

Morality Forum Update

Standing up for family values in society

Issue 27

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Time to put emphasis on the family again

by Theresa Quarmby

Since “the family” is in the news at present, I thought I would like to share some thoughts on “the family”.

We have all watched the disintegration of “the family” over the past 40 years, and now we desperately need to capture the richness of family life.

For family life - among other things - it is really about things like celebrating anniversaries, caring for an elderly parent and tucking one’s children into bed. Throughout the ages, political philosophers, social historians, civic and religious leaders have praised the family as the foundation of the social order, the bedrock of nations, and the bastion of civilisation.

The 1948 universal declaration of Human Right’s describes the family as the natural *continue p3*

Has Your MP Backed Hamdy Shahein Yet?

by Bryan Warner

Encourage your MP to become part of the solution! Check on p.6 are they among the 157 MPs who support the motion that calls for making Newsagents’ family-friendly, tabled by Diane Abbott, Mr Shahein’s MP. If they haven’t signed it yet, you might want to plan and visit them in early September. Hamdy Shahein is a newsagent who has set up the Network for Porn-Free Newsagents and Convenience Stores. *continue p6*



Religious freedom and freedom of conscience under threat?

The Sexual Orientation Regulations and their consequences

By Bruno Klotz

These regulations completed their parliamentary passage on 21 March. The House of Lords accepted them by 168 votes to 122. They have come into force in the UK on 1st April.

Under the regulations private individuals who cannot in all conscience reconcile homosexual practice with the created order, will, in certain circumstances, be required to condone or promote homosexual activities and lifestyles in a manner contrary to their beliefs. For example:

Under the new rules hotels cannot refuse to provide rooms for gay couples, and religious groups are obliged to rent out halls for “gay wedding” receptions.

A Christian, Jewish or Muslim printer could be forced to print a flyer for a gay night club. A teacher will have to break the law to promote heterosexual marriage over homosexual civil partnership. *continue p6*

>>Serious about Sainsbury’s

by Helena Stout

I’ve shopped at our local Sainsbury’s since it opened 10 years ago. Till one day, I noticed with horror that they had The Star magazine on display right at the entrance, where everyone HAS to pass by. My toddlers were exposed to naked ladies - no thanks. I had a word with the manager; and he said he would do something about it. He later informed me that he couldn’t do anything, as their Head office had told them to display the magazines. After having a word with Head office, I found this was not true and it was up to the manager of the store. I asked them again and they did change it. The manager changed and they started to put soft porn magazines on show. I asked them to stop doing so by letter. Their response *continue p2*

Serious about Sainsbury's from p1

was disappointing, very little changed.

One magazine had 25 naked women on the front cover!!!

I got so fed up, I went up to the manager and directly asked him if he could do something about them. He said he had, but when I pointed out the ones I meant he said he could not do anything about them.

I don't know why I didn't just stop going there, but to be honest, I had a lot of friends amongst the staff and enjoyed going in there; the nearest supermarket was too far as well. My colleague John had already stopped shopping at this branch of Sainsbury's because he had organised a petition against some lewd greeting cards that were on sale in the store, although he had been informed that the cards would be removed, in reality they were not. Eventually the cards were removed and also finally, legislation came through on a national level and they actually put the offensive magazines in an opaque bag and put them behind a wood shelf for decency.

I've been to Sainsbury's Alperton and what did I see there - yes, you guessed - the Star in an optimum position on show - more work for me to do!!!! ☐

>>Email from Damascus

from David Fraser Harris

Dear John, Thank you for all the efforts you are making on the moral front in the UK. I am sent copies of your communications, which I consider very vital work. ☐

>>Pro-life Chain Protest

By John O'Neill

On Saturday April 28th *The Society For The Protection Of the Unborn Child* organised a peaceful chain protest in more than fifty towns and cities throughout Britain. The protest was in remembrance of the more than six million abortions carried out since the abortion act was passed 40 years ago in 1967. An appalling shameful statistic.

