

Taking refuge in princes?

By Bill Johnson



The Psalmist writes in Psalm 118:8-9

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Many have stated that our election gave us a reprieve. Our hearts continue to cry out for some evidence of growing justice, honesty, honor, respect, mutual civility between the parties.

We are yet longing for that - yet more and more are doubting that even a semblance of this can be found in this fallen world, this fallen nation. It seems far, far off.

The words below summarize my concern for our nation. I am no national security expert; I write this with humility. I am, though, a Christian man who takes my faith seriously, particularly in my role as a husband, father, grandfather, and ministry leader. I seek hard to understand the political battles both here and abroad. And, I spend hours in daily devotion reading my Bible, meditating upon the writings of spiritual people, and praying.

Along with these priorities, however, I am burdened by this: Our system of government is under attack! I feel that I would be abandoning my calling if I didn't warn you and urge you to awaken! Pray!

In short, I believe there is a massive, concerted effort to destroy the presidency of Donald Trump and to undermine the principles of the people who elected him by using multiple, measured means. Clearly there are a multiplicity of forces aligned against Trump from before he even took office. Some call it the "Deep State" - a network of agency and military officials who conspire to undermine government policy.

Professor Victor Davis Hanson of the Hoover Institute warns: *"What we're seeing here . . . is a slow motion coup, where you have a nexus of celebrities, academics, the Democratic and progressive parties, and then you have the media. And they feel they can delegitimize the president with a thousand nicks."*

A variety of leftist groups and individuals seemingly arise daily - former Obama staffers still embedded in major branches of the government, progressive federal judges, liberal Republicans accusing Trump of malfeasance, mainstream media which daily, if not by the hour, serves as an echo chamber for "gotcha news" of the latest incompetence of Donald Trump and Trump's unsupported/unproven collusion with Russian President Putin. It's all part of the plan to destroy, not only this President, but our system of government from within - which coordinates with the worldwide strategy of the Muslim

Brotherhood.

As a writer for The Federalist warns: *"They have engaged in a campaign of selective leaks and plots to undermine the president of the United States and weave a media narrative of Russian influence, conspiracy, and now obstruction of justice. With their media allies, they have leaked information and intelligence that — while lacking any actual criminal element has allowed a narrative to arise that casts a dark shadow over the White House and those who live and work in it. ..."*

"In all of this, the media has abandoned their role as watchdogs with a healthy dose of skepticism and become the propaganda arm of the unelected administrative state, complicit in and even cheering on the actions that have superseded the will of the people."

Not to say that Trump is a perfect president! Is he truly committed to the conservative agenda he promoted on the campaign trail or will he bend to liberal forces and moderate voices within his own administration?

One area of uncertainty is Trump's position regarding radical Islam. President Trump has received accolades from conservatives for his recent speech in front of 50 Muslim

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From the desk of Bill Johnson
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leaders in Saudi Arabia. Trump forcefully confronted “the crisis of Islamic extremism,” using the word “terror” or “terrorism” more than 31 times in his speech. He called out Muslim leaders to “drive out” terrorists “from your places of worship . . . your communities . . . your holy land, and this earth.”

At one point in his speech, President Trump stated: “Religious leaders must make this absolutely clear: Barbarism will deliver you no glory — piety to evil will bring you no dignity. If you choose the path of terror, your life will be empty, your life will be brief, and your soul will be condemned.”

However, while this is encouraging, concerns are being raised by notable commentators that Trump is adopting “negotiation” approaches, similar to Obama’s, with Islamic tyrants who have played us like a fiddle.

Such reports are both confusing and troubling and run counter to Mr. Trump’s pledge to defeat Islam. Believe me, I say this with careful thought.

One example is Trump’s dealings with Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In recent years Erdogan has imposed a crack down on freedom against his own people. **Then following Erdogan’s authoritarian consolidation of power during a recent referendum in Turkey, President Trump, shockingly, was quick to congratulate Erdogan.**

Where is President Trump’s resistance to Erdogan and his move to Islamize Turkey? How can this not create great alarm when one understands that Erdogan has systematically positioned Turkey as a major supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood, including Muslim Brotherhood front organizations in America.

