

Tis the Season ...

By Steve Huston



Crisp air, fluffy snowfalls, and the “magic” of Christmas—fireplaces ablaze, carols, and Hallmark movies to warm the heart—all these working together to ambush our heart and mind, as if to hold it hostage, until we either feel jolly or feel guilty for non-compliance.

But look around you; is it really the season to be jolly? Do we check our brain at the calendar’s door marked “December,” not giving a second thought to the dangers, destinations, and implications that face our country—and the world—because if we don’t we may be accused of being a “Grinch?”

There are a handful of enemies within and without that plague our nation and whose goal is our ultimate destruction. From without there are enemies on many fronts, several that are unrecognized or unacknowledged as enemies, some which are bold in their intentions, and others who are more coy, but ready to pounce should the opportunity arise. There are enemies from within that occupy positions in our government, education, media, the church, and the list goes on ad nauseam. And what’s more dangerous than when the enemies within partner with those who are without? Let’s take a brief sampling from each.

Many fail to acknowledge that China has been subtly attacking the West; but who can deny that Beijing has boldly been attacking

Hong Kong, a country espousing Western values, including those of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

China bullies American corporations to comply with their demands; but recently they’ve attempted to bully the U.S. government with not so veiled threats. Quoting from the Epoch Times, “Geng (China’s foreign ministry spokesperson) called on Washington to ‘immediately take measures to prevent this act (Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act) from becoming law.’ And if the United States does not stop ‘interfering’ in Hong Kong, Geng warned that ‘negative consequences will boomerang on itself’ and China would have to take ‘strong countermeasures to defend our national sovereignty, security, and development interests.’”

Gordon Chang is blunt regarding this “unrecognized” enemy: “*What is the point of any agreement with China? We feel compelled to honor our obligations and Beijing usually does not. We should terminate every bilateral agreement with China and deal with Beijing on a transactional basis, in other words, in the same way Beijing deals with us.*” U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s following statement shows that China can neither be trusted, nor are they our friends: “*They have been a country that’s stolen our stuff, taken intellectual property, forced companies that invested in China to transfer technology.*” “They are making

loans—I use that word loosely—to countries around the world that are unrepayable and then threatening foreclosure for political gain.” The latter in reference to China’s One Belt One Road infrastructure project aimed at building trade routes across Asia, Europe, and Africa.

We’ve covered the many inhumane atrocities and violations of religious liberty committed by China in the past; let this November 18 headline be a reminder: “***China Gov Using Facial and Fingerprint Scanning on Christians as They Enter Church.***”

Recognizing that China is an enemy with a fragile economy, corporate America shouldn’t be supporting or kowtowing to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which is China. Funding China through business deals and the pension monies of our military (Thrift Savings Plan) - those who have fought against communism and its global wrongful practices that define the Chinese government - is horrifically unthinkable. Roger Robinson has strongly warned that if we don’t get a handle on such things we’re done! **The flow of money will make them all but unstoppable.** When our own government, corporate America, and investors desire “Profit over Patriotism,” things look bleak, not jolly. When the squeeze is put on China and it affects our stocks, Wall Street hollers, we get anxious, and put pressure on the

[Continued on Page 3]



From the desk of Bill Johnson

On the walls in our office are two separate pictures of groups of volunteers. Some of them standing with us from the earliest days, even just prior to becoming a full-time ministry in 1988.

Looking at those pictures - there is Gert, Stan, Dave and Geneva, Theron, Pauline, Marcia, Johnny and Geri, Max and Doris - and the list goes on. In the other picture is Alma, Fran, Betty, Al, Alice, Carol, Ray, Marilyn, Jan, Hazel, and others.

They gathered with us faithfully month after month whether rain, snow, cold, heat, or frailty to assemble our monthly newsletters for mailing. Never once did they let us down, faithfully believing in us and in our work.

Many have now left us, having been called home by the Lord they loved and served so faithfully. We have wept. We've remembered them over the years still. I have been honored to officiate the funerals for several, including our dear co-worker Judy Krause this past year.

They have believed in us. Many of them were financial donors, in spite of being on a fixed income.

