

Christian Action Ministry

Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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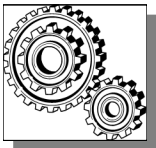
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If you would like to be
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please email us at cam-netvt@gmail.com
or
contact our website
(see back page)



*In the
Works*

Tyranny of the Minority

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.

Making A Lasting Impact!

By

Tim Throckmorton

National Director for Community Impact, The Family Research Council

In 2014 while in Jerusalem, I was with a small delegation at Temple Mount where we met a group of Israeli leaders including Uzi Landau, Israel's Minister of Tourism. After a brief meeting, while being introduced, he asked what I did. I explained I was a Pastor from Ohio. "Oh, a pastor," he said. "We know that if the church in America is strong then America will be good. If America is good, then Israel will be blessed!" Think just for a second about that. A member of the Israeli cabinet understood just how important the church has been and still is in America.

The Family Research Council began in 1983. Dr. James Dobson was led by God to help start a Biblically-based Family Policy organization in our nation's capitol. This continues today. FRC's President Tony Perkins carries forward the mission of our founding. We continue to work with the rising generation through student internships. This is to make a permanent home for family advocacy here at the seat of the national government. This is to continue to bring a biblical worldview perspective to the public square. Community Impact Teams (CITs) are a critical part of that mission.

With all the threats to Faith, Family, and Freedom, Community Impact Teams help answer the question that I hear across the nation... "What can I do?" Great churches that are effectively reaching people for Christ have an intentional plan for evangelism. Moreover, churches making a positive impact on the moral health of their community have a ministry team devoted to this purpose as an official part of their ministry structure. These ministry teams are known by a variety of names. Their function is the same: to provide in-house leadership for laity response to the moral and social issues that impact the community, state, and nation. We've chosen to call these groups Community Impact Teams. As I have had the privilege to travel America in the last six years while serving the Family Research Council, I have been reminded of that simple remark from Temple Mount time and time again while observing the impact the church of today is having in the most unlikely places. For example, in Oregon, a group of committed believers call their Community Impact Team, "A loose circle of friends." They meet weekly, discussing how the scriptures speak to our current cultural climate. They also take action by locally recruiting potential office holders from school board members to town councilmen and beyond.

In Washington State, a courageous Pastor and his church's Community Impact Team rally to the causes in their state by holding prayer and worship rallies. They seek to build lasting relationships with elected officials at every level of Government where God gives favor. They strategically respond by raising the

level of awareness in their community by hosting Biblical Citizenship trainings and School Board Bootcamps.

In Maine, a Family Policy group there is working to establish 50 Community Impact Teams in 2024 in 50 churches. In Chicago, a retired Army Chaplain is working to establish CITs in all 15 police precincts in the city of Chicago.

Churches and communities who are interested in starting a CIT can go to communityimpact.frc.org and easily get started. The need of America today is not a political one, but a spiritual one! The hope of America is not to be found in a state or the nation's capital but in the God-anointed work of the church in America!

The Bible speaks about civil government often and provides examples of faithful engagement. The Old Testament teaches us that Joseph and Daniel served in civil government, exerting influence to further the flourishing of their nations. Paul also advocates this approach: "As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone." And: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." As a dear friend and mentor of mine often said, "The world at its worst needs the church at its best."

In addition, it's a fact of life that politics are unavoidable. Paul's appeal to his Roman citizenship is a model of

this. In an American context, this takes on added significance because of the words prefacing the Constitution: "We the people." In the United States, ultimate national sovereignty is entrusted to the people. This reality makes politics unavoidable for American citizens to control their political future. Because politics have real-world implications for Christian evangelism, missions, and preaching the gospel, Christians ought to engage in the political process, advocating for laws and policies that contribute to human flourishing.

In *How Christianity Changed the World* (Zondervan, 2004), Alvin J. Schmidt documents Christian influence in government. Examples include outlawing infanticide, child abandonment, and gladiatorial games in ancient Rome. Also, ending the practice of human sacrifice among European cultures, banning pedophilia and polygamy, and prohibiting the burning of widows in India. William Wilberforce, a committed Christian, was the force behind the successful effort to abolish the slave trade in England. In the United States, two-thirds of abolitionists were Christian pastors.

In *Christianity Today*, Jan. 17, 1986, Carl Henry rightfully stated that Christians should "work through civil authority for the advancement of justice and human good" to provide "critical illumination, personal example, and vocational leadership." Jere-

miah 29:7 says, "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Referring to Babylon, the prophet recognized that secular government served a legitimate purpose in God's plan for Israel.

Today, good governments promote literacy, advance just laws, provide religious liberty, and allow churches to preach and teach. Politics affects government, shapes society, and influences culture. Christians must care about politics, and the easiest way to be involved is by voting. Remember, every elected official from Dogcatcher to the President only reflects the values of those who vote!

You and I have been entrusted with an incredible moment of stewardship at this moment in history and especially the history of the United States of America. We have been entrusted with a season of witnessing the foundation of morality destroyed and biblical principles torn asunder and relegated to the trash heap of history by those whose inclinations are in no way biblical. I have heard it said that the fruit of our lives grows on the trees of others. May those who follow us know the fruit of freedom!

