

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

May-June, 2010 ☆ Vol. 20, Number 03

Inside

Human Trafficking in Vermont

By
Lauston Stephens

Israel and Jerusalem Facts

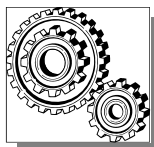
16 Facts about Israel and
Jerusalem you may not know

Page 2

Constitution Corner Amending the US Constitution

What process did the Founding
Fathers envision?

Page 3



**In the
Works**

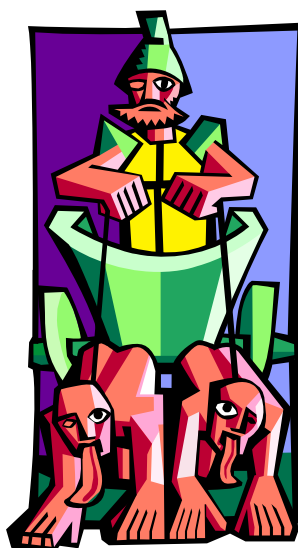
Candidate Scorecard Fall event on Israel

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.

Vermont takes pride in being the first state to outlaw slavery, yet it appears we will be among the last to enact modern day legislation against human trafficking. Ninety three legislators co-sponsored "AN ACT RELATING TO RESTORATION OF CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES IN MEDICAID IN FISCAL YEAR 2009." Ninety three! Yet only thirteen (belatedly) co-sponsored H-743, "AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING." Why is this?

Yes, chiropractors are more experienced at lobbying than are the victims of human trafficking, but the first explanation we would be tempted to give for why we are late in addressing this modern day scourge is that we are a small, rural state. This evil appears to be late in coming to us, so we are behind the curve in responding to it and unsure of the need for new laws. It would be hard to give this excuse to those Vermonters who

first outlawed slavery. They didn't take their stand in their day because of how widespread slavery was in Vermont. They took their stand because it was the right thing to do. The same is expected of us today.



No, a better explanation of why so few sponsored the original bill and why it has undergone virtually an entire re-write is because the original version proposed "...to establish a comprehensive system of criminal penalties, of prevention programs, and of services for human trafficking victims."

Creation of an inter-agency task force, training for law enforcement and an annual report of statistics would all press existing state entities trying to tighten their belts. Also, new prevention programs, and services to victims would mean unknown new costs. The state faces something on the order of a \$150 million budget short fall this election year. That dog wouldn't hunt.

The original bill opened the door for victims of human trafficking to become perpetual wards of the state. The bill planned to provide for victims, "appropriate housing... psychological counseling... medical assistance... material assistance... employment, education and training opportunities and legal assistance" with no end in sight.

My son is teaching English in one of the countries where many victims are obtained. Recently, people were arrested in a market near where he lives for trying to sell their own child. It wouldn't always be best to return victims to where they came from, but neither is it right to entrench them in a victim underclass.



"To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men."

Abraham Lincoln

Meeting the needs of victims is something government does slowly, with much bureaucracy and at great expense, but the private sector can do very well. Christians have historically been right in the thick of these kinds of efforts. The Salvation Army has been there since the 1880's and is still very active today. Many newer organizations are getting on board. Some examples: the Christian Medical & Dental Associations; COATNET (initially "Catholic Organizations Against Trafficking in Women", now, "Network of Christian Organizations Against Trafficking in Women"); World Vision; and the World Evangelical Alliance.

The one I'm most drawn to is the International Justice Mis-

sion. Both because I know they are getting results and a young Vermonter from my church that was in my home many times as a teen has been working with them both in their headquarters and overseas. All these organizations have websites.

The revised bill in Montpelier just creates a task force which will make a report and possible recommendations to the legislature and governor by January 15th of next year. The State has to punt this year. We do not. The Church of Vermont should not be found wanting here. Locally and individually, we can work and pray for a revival of values and morals that dries up the market for human trafficking. What kind of humor and remarks do we let slide in the work place? Do we



“Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep for ever.”

