

Image Bearers and Defenders!

By Bill Johnson

As we move now into the last two months of 2015, I want to wholeheartedly thank the solid core of you who stand with us in prayer, encouragement and financial support! In the midst of such massive societal change with growing uncertainties, it is a great privilege to be able to be a voice crying in the wilderness for our Lord Jesus Christ. We are very thankful for your timely and faithful support!

Certainly, there are many concerning things that lie before us.

An interview recently between Frank Gaffney, President of Center for Security Policy and author/political commentator, Diana West caught my attention as they discussed evidences of the death of Western Civilization. They discussed how a woman in England was struck in the face by a Muslim young man and fell to the ground. And yet, men in her midst did not defend nor come to her aid.

Diana West commented: *"If young girls, if young women are not prized and defended by civilization there is no civilization. It is one of those things that we can say has come under attrition through feminism, through all matter of desensitization, through pornification. All of these things.*

Gaffney then stated: *Say nothing of all forms of political correctness . Diana West then stated: 'Cherish' is a word that should be - that girls especially should be, young women should be especially cherished by a society. And when you see them being subjected to all manner of degradation and violence it is not a civilized world any more.*

And I would say that that is a real harbinger of where we are - the health of or lack thereof of the health of our civilization.

As I thought about the comments above made by Diana West regarding the failure of coming to the aid and defense of women, I was reminded of the huge importance of teaching and training our children. My own account is that I was raised by a mother who modeled modesty, kindness, and civility toward others - not taking advantage of those who are disadvantaged or disabled, and to respect those of the opposite sex.

My testimony is that I got caught up into pornography for a few years as an undergraduate at Michigan State University. But, by the grace of God, I was saved out of darkness into His marvelous light.

One of the outstanding messages God instilled in me through Jesus Christ was "How can you say you love me and yet look at things that are displeasing to me and degrade my holy name?"

Men and women - whether we receive Christ as Lord and Savior or not, we are made in the image of God. We are image bearers of our Maker!

When we degrade people, the young or the old, we degrade and bring displeasure to the very one who made us, our Creator.

In coming into the last days of this year, we felt compelled to once again take stock of our ministry assessing what we have done and the whys and the wherefores behind our work.

I was reminded that a significant amount of our ministry years have been dedicated to and spent on this very aspect of life in our world today: Defending and promoting decency and opposing that which denigrates and degrades God's children and His holy standard.

I have seen for a long time how impressionable young and old are in regard to what they listen to and watch. It can be a good thing, but often it is not good.

There are many in the entertainment world, in politics, in education, in advertising, in the news industry who have become highly trained and skilled at influencing, persuading, deceiving, and convincing vulnerable and often times unknowing children (and adults), voters, consumers, of all ages and stages to messages selling their ideologies, politics, and products.

With every passing day the importance of being able to know the difference between the holy and the profane becomes greater. What makes this even more difficult is that without the presence and grace of God in our lives, there will be little to no stirring of the heart compelling a person not only to know the difference between right and wrong, but to do it!

May God help each of us to teach and train and model before our loved ones the difference between the Holy and the profane.

"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life ... Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established." Prov. 4:23, 26



From the desk of Bill Johnson

Broken & living in a broken world

On a rare occasion, I go back and look through our newsletters for background information or to review something that took place in recent months or past years.

Yet, when I look through those newsletters going back to as early as 1987 (or even earlier if I look at the work I was doing as a volunteer), I admit that I stand in amazement and am gladdened at the variety of stands that we have taken both near and far.

At the same time, I also see very clearly that signs of societal degradation and decline have increased immensely. Sadly, many remain oblivious to the short and long term implications of the breakage and degradation that is prevalent, and will increasingly be experienced within our own lives and with those we love and care about so deeply.

Evidences abound. Here are but a few:

- The wanton lying of public officials has become routine at the highest levels significantly degrading our confidence as ones we can look to for leadership.
- The killing of babies, the harvesting and selling of their body parts for profit.
- The increased levels of explicit imagery and themes on television - normalizing and propagating not only harmful, but sinful behaviors.
- The capitulation of the vast majority of American corporations to support and promote homosexuality and same-sex marriage.
- The spread of sex trafficking throughout our world and our beloved America where even children are taken from the streets and

homes, used sexually, abused, degraded, and destroyed.

