



The Newsletter of Vision America

## Heroes of Faith Gala launches "Vision Texas"

### Dear Friends,

Recently Vision America received a generous challenge gift for the purpose of launching what we are calling "Vision Texas". On September 20 we are taking several key Pastors and Christian leaders in Texas and their spouses to Austin, where Governor Rick Perry has agreed to host a private briefing in the Governor's Mansion. Our prayerful goal for the meeting is to leave Austin with all of the participants agreeing to stand with Vision America as we attempt to awaken a sleeping army of Christians across the state who will... "Stand up, Speak up and Refuse to Give up"

"Vision Texas" will be our most aggressive effort ever to mobilize Pastors and their congregations into the moral and civil arena. With each passing day it seems that America is moving farther and farther away from God and becoming increasingly hostile to those of us who still hold Biblical morality. Tragically, the "Greatest Generation"... the generation who sacrificed so much to secure our freedoms enduring both the Great Depression and World War II,

are now dying at the rate of a thousand per day. With their passing is the loss of the memory of an America comprised of intact families, who openly worshipped God, read their Bible and had prayer at both home and school. Their submission to God's Word enabled them to commit to life-long marriages. Their commitment to law and order and respect for authority provided safe streets and an ordered society. Replacing the "Greatest Generation" is a generation who never knew their father, growing up in single parent homes. They have been exposed to unrestrained sex and non-stop violence. Many of them have seldom or never been to church, and have been taught that God is a theory and that evolution is a fact. Having been taught since birth that they are nothing but animals many of them are now in large measure acting like them, breeding at will and living for immediate gratification. Some even have no conscience and no regard for others.

As this changing of the guard takes place in our society, the window of opportunity to reclaim America is rapidly closing. Some students of our culture believe it's already too late for decency and

civility to be restored espousing that we've gone too far. While I believe otherwise, I acknowledge the time is short.

While America as a society has turned it's back on God, clearly God has not turned His back on America. If we dedicate ourselves to the task of renewal and reformation who knows what God might be pleased to do. For that reason I believe the time for action is now and that Vision America could be one of the strategic tools He will use if we will prayerfully and dutifully dedicate ourselves to the task.

Following the private briefing with Governor Perry on September 20, we are planning a series of "Pastor's Policy Briefings" in every major population center in Texas. Rev. Laurence White and I will speak in each city along with at least one very visible and respected Christian leader who will be charged to brief the Pastors on the declining moral climate in Texas. Our purpose will be to inform, inspire and motivate Pastors to join us in our effort to network

*Rick Scarborough*





**Bringing uncompromising commitment to returning**

# **'Able men who fear God' honor**

by Mina Azodi

**C**ommon threads of trust in the living God and hope for the future of this nation united a crowd of more than 1000 in Houston, August 23, as they gathered to honor Christian leaders for their courage to stand up for their faith.

The 2001 Heroes of Faith Gala recognized national, state and local leaders for their dedication and commitment to living the Christian example in their public lives.

Attorney General John Ashcroft was honored as the National Hero of Faith for his commitment to Christian morals and justice -- a commitment which he clearly pledged upon his confirmation as Attorney General: "... I will confront injustice by leading a professional Justice Department that is free from politics; that is uncompromisingly fair; a Department defined by integrity and dedicated to upholding the rule of law. The Justice Department will vigorously enforce the law guaranteeing rights for the advancement of all Americans."

Although Ashcroft was unable to attend the gala, U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions accepted the award on his behalf. "John Ashcroft is a conservative, with faith not only in himself but in the God he serves," Sessions said while accepting Ashcroft's award.

Sessions emphasized concern that the U.S. is becoming like Europe, where traditional values are rare and churches are more like museums and not places of worship. "We must unite and stand for the values we believe in, and John Ashcroft promotes this example every day. He depicts the best of America, and

he will continue to lead with his Christian example."

Master of Ceremonies Mark Lanier then presented Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Greg Abbott as the State Hero of Faith for his commitment to uniting law with morality. He commended Abbott for his great service to Texas through his years in public office.

"I question whether or not I am a hero of faith, but I know I am a product of faith," Abbott said when accepting the award. "My grandfather was a country preacher. He taught me one lesson very well--that no matter what obstacle comes along, always keep the faith. I learned from my mother four very important words -- 'never say I can't.'"

In 1984, those words came into full focus when he became partially paralyzed after he was struck by a falling tree while jogging. "It changed my life," Abbott said. "I remembered: always keep the faith and never say 'I can't.' It was my faith and my family that helped me through the process and encouraged me to still practice law and to go on to serve on the Texas Supreme Court."

