

**JCC**

Jamestown Community College

August 3, 1989

Focus on the Family  
P.O. Box 500  
Arcadia, CA. 91106

Dear Sir:

I am doing sociological research on stories about satanic cults.

Can you tell me if any of your radio programs over the last year dealt with this topic; and if so, where I may obtain audio tape recordings of such programs?

I already have received an audio-tape program featuring an interview with Mike Warnke, so if that program has been repeated, I won't need it.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey S. Victor  
Professor of Sociology

/lw



November 1990

Dear Friend,

Each year, the President of the United States delivers a "State of the Union" address to a joint session of Congress. The 50 governors then speak to their respective legislatures on the "state of the state," as they perceive it. Mayors describe the "state of the city" to their councils, and so on. In that spirit of analysis and accountability, I think it is time that I write to our friends and supporters on the "state of the ministry," telling those who care how we are doing in our efforts to support the institution of the family.

First, my recent heart attack has led some of our visitors and friends to ask, "What would have happened to Focus on the Family if Jim Dobson had died?" It is an excellent question—but not a new one to us. I first thought about that matter back in 1977 when the ministry began. I didn't want it constructed as a monument to me or to any other individual.

That's why we called it "Focus on the Family," rather than the "James Dobson Memorial Institute for the Propagation of the Traditional Family" or some such name. Shirley and I are important to what goes on here, I suppose, but we're not irreplaceable. None of us is! This ministry belongs to God, and if He wants it to continue after we're gone, that will be no challenge for Him.

To prepare for such a time, therefore, our Administrative Cabinet and our Board of Directors have been developing relevant plans and policies for several years. We are ready for that eventuality, should it occur suddenly. Please understand that this preparation began long *before* my mild heart attack and was not motivated by any known health problems. My cardiologist tells me that I am not in any particular jeopardy now, and I should have a long and energetic life. Nevertheless, good stewardship demands that we think through the implications of a change in leadership brought by death or disability.

So how about it? What would Focus be like without Jim Dobson? Well, it will be helpful to review what the organization is doing now. It is far from a one-man band. There are 52 separate ministries here, most of which depend on me only for general leadership. A team of 750 people is working to provide services to families that would still be needed after my death. Included among them are:

- *Focus on the Family* magazine, going to nearly 2 million households monthly
- *Citizen* magazine, going to 277,000 households monthly
- *Physician* magazine, going to 17,000 doctors bimonthly
- *Clubhouse* and *Clubhouse Jr.* magazines for children, going to 96,000 and 86,000 households monthly, respectively
- Book publishing, such as *The Language of Love* and *A Mother's Manual for Summer Survival*
- Films and videos, such as "Twice Pardon," "A Man Called Norman" and "Molder of Dreams"
- A church bulletin read by 2.8 million people each month
- Basketball camps, mostly for boys of single mothers
- "Adventures in Odyssey" dramatic broadcast for children, heard on 872 radio facilities each week
- "Family News in Focus" broadcast, heard on 611 radio facilities each week
- Armed Forces Radio Network broadcast, heard around the world on military bases and ships at sea
- Family Research Council, defending family values in Washington, D.C.
- Support for 2,000 crisis pregnancy centers in North America
- "Enfoque a la Familia," the Spanish-language broadcast heard on 191 radio facilities in the U.S. and across Latin America

The ministry is also operating now in the United Kingdom, Canada, Norway, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Australia and New Zealand. The daily radio broadcast is heard virtually around the world.

My point is that the institution of the family will certainly continue to experience needs as long as Jesus tarries, and Focus on the Family should be equipped to help meet those needs—with or without me at its helm. It would be necessary to replace me on the radio broadcast, of course, but if God is in it, that can certainly be accomplished. Only two questions remain: First, will the Lord continue to ordain and bless the continuing effort? And second, will His people choose to support it? I believe the answers are affirmative in both instances. Only time will tell, of course.

As to the financial underpinnings of the ministry, I need to lay out some basic facts in a spirit of openness and accountability. I have mentioned briefly on several occasions that we have been running a significant deficit month after month. More specifically, this has been the pattern since early in 1990:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Surplus</i>
February	-173,000	
March	-1,234,000	
April	-839,000	
May		+155,000
June	-925,000	
July	-151,000	
August	-568,000	
September	<u>-1,909,000</u>	
TOTAL	-5,799,000	+155,000

With a net shortfall of nearly \$5.6 million during this period, you might wonder how we are staying afloat. We do not believe in borrowing to support operating expenses, and we will never spend money we don't have in the *hopes* it will be covered by future contributions. Rather, we have survived thus far in 1990 on the generous contributions of our supporters last Christmas. We enjoyed a \$6.2 million surplus last November, December and January, which has carried us until recently. That cushion is nearly depleted, however, and we are left with a very low cash reserve.

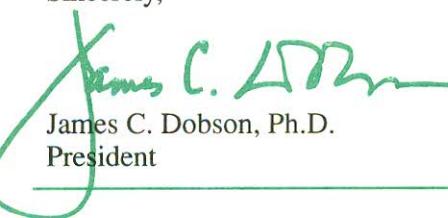
My purpose in sharing this information is merely informational to those who wish to know. People have been incredibly generous to this ministry from its foundation, and we are in no position to complain. What is occurring now is that expenses have caught up to income and exceeded it. That takes us back to the philosophy with which we began. Our obligation in such times is to make the facts known to our friends, to trim every unnecessary expenditure from the budget, and then leave the outcome in the hands of the Lord. We will make the necessary cuts in programs to align cash income with outflow. In fact, we are in the process of reducing the budget by more than \$15 million at this time. The pending move to Colorado Springs will also lower our expenses significantly, but that is at least a year away.

Let me restate the convictions I have communicated through the years. First, despite our need, we *do not* want you to support Focus on the Family until you have met your obligation to your local church. It outranks our ministry in priority and significance. Second, do not send contributions that will deprive you or your family of basic sustenance and support. Some of you are on welfare or live on other forms of fixed income. You should not share in our burden unless you are clearly able to do so. Third, we ask that you pray with us about the ongoing responsibilities of this ministry, both financial and otherwise. We are trying to please the Lord in all that we do, but “we see through a dark glass” and sometimes fall short of the mark. Even in those instances, however, the Lord can break our meager fishes and loaves to feed the multitudes.

Well, that about completes my “state of the ministry” report. Despite the financial stresses upon us, we are not in a time of panic or despair. Speaking personally, it has been one of the great privileges of my life to lead this effort in defense of the institution of the family.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Sincerely,



James C. Dobson, Ph.D.  
President



#### RESOURCES ON CULTS AND WORLD RELIGIONS

(The books listed on this resource list should be available at local Christian bookstores or through the publisher. Focus on the Family does not necessarily endorse all of these books in their entirety. Tapes on this list are available through Focus on the Family for a donation of \$5. Booklets are available through Focus on the Family for \$.35 each.)

##### CULTS AND WORLD RELIGIONS

###### BOOKS

HANDBOOK OF TODAY'S RELIGIONS by Josh McDowell & Don Stewart  
(Here's Life)  
UNMASKING THE NEW AGE by Douglas Groothuis (InterVarsity Press)  
UNDERSTANDING THE NEW AGE by Russell Chandler (Word)  
WHAT IS SECULAR HUMANISM? by James Hitchcock (Servant Publishers)

###### TAPES

"Cults" (David Conn)  
"Escape From Satanism" (Mike and Rose Warnke)  
"A Look at the New Age" (Russell Chandler, Neil Anderson)

###### FACT SHEET

(Available from Focus on the Family upon request.)

"Satanism"

##### CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

###### BOOKS

ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS by Josh McDowell (Tyndale)  
BASIC CHRISTIANITY by John Stott (InterVarsity Press)  
EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT by Josh McDowell (Here's Life)  
THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY by A.W. Tozer (Harper & Rowe)  
KNOWING GOD by J.I. Packer (InterVarsity Press)  
LOVING GOD by Chuck Colson (Zondervan)  
MERE CHRISTIANITY by C.S. Lewis (MacMillan)  
MORE THAN A CARPENTER by Josh McDowell (Living Book/Tyndale House)  
REASON TO BELIEVE by R.C. Sproul (Zondervan)

## BOOKLETS

"Christianity for the Open-Minded" by Michael Cassidy (InterVarsity)  
"Have You Considered Him?" by Wilbur Smith (InterVarsity)

## REFERRALS

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association  
1300 Harmon Place  
Minneapolis, MN 55440  
612/338-0500

Insight for Living  
Dr. Charles Swindoll  
211 E. Imperial Highway, Suite 100  
Fullerton, CA 92635  
714/870-9161

Mailing address:  
PO Box 4444  
Fullerton, CA 92634

Spiritual Counterfeits Project  
P.O. Box 4308  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
415/540-0300 - switchboard (ordering, catalog, etc.)  
415/540-5767 - information  
10:00 - 2:00 PST, (Mon/Wed/Thur only) for counseling referrals

Mike Warnke Ministries  
672 Pleasant Hill Rd., P.O. Box 472  
Burgin, KY 40310  
606/748-9961  
1-800-345-0045 - Mon-Fri (9:00-5:30, Eastern), 2 counselors on line  
for those involved in the occult wanting to get out, those wanting  
additional information, or those who are desperate, etc.

