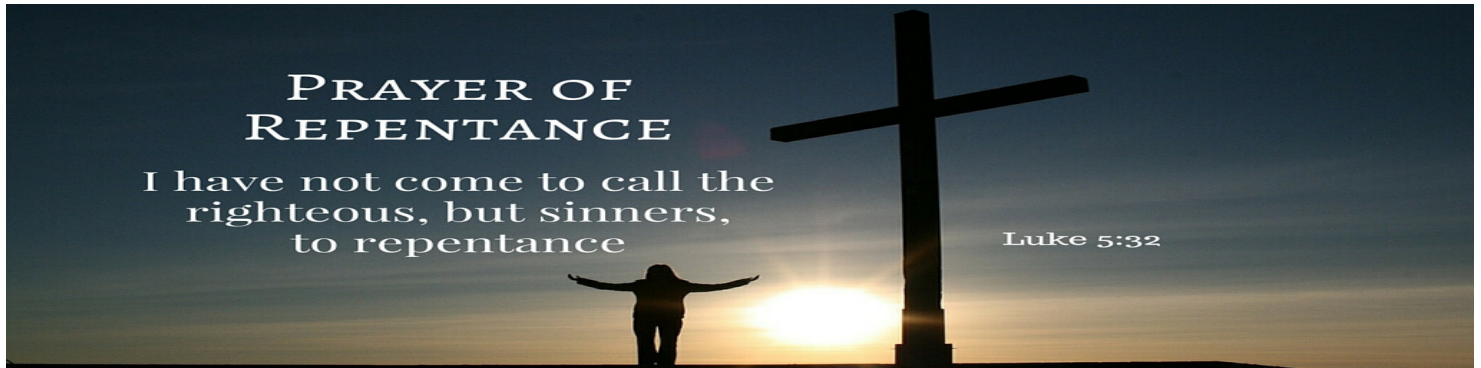


Needed: Genuine Prayer and Repentance

By Bill Johnson



A new year begins. I don't know whether to laugh or cry at the prospects.

But at the outset, let me say that our entire staff thanks you for the great confidence you have shown in supporting us with your faithful giving in 2016! On behalf of the ADA staff and board, a hearty thanks to the many of you who continue to make this ministry possible!

With all of the year end calls for money from untold numbers of charities and politicians, it is an immense blessing to have you still standing with us!

As we begin a new year, I consider how we desired to close out 2016. I'm referencing our late October gatherings at our headquarters in Fremont and in Grand Rapids where we brought in two cutting edge truth tellers, Frank Gaffney (President of the Center for Security Policy) and Sandy Rios (heard nationwide on American Family Radio). Frank and Sandy exposed for us the lies surrounding the Obama administration relating to Shariah law, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Justice Department, Hillary Clinton, et al.

They did it with tact, diplomacy, courage and facts! They did not disappoint as they diligently shed light upon the broadening darkness that is inculcating America. [Video of the event can be found at AmericanDecency.org]

Yet in spite of the darkness inculcating our nation, God again was merciful upon our beleaguered, divided America.

I, however along with many of you, remain convinced that Satan is crouching at our door.

Many enemies are lined up from within and without, still pressing the Obama legacy of open borders, illegal immigration, socialized medicine, demilitarization, abortion on demand, transgenderism and other sexual aberrations, the degradation of America and our Constitution, and, of course, Biblical Christianity.

Even in recent days, Obama has stated that after he leaves the White House, he promises that he will not go quietly into the night. At this writing, he is scheduled to meet behind closed doors with Congressional Democrats to strategize their plan to save Obama's so-called "legacy achievements." Democrats are already declaring January 15th as a "call to action."

Have you ever heard of a President who has stayed behind with the sinister intention of undermining the next duly elected administration?

These are the times in which we live in.

I along with probably all of you are weary of the ongoing angst and division in Washington. Yet, it is what it is. Sick of it though I am, to not report what we are facing would be irresponsible on my part and on the part of this ministry that God has called us to.

