

Who Rules the United States?

By Bill Johnson



As I prepared to attend an event with my grandkids, I saw the words on my cell phone - **LIVE - President Trump speaking in Melbourne, Florida (February 18).**

There, before an estimated crowd of 9,000, was Donald Trump with his wife Melania by his side preparing to address a large gathering. After a thunderous welcoming applause Melania took to the microphone saying "Thank you let us pray". She then prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Sandy Rios echoed my thoughts on her daily radio program "Sandy Rios in the Morning" stating: "I was stunned honestly. ... The passion with which she spoke the Lord's prayer. ... It just seemed to me that there is something going on in the heart of Melania Trump. You wouldn't choose that randomly. You wouldn't choose it politically. Why would you choose it? You would choose it if God was doing something in your heart. That's what I think. You can hear the people in the second phrase. ... The people in the crowd start to say the prayer with her. ... The point I started out making was she is being absolutely excoriated for doing that. Just terrible things, obvious things that the left would say.

Negative comments such as the following: "Melania read the 'our father' like a whore in confession after a night of escorting."

Here is another: "I THINK I'M GOING TO F**ING THROW UP. First lady Melania Trump introduced her husband at the rally,

reciting the Lord's Prayer."

The Blaze reported that the crowd erupted - evidencing massive approval.

As for me, my response was similar to Sandy Rios as she stated: "It moves me deeply. It touches me deeply. The Spirit within me just leaps to hear that. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sinned against us. You know Melania's history. I just think the body language - there's been a change in this woman."

I found myself almost tripping over myself as I shared what I heard with others - seemingly embarrassed. How could this possibly be? Is Melania phoney? Am I being duped?

The First Lady of the United States praying a Christian prayer in public? Sadly, your local township supervisor might be hesitant to pray at the local town hall. Yet, here was Melania Trump praying the Lord's Prayer before a watching world of millions who viewed it on TV and online.

What have we come to as a people that we have such kneejerk responses - for I know many of you had similar feelings. Who rules the United States anyway? Satan or God? We want God to bless America and yet we don't know how to respond when the First Lady prays the Lord's Prayer. We want to cry out to God in "HALLELUJAH!" Jesus lives in America. Please, Lord! Bring revival and restoration to our embattled America!

Then in sharp contrast just a few days later in New York's Time Square, on February 19, Pro-Muslim demonstrators marched in the streets of New York City to protest President Trump's travel ban on people traveling from jihadist-funneling nations in the Middle East. Hundreds of people attended the rally, which included a public prayer to Allah.

The prayer opened with shouts of "Allahu Akbar" typically shouted by Islamist terrorists before unleashing an attack. For 30 seconds the downtown area of New York City echoed with sounds one would expect to hear in Baghdad or Tehran.

These recent two examples illustrate the great spiritual divide that exists in our beloved America.

These words from two now seasoned Christian leaders are still so relevant:

Bloody battles are being fought on a thousand fronts, both inside and outside of government. Open any daily newspaper and you'll find accounts of the latest Gettysburg, Waterloo, Normandy or Stalingrad.

Instead of fighting for territory or military conquest, however, the struggle now is for the hearts and minds of the people. It is a war over ideas. And someday soon, I believe, a winner will emerge and the loser will fade from memory. For now, the outcome is very much in doubt. [Taken from Children at Risk, Gary Bauer and James Dobson, 1990]



From the desk of Bill Johnson

Who Rules?

Who rules the United States? Know that I'm primarily referencing here the battle of world views.

I had finished this personal note earlier with a page celebrating friendships and special ties with wonderful people who have come and gone in and out of my life. But my uneasiness with the following breaking news kept gnawing at me; news that fits the theme of the newsletter - "**Who Rules the United States**" - causing me to rewrite this page.

The title of the article in **Jihad Watch** (February 21) reads this way: **Michigan: Mega Mosque being forced on Christian Refugee Community.**

Quoting- "**Too much traffic, too little parking, the city planning commission decided by a 9-0 vote against the mosque in September 2015. But in December, the mosque sued the city and the Obama Justice Department joined in, claiming the real reason the mosque was denied was because the city was caving to anti-Muslim bigotry in the community.** Now, a settlement deal is headed to the Sterling Heights City Council on Tuesday evening. If the council votes to sign the deal, it could be very costly for the city."