(Please note: This resource list is not exhaustive on the subjects of cults and world religions. Focus on the Family does not specialize in these topics. Therefore, these are only a few suggested resources.)

8/22/89 - Correspondence Department  
MS117



August 29, 1989

Dr. Jeffrey S. Victor  
Jamestown Community College  
525 Falconer St  
PO Box 20  
Jamestown, NY 14702

Dear Dr. Victor:

Thank you for writing to Dr. Dobson. He would have preferred to respond to your concerns personally, but he is now receiving several thousand letters a day and simply must have help in dealing with his correspondence. I trust you will understand why he has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Under separate cover we are sending some material we feel is especially pertinent to Satanism. Please allow about three weeks for processing and delivery. It comes at no cost to you whatsoever; it is simply an expression of our desire to help you in any way we can, and we sincerely hope that you will find it useful. We are also enclosing some information that may interest you.

Again, thank you for writing and giving us this opportunity to reach out to you in this small way. May the Lord add His blessing to the items we are sending and grant you the guidance you seek.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Lang".

Kathleen Lang  
Correspondence Assistant to Dr. Dobson

KL/klt

Focus on the  
Family

November 1990  
Seventy-five cents

with Dr. James C. Dobson

# CHILDREN AT RISK



*The Battle for the Hearts  
and Minds of Our Kids*

*from a new book by Dr. James Dobson and Gary Bauer*

# THE SECOND GREAT CIVIL WAR

A modern-day battle is being fought,  
not with guns and grenades,  
but with ideas.

Our children and future generations  
will be the prize to the winner.

by Dr. James C. Dobson



**H**is name is Josh and he is 3 years old. He's the kind of kid you want to hug, with his cute blond hair, infectious smile, and winning personality. His father brings Josh to the gymnasium three mornings each week, where he plays on the sidelines while his dad and a few aging jocks sweat it out on the basketball court. That's where I met him.

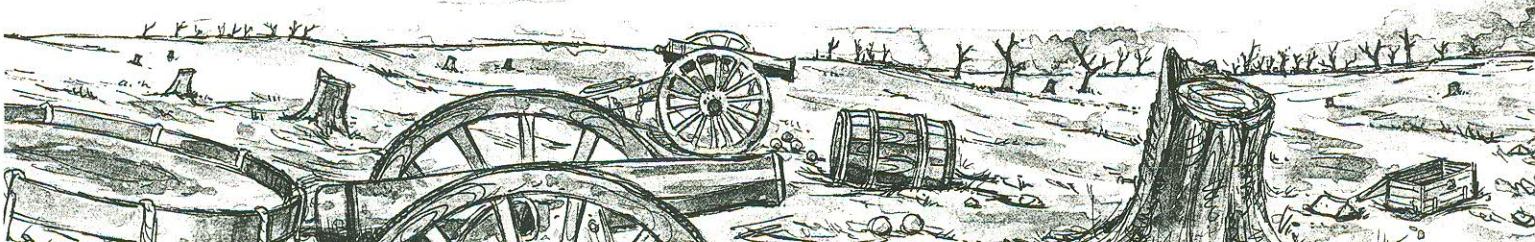
One day during a break in the action, I walked over to the bleachers and sat down

beside Josh. I tried a couple of times to engage him in conversation, but got nowhere. He didn't really know me and he was perfectly willing to leave it that way.

After getting no more than a nod in response to several questions, I resorted to the "can't miss, never fail" method of making friends with a small boy.

I said, "Josh, have you ever been stung by a bee?"

He lit up like a Christmas tree.



"Yeah," he said excitedly. "He got me right there," pointing to the side of his big toe.

"Did you step on him?" I asked.

"Nope. He dived on me," said Josh.

From that point on, Josh and I were fast friends. We kicked a volleyball back and forth and talked about things he liked. Nothing, however, interested him quite like the bee that "dived" from the sky and grabbed his big toe.

I smiled as I watched little Josh running around the gymnasium gleefully teasing his father and chasing loose basketballs. He reminded me of my own kids, now grown, and the joy they brought to our house during their preschool years.

Then a certain sadness came over me. I thought about the 25 million little babies who have been killed through abortion since the Supreme Court legalized their slaughter in 1973. Their numbers would amount to 10 percent of today's entire population of Americans.

Each of those tiny infants had the potential to be like Josh—an incredibly precious child worth more than the combined wealth of the entire world. If they had been permitted to live, six million of them would now be journeying through the teenage years and pressing toward adulthood. Nearly 11 million would be in elementary school, carrying their Crayolas and Mickey Mouse lunch boxes to class each morning.

Then I looked again at Josh. Incredibly, more than a million of those nameless, faceless aborted babies would now be 3 years old, like my little friend there in the gym. They would be toddling and giggling and hugging the necks of their parents today.

I tried to imagine that sea of humanity—a million little bundles of energy—who were savagely dismembered and poisoned before they could even plead for their lives. Something within me screamed, "No, it can't be!" But alas, the killing continues to this hour.

### Not an Easy Journey

Not only do I mourn for those millions of babies who were taken from their places of safety, but I also worry about Josh and his contemporaries who were permitted to live. Theirs will not be an easy journey, either. The same twisted philosophy

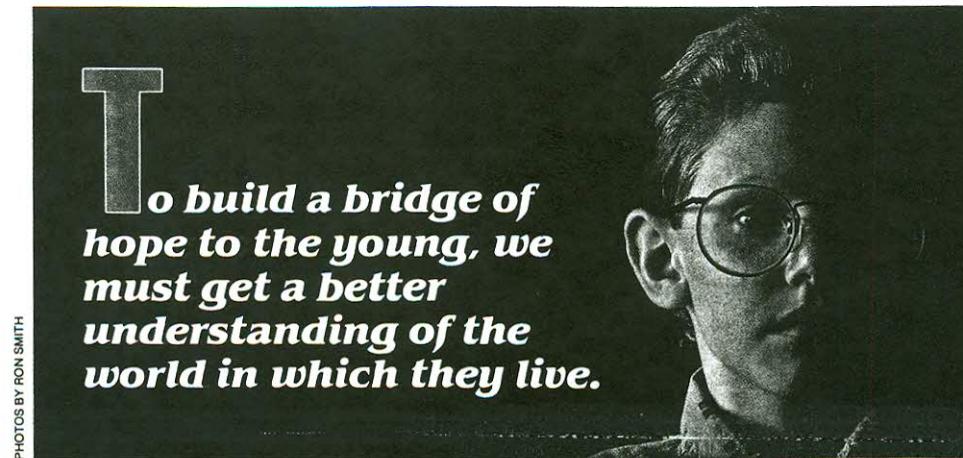
that permits us to kill infants with impunity is now prevalent throughout the Western world. It has produced a society that is incredibly dangerous to young minds and bodies.

How passionately I feel about the plight of today's children. How sorry I am for the pressures we have allowed to engulf them. How regretful I am of the sexual enticements that reach their ears during elementary school—teaching them that virginity is a curse and sex an adolescent toy.

gaiety from within. His friends, or people he wants as friends, are already inside, and they are obviously having a blast. Every now and then he hears someone call his name and beckon him to the party.

Who knows what unimaginable thrills and sensations and belonging can be his behind one of the doors? And why shouldn't he experience what everyone else is doing?

Who—tell me—who has the right to keep him locked out there in the dark



PHOTOS BY RON SMITH

**T**o build a bridge of hope to the young, we must get a better understanding of the world in which they live.

How I grieve for the boys and girls who have been told, and now they believe, that they are utter fools and will fail in each of life's endeavors. How tender I feel toward the wounded children, the blind or deaf, or overweight, or retarded or cerebral palsied, who believe themselves to be cursed by God and man. Somehow, we must make a new effort to reach this generation with a message of confidence and hope and love and respect.

To build a bridge of hope to the young, we must get a better understanding of the world in which they live. Perhaps it will be helpful to think of today's teenager as being compelled symbolically to walk alone down a long, dark corridor leading toward adulthood.

On either side of this gloomy hall are many large doors, each bearing identifying words at eye level. They are called *Alcohol, Marijuana, Hard Drugs, Pornography, Gambling, Homosexual Experimentation, Premarital Sex*, etc. Every form of addictive behavior is represented by at least one door that the teenager must pass on his journey to maturity.

As he approaches each portal, he can hear boisterous laughter and

by himself? His parents? That's a laugh. They had their day, now it's his turn. Brilliant light shines from under each door, and the shadows of dancing bodies cast an eerie reflection on his adolescent face. Pounding music throbs in his ears. That does it! Forget the consequences! He reaches for the doorknob.

