

Temple Church International hosts friends and Family Day on June 17

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 vided by the Mecklenburg County Health Department. Free food and clothes will be available.

The event will be held at the church, 1135 Redbud St. June 17 Temple Church International will host Friends and

Family Day at 10 a.m. The church is located at 3301 Tuckaseegee Road.

June 20 Pastor Reginald Coffey and the Higher Praise Deliverance Ministries presents Kids-N-Praise III youth conference 2007. Theme of the conference

is "Still Praising Going Higher." The conference will feature ministry for the youth and young adults. The speakers will be Pastor Gregory B. Drumright and Elder Kawana Farrar. For information call (704) 968-8480 or Lakesha Redice at (704) 281-6914.

June 23 Steele Creek AME Church will present a concert featuring the Queenette Gospel Singers from Winston-Salem. The event begins at 7 p.m. The church is located at 1500 Shopton Road.

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Prisons ban certain religious books, inmates file lawsuit

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 clear why it took so long for the order to take effect, but prison officials needed time to pore over a long list of books and determine what's acceptable.

Feldman said the study was made out of a concern that prisons "had been radicalized by inmates who were practicing or espousing various extreme forms of religion, specifically Islam, which exposed security risks to the prisons and beyond the prisons to the public at large."

Feldman said the review by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons concluded that supervision of the prison chapel libraries was not as thorough as it should be and that none of the prisons' collections had been screened since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"The presence of extremist chaplains, contractors or volunteers in the BOP's correctional facilities can pose a threat to institutional security and could implicate national security if inmates are encouraged to commit terrorist acts against the United States," the report said.

The review suggested audio and video monitoring of worship areas and chapel classrooms and screening religious service providers to weed out extreme views. It also recommended prisons take steps

to reduce inmate-led religious services and consider constant staff monitoring of inmate-led services.

A message for comment left with a Bureau of Prisons spokeswoman in Washington was not immediately returned.

Feldman also said that inmates were permitted to order books on their own and bypass the chapel libraries. "So fundamentally this is not a case about what books the inmates have the ability to read," he said.

But inmates say the rules have had a chilling effect.

Inmate Moshe Milstein told the judge by telephone that the chaplain at Otisville removed about 600 books from the chapel library on Memorial Day, including Harold S. Kushner's bestseller: "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," a book that Norman Vincent Peale said was "a book that all humanity needs."

"There is definitely irreparable harm done to us already, and we would like the court to issue the injunction to get the books back as soon as possible," he said.

Inmate Douglas Kelly, who described himself as a representative of the prison's Muslim community, complained of "a denial of our First

Amendment rights."

He said books on Islam already were among the smallest religious collections in the library and had been trimmed in half in the Memorial Day removal.

He said most of the Islamic books which disappeared involved the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and contained instructions on how Muslims are supposed to pray and how to follow diet and religious laws, along with the statements of religious scholars trained by the prophet.

"A lot of what we are missing were definitely prayer books or prayer guides and religious laws on the part of the Muslim faith," he said.

The judge said the lawsuit, filed in Manhattan federal court, might be premature because the inmates had not yet followed prison administrative complaint procedures. She declined to block the book removals, the remedy sought by the lawsuit.

Ron Kuby, a civil rights lawyer who has represented a former head Islamic chaplain in the state prison system who was banned from the prisons after he was accused of making extremist statements, called the prison book removal "a mass Memorial Day book burning." But he also said there

might be limits to relief the prisoners can seek because the First Amendment rights of prisoners are severely limited in prison.

"What a wonderful way to honor those who have died for the cost of freedom," he said.

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You may tell me today, "Bro. Teacher, I didn't come that way." Then I say to you, "you missed Christ altogether." And that is why you reject the truth. I'll tell you something else that gives you away as a phony, you are ashamed of Christ. Paul cried out in Rom. 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." You tell me you are saved. But you are ashamed to talk about the Lord Jesus Christ. Friend, it will be an awful day when you wake up in hell. Years ago at the office after I began to give out my testimony in print, one of my co-workers said to me bitterly: "I don't have to go around giving out papers." And it was said to me as of late; "I don't have to go around talking to people about the Lord." I weep for you. And I want to tell you another reason why; "Then they that feared the LORD spoke often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name, and they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels..." (Mal. 3:16,17) I praise the Lord, that day when He makes up His jewels I'll be in that number. This was called to our attention years ago, back probably in the late 70s or early 80s. I didn't even know it was in the Word of God. Yes, I praise the Lord for saving me by His Grace, Redeeming me by His Blood. And giving me, or appointing me, commissioning me to teach Christ and how He saves poor lost sinners. And I weep for you because you say you don't have to go around talking and giving out papers on the Lord. You have no part in Christ. Your case is said beyond words of expression. I plead with every awakened sinner; flee to Christ! Plead His precious Blood!

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