

✧ ✧ **Upcoming AOF Events** ✧ ✧

➤ **Free Movie Nights**

Friday, April 5 & April 19, 2019, 7pm – 10pm

Twice a month, [Reason Center](#) (RC) and AOF join hands to host a **Free Movie Night** under an excellent [MPLC License](#). We can't name the movies, but we can hint.

The **April 5th movie**, released in 1972, part documentary, part expose, follows a one-time child evangelist on the "church tent" Revivalist circuit, highlighting the showmanship and marketing of stage evangelism as a prelude to televangelism. On **April 19th** it's a "1997 comedy about a naive young Mormon recruited to act in porn movies, with a touch of science fiction." With Ron Jeremy. A comedy. Wow. How can you miss it?

If you can't guess the movie names, just contact Reason Center (see below). They'll tell you, then you can tell anyone.

Movie Night is an informal, picnic-style family evening. The venue has a huge silver screen and dynamic sound system. Chairs are available but not the most comfortable, so it's OK to bring blankets, pillows, lawn chairs and your own snacks & beverage, non-alcoholic please. RC often provides fluffy, buttery theatre popcorn. Children are welcome if they're cool children -- and if you judge the movie appropriate for them. (On April 19th ... maybe not.)

This is especially for Reason Center members, but non-members are welcome too. RC *may* beg a small donation to cover costs. How can you become a member? Sign up at <http://reasoncenter.com/donate/>. Membership, a measly \$5 a month (or \$7 for your whole family) is tax deductible if you itemize, and the perks (like this one) will revive you. *chuckle*

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

Contact: Reason Center, 916-426-6416, or email <reasoncenter (at) gmail (dot) com>.

Free Movie Nights occur twice each month. Suggest your own fave film for the next one!



➤ **Freethought Dinner Social**

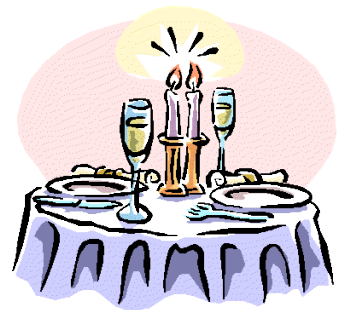
Saturday, April 13, 2019, 5pm – 7 pm

The "Social" is a casual dine-out for friends and members of the local community of reason, in fact for any who wish to participate. Join hungry free-thinking friends at **Evan's Kitchen & Catering** in East Sacramento for fine food, good drink and sparkling conversation. (But please tell the contact person, see below, because she must make reservations!) For the menu, see <https://chefevan.com/menu>.

Location: Evan's Kitchen & Catering, 855 57th Street, Sac., ph. 916-452-3896. For a map to there, see <https://goo.gl/maps/pSXoPCeYMaD2>.

Contact: 916-457-9123, or email: "thelynnster55 (at) comcast (dot) net".

Notes from the activity host: Just walk in and join the group! Some may be a bit sensitive to colognes and perfumes, so except for personal pheromones, please be chemical free.



➤ **Religion, Nonbelief, Depression, and Anxiety**

Sunday, April 28, 2019, 2pm – 4pm

Our excellent key speaker is Psychiatrist [Michael Caton](#). Michael will explore an intriguing aspect of nonbelief from a clinician's point of view.

Many religious believers argue that nonbelief is *depressing*. Maybe so, for some at least. In general, are folk of faith or nonfaith at greater risk of depression and anxiety? If a difference exists, what are likely reasons? Most importantly, if you're depressed or anxious, whatever the cause, what can you do about it?

Experiences of atheists in the U.S. vary widely, from those brought up non-religious, to those who "fell away" with minimal impact, to those actively shunned or even threatened. Michael Caton MD, an area psychiatrist, will summarize what we know so far about mood disturbances among secularists, and talk about what you can do if you find yourself feeling guilty, worried or down all the time.

