



ILLINOIS Family Institute

Boldly bringing biblical principles to public policy in the Land of Lincoln.

In this world
you will have trouble.
But take heart!
I have overcome the world.
— John 16:33

www.illinoisfamily.org



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

As you know, our Illinois lawmakers in Springfield are dead serious about legalizing “recreational” use of marijuana. Used as their stepping stone to full legalization, lawmakers gave us “medical” marijuana in 2013. Then, in 2016, they decriminalized the drug to a civil fine of \$100, with expungement of records every July 1st and January 1st.

Some proponents claim that legalization will provide much-needed tax revenue to bail out their years of wasteful spending. Others profess that legalization will ease the burden on the court system, and yet another faction wrongly believes marijuana is no worse than alcohol, so adults should have the freedom to use it as they choose.

Those of you who live in Cook County have already had the opportunity to weigh in on a non-binding referendum regarding “recreational” marijuana. In response to the ballot question — “Shall the state of Illinois legalize the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing, and sale of marijuana and marijuana products for recreational use by adults 21 and older subject to state regulation, taxation and local ordinance?” — 68% of Cook County voters responded Yes. The breakdown between city and suburban voters was 73% vs 63.22%.

In November, this question will likely be on the ballot for voters statewide. **I urge you to vote against this proposal**, as it is terrible public policy and will do irreparable damage to our families and communities.

Do we really need more drugs on our streets?

Colorado has had legal marijuana for five years and we can learn much from their embrace of this foolishness. Since legalization, **Colorado has**

seen a **72% increase in pot-related hospitalizations**. Emergency rooms are overwhelmed with overdoses from marijuana products that contain **THC concentrations ranging from 20% to 90%**. These high-potency products make up the majority of their market. As a point of reference, in the Netherlands, where marijuana is legal and almost anything goes, any products with **THC levels over 15% are classified as “hard drugs” and remain illegal**.



Colorado youth, ages 12 to 17, continue to rank #1 in the nation for past month use and rank 55% higher than the national average. Common in Colorado newspapers and magazines are ads that feature Cookie Monster, Santa Claus and Fred Flintstone and even offer discounts with student I.D’s. **Big Marijuana is most definitely targeting kids.**

Just like Illinois, Big Marijuana promised Coloradans that legalization would free up the courts and minority arrests would go down. But they have seen **an increase, not a decrease**, in minority arrests.

Additionally, Colorado has seen a **66% increase in pot-related deaths** in the last four years. This growth is partly due to a **67% increase in fatal car crashes involving marijuana-intoxicated drivers**. As more and more states follow Colorado’s lead, it is no wonder the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Fatality Analysis Reporting System states that the “rate of marijuana involvement in fatal car crashes will soon rival alcohol as the NUMBER ONE preventable traffic problem.”

With these statistics in mind, it is important to note that **marijuana is not like alcohol in its intoxicating**

continued on page 4...

Be **SOBER**
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CO Hospitals in a Crisis from Recreational Marijuana

Recreational marijuana in Colorado is devastating the medical community and breaking the Medicaid system. Dr. **Karen Randall** is an Emergency Department physician in Pueblo, Colorado.

She reports a shocking increase in homelessness, putting a huge strain on hospital emergency rooms, hospital admissions and the Medicaid system. There is one reason for skyrocketing homelessness — pot.

In Pueblo County, where she practices, one-third of the population is now on Medicaid! All they need is an address to receive benefits. It's as simple as putting an ad on Craig's List saying 'I need an address. I don't want to live with you. I just need your address for mailing purposes.'