We have a more recent picture. Our numbers are thinning. Those "greatest generation" folks hold a special place in our hearts. They served humbly and sweetly. Our volunteers, though fewer in number, are of that servanthood spirit. To God be the Glory!

Often when I pulled into the parking lot seeing that we had a good crowd of volunteers, I would weep at their faithfulness: God's amazing grace!

We have also been blessed by incredibly faithful board members and staff members. Space doesn't permit me to mention each one. Let me highlight a few.

One of our first board members, Pastor Jim Stevens - former Pastor at First Reformed Church in Fremont (1980s) - stated regarding this ministry (then the American Family Association of Michigan): "I don't believe this ministry will ever be huge - not an organization, but an organism - **a living ministry kept through God's grace.**" Indeed, that is what we are! We are thankful that God has placed His hand on us, using us in spite of our weakness to be a light for Him.

Another Board member, Fay Feldpaush, went to approximately 500 households back in the day - knocking on doors to tell folks about the work of the American Decency Association and hand out a single sheet telling about this ministry, seeking to raise funds in the Fowler, Pewamo, Westphalia, St. Johns area. Though not much support was raised, nothing deterred her from sharing the cause of Christ through this ministry.

Judy Krause, now with the Lord and former staff member and board member, went "cold turkey" to grocery stores and headquarters of grocery store chains as a Christian ambassador making a case for the high importance of not displaying and/or selling indecent magazines at their checkout counters. Back in the early 2000's Judy had many successes. Some, though not fully complying, at least put covers over magazines such as Cosmopolitan.

Lisa Van Houten spent many hours in the evening outside of the office recording advertising trends of corporate sponsors of the Howard Stern Radio Show which, over a several year period, led to **15,000 advertisers out of some 16,500 advertisers pulling their sponsorship of the Stern Show**, resulting in 25 radio stations nationwide dropping the Howard Stern Show. During those days Stern mentioned this ministry by name on multiple occasions.

Back in the day when we monitored numerous television shows such as *Sister Wives*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Hannibal*, *Gray's Anatomy*, *Family Guy*, *American Dad*, *Will and Grace*, we saw how the secular

left was coming after our kids. There was a concerted effort to indoctrinate an entire generation. Sadly, it's increasingly clear those efforts have been successful. In many ways, the "greatest generation" - such as the older folks I mention above - was the last line of defense.

Perhaps one of the saddest accounts in the Bible is in Judges 2:10-12: *"And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger."*

The words from the Christmas carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is how many of us can easily feel as we look upon what our culture has become. *And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."*

Yet in spite of the grim outlook for our nation and this current generation, the song doesn't end there.

"I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom had rolled along th'unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

From the beginning of time, God has kept a people for Himself. His faithfulness has rolled along throughout the pages of history and will continue to do so until the end of time, when ultimately right will prevail.

Until then, may we follow the example of the "greatest generation" - those who have gone before, who served so very well. We are a far cry from seeing peace on earth, as this very newsletter attests to, but in spite of the chaos around us, may the peace of Christ reign in our hearts.

Tis the Season ...

[Continued from page 1]



President to take the pressure off from China. **We'd be wiser to think of the future in terms of freedom than solely in finances.**

Turkey is another key player and should no longer be considered an ally. Is President Erdogan a friend or a foe? Can we trust what he says? By his own admission "Islam is Islam," we know he desires to rule over a global caliphate, and on October 25 he declared, *"Our God commands us to be violent towards the kuffar (infidels). Who are we? The ummah [nation] of Mohammed. So [God] also commands us to be merciful to each other. So we will be merciful to each other. And we will be violent to the kuffar. Like in Syria."* America is considered a "kuffar."

The Wall Street Journal reported in October, *"Turkey's government used a Washington law firm to gather information about its critics, including residents of the U.S., who it believed were allied with a movement that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan regards as a central enemy..."* These things don't exactly exude "Christmas spirit."

Watching various global leaders (Erdogan, Xi, Jung-Un) and President Trump play cat and mouse with each other leaves one wondering whether to put them on the "naughty or nice" list. During meetings, President Trump seems to be "good friends" with many of this world's leaders; but when they leave the table, they go their own way and do their own thing. Always trust a scorpion to be a scorpion.

