

## *Godliness in a day of godlessness!*

*ADA's summer conference - Friday, July 18 - 7:00 -9:30 PM*



ADA Summer Conference 2013

By Bill Johnson

only of the threat from Islamic Jihad, but also of the need for Christians to boldly stand for Christ in a world that strives to silence us. Kamal is an author and frequent speaker throughout the country including a regular speaker at the Values Voter Summit in Washington, DC.

**Match challenge - prayerful request:**

Steve Ensley, President of American Family Online, Board member of American Decency

**Break:** Refreshments served

**Speaker:** Mat Staver - The founder and President of Liberty Counsel, Dean of the Law School at Liberty University. Mat has argued before the Supreme Court of the United States twice and has argued before most of the federal courts of appeals. In 2012 Staver argued a case at the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia on behalf of Liberty University against the Affordable Care Act. Mat is an author and frequent speaker throughout the country including a regular speaker at the Values Voter Summit in Washington, DC.

Liberty Counsel is an international nonprofit, litigation, education, and policy organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and the family since 1989, by providing pro bono assistance and representation on these and related topics.

**Panel Discussion (O&A):** This promises to be a stimulating time as our panelists will field questions that are of concern and often are not addressed.

**Panel:** Kamal Saleem, Mat Staver with Bill Johnson

**Closing song:** Robert Azkoul leading us

**Benediction**

Through the work of Liberty Counsel and Mat Staver, sixteen-year-old Justina Pelletier was returned to her family after 16 months in state custody in an explosive drama involving parents' rights and the controversial new field of medical child abuse.

Come and join with us on Friday, July 18 to hear and thank Mat Staver for the great work of Liberty Counsel! To God be the glory!



Justina Pelletier reunited with her family!

Please stand with us by registering and prayerfully do your best to bring at least two others with you. Remember: Sunshine Community Church will seat 2,000 people. We chose a large facility because we didn't want to turn away anyone from what promises to be a power-packed gathering. Be an instrument with us in educating, encouraging, exhorting.

**Friday, July 18, 2014**

**Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.**

**Location: Sunshine Church  
3300 East Beltline Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525**

**Cost: Free will offering**

**To register:  
return the enclosed response card,  
or contact us at 231-924-4050 or  
kimberly@americandecency.org**

In a few quickly passing weeks, we will have the privilege of gathering together as true believers to be challenged on this very timely subject: **GODLINESS IN A DAY OF GODLESSNESS.**

God has provided our speakers, men of God, and we have been asking God to bring His people - you and other people of concern and caring - to hear His name proclaimed, that those burdened for His people and deeply troubled over America would have their hearts, minds and spirits challenged, exhorted, informed, and strengthened.

**May God be glorified as we come together on Friday, July 18!**

**Program:**

**Words of welcome:** Bill Johnson, President American Decency Association

**Opening remarks and prayer:** Pastor Ralph Houston, Pastor of Immanuel Reformed Church, Fennville, MI

**Song:** Led by Robert Azkoul, pianist, choir director, tour group leader, accomplished musician.

**Speaker:** Kamal Saleem - A former Islamic terrorist, now a follower of Christ, Kamal's love for Jesus and America compels him to warn and exhort American Christians not



From the desk of Bill Johnson

### Where is everybody?

What if you hosted a party and nobody came? It could be embarrassing, disappointing, heartbreaking. You could come up with some other words for it.

I heard a speaker say to an audience in Muskegon recently that he would often go early to the place where he was scheduled to speak and look at all the empty chairs. In this case there were 400 seats set up. He prayerfully asked God to fill those seats. He knew his message was important and that somehow God would use what he said to minister to the people who came to hear him speak.

Last year we at American Decency Association went out on a limb and rented Sunshine Community Church (a large facility seating 2000) in Grand Rapids for messengers bearing significant messages!

God blessed our speakers and our audience with powerful presentations. Over 600 people were in attendance.

That was a pretty good-sized audience. However, you might ask, how would you feel if only 200 or 300 showed up?

