

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

June 2009

Standing for Truth...?

By Bill Johnson



As the son of a World War II veteran and one with an interest in history, the book "Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust" caught my attention. The book, in part, details the heroics of European Christians who stood against the evil of the Nazi regime to protect their Jewish neighbors. One little excerpt in particular made me stop and take note.

As the author states: "The churches [in Holland] were not silent in the face of Jewish persecution. They urged their parishioners to resist it, no matter what the cost. As one pastoral letter put it:

We know what conflicts of conscience result for those concerned. In order, therefore, to eliminate all doubts and uncertainties that you may have in this respect, we hereby declare most explicitly that

no compromise in this domain of conscience is allowed; and should refusal of collaboration [with the Nazi domination] cause sacrifice to you, then remain steadfast in the certainty that you are fulfilling your duty toward God and man."

That sacrifice resulted in 20,000 Dutch Christians being sent to concentration camps for protecting Jews.

Think of that pastoral call to take such a stand no matter what the sacrifice! What would be the impact today if American Christians had the same mindset – to oppose evil and stand for Truth at any cost? If we were more committed to fulfilling our "duty toward God and man" than our own personal fulfillment and comfort?

If we stood so boldly, would one million babies be aborted each year? Would our legislatures and courts brazenly foist homosexual marriage upon state after state, with seemingly no concern for the will of the people? And would our culture be as saturated with

pornography and sexual sin?

These fellow believers from a previous generation were willing to risk their very lives to stand against evil. Yet, I am sure there were also many Christians who accommodated to the evil around them. Is that a fair description of a vast number of American Christians today? Have we become acclimated to Babylon?

There may come a day in the United States, perhaps in the not too distant future, when standing for the truth of God's Word results in our persecution. Now would be a good time to begin to follow the example of that Dutch pastor and those thousands of believers and stand against the evil of our day.

***"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."
Ephesians 6:13***

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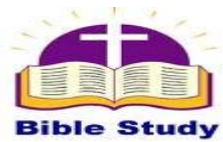
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"County puts kibosh on home Bible study"



On the front side of this insert we caution that there may come a day when Christians are overtly persecuted for their faith. Is that day already upon us? This news report from May 28, 2009, may indeed indicate it is.

Pastor David Jones and his wife, Mary, were hosting the weekly study near their church, when they say they were visited by a [San Diego] county code enforcement officer. According to Dean Broyles, an attorney for the Joneses, the county official asked the pastor if they hosted a regular weekly meeting in their home, and if they prayed and said "Amen" and "Praise the Lord" at those meetings.

After replying in the affirmative to those inquiries, a subsequent citation notified the couple they were in violation of county regulations, should stop "religious assembly," and needed to apply for a "major use" permit to

continue the gatherings - a process that could cost several thousands of dollars.

... Broyles says the couple's rights have been violated.

"The government may not prohibit the free exercise of religion," says the attorney. "And I believe that our Founding Fathers would roll over in their graves if they saw that here in the year 2009 that a pastor and his wife are being told that they can't have a simple Bible study in their own home." ...

Jones and his wife say they will continue to challenge the county's policy. About 15 people attend the weekly meetings. <http://www.onenewsnow.com/Culture/Default.aspx?id=546112>

Hate Crimes legislation

Hate Crimes legislation continues to be pushed not only at the federal level, but also in numbers of states across the country. "Hate Crimes" legislation, perhaps more aptly referred to as Thought Crimes, violates some of our nation's most foundational principles, separating citizens into classes, protecting some

more than others. Texas lawmakers are seeking to pass HB 824 which would target children as young as ten who are allegedly guilty of "hate crimes" such as arson, graffiti, or have assaulted another person based on sexuality and could result in punishment that includes being placed in a program designed to teach the acceptance of homosexuality.

And at the federal level, H.R. 1913/Senate bill S. 909, would establish a new federal offense for so-called "hate crimes" and add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as protected classes. It will mandate a separate federal criminal prosecution for state offenses. Adding "sexual orientation" to thought crimes legislation gives one set of crime victims a higher level of protection than it gives to others. All people deserve to be protected from crime, and equal protection under the law means equal protection for all. In addition, such legislation could be used to threaten the freedom of speech of pastors based on what they teach and preach.

It's not too late to call your U.S. Senators at 202-224-3121 and urge them not to support Hate Crimes legislation.

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