



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

# SKYVIEW BULLETIN

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## NO CHILDREN ALLOWED



There are some places where children are not welcome. Some housing subdivisions are for residents who are 55+ and children are not allowed as permanent residents. There are some business where children are not allowed without the company of an adult.

We of course understand there are places where children are not allowed because of a dangerous environment. We are not surprised, therefore, to see signs that tell us children are not allowed.

But there are some places children reportedly are not allowed that really is surprising. One would think that children would be welcome in a religious organization. After all, isn't the home the oldest institution? Isn't the home the back bone of a nation? Do not children have a tremendous part in our future? We cannot help but be a little shocked to learn that there is a religious organization that discourages members from having children.

In Sunday's St. Petersburg Times, there was an article about several women who were former members of the Scientology religion, with headquarters in Clearwater, Fl., who claimed they were encouraged to have abortions rather than give birth to a child. In fact more than a dozen women have filed lawsuits, accusing this organization of pushing them to have abortions they did not want. I suppose we will have to wait for the results of this lawsuit to know the truth, but there seems to be something amiss that such accusations would even be made.

But, if these accusations are true, it is almost impossible to believe that a religious organization would take such a stand on members having children. In view of what the Bible teaches, this would be anti-biblical and even anti-God. In fact, one of the first things commanded by God of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, was to bear children (Genesis 1:28). Through out the history of the Bible, the importance of children is emphasized over and over again.

Some choose not to have children and that is a personal right to so choose, but to be told by a religious organization that having children is doing a bad thing to the planet, goes beyond one's moral choice. To encourage abortion is defying the word of God and goes against all that is sacred and holy. Some of the women, who felt forced to have an abortion was back at work at the organization the next day. They were led to believe they needed to remain productive workers without the distraction of raising children. To terminate a pregnancy and stay on the job, according to some of the women, affirmed one's commitment to the all important work of saving the planet.

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### ELDERS

*Ron Bastien  
Don Greenlee  
Charles Murray  
David Roberts*

### DEACONS

*Ron Bentz  
Frank Edwards  
Jim Ingram  
George Loyd  
Andy Murray  
Dennis Trask  
Brad VanHaerents*

### PREACHER

*Charles Murray*

### MEN WE SUPPORT

*William Stewart--Kingston, Canada  
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe  
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

### WORSHIP TIMES

#### SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.  
Classes.....10:50 A.M.  
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

### WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N  
PO Box 3118  
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

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The importance of children in God's plan can be seen by a careful examination of the teachings of the Bible. Notice this passage in the Old Testament: *"Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate"* (Psalm 127:3-5). Also, *"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children"* (Proverbs 17:6).

Jesus taught the importance of children to His kingdom: *"Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* (Matthew 19:14-15). *"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."* (Mark 9:37). *" And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them"* (Mark 10:16). To qualify for support from a congregation a woman has to meet a certain criteria: *"No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds"* (1 Timothy 5:9-10). Notice that she has to have brought up children. Paul counseled young widows to marry and have children ( 1 Timothy 5:14).

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These passages certainly do not teach that having children would be a detriment to the church and religion. In fact, the opposite is true. They are to be welcomed. Children are great in the kingdom of heaven. Christ blessed the little children. A widow is instructed to marry and bear children. A widow cannot be enrolled for benevolence unless she has had children.

Again, it makes one wonder why a religious group would be opposed to their female members having children and would insist on going against the teaching of the Bible and encourage abortion.

These women testified that they were pressured to have an abortion "for the greatest good." This would not be for God's greatest good, however.

Today, is Father's Day and this news paper report should alarm every father and every mother. Father's have a very important role in their children's lives. I cannot help but wonder what some of the fathers of these women who felt they were forced into having an abortion were doing? God has placed upon fathers the tremendous charge of properly teaching and training their children. Notice Paul's words: *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4). To the Colossians he wrote: *"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged "* (Colossians 3:21). Even though addressed to men who desire to become elders in the Lord's church, this admonition applies to all fathers: *"He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect"* (1 Timothy 3:4-5)

To all fathers and grandfathers who may be reading this; God has blessed you with children and with children's children. What a great privilege to be a part of bringing a life into the world. While some may say children are not wanted and children are banned in some places, let us never forget how God feels about children. Let us never forget that we in becoming Christians must begin as children. We experience a new birth through obeying the gospel of Christ and then we grow from infancy to adult hood in Christ.

If you are a father realize the awesome responsibility God has placed on you to bring your children up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Realize that you are not to exasperate them or embitter them but teach them not only verbally, but by example—by being the kind of person you would like them to become.

There may be some religious organizations that do not allow children...but God does. He wants them in His kingdom. He loves children and wants us to have the traits and characteristics of children. Are you a child of God? You need to become one so you can be blessed by God.



**Adult  
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January:  
The Life Of Christ**

**GOD'S  
PLAN OF SALVATION  
Believe—Heb. 11:6  
Repent—Luke 13:3  
Confess—Rom. 10:9  
Be Baptized—  
Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38,  
1 Pet. 3:21**

CEM