I don't know how I would feel and ultimately it has nothing to do with my feelings.

What it does have to do with is, have we done our best at inviting and encouraging you and people like you to come to hear these - what we believe - significant messages on Friday, July 18.

It comes down to this. God is faithful! He will bring whom He will bring. Already, I believe that God is on the move placing before people information about this event. Revealing by His Spirit and through word of mouth, written fliers,

radios spots, and this newsletter of the importance of this event and the significance of the messages that will be presented by our speakers: Mat Staver and Kamal Saleem.

We are getting things in place - one day at a time - reserving the location, seeking volunteers, making and distributing fliers, setting up interviews via radio, airing radio spots via American Family Radio and hopefully other radio outlets.

And Praying! Praying that God will anoint this time as we come together.

### Please stand with us by:

1. Praying for God's blessing upon this event: for the speakers, the music leader, others participating, the volunteers and those attending.
2. Register and prayerfully do your best to bring at least two others with you. Remember: Sunshine Community Church will seat 2,000 people. We chose a large facility because we didn't want to turn away anyone from what promises to be a power-packed gathering. Be an instrument with us in educating, encouraging, exhorting.
3. Spread the word in your church and to friends and family. Make copies of the flier which can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1kOpqaH> and circulate.
4. Volunteer to assist us at the conference as a greeter at the door, an usher, at the registration table, or in the parking lot.
5. Prayerfully consider making a donation at the conference. An anonymous donor has told me that he will offer a match challenge during the event for the furtherance of our outreach and ministry.

Where is everybody? We believe they are scattered all about and will yet register.

Some planning on coming but forgetting to mark their calendar.

Some thinking of someone(s) they would love to have come yet not yet having asked them to join in attending.

Some thinking this is going to be good, but feel they just have too many other things to do.

In the case of the speaker in Muskegon who hoped to fill 400 seats, prayed about it and sought God's help - those 400 seats were filled and clearly people were blessed and strengthened. I know because I was there.

Just a few weeks ago we held a conference at The Shack Country Inn near Fremont. You can read a few of the comments from those who attended on page 6 of this newsletter.

### Here is a portion of one other response:

*My husband and I attended "Light in the Wilderness" June 6th - 8th. It was more than what we expected and have shared much of what we have learned. The weekend was a good experience. We met many wonderful people and people of like-mind. ...*

**"... IT WAS MORE THAN WHAT WE EXPECTED..."**

We believe that if you join us for our July 18 event, you will also come away saying the same thing - "it was more than what we expected!"

I pray that when July 18 comes, I won't go away wondering where everyone was. However, ultimately our prayer and desire is that God would be glorified!

Please help us do our part that this important prayer would be answered!

*THAT GOD WOULD BE GLORIFIED!*

### **REGISTRATION REQUIRED** ADA Summer Conference

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# Promoting a culture of death and abuse

by Lisa Van Houten



Millions killed. The promotion of the sexual abuse of young girls and women. The imposition of a Godless ideology, yet claiming “God” is on their side.

No, I’m not talking about the dangerous Islamic radicals sweeping across Iraq. Rather, I’m talking about the dangerous workings of Planned Parenthood in American communities and schools.

We all should know of Planned Parenthood’s murder of millions of babies through abortion, but according to Planned Parenthood’s “clergy advocacy board” – yes you read that correctly – there’s nothing morally wrong with killing the unborn. This Planned Parenthood “clergy advocacy board” recently released an absurdly titled “Pastoral Letter to Patients” claiming abortion is morally permissible because The Bible doesn’t mention the word “abortion.”

In an effort to convince women not to feel guilty about the murder of their unborn children, Planned Parenthood writes to these “patients” – the mothers, not the babies - ***“Many people wrongly assume that all religious leaders disapprove of abortion. The truth is that abortion is not even mentioned in the Scriptures — Jewish or Christian — and there are clergy and people of faith from all denominations who support women making this complex decision.”***

I guess these “clergy” have never read “Thou shalt not kill.”