With all of this as a backdrop, picking up where we left off last year, we will be showing and promoting a vital video release that has been heavily promoted by the Center for Security Policy, headed by Frank Gaffney.

The film is entitled "Enemies Within" created by Trevor Loudon. Trevor Loudon, known for his extensive research, documents the fact that the U.S. government has been heavily infiltrated by such Communist/Socialists as Keith Ellison, who is being strongly considered as the new head of the Democratic National Committee. Ellison is also a known member of the Muslim Brotherhood. [See response card to order this DVD.]

Our first event of the year will be the showing of "Enemies Within" at our headquarters in Fremont, Michigan on Friday, January 20 at 1:00 and 7:00 PM.

As the movie "Enemies Within" so aptly points out—we as a nation are in TROUBLE. Our second event of the year brings the solution to our national trouble — GENUINE prayer and repentance. Mark your calendar for February 3 when Dr. Joel Beeke, international speaker and president of the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, will be speaking at our headquarters in Fremont. Dr. Beeke will be passionately speaking on the solution - "Needed: Genuine Prayer and Repentance".

We finished on a strong note last year; we are continuing to hit the ground and running hard with the start of this year.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

To see with longing hearts

As I began a new devotional year, having just completed reading through the Bible, I began back in Genesis. On the third day of January, we read the following regarding ourselves as humans.

“The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...”

“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. (Genesis 6:5, 11-12)

And a few chapters later: *“I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:20b-22)*

In Genesis 6, man reveals his nature - his bent towards sin. Then we see God’s character expressed in His holiness and mercy in Genesis 8:20b-22.

Man’s ways haven’t changed. Pick up the newspaper, read the online news any day throughout the day. The news is replete with grievous, disgusting, often such sad news.

- “1,000 Muslims screaming ‘Allahu akbar’ set fire to Germany’s oldest church on New Year’s Eve.”
- “Columbia students support female genital mutilation.”
- “Obama says no serious person believes

US elections can be rigged - oops, this was before Trump won.”

- “64 police officers have been shot and killed in the line of duty this year.”
- “Bloody Christmas Chicago weekend: More than 40 shot, 11 killed in Chicago.”
- “Obama to transfer more Gitmo detainees despite Trump’s objection.”

Mans brutality to man. The rising tide of lawlessness, Godlessness, and inept leadership at the highest levels of government across the globe.

For the past eight years, America has been leading the way as Obama’s policies have assaulted justice, the security of our police, Israel, our borders, healthcare, marriage, the sanctity of life, and so much more. Many surmise that it has been nothing short of orchestrated. I would be one of those.

Speaking at an area church, Dr. Joel Beeke recently stated, “As I have spoken across this country leading up to the election, I heard humble groanings, a crying out to God as I have never heard before.

How else are we to see the utter shock that we felt when Donald Trump emerged the winner on November 8? Whether you can’t stand him or whether you regard him, the election results shocked the world!

I voted for Trump because America needed a reprieve from the policies of Hillary Clinton.

People throughout the free world and beyond are breathing a sigh of relief.

From Trump’s naming Mike Pence as his Vice-President, to stating he will rescind all of Barack Obama’s executive orders, to noted Christian leaders articulating that he is seeking their counsel regarding policy concerns, to his stating loudly and regularly that he will only nominate strong pro-life justices to the Supreme Court, the news is refreshing when compared to what we have been hearing and watching unfold for the last eight years.

There is ample reason to be dubious (see page 6), but how can a reasonable person deny that there has been a radical course change from an open door policy to radical Islam, illegal immigration, transgenderism, the continuing undermining and destruction of the U.S. Constitution, to the ultimate elimination of our republic.

Around the ADA devotional table in the mornings leading up to the election, we regularly discussed the concern that if Donald Trump were elected, Christians would just be empowered to return to business as usual.

