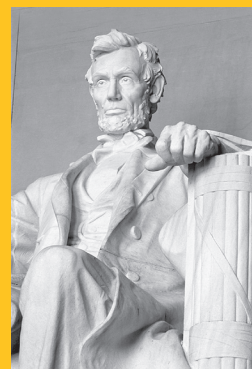


Illinois *Family* Institute



Upholding marriage & family, life & liberty in the Land of Lincoln

In 1864, Albert Schertz led German immigrants to form an Illinois community that was known as “Bluetown.” The homes of Bluetown stood on stilts, as they were built in the swampland that is now East Peoria. Schertz and his hard-working German fellow newcomers wore blue smocks—hence the name “Bluetown.”

from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**



In 1936, Beman and Polly Crandall were forced by their pioneer circumstances to make do with the canvas roof of their covered wagon for months after their mid-winter arrival in the yet-to-be-settled town. Their frigid 1500 mile journey from Connecticut over the rock hard wagon trails of northeastern America prepared them for the difficult mid-western struggles that lay ahead.

In addition to homeschooling their ten children, Beman was the first postmaster, one of the first school directors, one of the first election judges, and the first justice of the peace in what is now called Crystal Lake.

At our recent East Peoria dinner, Michael Medved joined me in listing the challenges that face us in Illinois and our nation. Whether I was outlining the fierce push for gambling expansion, the horrific advance of the death culture, or the government’s tragic embrace of the homosexual political agenda, the chiseled and steady faces of the audience bespoke the determination that Christian grit, courage and love will overcome these evils.

Michael Medved focused his remarks on the question of whether “social issues” are important. He declared that issues like fatherlessness and abortion are intertwined with economic concerns.

Fifty-three million people are missing from the American workforce today because they were killed since *Roe vs. Wade* awarded women the legal right to abortion in all fifty states. A baby born during the first year of this controversial decision would now, at the age of 38, be in the prime years of his/her working life.

Medved also revealed that when Social Security was created in 1937, there were 18 working Americans for every person who collected the taxpayer-funded retirement check. Presently there are less than three workers for every person collecting Social Security. Clearly, the damaging consequences of abortion extend far beyond the murderous act itself.

Homeschooling is as relevant today as it was in the Crandall’s day. In a video produced by the Illinois Family Institute, Dr. Erwin Lutzer of Moody Church makes a chilling observation. In 1938 Hitler banned homeschooling, believing that while the body may belong to the family the “soul belongs to the Reich.” What the Crandalls practiced out of necessity, many still do today—necessity to safeguard their children from the anti-Christian

continued on page 6



“Civil Unions” Vs. Adoption Agencies

Illinois State Senator David Koehler (D-Peoria) and Bill Haine (D-Alton) introduced SB 1123, a bill to allow religious organizations to refuse adoption or foster care privileges for homosexual partners joined by “civil unions.”



In other words, this bill would allow Catholic Charities, Lutheran Child & Family Services and Evangelical Child & Family Services to operate by the dictates of their faith. SB 1123 failed in committee by a vote of 7 to 6. Equality Illinois, the ACLU and the Log Cabin Republicans worked to oppose this bill.

“This legislation allows Catholic Charities to operate within Church teachings, within the law, and always with the best interest of the child at the forefront,” said **Robert Gilligan**, Executive Director, Catholic Conference of Illinois. “Our agencies serve thousands of abused and neglected children in Illinois and are constantly rated a top performer by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in providing permanency, stable foster homes and protection from further harm. We simply want to continue.”

Catholic Charities accepts adoption and foster care applications from legally married couples and non-cohabiting single individuals. However, if a request is received from an individual in a cohabiting relationship (regardless of sexual orientation), out of respect for church teaching, the agency refers them to the DCFS or another licensed child welfare agency in the community.

Obviously, the ideal way to handle this travesty is to repeal both the “civil unions” and “sexual orientation/gender identification” laws. And we hope to work toward that solution in the future. Unfortunately, the political reality of Springfield makes that impossible at this time. So in the effort to peel back the harmful effects of the “civil unions” and “sexual orientation” laws, IFI is working in support of this legislation in an effort to mitigate the assaults on religious liberty.

SB 1123 respects the long-standing and effective public/private partnership between DCFS and faith-based organizations in providing child welfare services. In addition, the legislation ensures that the current casework, therapeutic relationships, and support systems for thousands of abused and vulnerable children and families served by faith-based agencies are not disrupted.

Please call/write your state senator and representative to **support SB 1123.** ■

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Our Mission

Illinois Family Institute (IFI) is dedicated to strengthening the family and affirming the Judeo-Christian values upon which the family is based.

Our Partners

These partners provide a consistent stream of monthly donations to keep IFI operating at the highest level.

