

## *Light in the Wilderness*

*If we lose freedom here, there is no place to escape to. President Reagan*

By Bill Johnson



We are extending what we anticipate will be a very short-lived invitation to 100 people to attend what promises to be a powerful weekend of timely information, fellowship and spiritual challenge at a beautiful conference center based near American Decency Association's headquarters in Fremont, Michigan.

By the time you receive this newsletter the openings may be filling up, so don't delay. Call today to make your reservation.

Here are the logistics:

### **A WEEKEND CONFERENCE - "Light in the Wilderness"**

**When: June 6-8  
(Friday, Saturday, Sunday)**

Where: The Shack Country Inn,  
2263 W. 14th Street,  
White Cloud, MI 49349  
ph: 231-924-6683  
<http://shackcountryinn.com/>

#### **Featured Speakers:**

**Dave Agema**, Republican National Committee Member, former state representative from Jenison, MI, former airforce jet fighter pilot, flew for American Airlines for 26

years, father, grandfather, married 43 years.

**Kamal Saleem**, former terrorist, converted Christian, conference speaker, author of the book "The Blood of the Lambs", frequent presenter at Values Voter Summit sponsored by Family Research Council, AFA, Liberty Counsel and others, husband, father, grandfather

**Buddy Smith**, Executive Vice-President of American Family Association, former Pastor with the United Methodist Church, gifted singer, father, grandfather and husband of 38 years.

**Bill Johnson**, Founder and president of American Decency Association, AFA's first named state director (1987-1999), husband, father, grandfather.

#### **Further registration information and limitations:**

- The conference room for the listening audience only holds 100 people.
- There are only 36 lodging rooms available .

This is why it is imperative that you call early to register for either a room or to reserve a place to attend the conference even though you won't be an overnight paid guest.

\$260.00 (for two nights) Back view rooms  
\$280.00 (for two nights) Lake view rooms  
\$320.00 (for two nights) Hot tub rooms

These costs include all meals and a banana split served nightly. Meals may also be purchased ala carte for those who attend the conference only, and do not spend the night.

**To register for a room call The Shack at 924-6683 and ask for the ADA conference weekend and rate.**

**Also, call us at ADA to register for the conference. Let us know if you will be an overnight guest or coming just for the conference sessions. Call ADA at 888-733-2326 or 231-924-4050.**

### **Weekend Schedule**

#### **Friday night**

3:00 p.m. - overnight guests may begin to register (due to the limited space, registration will only be received for those registering for both nights)

6:00 - p.m.. - buffet dinner served

7:00 p.m.. - Welcome and opening: Bill Johnson, President of American Decency

7:15 p.m.. - Kamal Saleem - "Shariah the Threat: What's coming next?"

8:30 p.m. - banana split and fellowship

9:00 p.m. - Dave Agema: "A Stand Because we Must"

9:55 p.m. - Prayer

10:30 p.m. - The Shack has quiet time set for all guests

**[Continued on page 2]**



From the desk of Bill Johnson

### Connect the dots ...

In these days, as in all days, there is no better place to turn than the Word of God for perspective, self-examination, Truth, wisdom, the building of faith, for direction, for God’s will for our lives.

As we look at our lives in our beloved America and see that our religious liberty and freedom of speech is under attack, there is no other place to look than to the Lord. It is a frightening thought to see a day when we will be hated for merely speaking up for marriage as God designed it. That day is already upon us and we intuitively and spiritually know that we are increasingly being pressed to capitulate by forces presently outside of our immediate control.

God’s plan was that Moses would lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Though Moses himself was told by God that He would not be able to enter because of his momentary disobedience, nonetheless he was to lead the people to that time where they as God’s people would enter Canaan - a land flowing with milk and honey. You remember the Biblical account. Twelve spies went into the land to survey the land. Moses gave this charge: Be of good courage.