In London Finbar Murphy and I took part in the protest which was held in Parliament Square. Around 60 people participated. In Huddersfield Theresa Quarmby participated, together with about 12 others. Although the numbers may have been small Theresa made a very relevant and significant point when she stated, "When we do this God knows we mean it." Let us hope and pray that many more righteous thinking people will support in the future such worthy initiatives as the chain protest. ☐

>>Conference on Pornography in Ireland

By John O'Neill

Education for Peace founder and *Morality Forum* activist Tom Molloy recently organised a conference in Dublin on the topic of pornography. Various distinguished speakers gave presentations, including Dr. Shaheed Satardien of the Supreme Muslim Council and 2006 Visionary of Peace Award Winner. Tom has also organised a petition against Debenhams and Eason's stores in Dublin, regarding their selling Playboy branded products. Placards supporting the petition state, "Playboy products are psychologically preparing your children for future introduction and exploitation by the sex industry" Tom is doing great work in Ireland in defence of moral and family values.

To see in more detail about the various inspiring projects he is initiating go to: www.educationforpeaceireland.org

Tom explains:

"Campaigners against Peter Stringfellow's club in Dublin city asked the media and online forums to support their campaign against visual prostitution because of the following reasons: The link between porn and violence is easy to understand. Someone viewing porn or watching a stripper dance for him isn't concerned about her hopes and dreams, her childhood, beliefs or education. She is not a human being with intrinsic value, dignity and a soul, a name isn't even necessary. She is just something sexual to look at. She is simply an outlet for sexual pleasure. When women are simply sexual objects what does it matter if they don't want to have sex? When pornography objectifies women, it demeans their value as a human being and reduces them to lower even than animals: they become inanimate objects. A rape victim's resistance, objections and desperate pleadings are of no interest or relevance to someone who views her as merely a sexual object, not a human being. This objectification is the link between porn such as lap-dancing and heinous crimes such as rape. Undermining the dignity of the man woman relationship undermines mental health and social order." Tom Molloy (TSTimes, 461 South Circular Road, Dublin 8, Eire) ☐

A Call To Action: Women's Dignity is Sacrosanct

The following example letter is suggested by Womens Federation for World Peace when encountering an offensive advert, etc:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
On, I have noticed
at/in your advertise-

ment for

As a woman, I am writing to express my indignation about this advert. Are you aware of the fact that violence towards women constitutes by far the most frequent violation of human rights? An issue many times being ignored - yet, since decades homes exist for battered women and children, taking refuge from the dangers of violence, sexual intimidation and bodily and psychological abuse. Even on a private level these are criminal acts, often times not recorded due to the economic dependence of many women on their partners. This sex-oriented, domestic violence is closely connected with lack of respect towards and equality of women in the awareness of society. Through sexualized language and advertisements, through misuse of the female body as advert-gag for the greatest variety of products, this lacking equality is being reinforced and encouraged very subtly and, with it, not only the domestic violence against women but also the abuse of children.. I therefore request that you take responsibility by paying close attention in your choice of adverts. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to withdraw, with immediate effect, the advert mentioned above. A reply to this letter would be greatly appreciated. ☐

(for more info: wfwpeace@gmail.com)

Emphasis on the family from p1

and fundamental group unit of society.

The fact is that the family is a universal and irreplaceable community, rooted in human nature and the basis of all societies at all times. As a cradle of life and love for each new generation, the family is the primary source of personal identity, self esteem, and support for children. It is also the first and foremost school of life, uniquely suited to teach children integrity, character, morals, responsibility, service and wisdom.

Given the importance of families to society, I believe that the government should work to support and strengthen families by encouraging healthy marriages and supporting families that need assistance.

To support families effectively government must first recognise that families exist apart from the state. The government's obligation is to respect, defend and protect the family as an institution.

The government should keep the tax burden on families as low as possible, and, where it is not possible for both parents to be in the paid labour force, to provide a household income.

