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american family association

July 2022



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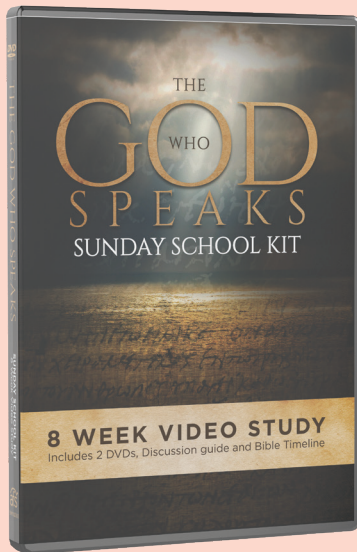
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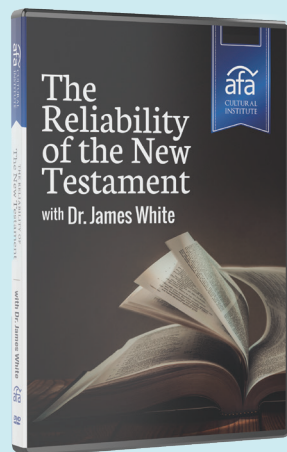


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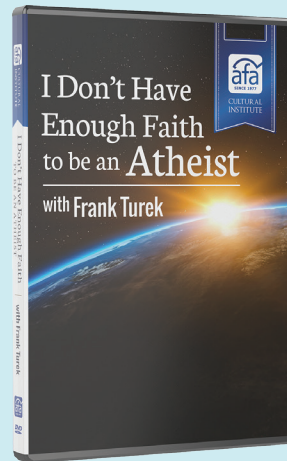
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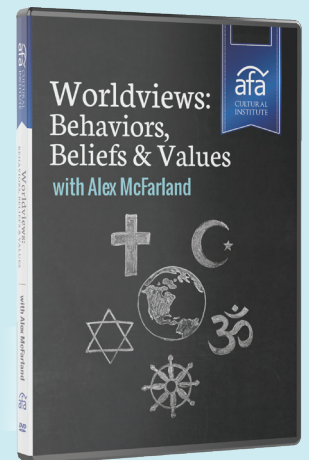


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Suggested donation
\$6.99



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THE STAND

VOLUME 46, NO. 6

THE STAND magazine is published monthly by American Family Association except for a combined January/February issue. AFA's mission is to inform, equip, and activate individuals and families to transform American culture and to give aid to the church, here and abroad, in its calling to fulfill the Great Commission.

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BY TIM WILDMON
AFA PRESIDENT

Editor's note:
Tim Wildmon
wrote this
column eight
years ago, yet
it reads as if
he wrote it this
week – same
issues, same
challenges,
same truths.
And a salute
to his dad,
Don Wildmon,
founder of AFA.

When the fight comes to you

There is a difference between looking for a fight and having a fight come to you. It was that way with the colonists who decided to break away from the king of England in the 1700s. Those soon-to-be Americans – the men and women who founded our country – decided they had had enough abuse from the king, and so they made their grievances public with the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and the war for America began.

Our founders didn't go looking for a fight with the British crown, but the provocation for a fight came to them. It is much the same way for those of us who believe in traditional Christian values in modern-day America. For the past four decades, we haven't been looking for a fight, but our beliefs and morals have been under assault. For example:

- ▶ Honoring God and prayer were very much a part of public life, but then the secularists went against those practices through the courts and many of us felt the need to fight back by forming Christian legal organizations to challenge the atheists and secularists in the courtrooms.
- ▶ Christian teaching regarding sexual behavior was the standard before Alfred Kinsey, Hugh Hefner, and the entertainment industry (Hollywood) began to attack it relentlessly. Television programming from the 1970s forward has proclaimed there are no rules with respect to sex. Christians saw this as having dire consequences for the long-term health of our society, decided to fight back, and were mocked for doing so.
- ▶ The taking of innocent human life through abortion was illegal in most states until the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision overruled the states and made abortion the law of the land. Some Christians decided to fight back, and thus was born the pro-life movement.
- ▶ For all of human history, the definition of marriage has been the union of one man and one woman. The vast majority of states, even liberal California, have reaffirmed this view of marriage in the last 20 years. But one federal judge overruled seven million Californians, and later


the Supreme Court concurred, thus changing the legal definition of marriage to include men “marrying” men and women “marrying” women. Talk about a classic oxymoron! Some Christians decided to fight back, and what America will do with this issue remains to be seen.

These issues [among others] were why my dad, Rev. Don Wildmon, founded American Family Association. He saw the need to give Christians (and others who support traditional values) an organized response to the attacks on the Christian value system. That was in 1977. But we have been backed into a corner and left with no recourse but to fight for our values.

There are other groups like AFA that have also engaged in the effort to preserve and restore these values. The culture war is really a spiritual war; therefore it is eternal. There will always be good and evil, right and wrong, moral and immoral. And just as these values matter in our personal lives, they also matter for the well-being of our country. If we as a nation continue to rebel against God and godly principles, He will either destroy us, or He will allow us to implode. I can't tell you exactly what that looks like, but judging by historical and biblical accounts, it will be really, really bad.

If you are a Christian solider, let me encourage, warn, and challenge you. Let me encourage you that standing for the Lord and His righteousness is always the right thing to do. We must do what we can, while we can. Elections matter. Building strong families matters. Being involved in your community matters. Winning converts to Christianity matters.

Let me warn you that the world is against us – and sometimes hostile toward us – because we make moral judgments based on Scripture and proclaim them publicly.

Finally, let me challenge you to stay involved with groups like AFA. We will win some, and we will lose some. But we can't quit. We can never give up. What America will look like for our children, grandchildren, and Christians in general is very much at stake. 

Issues@Hand

AFA initiatives • Christian activism • News briefs

Mississippi goes pro-life, pro-family

On April 21, Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves (R) signed into law the Pregnancy Resource Act. Dr. Jameson Taylor, AFA Action director of policy and governmental affairs, consulted in drafting the innovative law that provides a tax credit to businesses that donate to pregnancy resource centers.

Taylor also facilitated the 2019 enactment of the state's Children's Promise Act, which has provided millions of dollars in private funding to adoption agencies and foster care organizations.

In addition, Taylor, Rob Chambers, executive vice president of AFA Action, and AFA Action board member Steve Crampton celebrated the passage of Mississippi House Bill 1509, a law that provides religious exemption from COVID-19 vaccination for public and private employees, public and private K-12 students, and public community college/university students.



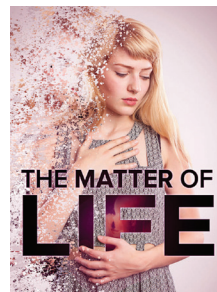
AFA applauds 'The Matter of Life'

In the new documentary **The Matter of Life**, director Tracy Robinson showcases the history and horrors of the abortion industry.

Through the powerful testimonies of former pro-choice advocates, **The Matter of Life** reminds viewers that hearts can be changed. Likewise, Robinson challenges the church to minister to those who have had an abortion and love them as Jesus does.

The moving documentary received Christian Worldview's 2021 Best Documentary Award and Sanctity of Life Award.

"We are pleased to commend this resource to AFA supporters," said AFA senior vice president Buddy Smith. "It merits caution for graphic images, but it simply illustrates the evil and tragic reality of abortion." For more information, visit thematteroflife.org.



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at afa.net/events.

AFA responds to 'pregnant man' emoji



AFA executive vice president Ed Vitagliano appeared on Fox News network April 28 in response to Apple's recent promotion of gender confusion with its use of "pregnant man," "the third gender," and other new emojis.

Vitagliano told **America's Newsroom** hosts Bill Hemmer and Dana Perino, "These are very complex issues when you're dealing with gender and

human sexuality. That's why I think parents look askance at [companies which] insinuate themselves into family discussions about that complexity."

In an earlier AFA press release, Vitagliano said, "This woke pandering is also quite sad, because there really are people who are struggling with their identity and feel lost. The answer isn't to encourage them to continue wandering aimlessly in the darkness of their delusion, because that will only prolong their suffering. The answer is the gospel and the love of God."

Contact elected officials

► The President

The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Salutation: Dear Mr. President
Comment line: 202.456.1111
whitehouse.gov/contact

► The Vice President - same as above

► U. S. House of Representatives

The Honorable _____
Washington, DC 20515
Salutation: Dear Congressman (or
Congresswoman) _____

► U.S. Senate

The Honorable _____
Washington, DC 20510
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► Washington switchboard: 877.762.8762

► afaaction.net/contact-officials

Links to contact information for federal and state officials

Stay involved, informed

► afa.net - Sign up to join AFA Alert email list and stay informed on issues that affect the family.

► afn.net - Find up-to-the-minute news at AFA's online news service.

► afr.net - American Family Radio broadcasts on about 180 stations in three formats - AFR talk, AFR inspiration (music), and AFR Hybrid.

► afa.net/thestand - AFA's official blog addressing culture, faith, and family.

► onemillionmoms.com - Take action to protect children from objectionable elements in entertainment outlets.

► afajournal.org - An archive of past issues of *AFA Journal* (1994-2021).

► engagemagazine.net - A theology and worldview resource for young adult Christians.

► americanfamilystudios.net - Videos feature insight and information on cultural and family issues.

► afa.net/bydesign - An initiative to restore biblical marriage in the culture.

► streaming.afa.net - An online platform that hosts all AFA-produced video content.

Sanitation worker folds U.S. flag from trash

Utah sanitation worker Don Gardner, a Marine Corps veteran, pulled a discarded flag from the trash and respectfully folded it before continuing on his route.

"I've done it before," Gardner told *Fox & Friends*. "I just got caught this time," he said in reference to a video captured by Brooke Cowley as her children noticed Gardner folding the flag. Cowley had accidentally discarded the flag the day before as part of cleanup efforts after a windstorm.

Embarrassed by what she had done, Cowley was proud of Gardner for the respect he showed to the American flag and how he took time to honor it.

"It was really humbling to see Don do that," she said.

At the request of her children, Cowley's family honored Gardner by giving him a challenge coin, a medallion often collected by veterans.

foxnews.com, 4/28/22



Christian professor wins pronoun battle



After a three-year legal battle, Shawnee State University (SSU) in Portsmouth, Ohio, has agreed to pay \$400,000 in damages and attorneys' fees to Dr. Nick Meriwether for the university's violation of his free speech rights. The monetary settlement was reached after a March 2021 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The case resulted from a 2018 incident in which Meriwether responded to a male student's question by saying, "Yes, sir." The student insisted that he be addressed as a woman. Due to religious convictions about gender, Meriwether refused the student's request but offered to call him by his first or last name.

Though Meriwether had taught at SSU since 1996, the university formally investigated the incident and charged him with causing a hostile environment in his classroom.

Alliance Defending Freedom represented Meriwether in his suit against SSU. Meriwether won the right to refer to students with pronouns that do not conflict with his religious convictions. Additionally, he secured the formal retraction of the university's original written warning against him.

cbn.com, 4/25/22

Colleges hold segregated graduation ceremonies

Nearly 40 colleges and universities opted for segregated graduations at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. These segregations were based on race, gender, and/or sexual orientation.

