# Frontline

American Decency Association

December 2010 Vol. XXV Issue XII

## Is fighting pornography a lost cause? Let God be the judge!



Be careful little eyes what you see. Be careful little eyes what you see for the Father up above is looking down in love so be careful little eyes what you see.



By Bill Johnson

On occasion I like to use a Q&A to get to the essence of some of the things on my heart. This format helps keep a narrow focus and allows me to cover a lot of ground.

**Q:** Isn't it difficult to know how to lead a decency organization today when our society is now so inundated with pornography, obscenity and indecency?

A: Yes. It is very difficult. We have laws on the books regarding obscenity, yet little to no enforcement. We have the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) and they are generally useless when it comes to regulating indecency over the airwaves - even more so under the current administration. This bureaucratic/political five member commission is so politicized and neutralized through outside lobby groups and weak decency standards, there seems little likelihood we will see anything of a positive nature coming out of this commission. Indecency at the checkouts and mall displays like Victoria's Secret and/ or Abercrombie & Fitch and others needs to be regularly monitored. Expressions of concern still do make a difference. Sometimes we see positive change. At other times, we are utterly disgusted.

Pornography on the Internet, of course, is a very concerning subject. It remains largely unregulated. Pornography flows across the Internet. It is an international tragedy and travesty and untold numbers of children and adults are being degraded, addicted, and

even destroyed.

**Q:** What about the church? Is the church fighting well in the battle against pornography?

**A:** Don Wildmon told me years ago: "There will be those few pastors who will warn, exhort and preach the word regarding pornography, but most won't." Sadly, I must say that has been my experience as well.

**Q:** Doesn't it seem as though the fight against pornography, obscenity and indecency is a lost cause in today's 'anything goes' society?

A: Yes it does, and that's the way Satan would like to have it as well. "Pornography: the so-called victimless crime." Satan and his minions would like there to be no one warning, no one opposing, no one calling people to holiness, to "place no wicked thing before their eyes." [Psalm 101:3a] So while the battle may seem lost, we will still stand, for nothing is impossible with God!

**Q:** What if when someone speaks no one is listening?

**A:** If you are alluding to the fact that no one is much listening to our warnings and alerts, I would say I know that it feels like that a lot these days. Yet, I also know that there have been those who have come before us, such as the prophet Jeremiah, who had a similar experience. God told Jeremiah "They won't listen to you, but tell them anyway."

**Q:** Why do you think that keeping oneself free from pornography, obscenity and indecency is so important to any life, but especially to the Christian?

A: God made it clear in His Word that we are to "be Holy for He is Holy." [I Peter 1:15,16] He doesn't call us to be omniscient, or sovereign, or omnipresent, but He calls us to be holy.

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." [Matthew 6:23,24]

**A:** God honors those who obey and removes his blessing from those who don't. Tens of millions of Americans wallow in godless entertainment day after day, week after week, year after year. As they do so, they inch toward a state of reprobation which includes a crippled conscience, a growing inability to discern the difference between right and wrong. Ever wonder how we get judges, doctors, teachers, pastors getting caught in sexual trysts on the Internet or trying to hook up with some young teenager? As individuals wallow in darkness, how great is that darkness; and their discernment and rational thinking are deluded and filled with darkness. Ever wonder how we elect godless politicians? Millions of Americans are living in darkness. They are deluded.

Lost cause? - continued on page 2



From the desk of Bill Johnson

#### Continued from front page --

They don't think rightly, rationally. America is losing moral ground as so many are in the dark in their thinking and decision-making. God removes His blessing from individuals and nations that follow after unrighteousness. It is idolatry.

