

Morality Forum Update

Standing up for family values in society

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Protecting Children's Innocence

By John O'Neill

Ofsted Inspectors have been in the news recently for asking children in faith schools inappropriate and offensive questions concerning their religious beliefs. Grindon Hall Christian School in Sunderland, has accused Ofsted Inspectors of adopting a "hostile" stance towards its faith status after they allegedly questioned 10-year-old children about lesbian sex. Durham Free School has complained to Ofsted about allegedly "inappropriate questioning "of children as young as 11 about how they would treat classmates who were gay or Muslim and whether they knew "how to make a baby". A group representing Orthodox Jewish schools has said Ofsted created a "climate of hostility" during visits by inspectors, with pupils interrogated about sex, relationships and lifestyle during snap inspections carried out recently. The National Association of Jewish Orthodox Schools has written to the Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan, and Ofsted in protest at the questioning. Ofsted said its staff were following national guidelines, in relation to new "British Values" rules, which have been introduced by Nicky Morgan, in the wake of the Trojan Horse scandal involving Islamic influence in schools in Birmingham. The Najos letter complains that Jewish schools are being disproportionately targeted by Ofsted for inspections, and that "Jewish values and ethos are being questioned by inspectors in a climate of hostility" designed to unsettle pupils. Recently Ofsted carried out no-notice inspections at

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NEWS IN BRIEF

A Courageous Lady

In spite of letters to the school, a meeting with the acting head teacher and extensive national media coverage, Geradine Stockford from Middlesex, had been unable to persuade her daughter's school that a play, *Mogadishu*, which contained around 400 swear words, including over 200 uses of the 'F' word, sexually explicit dialogue and blasphemy was inappropriate for use with 14 and 15 year-olds. Mrs Stockford was encouraged by the Campaign for Real Education to set up a petition on the government website calling for the regulation of texts used in English and Drama. After advertising the petition on the Mumsnet website, Mrs Stockford was shocked and distressed by the barrage of abuse she received and the petition was withdrawn. Users of the site, including mothers and teachers, had mocked her and used foul language. Undeterred, Mrs Stockford contacted a new head teacher at the school who stated that the school would not be using the play in the present academic year and that he had set up some meetings with the school's governors to discuss the school's values. Here is another very good example of one person being willing to take responsibility in challenging evil, and persevering even when being ridiculed and feeling distressed. Thank you Mrs Stockford!

Knife Crime

Dr Tom Konig an air ambulance doctor recently wrote an open letter calling for an end to knife attacks. Dr Konig wrote the letter after a teenage stab victim died in his arms. Dr Konig wrote: "we held the heart of a young boy in our hands and willed it to beat and to survive. Another victim of the awful epidemic of senseless knife crime that is causing death and disability of too many young men with the whole of their lives ahead of them." In recent weeks two 15 year-old boys have lost their lives in separate incidents because of knife attacks. Losing a child through illness or a road accident etc. is very painful for families, but to lose a child through barbaric knife attacks is devastating for families. There are various factors related to the continuous horrendous loss of life for young people through knife attacks. One of the most important factors is the lack of proper deterrents to stop young people from carrying knives in the first place. The government had previously planned to send to prison for five years anybody found to be carrying a knife. This policy has now been changed to four months in prison for carrying a knife for the **second** time! How many more young men will lose their lives because of such a

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weak, pathetic, so-called solution to such a serious matter? Please contact MPs: House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA

Tens of thousands urge boycott of 'Fifty Shades of Grey'. Pornography. [LifeSiteNews]

February 9, 2015 -- Americans should boycott Fifty Shades of Grey on Valentine's Day, say more than 60,000 signatories and a growing coalition of groups that accused NBC Universal of "using a romantic holiday to promote a movie about abuse and degradation." LifeSiteNews, joined by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, the Family Research Council, and the website Counter Cultured, released the following statement on Monday about the controversial movie. "Feminists and social conservatives agree: Fifty Shades of Grey promotes misogyny, abuse, and manipulation, not relationships based upon mutual love and respect," said the coalition. "This film normalizes and glamorizes behaviours such as stalking, threats and physical violence. Its portrayal of relationships and sex is offensive to real life victims of domestic abuse. The film sets a particularly dangerous example for younger viewers, who may not understand that attractive, charismatic young billionaire Christian Grey is also an abusive sociopath, especially since victim/narrator Anastasia Steele continually describes and portrays him as a god." "Valentine's Day is supposed to be a celebration of love; however, the relationship between the two main characters in Fifty Shades of Grey is anything but caring or loving. NBC Universal should be ashamed of themselves for using a romantic holiday to promote a movie about abuse and degradation," said the diverse group of organizations. The coalition is joined by over 60,000 people boycotting Fifty Shades of Grey.

