



ILLINOIS Family Institute

Boldly Bringing a Biblical Perspective to Public Policy in the Land of Lincoln.

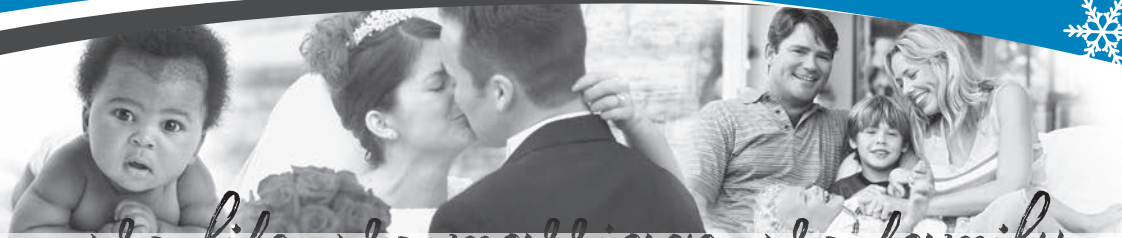
Merry Christmas!

For to us a Child is born... Isaiah 9:6



Newsletter | Winter 2019

www.illinoisfamily.org



pro life. pro marriage. pro family.

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

Irish folk singer **Tommy Makem** recorded a humorous song in the sixties titled, "The Liar." The second stanza humorously claims:

I saw Eve go pickin' apples off a tree
She came over and she offered one to me
I turned and said, "Dear madam, go try your luck with Adam
I'm going home to have some fish and chips and tea."

The chorus follows, declaring:

Singing rightful too-ra-laddie too-ra-lee
There is no one who can tell a lie like me
You can search until you tire, you won't find a bigger liar
I've been lying since the dawn of history.

The song is about Satan. We also know him as the Accuser, our Adversary, an Angel of Light, Beelzebub, the Enemy, the Evil One, the Lawless One, Ruler of the Darkness, Serpent of Old, the Tempter, Thief, and Wicked One.

In John 8:44, Jesus identifies Satan as the "father of lies." He is a liar, cheat, con artist, phony, perjurer, fabricator, and false witness. Deceiver is another descriptive word that defines well the work of the devil.

The Greek word *apate*, refers to **deceit** and **deceitfulness**.

The word *apate* can be found in Hebrews 3:13:

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Starting in the Garden of Eden and continuing throughout Scripture and up until today, Satan shows himself to be a skillful deceiver as he works to plant doubt in the minds of God's people. He truly is, as Jesus stated in the Book of John, "a liar and the father of lies."

Conversely, Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6) The contrast couldn't be clearer — Jesus is the Truth and Satan is the liar.

A few of Satan's deceits are: same-sex "mirage;" gender confusion, transgenderism and bodily mutilation; abortion on demand at any stage for any reason; normalization of perversions and deviant behavior;

Illinois Family Institute

Year End **2019** SPIRITUAL Encouragement



expanded legalization of recreational drugs and gambling (prostitution next?); the elimination of God in government schools, the halls of government, and the public square; and the evils of capitalism and self-governance.

While it is unlikely that any true Christian would fall for the deceits listed above, Satan knows that we are susceptible to believing other lies, ones he has tailored specifically to ensnare us. And as we buy into the lies Satan sells us, we often begin to rationalize our sinful thoughts and actions.

The prophet Jeremiah declares that, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." We are too easily misled and our hearts are weak and willing to cooperate with the father of lies. It is for this very reason that Proverbs 3:5-6 admonishes us to NOT lean on our own understanding, but to trust in the Lord:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.

So, what are the lies that we entertain and accept?

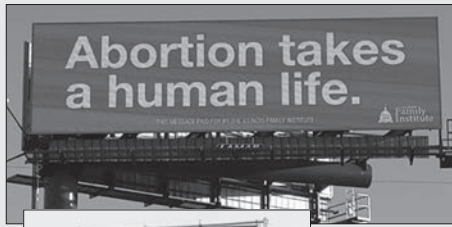
Follow your heart. If our heart is deceitful, should we follow it?

We're all God's children. Ephesians 2:3 tells us that before knowing Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are by nature children of wrath. John 1:12 teaches that "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

continued on page 5...

Pro-Life Billboards

by Chris Iverson



This year, 8 billboards on 5 highways in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs reached 3.8 million with the message "Abortion Takes A Human Life."

This message continues to put abortion apologists on their heels and redirects the public mind to the injustice of abortion.

These striking billboards reinforce the efforts of committed Illinois pro-life activists who also led 35 pro-life bridge events this year, reaching 1.1 million views around Cook County. This massive messaging strategy that started in Illinois in 2016 is overflowing to the rest of the nation. Pro-life bridge events were led in 20 other states during the Pro-life Action League's second annual National Pro-life Bridge Day earlier this year. ✧



March for Life Chicago 2020

March for life in the heart of Chicago with thousands of your pro-life brothers and sisters!

Saturday, January 11, 2020

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Daley Plaza | 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago

MarchForLife-Chicago.org

"Life Empowers: pro-life is pro-woman."

Will SCOTUS Redefine "Sex"?

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering the case of *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)*. This case is crucial not only for the owners of Harris Funeral Homes but also for all Americans concerned about the potential redefinition of the meaning of "sex."

A lower court has "effectively redefined the word 'sex' in federal law to mean 'gender identity,' punishing Harris Funeral Homes for relying on existing laws," according to Alliance Defending Freedom, which is representing Harris Funeral Homes. While being punished for following the existing law is truly unjust, such injustice would only be magnified for women, parents, doctors, and many more Americans if the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) chooses to uphold the lower court's decision to redefine "sex" in federal law.

This case originated when a male funeral director—who identifies as female—informed Harris Funeral Homes that he would no longer

abide by the company's dress code and would begin dressing as a woman. When owner Tom Rost did not agree to that, the employee complained to the EEOC, which filed

a lawsuit against Harris Funeral Homes for sex-based discrimination. If five or more justices agree to change the definition of "sex" in federal law to mean "gender identity," the ripple effects will be devastating, especially for women and girls. Redefining "discrimination based on sex" to mean "discrimination based on gender identity" will, among other things, undermine equal opportunities for women—especially in sports—jeopardize the safety of girls and women, and violate freedom of speech. ✧



Also in this Issue...