Iran has never hid its feelings about the U.S. - "Destroy the great Satan." They frequently are either assisted by or assisting our enemies around the world. (Russia, China, North Korea - look in the news and

you'll find them there.)

America's enemies within are a much longer and perhaps even more dangerous list than those without. A people who are ideologically divided; have their history stolen from them, giving them a kind of socio/cultural/religious Alzheimer's; and are pitted against each other and manipulated by ignorance and hate, won't last long. Or as the Bible says, **"A house divided against itself cannot stand."** Unless the ghost of Christmas Past and the ghost of Christmas Present deal with and awaken the "Ebenezers" of our nation today, Christmas Future (death) awaits this great country.

It's hard to be jolly when we recognize that we are a nation that applauds the murder of our young and the indoctrination toward sin should they escape the butcher's knife. (Thank you Lord that there are many who are fighting against these evils.) This indoctrination comes from schools that push the LGBTQ agenda through Scholastic books, free-range bathroom/shower policies, free-choice pronouns, and early sex-ed classes that aim to sexualize our children before they are ready for such concepts. Add to this a government's desire to increase the school day and a parent's influence is even more greatly compromised.

Socialism is heralded on campuses across this nation while free speech is not only limited in scope and space but attacked as hate speech if it comes from a political or religious conservative point of view. Add to this media and entertainment bias and it's a wonder we haven't already gone under. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Sen. Warren (D-MA) and other Marxists have been busy attempting to push our nation into further socialism and attacking our First and Second Amendments.

The following enemies of this nation deserve coal in their stockings this year (oops, being a fossil fuel, it's a no-no). All those involved in the impeachment process whose only goal is to unseat a lawfully elected president. These people have done

nothing productive for the last three years because they've been too busy bullying the president and his base. Those who attack our national sovereignty by promoting sanctuary cities and states, "handcuffing" our ICE agents, and fiscally ruining America by denying rights to veterans while funding all the needs of the "illegals."

The Muslim Brotherhood is another enemy from within, because we have given them access and foolishly elected some of them into office. They are making every effort to fundamentally change the landscape and course of America. USMCO (**US Council of Muslim Organizations**) in their One America Campaign are pushing the following directives: National Voter Registration Drive, Muslim Political Empowerment, and National Open Mosque Day.

Again, this is not a complete list; but to some, the very thought of these things can leave them completely undone. How can this be a season of cheer when the landscape looks so drear?

Even with all the aforementioned, **Jesus IS the reason for the season.** It's because of all the bad that surrounds us that we should be all the more thankful for God's great gift of grace - Jesus - Who brought with Him salvation and sanctification, holiness and hope (Titus 2). **Let us stay focused on Him.**

We may not recognize our enemies, but we must recognize that our hope and joy isn't in any government, ideology, or even in any man. It's in THE man, the One that God has sent, Jesus. Isaiah 9:6 reads, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Looking at it from this vantage point, the Christian can find joy all year long; and in a very real sense he/she has every right to be happy, as well, when we consider that our life IN Christ is our real happenstance.

“This a mission, not a show”

by Chis Johnson



At the end of October, massive, eye catching, royal blue displays lit up the centers of the two most culturally influential cities in the U.S. unashamedly proclaiming, “**Jesus is King.**”

And remarkably enough, they were placed there by Kanye West.

Kanye burst onto the hip hop scene in 2006 with his single, “Jesus Walks,” which featured the line, “They say you can rap about anything except for Jesus. That means guns, sex, lies, video tape, but if I talk about God my record won’t get played.”

He spent the next thirteen years of his life getting his records played an awful lot – by rapping about guns, sex, lies, and then by marrying the original sex tape celebrity, Kim Kardashian. He established a reputation as an artistic genius, not only for the word play in his music, but in his set design and as a fashion and shoe designer.

Then in May of 2019, as Pastor Adam Tyson of Placerita Bible Church outside LA tells it, Kanye walked in and settled in to the back row of a church service. After several visits, Kanye West told Pastor Tyson that God had radically changed his life. They started having a Bible study together and Kanye began holding what he called Sunday Service, a spiritual concert where Tyson or another pastor would preach.

