

Values Voter Summit

by Bill Johnson

Despair, turmoil, joblessness, immorality, poverty, corruption. There are many other terms that could be used to describe our culture in 2010. There are so many issues facing us every day in our great country. Let me name a few: abortion, pornography, the continued press of the homosexual agenda and the support of liberals to foster its advancement and its normalization.

Then there are the liberal judges who legislate from the bench. The concern of the military buildup of Iran and the belligerence of the Obama administration against Israel - one of America's few allies in the Middle East. The failure of the Obama and the George W. Bush administrations to develop a solid policy against illegal immigration. An increased attack upon Christian liberty, while the building of a mosque is proposed so very near Ground Zero against the wishes of the vast majority of citizens of New York City and the nation!

What can one person do in the midst of all of this cultural-eroding turmoil? Well, if you think for one minute there aren't many fine ministries, organizations and individuals fighting aggressively and faithfully against all of this rot you are totally wrong.

In recent days a number of our staff and family and friends attended the Values Voter Summit in Washington DC where it was our privilege to hear from a number of presenters addressing a wide variety of issues - many of those issues listed above.

I remain burdened and troubled over what has been unfolding, but I came away from Washington recognizing that there is still yet reason to hope and ample reason not to throw in the towel, but rather to gird up our loins and follow Christ and His principles. From the conservative political and pro-family leaders to the grassroots activists, there was an unmistakable feeling of determination and enthusiasm in the air at the Values Voter Summit.



Don Wildmon (center) with Bill & Jan Johnson at the Values Voter Summit

Let me name a few who I believe are contributing to standing up and regaining lost ground. (1) Mark Levin. (former chief of staff of former U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese). Levin is a world class constitutional lawyer. He wrote *Liberty and Tyranny*, a book that I believe God has been using to call conservatives back to understanding the U.S. Constitution. There is clearly a growing love, regard and longing to return to our constitutional roots. Levin is also a radio talk show host (6 pm - 9 pm, Monday through Friday).

(2) Sean Hannity. Most of you are familiar with him as a talk show host on radio and Fox News. Men like Levin and Hannity and others are patriots bringing a conservative view that is rooted in a religious perspective. They are one of the few voices that you can turn to on a daily basis and get a right view of the political battles that are being fought day in and day out. One thing is clear, we haven't been able to count upon the mainstream media for a long time.

(3) There are many outstanding Christian ministries fighting prayerfully and intelligently for you and me in Washington DC and throughout this country and there is a great hunger and thirst for righteousness flowing through them. Let me name just a few (most of them we heard from at Values Voter Summit). The Heritage Foundation, Family Research Council (Tony Perkins), Liberty University/Liberty Council (Mat Staver), American Values (Gary Bauer), AFA and American Family Radio (24/7 talk radio network), Alliance Defense Fund (Alan

Sears), the Tea Party, and politicians such as U.S. Rep. Michelle Bachmann (R-Minn.); U.S. Rep. Mike Pence (R-Indiana); Wallbuilders (David Barton).

These are only a handful of those who love our country and are not going to just wring their hands. Let me also include men such as Bob Peters, President of Morality in Media and Pat Trueman heading Pornharms.com who both fight diligently, intelligently and passionately - without fanfare - against hardcore illegal pornography!

On a bulletin board at ADA's headquarters is an old bumper sticker that carries a popular old quote from New York Yankees Hall of Fame catcher, Yogi Berra, stating: "It Ain't Over Til It's Over."

It's too early to quit. Make sure that you are registered to vote. Research the candidates. Don't vote on their words, but study their voting records and vote accordingly! Mobilize other people who love and support the Constitution. Pray. Pray. Pray!

"...We can work for candidates who have shown their trustworthiness and who pledge to defend life and liberty. We can vote for senators who will not confirm judges likely to substitute their own views for the Constitution's. We can support men and women who have not only the right policy positions but the character to fight for them. And we can push for journalists to tell the truth about the politicians they cover and the principles at stake. ..."

