

## Facing Down Vesuvius

By Bill Johnson

Interesting title for the front page of a newsletter isn't it? **Facing Down Vesuvius?** Stay with me as I reveal what the title means. Keep this in mind: It's our human tendency to engage in the superfluous and then to miss out on the urgent. Multitudes have their eyes, their hearts, and souls on the superfluous to their shame and our endangerment.

The Scripture verse below clearly makes that stated point: And, may I say, if you read it carelessly you will miss my warning laden in this message "Facing Down Vesuvius"

*Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*  
Matthew 25:36-51

These are Jesus' words: "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

What does it mean to be ready? Is this only a doctrinal/theological statement regarding salvation? Or might it be, too, that there is something we are also called to do something about?

Some of you - like me - are increasingly concerned about the lethargy of some of our



friends and family, and especially our leaders - even our spiritual leaders.

Multitudes are inattentive to President Obama's pursuit of raw power and all that has been unfolding since his very first day in the Presidency. He is, after all, a disciple of Saul Alinsky author of *Rules for Radicals*.

Andrew C. McCarthy, former Federal Prosecutor and decorated with the Justice Department's highest honors, wrote in his book Faithless Execution - Building the Case for Obama's Impeachment: "*The pursuit of raw power* (of which President Obama has made clear he is engaged) *is the gospel in connection with an atheist whose famous book, Rules for Radicals, opens with an ode to Lucifer for winning his own kingdom by rebelling against the establishment.* ...

*If a president is the type of man who couples his hope with audacity, if he is willing to play Alinsky-style hardball despite his oath to uphold the Constitution and faithfully execute the law, there is little that can stand in his way - not if Congress is unwilling to use its constitutional powers. ... In the Obama administration, "rule of law" talking points are just rhetorical camouflage. True law is the moral and ethical consensus of a civil society, reflecting the conscience of a free and virtuous people; ....*

*American constitutional republicanism has been strong enough to survive over two centuries of self-governance, civil war, world*

*war; terrorism, social upheaval, and periodic economic calamity. But can it survive a president that puts himself above the Rule of Law?*

Why are there so many within the Obama administration and within our country either oblivious to and/or complicit in the systematic destruction of constitutional America?

"Facing Down Vesuvius" I take this from Mat Staver's message entitled "Living in the Shade of Vesuvius" from American Decency's summer event. Mat set the stage for his message by telling of a recent trip that he and his wife took to the Mediterranean where they were able to visit the ruins of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the year 79 AD. The people had been utterly caught off guard by the first surge of volcanic eruption and died of thermal shock but not of carbonization, although some were partly carbonized by later and hotter surges. In other words, the bodies of the people were left in a petrified state. You could and still can see them sitting at the tables where they were sitting or standing going about their regular activities. They were caught unsuspecting.

Mat Staver came away from his family getaway to the Mediterranean burdened with the reality that millions upon millions of Americans are living lives oblivious to the multiple endangering threats right before our very eyes.

**"Facing Down Vesuvius" cont. on page 2**



From the desk of Bill Johnson

**“Facing Down Vesuvius”  
continued from page 1**

It was a gripping picture that evoked significant thought and audience response.

Many of us, though, are not oblivious to the soft tyranny that is upon us: ObamaCare, a diminishment of the U.S. military (sequestration), the opening up of our borders and the special treatment being given to illegal immigrants at the expense of our very own citizens who are also in need of employment, the assault upon traditional marriage and the aggressive legitimization of homosexuality, transgenderism, bisexuality.

Though multitudes of us recognize there are many who are clueless as to the assault upon constitutional America, we don't know what that growing assault will mean for us in the future. Or do we? How much imagination does it take?

Mat addressed this by saying that no one knows specifically what it might look like when we as American citizens and Christians - desiring to be living in obedience to our Christian conscience, obeying the Bible rather than “Caesar” – will be commanded by “Caesar” to go against Biblical principles of the sanctity of life and/or Biblical marriage, for example.

What is one to do if and when our government attempts to force us to disregard our God-given right of freedom of religion?

Mat gave a word picture of the citizen revolt against communist Romania in 1989 where the Stalinist Ceausescu regime became increasingly brutal and repressive. Ceausescu maintained controls over speech and the media that were very strict, even by Soviet-bloc standards, and internal dissent was not

tolerated. His secret police was one of the most ubiquitous and brutal secret police forces in the world. Extreme shortages of food, fuel, energy, medicines, and other basic necessities drastically lowered living standards and intensified unrest.