Finally, in October, West released his album, entitled “Christ is King,” giving further evidence of the veracity of his conversion.

Below is the entirety of the verse from his song “God Is.” But first I want to explain

myself. I’m not going on about Kanye’s conversion so that we can feel validated because one of the most influential people in a generation suddenly believes what we believe. And it’s not so that Christian kids can stream the latest Kanye record with the windows down. **This is a much needed reminder of what God can do.** Kanye West has absolutely everything that our world says you need to be successful. He’s cocky and arrogant and independent and God changed the heart of that man and made him this man:

*“Everything that hath breath
praise the Lord
Worship Christ with the best
of your portions
I know I won’t forget all He’s done
He’s the strength in this race that I run
Every time I look up,
I see God’s faithfulness
And it shows just how much
He is miraculous
I can’t keep it to myself,
I can’t sit here and be still
Everybody, I will tell ‘til the
whole world is healed
King of Kings, Lord of Lords,
all the things He has in store
From the rich to the poor,
all are welcome through the door
You won’t ever be the same
when you call on Jesus’ name
Listen to the words I’m sayin’,
Jesus saved me, now I’m sane
And I know, I know God is
the force that picked me up
I know Christ is the fountain
that filled my cup
I know God is alive, yeah
He has opened up my vision
Giving me a revelation*

*This ain’t ‘bout a dead religion
Jesus brought a revolution
All the captives are forgiven
Time to break down all the prisons
Every man, every woman
There is freedom from addiction
Jesus, You have my soul
Sunday Service on a roll
All my idols, let ‘em go
All the demons, let ‘em know
This a mission, not a show
This is my eternal soul
This my kids, this the crib
This my wife, this my life
This my God-given right
Thank You, Jesus, won the fight”*

I still get shivers when I read those words and think of the lips they came from and the power of the God who purified them. As Kanye told The Late Late Show host James Cordon, “as humbly as I can put it, God is using me to show off.”

I think God is using him to show His church exactly what He’s capable of. When we say God is the only Hope for our culture, nation, and world, may Kanye remind us **THAT HOPE IS SURE.**

Someday “Jesus is King” will be on the lips and on the hearts of **everyone** who walks the earth.

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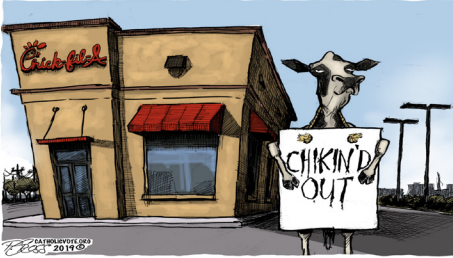
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Be-Less-Chikin

by Lisa Van Houten



Say it isn't so, Chick-fil-A! Before Chick-fil-A came to my home state of Michigan, a highlight of traveling was the opportunity to visit a Chick-fil-A restaurant. It wasn't just the fabulous chicken, or the Chick-fil-A sauce which I must say I'm addicted to, or even the great customer service. (Seriously, where else do you hear a response of "my pleasure" from employees when they serve you and actually feel that they mean it?) What left a good taste in my mouth every time I visited a Chick-fil-A wasn't the food as much as knowing I was supporting a company that has boldly stood for Christian values in the face of unrelenting attacks by LGBT activists, and did so with a smile as they turned the other cheek. And I wasn't alone; millions of Americans have gone out of their way to support Chick-fil-A because of their overt Christian stance, whose vision statement is: ***"To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us. To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A."***

The company – founded by Truett Cathy who passed away in 2014 - became the prime target of Leftist hate in 2012 after CEO Dan Cathy expressed his personal belief in the Biblical view of marriage. In recent years, Chick-fil-A (CFA) has been banned from opening franchises at airport food courts in San Antonio, Buffalo, and San Jose; college campuses have denied them access; and a city in Great Britain forced a franchise to close their doors after being open just 8 days – all because the Left has falsely smeared CFA as being "anti-gay." Just last month we reported on a Louisiana high school which turned down Chick-fil-A's offer of free chicken sandwiches for their staff.

