

January 2009

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New President Turns Back Clock

Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they filled them with earth. --Genesis 26:15

In a meeting with his new senior staff, President Barack Obama said, "However long we are keepers of the public trust, we should never forget that we are here as public servants, and public service is a privilege. It's not about advantaging yourself. It's not about advancing your friends or your corporate clients. It's not about advancing an ideological agenda or the special interests of any organization. Public service is, simply and absolutely, about advancing the interests of Americans."

Within minutes after the presidential swearing-in ceremony, a new White House web site outlining a new agenda was unveiled. Despite what Mr. Obama said to his senior staff, it would be reasonable to conclude that if anything, the new Administration will be mainly about advancing both an ideological agenda and the interests of certain organizations.

For starters, the new administration intends to implement most of the gay agenda. The White House web site (WHWS)¹ says President Obama will expand hate crime statutes and provide for "sexual orientation and gender identity" in employment laws. It also says he will support civil unions, repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact over 1,100 federal legal rights and benefits for homosexual couples—currently reserved for traditional marriages.

According to the WHWS, the Obama Administration will oppose any attempts at a constitutional ban on same-sex "marriage," will repeal the "Don't Ask-Don't Tell" policy for military service, and will expand adoption rights "for all couples and individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation."

The WHWS says that President Obama has "been willing to confront the stigma—too often tied to homophobia—that continues to surround HIV/AIDS." [He] "will support common sense approaches including age-appropriate sex education that includes information about contraception, combating infection within our prison population through education and contraception, and distributing contraceptives through our public health system. The President also supports lifting the federal ban on needle exchange, which could dramatically reduce rates of infection among drug users," claims the WHWS.

Lumped in the "Reproductive Rights" bucket is the administration's enthusiastic support for embryonic stem cell research. The WHWS says, "President Obama and Vice President Biden believe that we owe it to the American public to explore the potential stem cells to treat the millions of people suffering from debilitating and life-threatening diseases. Obama is a co-sponsor of the *Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007*, which will allow research of human embryonic stem cells derived from embryos donated (with consent) from in vitro fertilization clinics."

The President, according to the WHWS, "will make preserving women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority in his administration." He will also work to "end insurance discrimination

against contraception, improve awareness about emergency contraception, and provide compassionate assistance to rape victims.”

On Friday, January 23, President Obama issued an executive order revoking the existing Mexico City Policy, meaning that American taxpayers can now underwrite abortions in other countries around the world. It is Obama’s further aim to insure the passage of the *Freedom of Choice Act* which will gut, if not entirely overrule, all state-level restrictions on abortion.

Certainly, President Obama’s actions and objectives in the area of life, family, and civil rights, will bring great discouragement as this news reaches those who have long labored to preserve traditional Christian values. It is hard to reckon that with the stroke of a pen, one person can erase decades of incremental gains that have rewarded those who seek to protect innocent life.

Many are now openly questioning if America has slipped beyond the point of societal reformation. Have all the elections, rallies, sweat and tears been for naught?

Isaac the patriarch lived for a time as a foreigner among the Philistines in Gerar. He wasn’t protesting, reforming, or pestering his neighbors or the local town council in anyway. He was just re-digging the wells of his father Abraham that had been backfilled with earth by the Philistines.

We aren’t told if Isaac conducted environmental impact studies, allowed a union shop or provided adequate health care and family leave for his employees. But we do get the idea that his efforts to build a business and provide for his family weren’t especially appreciated by the locals. Each time Isaac reopened a well, he was sued and forced to turn it over to local herdsmen. Not knowing what else to do, he kept digging—and his enemies kept suing.

Eventually, Isaac’s perseverance paid off. His adversaries grew weary while he became very wealthy and powerful; so much so, that the locals approached him to sign a non-aggression treaty!

In America, good men are still attempting to re-dig the wells of our forefathers. Like Isaac, they have encountered formable opposition in virtually every area of the culture. But dig they must.

According to a former Bush administration source with close ties to the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI has had several recent phone conversations with President Obama. The first, dealing with cultural issues, was described as “cordial.” When the Pope brought up the subject of *abortion*, Obama said something to the effect that “We agree to disagree.”

But, obviously still in well-digging mode, Pope Benedict followed up with a telegram to Obama early on Inauguration Day. It read:

“I offer cordial good wishes, together with the assurance of my prayers that Almighty God will grant you unflinching wisdom and strength in the exercise of your high responsibilities.” Under your leadership, may the American people continue to find in their impressive religious and political heritage the spiritual values and ethical principles needed to cooperate in the building of a truly just and free society.”

Such a society, the Pope said, must be “marked by respect for the dignity, equality and rights of each of its members, especially the poor, the outcast and those who have no voice.”

Let us weary not in well-doing; but keep on digging if necessary, till Jesus comes!

Rick Forcier

¹ www.whitehouse.gov