

# BELLEVUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Transcript of Recording of Meeting from Sunday Evening,

September 24, 2006.

with

Commentary by James Sundquist, Director, Rock Salt Publishing

Website: <http://www.abrahamic-faith.com/False-Teachers.html>

\*In several places there is an asterisk because of the difficulty discerning the audio for one or two words. However, this should not alter the meaning on anything.

**Pastor Steve Gaines:**

I'll tell you what this is and what it's not. It's not a business meeting.

James Sundquist: That way opponents are precluded from testifying! Only information Pastor chooses to disseminate is allowed, and no opportunity for opposition to speak.

**It's a time for information to be given to you from leaders of our church.**

James Sundquist: AND NO ONE ELSE! How do we know that this is not a MISinformation meeting since none of the opposition was allowed to speak?

And I've asked **Chuck Taylor, chairmen of deacons**, and I've asked also Harry Smith who's worked for several years on our finance committee, and I've asked Chip Freeman who's in our financial office.

James Sundquist: Did you offer to ask anyone to speak that might wish to challenge your findings?

He is one of our best staff members here and he's over our administration-business administration. I asked him to come and share and then I'm going

to come and share. Chuck I want you to come, Chuck Taylor- I hope you understand what a jewel you have.

James Sundquist: Group hug and mutual admiration...imagine a judge in a courtroom and prosecutor bragging about each other in front of the jury and public audience. And Mark Sharpe and Riad Saba are not jewels? Are not Saving Bellevue bloggers jewels?

**Chuck Taylor:**

Thank you, pastor. You know the first thing I want to do is thank you for all of your expressions of love. To say we've been overwhelmed is actually an understatement.

James Sundquist: i.e. A group hug for the pastor...time to circle the wagons around the pastor vs. the truth. This is pure theater. This strikes me as very inappropriate behavior to prise those who have committed gross "extraordinary" transgressions against a brother, they are about to supposedly apologize to publicly (without him even being there). Where is the shame and contrite heart? On your knees before the congregation, weeping for your offense?

**Chuck Taylor:** It's amazing the letters- the phone calls- the emails- the hugs the words of encouragement and support. This is an incredibly loving church- a Christ-centered church. **I just want to thank you for how you have supported our pastor and this church by your prayers- and by your encouragement. You know for a few months now we have been hearing a lot of shocking things.**

**James Sundquist: Yes, the hostile transformational takeover of the church by Steven Gaines, and loving members so much you trespass their private property? What could be more shocking than a pastor and some deacons of a 30,000 member church trespassing private property? Did it every occur to anyone that if he lives in a gated community that Mr Sharpe puts a high premium on privacy and that he does not want it invaded?**

**Chuck Taylor:** I don't know how long you've been hearing it- I've actually been hearing it for about 4 months. The intensity has been growing on a larger scale. There's a lot of things being said that are shocking-that are troubling. And people have been asking me why don't we hear from the pastor. Why don't we bring it before the congregation? Why don't we hear a response from the leadership of the church? Is that an indication that there is truth and validity to the accusations?

James Sundquist: HELLO that is what Matthew 18 is for! The truth and validity must be determined by two or more witnesses or the victims in order that a matter be established. How about trusting God's blueprint for due process in the church? This reminds of when we had to oppose a District Director in a major denomination for helping cover up an embezzlement by one of his pastors. The accused was not present and I asked why and why are we not complying with Matthew 18. Another district director at the meeting said: "Well we tried that and it didn't work so we now follow the Church's Manual"...which btw, they didn't even do that!

**Chuck Taylor:** Well I want to tell you that our pastor and your leadership here at Bellevue have been responding but **they've been doing it in a very private manner**. Issues and **concerns and differences between brothers is a very private thing**. The only thing that should be on public display according to John 13:35 is the love we have for one another.

James Sundquist: Wrong again! That is only with a private matter between two brothers! How did this guy get to be a deacon. There are a host of NT Scriptures which contradict this statement. And even Matthew 18 makes room for when a private matter is made public in the church. If in Pastor Gaine's mind and these elders speaking this is a private matter, why is it a gang of four going to meet with the supposed brother who is offending? Where is the record of this private meeting? But the fact is, prior to the break-in, this was a public matter, already published on the Internet, and was about the public administration of the teachings and business affairs of Bellevue Baptist Church.

**Chuck Taylor:** This is the way the leadership has approached all of this. Now before our last deacons meeting we had asked all the deacons if they would submit to me any questions they had or any questions they were being asked that they didn't know the answer to. And we got a lot of questions that

were sent to us. **And then we took those questions and gave them to the men that had firsthand knowledge- men of the church that had firsthand knowledge of what the truth is the allegations and accusations.**

James Sundquist: This is classic “hand the documents over to the fox guarding the chicken coop, he will make sure the chickens are safe and protected!” And of course, only they decide which questions and which answers will be allowed into the congregational forum. And it did not occur to these deacons to ask any non-deacons members to submit questions? I am not a member did inquire of Steve Gaines and received no reply when I supplied him with the documentation that the Discovery 301 Classes are based on false teaching. So he can't claim ignorance. Now it should be pointed out that Rick Warren's teachings, including SHAPE (aka Discovery) were already at Bellevue Baptist Church before Steven Gaines arrived. However, he has done nothing to removed them and by his own admission even read them, yet he continues to conduct these Warrenite teachings at Bellevue Baptist Church. Proof:

But here is the Discovery Class link:

<http://www.bellevue.org/templates/cusbellevue1103/details.asp?id=1360&PID=5133>

Prospective members of Bellevue as well as existing members should check for two different paths by which a Personality Profile is required:

1. One for members
2. One for employees

Here is the Bellevue link to the Personality Profiling at Bellevue (Temperament Divination).

[Notice how often the the term "Discover" is used]

And here is why Temperament Profiling is based on paganism and the occult:

<http://www.sacredsandwich.com/purposelie.htm>

&

<http://www.tylwythteg.com/enemies/LaHaye/temper.htm>

Here is Bellevue's version:

<http://www.bellevue.org/templates/cusbellevue1103/details.asp?id=1360&PID=5163>

Note also the Gifts Survey.

The Pastor in charge of overseeing this Lay Ministry is listed on Bellevue Baptist states:

"My prayer is that we, as a church body will demonstrate Christ's example of service. We need to be willing and ready to wash the feet of others. There are many ministries at Bellevue that have an ongoing need for volunteers like you. Remember that God has not only placed us in church to serve, but as believers He has equipped us for service. What an exciting privilege and blessing we have to serve Jesus Christ and our beloved church through the gifts He has given each of us.

As we continue to grow spiritually under the leadership of our pastor, the needs of the church will continue to grow as well. God has a specific purpose for your life here at Bellevue. Please review the following list of opportunities and then contact the Lay Ministry office at 347-5750 at your earliest convenience.

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10

Cary Vaughn  
Minister, Lay Ministry"

Also see:

Equipping for Ministry

Teacher: Paul Williams & Webb Williams

Room: W262

Term: Oct. 18-Nov. 8 (2nd 4 weeks)

In order to continue growing in your walk with Christ, you need to be obedient in finding the area or areas of ministry in which you should serve. This class will help you discover your spiritual gift(s), recognize how to use your talents, abilities, and passions to serve Christ, and the place of service God has specifically designed for you! **SOURCE:**

<http://www.bellevue.org/templates/cusbellevue1103/details.asp?id=1360&PID=31809&Style=>

**Chuck Taylor:** And on Sept. 10, **these men** came before the deacons and shared with them all of the answers to the questions- brought truth to all the rumors and all the information going around. So tonight, we want to share with you the answers to those questions. Now, when we're finished, if you have some questions, I want to encourage you to find a deacon, they have been well informed, they've been equipped. We have 186 deacons, all scattered throughout the congregation and all throughout the body of Christ. I want to encourage you if you have any questions find a deacon- ask them- if they don't have the answers- they will get for you the answers.

**James Sundquist:** You need to name names if they are guilty and name names if they aren't. If they are innocent you need to repent! How about allowing the victims to supply the answers! This reminds of the Roman Catholic pedophile scandal where you simply ask the priest. And if somehow the molesting priest gets found out, we always have the Pope or Archbishop that will transfer the priest to another parish where he can molest more children unimpeded. And how about being good Bereans and get your answers from the Bible as to what these men are telling you if Rick Warren's published teachings are true? So as the Apostle Paul would ask: "Are there none wise among you?" Is there not one in the 186 deacons that compared Rick Warren's PDC & PDL books to Scripture and found them wanting and corrupt? Is it now time to trust these men?

**Chuck Taylor: We also have committees.** You know, forever we have heard that we are pastor led, deacon served, committee operated and congregationally approved. Committee operated means that every area of our church there are laymen who have insight and oversight in that area. There are chairmen of these committees. Find the chairmen if there is an area of concern that you have- I want to encourage you to find the chairman of the committee that has oversight and insight in that area.

James Sundquist: Yes find this chairman in charge of Discovery and ask him why is our church conducting and requiring of members, personality temperament divination drawn from the occultic teachings of Carl Jung who obtained them from a spirit guide named Philemon (yes that's a demon). Every deacon and member and the pastor at Bellevue need to read these questions about Warren's SHAPE Discovery before they take its questionnaire: This is urgent for every member in your church who has taken the DISCOVERY CLASS or is required to to be a member or be selected for ANY committee. Scroll down to September 26 in the blog for the questions they need to ask as Christian, then read September 27 on Rick Warren's SHAPE (aka) DISCOVERY CLASS being conducted by Steve Gaines at Bellevue Baptist bear directly on this subject:

<http://herescope.blogspot.com/>

&

**Lighthouse Trails commentary on Erik Ree's SHAPE book and questionnaire:**

**<http://www.fromthelighthouse.com/blog/index.php?p=218&more=1&c=1>**

**Chuck Taylor: And if you don't know who the chairman is, you can go to the library,** the events registration booth, and you can find the lay ministry booklet. It comes out every year. The current editions are there- it will say, "Lay Ministry 2006-2007". It will have all the chairmen, all the committees, the chairmen and all the members. It'll even have all their telephone numbers. So I want to encourage you to get answers to the questions that you have, because these men that are on all these committees and stuff- they will help you find the answers to the questions and concerns that you might have.

James Sundquist: Now remember these committee chairmen and member of these committees are required to take Warren's Discovery Class and test, but in so doing, they are practicing magic arts, based on pagan ideas and the occult ideas of Carl Jung, so should they then be trusted to give you the right answers to your questions?

**Chuck Taylor: Now, what I wanted to do is just to address three different areas of concern. And the first is is the incident where we climbed over a fence to go visit a brother.**

James Sundquist: Well, brother, true repentance doesn't then proceed to set up an all church meeting where you than proceed to castigate the same man and continue to embarrass his family and Saving Bellevue bloggers! Furthermore, the sermon that Steve Gaines had just finished, making him the victim makes this apology weightless and without credibility! Your apologies are apples loaded with razor blades.

**Chuck Taylor:** You know the main thing I want to say about that is that I apologize to my church for anything that caused embarrassment or disappointment. I publicly apologize to the family that we went to visit that night. We meant no harm.

