

God is at work as He unfolds His will

By Bill Johnson



The appointment was at the Lansing State Capitol in 1991. Two Lansing ladies, members of the Lansing American Family Association (AFA), had arranged a meeting with then State Representative Dianne Byrum (Onondaga). I was asked to accompany them as our organization, at that time the American Family Association of Michigan, was leading the statewide charge to pass anti-obscenity legislation. Karel, from our group, brought her newly purchased laptop which had the capability of showing video evidence to Rep. Byrum of the type of harmful pornographic material that this proposed legislation would make prosecutable. Ms. Byrum was not onboard with passing said legislation. These two women held the hope that if Ms. Byrum would allow us to let her view a sample of this degrading material, which victimizes women and children, that she would join us in our outrage and support the passage of the proposed anti-obscenity legislation.

It was our shared view that it would be best if the ladies led the conversation with Rep. Byrum. They sensitively introduced why we had arranged the meeting and the importance of her seeing the vile, evil images in such an ungodly display of reprobation. No sooner had Karel outlined her intentions than Dianne Byrum all but threw us out of her office. Make no mistake - she made us the offense, rather than the pornography and its damaging impact! After these many years, I can't remember her exact words but

I do know this – she wanted nothing to do with us or with our civil discussion in asking her to support the passage of the anti-obscenity bill. For me, it was merely a foretaste of how it was in the political world of Lansing even back then. But for God! Indeed, despite the fact that the House was controlled by the Democrats, by miraculous interventions, we did see the passage of this hard-fought legislation in 1993.

Worth noting, however, one of our most influential and powerful opponents was the notorious Perry Bullard, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and a major spokesperson for the pornography industry. He was a graduate of Harvard and the University of Michigan Law School. He was an avowed liberal and served out of Ann Arbor (53rd district). He is mentioned here because he pulled out many stops in blocking our efforts, even calling his subcommittee the “Censorship” Subcommittee and holding one of many hearings at Camp Grayling, a military training facility, far from media attention and coverage. But, despite his multitudinous efforts, by the hand of God, the legislation was signed into law by then Governor John Engler.

Perry Bullard arrogantly scoffed at pornography as being a victimless crime. However, Bullard of all people, died at the hands of pornography in 1998. Though the Detroit Free Press reported his death as a sudden heart attack, a police report showed

that he died of autoerotic asphyxiation. It is the intentional restriction of oxygen to the brain for the purposes of sexual arousal.

Over thirty years later, leftists continue their downward pull and with it they pull the culture down. Recently, I found it interesting to read of Dianne Byrum's daughter, Barb Byrum, who is in a position of significant influence as the County Clerk in Ingham County (Lansing area). A county clerk is responsible for maintaining election integrity. However, as you'll see below, Barb Byrum scoffs at Republican concerns regarding Michigan Senate Bill 603, which prohibits local bipartisan election boards from investigating voter fraud. County Boards of Canvassers certify elections; yet under this legislation now passed by both the Michigan Senate and House, if they see evidence of suspected election fraud there's nothing that can be done, Republicans warn.

“Senate Bill 603 ends the ability of local officials to investigate potential fraud, illegal activity, or even ballot tampering during a recount by deleting current provisions in Michigan election law that give this authority to bipartisan county boards of canvassers,” said Republican State Senator Ruth Johnson. *“These are time-honored checks and balances that exist[ed] in our system.”* Sen. Johnson previously served two terms as Michigan's secretary of state -

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Personal Note from the President



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preceding Michigan's current Soros-funded Democrat Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson – so Sen. Johnson recognizes the ramifications this newly-passed legislation will bring to Michigan elections.

In addition, previous Michigan law prevented ballots from being recounted if a seal on a ballot container is broken. Broken seals are evidence of potential ballot tampering. However, under this legislation, those ballots would be counted.

Also, Michigan's election law prohibited recounting ballots in precincts where the number of votes recorded in the pollbook doesn't match the number of votes counted. Under SB 603 and companion bill 604, those votes would be included in a recount – despite the discrepancy.

For example, in the 2016 presidential election, more than one-third of Detroit precincts had votes that were out of balance – meaning the number of votes tabulated by the machine didn't match the number in the pollbook. In these heavily-Democratic precincts, voting machines recorded more votes than the number of votes tallied by workers in the pollbooks. In the 2020 presidential election, nearly three-quarters of Detroit's absentee ballot tallies and 46% of in-person vote tallies were out of balance.

