

## We may have won this battle, but the war is far from over

By Lisa Van Houten



It's stood for nearly one hundred years – a 40 foot symbol of sacrifice, freedom – and faith. And thanks to a recent 7-2 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Peace Cross, a World War I memorial erected to honor 49 fallen soldiers from Prince George's County, MD, will continue to stand on public land.

As we wrote in our December 2018 Frontline, in their mission to eradicate any public display of Christianity from society, the American Humanist Association filed a lawsuit to have the Peace Cross torn down.

If the Court had ruled differently, the precedent would have been chilling for public displays of Christian symbols nationwide.

In writing for the majority, Justice Samuel Alito powerfully stated: *"A government that roams the land, tearing down monuments with religious symbolism and scrubbing away any reference to the divine will strike many as aggressively hostile to religion."*

*"This is a landmark victory for religious freedom,"* said Kelly Shackelford, President of First Liberty Institute – the commendable organization which successfully defended the Peace Cross before the Supreme Court. *"The days of illegitimately weaponizing the Establishment Clause and attacking religious symbols in public are over. Our Founders would have been appalled at this*

*attempt to make the government hostile to our religious heritage, history, and symbols."*

Shackelford went on to state: *"The attempted perversion of our Constitution is now over, and every American now has more freedom than they have had in decades, with a government no longer hostile to people or expressions of faith."*

Oh, that this would be true, but sadly I must respectfully disagree with Mr. Shackelford on this point. The attempted perversion of our Constitution is far from over; the relentless attacks by the Left upon religious liberty and the sanctity of life will continue unabated. They will not give up their quest until their progressive socialist agenda is established and any vestige of Christian thought and belief is completely eradicated from the public square.

When attempts are made to force bakers and florists to betray their conscience and faith, when college students are denied the freedom of speech, when conservative viewpoints are censored by social media, (the list could go on and on) – Americans do not have more freedom – we have less.

Not only do we have an entire political party which scrubbed God from their platform and overtly implies that holding to the Christian faith disqualifies one for public office, but

the vast majority of cultural elites in media, entertainment, education, and industry are concerted in their efforts to undermine the influence of Christianity.

The Founders intention when writing the Establishment Clause was to prevent the government from establishing one state religion or denomination – **not to eradicate religion from public life.**

There is certainly no concern that the government is seeking to establish a religion in our secular culture, rather the greatest threat to religious liberty is the threat to freely exercise - or act upon - our religious beliefs. As Ilya Shapiro writes for The Federalist: *"The real dangers to the freedom of conscience now come more from government mandates and regulations that infringe on the free exercise of systems of belief..."*

As Ronald Reagan warned us: ***"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."***

Just over one hundred years ago, 49 young men – many not more than boys – died to protect what we are still fighting for: freedom. **We may have won this one battle, but the war is far from over.**



**From the desk of Bill Johnson**

Many of you have received ADA phone calls from Judy over recent years as she either thanked you for your faithful and generous gift or reminded you of an upcoming event. She loved making those calls as her heart was warmed by the high spiritual response she repeatedly heard over the phone. In such a harsh time that we are living in, she often got off the phone aglow after the sweet conversations that she had.

Judy went to be with the Lord on Sunday, June 16. She was a youthful 79 at her passing, though many thought she was in her late 50s.

It was a Tuesday morning in our office. We were well into our time of devotion as a staff here at American Decency. But, there was no sign of Judy. We had called and texted with no response. Kimberly asked "Do you think I should go over to her house?" Within minutes, Kimberly found Judy. She had had a massive stroke and by that Sunday, she had passed.

Our staff will miss Judy greatly, particularly after our long history of ministry together.

When I first heard about Judy, she had been leading a divorce recovery class at our church. Multiple times I heard what a wonderful presenter she was; her lessons were so well prepared and broken out in practical and powerful, spiritual ways.

Meanwhile she had become aware of our ministry, and I of her burden for purity, holiness, and modesty. It became very evident that she was a very spiritual woman, who had been well brought up in the faith by loving parents, but whose married life had been very fraught with trouble and heartache.