Commentator Matthew Henry wrote: *How much we stand in our own light by our unbelief! At length the messengers returned; but the greater part discouraged the people from going forward to Canaan. Justly are the Israelites left to this temptation, for putting confidence in the judgment of men, when they had the word of God to trust in. Though they had found the land as good as God had said, yet they would not believe it to be as sure as he had said, but despaired of having it, though Eternal Truth had engaged it to them. This was the representation of the evil spies. Caleb, however, encouraged them*

*to go forward, though seconded by Joshua only. He does not say, Let us go up and conquer it, but, Let us go and possess it. Difficulties that are in the way of salvation, dwindle and vanish before a lively, active faith in the power and promise of God. All things are possible, if they are promised, to him that believes; but carnal sense and carnal professors are not to be trusted. Unbelief overlooks the promises and power of God, magnifies every danger and difficulty, and fills the heart with discouragement. May the Lord help us to believe! we shall then find all things possible.”*

We learn a lot about the sin nature of ourselves as we read about the faithlessness, the cowardliness of the Israelites, God’s people.

The vast majority of Christians - perhaps you and me - are of the same temperament and predisposition. We go by our carnal senses and follow as sheep those who are not bold and full of faith as Caleb and Joshua.

There will always be a place for another Caleb and Joshua. But, as Matthew Henry and others have written, true courage comes through faith and faith comes by hearing the Word of God - by being in the Word of God for ourselves and walking by faith which God has given us.

The Israelites vilified the bold, faithful leaders when they should have encouraged them. Let us not do likewise. If we are not a Caleb or a Joshua, let us be encouragers and people of faith declining the spineless counsel of spiritual pretenders who keep us from trusting and obeying.

These words bear repeating as I close.

*“... Difficulties that are in the way of salvation, dwindle and vanish before a lively, active faith in the power and promise of God. All things are possible, if they are promised, to him that believes; but carnal sense and carnal professors are not to be trusted. Unbelief overlooks the promises and power of God, magnifies every danger and difficulty, and fills the heart with discouragement. May the Lord help us to believe! we shall then find all things possible.”*

### Saturday morning

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - breakfast buffet

9:00 a.m. - Buddy Smith and Bill Johnson - share in discussion regarding the history of activism from the 1980s to today.

9:30 a.m. - Buddy Smith - his perspective as Executive Vice-President at American Family Association

10:00-10:15 a.m. - Break

10:15-11:30 a.m. - Bill Johnson - “What we can be and do in Christ!”

12:00 p.m. - lunch served

12:30 - 3:15 p.m. Free time to spend time by the lake and explore the beautiful grounds of The Shack

3:15 p.m. - Kamal Saleem - “Christianity under attack. Church arise!”

4:15 p.m. - Break

4:30 - 5:15 p.m. - Panel discussion with Kamal Saleem, Dave Agema, Buddy Smith, Bill Johnson

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. buffet dinner served

7:15 - 8:15 p.m. - Buddy Smith leads in a time of singing and praise and a time of prayer.

8:30 p.m. - banana split and fellowship

10:30 p.m. - The Shack has quiet time set for all guests

### Sunday morning

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - buffet breakfast

9:30 a.m. - Worship service at the beautiful outdoor chapel nestled next to Robinson Lake. This service will be led by Pastor Ron Workman, founder of Interim Ministries Incorporated. He has many years of pastoral experience and has helped many churches through times of pastoral transition.

10:30 a.m. - closing and send off

11:00 a.m. - check out

# What happens if our firewall is dismantled?

by Steve Huston and Bill Johnson



We live in dangerous times as our firewall (namely the Bill of Rights) is systematically assaulted.

Though our government officials have sworn to uphold the Constitution, we have a president who has increased in his boldness to act on his own if Congress doesn't do what he wants or act in a manner that is timely according to him. Our President states publically that he has a pen and a phone and if Congress won't act, he will. The President has also stated recently that one of the things about being President is that he can do what he wants. Many observers have stated they have never seen a President act with such irreverence toward our Constitutional founding.

***"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*** The pledge has been recited countless times; yet, how many even know what a Republic is? If you ask anyone, most will say we are a democracy. Yet, at least on paper, we are a CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC, not a democracy, and there's a world of difference between the two.

Perhaps a simplistic definition of "Republic" and "Democracy" would be as follows: A Republic is representative government ruled by law (the Constitution). A democracy is direct government ruled by the majority (mob rule). A Republic recognizes the inalienable rights of individuals while democracies are only concerned with group wants or needs (the public good).

Lawlessness of the heart is what has led to lawlessness in the land.

