

## *Reprobate America. Can we be Re-Awakened?*

By Bill Johnson



*It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.* ~ Ecclesiastes 7:2

What a way to start a newsletter! However, that's the way it is! On the very day that I am writing, I attended the funeral of a highly regarded saint of God nearly 89 years old.

The family, her grandson pastor (officiating) all sang her praises as do we at American Decency Association.

As we sat at the funeral, we watched the people ushered out of the well-attended funeral - one by one. Here was a man who I hadn't seen for a couple of years, once so vibrant, now hunched over a bit. Here a woman now hardly able to walk without a helping hand.

I said to my wife Jan, "*It's a procession of the aged and aging.*"

Many of you reading this know well what I mean. Just a few short years ago there were those who came before these 80 and 90 year olds. They are not with us any longer. They've come and are now gone.

Funerals are a good thing for us. At least they should be. Not only to mourn and/or celebrate a life but to be reminded of the fragile nature of life. And, I might add, to see ourselves progressing toward the same end as everyone else. Dying and death.

Here is another thing that is affiliated with the later days of life. It is being burdened for those who have shown little or no evidence of having trusted in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The evidence has been abundantly clear in some - if not many - cases: stubbornness, hedonism, self-centeredness, irreverence, and immodesty. Some perhaps very "nice" but having no "need" or interest in the God Who made them. Hell bound. Seemingly incapable of being saved.

The end comes, and more often than not there is no change despite the bedside pleas from a loved one calling out to them to repent of their sins and trust Jesus for salvation.

Despite all of the evidences of God all around them. They exchanged the truth for a lie. They refused eternal life and chose death.

You may wonder why I entitled this article: *Reprobate America. Can we be re-awakened?* and yet I am writing about the death and dying of the aged and of us all eventually.

I entitled this as I have because there is a connection.

America is rotting from the inside. The stench is getting stronger. Is dying and death very far away for America?

Many of you, like me, grieve as we watch the advance of the decay - which can be laid at the doorstep of the American church.

A worldly church that has lost its first love quite some time ago. Time with the Lord? Family devotions? Are we too busy for these important disciplines? Letting our busyness, our things determine our days from beginning to end. Where does Christ fit in to it all?

Our salt has lost its savor. The church has little impact on the world because we've allowed the world to have so much influence on us.

The church has been weak evangelistically. We once were a light shining on a hill, a beacon that pointed to God and we sent the Light into all nations. The evil and lies that have infected our nation's core have acted as a shade on the Light that shines in us. We have hid our light under the "bushel" of our own decadence and perversion. Rot slows growth until it becomes very difficult if not impossible to grow and reproduce.

We are a people that has grown increasingly apathetic and lethargic.

As I write this article, I am being convicted that it is just way too easy to heap criticism on the church. I/We are the church. We are a fallen people - sinners - continually in need of God's grace, mercy, and truth.

[continued on page 2]



From the desk of Bill Johnson

**... Can we be re-awakened?  
[Con't from page 1]**

In the midst of recognizing the need for the church to arise I am reminded and desperately want to remind you - there is a solid remnant of believers as the antitype of the apathetic and the lethargic.

You've seen them in your circle. I know them in my community. They are a solid core of people who clearly have a passion for Jesus Christ. I'll cite one name to help me cut to the quick - the rest I will leave unnamed. Marcia gets up early in the morning. Prays extensively for people. Despite health issues, thinking of others. She continually finds ways to serve others - looks for people in need and serves from morning to night.

Down through the years, we have had a number of volunteers - a few of them now into their nineties not only volunteering at our office mailings but also in other ministries. Serving, caring, writing letters, active in church, faithful in church attendance, praying - behind the scenes doing what they can to encourage loved ones, families, and young believers.

They look to Jesus as they arise. Spending time with Him reading His word, seeking His face - they ask for His help and His guiding hand! Serving.

I think of a few new friends that I have met who are deeply troubled over the war for the free world - the beheadings, the rapings of innocent ones who dare to oppose Muhammad. These folks are busy from the rising of the sun to the end of the day - researching, writing, speaking, educating, warning, and going before political groups to rally them to understand and take right positions for national security and for guarding America.

