

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

March—April 2023 ☆ Vol. 33, Number 02

Calendar

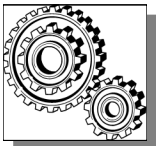
Easter
April 9

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If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email us at camnetvt@gmail.com or contact our website (see back page)



In the Works

“Child” Marriage

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.

Occupy

By
Craig Lyman

Occupy: To engage the attention or energies of, to take up a place or space, to take or fill an extent in time, to take or hold possession or control of...” The Lord Jesus bids us also to “occupy until He comes.” By that, He means that we are to do His work on earth — like one who continually looks for His return. We are to be like the faithful servant, who knows not what hour his master may come home, but keeps all things in readiness, and is always prepared.

In Luke chapter 19 Jesus used a parable to describe a Nobleman traveling to a distant land to receive for Himself a Kingdom and would return a King. He knew the people were expecting God’s Kingdom to appear immediately but used the parable to give them and us instruction on our duty until He returns.

As the parable goes the Nobleman called 10 of his servants to Him, gave them resources, and said occupy until I return. Jesus’ point was that we are not only to be good stewards of what He’s entrusted to us but also to move into and take control or possession of our place in the world.

What I take from this is that Christians are supposed to be a force in the land. We are sent out as sheep amongst wolves but we’re not defenseless, we’re wise as serpents and harmless as doves but not doormats for the wicked.

We’re in difficult times because we haven’t occupied. We’ve seen our Christian principals hijacked and we’re constantly on the defense when we should be on the offense. Good has become evil and evil has become good... if you don’t agree with the “evil” then you’re a hater.

The further a society drifts from the truth the more it will hate those who speak it, speak the truth in love anyway. I believe because we’ve given up ground and failed to occupy that persecution is imminent but do not fear as Jesus said in Matthew 5:10-12

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The time to occupy could not be more imperative. All manners of perversion are being poured out into the world and the innocent are paying the price. Evil isn’t hiding behind the curtain any longer, evil is out in plain sight, it’s paraded down Main Street, it’s promoted in our schools and it’s subsidized by our representative government. How did we get to this place? By not “occupying”.

The world will be looking for some kind of light in the approaching darkness, a hope for the future, we are to be salt and light and we have that blessed assurance to share.

“The truth is like a lion; you don’t have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself.”

We must be strong in our faith, solid in the Word, and unwavering in our duty as Christians to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to the Earth as we occupy until His return.

Craig Lyman is Vice President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Ignite Church in Williston, VT

Tomboy or Trans?

by
Lauston Stephens

Our last issue had a short news report on treating children with gender dysphoria. It mentioned organizations, terms, and ideas that are probably not very familiar to most of us. We need to take a deeper look.

The word, “dysphoria,” has been around at least since the 1840s. Merriam-Webster defines it as, “a state of feeling very unhappy, uneasy, or dissatisfied.” So, “gender dysphoria” is “a distressed state arising from conflict between a person's gender identity and the sex the person has or was identified as having at birth.”

However, “gender identity” was not coined as a phrase until 1964. “Gender dysphoria” didn’t come along until 1973. We live in a fallen world. People can be “very unhappy, uneasy, or dissatisfied” about a great many things. Of course, there would be no diagnosis of “gender dysphoria” if everyone was still “in the closet.” Is society making progress here or going off a deep end?

The number of men who sought sex hormone therapy for “gender dysphoria” used to be two to four times as many as for women. The numbers are now close to the same. Also, the age at which therapy is sought has been dropping. It is an important question, will someone diagnose my daughter as suffering from “gender dysphoria” if she wants to play sports?

“Tomboy” has been applied to some young girls since the 1570s! Were they suffering from “gender dysphoria” and never properly diagnosed or treated? No. Women and girls have been mistreated in virtually all cultures

throughout history. You can be distressed about that without being distressed about who you are. Boisterous play is normal for all children, not just boys, and some children just have quieter personalities.



Out of the public eye, minors are being diagnosed with “gender dysphoria” and are being treated. The news report in our last issue was about *how* they are being treated. Two organizations were mentioned in the article that both claim to base their conclusions on science, but they don’t come to the same conclusions. They both accept “gender dysphoria” as a valid diagnosis, but disagree on what to do about it. They both use the magic word, “science.” More on that in another article.

The Mayo Clinic has historically been highly respected. Their website states, “To begin using pubertal blockers, a child must:

Show a long-lasting and intense pattern of gender nonconformity or gender dysphoria.

