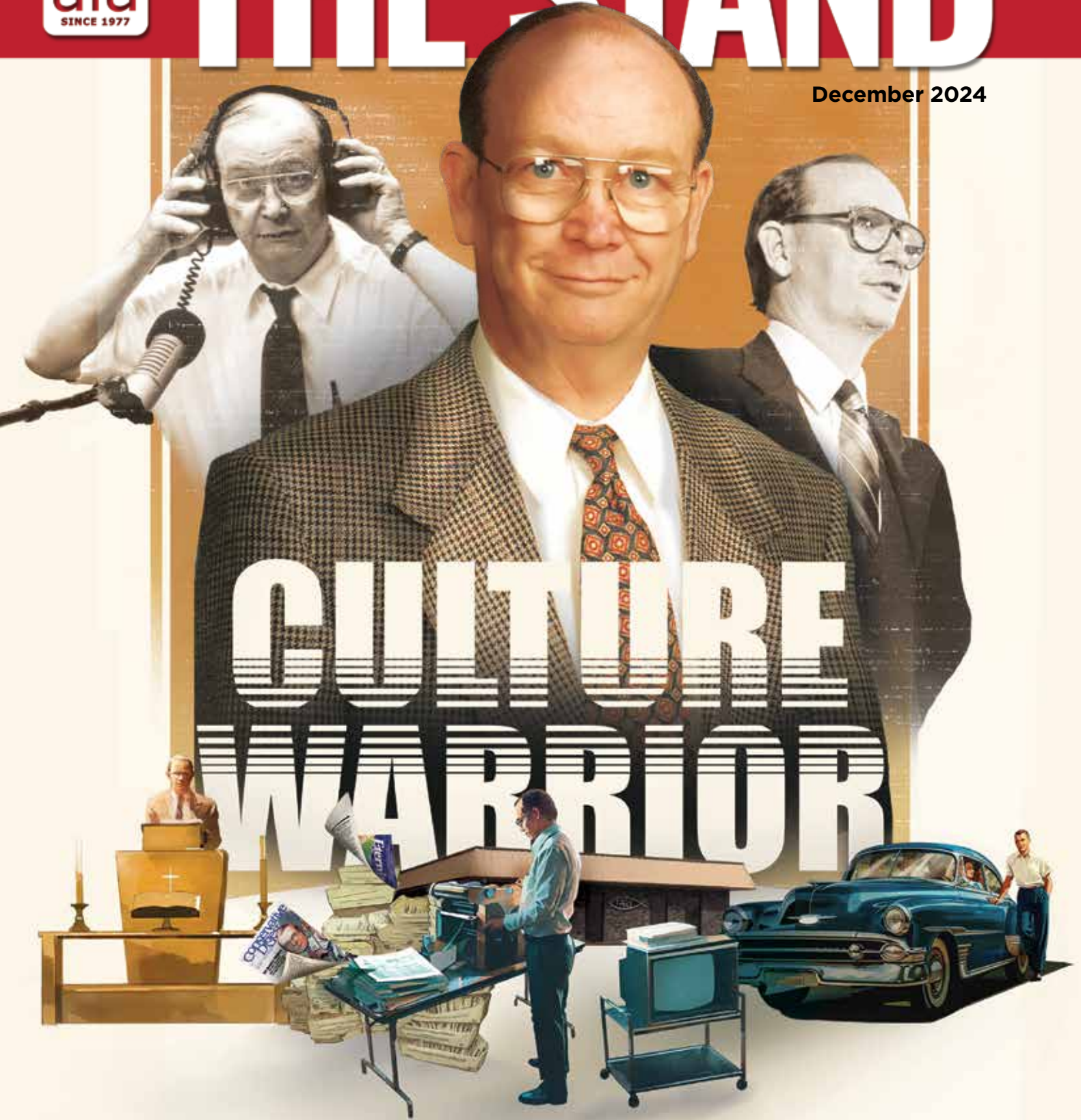


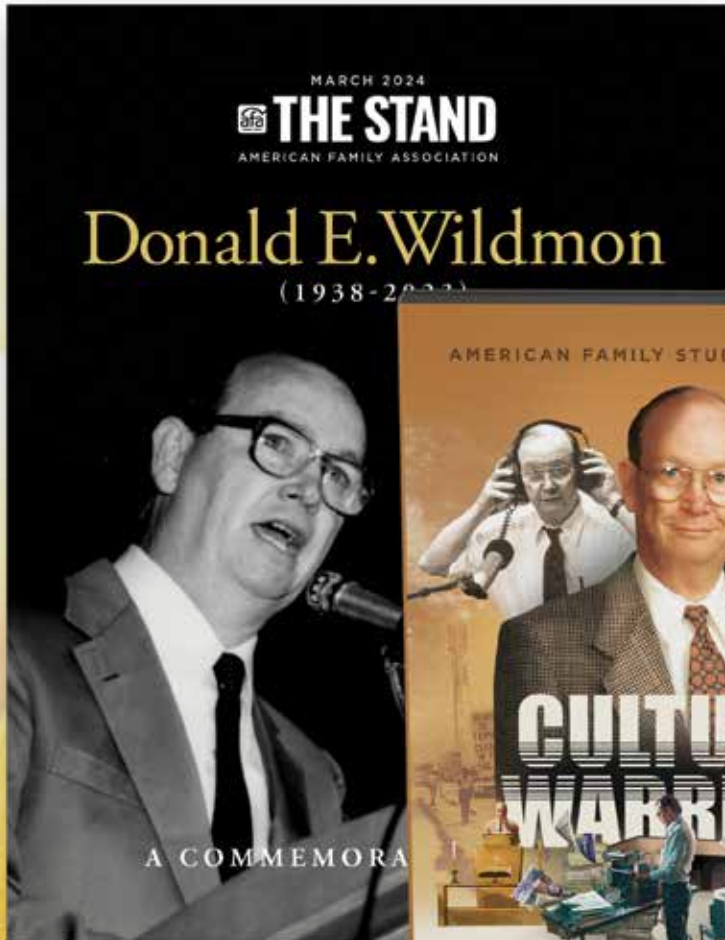


# THE STAND

December 2024



# Get Inspired



## One God, one man, one life

Dig deep into the life of AFA Founder Don Wildmon – an ordinary man of God whose legacy continues to resonate and inspire.

In appreciation of your generous donation at **culturewarrior.movie**, you'll receive:

- 1) The feature-length DVD documentary titled **Culture Warrior: Don Wildmon and the Battle for Decency**.
- 2) The March 2024 commemorative issue of *The Stand* magazine.
- 3) Don Wildmon's memoir titled *I Had a Vision. God Had a Plan.*
- 4) A **Culture Warrior** bookmark.

**CULTUREWARRIOR.MOVIE**

# THE STAND

VOLUME 48, NO. 11

The Stand magazine is a publication of American Family Association. Except for a combined January/February issue, The Stand is published monthly.

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 WESLEY WILDMON  
AFA VICE PRESIDENT

# thank you

Your prayers  
and gifts  
underwrite  
a faithful,  
determined,  
prayerful  
grassroots  
effort to restore  
America to  
her Christian  
foundation.

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to say, “Thank you” for supporting AFA in every way possible. All your prayers, financial support, and activism do not go unnoticed.

Each time I read a handwritten thank-you note or meet one of you through my travels, you are always an encouragement to me, personally, and to the staff at AFA. So, from the bottom of my heart, I say it again: “Thank you!”

Now, I want to encourage you by sharing a few ways that AFA has broadened its reach and advanced its mission this year – because of your support.

### **American Family Radio**

During 2024, we invested in getting our radio content to as many people as possible via two platforms: the AFR app for smart devices and the purchasing of two new FM frequencies. The AFR app now averages over 500,000 podcast downloads every month. This includes all AFR shows.

By purchasing FM signals in both Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, Alabama, the total population count added to AFR’s reach is over 600,000. God continues to expand AFR’s reach each year as we pray 1 Chronicles 4:10 over the network: “Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!”

God has been good to AFR through you!

### **‘Activate’**

In July 2024, AFA released **Activate**, a biblical worldview training curriculum from American Family Studios (AFS). **Activate** is an in-depth, educational, worldview training course designed to provide Christians with biblical teaching on some of AFA’s core issues: the sanctity of human life, marriage and family, religious liberty, and stewardship. (See p. 16).

The curriculum is a concise and thoughtful resource that provides students with creative opportunities to live out what is taught through 18 video sessions. I like to think of **Activate** as a tool for training “AFA Marines.”

And because of you, we are now able to better prepare believers to fight in today’s culture war.

### **‘Culture Warrior’**

After three years in the making, AFS just released **Culture Warrior: Don Wildmon and the Battle for Decency**. This is a full-length documentary about my late papa, the founder of AFA. The film contains original footage of him from many of his early debates and interviews as well as dozens of testimonies about his faithfulness to the call God placed on his life. (See p. 12).

I really hope this film will inspire you to live out your Christian beliefs and trust God with the outcome. After all, as my papa always said, “God didn’t call us to be successful; He called us to be faithful.”

Thank you for being faithful to support the work of AFA this year and in the years to come. We need you, and America needs you.

We live in a time of sharp division that our nation has not experienced since the late 1960s. Many despise American ideals – including biblical morality.

But for over 45 years, AFA has been on the front line of resisting the influence of so-called progressives who want to transform America into a Marxist state. The battle for the soul of the nation has never been more intense or its outcome more critical.

Your prayers and gifts underwrite a faithful, determined, prayerful grassroots effort to restore America to her Christian foundation. Without your support, AFA would not exist.

So, I will say it one more time: “Thank you!”

# Issues@Hand

AFA initiatives • Christian activism • News briefs

## AFA confronts Apple over refusal to protect kids

American Family Association is urging Apple Inc. to protect children from sexual abuse by using internet software that the technology giant refuses to apply. The software, if utilized by Apple, would scan the company's iCloud accounts for child sexual abuse and then notify Apple and law enforcement if such material is found.

AFA is determined to publicize Apple's refusal to use the software, which is why the ministry has proposed a resolution for the next Apple shareholder meeting

scheduled for early 2025.

"In the resolution, AFA will ask Apple to produce a 'transparency report' on the legal and public perception risks of not utilizing the software," explained AFA Vice President Walker Wildmon.

"In the 1980s, my grandfather took on Hollywood and Big Media with their trash television," Walker continued. "Now, we're taking on Big Tech, and we're taking on companies such as Apple because children are being harmed."

## AFA's Abraham Hamilton III to speak at 2025 gatherings



Abraham Hamilton III, general counsel and public policy analyst for AFA, is scheduled to speak at various events throughout the country in the coming year. Hamilton is a husband, homeschool father, lawyer, and Bible teacher. He is passionate about the gospel, and his ministerial focus includes marriage, family, apologetics, biblical worldview training, discipleship formation, and preaching. He is also a sought-after speaker at homeschool conferences nationwide.