Update: It did pass on Tuesday, February 21. The Sterling Heights Sentry reported (in short) in the following way:

A mosque's dome and minarets are on track to appear along 15 Mile Road in Sterling Heights after the city settled two lawsuits pertaining to the issue at a sometimes-raucous Feb. 21 City Council meeting. City Council members voted 7-0 to settle a federal case brought forth by the U.S.

Department of Justice late last year, as well as to settle a separate federal lawsuit by the Madison Heights-based American Islamic Community Center. ... <http://www.candgnews.com/news/council-settles-mosque-lawsuit-99573>

Jihad Watch stated:

The Obama DoJ used its might to crush local opposition to mosques, even when the objections were based on legitimate concerns regarding zoning and other matters. And of course all discussion of Muslim Brotherhood ties and the jihad threat was ruled "Islamophobic."

Further consider these words from World Net Daily: "**Mega-mosque being forced on Christian refugee community,**" by Leo Hohmann, WND, February 21, 2017:

A city of 130,000 people in southeastern Michigan is under the gun of Islamic pressure following its denial of a mega-mosque in a residential neighborhood populated largely by Christian refugees who fled Islamic persecution in Iraq.

Local residents fear it's a bad deal, something similar to the Obama DOJ-orchestrated deal forced upon nearby Pittsfield Township, Michigan, last year. That town had to pay out \$1.7 million to local Muslims to whom it had denied a permit for an Islamic school, and township employees were ordered to undergo sensitivity training to assure they never again discriminate against Muslims.

Sessions to the rescue?

Attorney General Jeff Sessions could cancel any similar deal from taking effect in Sterling Heights, but only if he is aware of it and acts quickly.

"If the city council is found to be cooperating with the Obama DOJ staff who are expediting this consent order to stick it to the Sessions/Trump team, then this city will go nuts," said Dick Manaserri, spokesman for Secure Michigan, a group formed to educate the public on Shariah law and how it differs from American law.

In last November's presidential election, Donald Trump carried Sterling Heights, normally a Democratic Party stronghold, by 56 to 44 percent over Hillary Clinton.

He also carried Macomb County, home to Sterling Heights and also a Democratic-oriented county.

But Trump's new AG, Sessions, is apparently not yet fully in control of the Justice Department, which includes many holdovers from the Obama administration.

"Why else would Jeff Sessions not dismiss the Obama DOJ lawsuit against Sterling Heights?" Manaserri asks. "We have been told by legal experts that he has the power to simply dismiss the lawsuit. A consent order typically implies wrongdoing with the application of penalties."

The people and their representatives back in 2015 had spoken, too, with their city planning findings. But, other powers had other ideas including the Obama Justice Department which threatened them with raw power.

The theme of this newsletter applies to this concern and the ones raised on every page of this newsletter - who rules the United States? There is a struggle against earthly and otherworldly powers and principalities for the hearts, minds, and souls of the people.

Take Action:

1. Pray for God's help and mercy for the people of Sterling Heights.
2. Mail the enclosed postcard and/or contact Attorney General Jeff Sessions office at:

U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dept. Comment Line: 202-353-1555

A word about finances

As most of you know, we have a track record of sending very few financial appeals. Support in January and February have been much diminished though we don't know why. Please show your support for our ministry efforts by responding to this brief but needed request for help.

Drain the Black-Robed Bayou

by Steve Huston



regulated. The judiciary, on the contrary, has no influence over either the sword or the purse; no direction either of the strength or of the wealth of the society; and can take no active resolution whatever. It may truly be said to have neither FORCE nor WILL, but merely judgment; and must ultimately depend upon the aid of the executive arm even for the efficacy of its judgments."

While the executive branch has taken steps to "drain the swamp," it's time for Congress to drain the Bayou of black-robed creatures who flaunt their stolen sovereignty — oppressing people and tyrannically imposing their unconstitutional (illegal) will upon states and their good citizenry.