Mike grew up outside Philadelphia. After a career in the Bay Area biotech industry doing drug development, Mike went to medical school at UC San Diego and did his residency in psychiatry here at UC Davis. His research interest is delusions and neuroimaging and he sees patients at an inpatient psychiatric hospital here in Sacramento. In addition to psychiatry,



Mike enjoys trail running, blogging, linguistics and travel, and has a wife and a one-year-old daughter who keep him honest.

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

Contact: See <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Notes: Doors open at 1 p.m. Presentation starts at 2pm. Meeting ends at 4pm. Stay longer and we'll put you to work. Or if we all go to dinner, come along, but you must pay your own tab! (*That's depressing.*)

➤ Davis Community Meal – Feed the Hungry

Tuesday, April 30, 4pm – 7pm

Help feed the hungry! In nearby, bucolic Davis city, compassionate citizens have a secular solution for the problem of hunger, and are calling for help. Join local freethinkers in an ongoing effort to feed the poor, the indigent, the outcast. Your reward will be an opportunity to meet new minds and hobnob with your freethought friends, a likely free meal, jazzy music, and the warm hearts-glow of benevolence. Also, seriously, it's a blast!

No cooking required. The Community Meals team performs all food prep and kitchen work. Our job is just to set up chairs & tables, serve, then put things away and clean a bit (with minor mopping).

Extra points if you can arrive for setup, but if you can't, that is OK, any help is good. Setup begins about 4:30 p.m., food service at about 5:45. Clean up is at 6:30. For details, please see [Davis Community Meals](#).

Location: St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis, CA. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/J9dM1G8qAwM2>.

Contact: See [Contact Page](#), or call Service Coordinator (Don, 916-447-2169).

Carpooling may be available. For info, please contact the Service Project Coordinator.



✧ ✧ Other Upcoming Events ✧ ✧

➤ Compassionate Humanists

Sunday, April 7, 2019, 10am – 12pm

A group for those that value kindness and compassion in their lives, those interested in enhancing their relationships with loved ones, their communities and the larger world. They use material from the following books to guide discussions:

-- *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, by Karen Armstrong

-- *The Moral Arc: How Science and Reason Lead Humanity Toward Truth, Justice, and Freedom*, by Michael Shermer

You need not have read either; the facilitator will present topics by reading excerpts or introducing points to nudge the conversation along. Compassionate Humanist meetups are thought-provoking, uplifting and fun. Join them!

Location: Roseville Labou, 1730 Santa Clara Drive, Roseville. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/UC4975CE19P2>.

Contact: Ph. 916-836-5269, or email info@compassionatehumanists.com.

➤ Debate: Does God Exist? (Mohammed Hijab vs Edward Tabash)

Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 6pm – 9pm

Join us for a free-to-watch, merciless, open debate between two dignified and learned students of logic and reason, one theistic, one non. They will present their arguments, perspectives, and rationales throughout, all while respectfully challenging each other's core beliefs.

Mohammed Hijab is a debater & public speaker who engages in discussions and polemics on a variety of topics including religion, politics and society. He completed a Politics degree and a Masters in History from Queen Mary University. He has taught and instructed courses on humanities and language in many contexts. He has numerous *Ijazahs* (Islamic certifications) in Islamic sciences and has studied in seminaries including the Shinqeeti Institute which employs a traditional Mauritanian style of teaching the Sacred Sciences.

Edward "Eddie" Tabash is a constitutional lawyer in the Los Angeles area. Graduating *magna cum laude* from with a bachelor's degree in political science, then from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, both in 1973. He is the son of an orthodox rabbi from Lithuania and an Auschwitz surviving mother from Hungary. After decades of spiritual reflection and seeking, he concluded that the universe is natural, with no supernatural being or beings, no God or gods, involved in the creation or perpetuation of our existence. He chairs the board of directors of the Center for Inquiry Transnational, a worldwide organization of secular humanists and scientific skeptics. He is also known for his legal work in separation of church and state cases, in which he seeks to preserve the equality before the law of both believers and nonbelievers. He promotes a secular society based in science, reason and inquiry, and is an integral leader to several associations which exist to separate church and state.



