## American Decency Association

Frontline June 2018 Vol. XXXII Issue VI

# What Future Will Michigan (and America) Choose?



### By Steve Huston

ter to perish than to live as slaves."

Michigan will vote its future on August 7th, are you informed on the #1 voting issue? Are you aware that Michigan and Minnesota are the two key states for gubernatorial elections this year? I wonder how many people in Michigan are asleep at the wheel. Will they allow the "Great Lakes State" to go careening off the road, crashing into the water and sinking into a watery grave of no return? Or will we (all of us), warn and stir our families, churches, and friends to recognize the vital significance of these times, shaking the cobwebs from our thoughts, allowing the truth to blow the fog from our vision, and see the landscape for what it is as it lies before us? Are you willing to sound the alarm with us? If not, this state—and nation—may never recover. We may continue to lose freedoms, making it all the more difficult to stand for what is right and true and decent. Some may think this an overstatement - it is not!

These are the very times that the great statesman Winston Churchill warned about. "If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory is sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is bet-

We dare not allow the slumber of apathy or distraction of entertainment to keep us from our duty as Christians or as citizens of the United States of America. We certainly won't be telling people who to vote for; but we each have a duty to be informed and to educate ourselves on the candidates and the issues. How do these things align themselves with the Bible, the supreme law of those who belong to the Christian faith? How do these candidates and issues line up with our Constitution, the supreme law of the land? What things will protect or restrict our freedoms? Join us to learn about the issues that are so vital for this election.

With great urgency upon us, we here at American Decency are presenting what may very well be our most important event EVER! The fight for decency on this front is so important that we are bringing these presentations to both the west AND east sides of Michigan. Don't miss out on this very important time of learning and stirring. You will hear from highly regarded men who are very aware of "the signs of the times." And you will hear personal accounts from two women who lived through the atrocities of Islam only to escape and now share their message with you. Become aware of the issues surrounding Islam and women.

Join national security experts Frank Gaffney and Philip Haney as they explore the Muslim Brotherhood's plan to transform Michigan into a Shariah-compliant state. There is no one better informed on the threat posed by Shariah-adherent Muslims in the United States, and there's no one who can explain that threat better or in a more downto-earth fashion than Philip Haney.

American Decency has hosted Frank Gaffney on a number of occasions, never disappointing the people who have come out to hear him and the wealth of information he shares. His organization, Center for Security Policy (CSP), has videos, conferences, monographs, and radio interviews exposing Islam, its tenets, and the Muslim Brotherhood's ever-increasing influence in American government and society, among other things.

Here's something you will not want to miss! We are very excited to bring to you the stories of two very brave women. Those who attend this important event will get an up-close look at how women are treated under Shariah law, as first-hand accounts are shared by two women who have lived under such intolerable conditions. Anni Cyrus and Farrah Prudence are two women who live with Shariah-sanctioned death threats on

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From the desk of Bill Johnson

# Another brave soul stands calling us to do the same.

A Londoner by the name of Katie Hopkins visited Michigan in recent days. Katie is an English media personality and a columnist for British newspapers, initially The Sun and later the MailOnline.

She writes this about herself: ... I am a woman on a mission. I am serious about telling the truths not being told. From the systemic slaughter of white farmers in South Africa, to the plight of Christians in the Middle East: I have one clear aim: to tell the stories not being told. ...

This is not the stuff of the Establishment and the political class. This is living in the migrant camp in Calais, walking the nogo zones of Sweden, living in a cab with a trucker under attack at the ports, and spending time at the side of the road with a prostitute trafficked from Libya to Sicily by charity rescue boats. ...

I am a Christian conservative. And I will not stand by and watch people – of any walk of life – who love their country be oppressed by mandatory multiculturalism, or the official narrative we are force fed. The powerful have a script and we are expected to follow it blindly, compliantly.

We will not. We will resist the narrative. We find our truths. We get furious. And we fight back.

As you can tell, Katie Hopkins is a firebrand in the best sense of the word! She is a truth-teller who has been vilified by the British Establishment because she boldly exposes the ramifications associated with the vast influx of Shariah-adherent Muslims into Great Britain.

#### So what are some of the ramifications?

- \* A report by the Quilliam Foundation, states that in 2016-2017 alone, 5,391 new cases of FGM (female genital mutilation) were recorded in the UK by the National Health Service.
- \* The crime rate in London now surpasses that of New York City in a nation that greatly restricts gun ownership.
- \* In 2017 there were nearly 500 acid attacks in London alone, leading police to now carry acid response kits.
- \* It's projected that by 2050 the majority population in Great Britain will be Muslim.

Katie Hopkins recently spent a better part of a week in east Michigan, specifically Dearborn, Michigan. In fact, she visited the Islamic Center of America, which is the largest mosque in all of America. Her report at www.hopkinsworld.com is worth noting.

While in Michigan, she did several insightful interviews reporting on her observations.

She writes: Facilities like this one (Islamic Center of America) are a politically acceptable outlet for "moderate Islam" — a kind of Islam stripped of much of the explicit barbarism of Islam as practiced in the Middle East, but with all the underlying beliefs intact.

We've already seen this in the US, with the resurgence of practices like honour killings and female genital mutilation. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Dear friends: I share Katie's observations to call you to recognize that though the grass is green and the sun is shining nicely, there are warning signs of stormy weather ahead. Yet all about us, so many ignore the changing societal climate. Will we fail to learn from the realities of life in Great Britain and other European countries where Islam is rapidly transforming not only their centuries-old cultures, but the very safety of their citizens?

If we remain complacent, the same ideology that is transforming Great Britain and Europe will have its way in Michigan and the United States.

To speak to these concerns we have two meetings coming up back to back on the west side and the east side of Michigan – June 15 in Fremont, MI and June 16 in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

As we detail on the front page article of this newsletter, we will be hosting several noteworthy and exceptional speakers: Farrah Prudence and Anni Cyrus – both with firsthand experience of the oppression of Shariah; along with Philip Haney, founding member of the Department of Homeland Security, retired; and Frank Gaffney, President of Center for Security Policy.

At these events, each presenter will speak for approximately fifteen minutes – bringing powerful, eye-opening messages and personal accounts. Following a break, we will feature an extensive time of question and answer; first with Farrah and Anni, giving greater opportunity to learn of the impact of Shariah law on women; then with Phil and Frank who will share their wealth of knowledge and expertise regarding national security, Civilization Jihad, and the efforts of groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood.

There will be ample time to visit and discuss with our four exceptional presenters.

See the lead article of this newsletter for details regarding our speakers and the nature and theme of our June 15 and 16 events. Please pray for these events and join us if you can!

### Two major events

Friday, June 15 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

American Decency Association 203 E. Main Street, Fremont

**Saturday, June 16** 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church 3600 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills

#### **Speakers:**

- \* Frank Gaffney
- \* Phillip Haney
- \* Anni Cyrus
- \* Farrah Prudence
- \*Pastor Donald McKay (Speaking on June 16 only)

# What Future will Michigan (and America) Choose?



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their heads. Yet, this does not deter them; they continue to risk their lives to warn the American public about the danger of Islamic Shariah law. Come; listen to their first-hand experiences of abuse as "property" under Shariah.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity; join us in either of the following two locations:

We will start the weekend off in **Fremont** at the American Decency headquarters (203 E. Main St.) on **Friday, June 15, 2018** from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

On the east side of the state we will meet at the **Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church** (3600 Telegraph Rd; Bloomfield Hills, 48302) on **Saturday**, **June 16 from 2 PM to 6 PM**.

These are unique events meant to educate and stir. We cannot allow ourselves to roll along in ignorance, ignoring the fact that whatever happens in August will not stay in August—it will affect our lives and the freedoms and lives of those who come after us. Make no mistake; our future is at stake! It's not only about political parties; it's about ideologies and how they will affect us individually and as a whole.

#### Get informed; join us on either Friday, June 15, or on Saturday, June 16.

Share your information with others; have conversations, explaining the urgency of the situation. This is much more than standing against that which is wrong and dangerous; it's about standing for what is right, standing for liberty, and proclaiming the exclusivity and importance of Christ for every living soul.

## **Grooming Dogs; Grooming Kids**

by Steve Huston



Jesus once asked, "What price would a man pay for his soul?" In other words, with what are you willing to trade for it? Let's ask a similar question; what are we willing to trade for our children's innocence; their moral and physical safety; their correct thinking and minds; indeed perhaps, their soul? Too often the answer is "entertainment;" that's where we become weak. If it makes them laugh, keeps them out of our hair, or their friends are doing it, we, without thinking of the potential consequences, make the trade-off.

Sometimes we attempt to redeem that time or poor choice by turning it into a "teaching moment;" but what of the damage that's been done? To be sure, God is gracious and makes possible the redemption of poor choices but that does not negate the fact that there are often natural consequences that we're stuck with.

We must recognize the importance of being careful of what we put before our children's eyes and what we allow them to do. We here at the American Decency Association frequently warn of Hollywood and of the immoral poison they feed to the public. With former child-actor Corey Feldman revealing Hollywood's propensity for pedophilia last year, one would hope that it would avoid making such topics seem normal or acceptable.

Enter, "Show Dogs." It's a movie aimed at children depicting a Rottweiler police dog going undercover at a dog show in order to find a kidnapped panda. According to The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE): "It contains multiple scenes where a dog character must have its private parts inspected, in the course of which the dog is uncomfortable and wants to stop but is told to go to a 'zen place.' The dog is rewarded with advancing to the final round of the dog show after passing this barrier. Disturbingly, these are similar

tactics child abusers use when grooming children—telling them to pretend they are somewhere else, and that they will get a reward for withstanding their discomfort. Children's movies must be held to a higher standard, and must teach children bodily autonomy, the ability to say 'no' and safety, not confusing messages endorsing unwanted genital touching." (emphasis mine)

While some will say, "Hey, it's just about dogs," we must remember that they have given these dogs personalities, voices, and feelings, making them more than "just dogs." Additionally, this is done with the goal of eliciting laughter, which drives the idea that it's not so serious and more acceptable.

"Show Dogs" production company, Global Road Entertainment, issued an "apology" to parents. However, rather than admit to wrong-doing or poor choice, it's more of an "I'm sorry you were offended" apology.

"...Global Road Entertainment and the filmmakers are saddened and apologize to any parent who feels the scene sends a message other than a comedic moment in the film, with no hidden or ulterior meaning, but respect their right to react to any piece of content."

Take this as a reminder to have a serious conversation with your child about appropriate and inappropriate touching, even without seeing the movie.

Due to the overwhelming response of outrage and concern expressed by the public and the fact that within 48 hours of its release, Cineplex in Australia pulled the movie from its theaters, Global Road Entertainment is editing out the inappropriate scenes. According to Cinemablend.com, "the new cut of Show Dogs will hit this weekend, so more than likely the original cut of the film is still in theaters today, with the change over set for Friday."

It pays to make your voice heard!

## **A Tragic Resolution**

by Judy Krause



Ever sense I have become convicted that "bold love is the tenacious, irrepressible energy to do good in order to surprise and conquer evil and that "what may appear to be unloving – in fact, cruel – may be a passionate wounding that is designed to heal," I felt that I had to surrender to my Heavenly Father my timidity and my fearful personality.

It would not be natural for me to do what might seem really cruel to my husband. In the beginning he had shown some effort to restore the level of trust that was now broken and shattered by going to a weekend seminar to help conquer his addiction. He shed buckets of tears. But as the days passed, he began to resent me deeply saying to me several times, "It's not sinful to appreciate nakedness," and many of the old practices soon became part of his daily life again. That led me to want to, in every way possible, get revenge on him.

It is truly my Biblical Counselor and "Bold Love" that helped guide in literally giving him "Blows that wound cleanse away evil; strokes make clean the innermost parts" (Proverbs 20:30). All of the 'putting up with' his jabs, accusatory remarks, and mockery that I was such an unreasonably sensitive wife began to change me from the inside out. I had lived by the Bible verse, "Do not be weary of well doing" all of my life. But the new knowledge I had recently learned began to convict me that I was not conquering evil, only letting it slip by.

After getting on my knees for direction, I asked for a discussion with my husband. I told him all of the losses I was feeling, the greatest loss being the loss of trust. I shared with him, (again), both sides of my struggle. On the one hand, in some ways, I would feel more comfortable living out my old pattern of ignoring his sin. On the other hand, I realized that this would solve

nothing and that neither of us would be doing what could, with God's help, lead to our own personal healing and to the healing of our relationship. The loss of trust and the betrayal of his pornography nearly shattered me. The chronic violations of our relationship could no longer continue. I shared with him the deep pain and humiliation I had suffered for a long time. I asked for forgiveness for any way that I, in sin, violated our relationship and shared it was only because of Christ's work on the cross that I have hope and I invited him to find that hope for his life. I made it clear to him that his pornography would no longer be swept under the carpet and that I was taking steps to give God time to work in each of our hearts and lives and that I truly wanted reconciliation based on forgiveness and respect. "Bold Love" and my Biblical Counselor convicted me that if each of us did not deal with our sin, the same destructive litany would repeat itself again and again. Over time, they counseled, each step of this process must be worked completely through. If each step is not passed with heartfelt joint agreement, reconciliation could not occur.

I then told him I could not continue to live like this and that I had made the difficult, almost unfathomable decision to separate with the intention of us both getting help and prayerfully, getting back together. With trembling heart, non-ending tears, fear and trepidation, I agonizingly packed a suitcase and went to temporarily live in a place which I believed and still believe was God's provision for me.

I would love to be able to say that all ended well. It did not. I waffled between going back and then leaving again - more than once. I so wanted our problems to go away. I believed all his tears of sorrow and his words of convincing me that he had changed, only to find out that he hadn't. The reality was that he wanted to keep his lifestyle and me. Sadly, cancer entered his life and that became an all consuming distraction. After two years of treatment, he passed away. And I was left to grapple with the tragedy of our marriage never becoming what I had prayed for. Again, though, God continued to do His work of

refining, convicting and teaching principles that has upheld me and helped me grow in ways I had never imagined possible.

That's where I will pick up next month.

# In "site"ful information at americandecency.org



Visit our website, www.americandecenecy.org!

At <u>AmericanDecency.org</u> you will find archives of our "Decency Minute" radio program, links to news reports, vital videos, and upcoming events.

At <u>AmericanDecency.org</u> you will also find an archive of our newsletters and bulletin inserts, full of interesting and pertinent information. Also find an opportunity to make a call or send an email to stand for what is right and true.

Stop by <u>AmericanDecency.org</u> today and learn about cultural polluters and computer protectors. Relax and read an article or two written by our staff that point to biblical values and Constitutional rights.

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## Is The Pope Catholic?

by Lisa Van Houten



It's a debate that has swept the nation, dividing families and friends. It has even invaded the office of American Decency, pitting Chris Johnson and Steve Huston against myself and fellow staff member Kimberly Cargill.

The issue? What word do you hear in the viral Internet clip of a repetitive, computer-generated voice – Laurel or Yanny? (For the record, Kim and I hear "Laurel" while Chris and Steve hear "Yanny"). It's an audio-illusion, where some people pick up higher-pitched tones, hearing one word, while others hear lower pitched tones. When it comes to Laurel and Yanny, there's no right answer.

However, that principle doesn't apply to all matters of what is true — especially Biblical truth. When it comes to God's Word, there is only one right answer. "I am the Lord, and there is no other. ... I the Lord speak the truth; I declare what is right." [Isaiah 45:18b, 19b]

As acclaimed Puritan preacher and theologian, Jonathan Edwards, once stated: "Truth is the agreement of our ideas with the ideas of God." However, our culture lives by the motto "what's true for you, may not be true for me." Each person, we're told, is the arbiter of their own truth. And increasingly, many within the Church – and even some who are leading churches – are living by the same motto, aligning with the ideas of the world, rather than with God.

"Is the Pope Catholic?" is the quip longused to point out an obvious truth. However, based on yet another unbiblical comment from Pope Francis, head of the Roman Catholic Church, it can be argued, perhaps he's not.

Pope Francis once again made headlines by comments he made which not only defy official Catholic doctrine, but more importantly, the authority of Scripture. It's been widely reported by reputable news sources that Pope Francis told a gay man "God made you like this and loves you like this." The Pope stated this to Juan Carlos Cruz, a Chilean victim of sexual abuse at the hands of Catholic priests. The Pope's statement has not been denied by the Vatican or Pope Francis.

At issue are two little words in that statement: "like this." Sound doctrine would not dispute that God made each of us and that all mankind are recipients of His benevolent love. But to claim God created persons as homosexuals and loves that aspect of those who engage in homosexual sin, would make God a liar. The fact that human beings have sinful desires does not mean that God created us with those inclinations nor does it mean we have God's approval to indulge in them.

Pope Francis also reportedly told Cruz, "You have to be happy with who you are." By affirming this man's sin, the Pope is encouraging him to pursue a lifestyle that will not lead to happiness in this world, and certainly not in the world to come.

By denying the truth of Scripture, Pope Francis is also denying what plausibly contributed to this man's homosexuality – the perverted actions of a Catholic priest who sexually abused Cruz as a child. There is correlating evidence that often ties sexual abuse of children to future homosexual tendencies.

Pope Francis has a history of pushing the Catholic church to align with what the world says is true, rather than what God's Word says. In 2013 he won the praise of LGBTQ activists when he stated, "If a person is gay and seeks the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge that person?" On more than one occasion he has claimed lost souls do not go to hell, most recently in March of this year when he stated: "Bad souls are not punished, those who do not

repent and cannot therefore be forgiven disappear. There is no hell, there is the disappearance of sinful souls." In 2017, he joked that "inside the Holy Trinity they're all arguing behind closed doors, but on the outside they give the picture of unity."

But it's not just within the Catholic Church that the authority of the Bible is being undermined. Many Protestant leaders are also getting into the game.

Most recently, Pastor Andy Stanley, son of Charles Stanley and well-known for his own ministry, stated in a sermon series that Christians need to "unhitch" the Old Testament from their understanding of the Christian faith. He gave freedom to his listeners to ignore the Old Testament and focus solely on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, stating:

"Peter, James, Paul elected to unhitch the Christian faith from their Jewish scriptures, and my friends, we must as well. ... Jesus' new covenant, ... His covenant with us, can stand on its own two nailscarred resurrection feet. It does not need propping up by the Jewish scriptures. The Bible did not create Christianity. The resurrection of Jesus created and launched Christianity. Your whole house of Old Testament cards can come tumbling down."

The sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ are the central tenets of Christianity. Yet without an understanding of the full picture of redemptive history unfolding throughout the Old Testament, we can't understand why Christ's death and resurrection were necessary for our salvation.

Quoting Augustine, "The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed."

As R.C. Sproul of Ligonier Ministries explains: "This famous statement by Saint Augustine expresses the remarkable way in which the two testaments of the Bible are so closely interrelated with each other. The key to understanding the New Testament in its fullest is to see in it the fulfillment of

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## Is The Pope Catholic?

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those things that were revealed in the background of the Old Testament. The Old Testament points forward in time, preparing God's people for the work of Christ in the New Testament. The history of redemption began with creation itself."

In fact, the Old and New are so interwoven, the New Testament quotes the Old Testament 855 times!

Yet in his sermon series, Andy Stanley not only downplays the importance of the Old Testament, he goes on to state that, while the Old Testament is "divinely inspired," it should not be "the go-to source regarding any behavior in the church."

I wonder what Pastor Stanley makes of Matthew 5:17-19 when Jesus stated: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven,"

But Pastor Stanley doesn't stop there. He goes on to imply that the Bible as a whole is a hindrance to people coming to faith in Christ! Quoting: "If you were raised on a version of Christianity that relied on the Bible as the foundation of faith, a version that was eventually dismantled by academia or the realities of life, maybe it's time for you to change your mind about Jesus. Maybe it's time for you to consider the version of Christianity that relies on the event of the resurrection of Jesus as its foundation. If you gave up your faith

because of something about or in the Bible, maybe you gave up unnecessarily."

This statement is truly shocking! Implying that there can be a "version" of Christianity that doesn't rely on the Bible, is heretical! It is in the Bible that Christ is revealed—both in the Old and New Testaments.

And Stanley's claims that Biblical Christianity can be "dismantled by academia" brings us back to the Jonathan Edwards quote above, "Truth is the agreement of our ideas with the ideas of God." Academia is not the authority of what is true. As Dr. Michael Brown wrote for Christian Post, "Once you yield to the critics on the authority and relevance and inspiration of the Old Testament, you will find yourself yielding to them on the authority and relevance and inspiration of the New Testament."

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Ps. 119:103) God's word is already sweet; we don't need to edit it to make it "palatable."

**Be Prepared?** 

by Lisa Van Houten



In 2013, The Boy Scouts of America began allowing **openly-homosexual boys** to join the Scouts. Then, two years later, the Boy Scouts welcomed **openly-homosexual adult leaders**. In 2017 the organization added "**transgender**" kids to the mix (aka: boys who "identify" as girls). Earlier this year we saw the BSA invite **girls** to join the BOY Scouts and Cub Scouts programs, followed by an official name change of the organization to just Scouts BSA – throwing gender out the window completely.

Each of these steps down the slippery slope has led to the latest plunge of a once-trusted organization into the abyss of moral insanity. The Boys Scouts – rather "Scouts" – are now replacing their moral compass with mandatory condoms.

At next year's Scout Jamboree, all participants must have access to condoms. As stipulated in the handbook: "The Host Organization must ensure that condoms are readily and easily accessible for all participants ..." Taking place every four years, the 24th World Jamboree will be held in West Virginia in 2019.

A 12 day campout of boys, girls, homosexual adults, and gender-confused kids – what could go wrong? Silly me, I always thought the Boy Scout motto of "Be prepared" referred to actual camping supplies – not condoms.

The theme of the Jamboree, "Unlock a New World," seems fitting for an organization that has left their moral foundations behind to follow the social engineering demands of the Left into a world of moral relativism.

Remember the Boy Scout Oath? – "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." As The Boy Scouts abandon these principles, parents are abandoning the Scouts. The Boy Scouts have lost 1.7 million members from their peak membership. With each radical shift in policy, the BSA has seen funding plummet and members leave in droves. Handing out condoms to 12-17 years olds isn't going to reverse that nosedive.

Thankfully, there are alternatives to the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts (who have followed a similar path of moral decline). Trail Life USA for boys and American Heritage Girls - both offering character and values-based scouting opportunities - have seen exponential growth in recent years. Find out more at www.traillifeusa. com and www.americanheritagegirls.org.

## **Oaths in Opposition**

by Steve Huston



What if people are **NOT** Islamophobic, racist, or deplorable? What if the citizens of this nation and its various states **HAVE** objectively (to the best of their ability) looked at the evidence both at home and abroad, taking the word of the Our'an and the Muslim Brotherhood at face value, and still decide that Shariah-adherent Muslims infiltrating our government on every level is not a wise decision because of their overriding beliefs? What if more people were to shake the apathetic slumber from their eyes and diligently watch what is happening around us, and warn others of where the road leads which our nation and state are currently traveling on? This is what MUST happen if we are to save the Constitutional Republic which our forefathers generously handed down to us and God has so graciously given to us. Beware the "Red-Green Axis" (communism/socialism/Islamism).

More than 90 American Muslims, nearly all of them Democrats, are running for public office across the country this year for a wide range of offices across the country, from local school boards to the U.S. Senate; and they have every right to run. BUT, let's take a rational look at where that road leads; no hate, no irrational fear, just follow the trail to its logical end.

First, at least some of these Shariah-adherent Muslims, have belonged to groups like the MSA (Muslim Student Association) which is a Muslim Brotherhood front group. Belonging to this kind of group, they invariably would recite a pledge like the MSA's which says, in part, "Allah is my lord; Islam is my life. The Koran is my guide; The Sunnah is my practice. Jihad is my spirit; Paradise is my goal ... I will die to establish Islam."

Secondly, many of these Muslim candidates

state that they are running because they do not feel safe with President Trump at the helm; and they also make their religion central to their campaign. In like manner, how should non-Muslim citizens feel safe in light of the prayers that even "moderate" Muslims pray several times a day stating, "...Guide us to the straight sirat (way), the way of those whom you have graced (the Muslims), not those whom the wrath is against (the Jews), nor the lost ones (the Christians)." If all non-Muslims are cursed by Allah and Muslims pray this in their prayer many, many times a day every day, what does this say as to how we are viewed in their minds? What if I were to point out the many verses that talk about how non-Muslims should be treated? When Shariahcompliant Muslims get into positions of legislative authority, or their numbers grow, where does this road lead?

Third, these Shariah-adherent Muslim candidates, if they win their election, would be required to do two things which are in direct conflict with one another. First, they are required to take an oath to uphold and protect the Constitution of the United States of America. Secondly, as Shariah-adherent Muslims they are required to uphold the Qur'an and it's political-cultural arm, Shariah. These two "laws of the land" are in direct opposition to one another; how can they take an oath to uphold that which they believe to be inferior to and subject to the other?

Wow, out of room already! Let me just encourage you to vote, <u>especially in the primaries</u>. Get registered and <u>encourage your friends to do so as well</u>. Politics isn't necessarily a fun conversation but it's an important one.

Sam Rohrer, from the American Pastors Network, said: "Voting truly does have a lifetime of accountability. The faithful cannot simply choose a name on a whim, listen to the headlines of a very biased media or go along with what the polls are dictating. Rather, voting must be a carefully considered, prayerful and serious decision. Our prayer is that every Christian will base their voting decisions on biblical principles and wisdom, rather than emotion, news

reports or even social media."

The Washington Post reports that in my home state of Michigan, there are 13 Muslim candidates who are running for office. I won't tell you who to vote for; but I will say to look at the road we are traveling, look to where any candidate wants to lead us, and vote for what is best by the following standards which Pastor Sam Rohrer has laid before us. He calls it the "Voting Integrity Checklist," to help people know best how to use their vote.

- 1. Is the issue I am voting for biblically moral? Does this candidate live by a set of biblical morals?
- 2. Is this issue I am voting for constitutional? Is this candidate committed to upholding constitutional principles?
- 3. Will voting for this issue preserve individual freedom and responsibility (versus strengthening government control) and does it preserve and strengthen the traditional family? Is this candidate also committed to these freedoms and ideals?
- 4. Is this issue in the best interest of the general public (versus only special interests)? Does this candidate also advocate on behalf of constituents rather than special interest groups?
- 5. Will the measure be governed in an efficient, effective and financially sound way? Is this candidate also committed to efficiency and sound fiscal spending?

Reader, our nation and its states are at desperate tipping points; we must once again vote for timeless principles, those principles which our nation was founded on. Prayer is vital because God is sovereign. Educated, principled voting is imperative because man has a God-given responsibility to act. Register, educate, stir others to do likewise, and VOTE IN THE PRIMARIES!

## **Digital Street Lights**

by Chris Johnson



If you haven't lived it, you've probably heard it from someone who has, "When I was a kid, I just had to be home when the street lights came on."

Or maybe you remember your parents telling you, "be back before dark!"

Those rules were there, of course, to keep kids safe. Darkness gives cover to all sorts of trouble.

Back in the day, parents could be pretty sure that if their kids were in the house, they were safe: that was before the internet.

A while back, American Decency hosted an event featuring Protect Young Eyes, an organization which exists to assist parents in keeping their children safe on the internet. During one telling moment of the presentation, the presenter put a slide with a picture of several social sites' logos and asked the parents in the room how many recognized all the logos.

Most parents in the room failed this little test. Of course, that's not a very scientific study, but we don't need a study to tell us that many parents are not on top of the way that kids are using their mobile devices.

We can't just lock the door and assume our children are safe from perverts any more. They are on the same social sites as our kids, which means they're on their devices, which means they might as well be in the room with them.

One of the services known for its potential dangers, yet still incredibly popular, is Snapchat. Snapchat allows you to post an image which can only be viewed for a certain amount of time before it is deleted. So, if Teenager A posts an image or video of herself doing, say, a cartwheel, Teenager

B gets a notification, watches A's cartwheel and then can never view that image or video on their device again.

Of course, posts can be, and often are, much more scandalous than a video of a cartwheel.

But, even if you keep close track of who has access to your child's "snaps" or who your child is following, they can still easily stumble across content like Cosmo's channel on Snapchat: Cosmo After Dark.

You may remember Cosmopolitan magazine from your local checkout counter at the grocery store, where they invariably have an underclothed woman on the cover accompanied by titles involving the words, "moves," "crazy," and "in bed." Maybe you've even tried to shield your child from that content, turning the magazine around so they can't see the cover.



Well, through Snapchat, Cosmo has outgrown the checkout counter, announcing that their goal for Cosmo After Dark is to "turn your phone into the best sex toy ever." It describes itself as "an X-rated weekly edition that ... is exclusively dedicated to all things hot and horny."

If you think there's no way your kid could stumble upon something so obviously adult oriented, ask them to show the "Discover" tab on Snapchat. If they know how to do that (and they do) they can easily stumble across Cosmo After Dark.

Chris McKenna, founder of Protect Young Eyes, gave the following example, "in analog terms, would anyone in the 1990's have thought it was a good idea to hand their 8th grade son or daughter a 3-page magazine where pictures of their close friends were on page one, pictures of people they kind of know are on page two, and porn is on page three? As soon as we translate a digital situation to an analog example, it clearly doesn't make any sense."

I'm sure that this far into the digital era, it is not news to you that the internet can be used for nefarious, dishonorable, and even disgusting purposes. But I also think that parents and grandparents of what sociologists are calling the iGeneration find it difficult to grasp how ever-present, easily accessible, and, in some cases, unavoidable online dangers are, particularly parents and grandparents whose mission is to bring up kids who love and serve Jesus.

In a devotional published in Tabletalk Magazine, Jon D. Payne asked some tough questions that everyone with a digital device should answer honestly for themselves, "Our culture is a swelling sea of digital connectedness. But are we, as Christians, becoming spiritually untethered in the midst of it? Are we being careful and wise with our technology? Are we losing our spiritual moorings in this vast and growing ocean of digital technology and omni-connectedness? Has the endless connectedness of our modern age actually made us less connected to the things that really matter, things that have ultimate significance? For instance, has it made us less connected to God and to our families? Could it be that our gadgets and gizmos that guarantee so much are actually fostering a new level of spiritual and relational superficiality in our lives? Isn't it time to stop and ask, Do I own my technology or does my technology own me? God's Word states, 'Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:15)."

In the digital world, the street lights don't come on; the kids play in the dark with whatever they find or whatever finds them. They are never safe behind closed doors.

Maybe it's a sexual predator; maybe it's something like Cosmo After Dark; maybe it's simply a constant distraction from real life and the God who loves us, but today's kids still need to be kept safe.

What are you doing to protect your children online?