It shouldn’t come as a surprise that an organization that seeks to use God’s Holy Word to justify the sin of abortion, and doesn’t blink an eye about killing millions of pre-born girls and boys, also has no

qualms about promoting, not only sexual promiscuity, but also bondage and torture sex to young girls.

**However, one courageous young woman is doing something to try to stop Planned Parenthood.**

Since she was child and learned what abortion was – the murder of preborn babies – Lila Rose desired to bring an end to this atrocity. At the ripe old age of 15, Lila Rose formed the pro-life organization Live Action in 2003 with a focus of reaching her own generation with the truth of abortion and building a culture of life.

As a college student, Lila Rose boldly began a series of investigative video documentations exposing the lies and corruption of Planned Parenthood. Posing as a minor teen seeking counseling, Lila Rose went undercover into abortion facilities to shed light on this evil. She has been joined by many others of her generation and through their undercover investigations, Live Action has documented “rampant sexual abuse cover-up, racism, medical misinformation, the willingness to assist sex traffickers, false statements made by Planned Parenthood executives, sex-selective abortion, and infanticide.”

Now, a new video investigation by Live Action shows that Planned Parenthood is using its \$500 million federal tax dollars to teach young teens about sickening sadomasochistic sex acts, including bondage and torture. The Live Action video captures what happened when a girl, claiming she was 15-years-old, went into a Planned Parenthood in Indianapolis, Indiana, for advice on sex.

**(Warning: the following refers to explicit content – although this vague description is far less graphic than the actual video content recorded at the Planned Parenthood clinic.)**

In the undercover video, The Planned Parenthood “counselor” is shown, as Live Action reports, suggesting: ***that the girl could get an older friend to go in to a sex toy shop (where purchases are prohibited until a person is 18), and have the friend***

***buy things for the 15-year-old ...***

***Through several graphic descriptions, the clinic worker encouraged the girl to “work up” to being willing to experience pain in various ways.***

***“It just depends what kind of pain you can take,” she said. She then directed the 15-year-old to a porn site where she could watch other people engage in abusive sex and get ideas. ...***

***Planned Parenthood is coaching a minor girl on how to be abused, how to consent to abuse and torture, and how to get herself ready to submit to the demands of an abusive man. ...***

***The video also shows a “yes-no-maybe” worksheet that Planned Parenthood makes available to minors, asking them which dangerous sexual behaviors they are interested in, including flogging, bondage, biting, a--l sex, and torture.***

So along with killing over one million preborn babies every year, Planned Parenthood also encourages young girls to willingly take part in being sexually abused. So much for “safe sex.”

The concern regarding this so-called “education” that Planned Parenthood provides is not limited to the girls who walk through the doors of a Planned Parenthood clinic. Planned Parenthood information and its “sex-ed curriculum” is used in many public schools – perhaps even in your local community. I urge you to call the administration of your local public school and find out if Planned Parenthood resources are used in any way in the school system. If so, use the information found on [liveaction.org](http://liveaction.org) to educate the school leadership and school board regarding Planned Parenthood.

Live Action is also calling for the defunding of Planned Parenthood through federal tax dollars. Contact your representative (202-224-3121) and urge that federal support be completely cut from this organization that, along with the murder of millions of babies, also encourages such dangerous and repugnant acts and puts minors at risk.



# Christ or Culture?

by Chris Johnson



Recently, the Southern Baptist Convention met and decided to maintain their Biblical stance on traditional marriage.

From the president of the SBC, Ronnie Floyd, *“We stand strong on what the Scripture says about marriage between a man and a woman. At the same time we do know that we have this issue facing our culture. But due to the situation today, we must hold the word of God in one hand and the love of God in the other, and have compassion and love to bring people into the fellowship.”*

The convention was faced with the decision after one of the denomination’s pastors in California, whose son came out to him as gay, announced that he and the church he pastored would affirm same-sex relationships.

