

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

March-April, 2006 ☆ Vol. 16, Number 2

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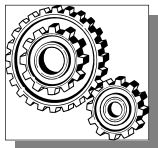
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*Interesting notes on the spread of same sex marriage in the world*



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## Candidate Survey

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.

## Parental Notification

By  
Kathy Connolly

Requiring abortion clinics to notify a parent before their minor daughter has an abortion is a law that will promote adolescent and family health. Conversely, encouraging a girl to keep an unplanned pregnancy and abortion secret from her parents jeopardizes her emotional health and may threaten her physical health. A growing body of research indicates that abortion is a negative experience for many women. Up to 70% of women who abort either experience pressure to abort from their partner, family, friends or circumstances, and/or feel ambivalent about the abortion. These women are at high risk for developing Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS), a group of approximately 100 psychological sequelae that includes depression, loss of self-esteem, self-destructive behaviors, sleep disorder, memory loss, sexual dysfunction, relationship problems, personality changes, anxiety attacks, guilt and remorse, difficulty bonding with subsequent children, and difficulty grieving. Under the self-destructive behaviors, women with PAS report self-hatred, increased substance abuse, eating disorder, and

suicidal ideation or attempts.

The circumstances and after effects of abortion are different for teens than adult women. Research has shown that compared to adult women who abort, teens who abort are 2-4 times more likely to commit suicide, more likely to develop psychological problems, and



more likely to have troubled relationships. Furthermore, they are nearly 3 times more likely to be admitted to mental health hospitals than women in general. Because of their immaturity, teens experience greater stress from the abortion procedure and report feeling guilty, depressed and isolated

afterward. They have greater difficulty adjusting to their abortions. They are more likely to experience nightmares, antisocial behavior, drug abuse and psychosis than adult women who abort. Because of the immaturity of their cervix, they are more likely to experience damage to the cervix. They are also more likely to experience post abortion infections such as pelvic inflammatory disease and endometriosis. Teens are more likely to have late-term abortions (which is more likely to cause PAS) than adult women. 30% of teen abortions occur after 13 weeks gestation, compared to 12% overall. This delay is due to several factors: polls indicate that teens are more pro-life than adults and are therefore more ambivalent about abortion; teens are more likely to conceal their pregnancies; and they are more likely to use denial and avoidance and to cope with the stress of unplanned pregnancy. Teens who have late term abortions are more likely to experience physical and psychological complications than adult women who undergo late term abortions.

“Tolerance becomes a crime when applied to evil”

*Thomas Mann*

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Allen Gutmacher Institute estimates that approximately 40% of teens who abort do so without parental involvement. In rare cases, they keep the abortion a secret for their own safety. In the majority of cases, they are afraid of disappointing or upsetting their parents – in other words, they are trying to protect their parents, not themselves. If the teen experiences physical or psychological post-abortion complications, her parents cannot provide the needed support since they do not know what is causing her distress, increasing the possibility of severe family conflict.

Research indicates that teens are generally in need of more counseling and guidance regarding abortion than adult women. Given that the most common criticism that women make about their abortion experience is a lack of counseling from the clinic staff, we likely cannot rely on abortion clinics to provide teens with adequate counseling. Our state spends millions of dollars each year on educational and social programs that promote the Search Institutes "40 Developmental Assets" in our families and communities. These assets are essential to raising successful young people. Three have to do with family communication:

*1. Family support: Family life provides high levels of love and support;*

*2. Positive Family Communication: Young person and his/her parents communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents; and*

*11. Family Boundaries – family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.*

Abortion advocates oppose parental notification laws on the grounds that these laws threaten *Roe vs. Wade*. This is simply not true. In fact, the Supreme Court grants states the provision to regulate abortion when the risk of death from abortion exceeds the risk of death from giving birth. Recently, four studies have demonstrated that women are at a higher risk for death after abortion than after giving birth. Abortion regulations, espe-

cially those that mandate informed consent, will protect the health of women and young girls. It is unfortunate that abortion advocates continue to fight laws that would enable parents provide support and protection to their minor daughters. Many parents, in an effort to protect their daughter's future, encourage them to pursue abortion. They need to know the truth about the risks associated with abortion. We need laws that protect and strengthen, not undermine, their parental responsibility to protect the health of their children.

As citizens of a democracy, all Americans need to know the research and facts about abortion. Dr. Warren Hern, abortion practitioner and author of *Abortion Practice* (1990), the textbook most widely used in the United States to teach abortion to medical personnel, has said, "In medical practice, there are few surgical procedures given so little attention and so underrated in its potential hazard as abortion." Abortion advocates want to label abortion as a "religious" or "moral" issue. However, a growing body of research indicates that abortion is also a health issue, and that the psychological risks associated with abortion may be greater than the physical risks. Distorting or failing to disclose all the facts about abortion is at best unfair, and at worst downright dangerous, to women. But then again, as Alice Paul, original author of the Equal Rights Amendment, as stated, "Abortion is the ultimate exploitation of women."

*Kathy Connolly, MSW, is a Clinical Social Worker and Child and Family Therapist. She attends Brandon Baptist Church in Brandon, VT.*

**On Town Meeting Day, March 7th, the issue of Parental Notification will be discussed in several Vermont communities. This effort was spearheaded by Caring Vermont Parents, Inc. in an effort to break the logjam preventing action on this important issue in the Vermont Legislature.**

In other words, successful, healthy teens turn to their parents for counseling during times of crisis. It doesn't make sense to spend taxpayer money strengthening these assets and at the same time have laws that undermine them by discouraging family communication during a crisis as significant as an unplanned pregnancy.