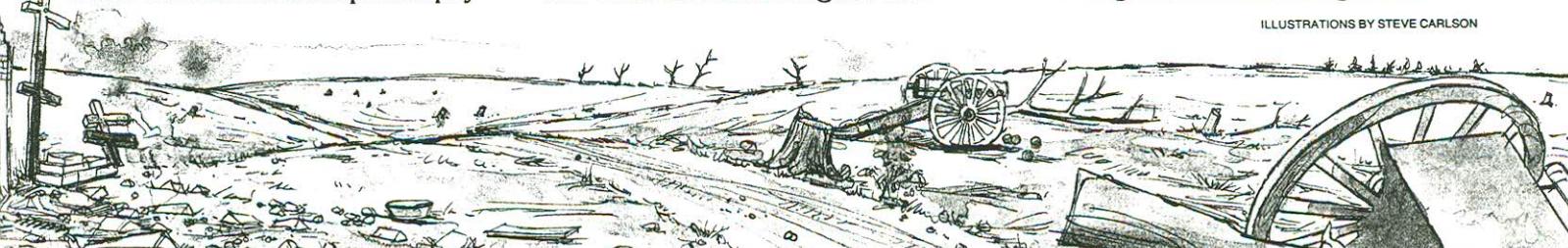
### Cracking the Door

For a certain percentage of individuals who open one or more of these dangerous doors (the probability varies for each addictive behavior), a tragedy begins to unfold. The susceptible adolescent must simply crack the door an inch or two, and a monster will run out and grab its wide-eyed victim. Some, but not all, will be held in its power for the rest of their lives.

My wife's father was an alcoholic for more than 35 years. His inability to control his drinking and the violence it caused eventually destroyed his home and wounded everyone he loved. He died a lonely and regretful man with very little to show for his 77 years on this earth.

How did it happen? Did he plan to waste his entire paycheck each week and terrorize his family? Of course not. He promised a thousand times to quit drinking. But the monster grabbed

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVE CARLSON



him during his teen years and soon became his lord and master.

He cracked open a door that should have remained shut. This young man never dreamed he was one of the individuals most vulnerable to liquor, and it eventually destroyed everything of value to him.

It is common knowledge that hard drugs are often instantly addictive and can hold their victims in a state of

homosexual violence and explicit sodomy, sex between women and bulls or stallions or boars, spreading feces or urine on the body, etc.

One might wonder how in the world a person could be stimulated by such unthinkably evil depictions. The answer typically involves an early addiction to soft-core pornography that progresses, *for some individuals*, to the worst possible conclusion.

## Kids are participating in every form of sexual experimentation at a younger and younger age.



stupor for decades—or until early death sets them free. How many teenagers do you know who cracked the door to cocaine ever so slightly, and then found themselves locked in the embrace of a tyrannical habit? It happens every day.

Fewer people realize how incredibly addictive pornography is to most boys during early adolescence. One exposure at just the right moment can capture a susceptible young man on the verge of manhood. He then begins a masturbatory habit that feeds on ever more explicit and violent material.

Like most addictions, pornography is progressive in nature. Photographs and erotic literature that stimulate sexual excitement quickly lose their power. The viewer wants more, more, more! Sooner or later, he comes to the end of the line—where he has seen everything a man and woman can do together. He has viewed the human body from every angle until it is no longer erotic to him. What then? Indeed, what then?

For a percentage of men (that precise number is unknown), they will progress past this natural barrier to an interest in perverse behaviors, or "paraphilias," as they are called. These men lust after the most wretched material on earth, including child molestation and simulated murder,

### A Case in Point

Though the media still thinks he was lying, Ted Bundy told me of his journey from detective story-type pornography to hard-core material depicting extreme violence toward women. He remained at that point in the progressive process for nearly two years before killing his first co-ed. By the time he was executed in Florida State Prison, he had raped and murdered at least 28 women and girls.

Very few men take a pornographic addiction this far, of course, but Bundy was certainly not the only one. I hear from other men on Death Row who tell similar stories. In Bundy's case, it began with the accidental discovery of "girlie magazines" at a roadside dump. He was about 13 at the time... and the fatal door was breached.

It should be clear that our job as parents, pastors, and youth leaders must be to keep the hallway of doors locked and barred to the adolescent traveler. That is precisely what I experienced as a teenager. The doors were securely closed and most of my friends were out in the corridor with me.

What concerns me today is that the doors are not only unlocked for many kids—they are standing wide open! The pathway to premature sex is particularly accessible to every bright-

eyed youngster looking for a thrill. Brass bands play while confetti, party favors and condoms are distributed to the curious at the entrance by adults who should know better.

It's no wonder that the kids who want to remain chaste often feel like prudes and freaks today. Pornographic music videos, raunchy television and teen exploitation movies, such as *Porky's* and *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, make it clear that everybody's doing it. Whatever natural barriers and modesty that might have existed between the sexes is quickly circumvented.

In that kind of world, it should not surprise us that kids are participating in every form of sexual experimentation at a younger and younger age. This is especially true of females. The National Center for Health Statistics reports that 29 percent of 15-year-olds are sexually active, and 81 percent of 19-year-olds!

Boys are no less chaste. Seventy-two percent of 17-year-old boys are sexually active, as well as 88 percent of 19-year-olds. The consequence of this promiscuity is appalling. Not only are 1.5 million abortions occurring each year, but the spread of 38 sexually transmitted diseases continues at epidemic proportions.

For example, 27,000 cases of syphilis were reported in 1986—a dangerous trend that captured national attention. But by 1989, the figure had risen to 44,000—an increase of 62 percent in just three years! A strain of gonorrhea has now appeared that is completely resistant to all known antibiotics.

Twenty to 30 percent of college-age women are currently estimated to have genital herpes—a disease from which they will suffer the rest of their

### ON THE RADIO

Be sure to tune in "Focus on the Family" on November 5-6 when Dr. Dobson discusses his new book, *Children at Risk*, with co-author Gary Bauer.

lives. And another virus known as HP causes genital warts and cervical cancer in some infected women. The disease is untreatable and would be grabbing headlines if it weren't for the more serious AIDS epidemic.

Numerous other problems result from unbridled promiscuity, of cours



including infertility and even death. And who can minimize the effects of sexual experimentation on subsequent marital relationships? Clearly, the door marked *Premarital Sex* is a passage to pain for those who would stroll through its portals.

#### Not Much Opposition

Given the heartache and illness wreaked by adolescent promiscuity, one would expect responsible adults to be united in their opposition to it. That is simply not the case. In fact, an aggressive campaign is underway to guarantee that young men and women continue to do what comes naturally.

I met a few of these campaigners face-to-face when I served on the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Panel for the Department of Health and Human Services. I assumed when I accepted the appointment from Secretary Otis Bowen that our purpose was to design programs to help curb adolescent promiscuity. That is generally thought to be the best way to prevent unplanned pregnancies.

I was wrong. My fellow panelists had a better idea. I made the mistake during our first session of mentioning the word "abstinence" to them, and they reacted with alarm. First, they blanched, then began sweating, trembling and gasping for air. Obviously, I had struck a raw nerve.

I learned later that 15 of the 18 panel members wanted to teach the kids how to have lots of really fun safe-sex without making babies. That was their hidden agenda. When my two colleagues (Dr. Bill Pierce and Dr. Terrence Olson) and I realized that the deck had been stacked and that our panel would soon issue recommendations to distribute condoms and immoral advice to students attending the nation's schools, we resigned publicly at a Washington, D.C., press conference.

But the tide rolled on, and the effort to encourage adolescent sexuality soon became evident throughout culture.

Let's deal with the obvious question head-on: Why do bureaucrats and researchers and Planned Parenthood-types fight so hard to preserve adolescent promiscuity? Why do they balk at the thought of intercourse occurring only in the context of marriage? Why have they completely removed the

door marked *Premarital Sex* for a generation of vulnerable teenagers?

Their motivation is not that difficult to understand. Multiplied millions of dollars are generated each year in direct response to teenage sexual irresponsibility. Kids jumping into bed with each other is supporting entire industries of grateful adults. The abortion business alone brings in an estimated \$600 million annually.

Do you really believe the physicians, nurses, medical suppliers and bureaucrats who owe their livelihood to the killing of unborn babies would prefer that adolescents abstain until marriage?! How about condom manufacturers or the producers of spermicide, the Pill, IUD's or diaphragms?

Would they want their business decimated by a sweeping wave of morality among the young? I doubt it. Then there are the producers of antibiotics and other drugs for use in treating sexually transmitted diseases. They have a financial stake in continued promiscuity as well.

#### Spiritual Emphasis Needed

We must lead our children into an early and deeply meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. The motivation and strength to live a life of purity is a by-product of this spiritual commitment and understanding.

Now obviously, this Christian em-

would use them and safely down the long, dark corridor toward the relative stability of adulthood?

We have seen that we cannot yield control to those who would profit from youthful passion and irresponsibility. Nor can we abdicate our leadership to teachers, coaches, physicians or others who do not share our moral and ethical values.

Our job as parents is to lock and bolt the doors that lead to addictive and harmful behavior. Stand guard in the hallway! Intercept the destructive messages being given to your vulnerable kids. Distract them with better alternatives when the temptations are greatest. Stay tuned in! Get involved! Fight for what you believe!

And never forget that the children of overcommitted, harassed, exhausted parents are sitting ducks for the con men of our time!

#### The Larger Picture

I have attempted to describe the effort to manipulate this generation of kids and the financial factors that motivate it. Now let me put that struggle in its larger context. Something far more significant than money is behind the contest for the hearts and minds of children.