James Sundquist: We meant no harm? Hello, you committed crime? So now that you have repented you should step down from being a deacon and get replaced by someone who truly fears the Lord and is of **good report!!!!!!!** So what were your good intentions? To convince Mark Sharpe to join the wide highway of Rick Warren's PDC/PDL false teachings or suffer the consequences of the all those other saints throughout the world who were purpose-driven from their churches? Notice Mark Sharpe's name is conspicuously absent...as as you will see neither Pastor Gaines nor any of the gang of four named Mark Sharpe by name as the victim. And if your true intent was to confront him and he remains unrepentant, the Apostle Paul requires that we name names. And even then, you must allow him to testify in his own behalf. Well Mark Sharpe, has now had the opportunity to testify and prove that Steve Gaines is NOT of good report. So many people are upset that there is public Internet forum on Bellevue Baptist, but because Mark Sharpe was NOT allowed to testify before the church, Saving Bellevue became necessary. Here is Mark Sharpe's response as to whether Steve Gaines (and the other speakers) are of "good report":

<http://www.savingbellevue.com/marksharasksfor%20resignation.htm>

**Chuck Taylor:** We were not coming in force to intimidate. We had met in Brother Steve's office on Monday afternoon.

James Sundquist: Without Mark Sharpe, of course! So this was a premeditated calculated and planned break-in with the oversight and direction of Pastor Gaines himself?

This took place on Monday before the Friday evening where there was going to be an off campus meeting involved. It was Monday- we met in the afternoon in Brother Steve's office some of us. **We met to pray.**

James Sundquist: So you prayed, and God told you to break into a fellow member and brother in Christ's property. And God said YES??? This is beyond belief!!!!!! So what if members of Bellevue Baptist Church got together, prayed and then believed God told them all to break in to Steve Gaines office? This all sounds hauntingly familiar to the Watergate Break-in Scandal where Nixon makes excuses...difference here is that at least Nixon wasn't actually part of the break-in crew, as Pastor Steve Gaines was with Mark Sharpe.

**Chuck Taylor:** To talk. To try and make some decisions. How to reach out. We had heard all the accusations and things that were going to be brought forth in a public manner. Didn't matter who showed up, as far as we knew the News media might be there. What do we do? SO we made a decision that we would go to this brother and try to sit down and talk with him. **It was out of love and concern for our church.**

James Sundquist: So you ambush him once and are surprised he doesn't want to come to a church meeting for a second ambush? How about concern for the truth! If that is the motive, the church will automatically benefit! If out of love, did you call and talk to him in person and get him to agree to a meeting?

**Chuck Taylor:** And now the next day, and really let me just add it was an extreme measure, but for us, **it was an extreme situation.**

James Sundquist: It is an extreme situation all right! You have imported the false leaven of Purpose Driven hostile takeover which will leaven the ENTIRE lump, if left in your hands!

**Chuck Taylor:** And again, it was out of love for this church, and for this individual. The next day, a deacon brother contacted the gentleman we went to see and tried to arrange a meeting with him and whoever he wanted to bring with our pastor and church leadership.

James Sundquist: This whole procedure is backwards...it is all set up to confront the victim. When it is the victim who should be bringing the errant deacons and reprobate pastor before the congregation!

**Chuck Taylor:** The meeting didn't take place. Then on Friday, three deacon officers were able to sit down with this gentleman and just share with him and talk with him. That's really all that happened. The main thing I want to say about that incident- we did trespass. I do want to apologize for embarrassing the church in that manner.

James Sundquist: If you want to apologize to the church, start with apologizing for bringing in PDC doctrines of demons which precipitated this division in the church in the first place!

**Chuck Taylor:** Now, the second thing I wanted to address is that it's been said that Brother Steve negotiated his salary. Well, I'm one of only three men that was in that meeting. Brother Bob Sorrell, Harry Smith, and I- we met with Brother Steve and Donna. I want to tell you we met with Brother Steve- the pastor search committee did 3 extended meetings. I've estimated probably 16 hours worth of conversations. We talked about everything under the sun. We asked him every question that we could even conceive of. Then we allowed him to ask questions.

James Sundquist: You have all indicted yourselves by these statements, because it proves you knew full well in advance the philosophy and intentions of Steve Gaines. You all concurred...and in marches more Transformation and PDC doctrine. So you are all without excuse!

**Chuck Taylor:** I want to tell you that not one time in those meetings with Brother Steve with the search committee or as myself privately talking with

Brother Steve on the telephone- not one time did compensation come up. We called Brother Steve for a fourth meeting. We said, “We’d like you to come to Memphis- we’ve got one more question we’d like to ask you”. He was gracious- he and Donna they flew to town. We met over at the hotel room, and we as a committee said, “Brother Steve, we as a committee, think God has led us to you- we think you’re God’s man. We’d like you to come be our pastor if our church votes to call you. ” **Without missing a beat, Bro Steve said yes.**

**James Sundquist: So Brother Steve did not say... “Thank you for your offer” and didn't even know what the financial package was going to be? He said yes before saying: “Thank you for the offer, but I must first bring it before the Lord, and ask you to do the same”? (After all, there could not have been time to do this...if the answer came back “without missing a beat!”)**

**Chuck Taylor:** Later, the pastor search committee adjourned- and three of us, Bob Sorrell, Harry Smith and, myself sat down with Brother Steve and Donna, and then **we talked about the compensation.**

James Sundquist: What kind of financial stewardship is it to say yes BEFORE knowing the compensation? Can't help but wonder what kind of impulsive behavior this might lead to, like saying yes to buy a piece of property for the church without even knowing what the selling price is? Classic “leap before you look!” And once, Mr. Gaines did find out the amount of his salary, did he say “I think that is way too much and could easily be a bad witness!”?

**Chuck Taylor:** We laid out the package there before them. He was coming regardless of what he was being paid. Income was not the issue. It never has been- it never will be. There were some adjustments made. Just want to tell you this. In the compensation package, we did not discuss moving expenses and all those types of things to transition from Gardendale to Memphis. We did come up with some other things to cover- customary allowances for any church- any organization when you bring a senior person you do pay moving expenses- we did make some allowances and adjustments for that. **I just want to stress that income was never a part of the discussions.**

James Sundquist: Well it should have been. How about representing the interests of the church for a change...which you boldly proclaim is your motive!

**Chuck Taylor:** And then the third thing I want to talk about is video of Brother Steve telling Gardendale good-bye. I want to encourage you to watch that video in its entirety. It's in our library. **There's nothing hidden.**

**James Sundquist: Nothing hidden? The whole matrix behind Rick Warren's church transition is shrouded in secrecy. We have heard this testimony time after time in church after church.**

**Chuck Taylor:** It's a 50minute video. And in that video, you will be moved when you see how much Brother Steve and Donna and their family loved Gardendale and how much Gardendale loved them. It was tearing his heart out to come to Bellevue. God was in it.

James Sundquist: Is anyone still wondering if this isn't all about Steve Gaines meeting? God was in it because of a heart-rending (and manipulative) testimony based on feelings? We saw the same outpouring of emotion at the passing of the Pope. So God was in that too? Since when does God use this as objective criteria for selecting an elder? How about checking the Scriptures for the true elder requirements before laying hands on anyone quickly? How about actually comparing Warren's teachings to Scripture.

**Chuck Taylor: The only reason Brother Steve came to Bellevue was because God told him to come to Bellevue.** And that video, somebody has taken a 3 minute clip from a 50 minute video to say that Brother Steve did not like Bellevue. That video had nothing to do with Brother Steve's opinion of Bellevue. He had nothing but respect for this congregation. But it's all about the love that he had for the congregation that he had pastored for over 14 years. And he had come home that night after he left here and poured his heart out and the video is in our library. I encourage you to see it. That 3-minute video is completely taken out of context. Now one other thing just to add in Brother Steve's coming- people are talking about the changes. Why are we doing this, why are we doing that. Why so many changes and all this stuff. **When we talked to Brother Steve he did tell us of the things he would change.**

James Sundquist: Once again, so you and the other deacons would have known upfront that Mr. Gaines would be sustaining and/or promoting Transformational Purpose Driven Church ideas and programs? It was at this point you should have rejected him, in spite of his saying “God told me to do it,” and do what God really told you to do and that is to be good Bereans!

**Chuck Taylor: New leadership brings new ideas.**

**James Sundquist: Yes, ...new ideas instead of what Jeremiah said when you have lost your way go back to the FORMER path...not new ideas.....that should have been a red flag to the deacons!**

**Chuck Taylor:** But I want to tell you every pastor that we talked to- every one of them- told us about the change they would make. That’s a standard question we asked all of them. Not a one of them said we wouldn’t touch anything; we’d leave it the same. We will make change. **We called him to lead us- to cast a vision,**

James Sundquist: The pastor casts the vision? These are almost the exact words used by the Pastor of Gardendale Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Texas, who led the ousting of 165 members...because they must comply with HIS vision...even if the teachings contradict Scripture.

**Chuck Taylor:** and we’re gonna follow our pastor. {applause} **Praise the Lord.**

**James Sundquist: Yes, the blind leading the blind...applauding all the way down the broad highway...and you will all end up in the ditch. It is Scripture you should follow...the Lord who wrote it is our leader! Now note NO ONE opposing him is allowed to take the stand, we must make way for the coronation of our king!**

**Chuck Taylor:** We’ve got a few more things to cover, so bear with us here. I wanted to share with you too something that every pastor whether we were talking to him as ours or just talking to him just about to get counsel and those type things. There was not a pastor that didn’t say it was gonna be difficult whoever got called to follow Adrian Rogers. They said this church will face great challenges. We just didn’t know what they would look like

then. Well, **Brother Harry Smith would you come on and work your way up here.**

James Sundquist: Another follower of the pastor and no one to challenge him is asked to now come forward to speak. This pretty well obliterates any believability that this deacon was truly repentant! And the invitation for Mark Sharpe to come forward would be where? And invite Riad Saba and many others too, if you would let them!

**Chuck Taylor:** Let me just close by saying this you know, ask yourself this question. **If there was any cause for concern about finances why hasn't one member of the finance committee, the budget planning committee, why hasn't one member joined in the opposition?**

**James Sundquist: Because you are all of one mind. And how could anyone not on the finance committee come forward, since the financial elements in question are kept secret?**

**Chuck Taylor:** Not one. Not in the 2005 not in the 2006 has joined in that. They love God. They love this church. They are long time members of Bellevue. They want what is best- what is right. Not one of them has joined. If there should be concerns about bylaws, **why hasn't one member of the board of directors expressed concern about bylaws?** You know for years many attorneys have served on the bylaw—uh—the board of directors. They know that stuff. Not one of them has expressed concern about that. **And implying that if Brother Steve his trying to lead Bellevue to become a seeker friendly church, um, why does he still preach about sin, judgment, and damnation. You heard the message tonight. That's not seeker friendly.** {applause}

James Sundquist: Well once again, you have indicted yourselves and Steven Gaines. It is already documented that PDC programs and both Warren books have been implemented at Bellevue such as *Discovery 301 Class* (Chapters Days 29-35 in Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life* book of his *40 Days of Purpose*). So you are importing Rick Warren who does not preach about sin, judgment and damnation. And because he does not, you bring his programs in anyway. You are all guilty!