As lawlessness is increasingly being practiced at the federal level, we are seeing leaders at the state level who are acting similarly. Recently in Virginia an Attorney General and an activist judge, appointed by President Obama, put her personal feelings and opinions above the marriage laws of Virginia which affirm marriage as the union of one man and one woman. In 2006 the people of Virginia, with a 57% vote, amended their constitution upholding natural marriage.

Judge Arenda Wright Allen stated in her opinion: "... *We the People have become a broader, more diverse family than once imagined. . . . We have arrived upon another moment in history when We the People become more inclusive, and our freedom more perfect.*"

Unbelievable. Other words could be used. "Outrageous and legally flawed" is how Mat Staver decried this decision as he also stated: ***"The Constitution cannot be changed by the stroke of a judge's pen, nor does it bow to a judge's personal ideology. The overwhelming majority of Virginia voters who make up 'we the people' voted to affirm natural marriage."***

The bottom line is its lawlessness. The firewall is under intense attack! What happens when our firewall no longer exists? While we have been gracious, look at some of these acts of tyranny against our Bill of Rights - these firewalls that have protected American citizens from tyranny for hundreds of years.

Our First Amendment guarantees your freedoms of religion and speech and of the press. Forcing you to buy healthcare which defies your religious beliefs is an attack against your Constitutional rights. Most recently the Federal Communications Commission has begun to make soundings that it is going to be moving into the newsroom to gather information on how certain things are reported.

Our Second Amendment secures the right to a State armed militia and your right to bear arms. You're well aware of how this

administration is trying to unarm each of us.

Our Fourth Amendment protects your right to be secure in your persons, houses, papers, and effects, that your home is secure from unreasonable search and seizure. You are required to give up so much information now; reports of unconstitutional searches and seizures are increasingly coming in.

Our Fifth Amendment guarantees your freedom from self-incrimination, nor to be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. Nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation. The EPA is stealing property and shutting down industries on a regular basis. Government is interfering with personal contracts frequently.

Countless other examples could be enumerated, but space is limited.

Lawlessness of the heart is what has led to lawlessness in the land. It's only God who can replace the lawless stony heart with a heart of flesh that loves Him and desires to do His will. If we desire to see our nation's powers separated and balanced once more it must return to the foundation it has forsaken and the God whom it has ignored. Let us pray for God's grace to transform the lawless heart into a grace-filled loving heart. Then as America blesses God, may God bless America again.

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# Always Winter, Someday Christmas

By Chris Johnson



C.S. Lewis framed his first chronicle, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, in a Narnia under the curse of the White Witch so that it was “always winter, but never Christmas.”

I realize that Christmas is already behind us, but right about now, it almost wouldn't surprise me to hear the bells of her sleigh pulling up to my house. I've heard more people this year than ever say, “I'm so sick of winter!” And it does feel like it's dragging on forever.

Probably more than ten years since I first read the *Chronicles of Narnia*, I still discover little spiritual snacks from Lewis' classic children's series. John Piper calls Lewis an expert “likener” for the way that he brought deep theological truths down to a more familiar level of thought.

I was simply driving home from work, thinking about how it felt as if it was “always winter,” when the force of that phrase hit me. The snow and ice and relentless cold is the norm for Narnia. In the story, it is only after “Father Christmas” visits the children that the world begins to thaw. Spring only came with the coming of Christ!

This put me in a meditational mood. Could it be that our longing for spring is more than just a desire for green trees and warm weather? I think so! When I think of the season finally changing, I fantasize about all the things to do outside; I dream about how things will be different than they are now - better!

But will they really be any better? Inevitably, not long after the weather gets warmer,

people will start complaining about the heat, and then the sunburn, and then the mosquitoes, or even how there's so much to do we can't really just slow down and enjoy it! Soon, some of you strange people who like the snow will start yearning for winter, and then we'll be right back where we started.

But, there's no denying that the promise of spring does bring joy to our hearts. As I write, the sun is pouring through the window onto my keys and teasing me with the promise of more - if I can only be patient.

Lewis has another famous quote which encapsulates this tease of spring, “*If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.*”

Christ Himself speaks to this as well, when He tells the woman at the well, “*Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*”

The water of this world does not satisfy; still we thirst!