God used her strong spiritual background coupled with brokenness to create within her a Christian woman determined to live for Christ with kindness, grace, maturity, love, and yet with boldness.

We offered her a position in August 2000 and she heartily accepted. We put her faith to the test to be sure!

She was troubled regarding the magazines at checkout counters that families faced as they went into their local grocery and convenience stores. She assisted us in developing a nationwide list of grocery store chains and sending hundreds of letters to store chains from Texas to California to Maine to Michigan, urgently asking them to either place covers over those magazines or, even better, stop selling them!

In local West Michigan, she made appointments with larger and smaller grocery store chain management doing the same: urging them to address indecency in their stores. For a period of time, there was tangible success with even significant media coverage from Supermarket News (a nationwide publication for supermarkets).

In addition, Judy would go directly and "cold call" particular public schools in our area and offer them a free video of a powerful abstinence video entitled "Sex has a Price Tag" by Pam Stenzel. Some incorporated it in their yearly scheduling.

Judy told me over the years that she remembers those moments quite vividly. It went against her gentle nature. She shared with me how vital prayer was to her in those times and how God always gave her that which she stood in need of, whether in meeting with grocery store owners or managers or public school officials.

**What a great ambassador she was as she represented Christ with warmth, inner and outer beauty, and grace.**

Judy was with us from 2000 through the end of 2003 when she accepted a position with Fremont Wesleyan Church.

She told me on several occasions that despite the fact that she enjoyed her ministry at Fremont Wesleyan, her heart pulled her

back to the ministry of American Decency due to our particular calling and outreach. Judy reconnected with us from 2015 until her death on Sunday, June 16, volunteering to both clean and be our one-woman call center. Tasks that most would shy away from, she turned into ministry and greatly enjoyed.

The following quote from the booklet she wrote, "In His Time" (which you can order on the enclosed response card) gives a sense of Judy's desire to minister to others as she has been ministered unto:

*Even though I truly wish that I wouldn't have had to live through this painful ordeal, I can truly say, as my twin sister said to me after facing her cancer treatments, "I never would have chosen this for my life. On the other hand, it drew me closer to my Heavenly Father than I have ever experienced before." How true that also became for me. Looking back on this chapter of my life has caused pain and tears. However, I know I never would have been as close to God and dependent on Him for guidance and support without it. Also, because Jesus comforted me in my affliction, I am now able to comfort those who are in any affliction, "with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (2 Corinthians 1:4 ESV)*

Judy lived this out to the last days of her life. Job well done, precious friend!



# Taking a Bite Out of the Big Apple

by Steve Huston



Unfairly so, but the apple has become the symbol of sin's first temptation in Eden. In reality, man's first temptation was questioning God's Word. "Did God really say you couldn't do that?" Of course we know that Satan was, and is the tempter; he continues to cause mankind to ask, "Did God really say...?"

Perhaps similarly unfair, I grew up thinking of the "Big Apple" and New York as a place where temptation and the driving forces of evil abound, second only to California. After seeing what's been happening there over the past several months, maybe it's not unfair after all.

Biting the apple and buying the lie that God has not said, "Murder is wrong and children are a blessing," the New York Senate erupted in feverish applause this past January at the passing of a bill that would make it legal to kill your child up to the moment of birth. Since that time, many other states have joined New York in pushing a culture of death and have tried to push the boundaries even further by allowing partial birth abortion (Illinois) and by promoting the idea of giving "comfort care" while the mother and doctor decide what to do with the already born child, keep it or have it murdered (Gov Ralph Northam; D-VA). I'm grateful that there are several other states pushing heartbeat bills and standing for the sanctity of life.