In the 2016 recount, those out of balance votes weren't included. Now, they will be counted - even though that's evidence of potential fraud. After the 2016 presidential election, Krista Haroutunian, chairwoman of the Wayne County Board of Canvassers, stated: *“There's always going to be small problems to some degree, but we didn't expect the degree of problem we saw in Detroit. **This isn't normal.**”* However, under

SB 603 and 604, this could indeed become normal.

Also commenting on the passage of this troubling legislation was Michigan Sen. Jim Runestad (23rd Senate District, White Lake). *“Well, it's official. The Michigan Democrat party and controlled legislature are all in to steal elections this cycle. The Democrats just passed a law eliminating the board of Canvassers ability to investigate fraud in elections. Their bill also strips the board of their subpoena power to investigate fraud. All in the interest of ensuring that their potential to cheat this coming election will not be investigated. ... It's going to be a long hard slog to stop the Democrats cheating the cycle.”*

Somewhat predictably are the responding comments of Ingham County Clerk Barb Bryum: *“Hi Senator! Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum here. I'm surprised we have not crossed paths before given how much is wrong with your statement on Senate Bill 603 ... We aren't trying to steal elections by passing new legislation, Jim. We're trying to clean up from 38 years of Republican control which led to a lot of outdated elections statutes. Speaking about that bill where we're stripping investigative authority: We aren't eliminating the State or County Boards of Canvassers from investigating alleged fraud, we're simply putting it in the hands of ACTUAL INVESTIGATORS. County Prosecutors and the Attorney General. These are the folks who actually do this for a living. It also doesn't change the fact that the instances of fraud in our elections are incredibly few and far between and usually involve a single voter trying to vote twice. ... Average people don't want to hear about this election misinformation, they don't need this kind of inflammatory rhetoric. So I have this advice for you Jim: Put down the Kool-Aid. It's better for everyone.”*

Byrum parrots the Democratic party line that labels evidence of election fraud as “misinformation.” Yet, as we reported in our April newsletter, in comparing the voter rolls to the recent U.S. Census data, **53 of Michigan's 83 counties have more registered voters than voting-age citizens**. In East Lansing alone, 1,936 ineligible people

voted during the 2020 election, and the city's voter rolls are 36% inaccurate as reported by a study from Pure Integrity Michigan Elections. And the Michigan Attorney General that Byrum says will now be investigating voter fraud, instead of County Boards of Canvassers, is George Soros-backed Dana Nessel.

It is now widely known that the state of Michigan is led by a core of leaders who have been elevated to top positions with the aid of nefarious, leftist financial support: Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Attorney General Dana Nessel and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. Adding insult to injury, the 2020 election also allowed for a massive shift of power to the Democrats as the Democratic Party now controls the state house, senate, governorship and the Michigan Supreme Court for the first time in 40 years.

Our state is purposefully being led down a path of tyranny. **So, what are we to do?** Time and space doesn't permit me to expand much further but I would be remiss if I didn't share this with you. There is hope because God is on the throne.

The labor to pass anti-obscenity legislation (mentioned above) was hard fought and seemingly impossible, but God raised up a man named Del Ormsby who was an influential aide in Democratic Speaker Lew Dodak's office. His counsel to me and inside working were from the hand of God. Perry Bullard - who fought us tooth and nail and who scoffed at our efforts to pass anti-obscenity legislation and our warnings of the damaging, degrading impact of pornography - did not heed our warnings and he paid a great price. It didn't have to be. We did our part in caring and faithfully warning and working and praying.

God is still at work and He is unfolding His will! He calls us to live righteous lives and to seek first the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 6:33)

The Sovereignty of God and man's responsibility! Is it God's will for America to go under the hand of tyranny without a "fight?" Seek God's will and, by God's grace, do it! May God help us!

Artificial Intelligence - Genuine Christians

By Steve Huston



From the beginning of time, man has been tempted to be on the same level as his Creator, Jehovah God, or even, if possible, depose the Almighty. That's how Satan was able to get our first parents to break the only law God had given them: *"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**"* What a shame, all they knew was good and they traded Paradise for a knowledge of evil. A few chapters later, evil had grown so great upon the face of the earth that God destroyed it with a world-wide flood, wiping out everything except Noah and his family. A few chapters after that, men built what is known as the Tower of Babel, in an attempt to overrule God. Throughout time, regardless the attempt, God's sovereignty could not be overpowered nor His grace and mercy be thwarted.

