

Morality Forum Update

Standing up for family values in society

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PRINCIPLES OF PEACE

By Mark Brann

Humanity stands at a critical turning point. So many levels of conflicts – it is hard to find hope because of the fog. We need to establish a unified world of lasting peace. To bring peace we need to promote cooperation among governments, religions and NGOs etc. There is a need for one global family under God.

Basic Principles

1. ONE HUMAN FAMILY UNDER GOD. There are so many common elements amongst faiths. Key point: Remember more of what we have in common. 2. THE HIGHEST HUMAN QUALITIES ARE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL. 3. FAMILY IS THE SCHOOL OF LOVE AND PEACE. Family is the original unit of society - sacred and holy. 4. LIVING FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS IS THE BASIS OF ALL SOCIAL HARMONY. Society is self-centred. We should give first. 5. LASTING WORLD PEACE WILL ONLY BE REALISED BY GOING BEYOND BOUNDARIES OF RACE AND RELIGION.

So many people are centred on materialistic ideals. The spirit is eternal. Developing our hearts and spirits is very important. So
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NEWS IN BRIEF

SPUC condemns promotion of abortion-inducing drugs to children as promotion of illegal under-age sex

SPUC has condemned giving “morning-after pills” to children from 13 upwards, as sanctioned by the European Medicines Agency yesterday. Previously pharmacists were not allowed to give under-16s the drug without a doctor’s prescription. Commenting on the decision, Paul Tully, general secretary of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children said: “This move is likely to mean that more early abortions will occur and more teenagers will be exploited while the pharmaceutical companies will profit. The manufacturers of morning after pills have admitted that they can cause early abortions before pregnancy can be detected by usual tests, as well as preventing conception in some cases. Today’s decision makes it easier for men to exploit vulnerable young teenagers for sex, as well as making it likely that more street-wise 13-15 year olds will engage in casual sex. The condition that unlawful sex should only involve men close in age to the girl involved is impossible to monitor. It is a further step in eroding the law on the age of consent, which has been under attack for many years. Efforts to normalise child sex have intensified in the past ten years through the Children’s Act 2004 and other measures. Teenage pregnancies and abortions have declined in the past 7 years, but the drop cannot be explained either by either contraception or post-coital abortion drugs. Studies show that the morning after pill has no impact in reducing the overall number of pregnancies. That may be because most women who take it are not pregnant, or because it often fails to work. In addition making it available means more girls/women will have sex and consequently conceptions will rise. So the reasons are not clear, but despite the loss of early embryos caused by this drug, it does not lead to a decline in the rate of registered abortions. There are serious safety concerns for women taking morning-after pills: they provide no protection against sexually transmitted infections; those who have ongoing pregnancies are more likely to have a dangerous ectopic pregnancy; and there may be unknown long-term effects of the drugs – which contain up to 50 times the dose of progestogens in daily ‘mini-pills’ – which themselves have long-term risks.”

The Power of Human Understanding, Will and Emotion

You have power because you have many capabilities. The power of your body allows
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you to see, hear, smell, touch, move, etc. The power of your mind involves your intellect, emotion, and will. Through your intellect you have the ability to think, understand, imagine new ideas and possibilities. Unlike animals, people see meaning in their actions. Did you ever see two squirrels admiring a sunset? Or discussing the meaning of life? Or what they plan to do next year? Or even tomorrow? Of course not, these are human activities. Through your emotions you can feel joy and sorrow, anger and forgiveness, love and hate, fear and hope, and sometimes feel what others feel. That's called empathy. Through your will you can determine to accomplish something, overcome a fear that's immobilized you in the past, reach a goal that you've dreamed about, create something that never existed before. For example, one man, Thomas Edison, after trying and failing thousands of times, discovered how to make an electric lightbulb that has benefited people's lives all over the world. You also have the power of your conscience, which is your sense of justice, what is right and wrong, what you ought to do. And you have social power- the power to interact and to relate with and influence other people, to work together for a common goal. One example of a woman who used her conscience and social power was Rosa Parks, a black woman in the segregated 1950s American South who refused to move to the back of a bus. This small, seemingly insignificant act led to a bus boycott that was an important chapter in the Civil Rights movement. *From Free Teens USA*