[World Magazine, Marvin Olasky, 9.25.10]



From the desk of Bill Johnson

A Christian man whose actions speak

In 1987, I took a plane flight from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Tupelo, MS. I had been contacted by what was then the ministry known as the National Federation for Decency (to be renamed American Family Association in January 1988). Little did I know to what extent the trip was to change my life - a humble little trip to a humble little city meeting with a humble man of God, a man who has become one of America's greatest men, in my opinion.

NFD/AFA was in the beginning stages of seeking out state directors to coordinate and expand at the state level the ministry objectives of the AFA with the goal of promoting the Biblical ethic of decency in the American culture.

On my first trip to headquarters, I had the privilege of meeting with AFA founder and President Donald E. Wildmon. Don would have been 48 years old. I had begun receiving his NFD Journal in 1985. I still have several of those editions in my archives. His personal notes communicated to me and a solid and slowly growing core of individuals in those days.

Much could be said, but I am limited by space. During my years of ministering with AFA between 1987 and 1999, here are some of my observations regarding this man whom God has used and is still using mightily.

1. Don is the most focused man I have ever known. There is no one who comes in a close second. He is also the most intense person I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

2. He is a man of integrity who diligently watched over the gifts given to AFA by its donors. I could give numerous personal accounts of this.

3. One of Don's most outstanding gifts that has contributed to the humble, servanthood manner of the AFA is his gift of hiring committed Christians who are yielded humbly to God and His leadership. From their radio personnel, to their receptionists, to their office staff, to the organization's leadership - if you have had occasion to call them or work with them, you would know what I mean. This is not by accident. The value of this is significant to AFA's function and ongoing effectiveness.

4. Don is no nonsense yet it becomes clear he shows his love for his staff and cares for them. That is obvious!

5. Don is incredibly visionary. I heard him state at the Gala dinner honoring him (September 18) at the Value Voters Summit in Washington DC that he acknowledged that God gave him this ability to see ten years ahead. He saved some of this rare openness for such a time as this at perhaps one of his last remaining large group presentations - reminding me of Joshua 24. Many of us have seen this and recognized this prophetic gift in Don.



Don Wildmon (center) with wife Lynda and FRC's Tony Perkins

6. Don is the most humble leader I have ever witnessed. It is very obvious to those who have worked with him that it is not about him. He hasn't sought fanfare or limelight. What a contrast this aspect of his is to many other nationally-noted leaders.

7. Don is a very generous man and that is clear through multiple personal experiences with Don and in hearing what those closest to him have told me down through the years.

8. Don loves children. He lights up when kids are around.

9. Don has a keen and sharp sense of humor.

10. Don is an exceptional speaker. He uses his words sparingly, but he presses home timely points and lifts up Godly principles and standards in a very cutting-edge way. When you sit under his teaching, you know that you aren't going to get clichés or platitudes.

11. I have been introduced to and met with various governmental officials and spiritual leaders over the years. When I have had the opportunity to meet with Don Wildmon, I have gone away recognizing that Donald E. Wildmon is a man of God who takes his time, talent and treasure seriously.

12. If there ever was a man who was burdened for our nation and its people, it is Don Wildmon.

There is much more that could be said. Yet let me try to close with these last few thoughts. Don knew that the cultural war that we have been fighting down through these years wasn't about dirty words and dirty pictures (as he would say) but rather about the heart of man: a Christian view of life or a godless view of life and man?

There has always been an urgency, a sense of mission and calling about Don Wildmon as he called out to whomever had ears to hear and eyes to see. He passionately articulated the urgent warning that if we don't turn this country around soon it may be too late.

On the evening of the Saturday night Gala dinner honoring Don after accolades came from such others as Jim Dobson, Chuck Colson, Janet Parshall and his son Tim Wildmon, Tony Perkins head of Family Research Council presented an award. What a moment it was as the large audience rose as one and stood applauding Don and his beautiful wife, Lynda in one of the most enthusiastic displays of love and regard I have ever witnessed.