We need a public policy to strengthen healthy marriages and where possible a two-parent family - research consistently shows that healthy marriages benefit children, adults and society, whereas dysfunctional marriages do not, so we need policies that promote healthy marriages.

The government should recognise that every child has dignity and worth.

Present government policies are not educating or benefiting society, they are destroying it, its very foundation has been eroded by liberal policies.

The doctrine of non-judgement has left us with many young casualties! Our children and grandchildren are so intensely bombarded with immoral politically correct teaching that it is difficult for the best-loved child to fully understand its long-term physical, mental and spiritual

implications.

A survey of young teenagers found that instead of being happy with life many were stressed out due to pressure. The pressures they mentioned were, wanting to look like celebrities, weight, alcohol, drugs, broken homes and "free sex".

Some of the girls said they had not been involved in early sexual activity but felt pressures to do so because of school sex lessons.

Also some of the girls' parents were having their own problems with partners and so felt that the only people to turn to for advice were their teenage friends.

Society teaches our young children the raw mechanics of sex and sexuality, but love, commitment, chastity and self-respect are rarely mentioned hence the tragic result of disease, infertility, pregnancy and abortion.

Not surprising then that British youngsters get "the worst deal in the West" regarding their well-being according to the UN children's fund.

Recently the Marie Stopes Clinic reported an "abortion epidemic" with 6,000 abortions in January. The other day a sociologist called for the age of consent for sexual activity to be cut from 16 years to 14 years. What next?

Government can support families by promoting policies that help strengthen the institute of marriage and helps parents rear children in positive and healthy environments.

Society should be a commitment to justice and democracy, citizens to enjoy equal states, with the family as the bedrock, where motherhood and fatherhood are once again respected and we all use with wisdom the discovery of new science. □ (*published in the Huddersfield Examiner March 2007*)

For more info
about the UN
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**Smoking ban a hurdle for lapdancing clubs**

The smoking ban might prove a bit of a shiver for owners of lap-dancing clubs.

"There is no room for manoeuvre when the ban comes in. I will be fined £2500 each time it is breached," said Dave West, owner of lapdancing club *Hey Jo* in St.James, central London (Daily Express, June 22nd). "The only way for patrons to smoke after July 1st is by going out on the pavement and that could land me in trouble with the police if it creates noise or disturbance," he admitted, fearing that he might have to close down. He has hired Cherie Blair in her capacity of human rights lawyer hoping she could help him go around it. Sorry Jo, time to go! □

The Truth Isn't Sexy

www.thetruthisntsexy.com is raising awareness amongst younger people about the realities of sex trafficking. The cross-party parliamentary launch of the campaign took place in March 2007 to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. Shockingly, there are more people traded in forms of modern-day slavery than at the height of the slave trade.

In contrast to other agencies 'The truth isn't sexy' (TTIS) is addressing the 'demand' part of the sex market. TTIS challenges increasingly prevalent attitudes that normalise ending up in a lap-dancing club, brothel or massage parlour. It is asking those who use these services to think about the wider impact of their choices.

To that end TTIS is launching a beer mat campaign. The specially designed beer mats imitate telephone box calling cards, one side portrays an enticing image but the flipside shocks and highlights the brutal reality of the lives of trafficked women. Aimie Littler and her team intend to distribute the campaign in each major UK city. □

Dear WAIT UK...



What follows is excerpts from a letter by Robert A. Samson, Development Officer for Catholic Youth Care in Dublin, after the 4-day WAIT UK trip to Ireland earlier this year.

(WAIT UK is a proactive youth project aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS through abstinence and inspiring young people to live a healthy lifestyle by developing their talents and creativity)

"Dear Marshall,

It's only now that the young people and us realized how much we're really missing you all! I still keep on getting extraordinary positive feedbacks from coordinators of different youth groups that participated in your workshop shows.

Some of the young people who witnessed the WAIT Team show are trying hard to practice what you've imparted them and they all feel that it's really revolutionary!"



