

Turning tail or standing up?

By Bill Johnson

Tiffani Eaton, high school teacher at Pershing High in Detroit, MI, used a broom to break up a fight between a couple of high schoolers in recent days. Initially, Ms. Eaton was fired by the school but weeks later reinstated.

A video of the incident surfaced later showing Eaton trying to break up the fight between the teens, who were banging each other all over the classroom and tipping over desks.

"If the video never surfaced, would they be offering me my job back?" Eaton said. *"The school board would rather have picked up the broom and swept the issue under the rug."*



Teacher Tiffani Eaton who broke up a fight in her classroom with a broom

Ms. Eaton is considering returning to her position but wants assurances that there will be a protocol of action in place that will allow her to protect herself in the eventuality of similar outbreaks.

It is a sad day in America when a person has to fear for their job because they intervene in a situation where intervention is clearly needed.

In another situation, an NFL football player is made an object lesson because he expressed indignation as a new NFL draftee used the occasion of his draft to promote homosexuality with a lip kiss on his mate.

Upon seeing the KISS, *Miami Dolphins defensive back Don Jones tweeted "... and "horrible." For those quickly deleted politically incorrect words, Jones is being fined and sent to re-education camp. ... God destroyed a city in large part because of homosexual activity, and God calls homosexual activity "abominable" and "detestable."* ... [From Barbwire.com]

Another egregious example of politically-correct bullying was on display at Brandeis University in early April.

Brandeis proudly announced they would be awarding a young Muslim woman, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, with an honorary doctorate degree for her courageous advocacy of human rights, risking her life laboring to save young Muslim girls around the world from genital mutilation, honor killings, and/or forced marriages. Brandeis withdrew their promised award from Ayaan Hirsi Ali after pressure from those within and outside the university who objected to her criticism of radical Islam.

CAIR (The Council on American-Islamic Relations) sent a letter to Dr. Lawrence, President of Brandeis, referring to Ms. Hirsi Ali as a "notorious Islamophobe."

More than 85 of about 350 faculty members at Brandeis signed a letter asking for Ali to be removed from the list of honorary degree recipients. And an online petition circulated by students at the school of 5,800 had gathered thousands of signatures from inside and outside the university.

Ms. Ali herself experienced genital mutilation in her early years in Somalia and was able to escape a forced marriage as a young person.

Ms. Ali warns people not to be duped by lies regarding Islam and Shariah Law or to be duped into thinking that Shariah is similar to our Constitution.



Kamal Saleem risks his life warning against Sharia, the Muslim Brotherhood, American apathy. Kamal is targeted in a variety of ways by the liberal media in an attempt to destroy him and his message.

Kamal Saleem has repeatedly been in harms way! He knows more about the game plan of CAIR, the Muslim Brotherhood and the speed by which they are moving to meet their goals in America, than almost anyone in America, and he is passionate about Christ!

I have a concern. I'm concerned that some of you are saying, "What difference does it make?" It's easy to get discouraged. Which brings us to our summer conference!

A word about ADA's Summer Conference:

We haven't planned our summer event on Friday, July 18 at the Sunshine Community Church in Grand Rapids (seating 2,000) for our sake, but rather for you and for the glory of God!

What difference does it make? Not turning tail. Bringing others. Tell your kids and grandkids (age 12 and above) that this is what you want for your birthday. That this year for your birthday you simply want them to go with you to hear two great men: Kamal Saleem and Mat Staver, President of Liberty Counsel and Dean of the Law School at Liberty University.

See page 2 for further information.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

By faith we STAND

I'm very concerned about the unfolding of the daily happenings around America and throughout the world.

There are several things, however, that just aren't helpful in responding to these great concerns.

1. Worry. God calls us to cast your cares upon Him for He cares for you.

2. Giving up. Giving in.

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the full armor of God. And having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6.

There are so many more.

I admire the people that I wrote about on the front page. I admire the school teacher. Is Tiffany a Christian? I don't know.

She acted. She didn't allow herself to be neutralized by cowardliness, what others might think, the repercussions she might experience if she dealt with those kids as she wielded a broom trying to defend herself and keep the students from hurting one another.

