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Did you know: There are 151.6 million people who profess to be Christians in the United States, 3.1 million Jews, 14,000 Rastafarians, 702,000 Buddhists, and 13.1 million agnostics?

That's the way it breaks down according to estimates made by the ICR Survey Research Group recently after interviews with 113,000 American adults.

Of the Christians, 46 million are Catholic, 33.9 are Baptist, 14 million are Methodist, 438,000 are Congregationalists, 668,000 are Seventh Day Adventists, 3 million are Episcopalians, 9 million are Lutherans, and 4.9 million are Presbyterians.

Outside the Christian faith, 45,000 follow Scientology, 28,000 hold to Bahai beliefs, and 20,000 are into the New Age mysticism.

It's a nice survey. But it measures what people say, not what they do.

In fact, a Cox News Service story Monday morning described a new book which details "what Americans really, truly believe."

The study found that overall "there is absolutely no moral

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Moody's Gives Polk An 'A' Rating

Polk County has received an "A" credit rating which should translate into thousands of dollars in school bond interest savings.

The "A" credit rating was given Friday by Moody's, a New York financial rating company. Three Polk County officials, County Manager John Lewis, board chairman Jeannie Martin and school Supt. James F. Causby, visited New York to present Polk County's case for a favorable credit rating to Moody's and Standard & Poor's last week.

"We were trying to avoid a "B" (rating), which is real common for small counties," explained County Commission Chairman Jeanne Martin. "For a county our size, that is very good."

"I'm thrilled," said county manager John Lewis. "Over the life of the (\$14 million school) bonds an "A" compared to a "BAA" can mean thousands of dollars more in interest savings for the county," he explained.

With permission from the county, Moody's has released the "A" credit rating for interested bidders on the \$14 million bonds which will be opened May 7, said Martin.

A credit rating from Standard and Pooers is expected this week. Lewis explained that both financial rating companies use the same 10 or 20 criteria for credit ratings so the results

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Ruth - Burns

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Ruth of York, S.C. announce the engagement of their daughter, Rhonda Evelyn, to James Gregory Burns of York.

Burns is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Calvin Burns of Easley, S.C., formerly of Tryon.

The couple plans to wed on May 18 at the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in York.

Unemployment 3.7 Percent

The unemployment rate in Polk County dropped from 4.8 percent in February to 3.7 percent in March.

The Employment Security Commission reports 210 people out of a work force of 5,650 were seeking employment in March.

Unemployment in Rutherford County stood at 6.8 percent, and in Henderson, 4.3 percent.

Polk Improving Soil Stewardship

Polk County is improving all the time in protecting its valuable soils from erosion, according to Marilyn Stowell, district conversationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service.

Stowell spoke with a reporter on the eve of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, which began Monday, April 28.

"A lot of our more marginal crop land is being sown down to grass," she said. "We are getting so many horse farms."

Stowell said it is good for soils which have been cropped for years and years to be sown down to grass, in effect given a rest.

However, Polk also is losing some productive crop land to residential development, she said.

While the overall story is positive, there are some notable exceptions, particularly on commercial properties along Hwy. 108 and around the interstate in Columbus.

Stowell cited as one example property which was stripped bare and is now eroding dirt into Polk's waterways.

"That was done as a logging operation," Stowell said. "It was not required at the time that logging operations come under sediment control statutes."

Logging operations today must file sediment control plans, just like residential and commercial developers, she

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