Our Question

Will you help us to fulfill our mission to support Illinois families by becoming an IFI Sustaining Partner today? ■

Passing the Baton — Essentials for Dads

A continuing series of articles by Grady Hauser, author of *Passing the Baton — 100 Life Principles and Skills Every Father Needs to Teach His Children.*

1. Telling the Truth— It’s No Accident

My day job is in the printing industry. We have a saying that goes like this: “If you admit your mistake when the job is in film, it will cost you \$100. Keep your secret until the job is on press and it will cost you \$1,000. But hold your secret til the job is in the mail, and it will cost you \$1,000,000.” You could probably agree with this based on your own experience, dad, when you told the truth early, or perhaps you didn’t have the courage to tell the truth until later, and the costs were immense. Obvious examples, such as Bernard Madoff, come to mind, but it’s not just the famous cases where this holds true. Ours and our children’s reputations, jobs, and family leadership can be lost if we fail on this most basic virtue. And unless this principle is learned early during childhood, it is almost impossible to learn in adulthood. Just ask the Madoff family.

Against this negative, it is important to point out a positive. If you or your children do come clean early, and admit your failure before you are found out, self confidence and respect from others is actually gained and real damage is minimized.

Dad, give your kids the invaluable treasure of teaching this principle. Firmly discipline the transgressions and absolutely celebrate the victories where the painful truth is told early.

2. The 18-year-old ceremony

During an entire childhood we have the opportunity to build a few very special events—so special that they can create shared memories and help anchor the predicted storms of adolescence and the smoother waters of early adulthood. We had six of these events (see p.78 www.baton100.com), but I’ll share one of my favorites.

Following their 18th birthday, both you

and your child will see the finish line coming soon—where they leave home in some form. You will have invested days, years, some tears and gained a few gray hairs at this point. Your child will know much of your heart and of life’s principles.

In order to honor and distinguish this moment, plan a special dinner in a private room at a favorite restaurant. It is important that you invite about 6 key individuals for this; people who have had a strong influence in the spiritual and emotional development of your child. This may be a grandparent, a coach, a music instructor, a youth group leader, etc. These people may not all know each other, but they have all been a critical part of the process. At the end of the meal have the individuals take a few minutes to personally share with your son/daughter and offer a challenge to follow their example: to resolve to walk with God as they grow up. And you, of course, are the last in the circle to share your heart. Following all of the sharing, your son/daughter will want to respond briefly in kind to the group.

Include your teen in the planning of the dinner and be sure to dignify the event by dressing up and taking pictures. Trust me; this is a lifetime event everyone will remember. ■



Passing the Baton is now available in a Leader’s Guide, including power-point, for a 10-week men’s class in your church. For more information, visit: www.baton100.com



On Halloween night in 1938 Orson Wells used radio to convince hundreds of thousands of listeners to believe that martians were invading New Jersey. On April 2, 2011, IFI launched Illinois Family Radio on WYLL AM 1160 in the Chicagoland area. Where Orson Wells used the power of radio to manipulate his audience, your Illinois Family Institute is using it to promote biblical truth regarding public policy.

IFI’s Dave Smith is joined by co-host Richard Hartian every Saturday afternoon at 1 PM. Illinois Family Radio’s first topic was the troubling issue of gambling. They interviewed Jerry Prosapio from the anti-gambling group Gambling Exposed. Prosapio, a former gambling addict, nearly lost his marriage. Even gambling-induced mafia loans could not save him from bankruptcy. Jerry puts a human face on the tragedy of predatory gambling. Following up to provide intellectual muscle to the argument was Professor John Kindt, an outspoken critic of gambling from the University of Illinois.

In successive programs, Dave and Rich talked about school issues with IFI’s Laurie Higgins; three pro-life bills in Springfield with former lawmaker and founding IFI director Penny Pullen; “medical” marijuana with medicinal chemist and researcher Dr. Ronald Bartzatt and Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police President Patrick O’Connor; homeschooling statistics and vision with Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute, and Steve and Sandi Grutzius of Illinois Christian Home Educators.

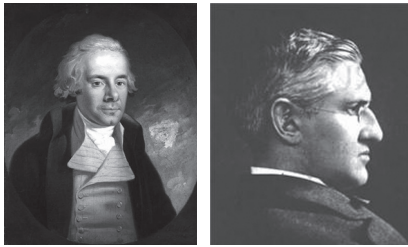
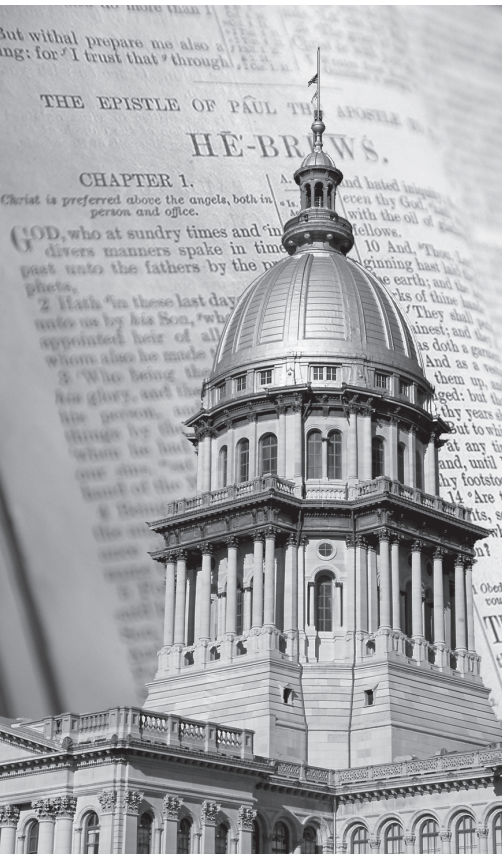
There has never been a more important time for IFI to be encouraging Christians to take a stand on moral issues. What Orson Wells used to scare people, IFI is using to educate, motivate and activate the people of Illinois.

