

Christian Action Ministry

Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

May—June, 2024★ Vol. 34, Number 03

Calendar

National Day of Prayer
May 2
“Lift Up the Word—
Light Up the World”
Contact:
(802) 999-7336

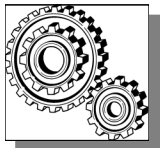
Memorial Day
May 27

Last Day To File For Au-
gust Primary
May 30

Inside

Legislative Wrap Up

Pages 2 & 3



*In the
Works*

Proposition 4

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.

Foreign and Domestic

By
Lauston Harold Stephens

As Memorial Day approaches, we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. My Uncle Harold's ship was sunk off the coast of Italy in 1943. That's how I got my middle name.



Service people defend this nation against all enemies “foreign and domestic.”

This ministry is “dedicated to informing and involving Christians in issues that affect the spiritual and moral well-being of our communities.”

As Christians, do we watch only for “foreign” issues outside the Church that affect our spiritual and moral well-being? Are there “domestic” issues that have come within the Church that we need to

address?

When I was an impressionable child in the 1950s, church leaders were from the “Greatest Generation.” Those folks had “dodged the bullet” of global pestilence, the 1918 flu pandemic. They had endured, if not global famine, at least global hardship, the Great Depression. They had prevailed in global war. No wonder they preached so much about the apocalypse, it seemed they were living through it. They taught children a simple chorus:

“If you're saved and you know it, say, 'Amen,' (2x)

“If you're saved and you know it, then your life should surely show it.

“If you're saved and you know it, say, 'Amen.'”

That is orthodox Christianity. If you are saved and you know it, then, yes, your life surely

should show it.

Fast forward two decades to the 1970s, called the “Me” decade. This is when McDonald's adopted the slogan, “You deserve a break today.” There was a new generation of church leaders and they were teaching impressionable young children a new chorus:

“If Jesus is your Savior, say, 'Amen', (2x)

“If Jesus is your Savior, then do yourself a favor.

“If Jesus is your Savior, say, 'Amen.'”

Very similar, but very, very different. After a steady diet of “If you're saved and you know it, then your life should surely show it,” doing yourself a favor sounds like good news, but it is not orthodox Christianity. We might call it orthodox humanism.

Yes, you can't love your neighbor as yourself if you don't love yourself.

But Christians do not have an exclusive to do themselves a favor. We, as well as Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, atheist, agnostic people, and everyone else, need to *occasionally* do themselves a favor.

We now have two generations of “McChristians”, seminary professors, pastors, and laity, who have lived with a “blab it and grab it,” wind of doctrine blowing through the land. How are they doing?

Globally, the 1918 flu killed up to one in twenty without air travel helping the spread. COVID-19, roughly one in a thousand. If COVID-19 had been as deadly as the 1918 flu, would Christians today have been as cooperative with government directives as they were then?

Do American Christians today handle bad news as well as past generations? Can you be in

bondage to “positivity?” Are you unable or unwilling to accept any bad news as reality because it conflicts with your ego-centric worldview that you have been taught is “Christian”?

What are we passing on to the next generation as “Christianity?”



Christianity is not about you and it is not just about “positive thinking” or “positive speaking,” it is about positive doing.

Go the extra mile, give the cloak also, and turn the other cheek. Visit widows and orphans in their affliction, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and take in the stranger.

Another children’s chorus the Greatest Generation taught:

“Jesus, others, and you, what a wonderful way to spell ‘Joy.’”

“Jesus, others, and you in the life of each girl and each boy.

“ J ’ is for Jesus, ‘cause He has first place,

“ O ’ is for others you meet face to face,

“ Y ’ is for you and whatever you do,
“So put yourself last and spell, ‘Joy.’”

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

Legislative Wrap Up

Of the hundreds of bills introduced in the Vermont Legislature last year, we covered only a handful in our first three issues of 2023 and reported in our July/Aug. issue on the ones that had become law.

There were two that were of interest to people of faith that remained in committee at the time of adjournment last May.

Senate Bill 16 proposed to remove the exemption for clergy on reporting child abuse. The

bill was referred to the judiciary committee and they received testimony from witnesses on two occasions last year. The bill remained in committee throughout this year. We will watch to see if it is reintroduced in the new biennium next year.

House Bill 113 proposed 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 activ-

ity 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.”

Note that this does not allow *any* lobbying. The IRS website declares “A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in *some* lobbying, but too much lobbying ac-

tivity risks loss of tax-exempt status.” This bill did not pass.

House Bill 605, proposing to decriminalize owning a brothel, died in committee.

House Bill 805 proposed to “amend the laws prohibiting harassment in schools to provide that harassment need not be severe or pervasive to constitute unlawful discrimination.” Harassment is wrong and unchristian, but there have already been school faculty members who were dismissed for person-

al speech.

The bill reads in part, “Conduct may constitute unlawful harassment, regardless of whether: II) the complaining student acquiesced or otherwise submitted to or participated in the conduct; ... (VI) the conduct occurred outside the complaining student’s school.”

“The four young pigs who had protested when Napoleon abolished the Meetings raised their voices timidly, but they were promptly silenced by a tremen-

dous growling from the dogs.” – from Animal Farm by George Orwell.

This bill seems like a “tremendous growling from the dogs” but it did not pass.

Over all, none of the bills that we focused on this year became law. However, if the same legislators return for the next biennium, we can expect the worldview reflected in these bills will return also.

The pastors’ meetings at Hunger Mountain have been taking place for some 25 years.

Christian Action Ministry has sponsored guest speakers at other venues in the past but this is not our event. We are only serving to help facilitate what others are bringing to us.

Further details will be made available through our website:

<https://christianactionministry.org/> as well as Vermont Daily Chronicle:

<https://vermontdailychronicle.com/> and the Light Radio Network.



Let us be honest with each other and with the country ; let us defeat bills in a constitutional way, if we can, or not at all ; give freedom of debate, opportunity of amendment, the yea-and-nay vote, by which the judgment and will of every Representative can be expressed and responsibility fixed where it belongs, and we will preserve our own self-respect, give force to the Constitution of the country we have sworn to obey, and serve the people whose trusts we hold. Why, this controversy is to determine whether a majority shall rule and govern, or be subject to the tyranny of a minority. Talk about the "tyranny of the majority"; the tyranny of the minority is infinitely more odious and intolerable and more to be feared than that of the majority. — *Ohio Governor William McKinley, January, 1896, later elected 25th President of the United States*

Pastors & Christian Leaders Meeting May 7th

Pastor Tim Throckmorton, National Director for Community Impact with the Family Research Council, will be a speaker at the pastors and leaders meeting at Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly, 4940 Waterbury-Stowe Road (Route 100), Waterbury Center. (802) 244-5921



“UNITING LIKE-MINDED CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES, ACROSS DENOMINATIONAL LINES, WHO SHARE THE VISION OF IMPACTING THE CULTURE WITH BIBLICAL TRUTH.”

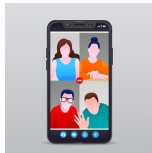
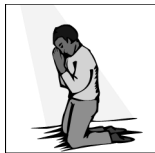
Christian Action Ministry Network, Inc. is an educational nonprofit public charity supported entirely by contributions from the public. Personal, church, and business donations are tax-deductible under the IRS Code 501(C)3. Information provided herein does not necessarily reflect the views of any particular church or individual associated with the Christian Action Ministry Network.

Scan give



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

May 14, 7:00 pm
Zoom

June 11, 7:00 P.M.
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

camnetvt@gmail.com
Email to confirm date and location

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**