

Rally planned to support New Beginnings

BY LEONARD HAYHURST • STAFF WRITER • NOVEMBER 15, 2010

COSHOCTON -- The ongoing friction between New Beginnings Ministries in Warsaw and the Foxhole North in Walhonding has garnered state and national attention.

To drum up even more support and awareness on all levels for the church, the Rally for Righteousness will be 6 p.m. Saturday at Coshocton Christian Tabernacle.

Among the guest speakers will be Pastor JC Church, of Bucyrus, who is helping to organize the event with Phil Burress, president of Citizens for Community Values in Cincinnati.

Burress also will speak during worship services Sunday at New Beginnings.

New Beginnings Pastor Bill Dunfee said he was approached by Church and Burress about conducting the rally and his church did not initiate it. Dunfee does encourage his church members to be as big a part of the rally as they can.

"Basically they're directing as many people as they can possibly direct to the Coshocton County area for encouragement (to church members) as (they) continue to fight the good fight of faith and to lift up the gospel of Jesus Christ to whoever wishes to receive it," Dunfee said. "I do not know for sure what is going to unfold from all this. I just trust that whatever is God's will, God's plan will come out of this."

Burress said he had visited Coshocton and saw what was going on. He said his organization has conducted similar prayer gatherings across the state for 27 years.

As other groups who have come into the area have done, Burress said the idea is to preach God's love to the dancers and be respectful to all involved.

"Both sides are exercising their freedom of speech and we encourage that. Even the guy that operates the place has his rights and we've explained that to (protesters). Both sides have their rights, but still at the same time (people) have their rights to stand out in front and pray for people as customers are going in," Burress said.

Foxhole owner Thomas George said he was unaware of the upcoming rally and did not express an opinion on it. However, he did say he is not the only one in this situation to be receiving religious backing.

"I've gotten support from other pastors and what have you. They don't exactly agree with my business, but they do agree that this guy (Dunfee) is an idiot and needs to go away," George said.

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