Don't miss this opportunity to watch them lock horns on stage in this undoubtedly iconic and intense debate on God's existence. Let's all get woke together and expand our exposure to perspectives on how this universe came to be.

Location: UC Davis Sciences Lecture Hall 123, Davis, CA. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/qzzJLsBuaFw>.

Contact: Davis Muslim Student Association, see <https://www.msaatucd.org/contact>. Or Center For Inquiry, 716-636-4869, email info@centerforinquiry.net.

To RSVP on Facebook: See <https://www.facebook.com/events/1119046888304197/> (nice but not required).

➤ Yet more events ...

Want more? We've got you covered. For more secular & freethought events in the area, see the Sacramento Coalition of Reason general events calendar at <https://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>.

Note: The popular Reason Center Coffee and Community event, suspended for the spring and summer, will resume Nov 3. (However Sacramento Sunday Assembly will continue, see <https://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Sacramento/>.)

Reason Center needs you!

Since 2014, Reason Center has hosted hundreds of events. Its mission is to support an intellectual and social community for freethinkers, contribute to society via education and community service, advance the civic understanding of freethinkers, and uphold a separation of religion and state.

But Reason Center needs *your* support to continue. Please stand up for RC – visit ReasonCenter.org to join or donate. You'll feel good about it.



When you donate blood...

Blood donors save lives! See the Donation Center list at <https://www.vitalant.org/Our-Organization/Locations.aspx>. Then if you donate, please use AOF ID# **4857**. AOF gets no perks for it, but it saves lives and shows we serve the public good. What's more humanistic than donating blood?

Also, please support AOF!

Did you know, you can support AOF without spending a dime? When you shop at Amazon.com, just use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0325762>. Prices & service will be the same, but AOF will receive a small kickback for whatever you purchase. Bookmark it; remember it; use it.



✧ ✧ April's Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ April Fools' Day

Monday, April 1, 2019

April Fools' Day is a celebration of nonsense. Practical jokes and other foolish activities mark the morning hours of April 1st. But by one tradition, all foolish behavior must cease by noon, or roles will be reversed, and the joke will be on you!

Foolery abounds in our culture; April Fools' Day offers to groups, organizations and individuals committed to minimizing the nonsense and gobbledygook in our world, a chance to educate and enlighten the public through fun events and activity. It also gives us an opportunity to commemorate Steve Allen by officially recognizing *Dumbth* as the Book of the Month.



➤ Yuri's Night or Cosmonauts Day

Friday, April 12, 2019

Yuri's Night, also called **Cosmonauts Day**, honors Yuri Gagarin, who was the first human in space on April 12, 1961. Twenty years later, on the same day, the U.S. launched the first space shuttle.

The Soviet Union first celebrated Cosmonauts Day in 1962, on the first anniversary of Gagarin's successful flight into space. It was celebrated annually in the USSR and then Russia. The idea for a worldwide celebration of space and technology sprang into existence at the United Nations' Space Generation Advisory Council Conference in September of 2000. The new, worldwide Yuri's Night was first celebrated on April 12, 2001 and has since become an annual international celebration.



Yuri's Night not only celebrates space and technology, but also freethinking. Once people thought that the other planets travelled around Earth. It took courage as well as intelligence for people to argue against the religiously-ordained view of

the Earth as the center of the universe. Celebrating Yuri's Night not only is about celebrating his historic achievement, but all accomplishments of science that have overturned dogma and advanced our knowledge of our universe.

Yuri's Night has become an international phenomenon since its introduction in 2001. Every year coordinators and participants look to broaden the spectrum of events held. The range of events is as diverse as the people who hold them; even residents of the International Space Station have been known to join in the fun. Whether in someone's living room, a nightclub or a world-class science museum, Cosmonauts Day events all have one thing in common: people who are excited about space exploration, science, freethought, and want to join together to celebrate it. Participating in Cosmonauts Day isn't difficult: if finding an already existing party near is hard, then get your friends together call it a Yuri's Night party. Getting people to think about space, science, and freethought is the focus no matter the venue.