Marriage is the best protection against abortion

The latest abortion figures reveal that unborn babies are safest when their parents are married. Last year, 80% of the 184,571 abortions in England and Wales were performed on unmarried women and girls. "Marriage provides women with the security to continue with their pregnancies," said Paul Tully, general secretary of SPUC. "We know that most women do not want abortion. And with 98% of abortions funded by the NHS, we would like to see taxpayers' money used to support natural families which offer a much more stable environment for parents to welcome a new baby." The 2014 figures show a further reduction in both under 16 and under 18 abortions. However, contrary to the claims of the sex education lobby, there is no evidence that this is because children and teenagers have had "better" sex education in school. The decline in teenage pregnancies and abortions comes at a time when the government is reducing sexual health services. Last year 698 girls under 15 had abortions and 100 girls under 14 had abortions. SPUC Safe at School said: "These numbers are heartbreaking. Vulnerable girls deserve better than the deadly option of abortion." *This article was published in the September 2015 edition of the PRO-LIFE TIMES.*

Sexual Crimes against Children

Sue Berelowitz the Deputy Children's Commissioner for England has warned that child sex abuse is so rife that there is not enough land to build the number of jails needed to house the perpetrators. M/s Berelowitz is chairing the Government's inquiry into the problem. She blamed the spread of online pornography for an increasingly sexualised society, stating: "Child porn and the proliferation of indecent images of children and all the stuff we are seeing on social media, is

undoubtedly having an impact on young people growing up and their impressions of sex and sexuality. I want us to keep in mind that people who sexually abuse children are somehow another breed. They are here in our midst. There certainly needs to be much more awareness to bring it into the public's consciousness. The figures when I report in November are going to be very shocking indeed." Here again is clear evidence of the horrendous impact pornography is having upon our society. Superintendent Hames former Head of New Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Squad: "The vast majority of murderers, serial rapists and child molesters indulge in pornography. We must fight to protect society from evil monsters who purvey pornography for profit." The time is long overdue for the Government to take a much stronger line regarding pornography. All levels of pornography are toxic and should be banned.

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many people are trying to build their own enclave, private heaven. This is not possible. There is no coherent policy in the UK about the traditional family. There are so many things that we learn in the family. Society suffers when the family is broken. Family is the most important issue – the basis of a good society, good nation and good world. Living for the sake of others helps to reconcile the divided human family and is a social 'tool' for being able to relate to others and to break down walls between people, beyond race, nation, etc. Discover commonalities. All faith traditions have done good work, but have also fought each other. Serve others. Separation is nothing to do with God's will. Matt. 5: 43-48. "Love your enemies..." QURAN: 41-34. "The good deed and the evil deed are not alike. Repel the evil deed with one which is better, then lo!, he with whom you had enmity shall become your bosom friend." The scriptures of the great religions are so close. Martin Luther King: "We never get rid of an enemy by meeting hate with hate. We get rid of an enemy by getting rid of enmity." Start with ourselves. Religious traditions teach compassion, love for one's neighbour, and consideration for those in need.

In the way of peace giving and receiving have no limits. By giving we get more and more. The more we challenge and give the more that comes back to us. In a sense God is bringing people together and challenging us to work together. There are examples of religious cooperation, but we need to do much more. All that retribution does is to cause a cycle of hatred. The power to end the cycles of resentment, violence and retribution comes from an internal, spiritual source. Make a difference to society. Achieve our potential and develop our character. Build loving relationships and family bonds. Promote a culture of peace and service. The Universal Peace Federation fosters marriage and family, service and inter-religious programmes. www.peacefederation.org Mark Brann is a member of the board of Directors of the Universal Peace Federation UK. This PowerPoint presentation was given on July 25th at a meeting of the Association of British Clergy, at 43, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NA.

A modern day Holocaust

Aug. 25, 2015 (Population Research Institute) -- Since Roe v. Wade abortion has claimed the lives of over 53 million babies in America. More than eight times as many infants have been killed through abortion than Jews murdered in the Nazi concentration camps. Abortion is truly the Holocaust of our time. On May 2, 1945, the 8th Infantry Division and the 82nd Airborne Division liberated the Nazi concentration camp at Wöbbelin, Germany. There they discovered bodies that “were found piled four and five feet high,” and others that were strewn among the sick and dying. Four days later, under orders of the 82nd Airborne Division, American troops forced the residents of the nearby town of Ludwigslust to walk through the camp and see what had been happening next door to their homes for years. Nine days later, on May 15, Lt. Col. Ed Seiller of Louisville, Kentucky, literally stood amidst a pile of Holocaust victims at one of the liberated Dachau sub-camps and spoke to some 200 German civilians from nearby Landsberg whom American forces had forced to walk through the camp and see first-hand many of those who had died there. How many of them had known about these camps? Seeing the horror first hand, they could no longer claim ignorance.