I think of a young mother trained as a veterinarian who gave up her practice to adopt international children and, in recent days fighting an amazing fight with international and national bureaucracies through prayer to bring her new daughter home to America. She repeatedly asked for prayer and against all odds her prayers were answered!

But, then there are the apathetic, the lethargic. Much could be said here but I am limited by time and space. I will try to cut to the quick by saying this: A very recent Gallup survey of the American people showed that for the seventh year in a row, Barack Obama is the most admired male in America. The most admired woman for the 13th straight year is Hillary Clinton.

Either the American people are oblivious to or supportive of the positions that these individuals hold on matters such as the killing of unborn babies, the normalization of homosexuality and same-sex marriage, Common Core, open borders, amnesty for illegals, supporting the Muslim Brotherhood (Hamas, Hezbollah), Obamacare, and the hollowing out of our military.

We are a people whose loss of spiritual/moral influence is not only because we have failed to teach our children the difference between the holy and the profane, but because Jesus is not at the center and the pursuit of holiness has not captured their hearts. "Be holy for I am holy" means virtually nothing to masses of Christians. A people who lack spiritual/moral discernment cannot pass on to their children what they themselves don't have.

As a result, there is little community indignation when a movie like "Fifty Shades of Grey" rolls into their town. Little to no push back at the local theater. The news report from the first weekend revealed that this movie netted \$80.3 million dollars.

Too many of us just look the other way when they see the Walmart display marketing the book "Fifty Shades of Grey" offering a \$7.50 price discount for the movie with the purchase of the book.

We are a people who have forgotten their history and rejected their humble beginnings. "We, the People of the United States of America" have taken for granted our Constitution,

our godly heritage, and the freedoms and the unalienable rights that our Declaration of Independence states as coming from our Creator. We increasingly read articles and hear of professors and teachers rewriting history books that excoriate our Founding Fathers as self-seeking, irreligious, prideful slave owners - rather than men of valor and honor to be looked up to with admiration and an aspiration to imitate.

Reprobate America. Can we be Re-Awakened? I believe we can be - if it is God's will. Is it God's will? No human can answer that question.

This much I do know! This is what Jesus wants from His people. Our devotion. Our obedience. Our listening ear and ready mind yielding to His leading, joyous in service.

Urgency is growing amongst those who have an intimate relationship with Jesus!

The call goes out. Do you see? Do you sense God's touch upon your life? Are you saved? Do you spend time with Him throughout the day asking for God's help and guidance? More of Him.

If you don't see the need for the church to arise in America, examine yourself.

Join me in praying for a reawakening in America!

We are in need of revival, another Great Awakening. Great revivals of the past have only come after fervent prayer of God's people.

Terry Slachter's book, "The Next Great Awakening," is a 41 day devotional focused on prayer and revival. Many people who have ordered this powerful little book, have turned around and ordered more copies to share with family and friends.

We encourage you to order "The Next Great Awakening" for yourself and to share with others, using it as a tool to pray for our nation. **See the enclosed response card for ordering information.**

# Bringing Christ Home

ADA's Second Annual Spring Event - June 5-7 at "The Shack"



## It is our great honor to bring to you American Decency's Second Annual Spring Event.

We recall the face to face communications expressed by several of last year's attendees who spoke with tears in their eyes saying "This was life-changing."

**Come share the beautiful grounds, the gorgeous log-built buildings, and the blue water of Robinson Lake with your spouse, along with other like-minded believers, as we listen to and discuss God's glorious view for the family with respected ministry leaders.**

### **We have entitled this year's event: Bringing Christ Home Family and the Supremacy of Christ**

Whether you are quite well along in years of marriage or just out of the "starting blocks," I believe this weekend at the Shack will be used of God to bring Glory to His Mighty Name as He does what only He can do - vastly more than we can even ask or imagine - for He is God!