ABORTION SURVIVORS

By Fiorella Nash

A colleague recently drew my attention to a website run by and dedicated to abortion survivors; www.theabortionsurvivors.com. This website offers a platform for one of the most marginalised groups of people in the world—men and women who are alive because an abortionist failed to kill them. The stories are heartbreaking; many abortion survivors lost twin brothers or sisters, others suffer life long illness and disability as a result of the injuries they suffered during the abortion attempt. Tales of poor relationships with mothers and years of abuse during childhood are common but so too are reminders of the extraordinary human capacity to survive and forgive. In the pro-life movement we sometimes muse about how the campaign would change if the victims of abortion could speak—thanks to platforms like Abortion Survivors they can and do. *This article is published by kind permission of SPUC*

Morality Forum Action

On Sunday, March 29th John O'Neill was invited to meet Jeremy Corbyn MP at the Church of the Grace of God in Holloway Road, N. London. John spoke to Mr Corbyn about the importance of a religious ethos being prevalent again in our nation in relation to the enormous increases in crimes and social problems in the UK during past decades. John also made the point about freedom of speech in relation to religious people and the homosexual agenda, and asked Mr Corbyn if he would vote in favour of compulsory sex education lessons in schools, if this issue were to arise during the next parliament. Mr Corbyn believes that parents



should be able to withdraw their children from sex education classes. He does believe in freedom of speech if it is done in a responsible way. In this photo Jeremy Corbyn is seen addressing the congregation at the Church of the Grace of God.

On Saturday, March 28th, John O'Neill attended the AGM of Mediawatch-UK. From the floor John mentioned about the importance of moral organisations working together. Such a policy has proved to be successful recently in the USA. John also mentioned that when writing letters, sending emails etc. it is important to enclose the results of studies about moral/family issues, which help to make a stronger case regarding relevant issues. Also, it is important to enclose positive, as well as informative articles and testimonies to enhance the relevant points made. In this photo, Mr Manji Patel is seen receiving a certificate in recognition of his 13



years of service on the Mediawatch-UK committee. Mr Patel is now stepping down from his role on the committee. In this photo also, are Rev. Dave Chesney the Chairman of Mediawatch-UK, and Vivienne Pattison, the Director.

On February 4th John O'Neill attended an event at the Houses of Parliament entitled: *Inter-Religious Harmony and Free Speech*. From the floor John spoke about the homosexual agenda in relation to free speech.

Morality Forum supporters continue to distribute the sex education bulletins, Pro-Life Times newspaper and abortion petition forms from SPUC. *The SPUC GENERAL ELECTION HANDBOOK 2015* is also being distributed.

John O'Neill has spoken in recent weeks in various Christian churches about key moral issues. On Saturday, February 28th John O'Neill helped to distribute abortion leaflets together with other members of the Harrow branch of SPUC, in Harrow Weald.

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three Orthodox Jewish schools, including Beis Yaakov high school, a girls' secondary school in Salford. Pupils were said by staff to have been questioned about their use of the internet and their views on homosexuality. During a recent inspection, nine-year olds at an Orthodox Jewish primary school were asked whether they knew how babies were made and whether they knew any homosexuals, Jewish News reported. "The girls felt bullied into answering their questions and the pupils and staff were left feeling traumatised." The experience of the Jewish schools is similar to that of a conservative Muslim primary school in Luton last year, where Ofsted Inspectors were confronted by angry parents over their questioning of children regarding gay marriage.

Rabbi Nessanel Lieberman, head teacher at Bros Beis Yaakov School in Kingsbury has described Ofsted's aims as a "hodge-podge" of left-wing ideals "that were designed to clamp down on institutions that don't conform to their ideology." Durham Free School are taking the Education Secretary to court because of her plans to close their school for failing to teach pupils properly about Islam and sex. Lawyers for the school's trustees are claiming that Mrs Morgan's decision was "tainted with bias".

This serious issue about Ofsted's approach when visiting faith schools was debated in Parliament recently. Three MP's spoke out strongly about Ofsted's offensive approach: Edward Leigh, David Amess and Fiona Bruce stated that faith schools automatically teach to their pupils as part of their school's ethos about tolerance and respect for people from different cultures and religions, and that it was totally unacceptable for Ofsted to go into schools and to ask questions which were offensive in relation to the school's ethos. It is always good to thank MP's who are willing to speak out in defence of traditional moral, family and spiritual values, especially when such values are being ridiculed and rejected in relation to the PC humanistic agenda, which is sadly, being embraced by all the major political parties at various levels, especially in relation to amoral sex education in many of our schools. I have written to the 3 relevant MP's thanking them for speaking out. I also asked them to please do something about children in Birmingham schools being indoctrinated by the homosexual ideology. Let us hope and pray that after the next election there will be many MP's who will be willing to speak out strongly about amoral sex education, in the same way as the 3 MP's who spoke out strongly in defence of faith schools. In the latest sex education bulletin from SPUC there is an article about a young boy who became traumatised by amoral sex education lessons!