Her entire speech given at a 2016 press conference can be watched here: <https://tinyurl.com/y8b7uuyc>



Court Rules Funeral Home Must Accommodate Transgender Employee

A male, employed by a funeral home in Michigan, announced in 2013 that he was going to begin transitioning to a woman and, as a part of the process, would be dressing as a woman for one year prior to undergoing gender-reassignment surgery. The owner of the funeral home offered the employee a severance package and terminated his employment. Alliance Defending Freedom defended the owner, arguing that a male in women's clothing was incompatible with the owner's sincerely held religious beliefs regarding gender and with the sensitive nature of the business in which grieving families are seeking comfort and spiritual guidance. The U.S. 6th Circuit Court ruled that the funeral home owner must allow him to wear the uniform reserved for females.



SAVE THE DATE!



ILLINOIS
**Family
Institute**

FAITH, FAMILY & FREEDOM FALL BANQUET

Keeping our eyes on the prize

featuring

George Barna



George Barna

is the founder of the Barna Research Group and the current executive director of the American Culture and Faith Institute, conducting research on worldview, cultural transformation, and politics.

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October 5, 2018 | 7:00 PM

The Stonegate
Hoffman Estates, IL

For more information & tickets contact:
(708) 781-9328 | www.illinoisfamily.org

LGBTQIAAP Inclusive Curriculum Mandate by Laurie Higgins

Illinois State Senator **Heather Steans** (D-Chicago) and State Representative **Anna Moeller** (D-Elgin) have sponsored legislation created by two Chicago-based homosexual/"trans" activist organizations (i.e., Equality Illinois and the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance).

This "Inclusive Curriculum" proposal will require that any "book or book substitute that will be used as a text or text substitute" in grades K-12 include the "role and contributions" of homosexuals and of men and women who adopt opposite-sex personas (also known deceptively as "transgender").

In other words, all materials used in schools will be required to address the roles and contributions of people who define themselves by their disordered sexual desires and sexual behaviors.

In addition, this bill will require that "the teaching of history of the United States in public schools shall include a study of the role and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this country and this State."

There's more:

This instruction shall be designed to teach that LGBT individuals have a rich history and have made substantial and valuable contributions to society, including government, arts, sciences, mathematics, sports, education, and in the economic, cultural, and political development of society. The instruction shall teach about the rich advocacy among the LGBT community and the LGBT community's allies to be treated equally. Instruction shall reinforce that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression [i.e., cross-dressing], have a right to be treated with civil, legal and human rights, and as full human beings above all else.

When possible, adults, including school district employees who openly identify as LGBT and other openly LGBT adults in the community that the school district may decide to consult with, should be involved in the development and delivery of this instruction at the discretion of the LGBT individuals.

There are no good reasons for teachers or textbooks to mention or discuss the sexual interests of contemporary or historical figures who have contributed something noteworthy to society. Their

exceptional accomplishments should be noted, but their sexual proclivities—especially controversial sexual proclivities that many view as both immoral and destructive—have no place in public schools.

Homosexual and "trans" activists are not centrally concerned about ensuring that the accomplishments of **Sally Ride**, **James Baldwin** and **Oscar Wilde** are included in curricula; they already are. Homosexual and "trans" activists from Equality Illinois and the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance are centrally concerned about ensuring that students know that Ride, Baldwin and Wilde were sexually and romantically attracted to persons of the same sex.

Homosexual and "trans" activists seek to transfer the good feelings children and teens have about accomplishments to homosexuality and opposite-sex impersonation. It's a ploy to render disordered feelings and immoral actions innocent by association with accomplishment.

This bill puts homosexuals—both inside and outside schools—in charge of curricula, and it requires that "LGBT" activism be taught. Obviously, such activism is to be taught positively. Schools are expected to teach about "LGBT" activism as they would teach about the Civil Rights Movement. But it's not like the Civil Rights Movement because homosexuality per se is not analogous to race per se.

If this indoctrination bill is passed, "agents of change" (formerly known as teachers) will base their text selections not on the quality of a text but, rather, on whether it was written by a homosexual or by someone who adopted an opposite-sex persona or on how it depicts homosexuality and the "trans" ideology. Curricula will become—even more than it is already—a political tool.