It's our sincere hope that you'll join us for this time of refreshing and renewal, a time for looking at the Biblical ideal of family where Christ reigns supreme. This will be a time for you and your spouse to set aside your hectic schedules, enjoy one another, evaluate your family goals, and hear from the Word of God about marriage, family, and Christ's call for you to complement one another.

You'll hear from godly men whose passion is to see your family built up in the Lord and your marriage bonds strengthened with Christ at the center of each individual and at the center of each marriage.

### Friday evening

6:00 p.m. – Buffet dinner served  
7:00 p.m. – Welcome and opening: Bill Johnson, President of American Decency  
7:15 p.m. – Bruce Kuiper – "The Foundation, Formation, and Fall" – Genesis 1-3  
8:30 p.m. – Banana split and fellowship  
9:00 p.m. – Rev. Ken Smith – "A Biblical Counselor's Burden for American families"  
9:55 p.m. – Prayer  
10:30 p.m. – The Shack has quiet time set for all guests

### Saturday

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – Breakfast buffet  
9:00 a.m. – Bruce Kuiper - "Gospel Shaped Men and Women Enjoying Eternity Today"  
9:45 a.m. – Ken Smith – Evidences of God's Grace and Mercy  
10:45 – 11:00 a.m. – Break  
11:00 – 11:25 a.m. – Bill Johnson – "My journey in complementarianism"

### Break

12:00 p.m. – Brunch 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. - Bruce Kuiper – Saving and sanctifying eternal souls through the simple strategy of Father-Led Family  
4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. - Panel discussion with Ken Smith, Bruce Kuiper and Bill Johnson  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Buffet dinner served  
7:15 – 8:15 p.m. – 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 a 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.  
10:30 a.m. – closing and send off

Please join us June 5-7 for what promises to be a powerful weekend of timely information, fellowship, and spiritual challenge! There are 55 rooms available for our June retreat at the beautiful conference center, The Shack Country Inn, based near American Decency Association's headquarters in Fremont, Michigan.

Here are the logistics:

## **A WEEKEND CONFERENCE**

Bringing Christ Home  
Family and the Supremacy of Christ

**When: June 5-7  
(Friday, Saturday, Sunday)**

**To book your rooms for the weekend, call The Shack at 231-924-6683; let them know you're with American Decency.**

### Rates for a 2 person/2 Night Stay

Back view Rooms - \$240.00  
Lake view Rooms - \$260.00  
Hot Tub Rooms - \$300.00  
Extra person - \$60.00

### Rates include:

Friday Dinner and Banana Splits  
Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Banana Split  
Sunday Breakfast

**The price for meals if someone is not spending the night but attending the conference is:**

Lunch - \$7.50 + Tax per person  
Dinner - \$12.50 + Tax per person  
Banana Splits - \$5.00

**To register for the conference, call ADA at 231-924-4050**

For further information regarding speakers, schedule, location, go to:  
<http://www.americandecency.org/ShackEvent/home.php>

May God bring whom He will! Please join us in praying for the speakers and all who will be attending.

That God would be glorified!

## Creating Circles of Protection

by Steve Huston

# WOMEN AT RISK

Keep this date open! On Friday, March 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm, the American Decency Association will be hosting an event aimed at informing you about human trafficking.

The United States of America has long been known as “the Land of the Free,” so why is it one of the highest ranked countries in the world for human trafficking? Many would associate such disgusting behaviors with Southeast Asia and places other than our beloved America, but it is here that 50,000 women and children are trafficked INTO the United States each year. It’s here that minor-aged victims are sold an average of 10-15 times a day, 6 days a week. America is home to between 100,000 and 300,000 underage girls being sold for sex. This should break your heart; it should make you want to do something.

It’s horrifying. Child pornography has become a \$3 billion dollar industry; one out of every five pornographic images are of a child. I love this country, but I hate the fact that 55% of internet child pornography comes from the United States. The above statistics, and many others beside, came from [www.trafficking.org](http://www.trafficking.org).