Frank Gaffney, a frequent speaker at our conferences and president of the Center for Security Policy, recently asked Harold Rhode, Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Gatestone Institute, about the role that Saudi Arabia has worldwide in regard to terrorism. Rhode’s response: **“Saudi Arabia is in fact the strongest funder of Islamic Radicalism.** *It started basically in 1979. They set up the precursor of ISIS and Al Qaeda which have now come back to haunt them. ... Look at the Saudi flag. It’s a green flag and it has written on it “there is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his messenger.” The point of it being is conquer by the sword, ... You can call it anything you want; it’s one world rule by Islam.*”

Hugh Rudolph of Jihad Watch writes: *Saudi Arabia has spread Islamic fundamentalism all over the globe, spending billions on mosques ... and on Western pseudo-academic centers of Islamic studies ... that promote not just Islam, but defend the Wahhabism of Saudi Arabia. Saudi textbooks, that are used by Muslim students around the world, bristle with hatred of Infidels. Wahhabi Saudi Arabia is one of only two Muslim countries (Shia Iran is the other) that imposes the full Sharia as its legal code. Saudi Arabia is the country that provided 15 of the 19 World Trade Center bombers. ... Saudi money has been used to push fundamentalist Islam.*

Andrew C. McCarthy, foremost expert on Islam stated in the National Review: [President Trump] “has signed historic agreements with the [Saudi] Kingdom that will invest almost \$400 billion in our two countries and create many thousands of jobs in America and Saudi Arabia.” **Perhaps his strategists could inform the president that when Saudi Arabia invests in America, the result invariably includes the construction of schools and mosques that propagate(s) the ideology** of Sharia law designed to destroy the infidel.

Perhaps most troubling of all, as it comes straight from the mouth of one of the highest in the administration, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, by way of USA Today, “I think the President’s views — like, we hope, the American people’s views — are going to continue to evolve,” Tillerson said on the flight from Riyadh to Tel Aviv. “This is not a battle between different faiths, different

sects, or different civilizations. This is a battle between barbaric criminals who seek to obliterate human life, and decent people of all religions who seek to protect it.”

While there are certainly many Muslims with no desire to go to war or kill “infidels,” Trump is in the same dangerous territory as our last several presidents – failing to understand that violence is an inherent piece of Islam.

President Trump appears, too, to be reneging on his campaign promise to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, a symbolic gesture which would go a long way in recognizing the legitimacy of the controversial nation state. Trump has opted to put off that decision, instead pursuing the same wild geese as the past three administrations: “We have the opportunity to advance the peace discussions between the Israelis and the Palestinians,” Secretary Tillerson said.

It seems that every president wants to be the one to put the ultimate peacemaking trophy on their mantle, meanwhile Israel is fighting on the world scene to have its capitol recognized as their own territory or even be recognized as a state. Such basic concessions are still considered a bargaining chip towards peace for the beleaguered little nation.

Between the “Deep State” strategizing to take down President Trump and the very troubling mixed messages of the Trump administration regarding alignments with Islamic countries, etc., as I stated earlier I would be abandoning my calling if I didn’t warn you and urge you to awaken.

This has been the most difficult personal note I have ever written. Our country needs President Trump to lead well - exceedingly well as the world is filled with hatred, wickedness, and tyrants. Oh, let us PRAY!

Even as we are reminded from Psalm 118 in Whom our ultimate hope lies:

“... Let those who fear the Lord say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” ... It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes ...”

Walmart's Split Personality

by Lisa Van Houten



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

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

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

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

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

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

homosexual alignment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christian shoppers also have a choice to make.

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

Last Man Standing is Benched

by Chris Johnson

lastMANstanding



Where on the major media networks can we turn to find a brief slice of common sense or even a nod towards conservative principles?

Nowhere, any more. For six seasons, at least, we could find an ideological ally at 8:00PM on Friday nights in the form of the wise-cracking Tim Allen and the cast of “Last Man Standing.”

The title refers to the position of Allen’s character in his home with his wife and three daughters, though it could just as easily refer to his show’s place in the sitcom lineup, surrounded by leftwing comedies not so subtly pushing the liberal agenda.