Go to www.illinoisfamilyradio.com to listen to the podcast version. ■

Capitol Commission

by Michael S. Heath, IFI Contributing Writer

“Homosexuality and abortion must be condemned. To fail to condemn evil is to condone it.” The ministry of Capitol Commission operates in 17 out of 50 state capitols.



Wilberforce Spafford

Shaun Lewis is Capitol Commission’s Director in Springfield, Illinois. The youthful seminary graduate and father of three talked with me by phone recently.

“Homosexuality and abortion must be condemned,” he said. “To fail to condemn evil is to condone it.” It was refreshing to hear the Masters Seminary graduate speak so candidly about these difficult subjects. He told me that while he doesn’t get directly involved in “specific legislation” he does see a need to stand for truth. Shaun acknowledged that he “sees great value in what [IFI] is doing.”

World magazine quoted (now former) Illinois lawmaker **Paul Froehlich** regarding the Capitol Commission ministry in 2008, “We shouldn’t just fall back on that old comfortable individualism, ‘Well, we’ll just talk to people one on one.’ I’m afraid that’s not the way you really change society. You’ve got to change the law to be able to achieve greater justice.”

Lewis, the author of a weekly printed Bible study that he hand delivers to politicians and their staff each week, spoke warmly of Froehlich. Shaun said that politics is like pulling weeds but missing the roots. He sees his approach as an essential partner in pulling up the whole corrupting nettle, root and all.

“If all we do is attack politics, we’re not at a deep enough level,” he said. Referencing prohibition and **William Wilberforce**, the famous British parliamentarian credited with ending slavery in England, Lewis observed that people and the culture must change in addition to law. He views the work of the Capitol Commission as a partner in bringing about that kind of deep reform.

Featured prominently on the Capitol Commission website are ten two-page Bible studies. These are the same studies that Shaun Lewis hand delivers to politicians and their staff members each week. Each study is based on verses in the Bible.

On April 28th, he offered one entitled “Comfort in Crisis” based on Psalm 77. He begins this study appropriately telling the story of **Horatio Spafford**, the Chicago lawyer who lost all four of his young daughters in a tragic shipwreck after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, in which Spafford lost a fortune. His wife and daughters were on the ship seeking respite from the consequences of the Great Fire. This overwhelming tragedy inspired Spafford to pen a most famous hymn on the ship as he crossed the Atlantic to join his wife.

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

It is comforting to know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is going forth in a thoughtful and compelling way in State Capitols all across America. **Thank you** Shaun Lewis for your Christian commitment to the people who work in the State House in Springfield.

As we ended our phone conversation he said, “The issue is to bring it back to Scripture. There **is** an absolute right and wrong. When you disagree with the Bible, you’re not offending me, you’re offending God.”

Amen. ■

“You’ve got to change the law to be able to achieve greater justice.”

Another Lesbian Goes to Springfield

It is no coincidence that Governor **Patrick Quinn**, House Speaker **Michael Madigan** and Senate President **John Cullerton** put so much of their political capital on the line for the homosexual “civil unions” bill in a year in which multi-millionaire philanthropists and homosexual activists **Tim Gill** and **Jon Stryker** became significantly involved in campaigns to defeat pro-family candidates.

It’s no surprise to learn that Illinois Democrats recently appointed lesbian activist **Kelly Cassidy** to replace liberal State Representative **Harry Osterman**. It is evident that Illinois’ political leaders are buddies with the extremely well-funded gay lobby.



Kelly Cassidy

With the addition of Cassidy, the Illinois House of Representatives now has three openly homosexual members—all from Chicago.

With millions of dollars from Gill, Stryker and other wealthy pro-homosexual funders, amoral lawmakers will pander to the homosexual lobby, and in the process, ignore traditional “faith” communities.

The godless Left continues to assault

Judeo-Christian values and biblical Truth, yet the Body of Christ largely remains silent, apathetic or worse—cowering. This ought not be the case.

We know that when the Christian community is motivated to action, God moves. In the last session (2009-2010), we were able to quash the pro-abortion Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) early

The godless Left continues to assault Judeo-Christian values and Biblical Truth, yet the Body of Christ largely remains silent...

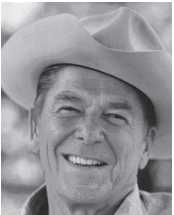
on. This bill would have eliminated all abortion restrictions in Illinois.

We saw earlier this year Christian homeschool families and advocates overwhelm the phone lines, fax machine and email box of State Senator Edward Maloney (D-Chicago), in opposition to a bill to require homeschooled children to register with the state. Over 4,000 flooded the halls of the Capitol during a subject matter hearing on SB 136 in February. The bill was tabled by Senator Maloney.