I admire her because she sees the importance of having a policy that will help assure that she and other teachers can at least defend themselves when harms way is upon them.

I admire her, too, because she seems to know that it is not a good thing for kids to get away with wrong behavior.

Caring includes dealing strongly.

In this case, words weren't working so she used the only means apparently available to her.

In regard to the Miami Dolphins defensive

back Don Jones who tweeted "horrible" when he saw the staged homosexual KISS of the new NFL draftee, it seems that Jones epitomizes many. They have strong thoughts and feelings regarding the horribleness of an immoral act and yet clam up rather than speak up.

I admire Ayaan Hirsi Ali because of her obvious courage and concern about the wickedness of Islam, Shariah and the destructive impact it is having upon the world.

Ms. Ali is an infidel in the eyes of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, Islamists. She is a candidate for being beheaded.

One of the things that Ayaan Hirsi Ali is up against is American blindness - spiritual, moral, intellectual. It is what it is - blindness.

Toss out God then you toss out standards of right and wrong. You usher in spiritual darkness, exchanging the truth for a lie: Homosexuality, bisexuality, transgender, polygamy, pedophilia. Whatever is up is down. Whatever is right is wrong. Whatever is wrong is right.

And this crowd - ever growing - will press their godlessness on a cowering, gutless generation. Then, we too might say "horrible," but then shut our mouths and fall in line.

Innocent people (infidels the Muslim Brotherhood call them) are being beheaded and imprisoned by Islamists in countries around the world. Churches are being persecuted and killed. Churches are being destroyed. So much of mainstream media say nothing as they serve as tools of misinformation (or no information).

Turning tail or standing up?

Dr. Al Mohler, referring to various efforts to shut down Christian voices, said this, *These stories should remind Christians of the fact that we should never refrain from debate; never shrink from the opportunity for debate because the Christian worldview is based upon the fact that we have confidence in truth, God's truth, revealed truth, and that means that when an issue is up for debate, we need to enter the debate, not run from*

it and certainly not shut it down. Shutting down a debate is a sign of intellectual insecurity. That's something that Christians should recognize and be very wary of on our own behalf. We should never retreat into intellectual insecurity. We're the people who should enter the debate with confidence, knowing that in the end, the truth will out.

AFA's Dan Celia (FinancialIssues.com) speaking before an audience at the Holiday Inn in Muskegon, MI the other evening stated, "When I come to a Townhall meeting like tonight, I come into the auditorium in the afternoon and see all of the hundreds of empty seats set up and it's kinda scary as I ponder the thought that no one or so few show up."

Here is a man with a vital message regarding Christian financial stewardship. On that night in Muskegon 400 people enthusiastically attended and showed their deep gratitude for a great evening. By faith, they came and were helped. I'm sure Dan was once again relieved. It's by faith.

It's by faith that we have rented a large facility (Sunshine Community Church) in Grand Rapids. It's by faith that two men of God have accepted our invitation to speak in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Lord knows we need their voices today and yours. **Let us come together in His mighty Name on Friday, July 18!**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
ADA Summer Conference

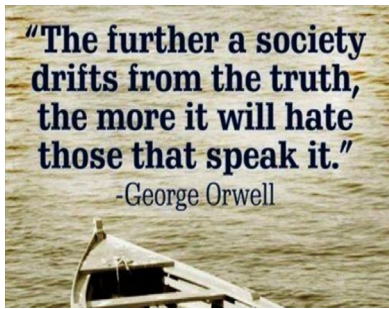
Friday, July 18, 2014
Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
Location: Sunshine Church
3300 East Beltline Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Cost: Free will offering

To register:
return the enclosed response card,
or contact us at 1-888-733-2326 or
kimberly@americandecency.org

The Echo of a Kiss

by Lisa Van Houten



Nineteenth century poet Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., wrote: *“The sound of a kiss is not so loud as that of a cannon, but its echo lasts a great deal longer.”*

The recent televised kiss between Michael Sam, the NFL’s first openly homosexual player, and his “boyfriend” continues to reverberate throughout our culture. In case you somehow missed the brouhaha, as Michael Sam was drafted by the St. Louis Rams, the 249th pick in the 7th draft, cameras were ready to capture the moment as Sam kissed his male lover. The image shot like a canon across the nation, praised by the proponents of the LGBT agenda.