The format of Allen’s sitcom allowed the conservative star to take full advantage of each episode as a chance to articulate what would have once been called common sense. Each episode included a short video of Allen speaking directly to the viewer, arguing for smaller government, for personal responsibility, for a strong work ethic, etc. And it all happened in the context of his family, which represented the full political spectrum – from his vegan, socialist leaning son-in-law, to his daughter in the ROTC.

Not only was Allen’s sitcom unique in its viewpoint, but it was unique in its ratings performance.

According to The Blaze, “*while most shows were down year-to-year by 20 to 30 percent, ‘Last Man Standing,’ which has been ABC’s anchor show on Friday nights, boosting the audiences for the programs following it, was down by only 5 percent among 18- to 49-year-olds.*”

It was, in fact, ABC’s third most watched

program, regularly drawing 8.1 million viewers per episode.

Tim Allen tweeted that he was “Stunned and blindsided by the network I called home for the last six years.”

And even after the show’s cancellation it’s loyal viewers are fighting to get it back, with over 235,000 of them (as of this writing) signing a petition for it to be renewed.

All of this brings us to the question of why? Why would ABC discontinue a reliably profitable show performing head and shoulders above its competition?

Of course, the network has given a reason: Going into its 7th season, ABC would be obligated to pick up the production costs of the show, up til now covered by 20th Century FOX, and according to ABC, Allen’s paycheck was just too much.

This explanation’s credibility is sullied, however, when we hear that six of the main cast members of “Modern Family,” which was renewed for two seasons, will get a considerable bump in pay from \$350,000 to half a million dollars per episode.

Which makes us wonder, was the one conservative-leaning show on network television cancelled simply for being the one conservative-leaning show on network television?

Of course, all we can do is wonder, but Tim Allen himself has made an eerily predictive remark in a March interview with Jimmy Kimmel: “*You gotta be real careful around here. You get beat up if you don’t believe what everybody else believes. This is like ‘30s Germany.*”

It wouldn’t be the first time that the ‘tolerant’ left silenced the viewpoints they disagree with.

This writing does not mean to lift “Last Man Standing” up as “Christian” or “clean” television. While far right of most everything else on network television, it still contains objectionable content and viewpoints.

Letters from our Supporters



...Thank you for making us look at things with awareness and a discerning eye beginning so many years ago. Thank you too for the areas you have expanded into today to wake up Christians. We continue to pray for you & Jan and all at ADA.

B & B. B.

Thank you for your comprehensive pertinent newsletters. Our Monday prayer group uses them as a source. As a Calvin College grad I thank you for publishing the Truth. S.T.

I haven’t supported the ADA for some time but felt led to mail you this small check. You have continued mailing me each month your newsletter and I thank you! You are such a wonderful organization. “Frontline” is such a great monthly paper and I keep every issue and re-read them. I’m on limited income and that is why I can’t support you like I used to when I worked part-time. May God bless you all! N.S.

Your newsletter is excellent! Thanks for addressing our mosque in Sterling Heights. V.B.

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Let Me Count the Ways...

by Steve Huston

Like a hijab covering the face of a Muslim woman, western media sources have done their best to enshroud Islamic terrorism (jihad), hiding its dangers and denying its source. Ignoring the war cry of “Allahu Akbar,” no one knows why this murdering terrorist did what he did or if he has an affiliation of any kind. Denying the call for terrorism and destruction against all who are outside the reign of Sharia Law, the Koran is to be seen as a book of peace. Ignoring the fact that more than 35 years ago the Muslim Brotherhood of America wrote “An Explanatory Memorandum” in which they listed their goals, their modus operandi, and their infrastructure in America—our government STILL DOES NOT name them as the enemy of the United States of America.

The Muslim Brotherhood and its front groups, like CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations), ISNA (Islamic Society of North America), MSA (Muslim Students’ Association), and numerous others, have been infiltrating and influencing our government and society, dictating how we operate and how we identify and deal with our enemy.