- Transformation of America's Federal Courts p. 3
- When Christians **Show Up** p. 4
- from the Executive Director p. 5
- Guttmacher Report About Chemical Abortion p. 6
- A Secular Worldview p. 7
- Federal Funding to Faith-Based Agencies **Restored** p. 8
- IFI's **New** Legal Partners Seek Cases to Defend p. 8
- A Success Story in **Opting Out** of Marijuana Sales p. 9
- LGBT History Mandate p. 10
- Did You Know? p. 11
- IFI Prayer Requests p. 12



Moved?
Gotten married and changed your last name?
Turning 18 on or before November 3, 2020?

Registering to vote
will allow you to vote in the
March 17, 2020 Primary!

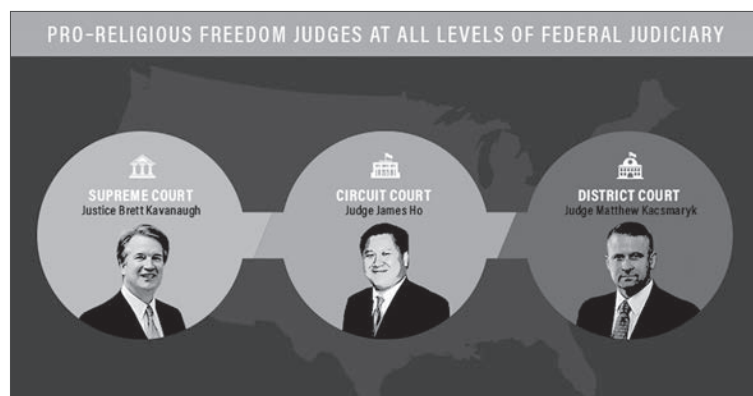
7 Pictures Showing the Transformation of America's Federal Courts

FIRST LIBERTY *Attributed to First Liberty, by Jorge Gomez*

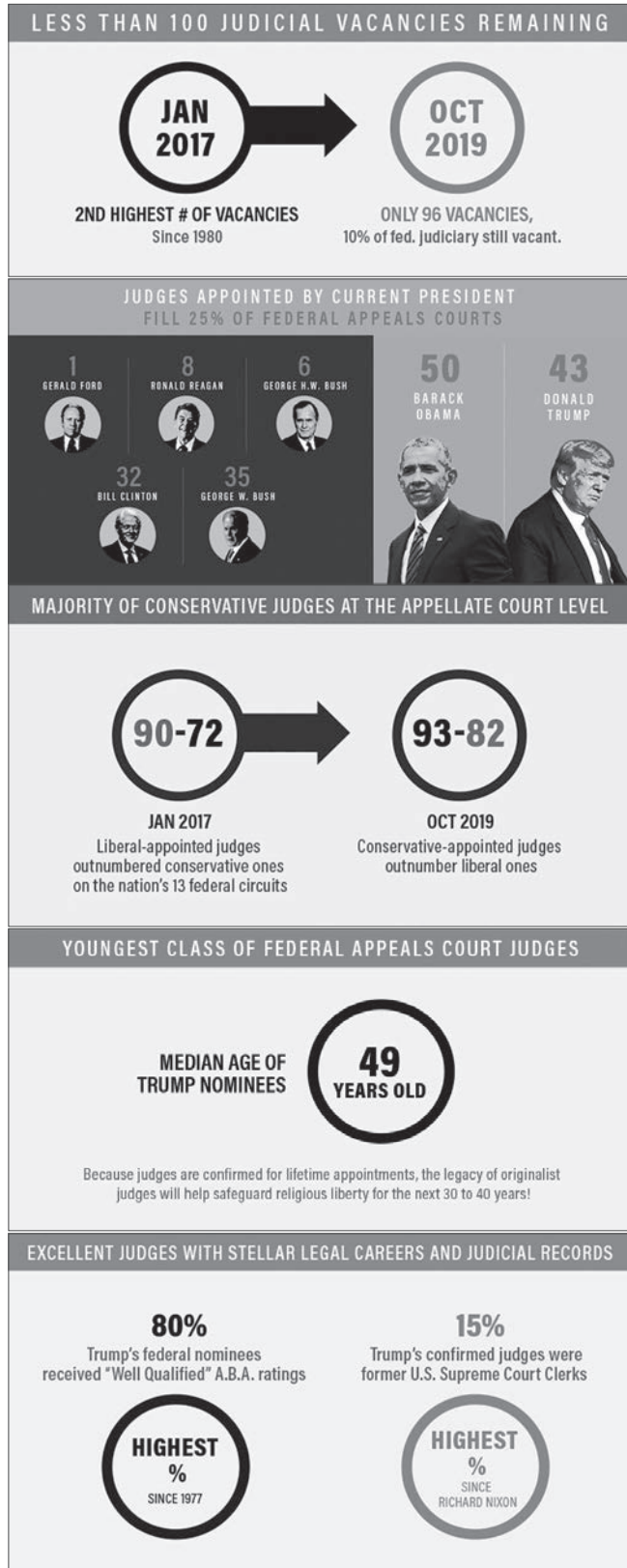
America's courts are critical to the preservation of religious liberty—and one of the greatest legacies for our first freedom has been the appointment of conservative, originalist judges to fill judicial vacancies nationwide.

Thanks to a presidential administration who's made judicial nominations a top priority and the incredible efforts of the U.S. Senate to confirm nominees at a record pace, today we have hundreds of excellent judges seated across the federal bench. The best part is that these are judges committed to applying the Constitution as originally intended, including the vision our Founders had for everyone in our country to freely live out their faith.

Below are several graphics showing how the president's judicial nominees have led to a historic transformation of America's federal judiciary:



- Supreme Court:** Justice **Brett Kavanaugh** donated his time to work on a religious liberty case with Kelly Shackelford and Jay Sekulow (American Center for Law & Justice).
- Circuit Court:** Judge **James C. Ho** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit was one the most active network attorneys defending religious liberty with First Liberty Institute.
- District Court:** Judge **Matthew Kacsmaryk**, a former FLI Deputy General Counsel, is the first confirmed judge who's gone directly from a religious liberty law firm to the federal judiciary.



Even with unprecedented progress taking place in judicial confirmations, there's still much work to be done to fill the remaining federal vacancies with strong judges.

