



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

VOTE
Your Values on March 17th

illinoisfamily.org



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

As I look back over the past fifty years, I know and am grateful that God has always been at work in my life. The Lord blessed me with God-fearing parents who faithfully attended church, listened to Gospel music, and stressed the importance of the Ten Commandments. Building on this foundation, God guided me to saving faith in the work of Jesus Christ, a greater understanding of His Word, His perfect will, and His purpose for my life, as well as a desire to pursue the prize that is set before all believers.

A source of encouragement to keep my eyes on the prize is found in the chorus of a Statler Brothers' song that was often heard in my childhood home:

*I've got one more day behind me
How many are left, I don't know
But I'm getting closer to Jesus
I've got one less day to go!*

This chorus brings to mind Paul's instruction to the Ephesians:

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Eph. 5:15-17)

In verse 15, the NKJV says to walk **circumspectly**, which Webster's 1828 dictionary defines as "cautiously; with watchfulness every way; with attention to guard against surprise or danger." The NASB translates verse 16 as "**make the most of your time**, because the days are evil."

So, at the start of a new year and new decade, it is wise for Christians to pause to examine ourselves and consider how we spent our time, talents, and treasures in 2019. How did we handle the days that are now behind us? Such reflection can also help us be more mindful of how we ought to handle the days *and*

Illinois Family Institute

SEEKING HIS *Wisdom*



the resources that the Lord may see fit to bless us with in 2020 and beyond. We must remember that God calls us to faithful service *every day* that he lends us breath.

Last year I took stock of three major areas of focus in my life. While I was mostly successful with two of my goals, my good intentions for the third were derailed by unexpected challenges and discouragement, and it pains me to admit that I failed to persevere.

God's Word tells believers how we should respond to failure and calamity. The Message says it well:

No matter how many times you trip them up, God-loyal people don't stay down long; soon they're up on their feet, while the wicked end up flat on their faces. (Prov. 24:16)

This passage illustrates the difference between a wise man and a fool. The difference isn't in the number of times they fail; rather, the difference is in their respective **response to failure**. A wise person gets up, learns from the past, tries a new approach, and becomes more determined. Only a fool would give up after a single, unsuccessful attempt.

Another difference between a wise man and a fool is in the **source of their strength and success**. The fool looks to himself, but the wise man knows the truth of Proverbs 16:1-3:

The plans of the heart belong to man,
But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight,
But the LORD weighs the motives.
Commit your works to the LORD
And your plans will be established.

continued inside...

State Rep Urges Prayer

State Representative **Dave Severin** (R-Marion) is urging churches to send their people to the Capital in 2020, while they are in session, specifically to sit and pray in the House Gallery.

The idea came to him as he drove home on the last day of the 2019 session. Radically progressive lawmakers had just passed the worst abortion law in the nation, SB 25. During the debate, groups of women wearing red capes and white hats, as illustrated in an online series *The Handmaid's Tale*, sat in the Gallery in support of the bill.

He thought: "Where are the Christians? Where is the Church?"

So he came home and launched the **Pray for Springfield Facebook page**. It links to the House calendar (under About) that shows the dates that House members are in session. You can either private message or call to sign up your church.

Severin shared, "I want to encourage Christian across the state that God would turn legislators' hearts and give them wisdom to promote things that are good and right. That he would give people reason to come to Illinois and stay in the state."

A few churches have already signed up.

Pastor Sammy Simmons, from Immanuel Baptist Church in Benton, also the Illinois Baptist State Association president, will be bringing a group from his church to pray.

"Prayer does matter, and prayer is a great offensive weapon." Simmons said, "Instead of complaining about the decisions that are happening in Springfield, maybe God's people should pray that God would lead the decision makers. God implores us to pray for our elected officials."

Simmons underscored the importance of praying in Springfield. "When we go to the Capitol and pray in the Gallery, we are able to pray onsite with insight for our leaders and for our state. Who knows how God might move in the hearts of our elected officials as they make decisions as God's people pray?" ★ Excerpts taken from Illinois Baptist *IBSA Newsjournal*.



SEEKING HIS Wisdom from the Executive Director, **David E. Smith** (continued from page 1)

Wisdom

If we would be wise, God-loyal people, we must commit our plans to the Lord, consulting Him and seeking His wisdom.

