

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

July—August, 2017★ Vol. 27, Number 04

# Inside

## Why Christians Should Get Involved

By  
Marion Clegg

*Editor's Note: This article first appeared in our May-June 2006 newsletter. It is still relevant today. Together with the author, Marion Clegg, we have updated some of the facts and statistics, and added additional concerns to those discussed eleven years ago.*

As we take a look at what is happening within our country I have to stop and wonder where all of the Christians are. In 2007 the polls noted that 92% of the population in the United States said they believed in God or a Universal Spirit. In 2015 (the latest year in which Pew Research figures were available) the number had dropped slightly to 89%. According to Pew, in 2007 84% considered themselves Christians. In 2015 that number had dropped to 71%. The number of atheists and agnostics doubled in that same time period, from 4% to 8%. The drop in 2015 can be partially explained by the number of other religions that have come to the United States. Even if the number of Christians has

declined, they are still in the majority. It should also be noted that statistics vary somewhat among the different polling organizations.

When we look at who we have representing us in Washington and particularly here in Vermont, one has to wonder where the Christians are? We have

and gender neutral bathrooms in Vermont, which proposed rules even include churches. So many times I have been embarrassed when I would get a call from someone in Washington wanting me to contact my Senators and Representative concerning an issue. I had to say, "We have no representation in Washington." Then I wonder what happened to all of the conservative thinking people that live in our State?

When I was with *Concerned Women for America*, I learned that in California the Christians were fed up with the liberal representation they had in Washington and one of the districts decided to do something about it. A man who had never been in politics decided he would be willing to run for office. All of the churches in that district got behind him and he won. To bring this a little closer to home — five people from our church who lived in Hyde Park decided to go to a political Caucus meeting. We were astonished to find that



two U.S. Senators (Leahy and Sanders) who think boys and girls should be using the same bathrooms at school, a Representative in Congress (Welch) who supported the United Nations vote against Israel, the only democratic government in the Mideast, and our Vermont State representatives introducing legalization of marijuana

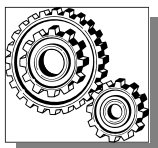
### Did You Know

Updates and facts about pertinent issues from the Family Research Council  
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### Donation Request

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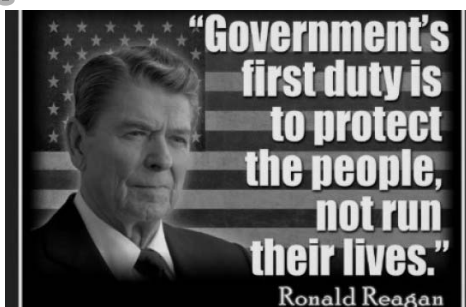
If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



In the Works

### Fall Speaker

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.



Quotes from our Presidents



there were only six others there and if we had had two more from the Christian body, we would have been the majority. As it was, one of us was elected to go to the State Convention. This is where the State platform is voted on and if there had been enough of “us” from all over the State we could have had a platform that would have been pleasing to our Heavenly Father. From approximately 2010 through 2016 we were fortunate to have dedicated Christians on the Platform Committee who were able to neutralize some of the egregious language that was being submitted by others.

Just to give you a different example, I know of someone who had lost their seat in the Vermont Legislature by less than twenty votes. Upon talking to some people, they found that a number of people they worked with had not gone to vote and neither had some of the people from their church. One vote can make a difference and when we do not vote we are actually casting a vote for the opposition.

Over the years we have had some good men and women running for political offices and even town and city positions. We could have had (and do have in some instances) Christians on School Boards, and in town and city offices, but it takes our vote to get them there. In the Book of James we are told not to be just hearers of

