

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

Sept—Oct, 2018★ Vol. 28, Number 05

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Ask the Candidates

Suggested questions for you to ask candidates seeking your vote.

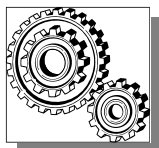
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Wealth of Nations

How wealth was used in the Bible and what you might do.

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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

Candidate Survey 2018

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.

This Vermont-based Christian Action Ministry Network (CAM), has published a political candidate scorecard in our newsletter during each election cycle since 1992. Using questions formulated by our CAM Board of Directors, which is made up of representatives from some Christian churches in Chittenden and Rutland counties, we mailed surveys to Vermont candidates for federal offices, statewide VT offices such as Governor, Lt. Governor, etc., and candidates for VT legislature from counties primarily served by this newsletter.

In earlier years, Vermont candidates for elected office participated fairly often in the process of answering the questions and returning the surveys. However, starting about ten years ago, we noticed that participation was declining among candidates. It was puzzling, especially during the past two cycles, to note that the vast majority of candidates did not return the surveys. Many still declined when we did follow-up personal telephone calls. As a result, we put out a list of the candidates as we have done since 1992, along with the questions, the responses from all those who answered, and ended up with a tabulation where about 80 percent (roughly) of the answer columns were blank. This occurred on both sides of the

political aisle, not just within one party.

When we asked candidates we knew personally why they would not answer and return our surveys, we were told that both political parties were telling their candidates not to answer any surveys from individual groups, because going on record with where they stood on an issue would give their opposition ammunition to use against them on the campaign trail. Is that more important than letting voters know where you stand on an issue?? Some people (especially those who were either Christians themselves or sympathetic to the conservative perspective), told us that they did not object to filling out the survey, but were doing as their political party asked. Unfortunately, that also meant that voters often did not know where a candidate stood.

Here we are in 2018. We on the CAM Board of Directors no longer wish to put out an election scorecard where 80 percent of the spaces for answers are left blank because the candidates do not answer the questions. So we are trying a new approach.

The CAM Board met and looked at past surveys. We selected our top ten preferred questions, then rank-ordered them. We decided to use the top five questions for candidates to answer. There are six

questions included because there was a tie for question number five.

We will mail these six questions to Vermont candidates for the offices of U.S. Senate and House, and statewide VT offices such as Governor and Lt. Governor, then let you know the results. We printed a sheet following this article for you to photocopy for each of your own county's candidates for VT Legislature --- both Senate and House --- and for federal office. There are only six questions, and space for you to record their individual answers. We felt this was a positive step to encourage more Christians to get involved in the process of finding out where your own local candidates stand on key issues by calling them directly. Be polite. Ask them the questions over the phone, and write down their answers for your own use. Create your own voter guide, so ask all candidates running, not just those from your preferred political party. Call candidates for both national and state office. Also, feel free to ask your own questions not covered in this questionnaire. Let us know how it goes.

Questions for Candidates for Office in 2018 from the CAM Board. Call your candidates. Ask them these questions. Feel free to modify the wording for federal vs. state or local offices. Feel free to add your own questions. Names and phone numbers can be obtained by calling the Vermont Secretary of State's Office at (802) 828-2363, or online at www.sec.state.vt.us Share your results with friends and family.



1. Do you BELIEVE that human life begins at conception and should be protected, and will you vote accordingly?

2. Do you SUPPORT the right of Americans to bear arms as defined in the Second Amendment, and will you vote to protect that right?

3. Would you SUPPORT efforts to secure our borders and enforce legal immigration laws, and vote accordingly?

4. Despite current law, do you AGREE that marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman only?

5. Despite current law, do you OPPOSE the legalization of recreational marijuana?

6. Would you SUPPORT legislation requiring proof of Vermont residence (if at the state level) or proof of U.S. citizenship (if at the federal level) for a citizen to be added to the voter checklist?

Wealth of Nations

by
Lauston Stephens

There are a few things that we see over and over again in scripture, or we see a type or a foreshadow. Consider this one that speaks of the New Jerusalem:

“The nations will walk in its light. The kings of the earth bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.”
(Revelation 21:24)

First there is the battle of four kings against five in Genesis 14. Abram raises an army from his own household and delivers his nephew Lot from the four kings. In wealth and power, he is equal to a king of that day in that part of the world. He brings tithe to Melchizedek, king of (Jeru)Salem.