These vivid and sordid scenes come to mind when we confront the accounts and images of Planned Parenthood technicians sifting through the soupy remains of their abortion victims. These atrocious scenes happen every day in abortion clinics nationwide.

Planned Parenthood alone slaughters over 325,000 children every year or at a rate of 37 every hour. But that isn't enough for them – after all, they were founded by a eugenicist, Margaret Sanger. For her acolytes, there's always more work to be done. The \$528 million that Congress gives to Planned Parenthood every year aren't enough to line the pockets of this murderous organization. They won't be content until they can cut the brains out of babies as their hearts are still beating as a recent Center for Medical Progress video reveals.

The abortion rate in America has plummeted to the lowest levels since 1973. We now know how Planned Parenthood plans to make up for its lost profits — harvesting organs of aborted children and the more intact the better. If that means delivering a live baby before ensuring demise, so be it. If that means procuring baby parts without patient consent, so be it. But Planned Parenthood is proud of their organ harvesting program. After all, it's for the sake of life-saving medical research. Did I say “medical research”? Yes, that's the same term used by Josef Mengele, the notorious Nazi “Chief Physician” at Birkenau near Auschwitz. Every day, Dr. Mengele (a.k.a. the “Angel of Death”) would sift through the incoming prisoners and select those he deemed most useful for his “experiments.” Holly O'Donnell, an procurement technician for StemExpress (a company allegedly involved in the purchasing of fetal parts from Planned Parenthood), recounts the zeal among some abortionists in harvesting baby parts. “If there wasn't a girl in the room [for an abortion], he would get mad. He would pace the hallways if there wasn't something to do,” she says in the video. One can only be reminded of accounts from concentration camp survivors describing Mengele's “frenzied attitude in carrying out his research...he seemed to have an

inner compulsion to get a great deal accomplished quickly in a personal race against time.”

Like Planned Parenthood, Mengele was obsessed with obtaining more “specimens” for his research. Eyewitnesses have said that he was always present at the train depot when inmates arrived (unlike the other doctors who took turns with the job). He would avidly search out twins for his “research.” He would often be heard calmly whistling Wagner while choosing which subjects were fit for his experiments. Among those who were not selected for his research, he would decide in a glance who would become a slave labourer and who would be sent to the gas chambers. Mengele had a strong preference for the latter option. Aside from Mengele's egregious and murderous violation of ethics, his “research” appeared to follow a methodology quite acceptable for his time. His “research” was academically rigorous, methodical and conducted with state-of-the-art medical devices and facilities—not unlike the “valid” research done with human fetal body parts as procured by Planned Parenthood. Mengele would often perform dissections on twins after conducting research. In spite of his affectionate demeanour towards his patients during the course of a study, if he decided that a dissection would be beneficial he would often murder them himself. One Nazi doctor was reported to have recalled an instance where “Mengele had shot two boys in the neck and that while they were still warm, began to examine them: lungs first, [then] each organ.” These boys had been the favourites with the doctors and with Mengele himself.

But of course, as pro-abortion advocates would have us believe, that's completely different from ripping a baby from its mother's womb at 18 weeks gestation and cutting out its organs as his or her little heart is still beating...completely different. Given the similarities between SS Dr. Josef Mengele and Planned Parenthood's organ-harvesting business, it's no surprise that, after the war, Mengele became a renowned abortionist in Argentina. Of course, at that time, abortion was illegal in Argentina, but laws never seem to hinder the radical pro-abortion cadres. The curtain has been lifted. The American public has seen first-hand Planned Parenthood's grisly abortion business as clear as the day when U.S. troops liberated the concentration camp at Wöbbelin. Yet to this day, Planned Parenthood continues to harvest baby parts. And all of this for life-saving research—never mind the baby that is killed in the process. The irony is absolutely sickening. *From Life Site News. Reprinted with permission of Population Research Institute*

Letters and Emails Received

Dear John, Thank you for emailing through your Spring 2015 Update. It is excellent and covers an impressive range of subjects. It seems that there are always issues about the behaviour of humans in today's society that need addressing and I applaud your endeavours on addressing them. In my next Courtesy Call magazine column, I will take up the issue of sex education. I am a firm believer that schools should not be teaching this because it is the responsibility of parents. Meanwhile, I would like to receive future ‘Updates’ from you. Issues of Courtesy Call are always shown on our website but if you prefer a paper copy please let me know. All good wishes. Peter G Foot. *Chairman National Campaign for Courtesy 240 Tolworth Rise South Surbiton, Surrey KT5 9NB 020 8330 3707* www.campaignforcourtesy.org.uk