In closing, I recommend an absolutely must see. Go to www.americandecency.org to see a video that will give you a little sense of the heart and passion of this great man.

County leaders encourage county employees to frequent clean hotels



In 2000, I wrote a letter on behalf of a number of pro-family organizations to the largest hotel chains in America urging them to get out of the in-room pornography business.

There wasn't a great deal of fruit to say the least (at least it seemed) However, that seed effort continues to grow and expand. See the website: <http://cleanhotels.com/>

The following article shows the positive steps being exerted by Winona County (Minnesota) to encourage county employees to frequent clean hotels as opposed to those involved in the in-room porn business.

The move is targeted at reducing sexual and domestic violence, which studies have linked to pornography, according to the WinonaDailyNews.com.

'In and of itself, this policy is not a cure-all,' the document reads, 'but it is an important effort to help prevent a social disease and its related costs to the public.'

The state of Minnesota spent \$221 million in 2006 on costs related to sexual violence, according to county documents. That total did not include costs related to domestic violence. Meanwhile, local tax dollars support several county departments directly impacted by these crimes.

'It is logical to assume that prevention of certain criminal activities would reduce the costs of providing these services,' the issue paper states. 'Prevention would also prevent the much greater social cost to the community.'

Using Winona County taxpayer dollars to support those businesses does not help address the problem, a proposed county board resolutions states.

Many county employees routinely travel as part of their duties, County Administrator Duane Hebert said, though travel totals were not immediately available Friday. Training and certifications for social workers, law enforcement officials and other employees often require they spend the night in a hotel, he said.

In those circumstances, employees would typically be reimbursed only if they choose a hotel that does not offer pornography, according to a draft county policy. More than 480 hotels in Minnesota meet that criteria, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

The no-pornography rule would not apply if a hotel is the 'host site' for a conference the employee is attending or if staying at a pornography-free site would cost more than 15 percent over another hotel.

http://www.winonadailynews.com/news/local/article_d7505ec6-b8a0-11df-9878-001cc4c002e0.html

In a day when time-honored standards of decency are being decimated, what an encouragement to see county leaders encourage fiscal responsibility and decency in such a common sense manner.

Express appreciation to the board of commissioners: Go to:

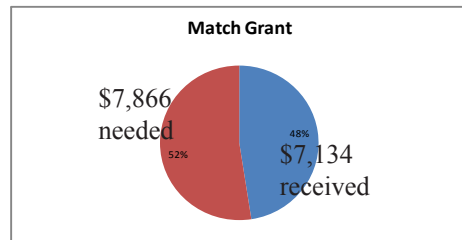
http://americandecency.org/take_action_form.php?msg_id=60

Mailing address:

Winona County
County Administrator
Government Center
177 Main Street
Winona, MN 55987

djohnson@co.winona.mn.us
507-457-6547

Match Grant Update



On July 9, we received the following email:

I know your ministry continues to struggle as many are. We would like to try to help again. We will match any new or increased gifts given from 8/1/10 through 12/31/10 up to a total of \$15,000.

A new gift is any amount given by someone who has not given in 2009 or 2010. An increased gift is any amount given by an individual that exceeds the amount the person gave in 2009 (you would add all 2010 gifts from an individual and all 2009 gifts from that person and we would match the excess amount of 2010).

A personal note responding to this generous match grant offer:

Are you a person that cares deeply about God's call "to pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord?" Have you sometimes thought "I appreciate American Decency and I need to do more financially for them?" This match challenge is meant for persons like you. If you have not donated since the end of 2008, or if you give more this year than last year (i.e. if you gave a total of \$200 last year, and you give more than \$200 this year) the effects of your gifts between now and the end of the year will be doubled!

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Tea Party vs. Values Voters

by Chris Johnson



Over the past two years or so, the Tea Party Movement has gained a lot of momentum and influence in mainstream politics. With the election of Barack Obama and the passing of his controversial health care plan came the biggest conservative uprising since Ronald Reagan was elected. It took a lot of prodding from the liberal stick, but in this year's midterm elections all eyes are on the Tea Parties.

