

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

January—February, 2019★ Vol. 29, Number 01

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By  
Marion Clegg

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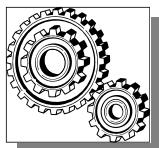
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**If you would like to be  
added to our mailing  
list, please call  
655-0280, email, or  
contact our website  
(see back page)**



**In the  
Works**

### New legislative session

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 802-370-9560.

After reading an article recently about Rev. Peter Muhlenberg, a godly pastor who fought in the American Revolution, I began to think about other pastors who left their pulpits to fight for their country. I felt led to share the gist of this article with our readers. It was called “Peter Muhlenberg, Pastor and Patriot” by Josh Pittman. Pittman writes that one Sunday morning in 1776, in the church where Pastor Muhlenberg preached every Sunday, he chose to speak from Ecclesiastes 3. This is the very familiar Bible passage where it says: “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted . . .”

Pittman wrote that Muhlenberg said the following after he preached his sermon on

this passage: “In the language of the Holy Writ, there was a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray, but those times have passed away.” As his congregation looked on, Muhlenberg declared, “There is a time to fight, and that time is now!” The pastor then proceeded to take off his robes and revealed, to the surprise of his congregation, the uniform of the Colonial Army under George Washington. Pastor Muhlenberg stepped down from the platform, marched to the back of his church, and declared, “Who among you is with me?” Eventually 300 men from his congregation joined him, and formed the 8th Virginia Brigade in the service of America. This is a little-known fact of American history. It is interesting to note that, according to Pittman, Muhlenberg’s own brother was against his involvement in the war. However, Peter

Muhlenberg told his brother this: “I am a Clergyman it is true, but I am a member of [this] Society as well as the poorest Layman, and my Liberty is as dear to me as any man; shall I then sit still and enjoy myself at home when the best Blood of the Continent is spilling? . . . so far am I from thinking that I act wrong, I am convinced it is my duty to do so and duty I owe to God and my Country.”

As the war progressed, rumors were heard that the British were on their way to arrest Muhlenberg’s father, Henry. His father decided not to flee to save himself, because his wife was ill and he would not leave her. He said, “. . . I must await whatever God’s holy providence and governance . . . has ordained for me and commit it to Him, the Lord of Lords . . .”. His faith was rewarded, as the British never came for Henry Muhlenberg. Pittman described Peter Muhlenberg as

“To everything there is a season, . . .  
A time for war,  
And a time for peace.  
*Ecclesiastes Chapter 3*

a “great soldier” who “became a Major General under Commander-in-Chief George Washington. Baron von Steuben, in general military orders, requested ‘General Muhlenberg accept his very particular thanks for his gallantry . . .’ Because of his actions, Muhlenberg was given command [by Washington] of one thousand light infantry. Muhlenberg finished the war strong and is (today) portrayed in a painting displayed in the United States Capitol rotunda of the surrender of the British at Yorktown. After the war, he continued to serve his country. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives not once, but three times. He was also elected to the Senate

in 1801.”

Later in life, Peter Muhlenberg and his brother reconciled. Frederick himself was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and twice became its Speaker. In 1807, at the age of 61 years, Peter Muhlenberg went Home to be with his Lord. He is considered to be a great (if not as well known) American patriot. His tombstone reads: “He was Brave in the Field, Faithful in the Cabinet, Honorable in all his transactions, a Sincere Friend and an Honest Man.”

I am reminded of another modern-day pastor and brave man, Dietrich Bonhoeffer of Germany during the time of Hitler. Bonhoeffer was a member of the “Confessing Church” that

opposed Hitler and preached the truth when many clergy compromised out of fear or remained silent and refused to get involved. He often distributed flyers and pamphlets in public, pointing out the wrongs of the Nazi regime. For this, he was martyred in a concentration camp. He too fought, in his own way. He was quoted in a book called Pastors, Pulpits and Politics. He said, “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless --- not to speak is to speak --- not to act is to act.”

A few years ago I read a book titled Psalm 91 for the military. It discussed several pastors who went to war, stood on the strength of that Psalm, and came safely home. When the pressure is great, sometimes the Church in developed countries is

tempted to deny her faithful, public, Biblical witness and compromise in some significant way. That is what happened in Nazi Germany when most evangelical churches who should have confronted Hitler chose the easy path and eventually fell into the service of the Third Reich.

I think today we are facing a somewhat similar situation in America. In order to achieve peace, we are going to have to go to war --- war for the souls of children, the unborn, marriage, and our Judeo-Christian moral culture. This war demands both prayer and peaceful, legal action. We must put on the full armor of God. As the media, many of our colleges, some politicians, etc. move to the left and even to socialism, I ask where is the Church and its

**An open letter on the anti- Israel lobby that caused the Vermont State Police to forego terror training**

Dear Vermonters:

The Israeli Defense Forces had extended an invitation to our Vermont State Police to attend, at no cost to Vermont taxpayers, an anti-terrorism seminar in Israel. As would be obvious, the IDF has the most experience and investment in research, development and practice of both prevention, education, and dealing with violence against its citizens. ‘

However, the virulently anti-democratic, anti Israel BDS supporting group, Justice For Palestine, somehow persuaded the Vermont State Police to withdraw their acceptance of this valuable invitation. This was quite evidently done out of hatred for all things with the name Israel on it. To all who believe that this bias and its resultant disadvantageous actions ought to be vociferously countered, I urge you to call the Vermont State Police, office of Colonel Birmingham, 802-241-5260 and register your opinion in a polite and firm way. This aggression against reason, against the interests of Vermont, and against Israel should not be allowed to pass by without firm dissent from freedom loving Americans and Vermonters. In addition, emails about this issue can be sent to: [Adam.silverman@vermont.gov](mailto:Adam.silverman@vermont.gov).