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) defended its race-based segregation by claiming that it “gives graduates the chance to commemorate the challenges they’ve overcome” by celebrating with “other UT black community members.”

Illinois State University “wants to make sure all students are recognized and acknowledged for their contributions to the university.” Conservative persons were less excited about this trend, arguing that it’s a reversal of the progress made in race relations over the past decades.

campusreform.org, 4/14/22; universityworldnews.com, 4/20/22



Americans stop reading Bible

A 2022 study conducted by the American Bible Society (ABS) revealed that U.S. adults are not regularly reading the Bible. ABS defined the term “Bible users” as those who open their Bible three to four times a year outside church services. Of the 2,598 polled, research found only 39% of the adults were classified as “Bible users.” Those individuals frequently said they “never had enough time” to read the Word more. According to the data, ABS believes that approximately 26 million Americans failed to open their Bible last year.

“Our research clearly shows that when people read the Bible and apply its message, it brings them hope and introduces them to full life in Christ,” said John Farquhar Plake, Ph.D., and ABS director of ministry intelligence. “And millions more are struggling to connect Scripture to their daily lives.”

“That’s why it’s disheartening to see that millions of Americans have lost interest in the Bible. And millions more are struggling to connect Scripture to their daily lives.”

prnewswire.com, 4/6/22; afn.net, 4/21/22

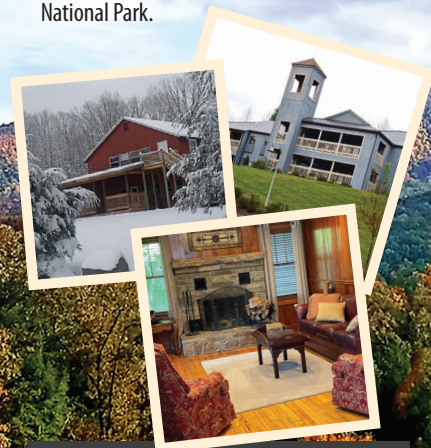


Where life-changing experiences can occur and people say yes to God

Wafloy Mountain Village is a Christian retreat center bordered by the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and only 8 miles from downtown Gatlinburg. Wafloy can accommodate up to 300 people as well as offer motel rooms and cottages for overnight accommodations.

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Tennessee drunk drivers to pay child support for victims

In mid-April, the Tennessee Senate passed a bill requiring intoxicated drivers convicted of vehicular homicide to pay child support if they killed the parent of a minor.

The bill, which passed the Senate unanimously, had already been passed by the House. It was nicknamed “Ethan’s, Hailey’s, and Bentley’s Law” in reference to the children of Nicholas Galinger, a Chattanooga police officer who was killed by a drunk driver in 2019 while inspecting a manhole cover.

The bill states that the defendant must pay “restitution in the form of child maintenance to each of the victim’s children” until they reach age 18 or graduate high school. The amount to be paid is determined by the court.

dailywire.com, 4/21/22

Masters PGA champ gives God credit

On April 10, Scottie Scheffler surprised the professional golfing world when he won the Masters PGA Tournament at Augusta National, ending his four days of play at 10 under par. Just eight weeks prior to his championship win, Scheffler had no wins whatsoever in his past 70 PGA outings. But in the 57 days before the Masters, the 25-year-old Texan experienced a complete turnaround as he won four out of six PGA tournaments, ranking him as the world’s top golfer.

During a post-tournament interview, Scheffler credited his faith as the driving force behind his golf game.

“The reason why I play golf is because I’m trying to glorify God and all that He’s done in my life,” said Scheffler. “And so, for me, my identity isn’t a golf score.”

christianheadlines.com, 4/12/22



New life in Christ

Salvation is God’s free gift to all who repent of sin and call on Him:

1. Perceive your need, and turn to God in prayer (Romans 3:23).
2. Believe in Christ’s power to save, and repent of your sins (Mark 1:15).
3. Receive His salvation, and begin your new life (Romans 10:9).

For more insight or counsel:

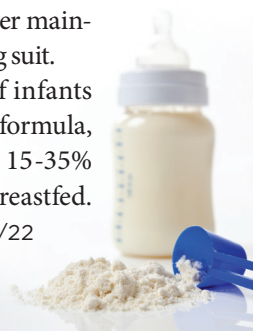
- Visit needhim.org, email info@needhim.org, or call 214.647.1717. This online ministry was initiated by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and other ministries.
- Contact Pastor Joseph Parker, AFA director of outreach and intercession, at jparker@afa.net or 662.844.5036 x381.

Baby formula in short supply

As U.S. prices have continued to rise and supplies to diminish, one critical concern for young mothers illustrates the strain placed on families. Since April, Moms have had trouble finding formula for their babies. Pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens limited the purchase of formula to three per customer, with other main-line stores following suit.

The majority of infants in America rely on formula, with only about 15-35% being exclusively breastfed.

afn.net, 4/2/22



Oklahoma bans multiple genders on birth certificates

A new Oklahoma law limits the gender options on birth certificates to just two: male and female. In October 2021, a nonbinary birth certificate was produced in the state, but the state legislature began immediate action to draft a law limiting the choices to male and female.

“I believe that people are created by God to be male or female,” Gov. Kevin Stitt (R) declared. “There is no such thing as nonbinary sex.”

Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R) agreed, insisting that “we must stand up and put a stop to this nonsense regarding biological sex.”

Left-leaning legislators claimed the law is an “extreme and grotesque use of power.” Nevertheless, the bill became law on April 26.

christianheadlines.com, 4/26/22



Online gaming survey cites harassment

From June 7-25, 2021, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) conducted its third annual online gaming survey titled Hate is No Game: Harassment and Positive Social Experiences in Online Games. The survey polled 2,206 of the 97 million Americans ages 13-45 who play online games via various platforms. Researchers asked participants about positive and negative behaviors encountered during online gaming interactions.

While 99% of participants reported one or more positive experiences during their gaming time, five out of six adults ages 18-45 reported harassment. Plus, 60% of players ages 13-17 recounted harassment during online play. Negative incidents included but were not limited to online embarrassment, antisemitism, trolling, name-calling, game disruption, and exclusion from playing.

The survey also revealed that fewer than 50% of supervising adults, including parents and teachers, ever discuss gaming experiences with the young people in their lives. ADL strongly recommends that parents familiarize themselves with the games their children are playing.

adl.org/hateisnogame, 11/19/21



Wokeness weakens warriors

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) recently released an “equity action plan,” designed to equalize outcomes for employees and their partners across racial, sexual, and gender lines.

Released by the DOD in solidarity with all other departments of the Biden administration, the report signals a move to better align with the White House’s demands for fairness and equity.

According to the document, the DOD hopes to “identify potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals face regarding federal programs.”

During a recent American Family Radio interview, Gary Bauer, chair-

man of the Campaign for Working Families, expressed his concerns about an individual’s advancement based solely on race or gender factors.

Bauer contends that advancement should be based on accomplishments. “That’s how you move up the ranks,”

Bauer said. “You distinguish yourself; you do better than anybody else. And in a time of war, you distinguish yourself in war through your bravery and your courage.”

He concluded, “This is a dangerous brew that they are mixing up here.”

media.defense.gov, 4/14/22;

foxnews.com, 4/15/22; afn.net, 4/20/22



Pro-life doctor's five-year suspension lifted



South African doctor Jacques de Vos has been cleared to practice medicine again after a five-year suspension. The cause for his suspension was “his refusal to comply with basic medical ethics.”

In reality, his alleged misdemeanor occurred when he told a 19-week-pregnant woman that her unborn baby was a human being and that abortion is the killing of a human being. De Vos was one week away from complet-

ing his medical license at the time and was completing his internship at 2 Military Hospital. However, the hospital refused to sign off on his internship, and de Vos was unable to practice medicine. Charges of unprofessional conduct were dropped in 2020, but his suspension was not removed until 2022.

iol.co.za, 4/8/22; lifenews.com, 4/13/22

Missing children found in Louisiana trafficking sting

From January 1 to March 31, U.S. Marshals recovered 16 missing children. In Operation Fresh Start, the U.S. Marshals Service Eastern District of Louisiana

New Orleans Task Force made five arrests. According to Christian

Post, the team also revealed sex trafficking allegations in several cases.

“I am very proud of the cooperative work done by all the agencies involved in safeguarding at-risk children. Our office is proud to be

a part of a robust [Missing Child

Unit] program that took root in New Orleans starting in 2016,” said Scott Illing, U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

christianpost.com, 4/11/22



Church euthanizes woman in sanctuary

Churchill Park United Church in Winnipeg became the first church in Manitoba, Canada, to host a public ceremony in which a woman was put to death in front of the congregation. The church called it a Crossing Over Ceremony, and a medical professional injected drugs to end the life of 86-year-old Betty Sanguin, who suffered from ALS and had requested the assisted suicide church service.

Rita Marker of the Patients Rights Council said, “There’s something about assisted suicide and euthanasia; they are just so, so tragic, so sad. The thing is that by doing it this way, it makes it seem as though ... it is really something wonderful. And that sends a really horrendous message to everyone.”

afn.net, 4/19/22



Kentucky strengthens pro-life measures

Both houses of the Kentucky Legislature overrode Gov. Andy Beshear’s (D) veto of House Bill 3, which will “ban abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, make illegal the mailing of abortion pills, and tighten the current laws impacting parental consent for minors seeking abortions,” along with several other provisions.

Beshear vetoed the bill on April 8, but on April 13, the Kentucky House voted 76-21 in favor of an override. The Senate followed suit with a vote of 31-6 supporting the override and solidifying the bill’s passage. The law took effect immediately.

As a result, abortions have currently been halted in the state.

kentucky.com, 4/14/22; afn.net, 4/20/22





Creation Museum celebrates 10M guests

Since the opening of the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in 2007 and 2016 respectively, the attractions have welcomed over 10 million guests. Ken Ham, founder and CEO of Answers in Genesis and its two attractions stated, “We’re thrilled with our total attendance number, as visitors come here from around the world. ... It gives me confidence that 2022 will be our best year, especially as we continue to expand and hold special events.”

A. Larry Ross
press release, 4/14/22



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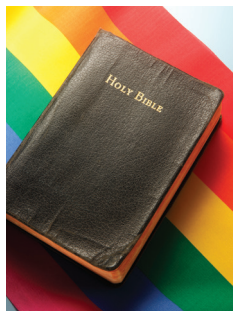
UMC ministerial students worship 'queer God'

In a March 22 Pride worship service at Duke Divinity School, ministerial students affirmed the “dignity, faithfulness, and strength of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and gender/sexuality non-conforming Christians.”

Duke is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The event was sponsored by Divinity Pride, a student organization recognized on Duke's Student Affairs Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity website.

Master of divinity student Caroline Camp prayed the invocation to “Strange one, fabulous one, fluid, and ever-becoming one. ...” Another student declared that God is a “queer God.”

juicyecumenism.com, 4/5/22



Alabama protects gender-confused youth

On April 8, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey (R) signed sweeping legislation to prevent sexually confused youth from receiving gender-affirming medications to help them “transition.”