Thomas Jefferson

strengthen our communities? Do we treat our neighbors as we want to be treated?

The need is bigger than any individual. Connect with those that are already involved. Connect your mind: educate yourself. Connect your heart: pray. Connect materially: give.

“Learn to do well. Seek justice, Relieve the oppressed, Judge the fatherless, Plead for the widow.” (Isaiah 1:17 WEB)

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

ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM FACTS

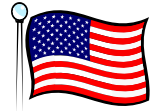
1. Israel became a state in 1312 BC, two millennia before Islam existed as a religion;
2. Arab refugees from Israel began calling themselves “Palestinians” in 1967, two decades after (modern) Israeli Statehood.;
3. After conquering the land in 1272 BC, Jews ruled it for a thousand years and maintained a continuous presence there for 3,300 years;
4. For over 3,300 years Jerusalem was the Jewish capital. It was never the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. Even under Jordanian rule, (East) Jerusalem was not made the capital, and no Arab leader came to visit it;
5. Jerusalem is mentioned over 700 times in the Bible, but not once is it mentioned in the Qur’an;
6. King David founded Jerusalem; Mohammed never set foot in it;
7. Jews pray facing Jerusalem; Muslims face Mecca. If they are between the two cities, Muslims pray facing Mecca, with their backs to Jerusalem;
8. In 1948, Arab leaders urged their people to leave, promising to cleanse the land of Jewish presence. 68% of them fled without ever setting eyes on an Israeli soldier;
9. Virtually the entire Jewish population of Muslim countries had to flee as the result of violence and pogroms;
10. Some 630,000 Arabs left Israel in 1948, while close to a million Jews were forced to leave the Muslim countries;
11. In spite of the vast territories at their disposal, Arab refugees were deliberately prevented from assimilating into their host countries. Of 100 million refugees following the World War II, they are the only group to have never integrated with their co-religionists. Most of the Jewish refugees from Europe and Arab lands were settled in Israel, a country no larger than New Jersey;
12. There are 22 Arab countries, not counting “Palestine”. There is only one Jewish State. Arabs started all five wars against Israel, and lost every one of them;
13. Fatah and Hamas Constitutions still call for the destruction of Israel. Israel ceded most of the West Bank and all of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority, and even provided it with arms;
14. During the Jordanian occupation, Jewish holy sites were vandalized and were off limits to Jews. Under Israeli rule, all Muslim and Christian holy sites are accessible to all faiths;
15. Out of 175 United Nations Security Council Resolutions up to 1990, 97 were against Israel; out of 690 General Assembly resolutions, 429 were against Israel;
16. The U.N. was silent when the Jordanians destroyed 58 Synagogues in the old city of Jerusalem. It remained silent while Jordan systematically desecrated the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, and it remained silent when Jordan enforced apartheid law preventing Jews from accessing the Temple Mount and Western Wall.



Constitution Corner

Amending the U.S. Constitution

By
Kay Trudell



We are fairly certain that during recent times many of our readers have heard TV news commentators and other people take positions like these when discussing the U.S. Constitution: "The Constitution? That's such an old document. It needs to be brought up to date." Or "It was written by a bunch of dead white European males. We need to change it to make it more relevant for today." Rather than engaging in heated debates with people who make comments like these, the best answer might be to first partially agree with them, then point out that our Founding Fathers and Framers, exercising godly wisdom, anticipated those very arguments. That is why they built a process for changing and/or amending the Constitution into the very document itself! Many of our contemporaries, sad to say, have little or no understanding about the process by which citizens of the United States can change or amend their Constitution legally. The Founding Fathers included it in the document itself. This is the only legal process that may be used to amend or change the Constitution. Any other method is illegal.