Many view the combining of AI and humans as a step to "be as gods." This lengthy introduction is to remind us that God will rule and overrule to the end of time, even when the antichrist will seem to be winning. His fate is clearly spelled out in 2 Thessalonians chapter two.

To be clear, I am neither a Luddite nor a technophobe, but I do strongly believe that Christians, particularly, need to be aware of what is happening with technology (especially AI – Artificial Intelligence), the things that are already taking place to merge man and machine, and what the Christian response should be. We can only scratch the surface here; please continue to research these things on your own, prayerfully study the Word, and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth.

We've been warned for years that influential men have an agenda to meld our minds with AI. From Klaus Schwab's Fourth In-

dustrial Revolution, that is characterized by *"new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital and biological worlds, impacting all disciplines, economies and industries, and even challenging ideas about what it means to be human,"* to Elon Musk who wants *"to achieve a symbiosis with artificial intelligence,"* so we won't be "left behind" as AI systems advance. And don't forget Silicon Valley's Yuval Noah Harari who says we are living through the birth of "Homo Deus" – **man as self-made god.**

Rod Dreher writes in *Touchstone* magazine: *"...there is a pilot program training elementary schoolchildren in AI. The goal is to give a personal AI to each child, allowing the AI to learn about the child through constant interaction. The AI will 'grow' along with the child and be with him (or her) for his entire life. In a very real sense, the child's personality will merge with the machine's. This is not science fiction; this is happening now."*

Dreher continues: *"These kids are being trained to be best friends with a machine that will know them better than anybody else. As they grow into adults, do you think they will hesitate to outsource decision-making authority to their AI friend?"*

With a push for melding AI and ourselves or our children, we should be very concerned about what kind of influence AI might have on our thinking. Would AI lie? Patrick Wood shared how ChatGPT 4.0 was intentionally deceptive during a query about his books and then pointed to an article citing a new study that found AI systems "can exhibit...intentional and amoral manipulateness, which can then lead to deceptive behavior." It revealed that "OpenAI's GPT-4 demonstrated deceptive behavior in 99.2% of simple test scenarios." Even though such deception was via programming rather than sentience, it's still *"very bad if one is worried about LLMs (AI systems) designed with mass manipulation in mind."*

Why might a Christian be tempted to "plug in?" An unknown author once wrote: *"Boredom is the sign of one's own inner emptiness. With so much to pray about, so much*

of God's truth to learn, and with so many lost people in the world, how dare any of us be bored? If we were truly doing the work of the Lord, we should not find enough hours in any of our days."

To the above, I would add that with the great thirst for frivolity, entertainment, and mindlessness that accompanies our vast experiences with technology and AI, very few even recognize their boredom, their inner emptiness. This would explain, in part, the acceptance of many for the increasing plans for the interconnectivity of biology and technology.

Others may fear being seen as many view the Amish: *"Why choose to be left behind driving horse and buggy when you could be driving a vehicle for speed and convenience?"*

Regardless of our choice or our reasons, we must never forget that we have been fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God, salvation is only for mankind, and God is a refuge and strength and a very present help in trouble. I can think of no better words to conclude this article with than Rod Dreher's own excellent conclusion:

"We live in a time of intense spiritual warfare. If we, as Christians, are not fully enchanted by Jesus Christ – by which, I mean, viscerally aware of his nearness, aware that God is everywhere present and fills all things – we will not have the strength to resist the false enchantment of technology. If we are not captivated by our Lord's charisma, such that we surrender to his authority and will imitate him even if it costs us our lives, then we will be virtually powerless against the evil god now rising.

*"We live in an age of the return of strong gods. Choose this day which one you will serve – while you still may. Know, however, that you will be choosing the harder path. **You will be choosing the cross. This has never been easy, and in a world in which suffering has become the greatest evil, it will even mark you as a madman. But it will also make you free.**"* (emphasis mine)

What “Dear Softball” Can Teach Us

By Chris Johnson



In June, was the Women’s College World Series, the NCAA college softball championship. I have my own little softball fan in my house, and so, for the first time ever in our living room, a complete, live game of any sport lit up our television screen. My segment of the Johnson family does not have a history of partaking in sports fandom, but there is a first time for everything.