Not to be outdone, and sickly desirous to put even more notches on their scalpel, New York has now allocated a quarter of a million dollars to pay for the abortions of women who cannot afford the "hit price" to have their child killed, including women who live out of state. This blood money is called the New York Abortion Access Fund (NYAAF). In their own words, "*We are proud to advance health equity and justice at this critical time. As it gets harder for people to access abortion in conservative*

*states, NYC will likely see an increase in out-of-state folks seeking abortion.*"

**Let's be clear about this \$250,000; it is strictly and solely set aside to fund abortions.** City officials have set aside this much money for the purpose of allowing "about 500 women to terminate their pregnancies." This is a conscious choice to murder at least 500 children, wiping out not only lives but lines and generations of people. It normalizes this sin; consider the societal, economic, and spiritual, consequences each barbarous, butchering act brings.

**New York's next bite out of the "big apple" asks,** "Did God really say that sex should only be within the bounds of marriage?" Buying and selling the lie "No," they now plan to legalize prostitution.

In yet another of several attacks on our children by Teen Vogue, a popular magazine and website that specifically attracts and targets pre-teen and teenage girls, has called prostitution empowering "work;" and is lying to our children, telling them that "sex work" is harmless! It's anything but harmless; it attacks the body, mind, relationships, and soul.

Almost as though taking their cue from Teen Vogue, New York State Senators Ramos and Salazar sponsored a bill that would make New York the first state to broadly legalize "sex work"—aka prostitution. Nbcnewyork.com reports, "*Under the new law, in many cases both buying and selling sex would be permitted.*" And that "*The bill's sponsors say legalizing sex work would cut down on sex trafficking.*"

Both of these New York Senators have said that "*9 out of 10 people arrested in sex-work-related massage parlor raids are immigrants, with most being undocumented Asians.*" With legalizing these activities, it's more likely that less sex trafficking will be reported, rather than there being a reduction of it.

By the Senator's own admission, "*LGBTQ youth, who often run away from home seeking acceptance, trade sex at 7 to 8 times*

*the rate of other youth in New York City.*" Although this new bill might keep them out of jail, it doesn't help to meet their need. Instead, it allows children who are already hurting to continue to be hurt; those whose feelings of self-worth are already tenuous at best can be legally swept aside to alleys and backseats where their worth is shattered and their cry for help further muffled.

These, too, are created in God's image; bound by the same physical, psychological/emotional, and spiritual laws that God has placed on all mankind. The Bible speaks to all issues; and "Yes, God has said..." We cannot escape the consequences of these laws either nationally or personally.

It's obvious that those who fall for the lies of Satan are hurting; we all have areas of brokenness. But God's specialty is taking the broken and the brokenhearted and making them whole. Let us pray for our nation and let us reach out in compassion to those who are caught up in self-seeking and self-serving. Let us remember that each of us was once separated from God's grace and in need of the great exchange which took place on the cross, where Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin that we might become the righteousness of God.

Dear Reader, no matter how great and heinous or small and seemingly insignificant your sin is, God's grace is greater yet and His love reaches out to those who are repentant of the most terrible crimes. Regardless of what one has done, the atoning work of Jesus upon Calvary's cross can make one right with God and true peace can be found. On the other hand, those who will not repent will suffer eternal (and often temporal) consequences that would make the horrors of abortion seem as a walk in the park. Listen, as God called out to Israel through the prophet Ezekiel, hear His Words: "*...I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die...?*" (Ezekiel 33:11)

Repent; believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved.

## Don't Miss Out!

by Steve Huston



Rafael Cruz spoke to an almost standing room only crowd at the American Decency Association on June 7, 2019. Those who came were eager and hungry to hear the well-respected father of Senator Ted Cruz. His message struck a chord and the audience left well-fed and at least some were ready for action. Pastor Cruz understands the dangers of socialism/communism better than most because he grew up in a country where this oppressive philosophy and disastrous economy was practiced. Having experienced both sides of liberty, he was able to give warning and practical advice from an informed vantage point.