Judicial activists and people with a progressive interpretation of the Constitution often

use the "living document" argument --- the document must grow and change with the times. That is why we have some Supreme Court interpretations of what the Constitution implies, or ought to have said. Such case law rulings have the effect of changing the meaning of the Constitution without following the process written in the document itself. The companion cases of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which swept away all 50 state laws restricting abortion in 1973, are a prime example of this type of thinking. The Constitution is silent on the actual subject of abortion, so people who take the "original intent" view would argue that that area of law resides with the states, and not the federal government. But again, the Constitution itself did provide a way for the states to deal with that issue and amend the Constitution had they simply followed the process written therein. The fact that this process was never allowed to work is one of the reasons the issue of abortion has never been settled in the hearts and minds of the American public, regardless of the Supreme Court ruling in that area.

The process for amending the Constitution is set forth in Article V of the document itself. There are two methods by

which this process may be accomplished. (1) Both Houses of the U.S. Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives) may, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each House, propose an amendment to the Constitution. If the proposed amendment passes, it then goes to the legislatures of all 50 states, which must vote (normally within a period of seven years) to ratify the proposed amendment. It takes a vote of three-fourths of all the states (38 of 50) to accomplish this. If this process is completed, our Constitution will have a new Amendment.

The second method would be for the Legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 of 50) to petition Congress for a new Constitutional Convention. This option has never been used since the original document was signed, because it is a risky proposition. There exist deep misgivings about calling a Constitutional Convention because once it is underway, you might not be able to limit it to the one amendment on the table. Many people are afraid that a few people with a particular agenda might want to throw the entire Constitution wide open for a wholesale rewrite. The original document was so carefully crafted and balanced that this thought is abhorrent to most people. If a

full-blown Constitutional Convention were ever called for by two-thirds of the States, you then need three-fourths of the States (38 of 50) willing to ratify any proposed amendment for the amendment to take effect.

Our Founding Fathers and Framers deliberately made the Constitution hard to amend so that it would be done only for very serious reasons, and then only after careful deliberation by a wide spectrum of voices. When Congress or the Courts try to legislate or impose Constitutional changes or interpretations outside of the only two methods permitted within the document itself, they tear the very fabric of the Constitutional Republic and cause the deterioration of the U.S. Constitution by inches. The U.S. Constitution is not just some old, out-of-date, irrelevant parchment. It is the legal foundation on which our whole system rests. It is itself a legal document, crafted after agonizing deliberation and prayer by patriots who risked their "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor" to establish a new nation --- the United States of America.

Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Community Bible Church in So. Burlington, VT

"[G]iving [Congress] a distinct and independent power to do any act they please which may be good for the Union, would render all the preceding and subsequent enumerations of power completely useless. It would reduce the whole [Constitution] to a single phrase, that of instituting a Congress with power to do whatever would be for the good of the United States; and as sole judges of the good or evil, it would be also a power to do whatever evil they please. Certainly, no such universal power was meant to be given them." — *Thomas Jefferson*

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

e-mail : camnet@surfglobal.net

www.christianactionministry.com

If you enjoyed the program entitled “A Night to Honor Israel” that CAM co-sponsored last September, you can look forward to another program this fall. We are working with the Building Bridges group again to co-sponsor a major event supporting Israel. This will include a meal (kosher food of course) and a great deal of information on the Israeli—Arab conflict.

Looking for information on the Biblical Roots of American civilization? Contact Robert Maynard at 879-7190 for times and places of an 8-session course. If you would like to sponsor one in your church, contact him to make arrangements.

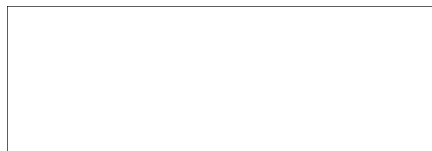
The **Christian Action Ministry Network, Inc.** is an educational nonprofit public charity supported entirely by volunteers and contributions from the public. Personal, church and business donations are encouraged and are tax-deductible under the IRS Code 501(C)3. The information provided herein does not necessarily reflect the views of any particular church or individual associated with the Christian Action Ministry Network.

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



Next Meetings
May 11, 7:00 pm
Roadside Chapel
Rutland, Vt.
June 22, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

Making A Difference in Vermont!



NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT NO.165

Christian Action Ministry Network
PO Box 1067 Williston VT 05495
Return Service Requested