Before the Tea Parties, however, there were the Values Voters. That was the label stuck to those of us who would vote based on candidates' stands on abortion, stem cell research, homosexual marriage, etc. Those were the big issues in the Bush/Kerry election. As the Tea Parties have come about with their focus on fiscal conservatism and limited government, the Values Voters have been seen to be graphed into the newer movement, as their views are usually complementary to each other.

The problem, however, is that there is a vital distinction between the Values Voters and the rest of Tea Party movement. In my opinion, to vote with your conscience transcends voting for your own freedom or your own pocketbook every time. To put it more simply the Bible will always transcend the Constitution.

I know that seems like an obvious statement, but I know that it is easy for me, at least, in shouting myself hoarse demanding that our leaders follow the Constitution, to forget about the moral travesties being committed at the same time.

One of the latest events that highlights my point is conservative radio host and

columnist Ann Coulter and her acceptance of an invitation to speak at an event held by GOPride, a conservative homosexual group. You may have heard of the ensuing argument between Ms. Coulter and Joseph Farrah, Editor of World Net Daily. Farrah confronted Coulter about the fact that she was legitimizing the homosexual movement by agreeing to speak at their event. I agree with Mr. Farrah. Ann Coulter is a very well known conservative thinker and her agreement to work with this group which claims to be conservative conveys that she recognizes them as such.

But for me as a Values Voter and, more importantly, a Christian, it is not enough for GOPride to espouse a fiscally conservative platform while inherently discarding moral conservatism. The two must go together. I have used it before and I will use it again, my favorite quote from John Adams: *Our Constitution is made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*

I do not believe that the term religious was a blanket description, either. John Adams was a very devout Christian, and at that point Christianity was about the only recognized religion in the United States. There was no Islam or Buddhism. To not be religious meant to not be a Christian.

Which brings me to another piece of news that concerns me to some extent.

Recently, Glenn Beck held his Restoring Honor rally on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The purpose of this rally was noble and apolitical. It sought to honor America's soldiers and bring her back to her religious heritage. The part that disturbed me was in an interview Bill O'Reilly had with Beck regarding the event, O'Reilly asks Beck to clarify his desire for the universal teaching of Judeo-Christian values:

Bill O'Reilly: *But there is not a theological component to it? There is not a right God or a wrong god?*

Glen Beck: *No! That is why I had pastors, priests, rabbis, and imams!*

I think that's dangerous. There IS a right God. I am not saying that I want our government to legislate Christianity. I do not want a theocracy. In fact, my complaint this time is not with the government at all.

It is the idea that Americans praying to whatever god they choose will turn this country right-side-up that scares me. Glenn Beck has done an EXCELLENT job of teaching his audience about the influence of Christianity on America and about God's blessing America. Why then turn around and say it does not matter what god Americans pray to?

All this is to say, the way we react to our government's maltreatment is inconsequential when compared to standing for the Truth of God's Word. And when the two intersect I'll be there with a copy of the Constitution in my fist every time. But when the two camps separate we Christians must remember our higher calling.

A Life-changing Resource

At ADA we believe that there is no greater subject of study, no greater ambition than the Glory of God. Although we recognize that God is too vast to be anywhere near completely understood, as Christians we must look at the clues that God *has* given us as to His character. R.C. Sproul's book, "The Holiness of God" is a great place to start.

The lens through which we see the world is what dictates our choices on a day to day basis. This book is key to looking through the right glasses, the glasses that recognize that every choice is an opportunity to bring glory to our Holy God.

For a limited time we are making available this Christian classic that has such benefit for Christian growth. We are offering this book at our cost of \$5.00 each. To request a copy of R.C. Sproul's "The Holiness of God" call us at 888-733-2326 or email kimberly@americandecency.org.

A Desperate Housewives ad during a football game

by Bill Johnson



What we are entertained by DOES impact and that concerns me greatly. I was briefly watching the University of Michigan football team playing the University of Connecticut on a recent Saturday. During an intermission, there was an advertisement for ABC/Disney's *Desperate Housewives*. A woman with legs spread standing right in front of your face (in a sense). Other scenes from the advertisement included an abundance of readily exposed cleavage with lust-arousing expressions on the faces of the "housewives".

