

Christian Action Ministry

Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

Nov.—Dec. 2023★ Vol. 33, Number 06

Calendar

Thanksgiving
Nov. 23

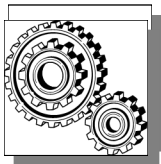
Christmas
Dec. 25

Legislature reconvenes
Jan. 2

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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

“Gender Affirming” Care?

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.

Reasonable Service

By
Craig Lyman

In Paul’s letter to the Romans (12:1), He says “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Our service is to serve others. We are called to serve, not to be served although we can all attest that being served is most often a pleasant experience, we should keep that in mind when serving others.

Jesus said in Matt 25:40 “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” So serving others is like serving Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:58 says, “Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord”. If you want to make an impact and leave a legacy, the highest use of your time is to serve God by serving others. Matthew 20:26 says, “If you want to be great, you must be the servant of all the others”. True great-

ness comes from servanthood, not from living for yourself. The greatest leaders are those who serve the most.

Serving in the church is expected but we’re called to serve outside the four walls of the church. We’re all blessed with different talents and skills and we’re called to use those gifts to serve others. Serving should be one of your life purposes. Mark 8:35 says, “Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live”. Until you learn how to serve, you’re not really living, you’re just existing. You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give away.

Serving makes you more like Jesus. Matthew 20:28 says, “Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many”. If you don’t learn how to serve others, you will never grow to spiritual maturi-

ty. In fact, you’ll be a spiritual baby your entire life.

We must serve in love; Galatians 5:13, “You my brothers & sisters were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” Serving others involves more than our actions, it involves our hearts and attitudes towards each other while we’re serving; it involves love. Again, we can look to Jesus as an example of this. He didn’t serve begrudgingly but showed true humility and love while he helped people from different backgrounds and social standings.

Blessings for those who serve

Serving will be rewarded in heaven. Jesus said in Mark 10:29-30, “I can guarantee this truth: Anyone who gave up anything because of me and the Good News will certainly receive a hundred times as much”. Ultimately, your real boss is Jesus. And he’ll reward

you one day for everything you've done for him. That's a guarantee!

Serving allows us to experience miracles. In John 2, Jesus was at a wedding and the couple was running out of wine for its guests. He tells the servants to fill several big jars to the brim. When they served the water to the guests, it was wine! The guests never knew what happened; the servants were the ones who witnessed the miracle. The same is true for us when we serve.

Serving allows us to experience the joy and peace that come from obedience. 1 Peter 4:10-11 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms... so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." Serving is a form of worship, a way to express gratitude for what Jesus has done for us and to share the love and grace we've been given.

Serving surrounds us with other Christians who can help us follow Jesus. When we're working side by side with other people, a bond inevitably forms. This was part of God's plan for how the church is supposed to work. That's why Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs "Let us consider one another in order to stir up

increases our faith by revealing new potential in us. When we see what He can do, when His power is at work within us, we begin looking for the doors He's opening rather than pushing our way through the ones He's closed.

Serving allows us to experience God's presence in new ways. Encouragement and heal-



love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another."

Serving increases our faith. As we move out of our comfort zones, God

ing go hand in hand. As we encourage others and they find healing, we're encouraged. It's the reason so many people who go on mission trips say they came home feeling like they got more than they gave.

Finally, Serving is good for your soul. Studies have shown that volunteering is so good for the mind and body that it can ease symptoms of stress and depression. Tapping into our gifts and passions builds self-confidence, energy, and strength. Serving others can also be the best distraction from our own worries.

Do you have doubts about serving? In reality, the Lord doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called. God used men and women with doubts to change the course of history. Moses didn't think he was a leader or speaker, but God worked through Moses to bring Israel out of slavery. David was the youngest and therefore most insignificant of all his brothers, but God worked through David to defeat a giant and eventually made him a king. Paul used to kill Christians before he met Jesus, but he went on to become one of the most highly regarded church planters in history.

Craig Lyman is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Ignite Church in Williston.

Do all the good you can by all the means you can in all the places you can at all the times you can to all the people you can as long as ever you can. — John Wesley

Restoring Our Faith Summit 2023

by
Lauston Stephens

If you weren't able to attend, the second Restoring Our Faith Summit was video-recorded. The videographer estimated that it would take a week to edit before it could be made available to the organizers of the summit. As we go to press, we don't have any more information on that, but it will become available to viewers. The Vermont Daily Chronicle (<https://vermontdailychronicle.com/>) has already reported on some of the highlights. Here are some additional reflections.

