

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

November—December, 2017★ Vol. 27, Number 06

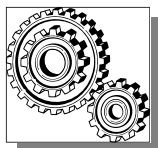
# Inside

## Addicts: Don't They Need Hope Too?

A social media post was censored. Why?

Page 2

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

### Upcoming legislation

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.

## God Over Government

By  
Craig Lyman

A good friend had posted on Facebook that he thought that the Pledge of Allegiance in schools was important to encourage patriotism, but “One Nation Under God” should be removed due to the different belief systems present in the school system. My response was as follows ...

I have to respectfully disagree (which is what is missing from political discourse these days, sad but true). I value your opinion and love you as a brother, but if we take God out of the equation then you’ve just relinquished your freedom and intrinsic rights to man and government. There’s an inherent value in being “One Nation under God”. That’s exactly why the Framers wrote in the Declaration of Independence:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are*

*instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed . . .”*

This is a proclamation that your rights come from God, not man. God is the same today as He was yesterday and



will be tomorrow, so your rights never change because God doesn’t change. If you forfeit this basic tenet then you’re actually giving up your rights and freedom to men and women whose views evolve and always in exactly opposite ways conducive to freedom.

Ask yourself... Do you trust the government? If you answered yes, you need some serious help. If you answered no, then why would you want to remove God and give that power to government? The government, left unattended, will always do two things: increase its size and power, eventually oppressing the peo-

ple with their authority, and two, take more resources from you until you are in servitude.

Liberty, accurately defined, is freedom plus morality. When morality becomes relative (no God) then your rights become relative to a trending belief system. It’s popular to think that God doesn’t belong in the public square, but that couldn’t be more untrue. When you give your rights to the government you will serve government. I would prefer to serve God and not man.

The reason America became the greatest country in the history of the world is because of God, not man. As we remove God from the public square we will cease to be great and freedom will be a thing of the past.

If we recall our history lessons then we might see how far down this road we are.

Alexander Fraser Tytler was a Scottish-born British lawyer and writer who said:

*The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations al-*



**“If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under.” - President Ronald Reagan 1984**

ways progressed through the following sequence. He called it "The Fatal Sequence of Nations".

- From bondage to spiritual faith;
- From spiritual faith to great courage;
- From courage to liberty;
- From liberty to abundance;
- From abundance to complacency;
- From complacency to apathy;
- From apathy to dependence;
- From dependence back into bondage.

John Adams said: "Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."

*Craig Lyman is a Director and Vice-President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Living Hope Christian Church in Williston*

## Addicts: Don't They Need Hope Too?

By  
Kay Trudell

In an article which appeared in the September – October 2017 issue of our CAM newsletter, I urged Christians who felt called to do so to become involved on social media and use it to share the message of Jesus, Christianity, salvation, objective truth, etc. I do not present the Gospel every time I engage on social media, at least not at the beginning of the chat, but many times I work it into the thread of the comments people are making about a particular post. The Holy Spirit will tell you what to say and when to say it in this area. I also said we might not do it perfectly all the time, or always use the right words, but to keep at it, even when you are insulted or mocked. Doing something even imperfectly in this area is better overall than doing nothing.

Having said that, I thought I would share with you an incident that occurred on social media involving this very theme. A friend sent

me a link to a post that was discussing the increasing drug epidemic that many states are dealing with, and the increasingly potent substances that are available out there for people to abuse, including opioids. These stronger substances are putting people's lives at risk to an ever-increasing degree, and more and more people are becoming addicted. The original post was not a Christian one, but it was sponsored by a well-known national organization with an active presence in Vermont and in every state.

Under the story about the increasing danger of illicit drugs and opioids, there was a section for public comment. I wrote the following comment and posted it. As of the time I did so, 23 other people had already commented.

My post read as follows: "Remove God from people's lives --- remove hope from people's lives --- remove the work ethic from people's

lives --- remove respect for authority figures like parents and teachers from people's lives --- teach them to hate their President, their own country, their heritage --- teach them that things like marriage and family and respect for human life are old-fashioned values --- fill their minds with porn and smut and violent media --- and then act surprised when people turn to drugs to forget reality and enter an alternate existence which seems more attractive. I feel sorry for people caught in this trap. They need Jesus. They need love. They need truth and a respect for all the things they seem to have been taught to hate during the past ten years or so. You tell me why the drug epidemic is skyrocketing, especially among the young. The reasons are many. I don't think we will ever solve it if we continue to try to treat it apart from all these root causes. People caught in this trap need HOPE."

