

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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SWAGGART AND BAKKER NOT THE FIRST

There is absolutely nothing new! People are always the same and that's why we say "History doesn't change". Some say "times change", but that's a total fallacy because times don't change. Rather, space changes, yet the people are always the same. If in studying history we can come to that realization, we have indeed, learned a lot about our past and our present as well.

Let's take for instance, those two televangelists Jimmy Swaggart and Jimmy Bakker and the trouble they got themselves into over their little piccidillos and fraudulent manipulation of money matters. Both have been smeared across the news to their horrified supporters. So what's new? The places, the names and the spaces are different, but there's really nothing new. Here for example, is a piece from right here in Orleans County out of the Holley Standard Dated March 7, 1889. See if this sounds remotely familiar.

A CLERICAL FRAUD

How an Imposter Duped the Carlton Baptist Church

The congregation of the Carlton Baptist Church are much exercised over the discovery that "Rev" Thomas L. Thomas, alias Jones, who has been pastor of that church for some time, is not a clergyman at all but a fraud of the rankest kind. Mr. Jones' conduct in some business matters, led to an investigation on the part of the church, which revealed the crookedness of his past career. His ordination papers were dated Sunday, May 18, 1882, which was discovered by consulting an almanac to have been Thursday. Further investigation revealed that in 1875 he married Miss Elizabeth Perry, of Shamokin, Pa., and by her had three children. This family he abandoned in 1886 and he married Mrs. Bertha Ludich in Phillipsburg, Pa., with whom he now lives. The committee appointed to investigate the matter have corresponded with all the clergymen from whom Jones presented letters of recommendations, all of whom pronounce them forgeries. Several of them claim to know said Jones and state that he is an



Carlton Baptist Church

unmitigated fraud. His former wife wrote the committee that she would gladly appear in this state against her husband whenever needed.

Rev. Henry Hill, of Vincentown, New Jersey arrived in Albion, Saturday to appear against Jones, who claimed one of his best and strongest recommendations to have been signed by Mr. Hill. Rev. A.C. Osborn, D.D., of Albion and Rev. Mr. Hill procured a warrant for Jones on the charge of forgery and he was arrested. He was taken before a magistrat and held to await the action of the grand jury.

After his arrest Jones sent for Rev. Dr. Osborn and confessed that the charges against him were all true; that his ordination and letters of recommendation were all forged, and that he was not even a member of any church.

The imposition is the more flagrant, as Jones has performed the ceremony of baptism and marriage."

The unfortunate thing about such a scandal as this, it is seen as bringing discredit on the church in general. We must always remember to keep separate, the isolated individual as well as the overpublicized nonsense. Now, as one hundred years ago, .01% of any profession are going to fall into a questionable predicament, 'tis best not to be too judgemental.