**Chuck Taylor:** He gives an invitation after every message. Seeker friendly churches don't do that. I want to tell you after 14 years at Gardendale- **you know one of the key indicators of the seeker friendly movement is to take the word Baptist or**

**James Sundquist: well yes this is commonly done in PDC/CGM churches, but not necessarily. This doesn't prove Rick Warren is not taught at Bellevue.**

**Chuck Taylor:** some denomination out of it- after 14 years at Gardendale, it is still called Gardendale's First Baptist Church. **And Brother Steve is a leader in the SBC.**

**James Sundquist: Once again, you have indicted yourselves and Steve Gaines, because the leadership of the SBC is massively behind Rick Warren's PDC and his Global agenda! And I can cite a host of such leaders. But I don't have to because later in this document, Steve Gaines supplies them himself!**

**Chuck Taylor:** e has made sure that now whenever someone comes and joins Bellevue, we give them a Baptist Faith and Message Statement for them to read to know what Bellevue Baptist Church is all about. We're not seeker friendly in the way that that is being used. God bless you. Thank you very much. Harry Smith is now going to come. Harry has been very very involved in compensation of our church. He knows the process. He's been involved in it for years. For current staff and our pastor. \* Thank you .  
{applause}

**Harry Smith:**

Well there are a lot of things I'm thankful for, and one of them is that Chuck Taylor is my deacon chairman.

**James Sundquist: Where is the gratitude for Mark Sharpe and Saving Bellevue group bloggers who were wise enough to see through this whole charade?**

**Harry Smith:** Fellow church members, **Brother Steve asked me if I will talk to you tonight about the financial process that our budget and compensation for our staff go through each year.**

James Sundquist: And brother Steve asked how many members who participate in Saving Bellevue to come to speak? Or, ANYONE with an opposing view to bring in the evidence!

**Harry Smith:** And as Chuck has already mentioned, there are a few of our members who you've seen either by email or website that are not happy by the way our church operates. And as you've also heard, our church for many years has been a pastor led, committee operated, and congregationally approve church. This model has worked well for us. Under it, our church has grown, and we've seen advances in our church. It's been a model for the SBC. For many churches it's been an example to follow. But there's some people that don't like the model. They feel like it is not effective and they feel like there should be more information disclosed to the church. **They feel like compensation for some of the staff members should be furnished, along with other financial information.**

James Sundquist: **I thought Chairman Chuck Taylor just got done telling us that "there is nothing hidden!" So wouldn't failure to furnish this information make this concern legitimate, whom Steve Gaines paints as adversaries?**

**Harry Smith:** They even believe that some of the expenses of the church are not appropriate. Well I believe in and support the model that our church operates under. And I believe that at any other large church like Bellevue it would be hard to operate any other way. I've also heard the comment that a few of the people run the church. **My name has been associated with that group. I have never volunteered or asked to be on any leadership role or position at Bellevue.**

James Sundquist: The Bible says it is good that a man yearns to be an elder! So how did you get to have this position then?

**Harry Smith:** And I really believe that to be true of all the leadership at Bellevue. The pastors have always chosen who will be in leadership positions, and they have brought those names to you as a congregation to approve.

James Sundquist: This might not quite be “pastor is master”...but Deacon Chuck just got done saying we follow the pastor. So, the pastor did pick all of these people! And you wonder why no other views are being presented at this meeting!

**Harry Smith:** The committee on committees, which you’re familiar with, meets all during the year. They select over 600 members-volunteers to be on the different committees, the various committees we have at our church. Once these committee members are selected, in a business session they are approved by you- by the congregation.

James Sundquist: Note again, none of these committee members are selected by any one other than the pastor....all handpicked yes men! Note the same applies to the newly appointed 12 man commission to investigate these matters. Anyone see another red flag?

**Harry Smith:** It’s at this same meeting that our budget is approved each year.

James Sundquist: So they approved the salary of Steven Gaines...which is one of the main issues in contention? If they approved it they ought to know what they voted for and the amount! Were there any debts or outstanding Steve Gaines credit card balances in “our budget”? If approved, did the congregation know about that?

**Harry Smith:** Now each of - most of the committee members serve for 3 years, and then they have to be off the committee before they can be asked to be on the committee again.

James Sundquist: Note that this never applies to the pastor. But they can easily be shifted to another committee, of Gaine's own choosing, of course!

**Harry Smith:** In addition to these committee members, we have many Bible study leaders, and we have other volunteers who serve in all different

aspects of our church- different service aspects. And many of them serve for more than 3 years at a time. That's great, because they do a good job. And now let me talk to you for a minute about our budget process. Our budget process starts off with the Budget Planning Committee. Then it goes from there to the Finance Committee. And from there to the deacons. And from there to our congregation for approval as I mentioned while ago along with the committee on committees report. **The budget planning committee is selected each year by the pastor.**

**James Sundquist: BINGO!**

**Harry Smith:** And it's made up of those who are past and present members of the finance committee. Some of these men that have served on this committee have been **John Crawford, David Coombs, David Purdue, Brian Miller, Jeff Arnold, Jeff Pearson, Mark McDaniel, Wayne VandeerSteege, and myself.** And the first thing that we do when we meet- the budget planning committee meets with the pastor, the associate pastor, and the executive staff- is they sit down and they talk about what kind of increases (are seen with the marketplace) as far as staff increases. And before we leave that meeting, we come up with a percentage number that we give the executive staff to work on for staff increases for the coming year. Now, in the last 3 years, we've asked the staff- the executive staff team to use those increases both for merit increases and for cost of living increases. **Now, also there was a grade system that was devised several years ago by an outside consultant.**

**James Sundquist:** I can't help but ask are you seeking counsel from the ungodly? Were his proposals bathed in prayer? A secular firm?

**Harry Smith:** This grade system was used in setting compensation- or keeping up with compensation for our staff. The consultant that helped us with it, he used other churches and the business community to use in setting up the grade system. And then, there's a compensation committee which is a sub-committee- and I may be telling you more than you want to hear, but I want to tell you how it works- then there's a sub-committee of the budget planning committee that is called the compensation committee. They meet with executive staff to look at possible future staff decisions that might come up in the coming year. And also look at increases for our staff. Once they finish their work, they bring this information back to the Budget Planning

Committee- the full committee- where they review and they approve, and of course this becomes a part of our budget. At this point in the meeting, the executive staff leaves the meeting, and the associate pastor gives the budget planning committee their recommendation for increases for executive staff. When they're finished the associate pastor leaves, and the pastor gives us his recommendation for the associate pastor's increase. Then the pastor leaves. Then we set his compensation for the coming year. That's the process, and that's how it's worked, and it's worked well over the years. Now, during the year personnel changes that happen as new people are added- that's always been handled in the past by the office of the pastor. Now, in this past year, that same thing has happened. Those increases and additions are handled the same way. Now, Bro Steve where he came from in Gardendale, they had a committee that helped him with this. And he's asked the budget planning committee if they would help assist the office of the pastor in the future with any new staff additions and also with their compensation. In setting their compensation, the grade system that I talked about earlier is also used. Now with the staff members that have been hired this year, I kinda just took it on myself, and I went back and I looked at the people who were added and I looked at their compensation, and in my opinion, they all looked very adequate and acceptable. I think they were all fine. **You know, I just learned this afternoon about another issue that's on the website.** You know, **I don't read the website.** I have to confess, I don't even know how to pull it up.

James Sundquist: Well you should if you care about your flock and who might be caught in the thicket! Ignore the concerns, and by all means make sure none of them speak at this meeting!!! That is part of a deacon's responsibility. By your own testimony, you self-incriminate yourself.

**Harry Smith:** {applause} My wife could show me, but I really don't want to read it. I just didn't want to see it. But I did hear today that our associate pastor had received a one-year salary- a bonus- and that the decision was made by 3 people.

James Sundquist: But you just finished articulating a process of determining financial compensation to employees that does narrow itself down to only a

few who make the decision. And much of this was calculated by ONE consultant you described. So this sounds more like one than 15-20.

**Harry Smith:** Well, I just want to tell you it's not true. And I want to tell you the facts are that about two years ago before Brother Steve came, and while Dr. Rogers was still our pastor- **and with Dr. Roger's approval- a pension benefit was given to our associate pastor.**

**James Sundquist:** Once again this sounds like ONE makes the decision! Anyone confused how many people really make these decisions?

**Harry Smith:** Not one that he's received yet, but one he will receive in the future. But this is the same benefit that was offered and received by our former pastor, our former associate pastor, and our former minister of music. Now, the full budget planning committee and the full finance committee approved this benefit-this pension benefit. So it was not 3 people, it was probably more like 15-20 people. So this is—I don't know where the credibility stops you know, but I'm just telling you, that's not true. And that's what happened. Now, I had down, Chuck, too to talk about the pastor and salary, but Chuck did such a good job, I'm not even going to say anything else about it except to add one more thing. After the sub-committee approved the compensation package, it was taken to John Crockett, who was our chairman of the finance committee last year, for his approval. And now on a personal note, last year you gave... I'm sorry, now on a personal note I want to tell you I love Bellevue. It's God's church, it's your church, and it's my church. And I loved Dr. Rogers, and I miss him. **I love Brother Steve, and I am so thankful that he's my pastor. {applause}**

**James Sundquist:** This cheerleading reminds of *Inherit the Wind* movie, supposedly based on Scopes Monkey Trial, where the courtroom made a mockery of justice! And any objective non-aligned bystander could clearly see that this meeting was also a pity party for the pastor....a dog and pony show...pretty one-sided! Judge, prosecutor high-fiving each other, while no one notices that neither the defense attorney or the accused defendant is present.