Nothing short of a great Civil War of Values rages today throughout North America. Two sides with vastly differ-

**ur job as parents is to lock and bolt the doors that lead to addictive and harmful behavior. Stay tuned in! Get involved! Fight for what you believe!**

phasis cannot be made in public schools. We can, however, teach the basics of the Judeo-Christian value system that has permeated our society for hundreds of years.

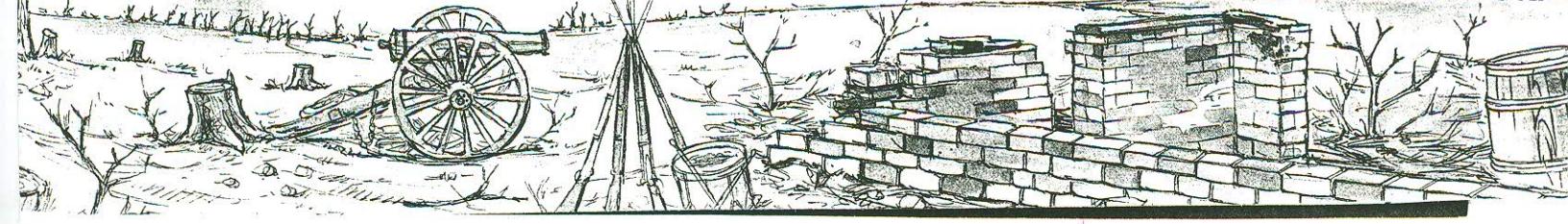
Included in this instruction should be the nature of the family, how it was designed to function and why sexual exclusivity is such an essential component of marital happiness. Yes! It can be taught. Yes! It must be taught! No! Planned Parenthood will not teach it to our children.

What should we do, then, to get our sons and daughters past those who

ing and incompatible world views are locked in a bitter conflict that permeates every level of society. Bloody battles are being fought on a thousand fronts both inside and outside of government.

Open any daily newspaper and you'll find accounts of the latest Gettysburg, Waterloo, Normandy or Stalingrad. Instead of fighting for territory or military conquest, however, the struggle now is for the hearts and minds of the people. It is a war over ideas.

And someday soon, I believe, a winner will emerge and the loser will fade



from memory. For now, the outcome is very much in doubt.

On one side of this Continental Divide are the traditionalists whose values begin with the basic assumption that "God is . . ." From that understanding comes a far-reaching system of thought that touches every dimension of life. Their beliefs are deeply rooted in Scripture, beginning with the Ten Commandments and continuing through New Testament teachings and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Adherents believe (1) in lifelong marriage; (2) in the value of bearing and raising children; (3) in the traditional family, meaning individuals related by marriage, birth or adoption; (4) in the universal worth of the individual, regardless of productivity or other contributions to mankind; and (5) in a complex series of immutable truths, including premarital chastity, fidelity and loyalty between spouses, and the value of self-discipline and hard work.

On virtually every moral issue of the

understanding. And you can be sure that the public schools also conformed to it. Parents saw to that.

Then, slowly at first, another way of looking at the world began to emerge. It evolved from the basic assumption that "God isn't . . ." Everything emanating from the Creator was jettisoned, including reverence for Scripture or any transcendent, universal truths.

"Right" was determined by what seemed right at a particular time. All the old rules and commandments had to be reconsidered. Since human beings have no eternal significance, the value of life was cheapened. Our species became just another member of the animal kingdom, perhaps brighter than the rest . . . but of no more value.

Thus, secular humanists easily embraced abortion, infanticide and euthanasia when convenience demanded. Historic perspectives on morality and ethics gave way to a "new morality" based on changing social attitudes. Prohibitions dis-

Where, then, are the strongholds of the Judeo-Christian ethic? Only two bulwarks remain, and they both face unrelenting pressure from the left. The first is the Christian church, which has been on the defensive in recent years and has lost its taste for battle.

There are many exceptions, of course, and some of the most effective work done in the pro-life or anti-pornography movements is emanating from the institution of the church. By and large, however, individuals have carried the banner, while many denominational leaders have been reluctant to get involved.

Some pastors and congregations feel severely wounded by the highly publicized scandals in the "televised church" toward the end of the '80s. Thus, they have pulled within their own fortresses to avoid becoming "political," and therefore, vulnerable to ridicule.

Meanwhile, 25 million babies have died, obscenity abounds everywhere, our values and symbols are mocked incessantly on television, our children are corrupted by movies and MTV, and our Congressional leaders are steadily encroaching upon our constitutional freedoms. Yet so many of us in the church go about our private business and pretend not to notice.

The great army of believers could still turn the tide of battle if it awakens in time, but thus far, only a courageous minority has been willing to defend the beloved homeland with their lives.

day, the conservative, Christian perspective can be found in scriptural understandings. For example, consider the practices of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

Attitudes toward these forms of murder are shaped by words that were spoken 4,000 years ago, including this passage: "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live" (Deut. 30:19 NIV).

#### Other Illustrations

Until approximately 30 years ago, biblically based concepts were the dominant values and beliefs in Western society. Not everyone agreed, of course, but most did. Decisions made in Congress or by the judicial system typically reflected this broad

solved, rules changed, restrictions faded and guilt subsided. Obviously, this moral free-fall was very liberating in the early days, as self-discipline and restraint yielded to a less demanding master. And it caught on like wildfire.

The humanistic system of values has now become the predominant way of thinking in most of the power centers of society. It has outstripped Judeo-Christian precepts in the universities, in the news media, in the entertainment industry, in the judiciary, in the federal bureaucracy, in business, medicine, law, psychology and sociology, in the arts, in many public schools, and to be sure, in the halls of Congress.

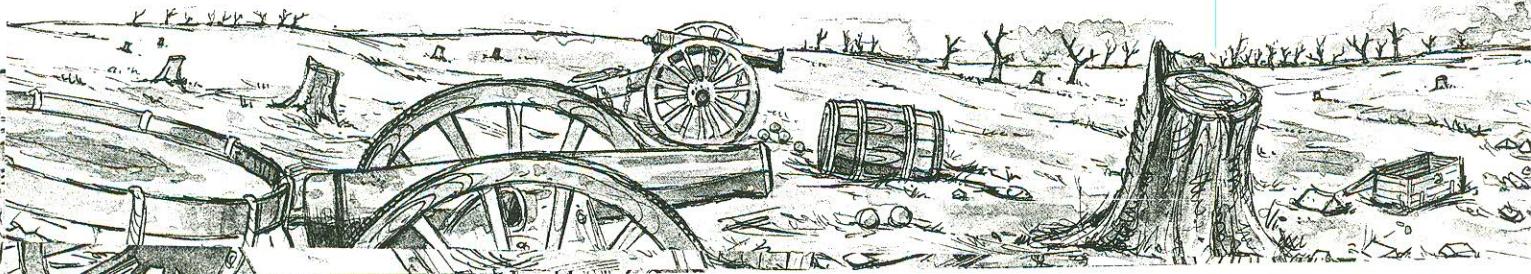
Indeed, the resources available to secular humanists throughout society are almost unlimited in scope, and they are breaking new ground almost every day.

#### Families Under Attack

The second repository of Judeo-Christian values is the institution of the family. Alas, the beleaguered, exhausted, oppressed and overtaxed family now stands unprotected against a mighty foe. If it collapses, and if the church fails to mobilize, the Civil War will be over in a matter of days.

From this perspective, it should be clear why these two institutions are under such vicious attack from so many quarters today. They alone stand in opposition to vast cultural changes, planned and promoted by the social engineers.

What will life be like in the Western world if secular humanists prevail in the struggle for social dominance? What kind of revisions will be made in our moral code, in our civil laws, and in our daily lives if the



restraining influence of traditional and scriptural wisdom is abandoned?

Especially, how will the institution of the family be changed if society slides away from the Judeo-Christian heritage? To my knowledge, those questions have never been answered by those who would take us into a brave new world.

Unfortunately, so many people who share traditionalist views appear not to know a war is going on—a conflict that will have profound implications for future generations. By contrast, our opponents are highly motivated, well-funded, deeply committed and armed to the teeth.

This fact becomes inescapable when one examines how issues of importance to the family are decided in governmental circles. When hearings are being held in Congress on issues of significance to the family, you can be sure the American Civil Liberties Union will be there.

But where are our troops? Well, they're taking care of business back home in Indiana or Texas or Pennsylvania. Chances are they won't even know the issues are being discussed unless some lonely crier spreads the word. Even if information has been disseminated, conservative activists typically come in late and leave early. They have more important things to do.

In the absence of proper vigilance, therefore, the institution of the family is sustaining losses that threaten its very existence. Let me ask you where you were in the mid-'70s when the national debate on parental consent for abortion was held? Did you participate in it? Did you know it was on going? Did you come to Washington to defend your point of view?

Frankly, I didn't, because I was like millions of people like you. I was preoccupied at home and thought someone would look out for my interest in national policy. They didn't!

Without this representation, our rights are being stripped from us. For example, parents have held absolute authority for the medical care of their children for the past 200 years. It is illegal to disinfect a scratch or give an aspirin to another parent's son or daughter without their permission, and those who do so can be charged with battery.

