

FACTS

from Focus on the Family

SATANISM

Despite the growing interest in the occult among youth, parents should not panic, says popular "Focus on the Family" broadcast guest Mike Warnke. He advises parents to avoid mistaking the slightest misconduct for evidence that their children are dabbling in Satanism. (As a young man, Warnke was deeply involved in Satanism. He and his wife, Rose, now operate a counseling ministry for drug abusers and those caught up in the occult.)

He does recommend, however, that everyone be aware of certain warning signs indicating possible occult or satanic involvement. To make these signs more recognizable, Warnke has also prepared the following glossary of occult terms, major occult holidays and satanic symbols.

WARNING SIGNS

1. Presence of books on the occult, witchcraft or satanism, particularly *The Satanic Bible* or *Satanic Rituals*.
2. Presence of heavy metal albums by groups who promote satanism or the occult, such as Motley Crue or Ozzie Osborne.
3. Occult or satanic symbols appearing on clothing, in books or in drawings. (Sometimes a teenager will even draw pictures of rituals.)
4. A seeming fascination with murder, suicide or death in general.
5. Secretiveness, particularly on a consistent basis.
6. An arrogant attitude combined with hostility when referring to Christianity, the Bible, church and similar things.

OCCULT GLOSSARY

Amulet

An ornament or charm supposedly charged with magical power and used to ward off spells, disease and bad luck.

Ancient One

A name sometimes given to an officiating priestess at a Black Mass.

Arcana	A secret process or formula; in Tarot, 22 pictorial cards make up the major Arcana and 56 (or 52) cards divided into four suits are the minor Arcana.
Baculum	A witch's wand, staff or broomstick.
Black Magic	Magic used for harm, deceit or destruction.
Black Mass	A ritual by which satanists blaspheme God and ridicule Christianity.
Cantrip	A spell cast by a witch.
Charm	Chanted or spoken words used to invoke a spell; also, an object said to have supernatural power.
Coven	A group of satanists or witches, usually numbering not more than 13, which meets regularly to worship or work spells.
Curse	A charm or spell designed to cause harm or destruction.
Demon	To occultists, any non-human spirit; according to the Bible, an angel who rebelled against God.
Divination	An attempt to gain knowledge of people or events by occult means.
Familiar	A demonic spirit who serves a witch or medium, or an animal that it may inhabit.
Grimoire	A book of spells that belongs to an individual or coven.
Lady	Female leader of a coven.
Ligature	A spell which prevents a person from doing something.
Magic	An attempt to influence or control people by occult means.
Magister	Male leader of a coven.
Magus	A male witch.
Materialization	The physical manifestation of a spirit being.
Necromancy	Communication with the supposed spirits of the dead.
Occult	From the Latin word <i>occultus</i> , which means "secret" or "hidden," the occult refers to 1) secret or hidden knowledge available to initiates; 2) the supernatural; and 3) parapsychology and paranormal phenomena.
Omen	A prophetic sign.
Sabbat	A quarterly or semi-quarterly meeting of witches or satanists.

SATANIC SYMBOLS

Some of the most obvious satanic symbols are:

The Inverted Pentagram



Usually shown within a circle, it is a symbol for Satan; the symbol for the Church of Satan is a goat's head with a pentagram.

666

The "number of the beast" in the book of Revelation.

The Upside-Down Cross



Often used as a mockery of the cross of Christ. It is sometimes shown with the "arms" broken. Another cross sometimes used by satanists incorporates an upside-down question mark, questioning the deity of Jesus.

Warnke Ministries provides counseling for individuals trying to escape occult and satanic involvement. For counseling services, as well as additional information, call or write:

Warnke Ministries
P.O. Box 1075
Danville, KY 40422

(800) 345-0045
(606) 238-7720



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August 1989

Dear Friend,

By now most of you have heard and have rejoiced over the recent ruling by the United States Supreme Court upholding the Missouri law that limited access to abortions in certain instances. It was the first time in 16 years that the court has permitted any restriction on the killing of preborn children, and we have much to be grateful for. Even more promising, the justices have agreed to hear three additional abortion-related cases next term, leading many to predict that the infamous *Roe vs. Wade* decision of January 22, 1973, will eventually be overturned.

