

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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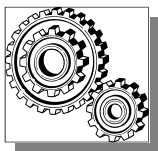
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If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



In the Works

2008 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.

We must regain the conviction that biblical principles are vital to national success, and be willing to pursue their reinstatement.

It was the plan and intent of our founding fathers for godly people, and thereby godly principles, to be intimately involved in the political, judicial and educational realms. The founders believed only the godly would understand the unalienable freedoms provided by God and thus protect them in our government. They never intended for Christian principles to be divorced from public affairs.

Unfortunately, over the years Christians en masse have voluntarily removed themselves from the political, social, and legal arenas. Whenever the godly depart from any arena, their godly values depart with them. A person in office always legislates according to his personal beliefs and convictions, and herein is the wisdom of Proverbs 29:2 made evident: "When the righteous

are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan" (New King James).

Christians, through bad doctrine, political inactivity and apathy, handed over the reins of the nation to leaders who awarded lifelong appointments to justices eager to uproot Christian values that had been the heart of this nation for centuries. Quite frankly, the court's religion-hostile decisions were merely an outgrowth of what the Christian community at large had permitted and encouraged in the decades preceding those rulings.

A biblical description of how this process worked is given by Jesus in Matthew 13: 24-26. In that parable, good people had a good field growing good seed. However, an enemy came in and planted bad among the good, thus contaminating the entire field. What afforded the enemy such an opportunity? The stark answer is found in verse 25: "While [the good] men slept, [the] enemy came . . ."

Jesus never faulted the enemy for doing what he did, for it was his task and purpose to destroy. Jesus placed the fault on the good men who went to sleep, thus allowing the enemy the opportunity to contaminate the field. Very bluntly what has occurred in America happened first because the church went to sleep --- and then because the enemy came in and caused the damage.

First things first

The problems we have created for ourselves, although colossal, can be solved. The first thing we must do is put first things first: "I exhort therefore, that *first of all*, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for [leaders], and for all that are in authority" (1 Tim 2:1-2).

This is not an arbitrary, haphazard plan given by God. God wants every individual to pray for civic leaders first, because civic leaders and their policies affect every individual.

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"We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred writings, that "except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this: and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." - Benjamin Franklin

Jessica's Law or Megan's Law!

Which was designed to punish sex offenders and reduce their ability to re-offend?

by
Bob Garvey

Jessica's Law is the informal name given to a 2005 Florida law, as well as laws in several other states designed as seen above. It is also known as the Jessica Lundsford Act on a Federal level.

Nine year old Jessica was raped and murdered by John Couey, a previously convicted sex offender. Among the key provisions of the law is a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years in prison and lifetime electronic monitoring of adults convicted of lewd or lascivious acts against a victim less than 12 years old.

The law requires sex offenders to wear global positioning system devices on their ankles for five years following their release from prison; or for life for those deemed sexual predators, to better enable law enforcement personnel to track their whereabouts. Registrants who fail to respond within 10 days are considered non-compliant.

Much controversy exists regarding how persons become labeled a sex-offender. Most Americans believe that the Registry lists convicted child

molesters when in actuality; many offenders listed on the registries have been convicted of non-violent offenses, which involve no victim and no physical contact. The power of a judge to impose a fair and just sentence for a first time offender has been legislatively and effectively removed from legal due process. A tier system has been advocated as a method to allow the public to more accurately determine the true risk of a registered offender living in their neighborhood, while allowing law enforcement to better qualify and supervise those persons considered truly dangerous, not only to children but also to women and the elderly.

Megan's Law provides two major information services to the Public: sex offender registration and community notification. The details of what is provided as part of sex offender registration and how it is handled vary from state to state. In some states the required registration information and community notification protocols have changed many times since Megan's Law was passed.

The origins of Megan's Law

began with State level attempts to protect communities from sexual offenders. Prior to formal legislation, private citizens groups sometimes distributed information regarding specific offenders in their areas. In 1990, Washington adopted one of the first statewide laws, the Washington State Community Protection Act.

The law is named for seven-year-old Megan Kanka, who was kidnapped, raped, and murdered by a repeat violent sexual offender named Jesse Timmendequas, who was found guilty and sent to New Jersey's death row. In December 2007 New Jersey ended the death penalty. Timmendequas will now serve a life sentence without parole.

Megan's mother Maureen maintains that had she known about Timmendequas' former conviction, she would have warned Megan to stay away from him. In 1994, Megan's home state of New Jersey passed the first so-called Megan's Law.

Federal Legislation followed in 1995 (42 U.S.C. section 13701). The new law was entitled "Violent Crime Control and

Law Enforcement Act of 1994", amended May 17, 1996. Authored by Congressman Dick Zimmer, it required *every state to develop a procedure for notifying the public when a person convicted of certain crimes is released near their homes*. The law has been amended several times since the original bill, and different states have different procedures for making required disclosures.

Despite several murders of children in Vermont in the past several months, Vermont's Legislature has failed to come to grips with the issue.

It is hoped by this writer, that our Legislature will conduct hearings and thoroughly examine and study other states' "Megan and Jessica laws" for an effective law in Vermont. If you will accept the challenge, please contact your State Representative or Senator and urge them to participate in the formation of a good sex offender Notification law to protect our children.