The courts are part of the checks and balance system our founding fathers so wisely put in place. But this system only works when each branch only does what they are supposed to do. Judges don't make law; what they say does not become the "law of the land." *"Congress acting within Constitutional authority and a president properly executing any delegated authority—that's the law of the land."* (Daniel Horowitz) These judges are only meant to issue judgment on individual cases based on laws which are already in place. They aren't supposed to legislate from the bench. The legislative branch (Congress) and the executive branch (President) need to start doing their jobs, reining in these black-robed creatures with their legislating, sovereignty-stealing gavels.

The judiciary, by nature, was created to be the **weakest branch** of our government. Founding father Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist 78, stated that:

"Whoever attentively considers the different departments of power must perceive, that, in a government in which they are separated from each other, the judiciary, from the nature of its functions, will always be the least dangerous to the political rights of the Constitution; because it will be least in a capacity to annoy or injure them. The Executive not only dispenses the honors, but holds the sword of the community. The legislature not only commands the purse, but prescribes the rules by which the duties and rights of every citizen are to be

Instead of humbly fulfilling their duty, the judiciary has been overreaching their authority like a child who is constantly testing his boundaries. Even Supreme Court Justice Scalia saw the massive overstepping of bounds, the stripping away of state's sovereignty, and the dangers of the pride-filled gavel in the hands of the Bayou's black robes. In his dissent on the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage decision he stated: "Hubris is sometimes defined as o'erweening pride; and pride, we know, goeth before a fall. With each decision of ours that takes from the people a question properly left to them ... we move one step closer to being reminded of our impotence." (as reported by the LA Times)

With usurped power, the court struck down the state marriage laws single-handedly redefining the building block of a civilization. Social engineering from the bench attacks civilization at its fundamental core. Justice Scalia said that it violates "a principle even more fundamental than no taxation without representation: **no social transformation without representation.**"

Never content and ever growing out of control, the courts now (9th Circuit specifically)—according to Daniel Horowitz—"redefine the building block of a nation state, saying we no longer have the ability to self-determine those who come into our country and be part of our civilization and citizenry" by unconstitutionally telling us and the other two branches that we can't ban—even temporarily—who enters our beloved shores.

They have even attacked individual states; let's look at Arizona as an example. *"The Ninth Circuit has forced the state to give driver's licenses to illegals, offer bail to the most violent criminal aliens, and has*

blocked the state from requiring proof of citizenship in order to register to vote." (Daniel Horowitz) Arizona's legislature and the people had taken steps and passed legislation to protect their state, but the Ninth Circuit has left the legal citizens of Arizona defiled and defenseless, stomping on their sovereignty and their rights.

These black robes from the Bayou have taken our Constitutional Republic and turned it into a judicial oligarchy...but we've allowed them to do so.

With every breach of the Constitution that these out of control courts inflict upon one of the other branches, they prove that they have become "too big for their britches." Instead of standing by and accepting what they do illegally, we must stand and insist that they be held accountable by their counterparts—**that's the way the system is supposed to work.**

Daniel Horowitz—author of the book *Stolen Sovereignty* and numerous articles written for Conservative Review—gives several ways to rein in rogue courts, reminding us that Congress has the complete power to do so. We—you and I—are to hold Congress responsible for their actions or lack thereof.

One of the actions we could take would be to call for the impeachment of these rogue judges. Impeachment was designed to not only address criminal behavior but also to check the abuse of power. Even if not successfully impeached, no judge wants the hassle of impeachment or their name being associated with it.

If you're interested in other ways to "drain the bayou"—reining in an out of control judiciary—read Daniel Horowitz's article *The Battle for the Courts Part 2* at <https://www.conservativereview.com/commentary/2016/11/battle-for-the-courts-part-2>

Make no mistake; this should be one of our highest prayer concerns. If these courts are left to run amok, it may be the total undoing of CONSTITUTIONAL AMERICA!

Many SI Swimsuit advertisers drop. More to go!

by Lisa Van Hutten



All women are **more than bodies.**
All women are **not objects**
to be judged, used
& discarded.