## **Q:** What form is pornography, obscenity and indecency taking?

A: Together we could come up with quite a list: television shows such as *Desperate Housewives*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *American Dad*, *Glee*, *Family Guy*, *Cleveland Show*, *Two and A Half Men*, *Mike and Molly*, *'Bleep' My Dad Says*, innumerable soap operas and sitcoms; and then there is sexting; the rampant use of pornography on the Internet; various magazines such as Penthouse, Hustler, Playboy, Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition, Cosmopolitan, Glamour, GQ, Seventeen, and the untold number of sexual advertisements, etc., etc.,

## **Q:** Excuse me for being so blunt, but SO WHAT?

A: So many don't get it. And that's what we're up against. Desensitization. Having seen so many images of partial nudity, full nudity, steamy sexual scenes and innuendo and more, there is little to no sense of moral indignation let alone activism and outreach.

It is already mid-November as I write this newsletter, and I haven't heard one complaint about Victoria's Secret advertisements or displays at the mall. Each year expressions of concern become fewer.

Let me try to put it this way. I will always believe that "placing no wicked thing before our eyes" as the psalmist wrote is vital because it is in God's Word, and because I once was a regular user of pornography and

know the negative impact that pornography had upon me. By God's grace, I became a person that honored God's Word and did not look, leer and lust. I know that God has honored that significantly in my life as a husband, father and Christian man. By making right choices. I became a man that was true, single-minded, faithful in my thought life wherever I was and/or whoever I was with. It's about being a Truth seeker, a man who seeks after righteousness. That's what I want to be. There is no room for inconsistency here. I'm not an exception to the rule. We are called to stay true to our Lord and Savior! It can and must be done because God calls us to that - be holy for I am holy!

If your eye is full of light how great is that light. If your eye is full of darkness, how great is that darkness. That's pretty straight forward isn't it?

## **Q:** How does that spill out into our every day life?

**A:** It means starting your day off with a time set aside with the Lord - a time of devotions. For me it means reading from a few devotional books: *The Utmost for His Highest*, by Oswald Chambers; and *The Valley of Vision - Prayers by Puritans*, and reading through the Bible (several chapters a day); followed by at least 15 minutes of prayer.

God desires our affections, our worship! Will we or will we not give it to Him? He has blessed and strengthened my resolve to live for Him as I have done so over these number of years.

#### **Q:** Sounds easy enough. Is it?

**A:** God calls us to be faithful. It is a discipline, but one that has become very much a part of my wife's life and my own. I very, very seldom ever miss out on devotions.

## **Q:** Anything you would like to offer in conclusion?

A: One evidence that God is working in a person's heart and life is whether or not they are sensitive to the presence of God in their every day life-including what they are placing before their eyes, ears and moral sensibilities.

And much could be said about our children and grandchildren. Do we allow them to watch trash, godless entertainment including crass Saturday morning cartoons and programs that use profanity and sexual innuendo to entertain?

Shame on us if we are setting the stage for our children to be desensitized and accepting of godless attitudes, practices and lifestyles that will ultimately lead to their failure in their marriages and their lives.

Is fighting pornography a lost cause?

Bu

Chris Johnson continues his internship in Washington DC - update from the field



"There are two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live." – John Adams

I find that I am learning more in this internship in the way of the second type of education recognized by John Adams.

It is one thing to say, "I am going to Washington, DC to be a reporter," but it is another altogether to say, "I am going to leave my wife, my family, and my friends to live in a basement in Washington DC with a tight budget and a 15 year old car."

I have, in the first half of my time here, had car problems, phone problems and a case of poison ivy. It is also not easy to leave everyone you know and love to live in a stranger's basement. To say the least, it has been interesting.

(Continues on Page 3)

#### An update from Chris in Washington DC (Continued from Page 2)



It has been educational both in the way of living and of learning how to live.

I am not, by nature, the kind of person who enjoys striking up conversations with strangers, yet the job description of a reporter demands that I learn to do just that.

The past few weeks have forced me to learn to make calls, dig up information and do interviews. In short, to do all the things that I have always tried to avoid.

The next few weeks will continue to pull me out of my comfort zone as Congress is back in session and I will be going to the Capitol several times a week to pose tough questions to members of Congress.

Aside from this uncomfortable stretching, I have also had the opportunity to learn more about writing. Writing a news story is a whole different ball game than the opinion pieces I am accustomed to, but it is starting to finally sink in and I realize even now that I am using some of what I have learned in the past few weeks.