According to Associated Press, the law will “... make it a felony for a doctor to prescribe puberty blockers or hormones to aid in the gender transition of anyone under age 19. Violations would be punishable by up to 10 years in prison. The bill also would prohibit gender transition surgeries.”

“There are very real challenges facing our young people, especially with today's societal pressures and modern culture,” Ivey said. “I believe very strongly that if the good Lord made you a boy, you are a boy, and if he made you a girl, you are a girl.”

apnews.com, 4/7/22; cbsnews.com, 4/8/22



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FOUNDATION

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Anti-CRT parents elected to school board

Concerned about the indoctrination of their children in public schools, parents across the nation have begun speaking out. They have exercised their parental rights and demanded better for their children, and in many cases, they are winning.

An April election for three new school board members in Waukesha, Wisconsin, is one recent example.

Mark Borowski, Marquell Moorer, and Karrie Kozlowski, all running on an anti-CRT platform and promising to rid the school district of CRT instruction, were elected to the Waukesha School Board. The new board members now promise to focus on academics rather than woke social indoctrination.

In an interview with Fox News, Kozlowski said, "I think we're at a big crossroads where parents, grandparents, and the community are just tired of our children not getting the academic education that they need."

afn.net, 4/11/22



SPIRITUAL HERITAGE TOURS 2022

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- › Enjoy private motor coach travel
- › Visit Arlington National Cemetery
- › Visit Museum of the Bible (during free time)

For more details including itinerary and costs, as well as information on our tour of Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg that precedes the Washington tour, visit:

spiritualheritagetours.com



Tour led by AFA's Tim Wildmon
with commentary by historian
Stephen McDowell



Fairy tales, fables, and falsehoods

To protect families and children, Mission America opposes the LGBTQ agenda with the truth of God's Word.

BY JOY LUCIUS

Once upon a time, a kind young ze named Ella lived with zir wicked stepzir and two hateful stepzirs. Ze was mistreated badly by zir stepzir who made zir cook and clean for zir entire stepfamily. Since the attic room zir stepzir had given Cinderella was so cold, ze often fell asleep in the warm cinders of the kitchen fireplace. So zir stepzirs laughed and called zir Cinderella.

To successfully read this convoluted fairy tale, perhaps a lesson on proper pronoun protocol is needed. If so, simply seek assistance from a public-school kindergartner with an official pronoun passport or even a successfully indoctrinated preschooler. They can easily decode Cinderella's "woke" story with inclusive, gender-fluid nouns and pronouns.

Obviously, this is a ridiculous version of the beloved fairy tale. But LGBTQ activists are determined to make this exact type of homosexual/transgender propaganda a reality in American classrooms.

These woke warriors are waging all-out war for the hearts and minds of the nation's children via media, schools, colleges, courts, and even the medical profession. Subsequently, this gender and sexuality conflict could become America's most decisive battle ever – one with great potential to completely divide the church.

Woke warriors are waging all-out war for the hearts and minds of the nation's children via media, schools, colleges, and courts.

Seeking the truth

Linda Harvey, founder and president of Mission America (MA), is working to arm Americans with God's

truth. Founded in 1995, MA is a Christian, pro-family organization that tracks current cultural issues and their potential impact on believers.

A former advertising executive, Harvey told *The Stand* that until the early 1990s she was "a liberal, progressive agnostic." Then, she began to reconsider the Christian roots planted in her heart as a child at her grandmother's small Florida church.

"God's Word does not come back void," said Harvey. "All of a sudden, my eyes just began to open. Then, when I became a believer and really committed myself, there was a huge worldview change."

That change brought a deeper awareness of cultural concerns, especially pro-life issues and issues in public schools. As the mother of young children, she also began hoping "somebody" would do something to combat the growing promotion of homosexuality in schools.

Soon, the Lord gave Harvey the burden to be that "somebody." She laughed and explained, "I'm walking around and thinking, 'You can't mean me. Please don't make it be me.'"

Joining the fight

Harvey could no longer be complacent; she had to join the fight. And 27 years later, she is still battling the homosexual agenda.

“It is in this arena where I entered the fight, to begin with,” she stated, “and it’s still where our central focus should be. We are in a fight to determine who we are created to be. God is our Creator, so the battlefield always ends up at the foot of the cross.”

As MA’s first order of business in 1995, Harvey wrote articles on current social issues and eventually began examining state legislation on various family bills. She posted her findings on the organization’s flagship website, missionamerica.com.

The website offers timely articles and weekly e-newsletters. Harvey also hosts a radio show on the Salem Network in Columbus, Ohio. She regularly contributes to conservative news sites and is frequently interviewed by conservative, Christian, and mainstream media outlets.

Sharing the truth

Yet, the bulk of MA’s work involves shining light on the controversial issues of homosexuality and gender confusion. Combining relevant research and biblically-based doctrine, Harvey challenges Christians to counter the world’s definition of what is normal and right with the unfailing truth of God’s Word.

Moreover, Harvey boldly confronts those who complacently frequent America’s pews and pulpits: “The moral decline in our world ... will not stop until the church is willing to be politically incorrect and cry out loudly in protest to proclaim what is good, instead of meekly retreating in the face of evil. With all the hope that is in the gospel, why do so many remain silent?”

For those who can no longer remain silent, MA believes our homes must be the first line of defense since LGBTQ indoctrination is aimed directly at our children.

Consequently, more and more American parents are opting for homeschooling or private Christian education for their children. But some Christian parents, especially many single parents, do not have the option of home or parochial school.

Protecting the children

Whatever the educational situation, MA believes parents must be vigilant, particularly with online technology. Children of all ages are targeted and even groomed by sexual predators and influencers via television, video games, computers, and phones, especially through social media.

“It’s so critical, in my view,” warned Harvey, “to keep children off social media and away from anything other than a basic phone that just sends a text message. ... If you’re going to give them a phone, no smartphones.”

Harvey also advises parents to note any significant changes in a child’s dress or demeanor and avoid sleepovers, camps, and other stays away from home. Watch out for LGBTQ symbols, terminology, and propaganda designed to target children’s hearts and minds, especially during the middle school ages.

American schools are definitely under attack. Harvey

believes activist educators and teachers’ unions such as the National Education Association (NEA) have already secured the advantage in our public educational system through their “masterful but evil sales job to our kids.”

Harvey said these progressive, liberal pundits will keep that advantage and gain more unless Americans work together to stop the onslaught against our educational system.

Arming the troops


To combat that onslaught, Harvey shared practical ways Christians can get involved in local schools:

1. Examine the school’s online presence, including its Facebook page and school calendar. Investigate meetings, activities, clubs, book fairs, and speakers for hidden agendas/affiliations.
2. Attend meetings, visit classrooms, and ask questions of kids, teachers, and other parents.
3. Never sign open consent forms. Read all available documents, including handbooks, policies, curriculum, and handouts.
4. Research district/school policy on parental notification, sex education, medical clinics, transgender support plans, and bathroom assignment policies.
5. Consider running for the local school board. At the state and national levels, support legislation to end sexual indoctrination in schools.
6. Take a vocal stand against immoral, ungodly school policies and procedures.

Most of all, like Harvey, prayerfully commit to be that “somebody” God can use to save our children from the culture’s nonsensical sexual identity free-for-all.

“It’s really a house of cards,” said Harvey. “It’s just one fable built on another fable, and it’s all dangerous to our kids.”

Thankfully, MA exists to separate those fables from the facts. Linda Harvey implores Christians to join their fight and shine the light of God’s truth into every avenue of culture.

Then, and only then, will American children know without a doubt that they were made in the image of God. 

Insights and issues

- On Page 33, read a review of Linda Harvey’s book *Maybe He’s Not Gay: Another View on Homosexuality*.
- Visit missionamerica.com to learn more about the ministry’s broad range of issues.
- Go to resources.afa.net to learn more about **In His Image**, AFA’s award-winning documentary on gender and sexuality.

Founded



Clockwise from left: students in front of the National Memorial Arch, teacher participants at the Liberty Bell, statue of George Washington in prayer

BY HANNAH MEADOR

In Ronald Reagan's 1967 inaugural address as governor of California, he observed:

Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. And those in world history who have known freedom and then lost it – have never known it again.

He spoke the truth about what could happen if America forgets her heritage and history. And unfortunately, many today *have* forgotten or lost the meaning of freedom – and its cost. Instead of respecting the Founding Fathers, today's cancel culture crowd would purge from history the very men who fought for their freedoms.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (FFVF) has worked for 73 years to preserve the nation's history accurately.

"There's an ongoing debate about what America stands for and believes," FFVF vice president of advancement Jack Wyman told *The Stand*. "We must embrace our country's founding ideals and principles so we can be united in our determination to preserve and advance freedom for all."



Bravery of the founders

After experiencing the horrors of World War II, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower wanted to make sure Americans never forgot their heritage. He had seen concentration camps in Germany, destruction in Japan, and what happens when a nation loses sight of morality and virtue.

"Valley Forge is the place where brave patriots fought," Wyman said. "It really was the cradle of independence. There was a lot of suffering and deprivation during that cold winter of 1778."

As president, Eisenhower along with other concerned citizens, founded Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in 1949. It was dedicated to preserving American patriotism through a renowned national awards program recognizing civic leadership.

In 1965, FFVF expanded its mission to educate American youth about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Through age-specific programs, the Valley Forge staff conducts interactive experiences for students and equips

teachers with invaluable knowledge of American history and civics to impact students for years to come.

Since student programs began, more than 100,000 students have participated in them. But what's even more impressive is that FFVF estimates *14 million* students have been impacted through the 14,000 educators trained during the organization's summer programs.

Broadened student horizons

Student programs are divided by age groups. For elementary students (fifth- and sixth-graders), their own teachers, and chaperones escort the children to FFVF's beautiful 75-acre campus. Once there, in a History Encounters series, they are immersed in history including visits to historic sites such as the Museum of the American Revolution and Independence Hall.

FFVF presenters explain in depth the founding of the country and key documents such as the Constitution, the First Amendment, and the Bill of Rights. Actors dressed in historically accurate attire portray characters such as John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, bringing history to life as they illustrate colonial

for freedom

U.S. history is preserved and proclaimed by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

America's most significant discussions and debates.

"At Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, we endeavor to teach the truth," said Wyman. "We look back now, and say, 'Well, we know the outcome.' But in 1776, it was far from certain that we would win. Back then, it was an open question as to whether or not we would prevail against Britain."

For high school students, FFVF offers the Spirit of America Youth Leadership program. This four-day, fast-paced event involves speakers, videos, and activities via debates, workshops, discussions, and presentations. Just as with the younger scholars, FFVF takes high schoolers to area historic sites where many of America's founding moments occurred.

At the end of both elementary and high school programs, FFVF conducts the Signers' Ceremony led by a living history presenter dressed as James Wilson, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

"In character, he talks to students about everything done to help make America the nation it is today," Wyman explained. "He tells the students, chaperones, and teachers that there's still room for more signatures, and he encourages them to sign. So they all line up and sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence!"

Better prepared teachers

"We not only serve students, but we also serve teachers," Wyman added. "We want to encourage them."