Last week the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue hit newsstands and magazine racks across the country giving millions of men and boys easy access to pornography in the mainstream family marketplace. Stores that would never sell a Playboy seem to have no qualms about selling the equally pornographic SI swimsuit issue. However, other than the name of “Sports Illustrated,” there is very little difference between the two.

Is it a stretch to label the SI swimsuit magazine as pornography? After all, the word “swimsuit” would imply that the models featured are wearing clothing. Think again. While the tiny scraps of cloth that make up the “swimsuits” worn in this magazine might stretch the definition of clothing, the SI swimsuit magazine also includes dozens of photos of topless and completely nude women.

And the young women baring their bodies are not “models.” They’re not “modeling” anything other than their erotically posed bodies. They are nothing more than strippers –exposing themselves for the pleasure of men.

Yet somehow our culture has turned them into celebrities as they make the rounds to the TV talk shows. Kate Upton, who is featured on the cover, appeared on the Jimmy Kimmel show to promote the SI Swimsuit magazine. Upton is displayed nearly nude on three different cover choices – each more explicit than the next. In one such photo Upton is wearing nothing more than rope. Jimmy Kimmel asks her about the image, “*Is that really a swimsuit you’re wearing? Because it seems just like a*

hammock that got torn to bits.”

Upton replied: “*I’m pretty sure it’s just a rope. Apparently it’s ... Sports Illustrated nude magazine.”*

Right from the horse’s mouth, so to speak. With dozens and dozens of nude to partially nude photos, “Sports Illustrated Nude Magazine” would be a more apt title.

As research and common sense indicate, those who view 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 ratchets up the shock value every year.

Equally troubling are the young women who buy the lie that stripping for men to ogle is somehow “empowering”. It doesn’t empower women – it degrades and objectifies them.

In recent years, Sports Illustrated has even convinced accomplished female athletes to demean themselves – posing topless in some cases. SI isn’t showcasing their athleticism, their strength, their accomplishments – just their body. Athletes featured in this year’s “swimsuit magazine” include tennis pro Serena Williams and two Olympic gymnasts, Ally Raisman and Simone Biles. Sadly, these young women are sending a message to the girls who idolize them that their worth is dependent upon their sex appeal.

That same message is being given by 63 year old Christie Brinkley who posed in SI Swimsuit along with her two daughters (one of whom posed topless.) What mother would want - even encourage - her daughters to be displayed as objects of lust to be leered at by men?

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.

As we have faithfully tracked the advertisers who empower SI Swimsuit, urging them not to align with this pornographic magazine, we’re encouraged to report that the number of advertisers has drastically declined.

In 2011 there were 46 different advertisers in the magazine. This year the number dropped to only 26 advertisements. That’s down even from last year when 33 advertised. Of last year’s advertisers, only 10 returned to advertise again this year. Another trend we’re noting is that the vast majority of advertisers are obscure companies and liquor brands.

We believe that, as you have stood with us, we have had an impact as we’ve held the advertisers accountable each year.

We also urge you to speak out against SI Swimsuit magazine in stores where you find it. Take it to the store manager/owner and express your concern about such material in a family shopping place. 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.

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Communism: A Dead or A Deadly Enemy

by Steve Huston



Who: Trevor Loudon, producer of the documentary “Enemies Within”

What: An opportunity to be informed and to hear Trevor Loudon speak about the enemies within

Where: American Decency headquarters
203 E. Main St., Fremont, MI 49412

When: Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Why: To unveil the danger that threatens America; to make known our enemies—without and sadly within. To learn what we can do to protect this last, great bastion of freedom, AMERICA!

REGISTER TODAY: To make sure you have a seat at this free event!

To register:

Call 231-924-4050

or online at www.americndecency.org

In January we had shown the film—“Enemies Within”—which exposes strong communist and Muslim Brotherhood ties within our own government. This cinematic warning named names and organizations which were—ANDARE—pushing forward the communist, “progressive” agenda, an agenda designed to take away your liberties and shackle you with tyrannical overseers. This is an agenda that moves nations from prosperity to poverty, abundance to want, strength to weakness, and liberty to lifelessness. It’s an agenda which has been growing in the shadowy recesses of our government for many decades at an ever-alarming rate. It has not only grown larger but with more boldness as John Q. Public slumbers the apathetic sleep of ignorance.

