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Our Person of the Year

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. —Edmond Burke

Russian Premier Vladimir Putin was *TIME* magazine's Person of the Year for 2007. No one saw it coming. Days later, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee took the "gold" in the GOP presidential caucuses in Iowa. Until late October, he too, was scarcely in the public periphery. But whether or not the ex-preacher gains enough political octane to capture the White House, we have in mind our pick for Person of the Year.

Though laughable, pundits think The leader of the poorly educated and easily commanded evangelicals has spoken—causing church bells in key primary states to peal for "Mike the Baptist." Problem is, no one at the moment can identify The leader.

It can't be Rev. Jerry Falwell or Dr. D. James Kennedy. They were summoned home last year to a better place. And Dr. Graham? Billy doesn't do politics. Nor is it Paul Weyrich (Eastern Orthodox), CEO of the *Free Congress Foundation* and co-founder of the *Moral Majority* and the *Heritage Foundation*. He has strongly endorsed former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as has Jay Sekulow, a Jewish born-again Christian who heads the Virginia-based *American Center for Law and Justice*.

Is it the Rev. Pat Robertson who marshaled evangelicals into the Huckabee camp meetings in Iowa at the last minute? Nay again. Robertson recently stunned observers with his personal endorsement of Rudy Giuliani, a supporter of gay marriage, abortion, and gun bans. Enlistments are likely lagging in the Robertson wing of the evangelical politicos.

Then there is Dr. James Dobson. Admirers know clearly who the good doctor opposes; namely Giuliani, Sen. John McCain, and Sen. Fred Thompson, but not exactly who he supports. Except for threats to bolt the Republican Party if any of the aforementioned becomes its nominee, Dobson has yet to extend his personal scepter to any candidate.

Who, then, has the ear of millions of evangelical voters? Apparently, that's what the editor of the late great *New York Times* wants to know!

Until recently, Mike Huckabee was a second-tier candidate many talked about but knew in their hearts lacked the funds and name recognition to be competitive. National polls gave him a three percent slice of the vote. Enter our nominee for Person of the Year.

This person wrote an autobiography, "Against All Odds," telling how he overcame a difficult childhood and achieved success, thanks to his Christian faith. For 29 years he has been actively involved with the *Make A Wish Foundation*, and his eight-minute commercial for *United Way* has brought in over \$2 billion in contributions. He is also a Veterans Administration spokesman, regularly visiting V.A. hospitals and ageing military vets. ¹

This person also has a heart for high-risk, gang-oriented youth. His martial arts program

has been so successful in instilling discipline and respect in his students that it has been introduced in some 30 public schools in his home state of Texas, with more than 4,200 young boys and girls actively participating.

This person is also on the board of directors of the National Council on Bible Curriculum In Public Schools and has launched a popular television public service announcement that encourages citizens to bring the Bible back to America's public schools. Nationwide, 370 school districts have approved The Bible in History and Literature for use in over 1,350 schools in 37 states. More than 93 percent of school boards asked to consider the curriculum have voted to implement it.

This person is not "Walker: Texas Ranger," his movie character until the long-running series ended in 2001. He is much bigger in real life. Chuck Norris is a six-time undefeated World Professional Middle Weight Karate Champion and the first ever in the Western Hemisphere to be awarded an eighth-degree Black Belt Grand Master recognition in the Tae Kwon Do system—a first in what is said to be a 4,500 year-old tradition.

But, not unlike "Walker," Norris doesn't care about the odds. He says, "As for me and my house, we will vote for Mike." Did Chuck jump-start the Huckabee campaign? A lot of folks think so.

Zeta Interactive reports that when Norris endorsed Huckabee in a *WorldNetDaily.com* column, Internet posts on Huckabee spiked 66 percent. Within a day or two, the time it took for the Norris column to make the rounds of the blog sites, Huckabee's support broke into the double digits. The next huge surge came with the release of a Norris TV ad with Huckabee talking about his solution to enforcement of U.S. border laws. In the ad, Huckabee says: "Two words. Chuck Norris."

Fun aside, this is not about political preferences or even the inevitable thumbs up or down as voters evaluate Mike Huckabee. More will be known on that score later today as polls close in South Carolina. Rather it is about courage. "Walker" doesn't wring his hands when things seem impossible. He acts on his convictions. So does Chuck Norris.

Long ago, Moses met with leaders to relay the method of atonement for Israel's defilement of the marriage bed. The Lord's people were unwittingly "joining" themselves to Baal, the god of Peor, through their harlotry with the women of Moab, and were under a curse. But even as they were discussing the matter, a young man from a prominent family brought a Midianite woman to his tent—in plain sight of the whole congregation. Without hesitation, Phinehas grabbed a javelin and took off after the pair—thrusting it through them both.

Phinehas didn't wait to see what others would do. Evidently, his zeal in light of the apathy of others around him was so refreshing, it pleased the Lord to spare Israel from further wrath. A psalmist later wrote: *...But Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was checked. This was credited to him as righteousness for endless generations to come. (Ps 106:30, 31)*

Chuck Norris seems a lot like Phinehas—both believe God's people are appointed to push back the darkness, not ride out the storm. Jesus said *...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth* (Mt 28:18). This motivates Chuck to raise money for terminally ill children, visit ageing and disabled vets, invest in troubled teens, bring the Bible back to public schools, and even make his voice heard in politics.

That is why Chuck Norris is our Person of the Year.

Rick Forcier

¹ Bob Unruh, Romney ad has Chuck Norris kicking Huckabee, *WorldNetDaily.com*, 1/3/2008