From the list of news headlines that I listed above, I omitted one which I here inject. It is as follows:

“Will this holiday season rekindle the religious fervor that sustains liberty?” (From Daniel Horowitz, Conservative Review)

My years of life and my years of reading through the Bible tell me the answer is no to the above question. The more important question is, ‘will these past 8 years and all of its horror followed by God’s mercy rekindle the spiritual lethargy that has marked American households for many generations?’

Crying out to God? Humbling ourselves with moanings and groanings - asking God to spare us once again?

It is to this end that we point and so it is that we kick off this year with two major themes:

First, an immense warning, tangibly using Trevor Loudon’s powerful video “Enemies Within,” and second, calling out to God’s people to pray and repent by asking Dr. Joel Beeke to help us to see with longing hearts and spiritual eyes.

Last minute update regarding “Enemies Within” - Trevor Loudon is available to come to Fremont in March to do an intro and a Q&A after showing the movie. So, in addition to showing the movie here on January 20 we will hope to nail down either March 17 or 18 (Friday or Saturday). We anticipate that many who see the movie will want to not only see the movie again but come to hear Trevor Loudon. Stay tuned!

The Greatest Danger

by Steve Huston



What is the greatest danger facing our nation today? Someone out there just thought, “Liberals.” Another cried, “Islamism.” Yet others felt, “Russia,” “Obama’s last days in office,” “our economy,” “communism,” “millennials” or “those older folks” is what will surely take America beyond the brink of destruction. Surely at least one person just thought, “Trump!” Yet none of these things are our GREATEST danger. **The greatest danger to America is a lack of true repentance.** And like Nineveh of old, true repentance is our greatest—and our only real—need.

God called Joshua to be strong and courageous **in obedience**, not in warfare. God took care of the enemies while they walked in obedience to His commands. All our real dangers are spiritual ones. Therefore, let us heed the Apostle Paul’s warning that “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.” (2 Cor. 10:4) Spiritual warfare requires spiritual weapons which are obtained by God’s gracious hand. **We need to lay hold of His weapons that will pull down strongholds, weapons like repentance, personal holiness, devotions, being thoroughly Christian, with Christ’s pure love shining through our every word, thought, and action.**

True repentance is more elusive than “The American Dream” during the “Great Depression.” With America in a continual sexual revolution of degradation, Islamism being more accepted, society embracing the ideas that violent behavior is acceptable and socialism/communism is desirable, and while even the extreme right is moving to center-left, we find ourselves in the midst of a “Great Moral Depression.” We NEED revival; we NEED repentance.

But, what is genuine repentance? What does it mean to repent? Let’s look at godly men of old and contemporary men of God for this answer:

C.H. Spurgeon describes it like this: *“True repentance has a distinct and constant reference to the Lord, Jesus Christ. If you repent of sin without looking to Christ, away with your repentance! If you are so lamenting your sin as to forget the Savior, you have need to begin all this work over again. Whenever we repent of sin we must have one eye upon sin and another upon the Cross. Or, better still, let us have both eyes upon Christ, seeing our sin punished in Him and by no means let us look at sin except as we look at Jesus. **A man may hate sin just as a murderer hates the gallows – but this does not prove repentance.** If I hate sin because of the punishment, I have not repented of sin – I merely regret that God is just. But if I can see sin as an offense against Jesus Christ and loathe myself because I have wounded Him, then I have a true brokenness of heart. If I see the Savior and believe that those thorns upon His head were plaited by my sinful words; If I believe that those wounds in His heart were pierced by my heart sins; If I believe that those wounds in His feet were made by my wandering steps and that the wounds in His hands were made by my sinful deeds – then I repent of sin after a right fashion. **Only under the Cross can you repent.** Repentance elsewhere is remorse which clings to the sin and only dreads the punishment. Let us then seek, under God, to have a hatred of sin caused by a sight of Christ’s love.”*

We become very different individuals after repentance has taken place in our heart; we cannot bear what we once were. George Whitefield speaks plainly: *“Every man, by his own natural will, hates God; but when he is turned to the Lord, by evangelical repentance, then his will is changed; then his conscience, now hardened and benumbed, shall be quickened and awakened; then his hard hearts shall be melted, and his unruly affections shall be crucified. Thus, by that repentance, **the whole soul will be changed, and he will have new inclinations, new desires, and new habits.**”*