Solomon is the immediate son of David that foreshadows the ultimate Son of David.

“So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. All the

earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.” (1 Kings 10:23-24)

This is the nations of the earth walking in the light of God's wisdom at the mouth of Solomon and bringing him tribute.

Chapter 60 of Isaiah reads much like chapter 21 of Revelation. Space does not permit a full discussion of this, but note verse eleven.

“Your gates also shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations...” (Isaiah 60:11 WEB)

“They came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Opening their treasures, they offered to him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)

The Magi came from the east; we do not know how many there were. Because three types of gifts are mentioned, artists often portray three wise men as kings representing Europe, Africa and Asia. We cannot go beyond scripture and say there were exactly three Magi or that they came from all the earth by way of the east. Nevertheless, there is foreshadow here of the glory and honor of nations brought to the King of kings.

When a severe famine hits the first century world, the churches send an offering to Israel. See Acts 11:29; Rom. 15:26; I Cor. 16:1. The first century Christians were not temporal kings, but were kingly in spirit.

So, what about today? Are you kingly in spirit? This newsletter is not a forum for advice in charitable giving or investing, but we do often present challenges to fellow Christians.

There are several ministries you can direct charitable giving to which work in Israel. Do some research, check them out. If you have an IRA, it may be largely invested in mutual funds. Some Israeli stocks are traded in the U.S., some of your wealth may already be invested in Israel. There is some cost, but you can do more with a self-directed IRA. Again, stewardship calls for your own research.

There are voices (the BDS movement) that call for taking away investment from Israel because of government policies. This was addressed in the September/October, 2016, issue of this newsletter which you can read on our website. What we can do will not make up all the difference, but, since when did that keep you from doing what is right?

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

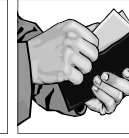


“[Many of] today’s colleges prioritize left-wing policies over education, civics, and real world skills. These leftist schools, often more like indoctrination centers, treat students as fragile ‘snowflakes’ and give them ‘safe spaces’ away from conservative ideas. Young people [are becoming] more liberal and less religious every year they attend college . . . Our flag, National Anthem, and freedom of speech and religion are under attack. Americans have been schooled to be ashamed of our Founding Fathers, ignorant of American history, and intolerant of faith and liberty. Last year, several college campuses erupted in violent protests over conservative speakers. In fact, 20% of college students now believe it is appropriate to use violence to shut down speakers they disagree with . . . young people feel free to disrespect the flag, National Anthem, and Pledge of Allegiance at sporting events. Schools aren’t teaching American history and American values any more . . . 88% of elementary school teachers say teaching history is a low priority. Only 18% of high school students are proficient in American history . . . [Many of] today’s schools indoctrinate young people in hard-left politics, anti-American sentiment, and a culture of endless victimhood.”

Hon. Michelle Easton, President, Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute, July 2018



What can I do?



*Faith without
works is dead
James 2:17*

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www.christianactionministry.com

Want to Help Israel?

On Page 3, the article “Wealth of Nations” alluded to the BDS movement (Boycott, Divest, Sanctions) against Israel, a country which has earned a reputation as the “start-up nation”. BDS attempts to stunt the engine of Israel’s growth and weaken the confidence that people place in their investments in Israel. To offset the financial losses resulting from these BDS efforts the group We Stand With Israel (WSWI) is investigating partnering with a private equity fund that places 50 –100 dollars into Israel for every one dollar taken out by BDS, effectively stopping them. Two different funds are anticipated; one for large investors, directly targeting BDS, and a second for small investors in the form of a mutual fund that would reap the benefits of Israel’s innovative entrepreneurs, while offsetting BDS efforts and having a substantial media attention paid to it.

If you are interested in this concept, drop us a line and let us know. WSWI is targeting 2019 as the start up year and they are now compiling a prospective list of investors.

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Next Meetings
September 11, 7:00 pm
Ignite Church
Williston, Vt.
October 9, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference
In
Vermont!**