Yet in spite of these attacks, the company has thrived! In 2001, the company reached \$1 billion in sales, in 2013 CFA's profits

surpassed \$5 billion, and this year CFA has reached \$10.5 billion – the third largest U.S. fast-food chain behind McDonald's and Starbucks. Considering Chick-fil-A is open only six days a week, to honor the Lord's Day, and has been denied entrance into numerous markets, it makes the company's meteoric rise even more amazing. Since the Left's harassment of the company began in 2012, CFA's profits have doubled. Truly, God's blessing has been on the company.

Which makes Chick-fil-A's recent statement especially mind-boggling and disheartening. The Chick-fil-A Foundation announced it will no longer donate to certain Christian charities – the Salvation Army, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Paul Anderson Youth Home. Chick-fil-A's past support for these highly regarded ministries has been used by the LGBT mob as a reason to boycott Chick-fil-A – falsely claiming these organizations are anti-LGBT simply because they hold to a Biblical view regarding marriage and sexuality.

Of course every foundation has the freedom to decide to whom they will and will not give – including Chick-fil-A. It isn't so much that CFA is no longer giving to these worthy Christian organizations that's especially troubling, but their reasoning for why they've discontinued their support.

After interviewing CFA's President and Chief Operating Officer Tim Tassopoulos, Bisnow reported: *"As Chick-fil-A expands globally and into more liberal parts of the U.S., the chicken chain plans to change which charities it donates to after years of bad press and protests from the LGBT community."* According to Bisnow, CFA stated that of the charities they will support in the future, "none of the organizations have anti-LGBT positions."

CFA's President Tim Tassopoulos stated regarding their decision to drop their support of the three above-mentioned Christian charities, *"...as we go into new markets, we need to be clear about who we are. There are lots of articles and newscasts about Chick-fil-A, and we thought we needed to be clear about our message."*

What Chick-fil-A is making clear is that they are capitulating to LGBT pressure. As columnist Matt Walsh wrote: *"Chick-fil-A defied the LGBT rage mob for years and only grew in popularity because of it. Now all of a sudden they cave. This is the most pointless and counterproductive surrender I've ever seen."*

Tassopoulos told Bisnow that CFA will instead focus their donations on three charitable initiatives: education, homelessness, and hunger. So CFA will stop giving to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Salvation Army, and the Paul Anderson Youth Home - **which focus on education, homelessness, and hunger** – to give \$32 million to organizations such as Junior Achievement USA and Covenant House International – which get the LGBT stamp of approval. As it states on the Covenant House website: *"Clearly LGBTQ young people need adults to work harder to keep them safe, housed, and not just accepted, but **celebrated**, for who they are. ..."* How does this align with CFA's vision statement?

Groups such as the Salvation Army and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes don't even speak into LGBT issues. Rather, as the Salvation Army states: ***"We love all. We serve all."*** The LGBT mob hates them (and us) simply because of the fact that they're Christian. Holding to a Biblical worldview automatically makes us "anti-LGBT" in their minds. **There is nothing we – nor Chick-fil-A – can do to appease them short of complete capitulation to their demands.**

Chick-fil-A's kowtowing to the liberal mob is a gut-punch to millions of loyal customers who've gone out of their way to support the company precisely because they hadn't compromised to the LGBT bullies. When the Left called for a boycott of Chick-fil-A in 2012, Governor Mike Huckabee called for a Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day. Customer's came out in droves, waiting in lines that went around the block to show support for the company that had stood for Biblical marriage, resulting in record-breaking sales.

[Continued on Page 6]

Be-Less-Chikin

[Continued from Page 5]



The irony is that CFA had no reason to chicken out. They had stood their ground and their bottom line had only grown. So, as Galatians 5: 7 states: ***“You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?”***

Now they not only risk alienating millions of loyal customers, but CFA is in essence doing the exact same thing to the Salvation Army and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes which leftist bullies have done to Chick-fil-A. By backing away from these charities because of their biblical view on sexuality, CFA is helping legitimize the Left’s false labeling of these ministries as “anti-LGBT hate-groups.”