Our contemporary, Kevin DeYoung, well states the dangers of temporary “repentance” and the truth of real repentance. *“Genuine repentance [is] not a convenient escape hatch after a weekend or a life of folly. It means admitting specific wrong, recognizing your offensiveness to God, changing course, turning to Christ, and wishing with all your heart you had never made the mistake you now despise.”*

Real change only comes by genuine repentance; revival—national and personal—must start here. In Nineveh, from the king to the animals, all showed humility and contriteness of heart. **The people mourned and showed “fruit meet for repentance.”** America, from the greatest to the least, needs to be brought to brokenness by the Hand of God; we must be blessed with His gracious gifts of conviction and repentance.

This IS our greatest need. This IS our only hope. This is why the American Decency Association is bringing Dr. Joel Beeke, of the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, to our headquarters on **February 3, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Dr. Beeke will be bringing a message entitled, “Needed: Genuine Prayer and Repentance.”**

Superficial prayer and easy repentance will do us no good. It may bring temporary peace to our minds and give us a false sense of security before God; but in the end, there is no lasting peace, no real revival, and no salvation. These are desperate times. If you care about the state of your own soul and our nation, **join us at the American Decency offices—203 E Main St; Fremont, MI 49412—on February 3, 2017, at 7:00 PM.** Start praying now for a move of God upon our hearts; bring friends and family; come with expectation.



National Geographic Pushes Child Abuse

by Chris Johnson



Kids will believe pretty much anything you tell them.

You tell them their dead pet is frolicking on a farm in the country? They believe you.

Tell them a fat man slides down a filthy chimney once every year to leave them toys? They believe you.

Tell them a tiny woman in a tutu pays them for their missing teeth? They believe you.

Tell them they can be whatever gender they want to be? They believe you.

And then they end up on the cover of National Geographic.

That's nine year old Avery Jackson's story. With his parents' support, he's been living as a girl since he was just five years old.

And to top it all off, National Geographic chose this portrait of a poor, confused young boy to, in part, make the point that, "In many places girls are *uniquely* at risk." (Emphasis mine.)

What better way to highlight the unique risks of girls than to focus on a boy who wishes that he was one?

Why not focus on Afghani girls whose faces are disfigured from having acid thrown on them simply because they want to go to school?

Or how about the Indian girl they mention in their article who wishes she could be a boy, not because her mother is a transgender rights activist, but because she wants to be a doctor and she doesn't see that as a possibility for a girl.

Conservative Muslim genital mutilation? Black market surgery in an attempt to fit into a cultural norm of beauty? Sex selective abortion in places like China? Yazidi sex slaves in the hands of ISIS?

With this cover story, National Geographic not only encourages the delusion of this poor kid and others like him, but they skip over countless stories of actual suffering, unique to females, which deserve real attention and outrage.

Avery's story deserves outrage too, not because of any roadblocks to his "transition" to female, but because his parents and many in our society are encouraging it.

This is irresponsible and dangerous to the child's well being, but you don't have to take that from me.

No one would know better than Walt Heyer, who de-transitioned from his female alter ego after eight years of living as a woman.

"Studies have shown that childhood gender dysphoria does not inevitably continue into adulthood. An overwhelming 77 to 94 percent of gender dysphoric children do not become adults with gender dysphoria. Given this, it's social, medical, and psychological malpractice to push young children to lop off or sew on body parts and take highly charged cross-sex hormones that can further destabilize their prepubescent bodies and minds, especially when they are highly likely to regret what grown adults pushed them into before they were able to sort through such life-altering decisions.."

With this cover story, National Geographic not only gives short shrift to real challenges for girls around the world, but it encourages this kind of abuse against young people.

May God protect vulnerable young people from the lies of the gender revolution.