This shouldn’t be happening; all life is valuable. Men are supposed to be protectors, not selfish users and abusers. Parents, teach your children that they are created in the image of God; they aren’t meant to be abused nor are they meant to abuse others. Share with them the love God has for them.

To this end we are bringing “Women At Risk, International” (WAR, Int’l) to the ADA on Friday, March 13th, to inform and give practical ways for you to help those who are caught up in this modern day slavery.

### Their mission is this:

*“Women At Risk, International (WAR Int’l) is a Grand Rapids-based, nonprofit organization, established to create circles of protection around at-risk women and children. Through culturally sensitive, value-added intervention projects and partnerships, we provide safe places to heal from abuse, trafficking, exploitation, and more. Our passion is to empower survivors to live and work with dignity and hope.*

*WAR, Int’l not only creates safe places for women and children but also gives voice to their silenced cries. By educating communities about risk issues and providing individuals with practical ways to “do something,” we extend our reach through you.*

*Our programs and partnerships span the globe, reaching over 40 countries, including the United States. Each month, additional projects and partnerships are formed, increasing both our gratitude and ability to offer the rescued and at-risk a ‘hand-up.’”* (Taken from [www.warinternational.org](http://www.warinternational.org))

**This is so important; we urge you to join us on March 13, 2015, at 7:00 pm at American Decency Headquarters, 203 E. Main St., in Fremont, MI. For more information call 231-924-4050.**



**When: Friday, March 13, 2015**

**Time: 7:00 P.M.**

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

**For more information,  
please call 231-924-4050**

*“What if every church in America had a ministry to stand against modern slavery.”*  
- Dillon Burroughs

## Hallmark’s Mark on Marriage



From sentimental ads to Hall-of-Fame movies, the name Hallmark is seemingly synonymous with “family.” Yet Hallmark’s definition of family is not what it seems. For years Hallmark has been promoting gay marriage cards. Then last May, Hallmark pushed the “Gold Crown” envelope even further with their lesbian “Mother’s Day” cards. Now, Hallmark has raised the stakes once again with a new lesbian Valentine ad campaign.

Don’t let Hallmark’s commercials and movies fool you and your family. There’s nothing wholesome about Hallmark’s not-so-hidden agenda – an agenda which seeks to redefine the definition of marriage and family.

### **Contact Hallmark and express your concern.**

Hallmark Cards, Inc  
Donald Hall, Jr - President & CEO  
PO Box 419034  
Mail Drop 216  
Kansas City MO 64141-9034

Hallmark's toll-free number:  
1-800-HALLMARK (800-425-5627)

American Decency Frontline  
Vol. XXIV, Issue III  
Published monthly by  
American Decency Association

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# Trading Orange Jumpsuits for Robes of White

by Lisa Van Houten



By now most of us have heard the news report of 21 Egyptian Christians recently beheaded by ISIS in Libya. The picture of these 21 men dressed in orange jumpsuits forced to kneel on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea has been all over the news and is now emblazoned on my mind. This is just one of countless atrocities being perpetuated against our Christian brothers and sisters.

Just weeks before this attack President Obama took the opportunity at the National Prayer Breakfast to chastise Christians for deeds done nearly one thousand years ago. Comparing Christian crusaders of yesteryear to Islamic terrorists of today, he stated: ***“And lest we get on our high horse and think this is unique to some other place, remember that during the Crusades and the Inquisition, people committed terrible deeds in the name of Christ.”***

After all, as our president has previously stated before the United Nations: ***“The future must not belong to those who would slander the prophet of Islam.”***

Yet while the President has no problem in defending and sympathizing with Islam, the official White House statement following this latest barbaric attack upon Christians only referred to the victims as Egyptian “citizens” – completely ignoring the fact that these men were targeted because of their faith in Christ.

However, the Islamic terrorists made it clear why these men were killed. The video recorded by ISIS of this massacre was entitled: ***“A Message Signed With Blood to the Nation of the Cross”*** and included a message, stating in part: ***“Safety for you crusaders is something you can only wish for ... The sea you have hidden Sheikh***

***Usama Bin Laden’s body in, we swear to Allah we will mix it with your blood.”***

However, while the blood of these Christian brothers washed into the sea, they did not need to “wish” for safety – they were already safe in the arms of Jesus Christ. They trusted in their Savior whose Own blood had been shed and now covered them. They had traded orange jumpsuits for robes of white.