We actually started paying attention to college softball at the end of last season, when a press conference with several of the Oklahoma players allowed the girls to give an incredible testimony which was shared by ESPN, of all sources.

I quoted Oklahoma’s Grace Lyons in that article, whom ESPN filmed for a “Dear Softball” video. For the past few years, the sports network has given seniors the opportunity to share their feelings about the sport that changed their life in the form of an open letter to the sport itself.

This year, Alabama’s Pitcher Kayla Beaver stood in front of the lens and read this letter: *“Softball, you’ve been my entire life for almost 19 years. You have been my reason for so long, you have provided me with countless opportunities. Through all the hardships and battle tests, you continue to provide me with all the safety and comfort that I’ve always needed. You have provided me with the greatest friends that I could ever ask for. You have taught me to prove people wrong and have created the courage and bravery to reach for every goal. I cannot thank you enough for teaching me so many life lessons. As time has gone by, I’ve continued to grow as the person I want to be and that is because of you...”* It goes on like this for three more minutes.

I would guess that this is how most high school, college, and professional athletes feel about their sports. Even at my daugh-

ter’s level as an 11-year-old, to excel requires devoting a lot of time to training. That will only ramp up as they get older and compete against larger pools of more and more talented players. This lifestyle does teach life lessons: conquering fears, social skills, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and much more. Every other “Dear Softball” video shares similar thoughts and emotions.

But, tragically, they also share its idolatry. Of course, the format of the videos – addressing the sport as a person – lends itself to this language that to Christian ears sounds more like a prayer, but for most of these athletes, it is very clear what they see as the root of their joy, and it’s their sport. *“No matter how bad of a day I was having, I could turn to you knowing that even if it was just for a few hours, I could be happy...”* said Oklahoma State’s Miranda Elish.

There are a few athletes, however, whose “Dear Softball” letters stand in stark contrast, showing that they learned a lesson far more important than perseverance and courage. *“You have taught me that even in the most perfect moments, that I’m not meant to be perfect, because Jesus is. And how to have faith that can get me through anything and withstand any storm. While I love you with my entire heart, you, Softball, are not who I am; you are what I do... You are my blessing.”* That was Alabama’s Montana Fouts last year.

“For a while,” OU’s Grace Lyons said to Softball, *“you were something that my hands had such a tight grip on. My identity was tied so tightly to a game that leads to failure almost all of the time, and I rode the roller coaster of emotions. Then, I met Jesus... My perspective changed when I realized, you were just something I did, not who I was. Jesus tells me who I am, and I wanted to bring this light into the softball world and play the game differently...”*

“The promise is that true joy comes from reaching a goal that you have put all of your effort into. Yes, we as Christians are expected to work hard at all that we do for Christ, but the real victory has always been won on the cross: Jesus dying for my sin and saving me. Because of this, I have an

eternal hope that allows me to play your game free, with fulness of joy that comes only from the Lord. With this mindset, I have played the most joyful softball the last five years. What’s crazy is that this joy doesn’t come after big wins, home runs, championships, etc. because all of those things will fade away...”

“As I leave college softball, I pray that others can know how loved they are by the Creator of the world and that Jesus can use YOU in mighty ways.”

As many Christians have noted before, sports are a common idol in our nation and our time in history, but as Fouts’ and Lyons’ statements show, things like sports are enjoyed most fully as a blessing from God, rather than as a god.

Pastor and author John Piper famously coined the phrase, *“God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him.”* When we look to our blessings – whether that be watching or playing sports, or our job, or our preferred candidate, etc. – for hope or for joy or fulfillment, we are stealing God’s glory and missing out on His best for us.

How much more enjoyable is softball, or whatever your favorite sport or hobby might be, when you can participate with the knowledge that God made it especially as a blessing for His people to enjoy?

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

James 1:17

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Buying Votes with BidenBucks

By Lisa Van Houten



What do the Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Homeland Security, and hundreds of other federal agencies have to do with the 2024 election? Each of these agencies is unlawfully using taxpayer dollars to implement a sweeping executive order issued by President Biden, directing federal agencies to engage in voter registration and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts. Encouraging Americans to register to vote is a good thing and sounds harmless. However, Biden has once again defied the Constitution, turning the entire federal government into a massive voter turnout campaign, targeting only potential Democrat voters.