Indeed, this is an issue that every church will be facing in our sex-centered culture. Approving homosexuality is the litmus test of whether or not anything a pastor, or really any Christian, has to say is worthwhile to those outside of the church.

Is he “tolerant” of the gay agenda? If yes, we can hear him out. If no, he’s a crazy bigot who ought to be ignored.

As Albert Mohler explains so well, there is no “third way.”

*“...It has been increasingly clear that every congregation in this nation will be forced to declare itself openly on this issue. That moment of decision and public declaration will come to every Christian believer, individually. There will be no place to*

*hide, and no place safe from eventual interrogation. The question will be asked, an invitation will be extended, a matter of policy must be decided, and there will be no refuge.*

*...A church will recognize same-sex relationships, or it will not. A congregation will teach a biblical position on the sinfulness of same-sex acts, or it will affirm same-sex behaviors as morally acceptable. Ministers will perform same-sex ceremonies, or they will not.”*

Some, most notably author Matthew Vines, have tried to retrofit the Bible to be compatible with the modern view of homosexuality.

In an excellent article, Mohler also debunks such attempts. It is well worth a read in its entirety, but here’s an excerpt.

*“Here we face the most tragic aspect of Matthew Vines’s argument. If the modern concept of sexual orientation is to be taken as a brute fact, then the Bible simply cannot be trusted to understand what it means to be human, to reveal what God intends for us sexually, or to define sin in any coherent manner. The modern notion of sexual orientation is, as a matter of fact, exceedingly modern.”*

Another excellent review of Vines’ argument, and by association many others’ as well, comes from former homosexual Christopher Yuan.

*“For Vines, ‘sexuality is a core part of who we are.’ This perspective makes his experiences (feelings, attractions, desires, orientation) essential to his identity. Our society may place a great emphasis upon a sexual identity, but Scripture does not. As a matter of fact, our identity should not be placed in anything (such as our sexuality, gender, or race) other than Jesus Christ.”*

The church, then, must make a decision - Christ or culture? This dichotomy is not a new concept for churches around the world. It is only in the West, where our culture has to an extent been shaped by Christianity - but more recently divorced from it - that we

must refamiliarize ourselves with the idea.

The challenge to the Christians and churches who stand on the Biblical principles of sexuality will be to, as Ronnie Floyd said, *“hold the word of God in one hand and the love of God in the other, and have compassion and love to bring people into the fellowship.”*

We must remember why we have the law of God - to uncover all of our sin and point us to Christ.

***Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.***  
**Ephesians 4:25**

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## A Culture of Wild Things

by Lisa Van Houten



*“... And when he came to the place where the wild things are they roared their terrible roars and gnashed their terrible teeth ... till Max said ‘BE STILL!’ and tamed them with the magic trick of staring into all their yellow eyes without blinking once and they were frightened and called him the most wild thing of all and made him king of all wild things. ‘And now, cried Max, ‘let the wild rumpus start!’ ...”*

[From the children’s book “Where the Wild Things Are” by Maurice Sendak]

As I follow the news I often wonder, are we raising a generation of “the most wild things of all?” Or is it even too much to say anymore that children are “raised” – when far too many parents abdicate their responsibilities to nurture, guide, discipline, and protect - and instead let the culture do the child-rearing.

You’ve probably heard of the horrific case from the community of Waukesha, Wisconsin where two 12-year-old girls plotted for months to kill their friend (also a 12-year-old girl) – and very nearly succeeded after luring her to the woods under the pretense of playing hide-and-go-seek, holding her down on the ground, and stabbing her 19 times, leaving her for dead.

The girls reportedly attempted to kill their friend to pay homage to “Slender Man,” a face-less online character on a horror website “designed to unnerve and shock the reader.”

Waukesha police Chief Russell Jack stated, “Both suspects had a fascination in a fictitious character that often posted to a website that is a collection of small stories

*about death and horror.”*

According to numerous news reports, “Slender Man” demands that those who want to follow him must first kill a friend.