***“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.”*** (Revelation 6:9-11)

Yet what about we American Christians? For the most part, we haven’t needed to wish for safety. We ***are*** relatively safe and secure and removed from having to choose between our faith and our life. No one is threatening to cut off our heads for following Christ. We hear such accounts and are momentarily horrified - then we go back to our comfortable lives.

As R.C. Sproul, Jr. reminds us:

“We in the West, and particularly in these United States ... have lost sight of the reality of what the Christian faith is all about. It is a good thing, do not misunderstand me, it is a blessed thing when a given culture has become so influenced by the Christian faith that men are protected from these kinds of assaults, that we have the opportunity to practice freedom of religion. But it is not a normal thing.

“We live in a world that Jesus described as one in which we should expect persecution from those outside the church. Jesus, in fact, tells us time and again that the very persecution that He experiences is not something unusual, is not something odd,

but it is instead something which we should all have every expectation of receiving. Now again, as privileged Americans, our experience of persecution has been, until more recently, as mild and not particularly challenging as perhaps having to commit social faux pas when we make certain affirmations about the Lordship of Christ in certain social circles. People sometimes look at us like we are a little bit weird, like we are a little bit funny. But we are not experiencing, in this country, what other believers are experiencing in other countries. And we make the mistake of thinking that our circumstance is normal. ...

“When Jesus says to take up your cross, how dishonoring it is to Him that we turn this into a metaphor for the petty little hardships we go through for His Name’s sake. Jesus didn’t say “I want you to be willing to be socially snubbed because of me. I want you to be willing to be thought of as odd because of me.” When Jesus says, “pick up your cross and follow me,” do you know what He is saying? He is saying you need to be ready, you need to be prepared to be crucified. Now I am not arguing, again, that it is just or right or proper – of course. Or that it is anything less than vile or wicked when Christians are put to death by the opponents of Jesus Christ. All I am saying is not only is it not surprising, but in the end, it is a deep and a profound honor.

“We think that the way to do great things for the Kingdom is to be great and powerful people. But the power of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is found in our laying down our lives. In being willing to be scorned, in being willing to be scoffed at, in being willing to be crucified with Him. Friends, we need to look at these news items in light of our calling as Christians. Are we willing, are we ready, are we able to lay down our lives because of our commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ? I want to see the Kingdom of Jesus Christ advance, but the Kingdom of Jesus Christ advances by the power of self-sacrifice.”

# SI Swimsuit - A Gateway Drug

by Lisa Van Houten



As research and common sense indicate, those who view (or read) pornography are soon not satisfied with the material they consume and so escalate to more explicit and extreme forms of pornography.

Not only do we know this, but so do the publishers of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit magazine. This so-called Swimsuit magazine has been and still is a “gateway drug” to harder and harder forms of pornography – especially for young boys. And so, to keep this money-making issue flying off the magazine racks, Sports Illustrated knows it must ratchet up the shock value every year. As they have done this year with a cover that is their most graphic yet.

And we’re not the only ones expressing concern. This cover photo is so explicit, that even liberal news organizations are calling out SI Swimsuit and using terms such as “pornographic” to describe the magazine cover. Business Insider wrote it’s the “most scandalous cover yet” and reported that in a *Us Weekly* poll, “68% of readers thought the cover image resembled porn”.

