

A success story in a rural township near the Michigan state capital

Several years ago I received a call from a woman who was concerned that her husband was frequenting a sex shop in Grand Rapids.

My wife Jan and I met with her and another concerned lady. They wanted to know for themselves what was going on in this particular place.

Jan and I spent time in prayer and discussion with them and assisted in investigating the activity taking place.

The sex shop offered lap dances and couch dances, even though these had already been ruled illegal by the Michigan Supreme Court. (Michigan, State of v. Dizzy Duck (Mich, 535 NW2d 178, 449 Mich 353; March 1994)

The ladies were appalled and heartbroken over what they saw. Concerned, they took action. At that time, the victory that together we sought wasn't secured. The battle goes on.

Nonetheless, these are important battles and there are victories.

I have always been thankful to meet with people and stand with them as they do battle when their local township is threatened by someone seeking a special use permit to set up a sex shop.

In recent months, there was such a threat to Eagle Township in Clinton County, Michigan (just west of Lansing, MI).

As citizens became aware, numbers rose up attending an Eagle Township meeting. The meeting hall was filled to overflowing as one person after another spoke up and against the prospects of having a sex shop come to their rural township.



Bill Johnson with Eagle Township Supervisor David Morris

This was followed a week later with the meeting of the Clinton County Planning Commission. Every seat was filled. It was standing room only.

Any thought that activism is dead was dispelled that evening. More than thirty well-articulated testimonials were delivered - supportive of decency, community values, family, the standard of God.

We even heard testimony from the Mayor of Grand Ledge, which is located in an adjoining county. He testified because the location for the would-be sex shop is a main thoroughfare for people from his community.

Others testifying were (in short):

The President of the Grand Ledge Board of Education. She stated that the school board voted earlier in the week urging the Clinton County Board of Commissioners to deny the request for a special use permit.

A teacher in the Grand Ledge Public Schools, etc., etc.

[For more information, see: http://americandecency.org/main.php?f=updates_new/2008/May/05.09.08]

In early July, I received a phone call from the township supervisor, Mr. David Morris. His voice filled with emotion, he told me that the application for a special use permit to open a sex shop had been withdrawn by the applicant. Mr. Morris was overwhelmed with thanksgiving for the victory.

Prior to this battle, I had never known David Morris. I'm thankful that he took my call several months ago and I had the opportunity to assist and encourage him in his stance for decency. I discovered that he is an elderly man (81) on the last months of his last term in office as township supervisor.

It was obvious that he felt the burden of finishing well and doing his best to safeguard his jurisdiction from the degradation of the filth, desensitization, degradation and destruction of pornography.

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**From the desk of
Bill Johnson,
president**

The Comforter has come. It is true!

On Sunday, August 17 while on my way into church to open up the building for evening church services, I received a telephone call on my cell phone from my oldest daughter Jenny calling from her home in Pennsylvania.

I picked up the phone anticipating a sweet call from Jenny probably updating on the last days of their family vacation. She and husband Chris, a pastor, and their four children had also vacationed near our home for 5 beautiful days and had recently returned home.

As I picked up the phone instead of hearing Jenny's sweet voice I heard the most terrifying cry: She was screaming out to me in a pleading voice: "DADDY, DADDY, DADDY!"

The adrenaline began to flow as anxiety and alarm arose. I responded "WHAT JENNY? JENNY, WHAT'S WRONG?"

Jenny so uncharacteristically was hysterical. She couldn't calm down and I couldn't understand the words that were hysterically uttered.

I simply said as tears now exploded, "God have mercy upon us. Jenny, I love you. We will do whatever we can. Just tell me what can we do? We will help you!"

I said "Jenny, do you want us to come out there?"

A frantic "PLEASE!!!"

Within minutes I received a call from my son-in-law, Chris, who was also crying out: "Dad, it doesn't look good. I'm on my way to the hospital right now." Chris was on his way from church.

Another call came shortly after. Their 15 month old daughter and our granddaughter, Cassie Hope

Starr, was unexpectedly ushered into the arms of our Heavenly Father.

And within another sixty minutes, Jan and my youngest son Chris (19) and his girlfriend Stacey headed out to be with our family in Pennsylvania.

Dear friends, as my sister Barbara said to me, "Bill, this was the most tragic incident ever in all of our family's history and it happened to perhaps the most conscientious family of all of us."

In the midst of the horror, the hysteria, the grief, I saw a family rally around one another, praying and trusting God, even through this heart-wrenching loss of our beloved little Cassie.

Cassie, who had been born as a preemie baby at 1 pound 13 ounces and who required months of professional care and 24 hour care 7 days a week for several months after her birthday on May 5, 2007.