At times, that policy can be frightening. Our son, Ryan, is a hotdog

skier who loves to risk his life and limb on mountain slopes. When he was 13 years old, he was burning through the trees on a snowy trail when he suddenly came over the top of a little hill. The hill turned out to be a seven-foot cliff.

Ryan fell from the sky and landed on his back. He was immediately knocked unconscious, where the ski patrol

childhood have been eliminated from the equation.

Furthermore, they are unaware of her precarious health. She could continue to bleed in the days ahead; she could get an infection; she could suffer emotional problems from consequent guilt or regret.

No matter. Unless she chooses to tell her parents of the event, they will

## H*ow did it happen that parents lost the right to know when their daughters were sub- jected to abortions? How was that decision made?*

found him a few minutes later. They put our son on a litter basket and transported him down the mountain to a first aid station.

There, even though they suspected that his back was broken or severely damaged, the medics were unable to examine him further. He lay on the gurney for more than two hours while the ski patrol searched for Shirley and me.

Why? Because the authority to provide medical care for Ryan rested entirely in our hands. That has been the law in Western society since colonial times.

How did it happen then that parents lost the right to know when their daughters were subjected to abortions? How was that decision made? Who represented the interests of parents when it was determined that a 13- or 14-year-old girl—who is still a child in many ways—could legally be transported by school officials to an abortionist, where a serious surgical procedure is performed without parental knowledge?

Her mother and father not only can't stop the abortion from occurring; they don't even have the right to be informed of it in retrospect. The child comes home that afternoon having been through an experience she will remember for the rest of her life, yet the parents who brought her into the world and nurtured her through

never know about it!

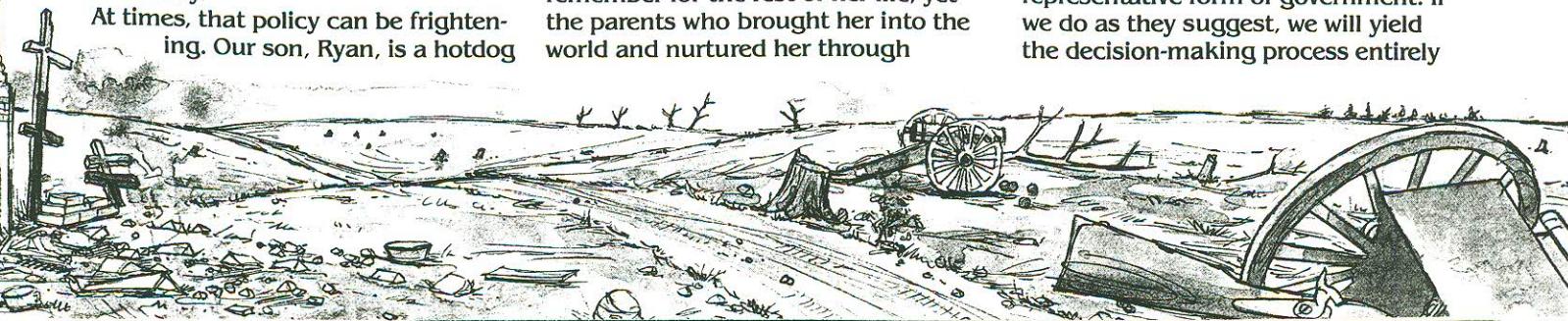
Suppose this young girl's family is profoundly committed to the pro-life position and believes passionately that abortion is murder. Maybe this conviction is a deeply held tenet of their faith. That's just too bad. Somewhere in the vast bureaucracies of government, a decision was made that deprived them of an ancient right, and then a dozen or more liberal judges issued rulings that set the policy in concrete. That was all it took.

And I assure you that newspaper and television commentators made no announcement to the public that the traditional family had just suffered another enormous defeat. Dan Rather said nothing. Tom Brokaw was silent. CNN ignored the story. It was a quiet victory for the humanists, like so many others occurring each day in the halls of government.

### Avoiding Unpleasant Subjects

I think about these unfortunate events every time I hear ministers admonish their congregations to avoid public debates, to leave governmental decisions exclusively in the hands of our elected officials, and to avoid unpleasant subjects in the church.

They almost imply it is immoral for Christians to participate in this great representative form of government. If we do as they suggest, we will yield the decision-making process entirely



to the other side by default. We have as much right to influence the system as our philosophical opponents, and we must use the avenues guaranteed to us by the Constitution.

Even as I write, other one-sided "debates" are in progress in the public arena that will continue to undermine the Judeo-Christian system of thought. It is an everyday affair.

Some will scoff at the suggestion that there is a coordinated, well-thought-out strategy to win this Civil War of Values. They might suggest

from their parents and to indoctrinate them with humanistic ideas is being waged primarily in the public schools, as I indicated. I must emphasize, however, that the Judeo-Christian system of values is still very evident in many educational districts. This is what makes for bloody conflict.

The hottest battles in the Civil War are being fought on educational turf, and that is where eventual victory or defeat will occur. At this moment, the traditionalists are being mauled, but they're not yet down for the count.

**T**he value system of an entire culture can be overhauled in one generation, or certainly in two.

that we are merely witnessing a casual and random drift of social mores, which creeps from one end of the political spectrum to the other. I wish this were true, but it is not.

Secular humanists, particularly the more radical activists, have a specific objective in mind for the future. They hope to accomplish that goal primarily by isolating children from their parents, as they did so effectively with the parental-consent issue.

It will then be relatively easy to "re-orient" and indoctrinate the next generation of Americans. This strategy explains why the most bitter campaigns are being waged over school curricula and other issues that involve our kids. Children are the key to the future.

Let me put it another way. Children are the prize to the winners of this second great Civil War. Those who control what young people are taught and what they experience, what they see, hear, think and believe—will determine the future course for the nation.

Given that influence, the predominant value system of an entire culture can be overhauled in one generation, or certainly in two, by those with unlimited access to children.

The campaign to isolate children

My purpose in addressing these activities of secular humanists should be apparent by this point. We can't defend our families and the things we believe unless we are informed of the danger. Perhaps you remember the peace movement's slogan from the '60s that read, "What if they gave a war and nobody came?"

My concern in the present day is that a war has been "given" and only one side appears to know about it. Most disturbing is the fact that many parents—perhaps the majority—appear not to really want to know.

#### A Call for Action

If you are among the body of citizens who are concerned, I urge you not to just sit there. Get out and work for what you believe. Democracy only succeeds when people get involved. Campaign for a position on the local school board. Write your representatives in Washington.

Better yet, help elect congressmen and senators who hold to the Judeo-Christian system of values. Picket an abortion clinic. Serve on the hospital lay committee. Take a teacher to dinner. Examine the policies of your local library.

Support your neighborhood crisis

pregnancy center. Accept a pregnant teenager into your home. Write the producers and sponsors of sex and violence on television. Petition the city council to rid your town of adult bookstores and dirty theaters. Pray for your country every day. Support the work of your church in reaching a lost and dying world for Christ.

And by all means, do these things in a spirit of love that would be honoring the One who sent us.

Where will the time and energy be found to make America "family-friendly" again? I don't know. Warfare has always been exhausting, dangerous and expensive. But how can we remain uninvolved when the welfare of our children and subsequent generations is on the line? That is the question of the hour.

In case you haven't noticed, our primary concern here is for children, yours and mine, and the environment in which they are being raised and educated. It is also about our grandkids and the many generations to come. They are the true wealth of any nation, and in them lies the hope of the future.

Without them, there is no future—no freshness, no springtime, no youthful vigor. Indeed, a society that is too busy and too preoccupied for its children is just a nation of aging, dying people who feed on their own selfish interests.

If we agree on that basic premise, then we should take a cold, hard look at what we are doing to the most precious and vulnerable members of our society. For now, let me give a final message to my young friend in the gymnasium.

With the help of God, little Josh, we will build a safer, saner, more moral world in which you and your generation can grow. It is our profound duty, and we will meet it! □

*If you would like to receive a copy of Dr. Dobson and Gary Bauer's new book, please turn to "Resources for Your Home" on pages 12-13.*

*Dr. Dobson is founder and president of Focus on the Family. Gary Bauer is president of the Family Research Council, a division of Focus on the Family in Washington, D.C. This excerpt is adapted from their new book, Children at Risk, and is used by permission of Word Publishing. Copyright © 1990 by James C. Dobson, Ph.D., and Gary Bauer.*



# Focus at Fifteen

15 ANNIVERSARY

*Focus on the Family turns 15 years old this month. Its president and founder, Dr. James Dobson, sat down with Focus editors to look back and look ahead.*



Dr. Dobson, you grew up in small-town America, in a solid family with people who loved you. When did it start to dawn on you that the North American family was in trouble?

By the late '60s, the unraveling was evident from my counseling and my speaking engagements, both inside and outside the Christian church. Then my first book, *Dare to Discipline*, was released in 1970, and the overwhelming requests for additional information and involvement told me right away that a great need for family support existed.

Did the vision for a family ministry come suddenly or gradually?