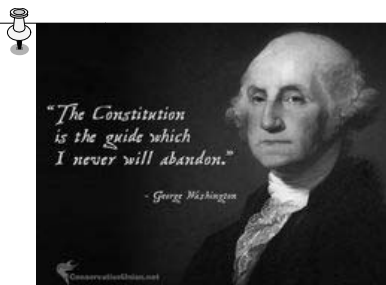
the Word but doers also and in Mark 16:15 we are told to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. How can we do these things when we do not get involved? Not all are called into the political arena but some are. Are we behind the ones that are called? Do we support them in any way we can? Are we willing to forget our doctrinal differences and purpose to be unified in the cause? It disturbs me deeply when I see the takeover of our State and our Country with the hatred that has risen throughout this land. Where is the “salt”? Where is the “light”? Is it because we know what the Book of Revelations says about end times and we know these things are going to happen? Is it because of this we just sit back and do nothing? What do we do when we read articles in the paper about removing prayer from the schools, not allowing anything that relates to Christmas from singing carols or exchanging Christmas cards, etc. or even saying Merry Christmas in a school building? Where were the Christians in Williston when the bus driver was told she would have to remove the Christmas decorations she had on her bus because it might offend someone? Were you not offended? Does that not count? Or do we hide our feelings because we read in Matthew when Peter asked how many times do you forgive and Jesus told him seventy times seven? Is this a time to stand on that scripture?

Didn't Jesus go into the Synagogue and heal the woman on the Sabbath, which made the religious leaders angry? Did He not stand up for all His Father had told him? All of the churches in that particular school district should have banded together and gone to the school board meeting, armed with our Constitutional rights, and let them know they objected to their removal of our Christian heritage from the schools or from public property. If they had a room that was overflowing with people who were objecting they would have had to listen and reconsider their stand.

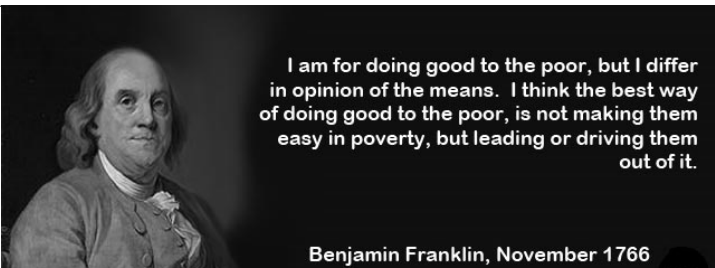
Many years ago we had one lone pastor, here in Lamoille County, who went before the school board and informed them Sunday was HIS day and it was the day the youth of his church got together, but the school had started having play practice and sporting events that were taking his youth from their youth group. He went on to tell them they had six other days they could use but Sunday belonged to HIM. We should be so bold today!

Proverbs 29:2 says, “When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn”. Why do you think the righteous are not in authority? Could it be that we are not listening to the voice of God and heeding what He is telling us? Could it just be that we, followers of Christ, have not been

fulfilling the Great Commission? Have we just been sitting in our churches, not getting involved with the outside world? Believing that we should not get involved in the political arena because it is not the Christian thing to do? Did you know that many of our Founding Fathers were ministers of the Gospel and in setting up the government to run this country they sought direction from God Almighty and His Holy Word? All 50 states when composing their State Constitutions gave reverence to Almighty God. Vermont's 1777 Constitution stated, “That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship ALMIGHTY GOD, according to the dictates of their own consciences and understanding, regulated by the work of GOD...every sect of denomination of people ought to observe the Sabbath, or the Lord's day, and keep up, and support, some sort of religious worship...” As late as 1959 when the State of Hawaii became part of the United States, its Preamble stated, “We, the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance...establish this Constitution...”. Now we have people going to court to remove any trace of God from existence. We need to be standing up for our God given rights. We should be fighting to keep God strong in our homes, in our schools, and in our government. The reasons are obvious. After reading David Barton's book entitled “America to Pray? or Not to Pray?”, I found