Sen. Cruz has been fighting to name the enemy and continues this battle against radical Islamic terrorism in the 115th Congress by introducing a bill called the “Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act of 2017.” If you want to follow this Senate Bill, it’s designated S.68. **We prayerfully urge you to call your state senator and compel him/her to get behind this bill—to talk about it and vote for it. The number for the U.S. Capitol Switchboard is 202-224-3121.**

This bill would codify needed reforms in America’s war against radical Islamic terrorism. President Trump had campaigned on naming the enemy and taking strong actions against them. It’s time to hold his feet to the fire, as well as those in Congress who are supposed to be putting policies in place to protect this nation and its people. A call needs to be made for accepting the Muslim Brotherhood at face value instead

of being willfully blind. Part of “draining the swamp” includes naming the enemy instead of protecting them, defunding those who would destroy us instead of financially supporting them, and incarcerating those who are complicit in these obviously treasonous acts against our nation.

Building a wall is great to protect our borders, but real protection starts from within! We need to name the enemy and take strong stands against that enemy. We must insist on background checks for anyone desiring to work within our government and fill the “swamp” with fresh, clean water.

A recent article from Counter Jihad lists six reasons why President Trump should list the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist

3. Its “members have carried out bombings, church burnings, and assassinations at the direction of senior Brotherhood figures, according to Egyptian intelligence.”

4. “The Muslim Brotherhood restated its intent to wage jihad as recently as 2015.”

5. “Since 1928, the goal of the Muslim Brotherhood has been the imposition of Islamic law and the restoration of the Caliphate.”

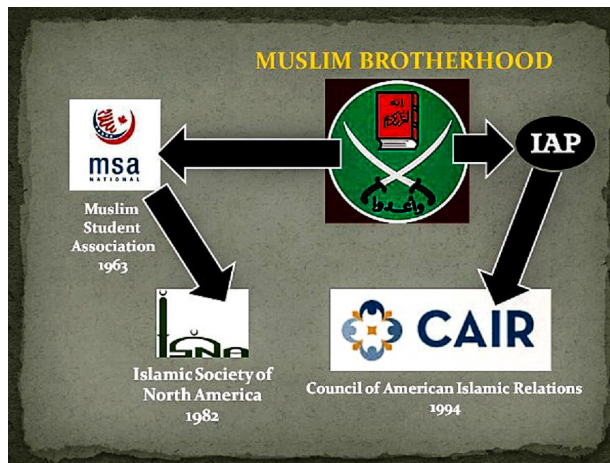
6. Many countries—including Middle Eastern countries—have already designated the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization. We should be leading the way in this, not playing catch-up.

Contact President Trump and Vice-President Pence; let them know that as American citizens and voters you expect them to take all Constitutional actions available to protect you, your family, and our nation. Part of that protection is passing the **Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act of 2017. The White House Switchboard is 202-456-1414.** Or contact them via email at www.whitehouse.gov/contact.

Tweet it, share it on Facebook, have good old-fashioned face-to-face conversations about it. Encourage

people to let this administration and this 115th Congress know that you not only stand behind this act of commonsense safety, **but that we expect them to move on this too.**

Let’s be clear, we do **not** promote hatred toward Muslims; rather we are called to love them and share the gospel with them. The function and role of a God-ordained government is different from the role of an individual Christian. Government is instituted to implement and enforce righteous laws, then to carry out justice when those laws are broken. As individuals we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, even if that “neighbor” has different ways and/or beliefs. Much more could and should be said about this; but that’s another article for another time.



organization. Let us count the ways:

1. The Brotherhood’s stated goal is: “*Allah is our objective; the Prophet is our leader; the Quran is our law; Jihad is our way; dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope.*” They encourage, lead, and sometimes are the operational leader of acts of jihad (holy war)—acts of terrorism.

2. The Muslim Brotherhood finances terrorism and give infrastructure support for acts of jihad: “The US government has determined that multiple Muslim Brotherhood fronts in the US served the explicit purpose of providing material support for the terrorist group Hamas, which describes itself as a Muslim Brotherhood branch.”

Kraft: The Macaroni Mothers “Swear” By

by Lisa Van Houten



Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day, wanted to honor her beloved mother who had passed away in 1905 and so worked tirelessly to establish the national holiday to honor all mothers for their love and sacrifice for their children. The first official Mother's Day event was held in 1908 at the West Virginia church where Jarvis' mother had served as a Sunday School teacher and was known for her faithful service. Anna Jarvis sent 500 white carnations for all who attended that initial commemoration to wear in honor of their own mothers and to signify **the purity of a mother's love.**

The national observance of Mother's Day quickly spread and the wearing of white carnations became a symbol of Mother's Day for decades to come. Florists could not keep enough white carnations in stock for the holiday and so promoted the idea of wearing bright colored flowers to honor living mothers and white flowers for those who had passed away.

