

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

Jan.—Feb. 2023★ Vol. 33, Number 01

## Calendar

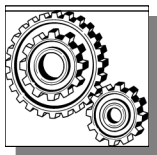
Jan. 4th  
Legislative Session  
begins

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If you would like to be  
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please email us at [cam-  
netvt@gmail.com](mailto:camnetvt@gmail.com)  
or  
visit our website (see  
back page)



### In the Works

#### Legislative bills

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 us at [camnetVT@gmail.com](mailto:camnetVT@gmail.com).

## Courage. Faith. Hope.

By  
Lauston Stephens

In October, the Vermont Institute for Human Flourishing sponsored a Restoring Our Faith Summit in South Burlington. This was attended by Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Vermonters, including several members of CAM. The all-day event featured over a dozen highly educated and experienced Jewish and Christian professionals as speakers. They covered a range of contemporary issues and fielded questions from the audience.

Video from the summit will be available on their website soon.

In a follow-up email, the sponsors wrote, "*Courage. Faith. Hope.*"

*These three words sum up the Restoring Our Faith Summit as just the first step in helping to strengthen our resolve as people of Judeo-Christian heritage. Our country has lost its moorings. Can we restore and renew the Biblical teachings of our country's founding?*

*It will take a plan of action. We announced at the Summit that the Vermont Institute for Human Flourishing (VIHF) is offering grant funding opportunities for churches, synagogues, and other faith-based organiza-*

*tions that put into action some of the ideas shared at the summit. If your pastor or Rabbi was not in attendance, please encourage them to join this endeavor and put a plan in action.*

*Parameters of this funding opportunity will be released in the weeks to come. We will send an announcement to all and make information available on the VIHF website."*

Let's consider faith first.

### Faith

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1 NASB). People rest in assurance and act on conviction. Faith can be expressed both passively and actively.

"By faith, Abel offered to God a better sacrifice..." (Heb. 11:4a). Abel exercised faith actively.

"By faith, Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death;" (Heb. 11:5a) We don't know much about being taken up, but it seems Enoch's exercise of faith was passive.

Some passively pray for renewal, restoration, or reviv-

al. Others take action. Which are you? Let's not tell ourselves that our lack of courage is just a passive expression of faith.

### Courage

The word, "courage," occurs more times in Joshua than in any other book in the Bible. This is the account of Biblical teaching prevailing in a land through the efforts of God's people. Sound familiar?

Our English word, "courage," has roots in the Latin "cor," which means heart. Take heart; the tasks before us are not easy.

FDR is credited with saying, "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear." Is it important to you to, "restore and renew the Biblical teachings of our country's founding?"

### Hope

You can hope that the Red Sox win the next World Series, but this is not biblical hope. In the Bible, a hope is an expectation based on the Lord and his word.

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he

explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24:27)

There is a messianic promise throughout all the prophecies of judgment. Something positive. Hope, an expectation, even in the curse. "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; *he will crush your head*, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

This does not mean that there will be a linear progression toward things getting better, with no setbacks. It does mean that there is a future to work toward.

Vermont has poised herself to see a rise in abortions. Yes, there is a time to mourn, but we are not "to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope." Yes, Jesus wept, but *on the way* to raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus wept over Jerusalem *on the way* to redeem the world. He did not wallow in despair; he was taking action. With more abortions, won't there be more need to minister to mothers (and fathers?) If there will be more criticism of pregnancy centers, won't there be a need for more moral and financial support? Here are places to take action.

"Adult & Teen Challenge USA works on a Christ-centered model of drug and alcohol recovery." Some Christians were distressed at the opening of a local cannabis store. But God knows the end from the beginning and the local Teen Challenge transition and outreach center is almost directly across the street. Coincidence or the steps of good people being ordered by the Lord? God has not written off Vermont and neither should his people.

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

## Article 22 and Vermont's Dark Ages

by  
Kay Trudell

The voters of Vermont have seen fit to pass Article 22 as a new Amendment to the Vermont State Constitution. It was three years in the making, as required by law. The media did very little reporting on the issue until the third year, as it sailed through the Vermont Legislature for the first two successive years --- again, as required by law. I would offer the opinion that this omission was deliberate. Apparently, the less voters knew about this sad piece of legislation, the better. The liberal Vermont media outlets and politicians were carrying the torch for groups such as Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, the Vermont Human Rights Commission, and the Vermont Attorney General's Office, who were most desirous of its passage. These groups all had a hand in crafting the wording of this infamous amendment, which will now read as follows:

**Article 22: Personal Reproductive Liberty**  
**That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State inter-**

**est achieved by the least restrictive means.**



For the first time in Vermont's history, the State Constitution gives the right to a private citizen to take the life of another human being who is totally innocent. No due process. No oversight. No reasons need to be given. No boundaries. This right has traditionally been reserved only to the State in areas such as the military and the justice system (capital punishment for a crime where an individual has been tried by a jury of his/her peers and duly convicted). It has never been the right of a private citizen to take the life of another innocent human being with deliberate forethought. Murder is illegal. One could argue that there is an implied exception in the Second Amendment, but it can also be argued that if you kill another human being in self-defense because he or she is trying to kill you, that is an entirely different matter.