What was America founded for? What brought the Pilgrims to these native shores? The succinct answer is: For the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith. As Rafael unfolded the unique history that belongs to these United States of America, the themes of God's glory and the shameful silence of the church were driven home. The conclusion of his message, before the Q & A time, contained three practical things that the Body of Christ (the Church) should be doing. **Order this solid and timely DVD message from the enclosed response card for \$10.**

### DON'T MISS OUR NEXT EVENT!

Mark **August 23 and 24** on your calendar; plan to attend our next event with Israel Wayne. More information will be sent through our email alerts and in the August newsletter. (If you aren't on our email list, you should be. Call us at 231-924-4050 to be added to our email list.)

Be assured, Mr. Wayne is an energetic, interesting, and godly speaker. You will want to be here!

## We prayed for the opportunity ...



Below is an abridged segment of the testimony of Shawn Lahring, a woman from our area, whom God used in the life a Muslim family. During his time here in May, Kamal Saleem interviewed Shawn. You can find that interview on our website, American-Decency.org or our Facebook page, Facebook.com/AmericanDecency.

*"We really didn't even have the ability to reach out, it felt like, and so we prayed for the opportunity. Well, I had to go to Chicago - and to be honest I hate going to the major cities for work - and so I was kind of grumbling to myself. And so the second day I was there, the final meeting, and they said, 'Ok, Shawn, you can hail a cab at the hotel across the street from the restaurant..."*

*"So I hailed a cab and my cab driver that pulled up to the edge of the road got out of the cab was a female; And I've never had a woman cab driver before!*

*"I could tell she had an accent and I asked her where she was from and she told me and I asked if she had children and she said, 'Yes.' I could tell she was struggling in her emotions and she told me that it was difficult in America for her and yet she'd been here for a while and I said, 'Do you mind if I pray for you?' Her first words out of her mouth were, 'I'm a Muslim.' I said, 'Well, I'm going to pray in the name of Jesus, so can I pray for you?'"*

*"As we were getting to the entrance of the airport, that's when I wrapped up the prayer and I said, 'do the children play outside much?' and she said, 'not without me there,' because she lived in a very bad part of Chicago. So I said, 'We have a place in Michigan that's wide open and we have a lot of land and we have horses and a frog pond and stuff the kids like to play and I have a vacation coming up. I'd love it if*

*you and the kids came up to see me.'*

*"I don't think she really believed I would do it; it was about a month later I texted her, and I remember her response in the text was like, 'Oh, I've been hoping you would text me but I didn't know if you would and I told people and they said you would never text me!' So she spent the week with me and we had a blast!*

*"They're like family now, they come every holiday, they were here for Mother's Day. They're family. I call her my daughter; the kids call me Meemaw, just like my grand-kids.*

*"That Christmas she opened up a Bible that was one column of each, (Nigerian and English)... and another Christmas came and she and I knelt together and she accepted Christ..."*

The full interview between Kamal and Shawn is so inspiring and a great reminder that even as we struggle against Islamic ideology, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood." Remembering that not all Muslims are dangerous nor are all Muslims safe, it's important that we don't just throw caution to the wind. As always, we must prayerfully be led by the Spirit of God into these evangelistic efforts. Secondly, we need to be aware of the cultural differences regarding male/female interactions. The Muslims are the mission field; and as Kamal Saleem loves to point out, they are ripe for the harvest.

American Decency Frontline  
Vol. XXXIII, Issue VI  
Published monthly by  
American Decency Association

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# Keeping Up With the LGBT

By Steve Huston



“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” These two sentences bookend the Christian’s instruction, hope, truth, and authority. The first is readily identified as Genesis 1:1; the second is the last verse of the Bible, Revelation 22:21. When we live according to the instructions and warnings found within the bounds of these verses, we experience clarity and wholeness; outside those bounds belongs varying degrees of “confusion of face,” brokenness, and eventually destruction.

In other words, we start with the Creator of all and the instruction manual He’s been so gracious to give us. As we look away from Him we find ourselves being drawn into confusion. Looking upon the holiness of God we see a direct contrast between the light of His holiness and the darkness of all that is without Him; but, as our eyes turn to self and things other than God, black and white becomes the confusion of gray - various shades of gray to be sure - but gray nonetheless. Those who continue in confusion without repentance find themselves at the end of Romans chapter one: *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”*

Sin, left unrepented of, destroys the person. National/cultural sin, left unchecked, brings confusion; and such confusion cripples the culture it demands the promotion of, bringing the nation which tolerates it, and would legislate it, to ruin. Perhaps there isn’t any better example of this than the LGBT culture, particularly the “T” of this grouping - “transgender,” so called.