Referred to as BidenBucks, this scheme makes Mark Zuckerberg's look like child's play. Zuckerberg funneled over \$400 million of what became known as "Zuck-Bucks" into influencing the 2020 election; who knows how many billions of taxpayer dollars are now doing the same thing.

Each federal department is mandated to create a "strategic plan" of ways they can use department resources to implement Biden's GOTV order. They're also to collaborate with "nonpartisan third-party organizations" – but only those which have been "approved" by the White House. As you can imagine, the organizations colluding with the government are non-partisan in name only and include liberal groups such as the ACLU and the influential left-wing organization, Demos, which has long-opposed election integrity reforms. Overseeing this coordinated scheme is Susan Rice, Biden's Domestic Policy Adviser and Obama's former National Security Adviser.

These efforts, with the full force of the federal government behind them, aren't about getting people to exercise their right to vote, but getting people to vote for the "right" candidates – Joe Biden and his fellow Democrats.

Typically, those who are often reliable voters for the Democratic Party are young people, minorities, those who live in urban areas, and those who receive government assistance. So, for example, the Department of Education is paying college students to engage in GOTV activities among their fellow students on campus while the Treasury Department now includes voter registration in their tax clinic assistance program for low-income individuals.

The Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the Indian Health Services (IHS), has designated the IHS to create a voter registration hub for Native Americans in the swing state of Arizona. As you may recall, Trump lost Arizona in 2020 in a very close, contested election. In 2022, 56% of Native Americans voted Democratic, while only 40% voted Republican. An agency within the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, is directing its employees to "increase awareness and expand access to voter registration during naturalization ceremonies." Studies have shown 62% of legal immigrants who become U.S. citizens identify as Democrats and only 25% as Republicans.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through their Food and Nutrition Service, is encouraging all state agencies administering nutrition programs, such as WIC and SNAP (better known as food stamps), to provide voter registration information to "voting-age program participants and their families." They recommend "[s]chool food authorities administering the National School Lunch Program in high schools, and adult day care centers and emergency shelters participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program to promote voter registration and election information among voting-age participants and use congregate feeding areas, such as cafeterias, or food distribution sites, as sites for the dissemination of information."

The Federal Bureau of Prisons is partnering with liberal groups to increase voter turnout among former prisoners. In many states, felons lose their right to vote until they complete their sentence and parole requirements, but their voting rights are restored

after meeting those stipulations. A 2019 study found that ex-felons are four times as likely to be Democrats as Republicans. These statistics aren't surprising when one considers the Democratic Party's soft-crime policies.

And one final example, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), a federal agency, is partnering with Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson "to promote civic engagement and voter registration in Michigan." This includes allowing state officials to engage in in-person voter registration efforts at SBA's business outreach events. A House investigation into SBA's collaboration with the pivotal swing state of Michigan found that 22 out of 25 such outreach events have taken place in counties with the highest population of the Democrat party's target demographics.

These agencies are unlawfully using taxpayer money to sway the election in Biden's favor, seeking to influence only those groups which historically vote Democrat.

Joe Biden is once again thumbing his nose at the Constitution which clearly stipulates that administration of elections, including voter registration, shall be prescribed by state law. In addition, Biden's order violates the Hatch Act, which restricts government employees from participating in specific political endeavors, and the Antideficiency Act, which prohibits federal agencies from exceeding approved funds allocated by Congress. Congress has neither allocated nor approved the use of tax money for these election interference efforts.

All of this shows that the Left will use any tactic - legal or not - to sway the election in their thirst to implement their agenda, undermining the foundations of our nation. History has shown that it's far easier to tear down than to build up. That's why Christians must be engaged in seeking to prevent that destruction, which includes becoming involved in the electoral process.

Of course, our hope is not in any candidate or political party, but in the God who "removes kings and sets up kings." (Daniel 2:21) **Yet, resting in God's sovereignty doesn't mean resting from our duty.**

Traverse City Needs Families

By Chris Johnson



Last month, which the nation recognizes as “Pride Month,” I spent a weekend in Michigan’s own little version of San Francisco: Traverse City. When you look at how the state of Michigan votes, county by county, the Mitten State is a sea of red, with 2 blue islands – the counties surrounding Detroit and Grand Traverse.