I wish I could say I had a clear concept for Focus on the Family, and that I set out to design it systematically. That was not the case, however. I left the University of Southern California School of Medicine in 1976 to speak and write full time, but I was quickly inundated by speaking requests. That's what led me to think of starting a radio program to help get the word out while permitting me to stay at home.

I didn't have the financial resources to support a national broadcast, however. So I went to Tyndale House Publishers and offered them my next book, *The Strong-Willed Child*, in return for a contribution to the non-profit organization I had incorporated—Focus on the Family. They provided a generous grant of \$35,000, and we were on our way. That first weekly broadcast aired March 26, 1977, and was carried by 43 radio stations. That was the beginning of a period of explosive growth that would keep me off balance for the next seven years, as I scrambled to meet the needs that were placed at our door. By 1984, Focus on the Family had 400 employees and was heard 30 minutes daily on 400 stations.

Was it scary to leave the academic womb with its regular paycheck?

It was very scary. My wife, Shirley, was especially nervous as I said farewell to all the security and support systems of a large

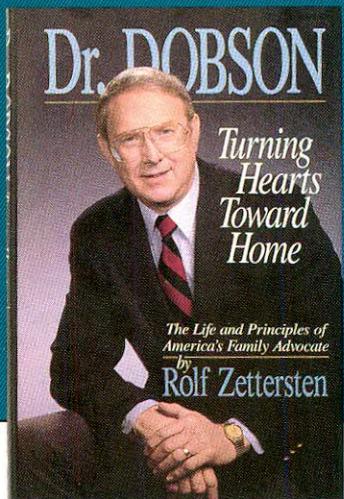
# For Your Home

## Dr. James Dobson, Up Close and Personal

For an inside look at the man behind the ministry, *Dr. Dobson: Turning Hearts Toward Home* presents the inspiring story of America's leading family advocate. This biography, written by Dr. Dobson's close personal colleague, Rolf Zettersten, is a wonderful introduction to Focus on the Family. A perfect gift for anyone unfamiliar with Focus—or for those who want to know us even better! Request your copy today.

Suggested donation: \$15 or more.

BK468



## Brio & Breakaway

*Brio* (for girls) and *Breakaway* (for guys) are filled each month with features of interest to teens 12 and up: advice, humor, fashion, sports, and more. (\*\$15 one year, \$28 two years, \$40 three years; codes: *Brio* TFSUB; *Breakaway* TMSUB)

## Youthwalk

Published jointly with Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, this monthly devotional helps teens apply their faith to everyday issues (\*\$15 per year; code: YWSUB)

\*All dollar amounts are suggested donations

## Clubhouse & Clubhouse Jr.

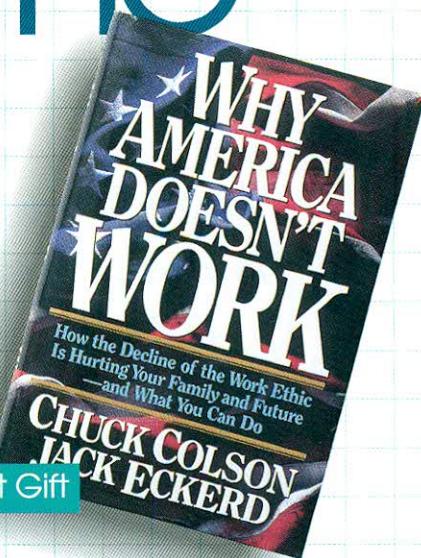
*Clubhouse* (ages 8-12) and *Clubhouse Jr.* (ages 4-8) offer children creative stories, puzzles and crafts each month—all emphasizing scriptural principles. (\*\$12 one year, \$22 two years, \$31 three years; codes: *Clubhouse* CHMPK; *Clubhouse Jr.* CJMPK)

## Physician

This bi-monthly magazine addresses the special needs of medical doctors with concise, informative features. (free to physicians; code: PHSUB)

**C**huck Colson's Cure for America In *Why America Doesn't Work*, the brand-new book by Chuck Colson and Jack Eckerd, you'll discover the impact of a lost work ethic on a once-great nation. How did our country begin its economic slide? How are the schools contributing to the decline? And what can be done to reverse this trend? The answers may surprise you!

Suggested donation: \$17 or more. BK654



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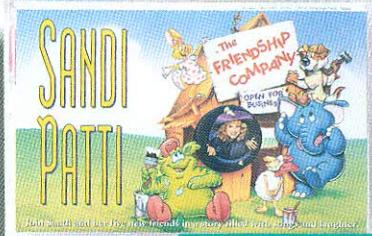
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Suggested donation: \$10 or more. AL256



Music With A Message

## The Magazine Rack

### Citizen

Stay informed. *Citizen* gives you monthly updates on the current events that affect your family—and tips for making your views known. (\*\$20 per year; code: FAMPK)

### Parental Guidance

This monthly publication helps parents evaluate the latest music, movies and television aimed at teens. (\*\$20 per year; code: PGSUB)



The Internal Revenue Code permits you to deduct the amount you give to Focus on the Family that goes beyond the value of materials we send you. To help you determine the tax-deductible portion of your gift we'll show on your receipt the fair market value, along with the total gift amount.

university staff. I left that comfortable nest to lease a two-room office in Arcadia, Calif., with a half-time secretary. I wondered if the phone would ever ring again.

And yet I felt this was what the Lord wanted me to do. That freed me to give myself full time to something I previously was able to do only on weekends, evenings, vacations and holidays. With some prayer and trepidation, I stepped out. I have to be candid, however. I did have a successful writing career going, so it wasn't likely that I would become destitute in a week or two.

#### How old were your children at that time?

Danae was 11 and Ryan was 6. I was delighted to be able to stay home with them instead of traveling every weekend.

#### Who encouraged you in those days?

This answer may surprise you, but my greatest encouragement came from women who were struggling to meet the needs of their families. These were wives and mothers who believed in traditional values, and yet were not hearing the things I was saying within the books they were reading and the television shows they watched. It certainly wasn't being said by the Benjamin Spocks and others in the secular world who were offering advice to families.

#### Did anybody discourage you?

I took some criticism within the profession of psychology, which has always had liberal underpinnings. I remember bumping into another psychologist at USC shortly after I had published *Dare to Discipline*. Though a Christian, he criticized me sharply for writing that book, almost ridiculing me because he disagreed with my conclusions.

But he was an exception. By that time, I was an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the USC School of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. The pediatricians with whom I worked were very conservative people, and I was warmly received by them.

Generally speaking, I have not struggled with a lot of criticism through the years. Even those who disagree with me usually don't get *mad* about it. Here at Focus on the Family, we receive about three negative letters per thousand, and most of those criticisms are addressed to my radio guests. Overall, I have received far more love and kindness from people than I deserve.

During your years at USC and even later, you were a frequent guest on national television shows, including ABC's "Good Morning America," Tom Snyder's "Tomorrow Show," the "Dinah Shore

Donahue pulled that one on me back in 1977—but only once!

Second, I don't really want that kind of national exposure. It increases the risk of making a mistake that could hurt the ministry of Focus on the Family and weaken our effectiveness.

Third, I'm too busy to fly to New York City on a moment's notice. Why not stay at home and talk to three million of our friends?

What makes a good broadcast for "Focus on the Family"?

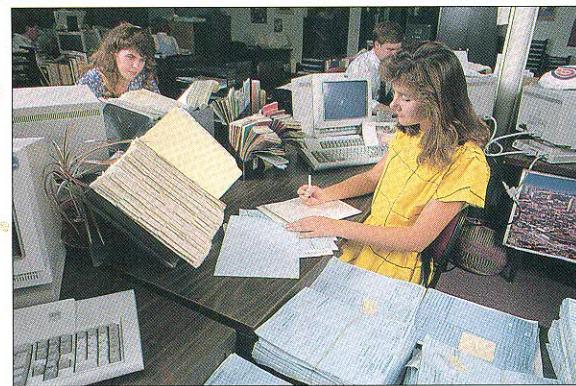
With almost every broadcast, I have a person with a particular problem or need in mind when I go into the studio. Even though I don't know that individual, I am thinking about him or her while we are preparing the broadcast. For example, on one day we might talk to a single mother who is struggling with financial problems. On another day, it may be a father who is too busy and ignoring the needs of his family.

We read our mail very, very carefully and we listen to the things people say about their problems and frustrations. Then we design programs to address those

specific needs. I feel the best when I walk out of the studio and think perhaps we've been on target with a particular program. The confirmation comes when the program has aired and mail starts arriving from people who say, "I was struggling with that very problem the day I heard your broadcast." It continually amazes me how the Holy Spirit takes what we do in the studio and tailors it to fit the specific circumstances of people we have never met.

A lot of people appreciate your monthly letters. Who's your ghostwriter?

(Laughter) You gentlemen know better than that! I am extremely compulsive about the



More than 75 people work full time in the Correspondence department to answer letters sent to Focus on the Family.

Show" and even "What's My Line?" You continue to receive invitations to appear on "Nightline," "20/20," "48 Hours" and the morning network shows. Why do you routinely turn down these opportunities?

