

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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Kay Trudell

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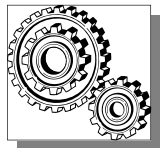
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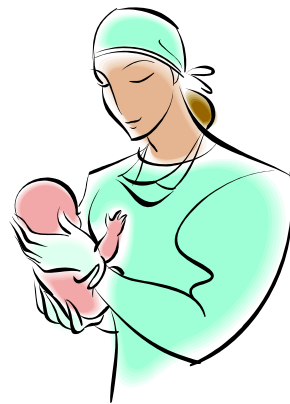
Genderless Marriage

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.

Americans United for Life, a national pro-life education/advocacy group on behalf of the life issues, has just released its ranking of the fifty states in terms of how pro-life they are (or are not). Leading the ranking is Pennsylvania as the most pro-life of all fifty states. Maria Vitale, a leading pro-life spokesperson from Pennsylvania, stated that the reason Pennsylvania has achieved that ranking is that it has a law called the Abortion Control Act. This law, according to Ms. Vitale, provides for *informed* consent on the part of the woman, a 24-hour waiting period after consent before the abortion can be performed, parental notification, and no abortion after 24 weeks unless the

mother's actual life is in danger. Not surprisingly, Vermont ranks in the bottom five among all fifty states.

The rankings of the top five and bottom five states are:



TOP FIVE

- (1) Pennsylvania
- (2) Louisiana
- (3) South Dakota
- (4) Oklahoma
- (5) Mississippi

BOTTOM FIVE

- (46) Connecticut
- (47) New Jersey
- (48) **VERMONT**
- (49) Hawaii
- (50) California

Since the infamous *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973, legalizing abortion for all nine months of gestation, America has killed 50,000,000 unborn babies through abortion. This literal (not to mention diabolical) human sacrifice of innocent "blood and treasure" is staggering. It has carried a terrible moral and economic cost for our nation. In a country of approximately 350,000,000 citizens, we have killed 14 percent of our total population over the past thirty-six years.



On September 17, 1787, as the Constitutional Convention drew to a close, Benjamin Franklin was asked to explain what form of government he and the Founders had crafted for the United States of America. Franklin responded, "A Republic...if you can keep it."

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If you have not thought about the economic impact of abortion on our nation, you might want to take a hard look at our current shrinking economy to know one of the reasons why. It may not be the only reason, but it is a major part of the economic dilemma in which we now find ourselves. The political/corporate/governmental/cultural mindset of corruption which is also a major cause of our economic quagmire was enabled by

the spreading disrespect for a national morality which has ceased to recognize moral absolutes over time. While tolerance may be a good thing in certain contexts, our nation now tolerates almost everything and seems to have lost the ability to set boundaries on nearly anything. After all, if you can harden your heart enough to kill a pre-born baby, why not defraud your bank, bankrupt your company with no thought for the employees you will cause to lose

their jobs, or engage in massive looting of the very government programs that were originally set up to help those truly in need? The moral failings of the past thirty-six years have come back to haunt us. As Christians, we must pray that God will be merciful to us. We must pray, open our eyes, and turn our hearts to Him. Stimulus package or no stimulus package, if we do not repent as a nation, and turn from our ways, God will not heal our land. Ultimately,

a nation that continues down our current path risks its very survival. As a native Vermonter, I venture to say that I am appalled at seeing our ranking in the bottom five of the fifty states. California is undergoing such a severe economic crisis that the state is basically bankrupt. It is also number fifty in the pro-life rankings list. Is there a spiritual connection? Let the reader decide.

Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Community Bible Church in South Burlington



A Night to Honor Israel

The Christian Action Ministry is pleased to help sponsor “A Night to Honor Israel” which will be held in the Burlington area this fall. This special event started in 1981 when Pastor John Hagee held the first Night to Honor Israel, and has been held continuously in hundreds of locations throughout the United States.

Arrangements are underway to make this evening an exciting and enjoyable event. Guest speakers will include Israel’s Counsel General Nadav Tamir, representatives of Christians United for Israel, and our local pastors and rabbis. There will be interesting presentations on the present state of Israel, the middle east’s only democracy, and the common ties that bind Jews and Christians.

In Psalms 122:6 we are told: “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you.” Israel is the only nation created by a sovereign act of God and, as Christians, we owe a large debt of gratitude to the Jewish people, whose Sacred Scriptures we share, and through whom the Messiah came.