**Harry Smith:** Last year, you gave me one of the greatest blessings that I could ever have- that anybody could ever have. That was to allow me to be your deacon chairman. And that was a blessing and a privilege and a

responsibility. And I asked our deacons last year if they would help me with 3 goals for our church. One goal was to be a praying church. **One was to be a friendly church.**

**James Sundquist: I thought you said above that we are not a seeker-friendly church? This is exactly what Warren and Robert Schuller did...then change the service to please the public.**

**Harry Smith:** And one was to be a unified church.

**James Sundquist:** Yes, but not at the expense of truth and obedience to God's Word!

**Harry Smith:** I asked them if they would take the leadership role in helping our church in those 3 areas. **As we traveled last year we could see the friendly churches and we could see the difference.**

**James Sundquist: Once again, I thought you said above that we are not a seeker-friendly church?**

**Harry Smith:** And we all knew that without a praying church we would not find God's man for our church. And of course we knew that we needed to be a unified church. Tonight as your brother in Christ, **I'm asking you to join with me**

**James Sundquist: How about NOT joining him in this PDC transformation and become his accomplice?**

**Harry Smith:** and be an example for our church as we help our church to be a praying church, a friendly church, and a unified church. God blesses our church in so many ways. And you know I just can't imagine that if we weren't where we were supposed to be that I can't imagine that God would be blessing us like He has this past year. I'm asking you tonight, **to help us put this aside**

**James Sundquist: Put what aside? The truth? All opposition to Warrenite Doctrine?**

**Harry Smith:** and lean forward so we can serve Christ together. Thank you so much.

**Chip Freeman:** I'm Chip Freeman. I'm the church administrator,

**James Sundquist: Another pastor toast....still waiting for the opposing view to take the stand!!!**

**Chip Freeman:** and I've been responsible for the finances for the church for the past 5 years. **My profession, I'm a CPA,**

James Sundquist: So Mr. Freeman would be familiar with the terms “conversion of assets”, “misappropriation of funds” and “audit”. Does Mr. Freeman, as a CPA, know how the books were administered at Gardendale Church (in Alabama) in order to consummate the package deal to secure Steve Gaines as pastor for Bellevue Baptist Church? Members should ask Mr. Freeman for help in obtain an independent audit of the church books and financial records, requesting complete by-laws, church constitution, annual reports, balance sheets, and profit and loss statements. Have all of you members seen these? Did any of you members see any of these things BEFORE you agreed to be members? And now that you are, wouldn't it be good biblical stewardship to request them now and advise anyone considering membership at Bellevue Baptist to do so likewise? While you are requesting all of the above, also ask Mr. Freeman and Steve Gaines why we are being trained, manipulated into and required to tithe, since that steals away the liberty we have in Christ, puts us right back into the bondage of the law that the Apostle Paul condemned and who also told us that we are to “NOT GIVE OUT OF COMPULSION!” **Compulsory tithing is still another component of Purpose Driven Church teaching which is also known as Discovery Class 201 (Second Base on his Baseball Diamond) and is also right out of Rick Warren's playbook!** I also suggest that you bring these questions to the new 12 man tribunal and TRUTH SEEKING church meeting!

**Chip Freeman:** so I deal with the facts. So, tonight I would just like to present to you the facts. Now let me start by saying, you can have total confidence in the way the money is received and the money is disbursed here at BBC. There are numerous checks and balances, as well as internal controls in the financial arena of the church. And I just wanna give you a

few. There is accountability daily, there's accountability monthly, then there's accountability yearly. Let me give you some examples. On a daily basis, any time that the offering is received, it is safeguarded. It is protected. There is more than one person in the room counting that offering- it is safeguarded- that offering.

**James Sundquist:** Why aren't you as careful safeguarding doctrine and let Rick Warren's teachings flood in without the same accountability? Had they done so, Bellevue Baptist might not be in the fix it is!

**Chip Freeman:** Also, daily when someone on staff is to request a check for disbursement, that request has to go through multiple layers of approval. It has to go through supervisory approval. It has to go on and on and on until it's been established that, yes, it is a **necessary business expense of the church**, and yes, **it's needed**,

**James Sundquist:** And the pastor's salary, whatever that is, is a necessary expenditure...that all depends on the amount? It is top secret! So who will ever know how necessary it is! If \$500,000 is the amount, is that needed?

**Chip Freeman:** and we have budget funds to pay it. So, the request has to be approved, and then before the check is even printed and mailed, another layer of accountability-- it has to be signed by 2 different members of the finance office. And they're doing the same thing. They're looking to make sure that it's been approved. They're making sure it's a necessary business expense to the church. They're making sure that everything is clear and everything is done right. So that's daily going on here at BBC. Now as you know we live in a world of electronic commerce, and we do occasionally need to use a credit card to make a purchase. And I want you to hear me. We have very few credit cards in the name of BBC. But they're subject to the same level of scrutiny. The purchase has to be approved. The purchase has to be well documented before the credit card bill is ever paid. And those credit cards are only used for necessary business expenses of the church. **No credit card has been used for personal expenses- especially not our pastor's credit card.**

James Sundquist: Rather than mock those members who would have legitimate questions about the use of credit card by waving in the air, how about simply waving the statements reflecting the use of this credit card before the congregation. After all, there is nothing to hide right? All concerns over its use could easily be put to rest by revealing these expenditures.

Remember too, this is not Steve Gaine's personal credit card, that would not be anyone's business. But how he spends the church's credit card is the church's business. Remember, he is spending your money from your tithes and offerings. So, of course you have the right to know what the money went for. If this is a major source of the church split, all Steve Gaines has to do is come clean and the welfare and the reputation of the church could be preserved...this would contribute enormously to removing the appearance of evil or a cover up...."nothing hidden" remember? We are already facing what appears as a coverup in Congressman Foley scandal. The secrecy behind Pastor Gaines Salary and church credit cards gives the appearance of *fuzzy math!* We don't need another scandal in the church too because of a coverup. Maybe there is not a coverup...but who will ever know now, unless Pastor Steve Gaines those deacons who know the truth, tell the truth? Deacons defending Steven Gaines keep maintaining that most of the Bellevue members they talk to are mostly on Pastor Gaines side. But if that is true, how can even they make an informed decision regarding financial information that NOT EVEN THEY POSSESS? These members that are so loyal to the pastor (but are not deacons who prepared it) don't even know the specific content of the financial package in question for the pastor, yet still vote to follow him? How is that good stewardship? The financial package that was offered to Pastor Gaines is NOT the deacon's own personal money, who put the package together, if it were, then they could keep it secret. It is the church members tithes and offerings, so don't you think they ought to know how its spent?

It should be noted that the CPA firm that did the books for Bellevue Baptist Church would NOT reflect any paying off of Pastor Gaine's outstanding balance of the church credit card that he held as pastor of his previous church, Gardendale Baptist in Alabama, if a private party or member of Bellevue Baptist Church paid this debt. It would only show up in the church financial records (books) if Bellevue Baptist Church paid off such a debt if it

existed. If such outstanding credit card balance and debt existed, did they total \$1,000, or \$2,000, \$3,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$25,000, or \$30,000, or \$50,000, or \$100,000? I hope members also ask the deacons of Gardendale Baptist church the same questions!

If the total debt was very large, then it is even more crucial that the members of the congregation know about it, as this would strike directly on the character and biblical elder qualifications of a new prospective pastor, who must be of good report, in which case these questions should be asked by all members if such a debt was paid off and how, before they confirm his nomination and vote him in as their new pastor. Since apparently these questions were not resolved, then church members should present them to new 12 man tribunal committee recently established. If the new tribunal won't answer these questions, then they should be brought before the congregation, according to Matthew 18. The right way to allay all fears and suspicions would be for the members to request an independent audit by a trusted Christian CPA (not appointed by the pastor). Deacon Chuck Taylor, who just spoke at the September 24 church meeting say that we should "follow the pastor", or in other words trust the pastor. Yes, trust, but verify. But how can you verify the books that are off limits and barred by the pastor the the administration of the church from viewing? Does "blocking inspections" sound familiar, if you have nothing to hide? More questions that I hope some members will make the 12 man tribunal answer.

**Chip Freeman:** They have not been. So, I want you to know that. Daily controls... Monthly we have strong accountability for the finances at BBC. **Every month a group of 12 godly men who serve on the finance committee-**

James Sundquist: Now I am really confused....I thought it was 15-20 that decided? Is it 12? Is it one? Is it 15-20? Which is it? Sounds like more *fuzzy math* to me!

**Chip Freeman:** they look at everything that's happened over the past month financially. They look at every dollar that's come in. They look at the way it's been spent. They look against the budget items that have been spent. And they ask all kind of questions as they look through and oversee the financial transactions of the church. **These are godly men; they love Bellevue.** They want Bellevue to be done right- in the utmost of excellence. And they do

that every single month. You can have confidence- confidence in knowing that. And they know that their name is on the line- not only is the church they love on the line- their name because they're members of the finance committee. **And they're not the same members every year. Each year some people rotate off- some new fresh people rotate on.**

**James Sundquist: So what advantage is it even if you have different people on the committee, so long as the pool you draw from must always be approved by the pastor? This is not very believable! What advantage is it if they have to all be committed to the false teaching of Warren's Discovery Class? And there is another problem. Bellevue Baptist requires members to take Warren's SHAPE Discovery questionnaire, based on magic arts, isn't this test supposed to already identify your SHAPE in order to know what committee to put you on? So once this is established, and your calling determined, why are you removed from your SHAPE formed committee and can't even get back on it for three more years? Shouldn't you then abide in the calling wherein you are called? This appears to me to contradict the very teaching and bylaws you espouse. One can not help but ask what this new 12 man tribunal committee will even accomplish when Matthew 18 and other church discipline scriptures were not followed with THE EXISTING COMMITTEES!**

**Chip Freeman:** So, there's a 3-year commitment, just like all the other committees here are Bellevue. So you've heard of some daily accountability- monthly we have accountability- yearly this church has financial accountability. **Each year the church has an external audit by a firm called "Brundidge and Payne"** (unsure on spelling) They're an independent accounting firm. **And they spend an entire month scrutinizing the churches financial activity for the prior year.**

**James Sundquist: And of course, the employees of this secular firm are Christians and all pray for the Holy Spirit to give them wisdom (not this world's wisdom and values) to scrutinize the finances of the church? So outsiders know the pastor's salary, which may include non-Christians, while the members of Bellevue Baptist Church are left in the dark?**

**Chip Freeman:** They look at everything that was spent. They look at money that came in- how was it handled? **They look at controls- now, they're an independent accounting firm.**

James Sundquist: How about have an independent God-fearing Christian group of men that holds them accountable for the false teachings they disseminate? And how does a hireling have the same concern for the welfare of this flock?

**Chip Freeman:** And each and every year- you can have confidence knowing this- each and every year, we have received the highest rating the audit gives to a company- the highest one. Matter of fact, {applause} Praise the Lord! And some years, they'll follow up with comments which is separate from the report- they'll say hey look at these things, maybe you wanna do something a little better- we can help you make a suggestion here. They do that sometimes on occasion- we appreciate their comments. You know this year they had no management comments. They said things are being done there in such a professional and proper manner. We have no suggestions- no comments to make. So, that was just this year. {applause} And they present their report by the way to an audit sub-committee. A group of laymen independent from the staff, so that if they needed to talk to that committee about something they're concerned about they have the freedom without the staff being there-without the staff being in the room. So, just another layer of accountability, guys. We also have a budget planning committee Brother Harry just talked about. Guys, they're also made up of some gifted laymen that love this church. And they oversee the church's setting, the planning, and the spending of the entire church budget. Guys, there's accountability- there's a lot of accountability financially over this church. I want you to know that I started my career 14 years ago in public accounting. And I've worked in many public and private companies. All of which hold themselves to generally accepting accounting principles and also, many of them to governmental standards. And I can assure that after being here for 9 years, BBC holds herself to an even higher standard of financial controls and accountability than these large, multinational companies- a higher standard. And you know {applause} Let me give you two reasons that come off the top of my head. **First, we have a tax exemption that we are protecting here at the church.**

James Sundquist: He is talking about the IRS 501 C3. But this does not shelter the church, but in fact opens it wide open to the IRS policing what you can teach at the pulpit, or lose your non-profit status! Many of you know Jay Sekulow. He is a well known Christian attorney who argues cases before the Supreme Court. Ask him how good an idea of 501C3 is for safeguarding sound doctrine within your church! He sent me the following letter regarding the IRS and the 501c3:

Wednesday October 4, 2006

Dear James,

With elections coming, your church is at serious risk.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) and other similar groups are intimidating churches into silence on abortion, same-sex marriage, and other important moral issues - using a vague, half-century-old law.

