

Religion and Child Abuse News

An archive of news items related to child abuse or neglect, or infringement of children's rights, in a religious context. Copyrighted materials appearing on this blog are provided under Fair Use provisions to facilitate education and further research into the issues documented in these news reports.

Religious Child Abuse



ABRAHAM SACRIFICING ISAAC

Marge Simpson: "I know God

21 Oct 2008

[Christian Fellowship Pastor charged with molesting 6 young girls](#)

My Central Jersey.com - October 20, 2008

Plainfield pastor accused of abuse getting 'lots of community support,' attorney says in court

by BRANDON LAUSCH | staff writer

would never ask a mother to give up her child for the world...again."

Judith Herman describes the way in which perpetrators seek to control the disclosures and discourses of abuse:

"In order to escape accountability for his crimes, the perpetrator does everything in his power to promote forgetting. Secrecy and silence are the perpetrator's first line of defense. If secrecy fails, the perpetrator attacks the credibility of his victim. If he cannot silence her absolutely, he tries to make sure no-one listens... After every atrocity one can expect to hear the same predictable apologies: it never happened; the victim lies; the victim exaggerates; the victim brought it on herself; and in any case it is time to forget the past and move on."

Religion & Child

ELIZABETH —A well-known figure in Plainfield's religious community who is accused of molesting six young girls is "getting a lot of support from his family, friends and community," the man's attorney said Monday morning.

George C. Benbow, 56, made his first appearance in state Superior Court to answer charges that he molested six girls during an eight-year span while serving as founding pastor of Christian Fellowship Gospel Church.

During a two-minute appearance before Judge Joan Robinson Gross, Benbow's defense attorney, Philip Netti of New Brunswick, waived a reading of the four counts of second-degree sexual assault on a minor and two counts of third-degree endangering the welfare of a child that the pastor is facing.


Gross set a pre-disposition hearing for the morning of Dec. 17 before Judge John S. Triarsi. Benbow and his attorney at that point could avoid sending the case to a grand jury by entering into a plea agreement with prosecutors or potentially enrolling Benbow into a pretrial intervention program offered to first-time offenders, Gross said.

Immediately after the appearance, Netti said Benbow is looking forward to having his case heard and to talking with prosecutors "to make sure justice is done."

"Lots of people get accused of a lot of things, and that's why we rely on the justice system," Netti said.

Abuse News


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16 Jul




Aletha Blayse @alethabe

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16 Jul




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[#ChildrensRights](#) Woman born & abused in Children of God cult describes how she escaped & almost got sucked back in religiouschildabuse.blogspot.ca/

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11 Jul

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When asked if Benbow is preparing to fight the charges or enter a plea, Nettl said he hasn't "gotten to that stage of discussions yet."

"We're going to let it all come out in the justice system," he said.

Benbow is free on bail after posting \$150,000 bond shortly after his arrest in September. Nettl said Benbow was accompanied to court by one of his sons.

Prosecutors have said they launched an investigation of Benbow in July after several city residents contacted police with allegations of abuse by the pastor. The probe revealed that the alleged abuse took place from 2000 to 2008 at "multiple locations on the church grounds," according to authorities.

The incidents involved "inappropriate touching" of the clothed girls, who were either 8 or 9 years old at the time of the alleged abuse, authorities have said.

Benbow, who founded Christian Fellowship Gospel Church in 1981, has also served as head of the Concerned Urban Clergy of Plainfield and Vicinity, a coalition of congregational leaders of multiple religions throughout the Plainfield area.

He married his wife, Anita, in December 1975, and the couple have two sons, according to the church's Web site, which describes one child as a member the Air Force and another as a musician at the Johnston Avenue church.

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Perry Bulwer

Canada

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Posted by Perry Bulwer at 09:08

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About post titles: The original headlines for the articles in this archive appear after the name of the original publisher and date. Those titles often do not contain enough identifying information as they are often written for local audiences and limited by space constraints. I initially just used the original article headline as my title for the post entry. However, after about a year I

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[Notorious Australian cult, The Family, still flourishing despite child abuse](#)

NOTE BY PERRY BULWER - August 16, 2009 The articles in this post refer to a small cult in Australia called The Family. This cult should no...

[Critics call the Fellowship of Friends a cult; members say it's a school of spiritual development](#)

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National Catholic Reporter - June 11, 2011 What's a review board to do? By Joshua J. McElwee Catholics in Kansas City, Mo., le...

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OC Weekly - California August 3, 2010 Is Calvary Chapel Head Chuck Smith Covering for a Child Beater? By Gustavo Arellano One of...

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rabble.ca - Canada February 18, 2011 Confronting the hidden legacy of residential schools by Noreen Mae Ritsema In an attempt t...

[Totalitarian control of Exclusive Brethren members means children have no true intellectual or religious freedom](#)

Banyule and Nillumbik Weekly - Victoria, Australia April 5, 2011 No class for excluded Brethren students BY ALANA SCHETZER...

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[so failing to vaccinate children is criminal](#)

Globe and Mail - Canada June 8, 2011 The return of measles: Where did we go wrong? by André Picard
Welcome to the 1960s. No...

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Chain The Dogma - May 3, 2010
The Cult With No Name by Perry Bulwer
This past February there was a brief report in the Mic...

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