- The easy distribution and availability of pornography on the web, in social media, and via cell phones and computers.
- The failure of increasing numbers of young and older adults to step up and take on the responsibilities of adulthood.
- The advancement of the LGBT agenda. In the days ahead, the residents of Houston, Texas, will vote on a city ordinance that allows individuals to pick and choose which public restroom they use based on which-ever gender they choose to identify with at any given moment.
- The failure of Washington to secure our borders.
- The United States is \$18 trillion in debt and yet Washington keeps demanding more of our earnings via our tax dollars while our government never cuts spending.
- Left-wing judges ignored the votes of the citizens in state after state and redefined marriage in the form which they deemed “constitutional.”
- China, Russia, Iran, North Korea are advancing their military capability as they have recognized that America under President Obama has degraded and diminished military preparedness, in some cases, to levels weaker than before World War II.
- As part of the “treaty” with Iran fostered by President Obama, our federal government will also be sending upwards of \$150 billion dollars that instead of being used for the development and build-up of Iranian infrastructure will be used for the development and purchase of weaponry to assist other friends of Iran to in turn build up their military arsenals. It is speculated by many American security experts that these advanced weapon systems will be used against us.
- A dumbing down of our churches scripturally and in practice. As the full counsel of God’s word is not preached and adhered to, we see churches accommodating to all manners of sin, including homosexuality and the marrying of same-sex couples.

So much of this that I have listed is not just mere stupidity, but insanity!

And, it is this egregious wickedness that is driving our country, and which we are forced to live with or else. The turning of common sense on its head; what is wrong is right. Politically correct think is alive and well and taking our nation to the brink of destruction.

When God’s Word is held up as authoritative for rule and practice, there is a unity of peace and law, resulting in the moral code of right and wrong being readily adhered to. This general agreement amidst the citizens of a nation contributes to a strong sense of peace and personal well-being. The long term assault, however, upon Biblical truth has eroded our unity, our trust in our governmental leaders and contributed mightily to massive points of division such as: pro-life/pro-abortion, Biblical marriage/same-sex marriage, conservative/liberal.

As we think upon these things, how can we not see that we live in a broken world, and, that we ourselves are broken.

Discouraging? Heart-rending? Confusing? Depressing? All of the above.

And this is the point: Our help and hope is not in man. I am a sinner in need of a Savior. And, so are you. God has come to save us from our sin!

I look to God and to His Word for wisdom, strengthening, counsel, comfort. I hope you do, too! If not, I pray that you will seek His salvation and His presence in your daily life.

“... for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.” [Eph. 5:8]

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” [2 Tim. 2:3-4]

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” [Tim. 1:7]

Who's On Your Throne?

by Chris Johnson



The Hollywood Reporter recently detailed an alleged contract which extras (background actors) on HBO's "Westworld" are expected to sign prior to their use in scenes on the upcoming science fiction show.

As THR quips, the consent form "reads like the Kama Sutra," and warns that the actors may be required to "perform genital-to-genital touching," as well as, "pose on all fours while others who are fully nude ride on your back, [and] ride on someone's back while you are both fully nude," among other sexually graphic expectations.

You wouldn't know it from what's expected of the actors, but "Westworld" is based on a 1973 movie by Michael Crichton where robots in a western theme park come to life. The reboot is being billed as, "a dark odyssey about the dawn of artificial consciousness and the future of sin."

Thanks to HBO, we now know that artificial consciousness will lead to naked people riding each other like horses. Who would have thought the future of sin was so unimaginatively carnal?

In an interview with Entertainment Weekly, writer Jonathan Nolan told his potential audience what to expect: "What we can tell you is that we intend to make the most ambitious, subversive, f---ed up television series."

It sounds like they're well on their way, but that title right now arguably belongs to another HBO series. Perhaps you've heard of "Game of Thrones," the fantasy series in which twins have sex by their dead son's grave and a pregnant woman is repeatedly stabbed in the belly, to name just a few of the horrific moments from one of cable television's most popular shows.

The finale of season 5 snatched up 8.1 million viewers, but the total audience across media platforms is close to 20 million.

