

Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will be done on earth ...

By Bill Johnson



Fellow American Christians: Where are our tears? Some may ask, "For what?" How about the killing of unborn (and born) babies by the millions to start with. A Democratic party that has made abortion a centerpiece and a Republican Party that has lacked the convictions to fight for life when it has been the party in control. How about tears for often failing to teach our children the difference between the holy and the profane?

God sent barbarians into Israel as Israel rejected God. Where were their tears? Where was their repentance?

Look at the church in Europe. **America, Can we return to God?**

We have lost our way and where are our tears? Here is a short excerpt from a monograph our staff wrote a few short months ago that adds weight to our concern.

The American Decency Association Reports on Islam's Subtle Incursion into West Michigan. [To read this booklet, order it from the enclosed card.]

This is a battle of both theologies and ideologies; a battle between the violent commands of Allah against the infidel and the rational thought in Western civilization which says, "live and let live." If the murderous commands of Allah prevail, Islamic law will

impose its politics and theology of death or enslavement on the "unbeliever" - anyone who is not a follower of Allah.

It has been estimated that 80-85% of Islamic law, particularly what is known as Shariah which includes the mandatory wearing of the hijab, female genital mutilation, honor killing, etc. is political rather than religious; therefore it is not protected under our Constitution's First Amendment. Shariah adherents view America as the "Great Satan." They mean to destroy us, and they are not amateurs. Yet, they cannot prevail without first annihilating the rights protected by the U.S. Constitution and its underlying principles. Sadly, the reality is that the vast majority are seemingly oblivious to the fact that Shariah-compliant Muslims are working insidiously to destroy the freedoms that we take for granted and destroy those who refuse to submit to Islamic law. If Christianity does not fall, then Shariah is thwarted/stopped; however, Western civilization ignorantly and apathetically continues to move on with its inherent "live and let live" modus operandi.

Shariah-adherent Muslims believe they are getting closer to their goal: the Subjugation of the West. Their strategy began as it has begun elsewhere - undermining a nation from within using what they call civilization jihad. The Muslim Brotherhood,

Islam's oldest political organization, which promotes Shariah law around the globe and aspires to establish a global Islamic government, understands that their business is to destroy Western civilization from within, "sabotaging its miserable house by their own dirty hands."

We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the reality that our battle with Islam is ideological. Yet, we find in our daily discussions a vacuous look from friends, loved ones, and acquaintances when we try to discuss with them the encroaching danger that is even now moving toward us within our local communities. ...

As stated above, we cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the reality that our battle with Islam is ideological. However, we similarly must not overlook the fact that this is, at its base, spiritual warfare.

Looking to Europe, we see an ever increasing number of churches which have become either unoccupied or used for something other than the ecclesiastical purposes for which they were built.

That these churches still exist reveals that Christianity once was vital, giving life purpose, standards of love, truth, grace, and mercy. That many European churches are poorly attended, empty, destroyed, or even

replaced by mosques speaks to what happens when a people turn their back upon God and their faith.

.... Secular humanism choked out the deep Christian roots in Europe, leaving a rich soil for violent, Shariah-compliant Islam to spread. ...

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that we are heading down a similar path.

As many objective viewers are able to discern, President Trump is expending great energy attempting to head off the impending disaster of Shariah: immigration reform, attempting to build a wall, committing to naming the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization, terminating the Iran deal that President Obama so wickedly (foolishly, but much worse - wickedly) unleashed upon America in the last days of his administration.

Each plan, each effort that President Trump unleashes or attempts to unleash is met with fierce, systematic, measured opposition from a plurality of enemies.

My thoughts turn to a scene at a church that I visited in recent days with Kamal Saleem who was behind the podium addressing a large Sunday School class while I stood at the back. Stay with me as this will make sense.

There, standing on wobbly legs near me were two lovely, well-cared-for little children. A doting mother and her husband were within arms length of their little boy and his hugable baby sister. Mommy and Daddy watching every move with protective eyes.

Here were two youthful parents who weren't half-hearted in their newfound responsibilities as parents. Their love was obvious. Their commitment will be tested.

As you can see I have abruptly discontinued writing about Islam and its advancing threat upon America - switching direction to young kids and their parents. Here's what I am getting at.

I have heard the question repeatedly, "What can we do?" **I offer an answer.**

The answer begins right there in our homes with our children and grandchildren.

Most of us can't engage the enemies described in most of the articles in this newsletter.

But, we can rise up. Or can we? The enemy smells blood. He sees us loving our cell phones, self-centered - not sacrificing for others. Rise up? Why, when we have it so good? And, we do have it so good! Worship God? Love God with all our heart, soul and mind?

A song commonly sung at the Promise Keepers events in the '90s, which drew tens of thousands of men to event after event year after year, was a clarion call then and remains so now:

Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things; Give heart and soul and mind and strength to Serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God! His kingdom tarries long. Bring in the day of brotherhood, and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God! The church for you doth wait. Her strength unequal to her task: Rise up and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod. As brothers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Men of God!

Look around you. Look within you. **Seek God.**

By the grace of God, through my marriage, I witnessed a thorough Christian father who was a humble farmer, father of seven, who was churched and more importantly had a heart after God, his family and wife, and others.

At his funeral, numbers of people said things like, "He was the best Christian I ever knew."

His name, my wife, Jan's father, was Dave VanSloten.

I watched Dave and his wife Geneva. They were devout Christians. They not only had a deep grasp of the Word of God, their lives

reflected Christ. They were genuine, and they served others.

Dave was born in 1916. He died in 2001.

Dave and Geneva were not "activists" as the word is used today, but they were doers of the word of God.

He had a small farm (even in that day) of 40 jersey cows. By conviction Dave and Geneva put their seven children through Christian school. It was a financial stretch for a small farmer. They lived their faith.

"What can we do?"

Over the last year Jan and I have been parenting two of our grandchildren.

What a wake-up call this has been. It has been a daily reminder of what it takes **and what is at stake.**

It takes a lot and there is a lot at stake. But, is it worth it?

"Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done ..."

Our greater purpose for our nation, for our family and churches should be to bring Glory and Honor to God and to enjoy Him forever. Making America great again would follow through His blessing!

What can we do? I suspect that it should begin with acknowledging our sin!

Our enemy has spotted our weaknesses and his eyes don't lie. He sees hypocrites, a lifeless church, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. Men and women seeking what first? You fill in the blank.

Except the Lord build the house, we labor in vain.

God help us! Lord: Pour out your spirit amongst us. Forgive us our sins. Heal us.

Rise up, O men of God! The church for you doth wait, Her strength unequal to her task: Rise up and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod. As brothers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Men of God!



UNITY

by Steve Huston



“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” John 17:21-23

Jesus, in His high priestly prayer, prayed for the unity of believers; with the express purpose that the world would believe that the Father had sent Him. Jesus, again in His prayer, stated that He had given us a unifying glory so that we could be perfectly one. **Again, the purpose for such unity was for the sake of the world, that they may know and believe.**

Sadly, there is little unity in the body of Christ today; that translates to little love and even less effectiveness in the world around us. This ought not to be so. Whether we get caught up in denominational differences or a selfish lusting after our own way within our own local church, the reason is a loss of focus on the One who unifies.

I know that doctrine divides, the Bible divides, and one can make a case for the fact that Christ Himself divides; but most importantly for the Church, Christ also unifies. He makes us one! Rather than focusing on that which readily divides, why doesn't the Body focus on He who unifies? We are to keep “looking unto Jesus”—that phrase means to look away from ALL else that we might focus on and be united IN HIM.

Those things which should cause a hard divide should be that which divides the sheep from the goats—the saved from the unsaved! When the goats see the unity and love of the sheep, when the grace of God is

visible in our lives, it herds them to belief; they'll wish they were sheep and seek the great Shepherd.

Am I saying that we should just ignore our differences? No, we have rich and beautiful distinctives that we should be grateful for; but God is to be the object of our worship. He is where our focus must be. Each of us, either through divine creation or through a molding by our experiences, is moved by the Holy Spirit in different ways. God meets with us where we are and we tend to gather in like-minded circles; yet, each circle should have the mind of Christ. Each circle should, in love and unity, show the same grace to others which God for Christ's sake has shown to us. Each circle must beware that we do not worship our brand of experience rather than worshiping God in all His unifying holiness. In other words, stoicism can become as much an idol as charisma can. The root of pride can grow from any circle or any heart which forgets that it is only by the grace of God that we are able to worship the One true God at all; He calls the exuberant as well as the passive.

In the first half of Ephesians 4, we are instructed that *“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* **We are reminded to speak the truth in love.**

When issues arise we are called to reprove, rebuke, and exhort (forbearing in love), not run, murmur, or cast stones. Whenever we speak into real or perceived issues, we must do so from the whole counsel of God found in the Bible, not our little books of discipline or the traditions of men. After all, it is the Word of God which is authoritative and living. Let us approach each issue with the mind of Christ, in humility with the glory of God our highest concern. Let us, with Paul say, “whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.”

We are called to unity in Jesus that the world may believe that the Father has sent Jesus. The church is hindered, the glory of God eclipsed in our life, and Jesus minimized rather than magnified in our life, when we look for points of division and contention rather than the point of unity—“God manifest in the flesh.” Can we agree that Jesus was born of a virgin, is the only begotten of the Father, that He died an atoning death upon the cross only to be resurrected by the Father three days later, and now sits on the right hand of God? Do we agree that salvation is in Christ alone by the grace of God and that no one comes to the Father except through Him? Then let us hug our brother and call out together in unity, “LORD,” even as we recognize that there are vast differences between ourselves and our flesh and blood siblings, yet we care for them.

In 1888, Charles Ross wrote, *“Oh! brethren, it is not until the spiritual unity of believers in Christ shall show itself strong enough to destroy the selfishness, carnality, worldliness, and indifference that feed like a canker-worm at the root of our Christianity, in all the visible sections of it—it is not until then that we may expect the world to be won to the Saviour. It is when the Spirit shall be poured out upon us from on high, as the Spirit of truth and love, taking out of the way for ever sinful differences, jealousies, and heart-burnings; producing astonishment, humiliation and shame, at past unfruitfulness and unprofitableness; drawing forth living, longing desires after a holy catholic union; and awakening deep yearnings of soul after a lost and perishing world—and all this manifesting itself in outward forms and palpable proofs—it is then, and only then, that we may expect the effect here announced to be produced; but then, it shall be produced without fail.”*

“Let us earnestly pray that the Lord may bless his church with more unity; that he may take out of the way everything which divides her—every error which splits her up into fragments; that he may bring her to be one in the truth, one in Christ, and one in love to one another...”

Mr. Ratburn Probably Wears Chucks

by Chris Johnson



It's funny how random things stick with you from your early childhood. I've just turned thirty, but I can still hear the close of the commercial segment on PBS, a cacophony of little kids excitedly shouting; "AND NOW, BACK TO "ARTHUR!"

Arthur has been airing for twenty-two seasons now, the longest running animated children's program in the United States. For all I know, they still use that clip to lead back into that show, and maybe it's familiar to some of you or your kids as well. If so, or if you've read your kids the books on which the show is based, you might recognize the name, "Mr. Ratburn," Arthur and his friends' teacher.

Depending on how cynical you've become from following the news of our culture in the past few decades, you might be surprised to hear that Mr. Ratburn was recently married... to another guy.

If you aren't familiar with "Arthur," here's the rundown: it's a bunch of animal school children who get into and out of trouble, learning valuable life lessons along the way, like how to get along with each other and how amazing books are. So, it's every other PBS show, but with animals. Its target audience is four to eight year olds.

It's stories like these that make us wonder if there is anything innocent left for our children, don't they? One bright spot in the story is that the head of PBS in Alabama opted not to air the episode, which is a type of courageous response that we seldom get to see! But, the list of companies and corporations NOT preaching LGBTQIA+ values to kids continues to grow shorter every day.

One of the biggest snack companies in the United States, Nabisco, marketed its Chips

Ahoy cookies on Mother's Day using a transgender blogger, who proclaimed, "Your real mama, your drag mama, whichever mama ... whoever you feel or consider your mama, it's their day today. Get them a cookie."

That might make even Cookie Monster want to turn away a cookie! (Actually, his show is also on PBS, so he'll probably end up marketing the Rainbow Chips Ahoy Line.)

The saddest story so far of a corporation stealing children's innocence, is on the conscience of Converse, the makers of the iconic "Chuck Taylor All-Stars" tennis shoe, which design has been left virtually unchanged since their release in the 1920s. But Converse, and their parent company Nike, is now offering new designs to appeal to our culture's newly designed morality. They're calling it the "Pride Collection" and the website reads, "Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pride with a glitter-dipped collection of parade-worthy sneakers, including our first-ever trans flag design. Because equal rights are for everyone."

The collection is being marketed by a panel of LGBTQ celebrities, including an 11 year-old "drag kid," meaning he dresses and dances as a girl to entertain grown men. That's the lifestyle Converse chose to endorse by featuring him.



Nike has had a reputation for exploiting child labor in third world countries for a long time, but now they're exploiting a child's sexual confusion to sell their products.

An interesting report came out of The Nielsen Company which does data analytics, which showed that "*Not only do American LGBT households make 10% more shopping trips in a year than the average U.S. household, they buy more at checkout. In aggregate, LGBT households spent an average of \$4,135 at retail stores in 2014—7% more than non-LGBT consumers. This type of spending makes LGBT consumers attractive for marketing appeal across music, sports, TV, and brand sponsorships. **Not only are they watching and listening at higher rates than non-LGBT households, but in many cases, they're also influencing the content and characters in those outlets.***"

These companies – and the watching business world - must be shown that sexualizing kids or introducing kids to sexual concepts which God calls perversion is not a way to sell shoes or cookies or TV air-time.

On the other hand, our kids need to be prepared to recognize the lies that the whole world is throwing at them – even cookie companies! **Do the children in your charge know what God says about his design for men and women?**

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Chinese “Mother May I”

By Steve Huston



Much has been, and needs to yet be, said about China. We must wake up and recognize that China is a dangerous enemy, one not to be trusted. Too often China isn't taken seriously, “it's just China.” Although we might look at their actions as though it were nothing more than schoolyard games, these things must be taken seriously. The outcome is much greater than losing a handful of marbles or one's place on the merry-go-round; they're playing for keeps. What are some of the “war games” we see?

King of the Mountain: With the “Made in China 2025” plan, China's goal is to be “King of the mountain,” knocking America and other economic and military powers down, hoping to dominate and displace American companies in advanced industries including the pharmaceutical, technological, and communication sectors.

In the 1990s, the U.S., Europe, and Japan manufactured 90% of the global supply of key ingredients for the world's medicines and vitamins; now China is the largest supplier. America currently has no plants which produce aspirin or penicillin; we are overwhelmingly dependent on China for many of our medicines - antibiotics and chemotherapies to name a couple; and we need China for over half the raw materials to make Heparin - a much used and important blood thinner.

The Chinese have been caught installing backdoors in the motherboards they sell us, allowing them to steal information and push their competitors further “off the mountain.”

Schoolyard Races: Where the world is our schoolyard, we see the nations racing for various technologies and China is in the lead! Vice-President Mike Pence warned, “Through the ‘made in China 2025’ plan

the Chinese communist party has set its sights on controlling 90 percent of the world's most advanced industries, including robotics, bio technology, and artificial intelligence—including 5G.” For our readers who don't know, 5G wireless (Fifth-Generation telecommunications) is the future of technology and communications; but it's more than just that. Whoever dominates this sphere will not only determine how technology transfers information, but also who has access to the system. This will affect the success or demise of nations and individually it will impact every area of our lives. As complicated as it is, we urge our readers to do their best to learn about this.

Kevin Freeman points out that the “5G-network infrastructure is expensive and costs billions of dollars – but the advantages are significant, and China believes they are leading the race. They recognize this is their opportunity for global dominance in cyber and they have developed a Trojan horse.” Much like they did with the pharmaceutical industry, they are offering to build this infrastructure at below market prices so that it will put them in the driver's seat; they are getting a quick jump out of the “starting blocks.”

We are losing the race. China has convinced at least 68 countries to let them lead on building 5G networks; they are getting a huge lead which spells trouble not only for the United States, but for the world. If forced to operate in other countries while on China's network, the risk to our military would be huge.

Mother May I: Who hasn't, as a child, enjoyed a game of “Mother May I”? The only difference here is that China is NOT asking—they're just moving. China is physically creeping closer and closer. Already having a military presence in the communist nation of Cuba - only 90 miles from Florida - we see China's next footstep falling on Grand Bahama Island - only 55 miles away. Here the Chinese Communists are building a deep-water container facility called the Freeport Container Port; and there's a very good possibility it will eventually become a Chinese naval base.

Colorado's Republican Senator, Cory Gardner, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Asia-Pacific region, said in response: “China's goal is to displace the United States, and they can do that by wrecking havoc in the Western Hemisphere...You've basically created a Chinese security surveillance state at our front door. Eventually it's a naval base, eventually it's more technology, and eventually colonialism moves from the economic side to the military side, and that is a danger the United States cannot accept.”

Stay alert; China is making its presence felt more and more throughout the world. The deep surveillance on their own people and the religious persecution they bring to their own nationals are direct indications of what we can expect they will bring to the nations in which their fingers control.

All the above is anything but a game. Where does this leave us? We must be informed and we have a responsibility to act. In truth, there is little we can do individually; but we can do all that we can do. After that, we must leave it in the Lord's hands—it was always there anyway.

Nations may shove and race, they may move closer and closer; those who are Christians need to be praying “Father may I?” Father, may I glorify You and be kept in perfect peace by keeping my focus on You when all the world around me is seemingly spinning out of control; even then, I recognize that You are in control. Father, may I share Your grace and Your gospel with others, recognizing that the time is short, the laborers are few, and the fields are ripe unto harvest. Father, may I come unto You, through Your only begotten Son Jesus, and find rest unto my soul, recognizing that the restlessness in others is with good reason. When we leave the game and come to prayer, we shall know the Father's answer, “Yes, not by your might nor by your power, but by My Spirit these things can be accomplished. Draw near to me and I will draw near to you.”

Keep abreast of China's actions through Center for Security Policy's “Committee on the Present Danger of China.”

Ending the Abortion Abomination

by Lisa Van Houten



At last month's National Day of Prayer service, President Trump stated: *"Every child -- born and unborn -- is a sacred gift from God."* Contrast that with Democrat State Representative John Rogers from Alabama who recently said this about the unborn: *"Some kids are unwanted, so you kill them now or you kill them later."*

Those two statements not only demonstrate the battle lines in the fight over abortion, but also make clear what's at stake in every election. While liberal strongholds such as New York have passed legislation allowing for abortion up to the moment of birth, Republican controlled states are now passing significant limits on abortion such as fetal heartbeat bills and Alabama's even stronger ban on abortion. In this year alone, in addition to Alabama's ban on abortion, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio have passed heartbeat bills, prohibiting abortion after an unborn baby's heartbeat can be detected (at approximately 6-8 weeks of gestation).

Several other state legislatures also have heartbeat bills or other forms of abortion restrictions in the works. In my own state of Michigan, pro-life legislators are working on a bill which would ban the grisly abortion procedure of dismemberment of a living, unborn baby.

