labor, Authored by Senator Crutchfield (principal Senate author)

CS for HB 1348 – Transportation, Authored by Senator Rozell (principal Senate author)

HB 1449 – Commerce, Industry and Labor, Authored by Senator Shurden (principal Senate author)

CS for HB 1522 – Banking and Finance, Coauthored by Representative(s) Carey, and Authored by Senator Rabon (principal Senate author)

CS for HB 1528 – Science and Technology, Remove Representative Ericson as principal House author and substitute with Representative Perry, and Authored by Senator Coffee (principal Senate author)

CS for HB 1683 – Banking and Finance, Authored by Senator Monson (principal Senate author)

Representative Rice moved that when the clerk's desk is clear, the House stand adjourned to reconvene at 1:30 p.m., Monday, February 17, 2003, which was the order.

Pursuant to the motion of Representative Rice, the House was adjourned at 10:30 a.m., to reconvene Monday, February 17, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.