Great news from USA: *Dear John, Today, for the first time in more than 8 years, The Federal Communications Commission began enforcing the federal law that prohibits profanity and indecency on broadcast TV. This is a major victory – one that we have worked on for all those 8 years and much, much longer. Despite more than 1,000,000 public complaints and two U.S. Supreme Court cases that upheld the decency federal law, the FCC has let foul language, partial nudity, and virtually anything else be broadcast even during what used to be called the "family hours" in early evening. Indecency on TV sexualizes our children and prepares them to become participants in the pornified*

world that awaits them. This is exactly why the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCSE), formerly Morality in Media (MIM), has been a leader in the matter of TV indecency for more than 50 years. Today I thank FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, and the other four Commissioners for their brave action, charging a TV station in Roanoke, Virginia for putting an actual porn clip on TV. I believe this action is the start of something big and we will see the FCC much more active in protecting the airwaves. We worked tirelessly with our friends at Parents Television Council, Family Research Council, Concerned Women for America, Focus on the Family and numerous other groups for this victory. We made it easy for thousands of you to make your voice heard. We met with key U.S. Senators, and with the FCC Commissioners themselves to get this victory and we filed legal briefs in the key court cases, all the way up to the Supreme Court. Most of all we want to thank YOU for making everything we do possible. We have an aggressive plan to win and know we are backed up by YOU whenever and wherever we carry the fight! THIS VICTORY IS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY! Most grateful to be involved in this fight. Sincerely Dawn Hawkins. A big thank you to Dawn and her associates for their perseverance and tenacity and for setting such a good example. History shows that God can work in mighty ways when even small numbers of people are willing to take responsibility. Let each one of us take heart from that fact and do our best to bring successful results in a similar way to Dawn and her associates, especially and above all, for the protection and innocence of our children.

Letters and Emails Received

Thanks John. I have signed and will ask others too. Chris [Petition in relation to a Magistrate being suspended because he believed that children need a father and a mother rather than being adopted by homosexual parents. The following three emails refer to this petition also.]

Hello John, It is a shame, that so few persons have red article 30 of the Humans Rights Convention. This limits every action a person, organisation or government (-body) can take. It is necessary to remind the judiciary about it as well. Yours, Walter

I am a Muslim. I support this petition since we also love Jesus as he is Our prophet. Ajaz Mir

Hi John, Many thanks for the information on Richard Page. My husband is a Magistrate on the Southern Derbyshire Bench and was very distressed to hear about his situation. My husband has signed the petition and hopefully this will contribute to the support Mr Page deserves. The information you send to me is invaluable. Without your e-mails I would be in the dark about a lot of issues that affect morality and freedom of speech. Keep up the good work. Maria Rose

Dear Brother John, Thanks a lot for this [Winter Update] and all the other issues, and of course most of all for all the work behind it, for everything you are doing day by day to fight for the victory of goodness over evil...! United in heart, Nikolaus

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Thanks John! Excellent newsletter. I will forward it to my contacts Best wishes, Françoise

A letter sent by Jacqueline Deeks to Daily Telegraph concerning offensive language : This is the letter I sent to Chris Evans at the Telegraph re Allison Pearson's piece last time. I haven't had a reply yet. Para 1 was the heading - Editor's Choice - Our selection of some of the best writing. Para 2 gave examples of the style I thought was sarcastic when even a personal view should come across as mature and balanced. Para 3 went into the language inconsistent with a quality newspaper - 'ba**sy' - a crass expression and unflattering to women by implying women can't be go-ahead without imaginary male sex organs. Also the crass language quoted with blanks from the Mayor of Rotterdam and pointing out that when the paper quoted him in a previous article, it left the obscenity a complete blank but when Ms Pearson quoted him, she added 'f' to the blank. Why? What is it about this word that attracts her so? Are you proud of this article? I actually noticed the sarcasm and coarseness more than the point about British Jews being frightened.



