

Miracles that follow the plow :: Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested**Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested, on: 2007/4/4 13:58**

We need prayer here in Western NC. Hendersonville (about 15 miles south of Asheville) is requiring street preachers to obtain permits (basically asking the city's permission) in order to exercise their Constitutional rights. Ordanances like this one have been struck down in GA and TN as being unconstitutional, but Hendersonville City Council is digging it's heels in.

Here's a link to one of the articles about it:

<http://www.hendersonvillenews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070323/NEWS/703230351>

This is in my back yard folks. I'm not a street preacher... but if you dont hear from me for awhile, you'll know I just became one! Visit me in jail, ok?

Krispy

Re: Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/4/4 15:15

Yeah, I heard about ol' Billy Ball not too long ago. I hate seeing this type of thing. I'm glad that the police where I am at haven't troubled me too much about street preaching.

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/4/4 16:15

Quote:
-----Ball, a 46-year-old preacher from Primrose, Ga., received a citation from Hendersonville Police about 30 minutes after he appeared Thursday on the corner of Four Seasons Boulevard and Coolridge Street holding a sign that said: "Three gays rights: AIDS, hell, salvation." It's his second citation -- he also got one on Monday.

What was not reported was how every gay person who read this sign immediately repented of their immorality! I am being silly here, but I am disturbed by this type of spreading the "Good News".

While reading this I prayed about where the line is drawn between a Gospel preacher who is concerned about the salvation of unbelievers and a man who is looking for a fight with the wrong person at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Hear me out, I am not accusing this preacher of anything wrong, but I will not blindly accuse the police of doing anything wrong either. If the ordinance is a violation of free speech then it should be removed, I just don't see how a preacher getting citations glorifies God. What I am trying to say is that there must be a better way to get the ordinance removed than holding up a sign that says, "Three gays rights: AIDS, hell, salvation."

Let me state for the record that I believe the ordinance should be repealed, but I think it should be repealed in a way that does not involve a Christian breaking the law.

Re: - posted by xMicahx (), on: 2007/4/4 17:03

Wow, thats pretty interesting and sad. I'll be driving through there tomorrow I'll make sure to pray. I also just want to say thank you to all you who do street preach...May God be glorified through all things.

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Re: Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested - posted by vico, on: 2007/4/4 18:05

I'll visit you brother!
should i come within the next few days??? ;-)

"...I was in prison and ye came unto me..."

Re: Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested - posted by wsbg (), on: 2007/4/4 18:43

Wow. I'm speechless. Stand for your freedom of religious expression brother! My prayers are with you.

Re:, on: 2007/4/4 20:58

Quote:
-----While reading this I prayed about where the line is drawn between a Gospel preacher who is concerned about the salvation of unbelievers and a man who is looking for a fight with the wrong person at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Sadly, your right.

I've seen this so many times, from my Brothers and Sisters in the LORD, they get yelling and screaming and boisterous in public places, they are not preaching, they want the world to know their opinion, while I am trying to calm them down, most times I have to walk away. I had to do this just the other night in a Subway restaurant. I told them, I love you but your being unreasonable, and then left.

Re: Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested - posted by Scaramouche, on: 2007/4/5 1:55

Billy Ball says: ""We are going to prove that this ridiculous ordinance about free speech is exactly that. And if they give me a citation, I will go right back and preach again. If I am arrested, somebody else will be here to take my place."

Chris Norris, who pastors Fair Haven Baptist Church in Hendersonville, agreed. "

Jesus says: "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet." Matthew 10:14

This is my biggest "beef" with America these days. Christian Americans can't seem to see the difference between being Christian and American. This Billy Ball and his entourage want to "fight for their rights" and I think they speak for a large portion of American Christians.

WHAT RIGHTS ???

Are these rights God given, that people HAVE to listen to us?

That we can stand on street corners and give a presentation and no one can tell us to move?

That we're gonna do what we want because we have God on our side and these people just better deal with that?

Is it any wonder why the Church in China is so strong and we're so weak???

They just carry out the Great Commission and we talk about it and argue about it and fight for our rights over it.

Man, this would really depress me if I didn't believe God's Word to be true that the apostasy HAS to come before the man of lawlessness is revealed.

When our rights are more important than our message, we are apostate.

With all due respect, Mr. Ball should stop talking about his rights and start preaching the Word. If they run him out, then let him shake the dust off his "sandals" and move on, knowing he did as the Lord wanted him to do and that the rest of the work is the Holy Spirits' and not to be decided through legislation.

