



# LIGHT

THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

MAY-JUNE 1998

**Every day in America, 2,795 teenage girls get pregnant. 1,106 of those girls snuff out the lives of their unborn children through abortion.**

Our nation is threatened by a flood of relativism within which there is no single standard of right and wrong. God's perfect design for human sexuality is corrupted as humankind seeks pleasure over purity and convenience at the expense of commitment.

There is no disputing that the traditional notions of human sexuality and the family are being stretched far from their scriptural foundation and revelation in our day.

Because these cultural attacks present pastors and other church leaders with dramatic ministry opportunities, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission devoted their 1998 annual seminar to **The Family and Human Sexuality: Reaffirming God's Design.**

*Seminar highlights inside.* .....➔





# TV: Violence, Vulgarity, and the Vulnerable

BY DR. RICHARD D. LAND, PRESIDENT, ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

It is not just your imagination. Television is even more violent and vulgar than it was even a couple of years ago. A recent study conducted by the Universities of California, North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin found that 61% of TV shows depicted violent acts in 1997 compared with 58% in 1995 (Nashville *Tennessean*, 4/17/98).

Perhaps even more disturbing is the study's discovery that in 1997, 45% of the "bad" characters' violent behavior went unpunished (versus 37% in 1995), and that an additional 39% of the violent TV characters in 1997 were portrayed as "good" or "heroic" figures. While pay-TV cable programs still have the highest rates of violence, the most dramatic increase in violent content was on network TV, where violence jumped from 53% of programming in 1995 to 67% last year.

The study found that viewers were watching an average of six acts of violence an hour, with violence defined as "any overt depiction of credible threat of physical force or the actual use of such force intended to physically harm an animate being or group of beings." The study specifically excluded verbal abuse or violence precipitated by natural disasters.

Commenting on the study's results, Dale Kunkel, one of the

study's senior researchers, said that TV "ought to be making these people outcasts, not heroes," and should not be teaching children that violence "is desirable, necessary, and painless" (*Tennessean*, 4/17/98).

Even worse news on the TV front was delivered by another study done by the Parents Television Council (PTC), which found that in the crucial 8:00-9:00 p.m.\* "family hour," there has been a startling 47% jump in vulgarities in the past two years (*USA Today*, 3/25/98). The same PTC study discovered that Disney-owned ABC led the network pack with 3.47 sexual references during the family hour (the other major networks averaged 1.67 per hour).

Just in the past few weeks, viewers were treated to an episode on network TV of *Friends* (NBC, 8:00 p.m.) where the two male leads receive free pornographic cable shows. The season-ending episode of ABC's *Dharma and Greg* (8:30 p.m.) has the series leads having sex in various public locales in San Francisco. And of course, the recently cancelled *Ellen* (ABC), with its explicit lesbianism at 9:30 p.m., *Mad About You*'s (NBC, 8:00 p.m.) recent lesbian commitment ceremony, and *Spin City*'s homosexual activist character Carter Heywood add homosexual deviancy to network

TV's agenda.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) giddily proclaimed that the 1997 TV network lineup included a "record-setting 30 lesbian, gay, and bisexual characters," which GLAAD noted was a 23% increase over the historic increase in the 1996 fall lineup.

Even the *New York Times*, surveying the pathetic reality that is current American TV, concluded that "mainstream television this season is flaunting the most vulgar and elicit sex, language, and behavior that it has ever sent into American homes" (*New York Times*, 4/6/98). And remember, as Michael Boatman, the actor portraying *Spin City*'s homosexual Carter Heywood, told *TV Guide*, "The best way to slide these controversial issues under America's doorstep, into their living rooms, is to have them start laughing first. Suddenly they find themselves, if not accepting new ideas, certainly more willing to discuss them."

Vice President Al Gore confirmed TV's power to move such a social agenda when he praised *Ellen*: "And when the character Ellen came out, millions of Americans were forced to look at sexual orientation in a more open light."

And then there is *South Park*, the most popular show on cable,

which airs at 10:00 p.m. and is described by the *New York Times* (4/6/98) as featuring "four dirty-talking third graders who poison Granddad... and converse with a talking pile of stool called 'Mr. Hankey the Christmas Poo.'"

No wonder Robert Lichter, director of the Center for Media and Public Affairs observed, "I'd say there's been a quantum leap downward this year in terms of adolescent, vulgar language and attempts to treat sexuality in shocking terms."

*South Park* illustrates the drastically lowered standard both in vulgarity and violence. As one critic described it, "The show's famous tag line is, 'Oh my God! They've killed Kenny!' which Stan blurts out every episode after his friend Kenny has been impaled on a flagpole, <sup>flashed</sup> by hot lava, whatever. Then rats come and devour him. By the start of the next episode, he has been restored to life" (*National Review*, 3/9/98). *South Park* gives us crass and gross vulgarity, and mindless and grotesque violence with no consequences. No consequences to the characters on the screen, that is. I fear that there are tragic, degrading, paganizing, long-term consequences to the viewers, and the younger and more vulnerable they are, the greater the damage. <sup>unat</sup>

\*All times Eastern Time zone.

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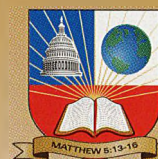
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# Rejection of Pure Sex at Heart of Cultural Morass

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

**P**leas for a return to "traditional family values" are empty cries, contends Ed Young, pastor of Houston's Second Baptist Church. Casting our hopes on a value system rooted in the days of "Ozzie and Harriet" and "The Waltons" is as wrong as searching for our values in what makes us feel good or gives us power.

Citing the tragic words at the end of the book of Judges, "And every man did what was right in his own eyes," Young says contemporary culture is mirrored in the ancient Israelites' refusal to obey God and reject the worldly wiles of Canaan.

The outcome of this "Godlessness" will impact all of society, Young contends. We must return to a transcendent God and His Word, Young notes, "where we have immutable principles that are given to us through divine revelation. This is true truth."

Young claims much of society's problems rest in the area of human sexuality. "We have let the world sell us a cheap bill of goods," he says, admonishing many in the church for adopting the world's view of sexuality and rejecting God's beautiful design of sexuality.



Sex was God's idea, Ed Young contends. "The sexuality he created was pure sex—sex that is right and good, meant to be fully enjoyed in its intended framework," the former president of the SBC writes in his recently released book, *Pure Sex*.

"We've fallen far from this biblical ideal of married love-making," Young writes. "We are so bombarded with pseudo instruction and 'how-to' advice from our sex-saturated culture that we can't possibly hope to assimilate it all and measure up to the mythical standard."

*Pure Sex*, Ed Young, Multnomah Publishers, Inc., 1997. Available from the ERLC. Product code: BKPUR. Price: \$20.00.

"God's great gift of human sexuality has been perverted because people around the world have not understood the basic biblical perspective of pure sex," Young says.

The culture's sexual confusion stems from the fact that "there are not enough single adults who are truly celibate and there are people who are married who are not truly celebrating the most intimate relationship we have in a human sense."

"There is a clear call in Scripture for us to separate, to withdraw, to come out of the world," Young says, calling on Christians to forsake the temporal pleasures of worldly sexuality and to embrace God's "pure sex."

Young admits there is a ten-



sion as Christians are called by God to be both separate and to become involved in the world, saying the challenge is determining if "we are going to be hermits or... chameleons."

Many Christians are like chameleons (reptiles known for changing their skintone to match their environment) because "we haven't learned how to make our way swimming upstream against the moral currents of our society," Young says, calling for believers to be in the world but not of the world.

"We are to represent the Lord Jesus Christ in the world as He represented the Father in the world," Young says, explaining Christians are to be in the world but to not let the world "get into us." LIGHT

**LEFT:** Dr. Ed Young, Senior Pastor at Second Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., as he speaks on "Pure Sex: Reaffirming God's Design for Husband and Wife" at the ERLC's annual seminar held in Charleston, S.C., March 2-4.

## HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE FAMILY: REAFFIRMING GOD'S DESIGN

As allegations of salacious and possibly criminal acts swirl out of our nation's Capital and into America's homes through newscasts and the morning paper, parents are left wondering how to explain the titillating news reports to their youngsters.