So, please speak out and fight this bill before it is too late. While you're doing that, plan an escape route for your children and grandchildren from government schools.

TAKE ACTION: Call your state senator and state representative to ask them to **vote NO** to this radical legislation. The bill number in the **Illinois Senate is SB 3249**, and in the **Illinois House it is HB 5596**. ☞

Tax Dollars for Immorality

A common chiding of pro-abortion activists is for conservatives to keep the government out of people's bedrooms. An appropriate retort would be a demand to keep our wallets out of people's bedrooms. According to a new report from the U.S. Government Accounting Office, over \$100 million dollars was given to Planned Parenthood from just two federal agencies, DHHS and USAID, from 2013-2105 to address "reproductive health" issues. A large percentage of this funding is directed at unmarried couples engaged in sexual activity. The GAO report indicated that Planned Parenthood committed nearly 330,000 abortions each year while making fewer than 3,000 adoption referrals.



Gender Reassignment Surgery on the Rise

A recent study indicates that "gender-affirming" surgery is on the rise in the United States. The study, published in *JAMA Surgery* in February, identified nearly 39,000 patients with a code of transsexualism or gender identity disorder from 2000 thru 2014. Just over 10 percent of those patients underwent surgery. While more than half of all patients undergoing surgery paid for the surgery with their own funds, there was nearly a threefold increase in the number of Medicaid and Medicare patients from 2012 to 2014 who underwent "gender-affirming" surgeries. ☞





Down Ballot Races

The importance of down ballot races for the Illinois House cannot be over emphasized. As a 510c3 non-profit, IFI cannot engage in partisan political races, however, *we can tell you* that the pro-life and pro-family cause rises or sinks depending on our numbers in this chamber.

To pass legislation in the Illinois House, 60 votes are needed. Over the past few legislative cycles, we have lost crucial battles by just 3 or 4 votes. Taxpayer funding of abortion (HB 40) received 62 yeas.

We are praying hard to pick up 4 (or more) seats in the November General Election. There are many good candidates running, and we are optimistic about their chances. However, Christian turnout is the key.

If you would like more details, Illinois Family Action (IFA), our 501c4 sister organization is engaged in the partisan and political campaign side of things. >> Visit ifaction.org for more information. ❧



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

effects. Whereas one glass of wine or a typical cocktail would not render an individual intoxicated, **one drag on a marijuana joint can get someone high.** Please note, I am not speaking from personal experience; rather, I have verified this fact with friends who have used marijuana regularly and they all agree — smoking just a portion of a joint results in the impairment associated with being high. When it comes to marijuana, there is no acceptable minimum, no reasonable or “safe” amount.

As Christians, we ought to be knowledgeable about what Scripture says on the matter:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ~ 1 Peter 5:8

This is a warning! Be sober — **don't be intoxicated!** Keep a clear head and a sound mind. Marijuana certainly clouds thinking and alters the senses. It also has a debilitating effect on fine motor skills and reaction time.

Research shows that these negative effects on attention, memory, and learning can last for days or weeks after the immediate, acute effects of the drug wear off. Consequently, individuals who smoke marijuana daily may be functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time. Studies have also documented links between regular marijuana use and psychiatric illness, violence, cancer, stroke, and decreased fertility in men *and* women.

It is important to note that **one cannot use this drug and remain sober and alert!** Marijuana use leaves people vulnerable to the attacks of our adversary.

Today, Big Marijuana puts marijuana in punch, lollipops, cookies, and brownies and THC concentrate is even sprayed on gummy bears. Reportedly, the THC potency is so strong that the recommended “dose” for an adult is one quarter of a gummy bear! Who eats just one quarter of a gummy bear?!? It's no wonder people (and young children) are rushed to ERs as they experience

the dangerous side effects of THC overdose.