For more than 50 years, FFVF has hosted educators from around the nation for professional development summer seminars. Each seminar covers at least 40 hours of instruction. Every summer,

Thank you for giving me this amazing opportunity to expand my knowledge of our country and fundamental [documents] that have built it, [and] the chance to expand leadership traits.

KEVIN, TEACHER SEMINAR PARTICIPANT

FFVF trains 250 teachers in five week-long courses on the Valley Forge campus.


The 2022 lineup includes four seminars and a history workshop that allows educators to tour historic sites. Seminar topics include The First Amendment; The Constitutional Convention and Ratification; The Medal of Honor Legacy: War on Terror; and The Medal of Honor Legacy: World War II. A traveling American Revolution

North history workshop is the fifth course.

"Both teachers and students are equally important to us," said Wyman. "We see them both as indispensable to the preservation and advancement of American freedom. You can reach the students – but unless you reach the teachers too – you're only getting the job half done."

In current academia, there is great emphasis on science, technology, and mathematics. While these topics are important, they should not be taught at the expense of America's history, responsibilities of a citizen, and forms of government, especially America's own. Teachers must be ready to share with passion the knowledge they gain from FFVF.

"We do not believe there has been a time in American history any more important than the time we're living in today for an organization like Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge," said Wyman. "We are at a critical time in the history of America right now."

As President Reagan warned a generation ago, American freedom may be only "one generation away from extinction." 

Consider a Valley Forge program

Student programs are offered to students in public schools, parochial schools, charter schools, and homeschools. For more information, visit freedomfoundation.org, email education@ffvf.org, or call 610.933.8825 x231.

For information about teacher seminars, email grad@ffvf.org or call 800.896.5488 x210.

Consider a family adventure

As a high school American literature teacher more than 40 years ago, I attended two seminars at Freedoms Foundation. I was humbled by how much I learned.

I was awed by the peaceful beauty of Valley Forge, and in contrast, I was stunned to remember that soldiers died for my freedom on that sacred ground. The impact of the experience on my love for America remains strong even after all these decades.

Families who travel to the area will also be rewarded to discover that many significant historic sites can be visited in one trip from Valley Forge to Philadelphia or New York City or Washington, D.C., and more.

Randall Murphree, Editor, *The Stand*

What a love

A young mother encourages others with the blessings of pregnancy.



BY LAUREN BLACK BRAGG

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you.” – Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:27

If you are a mama who is in the process of healing from the physical, emotional, and spiritual aftermath of an abortion, who has come before the Lord and realized the gravity of your decision – I want to reinforce something. Our God is a faithful and forgiving Father. Because of the cross, because of the precious blood of Jesus, we can walk today in freedom from guilt and shame. You are covered. There is resurrection power and healing that flows freely for you from heaven.

Hallelujah! What a love!

Now I would like to turn a page and take a look at the other side of abortion.

It seems to me that the same people screaming, rioting, looting, and burning down our country for “basic human rights” are the same people who champion and praise the murder of our unborn children.

“My body, my choice” in reference to abortion is possibly the most ironic and hypocritical statement ever muttered from the mouth of mankind.

You want to cover yourself head to toe in tattoos? Your body, your choice.

You want to choose pizza every day over

salad? Your body, your choice. You want lip injections, liposuction, and breast augmentation? Your body, your choice.

You want to barbarously rip your child apart limb from precious limb and vacuum him out from the one place he is supposed to be safe in this world?

Not *your* body, not your choice. What about *his* body? What about his choice?

To say that a living child – with brainwaves and a heartbeat, who can suck her thumb and stretch her legs and recognize her mama’s voice – is a clump of cells is a flagrant and hellish cop-out.

And please, before you come at me with rape-related abortions, I want you to do a little research on a few names you may know – jazz singer Eartha Kitt, former **Fox & Friends** co-anchor Kelly Wright, actress Ethel Waters, pro-life activist Rebecca Kiessling, political activist Jesse Jackson, and evangelist James Robison. These high achievers owe their everything to mothers who had the strength and courage to let them live after being raped.

I was scrolling the other day and saw something that said, “Take your religion out of my abortion.” Such a blatant reminder of how far removed we as a society have become from the heart of heaven.

In that moment, the Lord broke through my thoughts and


quietly said to me, “In order to take Jesus out of abortion, you would first have to take Him out of life, and to take Jesus out of life would be like taking the threads out of a blanket. How do you separate a thing from its very fabric? The simple answer is that you can’t.”

I remember the first time I saw our [first] son at his 16-week ultrasound. I saw a nose that looked a whole lot like his mama’s. I saw a belly that looked perfect for tickles. I saw life. I saw a baby boy who in the secret places of his mother’s womb was already fully known and set apart by the Creator of the universe.

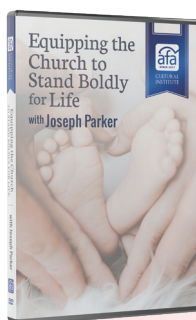
What a Creator!

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. ...

– Psalm 139:13-14

From birth I was cast on you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. – Psalm 22:10 (NIV) 

Editor’s note: This commentary is condensed from a blog first posted at afa.net/thestand.



More pro-life resources

Visit resources.afa.net or call 877.927.4917 for **Equipping the Church to Stand Boldly for Life**, a DVD message from Joseph Parker, AFA director of outreach and intercession, and other pro-life resources.

If God says 'no more' to America

What does the future hold for the nation and for each of us?

BY ROBERT YOUNGBLOOD

"You are the light of the world," we are told in Matthew 5:14. "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" (NKJV). America, once widely perceived as a city on a hill, is losing her brightness.

Independence Day is a good time to measure our brightness factor – individually, as the church, and as a nation.

I love America, and I know she has documented foundations in Judeo-Christian values, laws, and principles. However, I still pray the Lord's Prayer, which includes the potential for God's judgment: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

God's holiness tolerates no sin in His glorious realm, so I can only imagine His righteous anger at America's current behaviors.

Christians must remember the power of our God. As the judge of the quick and the dead, He can change things faster than we can gasp in astonishment or horror.

Have American Christians become too proud in our independence and our faulty desire to "be true to ourselves" that we no longer admit the value of a broken spirit before God?

Are we at the pig trough with the Prodigal Son finally realizing we should return to our Father – even as a servant instead of a child? (Luke 15:11-32).

Are we ready to completely surrender to God instead of our selfishness?

Are we afraid to take up our cross?

We are admonished in Matthew 10:38-39: "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

Taking up the cross in today's culture is more than wearing one around your neck, tattooing one on your body, or hanging one in your car. The cross is covered with the blood of the only One who can save those who admit their sin according to God's standards.

The devil wants us to misunderstand or disregard what God calls sin, because if we do that, then we can neither ask for forgiveness nor understand the need to repent. Satan finds sadistic glee as he injects just enough truth in his lies to tickle many ears, thus deceiving many who are so sure they are saved (Matthew 7:21-23).

Jesus never said following Him would be easy. If anyone told you so, remember this: The Bible doesn't support it.


Jesus called people to count the cost while simultaneously reminding them, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

To gain the

world is to deny the profit of the Holy Spirit leading each of us to repent through an understanding of sin as God defines it in His Word. Don't let the devil or his minions mislead you.

Right now, America seems to flout God's laws. Lawlessness is called sin in the Bible, and sin always brings judgment. America is like a house in torrential floods of sin rushing toward a waterfall and imminent destruction. Who can rescue us in such a horrible and terrifying situation?

Only God.

God may let America fall, but please, if you call yourself a Christian, don't let it be because the devil has fooled you about what God calls sin. Open your eyes to the evil that the world calls good. Dare to pray the prayer that leads to repentance. 

Editors note: This commentary was first posted at afa.net/thestand.



CORE VALUES SPOTLIGHT

This challenging commentary reflects AFA's core value based on evangelizing the lost and discipling the believer. Read more of Dr. Youngblood's commentaries at afa.net/thestand, where this one was posted July 10, 2020. See "New life in Christ" on p. 8.

Transforming lives, transforming nations

Providence Foundation applies biblical principles to all areas of life and society.

BY ADDIE GRACE PUTNAM

THE STAND INTERN

“The gospel not only transforms men; it transforms nations.” This is the heart behind Providence Foundation, a ministry started by Stephen McDowell to teach Christians how to be leaders in every area of life.

The ministry is especially interested in looking at the believer’s role in fields such as government and business. McDowell contends that believers’ obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) should lead to change not only in the lives of individuals but also in the life of the nation. In an interview with *The Stand*, McDowell shared about his ministry and what he hopes it will accomplish in the United States.

The Stand: Please share your ministry’s goals.

Stephen McDowell: The Providence Foundation is a Christian educational organization whose mission is to train leaders in all spheres of life how to transform their culture for Christ. We teach principles of law, government, education, and economics, and we teach what the Bible says about these spheres of life so that people can apply them and implement them in their communities, families, businesses, and the nation at large, as well.

We’ve trained people from well over 100 countries, and we have our materials translated in 18 different languages and different books published in probably about 20

different countries. And we’ve been working nearly 40 years in this arena.

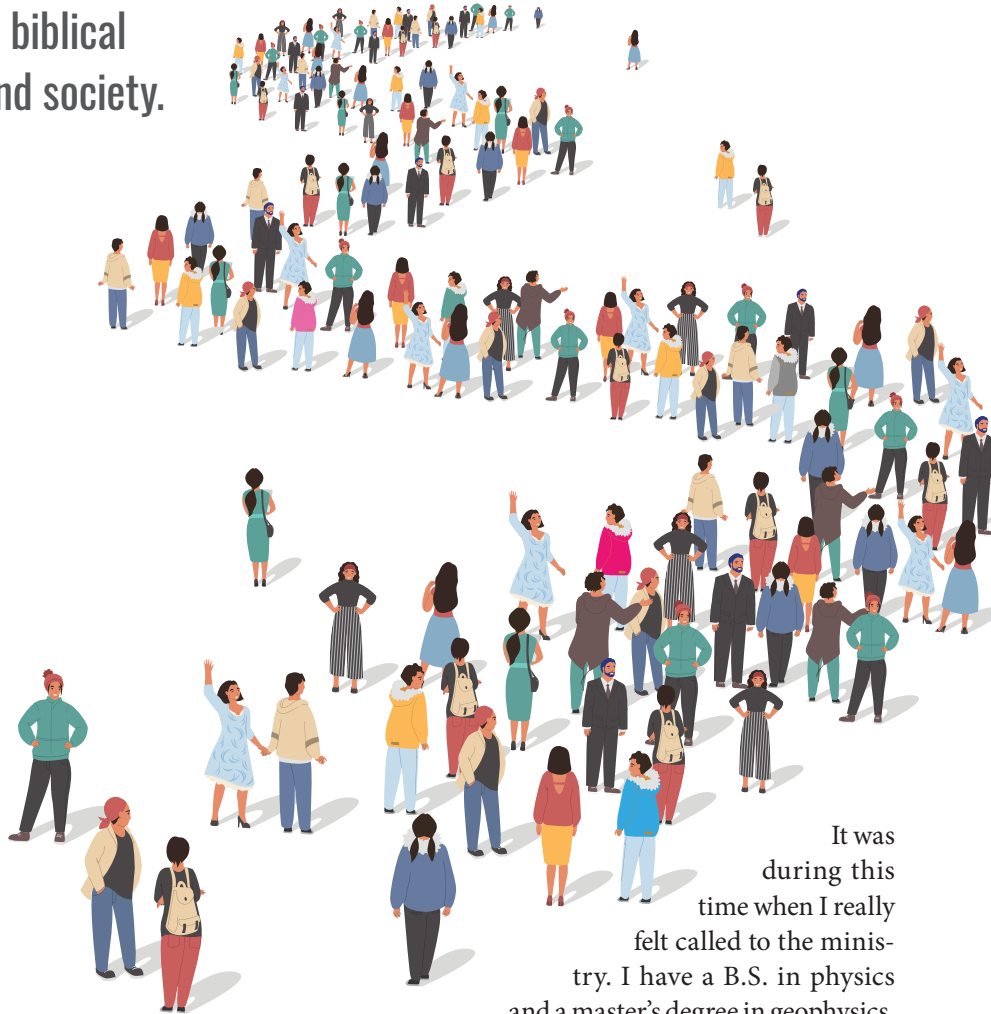
TS: How did you come to Christ? How have your past experiences led to the founding of this ministry?