As florists, card makers, and confectioners quickly mass-marketed the holiday, Anna Jarvis was so disgusted with the commercialization of Mother's Day that she actually tried to have the holiday rescinded. She was quoted as saying: *"A printed card means nothing except that you are too lazy to write to the woman who's done more for you than anyone in the world."*

One wonders, then, what Anna Jarvis would think of Kraft's recent Mother's Day ad campaign to "honor" mothers, entitled **"Swear Like a Mother."** The commercial for Kraft Macaroni & Cheese features Melissa Mohr, a "real-life swearing expert"

and author of a book about the history of swearing (the actual title of the book is too offensive to list here.) The advertisement for mac & cheese, the quintessential kid's food, is filled with bleeped out words as the mother fails to keep from swearing in front of her children, even as she offers "alternative" profanities.

A press release from Kraft proudly promoting their "Swear Like a Mother" ad campaign states:

"Parents aren't perfect... even moms. Moms mess up. Moms are human. And yes, Moms have potty mouths.... To help Mom make it right, this Mother's Day, the Kraft Mac & Cheese brand is introducing a set of tools to help. The brand has created ... alternative swear words moms can use around the little ones to prevent parenting fails. Additionally Kraft is launching Mother's Day cards with Fail-Cancelling Earplugs to help shield your kids' ears in those not-so-motherly moments. And for whatever the earplugs and substitute swears can't block, there's always Kraft Mac & Cheese. ..."

Yes, Kraft offered a promotional gift of macaroni-shaped earplugs for kids to wear to shield them from their mother's swearing. We've gone from children encouraged to wear white carnations to honor the purity of a mother's love to kids encouraged to wear earplugs to be protected from their mother's lewd language.

Kraft went on to make the unbelievable claim that - according to their own survey - 74 % of mothers admit to swearing in front of their kids. Really?? How convenient that a survey Kraft itself conducted comes up with such a dubious claim that just happens to align with their "Swear Like a Mother" ad campaign.

As One Million Moms reported, recently a major study and book, "Cursing in America," showed that "less than 7% of Americans

curse on the job and less than 12% curse in their leisure time" which makes Kraft's claim even more unbelievable.

In our sinful nature we have a propensity to use profane language, but with the law of God written on our hearts we also know there is shame in doing so.

Ephesians 5 shows us how seriously the importance of guarding our language is to God. Immediately after the warning against sexual immorality in verse 3 is this command in verse 4: *"Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving."*

Kraft (now joined with Heinz as The Kraft Heinz Company) was once a symbol of wholesomeness. Their website claims the company "provides high quality and great taste" in their products. However, "quality" and "taste" obviously aren't applied to their advertisements.

If children imitate the crude "Swear Like a Mother" ad, many moms might be reaching for the proverbial bar of soap rather than mac & cheese. Kraft may think it's a great sales gimmick to depict mothers as potty-mouth vulgarities, but millions of moms who do their family's grocery shopping might very well be offended by this portrayal. Perhaps Kraft should remember who it is that butters their bread.

Contact Kraft to let them know how disappointed you are that a once family-oriented brand has stooped to such tasteless vulgarity.

Kraft Heinz Company
200 E Randolph St
Chicago IL 60601-7012

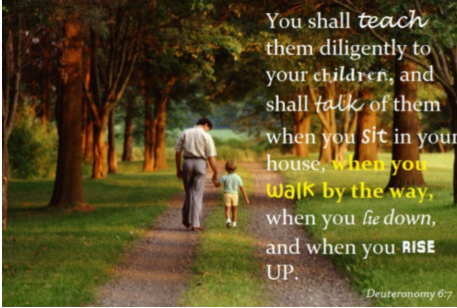
Bernardo Hees - CEO

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Lynne Galia
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I Want? What Does God Want?

by Lisa Van Houten



“I want, I want, I want.” It can be an incessant whine from children, followed only by, “I’m bored.” Too often parents give in to their kids’ desire for instant gratification – and its affecting not just their behavior, but the development of their brains.