I couldn't help think of the fathers sitting down with their sons and daughters watching football games on any given Saturday to be invaded by uninvited sleaze.

How do you inculcate into your youth purity, innocence, modesty in such a milieu? It has been concerning for a long time. And, this was only a 30 second advertisement. An advertisement such as this is surrounded in various time slots with program after program of sex, profanity, immodesty, innuendo, perversions.

My generation was raised on programs like *Bonanza*, *Andy Griffith*, *My Three Sons*, *Flipper*, *Wild Wild West* and many other similar types of programs.

With positive storylines and images impacting one's life, the viewer is not degraded, but rather built up and encouraged to live rightly, honorably.

Once upon a time our airwaves were kept free from filth. That wasn't by accident.

During the 50s and 60s, television programs were produced under guidelines adopted in

1952. The establishment and enforcement of those standards was described in the April 12, 1969, America:

In 1952 the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) developed a television code, a set of guidelines to assist in judging what is suitable programming content for the publicly owned airwaves. ... To implement the code, the NAB called into existence the Television Code Authority, staffing it entirely with members of the industry. Finally, the NAB formed a television Code Authority Review Board to keep an eye on the authority itself.

The Review Board was the enforcement arm of the industry, ensuring compliance with their standards; all programming was submitted to these reviewers for pre-screening before being allowed to air. The July 12, 1969, Saturday Review explained the role of those serving on this board:

These men, day in and day out, in New York, Washington, Hollywood, and London decide what shall be shown and what shall not. Thanks to their efforts, viewers are protected from ... the three great taboos of television – sin, sex, and sacrilege. ... eighty-five network representatives must have a thorough knowledge of the National Association of Broadcasters Code – seventy-three do's and don'ts (mostly don'ts) that comprise the parameters of acceptable programming. ... "We are – to use that harsh and emotive term – censors."

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) restricted "anti-social behavior" and explained its proper portrayal:

Quoting Saturday Review, July 12, 1969:

Illicit sex relations ("not to be treated as commendable") and drunkenness ("should never be presented as desirable or prevalent"). "My job is to move in if a program oversteps the boundaries," declares code-enforcer Stockton Helfrich.

If a station or producer "overstepped the boundaries," the piece was cut or some type of discipline occurred. Newsweek (January 24, 1966) reported on the narrowness of

what was acceptable in 1966 and also the discipline that was given:

The National Association of Broadcasters can withdraw its seal of approval from a station, as it did this month to five stations that aired commercials for a hemorrhoids cure.

We are a long way from those years.

Below is a list of the top 10 programs for Fall 1965. Note the strong family/traditional value orientation:

1. Bonanza – NBC;
2. Beverly Hillbillies – CBS;
3. Gomer Pyle-CBS;
4. Lucy Show-CBS;
5. Red Skeleton-CBS;
6. Andy Griffith-CBS;
7. Get Smart!-NBC;
8. Saturday Movies-NBC;
9. Ed Sullivan-CBS;
10. Petticoat Junction-CBS

[Taken from Business Week, November 13, 1965]

What a contrast it would be with today's top 10.

How can anyone allow programs into their homes such as *Desperate Housewives*, *Two and A Half Men*, *Cleveland Show*, *Family Guy*, *American Dad*, *Modern Family*, *Brothers and Sisters*, *Grey's Anatomy* (to name only a few) - all of which are filled with "sin, sex, and sacrilege."

Satan is a slippery schemer desiring to seek and destroy.

God help us to stay vigilant – for your children's and grandchildren's sake AND for your sake as well.

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

Psalm 101:3

Back in the Battle Again

by Lisa Van Houten



Autumn is here and with it a change in focus for many. Perhaps it's back to school or sending children off to college, for others it is harvesting the last of the crops, or perhaps closing up the family cottage, and some are preparing to follow the geese to warmer climates.

