

America: the land of the free

*Frank Gaffney, Kamal Saleem & Diet Eman wouldn't be free
to say what they do if freedom of speech no longer existed --*

By Bill Johnson

As we close out another year, I share a few highlights from the past year.

February: We hosted Kamal Saleem at several locations starting with the Crown Plaza in Grand Rapids, MI. Kamal, as you will recall, was a former Islamic terrorist who converted to Christianity.



In addition to scheduling Kamal Saleem in Grand Rapids, we brought him to ADA headquarters in Fremont (packed to overflowing), Holland (Aspen Rose Restaurant), Muskegon (Dalton Baptist Church), Portland (Mt. Hope Church).

Kamal Saleem educated, informed, and stirred hearts regarding the insidious, wicked and destructive nature of Islamism, Shariah, the Muslim Brotherhood and warned regarding the realities of the Muslim Brotherhood (Civilization Jihad).

He also powerfully shared his Christian testimony. Two area Fremont pastors thanked me personally for opening their eyes and the eyes of the community to the threat of Shariah in America.

Multitudes are clueless regarding the serious threat the Muslim Brotherhood and Shariah present to all peoples and nations, including the United States. Numbers had their eyes opened as Kamal spoke warmly and powerfully into hearts and lives.

April and September: We hosted Diet Eman (aged 93) at our headquarters.

190 people of all ages showed up at our 1:00 P.M. matinee. 200 were in attendance for our 7:00 P.M. evening presentation.

Diet, you may remember, was one of the brave ones to rescue Jewish people as she risked her life to find hiding places for over 60 people in the Netherlands.

Diet warmed hearts as she told of the treachery, the deceit, the endangerment, the tyranny, the death camps, being in the same concentration camp with Corrie TenBoom and her sister Betsy. She concluded her powerful and substantive message with Scripture verses that God used to keep her bold and steady during those trying times and also gave loving counsel to the younger ones in the audience.

The lines were long at the book-signing table for her book, *Things We Couldn't Say*.



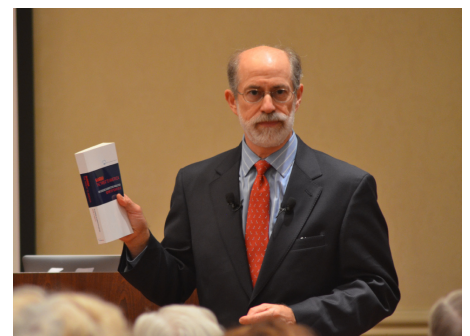
July and October: We hosted Frank Gaffney in Grand Rapids at our summer conference at the Sunshine Community Church and later at the Hilton Hotel.

Frank Gaffney, you may recall, served in the Pentagon during Ronald Reagan's administration and currently heads the Center for Security Policy based in Washington, DC.

One person came up to me after our recent Gaffney event to tell me that his wife had attended our summer conference. She had told her husband that she knew that things were not good but didn't realize how bad things had become. He told me that his wife couldn't sleep for two nights.

Many referred to Gaffney's presentation as "jaw dropping." Perhaps no one is better able to communicate with such breadth of knowledge and communication skills than Frank Gaffney on the issue of Shariah, the Muslim Brotherhood, and how the U.S. government has been compromised by willfully allowing the Ikhwan (Arabic for Muslim Brotherhood) to penetrate the White House, FBI, the CIA, the Pentagon, our military.

[For DVDs of any of these presentations, call us at 1-888-733-2326.]





From the desk of Bill Johnson

Freedom: We must not take it for granted!

Those of you reading this know that we are fast approaching a time when we stand to lose our freedoms. I'm not the only one saying it. And yet there are many who still seem oblivious to the impending societal dangers that are upon us. Here are several things that concern me greatly.

Obamacare is a government entitlement plan that will usher in a higher degree of socialism, government intervention, intrusion and control than any other program ever implemented in America. We are already seeing health care costs rising, employee hours cut back because a business can't afford to pay the insurance costs, increased pressures upon doctors and hospitals, confusion as to where this is all going.

The government assault upon Biblical marriage ushered in by President Obama by his words, his undermining of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" in the military, and his decision and his directive to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder not to uphold and defend the Defense of Marriage Act helped to set precedence for the U.S. Supreme Court to declare same-sex marriage a legal right in the eyes of the government.