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Dear Brother John. Many thanks for the good work you are doing... It's amazing what is going on in the world today . It will be nice to meet again. Thanks and God bless you.
Pastor Alex Dwebeng

Dear Mr Harrington, [MP] I urge you to oppose the Assisted Dying Bill on Friday 11th September 2015. I believe it is vitally important that you should be in the House of Commons to vote against the bill. There are many strong reasons for opposing the bill. Although I sympathise with people who are suffering and have a terminal illness, I believe there are dangerous consequences to offering them the option of terminating their life. That option pressures patients into choosing death, feeling they are worthless or that they don't want to be a burden on their family. Instead of helping them to die, we need more investment in palliative care for those who are suffering. If this bill passes, it may start with assisted dying in extreme circumstances but there is no guarantee that later this will not also include killing the mentally ill or people who are depressed as is already the case in the Netherlands and Belgium. I was shocked by a Belgian documentary about a young woman of 34 years who asked to be killed by her doctor because she could not cope with depression and the doctor gave her a lethal injection. What kind of society are we creating where the lawful killing of innocent people becomes acceptable? Finally, please let me know whether you will be attending the debate or not and how you intend to vote on the bill. I strongly hope you will oppose it. Yours sincerely, Françoise Murphy

Hello brother John, Many thanks for your Emails. They were very informative and very helpful to me. Thank you very much. God bless you and your family forever. With love. Jenny

Thanks John for the information you sent re magazines. I am not surprised at the response you got from Tesco as I have heard that they support gay issues as well. Our church supplied us with cards to send to our M.P. objecting to the Assisted Dying Bill and I my husband and I sent ours to our M.P. Heather Wheeler M.P. for South Derbyshire. Hope she supports resistance to this Bill. Thank you for all your hard work John. Nice to know that there are other people in society that have a moral conscience. Best wishes, Maria Rose

Dear John, Many thanks for all this. I will be checking my local Tesco's, Sainsbury's and Waitrose as soon as I can so that they cannot say it is just ONE person complaining [In relation to Cosmopolitan magazine]. Put notice about Assisted Dying Bill on Sainsbury's community notice board a few days ago (with their permission) Many thanks Ian

Dear John, I have had a very nice confirmation from an executive at Coop that all my "efforts" did mean they no longer stock Shades of Grey merchandise. She couldn't say as a direct result of the newspaper article and photo but I'm pleased because clearly the bad publicity did the job. Waitrose have deleted it from purchasing at all stores. I'd guess with Tescos that with just a few people in their local stores doing something similar you'd get a better response. Thank you for your kind words. We all just have to do what we can to chip away at all the ways the enemy is seeking to destroy all that's good. Best Blessings, Pippa

Thank you for your last email. I've had replies from Tesco and Toyota. With Tesco, it was the same as yours except that they'd had only two instead of only one complaint about the placing of Cosmopolitan magazine. With Toyota I'd written and said the following: "A cult has emerged where objects are called "sexy", appealing to consumers who mistake sexuality

for personality. This is adding to the confusion of children trying to mature in an immature society where behavioural boundaries have been trashed and respectful boy/girl relationships have got lost. Jumping on a socially destructive bandwagon does not benefit a brand whatever international gurus of advertising copy recommend. They are not in it for the ultimate all-round good of a brand or a society. It does not follow that because Apple thinks it can sell iPhones to teenagers and the similarly immature in this way, this is a respected or ethical selling point. I was relieved the motor trade seemed to have matured out of its preoccupation with female models draped around new cars, but now 'sex sells' has become less innocent. Please can you consider moving away from the socially unhelpful and immature word "sexy" for advertising. It does no-one any good and these days it has started to look like a lack of imagination." I got a reply from Nerina Wayland in Customer Relations: "I have been asked by our Chairman and Managing Director, Paul Van Der Burgh to thank you for your letter dated 28 August 2015 and to respond on his behalf. I am sorry to hear that any of our advertising has caused offense, as that is naturally not our intention. We truly appreciate all our customer feedback and take it very seriously as it is incorporated into the future development and design works that form a vital aspect of our constant programme of improvement. With this in mind, I have forwarded your letter to our Marketing Department for further review. I feel sure that your comments have highlighted some important issues and may provide a catalyst for change in the future. Thank you once again for taking the time to raise this matter with us." I hope they don't come up with something even worse instead! I found they'd had to remove a TV advertising video in the past because it showed a group of young people driving along singing their heads off and the woman driver joining in and even driving with her eyes closed for a few seconds! I presume they learned from that at least. I hope you're well and things are going along okay. Best wishes, Jacqueline

Morality Forum Action

John O'Neill has spoken at various religious events in recent weeks about key moral/family issues. Some churches stated that they would distribute the Assisted Dying Bill leaflets and booklets in their areas.