In a nutshell, this experience has been very challenging, but it is going well. I am slowly getting accustomed to the way things work here and learning a lot.

I feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to be here, especially over the next few weeks which I believe will be truly historic.

I do covet your prayers and I thank you for them. Please pray that I learn what God is teaching me both in the way of making a living and learning to live.

## A Word About Our Finances as 2010 draws rapidly to its completion

By Bill Johnson

I have had several people recently ask me "How is ADA going to survive in a society that is so messed up?"

Another person wrote: "I am very grateful that God continues to uphold you and Jan in this ministry because at the moment I do not see anyone to fill it."

Another person had written: "You don't need to worry about who is going to take your place because ultimately that's God's business."

Still another has said "With all of the many issues facing America, many don't give much thought to the infestation of pornography, obscenity and indecency in America."

As you read the above statements and queries from others, you may see why my front page story and combined personal note were written. I want you to see that we are not oblivious to the speculations and concerns.

There is a lot that I don't know. I do know this. Many of you do pray for us faithfully and with sincere hearts. That means a lot and gives further explanation as to how and why we sense His power and presence in our lives and ministry. We also know who holds the future!

In 2005, God burdened me with a building for ADA headquarters. With the counsel of a few, it was made clear that the only way to buy it was debt free. God would show His mighty hand if it was His will! God made it happen and we purchased the building debt free in March 2007. God continued to provide with further monies for repair, renovation and volunteer labor. His hand of blessing was an awesome thing to experience.

As the song says, "He hasn't brought us this far to leave us." We are praising God that the match challenge has been met, yet a continuing strong and generous giving is vital to our ongoing ministry.

As God leads, please give as generously as you can as you help us close out this year!



With the financial stresses so many face we have been amazed and grateful at how so many of you stepped up to insure that we would reach the match challenge that was extended to us back in July for the time period between August 1 through December 31 for \$15,000 of new gifts and over and above gifts. It promised to be a challenging challenge!

God showed His hand once again through your sacrificial support! A special thanks again to our anonymous donor and to the many of you that made this happen!

As we came to the close of this challenge, one of our long term supporters gave very generously and then upon discovering that we were only \$896 short of the challenge in late October shared our ministry need with her brother who shortly thereafter gave a gift of \$896 to complete the challenge!

Realize with us that this match challenge represents a boost of \$30,000 we would not have otherwise had to use for ministry.

Oh the mighty hand of God and the vision and generosity of His people! We praise God for His faithfulness and for being involved in His Kingdom work at such a time as this!

American Decency Frontline
Vol. XXV, Issue XII
Published monthly by
American Decency Association
Bill Johnson, President and Founder
E-MAIL: bjohnson@americandecency.org
Lisa VanHouten, Executive Assistant
Kimberly Cargill, Administrative Assistant
Chris Johnson
P.O. Box 202
Fremont MI 49412-0202
Phone: 231-924-4050
Fax: 231-924-1966
www.americandecency.org

## A firestorm of outrage against Amazon

By LisaVanHouten

## Protect Children



Recently the online retailer Amazon.com made news when it was reported that Amazon was selling an e-book advocating pedophilia, "The Pedophile's Guide to Love and Pleasure." As the news spread, so has the outrage - provoking anger and criticism in a firestorm across the Internet. From Twitter to Facebook, there is evidence that righteous indignation is not yet dead in America. Amazon's own site has received thousands of angry responses with comments such as "horrifying," "disgusting," "lost my business" while a Facebook page has been created encouraging a boycott of Amazon as the Christmas shopping season approaches.

Amazon defended their decision to sell this reprehensible book, stating: "Amazon believes it is censorship not to sell certain books simply because we or others believe their message is objectionable. Amazon does not support or promote hatred or criminal acts, however, we do support the right of every individual to make their own purchasing decisions."