Chick-fil-A’s effort to appease those who’ve hated them and lied about them for years is futile. Pro-LGBT groups such as GLAAD are already saying it’s not enough and demanding that CFA “unequivocally speak out against the anti-LGBTQ reputation that their brand represents.” Online comments such as this typify the LGBT response: *“They are still a homophobic company and I still refuse to eat there.”*

What CFA’s capitulation does is signal to the liberal mob: ‘We’ve taken down the big fish, now who’s next?’ If they can take down CFA with all the support they received, it only emboldens the Left to continue their assault on any Christian institution or individual who dares believe in the Biblical view of marriage and sexuality.

The comment on marriage Dan Cathy made in 2012, which made Chick-fil-A a target of the left, is quite prophetic of where we are seven years later: *“I think we are inviting God’s judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at him and say, ‘We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage.’ And I pray God’s mercy on our gen-*

eration that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about.”

Watching a company that once stood so firmly now align with those who audaciously attempt to not only redefine marriage, but also sexuality and gender, is heartrending. **All to build bigger barns.** (Luke 12:15-21)

Freedom’s Irony

By Lisa Van Houten



Students in Hong Kong fighting real oppression are singing America’s national anthem in their fight for freedom. As they wave our flag and sing our anthem **they’re putting their very lives at risk, striving for the freedom Americans enjoy and take for granted.**

Meanwhile, the Student Senate at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI voted 22-10 to remove the Pledge of Allegiance from its meetings because they claimed it represents an oppressive government.

The Grand Valley student senate took issue with the mention of God, while also claiming that the Pledge of Allegiance is not *“inclusive” to international students.* *“We are representing a diverse population here and that specific language doesn’t sit with this diverse population and fully representing them,”* stated Lansing Sánchez-Castillo, a student senator.

“I have no allegiance to pledge to the Federal Government as someone who feels entirely unsupported by its figurehead,” one

student said. Another student added, *“The lack of respect and empathy for the greater student body hurts my heart.”*

Dorian Thompson, a political science major and student senator, called the vote to remove the pledge a “disgrace.” He asserted, “You’re not pledging allegiance to Donald Trump or Mike Pence or Nancy Pelosi, you’re pledging allegiance to the country. I think a lot of folks don’t understand that.” “The Pledge of Allegiance,” he stated in a later interview, “is about the values of our nation and what we stand for.”

As Thompson pointed out in an interview with MLive, no one is forced to stand or recite the pledge, and keeping the pledge allows protest by sitting for those opposed to its inclusion.

Thankfully, just days later, the Grand Valley student senate reversed its position and reinstated the pledge. **However, not because they want to honor the country where they have the freedom to criticize our government,** but because they received backlash from other students, the greater community, as well as university officials, alumni, and donors.

America’s colleges and universities have increasingly become hostile to free speech. According to the “Free Expressions of College Campuses” report, over half of college students surveyed say they believe that violating another’s First Amendment protections because they disagree with them is acceptable to some degree.

A study by the Knight Foundation found: “When asked to choose which objective is more important to a democracy, college students prioritize promoting an inclusive society that is welcoming of diverse groups over one that protects citizens’ free speech rights, 53% to 46%.”

I fear for our nation’s future when students halfway around the world long for the freedom that students here are trampling underfoot.

Father God, make us one nation under You once again.

Obey Your Thirst

by Steve Huston



Take the following elements: Start with a one and a half minute montage of various family members showing interactive support for their LGBTQ loved ones. Add to that, Argentina's 28th annual Buenos Aires PRIDE event. Now bind all these moments together with the heart-tugging music and lyrics of Carousel's "You'll Never Walk Alone." Finally, close with the message: "Pride: What you feel when someone you love chooses to be happy. You're not alone." **What does such a mixture get you?**

Sprite (Coca-Cola Co.) believes these are the proper ingredients to use in making commercials for Argentina and other Spanish speaking nations. **They believe it's appropriate to normalize—and encourage—the dangerous and destructive lifestyles portrayed by the letter sequence LGBTQ.** That's right; Sprite has taken its catch phrase, "Obey Your Thirst," and is using it to not only encourage others to satiate their thirst at the poisonous pool of sin, disease, and psychological harm, but is also sending the subtle message that family members who don't support this self-destructive behavior aren't loving.