However, not all who viewed the homosexual kiss had the same celebratory reaction.

Derrick Ward, former Super Bowl champion, tweeted: *“... Man U got little kids lookin at the draft. I can’t believe ESPN even allowed that to happen.”*

Since that comment, Derrick Ward has received death threats and hate-filled diatribes against him and his children. Ward replied to these attacks by tweeting: *“I’ll continue to speak my mind because it’s my god given right and supposedly u can do it without being frowned upon here in America.”*

It’s a good thing that Ward retired in 2012; otherwise he would find himself sent off to the “gulag” for re-education along with current Miami Dolphins player, Don Jones. Jones, who tweeted his personal reaction - “horrible” - to the airing of the Michael Sam homosexual kiss, was immediately fined, sent off for “sensitivity training,” and banned from Dolphins events until he finishes his “re-education” brainwashing.

While most sports commentators are rushing to condemn those who spoke out against the homosexual kiss aired over and over by media outlets, ESPN commentator Stephen A. Smith, while citing his personal support for same-sex marriage, criticized the public backlash against those such as Ward and Jones who hold a different view.

“It’s a very, very dangerous thing when people see something and they have a problem with what they’re seeing and they express themselves, and ultimately they’re fined. ... Is that something that warrants a fine, and being ostracized from team activities until training camp?” Smith stated on ESPN2.

Smith also made the point that many viewers have moral or religious reasons for taking issue with the kiss and stated that those pushing the homosexual agenda should practice the tolerance they preach.

Yet it isn’t tolerance that those in the LGBT movement want – they want to silence those who hold a different viewpoint about their lifestyle. And the way they do that is by screaming “bigotry.” They claim those who do not celebrate Michael Sam’s homosexual kiss do so because they’re bigots. As Christians call their lifestyle “sin,” they state that we hate homosexuals and want to deny them a seat at the proverbial lunch counter.

However, banning Michael Sam from participating in the NFL is not the issue. I haven’t read one article claiming that Sam shouldn’t be allowed to play football because he engages in homosexual behavior. If he has the skills needed to compete in the sport, he has the right to play. However, that does not mean we have to condone his lifestyle. And that is what we are being asked to do.

Sadly, the NFL is rife with those practicing the “unrighteous” lifestyles listed in I Corinthians 6:9-10 – including the sexually immoral, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, revilers – and homosexuality.

However, unlike homosexuality, the difference is that those who engage in such practices don’t demand that we accept and

praise those sins. I imagine some of the players recently drafted may have been sexually immoral, or have committed adultery, some may often be drunk, others may have stolen another’s property – yet none of these actions are lifted up by the NFL, ESPN, and the culture at large as practices to celebrate. We don’t send to re-education camps those who tweet their disgust with such behavior or condemn as bigots those who say such actions are morally wrong.

What infuriates those pushing for acceptance of the LGBT lifestyle more than anything is to label their behavior as what it is – sin.

Most people who commit adultery, or steal, or drink themselves into oblivion, will probably also admit those actions are wrong. Our culture has not yet advocated for the acceptance of such behaviors as “normal.” Yet in regards to homosexuality, those who don’t condone such behavior are labeled as “haters.”

In actuality, the refusal to celebrate homosexuality is the exact opposite of hate.

As Jonathan Parnell of DesiringGod.org explains: *“As Christians, we believe with deepest sincerity that the embrace of homosexual practice, along with other sins, keeps people out of the kingdom of God. And if our society celebrates it, we can’t both be caring and not say anything. Too much is at stake. This means it is an oversimplification to say that Christians — or conservative evangelicals — are simply against homosexuality. We are against any sin that restrains people from everlasting joy in God ... The issue is sin. That’s what we’re against. And that’s what should make our voice so unique when we speak into this debate. ...”*

Our culture will continue to silence us and attempt to “re-educate” us. We will still find ourselves the object of hate even as we are accused of being hate-filled bigots.