Many have taken to Twitter and Facebook to express outrage regarding the SI cover. Here are a few comments:

- *Sports Illustrated cover outrageous.. inappropriate.. pornographic... unnecessary...nasty. Is there any wonder women are seen as sex objects?*

- *The new sports illustrated cover is classless and inappropriate. Like seriously, cover your vagina, kids see this mag in the grocery store.*

- *Ok, um, is it just me or is this a bit too much? This is Sports Illustrated not Playboy. ...*

And a writer for the Philadelphia Daily News – one who creates an annual “Sexy Singles” spread for that newspaper – writes this:

*That’s a little too low, Sports Illustrated.*

*As the creator of the Daily News’ popular, annual Sexy Singles spread, I understand the need for the magazine to up the ante in terms of hotness each year, but the magazine finally crossed the proverbial line by all but baring a model’s nether regions.*

*... I hate to be on the side of conservatives but some people doing the tongue clucking have a point. The National Center on Sexual Exploitation sent out a press release accusing Davis’ pose of normalizing ‘genital display, not just with the pages, but also on the front of the magazine. This will be ground level display in most supermarkets, gas stations, bookstores, and airport kiosks for any 10-year-old child to see.’ ...*

We at American Decency have been one of the very few voices over the years warning of this concerning magazine, urging stores not to carry it and corporations not to advertise in it.

But it’s not just the cover that’s concerning. Page after page reveals young women in erotic poses – often topless and/or bottomless. For a “swimsuit” magazine, there is very little cloth actually worn by any of the models.

And the advertisers also get in on the act. In some cases there is no difference between the erotic advertisements and the Sports Illustrated photo displays. Such is the case with DirecTV’s 10 pages of ads portraying degrading images of nearly nude women in sexual poses.

Then there is a six page pull-out ad for Dodge Ram. This ad replicates the iconic painting of George Washington, Crossing the Delaware. You can probably visualize this famous painting of then General Washington standing majestically near the bow of a boat with a small crew of soldiers

crossing the river during the Revolutionary War. Only the Dodge ad replaces the Father of our Country with a woman in a bikini standing in the same pose as Washington. In fact, each man featured in this epic painting is replaced with bikini-clad women in this contemptuous Dodge Ram SI Swimsuit ad.

We have noted in recent years, however, that there are fewer and fewer mainline corporations advertising in Sports Illustrated swimsuit. We believe that, as you have stood with us, we have had an impact as we’ve held the advertisers accountable each year.

Sports Illustrated Swimsuit is most likely on display in a store near you – even in “family” shopping centers. You may think it’s impossible to affect change when the magazine is so widespread. However, one person can make a difference!

For example, we know of one woman who monitors her local Wal-Mart not only for the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit magazine, but also the SI swimsuit calendar. She kindly but firmly speaks to the store manager when she has found such concerning material on display. After learning this year’s SI Swimsuit magazine was being sold in her local Wal-Mart, she again spoke to the manager who remembered her concern from previous conversations. He said he didn’t realize the magazine had been stocked by the vendor and removed it right away!

One person spoke out and now countless children, young people, men and women will not be exposed to this pornographic display in this family marketplace!

You, too, can make an impact in your corner. Speak out against the SI Swimsuit magazine in stores where you find it. Take it to the store manager and express your concern about such material in the place you and your family shop.

When we step out in weakness but in faith, God often does his best work in us and through us. Take a stand for righteousness today.

## Mail Bag



Hi, Bill,

I just wanted to report on an incident at Safeway today. I was standing in line to check out and right there at my hip level was the SI "swimsuit" edition magazine. In other words, it was at the level of a child! When I got the cashier, it turned out he was the "head clerk" and I asked him (politely), "why do you have pornography at the check stands?" He was shocked! The lady behind me was a Safeway employee and she had seen the magazine as well. The "head clerk" hadn't even seen it! He went around his station and pulled the magazine OFF the shelf! He didn't turn it around, he removed it! He was offended as both the lady behind me and I was. We all agreed that children walk through the check stands all day and it is wrong to have that smut there. At least I didn't get any bad attitude about it and we all agreed it was awful.

Thanks, Bill, for all you do.  
God bless you. - S.S.

Bill:

I found the SI Swimsuit edition in the checkouts at one of our local Wal-marts. I spoke with store management who told me they couldn't take them off the shelves for the sake of just one person complaining and that I would have to go through their corporate headquarters. I'm a corporate owner myself and know when a manager is blowing smoke. They can probably do whatever they want if it's in the interest of the corporation. Maybe they didn't want to lose money, but bad PR isn't good for a store either.