SM: I grew up in church, but I did not encounter the living God while at the particular church I was going to. In the late 1960s or early ’70s, I began to be introduced to the gospel. Eventually, God broke through my stubbornness, and in the mid-’70s when I was in college, I surrendered my life to the Lord.

It was during this time when I really felt called to the ministry. I have a B.S. in physics and a master’s degree in geophysics. I had an opportunity to go work for an oil company in oil exploration or to go help start a new church. ... I chose the latter.

During that time, I began to be introduced to the fact that the gospel not only transforms man, it transforms nations. The Bible speaks to all of life. I was introduced to the true history of America where God was intimately involved in giving birth to this nation.

And as I began to read and study and learn these things, I began to say, “Hey, this information is vital for the future liberty of the country, and most Americans have no clue about it.” So as a way



to help facilitate teaching biblical worldview, America's Christian history, and these other things, I resigned my pastorate at the first of 1984 and then helped start the Providence Foundation.

TS: Could you elaborate on the idea of the gospel changing nations?

SM: Jesus gave us a Great Commission. He said, "Make disciples of all the nations." Matthew Henry made the comment on Matthew 28:18-20 that the principal intention of this passage is clear: to do your utmost to make the nations Christian nations.

That's what I believe the Bible means when it tells us to go and disciple the nations. We're to teach the nations to observe all that Christ taught. Of course, that begins by individuals doing that. People need to learn how to do it, but if people obey and adopt the principles Jesus taught, then those people will live and influence their families, their churches, and their businesses.

It'll influence how they get involved in society to help bring about results in live communities. And eventually, it'll affect the laws of a nation, the economic principles, the educational systems; it'll affect everything.

In addition to converting individuals, we're also to transform nations. And that's in fulfillment of the original commission God gave to Adam and Eve in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2, which is the creation commission or cultural mandate. We're to go and bring transformation, or to be fruitful and multiply, take dominion over the earth, be good stewards of this earth, and rule over the earth.

TS: What are some of the challenges you've seen in this ministry?

SM: I had a vision for transmitting this [biblical] truth. But there's this chal-

lenge of propagating the message that a lot of times, people don't know. They need to know these principles of liberty, and the only way you're going to know the value of them is to have them deep in your heart. But to get them deep in your heart, it takes a long process. It's always the challenge of transmitting truth.

Our strategy was to plant seeds. Over time, that seed can produce good fruit. It always comes over a long period of time.

TS: How did you get involved with AFA on the Washington and Williamsburg tours?

SM: Tim Wildmon and I have been working together for over 20 years. I started doing Christian history tours, and around 1985, I took a group of international students to D.C. to introduce them to the reason America had become the most free and prosperous nation in history.


Tim's dad had given tours to Israel for a long time, and Tim started doing that. Then he decided to take Americans to our own sites. Our mutual friend got in

touch with me and asked if I would be their tour guide. That was the late 1990s, maybe the year 2000. We've taken thousands of people over that time period. First it was D.C., and then it expanded to the Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown areas.

TS: What are your thoughts on the U.S.? Where do you think we're heading as a country?

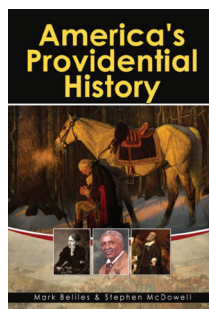
SM: America was founded upon biblical principles. Those biblical principles produced the most free and prosperous nation in history. But the problem has come in the last 100-150 years. We began to reject those principles and look to man instead of God as the source of law and the source of what's right and wrong.

We have a lot of weeds and thorns and thistles beginning to grow. They work their way into our public and civil institutions, our societal institutions, in a way that they hadn't been before. There's a greater negative impact with an assault against the family and undermining of education.

If I didn't know all the good things that were happening – the rise of the homeschool movement, the rise of the Christian school movement, the rise of more Christians getting involved in government, the rise of organizations like American Family Association and Providence Foundation – I would not have much hope for the future. But that is happening; there are people working. So that gives me hope. 

America was founded upon biblical principles. Those biblical principles produced the most free and prosperous nation in history.

STEPHEN MCDOWELL



More relevant resources

Providence Foundation's most popular work is *America's Providential History*, which focuses on God's presence and the role of biblical principles in the creation of America.

Two other books that can be read as companion pieces are *Ruling the Earth* on the role of civil government from a biblical perspective and *Stewarding the Earth* on a biblical understanding of economics. For more information, visit providencefoundation.com.

Find Stephen McDowell featured on AFA's Cultural Institute series and more at resources.afa.net or 877.927.4917.

Can media be redeemed?

Redeem TV offers free streaming with Christian family movies and documentaries.

BY MATTHEW WHITE

A March 2022 article by **comparitech.com** reported that “the average American spends seven hours and four minutes looking at a screen every day.”

The same article also highlighted the fact that most Americans, 93.5%, “will use the internet to stream their favorite TV shows and movies.”

With screens so accessible and private and opportunities so abundant, it’s no wonder the global porn industry is worth an estimated \$97 billion. An article at **pornaddiction.com** reported that “the average amount of the internet devoted to porn sites is estimated to be between 4% and 12%,” and “about 13% of web searches and 20% of mobile searches are related to porn.”

To say that people are inundated with filth in media today would be an understatement.

Because of the overwhelmingly media-saturated culture, one Christian ministry decided to offer alternative programming because so much of what is offered on other platforms is untrustworthy and offensive.

Having been around for 50 years, Vision Video is a familiar name in the Christian film industry, but as Bill Curtis, president of the company, became aware of the prominence of streaming, he knew he wanted to add a Christian presence there. Subsequently, Curtis debuted

Redeem TV in March 2020.

Curtis, along with Rachel Hafner, marketing manager for Vision Video, spoke with *The Stand* about their new streaming platform.

The Stand: What is Redeem TV and what compelled you to offer this service?

Bill Curtis: Redeem TV is a donor-supported media streaming service. We have nearly 200,000 subscribers in 200 countries. Our primary goal is to serve families and children who are looking

for wholesome, uplifting, enriching Christian media. As we became aware that DVDs were dying, we wanted a way to still be able to deliver the content we produce and distribute directly to homes for families.

TS: How is Redeem TV different from other similar streaming platforms?

BC: A major difference is that there’s no charge to sign up. It’s a free subscription. All that’s required is for the user to enter an email address.

There is additional content for donors, but only a small portion, and even that is eventually offered for free

Last Flight Out

This fast-paced, faith-based film features a protagonist who is a pilot sent to rescue a missionary from her Columbia village that is being terrorized by drug lords. But she refuses to leave the dangerous environment. Most of the setting is the village under siege, complete with moderate violence perpetrated by drug runners. Scenes include blood resulting from injuries, but not a graphic portrayal of the incidents. A number of explosions occur, but again, with no graphic depiction of injuries.

The movie is superb in both acting and the riveting plot. The 2004 classic was produced by the film division of Billy Graham Evangelical Association, and it includes a clear reflection of the gospel including one man who experiences salvation. A few scenes spotlight Samaritan’s Purse ministries in action.

World Wide Pictures, 82 minutes

Randall Murphree





viewing. Most of the content is available at no charge.

TS: How are you able to provide content for free?

BC: Through our generous donors. People appreciate the service, and they want to support this kind of programming. We don't require it, but we ask people to donate to support it, and enough do so that it makes it feasible.

I think people are beginning to wake up to big media corporations as they've come out publicly and stated what their intentions are and the kind of programs they want to provide.

TS: What kind of content can viewers expect to find on your platform?

Rachel Hafner: We have a wide range of content. We offer documentaries, family movies, kids' shows, and dramas, just to name a few.

BC: To add to what Rachel mentioned,

there will be Bible studies and biblical programs as well.

TS: Is the programming strictly Christian in nature?

BC: It's not all specifically Christian, but it is all family safe.

For example, we just licensed the series **Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye** that aired on the PAX Network several years ago. That show was not specifically Christian, but it is family-safe entertainment.

We also have gospel-centered programming that challenges people to grow in their walk with Jesus.

TS: With many services, it is not necessarily the chosen show that's the problem; it is the advertisements or commercials. With your service, would parents have any fear of inappropriate or objectionable commercials or ads?

RH: Redeem TV is ad-free. So there is no fear about what could be coming up in between any of the shows or things that you are watching. What you click on is what you're going to watch.

TS: Since Redeem TV is relatively new, only about two years old, are there

any future plans or developments you would like to share?

BC: Our plans in the future are to continue to offer Redeem TV originals and to grow the customer base domestically and worldwide.

RH: Some exciting news is that with our popular show, **Vindication**, sort of a Christian version of **CSI**, we have a third season currently in production.

We also have two new series coming out. **Chasing Revival** just went live on the service in May. It explores how Christianity is spreading all over the world.

Our first original production, **The Watchers**, released in June. It examines the spiritual world of good versus evil and explores how evil is around us, but we may not be thinking of it in such a way.

TS: What kind of feedback have you gotten from current users?

RH: We have been blessed with lovely subscribers who vocalize their thoughts and feelings, and they have been quite positive and just thankful.

As Bill mentioned before, so much of mainstream media promotes and shows things that parents don't approve of or would rather their kids not be exposed to.

So they're just very thankful that they have the option to watch Redeem TV and be able to trust that what they're showing their kids is going to be safe for their eyes and their ears to hear. 

Volendam: A Refugee Story

Redeem TV is currently showcasing **Volendam: A Refugee Story**, a documentary which reveals the desperation of 1,000 Ukrainian Mennonites who endured continual upheaval, famine, and religious persecution



during the World War II era. With their homeland relegated to the post-war control of Russia, the Mennonites knew that only imprisonment or death awaited them back home under Stalin's brutal rule.

As they prayed for a miracle, the Mennonites eventually were offered

refuge in the jungles of Paraguay – if they could manage to escape the Soviet Occupied Zone and make their way to the waiting ship Volendam. Viewers get a firsthand look into this unique and unfamiliar chapter in world history, as well as the strength of the Mennonite believers and the power of prayer.