However, being cowed into silence and refusing to speak Truth to those dying without it is the ultimate form of hate.

The Grace of Guilt – Abortion and the Muted Conscience

by Chris Johnson



Becoming a father has changed me in a lot of ways.

Not the least noticeable is the fact that I now have serious problems with TV shows or movies where parents lose their kids. I can't handle it. A recent episode that I watched caught me with empathetic tears in my eyes when a couple lost their daughter - and I didn't even like her character.

The bond between a parent and his/her child is one of the most amazing manifestations of the character of God in his creations; when God calls us his children and we can compare that to the love we have for our own children - or the love our parents had for us - we can sense an inkling of our Father God's love for us.

When that bond is broken by death, it is a tragic thing to go through - and even to watch.

That's why I'm not even going to try viewing a recent viral video, in which a woman films her own abortion to show people how great it is.

In her own words, "I wanted to show it wasn't scary — and that there is such a thing as a positive abortion story. It's my story."

The awful thing is that it's not hers alone. It's also her child's painfully short story, and I doubt her child considered it to be quite so positive.

Listen to this sad, confused woman explain her emotions as she went through the procedure: "I remember breathing and

humming through it like I was giving birth. I know that sounds weird, but to me, this was as birth-like as it could be. It will always be a special memory for me. I still have my sonogram, and if my apartment were to catch fire, it would be the first thing I'd grab."

In her mind, she loves this child. In fact she says as much: "I realize it was potential life, and I love it in my own special way. I'm not glib and cavalier." She just didn't think she was ready to be a mom, and our sick culture has convinced her that this is a morally acceptable thing to do.

This woman knows all the arguments against abortion, because she counsels in the clinic where she had her own. This makes me wonder if, at some level, she did this to convince herself of her own arguments - that what goes on at that clinic is really as great as she tells people it is.

But, she insists, she feels no guilt and no one else who's had an abortion should either.

"Our society breeds this guilt. We inhale it from all directions. I didn't feel bad. I am thankful that I can share my story and inspire other women to stop the guilt."

Dr. Albert Mohler expertly analyzes this assertion. "Our post-Christian society has been working hard for well over a century to bury guilt in the cultural backyard and deny that guilt can be morally significant. In the wake of Sigmund Freud and the therapeutic revolution, the modern secular worldview demands that guilt be understood as the lingering residue of the Christian conscience, an experience merely forced upon us by a society that imposes oppressive moral judgments. It is to be overcome and denied, never heard.

But the Christian worldview affirms that guilt is inescapably moral, and that our experience of guilt comes from the fact that we are made in God's image as irreducibly moral creatures. We cannot not know of our guilt, which exists as God's gift to drive us to the knowledge that we are sinners in need of a Savior.

If [the woman in the video] truly believes that there is no guilt rightly associated with abortion, she would not have to insist, over and over again, that she feels no guilt. When she tells of women who "feel guilty for not feeling guilty," she testifies to the fact that they are moral creatures who cannot stop making moral judgments, especially about themselves, even when they insist there is no moral judgment to be made. And this must be especially true when a woman has sought to terminate the unborn life within her."

The abortive mother missed this, but hopefully she won't miss it forever. Guilt is an act of God's mercy. He gives it so that we can find peace in Him.

That is half of the tragedy after all. It is not only that the babies die, it is also that their mothers want to kill them. As this young woman stated about her abortion, "I don't feel like a bad person. I don't feel sad. ... I knew what I was going to do was right, because it was right for me, and no one else."

Her baby and millions of others have died on the altar of the god of comfort and convenience in an effort to satiate the craving that we all have for wholeness that can only be found in Christ.

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Comfortable or Courageous?

by Lisa Van Houten



When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

(Revelation 6:9-11)

Dr. Meriam Yehya Ibrahim (pictured above), a 27-year-old wife, mother, and doctor – who is also eight months pregnant – was recently sentenced to death by hanging under Sharia Law in Sudan. What was her supposed crime? Her Christian faith and her marriage to a Christian man. Under duress to recant her faith, Meriam refused.

