

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Sin Is Sneaky

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Many may recall the recent news of Ted Haggard of the New Life Church, in which he was accused by a man named Mike Jones of receiving and using drugs, as well as paying for homosexual relations. Consider this, brethren: This is a man whom Time Magazine listed as one of the top 25 most influential evangelicals in America in 2005. Author Jeff Sharlet reports that Haggard “talks to...Bush or his advisors every Monday” and says that “no pastor in America holds more sway over the political direction of evangelicalism.” He was the head of the 30-million member strong National Association of Evangelicals, and the Senior Pastor of the 14,000 member strong New Life Church in Colorado. This is a man who had a tremendous amount of influence. Forgetting for the moment he is a false teacher, he was someone who was expected, and appeared, to be godly. In fact, he openly and forcefully opposed homosexuality and gay marriage, which proved to be his undoing. Mike Jones is reported to have explained that “It made me angry that here’s someone preaching about gay marriage and going behind the scenes having...” gay

relations.

Brethren, explain how a man with such influence, who was seen as being godly and righteous, who was admired and seen by thousands of people, could fall into something so obviously sinful. One may say, “No one is perfect”. Indeed, and proof of that is evident to all, now that evidence has been given that the accusations are true. In fact, Haggard admitted receiving drugs, but denied any involvement in homosexuality until an investigation proved that to be in error. So adding lying to the list of sins. How is he any different than the masses to which he preaches? Jones told ABC News, “I had to expose the hypocrisy. He is in the position of influence of millions of followers, and he’s preaching against gay marriage. But behind everybody’s back [he’s] doing what he’s preached against.”

How sneaky is sin, brethren? This is a man whose life is constantly studied as an example. How could he fall so drastically away from what he himself taught? The truth is, this man is no evangelist, at least, not one of the Gospel. We do not see the apostles falling into drugs and homosexuality. And before the ar-

gument is made that they were holy and inspired and could do no wrong, consider Paul’s correction of Peter in Gal. 2:11-15, in which we read of Peter and Barnabas showing favoritism to the Jews out of fear. Yes, even the apostles were not impervious to the influence of sin.

Brethren, sin is sneaky. It creeps in through cracks in our armor like weeds through cracks in sidewalks. It corrupts us on the inside, taking our hearts away from godliness to the lusts of the flesh. We fight it with every ounce that we have, purifying our hearts before God. Yet, sometimes it breaks through. It may come through a crack or it may come at us from behind. Why? Because sin is sneaky. This latest news of Haggard, (the false teacher as he is), proves that even a top 25 most influential evangelical in America can be influenced to sin.

We do not have thousands or millions of people watching us everyday to help motivate us to be godly, brethren...just God. “...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” (Heb. 12:1).