Ceausescu's regime collapsed after he ordered his security forces to fire on anti-government demonstrators in 1989 after leaders of the persecuted Church in Romania took a bold stand against government oppression.

Staver was merely stating that many are recognizing the growing encroachment of our federal government exercising authority that is beyond the scope of the U.S. Constitution that our leaders took an oath to uphold.

As I move toward closing, the oft asked question is “What can one person do?”

HERE IS ONE VERY TANGIBLE AND IMMEDIATE THING YOU AND I CAN DO. [THIS IS STRICTLY TARGETING MICHIGAN PASTORS BUT OTHER STATES WILL BE ADDRESSED AS WELL.]

You've heard of Mat Staver, Donald E. Wildmon, David Barton (Wall Builders), Mike Huckabee, Dennis Prager (nationally syndicated talk show host.

**Encourage your pastor to attend an upcoming Pastor's Briefing with the above leaders (and more listed in the right column). Overnight and meal expenses covered for Monday and Tuesday, August 11 and 12 in Lansing at the Best Western Plus. Wives are also invited to attend with their husbands.**

**In the right column, I have laid out in rough draft - details behind this Pastor's Briefing.**

**Thousands of invitations have already been mailed via hard copy and/or email. Yet only 124 pastors throughout Michigan have registered as of July 23.**

**My prayer is that many of you reading this will not be distracted, but will prayerfully encourage your pastor(s) to attend this timely event for spiritual leaders in Michigan.**

Enclosed in this newsletter is a postcard invitation for you to share with your pastor and encourage his attendance at this important event to help inform, strengthen, and stir the church in Michigan.

Please do all you can to urge your pastor's involvement.

**MICHIGAN RENEWAL PROJECT  
Monday, August 11  
& Tuesday, August 12**

Cordially invites you to participate in its Pastors' Policy Briefing Rediscovering God in America With Special Guests

**Former Governor Mike Huckabee**  
and  
**Dennis Prager,**  
One of America's Most Respected Radio  
Talk Show Hosts

Who will be accompanied by:  
Former Congressman Bob McEwen  
Historian William Federer  
Pastor Laurence White  
Pastor Ken Graves  
Pastor Jason Taylor  
Historian David Barton  
Gail McWilliams  
Dr. Don Wildmon  
Mat Staver  
and other guest speakers

To be held at:  
**The Best Western Plus**  
6820 South Cedar Street  
Lansing, MI 48911  
517-694-8123

Meals and lodging are complimentary and will be provided by the Michigan Renewal Project.

**The registration website:**  
<https://the.maxcelreg.net/MIBriefing>

If you have any questions, or to register by phone, please call: (800) 921-1928.

# The Body of Christ is in Pain

by Chris Johnson



Sometimes when I find a Psalm I'm honestly shocked at the tone with which the author addresses God Himself.

Take this example from Psalm 44, for example:

***11 You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations.***

***12 You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them...***

***17 All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant.***

***18 Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way;***

***19 yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death.***

How does the Psalmist dare to speak to God like that? Does he really think that Israel has lived up to God's law? How does he dare to question the Justice of God? "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?*"

Yet, God included this heart cry - which almost seems to smack of disrespect - in His Word to us, verifying that we do have the right to express our deepest, ugliest doubts to Him.

Still this Psalm doesn't quite fit our situation. We aren't being slaughtered or scattered here in the United States and so this passage just doesn't mean as much to us as it did to Christians in a different time and place - or at least in a different place.

This is a Psalm that I would imagine is very near to the heart of Iraqi Christians in Mosul - Iraq's second largest city now under control of ISIS, the army of Islamic extremists that has been ravaging Iraq.

According to the Christian Post, "*This past weekend, ISIS gave Christians until noon Saturday to choose between the three options. 'After this date, 'read the ISIS declaration, 'the only thing between us and them is the sword.'* *The New York Times reports that, while a few Christians may remain in hiding after this weekend, Mosul's once diverse Christian community has likely come to a 'real end.'*"

*The \$250 poll tax ISIS imposed, prohibitively expensive for many Christians, sent more than 200 families fleeing Mosul even as ISIS militants confiscated their belongings, including cars, money, medicine, and food. Some journeyed 42 miles to Kurdish Tel Afar on foot, reports the Assyrian International News Agency (AINA), while some of the families went to Kurdish-held Irbil, or Dohuk, which is 87 north of Mosul, reports CNN."*

Other reports have noted that even as the Christians are fleeing Mosul, ISIS terrorists are robbing them of the few possessions they could carry with them.