The baby in the womb is not guilty of trying to murder anyone. The baby in

the womb is entirely innocent, no matter the circumstances of his/her conception, so the same reasoning cannot be applied. The baby in the womb is not a threat to the State. The baby in the womb is not an enemy who has declared war on the State. The baby in the womb has dropped no bombs, attacked no sovereign land or military bases, or used a biological weapon against other human beings. The baby in the womb is not approaching anyone with a gun or a knife or a machete or a club to take their life. The baby in the womb has not been convicted of a crime by a jury of her peers. Do you see my reasoning? How despicable we adults have become! Vermont has descended into a new Dark Ages. We have called down a curse upon ourselves. The sad thing is, in this, the least religious state in the nation, most voters have no idea of the spiritual implications attached to this vote.

I have had discussions with pro-choice religious friends and relatives and have told them they must consider the fact that if they deliberately vote "yes" on this Amendment, they will have joined themselves spiritually to every abortion performed under

this language from that point on. I have not used this argument with non-religious people, but a person who professes to be a “good Christian” and a supporter of Article 22 is fair game for such a discussion.

The Church knows the spiritual implications of the passage of this language for the entire state of Vermont, but despite all our prayers and action, we did not prevail in this. God is in control. That we know. He has a purpose and a plan, although we cannot understand it at this time. We need to continue being salt and light. We must never compromise in our opposition to this new Amendment. We must lift up the name of Jesus in the public arena and never, ever compromise. We cannot now and henceforward act like the “good Germans” of the

Nazi era and keep silent. I expect persecution to follow, especially against pro-life pregnancy centers, and in the areas of free speech and freedom of religion as well. We’ll see.

The callousness and reprehensibility of this new Amendment cannot be overstated. We have entered a new Dark Ages with its passage. We are now no better than the Aztecs with their rampant human sacrifice, or ancient Rome with its callous disregard for human life in many forms. America does not yet have the gladiatorial arenas of ancient Rome, but we do have every other sign that appeared before Rome fell.

It is my opinion that not only will this new Amendment enshrine the

right to an abortion up to the moment of birth, as well as ushering in many other evils discussed in an article written in the July-August 2022 CAM newsletter (*Pandora’s Language Box*), but we will probably soon see legislation introduced to legalize infanticide and euthanasia. Such legislative moves have already begun in several other states.

I wonder what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ thinks of what we legislators and voters just did to innocent babies He created in His image? The Bible verse from John 11:35 appears to say it all: Jesus wept.

*Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Ignite Church in Williston.*

## Course Change in England On Treating Children with Gender Dysphoria

*as reported by  
The Society For Evidence Based Gender Medicine (SEGM)*

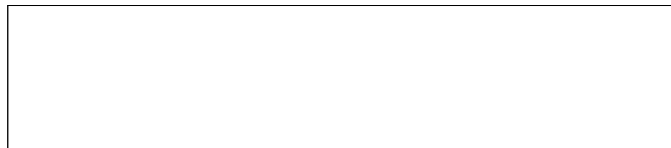
England’s National Health System (NHS) has “issued new draft guidance for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors, which sharply deviates from the ‘gender-affirming’ approach. The previous presumption that gender dysphoric youth under 18 need specialty “transgender healthcare” has been supplanted by the developmentally-informed position that most need psychoeducation and psychotherapy. Eligibility determination for medical interventions will be made by a centralized Service and puberty blockers will be delivered only in research protocol settings. With the new NHS guidance, England joins Finland and Sweden as the three European countries who have explicitly deviated from WPATH protocols and devised treatment approaches that sharply curb gender transition of minors.” WPATH is a World Professional Association for Transgender Health. Both SEGM and WPATH are registered 501(c)3 organizations.

“The abandonment of the ‘gender-affirming’ model by England had been foreshadowed by The Cass Review’s interim report, which defined ‘affirmative model’ as a ‘model of gender healthcare that originated in the USA.’”

This has also been reported by the Catholic News Agency and the Christian Broadcasting Network.



***God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)***



Did you know that Abraham Lincoln chose a phrase from Psalm 90 when he wrote the Gettysburg address?

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be *four-score* years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” (Psalms 90:10)

Did you know Psalm 90 is attributed not to David, but to Moses who lived to 120 years?

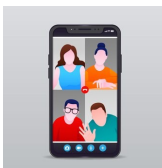
Do you know what Lincoln implied when he pointed out that America had surpassed four-score years?

There is Hope.

Rabbi Dr. Ari Lamm’s inspiring presentation on this bit of American history began the Restoring Our Faith Summit on October 25th. Read more here and video will be available soon.

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### What Can I Do?



*Faith without works is dead*  
James 2:17

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or website  
<https://christianactionministry.org/>

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### Next Meeting

Jan. 10th, 7:00 pm  
Zoom  
Feb. 7th, 7:00 pm  
Parkinson’s & Zoom

📞 (802) 773-2602  
Call or text to confirm date  
and location

**Make A Difference  
In Vermont!**