You are the salt of the earth

by
Lauston Stephens

"You are the salt of the earth..." - (Matthew 5:13)
"Salt preserves foods by creating a hostile environment for certain microorganisms. Within foods, salt brine dehydrates bacterial cells, alters osmotic pressure and inhibits bacterial growth and subsequent spoilage." - <http://www.saltinstitute.org/Uses-benefits/Salt-in-Food/Food-technology>

Put these two statements together. Can we conclude that there are times when it is Christian to create a hostile environment? "*For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood...*" (Ephesians 6:12a). We are not to create a hostile environment for people, but there is a wrestling to which we are called: "*throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

If we are in the earth (society), as salt is in food, there are "imaginings, thoughts:" ideas that tend toward decay in society even as microorganisms decay food. To preserve food, we don't spread salt everywhere in hope of killing all microorganisms, we apply it where really needed. Let's take an example.

There is an idea to lower the

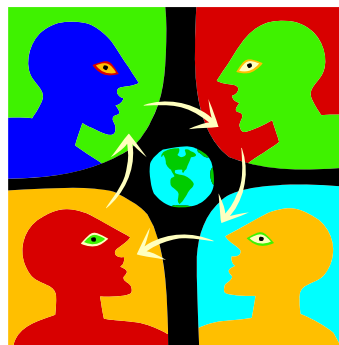
drinking age from 21 to 18. This may have been around ever since the National Minimum Drinking Age Act became law in 1984, and there is no call to suppress the idea or to prevent people from thinking or talking about it. But a bill, H.77, has been introduced in Montpelier to lower Vermont's drinking age to 18. Here is an idea on a possible path to changing our society.

First, we have to decide if this is one of those "certain microorganisms" that will produce spoilage. There are studies of concrete effects on both sides of the issue, basically lower highway deaths versus more campus binge drinking.

Some do not trust or wade through the studies. There are bible verses and church teachings against drunkenness. These may be enough to persuade you that this is a bad bill and, if Vermont were the buckle of the bible belt, a few quotes might be sufficient to kill the bill. But what might "de-hydrate" a bad idea in your mind won't always prevail in the public square. Since God is good, anything "against the knowledge of God" will prove detrimental. The damage of embracing a bad idea must be shown. Would it be bad for Vermont to lower the drinking age?

Here are two points to consider as you decide.

Do not impugn the motives of the sponsors. This bill has five sponsors, two from districts that border Quebec, where you can drink at 18, and three from districts with colleges, i.e. a high number of 18 to 20-year olds. Any business with a liquor license in those districts stands to benefit from this bill. The easy path would be to suspect ill motives and conclude the bill is bad. Take the high road; contact and ask the sponsors.



Rep. Lewis, a former state trooper, replied, "I am concerned with the definition of legal majority, which is age 18 except for drinking. We allow the legal majority to do almost everything except drink. If they are mature enough to serve and protect our country

and vote for our president, then why the exception? This is a point I am trying to make as a co-sponsor. Trust me, I know first hand about the issues. In my career I pulled many dead kids from cars where alcohol was involved and I delivered the dreaded message to the parents. Believe it or not, the problem still exists with teen drinking and it will continue."

We may not agree with a sponsor's view, but do not jump to conclusions.

Finally, chose your battles. H.77 will not be taken seriously because the state would lose millions of federal highway dollars if it became law. With an expected budget shortfall in the tens of millions, neither the governor nor legislators are inclined to thumb their noses at federal funds. But there are other ideas that could change society.

S.71/H.150 is a move toward de-criminalizing marijuana. H.178 is the same bill that was introduced in the senate last year to legalize same sex marriage. Should you create a hostile environment for these ideas? Are you the salt of the earth?

Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Chapel Assembly of God in Rutland

"It is only when the people become ignorant and corrupt, when they degenerate into a populace, that they are incapable of exercising the sovereignty. Usurpation is then an easy attainment, and an usurper soon found. The people themselves become the willing instruments of their own debasement and ruin."

President James Monroe—First Inaugural Address, 1817

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

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America's Founders were Pro-Life

“Americans! Ask the Declaration of Independence and it will tell you that its authors held for self-evident truth that the right to life is the first of the unalienable rights of man, and that to secure and not destroy that right, governments are instituted.”

*John Quincy Adams,
President*

“Human life from its commencement to its close is protected by the common law. In the contemplations of law, life begins when the infant is first able to stir in the womb. By the law, that life is protected.”

*James Wilson.
Signer of the Constitution and the Declaration
Original Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court*

Note:

President Barack Obama has reversed the Mexico City Policy through an Executive Order. Your tax dollars will now be used to perform abortions all over the world. This policy was first implemented by President Reagan, and has been in effect ever since 1984, except when reversed by only the Clinton administration. .

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Next Meetings
March 10, 7:00 pm
Community Bible Church
South Burlington, Vt.
April 16, 7:00 pm
William & Anne Parkinson's
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



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