Atrocities are being committed against our brothers and sisters, and all we can do about it is pray.

That is to say, all we can do about it is to speak to the God who created and sustains the universe. All we can do about it is to bend the ear of He who singlehandedly drowned the greatest army on earth to protect His people in Exodus, or who again dealt with the pinnacle of military might with a sickness when Israel was ruled by Hezekiah. All we can do is to commit our persecuted brethren to the God which Psalm 46 describes,

***"He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.***

***'Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!'***

***The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."***

Here in the safety of the United States, we may find it easy to forget and hard to imagine that people actually suffer for their faith in Christ, but Hebrews 13:3 demands that we, "Remember ... those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."

It is interesting that the author of Hebrews uses that argument to convince us to pray - "since you also are in the body." It is one thing to read horror stories of persecution and shudder at what some far away strangers are going through, but it is another thing to feel the pain of our brothers and sisters in the way that the whole body feels pain when you bash your toe on the door jam.

When pain like that happens, the body's natural response is for the eyes to look at it and the hands to reach for it and the mouth to curse for it; you don't just keep walking and go make yourself a sandwich.

**The body of Christ is in pain; are we doing what we are called to do to comfort it?**

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# Burger King Sells Gay Pride Whopper

by Bill Johnson



## Quoting USA Today:

*Burger King has concocted yet another way to have it your way: a gay pride burger.*

*The Proud Whopper, as it's called, comes wrapped in a rainbow colored wrapper with this inscription: "We are all the same inside." It will be sold through Thursday at one Burger King restaurant on San Francisco's Market Street, that was at the heart of the route for last weekend's 44th annual San Francisco Pride Celebration & Parade.*

*Burger King on Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. EST plans to post a two-minute video about the Proud Whopper on its YouTube channel.*

*"It showcases who we are as a brand," says Fernando Machado, senior vice president of global brand management at Burger King. "It shows how we, as a brand, believe in self-expression." ...*

## My comment:

Several years ago now I remember having a conversation with a high level executive with Burger King thanking him for the reality that they were keeping Burger King away from advertising on some of the godless television programs of the day.

Burger King leadership, then, had Christians in high places. I was told that by a lady who attended the same church as two individuals who had attended her church before moving to Miami to take leadership positions with Burger King.

That was then and this is now. Though that influence was short-lived, I'll never forget the fact that a Christian influence was being felt in Burger King decision-making.

Now you have Fernando Machado, senior vice president of global brand management at Burger King, saying: **"It shows how we, as a brand, believe in self-expression."**

It's perplexing that a corporation doesn't just maintain the common sense position of staying out of the culture wars.

There are still millions of Americans who oppose unnatural, same sex marriage – godless marriage.

This decision is nothing short of foolishness for Burger King to promote a gay pride burger – their most popular selling burger, The Whopper - in a rainbow colored wrapper stating "We are all the same inside." It is a blatant propaganda piece – shoving an agenda.

"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom" may not be on the radar of Fernando Machado, but certainly it is on the radar of many customers who on occasion pick up a BK Broiler, or a Whopper.

One person stated it this way: ***I believe in self-expression as well. Think I've had my last BK meal.***

Increasingly I realize that on these kind of issues, non-believers largely shape the direction a corporation will go.

The influence of the television programs and advertisement messages that they underwrite is significant in its shaping of culture and mores.

Depictions endorsing sinful behaviors and lifestyles can and do foster degradation.

God blesses a people, a nation, whose God is the Lord. He curses those who dishonor Him.

## Further quoting USA Today:

*One gay rights activist says BK is doing the right thing. "Whenever a company comes out in support of gay people, it makes a difference," says Jordan Bach, a consultant to corporations on gay rights issues and a GLAAD media partner. "But when it's done right—when it's done with a campaign that shows the company understands diversity and really believes in the profound acceptance of other people—that sort of marketing can change minds and hearts at the deepest level."*

*For the moment, Burger King has no plans to broaden the promotion, Machado says, but notes, "we may consider something even bigger later on."*

*As for the wrappers, he says, they've already become collectibles. "Customers were folding the wrappers and taking them home with them," he says. Pretty soon, he says, they'll probably show up on eBay.*

**Many will just read this and just say, oh my. We can't just shake our heads. Burger King needs to hear from thousands of us.**

**To let your voice be heard, contact Burger King personally using the information below, or mail the enclosed postcard.**

Burger King  
Daniel Schwartz - CEO  
5505 Blue Lagoon Dr  
Miami FL 33126-2029

Phone #: 305-378-3000

E-Mail: [mediainquiries@whopper.com](mailto:mediainquiries@whopper.com)

# An ENDA to Religious Liberty?

by Lisa Van Houten



According to Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Authority, the Hebrew and Greek words for amen appear hundreds of times in the Bible and have several uses. The verb form means to take care, to be faithful, reliable or established, or to believe someone or something. In the Gospels, Jesus often introduces his teaching by saying *amen lego humin* that is, "truly I say to you."