IN GENERAL, every time CRUDENESS and OBSCENITY get a public airing anywhere, everyday life is COARSENEDED and DESENSITIZED a little more. AND IN GENERAL, every time someone takes it

as their personal human right to FORCE THROUGH ANY SPEECH AND BEHAVIOUR they happen to feel like, WITHOUT ADJUSTING TO THE SITUATION AND THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS, respect for others and their feelings/rights fades further away and SOCIETY BECOMES MORE SELF-CENTRED, MORE UNPLEASANT AND MORE DANGEROUS FOR THE VULNERABLE - for instance, you don't have to be self-respecting and considerate nowadays using a MOBILE PHONE IN PUBLIC. Anyone can walk about shouting obscenities into a phone, gradually NORMALIZING ABNORMAL AND UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR. Who is speaking out against it?! Has your newspaper thought of doing so?

There GENERALLY ACCEPTED DEFINITIONS OF PEOPLE WHO SWEAR, especially in public: Extreme ATTENTION-SEEKERS, who will do anything for attention; misguided POWER-GRUBBERS who wrongly think it makes them dominant; people LOSING CONTROL of themselves or a situation; those channelling BELOW-BELT emotional or physical PROBLEMS into crude language, and people who have NEVER LEARNED TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES effectively and so substitute ritual foul-mouthing. In other words, it shows up some kind of PERSONAL WEAKNESS and it draws attention to problems which could well need dealing with. IF THE CURRENT TREND TOWARDS coarseness and desensitization is not halted, life in general is going to become what is typical right now on the internet - look at Twitter! I had to have the 'KIDSAFE' TAKEN OFF MY COMPUTER BEFORE IT WOULD LET ME SIGN

UP TO TWITTER and I'm not surprised. (There follows an account of what you find on Twitter)

THE MOST RECENT COMEDIAN TO MILK THE BAD LANGUAGE BOOM launched himself online as the 'Free UK party' (with its obvious acronym) - should go down a bundle in this sanctuary for the ill-adjusted and linguistically challenged.

EQUALLY WORRYING AND SAD is the damage done to HUMAN SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS by reducing them to a UBIQUITOUS FOUR-LETTER OBSCENITY; and coming up fast is the same basic word tacked on to 'mother' to do irreversible damage to the mother/child relationship. But then, for some years otherwise responsible adults have referred to everyday inanimate objects as 'SEXY' (e.g. car parks!) and reports/dossiers as 'SEXED UP/DOWN. (Has your newspaper ever done this?) Is it any surprise that human physical relationships have become cheap and nasty! And what of drug use and porno watching by young people who may well be affected by all the cheapening, banality and crudeness of life today? (How to wire up your brain wrong in a few easy steps!) I ask myself how it must feel to be IN THE PRESS and sense that you are probably adding to the collapse of meaningful language, affectionate relationships, decency and moral fibre in favour of crude repetitive language and self-oriented vacuousness.

Maybe you will have time to let me know. Yours sincerely. PS Do you know there is a National Campaign For Courtesy? This and Mediawatch UK look like the healthiest groups to have around these days. They ought to have more support!

Information sent by Pastor G. Kumar. Wembley Prayer Centre

1PETER1:13-16, THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE 21ST CENTURY WORLD:

1 We have taller buildings but shorter tempers; wider freeways but narrower viewpoints. 2. We spend more but have less; we buy more but enjoy it less 3. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences but less time 4. We have more degrees but less sense; more knowledge but less judgment 5. More experts but more problems; more medicine but more diseases. 6. We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values. 7. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. 8. We've learned how to make a living but not a life. 9. We've added years to life, not life to years. 10. We've been all the way to the moon and back but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour 11. We've done larger things but not better things. 12. We've cleaned up the air but polluted the soul. 13. We write more but learn less. 14. We plan more but accomplish less. 15. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; (16) tall men and short character; steep profits and shallow relationships. 17. These are the times of world peace but domestic warfare; more leisure but less fun; more kinds of food but less nutrition. 18. These are days of two incomes but more divorce; of fancier houses but broken homes. 19. It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom. RESULTS: "We've conquered outer space but not inner space." We're not even close to conquering that. The human heart seems as unruly as ever.



True Family Values

Family Restoration: Necessary, but Possible?

A. How can rebuilding the home solve larger problems?

1. **Solution to crime:** Research shows that criminals are bred by broken homes, in particular where grandparents are not present. Happy families breed law-abiding citizens.

2. **Solution to mental illness:** Along the same lines, mental illness is bred by broken homes, in particular where grandparents are not present. Genetic and biological predisposition to mental illness determine only 30% of whether it will occur. The actual expression of mental illness depends mainly upon human factors. Happy families breed sane, balanced people. Divorces breed children likely to divorce.