In recent years God has called some out to be truth-tellers, shining the light of

truth into the darkness of ignorance. God has raised such men as Curtis Bowers (producer of the documentaries AGENDA 1 and 2), Frank Gaffney (Secure Freedom Radio and Center for Security Policy), Phil Haney (persecuted Department of Homeland Security officer and author of “See Something Say Nothing”), and now Trevor Loudon, to name but a few, to awaken America to her danger and her need for God’s continued hand of protection. What will we do with this information and this brief reprieve from an immoral and destructive party that only has America’s demise in mind? Will we also recognize that this agenda is a bipartisan problem, infecting the Republican Party too?

You can order “Enemies Within” using the enclosed response card. However, whether you’ve seen the documentary “Enemies Within” or not, you’ll want to see Trevor Loudon’s newest documentary on Youtube for free. Go to www.youtube.com and put this in the search field: “Trevor Loudon America under siege civil war 2017”. This will bring up his latest documentary and help you better understand the threat that communism poses to our nation and how deeply ingrained it is in our government. This is one way you can better prepare for the event on March 18. This is important; don’t miss out!

Most people assume that communism is a thing of the past; it either broke down with the Berlin Wall or fell with Russia. That’s just not the case, and there’s no more dangerous an enemy than one who is believed to be defeated or no longer a threat. Communism is very much alive and well in the thoughts of a great number of Americans both common and influential. Unfortunately they don’t look at the realistic outcomes of this devastating ideology and the countries that it has destroyed (Can you say Venezuela?). Conservative Review published an article in January that encourages us to look at the dangers of socialism both there and in our own country.

Still skeptical about communism having taken root in America? Ask yourself this: Have you noticed that “What was once considered the American Dream is now

considered xenophobic, racist, and fascist. What was once considered Marxist and Leninist is now considered inclusive and progressive.”? (Quoted from “Enemies Within”) As communist thought has infected our public schools, it’s taken root and grown in every sector of our country. As this tyrannical ideology has been bred within our government and our society, it’s bound our minds from free and logical thinking—shackling us to thoughts of ease and universal contentment without sweat and responsibility. We need to wake up, shake our heads, and look for the light of truth.

Because this is such an important issue we are expecting a large crowd. REGISTER TODAY so you won’t miss out on this amazing opportunity! If you care about this country or just desire to be informed, this event is for you. Whether you’ve seen the film “Enemies Within” or not, don’t miss out on this opportunity to hear Trevor Loudon speak and to ask him questions about these important issues. Bring others with you to American Decency headquarters on March 18, 2017 at 7 pm.

Only God can save America from destruction but we have a role to play as well. Get informed, inform others, and act on this information.

Of course we must be in prayer over our nation, our president and this administration, and those nefarious individuals who would do our country harm. However, there is also something else we can each do. **Call your Representative and urge them to pass H.R. 3892 for the safety of our nation and the good of our government.**

H.R. 3892 is a bill that would name the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization. This would effectually undo much of their work for the last 60 years.

Call the US Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121. Urge your Representative to support H.R. 3892.

Don’t forget; reserve your seat for March 18, 2017 at 7:00 PM by registering today!

A Sucker Punch to Religious Liberty – Action Needed!

by Lisa Van Houten

“Little by little, they are stripping us of any thought we might have, or any difference of opinion. This is our Religious Freedom at stake.”

–Barronelle Stutzman



Pop stars refused to perform at the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump. Fashion designers have declined to design dresses for Melania Trump. And they have every right to do so. It's called freedom. Freedom of conscience.

Now imagine if those singers and designers had been forced against their will to take part in the inauguration or be sued, fined hundreds of thousands of dollars, and bankrupted. The Left would be outraged at being forced to support an event that goes against their ideological convictions.

Yet that is exactly what has happened to Barronelle Stutzman, a Christian florist in Washington State who declined creating arrangements for a gay wedding.

Just recently the Washington State Supreme Court ruled unanimously against Barronelle Stutzman. That ruling in essence claims the government can force Barronelle – or any citizen of the state – to take part in ceremonies and events with which they disagree.