**Thoughts from our Founding Fathers**



Benjamin Franklin, November 1766

that since prayer was taken out of the schools our youth have gone steadily downhill. He says in the Introduction, "While the removal of school prayer cannot be blamed for all the declines, the presence or absence, legality or illegality, of prayer and the acknowledgment of God in public arenas is the primary indicator of philosophy under which official public policy is being conducted." He gives examples of the decline by stating that from 1952-1962 SAT scores were relatively stable but from 1963, when prayer was removed from schools, the decline was unbelievably rapid. Teenage pregnancies have increased over 400 percent. By 1988, the percentage of out-of-wedlock

births to teens skyrocketed to 69 percent with welfare being given to these teens rising to \$21.5 billion in 1990. Sexually transmitted diseases, starting in junior-high students, ages 10-14, with gonorrhea alone, has increased almost 400 percent since 1961-63. These are just a few statistics referenced in Barton's book and available elsewhere with a little research. Many years ago the most common problems in schools were talking, chewing gum, making noise, and running in the halls. They have been replaced by rape, arson, bombings, murder, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, gang warfare, pregnancies, abortions, venereal disease, etc. Not all of these have

hit Vermont schools yet, but many have.

Now, do you understand why we need to be more involved not only in our homes, but in our churches and our government? These are cold hard facts that need to be addressed by each and every one of us. There is a world out there that is going to Hell if we don't get involved and become the salt and light that we were called to be. There is a need to be examples for the world to see to take notice that there is a way other than the way they are going. We need to stop living by double standards and live the life we were called to live and it is not too late to start today. As we move through

this year of 2017, let each of us purpose to go to God in prayer and ask Him how we can be His arms extended in our communities, and in our government. Let's get involved. Let us be that army of God here in Vermont and let us take back what the enemy has stolen. I will close with Proverbs 28:1-2: "The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions. When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily, but with wise and knowledgeable leaders, there is stability". *New Living Translation (NLT)*

*Marion Clegg attends Trinity Assembly of God in Hyde Park*

### Support the Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

We distribute approximately 1500 copies of this newsletter free of charge. There are, of course, expenses for printing and postage to do this, and we have relied on individual and church contributions to fund these newsletters for you for the past 27 years. In addition to the newsletter we periodically bring in nationally known speakers on various topics.

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#### Did You Know:

"...the fastest growing living arrangement [*for millennials*] is cohabitation -- which was 12 times more likely in 2016 than in 1975. The report explains that "young adults are still starting relationships at the same age that their parents did, but they are trading marriage for cohabitation."

[*Research*] "...has made clear that shacking up is not only a less stable arrangement, but it also doesn't offer the same benefits that marriage does. It's fine to value education and economic security as milestones of adulthood, but we literally cannot afford to forget: marriage and parenthood remain key sources of well-being for individuals and society alike."

"The trend is outpacing marriage in record numbers. A whopping 22.9 million of this age bracket have moved back home, compared to the 19.9 million who are married and living with their spouse. That's a huge drop-off from the mid-70s when 31.9 million Americans tied the knot and started homes of their own. And while people are still getting married – much later in life -- it takes until age 45 for eight in 10 people to say "I do" now.

Information excerpted from *Family Research Council's Washington Update*



What can I do?



*Faith without  
works is dead  
James 2:17*

e-mail : [camnet@christianactionministry.com](mailto:camnet@christianactionministry.com)

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

**We are in a time of transition. More attention is being paid to issues such as safety, taxes, and jobs while giving ground to special interest groups pushing sexual liberation, be it homosexual, heterosexual or transsexual “rights”.**

**A balance has been achieved in the Supreme Court, and the United States is asserting its leadership in the world arena. To be sure, there are dangers out there from unstable governments and some leaders, and bringing the U.S. back to the status it once held, may take as long as it did to lose it.**

**We as Christians have to be active in letting our elected leaders know where we stand. Hold their feet to the fire on issues that affect Christians. We are a compassionate people willing to help others less fortunate, but that compassion must be tempered by wisdom to know the difference between a hand-up and a hand-out. We should support defunding Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider, and shift those funds into organizations that help women and their families, not destroy unborn babies and sell their parts. Most importantly, we need to introduce Jesus to the lost among us.**

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### Next Meetings

June 13, 7:00 pm

Parkinson home

Hinesburg, Vt.

July 11 7:00 pm

Community Bible Church

So. Burlington, Vt.

**Making A Difference  
In  
Vermont!**