But, when you drive through Traverse City during “Pride Month,” the city has much more color than just blue: a whole rainbow - lots of rainbows in fact. Nearly every other well-kept house in the city, at least on the streets we drove down, flew a “Pride” flag from their porch columns. One wooden fence painted in a rainbow design boldly preached the fragment of scripture the left pretends to agree with; “Love Thy Neighbor,” it scolded its fellow LGBTQIA+ supporters.

As was once true of San Francisco, Traverse City has a reputation for being upscale, artistic, and somehow quaint all at the same time. It’s a place of farmers’ markets and gourmet burgers, backpacking and wine tasting, cherry festivals and brunch houses - a meeting place of Michigan’s farmers, boaters, foodies, campers, and artists. It’s a great place for a date night or an anniversary getaway.

It is far less equipped for a family vacation. Aside from a hotel with an indoor waterpark, which is its own self-contained family vacation destination, Traverse City simply doesn’t cater much to families with children. When you walk the streets of Old Towne Traverse City, you find high-end sporting goods and adventure clothing stores and gourmet popcorn shops, rather than a typical tourist town with their souvenir, t-shirt, and ice-cream shops.

I have many great memories with my kids in the Traverse City area, but families with kids simply are not the focus of their tour-

ism industry. That’s fine, it’s just interesting to notice how that lack of attention to families plays throughout the liberal county’s culture.

As the city’s residents leave no doubts about where they stand on the natural family’s direct opposite and natural opponent, homosexuality, U.S. Census Data leaves no doubts where they stand on creating natural families themselves. The average number of Persons Per Household in Traverse City is 2.08, contrasted to the national average of 2.57, a difference of almost 20%.

So, Traverse City residents aren’t having kids, its residents are huge supporters of the anti-family, woke sexual ethic, and even their tourism industry targets adults: but why am I picking on Traverse City anyway, and what does it have to do with San Francisco?

Because like San Francisco, Traverse City also has a huge homeless problem. *“The Pines, an area within Traverse City, is currently home to a homeless encampment, a situation that demands on-going attention and collaboration with the City of Traverse City’s partners,”* a city press release reads.

Homelessness tugs at all of our hearts. Seeing individuals and families struggling to hold in their grasp the most basic necessities is an unavoidable reminder to all who are confronted by it that it is only by God’s grace that we aren’t experiencing the same struggles.

But, as those who are involved in social work know all too well, a key bulwark against homelessness is a solid family structure. Homeless Hub, a Canadian organization studying homelessness says this: *“... studies have shown that the presence of strong familial and social connections can significantly reduce the likelihood of a young person experiencing homelessness.”*

Writing for Social Work Today, D. E. Harris, who had experienced homelessness himself, made this observation: *“Based on my experience, I believe the most pervasive theme among people experiencing homelessness is family... I mean the sort of family that children construct playing the imaginative game ‘house.’ In the game, a child will*

pick someone to play the mother, father, sister, brother, and so on... why is one child the father figure and another the mother figure?”

“...It appears to be an innate human need to create a familiar societal structure of safety (otherwise known as family)—not community. Therefore, a family is not optional, but a requirement for optimal health and mental wellness...”

“...In my view, homelessness is not a community problem, but a family one,” he concludes.

One of the most frequent and effective cudgels used by LGBT activists against traditionalists is the subversion of the Christian ideal of compassion. Like the fence I mentioned: “Love Thy Neighbor.” Yet, homelessness – an issue which incites compassion in almost everyone - is deeply tied to the breakdown of the family, which is the explicit goal of woke, “Pride” activists.

So, what is the true compassion for these individuals, both the homeless and those who are “Proud” in their sin in the month of June? Is it building a culture which weakens the traditional family and the values and supports which go with it? Is it affirming anti-human, self-harmful “identities?”

Proverbs 12:10 says, *“the mercy of the wicked is cruel.”* That might not earn the cheers of the neighbors in Traverse City, but it is much more relevant. Truly “loving thy neighbor” means telling them the truth. God didn’t make a mistake when he made them a man or a woman, and he made men for women and women for men. He made men to be fathers and women to be mothers, and He made parents to “train up their children in the way they should go.” He calls children a blessing, and He explicitly tells Christian children how to prosper: “Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God Has given you.”

Building culture on these truths is the ultimate strategy if cities like Traverse City and San Francisco truly want to fight homelessness, but it’s going to require repenting of their “Pride.”