Earlier this summer, John Piper addressed the question, "should Christians watch Game of Thrones" on his "Ask Pastor John" podcast. One could also ask, "should anyone watch Game of Thrones?" but then one would be accused of censorship, and we certainly wouldn't want that.

Piper's answer is relevant to all television shows and media that Christians take in, and really should be applied to everything a Christian does for entertainment. Here are three of Piper's 12 points.

1. Am I Assuming Nudity Is Necessary for Good Art?

There is no great film or television series that needs nudity to add to its greatness.... There are creative ways to be true to reality without turning sex into a spectator's sport and without putting actors and actresses in morally compromised situations on the set.

... Underneath all of this is male sexual appetite driving this business, and following from that is peer pressure in the industry and the desire for ratings that sell. It is not art that puts nudity in film, it's the appeal of prurience. It sells.

2. Am I Craving Acceptance?

Christians do not watch nudity with a view to maximizing holiness. That is not what keeps them coming back to the shows. They know deep down that these television shows or these movies are shot through with the commendation and exaltation of attitudes and actions that are utterly out of step with the death to self and out of step with exaltation of Christ.

No, what keeps those Christians coming back is the fear that if they take Christ at his word and make holiness as serious as I am saying it is, they would have to stop seeing so many television shows and so many movies, and they would be viewed as freakish. And that today is the worst evil of all. To be seen as freakish is a much greater evil than to be unholy.

3. Am I Free from Doubt?

There is one biblical guideline that makes life very simple: "But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin" (Romans 14:32). My paraphrase: If you doubt, don't. That would alter the viewing habits of millions, and oh how sweetly they would sleep with their conscience.

In a sermon again addressing Christians and entertainment, Piper said something similar.

I am appalled at what Christians do for entertainment by taking it for granted that if it is in the theater it should be watched. I am appalled, not because I am a prude — I have my favorite movies — but because I am ruined by certain scenes. I won't watch certain good movies because of that scene. I will not because Christ is dishonored in my soul and my mind is contaminated for months and he is more precious than the pleasure of the other 124 minutes.

Come on. Let's be Christian through and through. *Let's get ready to suffer. If we can't deny ourselves a little bit of entertainment that the world assumes we must have in order for us to know and admire sweetly and more deeply enjoy constant fellowship with our Jesus, how are we going to face the stampede of horses when they come? ...Use everything to enhance your enjoyment of Jesus. And if it doesn't enhance it, don't do it.*

And there are certainly shows that are less graphic than "Westworld" and "Game of Thrones," that still do not honor Him. Those are extremes, but even many network TV shows glamorize adultery, homosexuality, and myriad other sinful lifestyles.

Christians must "bring every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ," including, if not especially, our entertainment choices.

Do you or your friends and family entertain yourselves with media that hinders your relationship with Christ?

Could a mama cat have a baby elephant?

by Lisa Van Houten



“Could a mama cat have a baby elephant? Could a chicken hatch a puppy?” These questions were followed by a fit of giggles from my seven-and eight-year-old Sunday School students. “Of course not!” they replied.

I asked the questions in a recent Sunday School lesson leading to a discussion of original sin. As each kind of animal gives birth to their own kind, so the first parents, Adam and Eve, (and all people after them) gave birth to humans with sinful hearts just like their own.

The incredulous response to my questions from my elementary-aged students showed that the laws of nature put in place by God are understood innately – even by children. Yet what is commonsense to a seven-year-old seems to exceed the grasp of those pushing the new morality – forced approval of any and all lifestyles that deviate from natural law and God’s design.

In recent months, the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA) fell to pressure from the LGBT movement and stripped references to the terms “mothers” or “women” from the organization’s official guidelines. Midwives who belong to MANA are told to no longer refer to women who give birth as “mothers,” but are now required to call them “birthing individuals.”

Midwives Alliance of North America claims the use of “mother” and “women” are not inclusive and the change was made to avoid offending those who identify as transgender.

This alliance of midwives seems to think being a woman isn’t really necessary to give birth to babies. A notion with which my Sunday School kids might disagree.