That won't end the matter, of course. It will only return the issue to the individual states, where a terrible struggle will take place throughout the next decade. I hope and pray that the pro-life and pro-family community is ready for that battle. Not since the Civil War has there been an issue with greater potential for division and embitterment of American citizens. Ironically, the bloody war fought by our forefathers in 1861-65 focused not only on the civil rights of another oppressed minority, but it also reverberated from a terrible Supreme Court decision (*Dred Scott vs. Sanford*, 1857), which denied full human status to blacks. We've walked this path before.

But for today, even though the killing continues, it is fitting and proper that we pause to thank God for this important beginning. We've been through a long, dark night, during which 23 million members of the next generation have been torn to pieces or drowned in solutions of salt. If permitted to live, approximately five million of those aborted babies would be teenagers today, between 13 and 16 years of age. Three million would be toddlers now, exploring the wonder and excitement of the world around them. But it was not to be. They were unwanted. They came at an inconvenient time. And the high court said they could be sacrificed. Thus, their names are known only to the God Who was gently knitting them together in the "secret place."

But what about those who support the assault on preborn children? How are they taking the setback extended to them by the Supreme Court? Signs indicate they are white hot with anger and are drawing upon every resource to recover the lost territory. And believe me, their resources are significant! For example, it was announced in the August edition of *Publishing News* that "editors

from 18 women's magazines have mutually agreed to step up pro-choice coverage." Included are *Cosmopolitan*, *Family Circle*, *Glamour*, *Mademoiselle*, *Redbook*, *Lear's*, *Ms.* and even *Good Housekeeping*. The anti-life philosophy has extended its tentacles to the most unlikely of places. What does killing babies have to do with *Good Housekeeping*!?

It was also announced earlier this summer that major advertising companies have offered \$30 million worth of free (*pro bono*) propagandistic work to the pro-abortionists. Thus, you can anticipate seeing and hearing many "pro-choice" ads on television and radio this fall.

While this battle to save the unborn child is of inestimable importance, I do need to set it in context again. I hope our friends now recognize that the pro-life movement is only one part of a much larger conflict that rages today. What is really at stake here is the future of the Judeo-Christian system of values in this country. What our most radical opponents want to accomplish is not merely to preserve their right to kill unborn children, but to destroy the moral underpinnings of society and, particularly, the family itself. I know that sounds like an alarmist overstatement to many of my readers, but it is an accurate picture of what is happening.

Furthermore, the enemies of the family are becoming bolder and more outrageous in their tactics all the time. Now that they have begun to lose some vital skirmishes after the easy victories of the past, they have unleashed an assault on every aspect of Christian thought. To illustrate this civil war of values, let me list just a few of the more striking developments that have occurred recently within the 50 states. You could no doubt add dozens more, but these have jumped out at me this summer:

- (1) A major campaign to insult and discredit the Christian ethic is occurring in all dimensions of the arts. What happened last year with "The Last Temptation of Christ" was merely the opening salvo. Now, here come the "sequels." Danish film maker, Jens Jorgen Thorsen, is making a movie called "The Return of Jesus Christ." He will start shooting the movie in December. The director says it will show Jesus returning to earth in many forms, "one of them as a political terrorist" (*Washington Post*, July 21).

That kind of affront is occurring in the classic arts as well. Two recent examples have erupted into a national furor. The controversy focused on two photographic exhibitions funded by the tax-supported National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The first, by Andres Serrano, depicts Jesus Christ nailed to a cross submerged in a vat of the artist's urine. He calls it "Piss Christ." (Other works in his exhibit include similar titles referring to God and the Pope.) The second—which was abruptly canceled by the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington—shows explicit photos with "homoerotic" and sadomasochistic themes taken by the late Robert Mapplethorpe. The photos show men doing shameful things to and with one another. Both exhibits were made possible by federal grant money. Your hard-earned tax dollars at work!

Fortunately, some members of Congress thought it incredible that taxpayers should bankroll

this kind of “contemporary art” and moved to restrict federal funding. The Senate proposed five-year bans on grants to the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art and the Institute for Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania, the organizations that sponsored the programs featuring the Serrano and Mapplethorpe photos. The House of Representatives, in what really amounts to nothing more than a slap on the wrist, cut the NEA’s \$171 million budget by a measly \$45,000—the amount of the two controversial grants. This is the same old politics as usual. The congressmen are able to point to their vote to cut funds to calm down pro-family activists, but the great bulk of the money remains in the hands of bureaucrats and some so-called “artists” who use your taxes to promote their anti-family and anti-Christian agenda.