Amazon's so-called rationale for selling this book is a joke! However, there is nothing funny about the subject. Amazon believes it's "censorship" not to sell certain books?? Give me a break! Since when is a bookstore required to sell every book available? Even public libraries pick and choose which books they want on their shelves. Perhaps Amazon, a company in the business of selling books, should look up the definition of censorship. Censorship is a government authority limiting access to certain material; it does not apply to a freemarket business choosing which products to offer to their customers and which ones not to sell. Having a "right" to do something doesn't mean it's the right thing to do.

Amazon goes on to hypocritically state they "don't support or promote hatred or criminal acts..." Excuse me, Amazon, but that is exactly what you are doing by offering a book that promotes and encourages the sexual abuse of children!

Amazon has not retracted this statement, however it appears they may be hearing the outrage of consumers as the book is no longer listed on Amazon's web site. No word on if it is officially pulled or if Amazon will be changing their policy.

Frankly, it seems unlikely that Amazon will change its ways as the retailer has a history of selling material that encourages reprehensible, criminal acts — including rape and sexual abuse of children. Amazon has thumbed its nose at critics in the past when it was brought to light that they carried materials from NAMBLA (North American Man Boy Love Association) — an organization promoting sex between adults and children.

Fox News Reports: "... This isn't the first time Amazon has sold material that promotes illegal activity. It is currently accepting pre-orders for the hardcover version of "I Am the Market: How to Smuggle Cocaine by the Ton, in Five Easy Lessons" by Luca Rastello.

"Nor is it the first time Amazon has come under attack for selling objectionable content in its store. In 2002, the United States Justice Foundation, a conservative group, threatened to sue Amazon for selling "Understanding Loved Boys and Boylovers." That title is still available through Amazon. (emphasis added)

"In 2009, Amazon stopped selling "RapeLay," a first-person video game in which the protagonist stalks and then rapes a mother and her daughters, after it was widely condemned in the media and by various interest groups." <a href="http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/11/11/amazon-pulls-pedophile-guide-amid-outrage/">http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/11/11/amazon-pulls-pedophile-guide-amid-outrage/</a>

We at ADA have long held the position that boycotting is a matter of Christian stewardship. Should we use the money God has entrusted to us to support a corporation that so blatantly encourages such offenses to God's law, as well as man's? It certainly seems clear that unless their position changes, Amazon is not worthy of our business.

Take Action! Let Amazon know that you will not support a company that provides and defends material that encourages the abuse of children.

Amazon.com, Inc. Jeffrey Bezos - CEO 1200 12th Ave South Ste. 1200 Seattle WA 98144 Phone: 206-266-1000

Public Relations: 206-266-7180 Email: Amazon-pr@amazon.com

Dear Bill:

It is amazing how fun and finances are of more importance than Christian beliefs in a "Christian's" life. Disney still draws millions to its doors even despite its anti God beliefs; Amazon.com stills draws millions to its site with "bargains on books" even though people who do don't bargain that they contribute to the evil around them. I have seen this over and over even in mv own household. I share the information and then must let it go. However, in seeking solace from this I am directed to other websites to acquire the books I need. Although, I must tell you they are much more expensive than Amazon. If we, as Christians, do not, will not and seemingly cannot stem the flow of evil, and, in fact, help it along due to expediency, then truly we have lost ALL hope to salt our world with the savor of Jesus Christ.

All we can do is to remain faithful to Jesus Christ, count the cost of following Christ and continue to allow Christ access to all of our lives. And, I see that in your continued valiant fight against the evil that pervasively invades in the hallowed halls of the church. We pray and continue to stand against the tide of evil because, Bill, we stand upon the Rock of Christ and shall prevail.

Blessings to you and your family K.H.

### Guard Your Family from "Glee"

by: Lisa Van Houten



Today's youth culture is filled with entertainment choices which encourage promiscuity, telling young people "if you're not 'doing it,' there's something wrong with you." Once not so long ago there was a stigma surrounding those who engaged in sex outside of marriage; now the entertainment industry tries to make kids think that they are freaks if they don't. And while the rates of teen sex have risen dramatically with the ever increasing bombardment of sexualized messages in recent years, not all teens are sexually active. A recent study of New York City youth indicated more than half had not had sexual intercourse.