The stakes for our constitutional rights are at an all-time high, and it's imperative that our federal judiciary be staffed with judges whose credentials, prior decisions, and judicial philosophy reflect a deep respect for our fundamental freedoms. ✨

40 DAYS FOR LIFE. When Christians Show Up by Kathy Valente

Scripture says that “where sin increased, grace increased all the more...” (Romans 5:20)

40 Days for Life is a prayer campaign that takes place in the fall and spring each year where Christians sign up to physically pray at abortion clinics. Next year’s dates in the spring are Feb. 26th — April 5th and in the fall from Sept. 23rd — Nov. 1st.

God poured out His grace in and through Christians who prayed at the Flossmoor Planned Parenthood during 40 Days for Life:

“A car exiting the [abortion] clinic stopped and a beaming young African-American woman told us that she had changed her mind and was going to have her baby, due in the fall! Then she introduced us to the shy but grinning young man as ‘the daddy.’ I cried halfway home in gratitude for what God allowed me to witness.”

“One young girl gratefully took the Aid For Women pregnancy care center card, and instead of going into the abortion clinic, went to Aid For Women! Another unexpectedly left the clinic telling those praying that she was having triplets and there was no way she would abort them!”

“I meet a woman who was born in 1941 [who was praying at the Flossmoor abortion clinic]. She was a twin. Her mother was 52 at the time and was encouraged to abort because she was considered high risk. She fortunately

did not! This woman was so filled with optimism praying for these precious mothers and their babies.”

“An older couple came out to pray. He was in a wheelchair and his wife was pushing him. They went up and down the sidewalk praying while she pushed her husband. Pat asked if he could help her push for a while. She said, ‘Oh that is fine, he is doing most of the work, because I am blind.’”

“I had a drive away but no conversation. She caught my eye from the driver side. Young girl with long blond hair. Older woman driving. I was holding a 40 Days sign. Another vigil attendee and I prayed over them. They sat in the car for a while and then drove out of the lot. No words were spoken. This was on a surgery day.”

“We were exhilarated when several cars drove in, circled the lot, and drove back out.”

Pastor Ceasar LeFlore prays at the Flossmoor abortion clinic regularly. He told of a woman who came there holding a sign that said: **I want to pray for you. Ask me how I can help you.** Here is her story.

“When I was 15 years old, I found myself in an inconvenient, unplanned pregnancy and I was desperate for a solution. Because I couldn’t have this baby. So I scraped up all the money I could and made the appointment to have an abortion. I was 3 months pregnant. I kept my appointment, and as I was walking



“... Another [young girl] unexpectedly left the clinic telling those praying that she was having triplets and there was no way she would abort them!”

to the door of the clinic, I walked past a person who was praying on the sidewalk. It moved something in my heart and I started praying as I went into the abortion clinic. Once I got inside, I said to myself, ‘I don’t want to do this. I changed my mind.’

“But I had given them the money and they made it clear there were no refunds. I was afraid to tell them that I wasn’t going to go through with it. I prayed, ‘God, get me out of here. I don’t want to do this.’”

“When the attendant came back into the room, she said, ‘We have a problem. You’re not pregnant. We have to give you your money back and let you go.’”

“So I was refunded my money, walked out the door and 6 months later, I had a baby girl.

Only God knows who has been touched by His grace through His praying saints...who simply **SHOW UP.** ✨



Regarding Vaping Deaths:

An October report from the Centers for Disease Control found that of the 1,604 vaping-related lung illnesses and 36 deaths reviewed, **two-thirds of the victims (63%) were using THC, CBD, or marijuana in their vaporizers.** Of deaths analyzed in the report, the median age was 45, and 59% were male. The youngest death was 17, and the oldest 75. ✨

WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE

Biblical Training for Today’s Culture

featuring

Dr. Michael **Brown** & Dr. Robert **Gagnon**

Saturday, **March 7, 2020**

Village Church of Barrington

THINKING BIBLICALLY
about our **Corrosive Culture**

from the **Executive Director** — **David E. Smith** *(continued from page 1)*

God could never use someone like me. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, “but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong. ~ 1 Cor 1:27

I have no value. God has a purpose and a plan for each of His children. Writing to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul declares, “For we all are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” ~ Eph 2:10

You should worry about your health, your situation, your status, the economy, and the tumultuous world of politics.

God’s Word has much to say about the futility of worry:

So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows. ~ Matthew 10:31

Do not fret; it leads only to evil-doing. ~ Psalm 37:8b
And which of you by worrying can add a *single* hour to his life’s span? If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? ~ Luke 12:25-26

You are all alone. The Lord assures us He will never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus disproves Satan’s lie with His promise:

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. ~ John 14:16-18

I know the Bible and understand what it means to be a Christian, I don’t need to read the Bible regularly.

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. ~ Psalm 1:1-3

To counter this lie, we read that blessing comes from meditating on God’s Word **day and night**. If we delight in His word, we will be nourished, tended, and fruitful.

It is vital, therefore, to turn to God’s Word to find answers to counter these lies and distortions. John 17:17 tells us that His Word is Truth — we need to seek Truth by drawing close to God and meditating on Scripture. Unfortunately, more and more Christians are turning to the world for answers. Yet, when we search for the wisdom contained in God’s Word and rely on the assistance of the Holy Spirit, we are better equipped to recognize and refute the snares and lies of Satan.

We should not trust our own thinking. (Isaiah 55:8-9) We must work out our own salvation. (Phil 2:12) We must submit to God (James 4:7) and walk in His ways. When we put on the armor of God, the shield of faith will allow us to extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one (Eph 6:10-19).