The Pro-Life Times newspaper, sex education bulletins, abortion leaflets, from SPUC continue to be distributed to numerous individuals and religious organisations. The Assisted Dying Bill leaflets and booklets were also widely distributed in past weeks.

John O'Neill attended a discussion evening event on July 24th organised by Watford Interfaith to discuss the Assisted Dying Bill. John also attended the AGM of Family and Youth Concern on June 6th. As a participant in the annual Westminster Interfaith Pilgrimage on June 6th, John O'Neill spoke to two Labour MPs, Ruth Cadbury and Seema Malhotra, who were speakers at one of the venues. John mentioned to the MPs about the importance of religious freedom in our nation. Copies of the Spring edition of the Morality Forum Update were given to both MPs.

The Morality Forum website now contains a new section – 'IMPORTANT ARTICLES' – which contains very important information about pornography, abortion, sex education etc. www.moralityforum.org.uk



True Family Values

A Model for Family Restoration

A. What has been lacking is a family model which meets the challenge of modernity, a universal theory and practice revealing how the healthy family should function no matter which culture one lives in.

4. Religions have raised mankind now to the point of restoration of true family life, but they have not accomplished that restoration. This is not to denigrate or deny the value of the religious founders.

- Existing religions offer salvation on the individual level. They prepare the foundation for forming godly families. But the founders did not actually establish such families.
- Jesus Christ never married. He is the model of a true man. But he cannot fully reveal the ideal of the family.
- Thus, many Catholics regard the unmarried state, which resembles that of Jesus Christ, to be the highest measure of devotion to God. St. Paul said, "He who refrains from marriage will do better." (1 Cor 7:38)
- The teaching that women cannot be ordained priests comes from the model of Christ, who was male.
- The Buddha left his family when he started his search of truth. Buddhists regard monasticism as the highest religious vocation. Attending the Buddha cannot fully reveal the ideal family.
- Islam has good rules about family life. Mohammed was an exemplary husband and provider, and a number of his wives are celebrated. But Islam does not proclaim the ideal family. Its view of family is pragmatic and accommodating to human weakness, permitting divorce and polygamy. Its vision of heaven is paradise for unmarried men, attended by doe-eyed houris (maidservants).
- Confucianism proclaims the family model as an ethical ideal. But the ideal family is grounded on true love, which is deeper than the commands of an ethical system. Confucianism's ethics are excellent, but it lacks a deep understanding of God and of how God's love can live in the human heart.

5. As the result of this inability to create true families, all attempts to create a good society have fallen short.

6. Horrendous evil stalks the human race. Even thoroughgoing Christian nations, such as Germany and France in 1914, are capable of massive carnage and unmitigated violence.

7. This repeats in history because of the incompleteness of man-woman love, which prevents the family from being the dwelling place of God.

8. The restoration of the true family means to establish true love between husband and wife.

- It has nothing to do with selfishness.
- It has God's unreserved, joyful participation and blessing.
- God's love flows through the family's love.
- The family partakes of God's love, life and lineage.
- This is the weak point of all religions.

- Therefore, the perfection of the family leads all religions to their fulfillment.
- This will enable the religions to lead humankind to fulfill their ideals of peace, freedom, unification and happiness.

B. True families should live by true family values.

1. The basic standpoint of true family values is that of living for the whole.

- The individual is always connected with the whole family and is responsible to others in the family.
- Likewise, the family is connected to the whole society and is responsible to help build a good society.

2. The goal of true family values is the perfection of love.

- True family values are not just meant to maintain the status-quo, but to lead us to a truly sanctified life as a family.
- The fount and way of perfection is true love.

3. True family values are a spiritual checklist.

- We need a map to know if we are heading in the right direction. Many families, even well-intentioned ones, get lost because they mistakenly think they have reached the goal, when in fact it is only a comfortable plateau and they have far to go.
- True family values trace the path, the way, to the summit of family life.
- The fulfillment of my family life is nothing less than the fulfillment of all families, which is the fulfillment of God's purpose for family life.

The Family of True Love

A. Love is the true foundation for commitment.

1. The family needs to make a commitment to a life of true love. A life of true love is not partial or half-way. It reaches for the highest ideals, for ourselves and our children and children's children. This ideal for which we long is nothing less than what Christianity calls "The kingdom of God."