Letters from our Supporters



We want to thank you for all of the information you've given over the past years. Without your godly insight we would have been blindsided by many falsehoods. May God continue to bless you with wisdom and may He continue to bless America. In Christ, L&S. T.

We thank the Lord for the HUGE amount of work the staff and faithful volunteers have accomplished. We know you do it ONLY through His strength. Love to all, C&B. W.

I praise God for the info I receive from you. I need the sources for truth. Ps. 73:23-26 A.J.

We thank God always for you and all that American Decency does. We will continue to ask God to encourage you and to provide for all the needs of your work. May all of you have a joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year. D&B. E.

May the Lord bless you for all the years you have been so faithful. We will never lose the battle, for the battle is the LORD's! M.D.

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Walmart's Split Personality

by Lisa Van Houten



100%. A perfect score. That's the rating Walmart recently received from the world's largest pro-homosexual lobbying group, Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

HRC rates companies based on their support for the homosexual and transgender agenda, publishing that rating in HRC's "Corporate Equality Index" (CEI).

As Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth reports, "companies are ranked by whether or not they adopt pro-LGBTQ workplace and giving policies. From year to year, HRC usually makes the criteria more stringent, thus driving corporations to adopt ever-more radical pro-LGBTQ internal policies and commitments to maintain their "perfect" scores."

Demonstrating how advanced the homosexual agenda is in the corporate world, receiving a pro-homosexual 100% rating from HRC is a prized possession and one which many of our nation's largest corporations strive for. As a result, corporate America has been a driving force in the LGBTQ revolution, as evidenced by the pressure companies brought to bear on states such as North Carolina who stood against the transgender steamroller.

HRC uses their massive clout to pressure corporations to join the LGBTQ parade – both literally and figuratively. In recent years the Walmart Corporation has been a sponsor of lewd-filled "Gay Pride" parades and has funded homosexual activist groups such as the Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute.

But Walmart's support of the LGBTQ agenda doesn't stop there – and it didn't begin there either. Back in 2006, nearly a decade before the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage, we wrote of Wal-Mart's

homosexual alignment.

This is what we reported regarding Walmart 11 years ago: *Walmart asked for, and received, permission to join the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). The company announced they were giving two large grants to NGLCC. The world's largest retailer was rewarded with a position on the board of NGLCC. Walmart also announced they would give preference to homosexual-owned businesses in purchasing products.*

Justin Nelson, president of NGLCC, said he expects Walmart to use its influence to pressure suppliers like P&G, Johnson & Johnson, and Gillette to give homosexual businesses preferential treatment. Walmart is also working on a plan to provide domestic-partnership benefits to homosexual employee "partners." The NGLCC is a leading promoter of homosexual marriage. ...

A quick search of Walmart's website turned up the following number of items for sale:

*Gay - 1148
Lesbian - 468
Transgender - 40
Bisexual - 38
Gay Marriage - 26*

Remember, that was in 2006. Walmart's support for the homosexual agenda is not a new development. Their 100% rating from HRC (up from 90% last year) reveals that the so-called "family friendly" corporation is actually a wolf in sheep's clothing.

They can't have it both ways. If a company such as Walmart tries to play both sides of the field and also support pro-natural marriage causes, HRC penalizes their rating by 25%. Obviously, Walmart's 100% pro-homosexual rating indicates they aren't even attempting to remain neutral in this culture war.

In 2014, a year before gay "marriage" was legalized, Walmart began offering health insurance to same-sex "spouses" of its employees. A company representative stated at the time: "Respect for the

individual, diversity and inclusion are among the core values that made Walmart into the company that it is today. We will continue to not distinguish between same and opposite sex spouses when it comes to the benefits we offer under our health insurance plan."

In 2015 when the pornographic, sadomasochistic film "Fifty Shades of Grey" premiered, we reported that Walmart stores were not only displaying "Fifty Shades" books in their stores in a Valentine's display, but had an extensive line of "Fifty Shades of Grey" merchandise on their website which included disturbing S&M paraphernalia.