Gun for Hire

By Steve Huston



Beware of False Teachers

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44

In our last newsletter, I wrote about circuit riders who were “*familiar figures in early American villages, towns and cities, and on the frontier. The rough-and-tumble times before, during and after the American Revolution required special men, weather-beaten and toughened by days and weeks in the saddle. But the cause of Christ bred just such hardy warriors of the cross.*” (from the back cover of Heroes of Early Methodism vol. 1 published by Schmull Publishing Co.) As I wrote, “They willingly would reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering **and doctrine, for this was their call, souls were their concern, and Christ was their passion.**”

Those frontier and circuit rider days are far behind us; now we’ve become “civilized” – so they say. There’s no doubt that the American landscape has changed and her culture with it. Those circuit riders of bygone days preached the gospel according to the Word of God and built churches; they weren’t perfect, for they were men, but their “guns” took aim at sin, worldliness, and the devil. Today, Satan has found such preachers who can be bought; men who now put truth, holiness, righteousness, and God’s character in their crosshairs. These “guns for hire” promote and lift up self rather than promoting and lifting up Christ. Instead of pleasing God, they’d rather please men: tickling their ears, sugar-coating hard truths to swallow, and titillating their lusts. Instead of preaching a transformed life IN CHRIST, they do their best to twist biblical truth until it matches the lives of those they “preach” to – soothing their consciences and killing

conviction. Believers are meant to identify with their Saviour, but the devil’s “guns for hire” deceive men into feeling good about identifying with their varied and many sins.

Instead of standing on the firm foundation of God’s Word and being stalwart against the tide of communist thought that is pervading our nation (i.e., social justice, ESG, woke-ism, globalism, and these to name only a very few), they go along to get along and cave on nearly every biblical issue that’s not well-accepted by America’s Left.

These “guns for hire” not only put the Bible, God’s character, and holiness in their crosshairs, but anyone who steps away from the current stream of unbiblical exhortation makes himself a target for these deceptive “gunslingers.” This is no strange, fiery trial; Isaiah warned of this: “Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey.” (59:15a)

While political, educational, and ecclesiastical “shepherds” reject truth – God’s sacred design for marriage, gender, and sexuality – and cling to lies, danger, brokenness, and degradation are left in their wake. In Pagan America, John Daniel Davidson accurately describes the path we are on that will make those “who departeth from evil” a prey.

“Pagan America is not just a country whose people have abandoned the Christian faith and the moral virtues required to sustain a self-governing republic. It’s also a country ruled by a new post-Christian elite, freed from the constraints of the old constitutional system.

“Previously, the fundamental great constraint on government power in America was a shared conviction that man has inalienable rights that come from God. That was the basis for American ideas about equality, tolerance, freedom of speech, and the free exercise of religion, and it came from America’s Christian heritage. But in pagan America, the laws of nature and nature’s God entitle us to nothing. In pagan America, the powerful decide what rights we have and whether we are allowed to exercise them. Paganism means slavery...as de-Christianization proceeds apace, the

protection for the weak and powerless that were once part of both the American constitutional system and America’s Christian-majority culture will begin to disappear.”

I urge you to depart from evil anyway. Whether you’re a preacher in a pulpit or a layman living in the community, stand regardless the cost and preach the truth clearly for all to hear. We are called to be salt and shining lights, for the existence of our nation is at stake. More importantly, eternity is at stake for those souls we come into contact with. As Aaron M. Renn writes in Life in the Negative World (meaning a post-Christian America): “***The first challenge for American evangelicals living in the negative world, then, is to examine ourselves, consider our ways, count the cost, and commit to denying ourselves, taking up our crosses and following Christ in everything. This must happen no matter what the price, confident that Jesus will never fail us or forsake us, that all things will work together for our good, and that whatever suffering we do endure in this world is not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in the age to come.***”

Preachers would do well to take Bishop Francis Asbury’s advice: “**When you go into the pulpit, go from your closets. Leave all your vain speculations and metaphysical reasonings behind. Take with you your hearts full of fresh spring water from heaven, and preach Christ crucified and the resurrection, and that will conquer the world.**” (Heroes of Early Methodism vol. 1)

If you attend a church that has a “pistol packin’ preacher” who cherishes and guards the precious treasure of God’s Word, taking aim at sin, the world, and the devil, stay there! After all, Psalm 119:89 declares, “**For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.**” If your pastor doesn’t actively take aim with his Bible at those things, “reprove, rebuke, and exhort (him) with all longsuffering and doctrine.” If he will not hear the truth, pray for him, but, for the sake of your soul and the souls of your family, find another church to worship and fellowship in.