Perhaps you've followed the case of Mrs. Stutzman, the 72 year old grandmother and owner of the small business, Arlene's Flowers. While the court claimed she committed the "crime" of "sexual orientation discrimination", she didn't discriminate against homosexuals. She has happily served people regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation in her community of Richland, Washington. In fact, the homosexual customer at the center of this case, Rob Ingersoll, has been one of her favorite customers for over a decade. Yet when Rob asked her to use her artistic abilities to create custom floral arrangements for his gay wedding, she told him she couldn't take part in a wedding ceremony that violated her Christian faith.

As Barronelle wrote in an op-ed: "... Since I never hid my faith, I always figured Rob understood that my beliefs shape not only how I look at the world, but how I envision and create my art – the art he appreciated for so long. So it wasn't that I wouldn't create something to celebrate his same-sex wedding – I couldn't. This wasn't about selling him flowers, or celebrating a birthday. This involved what, to me, is an event of unique spiritual significance – a sacred covenant. Art, like faith, comes from the heart, from who I am. I couldn't deny my faith – even for so dear a friend – without damaging the very creativity he was asking for...."

To make it clear: Barronelle didn't refuse to do business with homosexuals – she declined to take part in an event. Just as the above mentioned singers and designers refused to take part in an event.

Now Barronelle is facing fines of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

This case against Barronelle is just one example of a growing trend of rogue courts ignoring the Constitution and trampling on the religious freedom of those who don't affirm same-sex marriage.

As Tony Perkins of Family Research Council makes clear: "These rights do not stop at the door of your local church, and instead extend to every area of a religious person's life. The government has no authority to force Americans like Barronelle Stutzman to engage in speech and events with which they morally disagree."

Barronelle, who is represented by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), will appeal this egregious decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

ADF Senior Counsel Kristen Waggoner asserts: ***"This case is about crushing dissent. In a free America, people with differing beliefs must have room to coexist. It's wrong for the state to force any citizen to support a particular view about marriage or anything else against their will. Freedom of speech and religion aren't subject to the whim of a majority;***

they are constitutional guarantees.

"Our nation has a long history of protecting the right to dissent, but simply because Barronelle disagrees with the state about marriage, the government and ACLU have put at risk everything she owns. This includes not only her business, but also her family's savings, retirement funds, and home. It's no wonder that so many people are rightly calling on President Trump to sign an executive order to protect our religious freedom. Because that freedom is clearly at risk for Barronelle and so many other Americans, and because no executive order can fix all of the threats to that freedom, we will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear this case and reverse this grave injustice."

Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel Gregory S. Baylor stated: "President Trump said during his campaign, ***'The first priority of my administration will be to preserve and protect our religious liberty for the benefit of every-day Americans...'*** The executive order being discussed simply reaffirms the American commitment to the First Amendment and requires the government to respect its legal and constitutional obligation to ensure that Americans are free to peacefully live and work consistent with their beliefs without being punished by the government."

Join with us in asking President Trump to keep his promise.

Two action steps to take:

- 1. Pray for Barronelle and her family as they go through this devastating time.**
- 2. Urge President Trump to sign an executive order that would help protect religious liberty.**

Mail the enclosed postcard to President Trump and/or call the White House switchboard at **202-456-1414** and respectfully ask President Trump to sign an Executive Order to protect religious freedom – the freedom that is being denied to Barronelle Stutzman.

How do you solve a problem like Milo?

by Chris Johnson



Jesus said in Matthew's account, **"First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."** This little parable was used to condemn hypocrisy, judging the sins of others while ignoring one's own sins.

This is a heavenly principle with endless application, particularly (for our purposes) in today's political climate.

Conservative Christians have a log in our eye. Actually, I'm sure we have many, but the one I'm talking about is named Milo Yiannopolous.

Milo was a prominent figure in the 2016 Presidential campaign due to his politically incorrect way of speaking and his shattering of stereotypes as a gay, millennial, conservativesque public figure. Yiannopolous deals harshly and satisfyingly with the common enemies of the conservative movement, giving the impression that he is, in fact, a conservative (even if he never claimed that label for himself).