Later in 2015, after the Arkansas state legislature passed a Religious Freedom Restoration Act to protect religious liberty in the home state of the Walmart Corporation, Walmart pressured Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson to veto the legislation.

The company has long abandoned the Christian principles that Sam Walton founded the company upon. Yet in the minds of millions, Walmart is somehow still viewed as a bastion of conservative values.

The Walmart Corporation must be patting themselves on the back – advancing the homosexual revolution all while stringing along the pro-family community. We've been bamboozled, snowed, duped if we still think Walmart is committed to traditional, Christian principles. The evidence above proves otherwise.

Walmart has made a choice – choosing to advance the LGBTQ agenda while shaking off their Bible-belt persona.

Christian shoppers also have a choice to make.

As Peter LaBarbera writes: ***"I'll say this: you have to hand it to Walmart's executives: cynically playing both sides of the LGBTQ-vs.-the-natural-family "culture war" and seemingly getting away with it. Or will they? I suppose that's up to pro-family Americans ..."***

Rex Tillerson - SOS

by Steve Huston



Which would be worse—the Exxon Valdez oil spill or spilling Exxon’s oil mogul, Rex Tillerson, into a position of power and influence, such as Secretary of State (SoS)? At least the Valdez error was isolated to one geographic area; whereas, **the Trump error would spill world-wide**. There are many things to consider when filling such an important position. So, when President-elect Trump “drains the swamp,” only to pour more, stagnant swamp water in, and replaces one crocodile for another, it’s time to yell, “SOS!”

The swamp most definitely needs to be drained, both in America and with our influence abroad. But it appears that Rex Tillerson is just more of the same. When Hillary Clinton was the SoS, she did her best to push the LGBT agenda both at home and abroad. In June of 2010 she stated, *“Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights, once and for all.”* And she also compared LGBT “discrimination” to honor killings, slavery, etc.

In December of 2011 our state department published “The Department of State’s Accomplishments Promoting the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People”. The next SoS, John Kerry, continued pushing the global LGBT agenda, particularly in African nations like Nigeria and Uganda.

Why should we think that Rex Tillerson would be more of the same? If a man’s history is any indication of who he is and what he will be, barring the grace of God doing a miraculous work in his life, then Mr. Tillerson’s involvement with bringing homosexuality to the Boy Scouts of America would support such thinking. While serving as president of the Boy Scouts, Tillerson led the charge to allowing gay scouts and gay troop leaders.

It’s been said that if one gets the life issue wrong, they’ll get most other issues wrong as well. We know that Secretary of State Clinton felt that one should be able to legally kill their child up until the moment it is born. Kerry also supports the right of abortion rather than the right to life. What about Mr. Tillerson? **He is the CEO and Chairman of a company who directly donates to Planned Parenthood, the leading murder mill in America.**

Regarding these two issues and the appointment of Tillerson, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council says, *“That should be particularly alarming to conservatives, who’ve spent the last eight years watching the State Department lead the global parade for the slaughter of innocent unborn children and the intimidation of nations with natural views on marriage and sexuality.”*

Let’s pick up the pace a little here:

Tillerson believes in global warming and supports a carbon tax. The president-elect has been talking about cutting taxes; do we need someone proposing new taxes on an already over-taxed nation?

He’s a big proponent of Common Core. Hmm, didn’t Mr. Trump say he was going to attempt to do away with Common Core?

Tillerson also praises the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). How many times did Trump throw the TPP in Clinton’s face, **calling it the worst deal in history?**

He has a close relationship with Russia and Putin; is this for the good or is it a cause for concern? Will he look away for the sake of his friend or **will he stand firm on what is best for America and for human rights, opposing Putin’s thuggery?**

Having strong ties with Saudi Arabia and Qatar, will he be able to stand firmly against Islamic influences which threaten to undo our government? What about the **actual** human rights atrocities that these and other Arab governments inflict upon their people?