The stage has been set for the day when hate crime laws will be increasingly instituted and enforced. How can this not then include pastors being prosecuted for preaching what God's Word says regarding homosexuality? And by the way, it does not portend well for this ministry either, as we continue to speak out.

Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are under attack in the military, on college campuses, in the marketplace, the work-

place, and virtually every sphere of public life. As Christians we are increasingly being pushed into the closet, leaving us the "freedom" of private worship, but not the freedom to publically express our religious beliefs.

Friends: This is just the tip of the iceberg of what is upon us and what is coming. I believe that God raised this ministry up long ago not only for then, but for today and the days ahead. There will always be a need for individuals and ministries that will not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds (by the Word of God and through His Spirit - Romans 12:1,2)

It would sadden me if I thought you see me as a leader whose "head and heart is not in the game." Let me make my point as clear as I can. I AM DEEPLY TROUBLED AT WHAT I SEE UNFOLDING DAY IN AND DAY OUT AND WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO BE SALT AND LIGHT!

Is our message and ministry still relevant, still needed? I believe you would join me in answering, "now more than ever." Here are just a few examples that come to mind from recent days.

* Recently, a friend mentioned that he had just heard our Decency Minute radio broadcast on AFR (American Family Radio). He told me that the message was powerfully expressed and he wanted me to know that it was an encouragement to him.

* Another individual from a crisis pregnancy center thanked our staff for the education, the information and the DVDs that we provided to them that would assist them in the continued training of their board and staff.

* A public school official thanked us for hosting the Pam Stenzel conference and thanked us for our ministry.

* Many times we have individuals tell us we are needed, referring to our ministry as a "voice crying in the wilderness."

* An individual wrote in regard to our shedding light upon the "Muslim Journey" project being brought in to various public

libraries including hers: "Thank you so much for all you do. It is appreciated. God bless you and yours."

* Our daily radio broadcast airing on Sirius XM Family Talk (channel 31) regularly generates responses from listeners across the country seeking information and/or helpful resources on issues and subjects pertaining to our ministry. In the past week we received calls from listeners in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, New York, Illinois, Arizona, Mississippi.

Many of our readers have been faithful to this ministry and have helped us stay in the battle for truth and righteousness. As we head into the year-end, we seek your support to help us continue the fight into 2014.

I'd also ask you to consider joining our small group of faithful, monthly givers who uphold this ministry with their monthly gift. Please see the simple monthly pledge card enclosed and consider standing with us each month with a gift of any amount.

Once I heard a person say that if you are passionate about the ministry work you shouldn't feel ashamed to ask for help. We are passionate about this work, but it is still hard to ask - especially at times like this when many are feeling the financial squeeze.

It is clear that not only has God raised up this ministry years ago, but He has also faithfully empowered and strengthened it day after day and year after year. I am confident you know that we are in ministry to fight the fight of faith boldly and wisely so that He would be glorified.

My wife Jan gave me this from St. Ignatius of Loyola: *Teach us, Good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do Thy will Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.*

Pornography is rampant, but help is available



Pornography is rampant.

The headlines say it all:

“Tennessee Parents Rented Daughters for Porn Video”

“Police Arrest Hundreds in Global Child Porn Sting”

Amazingly, one nation is doing something about it. Great Britain Internet service providers will automatically block access to pornography, except for those who specifically request access to online porn.

As FoxNews reports: ***Husbands who secretly watch Internet porn will have to confess to their wives when new family filters come in, UK Prime Minister David Cameron says.***

From next year people will have to opt in if they want their Internet service provider to allow them access to pornography at home.

Asked by BBC Radio what that would mean for those who may access such content without their partner knowing, Mr. Cameron said they were “going to have to have a discussion” about their surfing habits. ...

Google and Microsoft today bowed to pressure to rewrite their software to block 100,000 search terms used by pedophiles to access illegal material. [foxnews.com]

Indeed, search engine giants Google and Bing will be taking a step in the right direction to block access to some forms of pornography.

As Christian Post reports: *According to Google’s CEO Eric Schmidt, child porn will be more difficult to find because Google has identified more than 100,000 search queries possibly related to porn and made modifications to its search results. The London Daily Mail also reports that Google has a system for tagging child porn videos.*

Microsoft’s Bing search engine is also filtering search queries for child porn.

These announcements were made at the internet safety summit held in London by United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron. ...