Please, do not be misled. **Marijuana is not a benign or beneficial drug,** no matter how vigorously its

proponents claim otherwise, and any proposal regarding its legalization should receive serious scrutiny. **Christians most certainly should oppose policies that lead to tragic physical, mental, and spiritual consequences.**

If we are truly striving to fulfill the second great commandment to “Love your neighbor as yourself,” (Matthew 22:39) how can we turn a blind eye to such a disastrous policy? If we genuinely love our neighbor as we love ourselves, our concern should be for spiritual consequences, as well as for the overarching **negative effect of marijuana on our communities and our culture.** It is no exaggeration to suggest that if marijuana is legal for all, many people will become dependent on the drug and unable to hold down jobs, which will result in a greater dependency on the welfare state and already overtaxed social service agencies. Sadly, Colorado has experienced an incredible increase in homelessness to such a degree that it is adversely impacting the state's lucrative convention and tourism business in addition to their Medicaid system.

In Matthew 6, the Lord instructs us how we should pray. Part of His template tells us to pray that we not be led into temptation, but delivered from evil. The passage of a “recreational” marijuana bill will lead our neighbors, maybe even some of our family members, into temptation, intoxication, and addiction. If we are praying against temptation for ourselves, yet ignore the fact that our government is intentionally placing temptation in front of our neighbors, how can we claim to love our neighbors? How can we claim to love, fear, and obey the Lord?

It is vital that we recognize and refute the schemes of the devil and thwart his desire to devour people with his lies. We must **be informed and proactive** to talk with our children about the practical and biblical reasons to avoid the insidious temptation to use marijuana. Finally, we must **clearly speak up** to make our concerns and objections known to the men and women who represent us in Springfield.

I urge you to think biblically regarding the issues of our day — specifically the debate about legalizing marijuana as a “recreational” substance. Moreover, I encourage you to pick up the phone this week and call your state senator and representative and ask them to strongly oppose and vote against this dangerous and foolish public policy. ❧

Be **SOBER**
VIGILANT

Primary 2018 Review by John Biver

The Battle of the Billionaires Almost Didn't Happen

The Illinois general election for governor is being billed as the “battle of the billionaires,” as **J.B. Pritzker** and **Bruce Rauner** won their party’s nominations in the primary election on March 20th. It is expected to be the most expensive gubernatorial election in American history.

But it almost didn't happen. Rauner's primary challenger, social and fiscal conservative and West Point grad, **Jeanne Ives**, almost played David to Rauner's Goliath. Ives was outspent by Rauner ten to one but only lost by about 20,000 votes out of over 703,000 cast. Rauner's 51.4% to 48.6% margin of victory might be a bad omen for Mr. Rauner in the general election.

On the Republican side, Bruce Rauner's barrage of negative ads against Ives very well might have depressed voter turnout. For those voters who were unhappy with Rauner but believed his blatantly deceitful ads about Ives, there seemed to be no good option.

Rauner's primary performance in DuPage, Kane, and Will counties could be a problem, since his 2014 margin of victory depended on solid support from the collar counties.

Whether Rauner can unite the party post primary is doubtful. A new group of “NeverRauners” (in the model of the “NeverTrumpers”) are becoming outspoken regarding his lying about Jeanne Ives during the primary election, as well as his betrayal of the GOP's base and Platform.

When Rauner campaigned in 2014, he said that he had “no social agenda.” That turned out to be untrue, as some of Rauner's major accomplishments during his first term included taxpayer funding for abortion, making Illinois a sanctuary state, and legalizing the falsification of birth certificates to appease those who support the “trans-ideology.”

Three national tracking services are

Primary election



calling the race for Illinois governor in November either a toss-up or “Lean Democrat.” Rauner is seen as the most vulnerable Republican governor in the country.

In what was probably the most watched Illinois congressional primary, pro-life incumbent Democrat **Dan Lipinski** narrowly defeated his pro-abortion Leftist challenger, **Marie Newman**, 51.2% to 48.8%. Some pro-life leaders and organizations worked on behalf of Lipinski, one of the last pro-life Democrats holding office in Illinois. We were honestly shocked to see this, and wonder how many voters they persuaded to pull a Democratic ballot to vote for Lipinski.