Ultimately, we must test our feelings and beliefs continually and rigorously against the only standard that counts — the Bible, and not allow ourselves to be deceived by our hearts, emotions, or experiences. As Scripture advises:

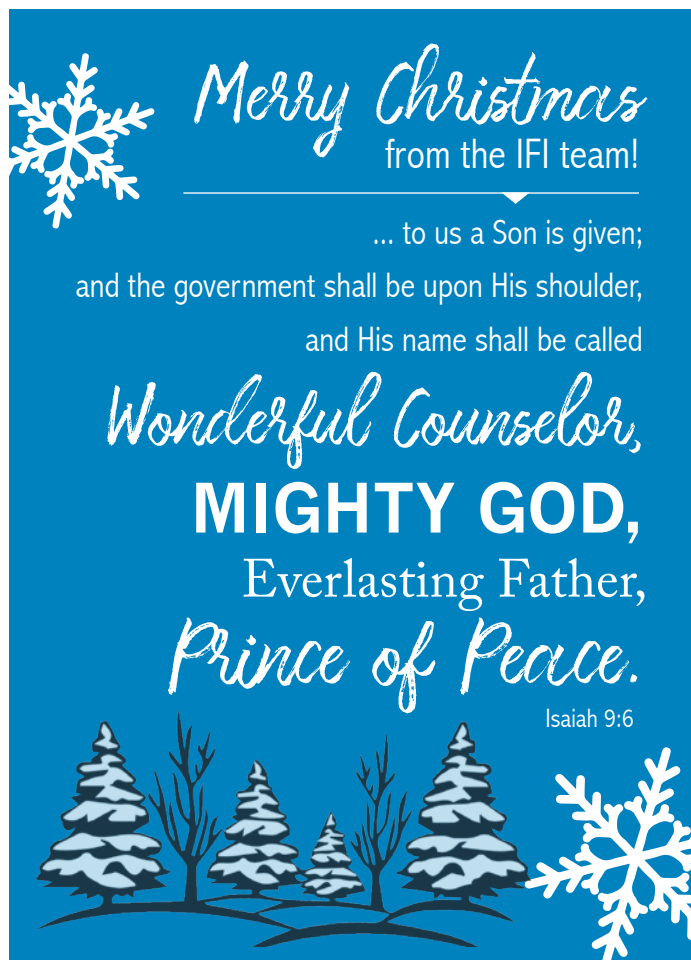
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ~ 1 John 4:1

But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:22

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we must seek out the truth! When we know the truth — embodied in Jesus and declared in God’s Word — it will inform our worldview and strengthen and enable us to identify Satan’s lies and avoid his snares.

As we stand strong against the deceits of the father of lies, we would do well to remember Paul’s exhortation to Timothy:

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. ~ 2 Timothy 3:14-17 ✨



What the New Guttmacher Report Tells Us About Chemical Abortion



Attributed to Family Research Council, by Patrina Mosely

Abstion research hub, the Guttmacher Institute, has released its latest report on the trends and incidence of abortion in the United States.

This abortion surveillance report covers abortion occurrences from 2014–2017 and documents what we’ve seen consistently: abortion rates are in decline, but the percentage of chemical abortions continues to rise.

The trend continues, with the abortion rate dropping to its lowest point since 1973 at 13.5 abortions per 1,000 women for 2017, dropping eight percent since 2014. In 2014, the abortion rate was 14.6.

The estimated total number of abortions for the year 2017 was 862,320, and 339,640 of those were chemical abortions, which means they accounted for approximately 39 percent of all abortions. That’s a 25 percent increase in the use of chemical abortions (the report refers to them as “medication abortions”) from 2014!

Unsurprisingly, abortion advocates and Guttmacher have attributed the steady decline of abortions to contraceptive use, abortion facility closures, and pro-life protections – never to women choosing better options and rejecting the disempowerment of abortion. But this report added a second layer to their reasoning: “[I]ncreases in the number of individuals relying on self-managed abortions outside of a clinical setting.”

What does that mean? It means that Guttmacher is attempting to account for women who are performing their own chemical abortions at home. This type of abortion cannot, for obvious reasons, be accounted for through traditional methods of abortion reporting.

The report admits that the majority of “medication abortions” were seen in clinics for the year 2017. But the percentage of abortion clinics reporting that they “had seen one or more patients for a missed or failed abortion due to self-induction”

increased from 12 percent in 2014 to 18 percent in 2017.

The questionnaire used to collect this data changed from the year 2014 to 2017. The 2014 survey question asked whether “any patients had been treated for missed or failed abortions due to self-induction and if so, how many?” For 2017, the questionnaire removed the yes/no screener and only asked for the total number of patients treated for missed or failed self-managed abortions. Only 55 percent of abortion facilities (808) responded, but the report states that 106 facilities (seven percent) answered, “I don’t know.” The survey concluded that an “I don’t know” response meant the facility was unsure what they were treating – self-induced abortions or miscarriages – so the data

... the percentage of abortion clinics reporting that they “had seen one or more patients for a missed or failed abortion due to self-induction” increased from 12 percent in 2014 to 18 percent in 2017.

here is sure to be incomplete.

It is also not unheard of that illegal abortion pill peddlers have encouraged women to lie and say they’ve had a miscarriage when going to an emergency room or clinic for follow up on complications.

According to one study, women who undergo chemical abortions experience roughly four times the rate of complications compared to women who underwent surgical abortions.

So, if 18 percent of these women were seeking follow-up care at an abortion clinic, then the question is: where were these women getting abortion pills in the first place?

It is reported that some Texas women have walked over the border to Mexico to purchase one portion of the abortion pill regimen, misoprostol, which is available

%



without a prescription there.

What is even more shocking from this report is the implied support for the sale of illegal abortion pills from outliers like Aid Access:

“More recently, drugs similar to those used in the U.S. medication abortion regimen—a highly effective combination of mifepristone and misoprostol—have become available on the internet, as have websites providing accurate information about how to safely and effectively self-manage abortion using drugs obtained outside of a clinical setting. In particular, Aid Access, an international organization that provides medication abortion pills via mail order to people living in the United States, launched their website in March 2018 (after the study period) and reported filling 2,500 prescriptions in that year. The majority of patients obtaining abortions are poor or low-income, many lack health insurance that will cover the procedure, and many live in states with numerous abortion restrictions.

These factors, along with the increased accessibility of resources to help individuals safely self-manage their abortions outside of a clinical setting, likely account for some of the decline in abortions that we have documented.”

This is the same Aid Access that the FDA instructed to cease dispensing abortion pills and comply with their drug safety procedures through the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS), which essentially prohibits the distribution of the abortion pill regimen by mail or online.

Aid Access has pursued a lawsuit against the FDA. Aid Access is no doubt just another pawn of the abortion industry in their efforts to get the REMS lifted

Read more on this issue... ▶▶▶

and have abortion pills accessible over-the-counter.