We need these types of responses for every proposal that impacts the family. When we fail, as we did with “civil



“Public business, my son, must always be done by somebody... if wise men decline it, others will not; if honest men refuse it, others will not.”
~ John Adams




“Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid.”
~ Ronald Reagan



unions,” we lose precious freedoms.

Just ask **Jim Walder**, a Christian businessman and father of five, who operates a Bed and Breakfast in Paxton, Illinois. Days after Gov. Quinn signed the “civil unions” bill, homosexual activists sought to have their “civil union” ceremony at the Walder’s B&B. When the Walder’s refused, the homosexual couple sued. The Attorney General’s Office and the Illinois Department of Human Rights are also investigating.

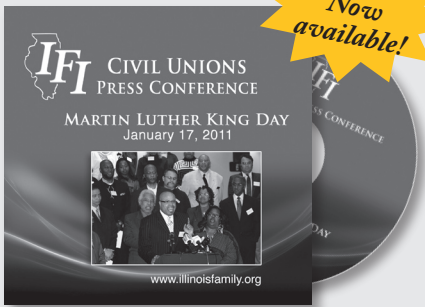
This chilling development is not isolated. When Christians are absent from the public arena, it is devoid of the much needed salt and the light. Therefore, we should expect decay and darkness to reign. We have a choice—to roll up our sleeves and get involved, or abandon our culture to atheists, pagans and liberals. ■



Civil Unions Press Conference

Martin Luther King Day
January 17, 2011

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To Lawmakers: NO Condoms for Children

Former U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Frank McNamara, Jr. had a fantastic column in the *Boston Globe* on condoms and sexual abstinence (4/20/2011). In talking about the Left’s effort to make condoms even more readily available and free to children as young as 11 (the mayor of Philadelphia offers to mail condoms to teens and preteens through a website), McNamara points out the two contradictory messages being transmitted:

The first is amoral: sex in high school is tacitly okay, a recreational sport about which adults are agnostic, so long as it is ‘safe.’ The second is irrational: sex for high school kids is, well, not okay, but we adults trust neither you kids to abstain nor ourselves to lead.

The refrain of “safe sex” is easily translated in young minds “to invitations to have sex, as students interpret adult quiescence as a green light to experiment.” Who is likely to suffer the most? The young girls who are more easily coerced and exploited for sex will suffer. McNamara also rightly points out that statutory rape laws say that sexual intercourse or sodomy with a minor is criminal, and schools that distribute condoms could easily be considered as accessories to these crimes.

A school abdicates its responsibility and squanders an important teaching moment when it transmits a blasé ‘it’s-okay-to-just-use-a-condom’ signal, behaving as if it either doesn’t know or doesn’t care about the many destructive physical and psychological forces that scar kids venturing prematurely into this complex arena.

Here in Illinois, we are working hard to oppose a terrible “comprehensive” sex education bill that will require many schools to teach graphic, inappropriate sex education programs. The bill number is SB 1619.

Planned Parenthood and the ACLU are behind this bill. The ACLU claims that by teaching the traditional abstinence-until-marriage curriculum, schools “deny students crucial information they need to prevent pregnancy and protect them from sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs).”

This is absurd since abstinence will never result in pregnancy and STDs.

Yet these liberal organizations would rather use your tax dollars and public school resources to encourage young people to experiment with risky sexual behavior, such as oral sex and homosexuality.

Many sexual activities, too graphic to describe, are found in the SIECUS (Sexuality Information Education Council



Here in Illinois, we are working hard to oppose a terrible “comprehensive” sex education bill...

of the United States) manual, upon which “comprehensive” sex-ed curricula is based.

The failures of “safe sex” are clear: unwanted pregnancies, abortion, disease, and devastating emotional ramifications. Abstinence until marriage is the only dependable safe-sex message Illinois policy-makers should be promoting in our public schools. Contact your state lawmakers and tell them to **vote No on SB 1619.** ■

(continued from page 1)

from the Executive Director — David E. Smith

indoctrination becoming more and more commonplace in our public educational system.

This issue is very personal for me. I have five young children. Nothing is more precious to me than their souls. And, I can promise you that their souls will never belong to the state, but to God, and He will direct them as He wills.

Like Albert Schertz and his German friends living in houses on stilts in an Illinois swamp, or the Crandalls fighting for their very survival, let’s continue to join our God-given resources together in order that we can survive as a culture and preserve these precious gifts from God: family, faith and freedom. ■



David Smith speaking at IFT’s Spring Dinner with Michael Medved in Peoria.



To sign up, simply go to **www.illinoisfamily.org**, click on the yellow “Subscribe” button in the right hand column, complete the form and then submit it.