Meriam has been imprisoned since February, along with her 20 month-old son. Her husband has been denied custody of their son because he, too, is a Christian. Meriam is married to Daniel Wani, a South Sudanese Christian who is also a naturalized United States citizen - making their imprisoned son an American citizen, as well.

Meriam's Muslim father abandoned her family when Meriam was six years old. Meriam was then raised by her Christian mother and claimed the Christian faith as her own. However, under the oppression of Islamic Sharia law, Sudan refuses to recognize Meriam's Christian religion-claiming she is a Muslim by birth. Under

Sharia Law, her marriage to a Christian man is also declared illegal and the marriage has been "invalidated."

As a result, Meriam has been charged with "apostasy" for following the Christian faith and "adultery," since her children were conceived in an "invalid" marriage with her Christian husband. On May 11 (Mother's Day), Meriam was found guilty by the Sudanese court under Sharia law. She was given three days to recant her faith and convert to Islam or be sentenced to death.

Meriam boldly stood before the Islamic court and stated: **"I am a Christian and I will remain a Christian."**

On May 15, Meriam was sentenced to a flogging of 100 lashes for "adultery" and death by hanging for her Christian faith. The court declared the sentence will be postponed until after the birth of her baby. How noble. The fate of her children is unknown.

One hundred lashes. Death by hanging. Her husband also reports that Meriam has suffered abuse and torture and has been denied medical treatment while imprisoned.

I can't imagine what Meriam has endured – and quite frankly, part of me doesn't want to hear about it. It's hard to bear the thought of such horror, let alone what it must be to experience it. This past Sunday I went to my comfortable church to worship. I went home and had a nice dinner and curled up for a little Sunday afternoon nap, while thousands of miles away my sister in Christ sat in a deplorable prison waiting the birth of her child which will lead to a brutal flogging and her death by hanging.

"I am a Christian and I will remain a Christian." It's easy to say, but how about in the face of torture and death?

We American Christians have been so blessed. For the most part, the only persecution we face is not being "liked" by the cultural elites. Yet even in the face of that little bit of push back, we cave to what our culture says is correct.

We stammer apologies for what God's Word says is true; we "cry uncle" when the least little bit of societal pressure is exerted upon Christianity; we worry about how the media will depict us. Taking a good hard look at ourselves, what would be the most accurate description of the vast majority of American Christians – comfortable or courageous?

I know which adjective describes Meriam. As I pray for Meriam, I also pray that God will use her example to embolden me. May that be true of you, as well.

However, while we learn from her example, let us also fight for her freedom. We do not know for certain that Meriam will be martyred for her faith. There are those working to shed light on this atrocity and there is growing outrage expressed by the international community - but not from the Obama administration.

Congressman Frank Wolf issued this statement: "... *There is an urgent need for international attention to this injustice . . . This is a human rights travesty in which our State Department should be fully engaged, especially given that Meriam is married to an American citizen. ...*

However, our own State Department has been relatively silent - in spite of the fact that a 20-month old American citizen is imprisoned along with his mother!

Urgent calls are needed to the U.S. State Department and your congressional representatives, urging our government's immediate intervention in working for the release of Meriam and her son.

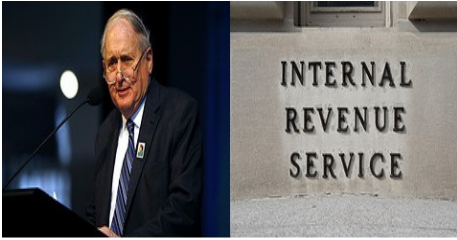
Contact Secretary of State John Kerry and urge him to take immediate action. Call the U.S. State Department at 202-647-4000.

Contact your U.S. representative and senator by calling the United States Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121.

We also encourages calls to the United States Sudanese Embassy at 202-338-8565.

Sen. Carl Levin's "unprincipled" pressure

by Lisa Van Houten



Michigan's Senator Carl Levin, speaking recently at the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy commencement, told the graduating class **"issues change, principles do not."**

Perhaps Senator Levin should have followed his own advice. Recently, news broke that Carl Levin, a senior United States Democrat senator, was personally involved in pressuring the IRS to target conservative groups in the spring of 2012, leading up to the fall elections.

