



Televangelist Broadcast Summaries  
November 20 - December 25, 1983  
Old Time Gospel Hour

November 20 (Audio tape only,  
Distribution Series 579)

LBC's  
15,000 Club

This program was another in a series of fundraising appeals for Liberty Baptist College's 15,000 Club. Entitled "The Difference," (LBC is "distinctively different" from other colleges), Falwell spent the entire hour roaming the grounds of LBC by helicopter and interviewing LBC students and faculty. Some of his more relevant comments included:

- \* "[We will be] adding buildings 'til Jesus comes."
- \* I had no idea what God was going to do with this mountain." [In reference to the growth of LBC from 100 students in 1972 to 6000 in 1982).

Falwell repeatedly referred to LBC as the "fundamentalist Harvard" because it stresses academic excellence. He also pointed out that LBC is "conservative", i.e. no gay groups are on campus nor is drinking alcoholic beverages allowed on campus. But, he says, there are plenty of prayer rooms!

November 27

Once again Rev. Falwell appealed for contributions to Liberty Baptist College's 15,000 Club. He then introduced Rev. B.R. Lakin, an elderly gentleman who Falwell described as the "prince of preachers." Rev. Lakin and Falwell have a deep and long-standing friendship; Falwell called Lakin his mentor and spiritual teacher. Lakin spoke for an hour about the importance of religion in everyday life.

December 4

Falwell and  
his opponents

This program began with a filmed sequence of protestors at various Falwell rallies. Shown are disheveled and "hippie"-like people who picket Falwell's speeches and describe him as a neo-fascist and Nazi. The film also shows Falwell's speech at Harvard (where he was heckled) and numerous other individuals and groups protesting Falwell's public appearances. Some are shown throwing pies or ripping up Bibles! Falwell then appears in his radio studio, located in the basement at his home. He reacts to these

OTGH  
Survival Fund

2067  
anti-Falwell demonstrations by saying that he doesn't mind confrontation. "I haven't been silenced yet!" he says. Ever mindful of physical danger, Falwell refuses to stop his crusade. In fact, the assaults have intensified. He then shows the Hustler magazine ad and says that after reading it, he decided to accelerate his efforts to stop the pornographers and "lift the Biblical standard of morality and decency." Accordingly, Falwell set up the Old Time Gospel Hour Survival Fund. Heretofore, he had to cut 35 television stations and lay off 200 employees due to financial problems, but "God used the ad to stir me to action," he added. Falwell said he refuses to drop another television station or lay off another worker. His goal: to pay off all outstanding debts by the end of 1983.

PFAW and  
Norman Lear  
attacks

Falwell continued his discussion of who his opponents are. He then launched into this criticism of PFAW and Norman Lear.

"Not only are we finding attacks from the pornographers [Larry Flynt], but here's a handful of letters written by People For The American Way. [Shows letters with PFAW letterhead prominently displayed]. Norman Lear started this organization several years ago. He started it, he said, to oppose Jerry Falwell and these gospel preachers he thinks are fascists and extremists who are trying to violate the First Amendment rights of other people. Here's a letter written to one of my stations in which he says to the station owner--and the station owner sent it to me-- 'As you know, your station is required by the Fairness Doctrine to contribute to this debate,' speaking of issues I had raised on the air. This issue he's directing at me is on the arms race...."

Falwell then read another sentence from our media challenge letter on the nuclear freeze and continued:

Wants Norman  
Lear to appear  
on OTGH

"In other letters he deals with something else. All of them signed by Anthony Podesta; he's the lieutenant who is the executive director for Mr. Norman Lear. I believe in the Fairness Doctrine and I want to say to Norman Lear right now and every station manager can write this down--this is the gospel: If Norman Lear wants equal time for what I'm saying, I will give it to him on the platform of the Thomas Road Baptist Church next Sunday or any other Sunday, and give him, to the second, the amount of time that I'm devoting to PFAW and him. In other words, I'll give him equal time. They can't send some flunky or some representative. Norman Lear must come personally. I'm addressing this personally. Norman Lear must come. I've tried to get him on the Donahue program and other talk shows to debate these issues. He won't come. But Norman, I want to tell you I'm fair. You can come to my platform; I won't interrupt you and you can answer

everything I'm saying right now. What am I saying right now? I'm saying that PFAW is harassing the station on which "The Old Time Gospel Hour" is aired. What is their purpose? Well I can only give you my opinion. Their purpose is not just to get free air time but to so harass these stations that they'll cut Jerry Falwell off the air. That's my opinion and I'm entitled to my opinion. <sup>I believe</sup> That's what he's up to...They even made television spots requesting stations to run <sup>those</sup> spots which are subtle attacks on Jerry Falwell, as I see it."