Manhattan Declaration *by Joe Edwards*

“...That was the day, the day that I met Paul, that it started moving.” [1957]

Plaque at St. Peters Church Woolton Village, South Liverpool ENGLAND

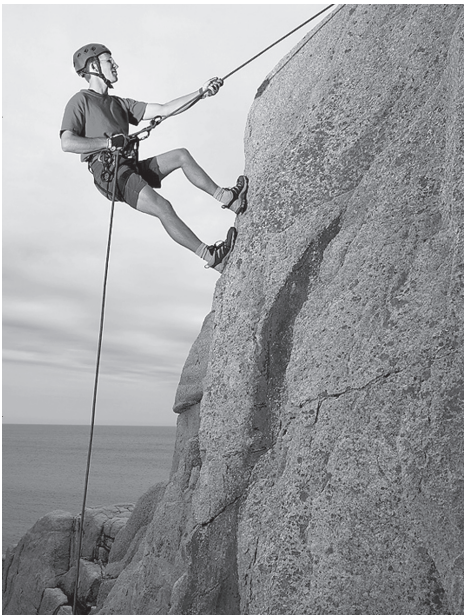
For the music lover, John Lennon’s “it” was nothing more than the birth of a new music style from the Quarrymen, who later became the Beatles. Many readers of this article know first-hand the wonder of that music. Their unique style and passion drove crowds wild and energized the youth with powerful new tools of self-expression – free love, Age of Aquarius and all that jazz.

But for conservative culture watchers, that was the day something else started ‘moving’. The tectonic plates of American values were about to shift by a series of moral and cultural earthquakes that persist to this day. The “free love” of the 1960’s created aftershocks that have reverberated into an epidemic of STD’s, drug abuse, abortion on demand, fierce demands for marriage redefinition and a host of pathologies producing uncontrolled narcissists, ignorant of history and all its attendant perversions. And sadly, many of the original hippies and their progeny are now seated in the halls of academia, politics, courts of law and even clergy. That’s the bad news.

Yet something (or Someone) else was moving in the earth. Protestants and Catholics were communicating in greater measure in prayer and worship gatherings. Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council from 1962-65. While he did not live to see its completion, this seminal convention...

...was different from previous councils... John XXIII... judged that the time was ripe for the Church to give a new expression to its unchanging faith — leaving behind the style that had been shaped by the Council of Trent. ... Sensitive to the ‘rhythms of history’, ... [he was] convinced that the Church must respond to the needs of a changing world...The Catholic world responded with astounding enthusiasm....(1.)

Vatican II paved the way for “The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of



Justification” (JDDJ) signed October 31, 1999. (2) This document remains significant in its scope of bridging historic Catholic/Protestant divides. Cardinal Edward Cassidy of the Vatican and German Lutheran bishop Christian Krause, meeting in Augsburg, Germany, co-signed the document.

The above two mentioned conventions, among other dialogue and gatherings both before and after, have created an environment for what is arguably one of the most important documents penned on American soil in at least 100 years. Originally signed by about 150 prominent Christian clergy, ministry leaders and scholars of various Evangelical, Catholic and Orthodox Christian traditions, The Manhattan Declaration was released at a press conference in Washington, D.C. on November 20, 2009, and warns the government:

Because we honor justice and the common good, we will not comply with any edict that purports to compel our institutions to participate in abortions, embryo-destructive research, assisted suicide and euthanasia, or any other anti-life act; nor will we bend to any rule purporting to force us to bless immoral sexual partnerships, treat them as marriages or the equivalent, or refrain from proclaiming the truth, as we know it, about morality and immorality and marriage and the family. We will fully and ungrudgingly render to Caesar what is Caesar’s. But under no circumstances will we render to Caesar what is God’s. (3).

So what does all this have to do with American cultural declension and our families, communities and nation today? The Scripture says, “I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.” (Ezekiel 22:30) Like Nehemiah of old, we are called to rebuild the walls with God going before us. Rebuilding together is no longer optional. It is vital for the very survival of Western Civilization. And to do this, we must walk in the footsteps of the Master. (John 15:5)

So what can we do? We can ‘stand in the gap’ with intentional prayer together with our Christian friends, regardless of their church affiliation. We can purpose to live selflessly and in obedience to His commandments. (John 17:21)

And we can demonstrate a life of faith, hope and love toward all—both our families, neighbors and yes, our enemies. For their sake and for the glory of Christ our Lord, let us put aside our secondary doctrinal differences and offenses, letting the world see that we are Christians by our love for one another. Unflinching in our stand for truth? Absolutely! But perhaps Thomas Jefferson got it right when he said:

“In matters of style, swim with the current. In matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

Will you join IFI and other organizations by ‘standing in the gap’ for your Nation? Together, let’s rock for America. ■

Joe Edwards lives in McHenry County with his wife of 25 years and has two grown children. Joe is a member of the board of directors for Patriots United (PatriotsUnited.com) and an Ambassador with the Alliance Defense Fund (alliancedefensefund.org).

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Springfield Update

Bills covering a wide range of issues were introduced in the new 97th General Assembly that began in January.

SUPPORT

PRO-LIFE

HB 786, sponsored by State Representative **Brandon Phelps** (D–Harrisburg) creates the Ultrasound Opportunity Act. This bill requires that before a woman can obtain an abortion she be offered the opportunity to view an image of her baby through ultrasound. The decision whether to view it is hers.