AFP reported, “In July, Cameron threatened to introduce legislation to block access to illegal images if search engines failed in a “moral duty” to do so voluntarily.”

Pornography is not victimless. It addicts, degrades, and destroys the lives of men, women, and children. It ruins marriages and relationships.

We often hear from those whose lives have been damaged by either their own pornography use or that of their spouse. Here is one such example:

“Would you have a recommendation of a place where my husband could go to get help for a pornography addiction? ... His problem has gone on for a long time and he has tried on his own to combat it but to no avail. God wants him free and so do I. He is willing to do whatever it takes to be rid of this addiction so he can be the man of God he is called to be....”

If you or someone you know is battling pornography, here are a couple of sources of help we highly recommend.

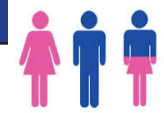
Rob Jackson

www.christiancounsel.com
rob.jackson@ChristianCounsel.com
Phone: 719-440-4893

Pure Life Ministries

888.PURELIFE - order / information
859.824.4444 - administrative offices

Bathroom Battles



The battle of the bathroom is coming to our public schools. In the name of tolerance for transsexuals, some states are making public school bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers gender-neutral. Earlier this year California passed a bill allowing boys and girls to enter whichever bathroom they “identify” with.

As OneNewsNow reported: ***“Parents who expressed their concerns to school officials were told the boy’s transgender rights trumped the privacy rights of the female students. School officials also threatened to remove students from athletic teams or charge them with hate crimes if they continued to voice their opposition to the situation.”***

However, at least 620,000 people in California are fed up and have signed a petition to overturn California’s transgender bathroom bill. If the signatures are validated, the issue will be placed on a ballot for the people to decide in California’s 2014 elections.

In Colorado, a school is allowing a self-identified transsexual boy to use the girls’ bathrooms. Several female students have stated that they felt sexually harassed by the boy in their bathroom.

According to the Pacific Justice Institute: *“This school district in Colorado, by placating and allowing this boy to, at will, use the girls’ restrooms or the girls’ locker rooms – simply because sometimes he says [he] feels like a girl – is an egregious violation of the right to privacy of the other students.”*

What is the school’s response to resolve the issue? They are proposing that the girls use the office restroom and let the transgender boy use the girls’ bathroom.

According to a PJI representative: *“What the school officials have told the girls is that in order to maintain their privacy they can use a single restroom at the office which is not always available and is some distance from a lot of classes. ... We think that is backwards.”*

Why Do the Nations Rage

by Chris Johnson



WHY do the nations CONSPIRE against the Lord?

Psalm 2

“Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, ‘Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.’”
(Psalm 2:1-3)

What an apt description of today’s culture. Of course the Author knew how this great nation established on His precepts would now be abandoning his loving, defending walls of protection, scorning them as “bonds” holding us back.

As anyone whose head is not buried in the sand knows, Western Civilization has come a long way from those moral protections in a very short amount of time.

There have already been notable court cases which have silenced Christian businesspeople unwilling to endorse the homosexual lifestyle. Meanwhile, not only Christian-owned companies, but even many Christian ministries, are being forced to violate their religious beliefs by providing insurance coverage for abortifacient drugs under the new healthcare law. There are very legitimate concerns that these troubling trends will leak into other facets of everyday life as religion is relegated to a “personal” issue and becomes more and more unwelcome in public.

So, the days are getting darker, but Psalm 2 gives great hope. I love the first line of the Psalm, “why do the nations rage?” as in, what’s the use?

But the rest of the chapter is even better:

*He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”*

*I will tell of the decree: The Lord said
to me, “You are my Son; today I have
begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations
your heritage, and the ends of the earth
your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s
vessel.”*

*Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be
warned, O rulers of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice
with trembling.*

*Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you
perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly
kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge
in him.*

**What an encouragement for the Church!
What a reminder of Who is really in
control as our culture drifts farther and
farther from the mooring of Christ!**

ADA’s Mail Bag Responses of Support



Dear Bill,

Thank God for you, your staff and all who love and believe in Jesus Christ. Due to the influence of this generation’s worldly wisdom and too many who only profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and live, eat, drink, talk, behave like the world; the article “Christian Mandate” in your November 2013 newsletter describes the current views. Too many are trying to save

*the American way of life instead of speaking and living the gospel of Jesus Christ so as to win souls so God can save them. Too many are concerned to receive praise from men rather than from God. Too many hear and read Jesus’ words, but do not put them into practice. Too many are concerned with the riches of this world rather than the riches in Christ. Colossians speaks to this quite pointedly, especially 2:1 to 3:17. This is how we are to live as you promote.
Brother in Christ, L.B.*

Bill & Staff,

*Keep bringing light to a dark world. Our kids and grandkids are what’s at stake!
R&K. R.*

Thanking God for ALL you all are doing on our behalf!! Be encouraged! The LORD God, Creator of this universe is on our side!!! (and BY our side!) R&J. B.