These would-be killers are not monsters “who gnash their terrible teeth and roar their terrible roars.” They are not even anti-social young men committing horrific crimes, of whom we’ve sadly grown far too accustomed – Columbine, Sandy Hook, Santa Barbara.

They are girls. Twelve-year-olds girls.

As John Kass, writing for the Chicago Tribune, asks: *What kind of culture produced those two 12-year-old Wisconsin girls charged with stabbing a classmate 19 times?*

*Our culture.*

*... It is a culture that takes fantasy symbols of evil — the vampire, the witch — and transforms them into heroes of great virtue. It is a culture where dark magic is celebrated, but religion is considered bothersome. We reap what we sow. ...*

*All living things take on the characteristics of their environment. Plants soak up nutrients or poisons, as do animals. Young humans do, too.*

And now other reports are surfacing of additional crimes linked to the “Slender Man” phenomena. As Yahoo News reports: “A man accused of killing two cops and a civilian before committing suicide with his wife in Las Vegas on Sunday often dressed up in costume as Slender Man ...

*“And a Cincinnati mom told WLWT she thinks her daughter may have been inspired by Slender Man when she attacked her with a knife in their kitchen, wearing a hood and white mask.”*

With calls for the “Slender Man” website to be taken down, the host site defended its right to pollute hearts and minds, stating: “This (site) does not endorse or advocate for the killing, worship, and otherwise

*replication of rituals of fictional works. There is a line ... between fiction and reality, and it is up to you to realize where the line is.”*

The trouble is that children and young people, especially, often can’t tell where that line is. As Waukesha police chief Russell Jack warned, this attack should be a “wake up call for all parents.”

He reminded parents of what we know, yet too often ignore – that while the web is full of information and wonderful sites, it “can also be full of dark and wicked things. Parents are strongly encouraged to restrict and monitor their children’s Internet usage.”

I believe many parents know what they should do. They just don’t do what they should. Monitor and limit your children’s internet access? Keep televisions and computer in an open living area and out of bedrooms? Place a filter on all family computers and smart phones? Perhaps parents think these actions are too much bother. Or they think their kids won’t become involved in sites such as “Slender Man” and certainly would never act out such a gruesome crime.

However, Dr. Albert Mohler warns, *... as we very well know, this is not limited to the case of two 12-year-old girls in Waukesha, Wisconsin. The reality is that many parents are simply abdicating their responsibility to parent. That is perhaps even a generalized reality, but specifically the concern here is in terms of their children’s digital engagement. Children and teenagers do not deserve unfiltered and unrestricted access to the Internet. As a matter of fact, directly to the contrary, parents must take the responsibility, and exercise and fulfill the responsibility, to protect their children from entering into these very dark neighborhoods on the World Wide Web. And those neighborhoods are countless. They are virtually everywhere. Some about sex; some about violence; some about religious cults; and some a combination of just about all these things put together. ...*

[Continued on Page 6]



## A Culture of Wild Things

by Lisa Van Houten



[Continued from Page 5]

Now when you look at a story like this, we should be thankful that this kind of thing does not happen more often. But, of course, what we also must think about when we see a story like this is how much damage takes place in the lives of untold young people—children, middle schoolers, high schoolers, teenagers—who thankfully never resort to this kind of horrifying and violent behavior, but nonetheless have their moral systems grotesquely distorted; have their understanding of the distinction between the real and the unreal horribly confused. God gave children to parents precisely so that parents would protect them from this kind of thing, and we should understand that parents bear a nonnegotiable, non-delegatable responsibility and authority to see to it that their children stay out of these very dark places on the Web. ...

What can you do to protect your children? At the bottom of every one of our email alerts is this message:

**“The Internet has a dark and destructive side. You can find information on how to protect your family from Internet harm at <http://www.afo.net>**

**Please do not be the next Internet victim!”**

AFO – American Family Online – has what we believe is the best internet protection available for computers and smart phones. We highly recommend their service.

Don't abdicate your responsibility to protect not only your family, but yourself as well.

Go to [www.afo.net](http://www.afo.net) and do all you can to guard the hearts, minds, and souls of those closest to you.