"Circling the earth in my orbital spaceship I marveled at its beauty. People of the world, let us safeguard and enhance this beauty, not destroy it!" -- Yuri Gagarin.

➤ Earth Day

Monday, April 22, 2019

Earth Day is a day to grow and diversify the environmental movement, and to mobilize our resources to promote a healthy, sustainable planet. Earth Day is the only Secular Holiday celebrated simultaneously around the globe by people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities. More than a half billion people participate in Earth Day campaigns every year.

U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day in 1970 to push the environment onto the national agenda. It is an inclusive event, attracting people of all religions and beliefs. Non-religious groups have many reasons to celebrate Earth Day: those who don't believe in heaven or divine intervention realize that this world is all we have and that it is in our hands to protect it. Those who believe that the scientific method is the best way to gain understanding of our world, can also use Earth Day to promote the best available science about environmental issues. Secular groups can use this annual event to network with environmental groups and other organizations.

You can celebrate Earth Day in many ways. Events across the globe are often designed to bring notice of the environment to lawmakers. Events also take place on college and school campuses. Meetings intended for the sole purpose of attracting attention to the cause are the most common; these meetings often employ music, speakers, and other attractions to generate attention.



Book Suggestion: *Religion Delusion* by John Carlshausen

Mr. Carlshausen of Gooseberry Hill, Western Australia, wrote to recommend his self-published book, *Religion Delusion*. The book is available online via Amazon (see <https://www.amazon.com/Religion-Delusion-John-Carlshausen/dp/0648245225/>). Please consider it. Below is John's description.

This Book needed to be written.

A book about the folly of Religion. Folly is described in the Dictionary as being foolish, lack of sense and unwise conduct. This describes Religion perfectly.

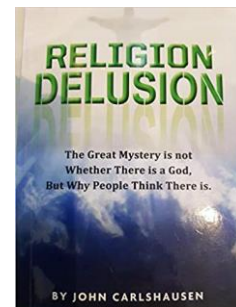
It is foolish to believe there is an invisible friend in the sky called God, who is watching over you and seven billion other people who reside here on Earth.

He is watching over us twenty four hours a day and has been doing this for Centuries.

Anyone who believes this nonsense is being foolish and is definitely lacking common sense.

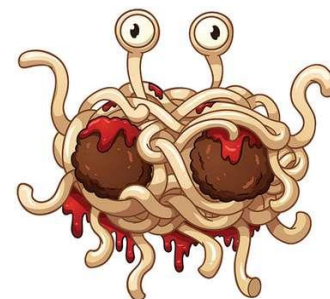
Unwise conduct is killing yourself and other people in the vain hope that you will go to Heaven where 72 virgins will be waiting for you.

Best Wishes, John Carlshausen



Call for a Party Planner – please help us!

Needed now: A capable person to stand in as event captain for the Flying Spaghetti Monster Party. Since 2008 this traditional annual spaghetti-feed has stood as a local secular answer to Easter, poking gentle fun at "ID-style" Creationists who say a cosmic Intelligence simply had to have made this well-tuned world ("Pastifarians" say yes, certainly, the Flying Spaghetti Monster did it in his noodly, high-carb wisdom). Alas, *this* year no party host has yet stepped forward. We have a site (Reason Center), a likely date (April 21), and a team to help! Your cost: not a dime (it's a *potluck* and donations always pay for the hall), just time and a bit of organizational effort. And it is always a blast! Can you help? If so, please contact AOF now. See the "How to Contact" info below.



Did Jesus Predict the Resurrection?

By Franz Kiekeben (1/30/2019, distilled for space), from <http://www.debunking-christianity.com/2019/01/did-jesus-predict-resurrection.html>

In Christian lore, the Resurrection occurred in accordance with what Jesus taught about himself and his mission. For example, in Matthew 16:21, Jesus told the disciples he must go to Jerusalem to be killed “and on the third day be raised” (see also Matt 12:40, 20:18-19; Mark 8:31-32, 10:32-34; Luke 9:22, 18:31-33). Jesus taught this “plainly,” “openly”—the word in Mark is *parrēsia*, meaning “unambiguously”. And in Matt 27:63-64, the priests warn Pilate of it, and suggest placing guards at the tomb lest someone steal the body to make it look true.