Pro-abortion legislators have slowed down its passage by filing various kinds of “notes.” Judicial Notes, Correctional Notes, Land Conveyance Appraisal Notes and Housing Affordability Impact Notes, among other unrelated requests, were filed on HB 786.

Planned Parenthood is working overtime in opposition to HB 786—so much for giving women a fully informed “choice.” Please ask your state representative to **support HB 786**.

HB 3156, sponsored by State Representative **Darlene Senger** (R–Naperville) would amend the Illinois Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center Act. This bill would require any facility that does 50 or more abortions a year to meet the health and safety standards of other ambulatory surgical treatment centers (ASTCs).

Where are the rare, safe, and legal abortions that the “pro-choice” advocates say they want?

HB 3156 failed in the House by 3 votes.

HB 2093, sponsored by State Representative **David Reis** (R–Olney) would amend the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, requiring medical personnel and licensed counselors that provide abortions, abortion referrals or contraceptives to report any reasonable suspicion that a child may have been abused or neglected.

This bill came as a result of Virginia Planned Parenthood personnel who were exposed after repeatedly failing to report the sexual abuse of minor girls.

This bill passed the House and is now in the Senate. Please ask your state senator to **support HB 2093**.



OPPOSE

COMPREHENSIVE SEX-EDUCATION

SB 1619, sponsored by State Senator **Heather Steans** (D–Chicago) requires that if a public elementary, junior high or senior high school class teaches sex education, they must “place substantial emphasis on both abstinence and contraception.” This would take away the local control of school districts that choose to use abstinence-only education programs and reject graphic condom training components of the “comprehensive sex education” curricula that would be required under “contraception” and other passages in SB 1619.

SB 1619 requires that “course material and instruction shall be free from bias in accordance with the Illinois Human Rights Act.” Since “sexual orientation” is in the Human Rights Act, all sex education courses would have to include examples of not only heterosexual relationships but same-sex relationships and behaviors as well.

While stating that “abstinence” must be taught, SB 1619 removes the words “until marriage” from the State’s long-standing public policy and standard. Without the standard, it would become abstinence until...when? Until he says he cares? Until your second date? Removing “until marriage” is also a move to deal with the new “civil unions” law that will go into effect on June 1st, since homosexuals cannot marry.

Please call your state senator to urge him/her to **oppose SB 1619**.

“MEDICAL” MARIJUANA

HB 30, sponsored by State Representative **Lou Lang** (D–Skokie) creates the Compassionate Use of Medical Marijuana Pilot Program Act. This latest version would allow a “qualified” patient to have 2.5 ounces of marijuana every two weeks [enough to make 183 joints or 13 every day]. This is much more than regular marijuana users would use. What will be done with the unused joints?

The bill requires that the Dept of Public Health “give reasonable notice of an inspection or testing” to the dispensaries which will grow and harvest the marijuana. This is similar to calling a crack house the day before to announce that authorities are coming!

In other states that have legalized “medical marijuana” there are tens of thousands of card carrying “patients” approved each year. Even the sponsors of HB 30 admit that those states are a mess and the law is abused. It will be the same in Illinois. HB 30 allows



any card carrying “patient” from those states to come to “visit” Illinois and smoke marijuana without police interference.

HB 30 allows a medical marijuana patient to operate a motor vehicle 6 hours after consuming marijuana while research shows that a single joint with a moderate level of THC can impair a person’s ability to drive for more than 24 hours! HB 30 totally disregards Illinois’ DUI laws.

Please ask your state representative to **oppose HB 30**.

GAMBLING

SB 1297, sponsored by State Senator **Antonio Munoz** (D–Chicago) legalizes remote caller bingo.

SB 1297 eliminates the prize limits for bingo, allowing high-stakes bingo games at multiple locations networked by audio and video technology to transmit remote calling of a live bingo game. There are not enough inspectors in the Department of Revenue to regulate the current law, and remote caller bingo would be unenforceable. The possibility of fraud is a real concern. One company could provide the administrative, managerial, technical, financial, and security personnel for all the charities. Anyone 18 and older can gamble on Bingo. Making gambling more accessible and eliminating the prize limits would attract more people and potentially create even more gambling problems.

Please ask your state senator to **oppose SB 1297**.

HB 3107, sponsored by State Representative **Lou Lang** (D–Skokie) will expand video slot machines to racetracks in Illinois.

Research proves that the presence of gambling within a fifty-mile radius doubles the incidence of pathological gamblers. HB 3107 must be killed. This dramatic gambling expansion would transform six racetracks into land-based casinos by legalizing slot machines and video gambling. Some people think this will help the horse racing industry. It won’t.

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP) points out that slot machines do not attract more people to bet on horses, “Slot machine revenue accounts for 90% or more of the revenue at racetrack casinos. When slot machines are introduced at racetracks, pari-mutuel wagering decreases significantly—20 percent to 40 percent.”

Please ask your state representative to **oppose HB 3107**. ■



Abortion Clinics Don’t Meet ASC’s Health and Safety Standards

Honestly, it made me very uncomfortable. Just a few feet in front of me, in a Capitol hearing room, sat a number of women from Planned Parenthood. Another woman from the ACLU, a lobbyist, was there to testifying before the committee against proposed abortion clinic regulations.