A group called “Women-Centered Midwifery” also disagrees and is petitioning MANA to change the policy. Hundreds of regarded midwifery experts, including Ina May Gaskin, the “mother of authentic midwifery,” signed a letter to MANA, seeking a return to commonsense.

The letter states in part: *“women are now all but missing from the language, as if we can separate woman from mother from baby.”*

The midwives of Women-Centered Midwifery, who by nature of their profession know where babies come from, go on to remind MANA that one’s sex – either male or female – is set at conception and is an unchangeable part of our DNA. As they write in their petition: *“We know as midwives that biological sex occurs at the level of our DNA and the gametes we produce, and is immutable. Sex is natural, biological and objectively factual. Human beings, like the majority of other mammals, are sexually dimorphic. i.e. there are two distinct biological sexes.”*

One such as Bruce Jenner may “identify” as a woman, may change everything from his name to his body, yet biologically he is still a male. A woman can in the same way “identify” as a man, yet her biological sex will remain female.

Their letter continues, stating what should be obvious: *“by embracing the idea that any human other than those in a class called women carry offspring to term, give birth to them and nurse them, we are prioritizing gender identity over biological reality. We are allowing gender identity to be the primary way that we refer to one another, even for a biological process like birth.*

“The very few gender-identified males that have given birth ... have only done so because they are female-bodied people,

and that scientific fact cannot be erased.”

This push by MANA to eliminate the term “mother” is another assault upon the design of marriage and family.

Words matter. Definitions matter. There is a great danger in attempting to change the meaning of words.

German dictionaries today contain a qualifying bracket after certain words with the abbreviation “N.S.” referring to National Socialist – the Nazi party of World War II era. The Nazis attempted to change the meanings of words and the N.S. notation now designates that definition as Nazi propaganda.

Governments can unilaterally dictate that what is square shall henceforth be called round. A majority of the population may even vote to affirm that a square is actually a circle, but it doesn’t change the reality.

Yet changing reality is what those such as MANA are systematically trying to do.

In California the “outdated” language of ‘husband and wife’ has been eliminated from state laws and Florida has removed the terms ‘bride’ and ‘groom’ from marriage licenses, replaced with ‘spouse’ and ‘spouse.’

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Playboy and the passe

by Chris Johnson



What pops into your head when you hear the word “Playboy?”

Yeah, me too. Well, the magazine just announced that starting next March, they won't have that anymore.

The magazine that opened “Pandora's box” (Hugh Hefner's words) on our culture's acceptance, and really integration, of pornography in everyday life will no longer feature naked women.

Did the infamous editor and original Playboy, Hugh Hefner, have a “come-to-Jesus” moment? Did he finally realize the devastation that his publication has done to the nation's moral fiber?

Alas, no, though hope is never lost for Hefner's depraved soul.

Playboy executives have reached the bittersweet realization that, “That battle has been fought and won. You're now just one click away from every sex act imaginable for free. And so it's just passé at this juncture.”

Pat yourselves on the back, Playboy, you've made nudity passé!

In an interview with the Gospel Coalition, author and psychology professor William Struthers expounded on the publication's legacy, “*Nearly six decades ago it began cultivating an appetite for sexual images that has grown hungrier and now is ravenous across our culture. Interestingly, the culture now no longer has a taste for what Playboy has to offer.*”

Do you doubt the cultural influence of porn? Take a look at these statistics:

*** Every second \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography and 28,258 internet users are viewing porn.**

*** 40 Million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites. 1 in 3 porn viewers are women. 70% of men aged 18-24 visit porn sites in a typical month**

*** In the US, Internet porn pulls in \$2.84 Billion per year. The entire worldwide industry is worth \$4.9 Billion.**

*** 25% of all search engine requests are pornography related. That's 68 Million a day.**

***35% of all internet downloads are pornographic.**

*** There are 116,000 searches for “child pornography” every day.**

*** The average age at which a child first sees porn online is 11.**

*** 20% of men admit to watching porn online at work and 13% of women do.**

*** The least popular day of the year for viewing porn is Thanksgiving. The most popular day of the week for viewing porn is Sunday.**

No wonder Playboy can't keep up! They had better be working on some very interesting articles!

So, sixty-three years ago Hugh Hefner began bringing pornography in out of the cold - from the shame swathed peepshows and sketchy theaters to the living rooms of nearly 8 million households (in its hey day).