3. **Solution to drug abuse, alcoholism:** Same point as that of mental illness: healthy family life ends drug and alcohol abuse.

4. **Solution to the economy:** Two-parent families do far better economically than one-parent families and divorced people. The extended family is the best environment for small-scale entrepreneurship. Small-scale entrepreneurship leads to large scale creation of wealth.

5. **Solution to cultural decay:** Good families create their own culture of family love. True parents do not enjoy decadent cultural products, nor do their children. In fact, they abhor them as more destructive than poison or lead-based paint. (If we spent the money and energy getting rid of sex-garbage TV that we do on getting rid of lead-based paint in our homes, the brains of our kids would be far better off.)

6. **Solution to bloated and conflict-ridden government:** Strong families do not require welfare. A society without welfare requires less government. A society without criminals and adulterers requires less government. Strong families create healthy communities which voluntarily care for the less fortunate, reducing the need for state intervention.

7. **Solution to foreign affairs:** As the family lives for the community, and community for the nation, the national leaders will guide the nation to live for the world, bringing world peace.

8. **Solution to religious and racial strife:** Good families live for the sake of other families, regardless of race or religion. This is because true family values transcend race and religion and culture. We've long known that children everywhere are the same. We should realize that husbands and wives and parents and grandparents are the same everywhere in the world.

9. **Solution to environmental destruction:** Good families consume, wisely, products which are good for children. Good families value the environment above financial profit. Good families create good homes and gardens, creating a park-like environment in their own community. Good families do not

litter; they respect cleanliness as next to godliness. (It is interesting that when we gave up godliness, we lost cleanliness in the bargain.)

10. **Solution to AIDS:** Good families practice sexual purity. AIDS is wiped out forever. So is abortion and illegitimacy.

B. Why young people are avoiding marriage?

Unfortunately, today, many young people view the wreckage of the family and reject marriage and family as desirable goals. Our culture has become skeptical about marriage. One of the unintended side effects of our high divorce rate is that many of our young people are avoiding marriage.

C. Sociologists can identify the external conditions which have caused family breakdown, but cannot explain the internal cause. Therefore they have no answers.

1. Economically, traditional society rewarded strong families, but modern urban society discourages them.

- The family, as traditionally constituted by religion, has not survived modernity, industrialization, and the culture of affluence.
- . . . families (are) under siege because of the internationalization of markets and the computer revolution. Everybody is affected by these changes. . . . Clearly, there are social and economic factors that put families under stress. Family values, Christian values: A round table discussion, in *The Christian Century*, Jan. 21, 1996, p. 105.
- Studies suggest that young adults increasingly view marriage as an ideal that is beyond their grasp. . . . When the economic basis for marriage has been eroding so seriously among the non-college educated, . . . marriage is still highly valued, but people don't think it's a realistic possibility. (Margaret L. Usdansky, *Single Motherhood: Stereotypes vs. Statistics*, *New York Times*, February 11, 1996)

2. Systematic governmental attempts to restore traditional, agrarian culture have led to horrors of social engineering, both Marxist (Cambodia, Stalinist Soviet Union, North Korea) and religious (Iran, Bosnia).

3. Problems have worsened by disastrous proportions even during government attempts to create a Great society in the United States.

4. And yet, few want to abandon the comforts and possibilities which modern industrial society provide.

D. There are efforts made by religious groups, such as conservative Christians, Jews and Muslims, to revive the family within modern society. These will not suffice.

1. Religions in their prime sustain the development of civilization, but always decline after achieving prosperity and power.

(to be continued...)

(from the book "True Family Values" by Wilson and Pak
<http://www.hsabooks.com/books>)

Address to World Summit 2014: Written by Archbishop Floyd Nelson, Presiding Bishop, International Bible Way Church, USA. Monday, August 11, 2014, Seoul, Korea.

I'm blessed to have a wonderful wife of 48 years. In these 48 years we've never had a single argument; we had multiple. But the thing that kept us together was not our differences; it was the things that we have that are alike. Too frequently in the world of religions we have great debates about what we don't agree on. But one thing I found that was common among all the religions is that we want to help people be better. I'm a member of an ecumenical group in Washington DC, and most of the religions represented here are a part of it. But we don't get together and talk about theology. We talk about the cry of the humans who are in pain and how we can bring that to a close.