Please take a moment and urge all of your friends to make one phone call (or more if you like) so that those in charge know how the rest of Vermont feels about this matter. I believe a robust outpouring of citizen sentiment would be of immense value right now. Please take action. Your drop will make an ocean! Thank you!

Respectfully,  
*Lawrence Zupan*  
 2018 Candidate for U. S. Senate

For more information see the article on page 4 of this newsletter. It is from a December 2018 news story from Haaretz, an Israeli news outlet.

shepherds? Is this still a Christian nation? Do we still follow the U.S. Constitution? Do we believe all of the Bible, or do we pick and choose? I think God gave us this nation the same as He gave Israel to the Jews. Are we going to fight for it so that those brave soldiers who fought for George

Washington (and in later wars) did not die in vain? Do we value our freedom of religion and speech etc.? What do we want to leave to the generations coming up behind us? Have you asked God what you should do, or do you leave it to others? Did you vote? That's the least you can do. God can't

vote for you.

Wikipedia says of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world are widely influential, and his book The Cost of Discipleship has become a modern classic."

Will you, lay people and especially pastors and priests, be a Muhlenberg or a Bonhoeffer or

will you compromise with the culture by keeping silent?

*Marion Clegg is a frequent contributor to the newsletter and attends Trinity Assembly of God in Hyde Park*

## CAM and You

By  
Lauston Stephens

I started to receive the Christian Action Ministry (CAM) newsletter sometime in the early 1990's. Every two years there would be a newsletter that included questions on a broad range of issues that were of particular concern to people with a biblical worldview and the responses of candidates for the Vermont legislature on those issues. It was all very informative and interesting, except for the fact that it did not include candidates in my county.

CAM is not a branch of a national ministry with a large staff and budget. CAM is an entirely home-grown, right here in Vermont, volunteer 501c3 organization. They only had enough people with enough time to cover the counties in which CAM members were living. I decided that I wanted this kind of candidate information for my county available to Christians in my county, so I joined CAM about fifteen years ago. Since then, no one else has joined so they could add their county or more of the state. Has the thought ever occurred to you?

Things changed this year. It was explained in the Sept./Oct. issue (Vol 28, No. 5) which is on our website. Readers were encouraged to do their own research for their local candidates and we would poll candidates for statewide offices. We encouraged readers, "Let us know how it goes." Voter turnout was very high this year, so we might expect that, along with everyone else, Christians were very good stewards of government and their right to vote. Well, if that is so, you haven't let us know.

In fact, a few days before the Sunday before election day, a local pastor called the office of my church asking about the candidate summary. This is a problem with representative government. When we delegate authority to representatives, we tend to think and behave as if we have done our civic duty for another year or two (or four) and we can forget about it until the time comes around again. CAM members have often been asked at the last minute, "Who should I vote for?"

Have most Christians settled into voting by party with just a cursory check on the possibility of a surprise? There was a time when the whites in the South who wanted to suppress the black vote were of one political party. Today, it appears they associate with the other political party. Things can change dramatically, and we need to keep up on what is happening.

If you've read this article this far, you may just be the one that recognizes the need to do more. Pray about it; no, seriously, pray about it.

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



What can I do?



*Faith without  
works is dead*  
*James 2:17*

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

### The following article appeared in Haaretz, an Israeli news outlet

WASHINGTON – Two police departments in the northeastern United States decided over the past week to cancel their participation in a program that involves visiting Israel and meeting Israeli police officers, due to public pressure by a coalition of progressive organizations, including a number of groups affiliated with the boycott, sanctions and divestment movement.

This is the first time in the program's two decades that political pressure has led to police departments canceling their participation. The program is managed by the **Anti-Defamation League**. Titled Resiliency and Counterterrorism, it includes a week-long seminar in Israel, during which participating police officers from across the United States learn how Israeli law enforcement deals with the threat of terrorism. The American officers meet with Israeli and Palestinian police officers during the visit and learn from their experience.

The opponents of this program, including a number of groups affiliated with the **BDS movement** and others focused on domestic law enforcement issues in the United States, claim that the program inspires American police departments and other law enforcement agencies, including the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, to adopt harsher policies commonly used in Israel. This claim is denied by the ADL, which says the program focuses on dealing with terrorism threats and the importance of community-police ties to successfully deal with such threats. The program has existed for more than a decade and has attracted hundreds of participants from across the United States. This week, however, the Vermont State Police, which is responsible for law enforcement in approximately half of the northeastern state, and the police department in the town of Northampton, Massachusetts, both informed the ADL office in Boston that they will not take part in the program, which is scheduled to begin in Israel within days.

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### Next Meetings

January 8, 7:00 pm  
Parkinson home  
Hinesburg, Vt.  
February 12, 7:00 pm  
Parkinson home  
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference  
In  
Vermont!**