In short, Jesus’s followers expected a resurrection, and his enemies knew they expected one.

But if so, what would have been the result? Clearly, people would be at the tomb to see what would happen. Even the disciples would most likely have sneaked out of hiding for a chance to see the wondrous event — the most important of their lives — especially if they could have blended into the crowd. And Mary and the other women who came tardily to the tomb (only to anoint the body) would surely have been there earlier.

But according to the scriptures, *no one* went to see if Jesus would come out as predicted. Not a single person bothered to do so!

Why? And then when the tomb was empty, they were all in disbelief -- *why*? Could it be that the stories of Jesus predicting his resurrection evolved later? Could it be that some of this stuff isn’t history?

Shockingly, the answer appears to be yes.

Franz Kiekeben is a former lecturer in philosophy and the author of two books on atheism, [*The Truth about God*](#), and [*Atheism: Q & A*](#). He has also written for *Skeptic Magazine* and published academic articles on determinism and on time travel.



Not yet an AOF member? Please join us!

Atheists and Other Freethinkers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association, FEIN 68-0325762, incorporated in 1993. Meetings are free and open to the public. AOF also hosts civic service projects, dinners, movies and parties! See what awaits you at www.aofonline.org.

AOF President & Editor: Fantastic Fran Evanisko
Vice-president: Marvelous Mynga Futrell
Secretary: Capable Christine Tweet
Treasurer & Registrar: Kinetic Ken Nahigian
Webmistress: Palpable Pat Kelley
Directors at large:

Dave Flanders, Roger Zabkie, Pamella Rivers,
Linda Ostrofsky (Jetta), Kaeleigh Pontif

How to Contact AOF:

- Call 916-304-3796 (voicemail)
 - Or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182
- Or visit <http://www.aofonline.org/contact> to e-message us

How to Join AOF:

Visit <http://www.aofonline.org/join>, or come to a meeting. We have forms.

AOF's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Atheists-and-Other-Freethinkers/533365556831322>

AOF Mission Statement:

“The purpose of Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF) is to promote the civic understanding of atheism and the acceptance of atheists in our community. Through educational programs, projects, and publications, AOF will extend secular perspectives, including the separation of religion and government and the right to think and speak freely on these perspectives.”

What is a Freethinker? One striving to form opinions of life, religion, politics and philosophy on the grounds of reason and experience, rather than tradition, authority or custom. He or she need not be an atheist, though in a religious society most atheists do tend to be freethinkers.

AOF supports a benign separation of Church and State as the best means to protect the liberty and intellectual commerce of citizens. “... to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries” (James Madison, 1803).

Our vision: to be a venue where secular and unchurched citizens can socialize, dialog, develop friendships and enjoy shared company. AOF does not discriminate on such grounds as race, sexual orientation, age, gender, class, physical debility or (*cough*) religion. We welcome the fair-minded of all political persuasions and preferences. Be respectful, and you may join.

Donations to AOF are tax deductible, and the newsletter is free by email. Please share with sympathetic friends.

Letters, submissions? Wow, we love them! See:

<http://www.aofonline.org/read/submission-guide.html>.