**Confusion of language:** The most obvious confusion comes from redefining words,

the creation of “new genders,” and the incorrect use of pronouns. Not only is there the confusion which comes from people identifying with a pronoun which differs from their biological DNA, but there is the confusion of pronoun number too—using “they” or “them” when referring to a singular person. Dr. Al Mohler clearly showed this confusion, using a 9-1-1 call for an example. (The Briefing 6/11/19)

**Confusion of law:** Whether talking about bathroom laws, legislation regarding “transgenders” and school, and the lists go on, with the ever-increasing “gender-options” how can we help but have confusion of face? Take for example this recent tabled legislation from Massachusetts. Quoting from The Briefing: *“...the liberal Massachusetts state legislature shelved a bill to add an X as an alternative to F and M because there were now demands that there be no less than 29 additional gender options. Of course, one of the reasons why the legislation was shelved is because it won’t stay 29. It’s going to be 89 before you can turn around.”*

**Confusion of leisure:** Athletics isn’t exempt from this gender confusion either. Biological males continue to beat out their biological female competitors, stealing from them various medals, awards, prestige, scholarships, self-esteem, and so on. This should leave everyone scratching their collective heads in confusion. How can any of this be acceptable?

**Confusion of Leftist ideology:** Even as the Left embraces this self-defeating culture, confusion abounds as they attempt to hold positions which logically are antithetical. Feminism is one such example; as the Left promotes the LGBT culture, it takes a stab at feminism, which it also promotes. As Dr. Mohler states, *“If indeed being a female is a state of mind, then you can’t really have feminism.”*

**Confusion of littles:** Even as the theory of evolution has affected the minds of generations through school, media, Hollywood, etc, so the attack on our culture, religion, society, and nation continues by attempting to normalize the LGBT agenda and the

pedophilia which comes through direct and indirect results of that lifestyle. Grabbing hold of their formative minds, the attempt is being made to press these children into a mold of acceptance and normalcy. Unsuspecting parents sacrifice these little ones, laying them upon the altars of educational indoctrination and entertainment. With altered minds they question the reality of who God says He is, what is acceptable and unacceptable, and the difference between the holy and the profane.

Disney, Netflix, and others hope to be culturally relevant, as they attempt to transform young minds by producing television shows and children’s movies that would widen the base of acceptance for these Left leaning ideologies. We pray for those children and this culture that are the prey of such unholy beasts in sheep’s clothing.

**No society can remain in a continual state of confusion; eventually, it must right itself or fall apart. Truth is the only weapon when confronting lies - definitive presentation of the truth and a consistent holding to it.** Mocking or laughing at lies does little to repair that or those which are overtaken by the untruth. **That may be an easier or first response but it doesn’t address or repair the issues. Let us choose truth and love to combat the evils of this world.**

Let me close with two quotes; the first showing where our society stands and the second which points to the Christian solution.

*“Tolerance is the last virtue of a depraved society. When you have an immoral society that has blatantly, proudly, violated all of the commandments of God, there is one last virtue they insist upon: tolerance for their immorality.”* - D. James Kennedy

**“Tolerance is an inferior virtue. Christian love is a superior virtue. Tolerance says, ‘I could care less. Do what you want.’ Love says, ‘I care deeply. Now stop!’”**  
- Dr. Everett Piper

# Unpinning the Pro-Life Movement

by Chris Johnson



Whether we like it or not, these days social media sites make up a large part of what is sometimes called, “The Public Square.” Of course, that metaphorical public square is based in the idea of an actual public square which would at one time have been the center of community life in any given town. At one time in our country, debating ideas was considered to be a valuable exercise, allowing the best ideas to rise to the top, while worst ideas could be derided and discarded.