I don't know about all other countries, but in America many of the leaders have taken up a celebrity status, which makes the next generation want the celebrity status rather than the work that needs to be done. I've been in the ministry for 60 years, and one of the things that I learned is that the big shots don't know what's going on; it's the servants who know. In the story of Jesus turning the water to wine, the steward asks where the wine came from, and he was the one who should have known. But in the story that Jesus told, the servants who drew the water knew. There are things that you will find out by serving that you will never find out by being served. The capacity that we have to turn things around has to do with our ability to serve as a unit. David is one of my favourite characters in the Bible. In the story of David and Goliath, he didn't look at things the way others did. If you look at the surface, it can be frightening. When David saw Goliath, he was not struck and paralyzed with fear. He saw an opportunity. He didn't see the giant in the same view that the others saw him.

This conference has led me to look at some things much differently. The possibilities have to do with how we view things. David had a conviction. One thing I've learned is that when you have convictions about something, you become unstoppable. One of the things that I appreciated about Rev. Moon was the fact that he instilled in us the calling to live for the sake of others. If you do nothing for anyone, when you transition, there's nothing that will make you be remembered. This is the second anniversary of Rev. Moon's transition, but here we are today, still talking about one who has transitioned because of what he has done. He certainly made it clear to us that religion means nothing if it doesn't have servants in it. David looked at Goliath, and his motive was different from the others on his side who saw Goliath. They saw a giant too big to hit. David saw a giant too big to miss. We have to look at the situations that we as religious leaders are facing in this world. The giant is there, but that means that with the right stone, we can't miss him. You don't even have to aim. I'm not suggesting violence. I'm only using this as a parable to state that together we can bring down any giant that is opposing the coming together of us as religious leaders.

One last thing. Historically every leader elected or put in place had a spiritual leader to partner with. One of the things that's very important in our world today is that our leaders need us to give them spiritual guidance. Of course you can't give it if

you don't have a relationship with the Supreme Being. I spend a lot of time praying because of the things that I see going on in the world. I believe that the Universal Peace Federation has done some fantastic things. I'm just pleased to be a part of helping get it done. There is no job that's too small when you're a servant. You will never get to the next level if you don't do something at the level you are on.

I was elected in March of this year to become the presiding bishop of one of our major Pentecostal organizations in the U.S. and in other countries. I'm amazed at being where I am, because I was born in the state of Michigan in a poor family. My mother had seven children. My father left her with all seven of us, but she kept us together. And one thing she told me that sticks with me today is "Poor is what you are but not who you are." If we can understand that, the situations we are facing today are not situations that cannot be remedied, because there are people in those difficult situations but that's not who they are. They're there not by choice, and we can help them to get out of what they're in, like I was helped. I am spending the rest of my life trying to help people to get out of the situations that are not of their own doing. We can help them get out, and with the help of God and our unity, we can get it done.

The Book of Man: Readings on the Path to Manhood. William J Bennett.

Thomas Nelson, 2011, hb, xxix+546pp US\$34.99, ISBN 978-1-59555-271-6

'Many rightly decry a deficit in manhood among our boys and men. And many, especially girls and women, parents, teachers, coaches, and adults in authority observe problems among boys and men. Why are there so many boys and men who are irresponsible, unmotivated, unchivalrous, selfish, lazy? Why do so many boys and men spend so much time in pointless and soulless activities, inconsiderate of others, absorbed in self or mindless technology?' So writes William Bennett in his introduction to this anthology of readings on manhood from literature ancient and modern. In this weighty tome of 600 pages, Dr Bennett, who served as Education Secretary under President Ronald Reagan and as Drug Czar under President George H W Bush, sets out to define what a man should be, how he should live, and what he should aspire to. He writes out of a concern that men in the Western world are increasingly dependent on state welfare rather than on the fruits of their own labours. Such men will find it hard to attract spouses and many of them will adopt habits that have a corrosive cultural influence on those around them.

In previous generations there was a common understanding of what standards of behaviour were expected of men: to be a man of your word, not to take advantage of women, to support your children, to watch your language-especially in front of women and children, etc. But such norms have faded from the consciousness of many 21st century men. Under-fathered young men are prone to identify masculinity with aggression. There is now a crisis of identity among young men and our culture is sending out confusing and false messages about what it means to be a man. Bennett writes of video games, TV and music that offer dubious lessons, of films portraying men who refuse to grow up and remain suspended in a permanent state of adolescence refusing to take responsibility, and of a

from page 6 *The Book of Man*

'gay culture' which often parades itself in flamboyant display and presents a challenge to traditional masculinity.