But how about a heartbeat bill in Michigan? Wouldn't that be a good idea, as well? Actually, according to the highly regarded pro-life legal experts and public policy groups we spoke with – the answer is NO; a heartbeat bill would not be good policy in Michigan.

My first reaction was, "that doesn't make sense." As one sees the momentum of heartbeat bills in other states, why wouldn't we want to push for that in Michigan? How

ever, I found out something I never knew about my own state.

Michigan has had a ban on ALL abortions since 1846. That law, which was reaffirmed in 1931, is still current law and is the longest existing and strongest abortion law in the nation.

After the Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision, which invented out of thin air a so-called nationwide "right" to abortion, nearly all states repealed their existing laws which banned abortion. But not Michigan. **Michigan never repealed its abortion ban.** And while *Roe v. Wade* currently trumps Michigan's abortion ban (as well as heartbeat laws), if and when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, Michigan's total ban on abortions will automatically be in effect.

Because Michigan's 1931 law is so strong, pro-abortion groups are now seeking to repeal this abortion ban, fearing that *Roe v. Wade* will one day be overturned. **It's vital that lawmakers in Michigan protect our existing ban on abortion!**

Professor William Wagner, currently serving as president of Salt & Light Global, is one of our go-to experts in regards to religious liberty and constitutional matters. His impressive credentials are too numerous to list here – in brief he has served as a Federal judge, worked in the Department of Justice, and is an internationally recognized expert on constitutional law. As he explained to us - and numerous public policy and legal experts in Michigan agree - a heartbeat law would be much weaker than Michigan's existing 1931 ban on abortion. As he clarifies, "Unlike **Michigan's existing law that broadly protects children from the moment of conception**, the new proposal [a heartbeat proposal] protects children specifically after their heart begins to beat."

If a heartbeat bill is passed in Michigan, it would compete with our existing ban on all abortions. Courts typically uphold the more recent law – in this case, the heartbeat bill – which only bans abortion after the sixth week, as opposed to our 1931 law which bans abortion from the moment of

conception. Therefore, a heartbeat law could weaken our much stronger, existing ban on abortion.

Of course all of this – including heartbeat bills – hinge on the Supreme Court one day overturning the wrongheaded ruling of *Roe v. Wade*. As Prof. Wagner also explains, a heartbeat bill "falls within the unconstitutional parameters of *Roe*. Thus, if a state enacts a heartbeat law, expect federal trial and appellate courts to immediately rule it unconstitutional."

While pro-abortion groups rabidly demand abortion up to the moment of birth (and even beyond), it's encouraging to see that American's views on abortion are changing. A recent national poll revealed the divide in our nation, but also the growing pro-life sentiment. While the Harris poll found that 45% of Americans think that abortion bans after 6 weeks of pregnancy are too restrictive, **55% think the 6 week ban is either just right or even too lenient.** And among the youngest age group in the poll – 18-34 year-olds – that number goes up to 57% who support bans on abortion after the sixth week.

Unfortunately it's not public opinion that will ultimately determine the legality of abortion, but nine black-robed justices. One motivation of heartbeat bills is the hope that they can be used to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, leading the Supreme Court to send the issue back to the states. In the mean time, none of these heartbeat bills are in effect, and unfortunately most likely won't be as they will face lengthy legal challenges.

Even with a supposed conservative majority on the Supreme Court, there is real concern that there currently are not five justices who would vote to overturn *Roe*. As Robert A.J. Gagnon, Professor of Theology at Houston Baptist University, illustrates: *"We need a plurality of justices on SCOTUS who have the conviction and courage to overturn one of the four most ridiculous, constitutionally groundless, and morally reprobate SCOTUS cases of all time (the other three being Dred Scott, Plessy, and*

[Continued on Page 8]

Bethany NOT Christian Services

by Steve Huston



We often hear the phrase, either directly or indirectly, “**it’s for the sake of the children.**” Unfortunately, it’s usually to push some agenda, or to guilt us into agreeing with something, or to ease our consciences when doing something wrong. We too infrequently hear the other side of the story or bother thinking about the dangers which accompany the bad choice that is “for the sake of the children.”