"Two girls from Sheriff Youth Club decided to call off their dates that night after the presentation and they believed that it was just providential for them to have done it. The boys whom they were supposed to date were also present at the WAIT Show that night and didn't make any resistance to their girls as

they understood well now, what respect for others really means, and, that if it's really love that they feel for each other, they must be willing and can wait for the "right moment".

"Some of the un-accompanied minors, members of the NYP2 club that participated in Saint Agatha's Hall, related to me that now they understand why some of their relations have AIDS/HIV. They understood that Faithfulness to the partner is essential in married life or long lasting relationships. They are now engaging themselves a lot in sport so as not to have any idle moment for them to think differently from what you've imparted them."



To know more about the most recent 14-day Uganda trip contact Marshall de Souza on tel. 07799450703 / email wait-uk@waitteam.org or go to www.waitteam.org. Marshall and the teens would also appreciate your donation!



Tamezin is a magazine for young people made by young people! It's fun as well as gives food for thought. It covers Social issues, Culture, Entertainment, Health, Beauty, etc. Get to know more about it at www.tamezinclub.org.uk. To get a free sample copy, subscribe or contribute to the magazine, send an email to tamezin@tamezinclub.org.uk

Jewish Faith School - England's Best

by Frank van der Stok

The Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls school in Stamford Hill, N. London was judged in March as the most outstanding effective school in England by Ofsted. 89% of its 233 students attained 5 A*-Cs in their GCSEs last year, teaching & learning was voted "excellent", behaviour "superb", pastoral care and support "exemplary" and leadership "outstanding".

Rabbi Abraham Pinter, the principal who runs the voluntarily aided and maintained school with his wife, Rachel, the headteacher, says "I would prefer to have come second. Because then we'd have the glow of success without the glare of publicity which frankly I could do without." (Evening Standard, March 1st) When asked what is the secret of his success, the 58 year-old father of 7 and grandfather of 15, believes "our excellent results in secular studies are a direct result of the less visible values our children learn in Jewish studies - a sense of discipline, responsibility for each other, hard work and, especially, a love of learning."

There is no sex education in the school nor problems with teenage pregnancy. "We have no problems with drugs or alcohol either. The last time we had to exclude a child was never," says Rabbi Pinter who has been the principal for the past 12 years. It is rather achieving the highest academic standards than sex education, that is considered a proper preparation for marriage and motherhood.

"Our experience is that the better educated girls turn out to be the more successful mothers. For us that's the most important role a woman plays." All of the girls after leaving the school will go to Jewish seminaries and many will also become teachers.

The students are forbidden to watch television, read a newspaper, log on to the internet or use a mobile. One of the teachers, a secular Jew, believes the girls would do even better in English if they were allowed access to the internet and some of the media.

Rabbi Pinter says "I'm sure they would, but the costs outweigh the benefits." Charedi girls don't have those sorts of distractions, he reasons, and that is precisely why they are already coming first.

Rabbi Pinter is also a founding member of the Muslim Jewish Forum of North London, a grassroots organisation that meets once a month to tackle community issues.



Did She Win or Lose?

Recently, Lydia Playfoot, 16, found herself caught in the public eye when she decided to take her school to court for banning her from wearing her Chastity ring which she felt breached her right to practise her religion and beliefs.

Her move gained wide publicity and she received messages of support from over

30 bishops and 15 politicians. Friends and individual donors raised the sum needed for the High Court hearing. In July, however, she lost the case on the grounds that the ring was not an intrinsic part of Christian faith.

It's a pity she lost. Nevertheless, on the other hand, what she experienced at her school spurred her to go the extra mile and send out a *lasting* message nationwide.



True Family Values
(compiled by Frank van der Stok,
continued from previous issue)

The “Vertical Ethic”

A. Goodness means to live for the sake of the whole.

One important purpose of the family is that through the family, the individual is drawn to live for the greater whole. This is expressed in what we call the “vertical ethic”. The vertical ethic teaches that goodness means to live for the sake of the whole.