"AFA is blessed to be represented by such a dynamic communicator as Abe," said AFA President Tim Wildmon.

Hear Hamilton speak at one of the following events in 2025:

- ▶ March 1 – Garrett Memorial Christian School Gala in Hope, Arkansas
- ▶ May 22-24 – North Carolinians for Home Education Thrive! Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- ▶ June 5-7 – Illinois Christian Home Education Conference in Bourbonnais, Illinois
- ▶ June 12-14 – AFA Activate Summit

in Tupelo, Mississippi

- ▶ July 18-19 – Arizona Families for Home Education Convention in Phoenix, Arizona
- ▶ September 24-27 – Home School Legal Defense Association's National Leaders Conference in Denton, Texas
- ▶ October 2-4 – Weekend with AFA in Tupelo, Mississippi



## Pirate Money Radio now on AFR network

Earlier this year, **Pirate Money Radio** with Kevin Freeman was added to the weekend lineup on American Family Radio. Join Freeman each Saturday at 10 a.m. Central as he discusses money and the economy through a biblical lens. He dives deep into the impact of geopolitics, markets, and cultural trends.

"Kevin breaks down the complexity of today's economy in an easy-to-understand way and provides listeners with an action-oriented response," said AFR Director Jonathan Coker. "We are glad to have his insight on the AFR network."

For more information, visit [afr.net/podcasts/pirate-money-radio](http://afr.net/podcasts/pirate-money-radio).

## UPCOMING

### AFA Activate Summit

- ▶ June 12-14, 2025
- ▶ Tupelo, Mississippi
- ▶ MORE DETAILS TO COME

### Weekend with AFA

- ▶ October 2-4, 2025
- ▶ Tupelo, Mississippi
- ▶ MORE DETAILS TO COME

## Contact elected officials

### ► The President

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
Salutation: Dear Mr./Madam President  
Comment line: 202.456.1111  
Switch Board: 202.456.1414  
TTY: 202.456.2613  
[whitehouse.gov/contact](https://whitehouse.gov/contact)

### ► The Vice President

Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501  
Salutation: Dear Mr./Madam Vice President  
All other contact information, same as above.

### ► U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable (Full Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
Salutation: Dear Mr./Mrs. (Surname) \_\_\_\_\_

### ► U.S. Senate

The Honorable (Full Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Salutation: Dear Senator (Surname) \_\_\_\_\_

### ► U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202.224.3121

TTY: 202.225.1904

### ► [afaaction.net/contact-officials](https://afaaction.net/contact-officials)

Find links to contact information for federal and state officials.

## Stay involved, informed

► [afa.net](https://afa.net) – Sign up for AFA Alert emails and stay informed on issues that affect the family.

► [afn.net](https://afn.net) – Find up-to-the-minute news at AFA's online news service.

► [afr.net](https://afr.net) – American Family Radio broadcasts on about 165 stations in three formats – AFR talk, AFR inspiration (music and podcasts), and AFR hybrid.

► [afa.net/thestand](https://afa.net/thestand) – AFA's official blog addresses culture, faith, and family issues. This site also includes online access to *The Stand* magazine.

► [afr.net/podcasts/the-stand-radio](https://afr.net/podcasts/the-stand-radio) – A weekly radio show featuring topics covered in *The Stand* magazine and blog.

► [onemillionmoms.com](https://onemillionmoms.com) – Take action to protect children from objectionable elements in entertainment outlets.

► [afajournal.org](https://afajournal.org) – This site archives past issues of *AFA Journal* (1993-2021).

► [afa.net/bydesign](https://afa.net/bydesign) – This initiative aims to restore biblical marriage in the culture.

► [stream.afa.net](https://stream.afa.net) – This platform hosts all AFA-produced video content.



Peter Vlaming

PHOTO: CBN

## Teacher wins gender pronoun case

French language teacher Peter Vlaming lost his job in 2018 over his refusal to use a student's preferred pronouns. West Point School District near Richmond, Virginia, fired Vlaming when his conscience would not allow him to use pronouns that did not match the student's biological gender. Instead, Vlaming avoided using any pronouns when addressing the student and called the student only by name. But the student and the student's parents said Vlaming was required to use the student's preferred pronouns, according to the school's antidiscrimination rules.

"Peter wasn't fired for something he said; he was fired for something he couldn't say," said Tyson Langhofer, Alli-

ance Defending Freedom (ADF) senior counsel. "He couldn't, in good conscience, speak messages that he knew were untrue, and no school board or government official can punish someone for that reason."

Vlaming, who was represented by ADF in a wrongful-termination lawsuit against the school district, received \$575,000 in a settlement of the case.

Concurrently, the school district will change its policies in accordance with state education guidelines instituted in 2023 by Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, allowing K-12 teachers to use the birth name and biological gender pronouns of students regardless of gender identity.

[thehill.com](https://thehill.com), 10/1/24; [nypost.com](https://nypost.com), 10/2/24

## Artifact affirming Jesus' divinity on display

An ancient Christian mosaic, discovered in 2005 in Israel near what is "believed to be the site of prophesied Armageddon," is now on display at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. The Megiddo Mosaic, dating back about 1,800 years, contains one of the earliest known references to Jesus' divinity with the Greek inscription "To God Jesus Christ."

The mosaic, from an early Christian prayer hall, features symbols of early Christianity, memorializes several women, and bears the name of a Roman officer who paid for the making of the mosaic.

Museum CEO Carlos Campo empha-



sized the mosaic's significance in demonstrating early Christian worship during Roman persecution. The exhibit, running until July 2025, marks the first public presentation of this important artifact. It was previously inaccessible due to its location on prison grounds in Israel.

[christianpost.com](https://christianpost.com), 9/17/24

# Church giving on decline

A recently released report by Infinity Concepts and Grey Matter Research and Consulting indicates that a mere 10% of evangelicals tithe. Of those who do give, the study revealed that the average donation to the church was just 2.8% of their income.

The study also found that the overall percentage of people making any donations at all to the church was trending downward. In 2021, 74% of evangelicals reported giving to their church in the previous 12 months. In 2024, that number was 61%, marking a 13-percentage-point decline.

Dr. Ray Pritchard, president of Keep Believing Ministries and co-host of **Today's Issues** on American Family Radio, believes the decline is a heart issue rather than a financial issue.

"Surely the problem is not the money," Pritchard said, "because we have more today than we have ever had. But hearts are divided, and families are divided."

"Perhaps the giving issue is like the canary in the coal mine. It's a warning of greater problems inside the evangelical church."

afn.net, 9/18/24

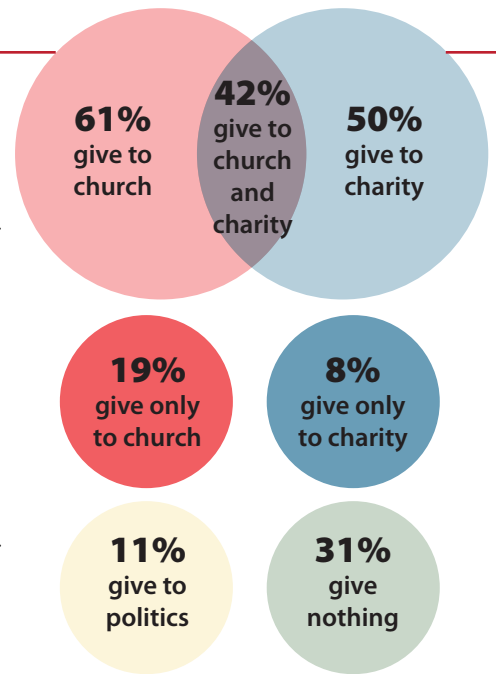


PHOTO: ADF

## Christian ministry workers released from Nicaraguan prison

On September 5, 2024, 135 "unjustly detained political prisoners" in Nicaragua were released after lengthy diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Nicaragua, according to U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan. The prisoners included 13 pastors and attorneys associated with Mountain Gateway, the Nicaraguan branch of a Texas-based Christian ministry.

Arrested in December 2023, members of the group were all charged with "money laundering" related to an evangelistic event. Individuals received prison sentences of up to 15 years, and the group was fined a

combined total of almost \$1 billion.

"No one should be put in jail for peacefully exercising their fundamental rights of free expression, association, and practicing their religion," Sullivan said.

Jon Britton Hancock, founder of Mountain Gateway, issued a statement about their release: "This is the day we have prayed and believed God for. These pastors and attorneys have suffered greatly for the sake of the gospel, but it has not been in vain. The kingdom of God is advancing because of their persecution. Today, we cry tears of joy because our brothers and sisters are free!"

christiannews.net, 9/5/24

## Chemical abortion dangers revealed in Lozier study

Research compiled by the Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) from 2004-2015 revealed a dramatic increase in the frequency and severity of emergency room (ER) visits for women using abortion drugs to cause what are known as "chemical abortions." CLI studied the data of ER visits made by women within 30 days after giving birth or having an abortion, comparing the severity and complexity of reported complications on a scale from 1 to 5.

Not only did this study find that complications from chemical abortions were twice as likely to be severe or critical, but ER visits for post-abortive women escalated by more than 500%. In addition, chemical abortions among the studied population rose from 4.4% to 34.1%.

Moreover, the Food and Drug Administration previously admitted that mifepristone, a primary abortion drug, does have "some risk," attributing 28 deaths to mifepristone from 2000-2022.

lozierinstitute.org, 8/20/24, 9/20/24;

afn.net, 9/12/24; finance.senate.gov, 9/24/24

# New life in Christ

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

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

Need more counsel or insight?

## ▶ **Need Him Global**

This ministry was founded in 1996 by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and other evangelical ministries to help persons come to faith in Christ. [needhim.org](http://needhim.org)  
888.633.3446

## ▶ **AFA**

Contact Pastor Joseph Parker, AFA director of outreach and intercession.  
[jparker@afa.net](mailto:jparker@afa.net)  
662.844.5036 x381

# Olympian suspended for religious expression

Serbian judo champion Nemanja Majdov was suspended for five months by the International Judo Federation (IJF) following the 2024 Paris Olympics. The 28-year-old Olympian was penalized for making the sign of the cross before entering the field of play, refusing to bow to his opponent, and removing his uniform on the mat. These actions were deemed violations of the IJF's code of conduct, which prohibits displaying religious symbols during competitions.

Majdov, who had been previously warned about similar gestures in 2018 and 2022, defended his actions, citing his devotion to his faith. He expressed disappointment with the decision but remained steadfast in his stance, stating on Instagram, "The Lord has given me everything, ... and He is Number One for me."



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

The IJF maintains that its rules are designed to ensure neutrality in the field of play while respecting all cultures and religions.

[christianpost.com](http://christianpost.com), 9/24/24;  
[foxnews.com](http://foxnews.com), 9/29/24



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## CRT: Wolf in sheep's clothing

Public pushback to the practice and teaching of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and critical race theory (CRT) in American institutions has led to the rebranding of these race-biased programs in many fields. For example, out of 26 American universities in states where legislative efforts required an end to CRT and DEI programs, 10 of those universities have rebranded their programs under ambiguous names such as “Office of Access and Engagement” and “Division of Opportunities, Connections, and Success.”