Cassie, whose little arms and legs were so delicate that you could put a wedding ring on the thickest part of her upper leg.

But little Cassie made great strides as she was nurtured and nourished by her mommy and daddy and her big sisters Jenna (5), Allysa (4) and her big brother Brandon (7).

What a sight to behold as she was hugged and loved on and held by her young siblings who had been coached very well how to be tender and careful.

Life can be so cruel. But God is good. He is truly glorious and ever loving and gracious. We must never forget that His ways are not our ways.

And in sorrow there is comfort - as family and friends and people whom we don't even know pour out their love through prayers, hugs, tears of compassion. As a stranger who came to the door as I'm writing this with an angelic figurine and with a sympathetic heart and touch.

And as members of our families rallied together around Jenny and Chris and lovingly stood together with them as they made decisions.

We are seeing right before our very eyes the marvelous grace of God poured out, giving each of us His peace, His love, His patience, His endurance. Christ pouring out His amazing grace exhibiting so many truths that He builds into us: "In your weakness, I will be strong."

He sent His Comforter. He is here with us. Are we perfect families? Nothing could be further from the truth. But, speaking for ourselves, in our grossly imperfect ways, we have sincerely desired to be true in our faithfulness before our children and families. To see our children and our mutual families holding fast so graciously and kindly: acts and words of love, joy and assurance have been gratifying.

The funeral of little Cassie is two days away. I wanted you to know that we are not in despair, but rather supernaturally lifted up, expecting God to be amazingly glorified as He is even now. I don't understand it, but it is true.

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah. ...

Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved."

Psalm 61:1-4; Psalm 62:1,2

Understanding the times in order to know how to pray and what to do

How did Sodom and Gomorrah become Sodom and Gomorrah?

Just look around and observe the day-to-day news emanating even out of so-called Christian colleges. Is this the path Sodom and Gomorrah took?

In other words, Sodom and Gomorrah became a land destitute of standards of decency, mercy, love and righteousness and turned toward perversion, homosexuality and reprobation. I believe the answer to the question raised above is that persons accommodated one by one. Homosexuality became accepted - "politically correct" - and no one was willing to speak against it.

Read Genesis 18:20 - 19:27

"... Then the Lord sent fire and flaming smoke raining down from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah. And he sent destruction on those towns, with all the lowland and all the people of those towns and every green thing in the land. ..." Genesis 19:24-25

And from Romans 1:

"... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, ... Romans 1:25-28

Here we live in 21st century America. The tactics to shove homosexuality down our throats is much different. Here is one of the latest - "Seven Passages".

The subtitle of a local news article reads: "Local play about gay Christians to be performed at international conference of Anglican bishops"

See:
http://blog.mlive.com/kzgazette/2008/07/western_michigan_university_ca_1.html

"... The play, which critically examines Bible passages about homosexuality, sold out a three-week run. Stephanie Sandberg, Calvin College theater professor, is the director of 'Seven Passages.'"

Calvin College, a college that once held true to God's Word, is increasingly demonstrating before a watching world that it has lost its spiritual moorings. Now they give a free pass to a play designed to help foster accommodation to perversion.

Quoting from an article in the Kalamazoo Gazette on February 3, 2008 we see that the premise of the production is to attack the Word of God and to make it say what they want it to say through seriously flawed translation practices.

"... The title refers to seven biblical passages that, according to Sandberg, 'have traditionally been used to oppress gays and lesbians and possibly transgender people as well.'

Sandberg cites Jude 1:7, which condemns the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah for 'seeking after strange flesh,' and Romans 1, which describes 'vile affections.' The New King James translation of Leviticus 20:13 states that 'if a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.'

Sandberg said she and her cast 'looked at those passages as an issue of translation equaling oppression. ... I looked at different readings of them, as opposed to the traditional.' ..."

Express your concern to Calvin College:

Calvin College
Dr. Gaylen Byker, President
3201 Burton Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
phone: 616-526-6142
fax: 616-526-7069
Email: offcpres@calvin.edu

Eagle Township (Continued from page 1)

The wear and tear of many battles was evident. About the best that I could offer at that juncture, as he was waging the war, was to ask if I could pray for him (which he sincerely appreciated) and to let him know that legal help was available from one of the experts in the field, Scott Bergthold.

Below I offer this expert's name and contact information to you and urge you to keep it on hand. You may yourself need his help on this difficult front.

I rejoice with David Morris and with the people residing in Eagle Township for his good life and the efforts of those surrounding him in Clinton County that expressed concern and stood up in a timely way. On page one is a memorable photo for me - being photographed with an honorable man.

I encourage you to provide the information below to your local township/municipality, urging the governing board to be proactive in developing ordinances regulating sexually oriented businesses.

The Law Office of Scott D. Bergthold, P.L.L.C. is the nation's only law firm focused exclusively on the drafting and defense of municipal adult business regulations. The firm's goal is to leverage its expertise on behalf of municipal clients through constitutionally sound ordinances and vigorous defense of local regulations.

Again, the expert in the country in this regard is:

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Boycott McDonalds by Bill Johnson



Homosexuality is a sin. The Word of God speaks clearly in regard to homosexuality. For thousands of years humankind has recognized that homosexuality is aberrant, destructive behavior. Research shows that a tiny percentage of the population practice homosexuality.

So to see one of America's largest corporations blatantly go against time-honored standards of truth, morality and decency is extremely difficult to comprehend. On its face, it is one of the most foolish business decisions I ever recall seeing in my 20 years of ministry service.

I speak of McDonalds' decision to backhand hundreds of millions of traditional family values customers and align their corporation with promoting the godless behavior of a few.

American Family Association (AFA) is boycotting McDonald's restaurants because of the company's promotion of the homosexual agenda, including homosexual marriage. AFA asked McDonald's to remain neutral in the culture war. McDonald's refused.

McDonald's CEO Jim Skinner said the company will promote issues they approve. "Being a socially responsible organization is a fundamental part of who we are. We have an obligation to use our size and resources to make a difference in the world ... and we do."

Tony Perkins of Family Research Council reported: *Despite a boycott, McDonald's is showing no signs of reconsidering its partnership with the pro-homosexual crowd. In fact, rather than distance itself from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the multi-billion dollar company is increasing its support. In addition to its hefty donation to the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (which is funding efforts to defeat the marriage amendment in California), executives have also sponsored a San Francisco gay pride parade.*

When asked by our friend Don Wildmon, President of the American Family Association, to remain neutral in the debate, McDonald's said, "[we] will continue to support the gay agenda including same-sex marriage." In a television commercial, the fast-food chain went so far as to express "pride" for being recognized by the HRC as a company that "actively demonstrates its commitment to the gay and lesbian community." Until McDonald's shows its commitment to American families, [my wife] and I have eaten our last Big Macs. We refuse to let a single penny of our money fund the campaign to redefine marriage and sexuality.

[Family Research Council 7-31-08]

I, too, am supporting the boycott of McDonald's until McDonald's stops supporting groups that promote homosexual marriage and I urge you to do the same.

Contact McDonald's

McDonald's Corporation
James A. (Jim) Skinner - CEO
Ralph Alvarez - President
2111 McDonalds Dr.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
Phone: 630-623-3000
Fax: 630-623-5004
Toll Free: 800-244-6227

CBS Promotes Perversion

This summer ADA has monitored the television show "Swingtown" on CBS. My heart is heavy over the filth CBS has pumped into American homes. Repugnant, repulsive, depraved, destructive. My thesaurus doesn't have the words to describe it.

"Swingtown" is the most overt attack on marriage and morality that I have seen on network television. The entire premise is bent on legitimizing the concept of 'open marriage' and group sex. The message propagated over and over is that engaging in such perversion is normal and exciting and monogamy is boring and dull.

The following quote from the show exemplifies what is being promoted by CBS:

"Oh, it [having sex with other people] isn't cheating. It's the opposite, actually. ... Opening our relationship was the best thing that ever happened to [our marriage]."

Those of you reading this know what a repugnant lie from the pit of hell this is and you also know that lives can be destroyed by those who are deceived by CBS' message.

The scripture verse of Isaiah 5:20 comes to mind: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."

The good news is that advertisers have stayed away in droves. And of those who put their toe in the advertising water, many quickly withdrew as we've urged supporters to contact them.

A friend of this ministry - one of the leaders in the fight against pornography - stated it this way recently:

"The cover page on Advertising Age July 7 is 'ADVERTISERS DON'T PARTY WITH CBS'S SWINGERS.' Advertisers are staying away from advertising in Swingtown for fear of the backlash from consumers. The show is filling up its ad time with cheaper and self promoting CBS ads, fluff bits that aren't paying adverts. Proctor & Gamble, the 'largest' CBS advertiser, won't run any ads on Swingtown. So, tell your folks to redouble their efforts."

Most recently, Ace Hardware quickly pulled their ad after it appeared one time on "Swingtown", stating:

"Thank you for contacting us regarding Ace's advertising on the CBS prime-time show, "Swingtown."

When the media buy was placed for the show that aired Friday, August 8, we were unaware of the questionable content that would be included ... we have made the decision to permanently cease all advertising on this particular CBS show, effective immediately.

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