## Light in the Wilderness

by Bill Johnson



**A weekend of renewal and encouragement.**

Most of you reading this are familiar with II Timothy 2:3-4

*“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*

LIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS?

This was the theme and title of a conference we hosted the weekend of June 6-8 at The Shack Country Inn.

Speakers Kamal Saleem, Dave Agema and Buddy Smith (Executive Vice President of American Family Association) strengthened and encouraged brothers and sisters in Christ that weekend regarding the spiritual warfare which is upon us and lies ahead of us.

The scripture verse above underlies the message that we desired to communicate: “Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ ...”

**Words cannot adequately express the depth and degree to which ministry took place over the weekend at the beautiful facilities of “The Shack” in Jugville, Michigan.**

Our prayer was that those on the frontline would be ministered to, refreshed, and renewed even as they ministered to our gathering of salt and light Christians.

A special thanks to each contributor: Kamal Saleem, Dave Agema, Buddy Smith, Robert Azkoul (at the piano) and Pastor Ron Workman (as he preached at our morning worship service on Sunday).

### Messages included:

“Shariah the Threat: What’s coming next?”  
- Kamal Saleem  
“A Stand Because we Must” – Dave Agema, National Republican Committeeman  
“His perspective as Executive Vice-President at AFA – Buddy Smith  
“What we can be and do in Christ” – Bill Johnson  
“Christianity under attack. Church arise!”  
– Kamal Saleem  
Panel discussion with Kamal Saleem, Dave Agema, Buddy Smith

If you are interested in ordering DVDs of these presentations, email [kimberly@americandecency.org](mailto:kimberly@americandecency.org) or call us at 231-924-4050.

### **Words of encouragement from the weekend at The Shack**

*The weekend was wonderful and such a beautiful place, we enjoyed it very much.*

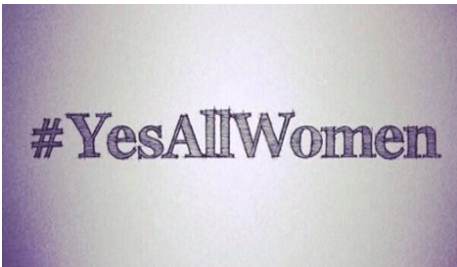
*The speakers were great and very informative. Our country is in trouble, sometimes it seems overwhelming but we know God is in control. We pray for our Country, for a revival, and for all you guys Kamal, Dave, Buddy and you and AFA. Thanks for all you do! J & S. M*

*We want to thank you for a wonderful weekend at the “Shack.” It was a full, informative, fellowship filled, and beautiful weekend! Thanks for the invitation!*

*We appreciate Bill and Jan Johnson and the entire staff at ADA for the light they provide in the darkness! We pray as we all do our part, the light will become brighter in this dark world. We know how great our God is! May we all walk in Truth! God Bless! Love to All! Dave & Barb Agema*

# Yes, All People

by Chris Johnson



I was tempted to title this piece, “Strange Bedfellows,” but given the circumstances, it seemed inappropriate. It is nice, however, to see some feminists catching up to what American Decency has been saying for years - our over-sexualized culture doesn't empower women, it harms them.

It is just unfortunate that people had to die for us to start talking about it. I am, of course, speaking of the recent killing spree in Santa Barbara, CA in which a sex-absorbed virgin killed six people and himself to express his frustration that he couldn't get any women to sleep with him.

There has been a lot of back-and-forth about what the killer's motivation has to say about society. Twitter has exploded with the trend #YesAllWomen in which women share stories of harassment by men. Men have predictably and understandably taken to the web to defend themselves and feminists have launched another Twitter campaign mocking their defense with their sarcastic hashtag, #NotAllMen. Apparently the women who want to escape stereotypes are unwilling to allow men the same privilege.

However, important points are being made in the midst of all the drama. The stories shared by women over social media and in opinion pieces do affirm a problem that we've been speaking out about for a long time. The culture that uses Kate Upton's breasts to sell hamburgers and Danica Patrick stripping to sell web space is a culture that objectifies women.