For the Attorney General race, State Sen. **Kwame Raoul** won an 8-way race, edging out former governor **Pat Quinn** 30% to 27%. Raoul will face **Erika Harold** in the general election after Harold won her 2-way primary by a comfortable margin.

The Secretary of State's November election will feature Republican **Jason Helland** facing off against longtime incumbent **Jesse White**. The Comptroller's race will see a rematch between incumbent Democrat **Susana Mendoza** and Republican **Darlene Senger**. The State Treasurer's general election has Democrat incumbent **Mike Frerichs** running against Republican **Jim Dodge**.

To the delight of Leftists, in the traditionally “red” counties of Lake, DuPage, and Kane, Democratic Party ballots outnumbered Republican ballots cast. Over all, there were over half a million more votes cast in the Democratic primary.

While Democrats are trumpeting that as a sign of a “blue” wave, sober observers cite the fact that the Democratic Party primaries for statewide offices were hotly contested, especially the race for governor and attorney general. The interest sparked by the campaigns no doubt drove higher turnout.

Early voting played an enormous role in this year's Illinois primary as about a third of the ballots cast were done during the state's generous early voting period. In areas such as Chicago, the increase in early voting was triple the amount it was in 2014.

IFI's **David E. Smith** recently raised questions about the length of the early voting period, as well as the increased opportunity for voter fraud. In addition, Smith has pointed out the fact that as a campaign develops, some important facts only come to light during the past couple of weeks. Anyone who has already cast their vote has no ability to change their mind. ☺

Quotable

Pastors can lead the way in motivating the faithful to wise stewardship of their citizenship responsibilities.

Without a healthy culture and civil society, limited government and ordered liberty will be impossible.

— Former Attorney General **Edwin Meese**



The Not-So-Secret Weapon of Cultural Warfare

by Jonathan Lewis

Jesus once stated that “the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light” (Luke 16:8). Unfortunately, this has been proven all too true in recent generations when it comes to the battle for our culture. On the whole, it seems that those who oppose Christ have been far more successful in shaping society than have the followers of God.

One area of our culture where this appears to be particularly true is the realm of education. While the church has been surprisingly complacent on the question of who will educate our children, others have keenly understood the value of capturing the minds of the next generation.

Consider a few quotes from some of the greatest villains of the twentieth century:

“He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future.” – Adolph Hitler

“Education is a weapon whose effects depend on who holds it in his hands and at whom it is aimed.” – Joseph Stalin

“Give me four years to teach the children, and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted.”

– Vladimir Lenin

IT'S ALL ABOUT IDEAS

Why did these men place such emphasis on education? The answer isn't complicated. Through education, we communicate and inculcate ideas, values, and beliefs. He who is most successful in communicating his value system and worldview to the next generation wins the culture.

Stalin expressed it this way: “Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns, why should we let them have ideas[?]”

Stalin understood that whoever controls the flow of ideas controls the direction of culture. He understood that

in a fight for physical superiority, it would be foolish to hand your opponent a gun. Similarly, in an intellectual battle, the one with no ideas and convictions is sure to lose. And so whether the goal is amassing political power or reconstructing society, gaining a monopoly on the flow of ideas is a powerful move.

NO NEUTRALITY

No education is neutral because education is about ideas and ideas aren't neutral. Despite the popular notion that our public schools are neutral, the truth is that they're nothing of the kind. Neutrality simply isn't possible when we're discussing such worldview-laden topics as history, science, ethics, and morality. And if we're honest with ourselves, we have to admit that the dominant worldviews in our public schools today are far from Christian.

This isn't a wild-eyed conspiracy theory. It's simply a fact. Our public schools aren't making any attempt to educate our children from a Christian perspective. So is it really surprising—after decades of a near-monopoly on the part of secular education—that our culture is becoming more secular? What would actually be surprising is if our culture somehow weren't becoming more secular!