Sorry this is so long. This is a pet peeve of mine and it just irks me what we've done to the Name of Christ for the sake of our comfort and freedom.

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Re:, on: 2007/4/5 8:37

Understand something... I dont agree with everything that Billy Ball does. I would not carry a sign like that. I dont think it brings anyone to repentance.

However, in this country we do have rights. Like it or not, we do. Do we deserve rights from God? No. But none the less, we have them. And if we dont do something to keep them, then we wont have them.

We can get all spiritual and say that we shouldnt worry about government, and the church in China is strong because of the oppression (which is true)... but the fact is America sends out more missions and relief work than any other country i n the world. We wouldnt be able to do that if it were not for the freedom and liberties we enjoy.

I was in the military. I've been in combat zones. I've put my life on the line for people like Billy Ball, and every other pers on in this country who exercises there freedoms under the Constitution of the United States.

I support Billy Balls freedom of speech. I support a gay person when they exercise their freedom of speech. I support a Muslim when they exercise their freedom of speech (so long as their speech is protected under the Constitution, which a dvocating violence and treason is not protected speech).

Members of this forum who are American... you can post your opinions on this board because of those freedoms you enj oy.

So lets keep things in perspective. While it sounds very impressive to be spiritual and condemn Rev Ball for standing up for his rights... you're enjoying those rights when you write your condemnation of him on this forum!

Krispy

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/4/5 8:45

Let me be clear. I support Billy Ball's right of free speech as protected by the Constitution, I just want Billy Ball and the r est of us to exercise wise speech, especially in front of the world.

Re: Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested - posted by repentcanada, on: 2007/4/5 9:00

Thanks for this update krispy, we all know it's going to get worse. We need persecution to purge the church!

Re:, on: 2007/4/5 9:05

Quote:

-----I just want Billy Ball and the rest of us to exercise wise speech, especially in front of the world.

I agree 100%... but thats America. Freedom of speech is just that... freedom of speech. The Founding Fathers were well aware of the fact that our liberties would be abused by some, but the answer is not tyranny.

Now... I agree that the only right we have is hell. But thats not the point here. Paul had no problem invoking his rights as a Roman citizen when he was being held prisoner. Those who have a problem with us who invoke our rights as America ns conveniently ignore that part of Paul's ministry.

Krispy

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Re:, on: 2007/4/5 12:22

Krispy said:

Quote:
-----I support Billy Balls freedom of speech. I support a gay person when they exercise their freedom of speech. I support a Muslim when they exercise their freedom of speech (so long as their speech is protected under the Constitution, which advocating violence and treason is not protected speech).

Well said Steven!!

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2007/4/5 12:52

Quote:
-----I support Billy Balls freedom of speech. I support a gay person when they exercise their freedom of speech. I support a Muslim when they exercise their freedom of speech (so long as their speech is protected under the Constitution, which advocating violence and treason is not protected speech).

I agree that this ordinance seems to run contrary to freedom of speech rights and it should definitely be brought before a court for review where it will most likely be struck down as unconstitutional.

However, as I was thinking about this matter I began to ponder whether or not this man should be purposefully violating this ordinance in the mean time. I do believe that there is a time when violating a law or ordinance might be the right thing to do but I don't think this is one of those times. I don't think it would be a violation of conscience for him to apply for the permit to speak in public until this ordinance is revoked. I'm thinking that by openly violating the ordinance he could lead those who are looking on to think that it is OK to disregard the law to further your own ends, possibly to much greater evil purposes than silencing public speech.

Just my thoughts.

In Christ,

Ron

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/4/5 13:54

Quote:
-----I began to ponder whether or not this man should be purposefully violating this ordinance in the mean time.

I agree. Well said.

Re: - posted by WorthyisHe, on: 2007/4/5 15:06

I think the last two entries on this board were well stated. I think the follow-up articles only serve to back these statements...

Has anyone read the latest update on this story?

<http://www.hendersonvillenews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070327/NEWS/703270328>

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/4/5 16:37

Reading this last article I ask myself, "How is God being glorified?"

Re:, on: 2007/4/5 20:16

We must live in this world as if we don't have any rights.