In so doing, we will soon know if our plans align with His will. If we truly want our plans to be "established," we must first bring them to Him in prayer and wait for His response, trusting Him to work in and through us for His good pleasure.

All of this requires deep faith and a long-view, even eternal, perspective. In today's culture that prizes self-reliance and demands immediate results, such an approach is laughable. But Christians know that the Lord God is sovereign over our plans and His timing is perfect.

Perhaps no group better exemplifies this spirit of commitment, perseverance, and reliance on the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit and the sovereignty of God than pro-life and pro-family conservatives living in the immoral wasteland of the People's Republic of Illinois.

For their efforts to save the lives of tens of thousands of unborn babies, pro-life conservatives have been mocked, persecuted, and defamed by those who think a woman's "right" to kill her baby is sacrosanct. In speaking the truth about same-sex "mirage" and transgender ideology, pro-family conservatives have been misquoted, misrepresented, and attacked by those who claim to want only acceptance when their real goal is dominance.

Often, through no fault of their own, these frontline warriors have experienced multiple setbacks and failures, but they continue to trust in the Lord to establish their plans. Like the Apostle Paul, they are able to say "we are hard-pressed on every side, yet

not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Cor. 4:8-9)

As we move through this year, we know unexpected challenges lie ahead. When we stumble or fall, let us wisely resolve to rise quickly and, with the help of the Holy Spirit move forward, focused on the work at hand and the prize ahead.

May we be encouraged that with each passing day, we have one less day to go until we will be with Jesus, and may we be faithful to live every day to the glory of the Lord! ★



**Speak Out
Illinois
2020**

Register Today:
SpeakOutIllinois.org



END THE Injustice

Saturday, February 29, 2020
8:00AM - Noon | 9:00AM Full Breakfast & Talks



100 Drury Lane
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

Keynote Speaker:
Mary-Louise Hengesbaugh
Founder & Chair of Girls' Health First

Register before February 17 for discounted rates!
Registration Deadline — February 24.

Parental Notification Likely on the Chopping Block

Written by Kathy Valente

According to a recent article in Forbes magazine, Illinois has the disconcerting distinction of being the top state for out-migration. That is, Illinoisans are leaving the state in record numbers. This is not a new trend. For 6 years in a row, Illinois has had a net population loss.

Could there be a connection between the Illinois exodus and our high taxes, taxpayer funded abortion, political corruption, pension debt, radical abortion expansion, “LGBT” indoctrination and many other foolish policies? We definitely believe there is.

Last year, state lawmakers passed abortion expansion legislation (SB 25) that Governor **JB Pritzker** signed into



law. With this expansion, they opened the door to ending what little protection there is for young girls, a protection we fought long and hard for: *Parental Notification of Abortion*. This Illinois law requires abortion mills in Illinois to notify a parent or adult family member if a minor female (17 or younger) seeks an abortion, unless a judge gives a waiver. The family member does not have to give permission for the abortion, they simply must be notified

48 hours in advance of this dangerous medical or surgical procedure. Repealing Parental Notice is a high priority for some left-wing groups, including the *Chicago Sun-Times*, which published an op/ed in favor of repeal last year. The ACLU, Planned Parenthood, NARAL and even Equality Illinois are working to repeal this protection. Well-known political activist **Terry Cosgrove**, president of Personal PAC, told Illinois Playbook that the repeal is “the most important bill coming up.”

Repealing the Parental Notice of Abortion law leaves vulnerable young girls without any protection from their abusers. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Abortion involves not merely serious health risks but the voluntary destruction of the life of another human being. Minor girls (and would-be mothers) need and deserve the input of those who love them most. Repealing Parental Notification isn't about minors' health and parental rights, but about extremists' obsession with an absolute, unfettered, and warped view of sexual freedom—at any age.

Among those who foresee a battle to repeal this law are State Representative **Brad Halbbrook** (R-Shelbyville) and **John Ryan**, a pro-life advocate from the Illinois Federation for Right to Life. He suspects that pro-aborts may simply amend the law to include the notice going to a clergy member, effectively gutting the bill.