Educator Victoria Prooday reminds parents that **their child’s brain is malleable – it can be made stronger or weaker.** As she writes, “despite all our greatest intentions, we unfortunately remold our children’s brains in the wrong direction.” In her article Prooday details several traps parents can fall into that affects the emotional, social, and academic development of our children – and I would add – **their spiritual development.**

She warns that parents are creating an artificial world of fun for children – giving them what they want when they want it – **instead of what they need.** Children need less screen time and more time outdoors. They need discipline, not overindulgence. **They need to have responsibilities in order to learn to work - and less technology in order to learn how to play.**

Sadly, screen time often replaces play time. In reply to the dramatic sigh that coincides with the plea, “I’m bored,” the answer from parents used to be, “Go outside and play.” Which led to neighborhoods full of bored kids coming together for a game of kick the can or hide-and-go-seek; racing bikes up and down the street; exploring the woods; or anything a kid’s mind could dream up. That was my childhood. Likely that was yours as well.

I understand that in many areas of the country, safety concerns now prohibit kids from being allowed to roam for hours un-

attended. Unfortunately though, parents have found another easy answer to the boredom of their children. What could be easier to combat a whiny child than to put a screen in their hands with all of the exciting stimuli that entails?

As Josh Squires from DesiringGod.org writes regarding the free babysitting which technology provides: *...Instantly, children are both contained and entertained. It’s almost too easy. And our hearts love easy. ...*

The human heart wants as much pleasure as it can get for the least amount of work it has to put into it. It’s called the “pleasure principle.” When our children pick up a screen, the pleasure principle starts paying in spades.

It pays off for them because they do not have to do the hard work of socializing with others, or learning to share, compromise, and play by the rules. Their world is their own, and it goes wherever Netflix, Amazon, or YouTube will take them. And it pays off for us too. We do not have to worry about the constant nag for entertainment, the coordination of schedules and events, or the disorder of a well played-in room.

Constantly, our sin sick world invites us to indulge our sin sick heart. ...

Which brings us to another point. Parents aren’t just shaping a child’s mental and social development – but more importantly, his/her spiritual growth. By nature, children (as well as adults) will not desire to do what is right or good. Their sinful natures, left unchecked, will lead them to defy authority – first ours and ultimately the authority of God. As John Piper points out, God’s Word commands children to obey their parents, which in turn would imply that **parents are commanded to require obedience.**

We’ve all seen “those parents” in stores or restaurants giving in to children’s demands rather than follow through with consequences for their disobedience. If we’re honest, each of us has been “those parents” when dealing with children.

Paul Tripp, author of “Parenting: 14 Gospel

Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family,” explains that as we lovingly teach children to obey, they are learning traits that will help them obey God’s commands and experience the joy we find in living a life of obedience in relationship with our earthly parents, but more importantly, with our Heavenly Father.

Children must understand early that they have been born into a world of authority, and they are not it. The sooner a child submits to that, the more blessed his life is going to be. And so my children don’t belong to me. They belong to God. He is the ultimate owner and authority. That means that I am a representative — an ambassador of the authority of God. I am the tone of God’s voice as a parent. I am the look on his face. I am the touch of his hand.

Now this will make you weak in your knees. Here is what this means: Every time I exercise authority in the lives of my children and all those mundane little circumstances, it must be a beautiful picture of the authority of God. I want my children to see authority as beautiful and giving and serving and loving and compassionate and patient and gracious, because that is the authority of God. Children are born with a natural antipathy toward authority — a natural hatred for authority. And I want to depict authority in its divine beauty so that they will say, “Authority is a good thing. Authority is a wise thing. Authority is a protective thing. Authority doesn’t crush my freedom. It gives me freedom....”

We need to follow the command of Deuteronomy 6, purposefully using every opportunity to diligently and persistently teach our children to follow Christ, rather than self. To guard them from the pull of endless entertainment, and to help them discover the wonder found in the world around us, the joy in helping others, and the satisfaction in common, everyday labor.