Tim Throckmorton is National Director for Community Impact, The Family Research Council and has pastored in Ohio.

A National Ministry, the Family Research Council Is Reaching Out To New England Christians

Tim Throckmorton is planning to meet with Vermont pastors and ministry leaders this spring. Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly in Waterbury is close to the geographic center of the state and has a long history of pastors' meetings. They are agreeable to welcoming Pastor Throckmorton. Arrangements are also being made to live stream the meeting at Roadside Chapel in Rutland for those in the southern-most parts of the state.

An event for the larger faith community is being planned for Vibrant Church in South Burlington, closer to the demographic center of the state. We also intend to live stream this event in Rutland. Although these are all Evangelical venues, we have Catholic and Jewish readers and all are welcome.

If your congregation in another part of the state would like to be included as a live stream viewing location, contact us at CAMnetVT@gmail.com.



... "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8 NIV)

Legislative Update

by
Lauston Stephens

Vermont has serious and pressing needs. There is flood recovery on top of flood recovery in some parts of the state. There is talk of an eighteen percent increase in property taxes all over the state. There is a housing shortage of some 40,000 units and growing homelessness. There is a labor shortage because people can't find housing or affordable childcare. There is pervasive drug addiction.

With so many very pressing needs, would our legislators spend their own time and the time of their peers on much else?

Representatives Christie of Hartford and LaLonde of South Burlington introduced H. 539 to remove the word, "tumultuous" from our disorderly conduct statutes.

The disorderly conduct statute will still include "(2) makes unreasonable noise;" Can college students shout down speakers with views that disagree with their own and not be charged with disorderly conduct?

Maybe "tumultuous" is redundant, but does it really need to be changed? Representatives Christie, kchristie@leg.state.vt.us, and LaLonde, mlalonde@leg.state.vt.us, haven't responded to email.

Without mentioning it, all tweaks to existing statutes are also changing to non-binary wording. "He or she" becomes "the person." Gender-inclusive language was added to the state constitution in 1994. Will people want to change this again?

Representative Casey of Montpelier, ccasey@leg.state.vt.us, has sponsored H.605. This makes owning a defacto brothel legal, but pimping and prostitution will still be illegal. Absentee landlords or van owners won't be prosecuted, even if they know what is

going on. They still need to report if they suspect drug dealing in their buildings, that isn't addressed by this bill.

S. 151 addresses so many aspects of healthcare that people will feel it needs to be passed. It also expands medical treatment for minors without parental consent or knowledge. This is becoming routine.



H.805 is another matter. It has thirty sponsors so there is a high probability that it will become law if time permits. "This bill proposes to amend the laws prohibiting harassment *in schools* to provide that harassment need not be severe or pervasive to constitute unlawful discrimination." (Emphasis added.)

Although it says, "in schools," it also says, "including any incident conducted by electronic means." Faculty shouldn't be posting on social media anyway during the school day.

It also says, "a single incident may constitute harassment," "Conduct may constitute unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the complaining student is the person being harassed," "the complaining student ... participated in the conduct," or "the conduct occurred outside the complaining student's school."

There are nine categories protected by

this statute, but left-handedness is not legally regarded as a handicap. Suppose a right-handed student bumps into a right-handed teacher in a grocery store. The student jokes about the store's coffee grinder being designed for right-handed people. Most Vermont faculty members would say something corrective. In a moment of careless levity, this right-handed teacher goes along with the joking.

With this climate gripping Vermont education, that teacher could be reported by that student. They could be subjected to disciplinary action. They may lose their job. Some Vermont faculty members are already in court over similar situations.

This writer has had the privilege of traveling to countries with totalitarian regimes. They have a saying, "If there are three people in a conversation, at least one of them is reporting to the government." Will the Vermont regime go one "better?" If two people have a conversation, one of them may report to the government. As the bill is written, proof is required but what constitutes proof is not defined.

One possible goal of the bill is commendable. We should "do unto others what we would have others do unto us." But self-censorship should be because we desire to do right not because of fear of legal repercussions. Is the Left doing here what they say the Right should not do: legislate morality?

The Christian faith, by the way, is healthy and growing under those foreign totalitarian regimes. Do not think that what happens in Montpelier can stop that here.

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

Family Research Council Reaches Out To New England Christians

Two Vermont events are being planned for Pastor Tim Throckmorton, National Director for Community Impact with the Family Research Council. He will be meeting with pastors and ministry leaders and there will be a second event for the larger faith community. As we go to press, exact dates and times are yet to be determined. Since we only publish six times a year, updates will be posted on our website <https://christianactionministry.org>. We also encourage readers to subscribe to the email version of our newsletter for additional updates.

Information will also be made available in a timely manner through <https://vermontdailychronicle.com>. You can also subscribe to that publication. Both of these subscriptions are free but accept donations.

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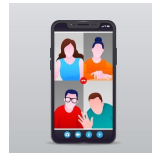
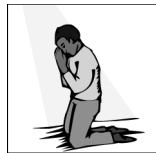
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here to
now.

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.
PO Box 1067
Williston, VT 05495

Next Meeting

March 12, 7:00 pm
Zoom
April 9, 7:00 P.M.
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

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

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**