He came into the news most recently when his speaking engagement at UC Berkeley was canceled due to violent protests. Many conservatives used this occasion to praise Milo for exposing the intolerance of the left and even President Trump spoke up to denounce Berkeley's handling of the situation.

Yet, these silver linings come with some very dark clouds.

The legendary Ben Shapiro, formerly of Breitbart - where Milo Yiannopolous was senior editor - shared some highlights of Milo's disqualifications: "...earlier this month he characterized a Jewish BuzzFeed writer as a "typical

*example of a sort of thick-as-pig s**t media Jew"; he justifies anti-Semitic memes as playful trollogy and pats racist sites like American Renaissance on the head; he describes himself as a "chronicler of, and occasional fellow traveler with the alt-right" while simultaneously recognizing that their "dangerously bright" intellectuals believe that "culture is inseparable from race"; back in his days going under the name Milo Wagner, he reportedly posed with his hand atop a Hitler biography, posted a Hitler meme about killing 6 million Jews, and wore an Iron Cross... he personally Tweeted a picture of a black baby at me on the day of my son's birth, because according to the alt-right I'm a "cuck" who wants to see the races mixed; he sees the Constitution as a hackneyed remnant of the past, to be replaced by a new right he leads."*

But his latest travesty should be enough for anyone with a conscience to hop off the Yiannopolous band wagon.

In spite of the serious issues listed above, the Conservative Political Action Committee had invited Milo to speak at their annual event. That's when video surfaced of Mr. Yiannopolous defending one of the few atrocities that both the mainstream left and right still condemn: pedophilia. Here's a sample of his comments:

"This arbitrary and oppressive idea of consent which totally destroys the understanding that many of us have of the complexities and subtleties and complicated nature of many relationships. People are messy and complex, and actually, in the homosexual world particularly, some of those relationships between younger boys and older men, those kind of coming-of-age relationships, the relationships in which those older men help those young boys to discover who they are, and give them security and safety and provide them with love and a reliable — a sort of a rock for when they can't talk to their parents."

Now, I want to be fair. Milo says he worded his opinion poorly - he says he didn't mean "boys" when he said "boys" and he was talking about post-pubescent boys, not pre-pubescent.

The problem is that he thinks that it makes a difference whether a child is sexually developed or not as to whether they should be able to give sexual consent to an adult. Abuse doesn't depend on the development of a victim, it depends on the ability of the recipient to give consent. A minor is too young to understand the implications of sex, that's what makes it an abusive relationship, even if they were to agree to the abuse.

Since the video of this interview has gone viral, Milo Yiannopolous has been dropped from the CPAC roster, lost a book deal with Simon and Schuster, and resigned from his position at Breitbart after employees reportedly threatened to quit if the publication did not disassociate itself from Milo's brand.

But the problem is that our movement was close to this man and his ideas in the first place.

When Milo was stopped from speaking at Berkeley by the protestors, he was on something he called, "The Dangerous Faggot Tour," in which he went around being as offensive as possible to the left.

He's built a name for himself by giving a platform and credibility to the kind of people who approve of the holocaust and believe America is for white people .

How did the intellectual offspring of the "Moral Majority" have ties to this guy in the first place? Because he calls the people we don't like mean names?

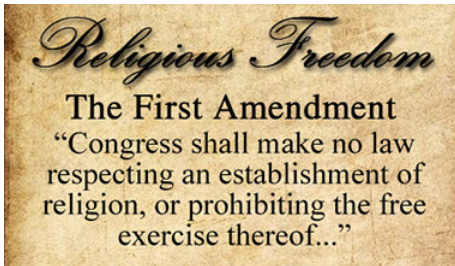
Milo's story shows us the consequences of conservatism unbound by morality.

The Bible's commands to "love our neighbor as ourselves" and "live at peace with all men" do not stop at politics. There is a way of debating which respects the image of God in our political opponents and that is the way that Christians must follow.

Pray that Milo finds true repentance, and let us live up to God's standard in how we deal with those we disagree with.