Fifteenth century mathematician, scientist, philosopher, and apologist Blaise Pascal introduced the now-famous concept of a God-shaped hole: “*There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ.*”

I drove home from work yesterday and drove 20 miles under the speed limit on icy roads with gusting snow making the road ahead invisible. I woke up in the dark of this morning and trudged through about a foot of snow to pull the car out of our garage for my wife and the car barely made it out of the drifted-in driveway.

I CAN'T WAIT for spring, but it's the cold of the winter that has sharpened that desire.

As I look at the news today, I see a story about North Korea's horrible mistreatment of its citizens. My email inbox had a video about human trafficking. Facebook shows me links to stories describing the horrors of abortion. I just heard a song about a baby born with addictions to the drugs his mother took while she was pregnant.

We are under a much worse curse than just that it is always winter and never Christmas, but all of that darkness should remind us and excite us for the return of the King.

 **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**ADA Summer Conference**  
“**Godliness in a day of Godlessness**”

**When: Friday, July 18, 2014**  
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

**Where: Grand Rapids – with**  
Specific location to be determined

**Speakers:**

**Mat Staver**, Vice-President of Liberty University, Dean of the Liberty University Law School and Professor of Law. He is the Director of the Liberty Center for Law and Policy.

**Kamal Saleem**, former terrorist, converted Christian, author of the book, “The Blood of the Lambs”, frequent speaker at Values Voter Summit in Washington, DC and throughout America.

This year's two featured speakers demonstrate their love for Christ and their Biblical convictions as they stand for truth and God's holiness while also displaying Christ's love for those they engage - even those who are enemies of the cross.

# Chevrolet – making it clear where they stand

By Lisa Van Houten



**ad·ver·tise verb** \ˈad-vər-tīz\  
to make the public aware of something  
(such as a product) that is being sold  
(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Merriam-Webster needs to get with the times. Today many corporations are selling something – but it doesn't seem to be their products.

Case in point – the latest Chevrolet commercials which began airing during the Winter Olympics. Chevrolet has produced two new ads entitled “The New Us” and “The New Love.”

“The New Us” ad, a heart-string-pulling, awww-isn't-that-touching commercial, features, well, touching depictions of family moments. However, Chevrolet's definition of a “family” also includes two homosexual men raising children. The ad features same-sex couples with children as voiceover narration states: *“While what it means to be a family hasn't changed, what a family LOOKS like has... THIS is the new 'us'.”* The narrator ends with: *“Chevrolet Traverse ... for whatever shape your family takes.”*

**GM now seems to be in the business of morals instead of motors. I never realized that Chevrolet was the definer of what is a “family” – I always thought that it was the Creator of families who made that determination.**

But according to Chevrolet, “what it means to be a family has changed.” And that's the message the company wants to send to viewers. Oh, and by the way, purchase

a Chevy Traverse to cart around your misshapen “family” while you're at it.

The other new ad by Chevrolet is “The New Love” commercial. This ad pushes “progress” – changing from our old ways to new and better ways. The narration states: *“even though the world is constantly changing, the things that matter most remain the same.”*

“The New Love” commercial continues with this commentary: *“Like the old love, the new love starts with a kiss”* as the ad depicts the “old” love of a heterosexual couple shown kissing, then moves to the “new love” of a wedding scene of two men getting married.

The ad goes on to talk about “the old family” and “the new family” and ends with this faux-pearl of ‘wisdom’ - *“Because when you know what you stand for, you know where you're going. With a whole new line-up for a whole new world, the new us, like the old us, is built on the things that matter most.”*

Well these ads certainly show what Chevrolet now stands for – and it's not baseball, hotdogs, and apple pie. Chevrolet is right on one thing - the world is changing. Chevrolet may jump on their politically-correct station wagon to scold viewers into accepting their “new” definition of family, but what truly matters most is the One who never changes – nor does His truth.

According to Chevrolet Chief Marketing Officer Tim Mahoney: *“Perhaps more than any other event, the Winter Games represents the global values that unite us. In this context, we saw an opportunity to extend the Find New Roads story by showing how Chevrolet is helping consumers try new things and break new ground.”*

However, the “global values” that Chevrolet is pushing in these ads do not represent the values held by millions of people from all over the world. As Chevrolet tries to “help consumers try new things,” they may very well be alienating vast numbers of potential customers.