Political Form - Thursday, July 11, 2024

By Bill Johnson



Coming up at American Decency Association on Thursday, July 11 (6:30 – 9:00 PM), is an event you won't want to miss, featuring two speakers who are both - first and foremost - men of God and are actively engaged in standing for truth: State Representative Joseph Fox and former State Senator Patrick Colbeck, author of The 2020 Coup. In the spirit of trying “to understand the times in order to know what to do,” we recognized the high importance of bringing out truth and deeper understanding in regards to the “inside baseball” questions that are on our hearts and minds regarding the election.

There are some people who still believe the 2020 Presidential election was one of the “most secure” of all time. As you know, there are some who are uncertain and lack clarity. This gathering is for people like you too! With a kindly spirit, we desire to deal fairly with any and all questions. Yet this event isn't designed to look back on 2020, but to consider the ramifications for 2024.

We are of the mind that God orchestrated this event as we had to shift gears, turning away from what we had initially planned: a candidate forum. However, despite inviting candidates running for several offices and being both surprised and disappointed at the lack of response from nearly every candidate, upon receiving a positive response from Joseph Fox, our State Representative from the 101st District, we decided to emphasize the high road of politics and opt for a presentation from Representative Fox – updating us upon the legislative action of the past year. If you have been in and around the greater Fremont area (Muskegon, Ludington, Holland/Zeeland, Cedar Springs, Sparta, Lowell, Rockford, Grand Rapids) and taken the occasion to come to one of our events over the years, I think that it is safe to say that you have found our events worthy of your time and attention.

This will be such an event as together we deal with the hard, often unasked and therefore unanswered questions as well as the evident concerns that trouble us all.

With so many questions regarding election security and integrity, our event with Joseph Fox and Patrick Colbeck will be one that will address very important questions that will not be dodged. In addition, you will have ample opportunity to ask questions yourself.

In Representative Joseph Fox, you have a Christian man who will tell it like it is regarding the dilemma facing us in Lansing where the Left has been in control, ramming through damaging legislation that is further jeopardizing election integrity. Come and ask hard questions such as, what are your concerns regarding Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and the 2024 election? And, why is the Republican party seemingly so ill-equipped to fight the fight for conservatism and the Constitution?



Patrick Colbeck has paid the price, not that that was ever his intention, to become one of our nation's most knowledgeable experts on election protocol. Name the concern. Name the controversy. He will address it with integrity and understanding. For just one example: Are tabulators and the various machines attached to the Internet, and, if so, what is the problem with that? Or, we hear that largely (at least in many communities) fraud isn't coming from the local township clerk, but from those like the secretary of state, particularly in states like Michigan and Arizona – is that the case?

It is important to come and encourage others as we seek to show our communities and state that even rural areas like Newaygo County are showing up because there is a growing recognition that if we don't stand for integrity in America and in America's

voting system, our nation will pay the price.

Political Forum

Thursday, July 11, 2024

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Location:

American Decency Association

203 E Main Street

Fremont, MI 49412

Call to **reserve your spot** by calling Kimberly at 231-924-4050 or by emailing kimberly@americandecency.org

A Great Encouragement - Thank you!

As many of you are very attentive to the articles in our newsletter, you observed that we had written last month that we were noting a decline in our number of monthly gifts and totals. We felt that it was important to let you know that we were, and still are, seeking to prevent a continued trend of a decline in those areas. Thank you for the good number of you who responded as you did.

Not only is it a great encouragement to our staff to see your support, both by your giving and your notes of encouragement, it also helps keep us from a decline that steers us away from ministry to have to focus on a financial urgency! Thank you!

We prayerfully ask for your continued support as we collectively face what many warn will be a volatile summer heading into the presidential election. People that we have found very reliable have forecasted politicized targeting and chaos in our cities and streets – all to keep us astir and to divide us. It behooves us to be watchful and in prayer. Satan is lurking, seeking whom he can devour.

We will be seeking to stand and engage as God leads, to be prepared for discouragements, but to keep our eyes upon the Lord that He would be glorified and that the joy of the Lord is our strength. God bless you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We hope to see you at an event or to hear from you as the Lord leads.