The USDA Butchers Religious Liberty

by Lisa Van Houten



As Christians, God's Word teaches us that our faith should permeate every aspect of our lives – including our occupation. To attempt to separate our faith from our livelihood would be to deny that faith. Whether we're farmers, doctors, or janitors, we are to do all to the glory of God.

And that is exactly what Don and Ellen Vander Boon of Hudsonville, Michigan strive to do. The Vander Boons are the owners of a family operated meatpacking plant, West Michigan Beef Company. As Mr. Vander Boon told Family Research Council, "From the very beginning, we started the business in faith, and made it clear to employees that we run our business according to Christian principles." The Vander Boons haven't hidden their light under a bushel. On their company's website they state: *"Above all, West Michigan Beef seeks to glorify and honor God in all that we do."*

And the freedom to do just that is the first freedom protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The government cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion. However, that is exactly what government officials have done to the Vander Boons – prohibited the exercise of their religious beliefs.

We may have a new president, but the policies of the Obama administration are still wreaking havoc on the religious liberty of American Christians. For eight years under President Obama, seemingly every government agency had Christianity in their crosshairs – from the IRS targeting Christian non-profits to the Dept. of Justice undermining the Defense of Marriage Act, to the Dept. of Education pushing the LGBT agenda, and on and on. The policies that were put in place to stifle the expression of Christian beliefs, and the unelected officials

tasked with implementing those repressive policies, are for the most part still in place – right down to the U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA).

And that's where the Vander Boons come in. In 2015 when USDA meat inspectors were doing a routine inspection, the USDA site inspector found a Christian article about natural marriage that Don Vander Boon had placed in the break room of his business.

The inspector removed the article and reported it to the USDA supervisor. As Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) reports, the two inspectors had a meeting with Mr. Vander Boon and "threatened three times to remove USDA inspectors if Vander Boon didn't agree to refrain from placing the article in the break room."

To put it plainly, the USDA threatened to shut down his business since a meatpacking plant can't stay open without USDA inspections.

The inspectors claimed the article regarding natural marriage was "offensive" and violated an "Anti-Harassment Policy Statement" put in place by the Obama administration – a policy that still is in effect. The policy orders USDA officials to "take immediate and appropriate corrective action" against anything they consider "harassment" and gives government officials the authority to prohibits any form of communication that the officials consider "disrespectful" or "insult[ing]" on the basis of sexual orientation.

A Department of Agriculture spokesperson told The Daily Signal, a conservative news organization, that the USDA has "zero tolerance for any form of workplace harassment or intimidation."

Yet that is exactly what the USDA is doing to Mr. Vander Boon – harassing and intimidating him due to his religious beliefs.

It is almost unbelievable that in the land of liberty our government can shut down a privately owned business because they don't like the written material in a break

room! No employee was coerced to read the article. The USDA was there to inspect meat – not the religious beliefs of the owner.

As Donald Vander Boon told Family Research Council: *"It's made me realize how quickly we can lose our religious liberty. I never dreamed ... that I would have USDA personnel telling me that I had to choose between putting an article on the break room table or my business."*

Yet as the imaginary "right" to have one's sexual orientation affirmed overrules the religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution, American Christians will increasingly be forced out of many occupations.

Mr. Vander Boon, represented by Alliance Defending Freedom, filed an official complaint to the USDA in 2015 but hasn't received a response to his complaint. Therefore the threat still remains to close Mr. Vander Boon's business if he expresses his religious beliefs about marriage.

That's why we at ADA join with other Christian organizations to urge President Trump to sign an executive order to protect religious liberty. ADF president Michael Farris wrote of the Vander Boon's plight in a letter to President Trump, stating in part: *"Your signing that order will ensure that hard-working Americans, along with non-profits and social service organizations, will not have to fear government punishment or bullying simply for peacefully living out their faith. On behalf of Don and Ellen, we ask you to please sign the religious freedom executive order."*

Use the action steps on page 6 to urge President Trump to sign an executive order to protect religious freedom. While that would bring immediate relief to the Vander Boons, an executive order signed by President Trump can easily be overturned by the next president. **That's why we also need Congress to pass the First Amendment Defense Act. Call your U.S. Representative and Senators, urging them to pass the First Amendment Defense Act. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121.**