

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

March—April, 2004 ☆ Vol. 14, Number 2

# Inside

## ***But What Can I Do About Physician-Assisted Suicide? - Part II***

By  
Mark Flemming

*Editor's Note: This is a two part article on what you can do about Physician Assisted Suicide. The first part in our Jan-Feb issue focused on what you need to do to be prepared (prayer and educating yourself).*



*This second part I focuses on what action you can take.*

### **EDUCATE OTHERS:**

1.) Ask your doctor what his/her stance is on PAS. Explain to them how important it is to you that you can trust that they will always work to protect your life and your best interests. Will they be there if you or someone you know needs end-of-life care?

2.) Encourage them to participate in whatever opportunities they have to improve the end-of-life care that Vermonters receive either at an organizational or a personal level.

3.) Find out where your priest or pastor stands on PAS. Encourage them to speak to your congregation or parish against

PAS. If they do not feel qualified ask them to contact VAEH or CAM to help locate a speaker or educational materials.

4.) Write to and talk with your state legislative representatives and let them know that good end of life care is important to you and does not include PAS.

5.) Talk with friends, family, co-workers, encouraging them to oppose PAS and to support better end-of-life care.

6.) If you are interested in distributing bulk copies of "What You Need to Know About Physician-Assisted Suicide" Pamphlets from the Christian Medical and Dental Association to your Christian friends, group, congregation, or parish please contact CAM. [See contact information at the end of this article.]

7.) Write an opinion letter to the Editor of your local newspaper. This is a free opportunity to be widely heard - use it! The Burlington Free Press (BFP) recently solicited short (200 words maximum) opinion letters from the public. You can read the letters previously

submitted to BFP at:

[www.burlingtonfreepress.com/specialnews/death/letters.htm](http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/specialnews/death/letters.htm)

You can submit your own letter to BFP by emailing it to:

[letters@bfp.burlingtonfreepress.com](mailto:letters@bfp.burlingtonfreepress.com)

You can submit a letter to the Rutland Herald directly on-line at:

[rutlandherald.com/News/Opinion/Letters/](http://rutlandherald.com/News/Opinion/Letters/)

8.) Make all your state representatives know that you support better end-of-life (palliative) care for patients and do **not** support physician-assisted suicide.



9.) Write or talk with the members of the State House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE about your opposition to PAS [See contact information at the end of the article]:

### **Giving Wisely**

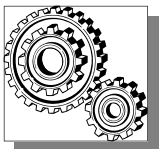
*Are you aware of how much of your charitable contribution actually goes to the charity you support*

**Page 3**

### **Musings on the Anniversary of Roe v Wade**

*Some thoughts on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the decision that legalized abortion in the United States*

**Page 3**



### **In the Works**

#### **Voter Registration Candidate Scorecard**

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



**"A nation consisting of citizens whose consciences are bruised is itself broken in its national strength."- Abraham Kuyper**

(Continued from page 1)

Representative Koch of Barre Town, *Chair*

Representative Connell of Warren, *Vice-Chair*

Representative DePoy of Rutland City

Representative Donahue of Northfield

Representative Hall of Newport City

Representative Keogh of Burlington

Representative Kirker of Essex

Representative Maier of Middlebury

Representative Martin of Springfield

Representative Sunderland of Rutland Town

Representative Vincent of Waterbury

**10.)** Write or talk with the members of the Senate COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE about your opposition to PAS:

Senator Leddy of Chittenden County, *Chair*

Senator Munt of Chittenden County, *Vice-Chair*

Senator Doyle of Washington County

Senator Lyons of Chittenden County

Senator Mayo of Caledonia County

Senator White of Windham County



## Support Those Who Are On the Front Lines:

**1.)** Contribute money, envelopes, stamps to the VAEH - even a small contribution can make a big difference when we do it together. VAEH is the foremost in-state physician-led organization working to protect the lives of those who are near the end of their lives by supporting better end-of-life care and opposing PAS. It will take money and effort to oppose The Death With Dignity group who already sent out 130,000 solicitation letters.

**2.)** Write a note of encouragement to Dr. Orr and VAEH thanking him and them for their diligence and perseverance. [See contact information at the end of this article.]

**3.)** Write a note of appreciation to Gov. Jim Douglas and Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie for taking a public stand against PAS and encouraging them to continue to stand firm. [See contact information at the end of this article.]

**4.)** Consider joining the new Vermont grassroots organization, "Vermonters Against the Dangers of Physician-Assisted Suicide", started by some people in Shelburne, VT. [See contact information at the end of this article.]



## Pray Again

**1.)** That God through His Holy Spirit would help us to act in His will and with His ways to accomplish His goals in regard to the people of Vermont in general and in regard to PAS in specific.

**2.)** That after all is said and done we would trust God no matter what!

*"For I have heard the slander of many, Terror is on every side; While they took counsel together against me, They schemed to take away my life. But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord, I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me." (Psalm 31:13-15, NASB95)*

### Contact Information:

Dr. Robert Orr  
Vermont Alliance for Ethical Healthcare  
Web page: [www.vaeh.org](http://www.vaeh.org)  
Email: [info@vaeh.org](mailto:info@vaeh.org)  
Telephone: 802-658-0518  
Postal Mail: P.O. Box 2145,  
South Burlington, VT 05407-2145

Christian Action Ministry Network

Web page:  
[www.christianactionministry.com](http://www.christianactionministry.com)

Email: [camnet@surfglobal.net](mailto:camnet@surfglobal.net)

Telephone: 802-372-6442

Postal Mail: CAM Network, Inc., P.O. Box 1067, Williston, VT 05495

Office of the Governor of Vermont

Web page: [www.vt.gov/governor](http://www.vt.gov/governor)