The IRS can strip your church of its tax-exempt status - and force your church to pay taxes like a business - if someone complains that the church is involved in "politics"!

This is why it's urgently important that Congress pass the Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act.

Support the ACLJ as we march into Congress to protect our pastors' constitutional right of free speech by giving your secure online gift TODAY.

During this election season, AU is reportedly blanketing the nation with letters to more than 117,000 houses of worship, warning of the possibility of lawsuits - and the loss of tax-exempt status - for any churches where these issues are discussed.

They will do everything in their power to intimidate ministers into silence. They will try to scare people away from giving donations. And the IRS itself has announced it will be on the lookout for any church that gets involved in politics!

But who gave AU the authority to tell a pastor what he should or should not say from the pulpit? Who ordained AU as the "thought police"? This cuts against everything upon which our country was founded!

We must fight back. For the sake of your religious liberty, I urge you to give your immediate generous (and still tax-deductible!) online donation to the ACLJ.

The law must be changed. It violates the First Amendment rights of people of faith. For 52 years, the IRS has been free to "watchdog" America's houses of worship ... and their censorship of First Amendment free speech rights has often been discriminatory - with AU as their search-and-destroy squad.

With only a few exceptions, AU tends to challenge conservative churches - and leave liberal churches alone.

Remember seeing TV coverage of Senator John Kerry holding the equivalent of political rallies in big liberal churches? Americans United hardly blinked.

But let a minister speak out about the sanctity of life, or the institution of marriage, or any other moral issue from a conservative, biblical standpoint - and AU swings into action.

(AU has filed complaints with the IRS against an Arkansas pastor whose 4th of July sermon called on Christians to vote. They have complained to the IRS about a Catholic diocese in Colorado whose bishop called on parishioners to vote against candidates who favored abortion, stem-cell research, or euthanasia. And the list goes on.)

The constitutional free speech rights of every minister must be preserved. This is why the ACLJ helped Congressman Walter Jones and other members of Congress to draft the Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act, and why we are working hard to get a vote on it. We are committed to seeing this bill passed.

But we need your help. Give right now to help the ACLJ's legal and legislative efforts to ensure those rights - and to see passage of the Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act.

Your gift will enable us to move forward on this vital issue and continue all of our work across the nation: preparing briefs for the Supreme Court of the United States, fighting for the unborn, protecting your religious liberties, and more.

So please act now. When conservative ministers duck the same-sex marriage issue in their sermons for fear of their churches losing tax-exempt status - when Christian action groups withdraw into a shell as Election Day approaches - when even devout Catholic priests are afraid to talk about abortion - it's time for a change!

**HELP US GET A NEW LAW PASSED TO PROTECT YOUR CHURCH** and ensure your own free speech rights. Thank you for taking action on this immediately, for the cause of freedom.

jsekulow@aclj.org

American Center for Law and Justice

P.O. Box 90555, Washington, D.C. 20090-0555

Phone: (800) 296-4529

**Also see Jay Sekulow's commentary on the 501c3:  
<http://www.aclj.org/Issues/FAQs/Question.aspx?ID=323>**

**Chip Freeman: And you don't want to do anything that would jeopardize the tax exemption of the church.**

**James Sundquist: Yes you do! This is a very scary statement!!!!!! For an in depth analysis of the dangers of the 501c3 Tax Exempt ID and what the Bible says about it, read: "501c3 Church Regulations" and "501c3 by Steve Nester" at: <http://www.wrwl.org/> and Jay Sekulow's letter and website link above.**

**and**

### **Freedom of Religion and Undue IRS Intrusion**

By Paul M. Weyrich

CNSNews.com Commentary

September 27, 2006

The Internal Revenue Service has notified pastors all over America that the IRS will be monitoring the content of sermons. If there were anything political, the IRS would initiate action to withdraw any applicable tax-exemption. The IRS stated it will not wait for the ACLU or People United for Separation of Church and State to file a complaint. No siree. What does the IRS consider political? That is not clear but it appears to be subjective, agent by agent. This development is deeply troubling. In fact, it bothers me more than about anything that goes on these days, and that says a lot. Since when is it a crime for clergy to alert their congregations about moral dangers? You mean to tell me that a Catholic or Orthodox priest cannot speak his views on evils of abortion, especially when a bill such as those dealing with fetal pain, transporting minors across state lines for purposes of getting an abortion, parental notification, parental consent, federal funding or banning partial-birth abortions are on the Floor of the House of Representatives or

Senate. Can Roman Catholic, Anglican or Eastern Orthodox priests say nothing when the Constitution in their state is about to be amended providing that marriage is only about one man and one woman. They are supposed to remain silent if, for example, a pornographic store were to open a block from the school they operate? Evangelical ministers are to say nothing if a gambling casino were to be built across the street from their church? A bill regulating drugs is before the Congress, no pastor is ever to mention a word about it? We know that pastors and other clergy or anyone assigned to preach in a church a synagogue or temple cannot tell people how to vote, Fine. I have been a member of my church for thirty-six years. For all but two years of that time we have had the same Pastor. He has never, ever told people how to vote. He doesn't even do as the late great Black Preacher E.V. Hill, of Los Angeles, used to say: "I don't tell them how to vote. I tell them for whom I am voting. And I am their leader." Never once has the Rt. Rev. Archmandrate Joseph Francavilla ever told people how he was voting. He, along with other priests serving with us, has given powerful sermons on the right to life, on the dead-end drug culture, on pornography, on marriage between one man and one woman and on and on. Is the IRS going to withdraw the tax exemption of my church because Father Joe, as we fondly call him, calls his congregation to accept God's moral order? Had the churches not been involved the American Revolution would not have succeeded. Churches were active on both sides of the Civil War. When the left used churches to mobilize the Civil Rights movement, the IRS turned a blind eye. The leaders of the Civil Rights movement were almost all ordained ministers. That is as it should have been. A whole segment of God's people was made to be second-class citizens. Many were killed or hosed down like animals. Churches stood with the downtrodden, as it should be. The IRS never involved itself when churches, especially Roman Catholic Churches, were the cornerstone of the movement to end the war in Viet Nam. Some priests went overboard (and I know this to be true because I heard it myself) and suggested that if you didn't get involved with the so-called peace movement you weren't really a Christian. The IRS was nowhere during the campaign of Governor Michael Dukakis, who used Greek Orthodox churches as a foundation partially to fund, as well as from which to obtain volunteers. Same for Rev. Jesse L. Jackson. Black churches were the backbone of the Jackson campaign. Churches often took up a second collection to benefit the Jackson effort. IRS has been silent as some liberal churches in this country became the instrument of the Green movement. Earth Day and religion were supposed to be a natural marriage. One can argue that proposition all day long. The point is that pastors were political. Not a word from the IRS. Only now that more conservative churches have been finding their way in the political process have we heard from IRS to send agents fanning out across America to demand to see the content of sermons. In a San Francisco church IRS is investigating agents demanded to see copies of sermons from the past six months. The Episcopal Church is resisting. Good for them. This is wrong, wrong, wrong and must be remedied by the Congress. The House made progress on a bill opposing what

IRS has been doing. Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) has been spearheading it. It is right now a dead letter in the Senate, thanks to Senator John W. Warner (R-VA) and others. What is it coming to? My church does not permit girls at the altar, does not allow women as deacons, and has only male priests. Will the IRS contend that in disallowing women to participate in liturgical functions we are violating public policy? What would happen were a church to refuse to give Communion to openly practicing homosexuals or to those who advocate abortion? Guilty of discrimination? What the IRS appears to be doing this autumn is THE most dangerous threat to the continuation of the Republic. There is so little left of our Constitution that some Justices and others scarcely recognize it. Unless it is solely political (i.e., the pastor says "Now I want you good people to get out the vote for Governor Mike Huckabee. He has promised to see to it that we are adequately protected.") IRS should rightfully step in. But if the pastor says, "Abortion is the moral evil of our age. There are measures before the Congress which would begin to restrict abortion. Call your Congressman and tell him you support those bills," the pastor should have no fear of IRS intervention. (By the way, Huckabee is term-limited and thus will be stepping down after two terms as Governor of Arkansas in January.) If you are speaking with your Congressman or Senator, doesn't matter if he or she is liberal or conservative, Republican or a Democrat, tell him or her that you want to see IRS intervention of this kind stopped. Congress has the power to do so. It remains to be seen if it has the will.

(Paul M. Weyrich is chairman and CEO of the Free Congress Foundation.)

**And one more resource on IRS Tax Exemption Status:  
[http://www.stateofthechurch.com/Articles/irs\\_501.htm](http://www.stateofthechurch.com/Articles/irs_501.htm)**

**Chip Freeman continues:**

But second, and most importantly, we're doing our work with money that has been given to the Lord, and we are continually working on this staff as unto the Lord. It's all unto the Lord {applause}. I'm telling you the facts. **And friends, it's a shame for someone to bring suspect to the way that the finances are handled at our church.**

**James Sundquist: Wrong! It should be constantly questioned...you even stated yourself and that there are multiple checks and balances and scrutiny. That's just good stewardship! If a previous deacon had privy to this information and there are other witnesses who can testify, and they can produce facts, then it is NOT a "shame!"**

**Chip Freeman:** There is so much false information and innuendo out there that it's only shedding doubt.

James Sundquist: Exposing the importation of Warrenite programs is hardly false information. But PDC certain is false teaching. If your brothers or members are bearing false witness, you **MUST** name names!

**Chip Freeman:** That's all it's doing. But you need to hear from me- you need to hear me the financial integrity and accountability and the internal controls have always been strong at this church. **So, now you know the facts.**

**James Sundquist: No we don't, we still don't know Pastor Steve Gaines salary! We have not heard the “facts' from the other side of the story. Pastors and deacons say they have nothing to hide. GREAT! Then they can have a second congregational meeting to allow the opposition to bring in their “facts!” I just don't think these men get it. Even if the church's accounting is airtight and conforms 100% the General Accepted Accounting Procedures. And even if the pastor's salary conforms to the measuring “grading” standard, then what good is it if in the end you are financing a false teacher, or a teacher who imports or endorses false teachers (Rick Warren).**

**Chip Freeman:** You can have the total confidence in knowing the way that the money is handled at BBC- it's handled with integrity, it's handled with accountability. **Your tithes and your offerings are being used to minister the gospel to a world that needs Jesus.** Thank you for the privilege of serving. {applause}

James Sundquist: Every resister and opponent of Rick Warren's teaching that I have ever talked to would agree with this statement, and no doubt everyone in Bellevue who is opposing you. You talk about innuendos...what do you think you statement is implying about those who oppose you?