Justice Abbott's message as a Hero of Faith stressed the importance of uniting the law with morality. "Good law originates from solid moral principles. I recognize this isn't always the case. We've all witnessed liberal lawmaking. Sometimes lawmakers allow the law to deviate from morality. To ensure this doesn't happen, we need to ensure that law and morality are never divorced," Abbott said.

Appointed to the Supreme Court of Texas by then Governor Bush, Justice Abbott was later elected to that position in 1996 and again in 1998. He was named 1998 Appellate Judge of the Year by the

*"You shall elect  
people, able to  
God, men of truth  
hate dishonest  
shall place these  
leaders ..."*

*Exodus*

American Board of Trial Advocates - Texas Chapter, and 2000- 2001 Jurist of the Year by the University of Texas Texas Review of Law & Politics. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, Greg Abbott was Judge of the 129th State District Court in Houston. While a district judge, he was twice rated Most Outstanding State Judge in Harris County and in 1995

*Top left: U.S. Rep Pete Sessions; Center: Justice Greg Abbott; Bottom right: Dan Patrick*





**Christian morals to America**

# Honored at Heroes of Faith Gala

*Get out of all the  
men who fear  
truth, those who  
gain; and you  
se over them as  
Is 18:21*

was selected Trial Judge of the Year by the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists. He also served on the Governor's Committee to Promote Adoption, and as vice-president of the victims' rights organization, Justice for All. Following Justice Abbott, Event Co-Chairman Tom Reiser introduced Dan Patrick, general manager and

part owner of KSEV-700 AM radio. Patrick, who was honored as the Local Hero of Faith for his commitment to spreading God's word, said he was committed to reaching as many people as possible through his KSEV talk shows, with the message that God must be an integral part of everyone's life.

Just over one year ago Patrick left KPRC after that station told him he would not be permitted to be a man of God while on the air. Subsequently, his fellow talk show hosts, Mike Richards, Jon Matthews and Edd Hendee, along with their entire technical crew, left KPRC and formed *The Voice*. This group has since made KSEV the largest pulpit in the city of Houston.

"To see Dan now and the impact he has had on Houston shows me that the Lord had an unfulfilled ministry in this city — He needed a voice and he found it in Dan," said Patrick's co-worker Mike Richards. "More people listen on a daily basis than in all the churches in all of Houston on Sunday morning."

Patrick said KSEV is proof that God will not be muzzled in Houston. "I'm just a simple Christ foot soldier with one mission: to go to heaven and take as many people as I can with me," Patrick said. "I'm not into ratings, money, or glory. I'm single minded into God. The Lord gave us our station back, and it shows that God will not be silenced."

Following presentation of the awards, Rick Scarborough, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pearland, spoke on the importance of Vision America's mission. "Vision America is an outgrowth of a passion in my heart," Scarborough said. "One abiding passion

I have is to see Jesus Christ exalted in this country.

Scarborough emphasized the urgent need to call congregations across the nation to the voting polls. "The Church is largely asleep," Scarborough said. "Church people have to understand that they need to stand up and refuse to give up our ground. We need to take back the ground stolen from us or our country will be lost. If God's people involve themselves, they will inevitably vote right!"

Vision America's newest program is *Vision Texas*. Scarborough intends to focus on Texas and call on congregations across the state.

"Our mission is to identify Patriot Pastors across Texas who understand their role in equipping and mobilizing their congregations to be good citizens, translating Christianity into redemptive citizenship. We are beginning with a private briefing with Governor Perry designed to help a small group of pastors to better understand the way legislative decisions impact key moral issues." He went on to describe how Vision America will orchestrate meetings with pastors across the state urging them to **"stand up, speak up and refuse to give up."** "I hope a year from today I can tell you all how God has made a difference in this state," Pastor Scarborough said.

Scarborough's mission was strongly supported by those in attendance. "Vision America, through Rick, is seeking to refocus this country to live on the Godly principles on which this country was founded," said Peter Wareing, who introduced Scarborough. "Our children and government are paying the price and will continue to pay the price until we play by the rules of the Bible — so we can truly win."

*Left: Pastor Laurence White, National Co-Chairman; Right: Pastor Rick Scarborough, President, & National Co-Chairman*



# Meet Vision America ...

**Rick Scarborough**  
*President, National Co-Chairman*



**R**ick Scarborough, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has traveled extensively as an evangelist and, since 1991 has served as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearland, Texas.

It was through a disturbing situation involving a sex education program at his daughter's high school that Pastor Scarborough decided that "enough is enough!" He mobilized his congregation and others in the community to promote traditional Biblical values in the cultural and political arenas of Pearland, effecting dramatic and much needed changes in local policies and practices. FBC Pearland is a dynamic, soul winning church that has become a model of being Christ-like "salt" in the community.