1. Obligation to the whole is the center of true family ethics.

- This means to serve the whole, even at the sacrifice of the self.
- The whole means the greater collective, which has higher value than the individual.
- We in turn become people of value to the whole.
- And we participate in and inherit the value of the whole.

2. In a family, the parents represent the whole.

- They are concerned about the whole. They know what happened before the children were born, and they prepared for the children to come into the world.
- They are responsible for the whole. In the family, the parents are the “central point” of the whole.
- Growing children have a focus of concern and responsibility narrower than that of their parents.
- Therefore, filial piety means the ethic of serving the whole through serving the parents, the central point.
- This is the root of what is called “vertical ethics,” that is, the norms of vertical relationship.

3. Likewise, in every context, the primary ethics involve vertical relationships.

- Loyalty to state, company, community, team.
- To support the greater purpose that they serve.
- To accomplish the greater results by working together.
- In this way, filial piety expands its horizon without limit.
- Love my nation as I love my parents.
- Love the whole world as I love my parents.
- Love God as I love my parents.
- The vertical ethic is one of sacrifice for the greater whole.
- Buddha sacrificed life in his father’s palace, as did Moses.
- St. Francis left his wealthy family for a life of poverty.
- George Washington gave up a comfortable life on his farm to serve his country.
- Albert Schweitzer left the university and lived simply in the jungle.
- Confucius wandered about in search of an honest ruler who could be taught.



Abraham & Isaac

4. Vertical ethics is a universal principle; it is the pattern by which the cosmos expanded.

- Entities on each level contribute to the higher level thereby come to have the value of that higher level.
- A hydrogen atom participates in sugar.
- The sugar becomes part of a rice plant.
- The rice becomes part of a human who eats it.
- Thus the hydrogen atom participates in the value of a human being. The human being may care very much about the condition of an organ containing that hydrogen atom!

5. Through the vertical ethic, we feel as if the whole is my family.

- The vertical ethic means taking ownership of, participating in, and inheriting the value of the whole.
- The vertical ethic makes us feel emotions of love, sympathy, self-forgetfulness, excitement, and so forth.
- These emotions create unity.
- This leads to character development.

The Vertical Ethic Begins with Honouring Parents

A. The vertical ethic is to live for the greater whole.

1. In the family, day to day, one’s parents represent the greater whole. Therefore, children serving their parents is the beginning of living for the greater whole. This is the foundation vertical ethic: filial piety.

2. Filial piety, the vertical ethic, can be practiced on the level of the family, nation, world and cosmos.

- Filial piety.
- Love of country (true patriotism).
- Love of all humanity (sainthood).
- Love of God (to be a son or daughter of God).

B. The way of filial piety.

1. Filial sons and daughters feel gratitude for their parent’s sacrificial love given in bearing and rearing them.

- We received infinitely from our parents.
- Therefore, we have a debt to our parents.
- We should pay back this debt by serving our parents with gratitude and love.
- Paying back the debt creates a deeper bond of love with our parents. This makes the base for an ever-developing relationship, energy, prosperity and happiness.
- As a result, we gain much more, including good fortune in the future.
- This logic applies on ever-expanding levels of our existence.

2. Children respond to parental love with genuine gratitude and willing obedience. They inherit their parents’ teachings and world views as their own. As children grow to adulthood, they understand their parents’ deepest ideals and longings.

continue p8

Religious Freedom from p1

No wonder that hundreds of Christians demonstrated outside Parliament to prevent these regulations from coming into force. They could not prevent it, though.

Baroness O’Cathains’ motion in the House of Lords to reject the regulations was defeated. In her speech she explained that the issue was not about rejecting homosexual people as people but about forcing religious people to endorse or promote immorality. She also criticized the rushed timetable, the elevation of gay rights over religious freedom and the intolerance of closing down organisations and businesses that refuse to condone homosexual practice.

During the course of the House of Lords debate, several peers rose to say that while they had welcomed previous gay-friendly initiatives, they were unable to support the sexual orientation regulations because they infringed freedom of conscience and would have damaging consequences for many people.