Down the row from me was the legislative director for the ACLU. Their mission: to keep the Illinois General Assembly from enacting sensible licensing and regulations for abortion clinics—regulations that would simply bring them up to the standards of other outpatient surgical centers. They want to stop HB 3156.

They tried to make the case that their “industry” has a fine safety record, and that horrific occurrences like the killings at the Women’s Medical Services clinic in Philadelphia can be prevented with a few minor tweaks to existing regulations. That’s baloney.

In spite of the tragedy at the Gosnell clinic, which attracted international attention, abortion proponents are fighting to keep business as usual. In spite of law enforcement and medical experts that say upgrading abortion clinic regulations is absolutely vital to protect women’s life and health, the abortion industry will continue to pull its political strings and get away with murder—literally. *Unless....*

Unless you, and your fellow pro-life friends, neighbors, church members, everyone takes the time to contact their Illinois State Representatives and Senators and ask them to **support House Bill 3156**, or any future legislation that includes requiring abortion clinics to meet the Ambulatory Surgical Centers’ (ASCs) regulatory standards. ■

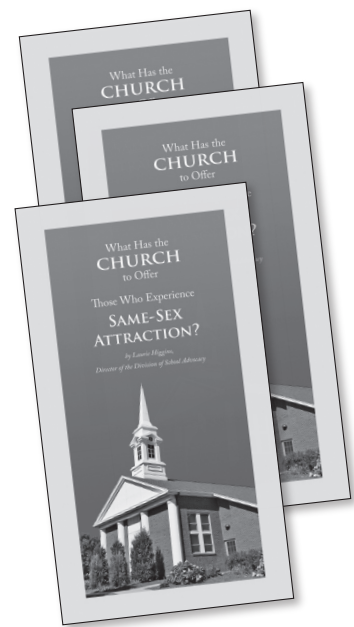
Contact your State Representative by calling the Capitol switchboard at 217-782-2000.



What Has the Church to Offer Those Who Experience Same-Sex Attraction

by Laurie Higgins

I write often about homosexuality because I'm certain that there are no more serious threats to fundamental speech rights and religious liberty than the efforts to use public education, law, mainstream news media, and the arts to normalize homosexuality and gender confusion.



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In addition, real people and real families are being incalculably harmed by the corrosive lies that pervade our culture. Parents' rights to oversee their children's moral education are being undermined and even stripped by the homosexualist agenda. And the temporal and eternal lives of individuals who experience same sex attraction are being destroyed.

IFI's goals center on exposing the specious arguments and rhetoric, the goals, and the consequences of the unchecked movement to normalize homosexuality in the hope that clarity will result in greater cultural participation by conservatives. We hope to generate a sense of urgency and obligation that will lead conservatives to overcome their fears in order to protect both individuals and society.

When we think about the evil done to children by teachers who tell them that homosexuality is deserving of respect and affirmation, we become angry and desperately want others to experience the righteous anger that should well up in decent people who see young children taught that evil is good. We do not embody the love of Christ when we remain silent while body and soul-destroying lies are being affirmed to and in children, teens, and adults.

But we also want us to remember those who experience a disordered sexual attraction to their same sex. Most do not choose their feelings, and they often suffer in shame and silence as most of us do when we experience disordered, sinful impulses. With most or many other sins, our culture affirms the truth that is written on our hearts. Our mothers, fathers, teachers, artists, and religious and political leaders in their diverse cultural roles affirm moral truths. But something very different happens with those who experience sexual sin, particularly homosexual sin.

Our depraved carrion-devouring culture swoops down and offers them the



bleakly deterministic lie that they were born homosexual. They are told that acting on homosexual impulses is a moral good. They are told that refusal to act on such impulses is an act of futility that will result in an utterly unfulfilled, lonely life. And they are told that anyone who dissents from those claims hates them.

And these claims are touted as the "loving" response.

Well, there are other claims—claims that offer hope for a life defined by real love and real peace. It's a peace that passes all understanding and derives from knowing that sacrificing our desires to God's will pleases a good and holy God.

God offered up His perfect Son for our sins. Jesus died a horrific death on the Cross to pay the penalty for the sins of all who trust in Him. Those who experience homosexual attraction are no different from those who experience all manner of sinful impulses. God may not remove every last vestige of sinful impulses, but He will give believers the power to refuse to act on them. A personal relationship with God does not free us from all sinful impulses, but it does free us from *bondage* to sin. Full and absolute freedom from the experience of sinful

impulses will not come until the end of history. The persistence and seeming intractability of same-sex impulses do not mean that the impulses are a gift from God. It means that sin grips the heart of natural man.

Our friends and loved ones should be told that joy and peace come from choosing to live a life that pleases the Creator of the universe. How amazing a notion that is! We humans have the capacity to please the omniscient, omnipotent, eternal Creator of all creation. The failure to apprehend the meaning of that astounding idea reflects a tragic failure of imagination.