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“At any given moment there is an orthodoxy, a body of ideas which it is assumed all right-thinking people will accept without question. It is not exactly forbidden to state this or that or the other, but it is “not done”...anyone who challenges the prevailing orthodoxy finds himself silenced with surprising effectiveness. A genuinely unfashionable opinion is almost never given a fair hearing, either in the popular press or in the highbrow periodicals.”

*George Orwell*

## Bible Curriculum in Public Schools Update

By Dick Trudell

**T**he effort to re-establish a Bible Curriculum in our Public Schools in Vermont has begun to spread. This curriculum, developed by the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools, has passed all the legal issues put forth by the Supreme Court and is currently being taught in 37 States. Over 185,000 students have been enrolled in this elective course and where offered, it has proven to be a popular elective. The curriculum addresses the Bible as history and literature and not as a particular point of view or a religion.

The textbook for the course is the student's own personal Bible. Recommended other resources include a concordance, and a list of other books that the student could read to further his/her knowledge, along with some films such as *Ben-Hur*.

The course is designed to be taught by a Vermont certified teacher during regular school hours and is a two semester course; the first semester focused on the Old Testament and the second semester on the New Testament.

The curriculum has to be instituted on a school district by school district basis. The initial step is gathering support by petitions, followed by a presentation of the curriculum and the petitions to the school board for consideration.

The Christian Action Ministry has developed a presentation on this curriculum and is committed to assisting interested groups and/or churches in getting started and would welcome the chance to share it with your group.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this important project, please contact us at [camnet@surfglobal.net](mailto:camnet@surfglobal.net). For further information on the curriculum refer to our September-October 2005 issue which can be accessed on our site, [www.christianactionministry.com](http://www.christianactionministry.com) or visit the website of the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools at [www.bibleinschools.net](http://www.bibleinschools.net).

*Dick Trudell is President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Community Bible Church in South Burlington.*



## Same-Sex Couples & the World

by  
Sue Carlsen

**W**e read daily how the homosexuals are advancing their agenda in the USA. Do you sometimes wonder how they are doing in the rest of the world? The Vatican News Service has revealed a few important facts about them. We can see how some other countries are dealing with homosexuals.

It was reported that on December 5, 2005 same-sex couples have gained legal recognition under the Civil Partnership Act in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They now have almost all the same legal rights as married couples. Though there is no exchange of vows, it can only be dissolved by court.

In Switzerland, in a June referendum, Swiss voters approved a law allowing homosexual couples to register their partnerships. Although they have many of the rights as married couples, they are not allowed to adopt children.

South Africa is going a step further. Their Constitutional Court has ruled that after December 1, 2005, it is unconstitutional to prevent homosexuals from marrying. The court gave Parliament a year to make the necessary legal changes. The court opposed any attempts to extend the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

How are the people viewing these changes? In England, Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, a retired president of the High Court's Family Division condemned the "downgrading" of matrimony, the London-based Times reported. Speaking at a legal gathering in central London, she said that there was now no financial reason to marry or to remain married.

But two economists, David Blanchflower of Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire and Andrew Oswald, from Warwick University in Coventry, England did a study of what makes people happy. Blanchflower said that, "Money buys some degree of happiness, but not a lot. A far bigger contributor to happiness is marriage. A spouse provides as much extra happiness as \$100,000 in new income." They discovered that those in a monogamous, faithful marriage are the happiest, which is no surprise.

Pope Benedict XVI during a speech on December 10, to participants of a conference of presidents of the Latin American bishops' commission for the family and for life, said, "The institution of marriage and the family is a model of irreplaceable value for the common good of humanity". He then criticized attempts to promote "new forms of marriage" that are foreign to the cultures of the societies where they are being promoted.

It would be good if everyone realizes the truth of what the Pontiff says.

*Sue Carlsen is a member of the Christian Action Ministry and attends North Avenue Alliance Church*

What can I do?

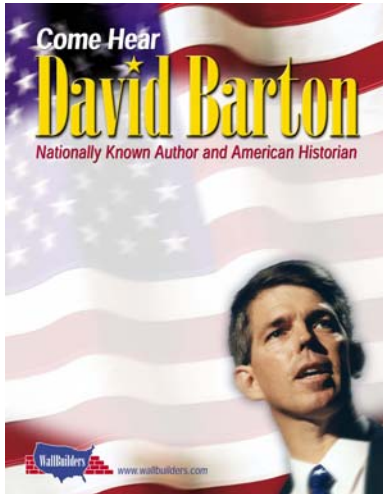


Faith without works is dead  
James 2:17

e-mail : camnet@surfglobal.net

www.christianactionministry.com

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**Mark your Calendars**  
**Christian Action Ministry is bringing David Barton to Vermont on September 22, 2006**  
**Sheraton Inn & Conference Center in So. Burlington**  
**7:00 pm to 10:00 pm**

**David Barton is an author and historian, and Founder and President of WallBuilders. He has done exhaustive research on the Founding Fathers and is considered an expert on the original documents of this country. He is the author of numerous works regarding the original intent of our Founding Fathers in the areas of faith and family, speaks to hundreds of groups each year, as well as appearing on radio and television regarding our country's religious roots and how we can reclaim our spiritual heritage.**

✉ CAM Network, Inc.  
PO Box 1067  
Williston, VT 05495  
☎ (802) 372-6442



**Next Meetings**  
*March 13, 7:00 pm*  
*St. Marks Catholic Church*  
*Burlington, Vt.*  
*April 10, 7:00 pm*  
*Open Doors & World Outreach*  
*Essex, Vt.*

**Making A Difference in Vermont!**



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