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**Pastor Steve Gaines:**

I want to thank Chuck, and I want to thank Harry, and I want to thank Chip. Chip, by the way, was considering going to another company- he came back totally on his own. We prayed with him through that situation. But I tell you I'm so glad Chip came back- I love this man of God- he's a sweet brother in Christ. Well I've got- I've already preached once haven't I? I want to share a few things with you. **I'd a lot rather preach a sermon than do what I'm doing, but I feel that as a shepherd, I need to do this. I want to do it-**

**James Sundquist: I thought you didn't want to do it?**

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** in a prayerful and hopefully genuinely humbly way. Where do you start? I don't really know, but one of the things that concerned me that I read in the paper was the Bellevue was staffing a sister church in town. And I appreciated so much the answer that Bob Sorrell had- the retired former associate pastor. He said, in no way is that the case. Brother Bob retired from Bellevue several years ago. He has asked Jim Whitmire- also retired from Bellevue, Peggy Perkins a delightful lady, also retired from Bellevue, then another staff member who was from Bellevue- David Smith to help a sister church that has gone through a great deal of struggle and heartache. Friend, we're not staffing them. We're simply some people that have served here under a great man of God- Bob Sorrell- are trying to help a sister church in need. And I think that that's the focus of that (\*?) I don't want it to be said that we're staffing some other church. We're simply helping other people, and if we can't do that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we're in trouble. Amen? {applause} **Bellevue is not running Germantown Baptist Church.**

Let me talk to you about something that was pretty amazing to me. That was that **I had a dream and that that caused me to do something.** We have a member of our church- I've met him. The Lord has saved him- he's an awesome person. And he gets excited, and I can appreciate that. He says amen quite a bit. And that's fine. But it was getting to the point where it was a little hard for me to concentrate on my preaching while that was going on. The Bible says you ought to handle things like that in public. By the way, it says you handle anything like that- in private rather- you ought to handle it in private- and any confrontation like that. And so, I woke up on a Monday morning - it happened the day before- I woke up, didn't have any dream. I told Mark Dougherty- I said I really want us to talk to this church member

and just ask him in private in a very simple way if he would not say that as much. Just kinda back off a little bit. Well somewhere between that and-somewhere- I was told, somebody said you had a dream or a vision about this in the night and that's why you told this man that that's the case. I never had a dream about that. I never told anyone I had a dream. No staff member I've talked to- three of the staff members involved- None of them said that I said that I had a dream. I want to read to you and I'm not trying to devote my little devotional book. If you want to know what I believe, by the way, I believe I put it in print. 365 pieces of my heart.

Feb. 2 God's Steadfast Word is talking about the prophet who has a dream may relay his dream, but may him who has my word speak my word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain declares the Lord. Is not my word like fire declares the Lord? Like a hammer that shatters the rock.

Now that's the scripture, here's my commentary.

The Bible is God's reliable word. It should be the ultimate authority for every Christian. It consists exclusively of 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament. **People have tried to add to the Bible with false revelations, claiming special visions and dreams from God.**

**James Sundquist: Like Robert Schuller and Rick Warren's whose dreams and false teachings you are importing**

**Pastor Steve Gaines: God warns against such bogus spiritual guides**

**James Sundquist: AGREED! So why are you bringing them in then? And why haven't you removed the teachings of bogus spiritual guides which were already present when you came?**

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** by giving us 3 vivid descriptions of his steadfast word. First of all, God's word is like grain. The messages of false prophets are straw compared to the grain of scripture. Today some claim to have special words from God- perhaps an apparition in the field, or a message from a so-called prophet. These must be examined in the light of the Bible, and must never- that's italicized- be considered as being on the level of scripture. Secondly, God's word is fire. Jeremiah said that God's word was

fire in his bones that it had to be spoken. **As we shared today, scripture still burns to the stubble of false ideas.**

**James Sundquist: So do you mean the false ideas posted on Saving Bellevue? If so, you are obligated to name names and specify why they are false.**

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** It blazes in the people lives with the power of salvation. **Thirdly, God's word is a hammer- it's a spiritual hammer that shatters the false ideas of men.** His word will have the final say- it's the ultimate hammer of truth that can destroy the lives of the evil one and his false prophet. Last Paragraph. **We do not need to lust for a vision, prophecy or dream.** We need to hunger for the written word of God. In the Bible, we will find the grain we need to feed our hungry souls, the fire we need to keep us ablaze for Jesus, and the **hammer we need to shatter the false ideas of our pagan, confused society-**

James Sundquist: Such as those two books by Rick Warren and his Discovery 301 Class Carl Jung embedded personality temperament divination that you imported, are presently conducting and now requiring of members! This personality profile, aka Rick Warren's Third Base in his Baseball Diamond, is right out of Rick Warren PDC/PDL playbook. A little leaven is all it takes to leaven the ENTIRE LUMP!

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** including sinners. Who needs a dream when we have a Bible? {applause}

**I guess on the website that that is mentioned.**

James Sundquist: YOU have publicly maligned a brother, and you are guessing what he and others opposing you are saying on Saving Bellevue website?

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** I don't want to try to guess,

James Sundquist: So you are accusing your brethren and fellow church members of promoting falsehood, but you are guessing what they actually are saying? You don't have to guess, go right to the site and read exactly what is stated there! How about actually looking? As to visions, it is your

deacons that are promoting the “vision” of the pastor that we must follow in this very meeting!!

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** but it can only be I think one of two things. That I had a dream and tried to cover it up- or that I'm some wide-eyed mystic that that's how I get my vision for Bellevue-through dreams. I just want you to know that there's absolutely no substance to either of these suggestions.

**We've already talked about the fence, and I want to join Brother Chuck and we're representing the others that were involved- the four of us- we absolutely.. that was a mistake obviously, we shouldn't have done it. We were so desperate to try to protect Bellevue- we were so desperate- we actually were in prayer meeting. We thought of that verse that Jesus said If you're at the altar, and you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and go away- first be reconciled with your brother.**

James Sundquist: In this is how a schooled pastor who has his Doctorate in ministry interprets this verse in Matthew 5? WOW! So the way to protect Bellevue's private property, is that you invade a member of Bellevue Church's private property? If desperation is the motive, it is for the welfare of Steve Gaines, not the true welfare of this brother. Who in their right mind could believe this? Is a “mistake” repentance? If he really sought his forgiveness, why is it Pastor Steve Gaines who is still the victim? Where are the statements that Mark Sharpe has been vindicated publicly by Steve Gaines and the gang of four? Why is he not publicly named and marked before the congregation? Mark Sharpe is both a victim and a villain?

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** It took us quite a while to find where he lived. We did, we climbed over that fence, and it was not by the way- if you go to the website, they have this big tall gate and with all due respect, look at us and do you think that we... {laughter}

James Sundquist: Yes I do! Does Mark Sharpe think this is funny? He most certainly did not. There was no laughter coming from him when he had the opportunity to read the transcript of this meeting. He wept! Here is his response to the transcript of the September 26, 2006 evening congregational meeting at Bellevue Baptist Church:  
<http://www.savingbellevue.com/marksharpefor%20resignation.htm>

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** It was the little bitty white fence about that tall next to it that we went over. And I want to say, I join Chuck, I say to the family, I hope you know we never- there was no intimidation at all- we just wanted to be reconciled. And we're sorry, and I want to tell you as a church, we're sorry. It was poor judgment on our part, and I want to tell you this, it did not come out of a bad heart. It was a mistake and it was. It was a mistake of the head and not the heart. We do not have bad hearts, we were trying to reconcile. {applause}

**Now, the Gardendale resignation video.** This is going to be the most emotional one. They've taken a 3-minute statement out of a 50- minute resignation. I left here, I think it was July 10th-was that the date?- and we went home, we drove home. We're home now, but we drove what was home then. We got to Gardendale at 5 till 6. The service started at 6. And when we walked in the sanctuary, the place was packed. My girls couldn't even walk in. They turned around and fell back into my arms and Donna's arms and cried knowing what we were about to do. And when I walked in there, they were worshipping God, and they knew what was coming. And when I- finally it was my turn, Mark Harris handed it over to me- he's our minister of education. And I walked up there and somebody just blurted out- We love you Brother Steve. And they all stood up like you've done. And I cried and they cried. In the middle of that tape, the 3 minutes they got in there, I was tired; I was bone tired. And I was hurting- my spirit was raw. Now, you've gotta understand what I'm about to say. I didn't want to leave Gardendale Alabama- not because I didn't want to come to Bellevue-- I didn't want to go anywhere. I didn't want to come to Bellevue, because I didn't want to leave Gardendale. I didn't want to leave what God was doing. For 14 years I had prayed over that place- for 14 years, I had led people to Jesus- for 14 years I had done funerals, weddings- for 14 years I had poured my life into that place. Now, when I was sick and couldn't even tie my shoes, they kept me as their pastor. And when I couldn't even comb my hair, my wife had to comb my hair for me, they kept me as their pastor. And I did everything I could- even telling them I'm gonna stay with you- I'm not gonna go any place. And I meant it with all of my heart. And every time I would turn around- I withdrew my name- not that the committee offered me this job and I said no to it- I withdrew my name from the process. I called twice- Chuck says 3 times-several times. I did everything I could to stay in Gardendale. And in this video- and you've gotta understand- I went there when I was 33 years

old- and I was 47 when I left. These people we loved each other, and you know what we're gonna love each other the same way, and we're getting there. It just takes time {applause} I thought I loved Donna after the first year- you remember your 1st year anniversary? Oh I love you. I'm gonna tell you something, brother, after 26 years, I'd die for her. {applause} What I said to them was- I didn't memorize it- **I'm like Harry, I don't like to go to the website. I didn't really look at what they had on there.**

**James Sundquist:** So you claim you want to be reconciled to your brother(s) and yet neither you nor Harry even bother to hear their case or allow the congregation to hear it? You refer to the Commercial Appeal newspaper article. But much of the issue in that article as well as the spurious website you refer to was devoted to Purpose Driven Transformation of Bellevue Baptist. Yet you have failed to even address this, at least in any detail. And you still claim you are wanting to be reconciled with your brother? And if true reconciliation is what you seek, where are these brothers in this “informational meeting?”