A healthy alternative

Against this background, William Bennett seeks to provide a healthy alternative to the questionable messages that intimidate boys and men today. Through short portions of poetry and prose from different cultures and periods of history, he offers 'examples worthy of emulation, stories worth knowing, lives worth studying and remembering, counsel worth hearing'. The anthology is divided into six parts: **Man in War** - with examples of order, duty, loyalty, service, endurance, bravery and courage; **Man at work** - focussing on hard and fruitful work performed with devotion; **Man in Play, Sports and Leisure** - depicting a responsible enjoyment of life; **Man in the Polis** - looking at how men come together in the community and wider society to provide for common interests and to protect the general welfare; **Man with Woman and Children** - the responsibilities of a husband and father; **Man in prayer and reflection** - 'why neglecting the examined or prayerful life is like going on a journey without a map or a compass'. Attractively produced and well-indexed, this is a volume to treasure and to return to again and again. Here are positive examples and models to raise the sights and expectations of men of any age. Dr Bennett makes no claim that this is a definitive collection, but he provides ample material to assist boys and men to identify real heroes - not superficial sportsmen, pop stars, actors and TV personalities, but men marked by endurance, sacrifice, courage, resolution and compassion. *This article is published by kind permission of Family and Youth Concern.*

Same-sex marriage: Children are being sacrificed on the altar of adults "sexual rights"

JOHN SMEATON, SPUC DIRECTOR -
Wednesday, 11 March 2015

Last weekend I was honoured to speak at Cleveland Right to Life's Convention Bringing America Back to Life. The title of my talk was "Why the pro-life movement must embrace marriage and the family or face defeat". Like SPUC did (in November 2011), last year Cleveland Right to Life committed themselves to defend marriage, the permanent exclusive union of a man and a woman, and to oppose same-sex marriage. My talk, which you can read in full on the SPUC website, spelled out the empirical evidence which overwhelmingly shows that marriage as an institution is fatally wounded by redefining it to include same-sex couples and that those who suffer as a result are, above all, children. We are sacrificing children on the altar of adults' sexual rights. I say: "... Legalising "same-sex marriage" is not a question of being kind to people with same-sex attraction and letting them get married if they want to. It is a question of the destruction of the family, the oldest human institution in the world, which protects the mental and physical wellbeing of men, women and children. No other grouping

offers such a high level of that security and stability that human beings need to flourish. Research shows overwhelmingly that children growing up within marriage do better in terms of health, educational success, happiness, careers and their own marriages. It is precisely because children matter, that real marriage between one man and one woman matters so much ..."



"... The destruction of traditional family structures has very grave consequences for all members of society, but it is children, born and unborn, who are especially vulnerable. Government statistics from the United Kingdom show that children conceived outside of marriage

are 4 to 5 times more likely to be aborted than those conceived within marriage. There's a website I looked up when I was preparing this talk called Rainforest Concern. Rainforest Concern tells us that half of the Earth's wildlife and at least two-thirds of its plant species live in tropical rainforests ... These plants provide food and shelter for many rare animals that depend on the rainforest for their survival ... Destroy the rainforest and you destroy protection for that wildlife ... In the same way, the family, founded on marriage between a man and a woman is the natural habitat of children, of unborn children. Indeed, the natural family is a pre-political and pre-Christian institution. Destroy that institution in society and you destroy protection for children, both born and unborn. "Historically, our nations' laws protected unborn children from being killed, and so, quite logically and rightly, pro-life movements worldwide have worked tirelessly to restore, or to uphold, such laws. By the same token, historically, families based on the indissoluble union in marriage of a man and a woman, have provided children, both born and unborn, with their best hope of life and fulfilment in life ... so, quite logically and rightly, pro-life movements worldwide must work tirelessly to defend marriage and the family. The pro-life movement cannot possibly succeed in its efforts to end abortion if the family based on marriage between a man and a woman is destroyed.

"What's more, a major way in which the so-called "homosexual rights" lobby is actively undermining the family and the culture of life, is through targeting its message at little children in their schools including, in the UK, I am ashamed to say as a Catholic myself, in Catholic primary schools. I have little doubt that the same pattern is repeated in other countries too. I am sorry to have to share with you that homosexual militants are being invited into schools in Britain, including into Catholic schools with the blessing of the local bishop, to train teachers how to educate little boys as young as four years old that they might grow up to marry a man rather than a woman - and the same with little girls.