CriticalRace.org, which catalogs the presence of CRT in higher education, names the 10 universities that have rebranded CRT: University of Alabama, Florida State University, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, Oklahoma State University, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, University of Tennessee, University of Utah, and Utah Valley University.

### One-time legislative efforts are not sufficient, and sustained action is necessary.

KIMBERLEE KAYE

“Our research findings confirm our analysis that one-time legislative efforts are not sufficient, and sustained action is necessary,” said Kimberlee Kaye, managing editor of CriticalRace.org.

Meanwhile, some in the medical field are taking a similar approach to CRT and DEI. In Washington state, a state law implemented in December 2023 mandates that health professionals take at least two hours of “health equity” training every four years, according to the Washington Department of Health. Classes cover topics such as “implicit bias training,” “bias, racism, and poverty,” and “equity and antiracism.”

massgeneralbrigham.org, 4/2/24;

foxnews.com, 9/17/24; dailywire.com, 9/25/24

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# Americans favor social media news

A larger proportion of U.S. adults get news from social media than in previous years. A Pew Research study published September 17, 2024, noted that 54% of adults “at least sometimes” get news from various social media platforms.

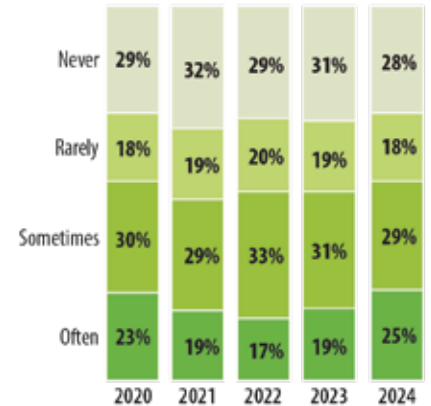
Facebook and YouTube are the main news sources for more than a third of those surveyed. However, women users account for more than 50% of those who consume news on Facebook and other platforms such as Instagram, Nextdoor, TikTok, and Snapchat. Men make up an almost equivalent percentage of the users getting news on Reddit, X, Rumble, Truth Social, and YouTube.

Those obtaining news from TikTok, Instagram, or Reddit are also younger than those on other sites and more likely to be Democrats. Users of the social media platform X are also younger, but more evenly divided between Democrat and Republican. Users on Truth Social and Rumble are overwhelmingly Republicans or Republican-leaning Independents.

pewresearch.org, 9/17/24

## News consumption on social media

% of U.S. adults who get news from social media



Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## 2024 Year-End Giving Deadlines

Key dates for your charitable giving before midnight, December 31

DEC  
9

### IRAs

Givers who would like to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRA should contact AFA by this date. The check should be made payable to American Family Association and sent directly to AFA.

DEC  
16

### Stock Donations

All stock or mutual fund transfers for charitable gift annuities or outright gifts must be initiated by the transferring broker by this date.

DEC  
31

### Cash Gifts

Physical checks must be postmarked by USPS no later than December 31. Cash and wire transfers must also be received in AFA's bank account by this date.

### Charitable gift annuities (CGAs)

Applications for CGAs, along with physical checks, must be dated and postmarked by USPS no later than December 31, and applicants must have previously received CGA illustration with the term on which the CGA agreement will be based. The AFA Foundation team will be happy to work with you to run an illustration and answer any questions.

**\*Special note:** USPS is experiencing some temporary delays in regular mail delivery as it implements upgrades. If your gift is sent via USPS, the contribution receipt will show the date the gift was postmarked. If you send your gift by FedEx or UPS, the date on your receipt is the day AFA receives the gift.

### Complex gifts

To stay ahead of the rush, please make sure you discuss your gift with the AFA team early. We can work on your gifts now, with an effective date of December 31, 2024.

Contact our team with any questions at 800.326.4543 x345



# FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 3933, Tupelo, MS 38803  
[foundation@afa.net](mailto:foundation@afa.net) | [afafoundation.net](http://afafoundation.net)

NEW SPIRITUAL HERITAGE TOUR FOR 2025

Discover America's providential founding.

# Boston

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Led by AFA President Tim Wildmon and his wife Alison, the pilgrimage will pique your appreciation and gratitude for our nation's uniqueness and the history of the remarkable men and women God used to found it.

Along with historian Stephen McDowell, the Wildmons have been leading tours for over two decades to Israel, Washington, D.C., and Colonial Williamsburg. They know how to get

the most out of each day. Now, the Wildmons, along with their sons, Wesley and Walker, are adding Boston to their tour offerings.

- October 12-17, 2025
- Focus on the region's rich Christian heritage
- Five nights at the Hyatt Place Boston/Seaport District
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- All meals included (except lunches and two dinners on your own)
- Comfortable motor coach
- Fun and fellowship with Christians from across the country

For more details, including an itinerary and costs, visit:

wildmongroup.com



# WAIST-DEEP IN WAR

## THE LEGACY OF A HERO

By Joy Lucius

When discussing the role of Christians in today's culture, people often insist that believers should focus on changing hearts rather than on changing politics. But according to the late Donald E. Wildmon, this is a false dicotomy that does not involve an *either-or* option: "I believe the answer is that [Christians] should be waist-deep in both."

For more than 40 years, Wildmon demonstrated total commitment to this waist-deep conviction as he founded and led American Family Association (AFA) in the war against indecency.

### Recognizing a hero

In honor of this unwavering commitment, American Family Studios (AFS) recently released a feature-length film documenting the life and legacy of AFA's founder. Titled **Culture Warrior: Don Wildmon and the Battle for Decency**, this captivating documentary was three years in the making. M.D. Perkins, the film's director, spoke with *The Stand* about the process involved in completing this extensive project.

"I like to explain to people," said Perkins, "that making a movie is a bit like building a house and writing a book ... both at the same time.

"You're working with a lot of other people who are experts in certain aspects of the field, and you've got to coordinate across disciplines with other people, but you also do a lot of extremely detailed research."

Perkins outlined various aspects of AFS's research into Wildmon's entire life – through family pictures, newspaper articles, radio spots, television clips, news items written about AFA's founder, and a myriad of materials written by Wildmon himself.

As Perkins became immersed in this research, his heart – and the hearts of the entire AFS team – were captured by those words of wisdom and truth spoken and written by Wildmon as he "fought the good fight."

### Remembering the past

"We really wanted [this film] to be that legacy piece," Perkins stated, "the one that would testify to who Don was and what his concern was for generations going forward so that viewers would understand and know where that concern came from."

Wildmon's intentional concern for passing the torch to future generations is evidenced best



“When we talk about engaging in the culture, we are talking about combating the rise of godlessness and paganism and replacing it with godliness and righteousness.”

— WALKER WILDMON

in video clips of his own words, as well as those of family, friends, co-workers, and other ministry leaders. Seamlessly woven throughout the film’s factual storyline, these conversational-style clips artfully trace Wildmon’s legacy from start to finish.

“**Culture Warrior** covers some of Don’s early life,” explained Perkins, “his childhood in rural Mississippi, his marriage to Lynda, and his pastoral ministry. However, the major focus of the documentary begins on a winter night in December 1976 – the night when Don sat down to watch television with his family and became angry at the moral decline on display in network TV’s programming.”

Even now, almost 50 years later, Wildmon’s children vividly recall that night, and within the film, they document how their father recognized that moment in time as a wake-up call to either accept the God-given burden to battle indecency in the culture *or* complacently accept the impact of that indecency for his children and others.

For Wildmon, the choice was so clear that he soon left the pastoral ministry and began National Federation for Decency (NFD), which eventually grew into the multi-faceted ministry of American Family Association.

**Culture Warrior** traces the impact of NFD’s earliest forays into the culture war, beginning in early 1977 with his original boycott campaign called “Turn the TV Off Week.”

“Other major events we discuss in **Culture Warrior**,” shared Perkins, “are NFD’s network TV monitoring program, key boycotts such as 7-Eleven and Disney, the protest of **The Last Temptation of Christ**, the controversy surrounding the National Endowment for the Arts, and some of the lawsuits that came from these battles.

“We also show how faithfulness to God’s Word and His call on Don’s life was the central purpose of every effort – not

merely an attempt to ‘win’ the culture war.”

### Fanning the flame

Wildmon’s oldest child, AFA President Tim Wildmon, echoed that truth: “Dad often said that God did not call us to be successful, but He did call us to be faithful.”

This mandate of faithfulness, exemplified through his father’s active obedience to God’s call, is a scarlet thread that runs throughout **Culture Warrior**. And for the Wildmon family, that faithful obedience was one of the original purposes of this project.

AFA Vice President Wesley Wildmon believes his grandfather’s unwavering obedience to God was the cornerstone of the legacy he wanted the film to convey – especially for the sake of AFA’s faithful listeners and supporters.



“We hope that viewing this documentary,” Wesley stated, “will help them re-fan the flame to continue doing what we are all called to do.”

But Wesley also hopes the documentary will help birth a new generation of soldiers to join in his grandfather’s ongoing culture war to stand for righteousness as God leads – a far-reaching battle that he admittedly did not fully understand until his college days.

“It was probably my freshman or sophomore year in college,” explained Wesley, “before I began to realize the impact that my papa had on the nation. There, I met students from around the country whose parents loved him, loved American Family Radio, and supported AFA – and even professors who talked about him.”

But it was an impact that started with family first, an influence on full display

in **Culture Warrior**, as family members share lessons inadvertently learned from the humility and determination Wildmon displayed in everyday life.

Wesley recounted three important lessons he garnered from his grandfather: “One, he taught me to be courageous, and two, he taught me to be compassionate – to care about people beyond just the words. So, the third lesson was to express compassion with action.”

### Passing the torch


Action might just be the main takeaway from **Culture Warrior**. It was definitely a key objective for the documentary project for AFA Vice President Walker Wildmon.

“We hope this film achieves two things,” said Walker. “For people who are already supporters of AFA, we want this to really bolster their call to activism, their call to faithfulness to God’s Word, and their call to engage in the culture war.

“And when we talk about engaging in the culture, we are talking about combating the rise of godlessness and paganism and replacing it with godliness and righteousness.”

Amazingly, Walker’s words sound very similar to the original call-to-action issued by his grandfather almost 50 years ago, when Wildmon first decided to “do something” about the indecency of the culture in which his children lived.

**Culture Warrior: Don Wildmon and the Battle for Decency** fully documents what Wildmon did throughout his lifetime to strengthen the moral foundations of society.

Viewers beware! The voice of Donald E. Wildmon echoes throughout this film, asking one final question: Who will join the fight? 

For information on how to view the film, **Culture Warrior: Don Wildmon and the Battle for Decency**, go to [culturewarrior.movie](http://culturewarrior.movie).