**Amen - affirming something faithful and true.** Contrast that definition with the discordant use of the term at a recent White House signing ceremony.

On July 20 President Obama used his pen (not his phone) to once again usurp the role of Congress, issuing an executive order banning federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in hiring.

As this "law" by decree was signed to the cheers from homosexual activists gathered in the room, someone shouted: "Amen!" to which President Obama responded. "Amen! Amen! We have the amen corner here! Don't get me started preaching."

What our president "preaches" certainly isn't gospel truth. There is no good news in our government affirming a lifestyle that leads to destruction. (Romans 1)

In essence, this edict mandates that all federal contractors and subcontractors -- regardless of their religious convictions -- give special treatment to homosexuals, transgenders, and cross-dressers in the workplace. Such legislation - referred to as ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) - has long been coveted by LGBT activists.

This puts sexual behaviors on the same level of immutable characteristics as race and ethnicity. It also elevates LGBT affiliation over and above the first amendment freedom of religion and the free exercise of those religious beliefs.

Just weeks earlier the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the religious rights of the Green family, the owners of Hobby Lobby, to not provide abortifacients to their employees (required under ObamaCare) due to the family's Christian convictions.

Now with a stroke of his pen, President Obama mandated that an employer doing any type of work with the federal government must leave his religious beliefs at the door. Homosexuality trumps religious liberty.

Yet if this presidential fiat applies only to those doing business with the federal government, how much will it really impact religious freedom? In answer, CBS reported that it "impacts an estimated 28 million workers, or one-fifth of the U.S. workforce." And as Gary Bauer reports, many federal contractors are in fact religious charities and faith-based organizations performing social services and disaster relief work for the government. They will not be able to continue serving as they are now doing unless they compromise their religious beliefs.

And despite pleas from religious leaders, President Obama refused to include an exemption for religious groups. Even the Senate Democrats in their proposal of similar legislation included a religious exemption.

In a letter to President Obama signed by many prominent religious leaders, they wrote in part: "Our identity as individuals is based first and foremost in our faith, and religious beliefs are at the foundation of some of America's greatest charities and service organizations that do incredible good for our nation and for the world. In fact, serving the common good is one of the highest expressions of one's religious liberty outside of worship. The hiring policies of these organizations— Christians, Jewish,

Muslim and others—extend from their religious beliefs and values; the same values that motivate them to serve their neighbors in the first place.

... we still live in a nation with different beliefs about sexuality. We must find a way to respect diversity of opinion on this issue in a way that respects the dignity of all parties to the best of our ability."

Not only will this executive order require the employment of those identifying as LGBT in order to receive federal contracts, but, as Family Research Council points out, it also "gives activists a license to challenge their employers and, expose those contracted employers to threats of costly legal proceedings and the potential of jeopardizing future contracts. The order further burdens contractors by stripping away their right to set dress and grooming standards."

Peter Sprigg, Senior Fellow for Policy Studies at the Family Research Council, points out: "If religious organizations cannot require that their employees conduct themselves in ways consistent with the teachings of their faith – then, essentially, those organizations are unable to operate in accordance with their faith. This level of coercion is nothing less than viewpoint blackmail that bullies into silence every contractor and subcontractor who has moral objections to homosexual behavior."

Yet what is even more concerning is the precedent this sets. As Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, warns: "The problem with this executive order is that it paves the way for the next one – which could withhold the tax-exempt status or broadcast licenses for religious organizations holding biblical beliefs with which the administration disagrees."

What will be the impact as our religious liberty is further stripped away? And even more importantly, what will be our response? As greater discrimination and even persecution comes, may you and I not bow to Nebuchadnezzar, but stand for what is faithful and true. Do I hear an Amen?

# Porn creates demand for sex trafficking

by Patrick A. Trueman



Opposition to sex trafficking is almost universal. People don't think anyone should be forced into sexual acts for another's gratification. Yet, this form of slavery is widespread, even in Western nations.