Still reeling 30 years after the decade that ushered in free sex, loose morals, and relaxed attitudes toward human sexuality, public opinion surveys reveal more concern with allegations of presidential perjury than adulterous sex acts.

The irony and the tragedy of the sexual relations which were purported to have occurred in the White House are just as likely to be featured nightly on any one of several primetime network television shows.

"We live in a sex-obsessed culture," laments ERLC President Richard Land. "The biblical notion of wholesome sexual relations between husband and wife has been turned on its head."

And so we have millions of young people left without standards of right and wrong when it comes to their bodies. "The scriptural standard of sexual purity has for the most part been abandoned, and teenagers and young adults are nearly compelled by society to engage in promiscuous sexual behavior," Land continues, noting the Baptist Sunday School Board's "True Love Waits" campaign has provided many youngsters the means to resist the lure to engage in sexual relations and commit to sexual purity.

The so-called sexual revolution has had a devastating effect on the U.S., he insists, citing soaring incidences of sexually transmitted diseases, emotional distress from adulterous behavior and premarital sex, as well the inroads made by those who want to legitimize homosexual behavior as normative.

"The accusations of presidential philandering underscore why the ERLC focused on human sexuality during its 1998 annual seminar," Land says. "We are a nation in pain, and only the church has the salve to heal the hurting and brokenhearted."

Entitled "The Family & Human Sexuality: Reaffirming God's Design," the SBC agency's 32nd annual seminar was held March 2-4 in Charleston, S.C. Articles in this issue are taken from the text of featured speakers.



# Faith-based Policy Only Hope for Social Renewal

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

## MIXING FAITH & POLITICS

Our faith determines how we react to the culture in which we live. Because it so fundamentally defines us, we can't allow faith to take a secondary role in making day-to-day decisions.

I took a lot of heat as a candidate for "dirtying" my calling as a pastor. No one pretends that politics is pretty or clean. But that's why Christians need to get involved. The less salt and light there is in a place, the more beneficial the Christian point of view can be.

Christians can't refuse to get involved in an issue because it's messy; that's where they're needed most. Jesus didn't avoid the unwashed. He ministered to them. He even ate dinner with a tax collector! Christians need to pull on their hip boots and wade into the swamp of social and moral issues. It's hard to "rescue the perishing" if we're standing on the bank in freshly laundered clothes, refusing to get a little dirty.

Faith is like a bass boat. If we acquire it just to admire it, we might as well not have it at all. Just feeling self-satisfied with our faith isn't enough. We have to be willing to act on that feeling, to put our faith to the use for which it was meant. We can't stand around bemoaning the problems of the world, refusing to act because the situations or the people involved are disagreeable. Those should be the very situations that spur us on. The nastier the water, the more valuable it is to have a boat.

Being governor has led me to depend on faith with a new sense of urgency. I face situations every day that would be insurmountable without using the faith God has given me to make decisions.

—Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee  
in *Character IS The Issue*, Chapter 10,  
"Faith is Like a Bass Boat"

Available from the ERLC. See p.13.



David Beasley does not try to hide his faith. As the governor of South Carolina, the 40-year-old Beasley made it clear when he was elected he was bringing his Christian faith to the state house.

While encouraging other Christians to mimic his involvement in civic affairs, Beasley says neither liberal nor conservative doctrine within government will save America. "The key is not just changing laws, because laws don't always change the society. The only way you change society is by changing hearts," exhorts Beasley, touted as a rising young star in the national Republican Party. "I have never found government too effective at changing hearts—we have laws against rape; people rape. We have laws against murder; people murder.

"And I know what changes hearts—the same person that changed my heart."

Beasley claims that in recent decades, instead of crafting programs that strengthened the family, government designed apparently well-intentioned programs that "tore apart" the family. "Here was government, an ordained institution of God, trying to break apart another institution of God," Beasley asserts, saying the "church was sitting back on the sideline not being salt and light."

Citing his track record on welfare reform in the state as evidence of biblical principles impacting public policy, Beasley says, "I wanted to change the welfare system not because I hate the poor and the needy but because I have compassion, true compassion, for the poor and needy. I wanted to create a program that would empower them to be self-sufficient... not dependent on government so that the government would no longer

be their god."

Beasley notes a 60 percent welfare case load drop, saying families who were getting welfare checks are now getting pay checks. "Government isn't the answer to all of our problems. The state should allow families to do what God wants for them, not what the government wants for them," Beasley says, noting South Carolina has cut taxes, strengthened the criminal justice

and ridiculed last year for his decision to order the Stars and Bars, commonly known as the Confederate flag, to be removed from atop the state capitol in Columbia.

Leadership must consist of more than rhetoric, the governor insists, saying good government is a result of the practical application of faith-based policy.

Beasley contends that in a democracy Christians have



Locked in a battle over the introduction of video poker in South Carolina two months ago, with poll numbers showing strong statewide support for the gambling devices, political pundits predicted the gaming industry would have its way in the state.

**DAVID BEASLEY** Yet as a result of intense pressure from the "faith community" and local business leaders, the lower house of the state legislature recently turned back the proposal, says Beasley, praising the executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, Carlisle Driggers, for his work in turning the tide against the machines. The state's Senate has not yet voted on the measure, which Beasley says will cost the state money instead of fattening its coffers as video poker manufacturers contend.

To those frustrated that change is not occurring fast enough, Beasley says, "We didn't get into this problem in America overnight, and we are not going to get out of it overnight."

system, and was the first state in the union to pass a ban on the partial-birth abortion procedure.

"Church can't do the work of the state, and the state can't do the work of the church," Beasley asserts, explaining that does not mean citizens and government officials should avoid integrating God's perspectives into their life and works.

"It is time in America that we have political leaders who don't take a poll to make a political decision," says Beasley, who was both hailed

"an obligation" to be involved.

"Be salt and be light and be involved," Beasley urges. "We can turn this country around, but it's going to take a lot of prayers; then you have to get up off your knees and be out there as salt and light.

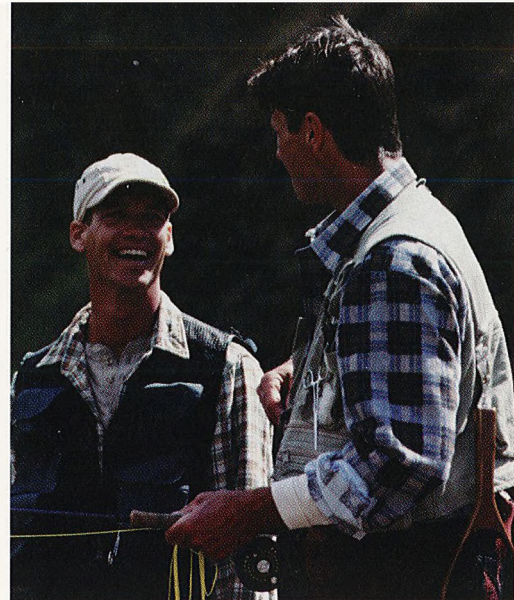
"The President needs your prayers; the governor needs your prayers; the Congress needs your prayers," he adds.

David Beasley is currently midway through his four-year term as governor of South Carolina.



# God's Model Key to Restoring Fatherhood in Society

BY TOM STRODE



Only by adopting God's example of fatherhood can the role of the father be restored to its rightful place in society, National Fatherhood Initiative President Wade Horn claims, adding that the need to restore the fatherhood ideal in America is increasing. While nearly 4 of 10 children currently do not have a father at home, it is estimated 6 of 10 children born in the United States in the 1990s "will spend a significant portion of their childhood in a home without their father," Horn says.

The "tragic consequences" of a child growing up without a father include a greater likelihood of living in poverty, participating in crime, committing suicide as a teenager, and being sexually promiscuous if female.

Men "don't have to write our own fatherhood script. We have a model of what a good father is," Horn says. God

Himself models fatherhood:

- Through "His relationship with us as His children;
- Through "His relationship with His only begotten Son;"
- Through "the personage and teaching of Jesus Christ."