Out of this experience, he authored a book appropriately entitled *"Enough is Enough!"* which ignited interest from around the country and an opportunity for him to share the vision with pastors and laymen alike. He founded Vision America in 1998 as the motivating force to reach out across this nation to network and mobilize pastors of all denominations into the moral debates in our nation, and promote Biblical values back into every aspect of the public arena.

Pastor Rick and Tommye, his wife of 29 years, have three grown children – Richard, Misty and Kathryn, as well as two grandchildren.

**G. David Lane**  
*Executive Director*



**G**David Lane, president of public relations firm Lane & Associates, has produced numerous television political debates and issues forums across the nation. In 1996, he co-founded with Jerry Falwell the National

Committee for the Restoration of the Judeo-Christian Ethic, "a vehicle to move pastors into the civil government arena and restore America to her ... heritage." Twenty-three Pastors' Policy Briefings were produced over eight states.

In 1998, Mr. Lane and Edward Atsinger III formed the California Restoration Project. Nineteen Pastors' Policy Briefings were produced across California, with such keynote speakers as Alan Keyes, Jerry Falwell, Attorney General Dan Lungren, Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, Gary Bauer, Ralph Reed, Don Wildmon, Steve Forbes and then Senator John Ashcroft.

During the decade of the 1990s, Lane co-produced Texas governor's debates; facilitated the Coalition of the Restoration of the Black Family Society's march on Washington, D.C. to lobby for confirmation of Judge Clarence Thomas; produced a campaign to support Israel at the Mideast Peace Conference in Madrid, Spain; coordinated a national campaign to promote 'Meet at City Hall' on the National Day of Prayer; was heavily involved in Texas political activities; and produced five Congressional Policy Briefings across Texas, Oklahoma and Mississippi.

David and his wife Cindy have four children, Jordan, Jillian, Jacqueline and Jackson.

**Laurence L. White**  
*National Co-Chairman*



**D**r. Laurence L. White is the Senior Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. Our Savior is a growing congregation on the northwest side of Houston, where its church and school are located on a mag-

nificent 46-acre campus. Dr. White is the author of *"Life With God – A Survey of Biblical Doctrine."* *"Life with God"* has been translated into Russian and is being widely used in mission churches throughout the former Soviet Union.

Pastor White is one of the founders and the current Chairman of the Greater Houston Area Pastor's Roundtable, an organization designed to support pro-life, pro-family organizations like James Dobson's Focus on the Family, D. James Kennedy's Reclaiming America, Beverly LaHaye's Concerned Women for America, Jerry Falwell's National Committee for the Restoration of the Judeo-Christian Ethics and the California Restoration Project. In that connection he has had the opportunity to address millions of Americans through national radio and television broadcasts and has spoken to nearly 20,000 pastors across the nation. Pastor White also serves on the National Advisory Board of the Family Research Council. In 1977, Liberty University of Lynchburg, VA awarded Pastor White a Doctor of Divinity degree, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the pro-life movement.

Pastor White is married to Deborah Sue Hartman. They have three children, Adam, Aaron and Sarah.

## Mission Statement

The mission of Vision America is to inform, encourage and mobilize pastors and congregations to be proactive in restoring Judeo-Christian values into the culture and civil institutions in our nation.

## National Advisory Board

**Jerry Falwell**  
*Pastor, Thomas Rd. Baptist Church  
Lynchburg, VA*

**Ronnie Floyd**  
*Pastor, First Baptist Church  
Springdale AR*

**D. James Kennedy**  
*Pastor, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church  
Ft. Lauderdale FL*

**Tim LaHaye**  
*President  
Tim LaHaye Ministries*

**Tim Lee**  
*President, Tim Lee Ministries  
Garland, TX*

**Peter Marshall**  
*President  
Peter Marshall Ministries  
Orleans MA*

**Dan Patrick**  
*President & Part Owner  
KSEV Radio  
Houston, TX*

**Paul Pressler**  
*Texas Court  
of Appeals (Retired)  
Houston, TX*

**Adrian Rogers**  
*Pastor  
Bellevue Baptist Church  
Cordova, TN*

Vision America  
2019 State Street  
Houston, Texas 77007  
713-869-1413  
Fax 713-869-1290  
[www.visionamerica.org](http://www.visionamerica.org)



© 2001, Vision America

**Paul Weyrich**  
*President  
The Free Congress Research and  
Education Foundation  
Washington, DC*

**Don Wildmon**  
*President  
American Family Association  
Tupelo, MS*

**"Urging Pastors to STAND up, SPEAK up and never GIVE UP ..."**