*Glad to help in your fight against evil. Your November newsletter was outstanding. We are so fortunate to have all of your crew and you fighting the good fight.
Thank you, G&M. T.*

Just a note to wish all of you a Blessed Thanksgiving – and to let you know that you are in our prayers. We are so grateful for your perseverance and faithfulness. May you find peace and know that what you are doing will not go unrewarded. You are an inspiration to us. R&S. M.

Your “Frontline” article was so good, Bill. Television has had an impact on our society and it’s getting worse. It is a privilege to support your wonderful work from month to month. God bless you all! N.S.

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Liberal lies - a hard pill to swallow

by: Lisa Van Houten



“... , he’s hot! Let’s hope he’s as easy to get as this birth control. My health insurance covers the pill, which means all I have to worry about is getting him between the covers.* I got insurance. Now you can too. Thanks Obamacare!”

Thus reads the caption of a new ad entitled “Let’s Get Physical” promoting Colorado’s health insurance exchange under ObamaCare. The ad is produced by Progress Now Colorado, a non-profit organization associated with the leftist financier, George Soros.

This ad joins a series of other ads by the same group promoting youthful debauchery as reason to sign up for ObamaCare.

One ad features a supposedly drunken young man – clad in shirt, socks, and shoes, but missing his pants - crouching on top of a beer keg stating: ***“Not sure how I ended up here perched on top of this keg. I could totally fall, but that’s OK. My budget will stay balanced even if I don’t because I got insurance. Now you can too. Thanks ObamaCare!”***

The “Get Your Shots” ad claims that saving money on flu shots leads to happiness – if the source of happiness is found in shots of tequila, as this ad suggests.

The tag line under a row of women taking shots of alcohol reads: ***“Shotskis keep us happy. Flu shots keep us healthy. Saving money on flu shots leaves us more money for fun shots. We got insurance. Now you can too. Thanks Obamacare!”***

Still one other ad features a group of drunken guys doing handstands on beer kegs with the line: ***“Keg stands are crazy. Not having health insurance is crazier. Don’t tap into your beer money to cover those medical bills. We got it covered. Now you can too. Thanks ObamaCare!”***

In other words - Go ahead, kids, drink yourselves into oblivion – ObamaCare has you covered when you wrap your car around a tree.

Apart from the poor grammar in these ads targeting college-educated adults, the “We Got Insurance” ads are so loathsome that if I didn’t know the truth I’d never believe these ads were real – I would’ve guessed that they were nothing more than a satirical farce. However, they are all too real - an ad campaign that reeks of desperation attempting to lure young adults to sign up for ObamaCare.

Yet, who is the target audience of these ads? Seemingly party-hardy college kids who like to get wasted and bed-hop from one partner to the next. However, if 26-year-olds can stay on their parents’ insurance under ObamaCare, I assume the ads are actually targeting 27-year-olds and older. Are most adults in this age group still having keg parties??

Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., had this to say about this latest ad and the series of ads in general: ***“It’s degrading to women, and it says a lot about what they think of America’s youth today. ... They’ve turned ObamaCare into a story about pills and pilsners just trying to make a failed program work.”***

While these ads are degrading and offensive - they are also promoting deadly lifestyles. In addition to the cavalier depiction of irresponsible drinking among young adults, the ads also send the message that sex is nothing more than a recreational sport – consequence-free – as long as you have your ObamaCare birth control.

Notice the asterisk in the middle of that tag line – right after “all I have to worry about is getting him between the covers.”

That asterisk is there because Progress Now is covering their behinds from a potential lawsuit. That tiny little asterisk is there because preventing pregnancy with ObamaCare covered birth-control pills is not *all* young women need to worry about. The asterisk leads you to tiny print at the bottom of the ad which states: ***“The pill doesn’t protect you from STDs, condoms and common sense do that.”***

Yet even that notation is a lie, which shouldn’t be all that surprising. It’s not the first lie associated with ObamaCare.