But many also say they believe pornography production and distribution is a "victimless crime." They don't connect the dots that lead from pornography directly to sex trafficking.

Pornography is a powerful stimulant that can actually alter brain patterns, creating addiction. It is produced mainly for men, and it begins shaping their sexual road maps as early as pre-adolescence.

Our sexualized culture, with its constant sexual portrayal of women, affects not only boys and men but girls and women, too. Mass-marketing advertising campaigns directed at young girls seem to dictate that they must dress and act like prostitutes to be valued.

In 2007, an American Psychological Association task force found that girls increasingly view themselves as objects in a process called "sexual self-objectification." One result is today's epidemic of "sexting," teens sending pornographic photos of themselves or others via cell phones.

Pornography thrives in this sex-charged culture, leading to a pandemic of harm. A recent study of top-selling porn videos in America by Dr. Ana J. Bridges revealed that 88 percent of the scenes contained either physical or verbal violence. Males

are viewing near nonstop depictions of predatory men acting as sexual psychopaths attacking women. These images condition men to view women as objects for their pleasure and desensitize them to the real pain caused by sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking.

Thus, pornography creates the demand for sex trafficking. Court-tested obscenity laws that prohibit distribution of hardcore adult porn are on the books, if only prosecutors would enforce them. Ever since the U.S. Supreme Court's Miller ruling in 1973, the definition of obscenity, which is not protected by the First Amendment, has been clear. In case after case, courts have convicted pornographers that sell obscene material. Yet, despite this success, the U.S. Department of Justice has failed to initiate a new obscenity case in the last six years.

Pornography thrives in an atmosphere of non-enforcement. So, too, does sex trafficking, which is found in every major city in America. Attorney Laura Lederer, a founder of America's anti-trafficking movement, warned, "We should not say that pornography leads to sex trafficking; pornography is sex trafficking."

Scholar Dr. Catherine Mackinon says that consuming pornography is an "experience of bought sex and thus it creates a hunger to continue to purchase and objectify, and act out what is seen." Pornography, she says, is "advertising for trafficking, not just in general but also in the sense that traffickers and pimps use pornographic images of victims as specific advertising for their 'products.'"

We must employ all means to stop that demand. This means curbing pornography distribution by enforcing state and, particularly, federal obscenity laws, including those against the smut explosion on the Internet.

The federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) provides law enforcers with tools to combat trafficking. As defined by the TVPA, trafficking is present in the mainstream porn industry where force, fraud and coercion can be found on the

porn set. That means the TVPA should be used against the porn industry as it should be used against all trafficking.

Sex trafficking does not happen in a vacuum — it is the tragic, criminal product of permissive attitudes toward sexual exploitation. All laws should be employed to target these evils.

[Patrick A. Trueman, former director of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Criminal Division, of the U.S. Justice Department, is president and CEO of Morality in Media, an organization that opposes pornography and sexual trafficking. This article is drawn from a presentation to be given at the Third Annual Human Trafficking Conference at St. Thomas Law School, in Miami.]

**If you or someone you know is struggling with pornography, please seek help from a Christian counselor. Here are a few that we recommend.**



Pure Life Ministries  
14 School St.  
Dry Ridge, KY 41035  
888.PURELIFE - order / information  
859.824.4444 - administrative offices



Mark R. Laaser, PhD  
Faithful and True Ministries, Inc.  
15798 Venture Lane  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
phone: 952-746-3880

*Christian Counseling*

Rob Jackson's Christian Counsel  
888.891.HOPE (4673)

# Worthy of Respect

by Chris Johnson



He had a life once. We don't know much about him, but he probably loved soccer. He probably lived in a tin shack on the side of a steep hill, or maybe a simple little house in town with no modern appliances. There's a good chance he saw his father beat his mother. His father was almost certainly not affectionate to him. If he was fortunate, and his mother was able to get a job as a maid or his father as a janitor or farmhand, his family may have been able to scrape together enough money to pay for his books and uniform and send him to school. If he had younger siblings, it's unlikely that they were able to go as well. He had probably never tasted candy or held a TV remote or bent the limbs of an action figure.

He most likely had a very difficult, but definitely very short, life.

When the 11 year-old boy's body was found, many reacted strongly.