Chevrolet is leaving their family-values image behind to side with those attempting to bully those whom they have accused of being “intolerant” for adhering to biblical values.

Chevrolet has joined AT&T, Chobani yogurt, and other American companies in chastising Russia for their new law banning homosexual propaganda from reaching minors. As Forbes magazine comments, the Chevy ad “not-so-subtly sticks it to the Olympic hosts over their anti-gay-activism laws and sets up Chevrolet as an unlikely provocateur in the ongoing uproar over Russian societal discrimination against homosexuals ...”

However, six years ago when the 2008 Summer Olympics were held in Beijing, China I don't recall any of these corporations getting on their bully pulpits to rebuke China for their highly egregious human rights violations and persecution of Christians.

As the Chevy ad states: *“when you know what you stand for, you know where you're going.”*

**Chevrolet has made it clear where they stand, now it's our turn to tell them where we stand. Let Chevrolet know we don't want their “changing” values; we're happy with our changeless ones.**



**General Motors Corporation  
Chevrolet**

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# Olympic Exposure

by Lisa Van Houten

## RUNNING FOR THE PRIZE



Before the days of 24-hour-a-day Olympic television coverage, before gold medal athletes graced boxes of Wheaties and were given ticker-tape parades at Disney World, the ancient Olympic Games were well known in the days of the Apostle Paul. So much so that he used them as an analogy of Christian living.

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”* (I Corinthians 9:24-27)

The Olympics have seen many changes since the days of ancient Greece. Athletes now compete for precious metals, not perishable wreaths. The Winter Games were officially added in 1928. Yet another change in Olympic competition in recent decades is the greater inclusion of female athletes.

The Apostle Paul wouldn't even recognize the historic games with all the glitz and glamour of today. With each passing Olympics it seems the hype only intensifies as the line between athlete and celebrity becomes increasingly blurred.

And while there still remains a fierce competition between athletes who have spent years training and disciplining their bodies to strive for the prize, not all athletes exercise the “self-control in all things” of which the apostle Paul speaks.

**One glaring example of that lack of self-control is a new trend among female competitors to display much more than their athletic prowess.**

Before women even had the right to vote in the United States, the first female athletes competed in the Olympics in the year 1900 when just 2.2 percent of the Olympians were female – competing in tennis and golf. By 2012, the Summer Olympics had more women competing than ever before – 44.3 percent of the Olympic participants were female – and the U.S. female athletes earned 29 gold medals and 58 medals in all (actually more than the U.S. male athletes earned).

These female athletes may have earned respect for their accomplishments, but a number of them in recent years have shown little self-respect as they've chosen to degrade themselves for the pleasure of men.

As a FOX News report stated, *“with the Sochi Games underway, recent weeks have provided a global offering of female athletes in provocative poses reminiscent of those you'd find in the pages of Playboy.”*

Olympic alpine skier, Julia Mancuso, recently won a bronze medal, but gained more notoriety for her explicit photos wearing nothing but skimpy underwear bottoms in the February issue of men's magazine, GQ.

Snowboarder Hannah Teter takes “selfie” to the extreme with a display of numerous erotic pictures on her Instagram account. This follows 2010 when Hannah Teter joined with other female Olympians Lindsay Vonn, Clair Bidez, and Lacy Schnoor to pose provocatively and sometimes topless in the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit edition.

And then there is self-proclaimed Christian athlete, Lolo Jones, who bared it all for ESPN magazine in 2009.

This trend of female athletes extolling their figures rather than their feats is not exclusive to United States athletes. As FOX News also reported, *“an official Russian team*

*website last week released a slew of super sexy images starring its female athletes. While the young women donned lacy lingerie, see-through garments and gave the camera come-hither smiles, there was very little mention as to what they actually do in the winter games.”*

These female athletes, who should be role-models providing a positive example for young girls to emulate, instead give a message to younger girls that no matter what their accomplishments, their worth is dependent upon their sex appeal.

And magazines such as Sports Illustrated and ESPN rather than showcasing the athletic abilities of these women as they do with men, instead focus on their bodies – displaying them as sexual play things, not persons. These young women do not understand they are stripping themselves of their dignity when they remove their clothes. They are setting themselves up to be discarded, like the magazine.