"Catholic schools in Britain, and around the world, have long been complicit in the culture of death, providing access to abortion and contraception for the under 16s without parental knowledge. This is happening, to my shame as a Catholic, with the co-operation of the Catholic authorities. Now what happens

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when little Johnny at Our Lady's School, say, in south London, says to his teacher: "Please Miss! Can boys who grow up to marry a man have babies like mummies and daddies can?" Without a shadow of doubt, very many teachers will say "Yes they can. In a different way ... but yes they can." As you know, same-sex couples are now demanding the right to have children—making it even more difficult for pro-life groups effectively to oppose surrogacy and in vitro fertilisation. According to peer-reviewed research, for every baby born by IVF, 23 are either discarded, or frozen, or used in destructive experiments, or miscarry. Defending the right to life of unborn children will increasingly be viewed as an attack on the rights of homosexual couples. Thus, this is one of the most fundamental reasons why, as the title of my talk this morning states: 'The pro-life movement must embrace the defence of marriage and the family or face defeat'... I also describe in some detail the serious danger to marriage and the family, and to our children in particular, posed by a political agenda at work at the Family Synod, to destroy the entire edifice of Catholic teaching on human sexuality. Pro-life activists and everyone of good will must take note of what's happening and take action. If you want to know how you can help, do contact me: johnsmeaton@spuc.org.uk Tel: 02070917091"

On Human Rights and Faith in a World Gone Awry

This interview of Mr. Steinar Murud, Secretary-General of UPF-Norway, appeared on January 4th in the Oslo Times, of which the interviewer, Mr. Hatef Mokhtar is the interviewer. [Abridged]

What does human rights mean to you?

I believe human rights are divine rights. The value, dignity and freedom of a human being is absolute. God created us in his image and he created us to be free. He does not restrict our freedom even though we make mistakes; therefore, human rights are divine and absolute. They serve as a guarantee for people's security and provide the freedom for people's growth and development. The attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris was a most tragic violation of these rights. Violence and terror is never acceptable; that was just a pure criminal act. However, with rights comes duties. We can say that the privileges of freedom must be accompanied by responsibility. We speak about human rights but it is equally important to talk about our human responsibility. We all need to be responsible individuals, responsible to take care of each other and to take care of the world we live in. Human rights are necessary in order to build a peaceful world, but I think they are not enough; a world of responsible people can take us all the way to a peaceful goal. Religions are important ways to elevate the human spirit. We believe all religions are meant to serve mankind, toward the building of a peaceful world. Our interfaith conferences strive to find the values all religions have in common, and how they can contribute to peace and to build trust and good relationships. The second focus-area has been family values. The idea of a peaceful world must be built from the grassroots level in the family. The family unit is a micro-society. Loving family relations benefit the social environment and serve as building blocks for a safe and sound society. We have organised many conferences to address

the topic from different perspectives. Our third activity has been service projects. One of which is regular shipments of surplus clothes to Estonia. The other has been on a European level. We have sent medical equipment to support a Red Cross hospital for children in North Korea.

In Norway we have brought together thousands of people from all different faiths. Meeting someone from another culture or religion can change your perspective completely. The reflections of participants testify to that. International activities serve the purpose to contribute to world peace. With representations in most countries in the world, I could mention many projects. In Nepal, UPF played a role in the process to enable democratic elections in 2008.

What is your opinion of the right wing groups?

Right wing groups and Islamic extremists are more similar than they think. They are both based on the idea that they are superior in some way. None of them has anything to offer to create a peaceful world. Spiritually, I think we can say that mankind's fundamental problem is separation from our common creator, God. We have lived like orphans with no feeling that we are related to each other through our common creator. People are driven by self-interest rather than God's interests. Who can see the world from God's point of view? Very few unfortunately. This mind-set is an obstacle to world peace. This mind-set has many faces, sometimes in the form of nationalism, racism or religious extremism. To change this mind-set is a fundamental challenge. Maybe we need a global education movement to cultivate the human spirit. But if I should pinpoint the most dangerous expression of it, it would probably be religious extremism. I believe the Norwegian policy to include minorities has helped to reduce conflict between religious groups and has lessened the development of extremism. People that feel excluded are always in danger of becoming an opponent or in the worst case an extremist in their society. We need to avoid that.



What do you think of the Oslo Times and do you have a message for its readers?

I am inspired and impressed by the *Oslo Times* and that you have an idealistic ambition of contributing to a free world with respect for human rights. My message to readers is a spiritual one: Mankind's problems are fundamentally not the lack of money, materials or any other physical value. Our problem is a spiritual one. The heart of the problem is the human heart. Seven billion people with hearts to serve will solve all the problems in the world. It is easy to say but it is still the simple truth. All kinds of initiatives that promote such a culture of service and peace should be stimulated. Many cultures blossomed around a religion. I believe each religion brought new light to the world. They elevated the human spirit and made the foundation for cultural development. We need to find this essence in our faiths and work together. I am sure that with sincere hearts and sincere efforts, the invisible but absolute God will be able to guide us as to the final chapter in his providence, the building of a peaceful world.