“If the abortion clinic had a pro-abortion minister who was a *de facto*

chaplain for the clinic, all that would be necessary would be that the minister keep a minimal record of each minor who advised him they were going to have an abortion and provide some kind of statement or form to the minor or directly to the clinic. If a legislator tries to suggest that any clergy bypass provision would stipulate that the clergy would be known to the family or have existing organizational ties to either the young woman or her family, ask them how they would draft language to effectively exclude clergy who were not previously known to the family... and the same for the young woman.”

Whether the law is amended to notify clergy instead of parents or repealed entirely, these changes in legislation will harm young girls in Illinois. We must do what we can to preserve the little protection we currently have for minor girls and their parents or guardians.

We prepare for another battle. ★

The Way Out — Education Choice

Save the Date | April 25, 2020

Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights

Christian parents and grandparents must seriously consider other options for their students and make the move away from government schools. The prevalence of perversion, subversion, and indoctrination are becoming more prevalent, and in order to protect the hearts and minds of our children, it is wise to consider other education options. ★



Sixth Annual
WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE
 Biblical Training for Today's Culture

THINKING BIBLICALLY
 about our
Corrosive Culture

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Saturday, March 7, 2020

Village Church of Barrington
 1600 E Main St, Barrington, IL

Featuring

 & 

Dr. Michael Brown | Radio Host • Author • Professor
Dr. Robert Gagnon | Theological Writer • Professor

\$20 per person / \$50 per family
 Go to illinoisfamily.org
 and click on **Events** to register.



Prayer Requests . . .

Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. 1 Kings 8:28



- Pray that God would awaken His Bride and that we Christians throughout the state and nation would re-commit to loving the Lord with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our strength (Matt 22:37-40). For then, and only then, can we seek justice and pray for God to heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14).
- Pray that political corruption in Illinois would be exposed and rooted out. Pray that the ongoing FBI investigations in Illinois would result in the removal of crooked and nefarious officials.
- Pray for our federal officials as they proceed with impeachment hearings and that God would bless the U.S. Senate members with wisdom and discernment. Pray that they see through partisan rhetoric and agendas, ensuring instead that they do what is good and right for the nation and in the eyes of God Almighty.
- Pray for the March 17th primary election. Pray that Christian voters turn out in record numbers in Illinois, and that God-fearing, pro-life candidates would be victorious.
- Pray that parents and grandparents will take seriously their responsibility to educate young family members about the harms of using marijuana and other mind-altering drugs.
- Pray that the bill legalizing the use of recreational marijuana will be repealed or, at the very least, THC levels will be capped at 15 percent or less.
- Pray that parents whose children attend public schools will speak out and stand against the LGBT history indoctrination that, unless stopped, will permeate classrooms next school year.
- Pray that churches will see the need to help families afford Christian or private schooling by offering scholarships or starting their own schools.
- Pray for the work of Illinois Family Institute. Pray that God would bless the creation of our new law center, so that it may be a source of victory and great blessing for Christian families of Illinois.
- Pray that churches will be moved to bring prayer groups to the Illinois House Gallery this session to pray that God would move the hearts of legislators to advance bills that would align with God's Word.
- Pray that wealthy activists, like George Soros, will lose their heavy influence on policy makers.
- Pray that our pulpits will be filled by ministers who will boldly proclaim God's Word, and, finally, pray for revival. ★

Legislative & Cherry Pie Days

We want to extend a personal invitation to each of you, to join our families for **2020 ICHE Legislative Days on March 30 & 31 at the Capital.**



It's a two day educational smorgasbord for your homeschooling children. This is a proactive effort to remind our legislators—as well as our governor—that homeschoolers are very, very politically active, and we zealously protect our hard-fought-for homeschooling rights. It is a worthwhile investment in our children's and grandchildren's lives, as we remember that is much easier to keep our liberties than regain them once they are lost. ★

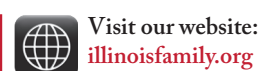
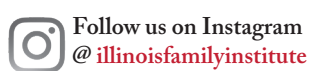
ILLINOIS is no longer the 5th most populous state in the nation. We lost that title to Pennsylvania last year.



According to the *Chicago Tribune*, "Illinois has lost more residents than any other state" over the past decade.

As a result, Illinois is expected to lose another congressional district after the 2022 redistricting.

Stay up-to-speed on news impacting the family



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

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