Once the “centerfold” was established as the trophy of the modern gentleman, or the small “p” playboy, she moved on to selling beer and then on to selling everything from Abercrombie clothes to Carl's Jr. burgers.

Now she takes up a healthy (or unhealthy) swath of the internet and a tragic amount of internet users', i.e. almost everyone's, time.

As the sexual revolution unfolded, those who wished to protect the dignity of womanhood have been labeled “prudes,” while those who have cheered the cultural strip show have been seen as “empowering” women.

Playboy's announcement, however, justifies the “prude's” position. Playboy distancing itself from its legacy of attractive naked women is evidence that the sexual revolution has disempowered women. **Sex no longer sells.**

What is interesting, is that Playboy is not the first, though it is the most iconic, company to turn on that most famous maxim of marketing.

Abercrombie and Fitch recently backed off their infamously sexy advertising campaign. Budweiser commercials now feature an adorable golden retriever. GoDaddy, once the bad boy of the Super Bowl ad lineup, put their sexy spokeswoman in a manly body suit and surrounded her with bodybuilders in last year's commercial.

Any power that women found in being able to sell a product, or even turn a man's head, is waning. Ladies, Playboy popularized porn, and porn has made you passé.

Playboy's radical decision would seem like good news, on one level, but as Albert Mohler has pointed out, “*A theology that rejects the “biblical God” and any notion of divine judgment or the afterlife is integral to the Playboy Philosophy, and the overthrow of Christianity as a belief system precedes the rejection of Christian sexual morality. And all this came as Hugh Hefner made millions exploiting women and mainstreaming pornography...*”

Hefner's moral philosophy and its underlying theology are now mainstream in America, and the current Playboy CEO can claim “that battle has been fought and won.”

What you should hear in that claim of victory is the fall of an entire civilization and the moral consensus that made that civilization possible. Any morally sane person must recognize that as horrifyingly bad news, indeed.”

As the culture around us makes bland the excitement of sexuality, let us continue to hold its value as one of God's great gifts, and let us pray that our culture catches on.

One Name – and It isn't Allah

by Lisa Van Houten



God Bless you! It's a common courtesy said millions of times a day – especially during allergy season.

Presidents have long closed speeches and State of the Union addresses with a similar statement – usually “God Bless you and God Bless these United States of America” – or some variation of the theme. And, if you're not out of your seat getting a hotdog, it's common practice to go from singing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” to “God Bless America” during the 7th inning stretch at major league baseball games.

Who would have thought that a sentiment which is a daily part of American life - two little words, “God Bless” – would cause some to go into apoplectic fits. Yet that is exactly what is happening in case after case all across the country.

“God bless the military, their families, and the civilians who work with them” reads a sign that has stood at Marine Corps Base Hawaii for 14 years. Yet now that sign honoring those who serve and their families is being targeted by anti-Christian activist, Mikey Weinstein, who makes it his mission to drive any vestige of Christianity out of the military. Through the organization he founded, Military Religious Freedom Foundation, Weinstein has a long history of filing suits against the military in regards to any innocuous reference to Christianity.

Weinstein told a Honolulu newspaper, the sign stands out “like a tarantula on a wedding cake.”

Weinstein might get a high mark in the use of creative imagery, but he fails at Constitution 101. In a letter to Col. Sean C. Killeen, the base

commanding officer, Mikey Weinstein's organization wrote: *“This sign is a brazen violation of the No Establishment clause of the Constitution, as it sends the clear message that your installation gives preference to those who hold religious beliefs over those who do not, ...”*

Yet Colonel Ron Crews, executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty, told OneNewsNow: *“Only someone with a great misunderstanding of the First Amendment or an axe to grind against religion would claim that such a slogan poses a threat or is in any way unconstitutional. The real threat is posed by those who want to whitewash any reference to God from public discourse – even ones as innocuous and uplifting as this one.”*

As Alliance Defending Freedom so aptly wrote to the base commander, “The Establishment Clause does not provide a heckler's veto to those who find offense. MRFF and its members are entitled to feel offense, but it is part of living in a pluralistic military community.”

Yet it's not just the military coming under attack for the usage of “God Bless.”