For months Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog group, has sought to receive information from the IRS via Freedom of Information Requests – which the IRS ignored. Finally after receiving a court order, Judicial Watch obtained emails from the IRS which show a series of communications between Carl Levin and the IRS starting in March of 2012 in which Levin demanded that the IRS exert greater scrutiny of conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status.

Levin, chairman of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee, first wrote to then-IRS commissioner Douglas Shulman on March 30, 2012 stressing the "urgency" of possible political activity by nonprofit applicants. What could be so "urgent," as Levin wrote, of scrutinizing the possible political activity of conservative nonprofit organizations? With the 2012 presidential election just months away, it seems clear what the urgency was to Levin and fellow democrats in shutting down conservative groups.

In addition, Judicial Watch Senior Attorney Ramona Cotca stated on Frank Beckmann's WJR (Detroit) radio show

that Levin's letters cited 10 organizations for special attention. Nine of the ten were conservative groups. Levin even supplied a sample IRS rejection letter that was sent to a conservative group back in 1997 of how the IRS should crack down on such groups.

As Frank Beckmann writes in The Detroit News:

"... Levin's intent is rather clear and he was joined by fellow Democratic Sens. Max Baucus and Dick Durbin in trying to pressure the tax agency. ..."

"The IRS not only targeted tea party groups, by identifying terms such as "Patriot" and "Constitution" into searches of entities that were singled out for special scrutiny, but also stonewalled a congressional investigation, tried to mislead Congress about the entire scandal, and delayed for years the legitimate tax exempt status of right-leaning nonprofits."

Perhaps even worse, Judicial Watch says an estimated 10 percent of the individual donors to the tea party groups targeted saw their individual tax returns audited by the IRS. ..."

The letters from influential senators like Levin, while certainly not responsible for the entire scandal, unquestionably brought added pressure to bear on IRS officials to use the government as a political arm of the Democratic Party, a blatant abuse of administrative power.

While the tax exemption issue, and pressure from Sen. Levin, are reason enough for alarm about government overreach, even more frightening are the actions of Lois Lerner, former head of taxpayer groups for the IRS and subject of congressional contempt charges.

Judicial Watch retrieved emails showing Lerner contacted the Justice Department about potential criminal prosecution of conservative groups, noting that putting one person from a conservative organization in jail would create an

example and "shut the whole thing down."

That's the Orwellian world Levin helped facilitate.

It's telling that Levin's party has spent its time criticizing the congressional investigation rather than the actions of the tax agency itself. ..."

The IRS emails also revealed that the IRS had developed a BOLO ("Be On the Look Out") list of groups to target. The BOLO list instructed IRS employees to especially investigate any groups applying for tax-exempt status which were involved in the following criteria:

1. 'Tea Party', 'Patriots' or '9/12 Project' ...
2. Issues include government spending, government debt and taxes.
3. Educate the public through advocacy/legislative activities to make America a better place to live.
4. Statements in the case file that are critical of the how the country is being run.

As Gary Bauer points out, number four is particularly chilling – and smacks of fascism!

Are American citizens no longer allowed to criticize 'how the country is being run'? Isn't that what the First Amendment gives us the right to do – not only with our freedom of speech, but also the freedom to "petition the government for a redress of grievances."

What does this phrase from the First Amendment mean – to "petition the government for a redress of grievances"? In essence, if the federal government exceeds the authority granted by the U.S. Constitution, we the people have a right to formally complain, protest, work for change. It's one of most basic principles of our republic and one which Carl Levin has obviously forgotten.

Issues do change, Senator Levin; principles – including constitutional principles – do not.

Are We Ashamed?

by Chris Johnson



At the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast on May 13, 2014, Professor Robert George made a succinct and encapsulating statement about the state of 21st century Christianity. While the speech was given to a Catholic audience, it is equally true for evangelicals like myself. It is the best summary of the church's position in today's society that I've heard, and I recommend that you give it a listen (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L66-rTscuYY&feature=youtu.be&t=17m36s>).