REAPING WHAT WE SOW

This is a fundamental truth, yet one we often overlook when it comes to education. If we sow secularism in our children's minds, the result will be a secular culture. But this goes back to the point I made at the beginning of this article, that the church has been surprisingly complacent on the topic of education. It's as if we believe the principle of sowing and reaping applies to everything but our children's minds. An honest look at what's happening around us should convince us that this is faulty thinking.

WISING UP

It's been said that politics is downstream of culture. While this may not



be universally true (and policy certainly exerts an influence on our culture), we can't deny that our politics often respond to the direction we're moving as a society. If that's true, and if we want to turn the tide in our culture, we need to direct our attention upstream. I'm not saying we should ignore politics because we shouldn't. What I am saying is that if we fight only in the political sphere and leave the shaping of the hearts and minds of the next generation to our ideological opponents, any political victories we may win will be short-lived.

Education is certainly one of those areas that's upstream of culture, and it's time we wise up to its power. There's a reason God commanded the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6 to teach their children diligently in His ways. Simply put, the formation of young hearts and minds is a big job, and the worldview we teach them matters.

CHANGE A MIND, CHANGE THE WORLD

When we instruct a young mind in God's truth, we're literally impacting the future. When we take the formation of the next generation seriously, we not only impact our children (which is, of course, significant on its own), we also reclaim the power to change our nation.

Imagine what would happen if every Christian family in America decided that we've been losing the next generation for too long. Imagine what would happen if every Christian family in America said no to secular education. Imagine what would happen if every Christian family in America decided to educate their children in a manner consistent with their faith. Would it make a difference? Absolutely. Because what we teach matters.

Education truly is the not-so-secret weapon of the culture wars. ☸

Rocky Mountain High Brings State to New Lows

Recently, a Colorado expert on the consequences of legalizing recreational marijuana spoke to groups in Bloomington, Pontiac, and Naperville, in addition to doing numerous media interviews.



What **Jo McGuire** reports from Colorado is truly shocking. Illinois residents must understand the consequences of legalization and contact their lawmakers to oppose it.

Recreational marijuana has affected every part of Colorado's culture: schools and increased youth use, poisonings, car fatalities, hospital admissions — all of which we have reported on. But what's little known, and Big Marijuana wants to keep it that way, is the effect it's having on neighborhoods, the environment, and homelessness.

In Colorado, in order to accomplish their goals, Big Marijuana lied, claiming it would do away with the Black Market and solve Colorado's budget crisis. Sound familiar? But the Black Market is doing better than ever. In fact, they're doing so well, cartels now purchase million dollar homes for cash in beautiful gated communities, gut them and start growing pot. Incredibly large amounts of marijuana are shipped elsewhere, including Mexico. And none of it is taxed, which was also their promise.

Like Colorado, Illinois' bill allows for 5 plants per adult. Home grows, she said, are impossible to monitor plus it created another large **non-taxable** market referred to as the "grey market." Home growers have discovered they too can make



Explosion sight with butane canisters visible

money selling it cheaper than the taxed and regulated pot dispensaries (which outnumber Starbucks, McDonald's, and Walmart by double). Furthermore, explosions from butane extraction labs set up in these homes to produce concentrates are common. ❧

▼ Watch Jo McGuire's full presentation here: <https://youtu.be/R7E4HnjxDtE>

Study Shows the Depth of Our Sex-Saturated High Tech World



Research published in February in *JAMA Pediatrics* finds that a "sizable minority" of teens admit to either sending or receiving sexually explicit images, videos, and/or messages with 1 in 4 reporting being the recipient of a "sext" message. They found that the prevalence of sexting among teens is rising, with teens who were surveyed in more recent studies more likely to report sexting than those in earlier studies. Overall, nearly 15% of teens have sent a sext, while over 27% have received one. The majority of teens are sexting on a smartphone rather than on a computer. ❧

Did you know?