God demonstrates what it means to be a loving father by his interaction with Jesus. "When God introduces his Son to others, he does it with great love and affection. He says, 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased.'"

Jesus continued the model by "constantly reaching out to children," says Horn.

The Bible provides not only the model but the motivation for men to become good fathers, he asserts. It is "only God who can bring men to their knees seeking repentance and, in doing so, submit their wills voluntarily" to the Lord.

Not only must God's model of fatherhood be adopted, but

"we're going to have to recapture the institution of marriage" if the fatherhood ideal is to be restored in America, he adds.

"We love to get married; we just don't like to stay married," Horn says of Americans, adding marriage is not making a comeback, and cohabitation is being used as a substitute.

The retreat from marriage is one reason the fatherhood ideal has disappeared, asserts Horn, citing the denigration of the role of the father and the encouragement of androgyny as a parenting ideal as other reasons.

While television shows of the past such as "Father Knows Best" and "Leave It to Beaver" featured men who were committed to their wives and children, today's TV models on shows such as "The Simpsons," "Home Improvement," and "Married With Children" are either bumbling, befuddled, or beasts, Horn says.

Not only is physical absence widespread among fathers, but psychological absence is harming children, he claims. Today's parents spend 40 percent less time with their children than did parents in the previous generation, Horn says, citing a report that revealed 20 percent of young people in the 6th to 12th grades did not have a conversation with either parent of at least 10 minutes the prior week.

Christians also have a "moral imperative to reach out to those children who do not have fathers in their lives," Horn says. They can help children without fathers understand there is a heavenly Father "who [is] constant and unfailing." **LIGHT**

"A biblical father must be... the embodiment of love for his children," says Wade Horn, who has two daughters and lives in a Maryland suburb of Washington, D.C. "Such biblical fatherhood combines love with discipline, compassion with justice." Horn is president of National Fatherhood Initiative and served four years as commissioner for Children, Youth, and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Abandoning God's Plan Can Bring Tragedy for Women

Women may help bring blessing or tragedy upon themselves, their families, and their society depending on their response to God's plan, claims Dorothy Patterson, noting that while "the woman is equal in worth to the man" and the Bible allows for uniqueness and diversity, she has not been "assigned the same role" as the man.

"Assignments were made to the man and the woman by God; spiritual efficiency marked the new union; distinct natures were linked with equal worth."

According to Scripture, God's plan "for a woman with a 'gentle and quiet spirit' who 'fears the Lord' to link her life to and submit herself to a man who 'loves her as Christ loved the church' and who accordingly, as a servant-leader, provides for and protects her is a fail-safe combination that enables the home and the relationships within it to be a divine metaphor for God's revelation of Himself to His creation," she asserts.

To fulfill the oft-debated biblical directive for a wife to be submissive to her husband, a "gentle and quiet spirit" is required, according to 1 Peter 3. "This inner nature fashioned by the indwelling Spirit of God becomes an outer manifestation that molds one's lifestyle," she says. "The high value of this 'gentle and quiet spirit' is undoubtedly based upon the fact that it can only be obtained through a quiet and continual trust in God Himself to supply all one's needs, and nothing pleases God more than for His creation to trust Him."

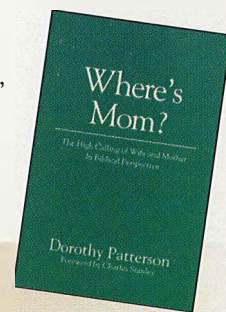
One way the "uniqueness of Christianity was exemplified to unbelievers was in the lifestyles of wives who conscientiously performed their duties to their husbands, even in the most adverse circumstances," she says. "At once the character of the wife is elevated for an example to all, and the heart of the unbelieving husband may well be softened."

This trait does not primarily mean muteness or inactivity, Patterson says. Mary, the mother of Jesus, did not pursue public activity or acclaim but "allowed God to work within and through her in the private nurture and preparation of her Son for His public ministry."

"Fear of the Lord" is another aspect of biblical submission, she says. The respect of a wife for her husband is to exist "not because he deserves it but because of her respect for and obedience to God."

While feminists often seem to seek to "de-differentiate male-female roles," she says, the complementary position God has given man and woman "affirms equality of personhood, while maintaining that the divine order calls for a reciprocity exhibited in male servant leadership and female submission, both of which are perfectly modeled in Jesus Himself." **LIGHT**

Dorothy Patterson, wife of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson, has written and spoken frequently on the biblical role of women. She is the general editor of *The Woman's Study Bible*. Her book *Where's Mom?* is available from the ERLC. Product code: BKWHE. Price: \$4.00.



Excerpted from an article by Tom Strode for Baptist Press. Strode is Baptist Press Bureau Chief based in the ERLC's Washington, D.C., office.



# Proliferation of Pornography Poisoning America

BY KING SANDERS

A ravenous cancer is destroying modern society from the inside out, contends ERLC President Richard Land.

"Pornography is Satan's counterfeit and Satan's corruption of God's design for us as sexual beings," he claims, describing it as "one of the most powerful weapons in the arsenal of Satan designed to undermine the moral purity of human beings and to encourage lust that would then enslave them."

"If being the salt of the earth means anything, it means burning this cancer out of our nation."

"Pornography is in your church, in your family, on your street, and maybe in your home," Land warns. "We must let Christ use us as the moral disinfectant—salt—that He called us to be to stop this plague." If we fail to do so, the nation will continue to be brutalized, and "we will not recognize our country," he asserts.

Citing 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Land says that "pornography" is derived from the same root word as "fornication," which refers to "sexual behavior which is deviant from God's moral law" and is fed by lust—an intense sexual desire, preoccupied with self-gratification, and the basis for the sin of adultery.

God purposely created humans as sexual beings, Land acknowledges, and sexual desire is a powerful motivator for human beings. "It is an enormous power for good or for ill in our world." While God intended it for good, Satan has corrupted God's design.

The church, charges Land, has shied away from teaching the full biblical revelation concerning sexuality, contributing to society's susceptibility to pornography. "We have the

'don't's' down, but we've failed to adequately understand and adequately share with our young people the Song of Solomon," he says. "If you think God is against sex, you need to get a good, modern translation of the Song of Solomon and read it."

Referring to the Song of Solomon, Land explains the four purposes for which God created mankind as sexual beings.

First, God's design is that two people "become one... forming a spiritual, physical

sure of the husband and wife," Land says. And, finally, in God's design, "sexual intercourse was given as the means by which the human race was to be propagated."

Pornography perverts and distorts all of the God-given purposes for sexual intimacy. In addition, it encourages lust. "Both men and women are encouraged to have sexual relations with many partners, disregarding the sanctity of marriage and the one-flesh concept."

Pornography teaches people to "disregard the intimacy of

**"Material that was once available only in the worst back alleys of the worst cities in America is now available to anyone, anywhere in the country with a computer and a modem.... Cyberporn [is] a subterranean, electronic river of slime that is pure, undistilled evil."**

union between a husband and a wife."

God's design for sexual intimacy also "results in an intimate knowledge of spirit between a husband and wife."

They are "to leave and to cleave" to one another in order to experience a depth of intimacy in their relationship. "We need to recover the understanding that in the revelations of God, sex isn't dirty. Sex is holy."

"God uses the relationship between the husband and the wife to describe his relationship with Israel in the Old Testament, and Jesus' relationship with his bride, the church, in the New Testament," Land notes.

Furthermore, "sex was designed for the mutual plea-

knowing another person by encouraging sexual intercourse as a casual relationship," Land observes. "Sex is viewed as a form of recreation with superficial self-gratification."

"It's narcissistic," he says, and teaches "self-gratification without regard for the welfare of one's sexual partner."

Further, procreation is never the purpose of sexual intimacy in pornography, says Land. Instead, procreation is feared, and abortion of the results of an unwanted pregnancy is encouraged.

In short, "Pornography turns God's design for sex completely on its head."

Land fingers the Internet as one of the most pervasive and violent venues of pornography

*Continued on p. 10.*





# Saving Marriages a Missing Ministry

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

There is "no more important ministry than saving marriages," claims Michael McManus, noting while the divorce rate remains high, marriage rates are falling.