One of these peers, Viscount Bledisloe said, “I think I can claim with justification and with pride that in every issue that has come before your Lordships’ House before, I have consistently supported the position of the gay community....Now we have come to a position...where the gay lobby...is seeking to impose its morality on the religious communities.”

Labour peer Lord Anderson of Swansea, explained why he was breaking his long-standing habit in more than 36 years in Parliament and voting against his Party: “The government have given greater weight to the demands of gay rights than to the concerns of mainstream religious bodies...The government have drawn the line in the wrong place. They have been too ready to listen and to yield to well organised and intolerant lobbies, and too unready to listen to the proper concerns of faith groups...”

Lord Morrow said: “The regulations threaten to override the conscience and free speech of Christians and others who object to homosexual practice.”

The fight for religious freedom under the Sexual Orientation Regulations is not over. There are important legal arguments in favor of religious people. The Human Rights Act contains a right to religious freedom. The Christian Institute believes that the regulations are “open to legal challenge”.

In Northern Ireland the Northern Ireland version of the regulations is under judicial review. If the court decides that the regulations are unlawful, that “could strike them down” according to the Christian Institute. “This could have implications for the Great Britain regulations.” □

Hamdy Shahein from p1

He would also like to make it illegal to sell lads mags, Daily Star and similar titles to anyone under 18 years of age. Hear the whole story directly from him - watch his interview at



www.definingmoment.eu. To add your support, please find the petition on his site www.hamdyspornfree.com.

There is currently no legal definition of pornography in the UK. Mr. Shahein’s campaign aims to change the definition of certain publications on the market so that the regulations for newspapers and magazines are not left to individual retailers and voluntary codes, but are enforced by law.

The House of Commons motion calling on the Government to consider introducing legislation to ensure that offensive material is kept out of reach of children was tabled in 2006 by Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington. The motion received the signatures of 157 MPs from all parties. Its text is as follows:



“That this House notes that there is still no legislation in place to ensure that adult titles, including so called lads mags, newspapers and tabloids containing disturbing pornographic material, are kept out of reach and sight of children; acknowledges that most newsagents adhere to the voluntary Code of Practice as set out by the National Federation of

Retail Newsagents; welcomes local campaigners all over the UK who are putting pressure on WH Smith to recognise certain tabloid titles as pornography; and calls on the Government once again to consider introducing legislation to ensure offensive material is kept well out of reach and sight of children”

157 signatories:

Amess D, Bailey A, Barlow C, Barrett J, Battle J, Begg A, Benton J, Bercow J, Berry R, Bottomley P, Brady G, Brake T, Breed C, Brokenshire J, Brooke A, Bruce M, Burns S, Burstow P, Burt A, Burt L, Butler D, Butterfill J, Cable V, Campbell G, Carmichael A, Cash W, Caton M, Chaytor D, Cohen H, Conway D, Cook F, Cooper R, Corbyn J, Creagh M, Cryer A, Cummings J, Davies P, Dean J, Dobbin J, Dodds N, Donaldson J, Dowd J, Drew D, Durkan M, Ellman L, Ellwood T, Engel N, Etherington B, Evans N, Fallon M, Farron T, Featherstone Field F, Foster MJ, Galloway G, George A, Gidley S, Gilroy L, Godsiff R, Goldsworthy J, Goodman H, Goodwill R, Gray J, Griffith N, Gummer J, Hammond S, Hancock M, Harris E, Harvey N, Hayes J, Heath D, Hepburn S, Holloway A, Holmes P, Horam J, Howarth D, Huhne C, Hurd N, Iddon B, Illsley E, James S, Jones D, Jones L, Kawczynski D, Keeley B, Keetch P, Khan S, Kirkbride J, Kramer S, Kumar A, Laing E, Laxton B, Leigh E, Lepper D, Loughton T, Mackinlay A, MacNeil A, Main A, Malik S, Marris R, Mates M, McCarthy K, McCarthy-Fry S, McDonnell A, McKechnie A, Mitchell A, Mitchell A, Mudie G, Mulholland G, Naysmith D, Osborne S, Pelling A, Penning M, Riordan L, Robertson A, Robinson G, Salmond A, Sanders A, Sarwar M, Scott L, Seabeck A, Selous A, Sheerman B, Shepherd R, Simpson A, Simpson D, Singh M, Smith G, Soames N, Spink B, Strang G, Streeter G, Swinson J, Syms R, Taylor D, Taylor R, Thornberry E, Todd M, Truswell P, Turner D, Vaizey E, Vara S, Vis R, Walker C, Watkinson A, Weir M, Widdecombe A, Williams B, Williams M, Williams R, Williams S □ (e-mail us for the list with the full names and areas)