Nowadays, the internet is where we debate matters of importance to the nation and the world, because the internet has made the world we’re aware of so much bigger.

There is a vast diversity of communities formed around conflicting ideas all jockeying for attention and approval in society. This makes it hard to overstate the catastrophic implications if certain ideas are shut out before they are ever expressed, and are therefore never discarded or accepted.

Most readers have probably heard the quote by Lutheran Pastor Martin Niemoller regarding the Nazis:

*“First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out - Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out - Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”*

This quote stings afresh when you consider the following trend. Last August, Alex

Jones, a conspiracy theorist who clung to the label “Right Wing” much more than the label ever clung to him was banned from Youtube and Facebook. Then in June of 2019, conservative comedian and at-times provocateur, Stephen Crowder had his Youtube channel demonetized (meaning his videos are published but he cannot collect advertisement revenue); most shocking, however, is the ban of pro-life organization LiveAction from what, I for one, would have assumed to be the most innocuous platform: Pinterest.

In case you’re not an avid internet user, Pinterest is best known as a site for sharing recipes, craft ideas, artwork, interior design articles, etc, the last place you’d look for thought police. In fact, the way the ban became known was when a whistleblower shared an image of LiveAction’s name in the middle of a list of blocked porn sites because, when the ministry was originally blacklisted, that was about the only other thing the site did not allow: Porn and profilers.

After this fact was brought to the public’s attention and LiveAction complained, Pinterest made it official and banned the group, explaining, *“We don’t allow harmful information on Pinterest. That includes medical misinformation and conspiracies that turn individuals and facilities into targets for harassment and violence.”*

LiveAction is hardly a conspiracy site. When the organization was first begun in 2003 by its fifteen year-old founder Lila Rose, the group’s main strategy was to visit Planned Parenthood clinics undercover and capture the outrageous lies and atrocities those clinics told on video, **including helping to cover up statutory rape and human trafficking.**

Videos were released in both edited (for brevity) and unedited (for verification) versions. After working with Lila Rose, James O’Keefe went on to found Project Veritas, which used similar tactics to bust the Obama-era Acorn scandal. David Daleiden of the Center for Medical Progress – the organization which broke the story of Planned Parenthood selling aborted baby body parts

for medical research – also worked with Rose before using her methods to collect those undercover videos which became central to the 2016 election.

All that is to say, her methods have been shown to be effective, and so they are banned from the public square. By the way, Pinterest isn’t the only place they’ve been shut up. To quote the Daily Caller: *“Live Action says that both YouTube and Twitter have censored their content as well. The pro-life group said Friday that Twitter repeatedly censors their content and will not allow them to run ads.*

It’s no secret that @jack is radically pro-abortion & suppresses pro-life content

‘While saying they don’t censor content “with regards to political viewpoint,” @Twitter has banned @LiveAction & me from all pro-life ads.

‘Pro-abortion feeds freely run ads.’ - Lila Rose (@LilaGraceRose) June 10, 2019

*“Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey joined other business owners Monday in signing a New York Times ad protesting restrictive abortion legislation and saying abortion bans are bad for business. Rose says that this conduct from Dorsey is no surprise in light of Twitter’s censorship of Live Action.”*

As we noticed earlier, there’s an obvious trend towards censoring the right. Alex Jones is an obviously extreme figure who saw a conspiracy behind every bush. Crowder was more mainstream, but sometimes took his jokes too far. But Lila Rose has been respectful yet consistent in calling abortion what it is, and abortion providers what they are.

And it has to make us wonder: who’s next? **How long until only those with progressive opinions will be left in the cyber public square? Will it stop at the online level? Or will we also be silenced in the streets?**

God knows. May He give us wisdom and help us remember that our hope is in Him.