*"Oh well, buzzards gotta eat, worms too."*

*"Too bad. Should have stayed home."*

*"and the problem is???"*

*"I know this sounds heartless but GOOD."*

*"Buzzards gotta eat."*

*"Sounds like a good start to me."*

*"I bet the coyotes and wildlife love dried jerky...."*

You see, 11 year-old Gilberto Francisco Ramos Juarez of Huehuetenango, Chiantla, Guatemala was sent with a smuggler by his parents to enter the United States illegally

and his body was found about a mile from the Mexico/US border.

This country has an illegal-immigration problem. Apparently, it also has an anti-illegal-immigration problem. Not because it's wrong to be against illegal immigration, but because it's evil to wish a miserable death on 11 year-olds.

These comments hit me especially hard, because I've gone on two mission trips to Guatemala and built relationships with little kids like Gilberto. When I think of his little body baking in the sun, "feeding coyotes," I see tough little Govani who played tag with us and Henri who was deaf and would have been his whole life if not for the ministry we worked with, or little Willy who peed on my friend when he picked him up, and couldn't stop smiling about it.

The thing about illegal-immigrants is that they are people. They have stories and experiences and pasts that we can't imagine, but it's awful easy for us comfy American citizens who have never known a day without sugar, let alone without food, to look past that and see a statistic - just another illegal.

Thank God, I know that most conservatives aren't that vile. Thankfully, I know that many conservatives are Christians, and are thus called to love "the least of these," like Gilberto. Who is lesser than someone who is not welcomed by the legal system? When Christ said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me," did he add a caveat - that he was "legal?" The commenter who said, "GOOD," actually had a picture of Jesus as her avatar. As if the Christ who said "let the little children come unto me," would say, "let the little children die on their way to America."

Whatever America's immigration policies may be - and no matter what we wish them to be - at the personal level, the Bible calls us to love these people. Not to fantasize about stacking their carcasses on the White House lawn (as other commenters have suggested).

The immigrants we read about every day

are not just statistics or political talking points. They're people. That is something we cannot afford to forget, because to do so is not only unchristian, but inhumane.

The death and dying of children attempting to cross our borders must be stopped, but so must our borders be made secure. How to do that is the looming question.

May our hearts be filled with gratitude for God's amazing grace shed abroad upon this great country, but may we humble our hearts as never before and focus on giving ourselves to solve this horrendous crisis that has upended - and ended - so many precious lives.

## An update on our sister, Meriam



We rejoice that Meriam Ibrahim, a Sudanese woman who had been sentenced to death for refusing to recant her Christian faith, is free! She was released from prison in June after international outrage, but had been denied permission to leave Sudan. However, Italian and Vatican negotiations secured her release and Ibrahim arrived in Italy (en route to the U.S.) with her husband Daniel Wani, who is a citizen of both the United States and South Sudan, their 2 year-old son, and infant daughter born as her mother was shackled in a Sudanese prison.

Italian Premier Matteo Renzi welcomed Ibrahim calling it "a day of celebration" and Pope Francis, who met with Meriam and her family, thanked her for staying true to her faith despite the threat of death.

**Thank you to all who spoke out, called national and international leaders, and prayed for Meriam's freedom.**

# Responses from our Conference



*We know that all your labor in the Lord are not in vain. Keep up the good work, you are in our prayers.*

*Fantastic --- Thanks to both men and the ADA for stepping up and speak truth to the church!! C.P.*

*I'm thankful for our freedoms we still have in America – God Bless ADA and the speakers. R.B.*

*The speakers were both very informative and understandable. We need more speaking on what is happening in our government and what “we” as Christians can do to stop it. God Bless You! S.G.*

*Thank You all so very much! God Bless You! M.D.*



**Mat Staver**

Liberty University and Liberty Counsel



*As a leader in Christian schools over the past three decades, I've come to understand the value of necessity of inspiring our young people. We need to find ways to do this and challenge them to be God's workmanship. R.H.*

*I wished every preacher could hear these speakers. Thanks much for all you do for Christ. E.D.*

*Excellent! J.M.*

*So eager to learn more! Bought the DVD's. D.F.*

*Keep up the good work. A.N.*

*Thank you for a message of hope despite the great evil that approaches us. We need to find ways to get kids to attend!*

*Very informative – thank you for sharing insight with us. We will be praying for all of you as well as our country. S.Z.*

*Thank you, Bill and staff and everyone else who worked and prayed to make our conference great. G.B.*

*God bless you! May God continue to protect our nation and people. Thank you! B.K.*



**Kamal Saleem**

Koome Ministries



**Steve Ensley**

American Family Online