Christians are "aiding and abetting" divorcing couples by their silence, charges McManus, author of the nationally syndicated column "Ethics and Religion," encouraging the church to minister by working to save marriages. He challenges believers to work "to convert our divorce culture to a marriage culture."

According to McManus "three-quarters of Americans get married in a church," and while churches have access to most newlyweds, half of all marriages are failing. "Sadly, too many churches are just wedding factories," he claims.

Many Catholic churches require months of marriage classes, but most Protestant churches ask couples to meet with the pastor only one or two times before the marriage ceremony, McManus asserts.

"Marriage is a neglected topic in our churches," adds Harriet McManus. "We talk about weddings. Pastors perform weddings. Yet a wedding is for a day; a marriage is for a lifetime."

Churches have "a huge pool of wisdom sitting in their pews" to aid those considering marriage and those in troubled marriages, Harriet says, referring to "older couples with strong marriages who can walk alongside sharing their own experiences and their own mistakes."

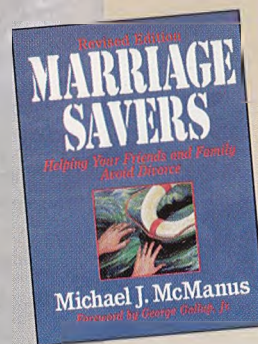
There is no more important ministry than saving marriages, McManus asserts, except evangelizing the lost. He adds that in states like Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee it is "too easy to get a divorce and too easy to get married," praising states with longer waiting periods that allow couples "time for reconciliation and time for changing their mind."

Only 55 percent of American adults are married—the lowest percentage ever, McManus says, citing another issue for churches to address. Couples are "divorce-phobic," afraid to take the step of marriage, Harriet adds.

And living together before marriage is not a solution to high divorce rates, the couple agrees. "Marriages that are preceded by living together have 50 percent higher divorce rate than marriages without premarital cohabitation," McManus says, citing a University of Wisconsin study.

Couples are living together to allegedly "test their relationship," and "the church needs to provide another way for couples to test their relationship." The engagement process must be much more rigorous than it is in most churches, he claims. ■■

Mike and Harriet McManus co-direct marriage preparation at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Md. He is president of Marriage Savers Institute and writes a syndicated newspaper column, "Ethics and Religion."



## CHURCHES CAN AFFIRM BIBLICAL FAMILIES

According to Hal Lane, pastor of the West Side Baptist Church of Greenwood, S.C., the biblical church can and must affirm and strengthen the biblical family by:

**Faithfully preaching and teaching the biblical view of marriage.** Defined as "the union of one man and one woman for life" in which the two become "one flesh," marriage must adhere to the principles set out in the Bible to fulfill God's purpose and maximize joy and satisfaction in the relationship, Lane asserts.

**Upholding high standards for their leaders.** Since the Bible considers the church to be a family, "We must demand proper role models... in the church," he explains. "Men and women chosen to lead must exhibit high standards of success in their marriages and parenting skills."

**Faithfully preaching and teaching a biblical doctrine of sexuality.** Singles, engaged couples, and married couples can be equipped to understand and apply biblical concepts related to marriage. For example, Lane requires engaged couples to attend pre-marital counseling sessions prior to their wedding (he shares Christ with them

in the process); to attend church services; to watch videos dealing with the biblical view of marriage; and to remain sexually pure until marriage.

Lane asserts that teens, equipped with a biblical view of sexuality and the sanctity of human life, can be "a proactive voice with their peers as they go out into the community." Churches should be prompting teens "to tell their friends about their own choices to remain abstinent and how important it is that they remain abstinent," he says, noting teenagers can spread the word "where adults cannot go."

**Ministering to those individuals and families devastated by the sins of "divorce, violence, sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, abortion, suicide, and child abuse."** Providing divorce recovery groups, assistance to single parents, and support for people in crisis situations are ways the church can reach out to the "casualties" of the culture war with the redemptive love of Jesus Christ, Lane explains. "For those who are lost, it is an opportunity to reach them for Christ. For those who are Christians, it is an opportunity to restore them to service to Christ." ■■

Excerpted from an article by King Sanders for Baptist Press. Sanders is Director of Communications for the ERLC's Washington, D.C., office.

## A Strategy for Churches

Churches can help save marriages by evaluating their "marriage saving" efforts and making the saving of marriages a priority.

- Is your church a "blessing machine" that grinds out weddings with no attempt to keep track of how many of them end up in the divorce courts? Or is your congregation a place where young people learn skills and attitudes to build a lifelong marriage?
- Does your church teach teens why sexual abstinence makes sense—and how to achieve it? If not, why not? Already, 60,000 churches have found the "Why Wait?" series to be an effective training program.
- What does your congregation do to help seriously dating couples learn how to put Christ at the center of their relationships?
- What is your church doing to counter conventional wisdom about living together?
- What does your church do with engaged couples? Does it urge couples to attend "Engaged Encounter," which is patterned on "Marriage Encounter" and is so successful that a tenth of the participants decide not to get married?
- Does your church have a minimum preparation period, or can a couple get married in a month? Many Catholic churches require six months of marriage preparation.
- What is the divorce rate of those married in your church?
- What does your church do with newlyweds? Does it require counseling sessions after the wedding?
- How does your church handle troubled marriages? Do you offer options besides counseling?
- CAN EVERY MARRIAGE BE SAVED? NO—BUT 90% CAN!

From *Marriage Savers* by Michael J. McManus, Zondervan Publishing House, 1995. Available through the ERLC. Product code: BKMAR. Price: \$15.00.

*Marriage Savers*, an organization dedicated to preserving marriages and headed by Michael and Harriet McManus, has plans to expand nationwide.

"In every church... there are couples with strong marriages that have never been asked to come alongside a younger couple" for mentoring, McManus told the Religion News Service March 12, in explaining the essence of the Christian mentoring program that matches long-married couples with engaged couples.

Churches in 80 cities participate in the Marriage Savers program, with 11 of those cities seeing their divorce rate fall well below the national average. Mentoring couples complete 26 hours of training before they get involved in the program, offering advice to engaged couples who are tested to determine their long-term compatibility.



# Abortion, Satan's Denial of Life

## Finding Peace in the Aftermath

BY KING SANDERS

Abortion is Satan's strategy to deny and destroy life, but "God can use the tragedy of abortion in our world to reap a mighty harvest for His kingdom," says Linda Keener, director of a crisis pregnancy center in Chattanooga, Tenn.

God can "take what Satan intends for death, darkness and despair and transform it to life, light, and liberty," she says.

"The tragedy of abortion destroys God's ultimate creation—a human life created in His own image," she says. "Not only have the lives of 37 million babies been snuffed out, but the hearts and consciences of mothers, fathers, families, and our nation have been mortally wounded." After 25 years of "being taught that a fetus is merely tissue, our nation is still morally troubled by abortion and women are still agonizing," she adds.

Reared in a Christian home and in the church, Keener became pregnant as a college freshman. Reluctant to tell her parents, desperate to complete her education, and numbed by uncertainty and fear, she underwent a saline abortion as the "solution" to her dilemma.

Of the "procedure," she recalled asking the nurse, "Is it a baby?" ("In my heart, I knew it was," Keener confides.) "The nurse answered, 'No, it's just tissue, and you really do want to finish college, don't you?'"

Following the abortion, her life began to self-destruct, admits Keener. "We know in our heart of hearts we deserve punishment. When God doesn't strike us dead, and when our law pats us on the back, we unconsciously decide to inflict judgment on ourselves." Some women turn to drugs or alcohol, others get into damaging relationships or promiscuous lifestyles, still others may suffer from eating disorders or seek to become super-moms to prove their self-worth, she says.

"I began my coping by trying to achieve," Keener explains. She took an overload of classes and worked on the side. Within a year, however, she quit school, was abusing drugs and alcohol, and was running from God. In time she came to realize, "My sin had caused my son to die, but . . . the death of Jesus was enough to cover even my sin. That day I accepted His forgiveness, and He transformed death into life, darkness into light, and despair into liberty."