Tools and Strategies of the Abolitionists



1) Committee. In 1783 an all-Quaker abolition committee was started and an abolition petition was submitted in Parliament. The petition was rebuffed and the committee failed to gain public attention. In 1787 a new Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was formed. Among the 12 members 9 were Quakers and 2 - Anglicans. The two Anglicans G. Sharp and T. Clarkson were chosen to represent the committee. This alliance allowed the committee to reach out to people who normally would not want to be associated with a Quaker organisation. The committee decided to focus on the goal of abolition of the slave trade rather than slavery itself. Having clearly defined the goal, it built up local groups, and also had a newsletter. Letters were regularly sent out appealing for funds.



7) Time. It took 20 years for a Slave Trade Abolition Bill to be passed in 1807. During that time many things happened on both sides of the Atlantic that contributed to it. Many more people's lives were sacrificed. The campaign was successful in challenging assumptions that existed deeply over hundreds of years. People in their thousands got convinced that 'not only was slavery wrong, but that they had an obligation to try to end it.' Once this anti-slavery sentiment was firmly established, it was a matter of another 20 years to abolish slavery completely in all British colonies.



2) Evidence. Abolitionists sought to provide evidence that the pro-slavery lobby's statements were wrong. T. Clarkson interviewed sailors, ship doctors, traders, bought shackles, thumbscrews, devices for force-feeding etc. all that to provide evidence of the abuse toward Africans, as well as documented the brutal maltreatment of the ships' crews themselves. His analysis was neutral in tone, relying on facts, statistics and evidence, rather than religious or moral arguments. It thus gained the attention of different key audiences. He also had a whole collection of African products that could be a good trading alternative.



3) Firsthand testimonies undermined the statements of the opponents by the persuasive power of personal account. It showed how the issue affected real people. Numerous such books and pamphlets were published and distributed. Two of the most prominent being the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano, a former slave, and the testimony of the Rev. John Newton, a former slave ship captain and author of *Amazing Grace*.



4) The arts went a long way in reaching out to different audiences as they engaged people on an emotional level. Thousands of posters with images as well as poems, music, cartoons and drama could do what debates and analysing statistics could not. The abolition movement adopted as a logo the image of an African man kneeling, under the slogan 'Am I not a man and a brother'. It was used to brand publications, banners, jewellery, chinaware, etc.



6) Parliamentary lobbying. Abolitionists regularly lobbied MPs on slavery issues. Especially they approached MPs known as people of devout faith. W. Wilberforce was persuaded to become the parliamentary spokesperson for the campaign. House of Commons committee on the slave trade was set up, different parliamentary approaches played their important role.



5) Mobilization of the public. Hundreds of thousands signed petitions for abolition of the slave trade. As a result of the sugar boycott in 1791 sales dropped by a third to a half. Shops started advertising goods which were produced by 'freemen'. The size and strength of these popular protests made politicians consider the consequences of ignoring public opinion.

God and prayer were at the core of the Abolitionists' campaign. Let's look into the tools and strategies that sprung from there to bring it to a favourable end.