I think quite effectively, Prof. George parallels the church with the apostles of Christ at the time of the triumphal entry. The excitement of Jerusalem as Christ entered the city is the time period we are now coming out of, and as Christ has lost favor with society at large we are now going into Good Friday. It is now our turn to decide whether we will betray Christ or stand with Him.

“...Am I prepared to pay the price that will be demanded if I refuse to be ashamed, if, in other words, I am prepared to give public witness to the massively politically incorrect truths of the Gospel, truths that the mandarins of an elite culture shaped by the dogmas of expressive individualism and me-generation liberalism do not wish to hear spoken? Or, put more simply, am I willing, or am I, in the end, unwilling, to take up my cross and follow Christ?”

That is the choice before us - the Biblical truths that a decade ago were held by the vast majority of Americans are now, an unbelievably short amount of time later, considered by many to be hate speech - no matter whether or not the truth is communicated out of love.

George continues, *“Powerful forces and currents in our society press us to be*

ashamed of the Gospel — ashamed of the good, ashamed of our faith's teachings on the sanctity of human life in all stages and conditions, ashamed of our faith's teachings on marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife. These forces insist that the Church's teachings are out of date, retrograde, insensitive, uncompassionate, illiberal, bigoted, even hateful. These currents bring pressure on all of us, and on young Catholics (read Christians) in particular, to yield to this insistence. They threaten us with consequences if we refuse to call what is good evil, and what is evil good. They command us to conform our thinking to their orthodoxy, or else say nothing at all.”

What else do examples like the firing of the president of Mozilla, the suspension of Phil Robertson, the cancellation of the Benham Brothers' television show demonstrate? The oppressing cries for tolerance leave no room for disagreement.

It's a dangerous time to follow the teachings of Christ. The "dogmas of expressive individualism and me-generation liberalism" make Christ's message, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments," an unpopular one, but that's what we have. Our gratitude for Christ's sacrifice for our own sins on the cross and our love for him will be expressed by following His word - even the parts that aren't so popular.

Professor George expresses it wonderfully, *“And we bear witness by our fidelity to the greatest truth of all, namely, that the story does not end at Golgotha. Evil and death do not triumph. Yes, it is Good Friday, but the one who became like us in all things but sin conquers death to redeem us from our transgressions and give us a full share in eternal life — the divine life of the most blessed Trinity. The cross cannot defeat him. The sepulcher cannot hold him. His heavenly Father will not abandon him. The psalm that begins in despair, Eloi, Eloi lama sabachtani, ends in hope and joy. Easter is coming. The crucified Christ will be raised from the dead. The chains of sin will be broken. ‘Oh death, where is thy victory? Oh death, where is thy sting?’”*

Not Lovin' It

by Lisa Van Houten



Research from our friends at Parents Television Council reveals what we at ADA have observed with some of our own television monitoring – McDonald's, once known for its responsible advertising, is no longer a trusted friend of the family. Rather, their sponsorship now often empowers programming which undermines families and the values parents strive to teach their children.

As PTC states: **In recent years, McDonald's has abandoned their wholesome family image and tarnished their reputation by advertising regularly on TV programs full of:**

- foul language,
- violence, and
- sexually explicit content.

In its Annual Report, the company claims ‘McDonald's cares about kids. We are committed to responsible advertising and take our communications to children very seriously.’

Their advertising does not reflect this.

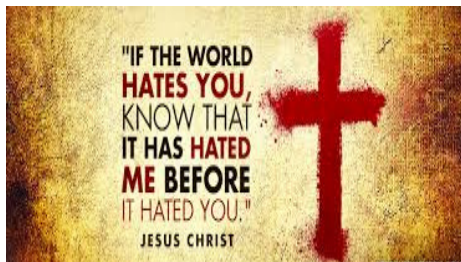
McDonald's has now gone from one of the best family-friendly advertisers to one of the worst television sponsors.

This follows McDonald's alignment with the LGBT agenda in 2008. When asked by pro-family groups to remain neutral in the debate, the McDonald's Corporation stated at that time, *“[we] will continue to support the gay agenda including same-sex marriage.”*

Please mail the enclosed postcard to McDonald's, urging the company to return to their pledge to responsible advertising and support the values of traditional families on which their company was built.