Having dealt with her guilt, she later acknowledged the need to grieve the loss of her son. "I named him and let him go into God's care until we are reunited in heaven," she says.

Linda feels that it is imperative in crisis pregnancy ministry that "we come to our world not with a shaking fist or pointing finger, but with open arms," she explains, allowing women to find further opportunity for spiritual healing. At the center in Chattanooga, 70 women prayed to receive Christ last year, Keener reports, adding, "We are making a difference, one life at a time."

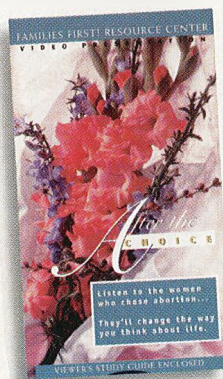
"Abortion is Satan's denial of life," she concludes, but "God delights in transforming death, darkness, and despair. It's what He does best!" LIGHT

*Linda Keener is executive director of AAA Women's Services in Chattanooga, Tenn. Chattanooga is the largest U.S. city without an abortion clinic; the crisis pregnancy center which Linda oversees is built on the site of a clinic that formerly conducted 2,000 abortions annually. "The very place that once offered women death and despair now offers life and hope to over 3,000 women each year," she says. (An article on the center is included in the Nov.-Dec. 1997 Light.)*



**Speaker Linda Keener at the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's annual seminar held March 2-4 in Charleston, S.C.**

**Pregnancy counseling centers like the one in Chattanooga, Tenn., offer young women love, support, and alternatives.**



### After the Choice

In this compelling video, real women step forward to share what it's like when the abortion is over. *After the Choice* is a valuable resource for anyone who cares about unborn children and the women considering abortion or who may need love and forgiveness after the fact.

VTAFT (VHS, 25 min.) \$12.00 ea.

See order form, p. 14.





# Kinsey's Flawed, Deviant Research Transformed Laws, Reisman Says

BY TOM STRODE

**A**lfred Kinsey's fraudulent, criminally gathered research of 50 years ago on human sexuality produced a massive liberalization of laws against sex crimes that continues to harm America, researcher Judith Reisman contends.

Kinsey's data, first released in 1948, has provided the basis of changing laws on fornication, adultery, rape, molestation, and even abortion. The switch in most states from common law, based on the Bible, to the Model Penal Code beginning in the 1950s was Kinsey's "major accomplishment," she says. Kinsey's research, especially his results showing 85 to 95 percent of males could be convicted as sex offenders, was used by some in the legal field, notably French lawyer and pedophile Rene Guyon and ACLU lawyer Morris Ernst, to construct the Model Penal Code. The code eventually was adopted, at least in part, by most states.

"Kinsey provided the wrecking ball to deconstruct the American way of life, liberty and property," Reisman claims. "The people infected with Kinseyan ideas in the professional classes spread and in many cases imposed the new 'sexual' ethic or non-ethic. It now permeates our schools, our mass media, our entertainment industry, our psychiatric and health professions, our government bureaucracy, even much of our religious establishment, but most importantly our laws, judicial system, and public policies."

Though his findings were trumpeted as science, Kinsey's report was based on fraud and deviancy, claims Reisman, a contention she began making in 1981. Recently, the "vicious

truth" has begun emerging from the Kinsey Institute.

James Jones, an advisor to the institute, located at Indiana University, admitted in a September 1997 issue of *The New Yorker* Kinsey was a homosexual, a masochist, and a eugenicist who believed at least 10 percent of the population should be sterilized, Reisman says, adding Jones acknowledged Kinsey's findings may have been skewed as a result of his activities.

"My guess is that Jones is telling some of the truth today because the Kinsey Institute believes the battle for America's soul has been won," she says. "Kinsey's 'research was designed to produce a definite outcome.'"

His findings showed at least 85 percent of American males were sex offenders because 85 percent of his sample consisted of men already identified as "sexual deviants and sexual offenders," says Reisman, who

has written a new book, *Kinsey: Crimes and Consequences*. She claims he threw away three-fourths of the 18,000 interviews and that he had no normal fathers or married mothers in his sample.

Kinsey's records show he also supervised the sexual molestation of more than 300 children from two months to 15 years of age in the study, with adult males, some who were sex offenders, abusing the children to produce results on childhood sexuality.

Despite confirmation of his deviancy and his fraudulent and reprehensible research, Kinsey remains "an eminent figure in the field of human sexuality research," according to the *New Yorker* article, Reisman says. If Kinsey is "the father of the sexual revolution," then his flawed research becomes the "weakest link" in an attempt to change the direction he helped produce, she adds. That "tap root is weaken-

## FLAWED "FINDINGS" FROM KINSEY'S FAULTY RESEARCH:

- Children are sexual from birth, so they should be instructed on all sex acts;
- There are no abnormal sexual acts;
- There is no reason to prohibit adult-child sex;
- Sex laws should be abolished;
- Premarital sex helps produce better marriages;
- Masturbation is essential to children's development;
- Everyone is naturally bisexual;
- Sodomy is healthy for children and adults.

ing pretty dramatically."

Those who desire to restore sexual responsibility and purity should join the battle and take heart from such an example as the campaign waged against tobacco, Reisman challenges. LIGHT

*Dr. Judith Reisman is president of The Institute for Media Education. She urges Christians to fight for sexual responsibility and purity.*

## ERLC Honors Jay Sekulow

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), has been named the recipient of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's Religious Liberty Award by the ERLC's board of trustees during meetings March 6. The ACLJ is a national network of attorneys committed to pro-liberty, pro-life, and pro-family causes.

In making the announcement, ERLC President Richard Land called Sekulow a "champion of religious liberty" who is doing tremendous legal work for the kingdom of God.

Sekulow frequently appears before the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to remedy wrongs perpetuated upon the Christian community, as in these critical religious liberty cases:

*Board of Airport Commissioners v. Jews for Jesus.* In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court struck down an airport regulation banning free speech activities, including distribution of free religious literature in airport terminals.

*Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens.* This case provided high school students with the right to have Bible Clubs and Prayer Clubs on their public school campuses.

*Lambs Chapel v. Center Moriches School District.* In a unanimous decision the Supreme Court ruled that the school district erred when it refused to allow the church to use its facilities. This Supreme Court victory upheld the right of free speech and assembly for religious groups and it established that the religious speaker cannot be discriminated against.

*Schenck v. Pro-choice Network of Western New York.* In an 8-1 decision the Court struck down the constitutionality of "floating bubble zones" around abortion clinics.





# Abstinence Revolution Underway While STD Risk Greater

BY TOM STRODE

## THE FACTS:

- Twelve million Americans get a new STD infection each year;
- Five of the 10 most frequently reported infectious diseases in the United States are STDs;
- There are more than 25 significant STDs today, while there were only two before 1960.

## Specific STDs Include:

- *Chlamydia*, the most common nonviral STD that results in about four million new infections each year;
- *Human papillomavirus*, the most common viral STD that causes more than 90 percent of the cervical cancer cases among U.S. women;
- *Herpes Type II*, which nearly 22 percent of Americans between the ages of 15 and 74 have tested positive for.

**A**t a time when young people are far more likely to acquire a sexually transmitted disease, a new sexual revolution based on abstinence until marriage appears to be underway, sexual health expert Joe McIlhane contends.

The number of teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 who are still virgins increased from 1990 to 1995 by at least five percent among both males and females. In addition, about 25 percent of teenagers who have been sexually active in the past are now abstinent, he says.

McIlhane notes this new revolution is marked by a personal commitment to remain sexually abstinent until marriage and societal support for premarital abstinence and faithfulness in marriage. He praises "True Love Waits," the Southern Baptist-initiated abstinence campaign for teens that has spread to other countries.

Abstinence is the solution at a time when the risks of acquiring a STD "are enormously more . . . than they ever have been," says McIlhane.

This is "about real life problems that are . . . happening to a

whole lot of people," he claims.