As might be predicted, art advocates were quick to label Congress’ action as censorship, but I appreciated the question asked by Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana. He said: “Do we in Congress have the right to take money from citizens . . . and then use it to offend their most deeply held religious and moral beliefs?” The tax-paying public deserves an answer. We are also appreciative of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) for his vigorous effort in the Senate to restrict funds used to support pornographic art. Meanwhile, President Bush has just appointed John E. Froehnmayer as the new chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts. Perhaps you’ll let him know how you feel about this shocking mismanagement of our public art programs.

- (2) The most important struggle by far is the contest for the right to control the minds of the next generation. Those who decide what children see, hear, think and believe will ultimately shape the future of the nation. That’s why the humanists have fought passionately for government-sponsored child care throughout the past 20 years. It also explains why they oppose tax credits to parents, permitting them to choose what kind of child care they desire. If they can entice parents to put millions of their children in state-controlled, secularized baby-sitting facilities, they will have won the decisive campaign. And yes, they are on the verge of doing just that as I write. God help us if they succeed.

This understanding also explains why the most bitter battles are being fought over the domain of the public school system. All across the country, efforts are ongoing to teach the humanistic agenda and secularize the world in which children live. Consider the story told by Mrs. Ellen Pearson. Her 10-year-old daughter, named Audrey, is physically and emotionally retarded. They live in Woodbridge, Virginia, requiring Audrey to ride the bus a full hour each day to attend a special school. To help her cope with that period of boredom, the mother gave her a Bible to read on the bus.

“She loves God’s Word,” Mrs. Pearson said. However, the principal asked the teacher to call Mrs. Pearson and tell her that children are not allowed to bring their Bibles to school. The mother said Audrey is a “people pleaser” and can’t understand why anyone would prevent her from reading the Bible.

The Pearsons appealed to the Rutherford Institute for legal help, and the school relented. But what would have happened if the Pearsons had not been willing to fight or the Rutherford

Institute unable to help? In the majority of cases, *parents* don't protest and the Christian value system is trampled.

Also in the state of Virginia, an abominable new sex education program has been adopted in the schools over the bitter opposition of parents. If you can believe it, the curriculum called "family life education" barely emphasizes marriage as the foundation for the family. The creators said they wanted to avoid offending children from single parent homes. Instead, the course content introduces controversial material about homosexuality and abortion—all taught, of course, from a value-free perspective.

- (3) Another dimension of the civil war involves the effort to redefine the family. Cities across America are passing ordinances designed to legitimize homosexual and lesbian lifestyles. For example, the mayor of San Francisco, Art Agnos, recently signed an authorization entitling all unmarried city employees to claim their live-in partners—whether gay or straight—as dependents, thereby qualifying them for health coverage. Though the decision has been challenged by the City Council, similar efforts to redefine the family are suddenly spreading across the country. The state of Wisconsin, the city of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors have each passed pro-homosexual resolutions. The city proclamation reads, "I, John O. Norquist, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, do hereby proclaim the period from June 16-27, 1989 to be Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Pride Week throughout the City of Milwaukee. We are proud of who you are." Indeed! Watch for similar developments in *your* city. It's just a matter of time.
- (4) Television programming continues to slide toward unprecedeted sex and violence. I was shocked a few weeks ago to see hard-core pornography on our home TV set. Believe it or not, the film featured 20 minutes of oral and vaginal intercourse involving two women and a man who were totally nude and were displayed without sheets or blankets on a white table. This outrageous film, which our lawyers believe to be illegal, was shown on cable TV, although my wife and I do not subscribe to any of the channels that show even R-rated movies. This trash was sent unsolicited into our home by Cablevision of Arcadia, but it probably occurs in your city, too.

It should not be surprising why Focus on the Family lobbied the White House vigorously for at least *one* known pro-morality appointee among three new members of the Federal Communications Commission. We joined forces with other conservative organizations in this urgent request. The answer? Forget it! The Bush administration not only rejected the candidates backed unanimously by all pro-family groups, but they never even discussed the issue with us. Our telegrams and concerned letters did not even warrant a letter or a phone call in response.