**"The great comprehensive truths written in letters of living light on every page of our history are these: Human happiness has no perfect security but freedom; freedom none but virtue; virtue none but knowledge; and neither freedom nor virtue has any vigor of immortal hope, except in the principles of Christian faith, and in the sanctions of the Christian religion."**

*James H. Aughey*

I posted the comment and it went up on the website. Again, I stress that this was a section for public comment. Almost immediately, a little note appeared that said: "Hold on, this is waiting to be approved by (the moderator)." Okay, no problem. I have been on other sites that do this. Sometimes it takes a few minutes. Other times it takes 24 hours. So I exited the site and went away. The next day, I went to the website to see if my quote was posted. It was not there. All of the other quotes were visible. Again, I exited the site, thinking I would give them one more day --- and I did.

The day after that, I returned to the site. Imagine my surprise when I saw that not only was my post not there, but the following notice now appeared on the site. "This site is now closed to public comment".

I am offering the opinion that censorship happens to Christians or social conservatives fairly often online. Has it happened to you? I wonder what was so offensive? First and fore-

most, probably the name of Jesus, followed by my politically incorrect opinions (in today's world) as to why people can become addicted. These reasons may have touched a raw nerve on the part of the site administrator. I know there are a myriad of reasons why people abuse alcohol, drugs, substances, etc. and I'm sure I did not cover them all, but it was a section for public comment. I am a member of the public, and I simply commented. I also posted my real name.

The words I used were my opinion, as were the opinions of all the other people who chose to react to that post. I did note that there were no other Christian-themed comments. I wonder if other people who might have tried along those lines also had their posts censored as well.

Doesn't the administrator of this site believe that addicts need hope too? People often turn to substance abuse because they have lost hope. Perhaps if I had left the name of Jesus out of it, the comment would have been allowed, but I kind of doubt

it. The rest of the message was probably too politically incorrect (in my opinion). I share this with readers of the CAM newsletter to say that this will probably happen to you in the future if it has not already; or even worse, you will be mocked and reviled openly. I was not reviled. I was simply censored. Am I giving up? No. Keep at it. Perhaps in the short time my post was visible, someone saw it and it made a difference. I know it was there for a short while, because I was able to print it before they took it down --- so I have proof that I sent it, and it was received and the site's comment was attached to it.

We carry the message of Jesus to a world which is lost and dying, and openly hostile in many cases. We live in a state where the minority of citizens now consider themselves religious.

Our opinions are not always welcome, but we need to keep exercising our free speech rights. We cannot leave social media wholly to the powers of the Prince of the Air (Satan). We need to pray and act in concert, not simply one or the other.

Both. We must not hunker down in our pews. We must continue to go forth.

Whether the messages we post are overtly Christian, or simply purveyors of objective truth (as opposed to merely subjective feelings) in areas such as history or the U.S. Constitution, the Lord is leading many Christians to be a presence on social media and we should continue to be part of that mission field in much the same way as we need to do in the workplace. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a Christian pastor who was killed by Hitler in Nazi Germany) said, "To sin by silence when we should speak (for truth) makes cowards of men."

*Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Vibrant Church Assembly of God (formerly Community Bible Church).*

*Editor's Note: This article was timely because Teen Challenge VT has just announced the opening in the near future of their first women's treatment facility in Vermont. They have begun fundraising. Please consider giving a donation to them.*

**"Among all the accomplishments of youth there is none preferable to a decent and agreeable behavior among men, a modest freedom of speech, a soft and elegant manner of address, a graceful and lovely deportment, a cheerful gravity and good-humor, with a mind appearing ever serene under the ruffling accidents of human life."**

*Isaac Watts*



What can I do?



*Faith without  
works is dead  
James 2:17*

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

**As we move into the Holiday Season, we need to keep in mind that our lives, our freedoms, and our happiness are from God and not from government. In November we give thanks to God for His many blessings on our lives, the freedom we have living in the United States, and the salvation we have through Jesus.**

**In December we celebrate the greatest gift we could receive, Jesus leaving his rightful place in Heaven, coming to us a baby to reconcile us with God through his suffering and death. Let us remember to wish our neighbors a “Merry Christmas” greeting instead of a season’s greeting, and take time in our celebrations to remember that “Jesus is the Reason for the Season”.**

**We wish everyone joy and peace this season and the enjoyment of the blessings that God has bestowed on us here in the United States.**

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### Next Meetings

November 14, 7:00 pm  
*Living Hope Christian Church  
Williston, Vt.*  
December 12, 7:00 pm  
*Parkinson home  
Hinesburg, Vt.*

**Making A Difference  
In  
Vermont!**