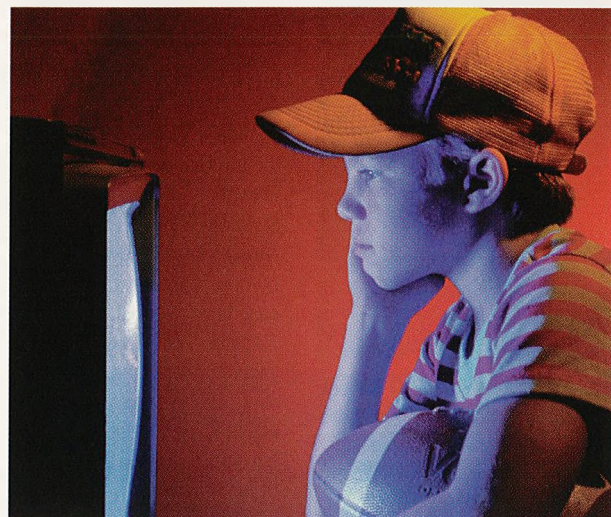
"Every time we research this, the data is all" on the side of those who teach abstinence until marriage instead of the "safe-sex" approach of instructing teens in the use of condoms and the practice of forms of sex outside of genital intercourse, he says.

National surveys show only 5 to 21 percent of sexually active singles always use a condom, and it does not prevent some diseases from being transferred, he says, adding that STDs can be transferred by anal sex, oral sex, and other forms of sexual activity.

Abstinence until marriage is a realistic goal, he believes.

A study published last fall by the *Journal of American Medicine* showed the greatest factor in avoiding risky behavior, including sexual activity, was a high level of parent-family connectedness. In delaying sexual behavior, a significant factor was parental disapproval of their children being sexual active and of using condoms, the report showed.

Other factors in helping teens avoid risky behavior, according to the study, include



**A *Journal of American Medicine* study reveals the greatest factor in avoiding risky behavior, including sexual activity, is a high level of parent-family connectedness. To help young people delay sexual activity until marriage, Dr. Joe McIlhane encourages character education in the early grades of school, an emphasis on the many teens not having sex, and the training of parents on how to control their children's media consumption.**

a pledge to remain a virgin until marriage, importance ascribed to religion and prayer, a higher grade point average, school connectedness, and attendance at a parochial school or a school with high average daily attendance.

To help young people delay sexual activity until marriage, McIlhane encourages charac-

ter education in the early grades of school, an emphasis on the many teens not having sex, and the training of parents on how to control their children's media consumption. LIGHT

*Joe S. McIlhane, M.D., is a longtime obstetrician-gynecologist who left his practice to direct the Medical Institute for Sexual Health in Austin, Tex.*

## PORNOGRAPHY POISONING AMERICA (FROM P.3)

in contemporary America. "Material that was once available only in the worst back alleys of the worst cities in America is now available to anyone, anywhere in the country with a computer and a modem," he asserts. "I am talking about cybersex . . . cyberporn . . . a subterranean, electronic river of slime that is pure, undistilled evil."

Cyberporn "allows an invisible horde of pedophiles and child molesters to surf the Internet seeking to solicit and seduce children through computer terminals in the children's own bedrooms," Land adds.

And even though the Congress enacted the Communications Decency Act to restrict cyberporn, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the law. In doing so, Land contends the Supreme Court was saying, "An adult's right to see anything he wants to see on the Internet takes precedence over this society's obligation and right to protect minor children from exposure to this filth."

Other evidences of both the extensive reach and devastating

effects of pornography cited by Land include:

- Rapists and sex offenders are 15 times more likely to have been exposed to hard-core pornography during childhood than the population at large.

- Pornographic material is highly addictive to men and boys; exposure to it often leads to extremely destructive behavior to themselves and their victims.

- Federal authorities reveal that a 6-year-old girl has a one-in-three probability of being sexually molested by her 16th birthday; for boys, it is between a one-in-five and one-in-seven probability.

- Pornography is an eight-and-a-half to 10-billion-dollar industry annually in the United States.

- Surveys reveal that virtually all 18-year-old boys graduating from high school have been exposed to hard-core pornography.

Continuing to tolerate pornography, Land concludes, "is like leaving radioactive waste around for our children to find and be fatally contaminated." LIGHT



# The Touch of The King

*"He touched me, oh He touched me, and oh the joy that fills my soul, something happened and now I know, He touched me and made me whole."*

There was a time in Rick Stanley's life when alcohol, drugs, prestige, and money ruled his life. As the step-brother and personal aide of the legendary Elvis Presley, he could have anything money could buy. But as his life of worldly pursuits took him to the brink of destruction, Stanley met the most important person in his life: Jesus Christ.

In his book, *The Touch of Two Kings*, Stanley shares his life on the road with the king of rock and roll and the events which shaped who he is today.

When Rick accepted Christ, he shares, "I was changed—totally and forever. . . I was free. . . And I didn't need alcohol. And I didn't need drugs. I was free. The power of God had delivered me instantly. I felt cleansed, like a wave of peace and purity had swept through me."

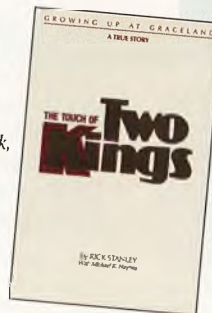
As he began to grow spiritually, Stanley discerned that the Lord wanted him to do something for Him. "But I didn't know what. . . I mean, I didn't even know what 'evangelism' was—or what it meant.

But I did know that [at the time] 68 teenagers died daily from drug and alcohol abuse. And I knew that 30 died each day from suicide. They needed Christ to change their lives like He had changed mine."

The following years found Rick sharing his testimony, being asked to speak to teens, and attending Criswell Bible Institute, then Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1986. He has spoken on hundreds of high school campuses and conducted revivals and conferences in churches across America and Europe.

"Rick Stanley has a more unique gift to communicate with teens on their level than anyone else I have ever seen," maintains Dr. W.A. Criswell, Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex. LIGHT

Rick Stanley's book, *The Touch of Two Kings*, is available from the ERLC. Product code: BKTOU. Price: \$10.00.



Evangelist Rick Stanley at the ERLC's annual seminar in Charleston, S.C.

A featured speaker at the ERLC's annual seminar in Charleston, S.C., evangelist Rick Stanley warned that Christians have allowed "the message of the world to creep into the body of Christ" and are paying for their error.

Voicing concern over popular culture's influence on human sexuality and the family, he described popular culture as "mere human speculation."

"Mere human speculation is what people think," he said. "Divine revelation is what God says.

"The world is preoccupied with popular culture. Popular culture rejects divine revelation."

Truth is not determined by polls or majority rule, he said, but by what God says.

Referring to the SBC's 1997 resolution calling on Southern Baptists to boycott The Disney Company, Stanley said, "When I found out that this denomination had said, 'We're sick and tired of certain lifestyles being shown and endorsed,' I said to my wife, 'Praise the name of the Lord.'"

Stanley warned that the "world has a hostility toward the authentic, biblical child of God," but admonished Christians to love everyone.

"Do you really, really love people? Do you really, really care about people? Then lead with your life," he challenged.

*Excerpted from an article by Tom Strobe*

## Preach the Whole Counsel to Reclaim America

"Something must be done and it must be done soon," says Barrett Duke, director of denominational relations with the ERLC, calling for a spiritual battle to reclaim America.

The people of God must preach the whole Word of God: "God does not say just preach the Gospel; He says preach the entire counsel. God did not just give us John 3:16; He gave us an entire book filled with His counsel."

It is not enough to just bring people to faith in Christ, Duke says, noting believers

must "teach them the principles of right living according to Scripture."

The Bible sensitizes people to sin, making them aware their lifestyles are out of sync with God's Word, Duke says.

"Christ is the answer that will change America because He changes people," Duke continues. "We live in a society that does not have a clue about what the Bible says. They have not been to Sunday School . . . [or] church." Thus, it will take a long time to reach and teach them "the basic prin-

ciples of God's Book."

"It is going to take more than 15 minutes on a street corner. . . It is going to mean taking time out of our busy lives to show [others] we are genuinely interested in them."