It may not be the first lie, but it’s a devastating one. Because condoms do not offer the protection that the progressive left has been teaching our youth for years. Condoms do nothing to protect from the vast majority of STDs – diseases and infections that often lead to infertility, cancer, and even death.

And there is no latex or pill that will protect the heart and the soul. Sex, as we wrote recently, is not the moral equivalent of a handshake. To treat it as such leads to emotional heartache and spiritual consequences.

The culture - including these ads promoting ObamaCare - reduces young people to rutting animals incapable of responsibility and monogamy, sending the message that sex is nothing more than an animalistic instinct. God’s design for sexuality is rarely heard.

However, Pam Stenzel is one of those rare voices of truth today. Speaking to half a million teens a year, Pam teaches something very different that what these ads do. I urge you to share Pam’s message with the young people within your sphere of influence – children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, church youth groups.

See the enclosed response card to order the DVD of Pam’s powerful presentation – “Now You Know.” Watch it for yourself and I am convinced you will want to share it with others! After hearing Pam’s message, one attendee told me – every church youth group needs to hear this! I think you will feel the same.

Attention Kmart shoppers – vulgar ads on your TV

by Lisa Van Houten



It's hard not to smile at the exuberance of children as Christmas approaches. Weeks before Thanksgiving my young Sunday School students have asked to sing Christmas carols during our worship time before class. Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Away in a Manger, and, one of their favorites, Joy to the World! The younger ones especially like the little chorus we sing to the tune of Jingle Bells - "Christmas bells, Christmas bells, tell me what they say. Little baby Jesus, was born on Christmas day!" - vigorously ringing little bells in accompaniment as they belt out the lyrics.

The ringing of bells seems synonymous with joy!

Unless, of course, you've had the misfortune of having the latest Kmart commercial foisted upon you or your family.

Kmart's new Christmas television commercial - entitled "Show Your Joe" - features six men with hand bells, spiffily dressed in tuxedo jackets, and lined up behind a cloth-draped table. The men play the introduction to Jingle Bells, ringing their hand bells as professionally as any hand bell choir I've ever seen.

Suddenly they set down the bells on the table which is whisked away to reveal that they are missing the bottom half of their tuxedos. The men are clad in Kmart's brand of "Joe Boxer" underwear.

What happens next has "all the tender sweetness of a seasick crocodile," to quote my favorite Christmas cartoon. The three best words that best describe it, are as follows, and I quote:
Stink! - Stank! - Stunk!

In the "Show Your Joe" ad, the boxer-clad men squat and as the hand bell music continues to play "Jingle Bells," the men shake and thrust their hips with each hand bell note, implying that their swinging testicles are the source of the bell sounds.

Imagine sitting down with your family to watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and during the commercial break you get Kmart's "Show Your Joe" Christmas. Not such a holly jolly time. The ad is not only airing on primetime network television, but even on family-friendly channels such as The Hallmark Channel.

While considered a family-oriented company in the past, Kmart has become known in recent years for pushing the envelope with controversial ads. The company seems bent on creating buzz during the Christmas shopping season. However, while this ad certainly has people talking about Kmart, not all publicity is good publicity. The company's Facebook page has lit up with downright frosty comments and it seems that the ad may do more to alienate customers rather than draw them.

Here are just a few comments from disgusted shoppers:

"I saw your new Jingle Bells commercial last night on TV and am disgusted as I find it offensive. I always regarded Kmart as a family-friendly department store. Therefore, I am disappointed in your decision to air such a filthy commercial and saddened that your wholesome image has taken a downward turn."

"You can forget me stepping into any of your stores. Pull that ad off the air."

"Sorry will not ... be shopping at your store. Take Joe Boxer back to the gutter."

"Why do all commercials have to be about men or woman pretty much naked. And to have the song jingle bells playing while men shake their baggage wow that's pretty low for young viewers. I thought Kmart had more class than that. The commercial should be banned!!!!!!"

"They are not a family oriented company. Don't shop there. They are brash, ugly and disgustingly uncaring."

"The Joe Boxer commercial was absolutely repulsive. People can criticize me all they want, but I did not find it funny at all. It was horrifying, what if my kids saw that? Bad decision on Kmart's part."

"I think this is the tackiest commercial Kmart has ever had and very distasteful."

