

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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## ***Thanking God For Abortion?!?!*** **From Preaching Helps**

***"I thank God and country  
that when I fell into a bad  
situation, abortion was there  
to save me and keep me on a  
path toward building a  
strong family I have now.  
And I pray that safety net  
remains in place."***

Yes, these are the actual words spoken by MSNBC host, Touré Neblett. Touré gave thanks to God and country for having the "safety net" of abortion to "save him." The public nature of this statement, and the lack of any shame is mind-boggling to me. What kind of a man sacrifices the life of a baby, his own baby, to save his own? This wasn't even an action done to "save" his own life as he stated, but rather to preserve a lifestyle he felt was more valuable than the life of his own child.

Oh, I'm not done... In writing for [Salon.com](http://Salon.com), Mary Elizabeth Williams wrote an article under the heading and subheading of, "So what if abortion ends life?" I believe that life starts at conception, and it's never stopped me from being pro-choice." In this article Miss Williams unashamedly affirms that life begins at conception and that it is foolish to pretend otherwise. She argued that to be relieved over an abortion but grieved over a miscarriage is understandable, but to argue that what was growing inside of the mother wasn't the same is foolish. Life isn't determined by the intent of the mother. She went so far as to affirm that a fetus is indeed a life, but it is "a life worth sacrificing."

What this man and this woman demonstrate for us is that we have two entirely different worldviews. There was a time when the "pro-abortion" side felt the need to vainly argue that what was growing in the

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mother was not yet a "human life." That's because a "Christian worldview" could never condone the taking of an innocent life. Their pro-abortion cause would fail.

However, over the past 40 years since Roe v. Wade, our society's worldview has changed. We live in a post-Christian culture. Today, the majority of Americans have a "secular worldview." So much so, that now those who are pro-abortion no longer feel the need to "pretend" the baby in the womb is not really "human life." They now freely admit it is, but it's "life worth sacrificing."

Christians in the 21st century find themselves in the same situation as the Christians of the 1st century. We are the modern "diaspora;" scattered and dispersed among a secular, humanistic culture. If ever God needed a "distinctive people, with a distinctive plea," it's now. In my stronger moments, I want to "call for battle" and "rally the troops," but in my weaker moments, I must admit that sometimes I pray as did the apostle John, "Lord, come quickly" ([Revelation 22:20](http://Revelation 22:20)).

## ***"I Swear On The Bible"***

**By Steve Higginbotham**

Fourteen U.S. Presidents used cherished family Bibles. Presidents Harding, Eisenhower, Carter, and George H. Bush used George Washington's Bible. And President Obama used Abraham Lincoln's Bible and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Bible.

Of course, I'm talking about the "swearing in" process of becoming President of the United States of America. Every President except for John Quincy Adams and Theodore Roosevelt placed their hands on a Bible as they took their oath of office.

The recent inauguration has stirred me to consider the following point. Irrespective of political party, what this country has needed in the past as well as in the present is not a President who puts his hand on a Bible to take an oath, but one who is willing to open that Bible and humble himself to obey its teachings.

## **"If At First You Don't Succeed – Lie – Lie Again!"**

### **A Selected Article**

Guys like Lance Armstrong and Pete Rose make themselves easy targets. They are men who had great careers, great reputations, and after years and years of vehement denials of wrong-doing, they finally admitted they were lying. This isn't my attempt to "pile on," plenty of that has already taken place on TV, radio, and the Internet. Rather, this is just a brief reminder of how harmful "lying" can be.

**First of all, we've all been guilty of lying.** Before we cluck our tongues and act incredulous, maybe we all need to be reminded that we have all lied. It may have been to make us look better than we are, to keep from getting in trouble, or to spare or hurt another person's feelings, but we have all lied. Maybe our lies don't go on as long as theirs did, but then again, maybe ours have a longer life than theirs. My point is, don't act like you can't understand, because you can. You've done it, yourself.

**Second, lying is progressive.** When one starts down the path of lying, he soon finds himself lying again and again; oftentimes, lying merely to cover his own lies. Before long, the lies begin to accumulate and create an oppressive weight to bear up under. Friends, honesty is so liberating. You don't have to remember anything. You don't have to think about covering yourself, keeping your story straight, remembering to whom you told what. You just tell the truth, and the fear of being "outed" is gone.

**Third, lying is destructive.** Lying destroys trust. It weakens reputations. It damages relationships. And it erodes one's integrity. Not only that, the Lord is very clear that it will keep one out of Heaven (Revelation 21:8). Lying may be common, but it is not acceptable. Can I challenge you to a life of honesty? Put away lying and deceit. Give up manipulating the truth by your sophistry? Instead, embrace the freedom of telling the truth. Begin today being more honest with your spouse, your children, your parents, your boss, your co-workers, and your classmates.

God always knows best. Not only is honesty the right thing to do, it pays dividends. Through honesty, one develops self-respect, the respect of others, trust, and integrity. Give honesty a try. You'll be glad you did. Honest!

**Our Next Gospel Meeting**  
**March 3-8, 2013**  
**David Lanius**

### **A 30 Day Challenge!**

#### **A Selected Thought**

For the next 30 days, I would like to challenge you to encourage someone every day by writing them a note, an email or calling them.

Now, let me tell you why. Jesus, our example, complimented people. When the centurion came to him, asking him to heal his servant, it would have been easy for Jesus to have just said, "Ok, done." But that's not what he did. He complimented the man, and praised him for his faith (Matthew 8:10). Not only did he do this, he did it publicly. And as that centurion walked away from his encounter with Jesus, just imagine how encouraged he must have been.

As disciples of Jesus, it is our life's work to conform ourselves more and more into the image of Jesus. If Jesus complimented

people, building them up and encouraging them, so should we! In fact, Paul said it ought to be something we pursue (Romans 14:19).

So how about it, will you accept the challenge? It will require so little investment in time, but it may pay eternal dividends! Who knows, by the end of 30 days, you may have formed a new and good habit!