Duke said the apostle Paul's lessons to Timothy "to do the

**"We can't just say the things we believe in the comfort and protection of this room; we need to say these things outside of this room where it really needs to be heard," says Barrett Duke, challenging believers to reach out in faith.**

work of an evangelist" can be translated for modern day Christians as being aggressive

in being salt and light in the world. The people who really need to hear biblically based responses to the ills besetting our culture will not come to seminars or worship services without Christians' involvement, he adds, calling for a "new explosion" of the church

into the inner city, the suburbs, and throughout rural America to reach and change the world.



*Excerpted from an article by Dwayne Hastings*



# Step of Faith Only Ticket Out of Homosexual Bondage

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

**W**alking the aisle of a Baptist church to profess his Christian faith as a youngster in Fort Worth, Texas, Michael Johnston took the first step on a spiritual pilgrimage that would take him to the depths of depravity and then finally to a victorious recovery.

**Michael Johnston suggests no one in the homosexual community "really wants to hear our biological, psychological, or sociological theories about human sexuality," saying they simply need to hear that Jesus loves them.**

And now 11 years after breaking free of the bondage of a homosexual lifestyle, Johnston traces the breakdown that led to his moral freefall to his failure to "read the Word of God and to learn how God expected me to live my life."

Johnston says he, like most, made critical decisions "based not on how God says we ought to live our lives but on what the world said was right and what felt good to me."

Like many young people, Johnston judged his personal worth on what the world thought of him: "By the time I reached junior high school, the desire to fit in was the central focus of my life. This is a universal human desire stemming from our separation from God. Some try to fill that chasm with intellectual pursuit, some through career ladders, some with religion, and others with a laundry list of

human relationships."

Tragically, Johnston's search took a very low road: Falling first into illicit drugs use, then the sensual lure of homosexuality, Johnston says his acceptance by those in these subcultures meant "everything" to him. "I was ready to pay any cost to be part of a group. I found an identity first in the alcohol and drug scene," he admits, warning the same struggles entangle young people in families across the nation.

His drug and alcohol abuse "formed the catalyst for a new world of self-indulgence and instant gratification." And Johnston asserts his parents' failure to lay down a solid scriptural foundation for their family, encouraging their children to "obey just 'because I say so,'" was ineffective in holding him to a godly course.

His first taste of the homosexual lifestyle in an Alaskan bar in 1977 reinforced Johnston's need to be needed.

"The idea that someone wanted me and wanted to know me

at a very intimate level, I desperately wanted that in my life."

Johnston exposes the homosexual community as one comprised of individuals like himself carrying the AIDS virus in his body, adrift with individuals desperate for affection and pleasure. "My basic philosophy was hedonism. I continued to have sex with men, and not once did I ever tell a partner that I was carrying this deadly disease. These [in the homosexual community] are driven by the desires of the flesh alone."

Yet Johnston suggests no one in the homosexual community "really wants to hear our biological, psychological, or sociological theories about human sexuality," saying they simply need to hear that Jesus loves them.

While manifesting itself in society's depraved view of sexuality, Johnston said the source of the problem rests in the condition of the human heart. "And that is good news," he adds, "because God is in the business of changing the human heart."

"The church cannot affirm God's design in a people who are dead to the things of God," Johnston says, saying the answer to "the deepening cultural depravity" cannot be remedied "man's way."

God has an answer for today's societal ills, "His name is Jesus," he concludes. *LIGHT*

*Michael Johnston, a member of Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton, Va., is director of Kerruso Ministries of Newport News, Va., an organization dedicated to educating Americans that there is a way out of the homosexual lifestyle—faith in Jesus Christ.*



## Remember the Persecuted...

In an effort to raise awareness for persecuted Christians, Voice of the Martyrs, Inc., has prepared yard signs (right) and bumper stickers (below) saying, "remember the persecuted." VOM's goal is to see 25,000 churches place these in front of their buildings by July 1 to urge Christians worldwide to pray for persecuted brothers and sisters. For yard signs, call VOM at 1-800-747-0085. Bumper stickers may be ordered from the ERLC at 1-800-475-9127.



### PRICES

Sign (24" x 18")	\$15.00 ea.
Sign (30" x 24")	\$18.00 ea.
Bumper stickers	\$15.00/25

Quantity discounts are available.



## Religious Liberty Sunday: June 7

### Bulletin Insert\*

A gentle reminder of the price Jesus paid and the value of our religious liberty. Also suitable as an informational hand-out. Full color/ undated. One of a series.

RLBUL \$.06 ea.

### 1998 Religious Liberty Poster\*

This color 11"x17" poster complements the insert above to promote Religious Liberty Sunday. Undated. One of a series.

RLPOS \$.95 ea.

### Religious Liberty Sunday Sermon Outline\*

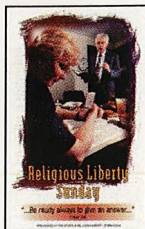
This suggested sermon for Religious Liberty Sunday can be used in its entirety or as a resource.

RLSER \$.22 ea.

### Fact Sheet \*

This new fact sheet offers statistics to show Christians how desperately their input is needed as morality is challenged in the public arena.

RLFAC \$.22 ea.



### Great American Statesmen and Heroes

Catherine Millard offers details of America's Christian history that have been literally removed from modern-day textbooks and history books. Includes Christopher Columbus' Christianity, George Washington's prayer life, Abraham Lincoln's autobiography, and others.

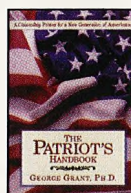
BKGRE (300 pages) \$13.99 ea.



### The Patriot's Handbook

Continuing a tradition that began in the early 1800s, this handbook captures the essence of the great American experiment in liberty, featuring a sterling collection of key documents, speeches, and profiles of leaders who have shaped American history.

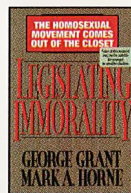
BKPAT (464 pages) \$14.00 ea.



### Legislating Immorality

A look at the tragic agenda of the homosexual movement in America, with insights for churches on how they can respond with compassion and commitment.

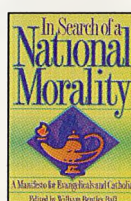
BKLEG (291 pages) \$9.99 ea.



### In Search of a National Morality

This book offers points of common agenda between evangelicals and Roman Catholics, encouraging them to speak with one voice on moral concerns critical to our value-starved nation.

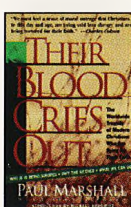
BKINS (298 pages) \$12.95 ea.



### Their Blood Cries Out

In more than 60 countries worldwide, Christians are harassed, abused, arrested, tortured, or executed. This book by Paul Marshall chronicles the tragedy of modern Christians who are dying for their faith.

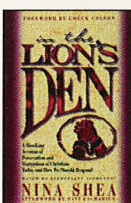
BKBLO (335 pages) \$12.00 ea.



### In The Lion's Den

More people have died for their faith in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined. Nina Shea shares what's happening, where it's happening, and what America's Christians must do to stop it.

BKLIO (125 pages) \$9.00 ea.



### Don't Touch That Dial: The Impact of the Media on Children & the Family

National Family Foundation president Barbara Hattemer and attorney Robert Showers share the devastating impact of the media on families in layman's terms.

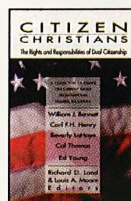
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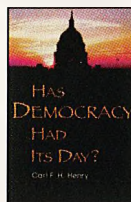
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George Grant asserts that a meaningful shift in the way our country is governed comes only when Christians realize the place to look for answers is the Bible, not the ballot box.

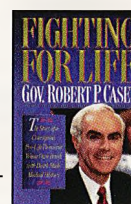
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### Fighting For Life

Former Pennsylvania governor Robert Casey has gained the support of many Americans because of his strong emphasis on reestablishing stability in our families and communities. This book tells the story of a courageous pro-life Democrat whose own brush with death made medical history.

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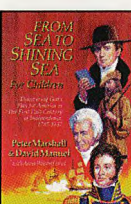


## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

### From Sea to Shining Sea for Children

This book tells America's story during its first 50 years. Filled with adventure, it reveals how God was at work in the young nation, giving settlers exciting opportunities to shape its history and to be His people. For ages 9-13.