The abortion pill carries severe risks such as hemorrhage, infection, retained fetal parts, the need for emergency surgery, and even death. An incomplete abortion can occur up to 10 percent of the time; a chemical abortion is nothing to play with and should not be “self-managed.”

A total of 4,195 adverse effects from chemical abortions were reported from 2000 to 2018, including 24 deaths, 97 ectopic pregnancies, 1,042 hospitalizations, 599 blood transfusions, and 412 infections (including 69 severe infections). These are just the adverse events reported to the FDA, so the data is certain to be incomplete.

In spite of these devastating realities, the abortion industry proudly admits that their ultimate goal for the future of abortion in the United States is “self-management.”

Abortion advocates claimed that legalized abortion would eliminate “do it yourself” abortions! Now they want to return to the days of “back-alleys,” this time with “chemical coat-hangers.” This business model places the heavy burden and liability of abortion on the women and not on the abortion industry themselves.

At first, Guttmacher seems to suggest that the apparent decrease in abortion rates is not a true decrease at all, but rather an increase in unreported, self-induced abortions. But after dedicating an entire section of the report to analyzing what it calls “medication” and “self-managed” abortions, Guttmacher concludes the report by backtracking its earlier assessment, saying it is “unlikely” that unreported abortions could account for most of the decline.

No matter what the abortion industry’s propaganda might say, the real reason abortion rates are in decline is that women are choosing life, and pregnancy resource centers providing life-affirming care—often at no cost to the women—are prevailing. ✧

Patrina Mosley serves as the Director of Life, Culture and Women’s Advocacy at the Family Research Council.

A Secular Worldview by David E. Smith

It is encouraging to learn that abortion rates continue to drop in the United States. The prayers, dedication, and hard work of pro-life advocates across the nation are (slowly) winning hearts and minds. Yet, we know we have much more work to do to promote a comprehensive pro-life worldview in our culture.



For example, earlier this year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the number of babies born in the U.S. in 2018 fell to an all-time low. According to the report, last year, about 3.8 million babies were born in the U.S., which is 2 percent lower than the number born in 2016, and the lowest recorded number of births in 30 years.

I am convinced that part of the downward abortion trend is connected to the falling pregnancy rate. It is hard not to see that the overall attitude toward procreation is at least part of the reason for the declining abortion rate. Evidently, more women are not choosing life.

In May 2019, Vox reported on the troubling fertility rate in the U.S.:

The fertility rate is an important measure of a country’s well-being. When it’s too low, countries worry that in the long term they may not have enough healthy, young workers to keep productivity up and the economy humming....

The “replacement” fertility rate of 2.1, enough to renew the population, is typically viewed as the optimal level for stability. But in 2017, the total fertility rate, or number of births each woman is expected to have in her childbearing years, dropped to 1.76 in the US. By 2018, it declined again — to 1.72, another record low. “The rate has generally been below replacement since 1971 and consistently below replacement for the last decade,” the new CDC report, which is based on more than 99 percent of US birth records, reads.

The cultural trend of couples to have fewer (or no) babies is alarming as it highlights how secularism has taken hold of our culture. This underscores why it is so important to teach a biblical view of the sanctity of life, God’s blessing of children (Ps. 127:3), and what it means to “be fruitful and multiply.” ✧



**FAIR
MAPS**

Could Be a Solution FOR ILLINOIS

To download a petition, go to
fairmapsillinois.com

FAIR MAPS is a grassroots ballot initiative to let voters put a referendum on the November 2020 ballot to amend the state constitution. If passed, the referendum would give the power to redraw the district maps to an independent, unelected, bipartisan commission. **To get Fair Maps on the ballot, 360,000 voter signatures of 360,000 are needed.**

According to a poll conducted in the spring by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, 67 percent of Illinoisans supported such a constitutional amendment that would allow an independent commission to draw legislative maps, instead of the state’s lawmakers who control the majority in the General Assembly.

The Illinois Constitution mandates legislative redistricting be done every 10 years. New district maps will be drawn up in 2021, after the 2020 election. Unless Fair Maps is placed on the ballot and passed by voters, the district maps will be redrawn once again to favor the party in control — the Democrats. ✧

Federal Funding to Faith-Based Adoption and Foster-Care Agencies Restored!

On November 1st, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) enacted a new administrative rule that will restore federal dollars to faith-based organizations that provide foster-care and adoption services.

This measure proposed by the Trump Administration rolls back rules instituted by the Obama Administration that prohibited faith-based adoption and foster-care agencies from receiving federal funding if those agencies would only place children in homes with a married father and mother.

The new proposed rule, which went into effect as a temporary rule, provides that “the federal government not infringe on religious freedom in its operation of HHS grant programs.” In its press release about this rule, HHS announced “The proposed rule would better align [HHS’s] grants regulations with federal statutes, eliminating regulatory burden, including burden on the free exercise of religion.”

The result of this rule is that all agencies, regardless of their religious beliefs, will be allowed to place children with families according to the dictates of their faith and conscience. “No adoption agency or foster care service should be penalized simply because they believe children deserve both a mom and a dad,” said Ryan T. Anderson of The Heritage Foundation. And these agencies will all continue to receive federal funding, as long as they “comply with applicable nondiscrimination provisions passed by Congress and signed into law.” Sexual orientation and gender identity are not currently protected classes under

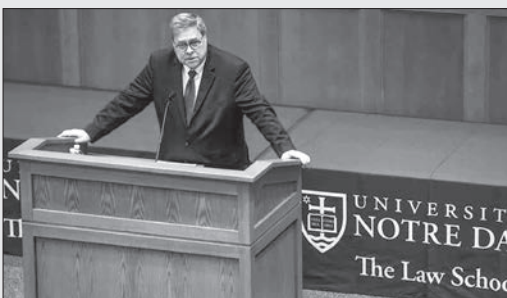


nondiscrimination laws enacted by Congress.

According to an article from the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the proposed rule is “currently in the public comment period,” and “objections raised during the public comment period must be addressed before the final regulation is adopted.”