Refuge 31 Films, 85 minutes

Joy Lucius

Start streaming today

Visit redeemtv.com to browse the extensive library of free family-friendly offerings. While there, sign up for the free subscription and begin viewing content immediately. Click "Browse" or "Search" to look for a title.

These reviews by *The Stand* staff illustrate Redeem TV's wide variety of film genres.

A faithful founder and his faithful God

AFA celebrates grand opening of the Don Wildmon Center for Cultural Transformation.



BY REBECCA DAVIS

“So how did this all come to be?” asked long-standing AFA board member Mike Murphree as he addressed the crowd that gathered for the grand opening of the new Don Wildmon Center for Cultural Transformation. “This all started because Don and Lynda Wildmon faithfully answered God’s call to a specific task ... to educate this country as to the influences of its moral decline and what people could do about it.

“What a task this was,” Murphree

continued. And still is. ...

To continue carrying out this great task, AFA dedicated its new state-of-the-art, 20,000-square-foot facility to the Lord during a special ceremony on May 11. Former and current staff, special friends and ministry partners, local government officials, and the Wildmon family gathered together to celebrate God’s faithfulness to the ministry of AFA.

“Today is a special day,” said AFA president Tim Wildmon. “We’ll always remember it.

“I’m glad my dad was able to be here today,” he said about the 84-year-old AFA founder, affectionately known as Bro. Don.

“We were able to honor his legacy of faithfulness and the legacy of those who supported him in the early days of this ministry,” added Walker Wildmon, AFA vice president of operations and grandson of Bro. Don.

A foundation of faithfulness

Although the honor shown to Bro. Don during the grand opening was most



AFA leadership (left to right): Walker Wildmon, Buddy Smith, Tim Wildmon, Ed Vitagliano, Wesley Wildmon at DWCCT ribbon-cutting

appropriate and well-deserved, he has never been one to want the spotlight on himself. In fact, during the early years of AFA, he would often ask the Lord why the Lord wasn't satisfied with him being just a normal preacher.

"You see, Bro. Don had a burden pressed on his soul that he couldn't ignore," explained Buddy Smith, senior vice president of AFA. "Don Wildmon rejected the temptation to make this important work about himself. ... Rather, [he] made it about the Great Commission and the cultural commission found in God's holy, infallible, and inerrant Word."

"I was privileged to work in the shadow of Don Wildmon," Tony Perkins, presi-

dent of Family Research Council, told guests at the grand opening. "[But] let me just say, I don't think Don ever has anybody in his shadow because he lets the light shine on them. ... It's about other people. And that's really what American Family Association is about. ... This is an organization that serves others."

A future of faithfulness

"It really excites me to see the team that now occupies the Don Wildmon Center for Cultural Transformation

When my race is run, if AFA's mission is not stronger the next day, I will consider everything I've done as a failure.

DON WILDMON



Don Wildmon, founder of AFA



Mike Murphree, long-standing AFA board member

represent another generation carrying out the vision of AFA," Walker added.


"From the beginning, ... the implicit goal of every project of AFA has been about faithfulness to the message, which is the gospel of Jesus Christ," Smith said.

Smith recalled a conversation he had decades ago with Bro. Don about the future of AFA. He was surprised that Bro. Don initiated the conversation since he was always so focused on the rigorous day-to-day mission of AFA.

Smith told Bro. Don: "I've always seen you as a day-to-day soldier of the cross, faithful to the end, hearing 'well done' from the Lord, and then it's somebody else's turn."

To which Bro. Don tersely responded: "You've got it wrong! When my race is run, if AFA's mission is not stronger the next day, I will consider everything I've done as a failure."

Those words from years ago pressed deeply on Smith's heart as he addressed the crowd and said, "Today's grand opening of the Don Wildmon Center for Cultural Transformation shouts that our commitment to AFA's vital mission is strong, and it's growing even stronger by the day."

"And it all started because of Bro. Don and Mrs. Lynda's obedient faith in God," Murphree said. "Their faithfulness is a gift that keeps giving." 

Bro. Don Wildmon with son Tim, and grandchildren (clockwise from left) Walker, Wesley, and Wriley (director of AFA Foundation)

The children of 'Ellen' and Disney

Disney has pioneered advocacy for the LGBTQ agenda for a quarter century.

BY ED VITAGLIANO

AFA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

It's been 25 years since actress Ellen DeGeneres waltzed into America's living rooms with the groundbreaking "coming out" episode of her Disney-owned ABC sitcom, **Ellen**.

The landmark show opened the door to gay and lesbian characters and storylines like nothing before it.

Rise and fall

The sitcom first aired in 1994. DeGeneres was a likeable personality and a talented comedienne, and initially **Ellen** did well. That year the show jumped as high as 5th place in the Nielsen ratings, and ended its maiden season in the 13th spot.

Ironically, it plummeted to 39th place by the end of the next season and then closed out the spring of 1996 at Number 44. USA Today television critic Robert Bianco called **Ellen** "a mediocre show."

During the fall season of 1996, the show's writers began to tease the **Ellen** audience about the lesbianism of the main character. Was the character going to become the first lead in television history to come out as homosexual? Was DeGeneres *herself* a lesbian?

It eventually became very clear that Disney wanted **Ellen** to come out of the closet as a way to affect the sympathies of "straight America." What better way to do that than with a comedy?

Amazingly, by the time the infamous coming out episode aired on April 30, 1997, the tactic had borne fruit. A stunning 42 million viewers watched at least part of the episode, while 36 million watched the entire show. TV's top-rated series

at the time – **ER** – barely eclipsed **Ellen's** numbers for the week. The viewership accounted for nearly *one-quarter* of U.S. households with televisions.

One ABC network executive raved that "the show's performance exceeded our expectations by more than 30%."

It cannot be denied that getting 42 million people to watch the same show on the same night was no small feat at the time. As a tactic to increase viewership, it succeeded brilliantly.

However, the following episodes saw numbers begin to tumble. DeGeneres appeared determined to turn the sitcom into a weekly examination of the character's coming

out woes. Even the enthusiasm of the homosexual fan base couldn't boost **Ellen's** numbers as the show hemorrhaged viewers. By the spring of 1998 – one year after the historic episode – **Ellen** was gone.

Disney had used the sitcom and the actress to push the boundaries of homosexuality on the small screen, but when the show had ceased to be successful, it was executed like a heretic in a medieval court.

DeGeneres bitterly complained that Disney was no longer supportive of a show with a lesbian lead.

Leading the way

She couldn't have been more wrong. In fact, the Mouse House was still as supportive of homosexuality as it had ever been. Most television critics at the time said the show was canceled because **Ellen** had returned to mediocrity.

For example, a year after the show got axed, Tim Good-

While it was likely that some entertainment giant would have eventually kicked that door open, Disney is the company that actually did it.





man, San Francisco Examiner television critic, explained: “We learned as viewers that watching a poorly written show about a gay person was as boring as watching a poorly written show about a cop, or a doctor, or a husband and wife and their dumb baby.”

What many people didn’t know at the time was that **Ellen** was not a *solitary* salvo, it was part of a media artillery barrage orchestrated in large part by Disney.

As a corporation, Disney had already helped underwrite a 1993 Hollywood benefit for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and then extended company health benefits to same-sex domestic partners of its employees. And Disney film subsidiary Miramax was responsible for controversial homosexually-themed films such as **Priest**, **Chasing Amy**, and **Lie Down with Dogs**.

In 1995, Disney-affiliated Storyline Entertainment produced the controversial made-for-TV movie **Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story**. Based on a lesbian Army officer’s experience, the film plied viewers with a one-sided message in favor of allowing homosexuals in the military.

Serving in Silence was produced by homosexuals Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, who praised Disney for “leading the pack” on “progressive” programming in favor of homosexuality.

“We’ve always found Disney more than willing to let us present gay stories,” Meron said. “People get the company’s traditional American family image mixed up with what is in fact a very inclusive, forward-thinking company.”

By the fall of 1996, Disney/ABC had taken the lead in prime-time promotion of homosexuality. According to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), of the 28 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender regular characters on primetime television that season, 13 were on ABC. The NBC network trailed behind with only 6.

As 1997 dawned, Disney/ABC aired what was considered at the time to be the most passionate lesbian kiss ever shown on television on the January 11 episode of the drama **Relativity**.

Inside the entertainment industry, no one was surprised, as Disney’s support for homosexuality was an open secret. Openly gay entertainment billionaire David Geffen confirmed at the time that then-Disney chairman Michael Eisner was “very homo-friendly.”

Kicking open the door

Most experts believe that **Ellen** changed the television landscape forever.

For example, despite his impression of **Ellen**’s lack of overall quality, Bianco called the coming out episode “a historic event.” He added, “TV will never be the same.”

As **Ellen** was in its death throes in the fall of 1998, it had done its job – to make homosexuality commonplace in prime-time television. On virtually every network, a pride parade of various other homosexual characters, storylines, and shows would accelerate until it seemed that half the entertainment world was gay.


One commentator triumphantly remarked not long after **Ellen** was canceled, “Through the closet door flung open by **Ellen** two years ago, a small battalion of young homosexual characters are streaming into TV’s most-talked-about dramas.”

That battalion is the militant march of the children of **Ellen DeGeneres**, **Ellen**, and Disney.

The unexpected throng of 42 million **Ellen** viewers who watched the coming out episode – viewers who were not repulsed by the homosexual theme but actually quite curious – was all the permission Hollywood needed. The episode made it clear that a lead character could be homosexual; that advertisers did not have to shy away from gay-themed programming; and that mainstream America would watch a show with gay characters if it was well-written.

While it was likely that *some* entertainment giant would have eventually kicked that door open, Disney is the company that actually did it.

Not unsurprisingly, the Mouse House continues to champion homosexuality. Its most recent controversial decisions are stunning. It publicly opposed the Parental Rights in Education Act in Florida, which simply bans the discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity for public school kids in kindergarten through grade three. Disney vowed to work for the law’s repeal. Then it decided to restore a lesbian same-sex kiss (it had earlier deleted) in a *children’s* film, the animated movie **Lightyear**.

To appropriate a verse from God’s Word, the Mouse cannot change its spots. Moreover, it’s clear that Disney does not want to. 

What next?

Families will increasingly be challenged by Disney and other entertainment media with their ongoing support for sexual deviancy.

AFA President Tim Wildmon said, “Christian parents and grandparents will undoubtedly find it difficult to spend money on films like **Lightyear**. AFA recommends boycotting any Disney products that promote a lifestyle at odds with Scripture.”



The church and senior living solutions

Proclivity Senior Living enhances ministry for churches and parishioners.

BY RANDALL MURPHREE

“The pastor looked at me with a sigh and said, ‘I get asked all the time about which senior community I would recommend in our area. I have no idea where to point my congregants, Stephen.’”

The overwhelmed pastor had called Stephen Bolt for a consultation on finding, choosing, vetting, or recommending senior living facilities. And Bolt, CEO/founder of Proclivity Senior Living (PSL), had some insights.