Please understand that I'm not referring simply to Focus on the Family, but to a consortium of conservative, pro-morality groups that asked for consideration. We were locked out of the debate entirely. It is possible that the candidates appointed by the administration will prove to be acceptable in the fight against obscenity. But for now, who knows? Not one of them has a track record opposing "shock radio" or offensive material on the airways.

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- (5) The growth of the euthanasia movement continues unchecked. In a recent article in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*, the majority of a panel of physicians stated their belief that it is not immoral for a doctor to assist a terminally ill patient in committing suicide. They felt that prescribing sleeping pills for the purpose of suicide or instructing the patient in how to administer a lethal dose is morally permissible, and they affirmed that such occurrences are not rare.

If a hospital is becoming an unsafe place for the elderly and infirm, the human uterus is an even more dangerous place to reside. Recent studies have shown for the first time that abortions are occurring simply because the preborn infant is *female*! For unborn babies to be aborted solely because they are of an undesired sex is a grotesque form of discrimination that should not be permitted in a society committed to equal rights. Gary Bauer, head of our Washington office (the Family Research Council), filed complaints with the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, insisting that any medical facility permitting abortions for the purpose of selecting the sex of an unborn child should lose its federal funding. In his response to the complaint, HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan admitted sex-selection abortions were “outside acceptable norms of behavior” but made it clear that no government action would be taken.

- (6) Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), author of the well-known Act for Better Child Care (ABC bill), was quoted by two observers during a January Senate hearing on child care as saying: “I don’t see why we should give a child-care tax credit to women who are at home doing nothing, when we could be supporting women who are out working, making a contribution to society!” The Senator denies making this remark, but two individuals present say they heard it. If valid, it confirms a bias against homemakers that is also evident in his child-care legislation.
- (7) Skowhegan Area High School in Maine featured a school play entitled “Why the Lord Came to Sand Mountain.” To the shock of Christians in the community, the play’s script was blasphemous toward the Christian faith, with scenes featuring an adolescent Jesus cursing, disobeying his parents and striking Joseph. Also, Jesus and the Apostle Paul were shown getting drunk, swearing, and telling dirty stories. When a Christian couple protested to the local school board, they were refused a formal public hearing, and were told not to contact the board members individually. They were then ridiculed by the local press and accused of censorship. Despite community protests, the school board voted to allow the play to be performed. It went on to be entered in a state drama contest. Whatever happened to the “separation of church and state” we hear so much about whenever Christianity is discussed favorably in the public schools?
- (8) The April issue of the *Stanford Review* discussed Stanford University’s recently sponsored condom-rating contest, in which students were asked to evaluate seven different condoms on the basis of “smell, taste, appearance, sensualness/comfort, lubrication, and sense of security.” A pamphlet included with the condom packages encouraged students to “try out these condoms by yourself, with a partner, or partners. Be creative. Have fun. Enjoy.”
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These are but a few examples of the outrageous developments in our great land this spring and summer. Hardly a community has been untouched by the powerful change agents who would replace the Judeo-Christian value system with their own.

If they are successful, your grandchildren will grow up in a godless nation that has no personal memory of our faith. It has already happened in the United Kingdom, where only 3 percent of the population consider themselves to be committed believers in Jesus Christ. I have seen my Christian friends in Britain struggle to reintroduce their countrymen to the Lord. We must not let *our* children forget Him.

Now that we have heard the disturbing reports from various battlefields where our side has come under heavy fire, let me offer a word of good news that should cheer your heart. By far the most encouraging thing I can tell you is . . . "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world"! (1 John 4:4). And ". . . If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). Isn't it reassuring to know that Jehovah, even our God, cares more about the moral preservation of our country and our children than we do? He will give us the victory if we continue in prayer before Him, and if we are willing to use our influence in the battle for Christian values.

Will you help us build a hedge of protection around the family and the moral foundation of the nation? Will you consider serving in the reserve army being rushed to the front lines? The pay is terrible, but the long-term benefits are incredible. For those who will volunteer in this ragtag band of crusaders, we will arm you not with grenades and a rifle—but with information. Up-to-date news and facts are absolutely vital to those who would use their influence effectively.