Jesus had a lot to say about children, one which quickly comes to mind is the fact that we must be converted and become as little children if we hope to enter the kingdom of heaven. Another statement came as a warning, a warning that Bethany Christian Services and each one of us should seriously take to heart: “*but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*” (Matt. 18:6 NASV) I put these seriously heavy words of Christ before you as a backdrop to the rest of this article, hoping you will keep them in mind while you continue to read.

Democrat Michigan Attorney General, Dana Nessel, as part of a settlement to end a suit by two same-sex couples, is requiring that all adoption agencies that contract with the state work with gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender couples who want to adopt or foster a child. **That puts faith-based agencies like Bethany Christian Services between a rock and a hard spot.** Do we obey God or do we obey men? Do we risk losing an opportunity to help thousands of children find loving homes and stand firm in the truth of Scripture, heeding the “millstone warning” of Jesus; or do we, “for the sake of the children,” comply with the lawless mandate of a state attorney general, and in the process, put some children into

godless and harmful homes?

For 75 years Bethany Christian Services, the largest Christian adoption and foster agency in the United States, has emphasized that its mission and Christian beliefs were in accordance with the Word of God; and they had put those beliefs into practice. Today, Bethany continues to make the same claims regarding Scriptural authority **but their actions no longer match their words; they will begin placing foster children with same-sex couples for the first time after a legal battle in its home state of Michigan.** Or in Dana Nessel’s words of praise: “*Having more adoption agencies which don’t discriminate = ‘s more children adopted into loving, nurturing ‘forever’ homes. Thank you to Bethany Christian Services!’*”

A strong and ancient oak isn’t felled by one swing of an axe, but rather by many swings, one upon another. So with Christian individuals and organizations, large compromises don’t happen overnight; they come through a series of smaller, often unnoticed compromises.

Bethany president and CEO, Chris Palusky, stated in Christianity Today’s guest opinion column that “*Meeting this requirement doesn’t dramatically change our work. Compliance with this state requirement does not change our family placement practice with private domestic adoption or international adoption. This decision only impacts our work with the Michigan foster care system.*”

Life Site News reports: “*Pro-family activist Robert Oscar Lopez was raised by lesbian women and has written about his experience on multiple occasions. He says same-sex couples raising children are engaging in ‘a form of abuse’ due to the fact that children are denied their right to a mother and a father. His explosive 2015 book Jephthah’s Daughters: Innocent Casualties in the War for Family ‘Equality’ features dozens of essays by children reared by homosexual parents, all of whom warn about the dangers of giving gays the chance to raise kids. The book was shunned by not only the LGBT community, but, oddly enough, by some in-*

volved in the family values movement.” (I would urge you to read the whole article. In it Mr. Lopez goes into a greater depth of information regarding the issues of LGBT couples and the children they raise.)

As I read the whole of Mr. Palusky’s article in Christianity Today, my mind had more questions than answers. I would ask Mr. Palusky a few things:

- I understand that the government is in control of these things; but there is already a law in Michigan regarding adoption practices that doesn’t allow for discrimination and protects religious freedom. The attorney general is supposed to rule by the law, not make up her own laws as she goes along. Why not stand with other religious adoption/foster agencies which (with Bethany) handle 25-30 percent of Michigan’s foster care adoptions? Standing in Christian unity gives a stronger front legally and sends a message to the world.
- A little leaven eventually leavens the whole; how long before compromise in one area grows and overtakes more ground?
- What about the “millstone warning” of Jesus and those children you are placing with men and women who will influence them for evil?
- These children, who are in your care, have already experienced some trauma which has temporarily or permanently removed them from their biological parent, why subject them to more confusion and potentially more trauma by placing them in a home with two “moms” or two “dads”?
- I understand the excruciating difficulty in making this decision; in such times isn’t it vitally important to trust God and do the right thing rather than compromising on Scriptural authority?