“I understand your dilemma,” he told the pastor. Bolt proceeded to explain that in every Sunday morning congregation, because of rapidly changing demographics, statistically one-third of the worshipers are dealing with heavy questions on the subject. *“How soon will I have to move out of my home?” “What do I do with my aging mom or dad?” “Who can I trust to advise me?”*

PSL is positioned to assist the local church with practical solutions. Bolt is quick to pinpoint the advantages of the PSL model that:

- Provides the highest level of senior assisted living, memory care, and independent living.
- Is managed by an industry leader with state-of-the-art facilities.
- Allows the church to minister to residents, their families and the employees.
- Offers a senior community either directly on its campus, or a short distance away.
- Creates an opportunity for the church to earn substantial revenue with zero liability.
- Presents itself to its community as engaged and relevant to changing demographics.

Present phenomenon

“This senior living phenomenon presents itself as a historic opportunity for the church to be part of the solution,” Bolt affirmed, “and in the process, to become even more community relevant, and also substantially increase their predictable revenue.”

“Proclivity Senior Living is providing that ability. For example, we’re proud of our newest development in Frankfort, Kentucky. It offers 152 state-of-the-art units of independent, assisted living and memory care on 42 beautiful acres.”

The Frankfort center is the epitome of PSL’s mission to help churches and seniors cultivate ministry relationships that benefit all parties involved. 



(photo above)

Previous parallel

Bolt draws a parallel between this challenge and a similar one that occurred in countless churches in the 1970s and ’80s as families turned in record numbers to churches to provide childcare and kindergarten ministries.

“It was a highly successful model,” Bolt told *The Stand*. “Today, the demographics have shifted from preschoolers to aging parents, and in an unprecedented way. Churches, the Christian community, met the challenge back then and provided those caring services to their communities, and they have the same kind of opportunity today.”

Meet Stephen Bolt

Stephen Bolt learned focus, discipline, and perseverance as a 10-time Southeastern Conference track champion and subsequently as a world-class runner. Those strong characteristics fed the passion he invested in a 30-year career as a financial planner. Then an acquaintance asked if he could apply his experience and gifts in the area of faith-based senior living. He thought he could. And he is doing so at Proclivity Senior Living (proclivityseniorliving.com).

It’s More Than Just a Race

Stephen Bolt’s memoir retraces his life as a runner, beginning with his first race in high school, his years at University of Alabama, and eventually many marathons. A brief devotion by Dr. Tom King follows each chapter, tying its theme to biblical principles. Bolt’s athletic accomplishments illustrate the challenges of life and offer the encouragement to overcome them. It is available at itsmorethanjustarace.com.

You Can be a Blessing Amid High Prices



BY CHRIS WOODWARD

We have all heard the stories. The cost of food is on the rise. So is the price of gas and electricity. The bad news? Many people's incomes have not risen enough to make up the difference, and inflation may only get worse before it gets better. The good news is that you can be a blessing by donating supplies or sharing what you have on hand.

GIVING IS BIBLICAL

God wants us to give. Proverbs 3:27 tells us, "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it" (KJV). If you have some extra money, then it is within your power to help those in need.

It is not as though young people are not already known for giving. A 2020 study from Zelle found nearly 3 out of 4 millennials had sent some kind of finan-

cial aid to family and friends or donated to a nonprofit since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Charitable giving has become so common among young people that Forbes Council member Joe Fisher said in 2021 they are "revolutionizing the philanthropic world."

Do not worry about what you are getting in return or have received from those people in the past. In Acts 20:35, Paul tells a group of people to help the weak and remember the words of Jesus that 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' Whatever you do, do it cheerfully. "God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

MEMBERS OF THE EARLY CHURCH TOOK CARE OF ONE ANOTHER

As the early church was growing in number, so was the number of people sharing things. Study Bibles will give

you all kinds of reasons for this, saying they were persecuted and wanted to ensure they had things to eat and drink. Some people believe that early Christians were socialists. The bottom line is that people were sharing what they had with other people. Moreover, they were sharing what they had with their brothers and sisters in Christ. Engage with people in your church congregation. Ask them how things are going at home. If at some point, you can determine whether they could use some help, be the help. It is not about you. It is about helping others. That is why some people define joy as "Jesus first, others second, yourself last."

EVERYONE IS YOUR NEIGHBOR (INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE NOT SAVED)

Speaking of others, every person in your town, state, nation, and the world is your neighbor. This includes people you do not get along with, people that you might view as "enemies." We know this from the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). The "good" guy in the parable was a Samaritan who helped a Jewish man. Samaritans and Jews did not get along. Still, the Samaritan saw fit to help the Jew after he was beaten and robbed, and left for dead.

There are many people in this world we do not agree with, but that does not mean we ignore them when they are in a bad way. In Psalm 35:13-14, David speaks of fasting and praying for people that sought to do him harm when David heard they were ill. We can pray for people in need. We can also fast, share, and be good neighbors. It's what God wants us to do for Him and others. **E**



GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE: TIPS FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL

BY ADDIE GRACE PUTNAM

The apostle John writes in the book of Revelation: *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* (Revelation 7:9-10, ESV).

This beautiful vision of a representative from every people group standing before the throne of God is at the heart of the gospel. There are so many different people groups in the world, each of which has its own belief system. Some people estimate that there are over 4,000 religions across the world. In order for the vision of Revelation 7 to be fulfilled, we Christians need to do our part in sharing God's truth with people following these other faiths.

If we're going to go out into a sin-darkened world and shine the light of Christ, we need to be equipped to do so. The following three tips apply to any faith system and will help give you confidence as you share the good news of Jesus' salvation with those who don't believe in Him.

1. KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

Knowing what you believe is imperative. If you try to go into this spiritual war with only a limited understanding of your faith, you'll be confused at best and swayed away from the truth at worst.

Unfortunately, this is an area in which many Christians are woefully unprepared. A 2019 Lifeway survey of American Protestants revealed that only 32% of churchgoers claim to read the Bible every day, 27% said they read it a few times a week, and 12% admitted to rarely (if ever) reading the Bible.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU BELIEVE, YOU CAN'T
EXPECT TO TELL SOMEONE
ELSE ABOUT IT.

If you don't know what you believe, you can't expect to tell someone else about it. So start studying Christianity. Read your Bible daily, and let God Himself teach you what to believe. Take a course in apologetics. Learn why you believe the way you do, so when someone asks you, you're prepared to give a defense of your faith (1 Peter 3:15).

2. KNOW WHAT THEY BELIEVE.

This is almost as important as knowing your own beliefs. To effectively communicate the gospel to others, you need to first understand where they're coming from. This will enable you to speak directly to the biggest issues they'll face when confronted with the gospel, showing them how Christ can answer their life questions.

Knowing what people from other faiths believe will also keep you from slipping up in your words and communicating something that's not at all what you wanted to say. For example, say you're talking with a Hindu. Spiritual things come up, and you start talking about how you've been born again because of your relationship with Christ. This is a key biblical doctrine, but the terminology you're using means something completely different to a Hindu. That religion is centered on reincarnation – people literally being born again... and again... and again, on and on until they finally burn off their bad karma and are freed from the wheel of life. Their goal is actually to stop being born again.

You obviously can't learn every possible thing about every religion in the world. But knowing the basics of other faiths – things like their central beliefs, their history, and what they consider to be the biggest problem in the world – will give you a great starting ground for a discussion.


3. CONTEXTUALIZE THE MESSAGE.

First, let's get what this doesn't mean out of the way. Contextualizing the gospel does not mean you water it down, add to it, or chop off parts of it to make the message more palatable. Doing that results in a fake gospel that's no more true than any other of the 4,000+ world religions.

What contextualization does mean is learning how to share the gospel message in a way people from other faiths will understand. Not everyone views the world in the same way we do. Most Americans operate under a guilt/innocence culture, which means we emphasize the importance of doing right things instead of wrong things because it's morally acceptable to do so. Other cultures have different perspectives. Asian cultures, for example, have a shame/honor mindset, in which the right action is upheld because it brings honor to yourself and your family, not necessarily because it's "the right thing" to do. There's also the fear/power culture, found mostly in traditional, animistic religions and connected to magical means of protection. These people will do good and follow the "right" rituals because it protects them from evil.

When it comes to contextualizing the gospel, it's important to understand where a person lies on this cultural spectrum. When we talk with someone from a guilt/innocence mindset, we're going to focus on how Christ's sacrifice saves us from our guilt and presents us as righteous before God. This is how most of us understand the gospel; it's what we've been taught all our lives.

What some people need to hear, though, is that Christ's sacrifice has saved them from their shame and that they now have the right to call God their Father (Romans 8:14-16). Or maybe they need to hear that Christ's sacrifice has saved them from the forces of evil and the power of death and that they now have nothing left to fear (Hebrews 2:14-15). Each of these approaches to the gospel is biblically accurate. It all depends on which aspects of a person's sin is most fully manifested.

Implementing these three points will give you a fantastic starting point for sharing the gospel with unbelievers. This isn't a perfect, foolproof formula; real conversations are challenging, and things usually won't go the way you anticipated. But knowing what you believe, knowing what others believe, and understanding how to most effectively communicate the gospel will go a long way in sharing the message of Christ's redemptive work with those who have never heard. 

WHAT YOUNG CHRISTIANS NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR NOW

BY JORDAN CHAMBLEE



I have often fantasized about going back in time to my younger days, sitting myself down, and having a real heart-to-heart talk. When I think about all the wasted time, wasted opportunities, and the truly stupid things I spent my energy on, it bothers me greatly.

Young Christian, my heart goes out to you. You may be still living under the roof of your parents or guardian, or maybe you're experiencing your first taste of independence as a college student. Wherever you find yourself, please listen to the words of Paul.

See then that you walk circum-spectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:15-16, NKJV).

Most likely you have more energy and time now than you will ever have again in your life, and if you begin living intentionally right now your future self will be better off. Life as an adult Christian comes with many spiritual and physical challenges, and now is the time to begin preparing for them.

PREPARE FOR LACK OF TIME

He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord – how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world – how he may please his wife.

There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that

she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world – how she may please her husband (1 Corinthians 7:32-34).

Now, you may or may not be married one day, and that isn't the point of the passage above. The principle Paul is applying to married Christians applies to adult Christians in general. As an adult, you will have responsibilities to yourself, your community, your occupation, and your fellow Christians. You will not have as much time to spend in prayer, in the Word of God, or in meditation.

While you're young and living under someone else's roof, not worried about paying your bills or tomorrow's important meeting, take this opportunity to soak in personal time with God. Build up your spiritual health and a foundation of memorized Scripture.

DISCIPLINE YOURSELF

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Discipline is key to achieving

anything in life, and this is true even of spiritual things. A lazy Christian will live under the constant conviction that they do not pray enough, read the Bible enough, or fellowship with other Christians enough, and their spiritual walk will grow slow and hard because of this.

Before spiritual laziness can set in, shake yourself awake every morning and take hold of your spiritual well-being. Put yourself in the hands of God daily, hourly, by the minute, and surround yourself with reminders to press into the life that Christ is leading you into.