Why would these acclaimed athletes feel the need to degrade themselves? They have been raised in the age of “women's liberation and female empowerment” when women have more opportunities than ever before. Some of them have fought to make it into certain sports which have been considered exclusively “men's sports.”

And present day feminists are still taking up the torch on their behalf, as the Feminist Majority Foundation decried that “despite progress in female [Olympic] participation, inequities in treatment continued.” And the liberal site Mother Jones reported:

*“But even while more women are competing in the Olympics today than ever, they're still not equal in any way,”* says Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation ...

*“Beyond that, they say, blatant sexism is still a serious problem, and continues to perpetuate the misconception that women aren't as good at sports as men.”*

[Continued on Page 7]

## A True Patriot: Dave Agema

By Steve Huston



How blessed and encouraged we were to have Dave Agema come to American Decency Association recently. He is definitely a true patriot, a Constitutionalist and a man of God.

Mr. Agema opened his talk with II Chronicles 7:14 and spoke about the deafening silence of the church regarding matters of politics and how evil is seen as good and good is seen as evil. He pointed out how media is quickly changing the climate of the culture.

This fighter pilot got into politics because of his great love and concern for our country. He continued his talk with a warning about the dangers of “politically correct” language and how it is used to silence those who have a traditional and biblical message. He showed a video clip he had created on this danger.

During this “constitutionally correct” presentation he spoke to many issues including the difference between the Democrat and Republican platforms. Some of the other issues this RNC committee member spoke to were government spending, illegal immigration, taxes, part time legislature, American laws for American courts, big money guiding big government and a definite need for good, constitutional conservatives getting involved in the political process.

One quote he gave summarizing his talk was, “When the people fear the government there’s tyranny; when the government fears the people there’s liberty.”

Mr. Agema isn’t only a political figure, he’s a Christian man as well. There’s no separating the two; his love of God, for his fellow man, and his country came through loud and clear throughout the whole presentation.

Barbara Agema, the woman behind the man, spoke with great clarity and conviction as well. She spoke of the defamation they have endured and the necessity of each of us being ready to stand strong and choose to endure persecution as well.

If you love your country and want to be encouraged, you’ll want to get the DVD of this presentation made available by the American Decency Association. [See enclosed response card]



Today’s culture hands us a daily dose of sex through TV, internet, and social media - while never showing the devastation left behind. How can adults, parents, and grandparents help guide our youth through this cultural minefield? In a captivating and inspiring talk, Pam Stenzel tackles some of the tough issues we face today. Pam Stenzel has served on the “front lines” as the director of an Alpha Women’s Center and now works to build up families and youth as she speaks across the country and internationally.

Pam’s message is an important one for adults and teens. As we live in the middle of a culture steeped in the lie of “safe sex” outside of marriage, we all need to be equipped with the facts that she will share. Come and hear Pam Stenzel as she challenges listeners with candor, insight, and humor and shares her compelling personal story. We hope you’ll join us and invite others for this life-impacting event!

Thursday, March 20, 2014  
at 7:00 PM

Location: Resonate Church  
302 E 68th Street  
Newaygo, MI 49337

For more information, please call  
American Decency Association  
at 231-924-4050.

## Olympic Exposure

by Lisa Van Houten



[Continued from Page 6]

So, if these female athletes are fighting for respect and acceptance in the male-dominated world of sports, why would they in essence prostitute themselves as a sexual object to be leered at by men?

I think the answer is twofold. Even female Olympic athletes are products of a culture that bombards girls and women with the message that the way to really gain attention from men is not through accomplishments or character, but through eroticism. However, these young women are not merely helpless victims of a degenerate culture. Sexism goes both ways. From long before the first Olympics in ancient Greece, young women have learned that they have power in the sexual display of their bodies and they have used that it. *“And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart. ... With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him.”* (Proverbs 7:10, 21)

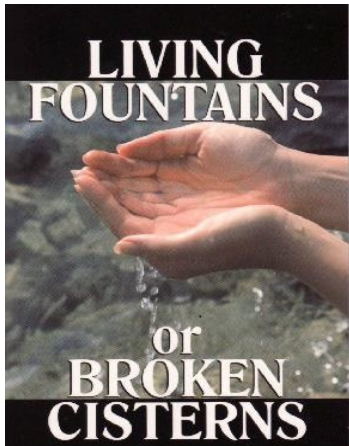
From ancient times to modern day, women (and men) have desecrated their own bodies – bodies which are designed to be a temple of God Himself.