Side note: Before going on, let me remind you that the harmful effects of these sinful lifestyles are well documented by pro- and anti-LGBTQ researchers and sources. *The Health Hazards of Homosexuality - What the Medical and Psychological Research Reveals* is one such resource.

Emotionally coercing all family members, Sprite included the following tender, supportive moments of various household members helping their gender-confused and homosexual loved ones prepare for this year's PRIDE event:

The ad starts with one mother applying

makeup to her son; the next scene has a different female helping her daughter/sister bind her chest, so she could appear to be a boy. Who's helping their grandson dress up in his drag queen costume? None other than dear grandmother, as they laugh together. But let's not forget the children - so accepting and impressionable - they're busy painting a rainbow flag for a lesbian relative and her girlfriend. Sprite even includes dads. The ad ends with a father driving his son to the PRIDE event where he lovingly watches his son and his son's boyfriend walk hand in hand to the parade.

Sprite is trying to sell more than a soft drink; they're culture warriors trying to convince the public of their "wokeness," relevance, and that the LGBT lifestyle is not only normal but is to be celebrated. Ask yourself, why out of ninety-five seconds of air time, would the word "Sprite" only show up for the last four? There's no one drinking Sprite; yet each and every scene boldly promotes the ungodly and harmful lifestyles that are being pushed upon this generation by seemingly every facet of our culture - regardless of scientific facts. **Don't buy what they're selling - a lie!**

If Sprite cared more about its customer base than about the base feelings of its customers, they would sell soft drinks instead of normalizing sin and its dangers. If Coke cared, they would warn, not prey on the emotions of a people who insist that others applaud and promote their lifestyle choices. Why does the Coca-Cola Company only present the Pride dream instead of warning about the real nightmare that accompanies this choice? **The dangers are physical, emotional, and spiritual - they are real!**

Sprite's slogan - "Obey your thirst!" - makes me think of Jesus' words: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." **We will either chase after our own lustful desires, continuing to hunger and thirst; or we will long after Christ's holiness and have our thirst satisfyingly quenched!**

That's the message that loving and supportive friends and families will speak into the lives of those who are confused. It's a mes-

sage that will bring healing and hope by the grace of God. As Chicks on the Right wrote, "You can show your kids you love them and that they aren't alone without condoning everything they want to do. In fact, real love for your children demands it."

"Real love - and real parenting - means guiding confused kids when they are feeling alone and vulnerable. It means loving them enough to provide them with stability and moral boundaries. It means you teach them not to cave to whatever the world - or a soft drink company - says is okay."

Share truth AND grace with these confused souls.

This isn't Sprite/Coke's first foray in embracing and normalizing harmful lifestyles while subtly attacking those who recognize the danger that these deceived men, women, and children put themselves in. **This company is NOT family friendly, in that they are promoting lifestyles to our children and grandchildren that are scientifically proven to be harmful.**

Some may feel compelled to take a personal stand and say, "No more Coke products for me," that would entail a lot of products. Others may choose to stay away from just Sprite and Coke. Although such personal choices may not affect a big corporation like the Coca-Cola Company, it makes a change in those who do stand. It strengthens one's resolve for other issues later, and may be a personal ground from which another attack against evil might be launched at a later time.

Please send the enclosed postcard to Coke's president, James Quincey.

What do you hunger and thirst after? When you hunger for holiness and thirst for righteousness, obey your thirst! That obedience will be different for each one of us; but it will be action. It will include a further distancing oneself from evil and a drawing closer to Christ and His ways. Each person is either filled or continues to search for things which won't satisfy—until they drink from the well of living water.

Meet Steve Huston



I was born, the older brother of two sisters, to a father who fell in love with my mother in grade school, while they attended a one-room school house. He was a class clown and picked on my mother incessantly. She, on the other hand, was very shy and did not like him in the least until he had joined the army and went overseas. Absence made her realize that she loved him; they corresponded, and then married after his return home.