Last year a high school girl in Tennessee was sent to the principal's office and ultimately received in-school suspension. Her offense? Saying “God bless you” when someone in class sneezed.

This is not an isolated incident in America's public schools.

A Louisiana high School principal is currently being targeted by the ACLU because he ended a letter posted on the school's website with this inspirational closing: “The Future Starts Today – May God Bless You All.”

The ACLU claims that simple use of God's name was a promotion of Christianity.

As Louisiana Representative Mike Johnson stated, “This is typical of the ACLU. They're on a seek-and-destroy mission for all things religious.” However, it's not all

things “religious” that the ACLU is seeking to eliminate – just all things Christian.

The ACLU claims, as they wrote to the superintendent of this Louisiana school district: “The United States Constitution requires public schools to ensure that state-supported activity is not used for religious indoctrination.” Yet where is their opposition to the state-supported religious indoctrination of Islam within public schools and the use of the name of “Allah”?

School districts all across the country are teaching the Five Pillars of Islam as part of their curriculum, but “God bless you” is considered “indoctrination” by the ACLU.

In Spring Hill, TN many parents are rightfully upset after their middle school children were forced to write “Allah in the only God” as part of a lesson about Islam. Hindu and Buddhism will also be studied, but there is no mention of Jesus or Christianity. As one mother voiced her concern: “For them to spend three weeks on Islam after having skipped Christianity, it seems to be that they are making a choice about which religion to discuss.”

And nearly 1,500 parents are joining forces in a Georgia school district to protest the indoctrination of Islam and the neglect of Christianity within the curriculum. As one upset parent stated: *“My daughter had to learn the Shiad, and the five pillars of Islam, which is what you learn to convert, but they never once learned anything about the Ten Commandments or anything about God.”*

This same curriculum even teaches that Allah is the same god worshiped by Christians and Jews.

However, there is only one God and His name certainly isn't Allah. It is His blessing we seek for our nation.

Yet when our nation's institutions are banned from seeking His blessing and even mentioning His name, it may very well be His judgment that we receive.

Please take advantage of a new match challenge!



Match Challenge 2015! Announcing a totally new look for a year-end match challenge.

As many of you know, American Decency Association has been blessed with a special friend of this ministry who, since 1998, has provided us with year-end challenges that this anonymous donor and his wife have used to both strengthen us financially and also to encourage new people to stand with us!

We have never taken these match challenges for granted, knowing that times change and issues of life are ever changing in each and every one of us.

In recent months, our anonymous partner let us know that they were praying and seeking God's will regarding whether they were to continue offering match challenges, or to alter the challenge. Indeed, what a blessing it is to have such supporters who take prayer and support so seriously.

In recent days, we received the following thoughtful words from these faithful servants of God:

After much prayer and evaluation we have decided to offer a match up to \$10,000 for all new givers (someone who hasn't given since 12/31/13) who give in response to a matching appeal between now and 12/31/15.

Our response and an update on our financial situation and ongoing financial needs:

As you can see, this challenge is going to be a little tougher for us than usual. The call goes out to those who haven't given to ADA for nearly two years. Secondly, this challenge is a reach for us to find new supporters who have never ever given a gift to this ministry.

In review: Just a brief time ago we were nearing a point where we would not have had the finances to pay salaries. We called out to you in an appeal letter on September 16. Strong gifts and gracious words of encouragement were written lifting our spirits and demonstrating enthusiastic support and affirmation!

Words sometimes fall short in expressing the appreciation and love we have for your ongoing stand with us!

In closing, as we look at this year-end challenge, you could help us meet this match challenge, by enlisting a friend or two in supporting us financially as you tell them about our work and enlist them as friends and supporters of this ministry.

At any rate, thank you for not only helping to make this ministry possible, but for standing with us, praying for us, and encouraging us along the way! These are difficult days for all of us. We count it a great privilege to be able to minister in His mighty name and to have many friends who want us to succeed and give faithfully to ensure that we are able to stay in the fight.

Mailbag



Your voice and ministry have never been more needed than in such a time as we now live. You are fighting the good fight, and as you press on, you encourage us to do the same! Standing with you in faith and hope in Jesus!!
E. & J. P.