Web Contact Form: <http://www.vermont.gov/governor/contact.html>

Telephone: 800-649-6825

Postal Mail: Governor Jim Douglas, 109 State Street, Pavilion, Montpelier, VT 05609-0101

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Vermont

Web page: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/lrgov>

Email: [brian.dubie@state.vt.us](mailto:brian.dubie@state.vt.us)

Telephone: 802-828-2226  
Postal Mail: Lt. Governor Brian Dubie, 115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-5401

The Burlington Free Press Newspaper

Web page: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com>

The Rutland Herald Newspaper

Web page:  
<http://www.rutlandherald.com>

*Mark Flemming is a Board Member of Christian Action Ministry and attends Essex Alliance Church*

**"The danger of loss of faith in God is not that one will then believe in nothing, but rather that one will believe in anything."**

**G.K Chesterton**

## Giving Wisely

By  
William Parkinson

**A**s Christians we are told to be charitable with what God has given us. To give tithes and offerings from the bounty He has blessed us with. We are also told to be careful stewards. How would you feel to find out that 50% to 80% of your tithe put in the offering plate was going to the usher as his fee for collecting the donation? This of course doesn't happen, but something very similar may be happening with your charitable donations.

Throughout the year we receive many phone requests for donations to various charities, many serving very good causes. Like many of you, I bet, I am one who hates to say

no, especially to a cause I believe in. This past Christmas season I got one of those calls and said ok. They sent me the pledge card and envelope like usual, but then I did something I hadn't done in the past. I read all the fine print and it led me to a website that told me how much of my donation was actually going to the charity I wanted to support. Now I heartily recommend this site to you all, [www.atg.state.vt.us](http://www.atg.state.vt.us).

Click on "charities" on the left side of the screen, and then on the new screen, under additional information, click on "data from paid fundraisers". You may have to click it a second time if your computer needs Adobe Reader first, which comes in automatically.

That's a lot to bother to type out, but the information is well worth it. You will find how much of a donation actually goes to the charity and how much supports the fund-raiser company. Examples of what you will find from specific fund raising events of what actually gets to the charity: *Christian Children's Fund* 96-100%, *Christian Coalition* 35-45%, *Christian Coalition of America* 8-54%, *Covenant House* 54-73%, *Easter Seals* 8%, *National Right to Life* 19-61%, *Vermont ETV* 24-64%, *Vermont Right to Life* 63-75%.

Different companies charge different rates and different fund raising events have very different percentages, but if you send a donation to the

group on your own they should be getting 100% of your donation.

In no way am I saying you should not give, or not give to these organizations, but you may want to make your donations directly to the charity or organization and not through the fund-raiser. At least ask the telemarketer when you have him on the phone- is he a volunteer for the organization or a paid employee of a telemarketing firm, and if so, what is the fee they will be charging for getting your donation? Then give, but give wisely.

*William Parkinson is a member of Christian Action Ministry.*

## MUSINGS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

By  
Mark Flemming

January 22nd marks the 31st anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. It is ironic that we just sent rovers and a lander to Mars to search for signs of life while we hide our eyes to the fact that pre-born babies are alive. NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project looks for nonrandom patterns in electromagnetic waves from space, while many of the same people doing this investigation ignore the signs that our very bodies, the **creatures** around us, and the planet we live on have the imprints of an intelligence far greater than our own\*. Is it really so surprising that, "Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been *dead* four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that **if you believe, you will see** the glory of God?" (John 11:39-40 NASB95). The progression is believing first followed by seeing.. Often we find what is difficult to detect only if we have a willingness to see it and look hard for it. Sometimes we make it harder on ourselves because we do not want to find what is there. It is only very occasionally that we manage to see what may be barely perceptible directly, when we stubbornly refuse to believe it might be there. If we refuse to believe that anything might block our path at night ("I don't want to be inconvenienced by having to change my direction,") then we will probably not turn on a light that would have allowed us to see the large box in front of us and avoid a collision with it. There is more pain involved with walking directly into it but it is a consequence of an unwillingness to believe in a certain possibility. Likewise there are many unwanted consequences of the willful slaughter of the pre-born because of an unwillingness to accept their person-hood and humanness that we as a culture are only now beginning to understand. I am encouraged that the tide of public opinion appears to be shifting toward protecting the lives of the pre-born. May more people be willing to see life as gift from a living God instead of an extraordinary but meaningless accident.

*\*(Please do not take these statements as being against systematic investigations or daring adventure into the unknowns of Creation. Rather I take issue with some of the interpretations of the findings and the motivations behind them. I really am excited about space exploration, but I see this as part of a collective human endeavor to understand the realm that God has placed us in rather than the legitimization of a godless view of reality)*

**What can I do?**



*Faith without works is dead  
James 2:17*

e-mail : [camnet@surfglobal.net](mailto:camnet@surfglobal.net)

[www.christianactionministry.com](http://www.christianactionministry.com)

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## **What do Physician-assisted Suicide, Abortion, and Homosexual Marriage have in common?**

**They are all viewpoints and philosophies of an increasingly vocal secular population, put forth in direct contradiction to Biblical teachings. They are also the leading issues of the “culture war” that is occurring in the United States today.**

**Are you informed on these issues? Do you speak out when you have the opportunity? Are you registered to vote? Do you vote?**

**Do you support candidates that oppose these things? With money? With your time?**

**If we are to win the “culture war”, we need to get involved, and become “soldiers of Christ.”**

✉ CAM Network, Inc.  
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☎ (802) 372-6442



**Next Meetings**  
*March 8, 7:00 pm  
Essex. Alliance Church  
Essex, Vt.  
April 5, 7:00 pm  
Community Bible Church  
So. Burlington, Vt.*

**Making A Difference  
in  
Vermont!**



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