Similarly, although, you would never catch a feminist saying this, a culture that tells high school students that it's impossible to not have sex and that there's something wrong with you if you're a virgin is a culture that defies sex.

That's the kind of culture that creates an environment like this for women:

*#YesAllWomen because an older drunk man decided it was okay to grab my \*\*\* in the middle of the day as guys on the street saw and laughed*

*Getting followed home after a night out by a man asking “where my boyfriend is tonight?” @EverydaySexism#YesAllWomen*

*Wow... Random dude just sat next to me on the T and tried to grab my leg. (I'm wearing a dress). Going to be another #YesAllWomenday...*

*#YesAllWomen “i have a boyfriend” instead of “no I'm not interested” because men respect other men but don't respect women's decisions*

One eye-opening example showed the Google Image results for 'girl' - nearly all were bikini-clad women- and the results for 'boy' - a few shirtless men, but mostly were fully-clothed and non-sexual.

Let me see if I can add a little confusion to the twittersphere. Not all women are using #YesAllWomen the same way. Like the ones I've quoted above, some are using it to express real frustrations at an overly sexualized culture. Others are using it as a vehicle to complain about gender roles, the pro-life movement, protective fathers, modesty, the “patriarchy,” etc. But the radicals don't discount the woman who gets grabbed as she's walking down the street.

As my favorite tweet on the subject concisely articulates:

*What happened to the days when men would speak to women with the same respect they would their mothers and sisters? Shame. #YesAllWomen*

That's what our over-sexed, under-mannered culture threatens.

Yes, all women deserve respect. Sadly, however, not all women respect themselves. Some buy into the cultural lie that their value is based on their level of “sexy” and

some “men” take advantage of that. Some “men” don't bother with what the woman thinks at all and just take what they want. But no, not all men are creeps. However, all men - all people - need to make sure that we are doing everything we can to create a culture that honors the image of God that is in every human being.

## An update on our sister, Meriam

by Steve Huston



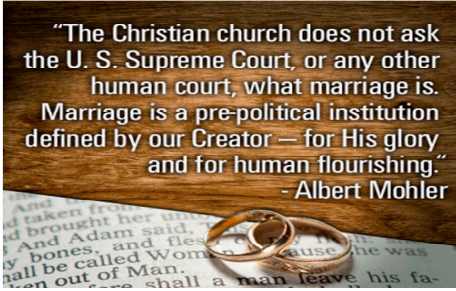
They want to kill your sister; do something! In our June newsletter we wrote about Meriam Ibrahim, the pregnant Sudanese woman who was sentenced to death due to her Christian faith. Since then Meriam gave birth to a baby girl as she was shackled in the Sudan prison where she awaits death by hanging. She could be flogged within days even if her death sentence is thrown out on appeal. Hebrews 13:3 exhorts us: **“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.”**

Please make calls on her behalf as you would want others to call on your behalf. Call Secretary of State John Kerry at 202-647-5291 and President Obama at 202-456-1111. Simply ask our administration to take immediate action to pressure Sudan to rescind Meriam Ibrahim's sentence and release her and her children from prison. Also encourage our leadership to speak out against such violations of human rights and religious freedom. You can also let your voice be heard by calling the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan at 202-338-8565.



# Marriage – designed by God or man?

by Lisa Van Houten



A few months ago one rogue federal judge overturned Michigan's ban on gay "marriage" which was enacted by 59% of Michigan voters in 2004, affirming marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Since that ruling in March, numbers of other states have had their own marriage amendments overturned by other rogue judges. The media would like to convince us that the battle is over. Those pushing the gay agenda have won and the tide of public opinion is on the side of homosexual "marriage," they claim.

And yet a recent Michigan poll taken in May of this year and conducted by the respected polling firm, EPIC-MRA, revealed a significant drop in support for same-sex marriage in Michigan. The survey was taken two months after Judge Bernard Friedman overturned Michigan's ban on gay marriage.