For several reasons. First, the producers of these programs often invite me to deal with controversial issues about which they have an editorial viewpoint. Whether it is homosexual rights, corporal punishment, sex education or whatever, they need someone to represent the conservative position, which they can then show to be ridiculous. Their strategy is to gang up on the naive guest, who thinks he's debating an issue on a level playing field. Phil

1977

## DATES THAT RATE

First broadcast

JAN FEB MAR APR



Dr. Dobson releases two books: *The Strong-Willed Child* and *Preparing for Adolescence*

1979

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC



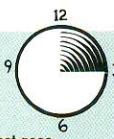
"Focus on the Family" film series released

1980

Broadcast goes daily (15 min.)

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

100th radio station added



written word. I won't send a note across the hall with a grammatical error or misspelled word if I can possibly help it. I write my own books and every regular letter, which now goes to 1.5 million people each month.

Those monthly letters may be my best method of communicating my current perceptions on the family, so I'm not willing to have someone do that for me.

#### You don't take a salary from Focus on the Family. Why not?

Shirley and I are thankful that we have never had to take a salary from Focus on the Family. There's so much suspicion of Christian ministries today, some of it justified, that we try to remove ourselves from any conflict of interest.

I know not every Christian leader could do what Shirley and I have done because of God's generosity. But He has provided an income for us through the sale of our books that underwrites our personal expenses. It also permits us to pay half of my secretary's salary so that any personal letters she types will not be supported with Focus on the Family money. Likewise, we help support the radio expenses of the ministry to compensate for any additional book sales that occur as a result of our exposure on the air. And finally, we waive royalty when any of our books or tapes are offered on the broadcast.

For Shirley and me, having our personal resources completely separate from Focus on the Family is a way of insuring that we have not benefited personally from the sacrificial giving of our contributors.

**On the whole, the nation's press has written fairly favorable things about you and Focus on the Family. What's the worst thing that's been said about you?**

As I indicated earlier, I think we've been treated very well. I really don't have any complaints, although there have been occasional karate chops from the media. For instance, a small, radical left-wing publication is currently telling people that I support the continuing flow of narcotics into the inner city! I won't bore you with the convoluted way they drew that idiotic conclusion.

Every now and then a Christian publication speculates that I'm secretly running for President of the United States, which is equally foolish. I have said repeatedly there are four reasons why that will never happen: (1) I'm not qualified for the job; (2) I couldn't get elected; (3) God doesn't want me to do it; and (4) my wife would kill me if I tried. Other than that, it's a great idea.

I do admit to being stung by what the media attempted to do after my 1989

interview with Ted Bundy, who was executed 17 hours after I met with him at the Florida State Prison. The press is so paranoid about any threat to their First Amendment rights that they move quickly to discredit and humiliate anyone who opposes the free flow of

pornography. I became their target after I talked to Bundy. For example, one of the well-known men's magazines called to tell us that they were planning an "expose" of me in an upcoming issue. They warned they would smear me if I didn't grant them a personal interview. I refused, and they proceeded with their "investigation." They contacted numerous friends and associates in an effort to find the dirt. In an article that was released subsequently, the only criticism they could document was that I

was a member of the dreaded Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. I was guilty as charged!

#### How has the family changed since Focus on the Family's kickoff in 1977?

We've seen the family continue to deteriorate. Secular humanists are targeting the nation's children and teaching them ideas that were unthinkable two decades ago. Drug and alcohol problems have accelerated; so have unwed pregnancies. Abortion now takes 1 1/2 million lives per year. We've seen a rapid escalation of problems that confront families, including the financial pressures they now face.

Thankfully, we have also seen a rising number of people who recognize the threats. They've obviously concluded that if they don't defend what they believe in, they could lose it. Many of those people are within our constituency, and they seem determined to preserve the family against all odds.

**Nearly 25 percent of all newborns in America today have no official father. What is this going to do to our society in the years ahead?**

We are creating an entire generation of fragile families. In addition to the statistic you just mentioned, another 23 percent of today's brides are pregnant at the altar. They begin married life with all of the biological pressures and financial strain of a pregnancy. Many of today's young married couples have been sexually or physically abused during childhood, and they bring very destructive baggage with them into the marital relationship.

For these and 30 or 40 other reasons, families today are very unstable. The impact on our culture is almost impossible to overemphasize.

**Is there any hope that family life will improve in the next 15 years?**

My track record in social prognostication has not been the best! Back in the chaos of 1968 I really thought we would not recover as a nation. So I may be wrong in how I



Periodically, Dr. Dobson has traveled to the Oval Office to advise presidents on the family.

**1981**

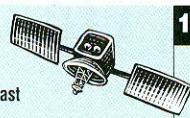
"Where's Dad?" debuts on TV

SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC



**1982**

A half-hour daily broadcast replaces the 15-minute program



JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

First city rally (Dr. and Mrs. Dobson address 9,000 in Fort Wayne, Ind.)



**1983**

Broadcast goes worldwide via Armed Forces Radio satellite

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

First 16-page Focus on the Family magazine; Canadian office opens in Vancouver, B.C.

**1984**

President Reagan appoints Dr. Dobson to National Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN



perceive the present situation.

I do believe, however, that it will get worse before it gets better. I don't think people will fall on their faces before God in repentance and return to traditional morality until they absolutely have to. I think we are likely to go through incredible social upheaval in the days ahead, which can take us either into national chaos and disintegration, or it can bring us back to our roots. I don't know which direction we will go.

You have risked a lot, personally and organizationally, to speak out on public policy matters that affect the family. Are you glad you entered this arena?

I don't think I had any choice. Everything I care about is being challenged and undermined today, and I couldn't sit on the sidelines as though I didn't notice. I was thinking the other day about my future grandchildren, if the Lord sees fit to grant them to us. I was wondering what kind of world they will inherit. What concerns me, you see, is that the soil into which the seed of the Gospel is planted is turning acidic. That is the primary consequence of the sexual revolution and the drift away from Christian principles that we're seeing. Furthermore, if the family is destroyed or badly damaged, it will become very difficult to evangelize the next generation of children coming along. Therefore, I felt I had to enter the arena of public policy—not, as some people surmised—for personal political gain, but because that is where the battle for righteousness is being fought.

You've talked a lot recently about overseas outreach. How much of the Focus message will work in other cultures? Are there parts that just won't translate?

It's amazing how traditional concepts of family life cross international lines, cultural territories and even very diverse denominations and faiths. These ideas are almost universal, and we are finding great receptivity in Eastern Europe, Latin America, India, Pakistan and China, as well as the English-speaking countries of

the world. We're finding an astonishing openness in the new Commonwealth of Independent States.

For example, it has taken 15 years for Focus of the Family to be heard on 1,600 radio facilities in the United States, Canada and the Western world. But on one day in late 1991, we added 2,500 state-owned radio stations in what was previously called the Soviet Union! Likewise, the Spanish version of the radio program is now heard on more than 350 stations extending across the United States and Latin America. We're considering a French edition now. In short, it looks as though the opportunities for this message to go worldwide are almost unlimited, except for the fact that support will have to come from the United States. We will never try to raise money among deprived peoples of the world.

By contrast to this new openness around the world, it is discouraging to see the receptivity to Christian principles closing down here in the United States. We and our foreign friends seem to be passing like ships in the night. What a tragedy this is for us!

What else would you like to see Focus on the Family do in the next 15 years?

I never spend much time thinking about where the organization is going. I know there are long-range planners and strategists who would find that statement to be foolish. But from the beginning, I've felt the ministry belongs to the Lord, and He knows what its future should be. My obligation is simply to do what He puts on my desk to accomplish today.

It has never been my goal to build an empire out of this ministry. It does not

bear my name; there are no universities designated as monuments to my memory. We are simply trying to obey the Lord and meet the needs that confront us from day to day.

You've often said that if God moves His hand half an inch, Focus on the Family would be history. What could sink this ministry?

We really do believe that Focus on the Family was conceived in the mind of God. It was not our plan to build the large organization that now exists; we simply followed the leading of the Lord. Therefore, if He ever removed His blessing, our inspiration for doing what we're trying to do would be over. That's why we've asked our friends to continue praying that we

will not do anything stupid to hurt the cause of Christ. I would rather have never been born than to have this ministry ultimately wound Christian people, disillusion them, hurt them and weaken their faith.

My great passion is to serve out my years on this earth without stepping on one of the familiar

land mines, such as pride, sexual sin, financial misdeals or internal conflict. May God help us to remain faithful!

What has been your lowest point with Focus on the Family?

Believe it or not, one of the most difficult times we've had in our 15-year history occurred last Christmas. We had just moved to Colorado Springs, and we were having some severe problems with our computer. The move from Los Angeles also scrambled our systems and kept us in a state of disarray.

As a result, many people failed to get a prompt reply when they wrote to



Each Wednesday morning, staff members pray for requests received in the mail.