By Stacy Singh

Nearly 30 years ago, Fred Jackson, a veteran news broadcaster from the secular arena of Canadian Public Broadcasting in Vancouver, British Columbia, joined the AFA staff as director of the news department, now American Family News (AFN).

“What I saw in public broadcasting in Canada, where I worked for almost 20 years [prior], was the change in values,” Jackson told *The Stand*. “When I first got involved with secular news, it was very strict. You weren’t allowed to share your opinion. But, over time, the leader in that news service said, ‘Now we believe you *should* express your point of view,’ but they only wanted people working for them who held a very liberal point of view.

“At the same time, the Lord was moving in my heart to take what I had learned in secular broadcasting and bring it into a Christian environment.”

As Jackson was becoming uncomfortable in the overtly hostile field of secular journalism, a small-town preacher-turned-activist by the name of Don Wildmon was searching for a method to bring his culture-battling ministry beyond local avenues and to audiences nationwide. While Wildmon gained recognition and some notoriety on secular networks, he discerned that his message would be more powerful if it could be received directly by its intended audience rather than being distorted by secular reflections.

“Wildmon drew a lot of attention because of taking a stand for things, and he became well-known on the networks,” Jackson explained. “But with time, he realized the mainstream media was going to be hostile to his message. To get his message out, he had to answer the need for Christians to have a news service that had Christian values as its basis.”

In 1996, God-given personal connections brought together the veteran news broadcaster and the start-up newsmaker from across far-flung corners of the con-



# Vital journalism

continent – answering their joint desire to transform news reporting and reach Christians on a national scale.

## Solid Rock standard

While the approach of mainstream news has changed greatly over the years, AFN has maintained a bedrock foundation on God’s truth drawn from Holy Scripture.

“We have a standard based upon God’s Word – a God Who doesn’t change,” Jackson said. “We report accurately what people are saying, but we’re always going to measure what people say up against Scripture. When it comes to what we believe, we’re never going to apologize for saying our litmus test of truth is Scripture.”

While Jackson noticed a shift in the approach of journalism more than 20 years ago, the viciousness of news reporting over the past decade has exposed to everyone the allegiances and agenda of the mainstream media. Journalism students were once taught to never opine in a news piece but to report just the

facts. That code has been thrown by the wayside in favor of the opportunity to metastasize the opinions and policies of the Democratic Party – turning secular news media essentially into a monolithic propaganda machine.

“It doesn’t take too long – if you read *The Associated Press*, *The New York Times*, if you listen to NBC or CNN – you very quickly realize they are down on one party, and they are all-in on another party,” Jackson clarified. “The mainstream media networks are promoters and proponents of the Democratic Party and its values. And it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure that out when you listen to their newscasts and read their stories.”

## The need for Christian news

While mainstream media leaves a huge deficit when it comes to reporting the news accurately, it seems alternate sources of news – particularly radio news – from a Christian perspective have dwindled over the years, as many Christian stations



Fred Jackson

# for the nation

have closed or decided not to run their own news broadcasts.

“The availability of other sources of radio Christian news has somewhat diminished,” Jackson said. “Meanwhile, the level of trust in the mainstream media has dropped because they have lost the trust of viewers.”

While other stations are shutting their doors, and frustrated conservative listeners are switching off secular media in their homes and cars, AFN is broadcasting all over the country. In addition to

the 165 radio stations owned by AFA, AFN is now aired on approximately 100 affiliate stations.

“We have found that AFN is in demand from a lot of Christian stations and even secular stations that may be interested in conservative news,” Jackson said. “There are affiliate stations in Washington state, California, Oregon, all along the West Coast, and everything in between, all the way over to Florida.”

In addition, AFN is available in every state, and in many international locations,

through the digital publication of its stories and podcasts on its app for smart devices and online at [afn.net](https://afn.net).

“Audiences want to know what is happening on a daily basis, and they want to hear how Christians are reacting,” Jackson said. “That’s what our team here at AFN does. We talk conservative news; we talk to conservatives to get their take on the direction things are going.”


## From warning to reality

As Christian voices are increasingly being silenced, Wildmon’s prophetic perception of the need for Christian news broadcasting is now an undeniable reality.

“I believe we’ve become a very vital component of the ministry of AFA because people don’t have a lot of places to go to get solid information – from a biblical perspective – about what’s going on in their world,” Jackson explained. “As the culture has become more rebellious to God, that has driven people to have a greater demand for a news service like ours.

“Among Christian audiences, there is a growing awareness that what we’re seeing in our culture right now is a manifestation of spiritual warfare,” he added. “Christian values are under attack more and more, and the audience is becoming aware of that type of spiritual warfare, and that’s why our newscasts are in demand.”

While mainstream media mutes, mocks, or downright attacks the messaging of AFA, the dire vision that Wildmon saw threatening the culture – and the corresponding need for Christian broadcasting – has come to fulfillment.

“The kinds of things Wildmon warned about for years are happening now, and they’re happening across the country,” Jackson said. “Over the past five to seven years, the reality of attacks against Christian values has become very evident. There is no question about it; it is not a matter of speculation anymore. It is happening. So, people have become believers in the warning of Don Wildmon.” 

## Jackson: In the face of a world of bad news ...

- ▶ **Look at Scripture:** Recall the adversities believers have always faced.
- ▶ **Look at the world:** Expect hostility to Christian values.
- ▶ **Look at the crowd:** Understand Christians are always going to be in the minority.
- ▶ **Look at mortality:** Remember, life is just a vapor.
- ▶ **Look at heaven:** Keep heaven as a backdrop to all your days because heaven is forever.
- ▶ **Look at your life:** Realize you are alive today because God has a job for you.



# Activate

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## WILL YOU TAKE A STAND?

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### Unit 4: Religious Liberty

America is a land of religious liberty built by dedicated men and women who fought to ensure our First Amendment rights. But today, our freedoms are under attack in our schools, courtrooms, and even our daily lives. As Christians, our ability to efficiently fulfill the Great Commission is greatly impacted by our freedom to share the gospel without fear or limitation. It's time to speak up and act before it's too late.

In this two-session unit, Rick Green, co-host of AFR's **At The Core** and founder of Patriot Academy, explains a biblical view of patriotism and unpacks the meaning of religious liberty.

*Staff writer Joy Lucius and intern Emily Moorman take an in-depth look at Unit 4.*

Often, when people think about rights and liberties, freedom is considered something the government allows them to possess. Seemingly, the government is a parent giving his child a toy for good behavior in the grocery store.

However, Rick Green debunks this misconception in **Activate Unit 4** by teaching about the origins of freedom, the importance of patriotism, and the integral purpose religion serves concerning the Constitution and government.

### **Patriotism and the Bible**

In the first session, Green examines what it means to be a patriotic believer and what the Bible says about the love of country.

Green begins by answering questions surrounding “Christian nationalism,” and he shows how the media portrays Christians as “bad guys” due to the passionate patriotism and biblical allegiance of many believers.

According to Green, patriotism is vital to maintaining a free and God-fearing country that can serve others around the globe in the way God instructed His church to do. As a result, it is increasingly important that Christians learn the significance of patriotism.

While many critics claim that a true Christian cannot have love for country without forgoing love for God, Green shares that love for country and God go hand in hand.

“The truth is that if you love God,” explains Green, “and if you are following God and living out a biblical life, then you will defend your country because you understand the importance of your country protecting your freedom to serve God.”

As the session progresses, it becomes abundantly clear that patriotism and Christianity are not two conflicting ideologies on opposite ends of the conservative spectrum. Rather, they are two interlocking worldviews that should coexist in the heart and mind of the American believer.

Green goes on to address the accusation that the United States is not an “exemplary” country due to its



## **Unit 4 Professor**

**Rick Green**

faults and past mistakes, specifically the legalization and acceptance of slavery.

But he stresses that if love was only given to the faultless, the only entity that could be loved is God.

Instead, Green believes it is acceptable (and biblical) to say, “I love my country even though I do not love everything my country has ever done.”


### **Unpacking Religious Liberty**

The second session of **Unit 4** centers on religious liberty and the forces that infringe upon Americans’ God-given freedoms. Green looks to the past to understand the true meaning of religious liberty and why Christians should concern themselves with defending freedom.

The Constitution, interpreted as the Founding Fathers intended, never mentions the phrase “separation of church and state,” nor does it prohibit the government from supporting religion.

“It is not about the church staying out of the state,” counters Green. “It is about keeping the state out of the church. It is a one-way wall.”

Founding Father Justice James Wilson described religion and the law as “twin sisters,” further proving Green’s point that the writers of the Constitution did not intend to create a national separation of God and government.

As a final caution, Green warns: “If we recede from the culture, and we don’t live out our faith – if we don’t exercise our freedom of religion, we’re going to lose it.” This sobering truth should not lead Christians to fear. It should serve as a call to activate: Defend God-given freedom and imbue our government institutions with Christian values. 

# No room for

## Why God and science agree

By Jordan Chamblee

Binary biological sex – male and female – is a truth made clear in Scripture. Genesis 1:27 states, “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” This verse has long been interpreted to affirm the existence of two distinct sexes – male and female.

However, in today’s society, the once-clear distinctions between male and female are now blurred. Recent surveys have highlighted the growing visibility of transgender and nonbinary people (those not identifying with either male or female definitions). (See *The Stand* 9/24.) Even in the scientific community, there is a hesitation – if not an outright refusal – to acknowledge the differences between the biological sexes.

For example, at its annual meeting in 2023, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) canceled a session that aimed to explore biological sex as an analytic category in anthropology. The AAA justified its decision by stating that “there is no single biological standard by which all humans can be reliably sorted into a binary male/female sex classification.”

The 2024 Olympics also brought these issues to the global stage when the gender eligibility of athletes came into question because their biological sex differed from their sexual “identity.”

It’s obvious the culture is immersed in the debate around gender identification and biological sex, and whether these things are the same or can even be defined. So, to illuminate these complex issues through a scientific and biblical lens, *The Stand* spoke with Dr. Georgia Purdom, a Christian molecular geneticist specializing in cellular and molecular biology. She currently serves as the



# confusion

vice president of educational content at Answers in Genesis ([answersingenesis.org](https://answersingenesis.org)). Here is what she had to say:

**The Stand:** Is biological sex a concrete fact or open to interpretation?

**Georgia Purdom:** From a genetic standpoint, biological sex is determined by our chromosomes. I often say, “No Y, no guy.” Females typically have two X chromosomes, while males have an X and a Y chromosome. This chromosomal distinction provides a clear biological marker for sex. It’s important to note that sexual development disorders do occur, and we must approach these situations with compassion. However, chromosomal analysis remains a reliable method for determining biological sex.

**TS:** What are some key biological differences between males and females that science has identified?

**GP:** The differences between men and women go beyond the obvious [and are] rooted deep in our genetics and show up in various physical ways. This is especially clear in sports competitions. Men usually have bigger muscles, stronger bones, larger lungs, and more powerful cardiovascular systems. This means that even average male athletes can sometimes outdo top-tier female athletes in certain sports.

**TS:** Can you explain some of the differences in genetics between the biological sexes?

**GP:** A 2017 study found that over 6,500 genes out of our approximately 20,000 show different activity levels in male and female tissues. This differential gene expression contributes to the biological distinctions between sexes.

Interestingly, recent research has chal-

lenged previous assumptions about gene activity in females. While it was once thought that one of the two X chromosomes in females was largely inactive, we now know that about 23% of the genes on this “silent” X chromosome are actually active. Many of these genes are involved in immune function, which may explain why women often exhibit stronger immune responses and disease resistance compared to men.

**TS:** How do “gender-affirming” treatments interact with the body’s natural hormones and genetics?

**GP:** This is an area that requires extensive research. When we introduce hormones that contradict the body’s natural production – for example, administering testosterone to a female body that naturally produces estrogen – we’re essentially conducting a large-scale experiment.

We’re already observing some concerning outcomes, such as decreased bone density in young women undergoing these treatments, and alterations in brain development and connections.

Hormones play a crucial role in gene expression, influencing which genes are active or inactive in different tissues. When we artificially alter hormone levels, we’re not just changing physical characteristics; we’re potentially altering the function of thousands of genes throughout the body.

For example, estrogen and testosterone have significant effects on bone density, muscle mass, fat distribution, and even cognitive functions. Blocking the body’s natural hormones and introducing cross-sex hormones can have wide-ranging effects on these systems.


Answers in Genesis provides many resources offering answers to the world’s objections to God’s design, including **Transgender Transition: Biblical Wisdom on a Major Theological Matter**. This DVD features a presentation from Dr. Owen Strachan, who offers Bible-based answers to the issues of gender identity, transgenderism, and God’s intentions for the binary human design. For viewers ages 12 and older, this is a perfect resource for teens and adults seeking to bolster their worldview on the matters of sex and gender. Available at [answersingenesis.org](https://answersingenesis.org).

**TS:** Would you say that there is no room, scientifically, for confusion when it comes to biological sex?

**GP:** Yes. Every cell in the human body, except for red blood cells, is genetically male or female due to its chromosomal makeup. This genetic distinction influences sex hormone production and gene regulation throughout the body. These differences extend to brain structure and function.

For example, women typically have more neural connections *between* brain hemispheres, while men have more connections *within* each hemisphere. Such variations also affect how medications interact with the body, highlighting the importance of including both sexes in medical and drug studies.

We are all created in God’s image, regardless of biological sex. However, our cellular sex is an intrinsic part of our physical being and influences many aspects of our physiology and identity.

For those struggling with gender identity issues or born with intersex traits, it’s crucial to approach them with compassion. As Christians, we believe true wholeness comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Our role is to share this message of hope lovingly, helping individuals understand there is purpose in embracing their God-given identity. 

# SHEPHERDS

**FOR SALE**



By Matthew White

If the Left is to ever accomplish its goal of ushering in a global governance and progressive utopia, there is one group of holdouts they will be forced to contend with – the church.

Believers, though comforted by the promise of Christ that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church, understand there is a spiritual dynamic at play, as the Enemy is ever seeking to halt the work of the Lord.

But for progressives, who are mostly spiritually devoid, it is simply a numbers game.

While the numbers vary, most reputable polling organizations indicate that 25% to 30% of Americans identify as “evangelical,” making them, as *The Atlantic* described in 2021, “America’s most powerful voting bloc.”

Since evangelicals – who mostly lean right, politically, according to Pew Research polls – are seen as perpetual roadblocks to the leftist agenda, Christians need to either get on board or get out of the way if the progressive utopian dream is to be realized.

There is a problem, however. Faithful evangelicals derive their values and morality from the Bible, which is diametrically opposed to nearly everything the Left represents. How then could those who use God’s Word as their guide for life be convinced to vote *against* those morals and values taught in the Holy Writ?

Would persecuting the church and attacking it from the outside prove effective? Perhaps, but doubtful, given that external persecution historically has had the opposite effect and increases the success of the church rather than suppressing it.

As Latin theologian Tertullian is credited with saying: “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.”

But what if the church is being subverted from within?

What if leftist organizations and individuals with billions of dollars are co-opting evangelical power brokers with offers of financial grants, secular adulation, and opportunities to associate with America’s elite class?

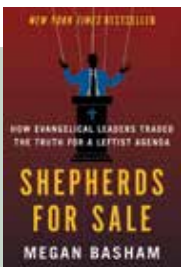
And what if, in return, those co-opted influential evangelical leaders are subtly manipulating average churchgoers to change their minds, rather than attempting to force them to accept something they would never believe otherwise?

In her recently released book, *Shepherds for Sale: How Evangelical Leaders Traded the Truth for a Leftist Agenda*, that is precisely what Megan Basham suggests is taking place.

## Tackling tough topics

Each of the book’s eight chapters is devoted to a single topic, such as climate change, illegal immigration, the pro-life movement, critical race theory, COVID-19 propaganda, and other hot-button issues that far too many evangelical leaders dare not address for fear of backlash and reprisal.

Though Basham prefaces the first chapter by stating her book is not intended to be a “theological treatise,” she navigates each topic with scriptural insight that often exceeds what is heard from many who grace the pulpits each week.



Megan Basham is a culture reporter for The Daily Wire. Her work can be found at [dailywire.com](https://www.dailywire.com). *Shepherds For Sale* is available at [christianbook.com](https://www.christianbook.com) and from other online retailers.

## Naming names

With each topic, Basham lays bare prominent evangelical leaders and theologians who – for whatever reason, be it fortune, fame, or otherwise – have acquiesced to liberal talking points and progressive ideologies.

To be clear, Basham does not discuss so-called progressive Christians such as Jim Wallis or Al Sharpton, because she claims, “They have little to no sway among theological conservatives or with the broad swath of mainstream evangelicalism.

“Every name I put forward as evidence of liberal drift and infiltration is commonly trusted and welcomed by orthodox American Protestantism,” she wrote. “They are men and women who I, too, at one time trusted and still sometimes learn from, though with a much more cautious posture than I once had.”

Basham also makes clear that her calling these leaders out “is not a question of punishing or singling out, but of understanding what is taking place in the church so we can put it right.”

Well-known evangelical leaders such as Danny Akin, J.D. Greear, Tim Keller, Russell Moore, Rick Warren, and many others are put forth in the book as examples of those who have compromised to one degree or another.

Basham not only exposes individuals, but once-trusted organizations as well.


For example, through meticulous detail, she reveals what she believes to be concrete evidence that the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), the legislative lobbying arm of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), received indirect funding from leftist and atheist billionaire George Soros.

While the funding trickled down through various entities, and the ERLC has denied the allegations, Basham’s work will leave one hard-pressed to draw any conclusion other than her reporting being forthright.

Basham also highlights other institutions such as The Gospel Coalition, some SBC seminaries, Christian universities, and many others that have capitulated in some form or another on a host of issues, ranging from embracing critical race theory to softening on pro-life positions.

## Provoking pushback

Some named in the book have defended themselves through writings and videos, while others have been defended by their followers. Critics of the book have charged Basham with everything from journalistic malpractice to defamation of character.

But it should come as no surprise that such an exposé would garner pushback, as it reveals the liberal drift and rot that have been lurking in the shadows of evangelicalism. 

# PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

It is true that before making accusations against others, believers should take seriously the command not to bear false witness against their neighbor (Exodus 20:16).

It is also true that believers are to expose the unfruitful works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11).

While Megan Basham accomplished the latter well in *Shepherds for Sale*, I, as a pastor of 18 years, believe there is merit to a few of the accusations made against her.

For example, Basham is accused of misrepresenting popular apologist and pastor Gavin Ortlund.

Basham addressed comments Ortlund made in a 2022 YouTube video titled **Climate Change: Why Christians Should Engage**.

Basham is charged with piecing

together selected quotes from Ortlund to make him say something he did not really say. In my opinion, that criticism is fair.

However, I do believe that Basham accurately captures the essence of Ortlund’s words, holding him up as an example of a young pastor who has been unwittingly influenced by the environmentalist propaganda that has crept into evangelicalism.

As a pastor who shares Basham’s concerns, I recommend reading *Shepherds for Sale*. If you have had an uneasy feeling for some time that your pastors, denominations, and institutions are seemingly drifting leftward, Basham’s book will confirm those feelings are not figments of your imagination; rather, they are based on reality.

As with anything one chooses to read, I encourage using discernment. And discerning whether Basham’s claims are credible will not be difficult to do, as she provides 50 pages citing her sources of information.

Though imperfect, as any book by any human author will be, Basham’s book thoroughly illustrates the big picture evangelicals need to heed: There is an agenda by leftists and progressive institutions to infiltrate the church through leaders who will do their bidding. And unfortunately, to a large degree, they have already been successful.

The sooner we become aware of leaders who have compromised God’s truth, the sooner we can correct course.

– MATTHEW WHITE

By Rusty Benson

Music is a precious and powerful gift that God has shared with humanity.

Through the centuries, music has played a role in strengthening soldiers on the battlefield, honoring kings and dignitaries, bringing couples and com-

## Why settle for a sappy ‘holiday spirit?’

munities together, comforting the grieving, celebrating milestones, and generally enriching lives in every culture.

However, it is evident in the many mentions of music in Scripture – from Genesis through Revelation – that music fulfills its highest purpose when through it, God is praised and the “old, old story of Jesus and His Love” is retold with melody, rhythm, and verse.

Theologian Martin Luther, himself a hymn writer, said:

*Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. ... After all, the gift of language combined with the gift of song was only given to man to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music, namely, by proclaiming [the Word of God] through music.*

So as churches and Christian families gather, they sing songs with roots as old as written history and as new as the current decade. They sing words and melodies brought to America by her forefathers from Western Europe, as well as songs composed during the great revivals of our nation. Some are arranged for choirs, others for quartets. Some are commonly accompanied by organs, orchestras, or brass ensembles, others by small ensembles with guitars, drums, and modern keyboards.

All that to say, Western musical hymnody is mature, expansive, and rich. Short of God’s written revelation, there may be no more valued asset in Christendom



# Sing the joy

than its hymns and songs.

And no single collection is more beloved than the hymns of the Advent season.

### The technicality of tradition

But therein a problem can hide. Such familiarity, mixed with a strong dose of tradition and nostalgia, can lull people into overlooking the profound message that the great Christmas hymns proclaim – that God became man.

We sing “Glory to the newborn King,” but settle for a glib “holiday spirit” and miss the true Christmas message that theologian J.I. Packer describes in his classic *Knowing God* as “hope for a ruined humanity – hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a stable so that 30 years later He might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message the world has ever heard or will hear.”

### A treasury of truth

Taking a closer look at the treasury of Christmas hymns and songs can help reawaken listeners to Christ’s unfathom-

able incarnation and reorient this season’s celebrations away from the sentimentality that begins to fade when the last present is opened.

To that end, consider afresh two Christmas classics as well as a lesser-known gem and a new offering that deserves to be added to today’s Christmas songbooks.

### ‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’

God’s messenger angels from Luke 2 are highlighted in Charles Wesley’s 1739 hymn titled “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” The tune commonly found in hymnals today is an adaptation of a Felix Mendelssohn melody.

In the first verse, God’s angels bring His message to Earth singing: *Glory to the newborn King ... God and sinners [are] reconciled.* To this news the church responds: *Joyful, all ye nations, rise / Join the triumph of the skies ... / “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

The second verse can be seen as a meditation on why the church sings at Christmas. Believers sing because the Son of God added to Himself a human nature and sympathizes with human weakness.



# of Christmas

Yet because He was “without sin” [we can] “draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15-16).

The final verse celebrates that in His incarnation, Christ brings peace, righteousness, light, life, and healing – all results of “lay[ing] His glory by.”

## ‘Joy to the World’

Among the most popular Christmas hymns, “Joy to the World” was written in 1719 by Issac Watts. The melody is arranged from a tune in **The Messiah** by George Frideric Handel.

Surprisingly, Watts did not intend his carol to be a Christmas hymn, but a meditation about Christ’s second coming, based on Psalm 98.

The lyrics recognize a world in dire need of joy, justice, and the kingship of Jesus. Watts longs for a time when the Savior will permanently heal sorrows, overthrow the ravages of the fall, and rule with righteousness, truth, and grace. At that prospect, hearts and voices sing “Joy to the World.”

## ‘Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor’

Frank Houghton (1894-1972) was the longtime director of China Inland Mission. His breathtaking hymn, “Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor,” is squarely based on 2 Corinthians 8:9, a key text for interpreting the incarnation, according to Packer.

Houghton writes in the first verse: *Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor / All for love’s sake becamest poor.* Then, in the second verse: *Thou Who art God beyond all praising / All for love’s sake becamest man.* The final verse offers: *Thou Who art love beyond all telling / Savior and King, we worship Thee.*

Hymnary.org reports that “Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor” is published in only 14 hymnals, compared to “Joy to the World,” which is published in 1,869 hymnals. However, hymn writers Keith and Kristyn Getty recorded a version on their 2016 album “Facing a Task Unfinished.” Scan the QR code to hear the Gettys’ version.



## ‘O Come, All You Unfaithful’

Co-written in 2020 by Lisa Clow and Bob Kauflin of Sovereign Grace Music, “O Come, All You Unfaithful” is an obvious play on the classic hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful.” However, any lightheartedness quickly dissolves in the gracious invitation to the “weak and unstable,” “guilty and hiding,” and “bitter and broken” to “come see what your God has done.”

The refrain proclaims: *He’s the Lamb Who was given / Slain for our pardon / His promise is peace / For those who believe.* The ending verse bids sinners: *So come, though you have nothing / Come, He is the offering / Come, see what your God has done / Christ is born, Christ is born.*


“O Come, All You Unfaithful” is suitable for congregations, ensembles, or soloists. The accompaniment draws on simple chords and an easy-to-sing melody. Scan the QR code to listen to a sample and for musical resources.



## Sing to remember and respond

From the beginning, God knew that His people would need to be reminded of His goodness. So, He ordained one day in seven to rest, reflect, and rejoice. Then early in the biblical record, He enacted feasts and observances with the same purpose. Finally, as one of His last acts before His crucifixion, Jesus instituted a symbolic meal with the instruction for His followers to perpetually “do this in remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:24).

Although Advent and Christmas are not mandated in Scripture, when rightly celebrated, they become deep reminders of the wonder of His grace.

At Christmas, believers sing to remember that the manger in Bethlehem led to the cross of Calvary. And with that journey in mind, the church responds with the heavenly “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14). 

# Messianic Jews strengthen God's people at war



By Joy Lucius

On July 24, 2024, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a joint session of the United States Congress. His remarks concerned the continuing war that began on October 7, 2023, when Hamas-led terrorists unexpectedly attacked Gaza, resulting in the violent massacre of over 1,200 Israelis and the kidnapping of more than 250 hostages.

Joining Netanyahu as guests in the congressional gallery were several soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as well as the father of a fallen IDF soldier. The Israeli leader described those brave soldiers as “unbowed, undaunted, unafraid.” He then vowed that their sacrifice and that of their fellow Israelis would not be in vain.

Finally, Netanyahu assured listeners that Israel and the United States would continue to work together to vanquish all common “tyrants and terrorists.”

“Israel will always remain America’s indispensable ally,” declared Netanyahu. “Through thick and thin, in good times and in bad, Israel will always be your loyal friend and your steadfast partner.”

Even now, all these months later, the

**Maoz Israel’s tangible contributions to the war effort focus on three areas: 1) basic needs of soldiers in the field and their families, 2) the education of evacuated children, and 3) manpower for the agricultural harvest and daily workforce.**

question remains as to whether America will uphold its end of this historical partnership between Judaism and Christianity.

## Answering the call

Regardless of how the country of America will answer that question, Kobi Ferguson, president and CEO of Maoz Israel Ministries ([maozisrael.org](http://maozisrael.org)), is certain that *Christians* in America and around the world will respond with unwavering support.

His confidence comes from over 25 years of working with Maoz, alongside his wife Shani and their five children – the oldest of whom is currently serving with the IDF.

Founded in 1976 by his in-laws, Ari and Shira Sorko-Ram, Maoz’s central goal has always been to reach Israel with the gospel by building “a strong community of believers who can be a powerful wit-

ness” of God’s love. Consequently, Maoz is based in Israel but has global branches in the United States, Europe, South Korea, and multiple Spanish-speaking countries.

During a recent trip to the States, Ferguson visited with *The Stand* after delivering an inspiring devotion to the American Family Association staff. Throughout the visit, events back home in Israel dominated Ferguson’s thoughts, prayers, and concerns.

“I’ve been traveling to speak about what’s happening in Israel,” said Ferguson, “and what happened on October 7, to let people know the depth of atrocities and difficulties we’ve been experiencing.

“But also, to give a little hope to Christians who love Israel and have been supporting Israel, to let them know that the Lord is not asleep. He was not caught off guard, even though we’re going through the darkest season in our modern history.”

## Sharing His strength

According to Ferguson, not only is the Lord currently doing great things in Israel, but He is also using Maoz to strengthen Israelis during this time of war.

That is not surprising, since *Maoz* is

a Hebrew word meaning “strength and fortress.” Ferguson described it as a recognizable word in Israel, common in songs and literature of the Jewish culture. It comes from multiple Scriptures declaring that “the Lord is my strength.”

“At Maoz Israel, we know that ultimately all of our strength comes from the Lord,” added Ferguson. “So that’s the name chosen for this organization by my in-laws almost 50 years ago. ... [It was] one of the first Messianic organizations inside Israel. It’s been our vision all this time to make Israel strong in the Lord – in particular, through the gospel.”

Prior to the war, Maoz carried out that mandate via various ministry endeavors.

Through its Hebrew book publishing house, Maoz translated and printed over 170 Hebrew books, teaching booklets, and manuals. This extensive library includes books with testimonies from Jews who found their *Messiah Yeshua*, as well as books promoting the spiritual growth of believers. In recent years, this outreach has grown to include music publications and media resources.

nesses and outreach activities, additionally assisting Israeli believers suffering severe, relentless persecution for faith in Jesus.

### Adapting the mission

From its earliest days, Maoz has operated as a humanitarian aid organization, offering help to widows, orphans, the needy, and the oppressed. But after October 7, those humanitarian efforts shifted to the victims of terrorism and those impacted by the ongoing war.

“During this war,” shared Ferguson, “we had to pivot and do a lot of things differently. Our vision stayed the same, but now that we’re in a complete time of war and devastation, we stopped and asked, ‘What can we do to help?’”

The needs were overwhelming because the instantaneous military call-up of 360,000 Israelis completely strained Israel’s daily economic system. Even half of Maoz’s ministry team was immediately called to serve in the IDF.

Teachers, doctors, nurses, and shopkeepers were working one day and going to war the next, affecting every aspect of Israeli life. Subsequently, Israel had to provide for this new army quickly.

Ferguson offered aid from Maoz: “I told leaders at different army bases, ‘Our organization wants to serve and partner with you.’”

“So that’s what we did, through basic things like water, boots, bulletproof jackets, and whatever we could get ahold of – all because of the prayers and financial backing of Christians worldwide who responded to those needs.”

Since that pivotal October day, Maoz has seen God do things never witnessed before, especially as they ministered to evacuees from the battle zone.

“That’s something a lot of people don’t realize,” said Ferguson. “Hundreds of thousands of Israelis had to evacuate into safer areas. They’ve been living in



hotels and just makeshift places. Again, we asked what we could do to help these evacuees.

“One of the mayors asked, kind of tongue-in-cheek, ‘Can you help us build a school? We have so many kids that survived October 7 right here in this city.’”

### Witnessing the miracles

Ferguson’s team stepped out in faith and did just that. Joining with Christian partners globally, they built the school in less than two months. In the process, God also opened doors for Maoz to meet people they would have never met otherwise while ministering to the extensive needs of their Israeli brothers and sisters.

“We’ve never done things on this level,” declared Ferguson. “But during the most difficult season, we’ve seen the biggest shining light in the darkest places.”

That Light, the *Messiah Yeshua*, is burning brightly through Maoz Israel as they work in the Lord’s strength to point His chosen, beloved people of Israel into His loving and waiting arms.

“We believe that with the help of Israel-loving Christians around the world,” Ferguson declared, “we will see the Lord do great things in Israel, until one day, ‘all Israel will be saved’ as promised in Romans 11:26.”



For more information on Maoz Israel Ministries, go to [israelneedsme.com](http://israelneedsme.com).

Each Saturday afternoon, American Family Radio offers listeners several resources to learn more about Israel and its people, including **Lost in Translation** with Dr. Baruch Korman, **The Friends of Israel Today**, and **The Middle East Report**. Visit [afr.net](http://afr.net) for details on show times and topics.

Maoz has continually supported several Hebrew-speaking congregations and mentored leaders throughout Israel as a means of investing in the next generation. The ministry has also sponsored youth camps, provided student scholarships, and paid medical expenses for those in need. It has promoted Messianic busi-

# THE goodness OF GOD

By Jennifer Nanney

The ongoing culture war can often cause believers to despair and lose sight of the actual victories won amid all the difficult and disappointing battles. That is why *The Stand* is closing out the year by focusing on the goodness of God during 2024. Here are some highlights of how AFA has seen God at work as related to five of the ministry's core values:

- † Evangelism and discipleship
- ⊕ Morality
- 👉 Stewardship
- 👉 Sanctity of human life
- ⚖️ Religious liberty

## JANUARY



More than 100,000 students ushered in 2024 by worshipping Jesus at conferences such as Passion (Georgia), Cross Con (Kentucky), and Hearts on Fire (Tennessee). †  
cbn.com

## MARCH

UniteBama at the University of Alabama saw hundreds of students profess their faith in Christ; many were later baptized in a fountain. †

1819news.com



## MAY



Grace Bible Church in Wild Peach, Texas, packed its 100,000th Operation Christmas Child shoebox since beginning its packing ministry in 2014 with 500 boxes and a congregation of about 30. For 2024, the church's 55 members had a goal of 15,000 boxes. (See *The Stand*, 11/24.) 👉

Safe Harbor Ohio opened as a residential facility for young women (ages 14-18) rescued from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. (See *The Stand*, 9/24.) 🤝

Joining a growing number of public colleges and universities disassociating from diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, the University of North Carolina's Board of Trustees voted to divert its DEI funding to cover "public safety measures." ⊕

usatoday.com

## JUNE

Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry signed a law requiring every public classroom in the state to post the Ten Commandments. Note: As of press time, this was being challenged legally. ⚖️

apnews.com

Ryan Walters, Oklahoma's state superintendent of public instruction, directed all Oklahoma public schools to include Bible instruction in every classroom. ⚖️

afn.net



## SEPTEMBER



Thirteen Nicaraguan pastors and attorneys affiliated with a Texas-based ministry, Mountain Gateway, were released from prison after being detained in December 2023. They had been charged with money laundering following an “evangelistic event.” †

christiannews.net

David Lin, a Chinese American pastor, was returned to the U.S. after serving 17 years in a Chinese prison for “contract fraud” – his charge for helping construct a building for an underground church. ⚖️

apnews.com

AFA announces the November release of the documentary **Culture Warrior**, produced by American Family Studios. †

## OCTOBER

The Colorado Supreme Court dismissed a case against Jack Phillips, ending a 12-year battle of lawsuits against the Christian baker who refused to bake custom cakes for LGBTQ celebrations. ⚖️

foxnews.com; wng.org

Over 1,000 people attended the fifth annual, spiritually-focused Pray Vote Stand Summit held in Washington, D.C. The Summit’s plenary sessions received over 600,000 views online, and there were 621 registrations for the webcast. ⚖️



## JULY



The American Society of Plastic Surgeons, acknowledging “considerable uncertainty ... for the use of chest and genital surgical interventions,” broke from the groupthink of American doctor organizations that advocate such treatment for adolescent gender dysphoria. ⚖️

city-journal.org

The Mississippi House of Representatives honored the life and legacy of AFA Founder Don Wildmon with a resolution highlighting his extensive accomplishments and acknowledging the Wildmon family. ⚖️

## AUGUST

The Disney+ Series **Stars Wars: The Acolyte**, which featured lesbian space witches, was canceled after its first and only season. ⚖️

onemillionmoms.com

hollywoodreporter.com

The U.S. Supreme Court denied the Biden administration’s request to force resistant states to implement expansions to Title IX rules. Ten states had filed suit in lower courts to uphold their own laws against allowing biological men into women’s protected spaces, such as locker rooms, bathrooms, and dorm rooms. ⚖️

foxnews.com

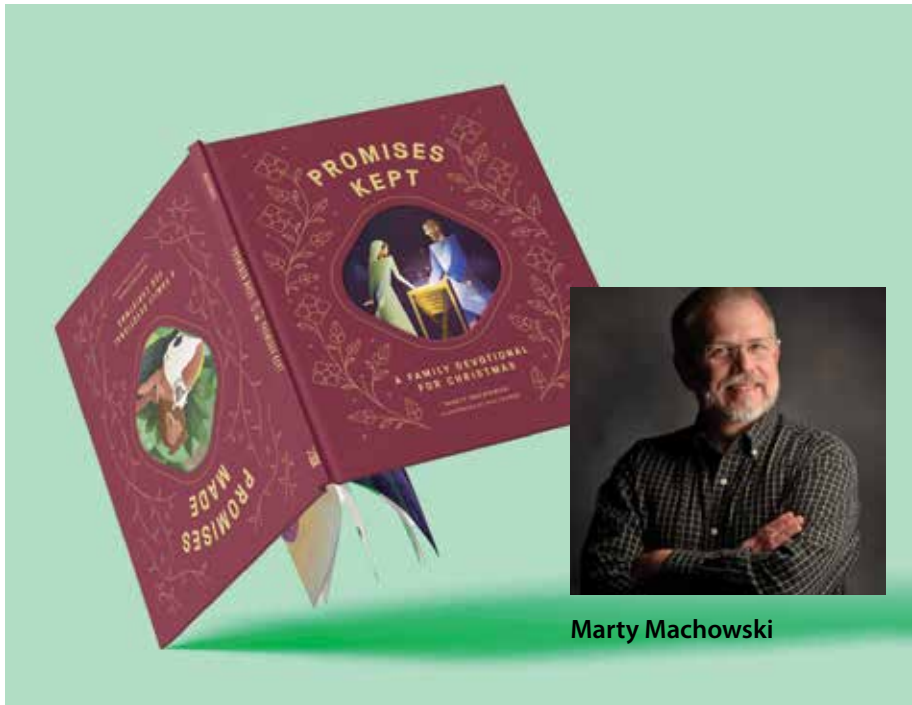


“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

JOHN 16:33

# REVIEWS

Family entertainment • Documentaries • Resources for families • Books



Marty Machowski

## Promises Made Promises Kept

“All these promises were fulfilled in the coming of Christ on Christmas,” writes author Marty Machowski in his new Christmastime book, *Promises Made Promises Kept: A Family Devotional for Christmas*.

Throughout this devotional, Machowski explains Christ’s ministry, resurrection, and life, frequently referring to Him as the “Christmas Promise.” The book’s format is different from a traditional layout in that it is two-sided and alternately upside-down, making it two books in one.

Machowski encourages families to read the “Promises Made” portion daily, beginning on December 18. Here, Machowski outlines Old Testament prophecy and promises as he shows readers the need for a Savior. He includes many important stories, such as the fall of man and accounts of Noah, Moses, and Abraham, as well as prophets who foretold Jesus’ coming.

However, on Christmas morning, Machowski instructs readers to flip the book over and dig into the “Promises Kept” section, which takes readers through many fulfilled prophecies surrounding Jesus’ earthly ministry and His death, while discussing the promise of His second coming.

Each devotional is adorned with beautiful illustrations and thought-provoking questions designed to inspire readers of any age. It is a timely resource that is sure to help the entire household refocus on the true meaning of Christmas.

New Growth Press, 64 pages  
[newgrowthpress.com](http://newgrowthpress.com)  
Hannah Meador



## Longing for Christmas

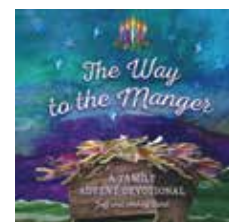
*Longing for Christmas*, an Advent devotional tailored to teenagers, aims to rekindle the joy and wonder of the Christmas season. This

thoughtfully written book addresses the common experience of losing childhood excitement for the holidays, using it as a springboard to explore deeper spiritual themes.

The devotional cleverly connects the nostalgia for simpler times with the universal longing for redemption and restoration. Through 25 daily readings, it unpacks God’s promises throughout Scripture, culminating in Jesus’ arrival. This approach provides a fresh perspective on familiar Christmas narratives.

Written by a skilled team from Rooted Ministry, the book offers varied perspectives while maintaining a cohesive message. Each day’s entry is concise yet impactful, featuring a promise, a Scripture passage, reflection questions, and a prayer. This structure makes it accessible for busy teens while encouraging deeper engagement with the material.

New Growth Press, 91 pages  
[newgrowthpress.com](http://newgrowthpress.com)  
Jordan Chamblee



## The Way to the Manger

Published in 2018, *The Way to the Manger: A Family Advent Devotional* by Jeff

and Abbey Land, is a timeless countdown to Christmas Day that points families to the true meaning of Christmas. The 25-day devotional was born out of the Lands’ desire to help their four sons focus on Christ during the holiday season. It’s designed to be used year after year in hopes

of it becoming a treasured family keepsake.

In addition to the devotionals, the hardcover book contains a ribbon marker and includes journaling pages for families to write down their Advent memories each year. It also contains family activities and crafts, thought-provoking discussion questions, and an advent wreath guide.

*The Way to the Manger*, written for ages 4 to 12, emphasizes the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace; engages families with biblical truth; and points both adults and children to their need for Jesus.

B&H Books, 96 pages  
[christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com)  
Rebecca Davis



### **The Best News of All**

In her latest book, *The Best News of All: A Christmas Bible Verse to Remember*,

author Sally Michael shares the story of Christ's birth in a way that preschoolers can understand and remember. Throughout the pages, the author uses eye-catching illustrations, questions, and repetition to help preschoolers memorize Luke 2:10-11 – the shepherds' magnificent encounter with the angels announcing Christ's birth. At the end of the book, Michael encourages parents, gives them memorization pointers, and suggests activities that will help their children learn to live according to scriptural truths.

New Growth Press, 24 pages  
[newgrowthpress.com](http://newgrowthpress.com)  
Hannah Meador

### **The Christmas Tree Farm**

Melody Carlson's new Christmas novella tells the tale of Madison McDowell, her sister Addie, and the Oregon Christmas tree farm they inherited from their beloved grandmother.

While Madison was overseas on a teaching assignment, Addie had volunteered to take care of things back on the



farm. But now that Madison is home, the situation grows tense between the sisters. Old memories, past hurts, and a devastating wildfire complicate the shaky financial affairs of the family business.

Not to mention, their new neighbor Gavin Thompson (Madison's high school sweetheart) and his daughters have plans that seem to completely contradict Madison's plans for the farm. Without a miracle, it seems unlikely that Madison can save her relationship with her sister or their Christmas tree farm.

Baker Publishing, 176 pages  
[christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com)  
Joy Lucius



### **The World Rejoices**

Written by Liza Huie, Cyndi Logsdon, Brook Taylor, and Ashley Arey, *The World Rejoices: The Good News of*

*Christmas Devotional* emphasizes the first two chapters of the book of Luke to help readers focus on "God's promise that brings lasting peace, comfort, and joy." This 25-day study encourages "a slower December pace" of life and helps readers better understand and relate to Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, and others who were a part of the Christmas narrative.

On the 25th day, readers are encouraged to read the two chapters of Luke in their entirety and thoughtfully consider how to apply what they have learned.

The devotional also includes Christmas-themed games, trivia, songs, journaling opportunities, and other fun activities.

New Growth Press, 80 pages  
[newgrowthpress.com](http://newgrowthpress.com)  
Hannah Meador

## **A Wondrous Mystery: Daily Advent Devotions**

This collection of 30 daily readings, drawn from the sermons of Charles H. Spurgeon, is a refreshing take on Christmas devotionals. *A Wondrous Mystery: Daily Advent Devotions* aims to refocus readers on the essence of the season: the incarnation of Christ.

