

# Christian Coalition of Washington

Educating and Activating Christians for Social, Political, and Spiritual Action

December 2018

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## 2018—Our Surges and Setbacks

A rearview glance to see where we've been and consider where we're headed

... and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; --Acts 17:26

It has been our practice for the past 20 years, to laser in on breaking news we consider germane to our mission, and thus, our monthly newsletters. Like the biblical tribe of Issachar, we endeavor to *understand our times and to know what to do concerning* (forgive us here)... America! (1Chronicles 12:32). At least that is our aim.

In JANUARY, for instance, we observed that while liberal lawmakers hold all the cards at the state level, we church folks cannot blame them for a number of voter ratified social issues that defy not only biblical proscriptive, but also centuries of societal practices, and COMMON SENSE! Thanks to voters through the *initiative* process, Abortion, Assisted Suicide, Legalized Marijuana, privatization and expansion of Hard Liquor outlets, and Same-sex "marriage" are now the cultural mainstream.

In FEBRUARY, we honored the memory and the homegoing of Dr. Billy Graham who died peacefully in his Montreat, North Carolina home on February 21 at the age of 99. Graham held more than 400 "crusades" in some 185 countries. In Moscow (1992), one-quarter of the 155,000 people in Graham's audience went forward at his call.

Our MARCH letter "Are Men Becoming Less Male," was arguably our most disturbing expose' ever, at the very least, since May 2000. Advocating for a "genderless" society, Gloria Steinem looks forward to a time when "the word *gender* does not exist: Where everyone can be themselves."

Separate boy activities and girl activities are rapidly disappearing in most social, educational, and recreational circles. Even many church-sponsored Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts programs have given way to alternative co-ed activities. But, troublesome long-term physical, mental and emotional damage is becoming so pervasive in our young adult population, the Church must act quickly.

APRIL was a celebratory month for us as we started an early countdown to the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the modern State of Israel. Our generation is witnessing the fulfilling of the Lord's longstanding promise to His covenant people, of whom He said;

*Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in my fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. They shall be My people, and I will be their God* (Jere 32:37, 38).

A remnant of Jews, some surviving Hitler's WWII death camps at Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau and elsewhere, made their way to "Palestine" after a nearly two-thousand-year absence from their land. Yet, after just one generation, The Bloomberg Global innovation index ranks tiny Israel as the 10<sup>th</sup> most innovative and impressive country in the world's global technology market.

In MAY, we highlighted the vast differences in social and fiscal policies—even worldviews that are espoused by the Democrats and their Republican rivals.

For starters, Republicans have expressed their defining principles in fewer-than-eight-pages of their latest party platform, while Democrats call for major societal change in a rambling 45-page party document. Items already checked off the state Democrat TO-DO list since 2016 include granting illegals drivers' licenses, (including automatic voter registration); banning Christian psychologists from helping teens struggling with homosexuality or gender dysphoria; requiring employers to add abortion to employee "health" coverage; and "rent-a-womb," which now legalizes paid commercial surrogacy.

JUNE—We revisited George Washington's "110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation." We are reminded that in previous generations, Americans were taught and encouraged to offer "the carrot rather than the stick."

For JULY—*he's COMING AGAIN!* We urged readers to be sure to attend one of Franklin Graham's seven evangelical rallies throughout the Pacific Northwest starting August 1. Concerning our local environs, Steve Rhoads, vice president of Billy Graham's church ministry team had declared, "It is a firewall of secularism on the West Coast, and we want to pierce it, go right through it with the Gospel..."

AUGUST—*NEEDED: FEWER FANS, MORE FANATICS!* According to feedback received from the Graham organization, the seven-venue gospel outreach commencing in Medford and concluding in Monroe, drew a combined estimated crowd of 68,950 "committed and enthusiastic souls." But while the Graham team was most gracious in their assessment of church participation, we were less so, noting that any ONE Husky or Seahawks football game draws more than 70,000 "fans." Underlying question: "Church where art thou?"

SEPTEMBER—*CONFESSIONS OF A FORMER DEMOCRAT.* A teaser from a one-time Democrat Party volunteer. But, humor aside, a pretense of political neutrality is no longer possible now that the Democrat Party is a veritable wrecking-ball when it comes to life, liberty, and even reverence for our Lord and His commands.

OCTOBER—*WANTED: NO RISK NO COST RELIGION.* *DisneyWorld* and Las Vegas are the leading entertainment venues in the America. Aware that amusement generates a windfall in tourist dollars, other leading U.S. cities are racing to add new attractions and thousands more rooms and suites in the next several years.

In post-modernity, where extravagance can unwittingly substitute for holiness, urban fellowships, not unlike leading U.S. cities, are endeavoring to become "mega-churches." Unfortunately, many small community churches are in decline as former members commute to larger, more entertaining weekend venues. We must take care not to presume we are *rich and increased, and in need of nothing* (Rev 3:14-18).

NOVEMBER—*WHEN THE CHURCH IGNORES THE PUBLIC SECTOR.* Last month's statewide elections have been described as a Democrat tsunami—even providing winning margins of 90% or more in some contests. In that a number of seasoned and effective Christian lawmakers were turned out of office, we wonder, who cares? Did we lend a hand or even a dollar to a worthwhile political candidate this season?

That asked, we confess there are key areas where we in *Christian Coalition* leadership circles fall short of the mark. And, earlier today came a year-end issue of *WORLD* (magazine) that is easily as self-effacing about ministry effectiveness and the *Times* we are in. Publisher Joe Belz writes, "A Socialist Future May Already Be Here," and warns us to brace ourselves. Yet, feature writer Andrée Seu Peterson notes we "were placed, by God's foreknowledge and salvation plan, inside the 21<sup>st</sup> century... for such a time as this." She adds, "Nothing has been left to chance in our precise appearance on the scene (Acts 17:26)."

So, we stand reminded and encouraged that whether you're in Waitsburg, Waterville, Winlock or Woodland, we've been teamed up for a very long time. And there is no adequate way for us to express our gratitude, except to say God bless you, and may He prosper you in all you do this coming NEW YEAR!

*Rick Forcier*