History is important to me, personal and national. We get a sense of who we are from knowing our history. My wife warns people, “He’s shy; but don’t get him started.” That doesn’t make a lot of sense unless you know the depths of the first paragraph of this article.

My mom grew up as a Christian; my dad became a Christian when I was around four or five. When dad gave his life to Christ, he was fully committed, studied the Word, taught in the church, and witnessed to others. I grew up in a Christian home; not nominally speaking, dad would hold us accountable and warn that one day we would stand before God and give an answer for our own actions, regardless of what others may have done.

My dad could do anything (really); so, from a young age my interests were piqued on many fronts. I was encouraged to work hard, learn different skills, and was taught that if you didn’t know how to do something—learn how to do it. My dad taught me the importance of family loyalty and taking care of those you’re responsible for. He worked for GM and if they went on strike,

he would work in an apple orchard or anywhere he had to, in order to provide for us.

It’s because of my Christian upbringing, my dad’s example, my mom’s gentle – but firm - love, and the grace of God that I am what I am today. My co-workers often tease me asking, “Is there anything you haven’t done?” Of course there are many things I haven’t done; but my love for learning and my heritage has brought me to do more than some.

I grew up in the Free Methodist church and during a children’s meeting with a Christian illusionist, I gave my heart to the Lord, making a profession of faith. I was taught, and still believe, that the Bible must be the basis for our beliefs, decisions, and actions. Until we better understand grace and holiness in light of each other, we won’t really understand grace or holiness; we won’t understand nor love God and others as we ought.

I’ve been in a traveling choir, a traveling drama group, was a missionary in Japan for three years and in India for ten days. I love to read and my children will tell you that I have more books than I should. God has blessed me with the opportunity of preaching His Word in different places at different times and currently am able to do so globally through an internet radio station that is run by a friend of mine in Kentucky.

I first learned of ADA while I was working at New Focus (the psych unit of the local hospital). I had some interactions with the ministry and a great appreciation for what they did. After working at the hospital for 13 years, I had to go home and tell my wife that I would be looking for another job because the hospital was closing the psych unit. She was very supportive and we took turns reminding each other that “God has a plan and we would be all right.”

It didn’t matter what kind of job I applied for; no one would hire me. Just a few days before my unemployment ran out I received a call from the Newaygo Conservation District; it would only be for about six weeks but someone finally hired me. Six weeks turned into nine months (it was a seasonal job); I was called back the next spring. For

the next several years, I would work there for three of the four seasons, spending the winters working for Bill Johnson at the American Decency Association.

Bill graciously hired me to be (in my words) a Jack-of-all-trades. Eventually he asked me to try my hand at writing as well. One year, as I was getting ready to return to the nursery, we discussed my working here full-time; but God, providentially, decided it wasn’t time yet.

When it appeared that God had put things in order, Bill asked if I would be interested in joining ADA full-time; so I prayed to the God of heaven. Bill was willing to let me help the conservation district in the spring and then come to ADA full-time; so I agreed to do so.

It wasn’t an easy decision. I was in line to become manager of the Nursery and I enjoyed working outside and on the tractor. I knew that joining this ministry was going to be a test of faith; after all, **this isn’t just a faith-based ministry; it’s a ministry based on faith.** Finances wax and wane; and if Hillary Clinton won the upcoming election, would there even be any finances? Would I be looking for a job again? Remembering how hard it was for me to find work before the nursery, it was a scary consideration.

And yet it wasn’t. There wasn’t any question, really; God had brought me here and He would take care of me. The answer obviously had to be yes. In the years following, Bill and the ADA staff have been patient with me as we discuss minor doctrinal differences and have helped me learn how to write. **I am grateful to God for His goodness to me and for each of them.**

Today and tomorrow are an important part of my history too—unwritten history. I’m a husband and homeschool dad. Three of my five children still live in our home; I hold them all dear to my heart. God is writing their stories as He continues to write mine; and without His guidance we would all be lost. We laugh, read, and play together, continuing to trust in His sovereign, providing Hand. **Please keep us in your prayers.**