Have gender dysphoria that began or worsened at the start of puberty.

Address any psychological, medical, or social problems that could interfere with treatment.

Have entered the early stage of puberty.

Provide informed consent.”

That sounds like they are going down the wrong path in a measured and responsible way. It does not reflect what is really happening.

European countries are finding the treatment approach originating in the U.S. is too aggressive with minors. They have found that most often, feeling “very unhappy, uneasy, or dissatisfied” is temporary, and the use of hormone blockers is not justified.

There are even transgender doctors in this country expressing concern. A WebMD article from November 2021 states, “...many researchers acknowledge the phenomenon that [rapid-onset gender dysphoria] describes: A huge increase in the Western world of teenagers and young adults suddenly expressing a transgender identity, seemingly out of the blue, when previously there had been no indication that they were uncomfortable with their biological sex.”

If this is just in the Western world, then the change is in the society, not the kids.

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



“I just read this newsletter (CAMN) and was immediately desiring to have this newsletter to all my 7 children who were raised in Vermont. Is there a way to have one sent to each of them or is this newsletter online? The articles are timely and I want them to be aware of all the information in the newsletter. Thank-you for all you do and continue to do.” - Recent email

Legislative Watch

Here are a few bills introduced in Montpelier that you may want to support or oppose.

S. 26 An act relating to removing the residency requirement from Vermont's patient choice at end of life laws.

“This bill proposes to eliminate the requirement that a patient who is terminally ill must be a Vermont resident in order to be prescribed medication in accordance with Vermont’s patient choice at end of life law.”

Euthanasia tourism?

S. 16 An act relating to repealing the exception for clergy to report child abuse and neglect

“This bill proposes to repeal the four-pronged exception that permits clergy to not report child abuse and neglect when it is received in confidence while acting as a spiritual advisor.”

Go to confession, go to jail?

H. 23 An act relating to mail-in ballots for general elections

“This bill proposes to require the Secretary of State’s office to mail general election ballots to active voters only upon request, rather than automatically mailing ballots to all active voters.”

Save money, reduce risk of voter fraud!

H. 113 An act relating to the public, pious, or charitable uses property tax exemption

“This bill proposes to clarify that churches and other public, pious, or charitable organizations are not eligible for the State property tax exemption if those organizations engage in any lobbying or other political activity on their property. Churches and nonprofits will also be required under this bill to certify annually to the Vermont Department of Taxes that the organization does not conduct any lobbying or political activity on the property that would disqualify the organization from the exemption.”

Federal law exempts churches from income tax and allows “insubstantial lobbying.” States levy property taxes. This bill does not allow “any lobbying.”

H. 148 An act relating to raising the age of eligibility to marry

“This bill proposes to raise the age to marry to 18 years of age.”

A full article on this bill is being prepared for our next issue. The “no exceptions” approach of this bill will result in more abortions.

As this issue is prepared, over 230 bills have been introduced in Montpelier. There are others that many of our readers will find troubling. Space does not permit mention of all of them. More are added as the session progresses.

Are your legislator(s) or senator(s) sponsoring any of these bills? Find out at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/introduced/2024> and let them know your view on the bill.



Vermont Institute for Human Flourishing (VIHF) will award three grants of **\$25,000** for a one-year project that meets their qualifications.

Application deadline is March 31, 2023

They “are seeking applicants belonging to Christian and Jewish houses of worship or other faith-based organizations which are actively seeking to restore and increase the practice of their faith.”

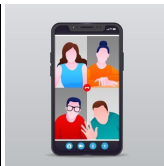
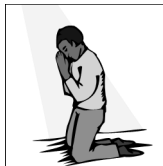
“Eligible applicants must have 501 (c) 3 status and be pastors, associate pastors or ministers of churches, rabbis of synagogues or congregations, or directors of ministries of Judeo-Christian origin not considered churches or synagogues. The funds may not be used for supplementing a capital campaign. Your application will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will choose the top three applicants.”

Most of the video from the Restoring Our Faith Summit are now available at

<https://www.youtube.com/@restoringourfaithsummit/videos>

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What Can I Do?



*Faith without works is dead
James 2:17*

Email: camnetvt@gmail.com
or website
<https://christianactionministry.org>

✉ CAM Network, Inc.
PO Box 1067
Williston, VT 05495

Next Meeting

Mar. 7, 8:00 pm

Zoom

April 4, 8:00 pm

Parkinson's

camnetvt@gmail.com
Email to confirm date and location

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**