2. Can a family as a whole make this commitment?

- Jesus said that if you "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" then God will provide for your needs (Matt. 6:33). This has been considered a "counsel of perfection" for individuals. Families did not even consider it applied to them.
 - This is why Paul counseled against family life, observing that it drags people into the concerns of the world and away from God.
 - We believe that God, the family and the world can be harmonized. Our responsibilities to serve God, the world and our families completely and simultaneously can be fulfilled through true love.
 - This is the significance of the entire family making the commitment to begin with our own family in our own hometown, the real environment which we face everyday, and the people who need us and whose lives we can affect.
- (to be continued....) (from the book "True Family Values" by Wilson and Pak <http://www.hsabooks.com/books>)*

Judgment Time

By John O'Neill

I recently read an excellent sermon which was previously given by Anne Graham Lotz, Billy Graham's daughter. Anne warns in her sermon about how she believes that God in his love and mercy is warning mankind: "Repent! Judgment is coming." In the Old Testament when people reached a point when they no longer listened to God's words or the prophets, God spoke to them through disasters - like a locust plague, or a flood or a fire or an invading army. God was calling people to repentance. "Wake up! Get right with me before it's too late." There have been record breaking hurricanes and severe tornadoes in the USA in recent years, as well as similar disasters in other parts of the world. Anne mentions about the evils of abortion, euthanasia, where the family unit is destroyed, and where our children are corrupted by sexual and violent films etc.

In the UK we see how pornography has been allowed to become mainstream, abortion-on-demand, quickie divorce, the redefining of marriage etc. History shows conclusively that God is not mocked. A study of 88 civilisations in the 1940's by Professor J. D. Unwin from Cambridge University showed that: whenever there was widespread promiscuity, premarital sex, infidelity and same-sex relationships, the civilisation was dead within three generations - with no exceptions!

There are clear authentic warnings for our nation and also for the rest of the world from the sermon by Anne Graham Lotz, and also from the article by the Maranatha Community in this edition of the Update. Thankfully, Mark Brann's article shows clearly that there is a God-given formula for ending the pain and heartbreak which is so prevalent in our world today. Let us all take heart from that fact and may each one of us do our best to embody the heavenly ideals and virtues expressed in Mark's article.

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

By Maranatha Community - January 2015

[Abridged] We now face a social, economic, moral and spiritual crisis

A sickness has penetrated the heart of our national life. It is most clearly evident in the desperate plight of many children and young people. Escalating numbers suffer mental-ill health, hundreds of thousands of 16-24 year olds are without employment, education, training, purpose or hope. Increasing numbers of children are being 'looked after' by local authorities as tens of thousands experience the trauma of family breakdown. In our national life we have seen the exposure of gross misbehaviour and deliberate mis-selling by banks, phone hacking by the Press, falsified MPs expenses, NHS scandals, police corruption, the neglect of the elderly and abhorrent child abuse outrages. The normalisation of pornography, the sexualising of our children, increasing promiscuity and infidelity in relationships are all symptomatic of a sick society. Poverty is re-emerging with an ever-growing gap between the rich and the poor and many are now living with significant insecurity. A chasm has appeared between those in positions of power and the general population, causing a dangerous drift towards cynicism, disconnection and despair. As politicians begin to admit that the years ahead will bring further drastic economic and social changes, **who is there to turn to for answers?** Our insecurity is not only economic.

Increasing family breakdown is indicative of the weakening of a basic commitment and fidelity in relationships. The deliberate and remorseless undermining of the marriage-based family - the basic building block of a civilised society - brings instability to the affected children, family members, local communities and society as a whole.

For centuries, Britain has brought bedrock stability, not only to its own citizens, but to nations across the world. Historically it is recognised that this has been due to the Judaeo-Christian foundations of our national governance and the structure of our society. The aggressive imposition of a secular humanist agenda across our national institutions, with the targeted undermining of Judaeo-Christian principles and practices, has produced a spiritual vacuum with nothing to fill it. When foundations are destroyed, structures collapse. Are we prepared to face up to the seriousness of our sickness? The only hope is to diagnose and treat our underlying condition rather than simply trying to alleviate the symptoms. Adjusting the dials of the life-support machine will not help. On what will the Britain of the future be built? Unprecedented levels of unhappiness, stress and hopelessness are widespread, particularly in young people. This is apparent in emotional and behavioural disturbance and in a wide variety of sicknesses of body, mind and spirit. Over the past half century we have allowed our society to be re-shaped by both libertarian and secular humanist influences. The right of individual adults to see, do and have what they want has taken precedence over our corporate responsibility to nurture and protect children in a healthy, secure and stable environment. At the same time, the denial of the spiritual dimension of life has devalued the unique preciousness of individual human beings and interpersonal relationships. The extent of the devaluation of human life is evidenced in the increased number of women having multiple abortions, the encouragement of promiscuity amongst young people, the grim reality of modern-day slavery and the persistent drive to legalise euthanasia. Having banished God from our national conscience, thinking and living, we have seen the emergence of an individualistic, acquisitive and self-centred culture, motivated by a materialistic desire for self-gratification. This has affected all aspects of life, ranging from patterns of spending as opposed to saving, the experiential highs of so-called 'recreational' drug use to the scorning of preserving sexual relationships for marriage. Human relationships have become disposable and consumerist-driven, hedonistic mentality favours short term pleasure over sacrifice for the sake of long term value.