Here at ADA the fall reminds us of a new season, too – a season of television monitoring. As we write this newsletter the networks are debuting their new lineups of old and new shows. While the airwaves are full of promos enticing viewers to tune in, we are determining our own lineup of shows to track – shows that lure undiscerning ones into accepting the constant stream of immorality put forth in the name of entertainment.

On page two of this newsletter we reference a video tribute to Don Wildmon that was shown at the Values Voter Summit. Included were a few historical clips and interviews of Don Wildmon over the years. As you may know, the roots of AFA began when, as a then pastor of a local church, Rev. Wildmon got disgusted with the filth on television and urged his congregation to turn off the television for one week. Don stated: "Here I am from Mississippi thinking I could influence the networks – not only that, I was a preacher from Mississippi."

Well, his David vs. Goliath battle didn't stop Don Wildmon from fighting and it won't stop us, either. The battle is overwhelming as we determine not which shows *are* rotten, but are there any that *aren't*?

Why should we be concerned? We can follow the counsel of the liberals and "change the channel" or "just turn it off" if we're

offended. However, none of us lives in a fishbowl; we all swim in the same waters. And just as we should be concerned about our nation's education system – whether or not we have children in school – we should be concerned about the values that television is teaching – and there is no doubt that the entertainment industry is one of the most effective instructors in immorality any culture has ever seen.

In another clip shown in the video tribute honoring his ministry, Don Wildmon is quoted, saying: "*The purpose of television should be to uplift, to inspire, to encourage, to try to build a better society, not to try to tear down the one we have.*" And in a debate from decades past Don argued that we shouldn't be satisfied if one out of five programs is acceptable, rather "five out of five ought to be good!"

The battle is uphill, that's for sure. Sadly we fight on two fronts. Not only to change a mammoth industry, but to change hearts and minds of potential viewers, as well. For no matter how much a program is lauded by reviewers and promoted by the industry, if viewers don't tune it, if advertisers don't buy air time, the show will be cut. Yet, so many have been raised drinking at the well of Hollywood, they don't seem to recognize that what they are ingesting is polluting their souls.

That is why one of the shows we monitor, one that just returned for its eighth season, one that we deem one of the worst of the worst – is also one of the most popular on television, ratings-wise. The show is *Two and a Half Men* on CBS. A sitcom starring Charlie Sheen whose character, also named Charlie, is a middle-aged, boozing, womanizer who seemingly has a different woman in his bed each week. Also living in the home is Charlie's brother and his now teenage son. The tune may change, but the theme is the same week after week – tired, crude sex talk and foul language.

The recent premiere episode of the new season seemed to only up the ante in lewd

storylines and dialog. Now the 16 year old nephew is following in his uncle's and father's example with two teenage girls in his room overnight, for which Charlie praises him with a high five, stating how proud of him he is. The boy's father states: "*What do you want me to do, give him a merit badge?*" And Charlie replies, "*Well it is quite an accomplishment.*" Without giving the specific vulgar dialog, the show also explicitly promotes, masturbation, oral sex, two couples "swinging" and group sex.

Remember, this is one of the most popular shows on television! However, as my mother taught me, just because someone else is doing it doesn't make it right. And just because millions of blinded ones call evil good doesn't mean it shouldn't be opposed – vigorously!

Below are a few of the sponsors of *Two and a Half Men*. Let them hear from you!

Doctor's Associates Inc. (Subway)

325 Bic Drive
Milford CT 06461
203-877-4281 Phone
800-888-4848

President - Frederick DeLuca
email: DeLuca_F@subway.com

Hormel Foods Corporation

(Jennie-O Turkey)
1 Hormel Place
Austin MN 55912
507-437-5611 ph
507-437-5129 f x

Chairman, President, and CEO -
Jeffrey Ettinger
email: JMEttinger@hormel.com

PepsiCo, Inc. (Tropicana)

700 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase NY 10577
914-253-2000
914-253-2070 fx

Chairman and CEO – Indra Nooyi