Other Groups of Interest

Reason Center, a freethought venue and safehouse for all.
1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento; ph. 916-426-6416
Email reasoncenter@gmail.com; <https://reasoncenter.org/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/reasoncenter/>

United Coalition of Reason Sacramento (SacCoR)

A group of all the groups.
Ph. 916-572-7020 or email sacramentocor@gmail.com
<http://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/sacramento-area/>

Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area
Meets 3rd Sunday most months at Reason Center.
POB 216223, Sacramento, 95821-8223; ph. 916-514-9974
<http://hagsa.org/>; email president@hagsa.org

Sunday Assembly Sacramento

Church alternative, each 2nd Sunday at Reason Center.
<http://sacramento.sundayassembly.com/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/SundayAssemblySacramento> or
<https://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Sacramento/>
Email david@LodiUnited.org

Compassionate Humanists

Meets 1st Sunday each month in Roseville.
PO Box 769, Newcastle, 95658; ph. 916-836-5269
<https://compassionatehumanists.com/discussion-groups/roseville/> or <https://www.meetup.com/Compassionate-Humanists/>; email info@compassionatehumanists.com

Think Atheist of Sacramento

A social network and discussion group.
<http://www.thinkatheist.com/group/sacramentocalifatheists>

Americans United chapter in Sacramento (AU-Sac)

Church/State Separation and issue advocacy.
P.O Box 163418, Sacramento CA 95816; ph 916-684-4730
<http://www.au-sac.org/>; email president@au-sac.org

Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics (CVAAS)

438 E. Shaw Ave #221, Fresno, 93710, ph. 559-335-3228
<http://www.cvaas.org/> or <https://www.meetup.com/Fresno-cvaas/events/>; email info@cvaas.org

Sacto Atheist-Agnostic Gatherings & Events (SAAGE) †

Online social group (Yahoo ID required).
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SAAGE/info> or
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SEINE/info>

First Atheist Church of True Science (FACTS)

PO Box 233345, Sacramento, 95823; ph. 707-739-6837
<http://www.factschurch.com/>; email factschurch@gmail.com

Sacramento Area Skeptics (SAS)

Meets monthly for critical thinking, science advocacy, beer!
<https://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sacskeptics/>
Email sacskeptics@gmail.com or sbaker81@comcast.net

Greater Sacramento FFRF Chapter

Church/State watchdog, secular advocacy.
<http://sac.ffrf.org/>; email sacffrf@gmail.com

Sacramento Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers

<https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SacFAN/>

Sacramento Brights Action Meetup

<https://www.meetup.com/Brights-Action-Sacramento/>
Email the-brights@the-brights.net

Black Humanists and Non-Believers of Sacramento

Multiple meetings each month, breakfast parties, outreach!
<https://www.facebook.com/blackhumanistsofsacramento> or
<https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/>
Email BlackHumanistsNonBelievers@gmail.com

Sacramento Area Multi-Belief Discussion Meetup

Meets monthly each 2nd Saturday in Roseville.
<https://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Area-Multi-Belief-Discussion-Meetup/members/>

Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF)

Ph. 209-610-0651 or email david@LodiUnited.org
<http://www.stocktonaaf.org/> or
<https://www.meetup.com/StocktonAtheists/>

UC Davis Agnostic & Atheist Student Assoc (AgASA)

Secular student association.
457 MU Bldg, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DavisAgASA/>
Email davis@secularstudents.org or agasadavis@gmail.com

CSUS Secular Student Alliance

Secular student association.
<https://www.facebook.com/SacStateSSA/> or
<https://sacstatessa.wordpress.com/>
Email csus@secularstudents.org

Sacramento City College Freethinkers

Secular student association, meets each Tuesday.
<https://www.facebook.com/SSAatSCC/>
Email SacCityFreethinkers@gmail.com or
secularstudentssaccity@gmail.com

Sierra College Secular Student Alliance

5100 Sierra College Blvd, Rocklin, CA 95677
Email freethinkersofsierra@gmail.com or
sierra@secularstudents.org

Yuba Community College Freethinkers †

2088 N Beale Rd, Marysville, CA 95901
<https://www.facebook.com/ssayc/>
Email yccd@secularstudents.org or tsmith@yccd.edu

Waldorf School Secular Students

3750 Bannister Rd, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Email sacwaldorf@secularstudents.org

Laguna Creek High School Secular Students †

9050 Vicino Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95758
Email lagunacreek.hs@secularstudents.org

† Possibly in abeyance. If you have new info, let us know please!

PRAYERS ANSWERED