It just so happens that the cover is in clear violation of our city ordinance of which I showed her a copy. She still wouldn't budge so I gave her something to think about. When law enforcement came to arrest someone, who would be responsible for not removing the material, having been made aware of the law? Uh, that might be her.

*As I exited the store, I went through the check-out to pay for my Valentine's roses and complained to the clerk who happened to agree with me. Once out of the store, I called up our local city law enforcement and discussed the situation. After listening to a lot more making-it-harder-than-it-is type excuses, we agreed that I could fill out a formal report the next day. Well, to make a long-story short, by the next day, the issues were off the checkout stand. Wal-mart had voluntarily taken them off. I talked with the managers on duty and expressed my sincere thanks for taking them off. Afterwards, I visited Food Lion and Dollar General who did not display the magazine in their check-outs.*

*Over and over you hear, "Well, that's just the society we live in today." Well, it wasn't always that way and doesn't have to be that way if we get off our duff and simply conclude that enough is enough; we don't have to tolerate it. This tripe doesn't have to exist in our town, not on our watch. We've given up civilized society a little at a time. No more. I will not fear; I am a child of God. He walks before us. Praise God almighty!  
Sincerely,  
B.T.*

*Hi Bill, I just have to let you know you are prayed for more than you know. I think of you so often and realize the flak you take when you take a stand. I praise you for remaining faithful and true to your calling and pray for God to continue to use you and protect you from the evil one, and give you the strength and encouragement you need. This rotten movie that is out has really affected me. So many hardened hearts! Thank you for bringing it to our attention so we could take a stand and notify the theater and send e-mails out. Christians need to be vocal even if it is not accepted. God IS greater and He will win!! American Decency is needed more than ever in our changing world! God bless you and your workers and faithful partners.  
Love and concern,  
D.K.*

## Un-Manning Manning by Family Research Council



Bradley Manning

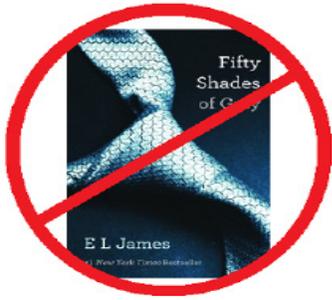
Bradley Manning is in prison for treason - and now the Obama administration wants to help him break another law: nature's. The national security leaker, whose espionage put countless Americans at risk, is demanding that the U.S. Army - not just recognize, but finance - his gender transition. Since 2013, when he officially changed his name to Chelsea, he's fought to put taxpayers on the hook for his transgenderism. Now, two years later, it seems the Army is more than willing to cater to the traitor's whims, including footing the bill for thousands of dollars in radical hormone therapy.

Col. Eric Nelson, Commandant of Fort Leavenworth finally caved to the convict's demands after pressure from the ACLU and others. "After carefully considering the recommendation that (hormone treatment) is medically appropriate and necessary... I approve adding (it) to Inmate Manning's treatment plan." Of course, one of the problems with that decision (and there are several) is that it violates the Defense Department's own policy, which bars funding for this kind of "treatment."

To bypass that rule, the Army seems to have found a loophole through the VA, which started paying for the drugs in 2013. Either way, Manning, a convicted criminal, will be the first Army member to receive hormone therapy at the military's expense. Not surprisingly, there's no shortage of outrage over Manning's special treatment - from taxpayers to our troops. While thousands of honorable veterans suffer serial abandonment in VA clinics across the country, the Obama administration is rewarding an avowed traitor with expensive -- and elective -- treatment. It's a sad commentary on this administration when an act of treason entitles you to better care than most of the men and women who have honorably served this country! ...

## Fifty Shades - No Grey Area

by Bill Johnson



In last month's newsletter we warned of the incredibly pornographic movie, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, which opened in theaters Valentine's weekend. It's been nearly impossible to avoid the buzz surrounding it as mainstream media has pulled out all the stops to legitimize and promote this degrading movie. Indicative of the state of our culture (and the church), millions flocked to the theater, making this disturbing film a blockbuster.