Attendance was down from last year. Organizers acknowledged that the featured speaker last year, Dennis Prager, had better name recognition than any of the speakers this year. However, they also gained many contacts from last year beyond those who attended. A smaller number this year who invested a day and some expense to attend in person does not make this year's summit less successful.

It was a singular moment to have Jewish and Christian believers meeting together. One of the speakers had spoken with family in Tel Aviv, during a break in rocket attacks there, shortly before addressing the summit. We all prayed together over the conflict in Israel.

Whether or not it was news to any who attended, time was taken for a Christian to review and renounce centuries of mistaken Christian teaching about Israel, the Church, and God's relationship with the natural descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Supersessionism or "replacement theology" was spelled out and refuted from both the words of Jesus and the apostle Paul. It seemed especially important that this was done in the presence of an audience of orthodox Christians and Jews, especially as war rages in Eretz Yisrael (the land of Is-

rael).

It was also wonderful to hear a rabbi speak about the role of the Christian "Great Awakening" in the formation of our nation. He pointed out that we are the only nation on earth where people speak of past awakenings and aspire to another. All those who embrace biblical morality should desire a resurgence of faith and family.

The moral decline that preceded the first Great Awakening may have mostly affected nominally Christian people rather than the more insular Jewish Americans of the time. Even if it didn't, there was enough concern at the time to set aside denominational differences among Christians, but Jewish and Christian Americans working together for a revival of morality was a "bridge too far" at that time in history.

Not so today. Secularism affects all Americans. Those who study revivals of religion and morality find common things among past situations but God does not do re-runs. Do not pray for a replay of any of the past revivals. The particulars of today's conditions are different and the specific needs are different. Our Creator is not bound by the past and His mercies are new every morning.

Time was given to outline some of the attacks on family and faith that we are seeing in this "upside-down world." Since family and faith foster identity, these are attacked by any who wish to impose other theories of identity.

The only speaker to be interrupted by applause was the one who spoke of prodigal fathers. Can we conclude that this is felt to be the most pressing need for change?

Time was taken for three of the Jewish

and Christian speakers who know one another and do some work together to model friendship for the rest of us. Friendships that exist in the rarified air of academia or publication are not enough for laypeople of diverse communities to work together. It was needful and helpful to have this example presented.

Several proactive steps to take were outlined in restoring faith and morality to America.

Know the facts. A false anthropology is being embraced by secular society.

Show what we have. Model family and faith. One suggestion: substitute the word, "play," for "love" in I Corinthians 13, eg. "Play is patient, play is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."

Meet people where they are. Young people aren't showing up in brick-and-mortar houses of worship. Nor brick-and-mortar stores, etc. The digital world shows great spiritual hunger among young people.

Push back on lies. Legal cases starting in Vermont are being won, e.g. *Allen v. Millington* (free speech) and *E.W. v. French* (school choice). Others are ongoing: *Bloch v. Bouchey* (free speech).

The closing prayer included a call for us to consecrate ourselves. Faith without works is dead.

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

Pray for the War in Israel

- Pray for protection, strength, and courage for believers in Israel as they minister to their neighbors.
- Pray for the deliverance of hostages taken from Israel into Gaza.
- Pray for God's comfort and peace for Israelis; ask that the pain and grief they are experiencing will drive them to the God of comfort.
- Pray for Palestinian civilians, some of whom are suffering because of the evil ideology of their leadership.
- Pray for Jewish communities around the world, especially in Europe, who are facing violent antisemitism in response to the war.
- Ask God to confuse the plans of Hamas and burden militants' hearts with the atrocities they are committing; ask God to thwart their evil efforts and protect the innocent.
- Pray for God's redemptive work in the hearts of believers in Israel, Gaza, and around the world; may our outlook and response to this war be shaped by His truth, holiness, and compassion.

-adopted from Life in Messiah prayer points

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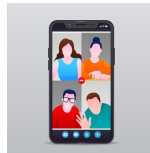
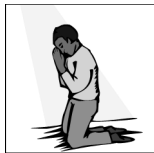
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What Can I Do?



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

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



CAM Network, Inc.
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Williston, VT 05495

Next Meeting

Dec. 5, 7:00 P.M.

Zoom

Jan. 9, 7:00 P.M.

Parkinson home

Hinesburg, Vt.

camnetvt@gmail.com
*Email to confirm date and
location*

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**