Falwell believes that, with pressure from PFAW, television stations, owed money by the OTGH, might be tempted to take the program off the air. We don't want to throw in the towel," Falwell added.

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Spiritual  
re-birth near

Falwell believes that America is about to have a spiritual re-birth. His "enemies" (i.e. PFAW, ACLU, Larry Flynt, atheists) know this and have stepped up their attacks on him. Falwell displayed two newspaper cartoons and a Mike Royko article that were critical of him. He stated:

"These attacks, it's anti-Falwell, it's anti-Christian, anti-God."

Who will win this battle? Falwell said this battle is not between himself and Norman Lear or Hustler or the ACLU, "...The battle is on the spiritual plane." He ended by asking: "Will you stand up and be counted to help turn America around?"

December 11

Religious  
liberty in  
jeopardy

Continuing his Survival Fund appeal, Falwell's theme for today's program is the death of religious freedom in America. Appearing in his radio studio, he comments that the padlocking of Nebraska's Faith Baptist Church (because it is not licensed by the state as a teaching facility) is evidence of "the secular power of the state silencing God." In answer to the question, "What's happened to religious liberty in the United States?" Falwell says:

"Unbelievably our country is being secularized by this anti-Christian direction on the part of many of those who've gone to court to throw God out of public life in the United States of America."

He said that, after President Reagan proclaimed 1983 as the Year of the Bible, the ACLU filed a lawsuit. Falwell asked whether the ACLU would object to the Hustler ad? Falwell

listed examples of the anti-God, end of religious freedom movement. They include:

- \* a Lakeworth, Florida high school principal ripped out a page from the school's yearbook because it pictured a Bible class
- \* a Tennessee high school football coach was told that his team couldn't pray before each game
- \* textbooks in public schools promote anti-Christian attitudes. Example: "The Learning Tree, which is filthy, vulgar and uses blasphemous language is taught but the Bible is not." Falwell proclaimed.

Falwell said repeatedly that America was founded as "one nation under God" and should remain true to that concept. Instead, Falwell lamented that "this country is pushed toward a secular stance."

December 18

The theme of today's program was how religious liberty in America is in serious jeopardy. Falwell opens the show by standing in front of the Supreme Court building:

"There is an anti-Christian movement, a concerted, orchestrated anti-Christian movement to throw manger scenes out of city halls, to get prayer completely out of public life, to expel God from our shores as far as public life is concerned...This is a battle that we must win."

Anti-Christian  
movement rages

Falwell remains outraged at the numerous efforts to make the United States a secular nation and, through the Old Time Gospel Hour ministry, believes that he "can bring this nation back to God."

1828 The scene shifts to an empty Thomas Road Baptist Church. Here Falwell continues his plea for financial help. If the founding fathers knew what was happening today (e.g. no prayer in schools) "they'd turn over in their graves." ~~Falwell continues:~~ "...I believe God has given me a message ...to lead a spiritual revival in America."

Falwell explains that, as the leader of the OTGH he preaches Biblical righteousness and promotes the family as the chief cornerstone of society. Falwell exhorts his listeners to attack "moral cancers" (abortion, pornography, drugs, permissiveness, etc.)

"Is America going down the tube," Falwell asks. "No, not if

Falwell  
needs \$3  
million to  
continue work

the Bible is taught." America, on the threshold of a great awakening can be turned around-- with OTGH as a catalyst for world evangelism! Falwell then shows a brief segment from "America: You're Too Young To Die." Produced two years ago, this film recounts America's history of religious tolerance and religious influence. This film indicates that a slow and imperceptible change is occurring: moral standards are eroding and America is near spiritual death. Drugs, pornography, and gay rights have contributed to the anti-Christian movement that is raging! Falwell appears and repeats his plea: in order for him to turn America around, he needs money! He had to borrow \$3 million to keep the OTGH going. To continue his moral crusade in 1984, he plans on travelling 6,000 miles and speaking on college campuses. Yet, he says, there are those who are trying to silence him. He shows a film clip from his speeches at Yale and Harvard-- with hecklers in hand,-- along with demonstrators at other appearances. These are used to indicate the viciousness of the opposition.

