



CONCERNED CITIZEN

November 2008

*A publication of Concerned Women for America of California
CWA is the nation's largest public policy women's organization*

AROUND THE STATE

Marriage Has Been Restored in California!

Before we say anything else, we want to praise God for the victory of Prop 8. The glory belongs to Him. Further, we want to say "Thank you." Thank you to everyone who prayed, who gave, who volunteered, and who shared the importance of restoring marriage throughout your sphere of influence.

This was a long battle that began over one year ago and brought a broad base of people of faith together. God joined together many religious leaders, crossing denominational lines to work in concert for the cause of marriage. Pastors spoke out who had never ventured into social issues before. Thousands of churches across the state networked together to stand for righteousness and our children's futures, while still loving people involved in same-sex attraction.

This is key. Contrary to the assertion of opponents, nothing in this campaign involved hatred. Nothing took away the rights of domestic partners who, under California law, already enjoy all the same benefits as married spouses. What was at stake was the foundational institution of our society that provides the best beginning for our children, who need a mother and a father. The consequences of sanctioning same-sex marriage – the teaching that would be required in schools and the threats to the freedoms of conscience and religion – were simply too great.

In the end, Proposition 8 passed by 52.4 to 47.6 percent. The campaign set a new spending record for a social issue at a combined cost of \$74 million with approximately 70,000 individual donors giving \$40 million to "Yes on 8." Further, the goal of 100,000 volunteers helping get out the vote on Election Day was realized! Again, thank you.

The two other marriage amendments were also successful. Arizonans passed an amendment there 56.5 to 43.5 percent. In Florida, where 60 percent was needed for passage, the Marriage Protection amendment garnered 62 percent of the votes.

Life Loses on the Ballot

While all three ballot measures supporting traditional marriage were successful, measures supporting life suffered defeat. Unfortunately, Califor-

nia's Prop 4 lost 48 to 52 percent. This important initiative was the third attempt to require parental notification prior to a minor girl's abortion, helping protect young women from sexual predators and rightly involving parents in decisions concerning the health and safety of their children. Despite a judicial bypass provision and the ability to involve another family member in cases of parental abuse, the amendment failed.

Voters in the state of Washington approved a measure legalizing assisted suicide. We will be watching for attempts to do the same through the legislature here in California when the next legislative session begins in December.

Michigan voters passed an embryonic stem cell research initiative. In South Dakota, an amendment to ban abortion in all cases except rape and incest failed, as did a Colorado amendment to define a person as "any human being from the moment of fertilization."

The unborn will continue to be threatened under the next administration so we will be alerting you to federal legislation regarding abortions laws and how you can act to protect inno-

cent life. President-elect Obama has promised, "The first thing I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act." This bill would not only remove restrictions on abortion across the nation, but threaten the ability of medical professionals to exercise their freedom of conscience concerning participating in abortion procedures.

THE NATIONAL SCENE

You Can Help Stop Child Sexual Trafficking

According to the 2007 U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders. Most are female victims of commercial sexual exploitation and up to half are minors. These numbers do not include the millions trafficked within national borders. Traffickers profit from the unspeakable brutality, violence and degradation of their victims to the tune of over \$10 billion annually.

The State Department estimates that each year between 14,500 and 17,000 women and children are brought to the U.S. for this "modern day slavery." What about our own youth?

Our Founders' Wisdom

[It is] the duty of all wise, free, and virtuous governments to countenance and encourage virtue and religion. I therefore recommend a general and public return of praise and thanksgiving to Him from whose goodness these blessings descend. The most effectual means of securing the continuance of our civil and religious liberties is always to remember with reverence and gratitude the source from which they flow.

~ John Jay, Original Chief-Justice
U. S. Supreme Court

Save the Date!

For CWA of California's

2009 State Conference

Saturday, February 28, 2009

Pasadena Hilton Hotel

Pasadena, California

Speakers include:

James Horn, Prof. Joshua Lingel, Robert Tyler

Sophia Marsh-Ochsner, Jack Thompson

Learn about the threats to our freedoms posed by radical Islam. Find out how to defend your family against the negative influences of the "entertainment" industry.

A 2001 University of Pennsylvania report estimated that 293,000 American children are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation. The Department of Justice's child Exploitation and Obscenity Section website indicates that girls enter prostitution at an average age of 12 to 14 with boys entering the sex trade at between 11 and 13. Usually their stories start with a history of child sexual abuse. Many are runaways.

These are hard statistics to read, but we must all be aware – and we must all do what we can to eradicate the scourge of human trafficking. Below is one small step you can take today.

Action: *In concert with CWA of Texas' T-STOP program, we are asking volunteers to write letters to four hotel chains such as Starwood, Hilton, Marriott, and Ritz-Carlton, urging them to adopt the ECPAT Code of Conduct.*

ECPAT stands for "End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes." ECPAT is a network of organizations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Its goal is to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

For more information and to find links to the letters, please visit <http://ca.cwfa.org> and click on the Anti-Trafficking Project link.

QUICK TAKES & UPDATES

Teachers Object to CTA Donations

When the California Teachers Association recently gave \$1.25 million to oppose Prop 8, many teachers were angered by this use of their own

funds. Of course, this is not the first time the liberal union has used the political portion of teachers' dues for leftist activities – and it will not be the last. Many teachers are unaware that they can file a document each year to have these funds returned directly to them. In addition, if teachers have a religious objection to union membership, even the agency fee portion of their dues can be donated to a qualifying charity rather than given to the union. To find out more about donating dues to charity, visit <http://choosecharity.org>. To print a letter requesting the return of the political activity portion of dues, visit <http://pacificjustice.org>. Once there, click "resources," then "forms," then "union dues refund form."

State Conference 2009 Coming Soon!

Please note the "Save the Date" box on this page, mark your calendar for February 28 and plan to join us. More information will be coming soon.

PRAYER POWER

Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude

As you approach Thanksgiving, please take time to reflect on how good God is. Perhaps your candidate(s) did not win in the recent election. Certainly our president-elect has promised to forward some far left policies early in his presidency. Still, Scripture calls upon us to submit to the authority of our leaders and pray for them.

Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1Timothy 2:1-4)

Even if we disagree with our leaders, we must respect their offices and pray that God will touch their hearts and give them wisdom as they carry out their duties. Our representative form of government also allows us to respectfully confront them where we disagree on substantive issues and share the truth through channels such as our calls for prayer and action.

Our God is as good today as He was on November 3. He is sovereign and nothing happens that has not been filtered through His hands.

And let us not forget to thank Him for some amazing victories, including the passage of three marriage amendments. To Him be the glory, forever and ever. ***Have a blessed Thanksgiving.***

Make a difference by getting involved with CWA!

To find out how to join a local Prayer/Action Chapter or get more information about CWA of California, call our office at (626) 227-4266 or e-mail director@california.cwfa.org. To become one of CWA's over 500,000 members nationwide, please send a tax-deductible gift of \$25 or more to CWA of California, P.O. Box 660894, Arcadia, CA 91066

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____