The poll, taken May 17-20, found that if a vote were taken that day allowing for same-sex marriage, 47% would approve homosexual marriage and 46% would vote no to same-sex marriage. Seven percent were either undecided or refused to answer.

Virtually a split down the middle. While that may be discouraging considering that in 2004 59% of Michigan voters said no to gay marriage, there are actually encouraging signs in this poll.

As the Detroit Free Press reported: *"That's a significant change from a year ago. When EPIC-MRA asked Michiganders about same-sex marriage in May of 2013, 51% said they supported it and 41% said they were opposed. Both polls sampled 600 likely voters and had margins of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points."*

Those on the side of homosexual "marriage" were quick to claim this recent poll was a fluke – espousing all kinds of theories for the survey results showing a decline in support for same-sex "marriage." Even the president of the EPIC-MRA polling firm expressed surprise.

While some dismissed the results of this survey, citing several previous polls between 2004 and 2013 showing an increasing support of gay "marriage" in Michigan, the difference is that those previous polls were taken when homosexual "marriage" in Michigan was just a theory.

After Judge Bernard Friedman overturned the people's vote, Michigan citizens began to consider the ramifications. They saw county clerks opening their offices on Saturday and issuing marriage licenses to homosexual couples, ignoring the required waiting period. They saw news reports of hundreds of same-sex couples rushing to be "married" - until a stay was issued as State Attorney General Bill Schuette filed an appeal from the U.S. 6th Circuit Court.

Instead of the poll results being skewed, I think it's more likely that people got a taste of the reality of gay marriage in Michigan, imposed upon the state by one lone judge, and didn't like what they saw.

This May 2014 poll also reveals some interesting statistics, as also reported by the Detroit Free Press:

*... The only voter age group that supports same-sex marriage is the youngest one, 18 to 34, where support is a strong 68% for and 28% opposed. Those between the ages of 35-49 oppose same-sex marriage 49%-46%, while those between 50-64 oppose it 47%-46%, and those 65 and older oppose it 54%-37%, the poll shows.*

*Breaking down the most recent results further, 43% of those surveyed gave a firm "yes" to same-sex marriage, while another 4% said they were leaning toward voting yes. Of the no votes, 46% were firm and 1% was leaning toward no.*

*Men opposed same-sex marriage 52%-42%. And women support it, 51%-41%. ...*

*Support is strongest in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, where 56% of voters support same-sex marriage and 39% are opposed. The measure is opposed 56%-37% in central Michigan, 52%-42% in western Michigan, and 63%-25% in northern Michigan, according to the poll.*

*Democrats support same-sex marriage 69%-25%, Republicans oppose it by almost the same numbers 70%-25%, and Independents narrowly oppose it 46%-44%, the poll found.*

*That's a significant shift from 2013, when self-described Independents said they supported same-sex marriage, 51%-41%.*

*Protestants oppose same-sex marriage 56%-39%, Catholics oppose it 50%-42%; but those who identify their religion as "other" or "none" support same-sex marriage 48%-45% and 72%-19%, respectively.*

*The poll showed little difference among the races, with whites narrowly supporting same-sex marriage, 47%-46%, and blacks narrowly opposing it, 48%-46%. ..."*

While pollsters like to remind us that such surveys are only a snapshot of one moment in time, this poll is encouraging for those supporting natural marriage as the union of one man and one woman. However, it also gives us our marching orders, showing us the groups we need to reach with the truth about God's design for marriage - especially those in the 18-34 year-old age bracket.

For many reading this, you have children or grandchildren in that age group. These are the ones we need to reach so that they in turn can be a witness to their peers. There is hope that the tide of public opinion may be turned. Whether or not that happens doesn't change the fact that, as Albert Mohler stated in the quote above, marriage was designed by our Creator for His glory and human flourishing. Any phony definition contrived by man or judge's decree will not result in human flourishing, but instead will bring about "the due penalty for their error." (Romans 1:26-28)