Yes we have rights in North America, we are able to do what other Christians in other lands only dream of doing. However, we need to be quiet, sensible and have our wits about us and be wise as serpents and yet harmless as doves. If you need to scream your lungs out, rent a hall and yell till your voice gives way. But be absolutely certain that you are standing on that street corner by the operation of the holy Spirit and not on your own quest, as many have brought a reproach on the name of Jesus Christ already.

Zeal is good, Wisdom is better.

Re: - posted by WorthyisHe, on: 2007/4/6 9:45

I asked myself the same thing - how is Jesus being lifted up in all this? The attention is all shifted to man and not the message.

Re:, on: 2007/4/9 8:27

I had the same questions, and I personally find Billy Ball to be somewhat obnoxious... however, in doing what he did he brought to light a law on the books that most believe is unconstitutional. This is an ordinance that the chief of police (who happens to be a believer) likes because it helps his police force know what is going on in the community. Not a bad thing. However, since the wording of the ordinance is not well defined, it leaves the issuing of the permits completely up to the opinion of the chief of police. If the chief was not a believer, and if he wanted to stop the Word of God from going forth... he would have that power. There are no checks and balances.

Not to mention that the law is unconstitutional anyway.

I question Billy Ball's motives... but he has done more to unite the churches of this area than anyone has in a long time. I've spoken with a pastor friend of mine this weekend, and pretty much at this point the pastors in area have agreed that violating the ordinance at this point in time will not serve any good. They are giving the mayor and the city council time to review the ordinance, and make any changes that the city lawyers feel they need to make. The Mayor has already stated that this will happen. If the changes are not made to the satisfaction of the preachers in the area, then legal action will commence, and it will involve organizations such as the ACLJ (American Center for Law & Justice), and other Christian law associations.

And I think that is proper.

Interesting to note that the ACLU is refusing to get involved. They'll stand up for those sick idiots who protest at soldiers' funerals, but won't come near a free speech issue when it involves the Gospel. What hypocrites.

By the way, many of the pastors mentioned in the article on Saturday I know personally, and will vouch for them that they are truly men seeking God's heart. Don't sit in judgement of these men, especially Randy Barton.

<http://www.hendersonvillenews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070407/NEWS/704070332&SearchID=73277530818108>

Krispy

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Re: - posted by mabby10, on: 2007/4/12 0:36

I dont know if I should have made a separate post out of this but it roughly deals with the same issue. Please read the note under April 3, 2007. What are your thoughts?

<http://media.www.theguardianonline.com/media/storage/paper373/news/2007/04/11/News/Crime.Notes-2832865.shtml>

Re: Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested - posted by UniqueWebRev (), on: 2007/4/17

Oh, Krispy!

That the signs of persecution begin in such small ways, and in this, the last bastion of free speech, and freedom of religion.

I don't know what the Lord requires of us in these circumstances. I can only say, if Christian's were getting stomped on in my neighborhood, I would first pray, and then do as God directed me.

Alas that we are threatened with jail already. I have been aware it would come, but with it coming so soon, so does the Lord!

Things are speeding up so much just from week to week.

Praying for you, and for them all.

P.S. Was praying, and heard the Holy Spirit whisper picketing! And the words, 'Let Them Speak!'

If the Lord asks you to do something, be careful that you are prepared to be doing something so normal as silently demonstrating something non-provocative, yet strong in all our hearts. It might get the same results, while letting you rest quietly in your bed at night, rather than in jail.

Remember, the Lord said, in Matthew 10:16. Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Be careful. Praying for you and them.

Re: Pray for Street Preachers in Hendersonville NC who are being arrested - posted by repentcanada, on: 2007/4/18 0:4

WOW, I can't believe that town in NC has specific laws concerning open air preaching on the sidewalk. I am shocked.

Re:, on: 2007/4/18 8:16

At this point the mayor (who is a born again Christian) has stated to the media that the city council will review the ordinance because, as he said, "We dont want to be doing anything illegal".

So right now, things are in a holding pattern until they do that.

The history of that ordinance is that Bob Jones University, which is 45 minutes south of Hendersonville, used to bus students up to Hendersonville every Saturday in the spring and summer to street preach. It was both an outreach and an academic requirement for their "preacher boys".

People complained enough that the city council passed this ordinance to stop it. Rather than fight it, BJU went away. This was in the 80's.

So the intent of the ordinance started as a way to prevent freedom of speech & religious expression, or at least hinder it. But it was never challenged.

Anyway... if the council decides to keep the ordinance, then it will go to court.

Thats how things stand right now.

Krispy