Take ACTION: Urge your U.S. Representative to uphold HHS’s proposed rules to not discriminate against faith-based adoption and foster-care agencies. Call him/her via the Capitol switchboard during normal business hours at (202) 224-3121. ✨

IFI’s New Legal Partners Seek Cases to Defend



In his recent outstanding speech on religious liberty at Notre Dame Law School, U.S. Attorney General **William Barr** emphasized the importance of religious liberty, “which provides for limited government, while leaving ‘the People’ broadly

at liberty to pursue our lives both as individuals and through free associations.” “The question,” Barr said, “was whether the citizens in such a free society could maintain the moral discipline and virtue necessary for the survival of free institutions.” Barr rightly pointed out that “men are subject to powerful passions and appetites, and, if unrestrained, are capable of ruthlessly riding roughshod over their neighbors and the community at large.”

It is easy to see how regressive policies have put Illinois on the pathway to tyranny, like laws passed in 2015 mandating pro-abortion speech (SB 1564) and banning professional counseling of minor children who suffer from unwanted same-sex attraction or gender-identity disorder (HB 217). Add to that the bone-chilling proclamation of Governor **Pritzker** who pridefully stated earlier this year that his goal is to make Illinois the most “progressive” state in the nation on abortion (SB25).

In addition to IFI’s educational and legislative role, we are pleased to announce that IFI will be launching a new legal advocacy role. The increasingly persecuted minority of theologically orthodox Christians in Illinois need someone to listen to their complaints and then refer them to lawyers who will sue on their behalf.

As you well know, for decades the ACLU has sued government bodies in a largely successful effort to root out any principles consonant with a Christian worldview. It is time to fight fire with fire rather than being burned to a crisp.

A group of gifted attorneys are volunteering their time and skills to fight growing tyrannical trends of Illinois government. In this new law center, we will defend human life at all stages, defend the rights of the people to freely exercise their religion, and defend other First Amendment freedoms that depend on that first freedom.

We very much need your help in this area. We need you to be our eyes and ears in your community. If you do not let us know of local or government action, including schools, that hurts your or your neighbors’ right to life, liberty, or conscience, those rights will continue to evaporate. IFI now seeks to protect and advance self-evident truth through advocacy in courts of law as we continue our efforts to uphold truth in courts of public opinion through legislative advocacy, education, and activism.

Please keep this important project in your prayers, and stay tuned for future updates! ✨

A Success Story of Opting Out of Marijuana Sales

by Pastor Calvin Lindstrom

On Monday, November 4, 2019, Arlington Heights became the latest city to opt out of marijuana retail sales, which the law allows prior to its effective date of January 1, 2020. I had the privilege of attending the two city council meetings that led to this final decision.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." ~ Matt. 5:13-14

Have you wondered how it is that we fulfill these pictures? Since the world is filled with rot and darkness, we know that acting as salt and light cannot simply mean that we are swell, fine people. Hopefully we do bring a gracious witness, but there is no way that we can be salt and light and also try to fit in.

A majority of citizens seemingly favor marijuana legalization. But as Christians, we should not go along with the flow. Though we can't force legislators to do what we think is good and right, we must get out of our comfort zones and bring a witness. And not be surprised that we will be opposed.

At the first meeting on October 28, 2019, there was a great response from residents from Arlington Heights and surrounding cities that encouraged the city to opt out of recreational pot sales. Among the citizens who addressed the city council, the count was decidedly in favor of no-pot. The 6-3 vote, which I initially thought was a final vote, decided to ban the sales of recreational cannabis.

After this meeting, the pro-pot people were peeved. Rumors started to circulate that a certain organization (IFI) had exercised too much influence over this issue, and that the meeting was attended by too many people outside the Village of Arlington Heights. They would prefer that those annoying Christians stay out of other people's business.

Of the 36 people who voiced their opinion, at least 30 were residents and some of the others, including myself, had

strong connections to the city. No Saul Alinsky tactics were used. Concerned, prayerful citizens showed up. And God did too! Imagine that!

The pro-pot people must have spread the word to their friends that they needed to show up at the next meeting on November 4. Of the first 13 speakers, I was the only one to speak against marijuana sales. Interestingly, I spoke after Rev. Nicole Grasse, who vigorously argued for marijuana sales claiming that the moral issue was decided by the voters.

But as the evening continued, the numbers started to turn. Of the next 22 speakers, 18 were opposed to marijuana sales.

I think there were two key factors that this success can be attributed to. Council members claimed that they had carefully studied the issue. Perhaps the information supplied by IFI to both citizens and council members had an impact. But I also believe that citizens showing up and speaking from their hearts on this issue was what turned the tide. I do find it significant that in these two meetings the majority of those who spoke did speak for truth.

I want to give a special shout-out to my Chinese brothers and sisters who did a fantastic job in showing up and making a strong presence. The presence of these and other concerned citizens made the difference.

Arlington Heights is one of the biggest suburbs with a population of over 75,000. It shows that a small number can make a difference. As with Arlington Heights, faithful, conservative, Bible-believing, loving Christians are not the majority of citizens in Illinois. But look how a few people showing up can make all the difference!

Christians have lost most of the legislative battles over the last several years. Mike Madigan and associates still control this state. In many ways, things are very grim here. However, I don't see Jesus in Matthew 5 speaking of being the powerful



majority. And I firmly believe God does not want us to surrender.

Just the opposite. Being salt and light doesn't mean being part of a powerful majority, but it does mean you have to seek to bring an active witness for God's truth in this state. Are you fulfilling this picture? Are you willing to be obedient to God's calling? Are you willing to show up? Could you be serving somewhere that you are not?

Prayerfully think of these things. Then get out the saltshaker and turn on your flashlight. ✧

Calvin Lindstrom is the pastor of Church of Christian Liberty and also serves on the Board of Illinois Family Action.

More towns and counties that have OPTED OUT!

Arlington Heights
Barrington Hills
Bolingbrook
Decatur
Downers Grove
Du Page County
Elmhurst
Forsyth
Franklin County
Grayslake
Grundy County
Highland Park
LaGrange Park
Lake Barrington
Lake Forest
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Lisle
Logan County
Lockport
Marion



Mokena
Monee
Morton
Murphysboro
Naperville
New Lenox
Oak Brook
O'Fallon
Orland Park
Palos Heights
Park Ridge
Plainfield
Wheaton
Wilmette
Winnetka

LGBT History Mandate

by Laurie Higgins

One suburban school district's celebration of "LGBTQ+ Equity Week" offers a glimpse into the kind of pernicious indoctrination that the cunningly named "Inclusive Curriculum" bill signed into law by Gov. **J. B. Pritzker** will bring to students.