Whenever men or organizations compromise a little, the potential for complete implosion is not only probable, it’s nearly certain. The Federalist well lays out the likely road that Bethany will follow: “Bethany

[Continued on Page 8]

Ending the Abortion Abomination



[Continued from Page 6]

Obergefell). *Scalia would have been such a justice. Clarence Thomas is such a justice. Alito is probably such a justice. Gorsuch may be. I doubt whether Kavanaugh is, given his compromising assurances to Senator Collins. I'm sure Roberts does not have the courage or conviction. May our heavenly Father convince Ginsburg and Breyer to retire during Trump's administration and give President Trump the courage and conviction to appoint two justices who will overturn Roe. And may He give Thomas the health and staying power to remain on the court till that great day.*"

While a heartbeat bill may not be the right law for Michigan, such laws are playing an important role in our national debate about the right to life. Heartbeat bills are testaments to what abortion does – stops a beating heart. They speak to the humanity of the unborn, forcing all but the most hardened conscience to recognize that every unborn baby is a living person – not a blob of tissue.

When Governor Brian Kemp recently signed Georgia's heartbeat legislation, he made this pledge: ***"We stand up for those who are unable to speak for themselves. Our job is to do what is right, not what is easy. We will always continue to fight for life."***

May that be our vow as well. And may we fervently pray that God will rule and overrule in the hearts of the American people, our legislators, judges, and Supreme Court justices - that one day soon we will see the end of the abomination we call abortion.

Bethany NOT Christian Services



[Continued from Page 7]

Christian Services now serves Michigan; it does not serve Christ. It has transformed from a Christian charity into another social service subsidized by the state and a dwindling pool of private donors.

"Over time, Bethany Christian Services will go the way of other charities subverted by government and progressive activists—it will lose support among actual Christians, become thoroughly secularized, and end up perpetuating the problems it was originally designed to combat. Saturated with secular values, it will promote the behaviors and attitudes that lead to unparented children and abusive adults and discourage the virtues that empower family life.

"Since it already compromised itself once, it will continue to do so, favoring fundraising and a public image over actually helping victims. Meanwhile, it will become less effective and more corrupt."

We urge each of you to contact Bethany "Christian" Services and compel them to either 1) return to their Biblical position, protecting these children who have already experienced enough trauma in their young lives or 2) if they will not abide by Christian principles, to take the title of "Christian" out of their name.

You can reach Bethany's CEO, Mr. Palusky, through his assistant at llwiller@bethany.org or call Bethany's switchboard at 1-800-238-4269.

**Speaker:
Pastor Rafael Cruz
June 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM**



Rafael Cruz, father of Senator Ted Cruz, is a powerful example of the American Dream. Born in Cuba, Rafael lived and suffered under a cruel, oppressive dictator. He began fighting Batista's regime as a teenager and was imprisoned and tortured for his role in that fight.

Rafael arrived in Texas on a student visa in 1957 with nothing but the clothes on his back and one hundred dollars. He got a job as a dishwasher, making 50 cents an hour, and worked his way through the University of Texas, while learning English. He later built a small business in further pursuit of the American Dream. Concerned with the negative impact of the Carter administration policies on our country, Rafael Cruz became engaged in conservative politics as a grassroots activist during the 1980 Presidential Campaign of Ronald Reagan.

When his son Ted was a child, Rafael would tell him, ***"When we faced oppression in Cuba, I had a place to flee to. If we lose our freedom here, where do we go?"***

Today, Pastor Cruz is an ordained minister, sharing the Word of God in churches and conferences throughout the United States. As he travels the country sharing his story and speaking on the Biblical foundations of our nation, it is his passion to encourage Christians in what can be done to return our nation to the principles that made America exceptional.

Seating is limited, so please register today by calling 231-924-4050 or online at <https://bit.ly/2M2ekJv>

**Location: American Decency
203 E Main Street ~ Fremont, MI**

Friday, June 7 at 7:00 PM