Where does he stand on the Syrian refugee immigration issues? **We certainly don’t want to become another Germany.** We can’t assume that he’s in agreement with Trump on this issue because—as shown—Rex Tillerson stands for much of what President-elect Trump stood against during the presidential debates. For that matter, Rex Tillerson’s moral resume would be a better fit in a Hillary Clinton administration than in the administration that Trump had promised in his campaign.

America will never become great in the eyes of other nations while we continually blunder along promoting evil. It would behoove President-elect Trump to make appointments like he did in the cases of Scott Pruitt in charge of the EPA or Jeff Sessions as the Attorney General, putting men in charge of departments for which they distrust the status quo. Better to pick someone who is indignant regarding the state of our State Department and its moral relativism.

We don’t need another crocodile that lives and breeds in the stagnant swampy waters of moral relativism, social engineering, and death. We need a stalwart SoS who will always put America’s needs ahead of personal ambition. This position requires one to stand against globalism, believing in our national sovereignty. We need someone who will recognize the Muslim Brotherhood for the threat they are and push against their jihadist agenda here and abroad. We need someone who will wisely look at what has failed around the world and press firmly against it’s happening here, one who always has our national interest in mind. **No longer can we accept elitist or globalist thinking. We are a sovereign nation made of sovereign states.** Instead of pushing the LGBT agenda at home and abroad, instead of resolving to bend the knee to Allah—**let’s appoint someone who will stand up to the UN, the EU, and work with the President to make America good again.**

It doesn’t matter if you’ve been in business, have great relations with other nations, or even been an eagle scout; it matters where you stand on the issues.

Zoning Out Free Speech

by Lisa Van Houten



“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.” ~ George Orwell

We’re raising a generation of young people with fingers in their ears, afraid to hear - or not allowed to hear - an idea that challenges the politically correct orthodoxy.

Instead of being institutions of learning where young adults learn to think for themselves and debate opposing viewpoints, today’s universities silence speech that doesn’t align with the liberal viewpoint. “Speech Codes” are in place on many college campuses limiting speech that is deemed “offensive” – and what is considered “offensive” is typically conservative or Christian thought.

Students are being taught that they can expect to be protected from viewpoints with which they disagree. This is blatantly exemplified by the recent trend to transform college campuses into “safe spaces” where students are prohibited from hearing anything that might challenge the politically correct norm.

Once considered bastions of intellectual freedom, today’s colleges and universities are barriers to free speech. Literal barriers.

A disturbing trend in America’s universities is to designate tiny portions of campuses as the only places where students are allowed to engage in free speech. These areas are referred to as “free speech zones” - an oxymoron if there ever was one - which have the purpose of restricting free speech on every other area of the campus. As Charles Haynes writes for Religious Freedom Education Project: ***“free speech zones” send the message to students that freedom of speech is a privilege doled out***

by administrators – not a fundamental human right.”

Here are just a couple of countless examples of the censorship of speech taking place on college campuses.

* Officials from Clemson University forced a man to stop praying with students and leave campus because he had not been given permission to use the “designated free speech area.”

* A student at Modesto Junior College was prohibited from handing out copies of the U.S. Constitution on September 17 - Constitution Day, the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. The student was told he would have to get permission to use the campus “free speech zone” – a tiny concrete square big enough for just two people – in order to distribute the document that guarantees us the freedom of speech.

* And last October at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, university officials and campus police told GVSU students, part of a student group called Turning Point USA, that they couldn’t talk about the First Amendment to other students and ask them to write messages on a beach ball they called a “free speech ball” because the Turning Point students weren’t standing in one of the two designated “free speech zones.” The two free speech zones at GVSU make up 0.03% of the campus, leaving over 99% of GVSU as a restricted speech zone. The students, who were on a sidewalk, were told they would be arrested for trespassing if they didn’t stop exercising their freedom of speech.

The example at Grand Valley State University hits especially close to home – the college is roughly 45 miles away from our headquarters at American Decency Association in conservative West Michigan.

The student group who had their freedom of speech unlawfully restricted is fighting the GVSU policy, represented by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a Christian legal group which defends religious liberty and freedom of speech.