The mess of poisonous pottage was a project of the Gender and Sexuality Educator Alliance (GSEA), "a group of educators in Evanston/Skokie School District 65 who seek to advocate for inclusive schools for parents, students, and staff." The GSEA goals include,

Creating inclusive and safe school spaces for all identities, especially LGBTQIA+ identities; Creating a community and safe space for all gender expressions and sexual orientations represented in our district staff; Growing a community of LGBTQIA+ allies within District 65 staff; Working to provide educators, staff, and families in District 65 with the necessary training to support inclusive school cultures; Creating LGBTQIA+ focused newsletters and resource guides to improve district wide inclusive pedagogy. (*emphasis added*)

Don't let the Newspeak deceive you. "Inclusion" of all "identities" really means affirmation and celebration of homosexuality and cross-sex impersonation. "Necessary training" really means compulsory indoctrination. "Safe spaces" really means spaces where dissenting voices are prohibited, and theologically orthodox Christians are unwelcome and excluded.

So, what did the leftist activists instruct faculty to teach other people's children? Here's just a bit from the guidelines:

Pre-K and kindergarten: The unit for the littlest ones is titled "Family/Flag/Identity." Introducing pre-K and kindergarten students to "family" means conditioning them to understand that "all families are different" and to believe that all these different family structures are "cool!" The view, however, that *all* family structures are "cool" is not a fact, and it's not even a view that "progressives" hold. If they did, why didn't they introduce pre-kindergartners to polygamous and polyamorous family structures?

Leftists have concluded that families headed by homosexuals who intentionally deprive children of either mothers or fathers are "cool," so they will use government schools to advance that idea. But family structures they *don't* view as "cool" are omitted. But here's the rub. Some people don't view families led by homosexuals as cool and they don't want their children exposed to any images of or ideas about them—and certainly not leftist views of the coolness of them.

The reference to the "flag" is a reference to the rainbow and "trans" flags that 4 and 5-year-old children—who should know *nothing* about cross-sex passing and homosexuality—were expected to be able to "explain the importance of." Our government schools are not only introducing preschoolers to sexual perversion but also *affirming* it to them.

First grade: For five days straight, six-year-olds were to be



taught Leftist pronoun rules using a book titled *They, She, He easy as ABC*, which is described on Amazon as "a... much-needed picture book about pronouns and gender fluidity." It begins with this: "Ari loves to arabesque. They hold their pose with ease." Ari, a single child, is referred to by the third-person plural pronoun "they."

Children were to "introduce themselves, choosing pronouns" from those in the book—which includes "ze" and "tree" as *pronouns*—and "explore foundational concepts in pronoun use, presentation, and bias." Whose understanding of bias do you suppose the children were exposed to? To be clear, public school teachers are teaching 6-year-olds incorrect grammar in the service of advancing a Leftist sexuality ideology.

Grades 2 and 3: "Students will analyze a traditional fairy tale through an inclusive lens, ensuring gender neutrality and culturally relevant content. Students will learn basic LGBTQ+ vocabulary. They will recognize and discuss stereotypes, and create their own inclusive folk tale to share with lower grades." Did you catch that? Teachers were encouraged to force 2nd and 3rd graders to disciple younger students in the "LGBTQ+" religion.

Grades 4 and 5: Teachers were instructed to have 9, 10, and 11-year-olds play a matching game in which they would match terms to definitions. The terms were cisgender, gay, lesbian, binary, gender identity, gender expression, sex assigned at birth, bisexual, transgender, and preferred pronouns.

By the end of the week students were to have created "their own gender inclusive and diverse advertisement for a product," which they would then "present and 'sell'... to the class."

(More info about grades 6, 7, and 8 can be found at: <https://wp.me/p8aLNq-e12>)

No need to speculate about the agenda of leftists for taxpayer-funded schools. They've got the power now, so subterfuge is no longer necessary. Their goal is to transform the beliefs of other people's children and turn them into activists who will continue promoting the anarchical sexual revolution. No matter if these leftist beliefs conflict with the moral, political, or theological beliefs of these children's parents. Leftists are presumptuous and self-righteous enough to violate both parental trust and their educational obligations. This curriculum goes far beyond the requirements of the school indoctrination law—which itself goes beyond proper ethical boundaries. This curriculum is a totalitarian imposition of controversial leftist assumptions about sexuality.

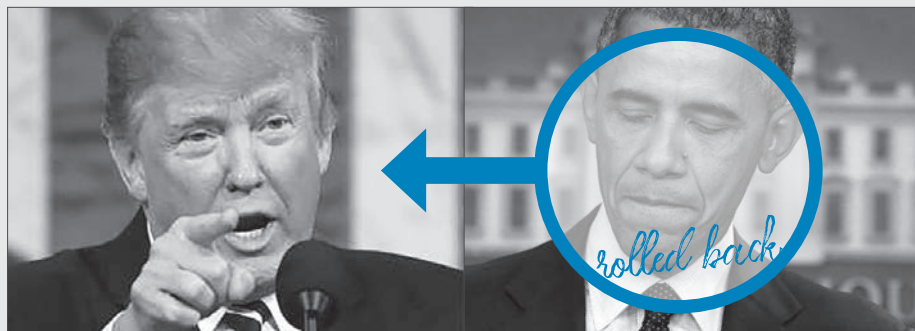
Virtually every term, presupposition, and concept

continued on page 11... ▶▶

Did You Know?

The Trump Administration has rolled back a number of federal rules instituted by the Obama Administration and has instituted others, including these amazing policy victories:

- ▶ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) began enforcing the new rule, which “prohibits the use of Title X funds to perform, promote, refer for, or support abortion as a method of family planning.” As a result, **nearly 900 abortion clinics have lost taxpayer funding.** This is a great first step toward the goal of completely defunding abortion businesses (like Planned Parenthood) of our tax dollars.
- ▶ HHS has also rescinded Obama administration guidance that prevented states from taking actions against providers that may be necessary to prevent Medicaid funds from going to fund abortion.
- ▶ HHS has created a Conscience and Religious Freedom Division for the purpose of protecting the fundamental and unalienable rights of conscience and religious liberty for physicians and other medical professionals.
- ▶ HHS has also proposed defining sex as either male or female, unchangeable, and identified at birth. In addition, agency staff—including those at the Centers for Disease Control—have been instructed



to stop using the word “transgender” in official reports.