Through carefully selected passages



on Christ's incarnation, Geoffrey Chang, curator of the Spurgeon Library at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, brings Spurgeon's powerful reflections

to life for today's readers.

Chang's introduction in the book provides crucial context, exploring how Spurgeon's unwavering faith stood as a bulwark against the rising tide of skepticism in his era. This historical framing adds depth to the devotional passages, allowing readers to appreciate the similarities between Spurgeon's time and now – and to realize just how much the world needs the reality of the incarnation.

This devotional serves as a spiritual defibrillator, jolting Christians out of their holiday-induced haze, bringing them face-to-face with the very foundation of the Christian faith. It reminds the reader that the true gift of Christmas isn't found under a tree but in the earth-shattering reality of Emmanuel – "God with us."

New Growth Press, 144 pages  
[newgrowthpress.com](http://newgrowthpress.com)  
Jordan Chamblee

# Steward CHRISTMAS wisely

Jessica L. Peck DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, CNE, CNL, FAANP, FAAN

It's the most wonderful time of the year, the season of our Savior's birth!

While we all know the real meaning of Christmas, it doesn't immediately solve the commercial pressures we feel to bless others, especially our families. The average American family is expected to spend nearly \$1,000 on Christmas this year, with the majority going toward gifts for friends and family. Because of today's economic pressures, many families are feeling the stress of extra expenses this holiday season.

Rest assured, merry Christmases are not created by material means, but by meaningful memories. Can you recount every Christmas gift you ever received in your childhood? I doubt it! But I bet you remember special family gatherings, laughter in holiday calamity, or perhaps a gift given with great effort or sacrifice.

Financial strain and time stressors can cause anxiety, jealousy, or resentment when we find ourselves struggling to keep up with the Joneses. A quick social media scroll reveals images of families at a Christmas tree farm searching for the perfect tree, laughing families in matching pajamas (even the dog!), Christmas home decor rivaling five-star hotels, and family ski trips with everyone sipping cocoa as the sun sets across the snow-topped cabin.

I'm not condemning over-the-top experiences or social media sharing. Some people are gifted with wealth and others with creativity. Social media gives us a viewing window into the expression of those gifts. Meanwhile, people with enviable material means may look longingly at families who have far less – by the



world's standards – yet somehow seem to have much closer relationships and more happiness in their homes.

The point here is that comparison is the thief of joy. When we shift our gaze from the manger, our hearts wander too, nurturing discontent and insecurity. No one is immune to the prism of perfection projected through curated, filtered social media feeds showcasing “best of” moments in holiday traditions. But one of the best aspects of family tradition is uniqueness. Some traditions are downright nonsensical or “out of pocket,” as Gen Z would say. That's what makes them fun and bonds your family together.


When you start feeling holiday stress, stop and ask yourself if the stress is self-induced. Did you overcommit your time or finances? Are you struggling to meet a standard that no one else cares about but you? Is the obligation self-inflicted?

If so, be honest with yourself and let it go. Simply say “no.” If you have already said “yes,” admit your mistake, apologize, and graciously back out. Feel the glorious freedom of plainly saying, “I am not available.” Find peace in self-release. Prioritize your family health over your pursuit of financial wealth.

Release yourself from the pressure

of delivering a picture-perfect Christmas. Lift your eyes from your tiny, blue-lighted, rectangle peephole into an illusionary world, and shift your gaze to the living, breathing humans God gifted to you. They value and desire your *presence* much more than your *presents*. Don't twist yourself into a holiday pretzel worrying about spending your money while lavishly wasting your time without a second thought. Steward Christmas wisely.

It's OK if you don't get a picture in matching family pajamas. It's OK if you're not a part of perfectly orchestrated, media-worthy holiday activities. It's OK if you don't have money for gifts. It's OK if you don't go anywhere special.

Your family can still have the best Christmas ever. You can decide right now to be intentional in making “memory investments” that point your family to the eternal hope found in Jesus – the Light of the world! 



Dr. Jessica Peck, also known as Dr. Nurse Mama, is a pediatric nurse practitioner, author, and speaker. In addition to her monthly column

in *The Stand*, Dr. Peck hosts **The Dr. Nurse Mama Show**, weekdays at 2 p.m. Central on American Family Radio.

# The Christian's call to post-election persistE<sup>n</sup>ce



By Walker Wildmon

AFA Action CEO, AFA vice president

Persistence is the word that has been on my mind recently. Paul writes in Romans 2:7 (NIV), “To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, ... [God] will give eternal life.” As America moves beyond a crucial election season, the need for Christians to stay engaged in the political process remains vital. The ballots have been cast, and the decisions that were made will shape the nation's future for years to come. But the Christian's responsibility to influence culture through a biblical lens did not end with the recent election.

This election brought important issues to the forefront – life, religious freedom, and the preservation of biblical family values – which is all the more reason Christians are still called to remain steadfast in their witness. Galatians 6:9 encourages believers: “Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.” This call to *persist* is as relevant now as it was before Election Day. The work of praying for leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2), holding them accountable, and engaging in civic life continues.

Now that the election has passed, Christians must continue to be salt and light in society (Matthew 5:13-16) because our core mission remains unchanged: to live out our faith and biblical truth in every sphere of life.

I was recently reminded of how cultural battles play out over the course of decades, not just weeks or months.

This is especially difficult to grasp today because we live in a society that values instant gratification over the rewards of steady plowing. Steady plowing, from a cultural influence vantage point, is what is needed to create lasting change in American society.

There are three specific areas through which AFA Action, the government affairs affiliate of American Family Association, is working tirelessly to defend America's families and advance a culture of life, family, and religious freedom.




First, our team is *advancing legislation* in various states, aimed at protecting parental rights in education and health care. This legislation seeks to give parents the opportunity to pursue legal remedies when their children are exposed to pornography through public libraries, school libraries, and online databases. On the health care front, our legislation is designed to ensure parental access to medical records and prevent radical and experimental transgender treatments and surgeries on minors.

Second, we are *working continuously*

to ensure that judges who respect our Constitution and value the rule of law are nominated at the federal level. We are also fighting back against bad judicial nominations. In a similar vein, we are partnering with our iVoterGuide division to research and evaluate potential state-elected judges to ensure that the good people are getting elected, and the bad judicial candidates are rejected at the ballot box.

Lastly, our iVoterGuide team is already *reviewing* the 2024 election results and *exploring* ways to improve on how we reach voters. Through iVoterGuide, our goal is to educate as many voters as possible.

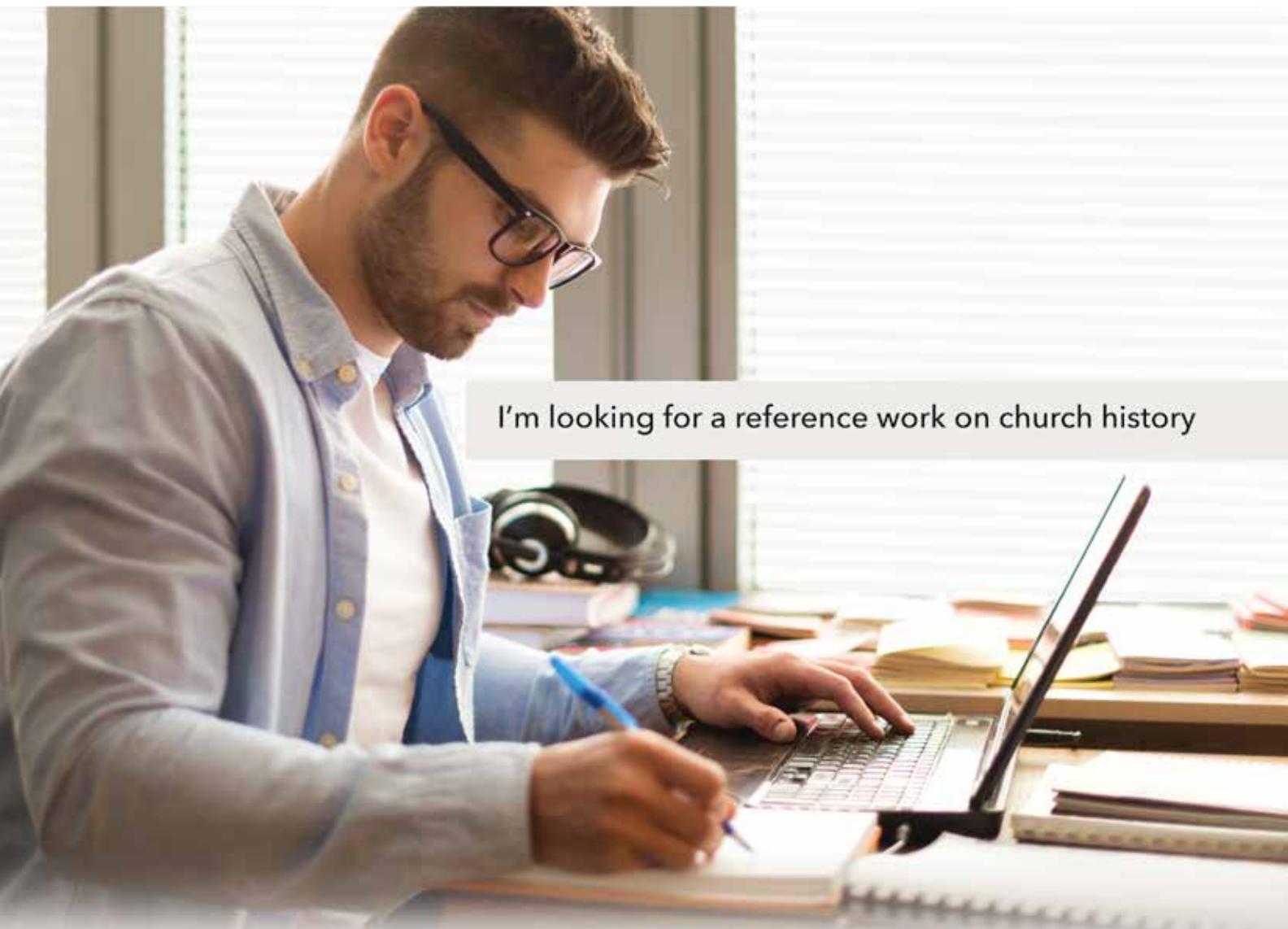
While not as grand, there is a 2025 election season coming. Various states will have statewide elections in November 2025, and positions from mayor to governor will be on the ballot.

So, in the wake of the recent election, important work continues. We, as Christians, must persist in prayer, stand firm in our values, and trust our Sovereign God. Now more than ever, we must uphold our roles as agents of transformation by bringing the light of Christ to a world in desperate need of redemption and by stewarding our God-given rights wisely. 

# THE STAND

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