There is an image-driven, celebrity-focused lifestyle, in which character has been made secondary to an obsession with appearance, triviality and gossip, which leads many to a destructive dissatisfaction with themselves and their lives. Escape and comfort is all too often sought through the use of alcohol, drugs, sex, food and even forms of self-harm, all of which rapidly become addictive. For the young, with the help of Internet sites, suicide has become an alarmingly popular option. The younger generations in Britain are the victims of the secular humanistic experiment of the last five decades. They have been deprived of a clear framework of reference on which to grow and develop their potential, having been advised by some educational systems that they should invent their own values for life. Bombarded by the ever increasing opportunities of the communication revolution, they are vulnerable to information overload and confusion. This 'other'

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world of Internet and Social Media has also contributed to the chasm of separation between generations. Alongside of the increase of family breakdown, so that now a young person has only 50% chance of living with both parents by the time they reach 16 years, many young people are crying out for someone permanent in their lives, who will tell them truthfully what is right and what is wrong. In addition some parents have been made to feel inadequate and have been disempowered as the primary educators of their children.

Immense damage has been done by the promotion of violence, promiscuity and pornography. Driven by ruthless commercial interests, deep wounds have been inflicted on a civilised society, especially our children, distorting and corrupting their experience of relationships and diminishing their dignity and identity. The young have been taught that a sexual relationship is a recreational activity, rather than an act of union and commitment. They have been told the lie that condoms (made freely available in some schools) will protect them; the result is that it is now normal for children to have sex with children, for children to bear children, even for children to have abortions without their parents' knowledge. They are also the victims of sexually transmitted diseases. They have been robbed of their innocence and of the protection of modesty and sexual morality. Whilst the church is doing many great things, in recent years it has come to light that even some within the church have lost sight of its teachings and responsibility to protect the young, the weak and the vulnerable – for this we must repent and seek forgiveness. The young are sensitive to injustice and hypocrisy, they are brimming with idealism, but must have their hope, trust and confidence restored in authority, structures and the political process, which must be directed towards the common good. Maybe the older generations need to ask how they can serve and build up the younger generations born into our broken society.

In a society that is materially rich, many are now asking “What has gone wrong?” The truth is that personal happiness and contentment will never be found in material things. We need to rediscover the spiritual dimension of life and health and wholeness which is rooted in living in right relationships with ourselves, others and ultimately God who made us. The exhortations of the Bible, with the evidence of human history, make it clear that there are consequences to the rejection of God and His ways. In dismissing God from our culture we have effectively sabotaged the social cohesion through which God protects and heals communities. Christian teaching promotes right relationships with others, ourselves, our environment and supremely with God. Healthy relationships produce healthy families, healthy children, healthy communities and a healthy society marked by stability, peace and prosperity for all. The crisis we now face is not primarily economic, political or social – it is spiritual. We are literally seeing a struggle for the soul of the nation. Eli Wiesel warned: *“The greatest evil in the world is not anger or hatred, but indifference.”* There is hope. The course of our nation can be changed. It only requires a decision, followed by the first step of taking action. *“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”* (Edmund Burke). *“Righteousness exalts a nation.”* (Proverbs 14:34). *“A culture that no longer has a point of reference to God loses its soul and loses its way, becoming a culture of death.”* Pope John Paul II. *This article was published by kind permission of the Maranatha Community.*

The Czech Republic chapter of Universal Peace Federation (UPF) recently convened its third conference in the Czech Parliament on the topic of the family.