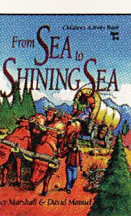
BKFRO (208 pages) \$9.00 ea.



### From Sea to Shining Sea Activity Book

Younger children can experience history in the making as they travel with circuit preachers, explorers Lewis and Clark, and an Indian guide. Along the way, they'll feel the winds of revival and glean God's grand design for the land of the free. Includes games, mazes, puzzles, and pictures for ages 5-8.

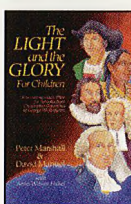
BKFROM (72 pages) \$6.50 ea.



### The Light and the Glory for Children

This book makes clear to young readers how God worked through the founders of America to establish this nation. The years 1492 to 1789 begin the exciting story of God's plan for America. Includes study activities that pose questions about the nation's future. For ages 9-12.

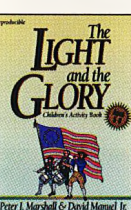
BKLIG (174 pages) \$9.00 ea.



### The Light and the Glory Activity Book

This book helps younger children start learning about America's Christian heritage through fun-filled, age-appropriate activities including coloring pages and simple word games. For ages 5-8.

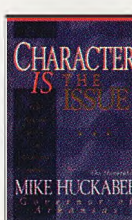
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### Character IS the Issue

A Southern Baptist minister for 12 years, Mike Huckabee was elected lieutenant governor of Arkansas in 1993 and began his term as governor in 1996 when his predecessor was convicted in the Whitewater investigation. He underscores the power of honor, faith, and integrity in our culture.

BKCHAR (191 pages) \$15.00 ea.



### Our Sacred Honor

William J. Bennett presents a collection of writings by America's founders on piety, justice, patriotism, civility, and other moral issues that shaped our country.

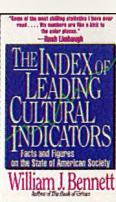
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### The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators

A statistical portrait of the moral, social, and cultural condition of our country drawn from data from the Census Bureau, FBI, and other government sources.

BKIND (138 pages) \$8.25 ea.









# SBC Leaders Should Speak Out for Sexually Abused, House Says

BY KING SANDERS

Paul House insists "the time has come for the SBC to exert purposeful national leadership in [the area of] human sexuality" and speak out for and act on behalf of women and children in our society "who are sexually abused, neglected and

eration of our children rises up and condemns us for remaining silent, soothing ourselves with the notion that everybody is against child abuse and there is not much we can do."

Christians can be "used by God to wake up our nation to

exposed and God's corrective measures revealed. As the Israelites moved toward possessing the Promised Land they encountered the Canaanites, who engaged in sexual practices which degraded human dignity, perverted God's ideals, and defiled the land, he says.

House warns the church must guard itself against the culture just as the Israelites were commanded to do, contending, "These sins are as evident in the United States today as they were in ancient Canaan. I fear that God is saying, 'I sent you to be a holy people, but you have become like the Canaanites.'"

One could make a very good case that the Canaanites are still among us and that they are winning the culture war, House observes, pointing out the prevalence of the sexual abuse of children, premarital sex, divorce, adultery, rape, and date rape.

"We must not let our nation degrade itself without taking a strenuous stand," House asserts, maintaining three major areas deserve attention: marital commitment and self-control, homosexuality, and sexual abuse.

The time for effective leadership and for action is now, House concludes. "We must press for the propagation of [God's] pattern throughout society. The United States needs to awaken to the light of God's principles, to the purity of permanent commitment, to the freedom that comes from doing the right thing, and the joy of helping the humble and opposing evil."

*Paul House is professor of Old Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.*



**PROTECT THEIR INNOCENCE**—According to the FBI, one out of every three girls and one out of every seven boys in the United States will be sexually molested by the time they reach their sixteenth birthday.

forgotten." He maintains that "this leadership must go beyond perennially important matters such as marriage and family, homosexuality and heterosexuality, divorce, chastity, and promiscuity."

The problem of sexual abuse demands attention. "Adults have no rights to use children as a means to slake evil and uncontrolled sexual urges. Sex is not about power over a minor," House asserts. "The SBC must do more to expose pedophiles, urge their prosecution, and expose how evil individuals rape our children, damage our marriages, and foul our culture.

"I pray that Southern Baptists will act before a gen-

its dangerously ill moral condition" if they will exert a servant kind of leadership, rooted in God's inerrant Word, embracing "the Great Commission challenge to teach the believers all things the Lord has commanded—even human sexuality."

Fortunately, God has revealed His design for human sexuality in Scripture, he says. "The Bible is the kind, loving, holy Creator God's written and understandable revelation to fallen, sinful, rebellious humans," without which "humans are unable to formulate appropriate standards for sexuality."

"Sexual depravity is hardly new," House adds. In Leviticus 18, sexual impropriety is

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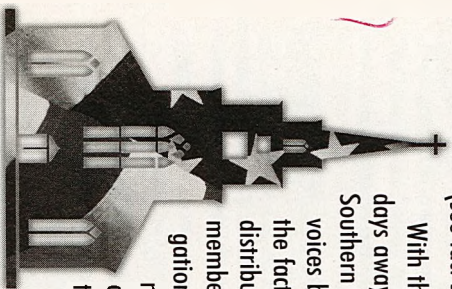


# House Vote on RFA Expected Following Memorial Day Recess

Legislative action is underway to protect and restore your religious liberty. Congressman Ernest Istook, R-Okla., continues to spearhead efforts to pass the Religious Freedom Amendment (H.J. Res. 78) in the House. A vote is expected after the Memorial Day recess.

The ERLC has endorsed this proposed constitutional amendment that seeks to restore the religious freedoms that have been lost as a result of the misinterpretation of the First Amendment's establishment clause (see fact sheet below).

With the vote just a few days away, it is urgent that Southern Baptists let their voices be heard. Reproduce the fact sheet below and distribute freely, urging members of your congregation to act by contacting members of Congress at once in support of this vital legislation.



## Fact Sheet on the RFA

The Religious Freedom Amendment (RFA) is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution. The language of the amendment is as follows:

"To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience: Neither the United States nor any State shall establish any official religion, but the people's right to pray and recognize their religious belief, heritage, or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. Neither the United States nor any State shall require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity, prescribe school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion."

### What the Religious Freedom Amendment WOULD and WOULD NOT do:

- It WOULD correct years of judicial misinterpretation of the establishment clause.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT revoke the establishment clause.
- ▲ It WOULD reverse many of the restrictions the courts have placed upon the free exercise of religion on government property in general, and public schools in particular.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT permit government sponsored religion.
- ▲ It WOULD allow greater freedom for students who wish to pray.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT require prayer in public schools.
- ▲ It WOULD require government to treat all religions fairly.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT permit preference for one religion or sect over another.
- ▲ It WOULD advance belief in religious freedom.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT advance any particular religious belief.
- ▲ It WOULD give greater protection to individuals from government intrusion.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT create any new right for government.
- ▲ It WOULD guarantee that no person be discriminated against on account of religion.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT require that any person be given special status on account of religion.
- ▲ It WOULD require equal access to public property for all people regardless of religion.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT require unreasonable access to government facilities.
- ▲ It WOULD protect the liberty of conscience of all people.
- ▲ It WOULD NOT protect only the liberty of people of a majority faith, or of a minority faith, or of no faith.

### Why do we need a constitutional amendment??

"We have given the courts more than 30 years to get this issue right, and they have persisted in not doing so. Legislative remedies would in all probability be overturned by the present federal judiciary. It is time for the people to give the courts further instructions... by the means provided by our founders, namely amending the Constitution. We must... constitutionally guarantee the free exercise and expression rights of public school students and all citizens. We do not ask for, and do not want, government's help in expressing our beliefs or acknowledging our religious heritage... The most and best government can do is guarantee a level playing field and then stay off the field."\*

### PLEASE MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!

\*From Dr. Land's testimony July 23, 1996, before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's Constitution Subcommittee

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