"Really bad form. It's not 'playful', it's 'suggestive'. ... Sorry Kmart.....you've lost my business unless you pull that ad."

"OK... I totally get that you guys were trying to be hilarious with your lil' jingle ball commercial. I do, I get it. And if I was a young adult with no children I would actually laugh. However, because your commercial is being played on family networks during times when children are watching TV, I had to explain to my young daughters why they were shaking like that in their underwear and where the bells were. I found that suddenly being put in that position when we were relaxing as a family was really awkward. So I wanted to say thanks, Thank you so much for forcing our family to have a discussion that we were not ready to have (please sense the sarcasm). Good job guys, I have never been so disappointed in Kmart as I am now."

Kmart's response to such comments was: *"Thanks for your comment. This commercial is a playful take on spreading holiday cheer. We regret if you found it objectionable."*

Playful??? More like pornographic. And what a sad commentary if spreading lewdness is equated with "spreading holiday cheer."

I have my own message for Kmart: If this is your equivalent of holiday cheer, as I do my Christmas shopping - I won't touch you with a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole!

Send in the enclosed postcard or call Kmart directly at 1-866-562-7848.

God Likes You

by: Chris Johnson



God likes you.

Why isn't that said more often?

We hear that God loves us all the time and that's vital, but there are people that I love that I don't like very much. There are people that I wish the best for, but I'm much happier when they're nowhere near me. What an underappreciated idea - that God doesn't just love His people, he likes us.

It's much more pleasant to serve a God that you know isn't saying, "finally!" when you get something right, but is actually delighting in your satisfaction in Him.

At a men's conference Dad (known to most of you as Bill) and I attended, Pastor Matt Chandler awesomely and humorously described it like this:

"All the Chandler babies walk at like 13 or 14 months... What I noticed then and what I'm noticing right now is that for all our kids it's the same... They pull themselves up on the coffee table or couch and they slide themselves along while holding on. And then they will take their hands off and waddle and then grab hold of something real quick. And here is really where the creative design of God occurs. You start to see it and marvel in it. What will happen is they will let go and for whatever reason on that day, physics take over. I know that all kids are different, but predominantly kids have fat, fat heads and skinny, skinny bodies... But here's what they do. They let go of it, and then the fat head falls forward and now physics takes over. In

that moment you've got two choices as that fat head begins to lead the body forward: you either stick your foot out or die. See you're still mainly cartilage and so they stick the foot out. Now with physics, we've got momentum. So step, step, step, fall, and then what happens? The place freaks out. It's like you just cured cancer. 'Yeah! Are you tweeting it? Okay, you tweet it. I'll retweet. Okay, are you going to post it on your Facebook? Did we get video of that?' And so there's this kind of monumental celebration of the fact that your kid took three or four steps and then fell down.

...In all of my circle and my friends, I've never seen any of the parents respond to step, step, step, fall by going, 'Idiot!' I've never seen a father or a mother point to their kid who falls after four steps go, 'This kid is a moron. For a bacon bit I can make the dog walk on it's back feet for two miles.' The parents never get in a fight, 'Baby, this is your family. This stuff is not in my family. We're walkers; we walk. So this is on you. I know I've got some stuff that I've passed on to the kid, but this is you.' I've just never seen that happen. There is always this explosion of rejoicing that took place over four steps.

(This was taken from a sermon transcript from the Village Church)

That picture of God as a father delighting in us as His children is really exciting to me as a new dad, because I know now how excited I get when my daughter passes milestones.

My wife and I had a very similar moment to what Chandler described just last week when my 10 month old decided to crawl up stairs for the first time. And yes, I got it on video.

So I now know the pleasure of seeing my child grow and develop and the idea that God feels that way about me inspires me that much more to learn to walk with Him.

Dan Doriani made a similar point in a Gospel Coalition Blog post:

"If you want a picture of God's

unconditional, sacrificial love, watch parents care for an infant in the first weeks of life. A baby boy does not, cannot, do anything for his parents. He can't even give them a smile. A baby girl is a bundle of needs, demands, and interruptions that obliterate normal life. Yet as we watch the parents' eyes, we see the look of unconditional love. They feed, change, hold, and comfort a baby who has done nothing, and will do nothing, for them. But how they love him! There is no better image of God's unmerited favor, freely given. John says, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are" (1 John 3:1).