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Next Mrs. Pavlína Nytrová, MP, proclaimed that there must be a healthy family in order to have a healthy state. The family consists of man, woman and child, she said. Among all priorities, the family should be the first. If it is endangered, the state is also endangered. Nowadays people want to enjoy their lives and nobody wants to sacrifice for others. Individualism is growing, the only value is money, and freedom tends toward anarchy. It is difficult to keep a healthy family, she remarked, with the desires held by young people. Education for parenthood should start at school. She mentioned that last May there was an auction of children in Brussels, and warned that this also could happen in the Czech Republic. If we do not educate our children properly, she said, they will not take care of us when we become old. Mrs. Nina Nováková, MP, said relationships in the family are unconditional. The family is not a company, nor some fellowship, political party or sports club. It is a natural partnership based on unconditional relationships. In the family there is a principle of mutuality and a principle of appropriateness. Nowadays we let the children decide about important matters too early. Mrs. Nováková introduced the term of “qualified parent,” meaning that one should voluntarily take on the responsibility of being a parent. Finally, she stressed the importance of sexual education and education for marriage and parenthood. The next speaker was Mr. Marek Benda, MP. The family can survive if we keep our word and the determination we had at the beginning, he said. That is to say, we should have respect toward our word and toward ourselves. Indeed, nobody should prescribe how the family should behave. He mentioned that there is no border between the rights and duties of parents. The last speaker was Mrs. Radka Maxová, MP and the chair of the Standing Committee on Family Affairs, Equal Opportunities and Ethnic Minorities. She stated that there are 581,000 incomplete families in the Czech Republic, a number she considered high. Children need emotional education, and all habits are passed down to the next generation. There should be more emphasis on moral values—personal responsibility and awareness that one is entering a bond and has to take care of children. Parents are responsible for the family and not the state. Surprisingly, the speakers represented the five political parties present in the Czech Parliament, including the coalition and opposition parties. A variety of opinions was heard, and we could thus contribute to the public and professional discussion on family issues. Mrs. Nováková, MP, put on her web page the following words: “The conference on ‘The Family and the Present Time’ created an unusual working, accommodating and friendly atmosphere, completely different from that experienced during parliamentary proceedings. Members of Parliament from five political parties and one member of the European Parliament could openly discuss problems related to the contemporary family. We did not agree on many things, but were able to listen to each other. This was in contrast with the atmosphere we experience during parliamentary proceedings, for which the price is high, for it affects the quality of laws, the level of political culture and it raises the dissatisfaction of citizens. This conference showed that it does not have to be like that.”

WAIT UK REPORT 2014-15

Over the past year, the WAIT team has been active. Think Mount Kilauea type active. WAIT has been buzzing, bubbling and erupting across London. First was the kick off workshop in Lancaster Gate from the 4th to the 5th of October 2014. This was when we assigned new leaders for dance, music and drama and initiated new acts such as the new drama and the 'chandelier' dance.

Next came a series of 8 sessions in preparation for the Christmas concert, running from October to December. We succeeded in polishing the performances and this made for a spectacular show at the concert on the 18th of December. We raised money thanks to the acts, raffle and appreciation of the warm atmosphere the team created.

On the 14th of February 2015, the team had a fundraising and choreography meeting to discuss grants, new ways to fundraise and social networking ideas. Three days later there was another workshop in which there were 5 new people, education, public speaking, and a new dance taster. After that there were 6 choreography meetings to add new parts to the new dance, along with 4 sessions where the dance training began.



Another holiday, another workshop. On the 10th of April in an impressive 6 hour slot, the team learnt two core sections of the new dance. The leads in the dances really invested by attending extra practise sessions and by the time the first busking session came around, everyone's hard work really paid off. 30 members of WAIT performed in Kingston on Saturday the 27th of June and they raised £150 through putting in energy, effort and having fun. They had the best spot possible, the weather was beautiful and the audience loved them!



After a practise on the 1st of July, the team performed at the International Youth Arts Festival on the 4th, in Kingston Market Square. They got involved in a couple of impromptu dance battles after the performance, and again received a great reception and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

The next event was a birthday party for children on the 10th of July in Paddington Recreation Ground for an eight year old girl. It was extremely cute and lively-the children were treated to the dance 'chandelier' and a cover of 'where is the love', as well as freestyle dance sessions with the team.

Another busking session was in front of the National Gallery on the 11th of July (only the day after the birthday party!) but the team kept up their energy and motivation to put everything into performing all the acts again, talking to people about the message of WAIT and sharing the message publicly.



To end the year, the team organised a party on the 18th of July to thank Carmel Mould for being such an incredible co-ordinator for the year. She has invested so much of her time and effort in WAIT and the team thanked her with cake, food, live music, dancing, games and a touching reflection at the end. This year started and ended with a bang, and we're all looking forward to the next one! All photos can be found on the WAIT UK Facebook page and all videos of performances are on Youtube (WAIT UK).