“Public universities, which are supposed to be the ultimate marketplace of ideas, shouldn’t be stifling students on more than 99.97 percent of campus,” said ADF Senior Counsel Tyson Langhofer. “The Turning Point USA students have a constitutionally protected freedom to peacefully share their viewpoints with other students, and those students have the freedom to share their viewpoints as well, whether verbally or in writing on a beach ball. The university can’t play ‘keep away’ with the First Amendment.”

As ADF reports: *On Oct. 17, club founder Tim McKeeby, member Joe Tucker, and two other individuals were in GVSU’s Cook Carillon Tower speech zone, which they had reserved, talking with other students about their freedoms protected by the First Amendment and giving the students the opportunity to write messages on a large beach ball, which they called the “Free Speech Ball.” Shortly after arriving, Tucker and two others began to walk on sidewalks around campus with the ball and peacefully interact with students. None of the Turning Point USA members were blocking access to buildings or pedestrian traffic.*

While the Turning Point USA members were on a large, open walkway in front of the Student Services Building, GVSU administrators and campus security approached them and informed them that they were violating the Speech Zone Policy and were therefore not allowed to conduct expressive activity in this location on campus. The security officers explained to them that they would be arrested for trespassing if they continued to engage in their free speech activities outside of the speech zones, so they ceased their activities.

On Nov. 16, Tucker observed a large crowd of students holding signs and marching around campus outside of the two small speech zones as they protested the recent election of Donald Trump. The student protestors stood directly outside of the Student Services Building and shouted slogans. The protestors even went inside of

[Continued on Page 8]

Zoning Out Free Speech



[Continued from Page 7]

the Student Services Building for a period of time. Tucker did not observe any GVSU administrator or campus police officer approach the students or order them to stop engaging in their activities as had occurred with the Turning Point USA students.

Once again a university is choosing which speech is “free”. That’s not freedom, its tyranny.

Use your freedom of speech, which is being denied to these GVSU students, and urge Grand Valley State University to rescind their speech-stifling, un-American policy.

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What Would You Do?

by Chris Johnson



Let’s use our imaginations a moment.

Imagine you’re in a bank when all of a sudden a man pulls a gun, fires it in the air and demands the tellers fill his bag with money.

The police cars screech to a stop in front of the bank, the cops take cover behind their cruiser doors and point their guns at the bank, and the gunman tells everyone in the bank to get down on the ground.

We’ve all seen this played out in our favorite police or detective shows and movies, and depending on the level of suspense they’re going for the robber often tells the police, “If you don’t meet my demands, I’ll shoot a hostage every hour!”

Imagine yourself in that situation.

Change it up just a little bit, and imagine yourself in a church in Nigeria, surrounded by other worshippers, when a masked terrorist barges in with a gun, demanding you all denounce your faith, or he will shoot a member of your church every 6 minutes.

Change up the story just one more time. Put yourself in a massive room with every other believer in the world, when a gunman interrupts your fellowship to make the same demands. Denounce Christ, or one of you dies every 6 minutes.

Christian brothers and sisters, that last picture is not a figment of your imagination; it is the story of Christian persecution in 2016.

According to The Center for Studies on New Religions, 90,000 Christians lost their lives in 2016 because of their faith, making Christians the most persecuted religious group in the world.

It’s very easy for us to hear that statistic and walk away with the comprehension that some people in the Middle East or Nigeria or the Sudan are being persecuted, but it’s important that we understand that we share the same mark of faith as those dead Christians.

If God in His wisdom put us in those locations, we’d likely be dead too, if we had the courage that they had.

As comfortable as we’ve had it here, though we admittedly are starting to feel some tension with our secular culture, our experience is not the norm for believers around the world.

In the time it takes you to read this newsletter, how many Christians will be killed?

Are we praying for them? Are we encouraging them? Are we taking inspiration from them in our slight trials of the faith?

These people are willing to die for Jesus, are we willing to live for Him?

