

following January, with residents moving in by mid-2010. As that projected occupancy date arrived, the tower still sat vacant and unrepaired. The York County Council found MorningStar “in default” of their agreement and since that time “the county and MorningStar have been going back and forth in legal battles,” according to a WBTV Channel 3 local television news report.

Fort Mill residents are now hoping that a loophole in a county ordinance will be the key to bringing down the curtain on Joyner’s failed project. The ordinance says that unfit dwellings are unlawful if found in dilapidation or are unsafe to residents of the county. Once this designation is made, and if the owner is unable to repair the property, the county is allowed to demolish it. Residents have filed a petition to this end. This new plan, however, could result in years of legal wrangling.

Joyner is part of a movement of modern-day prophets and apostles and associates with other self-appointed prophets such as Mike Bickle, Paul Cain, and Todd Bentley.

—MKG

HOWARD-BROWNE ACCUSED OF MORMON-BASHING

Some people think politics and religion are two subjects better left unspoken. But when the two are united and expressed, conflict and contempt are sure to ensue.

Pentecostal pastor Rodney Howard-Browne received some negative press when, following a political event for Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich, he expressed to reporters “grave reservations” about rival candidate Mitt Romney and his Mormon faith. “Mormonism is a cult and that’s the problem,” Howard-Browne was reported to have said according to an online article by *The Daily Mail*, a British publication. The article further cited Howard-Browne as saying, “Mormonism, if you study the whole history of it, and I’m not trying to create a problem, but they had death squads that would go around kill[ing] everybody that wasn’t a Mormon.”

Another online article reporting Howard-Browne’s statements prefaced its story by saying, “At least he’s being creative. The latest anti-Mormon comments from a pastor backing one of Mitt Romney’s primary opponents.”

The rally for Gingrich was held on the grounds of Howard-Browne’s The River at Tampa Bay church on Jan. 23.

Howard-Browne’s comments did not create a stir comparable to one created last fall by prominent Baptist minister, Dr. Robert Jeffress. Jeffress, senior pastor of

First Baptist Church of Dallas, stated that Mormonism was a non-Christian cult and that evangelical voters “ought to give preference to a Christian instead of someone who doesn’t embrace historical Christianity.”

Other news outlets have offered a more shrewd response to the negative comments about Mitt Romney and Mormonism. At the same time Howard-Browne’s comments were being reported, *The Salt Lake City Tribune* intoned that “True Christians don’t demonize Mormons.” The article stated, “Mark DeMoss has a message for his fellow evangelicals: You can’t attack and demean Mormons or President Barack Obama and still consider yourself a follower of Jesus Christ.” DeMoss made his remarks during a devotional given at Brigham Young University.

DeMoss heads up a faith-based public-relations firm in Atlanta and has, for the past five years, been an unpaid adviser to Romney’s presidential campaign. He also told the *Tribune* in a telephone interview that he “believes that any question about whether Mormons are Christians is ‘irrelevant to me in the context of choosing a president.’”

In the 1990s, Howard-Browne rose as a major celebrity within Charismatic “signs and wonders” circles promoting the “laughing in the Spirit” phenomenon. He labeled himself a “Holy Ghost bartender” and “laughing evangelist.” As the laughing spectacle ran its course and the novelty waned, Howard-Browne settled into the role as a Tampa pastor.

—MKG

ROBERTS ARRESTED ON DUI, SPEEDING CHARGES

Televangelist Richard Roberts has attracted the attention of the national media, but not for a reason he would like. In January, the former president of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and son of late faith healer Oral Roberts was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding. The arrest report, complete with a mug shot, was picked up not only by Tulsa-area television and newspapers, but also by national outlets including CNN and CBN News.

The arrest report stated that Roberts, 63, was pulled over in his Mercedes-Benz sedan just after midnight on Jan. 24 by an Oklahoma Highway Patrol after the trooper “checked the vehicle’s speed at 93 MPH in a 65 MPH zone.” The report also stated that upon contact with Roberts, the police officer “immediately detected the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about Roberts’ breath and person.”

According to a *Tulsa News* article, “Roberts was unable to complete two field sobriety tests and was taken to the Jenks Police Department to determine his blood-alcohol

level." The test showed Roberts' blood-alcohol level at .11%, which is higher than the .08% legal limit for intoxication in Oklahoma.

A few hours after being booked into a Tulsa jail, Roberts posted \$1,100 bond and was released.

In 2007, Roberts was forced from his position as president of the university founded by his father as the institution experienced ongoing and mounting fiscal deficits along with charges of financial malfeasance against Roberts. Roberts was later voted "president emeritus," a title without board voting privileges.

Roberts' father, Oral, died Dec. 15, 2009, at age 91.

—MKG

MORE REALITY TV FOR HAGGARD

Ted Haggard just seems to have an insatiable appetite to be in the public eye. In January, the disgraced and fallen pastor was featured on ABC's premiere episode of *Celebrity Wife Swap*. But according to news reports of the reality program, the real star was Haggard's wife, Gayle. "She clearly kept things together through turmoil that would tear most families apart. Rarely do reality TV shows humanize people, but 'Celebrity Wife Swap' certainly does that for the Haggard family," according to an article in *The Gazette*, a newspaper in Haggard's hometown of Colorado Springs.

The program is another instance of the sins and failings of Haggard being paraded before the public. "Viewers are treated to a husband who focuses a little too much on his job, kids who would like to spend more one-on-one time with their father, and a strong wife who is the foundation of a clan," *The Gazette* reported.

And, in actuality, it's not really a "wife swap." Also appearing on the broadcast were actor Gary Busey and his fiancée, Steffanie Sampson.

According to the online publication, *The Christian Post*, "The two couples make an interesting religious combination. The Haggards are evangelical Christians who currently lead Saint James Church and the Buseys follow New Age philosophies, including reincarnation. Busey and Sampson believe they are married in spirit and are currently in their 32nd lifetime together."

The Post also cited Haggard as saying that he thought the program would be "insightful for judgmental Christians."

In 2006, Haggard forfeited his roles as pastor of the New Life Church and leader of the National Association of Evangelicals when details of his relationship with a male prostitute and illegal drug use were revealed. Leaving Colorado in humiliation, he returned to the state less than two years later. In 2009 he appeared on another reality program, *Divorce Court*, along with other broadcasts including *Larry King Live*. Then, in 2010, he returned to the pastorate, launching Saint James Church in Colorado Springs.

—MKG

PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- I. THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD: IT IS IN ITS ENTIRETY THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALL MATTERS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE.
- II. THE ONE TRUE GOD. IN THE ONE TRUE GOD THERE EXIST THREE PERSONS, BEING: THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- III. JESUS CHRIST: HIS DEITY, HUMANITY, VIRGIN BIRTH, SINLESSNESS, DEATH AND BODILY RESURRECTION; WHO WILL PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH.
- IV. THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- V. THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF SATAN, HIS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO GOD, AND HIS POWER OVER THE UNREGENERATE.
- VI. THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF ALL MEN WHICH MAKES THEM HOPELESSLY LOST WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH OBTAINABLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- VII. THE FINAL ESTATE OF MAN: FOR THE SAVED, EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND FOR THE UNSAVED, EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.
- VIII. THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED BEING SUMMED IN THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- IX. THE CHURCH BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSISTING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. A LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS UNITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST.
- X. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST BEING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL MEN, BAPTIZING AND DISCIPLINING THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED.