

Engage the culture. Be salt. Be light. But let us not neglect the spiritual training of those who come after us.



In recent weeks, we had the privilege of hosting Gary Bauer at our summer event. Over 310 people gathered with us on that special July 29 evening in Fremont, Michigan. Gary Bauer received accolades for his powerful yet balanced message of concern, but also of hope. Our hope comes from God, but clearly we must do our part: put our hands to the work that must be done. [To order either an audio or visual copy of the event contact our office at 888-733-2326 or see the enclosed response card.]

Over the next several weeks we have other events that we will be a part of.

Saturday, September 24 (9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.) ADA will be hosting a nationwide simulcast primarily hosted by Chuck Colson entitled "Doing the Right Thing." See page three of this newsletter for further details.

Friday, September 30. The movie "Courageous" will open in theaters all across America. It is produced by the very same people and church (Sherwood Baptist) that produced "Fireproof," "Facing the Giants" and "Flywheel." Some of our staff were invited to a preview showing of it months ago. It is thoroughly Christian and appropriate for all ages. It has a particularly strong focus upon the need for fathers to seek the Lord in these days of discord and turn to Him for help and strength.

Thursday-Saturday, October 7-9. Value Voters Summit in Washington, DC.

Monday-Friday October 10-14. This is the projected initial date for the recruitment of "Patriot Pastors." We invite your prayers and involvement. See page 2.

Saturday, October 22 (10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) "THE GATHERING STORM" SIMULCAST ON OCT. 22 -- In the last few weeks, the U.S. stock markets have tanked. Americans have lost more than \$2.3 trillion in personal wealth. Our economy has nearly

stalled. Some 14 million American are out of work. We may be facing a double-dip recession. Our debt is exploding. And Washington is nearly paralyzed with partisan gridlock, even as Iran is building nuclear weapons, Syria and Libya are slaughtering thousands, Egypt has imploded, and Israel is increasingly threatened. Put it simply: Storm clouds are gathering. The winds are picking up. The tectonic plates beneath us are shifting. America is being shaken. Israel and the Middle East are being shaken. The Church is being shaken. Why? Where are we headed? What is God doing? And what is He asking followers of Jesus Christ to do?

We will be hosting a special 3-hour simulcast at American Decency headquarters, Saturday, October 22, 2011. It is called, "The Gathering Storm: An Urgent Call To Prayer, Fasting and Repentance for America, Israel and the Church in the Light of Bible Prophecy."

To learn more about "The Gathering Storm" event -- please go to the website, www.joelrosenberg.com.

Nonetheless, after all is said and done, I feel inclined to say the following: Let us not forget the hearts and souls of our little ones - our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

On my desk is a little booklet entitled "The Duties of Parents" written by J.C. Ryle. In this little booklet first printed in 1888 lies great reminders and counsel.

One book reviewer wrote the following brief

comment that I found to match my perspective upon it:

The best brief summary we know of describing the goals of parents which God holds them to account for. This booklet provokes much further thought than its few pages contain and will help any family re-assess their goals according to Scripture. This tiny booklet on Christian parenting may well be one of the most challenging and insightful tools you ever read, to train yourselves for the biblical responsibility of child rearing.

<http://www.graceandtruthbooks.com/product/the-duties-of-parents>

The booklet is 34 pages long and expounds upon seventeen various succinct but powerful points. Here are a few of the point headings:

I. *First, then, if you would train your children rightly, train them in the way they should go, and not in the way they would.*

III. *Train your children with an abiding persuasion on your mind that much depends upon you.*

As we parent and grandparent, we need to be reminded of the reality of our duties.

In a day when so many are putting undo time into sports, computers, iphones, games, entertainment, etc., may we allow God to call us back to Him and to the duties we have to parent our children - that God would be glorified and our children would know Him and serve Him all the days of their lives.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

Responding to God’s leading Needing God’s helping hand

Questions and Answers

Question: There are so many spiritual battle fronts today. How do you determine what to involve yourselves in, in the ministry of American Decency?

Answer: I believe that as we faithfully abide in His Word and in prayer and at the same time keep an ear to the culture, we listen for God’s leading and direction as to which issues we should tackle. Sometimes God’s leading comes as an outrage, sometimes as a burden. We do not take the responsibility lightly.

Jan and I discovered even back in the 1970s (we are in our mid-sixties), the significance of getting up early in the morning and spending time in prayer and devotion. We often are up at 5:00 am. We read the Bible. I daily read devotionals of C.H. Spurgeon, C.S. Lewis, J.C. Ryle and Oswald Chambers.

Confronting the culture has become more difficult today. There is so much wickedness all about us. The television has almost nothing to offer that is edifying.

This fall as new television programs premiere we will again have foisted on us new levels of degradation. One example, NBC will be featuring a new program, “The Playboy Club.”

The battle rages on and on. Our prayer whether spoken or unspoken is “Father God what would you have us to do?”

Question: What direction are you sensing that God would have you take in the days ahead?

Answer: Please read this with care and prayerfulness as we are about to go down a little different path for a season. As I unfold this, please know that I seek your help in this through prayers, recommendations and financial support.

We are calling this a joint voter mobilization project of American Decency and Vision America (headed by Pastor Rick Scarborough out of Texas).

Phase 1: To meet with and recruit a sterling and high profile “Host Committee” for the Pastor events and to meet with potential underwriters.

The Host Committee will be pastors who are known for preaching the word boldly and graciously in their communities. We will be engaged in recruiting these pastors to assist us in recruiting like-minded pastors throughout Michigan (at this time).

Phase two: Select key cities and sites for the first series of Pastor Meetings to recruit Patriot Pastors who will “stand up; speak up; and refuse to give up!” in our effort to restore our nation to its original ideals.

Recruitment of Patriot Pastors

1. Place a four-fold commitment card in the hands of every Senior Pastor present
2. The commitment is:
 - a. I will attempt to register every eligible voter in our congregation.
 - b. I will preach at least one sermon before Election Day on why Christians should not vote as Republicans or Democrats, but rather as followers of Jesus Christ.
 - c. I will make Voter Guides available to my congregation.
 - d. I will urge my congregation to vote their values on Election Day.

This is a very brief summary of the plan.

At the meetings, the pastors will be reminded that history shows that in the earlier years of this great nation pastors were involved in preaching against sin and for godliness. This included engaging the culture.

At the meeting, the pastors will be shown that following the steps that we will outline, they do not jeopardize their non-profit status and if threatened by a law suit, we have

affiliations with Christian law centers that have never lost in the very few times where there have been complaints filed.

Get out the Vote

1. Send out reminders to every Patriot Pastor to follow through with voter registration and voter mobilization.
2. Schedule two Michigan Citizenship Sundays to encourage Church participation. Provide preaching materials for participating Patriot Pastors for sermon preparation on these Sundays. Schedule them during the period before the close of Voter Registration in the State.

Can there be any doubt that our Godly heritage is being squandered? We need to call out to God faithfully and humbly in prayer but we also need to take CHRISTIAN action. It is time to call out to pastors, who have the capability of hearing God’s voice and who are willing to stand for His Word and live in it, to engage their congregations in calling America back to Him.

In review, you can help by praying, recommending pastors who you think are truly “Patriot Pastors,” and by standing with us financially as generously as possible.

Action List:

 Please contact me as I have a pastor that I want to recommend.

 Here is the name of a pastor that I believe is a “Patriot Pastor”: (please provide as much information as possible:

Name _____

Church _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Doing the Right Thing - The Exploration of Ethics Nationwide webcast event - Saturday, September 24 - 9:30 - 1:30 EST

**There is something we can do to change the moral course
of our culture - and it can start in your church!**

**Our country is in an ethical crisis. How can we, as a society, do what's right even in
the face of powerful temptations and incentives to do what's wrong?**



I know you share my concern about the erosion of the moral fiber of our nation. The news is rife with stories of greed, corruption, fraud, deceit and scandals. I think you will agree that it's time to return to the Bible as our standard of truth and to launch a movement to do the right thing – both personally and publicly.

American Decency Association will host a special webcast event with Chuck Colson on September 24th that will explore the problem and the solution.

DOING THE RIGHT THING
Saturday, September 24, 2011
9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

This event, which will be viewed via webcast on a large screen, brings together an impressive panel of speakers who will start the dialogue in our community with an in-depth examination of America's ethical crisis and what we can do about it.

We invite you and your family and friends to join us for this important event. There is no charge to participate though there will be a free will offering taken.

We'll be happy to provide free promotional materials for your church. Please let us know if you're interested in attending or would like promotional materials. Call ADA at 888-733-2326 or email kimberly@americandecency.org

I hope you'll join us on September 24th and help make this a community-wide event that will have lasting impact.

Join Chuck Colson and distinguished panelists, Del Tackett, Robert George, Michael Miller, John Stonestreet and host Erick Metaxas for an in-depth examination of the problem and the solution.

9:30 am - Session 1: *A Crisis of Ethics* -
Chuck Colson

10:15 am - Session 2: *The Roots of
Moral Authority* - Del Tackett

10:50 am - Session 3: *A Return to
Virtuous Living* - John Stonestreet

11:25 am - 30 Minute Break

11:55 am - Session 4: *A Matter of Life
and Death* - Robert George

12:30 pm - Session 5: *Ethics in the
Marketplace & Public Life* -
Michael Miller

1:30 pm - Program Concludes

Where the Wild Things Are

by Chris Johnson



In the adjacent article, we promote a seminar regarding the ethical crisis in today's society. This crisis was made abundantly clear by recent events in Great Britain and also here in the United States.

Recently British youth, some reportedly as young as nine, have been wreaking havoc on the UK's big cities - setting buildings on fire, destroying property, breaking storefront windows, looting - there have even been people killed.

British columnist Max Hastings discussed the situation in a column for the British "Daily Mail" news website.
[<http://bit.ly/pTi6uW>]

"They are essentially wild beasts. I use that phrase advisedly, because it seems appropriate to young people bereft of the discipline that might make them employable; of the conscience that distinguishes between right and wrong. They respond only to instinctive animal impulses — to eat and drink, have sex, seize or destroy the accessible property of others."

He goes on, *"The depressing truth is that at the bottom of our society is a layer of young people with no skills, education, values or aspirations. They do not have what most of us would call 'lives': they simply exist... Today, those at the bottom of society behave no better than their forebears, but the welfare state has relieved them from hunger and real want.*

When social surveys speak of 'deprivation' and 'poverty', this is entirely relative. Meanwhile, sanctions for wrongdoing have largely vanished."

[Continued on page 5]

**A word about financial things - your help is needed!
Please take advantage of a new match challenge!**



By the grace of God and by the generosity of one of God's faithful servants, we have been blessed and encouraged by a year-end match challenge. It is a challenge that has been offered before and one which we are so grateful for, although we often wonder "How are we ever going to make it this year?" And yet, the Lord has faithfully provided!

It's not an easy challenge as it appeals to individuals who have not given to this ministry for quite awhile to stand with us again. It also challenges those who have given recently or fairly recently to give over and above what they gave last year!

Our anonymous donor has faithfully challenged friends and supporters of this ministry to get behind us so that we would be strengthened!

In all frankness, the number of gifts that we have received over this last year are significantly down! There are many days in recent months where we have received gifts totalling \$300 or less. Because of incredibly strong giving earlier in the year and solid year-end giving last year (including successfully meeting last year's match challenge) we have been able to minister through this year without sending one special appeal letter! We are so very grateful.

However, giving in general and the number of gifts is significantly in decline throughout this entire year. It is concerning; yet we know that many are struggling to pay their own bills, tithing to their local church, and staying afloat financially themselves. Many elderly ones are on fixed incomes. Others

have lost their jobs or are unemployed. We truly understand that many are facing serious hardships!

That being said, dear friend, if you are in a position of being able to stand with us financially would you please prayerfully consider supporting the work of ADA now and/or in the months ahead to help us meet this important match challenge? Thank you for your prayerful consideration and for doing whatever you can do!

Here are the details of the challenge:

We will again offer a matching grant of up to \$15,000 under the following conditions;

1. *All new money received between 9/1/11 and 12/31/11*
2. *New money is any money received from someone who has not given since 1/1/10 or who gives more in 2011 vs 2010 (but only for the amount given after 9/1/11). (Eg. If someone gave 200 in 2010 and 300 in 4/11 and 400 in 9/11, we will match 400)*

Please let me know if you have any questions.

"See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!" But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.
Psalm 52:7-9

Mail Bag



"We have always trusted, respected and prayed for your ministry. Only wish that we were able to contribute more."

T.G.

"Our prayers are in your ministry and you are such an encouragement to so many of us!"

J.F.

"Keep up the good work. We pray for you every night."

A.H.

"I'm all for what you are doing. May God bless this work and all of you."

R.M.

"We are thankful for all the work you do. We realize that it is for us and our children."

H.P.

"God bless you for the outstanding work! I send your post cards out too!"

H.Y.

"God answers prayers in His way and timing. We are to be faithful and trusting in His leading."

M.T.

"So sorry for small sum sent! Let there be those folks who have lots of ready cash to be the ones acting generously helping a most judicial cause - morality/decency!! Amen, and thanks be."

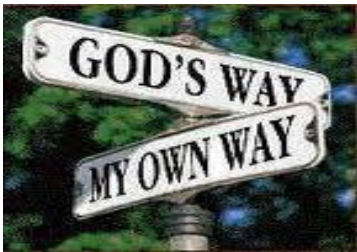
A.S.

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American Decency Association
Bill Johnson, President and Founder
E-MAIL: bjohnson@americandecency.org
Lisa VanHouten, Executive Assistant
Kimberly Cargill, Administrative Assistant
Chris Johnson, Administrative Assistant
P.O. Box 202
Fremont MI 49412-0202
Phone: 231-924-4050
Fax: 231-924-1966
www.americandecency.org



Where the Wild Things Are

By Chris Johnson



(continued from page 3)

Asked about the motivation for the looting, one looter explained that they were showing “the rich” and the police that they could “do what they like.”

Christian leaders have been saying for years that America is just several years behind Europe socially. Europe has broken the ice on raising kids in schools which teach that there is no moral anchor, only different beliefs that must all be equally respected, and that it's the responsibility of the taxpayers as a whole, not as individuals, to take care of the less fortunate.

That's how England opened the door to the mess it's in now. Neither their upbringing, nor the rules of society imposed by having to be a decent human being in order to get a job have forced Britain's brats to adhere to even the most basic and accepted moral principles.

Max Hastings continues his analysis.

“Of course it is true that few have jobs, learn anything useful at school, live in decent homes, eat meals at regular hours or feel loyalty to anything beyond their local gang.

This is not, however, because they are victims of mistreatment or neglect.

It is because it is fantastically hard to help such people, young or old, without imposing a measure of compulsion which modern society finds unacceptable. These kids are what they are because nobody makes them be anything different or better.”

If Europe has broken the ice on this problem, America has gleefully skated into the hole. The following excerpts from a recent Fox News story could be right out of the

London Times. [\[http://fxn.ws/mblrwQ\]](http://fxn.ws/mblrwQ)

... Called “flash robs,” these crimes are being organized by young teenagers through various social media outlets, most notably Twitter. Police say the suspects select a time and place and enter the store in droves taking what they want and leaving before security or police can catch them. Some of the most brazen robberies take place in the light of day and on busy streets despite all the security cameras and the watchful eyes of workers.”

Here's a look at some of these crimes.

Chicago

... four violent assaults and robberies occurred in Chicago's upscale area of Streeterville. One man was dragged into the street and beaten by a group of 15 to 20 teenage males after a baseball was thrown so hard at his head that his motor-scooter helmet was knocked off. Another man was robbed of his cell phone and camera after being knocked off his bike and punched by a group of teenage males...

Washington, D.C.

On April 25, G Star Raw, workers at a retail store in Dupont Circle were caught off guard as a group of about 20 teenagers swarmed the store, stopping to look through sizes, taking over \$20,000 worth of merchandise and promptly exiting the building...

Las Vegas

In May, 20 teens were caught on camera as they robbed a convenience store and stole about \$600 worth of merchandise and the clerk's cellphone. ... “It became a feeding frenzy,” store owner Jon Athney told KLAS-TV. “They were in the store for three minutes and 30 seconds. ... It's a pretty scary thing...

Max Hastings' description of these kids as “wild beasts” reminded me of some of my favorite books.

In C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia, Aslan, the Christ figure, chooses animals who will receive the gifts of speech. He tells them *“Creatures, I give you yourselves. I give to you forever this land of Narnia. I give you the woods, the fruits, the rivers. I give you*

the stars and I give you myself. The dumb beasts whom I have not chosen are yours also, but do not go back to their ways lest you cease to be Talking Beasts.”

To unravel Lewis' allegory, God gives his people many good things, including their own selves and Himself and the dominion over the dumb animals, with the caveat that they don't act like dumb animals themselves.

As Lewis explains in a later book, *“Everyone of them had been taught - when only a chick or a puppy or a cub - how Aslan at the beginning of the world had turned the beasts of Narnia into Talking Beasts and warned them that if they weren't good they might one day be turned back again and be like the poor witless animals one meets in other countries.”*

In all of the Chronicles of Narnia, Lewis only describes this happening to one creature, a cat who betrays Aslan and is part of a scheme to enslave the creatures of Narnia.

“What followed was rather horrible. Tirian felt quite certain (and so did the others) that the Cat was trying to say something: but nothing came out of its mouth except the ordinary, ugly cat-noises you might hear from any angry or frightened old Tom in a backyard in England. And the longer he caterwauled, the less like a talking beast he looked.”

The cat becomes feral.

Hastings also quotes a London police chief as having called the youth, “feral children.” And indeed, they are starting to look more and more like animals, as Hastings describes. *“They respond only to instinctive animal impulses — to eat and drink, have sex, seize or destroy the accessible property of others.”*

Lewis' story drives this point home. Mankind was created to glorify God. That is what separates man from the rest of the animal kingdom, not just opposable thumbs. That is where we find true liberty - within the protective boundary of God's law.

Reading, writing, and perversity

By Lisa Van Houten



31-year-old woman and a 13-year old girl, according to a report first published in the Gloucester County Times.

“I don’t think that’s relevant for any teenager,” parent Robin Myers told the newspaper. Her daughter was assigned to read the book. “I was just kind of in shock,” she said.

It’s back-to-school time in America. If you’re of a “certain generation” you probably know the little song, “School days, school days, dear old golden rule days. Readin’ and ‘ritin’ and ‘rithmetic, taught to the tune of the hickory stick ...”

Little of that applies to today’s public schools. The paddle was banned long ago. The golden rule has been replaced with moral relativism where there is no right or wrong, and the “three Rs” seem to take a back seat to sex ed, “diversity” training, and the promotion of all things homosexual.

The agenda of public schools today is made graphically clear with this recent report regarding a school district in New Jersey:

A New Jersey school district has apologized to parents after requiring high school students to read books that include graphic depictions of lesbian sex and a homosexual orgy.

“Some of the language is inappropriate,” said Chuck Earling, superintendent of Monroe Township Schools in Williamstown, N.J. “We were not trying to create controversy. We were just trying to get students to read.”

The books were on a required summer reading list for middle school and high school students. The district decided to pull the book off the list, with the start of school just days away.

“There were some words and language that seemed to be inappropriate as far as the parents and some of the kids were concerned,” Earling said.

One book, “Norwegian Wood,” was on a list for incoming sophomores in an honors English class. The book includes a graphic depiction of a lesbian sex scene between a

it “seemed” inappropriate to parents – not to the educators!

Remember, we are not talking about a bit of innuendo. These books featured pedophilia – sex between a 31 year old and a 13 year old - which is criminal no matter what the sex of the persons involved. And the books also glorified drug usage and depicted a homosexual orgy. Yet the educators in this district “didn’t feel it was inappropriate” - claiming that it’s okay to expose their students to such material because Hollywood also does it!

Such rationale is completely absurd. Perhaps today’s schools should add some old-fashioned proverbs to their curriculum – such as “two wrongs don’t make a right.” But then they would have to know what is actually wrong and what is right.

And while far too many youth are exposed to sexualized themes in television, music, and movies, many parents still do protect their children from entertainment choices that give immoral messages. Is it too much to expect schools to do the same – or at least to not undermine that protection?

This example is indicative of the mindset of the education establishment whose radical leadership follows the philosophy of “freedom to read, freedom to view” – that nothing should be off limits from children in the guise of “education.” This liberal view sees protecting young, impressionable minds from graphic sexual content as so-called “censorship” and they the educators – not parents – supposedly know what’s best for children.

This example should be a warning to parents who have no other option but to place their children in public schools to be ever vigilant in what your children are exposed to. Get involved and don’t be afraid to speak out.

There is a war waging for the hearts and minds of our children. Parents and grandparents must be engaged in this battle. Will we teach our youth what is “inappropriate” or will we allow a radical educational establishment to do it for us?

The other book in question was “Tweak (Growing up on Methamphetamines).” That book included depictions of drug usage and a homosexual orgy.

“That has created a controversy,” Earling told Fox News Radio, referring to the drug usage – along with the lesbian and gay sex scenes. “We’ve pulled them from our summer reading list.” ...

So whose idea was it to put books featuring explicit sex scenes on a summer reading list for teenagers?

Earling said the school district’s summer reading list was prepared by a committee made up of teachers, librarians and school administrators. The board of education ultimately approved the list.

“They read the books,” he said. “They didn’t feel it was inappropriate based on the language that’s used, common language used on the street.” The superintendent said students have seen more graphic things on television or in the movies ... <http://www.foxnews.com>

I don’t know what is more disturbing, the fact that these books apparently sailed through an approval process of teachers, librarians, administrators, and the school board or the fact that the superintendent is still defending such trash! He’s like a child apologizing because he got caught – not because he’s seen the error of his ways.

Notice the superintendent’s choice of words and statements in the article above. “*There were some words and language that seemed to be inappropriate as far as the parents and some of the kids were concerned.*”

“Seemed” inappropriate?? For just some of the kids?? And notice