ETHICIAN NEWS NETWORK

Reception 936-295-5767 Fax 936-294-0233 1401 19th Street Huntsville, TX 77340

e-mail: <u>ghr@cyberclone.net</u> internet: www.salvationnetwork.org

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BISHOP CALLS FOR END TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAY FAMILIES

For Immediate Release

Contact: George H. Russell 936-891-5245 or 936-295-5767

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"Gay and lesbian family values and moral standards are often of higher quality than those of many heterosexual families", stated Bishop George Russell, leader of the Universal Ethician Church. "There is absolutely nothing in the teachings of Jesus that leads me to believe that he would have condemned loving monogamous relationships between human beings of the same sex." he continued, in a message to Ethicians worldwide.

Russell calls on all religious leaders to embrace the sanctification and legalization of same-sex marriages. Ethicians believe that discrimination against any person because of their color, ethnic heritage, or sexual orientation is anti-Christian. The Ethician Church is a world-wide ecumenical movement dedicated to spreading the message of Jesus' "Golden Rule", as written in Matthew 7:12. (www.goldenruleministries.org)

In fact, references in the Book of John (John 13:23,25 and 21:20) have led a prominent religious scholar to write a book in which he expresses the theory that Jesus had a gay relationship with one of his followers. The book, "The Man Jesus Loved: Homoerotic Narratives From the New Testament", was the work of Theodore W. Jennings, Jr. of the Chicago Theological Seminary, a school of the United Church of Christ.

"Official recognition of same-sex marriages would help stabilize gay and lesbian relationships just as heterosexual marriages tend to help maintain monogamous unions and family structure. Thus, by helping quell promiscuity and stem the tide of sexually transmitted diseases that are spread between people who tend, as singles, to have multiple sex partners, we will be helping to create a better world in which family values are strengthened."

Russell calls upon President Bush and Pope John Paul to reconsider their recent statements opposing gay marriage. He further believes that the Roman Catholic Church can be saved from decline and even potential self-destruction caused by sex scandals, if both heterosexual and homosexual priests are allowed to marry.

Even the Apostle Paul, who according to Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong, was probably homosexual, stated in his letter to the young pastor, Timothy, "that a bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife." (1 Timothy 3:2) Russell believes that the Roman Catholic Church will be able

to overcome its current negative image should homosexual priests be allowed to "come out of the closet" and marry one another and that heterosexual priests should be allowed to marry and thus be better able to teach moral family values as well.

"The one thing that disturbed Jesus more than any other was the sin of hypocrisy. If only President Bush and Pope John Paul would read and reflect on Jesus' words in Matthew 23, they might come to the realization that we must get real and get honest with both ourselves and with those we lead and call for an end to discrimination against same-sex unions and loving and stable family values", concluded Bishop Russell.

George H. Russell Bishop

George H. Russell, an outspoken opponent of the death penalty, is a resident of Huntsville, Texas, known worldwide as "The City of Death."

He is founder of The Patriot Network, and author of its 35+ web sites located at www.patriotnetwork.org, as well as founder of The Universal Ethician Church, an interfaith ministry with a worldwide following via the church's 275+ web sites located at www.salvationnetwork.org.

Russell, 58, is an educational video producer, environmental activist, historic preservation specialist, photographer, art and antique collector, philanthropist, American patriot and ethician.

Additional biographical information may be found in Who's Who in America, through Internet searches, and in other publications. Images of Mr. Russell suitable for downloading for publication may be found at www.salvationnetwork.org.