Thank you for your diligence and faithfulness. Please continue to be a watchman for the church and try to help people understand the perilous time in which we live. I believe that the current (and likely future) state of affairs in this country (and the world) create opportunities for the spreading of the WORD and the salvation of souls. In Jesus' Name, J.W.

Could a mama cat have a baby elephant?

by Lisa Van Houten

[Continued from Page 4]

And the trend doesn't stop with marriage licenses. The country of Spain, changed birth certificates from 'Father' and 'Mother' to 'Progenitor A' and 'Progenitor B.' And a California bill allows for three parents to be listed on a birth certificate – mother, father, and parent. A feat that would baffle not only my Sunday School students, but any student of biology.

As Christian commentator Michael Brown reports: *“as England began to move towards redefining marriage, the Daily Telegraph reported that, “The word ‘husband’ will in the future be applied to women and the word ‘wife’ will refer to men, the Government has decided.”*

According to John Bingham, “Civil servants have overruled the Oxford English Dictionary and hundreds years of common usage effectively abolishing the traditional meaning of the words for spouses.”

In the government's proposed guidelines, “‘husband’ here will include a man or a woman in a same sex marriage, as well as a man married to a woman. In a similar way, ‘wife’ will include a woman married to another woman or a man married to a man.”

So, a man could be a wife if married to another man (or not), while a woman could be a husband if married to another woman (or not), all of which begs the question: Why use words at all if they have utterly lost their meaning? It's like saying that up is down (or up) and down is up (or down), while north is south (or north) and south is north (or south).”

MANA can claim that mothers have nothing to do with giving birth and the Supreme Court can tell us that marriage is not the union of a man and a woman, but that doesn't change reality. God's truth is changeless. And in my Sunday School class there are five little children who embrace that truth, and in that I rejoice.

Rising Tide: Recap

by Steve Huston, ADA board member



Holy Ghost to use you through the unfolding of the Father's plan. Perhaps if I were to sum up the conference in one sentence, it would be this: **Press on in Christ!**



Speakers: Dr. Steve Witter, Pastor Vern Picknally, and Dr. Ron Workman

What a wonderful time of learning and fellowship that took place at the American Decency Association recently (October 16-17) during our latest conference, Rising Tide: Persecution in America.

As always, Christ was the central figure as the congregation lifted up their voices singing hymns of the faith, as local pastors testified to the challenges and blessings of persecution, and during many of the conversations which took place at breaks and after the event.

Each pastor in his own unique way encouraged those in attendance to count the cost of discipleship and reminded us that the cost of not being full or true disciples was greater yet. They reminded us that as we look at the culture and persecution around us in America, we are seeing part of the cost of not being true disciples. We are called to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Christ, being fully committed.

Continually looking unto Jesus, miraculous events from the Word of God were put forth, reminding us that we serve a powerful God who allows things to happen that His purpose might be fulfilled, that His plan would be unfolded exactly as designed. Persecution is not something to be feared but rather rejoiced in, knowing that nothing happens to you except by the allowance of God.

Whether it's a warning to expect it or examples of people going through it, the Bible says a lot about persecution. We are called to bless and pray for those who persecute us. We, like the Apostle Paul, are expected to find the boldness, IN Christ, to speak as we ought. We are not to lie down and just get steam-rolled over; rather, we are to speak the gospel message unto our last breath. We are called to lift up Jesus, to praise the name of Jesus, and to be moved by the love of Christ, carrying His light into this very dark world.

Concluding the event was a last minute blessing as Will Wagner spoke of the political side of persecution in America and what we can do to slow down the rising tide. Although political in nature, make no mistake that this man has a heart of passion for Christ and allowed it to show during his presentation. Paul used his rights as a Roman citizen to the furtherance of the gospel. Mr. Wagner showed us how Americans, who have rights, can do the same.

It is my personal hope that many such conferences will be brought to the church again and again by both the American Decency Association and other Christ-minded groups. If ever there was a need for the church to wake up and stand, it is now! If ever there was a time for the church to see her need and necessity, the time is now! Allow the love of Christ to constrain you, allow your voice to be heard, and allow the



Speaker: William Wagner



Song Leader: Victor DuBois