If the infant cries or grows ill, do good parents become angry at her? No, they grieve at their child's tears and long to help her. In this we resemble our Father in heaven. But he constantly demonstrates the love we show fitfully. Psalm 103 says, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him" (Psa. 103:13). In this way, God has written hints of his gospel and grace in our hearts."

I would add to these illustrations God's defense of His children.

The other day I was changing my daughter's diaper and she was lying on her changing table, taking extreme pleasure in the fact that she wasn't wearing pants. I was momentarily distracted with the box of wipes, or something, and she decided to roll over off the changing table from which she would have fallen about 3 feet and landed on her nose.

Fortunately for her, Dad turned into Superman and intercepted her fall in midair.

I set her down and stood there with my hands on my hips and my cape flowing in the breeze and then put my underwear back inside my pants and we went downstairs.

[Continued on page 8]

God Likes You

by Chris Johnson

[Continued from page 7]



Now, I'll admit that I've let her fall before. I've watched her pushing her little toys and seen that she was about to fall and just let it happen, because she needs to learn real-world physics. But when she was about to fall in a way that she would seriously hurt herself, I freaked out and came to the rescue.

I'd say God does the same thing, except that He doesn't freak out. I read Psalm 18 his morning and this is what verse 6 says, ***"In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears."***

The rest of the chapter describes the glory of God descending from His throne and dealing with David's enemies.

vv.13-17: *The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice, hailstones and coals of fire.*

And he sent out his arrows and scattered them; he flashed forth lightnings and routed them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, and the foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

God will defend His children.

What a loving (and liking) God we serve.

Get to Work

by Lisa Van Houten



"This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:11-12

From His incarnation, Christ has been rejected - perhaps never more so than today. And often by the "builders" of our culture - college professors, Hollywood elites, government leaders. It seems there is nothing more offensive to them than Christianity. *"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing ..."* [I Corinthians 1:18]

On the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, President Obama recorded a reading of the Gettysburg Address. Well, not exactly the entire speech - in the line, "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom" - our president conveniently left out the words "under God." This isn't the first time President Obama has edited out references to God.

A pastor made the shocking discovery that Costco, the giant warehouse store chain, had labeled all their Bibles as fiction. Every copy was slapped with a price tag that read "\$14.99 Fiction."

A South Carolina charter school canceled its annual Christmas toy drive to support Operation Christmas Child because the American Humanist Association threatened to take legal action against the school, claiming: *"The boxes of toys are essentially a bribe, expressly used to pressure desperately poor children living in developing countries to convert to Christianity ..."*

"Two Baptist chaplains said they were forced out of a Veterans Affairs chaplain training program after they refused orders to stop quoting the Bible and to stop praying in the name of Jesus." (Foxnews.com)

I could go on and on citing recent examples of "intolerance" of Christianity.

In his newly released book - *"A Call to Resurgence: Will Christianity Have a Funeral or a Future?"* - pastor Mark Driscoll writes:

"On January 21, 2013, Barack Obama placed his hand on a Bible he may not entirely believe to take an oath to a God he may not entirely know. Jesus alone will judge his soul one day, but in the meantime we are free to be confused by a man who says he's a Christian while ending his speech to America's largest abortion provider with, 'Thank you, Planned Parenthood. God bless you.'"

In discussing the omission of Christian presence at the 2013 inauguration, Driscoll comments: ***"While the nation celebrated tolerance, liberation, and homosexuality, the evangelical Christian was forced into the closet. ... The highest office in the land made it clear: 'inclusion and acceptance for all Americans' no longer includes Bible-believing, evangelical Christians. ... As far as Western civilization is concerned, Christendom is officially dead."***

In an open letter to Christians, Driscoll tells us: ***"Christians are being ostracized, gay marriage is being legalized, the bandwagon has stopped carrying us and has started running over us. ..."***

It should come as no surprise that we see Christ, and we His followers, being rejected by the foolish "wisdom" of this world. Yet we will continue to preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to many, but to us the power and wisdom of God. As we head into another year of standing, I leave you with this challenge from Mark Driscoll:

"The days are darker, which means our resolve must be stronger and our convictions clearer. This is not the hour to trade in work boots for flip-flops. You didn't think you were here to kill time listening to Christian music until Jesus returned, did you?"

"Hold fast to the word. Jesus is alive. Quit licking your wounds - stand up, dust yourself off, and get to work."