You sure wouldn't know that from watching television. Rather, the message teens are hearing is that it's not normal to be a virgin. One show we've warned of recently is the hit show *Glee* on the Fox Network. *Glee*, a show about a group of high school students who are part of a glee club, is extremely popular with teens and pre-teens.

We've reported on the sexualized themes of *Glee* in the past. A recent episode of *Glee* was no different. A <u>Washington Post</u> review described the episode this way: "No more adults re-enacting inappropriate scenes from "Rocky Horror" — "Glee" returns to its high school roots Tuesday night by focusing on every teenager's favorite topic: sex! And lots of it. …"

One of the main story lines focused on two of the guys in *Glee*, who are also football players, bemoaning: "How do we find the only two girls in high school that won't put out?" Once again telling viewers that all teens are having sex. The episode continues with this same mantra. With sex the topic of conversation in the glee club, one of the girls, a cheerleader, states: "This

is what happens when people don't put out. If everyone just put out we would have a winning football team."

Here *Glee* sends a message through a girl to other girls (the viewers) that it is their "duty" to have sex with guys. The songs performed on *Glee* also reinforce the message with lyrics such as "Let's go all the way tonight."

And what would be a *Glee* episode without using the main homosexual character to push the gay agenda? This episode shows an explicit homosexual kiss between Kurt, the gay student, and an in-the-closet football player, all the while preaching a message on how homosexuality should be accepted as a normal lifestyle and that those who oppose it are evil and ignorant.

Once again *Glee* proves to be a show that isn't fit for family viewing. Not only is it not fit, it actively undermines the welfare of our youth, encouraging a lifestyle of sexual promiscuity that will damage emotionally, physically, and spiritually and will forever impact their lives. Sometimes blatantly and sometimes covertly, *Glee* weaves throughout each episode lessons in immorality. Parents, as you guide your kids to follow the Lord and His precepts, guard your family from shows such as *Glee*.

The writer of the following letter has asked the question we each should ask ourselves. Does the choice to watch this show, movie, etc. please and glorify God?

I just wanted to thank you for writing the article on "Glee" this past week. I'm a Christian & I've been watching that show since it debuted last year. However, for quite awhile now I've been praying about if I should continue to watch it or not, & I was even wondering recently if you'd be singling out that show for readers to take "action" against. (I considered emailing you to suggest that you tackle that show, but then I rec'd your email re: it!!) After reading your excellent article, I felt confirmation that the Lord was indeed telling me to stop watching (i.e. supporting) it. I then felt led to send out an email to all my friends re: "Glee" (& I included at the bottom your email that

you sent out). I've received only positive responses from friends so far ...

I have a 16-yr old Christian son who also loves "Glee" & we had been watching it together 'til last week. I had a talk w/him re: God dealing w/my heart about viewing the show & told him that I was going to obey God & no longer watch it. My dilemma is that he still wants to watch it, saying that he doesn't agree with it, but still enjoys the show. I tried to explain that by watching it, he's "supporting" it, but he's not convicted about it as I am. ... I just wanted to bring your attention to that side of it, too – that our Christian teens are being sucked into it, & they're not as sensitive to the Holy Spirit yet in their young Christian walks. D.A.

Her email to friends: I don't know about you, but I loved "Glee" in the beginning ... I was hopeful that this new variety/characterdriven series would stand out from the rest & be a safe, clean show for families. However, the producers have increasingly gone over the edge re: homosexuality, sex, suggestive songs/dances, etc. with every new episode, especially in this 2nd season. I wrote to Fox & creator Ryan Murphy & asked them to do something about cleaning up the show, but obviously nothing has been done. I gave it one more chance last week but, again, I was appalled & saddened at the content.