Parents: don’t neglect the responsibility God has given you to shape your child’s spiritual heart and mind. It’s the most important thing you will ever do.

New Policy Sends Meat Plant Bullies Packing

by Chris Johnson



You may recall an article in our March newsletter exposing an attack on religious liberty carried out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on a West Michigan meat packing plant.

Recalling that article, “In 2015 when the USDA meat inspectors were doing a routine inspection, the USDA site inspector found a Christian article about natural marriage that [owner] Don Vander Boon had placed in the break room of his business.

“... To put it plainly, the USDA threatened to shut down his business...”

With the election of a Republican president, we had been hopeful that we would stop hearing about egregious cases such as this, which we’d grown accustomed to during the Obama presidency.

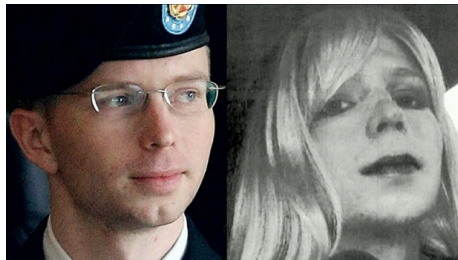
And it seems that the tides may indeed have changed.

Trump’s newly appointed Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, recently issued a policy to the USDA stating, **“Today, I want to reestablish this Department’s commitment to safeguarding every American’s First Amendment rights, particularly the right to free speech and the right to free religious exercise. USDA is committed to protecting both. I expect each and every USDA employee to uphold their fellow Americans’ First Amendment freedoms.”**

While the Vander Boon case is yet to be resolved, this policy statement is a good sign for Christian business owners around the country.

Mr., I’ll Make a Woman Out of You

by Chris Johnson



In 1998, Disney released an animated retelling of a Chinese folk tale about a young woman, for which the movie was named, called “Mulan.”

The film follows the brave young girl as she takes her elderly father’s place when he is conscripted into the Chinese army to repel the invading Huns. Throughout her military training, she poses as a man, at first struggling to keep up with the “boys,” but eventually leading them (because she’s a woman, and of course she’s therefore smarter than the comically barbaric male tropes in her unit).

I tell you all of this to introduce one of the songs in the movie, which is called, “I’ll Make a Man Out of You.” It plays behind a super cut of Mulan’s unit training, during which she goes from “zero” to “hero,” from the loser to the leader of the pack. The significance of this of course, is that women are just like men, only better in every way.

This appears to be a sentiment that Disney shares with admitted National Security leak, Bradley Manning.

If Mr. Manning’s life were a musical, however, his commander would not be singing Disney’s catchy ditty without amendment; his tune would rather be, “Mr., I’ll Make a Woman Out of You,” which is a procedure that the U.S. Military has either done or agreed to do for Manning.

Indeed, a year or so ago, in the midst of the Veterans Affairs scandal, Manning was told that the military would foot the bill for his sex-reassignment surgery.

As a reminder, the military’s budget is covering this procedure for a convicted violator of the Espionage Act, having leaked more than 700,000 classified documents.

Yet, Manning’s parallels with Mulan would not be complete without a guardian, which came in the form of Barack Obama commuting his 35 year sentence on his way out of office.

On May 17th, Manning walked out of the military prison, Leavenworth as a free... person, as yet employed and insured by the United States Army. Manning, the spy, will be on active, though unpaid, duty until his appeal of his court martial is decided and he is dishonorably discharged (or promoted, you never know these days.)

Ironically, the military in Mulan’s story was deeply concerned for the honor of its institution.

At least in this instance, the U.S. Military seems to have no such concern.

Spring Conference June 2 - 4, 2017



We are extending an invitation for those in West Michigan to join us at the Shack for a portion (or all) of the presentations at our upcoming conference, *Why Do the Nations Rage?*, on the weekend of June 2 – 4 at The Shack Country Inn near Fremont. You don’t need to spend the night, just come as you are able to take part in the speakers’ presentations. This promises to be a spirit-filled weekend of timely information, fellowship, and spiritual challenge.

You don’t need to be an overnight guest to attend – just come for any or all of the presentations. For the location, times, and the schedule of speakers see our May newsletter or give us a call at 231-924-4050. Hope to see you there!