

5B

RELIGION

Life 1B



STUDING JOB

Lesson Background
Throughout this book Job goes back and forth in his thinking...

It is important for us to take the ride with Job. What he says in this section is not to be taken as the last word...

Job's Reflections on Life (Job 14:1-2, 11-17)

1. What two illustrations did Job use to emphasize the fleeting nature of life? (v 1-2)

Our lesson text begins in the middle of Job's response to Zophar, the last of his three misguided friends to engage him in argument...

In these two verses, Job tells us that life is not only short, but also hard. He uses two illustrations to demonstrate this point...

Job also uses the example of a shadow. A shadow only appears when there is light, and then it is gone...

Some might think Job was just being morbid in his observations, perhaps being unduly affected by what he had suffered...

Please see JOB/7B

Reconstructing Jesus

Two books are latest attempts to rewrite the messiah's history



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For each of the past 10 years, the media have given American audiences the unhappy Easter season message that "the Jesus that Christians believe in is a hoax..."

He cites presentations by ABC, NBC, PBS, Discovery Times Channel, National Public Radio, Newsweek, Time and U.S. News & World Report.

In time for this year's holy season, two well-publicized books offered supposed secrets to sup-

plant traditional accounts about Jesus Christ:

• "The Jesus Papers: Exposing the Greatest Cover-Up in History" (HarperSanFrancisco) by Michael Baigent

• "The Jesus Dynasty: The Hidden History of Jesus, His Royal Family and the Birth of Christianity" (Simon & Schuster) by James D. Tabor...

(National Geographic's "The Gospel of Judas" was a different case. It published an odd heretical

text that was written too long after Jesus and Judas' lifetimes to provide authentic material about them.)

Baigent and Tabor differ on many things, but both claim their 21st-century theories are nearer the truth than the first-century's New Testament books.

Tabor reworks an old liberal Protestant scenario, that Paul overturned Jesus' original movement and message. He deals with actual New Testament texts but regards them with considerable

Please see LATEST/7B



Hammond puts extra stamp on Singletons



Singletons Better Than That Fred Hammond, producer Zomba Recordings Group



The Singletons seem to be talented enough to carry a CD on their own, but Fred Hammond continues to put his personal stamp on the group.

Hammond sings on and wrote a lot of the tracks. He's in the background but his voice is distinct.

The Singletons have their own sound. The six-women, two-man group has great, big harmony. The sound is exceptionally rich. Heck, they're nearly big enough to be a choir.

The music is a typical Hammond affair - lots of upbeat stuff that ranges from neo-soul to funky gospel and rock. That's not a bad thing, but I long for the day when Hammond's compositions and production style weren't so trendy.

There's plenty to like. "Dance In The Spirit" nearly leaps off the CD. The energy is effervescent. Hammond comes out of the background to do most of the lead on "Created To Worship You," which is one of the happiest songs I've heard this year. It exudes joy.

You can't have a gospel CD these days without Kirk Franklin, so he shows up on the funky "Give Him The Praise." Hammond's on the bass guitar and Franklin does his traditional, um, well, you know it's the kind of song that would send a youth revival into a frenzy.

The Singletons are also very effective when things slow down. "For Me" gives one of the male members to shine. But "I Need You" is probably the CD's best song. It's a heartfelt ballad to God that shows this group is deeper than drum beats and hand claps.

Ratings section with star ratings for Classic, Excellent, Good, Fair, Why?, and No stars - A mess.

Bill would criminalize funeral protests

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina became one of the latest states to discuss legislation limiting funeral protests after a Senate subcommittee unanimously approved a bill that would make it a crime to picket within 1,000 feet of a service.

Members of Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., have demonstrated around the country at funerals for U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq, claiming soldiers are dying because God is punishing America for tolerating homosexuality.

Bill supporters say they haven't heard of any protests in South Carolina, and they hope to keep it that way.

"We want to make sure they can't do this at the funeral of a hero," said Marilyn Miller, the mother of a Marine and president of the Spartanburg County Blue Star Mothers.

About 14 members of

Upstate chapters attended the meeting, all wearing American flag scarves.

"Protesting in the face of a grieving family is unacceptable," Miller said.

Senators agreed and began adding their names as bill sponsors. Later Wednesday on the Senate floor, as the military mothers visited the

chamber, the entire Senate was tacked on as a sponsor.

Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, said pictures of protesters in other states "make me sick to my stomach."

"Anyone who pickets a funeral is attacking all decency and sanity in America," he said.

The bill makes it a misdemeanor for protesters to come within 1,000 feet of a funeral service.

The panel's only problem with the bill was that it didn't go far enough. Senators approved stiffening penalties for the

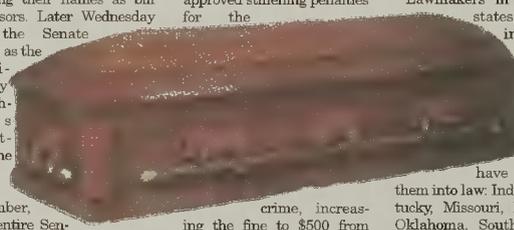
thing we can do to help the military out," said Cromer, R-Prosperty.

His bill now heads to the Senate Judiciary Committee. A similar bill was introduced in the House last week.

Lawmakers in 29 other states have introduced similar legislation this year. Eight states already have enacted them into law: Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Virginia and Wisconsin, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Last week, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman signed a bill against military funeral protests.

"I'm very supportive of any-



CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements is noon on Fridays. Fax your announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail to cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

Ongoing Inspiration Networks is holding a gospel talent search for its nationally televised series Christian Artist Talent Search. The winner will receive a national recording contract with Point Of Grace Entertainment. All entrants must be at least 15 years old by Friday, when entries are due. For rules and entry forms, log on to www.insp.com or call the CATS hotline at (704) 561-7955.

April 21 Chappell Memorial Baptist Church will present an evening to uplift and celebrate women through song and ministry during "Soulful Sis-

tas in the Spirit" at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary at Chappell Memorial.

Hosted by the Chappell Memorial EAGLES Women's Ministry, powerful and well-respected female gospel vocalists including Arnetta Murrill-Crooms and Deborah Clyburn will minister through song and testimony.

Encoed by Praise 100.9 FM radio personalities Tonya Rivers and AC Stowe, the program will provide a unique interview and question-and-answer session following each performance that will allow the guest artists to share their experiences and testimony.

The church is located at 110 Bradford Drive.

April 22 Preserve Pro Inc. is offering a workshop on "Optimizing Your Church's Records: A Preser-

vation Workshop." The workshop will be held Saturday from 9-11:20 a.m. on the campus of Central Piedmont Community College, Room 215, Professional Development Building.

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together individuals who have an interest in preserving the history of churches. This workshop is also open to the public and highly recommended for all individuals interested in learning about preservation, and archival practices. Registration fee is \$50.

For more information contact Preserve Pro Inc at (704) 995-0731 or email preservepro@earthlink.net

April 23 Melva Costen Ph.D a well-known authority on music and worship within African Ameri-

can churches, will speak at Charlotte First United Presbyterian Church, 406 N. College Street, from 4-5 p.m. The title of her presentation, "In Spirit and In Truth: Music in African American Worship," is taken from her 2004 book published by Westminster John Knox Press. Costen will trace the African roots of liturgical and musical practices up through contemporary music in worship.

The event is part of the Faith Seeking Understanding series of public lectures sponsored by Union-PSCE at Charlotte, the North Carolina campus of Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education. A reception and book sales will follow the lecture at the church. For more information see FAITH/6B