- ▶ The U.S. Department of Defense has banned persons suffering from gender dysphoria from serving in the military.
- ▶ The U.S. State Department is refusing visas for same-sex partners of some diplomats and U.N. workers if they are not “married.”
- ▶ The U.S. Departments of Education and Justice eliminated Obama Administration “guidance” that told government schools to treat “trans”-identifying students as if they were the sex they are not.
- ▶ The U.S. National Institute of Food and Agriculture rescinded guidance for 4-H programs, removing a policy specifically welcoming LGBTQ children in the program, which led to the firing of an official who protested.
- ▶ The U.S. Department of Education refuses to respond to civil complaints filed by “trans”-identifying students, including those who were barred from using opposite-sex bathrooms.
- ▶ The U.S. Department of Justice rolled back Obama-era LGBT interpretations of the Civil Rights Act that gave special rights to “trans”-identifying and “non-binary” workers from employment discrimination and ceased enforcing non-discrimination protections.
- ▶ The U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons rolled back an Obama-era policy that housed “trans”-identifying prisoners with opposite-sex prisoners.
- ▶ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has proposed a rule to permit homeless shelters to house “trans”-identifying and/or cross-dressing homeless persons in shelters based on their biological sex.
- ▶ The Trump Administration has interpreted immigration rules specifically so the child of a same-sex couple born abroad via surrogate would be considered “born out of wedlock,” thereby making it more difficult to obtain U.S. citizenship.

Yes, elections have consequences!!*

LGBT History Mandate *(continued...)*

employed by the cultural regressives who designed and approved this indoctrination curriculum is debatable. Dissenting definitions, presuppositions and concepts will never be taught. Regressives have proclaimed from on high that dissenting views are hateful and, therefore, they rationalize their censorship of them.

In the service of concealing the non-factual, controversial nature of the “LGBTQ+” ideology that the GSEA and its accomplices are pouring into children, they do what Leftists always do: manipulate

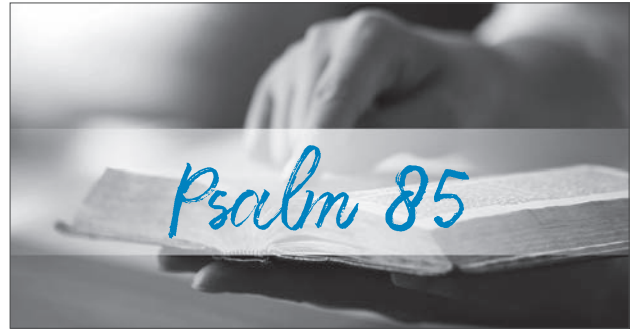
language. In other words, they engage in Orwellian Newspeak. Just slap the magic words “equity,” “inclusivity,” “safety,” or “cultural competency” onto whatever moral or political dung they want to preach, and abracadabra, assumptions become “facts” and indoctrination becomes “education.” It should be clear to everyone by now that the biased ideologues, censors, and oppressors who foster intolerance, division, and exclusion and transform education into indoctrination are regressives who absurdly call themselves “progressive.” *

1 John 3:8b

"The Son of God
APPEARED
for this purpose,
TO DESTROY
the works
of the devil."

Please Pray . . .

Praying Scripture back to God is a powerful way to make appeals to heaven. We are told that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16). When we pray from this foundation, we use the most important weapons we have to defeat our adversary: *Prayer and Scripture*. The book of Psalms is full of great prayers and songs that we can not only learn from, but also inform our prayers. Consider Psalm 85 for our current state and national condition:



Pray Psalm 85...

O Lord, You showed favor to Your land;
You restored the captivity of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
You covered all their sin. Selah.
You withdrew all Your fury;
You turned away from Your burning anger.

Restore us, O God of our salvation,
And cause Your indignation toward us to cease.
Will You be angry with us forever?
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
Will You not Yourself revive us again,
That Your people may rejoice in You?
Show us Your lovingkindness, O Lord,
And grant us Your salvation.

I will hear what God the Lord will say;
For He will speak peace to His people,
to His godly ones;
But let them not turn back to folly.
Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
That glory may dwell in our land.
Lovingkindness and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth springs from the earth,
And righteousness looks down from heaven.
Indeed, the Lord will give what is good,
And our land will yield its produce.
Righteousness will go before Him
And will make His footsteps into a way.

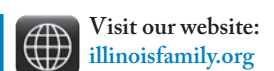
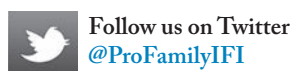
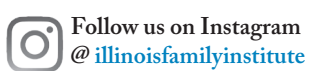
Special Prayer Requests...

- Pray against the recently opened Planned Parenthood abortion clinics in Fairview Heights and Flossmoor. Pray that employees clearly see how they are facilitating death, have a change in heart, and leave.
- Pray for vulnerable children in the United States (and Illinois) who have been caught in the web of human trafficking and prostitution.
- Pray for the children in Illinois government schools as they are being indoctrinated, even groomed, with deviant sexual messages. Pray for young people confused by the prevalence of pro-homosexual messages in the media, in schools, and among their peers.
- Pray for teens and young adults who are being taught false "safe-sex"/pro-condom messages. Pray for those who are now suffering the consequences with sexually transmitted disease, AIDS, pregnancy, abortion, and psychological and emotional problems. Pray that the tide will reverse, and more young people will be exposed to an abstinence message.
- Pray for state legislators and their staffs as they prepare for the Spring 2020 session that runs January thru the end of May. Pray that IFI representatives find favor with lawmakers as we work to uphold a pro-family agenda.
- Pray that the FBI continues to root out corruption in Illinois government.
- Pray for our President, his family, and his cabinet especially as Washington D.C. runs hot with impeachment fever.
- Pray for God's mercy and grace in America. Pray that Christians would become bold, outspoken ambassadors for the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Pray for a revival. ✨

John 6:38

"For I have come down
FROM HEAVEN,
*not to do My
own will,*
but the will of Him
who sent Me."

Stay up-to-speed on news impacting the family



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