These young Olympic athletes need our prayers that they would see their worth, not as a sex symbol or even as a champion athlete, but as one who is created in the image of God.

May the Olympics be a reminder to us all to strive for the truly imperishable prize, so that at the end of our race we can say with Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

# Changing Gods?

by: Steve Huston



Do you remember how the Mighty Hand of Providence brought a people out of different lands to the shores of what is now called America? Do you remember how God had lifted her up to be a beacon, a light, a city shining on a hill? Have you read or heard about the many obstacles the pilgrims and puritans faced as they settled on these shores - about the seemingly impossible odds that our forefathers overcame in building this country? Have you learned of the battles and wars which were turned by the wind, the waves or an enemy general acting opposite to what would be his normal judgment?

As I read about these blessings and as I remember the Divine Hand of Providence, I am humbled. As I remember that it is God who raises nations up or brings them down - and this according to their following or disobeying His will and His commands - I humbly fear. I encourage you to read Jeremiah chapter 2 and see if you aren't broken by the message found there.

Even as God spoke to Israel through the prophet Jeremiah, those words could be spoken to America today. It could be a message directed to Washington, DC instead of Jerusalem. He could remind us that we once sought after Him; we once loved Him; but now we chase after things of vanity, things that do not profit. Yes, God could remind us of His goodness to us; and then, He could deliver the same indictment found in verses 11-13.

Jeremiah 2:11-13: *"Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my*

*people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."*

The United States used to drink from the fountain of living waters; we were once known as a bastion of freedom. America could be counted on to take a stand against the oppression of the masses and for being a Christian nation. Today, it would seem that America, according to our president, is no longer a Christian nation. It now fights for the "rights" of a 2% population (LGBT) while trampling on the rights of the masses and continues to slide down the list of countries with economic freedom.

We kill our children and call it convenience. We glorify sin and call it entertainment. God's beautiful and holy name has become commonplace and is too often used as an exclamation of disgust or as a curse word. Too often we glorify the misuse of God's name and call that entertainment as well.

The first President of the United States, in his inaugural address, encouraged us to look to God: *"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."*

Our current President not only neglects to mention "our Creator" when often misquoting the Declaration of Independence, but is given the distinction of being the first president to talk about "gay rights" in his inauguration speech. He continues to neglect the word of God as a standard to live by and pushes forward an agenda which goes contrary to the Hand of Providence that he refuses to recognize.

Homosexuality is not in itself destroying America but its rise and acceptance

shows the heart of America. Through this acceptance and the promotion of other anti-Biblical agendas, don't we bite the "Hand" that fed us; don't we provoke the heart of God?

We know things are bad, but we think we're so far removed from Nazi, Germany. Listen in horror to the words of Adolf Hitler as they echo off the White House walls, come screaming off the "tins of Hollywood," and seem to resonate from every corner of our nation. Listen and weep with humble repentance, praying for the mercies of God.

*"It's been our misfortune to have the wrong religion. Why didn't we have the religion of the Japanese, who regard sacrifice for the Fatherland as the highest good? The Mohammedan religion too would have been much more compatible to us than Christianity. Why did it have to be Christianity with its meekness and flabbiness."* – Adolf Hitler

It would seem we've left our moorings and neglected our moral compass. We've changed (or are changing) our God for gods which are not gods. We neglect Jesus, the Christ, and pay homage to evolution, self, and any number of false gods. We refuse to drink from the fountains of living water and gather around the cisterns of socialism, communism, psychology, materialism, intellectualism, and other false "-isms" vainly hoping to quench our thirst. There is but One thirst-quencher, and He is Jesus. There is but One true God and He is "the Holy One of Israel."

Keep all this in mind as you hear from a patriot preacher by the name of George Duffield: *"Whilst sun and moon endure, America shall remain a city of refuge for the whole earth, until she herself shall play the tyrant, forget her destiny, disgrace her freedom, and provoke her God."*

**It's time that we remember our destiny, respect our freedom, and love our God. Please: let's leave those cracked cisterns that don't satisfy and drink from the fountain of living water once more.**