So now I choose to take a stand & obey God by NOT WATCHING THIS SHOW ANYMORE. I hope you'll join me. I have to admit that it was a hard decision because "Glee" really appeals to me, so I kept telling myself, "Well, maybe it won't be so bad next week." ... but God is teaching me more & more that we Christians (at the risk of being labeled "prudes") need to be ever mindful of what we allow to permeate our hearts & minds, & we should especially protect our kids. The media these days seeks to undermine our morals & get us so used to seeing homosexuality, polygamy, profanity & immorality as supposedly "normal" in day-to-day life & families that we become desensitized to it. And - sad to say - it's working...the devil is wearing us down. ...

## Why don't more people get it? by: Bill Johnson

Recently I had the privilege of visiting with a 23 year old young man whom I've watched grow up.

He asked a compelling question that many of us have asked and continue to ask: "Why don't more people get it?"

He was speaking about the fact that there are people of faith that he knows that didn't vote in the recent election and, in some cases, weren't even registered to vote!

I responded that as a 63 year old I have wrestled with that question for a long time. It is, though, so encouraging to see a young man - like my young friend - really get it and show it, too, by the way he lives his life.

On the other hand, it often seems that we are surrounded by loved ones who don't have much interest in having knowledge or being filled with wisdom which can bolster their understanding and decision-making. Would that God would stir their hearts to get into the battle and to find joy in it.

I recognize that neither you nor I can be the Holy Spirit for anyone, but we can give our prayerful best to help them receive light they may not get in any other way.

We received powerful light in recent weeks at our church during the Sunday School hour as we showed David Barton's effective "America's Godly Heritage".

Have you seen it? Do you have a copy of it? I urge you to get a copy of this DVD and to show it and distribute it as far and wide as possible. That's what I'm trying to do! There is powerful information throughout this 95 minute DVD explaining the attack upon America's foundations!

One portion that "hits you like a hammer" is regarding the "separation of church and state."

David Barton, of WallBuilders, states (and thoroughly documents by using original documents) "Clearly neither the word 'separation,' 'church,' nor 'state,' is found in any part of the First Amendment. In

fact, that phrase appears in no governmental founding document. Most recognize the phrase, but few know its source; yet it is important to understand the origins of that phrase and its subsequent coupling with the First Amendment. . . .

"... The Founders understood that America could prosper only under God's blessings and therefore refused to separate His principles from any aspect of public affairs. As Benjamin Franklin confirmed:

'Without His concurring aid ... we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword to future ages.'

"The Founders recognized that for God to bestow His blessings, His principles had to be honored and embraced. As George Washington pointed out: 'The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.'"

"America's Godly Heritage" is a tool that comes along at a very important time in the history of our country. David Barton has been researching our founding documents for years. His voice pierces our sleepiness and lethargy!

Order either the book or the DVD:

DVD: \$15.00 includes shipping and handling

Book: \$6.00 includes shipping and handling

Call us at 888-733-2326

Or return the enclosed response card to:
American Decency Association
P.O. Box 202
Fremont, MI 49412

You can also order online at: https://secure4.afo.net/ada/store2/

#### American Decency Association's summer dinner/conference set for Friday, July 29, 2011



Wallbuilder's Tim Barton is the featured speaker for next summer's dinner/conference in Fremont, Michigan.

## We hope that you will mark your calendar for this important date, Friday, July 29!

If you read our newsletter attentively, you will have noted a recent burden being emphasized: a burden to earnestly and prayerfully pass along a deepened realization that America has been a blessed land not by chance but due to our Godly heritage! It isn't by chance or the brilliance of man or by luck.

We can't stress enough the significance of understanding our founding. If we don't cherish it, we won't defend it and pass it along to our children and grandchildren. We must fight for the truth and protect and defend it by our voting practices, eternal vigilance, and prayer.

Tim Barton is a national speaker for WallBuilders, a pro-family organization that presents America's forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on our religious, moral, and constitutional heritage.

WallBuilders has been nationally recognized for its work in education, history, law, and public policy, integrating the elements of Biblical faith and morality throughout all aspects of American life and culture.

Tim excels in his various presentations on worldview and on the truth of America's Godly heritage. While he engages and challenges the mind, his dynamic messages speak straight to the heart.