# Freedom's Song

by Lisa Van Houten



Last month we saw the anniversary of two pivotal world events, each representing a battle of worldviews. On June 6 we honored and celebrated the 75th anniversary of D-Day. On that date 132,000 American and Allied soldiers stormed the beaches of Normandy, advancing against the forces of tyranny. On the morning of the invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower addressed the troops with these words: *"You are about to embark upon the great crusade toward which we have striven this many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world. ..."* Eisenhower concluded with these words: *"...let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."*

On June 4 we remembered another noble undertaking that ended not with victory for liberty-loving people, but with their massacre. Thirty years ago, on June 4, 1989, thousands of Chinese students had gathered in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. With the fall of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, there was hope that the communist regime in China would be open to democratic ideals. These courageous young people peacefully demonstrated, seeking freedom of assembly, freedom of press, the end of one-party rule. You know how their opposition to tyranny ended. With tanks, guns, and the massacre of an estimated several thousand Chinese citizens at the hands of their own government.

The world's response to this slaughter was tepid, at best. **Our own government put**

**economic interests above the inalienable rights of liberty.** As Gerard Baker wrote in the Wall Street Journal, the George H. Bush administration "decided early on that it wasn't going to allow Tiananmen to become a turning point in U.S. policy. It became clear that the official response would be essentially to pretend that nothing had happened."

President Bush (41), said at the time, *"Now is the time to look beyond the moment to important and enduring aspects of this vital relationship for the United States."* We looked the other way and cheap, Chinese products continued to come pouring in.

So with no push back, the Chinese regime has grown even more oppressive. Modern surveillance tracks Chinese citizens everywhere they go, while the government compiles data on their loyalty and obedience to the state. And in recent years the government has renewed their crackdown on Christianity, destroying crosses, closing down churches, burning Bibles, and forcing believers to sign a paper renouncing their faith.

Now, 30 years after Tiananmen Square, another protest for freedom is taking place – this time in Hong Kong. Over two million Hong Kong citizens have taken to the streets to protest what's called the **extradition bill**, legislation that, if passed, would threaten their freedom and allow for the extradition of Hong Kong residents to mainland China for prosecution – a move that undoubtedly would be used by China to eliminate those they see as threats to Communist rule.

To better understand this conflict, it's helpful to know some of the history of Hong Kong. Hong Kong became a territory of the United Kingdom in 1842. In 1898 Great Britain pledged to turn Hong Kong over to China after 99 years, of course not knowing that China would become a communist nation. In 1997 the British did turn Hong Kong over to China, with the stipulation that Hong Kong would be established as a semi-autonomous region of the People's Republic of China. In essence, "one country, two systems" of gov-

ernment. China agreed to grant Hong Kong this special status for 50 years (until 2047) whereby Hong Kong would be allowed to maintain the freedoms, rule of law, capitalist economy, and Western way of life which they had long enjoyed as a part of the United Kingdom.

The extradition bill being protested in Hong Kong is a direct violation of that agreement. For residents of Hong Kong, it's not just a matter of principle, but a very real threat to their freedom and security. They recognize that if this bill is passed, China can whisk away any dissident to be "tried" in a Chinese kangaroo court, never to be heard from again. Martin Lee, founder of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, states: *"... there is no rule of law in China, where the Chinese Communist Party dictates who is innocent and who is guilty."*

The protests have been massive. With a total population of 7 million, over 2 million residents of Hong Kong have flooded the streets in opposition to this effort by China to usurp the rule of law. **That's nearly one-third of the population!** Factor in only the adult population, and the percentage is even higher.

Throughout history, fights for freedom have included rallying cries and stirring songs of patriotism and defiance. But in Hong Kong the voices of the demonstrators have been raised, not in angry shouts of protest, but rather in worshipful songs of praise to the Lord! It began with a group of Catholic students peacefully singing the simple chorus, *"Sing Hallelujah to the Lord."* The song spread throughout the throng as millions of voices took up the song of praise. Reuters reports: "For the past week, the hymn has been heard almost non-stop at the main protest site, in front of the city's Legislative Council, and at marches and even at tense stand-offs with the police." As police have sought to dispel the protestors with tear gas and rubber bullets, the people responded only with "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord." One pastor at the demonstration stated that the song has helped defused the tension with police.