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** It said something about "Didn't I tick you guys off?" Now, you gotta remember, we're in Alabama, ok? Not in cultured Tennessee- we're in Alabama. {laughter} I asked them- I did- I did everything I could to tell them you know what I thought was right with Gardendale- and what I.. **and I said what I thought was wrong with Bellevue. I wasn't saying that I thought that Bellevue was bad or anything like that.** They lifted that totally out of context. You know what, you can take 3 minutes out of just about any sermon or just about anything you want and miss the whole point of the whole sermon. Listen to me, if I didn't have any respect for this church, I would've never come here to try to be your pastor. I loved Dr. Rogers. There is nobody- listen I never had a better friend on this earth than Dr. Adrian Rogers, and if anybody's implying that **I've ever demeaned this church or his ministry or anything else- that is simply not true.**

**James Sundquist:** **But it is OK to demean Mark Sharpe?**

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** I want to encourage you- like Chuck said- if you want to watch it, don't watch the little 3 minute thing on the website. You go watch the whole 50 minute thing, and you see my heart and see that I'm simply trying to pour out my heart to my people to try to affirm them. They

were crying. I was crying. It was a tough night. But I want to tell you, I have never and never will do anything to demean this church or to put this church down. I love this church. I'm gonna give the rest of my life in service to the Lord through this church. And anything I said in that video had nothing to do with me trying to degrade this church in any way. So I want you to know that. {applause}

**Why don't you preach on Wednesday nights?** {laughter} Why did we use Dr. Agee with all these preachers we have here? Dr. Agee is one of my dearest friends. First of all, why don't I preach on Wed. nights? I'll tell you why. I have children. I have school-aged children. I can't be out every night of the week. {applause} I have volleyball games, I have things to go to and I am there every time I can be. And I don't miss much, because they've got one person that can be their daddy. {applause} I chose on Wed. night to save that where I wasn't preaching. And I go to committee meetings, every three weeks I have a - right now I'm trying to meet all the deacons. Every 3 weeks, I meet with 5 deacon couples. We have a dinner and we get to know one another. That's been wonderful. I have committee meetings on those nights, and also during the entire fall I went to meetings like with Phil's group- the youth. I've been in all those age groups. I've been in all kinds- and we're doing- listen to me, we are doing every- Donna and I-we- we are doing everything we know to try to get to know you folks. Wed. night is a night that I need- I go visiting on Tuesday night- then I go... I'm meeting on those Wednesday nights. If I didn't do what I do on Wed. nights, I'd be gone 4 or 5 nights out of the week. I cannot raise a godly family and be gone every night of the week. {applause}

There's different guys all the time- no consistency, so I brought Dr. AG here. I wanted Joe Jernigan. You might remember about that time though, he had a lot of health problems. Well, who's preaching now? Same guy I wanted then. I had to get Dr. AG- but now that Joe is- listen, **Joe Jernigan** could be out here pastoring a church just as big as Bellevue {applause}

**Now, Rick Warren, Bill Hybel- seeker sensitive movement. And if you go to the website, it seems like that's what whoever's in charge of the website- they're really afraid of all this.**

**James Sundquist: So why don't you ask your brother(s) if they are really afraid? Clearly the one in charge of it is not afraid. If he were he**

would not have been so bold to take a stand and give a forum to those at Bellevue who are in great distress and crying out for help. Were you to respond to their SOSs calls early on, Saving Bellevue blogosphere may never have been needed! As to those who did not identify themselves. With the history of retribution going on in PDC churches all over the world whereby pastors are even trained by Rick Warren how to deal with resisters, do you think members of your church are going to be that eager to identify themselves on the website, and perhaps find another uninvited deacon or pastor in their backyard? If you haven't even studied the website, who would you even know or be able to verify that? If you can't verify it, that makes it gossip and hearsay!

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** I've never even read a book by Rick Warren. You say, you haven't read... I haven't even read-- the book that this church went through, Purpose Driven Life.

**James Sundquist:** Your church goes through a book that not even the pastor has read? No wonder the church is in the state it is. Since Warren is being mainlined by the Southern Baptist Church his movement and teachings should be fully scrutinized and compared to Scripture. If you are a good shepherd, you should have checked out his teachings as soon as you become pastor, even if they are biblically solid, irrespective of whether or not you personally imported the teachings!

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** How many of you have read that book? Come on, get 'em up. I've never even read it. This staff back in 1996 went through the Purpose Driven Church. Dr. Rogers, Jerry Falwell, James Merritt, Elder Townes, OS Hawkins, most of them past presidents of the SBC- Jerry Falwell- all these guys wrote an endorsement for Rick Warren's book- including Dr. Adrian Rogers- wrote an endorsement.

**James Sundquist:** One again, you have all incriminated yourself, deacons of your own church, and the fact that the Southern Baptist Convention leaders are all fully behind Rick Warren's teachings. PDC is absolutely submerged in Bellevue Baptist Church and endorsed by both your former pastor and at least one elder. Your opposition pointed this out, yet you don't let them speak. This is also more proof that the full force of the Southern Baptist Convention is behind this movement. By your own testimony Rick Warren's presence is beyond

dispute! *Purpose Driven Church* is only the first book by Rick Warren. *Purpose Driven Life* is 30 million megaseller and subsequent title which contains the SHAPE Program which is also known as the SHAPE Discovery 301 Class. Steve Gaines hasn't read this book either, and yet he applauds and sustains the presence of PDC at Bellevue, and even proclaims reinforces Warren's Purpose Driven training? He doesn't know what it says yet he compels his congregation to take it? This is indeed frightening. The newspapers and Saving Bellevue did have it right in reporting the Rick Warren's teachings were taking over Bellevue Baptist. At least secular newspapers like the Commercial Appeal and the Wall Street Journal presented both sides of the story, while the Baptist Press, Agape Press, Baptist Record don't even give a platform to the victims of Purpose Driven schisms, and worse write articles that portray the victims as though they deserved the treatment such as being ousted from their churches. Only a fool makes up his mind without hearing both sides of the story. I hope Bellevue Baptist Church takes a congregational vote to allow the other side to speak....that is if the leaders will even allow the motion to be made to allow for a vote. Steve Gaines denies Rick Warren's presence, then he admits it. Then he denies it....anybody confused?

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** I've got in right there- you can read it- on the inside-back in 1996. **And then when his other book came out, this church went through that.**

James Sundquist: So the the church went through both books, implements programs from them and Rick Warren has not transformed this church?

More proof that Bellevue is promoting Rick Warren programs...contrary to statements made by some deacons:

### **Gary Smalley at Bellevue Baptist Church**

Gary Smalley banner of him doing a conference at Bellevue Baptist:

#### Extraordinary Women Conference

**Gary Smalley - Gary Smalley** is widely known as an expert on family relationships. He has authored and co-authored 28 best-selling ... **Bellevue**

## **Baptist Church.**

[www.bellevue.org/templates/cusbellevue1103/details.asp?id=1360&PID=372709](http://www.bellevue.org/templates/cusbellevue1103/details.asp?id=1360&PID=372709) - 18k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Now when you click that link it now comes up empty. But it did not come up empty here:

<http://www.ewomen.net/conferences/memphis-tn/>

**Gary Smalley is a major player and speaker at Warren's Saddleback Church and Rick Warren's conferences, and he has endorsed SHAPE book which is a Purpose Driven book and at the heart of Warren's 40 Days of Purpose and PDL.** The author of SHAPE is Erik Rees, who is the Director of SHAPE DISCOVERY domestically and globally for Rick Warren's empire. If you go to Saddleback website and wait about a minute, you will see the Garry Smalley banner pop up at the top:

<http://www.purposedriven.com/en-US/Home.htm>

And here is more troubling content in Gary Smalley's teachings:

<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/exposes/smalley/general.htm>

Gary Smalley Personality Temperament Divination profile will tell you which animal you are. Lion, Otter, Dog (Golden Retriever), or Beaver. See my article exposing DISC on my website. DISC is at the heart of Ken Blanchard's training programs. Ken Blanchard is another leader working with Rick Warren to help train Warren's billion man army for this Global Peace Plan. I discuss this at length in my new book Rick Warren's Global Peace Plan vs. Scriptural Teachings on Peace. Here is an excerpt from the article on my website.

“Finally, Ken Voge's DISC uses four animals to describe 4 temperaments, just like Gary Smalley has done in his personality profiling where you figure out what animal you are. But animals and humans were created after their own kind, so there can be no biblical justification for the connection, particularly because animal behavior is governed by instinct while human behavior is governed by conscience and the leading of the Holy Spirit...unless you believe in evolution which Carl Jung (DISC roots) and most of the major psychologist theorists believe(d) in. Evolutionists love integrating

animal behavior into their humanist psychology because they think humans are animals...just more highly evolved. And remember, in the Bible, animal-like behavior (i.e., "brute beasts, unreasoning animals") was a sign of a reprobate mind...a judgment that God turns people over to for refusing the knowledge of the truth and what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar because of his pride. We don't want to discover, model our behavior or modify it based on the personality of an animal. There is no Scriptural foundation for this whatsoever....if anything the Bible says the opposite. Jesus Christ did not die to save or even sanctify animals because of their sins which is impossible for them to do because of their nature. And God made animals lower than man.

Animals are used as images in a positive sense in the Bible, for example Jesus is BOTH the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God...but these are used primarily as symbols or images for prophecy and functions of Jesus Christ, and not to determine personality or to perform behavior divination. Most importantly, when the Bible uses animals as symbols it defines their interpretation and limitation.

By assigning meanings to animals for spiritual purposes is going beyond what is written in Scripture. Voges uses the lion, otter, bear, and dog. But Jesus Christ called the Pharisees dogs to describe their character (not their personality). And why doesn't Voges use a dragon, a sloth, and elephant, or a viper for temperament types? After all these are animals named in the Bible right? Four different animals were used in Daniel's vision of empires (lion, bear, leopard, and fourth beast with great iron teeth). So why doesn't Voges use these animals...particularly since they are already listed as four animals in the context of one of dreams? Or why doesn't Voges employ a goat or sheep? But this would present still another problem. The same kind of animal is sometimes presented in the Bible with opposite descriptions, depending on the context. Sheep are used in both a positive and negative connotation. Positive in that my sheep hear my voice, we are the sheep of his pasture, and Jesus Christ separates the sheep from the goats when he judges the nations.

But sheep are also dumb and we all, like sheep, have gone astray. Why does Voge select a mammal in his personality theory? Why not a bird or fish? Why not an insect or trylobyte? And why a Golden Retriever for a dog? Why not a toy poodle or Saint Bernard or a Pit Bull (a great protector which can be a ferocious attacker but also gentle, kind and loyal to its master)? And why a domesticated dog vs. a wild dog? And why not have all four major delineations of traits be dogs? Why not four horses? After all, if you want to be biblical, the Apocalypse is described as four horses in Revelation, and four horses are used in Zechariah as well in describing judgments on the earth. Who decides what animal to pick and how to measure the traits or calibrate them? Conclusion: the DISC profiling and all temperament personality profiling is all based on pagan superstition, evolution, magic arts, and divination. And it is as Paul would say science, falsely so called. Even the Meyers Briggs Temperament Profiler, also promoted by the AOG has a logo banner on their site called the Philemon Foundation, so named after Carl Jung's demonic spirit-guide. But this has not stopped the leaders of the AOG or Ted Haggard, President of National Association of Evangelicals, whose New Life Church is also a client of DISC. Proof: <http://www.discinsights.com/cyber/scripts/clients.asp>”

Therefore to claim that Rick Warren's teachings which include his leaders speaking at Bellevue Baptist are not present at Bellevue Baptist Church stretches any credibility of these deacons to the breaking point! Even if these leaders were not technically teaching from Rick Warren's materials, but still mimic his policies on how to transform their church, they are still no less guilty! Even if don't implement Warren's SHAPE temperament profiling but use their own version, they are no less guilty! For your reference again, here is Bellevue's version: <http://www.bellevue.org/templates/cusbellevue1103/details.asp?id=1360&PID=5163>

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** Just in the most recent theological journal, they call it the journal of missions and evangelism I believe for Mid America

Theological Seminary- an article by Rick Warren on missions is in there. It was just this last spring. **I'm not here to defend Rick Warren or not.**

**James Sundquist:** If you are pastor, you had better take a stand. He is either a false teacher or he is not. If he is a true teacher, then defend him. If he is a false teacher then oppose him. That is your job!!!!!!