Frankly, we weren't surprised by the film's popularity. However, that doesn't deter us from being salt and light – in fact it is all the more reason to speak truth. And so, when we found out that our local movie theater had plans to bring *Fifty Shades of Grey* into our community, we spoke out in various ways. Desiring that the church would join us in speaking out about this concern, we contacted nearly all of the pastors/churches in our greater area providing information and a petition to encourage their activism. We also distributed petitions to be circulated, sent out emails encouraging local citizens to express their concern to the theater owner, and wrote a letter to the editor of our local newspaper.

### **This is what our petition stated:**

*The movie, to be released on February 13, is based upon a trilogy of books that has been consistently characterized as pornographic, romanticizing sexual abuse and centering on themes of BDSM (Bondage, Discipline/Dominance, Submission/Sadism and Masochism). Promotional movie trailers add credence to our concern. This type of material cultivates a culture of rape and sexual violence which is now permeating our society.*

*Noted author and youth speaker Pam Stenzel, who has spoken to several area*

*public schools in recent years, stated: "Fifty Shades is pornographic, nothing less, and the damage that pornography can do to young men is life changing."*

*Dr. Miriam Grossman, a medical doctor and author of "Unprotected" and "You're Teaching My Child What?" stated: "Excluding hard pornography, I believe Hollywood has never produced a film so hazardous to young women."*

*This is not about censorship. It is about doing what caring parents, grandparents, and communities have done for many years – standing up for what is worthy and decent and opposing that which is degrading and potentially destructive.*

One local television station, WOOD-TV, became aware of our efforts and asked to interview me regarding ADA's efforts and concern. A reporter and film crew came to our office for a 45 minute interview. The reporter also spoke with the theater owner.

We go into interviews knowing that, generally speaking, the reporter conducts themselves winsomely. They are merely doing their job: to get from you as much as they can for the storyline they want to report. Being interviewed, you are in a place of trying to get your important message across.

I was able to articulate my talking points - although most of them were not aired in the brief airtime. As is often the case with secular news media, the real heart and soul of our concern was not conveyed in the report that was aired.

In spite of our efforts and the hundreds of expressions of concern, the theater owner not only dug in his heels, refusing to reconsider bringing *Fifty Shades of Grey* into our community, but was also quite hostile in his response, stating in part: "... Just because you do not agree with this type of film doesn't mean others don't. I find it very unchristianlike to push your views/beliefs on others. ... leave your personal beliefs/views for service on Sundays. If you don't like the fact we live in a free country then that is also your issue. ..."

What this theater owner doesn't understand, however, is that with freedom comes responsibility and that at the heart of Christianity is not keeping our faith within the walls of the church, but it is sharing the light we have received through God's grace. Because of love for neighbor we speak out, warn, and express concern regarding that which damages and destroys. Included in my letter to the editor was this:

*As a father, grandfather, concerned citizen, committed Christian, and former porn user, I am writing because I know the power that pornography has to worm its way into the heart, soul, and mind of any individual. ...*

*Pornography destroys. Statistics, personal testimony, and common sense demonstrate that is true. ...*

*Part of our ministry's calling has been to warn others of pornographic concerns that are coming into our community and beyond. ...*

*Even if individuals choose not to watch the film themselves, the culture they find themselves in has been affected and changed by the skewing of love and truth.*

*"Fifty Shades of Grey" takes the beautiful act of intimacy which God has designed for a husband and wife, an act of love and protection, an act of giving and completing; and warps it into a lust filled act of deviancy where physical pain, selfishness, and insecurity are made out to be the norm. It promotes violence during times of intimacy and the idea that "no" doesn't mean "no." ....*

*Our community matters to us.*

*This is not about censorship. It is about doing what caring parents, grandparents, and communities have done for many years – standing up for what is worthy and decent and opposing that which is degrading and potentially destructive.*

*We encourage you to join with us in doing just that. ...*