Bob Garvey is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends St. Mark's Catholic Church.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Christians throughout Vermont are invited to participate in the National 40 Days for life prayer vigil taking place in Burlington from September 24 through November 2. Join a celebration for life on Sept 23 at 6:30 to kick off this event.

For more information on this life saving event please see <http://www.40daysforlife.com/burlington/> or call 858-4284 for more information.

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For our own benefit we should be praying regularly for our leaders at local, state and federal levels, in each branch of government.

Prayer is the first key to effecting significant change, for situations do not change on earth until they have been changed in the heavenlies.

Additionally, we need to pray God will uproot the wicked from office and raise up righteous individuals to replace them. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and having the right individuals in office will prevent the enactment of damaging policies.

Christians are a Majority

The political realm, formerly dominated by Christians, is still available to us. The elimination of religious activities and acknowledgement of God from public affairs occurred through the political system; it can therefore also restore those principles. While it might seem easier to empty the ocean with a thimble than to change politics, it is not as difficult as you may think. You've probably heard, or perhaps even made statements such as: "My vote won't make a difference anyway." *or* "It does us no good to vote. As Christians, we're already in the minority."

Sound familiar?

The fact is, such statements are not true.

A recent Gallup Poll shows that 84 percent of this nation firmly believes in Jesus Christ, and a separate poll indicates that 94 percent believes in God.

Polls have also shown:

- * More than 80 percent approves of voluntary prayer in school
- * 81 percent of the nation opposes homosexual behavior
- * 89 percent opposes the use of abortion as a means of birth control

Additional findings could be cited, but the conclusion is inescapable: Although we have been led to believe that we, the 94 percent who believe in God, are the minority --- we most definitely are not!

Imagine a hypothetical vote in the U.S. Senate where the final tally was 94 to 6. It would be untenable for the six to be declared the winner and their policy enacted over the votes of the 94 --- yet this is exactly what happened when public acknowledgement of God was prohibited. Can such an act truly be appropriate either in a republic (to which we pledge our allegiance) or in a democracy (which we most often claim to be)? Certainly not! Yet unfortunately, this travesty occurs on a regular basis today.

While polls show the overwhelming majority seems ready to return godly precepts to public affairs, it is clear that

a vast number of our elected officials are not. Whose fault is that? Notice President James Garfield's answer to this question:

Now, more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature . . . If the next centennial does not find us a great nation . . . it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.

Positive change actually rests in the hands of us the citizens, not our leaders. This has been proven time and again over recent years. For example, in U.S. Senate races a decade ago, five candidates who stood for returning godly principles to public affairs were defeated by a collective total of only 57,000 votes --- less than 1,200 votes per state. Yet in those five states, there were more than 5 million Christians who did not even vote!

If only one of every 100 non-voting Christians --- one percent --- had voted for the godly candidates, those five would have been elected resulting in a 10-vote swing in the Senate

toward godly policies. Imagine how different America would now be if those godly leaders had been working in the Senate for the past decade.

And in the last election, five incumbent God-fearing U.S. Senators were defeated in their five states by a collective total of only 100,000 votes --- and millions of Christians did not vote in those states. If only Christians had returned those five to the Senate, partial-birth abortion would now be banned, religious liberties protected, and many other measures reflecting biblical values would have been passed over the past two years.

This is not the disheartening report it seems. It is actually encouraging in that it shows godly candidates are most often defeated not by activists and radicals, but by inactive Christians! This means the ability to change the current situation is in our hands. As Edmund Burke explained: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

There is much that "good men" can do to stop the triumph of evil. And one of the most important is to vote, and to vote biblically.

To Be Continued

David Barton is the founder and president of Wallbuilders. This article appeared in the April 2008 edition of BVOV Magazine. Reprinted with permission of the author.



"The freedom of thought and action we Americans enjoy today seems as natural as the air we breathe. But there is a danger we may take this freedom for granted. We must never forget it was bought for us at a great price. The brave and resourceful Americans whose sacrifices gained our independence and preserved it for more than 200 years against formidable foes have set an example of unflinching loyalty to the ideal of liberty and justice for all." - Ronald Reagan

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

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www.christianactionministry.com

Pierre Rehov's "From the River to the Sea"

On September 7th and 8th at three separate showings Pierre Rehov will be presenting "From the River to the Sea", a film that tells the story of the Palestinian refugees who have been, according to Rehov, shamefully used as mere pawns for over 50 years, by Arab leaders at first, by Palestinian leaders later, and ultimately by the United Nations.

He exposes what he calls "nuggets of truth hidden among the well-rehearsed propaganda speeches." In "River to the Sea" Rehov seeks to portray the poverty, pain, nurtured hatred and false hopes these refugees are raised on.

"From the River to the Sea" was selected as the Best Short Film (30-60 minutes) at the 2006 Liberty Film Festival.

He will be available to answer any questions from his personal experience behind the war lines in the Middle East.

Showing time, date and location

September 7th, 3 pm at Temple Sinai: 500 Swift St, On the Corner of Swift St. and Dorset St. in South Burlington, VT.

September 7th, 7:30 pm at Jewish Community Center in Stowe: 1189 Cape Cod Rd. Stowe, VT

September 8th, 4:30 pm in the Living and Learning Center Room 315 on UVM's Campus

All events are free and open to the public.

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Next Meetings

September 9, 7:00 pm
Maranatha Christian Church
Williston, Vt.
October 14, 7:00 pm
St. Marks Catholic Church
Burlington, Vt.

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



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