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** If you're saying- do you believe in church growth? I believe in people being saved. I believe in people getting their hearts right with God. But if you're talking about watering down the gospel, you think that's me? You haven't heard me preach. {applause} We're not seeker sensitive because we have some folks up here holding microphones. We're not seeker sensitive because of that. Guys, listen to me. I am a Baptist. Somebody said, what would you be, if you weren't Baptist? I guess I'd be ashamed. I don't know- I'm just a Baptist. {laughter} Now, that was tongue and cheek, by the way. I was kidding. {applause} **I've never read the book.** Donna is saying get back to your notes, Steve. Okay. **I've never read the book. And I'm not in that movement.**

**James Sundquist:** This is now at least the fourth time he has indicted himself with his own testimony by never reading the book his congregation is studying and matriculating into its very psyche! There is no real polite way of saying this, except to say that this is a lie that he is not in that movement!

**Music at Bellevue.** On the first day I came here, we got together all the folks- Dr. Whitmire, John, everybody. And I said I want a 50/50 split. 50% hymns. You don't know anybody that loves the hymns more than I do. And I'm not trying to brag, but I could quote half of them by memory- or more. And we will always, listen to me, always- you say where are we going? We went there the first day. We will always sing the great hymns of the faith at Bellevue Baptist Church. {applause} (\*a few words muffled from the applause) The other- the non-traditional songs. The Bible says, Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We're gonna sing songs that your children listen to. Songs that are coming up and that most of them are singing to God, and they're all based on scripture. And I promise you, it will be based on Biblical theology. And if we sing one that happens to squeak by, and it wasn't that good, you know what- you won't hear it again. You won't hear it again. We're gonna sing songs that magnify Jesus, that are based on the

Bible, that..- what we're trying to do is minister to everybody. Listen to me, I've told you many times- I'm like a broken record on this- **I don't want to have one traditional service and one non-traditional service. I want to have one worship service for all the services so that everybody can go.**  
{applause}

**Personal use of the church credit card.** I've got one. You wanna look at it? Here it is right here. {laughter} There it is. I have- I'm 48, I've had a church credit card since I was 30 years old. I have never ever never not one time used a church credit card for personal use. Not one time. Not one time. {applause} And in fact, I've turned in since I've been here and at Gardendale, I've turned in every receipt, wrote down every detail on it- it's all. And I asked Chip. I said Chip, would you just go back, I said I know I didn't do it, but just so that I can say this, go back. He looked at every statement. I don't know how long it took him to do it. He looked at every receipt. There's nothing there. There's nothing there for any of our guys that have church credit cards. There's not many of them out there anyway. So, folks, don't go there. That's- there's nothing to that. I'm just looking at my notes, trying to finish up.

And then, one thing that really kinda concerned me. I heard about this, and I saw it. They- somebody tried to say that you know when I... You might know that the Lord called me- confirmed my calling right out here by one of these little lakes. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, I was reading in Judges chapter 6. And I was reading through that in my One Year Bible. I didn't go out and pick that. It was just there. And I read that in there and it said, **"The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, and said the Lord is with you, O valiant warrior. He said, O Lord, if you are with us, why are all these bad things happening to us? And the Lord,"** verse 14, **"Looked at him and said, Go in this your strength, and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian.**

James Sundquist: So Pastor Steve Gaines is comparing himself to Gideon? And his opponents are the Midianites? If Gideon is your hero, how about reading what Rick Warren says about Gideon in his personality profiling SHAPE Program where he massacres the account of Gideon in the Bible. But this does not stop Gaines from continuing to conduct Warren's Discovery 301 Class from the book he has not read.

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** Have I not sent you?” Now, what God used to speak to my heart was, “Go in this your strength”. You know why? I have (his condition- I cannot make it out and hate to butcher it by attempting to spell it something like Myosteneus Gravis) I was asking, Lord am I even strong enough to do this? Am I? Are you gonna give me the strength? “Go in this your strength. Have I not sent you?” I read this passage and I saw Bellevue. And again, I was reading the Word of God. Didn’t have a dream or anything. Then I looked out there and just saw the Lord. Just like how do you know when you’re saved? How do you know when God calls you to preach? How do you know when God calls you to a church? You just know it in your knower. And I knew deep in my heart that that’s what- God wanted me to spend the rest of my life here. Now, listen. In the middle of this phrase it says, **“Go in this your strength,”** and listen, **“deliver Israel from the hand of Midian.”**

**James Sundquist: Right. Deliver Steve Gaines from the hand of Mark Sharpe, Riad Saba, many others, and the Saving Bellevue adversaries that are opposing him. But wait. Mark Sharpe is a Christian and so are the the Saving Bellevue bloggers. But in reality, the Midianites were pagans, so this dog does not hunt!**

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** And somewhere on this blog it says something like this, **“Exactly what does Dr. Gaines think he needs to deliver Bellevue from?”**

**James Sundquist:** I thought he didn't even read the blog to know what it said in its entirety!

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** I don’t think I need to deliver us from anything. Listen to me, the more I get- by the way Chuck was talking about this- I’m drowning in love mail. Praise the Lord. Amen. I’m drowning. {applause} I’m not here to make this a Gardendale. I’m not here to change this church or anything else. I’m simply here- **I’ve got one agenda: I wanna go after God.** I want this church simply to do what it’s always done. That is to love the Lord, to love lost people, to win lost people, and to glorify God. That’s all- that is my agenda. There it is right there. {applause} Just stay up. We’ll go to the house. Or Mexican food, or wherever it is you’re going. I want to say this about **Mid American Baptist Theological Seminary.** I have heard this so many times. We’ve heard you don’t support Mid America. Listen, I

have understood, literally the heart of Dr. Rogers. You've got to understand, he was my "Pa". Now I know about the relationship between Bellevue and Mid America. I understand the story. And I don't know anybody that I respect more than Dr. Gray Allison. I love Mike Spradlin. Listen, I've got friends over there. Jerry Bloom (unsure on name\*) teaches over there preaching. And I came from First Baptist Dyersburg. Stan May (unsure on name\*) he teaches missions over there. I've known Stan since I got saved. Two months after I went- I got saved- I met Stan. We've been friends for almost 30 years. So, I know a lot of these guys over there. We've got different guys in our church from Mid America. I preached over there this last week. And this last year when it came budget time, I'm the one- I'm not trying to take credit, I'm just trying to tell you- I'm the one that recommended to the finance committee. I can't- I don't sign any checks at Bellevue. I can't, listen- I don't have control over the money here. **I simply made a suggestion that we up what we already give to Mid America by \$1000 a month.**

The finance committee approved it. The church approved it. We upped that on my watch. **And, as far as Mid America goes, Mike Spradlin has preached here. Gray Allison has preached here. I've got other professors I'm gonna have preach here. I preached there last week. As far as I'm concerned, all that depends on me- whatever that is- Bellevue will always, always support Mid America Baptist Theological Seminary.** {applause}

**I just want you to pray that God will not let us get distracted from the main thing.**

**James Sundquist: So exposing false teaching is now a distraction? Offended brethren within your own congregation is a distraction? That is a familiar term. Rick Warren calls prophecy a "distraction", yet PDL is alive and well at Bellevue Baptist.**

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** I want you to pray that God will put a hedge of protection around everybody- even those who have some differences. I want you to pray that all of us will walk in wisdom. That we'll walk in forgiveness, that we'll walk in Christ. That we'll be like Jesus, we'll be Christ-like, not condescending. **I want you to pray that accusations will stop. I want you to pray that finger pointing will stop.**

James Sundquist: Well they should not stop if the accusations are true. And of course we should finger point and mark and expose false teaching. So we are to not accuse Rick Warren?

**Pastor Steve Gaines: And I want you to understand that this church is not in some major crisis.**

James Sundquist: If this is not a major crisis, why did you say in this very meeting “we're so desperate to try to protect Bellevue – we were so desperate”.? Desperate sounds like a crisis to me! If this is not a major crisis in the church, why did your deacon in this very meeting say that you had to take extraordinary action for the welfare of the church? And so extraordinary, this major meeting must take place for the whole church. But, in fact, it is a crisis, if this church is promoting Rick Warren teachings and programs, and even more so, if Mr. Gaines denies that he is promoting Rick Warren and claims he has read his books!

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** This church is simply going through something that I firmly believe is gonna make us stronger, because we're more focused on prayer when we go through these times. We're more focused on what really matters. **And what really matters is not all these little accusations, fault-findings, and all that stuff. What really matters is there are people going to hell right out there,**

**James Sundquist: And you ought to know, because you accused Mark Sharpe of sending them to there (to Hell).**

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** and it's our job to love each other, and to win people to Jesus. {applause} I wanna say again, I've never had- I've never had a better deacon than Chuck Taylor. Never worked with a better guy. {applause} I'm gonna ask him to say a word of prayer, but don't leave. We're gonna- every Sunday night we sing a song. (\*) As soon as Chuck gets through praying, we're gonna sing “There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit” in what {Congregation: in this place} You go ahead and join your hands. Join your hearts. Now, guys, as far as I'm concerned- **let's move on. Let's move on.**

**James Sundquist: Yes, by all means lets move on and not deal with the very teachings that brought division to this church in the first place. And move on to what and from what?**

**Pastor Steve Gaines:** Let's pray and then we'll sing.

**Chuck Taylor:**

Gracious Father God, we thank you for meeting with us tonight. **Lord, we thank you for the sweet unity that carries us in the place.**

**James Sundquist:** This is unity where truth was sacrificed at the altar!

**Chuck Taylor:** And that is because of your presence here with us. Lord, thank you for everyone that came tonight. And Lord for the message here tonight, and who we are in Jesus. Lord it is for your glory. May we leave this place, Lord, humble. Lord, seeking to do your will. Remembering Lord that there is a gospel out there (\*) as soon as you walk out these doors. May we be, Lord, your witnesses, your shining light. And Lord, as we've already said. May they know we are your disciples by how we have love one for another. Amen.

**James Sundquist:** Love is defined by the Apostle John as obedience to Christ's commands not another gospel that Rick Warren is teaching and taking over the Southern Baptist Convention and then Bellevue Baptist Church.

**Chuck Taylor:** Let's sing together.

**James Sundquist:** How can we sing together while our brothers are still left offended and desolate because of your actions! In summary, the apologies of Pastor Steve Gaines and these elders to your brethren are disingenuous, like apples containing razor blades. And where are the apologies from the balance of the gang of four who invaded Mark Sharpe's property?

## CONCLUSION:

I leave with the members of Bellevue Baptist Church and the deacons of this church who have the power to enforce them there regarding the actions of Pastor Steve Gaines and the presence of Rick Warren's teachings and programs. As you evaluate the current situation at Bellevue and even scrutinize (be wise as serpents) the 12 man committee just appointed by the pastor, I invite you to read the Bellevue Baptist Church Deacon's posts on Savingbellevue.com, then compare them to the following Scriptures:

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who **privily\*** shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

\*privily means secretly or hidden

Jude 1:4 For there are certain men **crept in unawares**, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

2Ti 2:26 And [that] they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Col 3:12 ¶ Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Col 4:6 Let your speech [be] alway with grace, seasoned with salt,  
that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

2Jo 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine,  
receive him not into [your] house, neither bid him God speed: 2Jo  
1:11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.