PREPARE FOR AUTONOMY

This is something you're going to have to do yourself. When you are an adult Christian, no one is telling you what to do in your spiritual life. Your parents aren't watching your activities over your shoulder.

No one is there constantly keeping you accountable for what you do or how you spend your time. If you can behave as if you are autonomous now, while the safety net of accountability is still present in your life, you will be all the more ready for true personal responsibility as an adult.

I wish I could go back to my youth and change how I lived, but those days are gone for me. But they are not gone for you. Young, teenaged Christian, now is the time to take your life – spiritually, mentally, and physically – by the horns and surrender it to God. **E**

REVIEWS

Family entertainment • Documentaries • Resources for families • Books

The ESV Psalms, Photography Edition

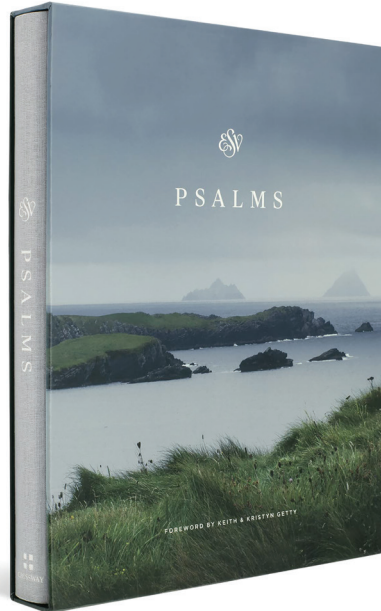
The Book of Psalms comes to life in this hardback photography edition that pairs each psalm with a beautiful photo of Ireland's landscape. From rolling meadows to flowing streams to sweeping coastlines, thematic photos of God's creation add an even greater element of splendor to His written Word.

The book includes a foreword by modern-day hymnwriters Keith and Kristyn Getty.

"As you look through these beautiful photographs of our homeland, may they help give taste and sight to the timeless words of the psalms," wrote Keith Getty.

Crossway, 317 pages
christianbook.com

Rebecca Davis



Lewis looking back and narrating his faith journey from childhood forward.

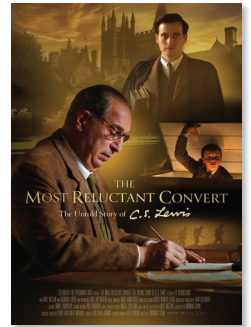
The death of Lewis' mother was traumatic for the young boy. But over the years, Lewis ponders Christianity, and through personal study and the impact of his Christ-following friends, J.R.R. Tolkien and Hugo Dyson, Lewis comes to faith in Christ.

The Most Reluctant Convert is an insightful film about Lewis' feelings toward the faith, the impact of friends, and ultimately his conversion. Cautions include minor instances of war violence, sexual references, a few vulgarities, and occasional alcohol use.

Fellowship for Performing Arts
73 minutes

christianbook.com

Hannah Meador



The Greatest Inheritance

The Greatest Inheritance is a light-hearted film about the importance of family and the value of an eternal inheritance in Christ as four estranged siblings bicker over their late mother's creative plan to reunite them.

It's a fun film with a strong message about valuing what's eternal over what's temporary. It also challenges viewers to examine and cherish their own personal relationships. The script quotes Scripture and is enjoyable for all ages. As a caution, some may question the film's concluding interpretation of the parable of the pearl of great price found in Matthew 13.



The Greatest Inheritance (greatestinheritance.com) is not rated and is streaming on various on-demand platforms.

Mustard Seed
Entertainment,
98 minutes

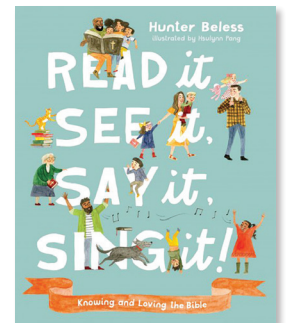
Rebecca Davis

The Most Reluctant Convert

C.S. Lewis is known as an amazing Christian man and writer, but he was not always a believer. In fact, for many years, he was an atheist. In **The Most Reluctant Convert**, director Norman Stone tells the story of Lewis' conversion with actor Max McLean portraying the elder

Read It, See It, Say It, Sing It!

In *Read It, See It, Say It, Sing It!*, author Hunter Beless offers parents and teachers a scripturally solid and totally engaging resource to teach younger children how to read the Bible. The storybook's whimsical illustrations invite children to celebrate the timeless truths of Scripture while sharing four fun ways to hide God's Word in their hearts. As the family-oriented characters read, see, say, and sing multiple Bible verses, children discover that the Bible is active and alive. Best of all, young readers learn



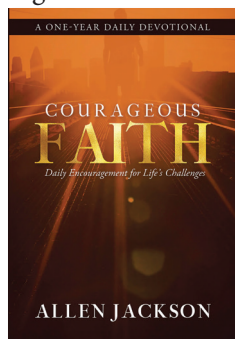
to love God's Word while drawing closer to its Author.

B&H Kids, 32 pages
christianbook.com

Joy Lucius

Courageous Faith

Allen Jackson's 365-day devotional takes readers on an insightful journey through the challenges of life. *Courageous Faith: Daily Encouragement for Life's Challenges* isn't your typical "happy thought for the day" kind of devotional.



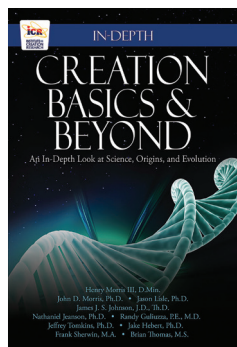
Each one-page entry begins with a passage of Scripture followed by Jackson's application of that passage. The challenging devotions encourage readers to step out of their comfort zones, grow in their faith, and keep serving God.

Jackson is pastor of World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Allen Jackson Ministries, 402 pages
allenjackson.com,
christianbook.com

Addie Grace Putnam

Creation Basics and Beyond



Does science disprove the Bible? Is Genesis a book of mere parables, poetry, and mythology? What people believe about man's origins will affect everything they believe about

life, both earthly and eternal. Institute for Creation Research recently released

No Vacancy

It's a story of struggles and successes. An Orlando Sentinel anti-church news reporter (Sean Young) is transferred to a rural outpost and faces serious family challenges. A longtime

drug addict (T.C. Stallings) has no hope for a productive future. A pastor (Dean Cain) and his church are denied neighborhood support and a city permit to purchase a deteriorating motel to house the homeless.

Success begins to enter the story as these three main characters portray a trio of real people in Leesburg, Florida, in 2008. First Baptist Leesburg is the magnet that draws them together.

No Vacancy is well produced, and the acting is tops; that alone makes it both entertaining and encouraging. The fact that the script is a true story is the remarkable element that seals the impact this film can have as it illustrates how a committed church can change a city.

Kingstone Studios, 110 minutes

novacancymovie.com



Randall Murphree

the second edition of *Creation Basics & Beyond: An In-Depth Look at Science, Origins, and Evolution*.

The expanded version tackles the questions of origins with each chapter addressing "would-be stumbling blocks" to creation. Rather than shying away from science, the book uses science to answer objections and prove that science actually confirms the account of creation given in the Bible. This book will be a valuable resource in one's apologetic arsenal.

Institute for Creation Research

426 pages, icr.org

Matthew White

Maybe He's Not Gay

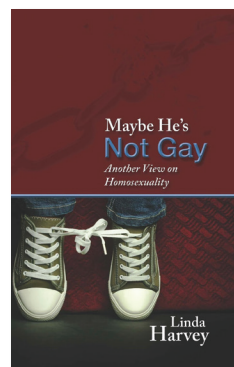
More and more American children are falling victim to the vicious LGBTQ agenda of indoctrination prevalent online and in schools, colleges, and sadly, even in some churches.

Linda Harvey addresses the critical issues of gender and sexual identity head-on in the pages of *Maybe He's Not Gay: Another View on Homosexuality*.

With biblical wisdom and fact-based information, Harvey, president and founder of Mission America, soundly answers the most often asked questions about homosexuality and other gender topics. In the process, she offers parents a timely and trustworthy resource to help cut through the current cultural lies and find clarity and hope for their children. (See feature story on p. 14.)

World Ahead Press, 120 pages

Online booksellers



Joy Lucius

ICR: Teaching young students about biblical creation

BY THE STAND STAFF

With *AFA Journal's* September 2021 feature story (afajournal.org) on the Institute for Creation Research and its Discovery Center, AFA became aware of the ministry's wealth of print resources and selected a few for the reviews below. Find more children's books, resources, and videos at discoverycenter.icr.org.

Big Plans for Henry

As a baby dinosaur, Henry's mom tells him how God has big plans for him. In *Big Plans for Henry*, Tim and Renée Clarey tell a fictional story about the Genesis flood. Through illustrations, they introduce young readers (ages 6 and up) to dinosaurs from a scriptural standpoint. As well as helping children understand biblical events, the Clareys include "fact boxes" with scientific facts about dinosaurs. (33 pages)

Creatures by Design: Discovering Christ's Incredible Engineering in Animals

This book is a collection of thought-provoking essays on 13 of Christ's most amazingly engineered creatures. These research-based articles detail how animals such as honeybees, bats, butterflies, polar bears, and scaly anteaters were custom-made for their environ-

ments. As readers take an in-depth look into the intricate engineering of each animal, the claims of evolutionism fall flat. (48 pages)

Creation Q&A: Answers to 32 Big Questions about the Bible and Evolution

For new Christians and time-tested believers alike, the questions surrounding creation versus evolution can be confusing. This small booklet is filled with 32 big Christ-centered, scientific answers. Following an introductory lesson on the definition of recent creation, topics range from the Big Bang theory to Noah's ark to the timeline of the dinosaurs to DNA. (46 pages)

ICR's Guide to Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs were amazing creatures. But where do they fit in the Bible? In *Guide to Dinosaurs*, ICR tackles the myth of evolution. Instead, ICR presents the truth about dinosaurs with a biblical view, backed by scientific facts. This book would be a wonderful addition to any home or classroom. (120 pages)

God Created Monkeys

What exactly makes a monkey a monkey? In *God Created Monkeys*, children (ages 6 and up) will uncover many

interesting facts about monkeys. Some of these facts include where they came from, how they communicate, what they eat, and more. But most importantly, they will recognize God's amazing creativity through captivating photographs. (32 pages)


Space: God's Majestic Handiwork

How long does it take to travel to Pluto? How old is the universe? Find answers to these questions and more in this book. Both students (age 6 and up) and adults will benefit from this wealth of information that reveals God's true majesty in His created universe. Throughout this informative book, both the gospel and creation are emphasized. (111 pages)

Johannes Kepler: Exploring the Mysteries of God's Universe

"I had the intention of becoming a theologian," Johannes Kepler once said, "...but now I see how God is, by my endeavors, also glorified in astronomy, for 'the heavens declare the glory of God.'"

Kepler, known as the founder of modern astronomy, was a man whose achievements were influenced by his faith in Christ. In this liberally illustrated biography, readers will discover how faith and determination played a part in Kepler's becoming one of the greatest scientists who has ever lived.

This title is the first in ICR's new series Heroes of Christian Science. (64 pages) 



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