**1985**

First "James Dobson Family Commentary" (90 seconds)

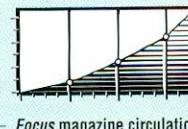
Dr. Dobson appointed to Attorney General's Commission on Pornography

JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC



**1986**

"Turn Your Heart Toward Home" film series released



Focus magazine circulation tops one million

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Focus makes commitment to provide free resources to crisis pregnancy centers

First Focus book published (*Twice Pardon*)



**1987**

First Clubhouse magazine



First "Odyssey" episode airs; Citizen magazine debuts

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

New films: "A Winnable War" and "Twice Pardon"; G. Harvey produces his first "cover painting" for Focus magazine

**1988**

First Spanish broadcast



us to express a need. Or they requested materials they wanted to give to family members, and the books and tapes arrived too late for Christmas. We try so hard to serve the people who contact us. We try to meet the needs that are brought to our door.

Because of the malfunctions of our computer at the busiest time of the year, we failed and disappointed many people. And it was almost impossible for me even to explain why we hadn't responded as in the past. That was embarrassing to our staff, and I am still attempting to apologize to people who were disappointed with us.

I remember hearing about one woman who called to request \$300 worth of books and tapes that she wanted to give her children and others for Christmas. Several times she stressed the importance of receiving the materials before Christmas. We assured her that we could deliver the books and tapes on time. Then she hung up the phone.

Before our operator could press the button to store that information in the computer, the entire system shut down. The data simply disappeared from the screen. Our operator could not remember the name of the caller or her address. There was no way even to contact her to tell her that her materials would not be coming on time; indeed, they would not come at all.

This young lady put her head down on her desk and wept at her frustration of having failed this friend of Focus on the Family.

I'm afraid this happened more than once during our most active time of the year. I'm just asking people to understand how much we regret it. We have the engine purring again now, but I'm still embarrassed by our failure.

**Fifteen years from now, you will be nearly 71. That's retirement age for most people. What do you expect to be doing?**

I'll be dead! (Laughter) Seriously, as long as I am healthy, I don't think I will ever retire. I probably will not be able to carry the load

that I do now, but as long as the institution of the family has needs, and as long as the Lord gives me insight and ideas that may be helpful, I will be looking to get those messages out.

It's entirely feasible that as I grow older people will no longer be interested in what I have to say. But as far as looking forward to some calendar date when I can pack up my briefcase and my books and go home to sit in a rocking chair, I have no such plans.



One of the biggest decisions the Board of Directors made was to move the ministry to Colorado Springs. Pictured are board members (from the left) Dr. Michael Roberts, Dr. Ted Engstrom, Bill Hybels, Tony Wauterlek, Dr. and Mrs. Dobson, Lee Eaton, Beth Allen Blakemore, Susan Baker and Bobbie Biehl.

### Does your life seem to be passing more quickly now?

It's a cliché to say that the older you get the faster time passes, but I have certainly experienced it. The years are a blur to me. That has had a profound impact on how I see life and the way I work.

I recognize very clearly that what I'm going to accomplish for the Lord has to be done soon. In the Psalms, David said, "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."

An entire philosophy rests within that one Scripture: Don't try to build monuments to yourself or accumulate great wealth. Don't take yourself so seriously. This life all happens in a brief blink of the eye. Do what you can to serve the Lord, and be worthy of hearing those words,

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant." And try to take as many people with you to heaven as you can, beginning with your own family. This is the core of my system of values.

**Written on the footstone of your father's grave are these two words, "He prayed." What epitaph would you like?**

I answered that question in my book *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women*. I wrote the words that I wanted on my tombstone (which will require a very big piece of marble!). It goes like this:

*When I reach the end of my days, a moment or two from now, I must look backward on something more meaningful than the pursuit of houses and land and machines and stocks and bonds. Nor is fame of any lasting benefit. I will consider my earthly existence to have been wasted unless I can recall a loving family, a consistent investment in the lives of people, and an earnest attempt to serve the God who made me. Nothing else makes much sense.*

**Is there anything else you would like to say to the friends of this ministry?**

Yes. I would like to thank all those wonderful people who have supported this ministry and responded to its creative energies through the years. This work has been a 15-year partnership between Focus on the Family and several million friends who have prayed for us and written to express their love and concern. They are, truly, a gift to us from the Lord, Himself. Let's press on! □

### On the Radio

It's nostalgia time as Dr. Dobson looks back over 15 years of "Focus on the Family" broadcasts. Be sure to tune in March 26!

**Conducting this interview was Vice President of Periodicals Dean Merrill and Focus on the Family magazine Editor Mike Yorkey.**

1989	1990	1991	1992
First issue of Physician magazine; Ted Bundy interview	First "McGee and Me!" video for kids	New book: <i>Children at Risk</i> (Dobson/Bauer)	Dr. Dobson will celebrate 56th birthday
Family Research Council comes aboard	Bob DeMoss presents first "Generation at Risk" seminar	Dobsons celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary	"Odyssey" radio goes daily
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC	JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC	JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC	JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUN JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC
Bob DeMoss presents first "Generation at Risk" seminar	Dobsons celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary	"Odyssey" radio goes daily	First "Adventures in Odyssey" video
First Russian broadcast (2,500 stations)			

# DR. DOBSON

*Answers Your Questions*

**Q**

Can you cite some of the objectives the secular humanists hope to accomplish in America?

**A**

I have been interested in that question for several years. By reading the press and monitoring the media, it has been possible, I think, to identify a host of objectives that might be called "the family agenda of the left." Listed below are their goals as I perceive them.

1. Convince the public that the training and development of children are far too important to be left to the whims and errors of parents. Only child-development authorities and professionals, commissioned by the government, can do the job properly. Mothers and fathers must yield control to those who are better equipped for the task of raising children.

2. Propagandize heavily against the use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure with children. Equate it with child abuse, even when administered judiciously by loving parents. Ultimately, secure legislation to outlaw the practice.

3. Continually emphasize an exhaustive list of "children's rights," which will provide wedges to separate kids from their parents.

4. Provide mandatory schooling for every 4-year-old, so that young minds can be controlled. This will be accomplished first through government-sponsored child-care centers. Once established with federal funds, they should eventually drive unassisted church-based facilities out of competition.

5. Teach students that gay and lesbian lifestyles are no less moral than heterosexual relationships, and that they typically involve long-term monogamous commitments. Teach girls that it is just as appropriate to fall in

love and have intimate relationships with another girl as with a boy (and do the same for boys). Design counseling programs for gay and lesbian students that will permit subtle recruitment services. (This is being done in Los Angeles City Schools through a program called Project 10. It assumes that 10 percent of students are homosexuals, and provides programs to recruit and support new converts.)

6. Demystify the occult. Shirley MacLaine has assisted immeasurably here. Any belief system other than the Christian faith is seen as an improvement, including the mysticism of Eastern religions.

7. Remove all references to God from school literature, such as with regard to the Pilgrims' worship on Thanksgiving, and from every dimension of public life.

8. Work to remove tax exemptions for religious institutions and begin to control them through regulatory and legislative mandate.

9. Require churches, businesses and schools to hire gays, lesbians and others who contradict their faith.

10. Promote "Gay Pride" celebrations in every American city, and seek equivalent legal status of families for homosexual and lesbian partners.

11. Expand the power of government and its bureaucracies to control every vestige of private life.

12. Increase the tax burden on families, forcing more women into the work force and their children into child-care facilities.

13. Require military women to fight in combat.

14. Repeal all laws relating to obscenity and even child pornography.

15. Eliminate the motion picture rating system so that patrons (and parents) cannot easily avoid violent and explicit sexuality in films.

16. Make homemakers feel exploited,



stupid and useless. Especially at the university level, ridicule female students who wish to marry, to have a family, or to postpone or avoid a career.

17. Oppose with vengeance any effort to teach, even mention, creation as an explanation for the earth's beginnings.

18. Monitor every judge appointed or seeking election. The judiciary is the key to the leftist agenda.

19. Secure far-reaching rights of students on junior and senior high school campuses. Limit the authority of teachers and principals to enforce rules of conduct.

20. Implement an aggressive sex-ed program, beginning in kindergarten, that is guided by no moral code. "Safe sex" is its centerpiece.

21. Provide for legal infanticide in cases of severe handicap or mental retardation.

22. Guarantee the "right to die" to anyone desiring suicide. Doctors should be free to assist in the act of dying.

23. Work to remove all state sodomy laws.

24. Fight tooth and nail to retain the right to abortion on demand—up to the moment of birth—for any reason whatsoever.

25. Operate aggressive "death education" classes in public schools to desensitize children to dying and to help them see life materialistically.

There are other objectives, I'm sure, but these appear to be the most pressing. □



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(For more information, see page 6.)

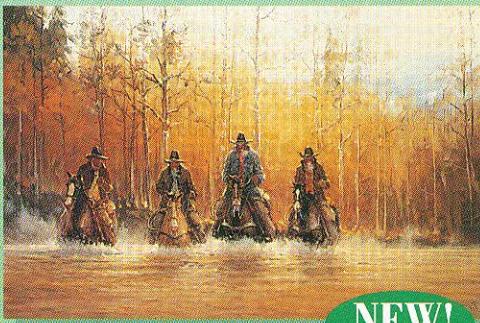
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**A Note to Our Readers:** As always, we are pleased to offer you this complimentary monthly magazine. Please continue to pray for us. Contributions to this ministry typically decline during the summer months, so we are particularly grateful for any financial support you can provide at this time as well. Thanks again for your partnership.

Your friends at Focus on the Family