And our dear friends and loved ones who may never experience heterosexual attraction deserve to be told that a celibate life lived in submission to God is *not* a lonely, unfulfilled life. They too can have rich, intimate, deeply loving relationships within and without the body of Christ. They can have deep, loving, chaste same-sex friendships that can help restore the brokenness in their pasts. They can serve as surrogate aunts, uncles, grandmas, and grandpas for children who too are experiencing brokenness and loss. They deserve to be told that they are loved—not because of their sin—but, like the rest of us, despite it.

Our fallen, depraved world swims along the surface of a world so deep and wondrous, it's beyond even imagining. And this fallen, depraved world, that has no eyes to see and no ears to hear beyond the subjective, sensory, material life chatter cacophonously, filling the hearts and minds of people with beguiling lies that lead to eternal separation from a good and holy God. If we truly love our friends and family members lost in sexual darkness, we must tell them the truth, no matter what the personal cost, always remembering that our salvation came at the greatest cost of all. ■

U.S. Senate Keeps Money Flowing to Planned Parenthood

The United States Senate has voted to continue allocating federal taxpayer dollars to Planned Parenthood.

The Senate voted down a resolution previously approved by the U.S. House of Representatives which would have terminated funding for the nation's leading abortion provider.

U.S. Senators **Dick Durbin** and **Mark Kirk** voted to continue the flow of federal dollars to Planned Parenthood.

"This vote made clear which senators care more about the interests of the politically influential abortion lobby than the lives and safety of American women and families," said Charmaine Yost, President of Americans United for Life.

Planned Parenthood clinics performed more than 332,000 abortions during 2009. Yost points out that Planned Parenthood has announced plans to expand its abortion operations, mandating that every affiliate must have at least one abortion clinic within the next two years.

According to our friends at the Family

Research Council (FRC), despite being a billion-dollar-a-year corporation, Planned Parenthood receives \$363,200,000 annually—33 percent of its income—from "government grants and contracts," that is, from taxpayer dollars.

The victory for Planned Parenthood comes in the wake of extremely damaging recent information concerning Planned Parenthood's business practices. Undercover videos showed numerous Planned Parenthood clinics willing to collaborate with individuals engaged in human trafficking. Previous repulsive practices uncovered included a willingness to cover up cases of statutory rape, and a willingness to accept donations for the purpose of aborting black preborn children.

The U.S. House had previously voted in February to zero out federal funding of Planned Parenthood by a vote of 241-185. The Illinois Congressmen who sponsored the bill to halt federal appropriations to Planned Parenthood are: Rep. **Randy Hultgren**, Rep. **Adam Kinzinger**, Rep. **Dan Lipinski**, Rep. **Don Manzullo**, Rep. **Peter Roskam**, Rep. **John Shimkus**, and Rep. **Joe Walsh**. ■

Sponsored bill to halt federal appropriations to Planned Parenthood



Rep. Randy Hultgren



Rep. Adam Kinzinger



Rep. Dan Lipinski



Rep. Don Manzullo



Rep. Peter Roskam



Rep. John Shimkus



Rep. Joe Walsh

Illinois Family Institute Prayer Requests

In James 4, God tells us that we don't receive because we don't ask. We aren't able to fully grasp how it is our prayers move the mighty hand of God, but they do.

We are called to pray without ceasing and on all occasions. We are also told to intercede for our elected officials whom God has placed in their positions of authority.

There's nothing we can give back to God. He has it all. But there's one thing that He loves—our obedience. Please join us in obediently praying for those in authority over us and the issues before them, so that we and our families can live in peace.

1 Timothy 2:2.



Please Pray...

...for Elected Officials

- That through the ministry of Capitol Commission, many would personally come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- That they would seek God's wisdom for the many decisions they will make.
- That they would not allow power and money to turn them in the wrong direction.

...for the unborn

- That HB 786, the bill to require women seeking abortion be offered a view of their baby through ultrasound, would move forward and pass both Houses.
- That HB 3156, the bill that requires abortion clinics meet the same standards as other outpatient clinics, would move forward and pass both Houses.
- That HB 2093, a bill that requires abortion providers to report suspicion of child abuse or neglect, would move forward and pass both Houses.
- That God would soften more hearts, especially those who make the laws, toward the pro-life position.

***"For everyone who asks receives;
the one who seeks finds;
and to the one who knocks,
the door will be opened".***

~ Luke 11:10

...for other legislation

- That HB 30, a bill to legalize marijuana for "medical" purposes, would fail.
- That SB 1619, a bill to require all elementary, junior high and high schools that teach sex-ed to provide students with information as outlined by SIECUS guidelines, such as condom use and homosexuality, would fail.
- That further expansion of gambling, such as HB 3107 and SB 1297, would fail.

...for our military

- That God would protect them and their families, bring them home safely, and that the Holy Spirit would work through them, especially in Muslim countries, bringing many to faith in Christ.

...for Illinois families

- That parents would stand strong against the indoctrination and negative influences bombarding their children, and protect those God has entrusted to their care.

...for Illinois Family Institute

- That God would continue to provide much needed resources so that we can continue to stand for family, faith and freedom.

Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the Alliance Defense Fund, the American Family Association, the Family Research Council, the Liberty Counsel and Thomas More Society.

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