Choosing Sides

by Lisa Van Houten



I recently read an excellent article written by Pastor Andrew Dionne on his site, dionneblog.com. In the article, “Raising Our Children to be Those of Whom the World was not Worthy,” Pastor Dionne writes, “the Holy Spirit was not using hyperbole when He said, ‘...whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God’ (James 4:4).”

Scripture also teaches us the contrasting truth; those of us who are friends of God will be enemies of the world. (John 15:18-20)

It seems each day we see that played out in our culture. In this newsletter and in previous editions we have highlighted Christians who have paid a price for standing up for their faith. In our culture we typically see that when one speaks of the biblical teaching regarding homosexuality. The list is growing each day.

Angela McCaskill, faculty member of Galaudet University, placed on administrative leave for signing a petition in support of natural marriage.

Mozilla CEO Brendan Eich forced out of his position for his personal support of California’s 2008 ban on homosexual marriage.

FOX Sports analyst, Craig James, fired for comments he made before working for FOX in which he offered a biblical view of homosexuality.

Dr. Eric Walsh, Pasadena Public Health Director – also a part-time pastor – “disinvited” as commencement speaker from Pasadena City College after students discovered sermons he had preached denouncing homosexuality. Following this

disclosure of his biblical preaching, Dr Walsh was also placed on administrative leave by the City of Pasadena. (Walsh was replaced as commencement speaker by a homosexual activist.)

Add to this growing list, brothers David and Jason Benham. The Benham brothers are former professional baseball players who are now successful real estate investors. The Benhams had contracted with the popular cable television channel, HGTV (Home and Garden Television), to host a new show called “Flip It Forward,” where the Benham brothers would help disadvantaged families “flip” a fixer-upper into their dream home.

But when the radical leftwing group, “Rightwing Watch,” exposed the Benhams as – gasp! – conservative Christians who hold biblical views on everything from homosexual marriage to abortion, HGTV cancelled the show.

“Rightwing Watch” has also targeted American Decency. The Benhams are the latest additions to their list which also includes the likes of Franklin Graham, Dr. James Dobson, as well as our own Bill Johnson.

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.”
(John 15:18)

However, how did the Benham brothers respond to such hate? Not with the hate the Rightwing Watch accuses us of, but with the love that Christ tells us to demonstrate. The Benhams pledged to renovate the houses on their own for the families which had already been scheduled for the now cancelled show.

“If faith costs us a TV show, so be it,” they stated. **“Anyone who suggests that we hate homosexuals or people of other faiths is either misinformed or lying. Over the last decade, we’ve sold thousands of homes with the guiding principle of producing value and breathing life into each family that has crossed our path -- and we do not, nor will we ever discriminate against people who do not share our views.”**

The Benhams also declared, *“Our faith is the fundamental calling in our lives, and the centerpiece of who we are. ...With all of the grotesque things that can be seen and heard on television today you would think there would be room for two twin brothers who are faithful to our families, committed to biblical principles, and dedicated professionals.”*

Sadly, it seems as if that is no longer the case in secular America. Our culture is increasingly antagonistic to Christians like the Benhams where faith is the centerpiece of their lives.

Such antagonism will only increase. As Pastor Andrew Dionne also wrote:

The church must get serious about training the next generation—our five year-old sons and daughters—to suffer for the faith. Gone are going to be the days when Christian parents can cover their worldly ambitions for their children with a thin veneer of Christian conservatism and go happily on their way. The new pagan orthodoxy won’t allow such softness. ...

As paganism takes ground in the culture war, persecution against Christians will become steady and fierce. When those days come, if the church has not taught her children that she has real enemies those children not only will not “contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3), they will join ranks with the enemy. ...

We need to get to the work of raising Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-negos, who will not bow the knee to any idol whether or not God rescues them from the flames (Dan. 3:13-18). And that is going to begin with the repentance of parents who want their children above all to be successful, rather than faithful. It could be that the coming generation will find it is impossible both to be successful and to be a Christian. And either they will become world-worthy or, by God’s mercy, grace, and goodness, they will become those “of whom the world was not worthy” (Heb. 11:38).