Page by Frank and Diana van der Stok

Marriage and Family Enrichment: What is 'Vision Statement'?

by Dietrich Siedel



“Vision statement means that you have a road map for your marriage, you define a goal where you want to go. You don't do this as a husband or a wife but you do it together. The way we recommend it to the people

we talk to is that we first ask the husband and the wife personally to write down a few points how they want their marriage to be. So they make a list of 4 or 5 points - i.e. 'we want to have a harmonious relationship, we want to learn to negotiate differences in a civilized manner etc.,' and also to write down just in short and in the present tense like it's already happening. "We are having a fulfilling marriage", even if it's further down the road we speak about the present. So that's kind of a first step and the point is once you have your personal lists of points what you want to accomplish in your marriage then you exchange those lists and you see - my partner wants this, I want this, are there any overlapping or different points here, so how shall we accommodate those. Then we decide on the priorities - what we both agree on is the most important one, and then number 2 and so on. So we come up with 4 or 5 points again, we agree on them and that's our common vision

statement.

Then the point is to be reminded of this vision statement on a daily basis. How to do that - you post this vision statement on the refrigerator door! So every time you have a little snack you read what your vision is, what is your goal, where you want to go.

Vision goes together with a foundation. Marriage has to have a certain strong foundation, something to stand on. I would say the foundation for marriage are your values, your relationship with God, your spirituality, your commitment, your sense of commitment. So that foundation is the prerequisite to allow the vision to take shape and form. And then in the interaction of the two, what happens is you have the power to actually make changes in your life and that's what we are looking for, because obviously vision means I have to change, I have to work on my personality, my willingness to cooperate more with my spouse and to come closer to each other. In that sense the result of the vision and foundation would be a change to the better, moving on, a growth experience, and that's what we need." □

(To watch the rest of the interview with Dr Dietrich and Elisabeth Siedel go to www.definingmoment.tv)

True Family Values from p5

3. Children want to make their parents proud of them.

- Children of filial piety fulfill their parents' unfinished dreams.
- Children of poor immigrants who go to college and achieve success.
- Children of parents who love music, who practice and become accomplished musicians.
- All parents dream their children will find joy in marriage and family.
- Therefore, sexual purity is the primary act of filial piety.
- Children of filial piety uphold their parents' standards.
- Children of filial piety harmonize with one another and keep the family peaceful.
- Children of filial piety achieve their own happiness and success; parents want their children to be happy and successful.

4. Children of filial piety provide for their parents in old age, in their own homes, not government or commercial institutions.

5. Filial piety requires postponing one's own happiness. This is why it is a virtue comparable with patriotism and sainthood.

6. Parents need to use firmness and provide standards for their children, who are looking for rules to live by.

- The children will internalize these standards as their own.
- Children sense the heart behind necessary reprimand or punishment.

- Only when it is given with a heart of love is punishment effective and nurturing.

- Punishment out of anger, frustration or egoism leads to alienation, distrust and resentment on the part of the child.
- Children will inherit what their parents do and actually value, not what they say they should do and should value.

7. Even when parents are bad, the child should be filial.

- He tries to urge his parents to refrain from evil for the sake of the family's reputation, but he does not leave his position as their child. In the Confucian tradition, the legendary example of a filial son enduring hostile parents was the ancient Chinese King Shun. He was filial even as his parents were trying to kill him. Once his parents made him dig a well, intending to bury him alive as he worked at the bottom of the pit. He learned of their plot, dug a side chamber and survived and never criticized his parents. His filial piety became so renowned that King Yao selected him as his heir and gave him the throne.

8. In the Bible, we can compare Ham and Isaac in terms of filial piety.

- Ham disrespected his father Noah, even after Noah's work saved the family from the flood (Gen 9:2-25). Isaac obeyed his father Abraham, even when Abraham placed him on the altar to be sacrificed (Gen. 15:9-16). Ham's descendants were cursed, and Isaac's were blessed. Ham was controlled by distrust of his father, but Isaac was trusting.

(from the book "True Family Values" by Wilson and Pak)

to be continued...