IFI Team members are available to speak on a wide variety of cultural topics at your church, civic group or political organization. We will work with you to bring a challenge for your adult Sunday school classes, midweek services or even a special forum.

A major part of our mission is to educate the Body of Christ and promote a Biblical worldview on a variety of current hot topics, including marijuana legalization and other pending legislation in Springfield, the transgender agenda, the sanctity of life, our responsibilities as citizens in America, defending our faith in a changing culture, and more.

Our desire is to advance the IFI mission: **To boldly bring a biblical perspective to public policy.** This mission is centrally motivated by two commandments: 1) To love our neighbors as ourselves, and; 2) to teach all nations to observe all that God has commanded us.



(Matt. 22:36-40; 28:16-20)
But it's also our desire to come alongside pastors to aid them in equipping believers with the biblical precepts and doctrine to make a difference in our culture, to be salt and light to a world that is dark and dying. Add to that the warning from Peter:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
(1 Peter 5:8)

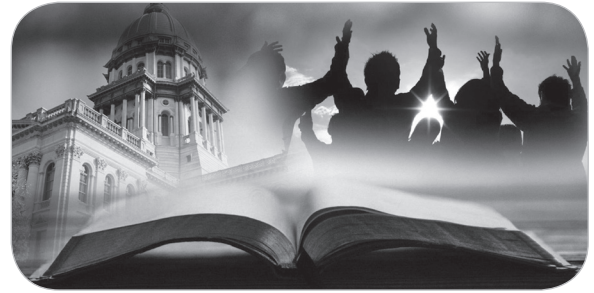
Far too many Christians are vulnerable to the devil's schemes and attacks. If we are truly striving to fulfill the second great command, how can we turn a blind eye to the cultural and political trends? As you know, the culture is drifting away from biblical principles, and growing numb to the Word of God.

Please contact us if we can serve you in this way! ❧

Prayer Requests . . .

No one is like You, LORD; You are great, and Your name is mighty in power.

— Jeremiah 10:6



Please Pray...

...for forgiveness

- That God will forgive us for the rampant wickedness of abortion and the corruption of minds in our schools; and our embrace of vain pursuits or even idolatry. Pray for a revival in our state and nation.

...for the State of Illinois

- That lawmakers and voters alike would understand how legalized marijuana in other states has negatively impacted the culture in every way imaginable. Pray that the truth would be made public and there would be an outcry of opposition to lawmakers moving this forward.

...for the upcoming November elections

- That Christians would understand the urgency of voting for godly candidates (Exodus 18:21) and praying for them. Pray that God would give wisdom and godly counsel to those who are elected.

...for the Church

- That people of faith would become serious about representing Christ as His Ambassadors and do so with boldness and courage, bringing light and love to a dark and dying culture.
- That pastors would address the issues of the day from a Biblical perspective.
- That God would revive and renew His people.

...for religious liberty and conscience rights

- That God would grant wisdom and discernment for all nine of the U.S. Supreme Court Justices as they consider and form their opinions on California's "Fact Act," which forces pro-life medical personnel and Pregnancy Resource Centers to give abortion referrals. Pray that the Justices clearly see and understand how this tyrannical law targets pro-life pregnancy centers. And ask God to soften the hearts of the Justices, particularly Anthony Kennedy, who may be the swing vote in this case. Pray that this case would be declared unconstitutional and set a clear precedent for pro-life speech and work. Pray that their decision would affect the Illinois law, so that it too would be declared unconstitutional.

...for families

- That Christian parents would not let the world teach and indoctrinate their children, but that they would assume their God-given role in teaching them God's ways. ☪

"Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!"

~ Psalm 80:19

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Illinois Family Spotlight is a weekly podcast that provides analysis of and commentary on political and cultural events and issues. Support for this program comes from your generous donations. You can learn more about our work at our website. ☪



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Boldly bringing biblical principles to public policy in the Land of Lincoln.