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# Freedom's Song

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As a result of the massive outcry of the people, Carrie Lam the hand-picked-by-China chief executive of Hong Kong, has suspended the extradition bill for now, but it has not been fully withdrawn. And so the people of Hong Kong know that their liberty hangs by a thread. They understand what's at stake as they bravely seek to preserve their tenuous freedom.

The fight for a free Hong Kong is a vivid contrast of worldviews. The Christian worldview recognizes liberty as inalienable rights given by our Creator. In the Communist Chinese worldview there is no Creator. There is no God; the State is god and the determiner of what is and is not a right.

Which worldview will prevail in Hong Kong? Will Chinese aggression, not only in Hong Kong, but around the world, continue as we look the other way? Or will liberty-loving nations and people rise again to oppose such tyranny? The Greatest Generation did not retreat in the face of tyranny. **Does our generation have the same resolve?**

Thankfully our current presidential administration is taking a strong moral stand in regards to China. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, recently speaking about the Tiananmen massacre, boldly stated: *"China's one party state tolerates no dissent and abuses human rights whenever it serves its interests. The events of 30 years ago still stir our conscience and the conscience of freedom-loving people around the world."*

Our nation has long been the last, best hope of freedom. If our government – both now and in the future - is not resolved to strongly defend the inalienable rights of the Hong Kong people in the face of Chinese

aggression, China's stranglehold on the region will only expand. If we stand by and allow freedom to be crushed in Hong Kong, China's next target will most likely be Taiwan.

As courageous Chinese voices lift their hallelujahs to the Lord, may our prayers rise as well. Pray for the people of Hong Kong. Pray for the people of our nation, as far too many fail to regard and protect the blessings of liberty we enjoy. And pray for our government that they will stand firm against the growing threats of tyranny.

## WENDY'S Chooses Life

By Steve Huston



Amidst the flood of corporations getting in line to support the murder of America's unborn, Wendy's is swimming against the collective current of corporate suicide. One may think that the term "corporate suicide" is too strong; but selling kid's meals while killing off potential customers (both children and the adults they would grow into) is chasing after two antithetical goals which can drive one crazy and eventually drown a company in a pool of red ink. (Remember what happened to Planned Parenthood supporter Toys R Us?)

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's restaurants, was an adoptee and an avid advocate of adoption. He said, *"Every child deserves a permanent home and loving family. Having a family means there are people who care about you and who will always be there for you. Adoption is a great way to create or add to a family. There are so many children in America waiting to be adopted."*

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush

asked Mr. Thomas to head a national adoption awareness campaign called "Adoption Works ... For Everyone." In 1992, Mr. Thomas established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to provide grants to national and regional adoption organizations for programs that raise awareness and make adoption easier and more affordable.

**While other companies are supporting Planned Parenthood (performing over 320,000 abortions per year), Wendy's is actually promoting PARENTHOOD.** This past May, Wendy's introduced "Cause Cups," which features a Snapchat code on the outside of each cup. Customers are encouraged to scan the code to donate \$5 to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. The goal is for the Wendy's Wonderful Kid's program to be able to expand to all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Rita Soronen, Wendy's CEO, states, *"For the past four to five years now, we have scaled Wendy's Wonderful Kids across Ohio. We've seen more than 330 adoptions finalized across the state. We know that it's about \$3 million a year to keep this program scaled in Ohio. Since we've had the program in Ohio, we've saved the state \$64 million. We're saving children's lives, and we're saving critical resources at the state and county level. It's that one-two punch that makes sense for states."*

In promoting adoption, Wendy's has been an advocate of life for a long time. That they continue to do so is a breath of fresh air. There are a couple of ways to say thanks.

**First**, write them a letter or short note with a word of appreciation for their adoption work.

**The Wendy's Company**  
**1 Dave Thomas Blvd**  
**Dublin, OH 43017**

**Secondly**, support their cause and their work; I know where I'm going for my next fast food meal.