

June 2014

Pastor-Advisory Board

Rev. Bill Bates
Destiny Christian Center, Centralia

Rev. Earl Bradley
Capital Region Ministries, Olympia

Rev. Randy Burtis
Luis Palau Crusades

Rev. Kevin Earls
Gateway Christian Fellowship, Shelton

Rev. Mike Fogaras
Gateway Christian Center, Olympia

Rev. Ted Hanson
Abundant Life Fellowship, Bellingham

Rev. Scott Manley
Flood The Sound, Olympia

Rev. Scott Montagne
Bayside Community Church, Kingstom

Rev. Jon Oletske
Stone Church, Yakima

Rev. Ken Parsley
Church on the Move, Yakima

Rev. Jim Ripley
Neighborhood Christian Cntr, Tumwater

Rev. Reuben Sapien
The Sanctuary Church, Lynnwood

Rev. Dan Secrist
Faith Assembly of Lacey

Rev. Tim Taylor
Watchman Ministries International

Rev. Dwain Wolfe
New Horizons Christian Center, Fife

Board of Directors

Paul Middleton
Chairman, Olympia

Jim Winterstein
Secretary/Treas., Olympia

Scott Blanton
Vancouver

Bob Higley
Olympia

Dorsey Holt
Shelton

Jere Irwin
Yakima

Mike Odell
Blaine

Dick Raport
Camano Island

Jim Robinson
Spokane

Fred Weiss
Bellevue

Rick Forcier
Executive Director

Staff

George Gauntlett
Data Administration

Beth Davis
Accounting

Julie Gallagher
Prayer Coordinator

Rusty Howell
Field Director

Steve Matthews
Field Director

The Game Has Changed

The USA is the world's leading advocate for homo and transsexual unions

Blow the trumpet...sound the alarm...for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand-- Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God...
--Joel 2:1, 13

Perhaps popular game show host Pat Sajak is living in the dark ages. While welcoming *Wheel of Fortune* contestant T.K. Klotz during an episode that aired several days ago, Sajak noted on the introduction card that the young man is engaged. "Some woman has agreed to marry you," he said to the contestant. "Some *gentleman*," responded Klotz. Oops! Judging by the response from the studio audience, Americans are slowly realizing that the game has changed.

This past Sunday, many thousands of "gay pride" enthusiasts marched in various civic parades in U.S. cities, large and small, as well as in distant places—from Tel Aviv to Singapore. But perhaps no locale pleased crowds more than "The Big Apple" which featured the Boy Scouts of America at the head of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender parade. Boy, has the game ever changed!

Thirty days ago, the President declared, "...I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month (LGBT). I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people."

Nowhere is the President's vision for a gay-approving America gaining more traction than in federal district courts. Last week, the Senate confirmed three more of Obama's judicial nominees, where they will enjoy lifetime tenure as district court judges. Two of the nominees are openly gay. One of them, Judge Darrin Gayles, is the first openly gay African American man to serve in the federal judiciary. He was confirmed by a vote of 97-0.

Columnist Mark J. Stern notes that when President Obama took office, "only one openly gay judge, Clinton appointee Deborah Batts, served on the federal bench. (Judge Vaughn Walker, nominated by Ronald Reagan and confirmed under George H.W. Bush, did not come out until 2011, after his retirement). But over the last six years, Obama has brought 10 openly gay judges to the judiciary..." Stern says "They might not reflect Obama's most visible gay rights achievements. But in a very real sense, they will be his most enduring." ¹

Be assured that the President's hopes and dreams for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folks are not by any means confined to his sweeping domestic agenda. Mr. Obama says, "Our commitment to advancing equality for the LGBT community extends far beyond our borders."

According to Jill Secard, executive director of the San Diego Diplomacy Council, the U.S. is deeply vested in a worldwide LGBT movement. She says that a contingent of LGBT movement leaders from around the globe will be visiting the United States, June 30 through July 5, as part of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Ms. Secard emphasizes that the **U.S. State Department** is the official host and that **U.S. embassies** around the world have carefully selected the LGBT delegates who are seen as effective activists for social change in their home countries. Meetings during the visit will focus on “Human Rights and Gender Identity.”²

Arguably, government leaders are increasingly sanctioning, and even rewarding sin. We would think that promoting behaviors that God finds “abominable” and granting more than \$500 million tax dollars annually to abortion providers, would qualify under “sanctioning and rewarding.” But of equal concern is the Church, that in many ways, is looking for safe harbor—a place where it can avoid conflict, yet maintain a distinctly Christian witness to the culture. Historically speaking, it is looking for what never has been.

God’s people are often forced to choose the difficult rather than the expedient. The Hebrew mid-wives, for instance, were ordered by Pharaoh (government) to kill the male babies of Hebrew women during the birthing process. But the midwives feared God and did not do as they were ordered. We are told that God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.

In another instance of civil disobedience, Daniel felt compelled to defy an ordinance against praying to anyone other than the king. When he prayed to his God, he did so in plain sight for all to see, knowing full well his actions would invite certain punishment. Similarly, the Apostles were frequently arrested and beaten for nothing more than the “religious content of their speech.” Their consistent response to local authorities was, “We ought to obey God, rather than men.” (Acts 5:29).

The late Christian theologian Francis Schaefer wrote extensively on the subject of rulers and moral governance—particularly emphasizing our Lord’s intent that rulers should praise good works and punish evil (Romans 13:3-4). He believed that when government violates what God clearly commands, it exceeds its authority. So did America’s founders.

The question the Church must address, is how much more moral territory must be forfeited to government leaders before it is time to sound the alarm? Maybe when the number of aborted babies in America doubles to 100 million? When parents are compelled to have their children tutored by leading homosexuals? When it is no longer permissible to utter the name of Jesus in any public setting?

We close with an urgent appeal from Rev. Billy Graham’s daughter, Anne Graham Lotz:

“As you may know, my husband is in declining health. I am no longer traveling and speaking as much as I have for the last 26 years since I am staying home to care for him. As a result, I have had time to be quiet and listen more to the whispers of the Spirit. He has revealed things to me in the stillness that I’m not sure I would have heard in my former busyness.

One of the things He has impressed on me is that we are living at the end of human history as we know it... In obedience, I am blowing the trumpet...sounding the alarm... The Call is for God's people to pray for each of the first seven days in the seventh month—July 1-7. Then on the 7th day, July 7...pray and fast for 7 hours. The purpose is:

- For God the Father to restrain, protect, and deliver His people from the evil that has come into our world.
- For God the Son to be exalted, magnified, and glorified in His church, in our nation, and in our lives.
- For God the Holy Spirit to fall on us in a fresh way, compelling the church to repent of sin and our nation to return to faith in the living God, resulting in a great national spiritual awakening.”

“This is not about promoting anything or anyone,” says Graham. “This is all about calling God's people together to pray, before it's too late, and judgment falls on our nation.”

Rick Forcier

¹ Mark Joseph Stern, “Obama’s Most Enduring Gay Rights Achievement,” www.slate.com, 6/17/2014

² *LGBT Weekly*, *CNN-Wire*, 6/17/2014