To halt America's decline and stop the anti-Christian forces, Falwell needs money. He ends the program by reciting the list of his opponents (Larry Flynt, secular humanists, et al) and says: "In 1984, the Year of Destiny will either bring a spiritual explosion or a toboggan slide downhill."

December 25

The entire program was devoted to Christmas-- songs, Bible stories, with Falwell stressing the religious and spiritual (rather than commercial) aspects of Christmas.

TO: PFAW Staff

FROM: Marcie

DATE: 27 December, 1983

RE: Falwell attacks PFAW and Norman Lear on "Old Time Gospel Hour," December 4 program.

For the past month, Falwell has spent the majority of his time on "The Old Time Gospel Hour" asking for money. He set up the OTGH Survival Fund and has devoted most of his time raising money for it. In trying to raise money, Falwell has shown how vociferous and dangerous his enemies are. It is in this context that he spoke about PFAW and Norman Lear on December 4.

"Not only are we finding attacks from the pornographers [Larry Flynt], but here's a handful of letters written by People For The American Way. [Shows letters with PFAW letter head prominently displayed]. Norman Lear started this organization several years ago. He started it, he said, to oppose Jerry Falwell and these gospel preachers he thinks are fascists and extremists who are trying to violate the First Amendment rights of other people. Here's a letter written to one of my stations in which he says to the station owner--and the station owner sent it to me-- 'As you know, your station is required by the Fairness Doctrine to contribute to this debate,' speaking of issues I had raised on the air. This issue he's directing at me is on the arms race....[Falwell reads another sentence from our media challenge letter on the nuclear freeze and then says: In other letters he deals with something else. All signed by Anthony Podesta; he's the lieutenant who is the executive director for Mr. Norman Lear. I believe in the Fairness Doctrine and I want to say to Norman Lear right now and every station manager can write this down--this is the gospel: If Norman Lear wants equal time for what I'm saying, I will give it to him on the platform of the Thomas Road Baptist Church next Sunday or any other Sunday, and give him, to the second, the amount of time that I'm devoting to PFAW and him. In other words, I'll give him equal time. They can't send some flunky or some representative. Norman Lear must come personally. I'm addressing this personally. Norman Lear must come. I've tried to get him on the Donahue program and other talk shows to debate these issues. He won't come. But Norman, I want to tell you I'm fair. You can come to my platform; I won't interrupt you and you can answer everything I'm saying right now. What am I saying right now? I'm saying that PFAW is harassing the station on which "The Old Time Gospel Hour" is aired. What is their purpose? Well I can only give you my opinion. Their purpose is not just to get free air time but to so harass these stations that they'll cut Jerry Falwell off the air. That's my opinion and I'm entitled to my opinion. That's what he's up to...They even made television spots requesting stations to run spots which are subtle attacks on Jerry Falwell as I see it. "

Falwell goes on to say that, when the OTGH is 3 to 4 months behind in meeting its payments to the television stations and PFAW writes them about the OTGH, the temptation is very strong to take his program off the air.

FALWELL on THE LEARNING TREE

"... I tell you, our freedoms in the United States, our religious freedoms, are being taken away and there's an anti-Christian effort in a concerted, orchestrated way being made against every expression of Christianity and religion in our society. One graphic example of this anti-Christian philosophy that is permeating our society today would be in the textbook area. For example, in many of our public schools, textbooks are being used today that are very, very anti-Christian in content. For example, here is just one such book. It's called THE LEARNING TREE (Falwell holds up book). I don't know how many schools this book is being used in, but I do know that in the Mead School District near Spokane, Washington, a federal court has already approved the use of this book when it was contested. And throughout this book, filthy, vulgar, blasphemous language. And I'll just lift one out. That one statement I can't really give you all the words. You'll have to look on the screen and fill in the blanks for yourself. But on page 39, half way down, the paragraph begins: 'Cliff wobbled precariously, pushing in the shells. I'm gonna blow the \_\_\_\_\_ off Jesus Christ, the long legged white \_\_\_\_\_. I burned him a little that last shot. I'll get him for sure this time.'

Falwell continues: "And throughout, such anti-Christian, anti-God statements. And yet, this is fine in our public schools but the Bible is not."

from: The Old Time Gospel Hour, December 11, 1983