And that brings me to "Family News in Focus." Are you listening to our newest broadcast? "FNIF" is a daily radio feature devoted to news that concerns you and your household. The program offers coverage of breaking stories, and keeps you updated on important issues like education, parents' rights, abortion and pornography. Check to see if your local Christian radio station carries "FNIF." If they don't, let them know they should!

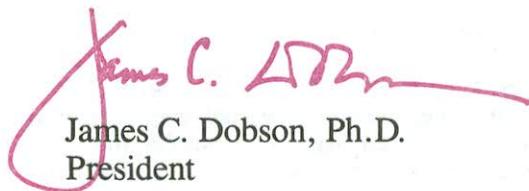
What about *Focus on the Family Citizen*? Do you receive this monthly 16-page magazine? It's designed specifically to keep you informed. The *Citizen* offers a pro-family perspective on the headlines of the day—which you aren't getting from the news media—and supplies you with timely, practical advice on how you can get involved. More than 170,000 of our friends have requested one-year memberships to this wonderful magazine for a suggested donation of \$15. We are grateful to all who have participated and those who have been letting their voices be heard in the centers of power. I am concerned, however, that the numbers are still too small. We should be reaching at least 1 million people each month. Only then will public response to our "action items" have the necessary impact in various governmental centers. We *must* increase our readership.

I am offering *Citizen* magazine free to anyone requesting it for as long as we can afford to send it. There are no gimmicks or hidden hooks. If you want to receive *Citizen*, just return the enclosed reply card. We will then send you the magazine for as long as we can find the funds to do so. That is how much we care about the struggle before us.

If you *can* contribute to this effort, or to the overall expenses of the ministry, we would be most grateful to you. We ran a serious deficit in June and July, and yet I am not comfortable in discussing the matter at length. The Lord knows our need.

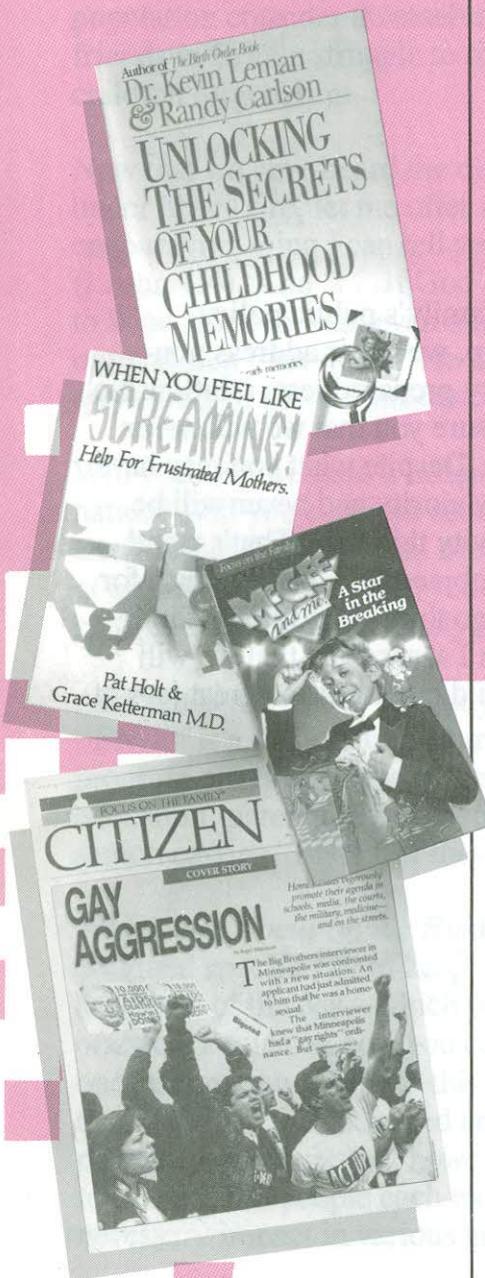
Have a great summer's end. Thanks for reading along with me.

Your friend in Christ,


James C. Dobson
President

P.S. I should have mentioned the limitations placed on Focus on the Family's public policy involvement by our Board of Directors. Following their leadership, we never address non-family issues, such as political parties, the federal budget, military preparedness, relationship with foreign countries, etc. They are outside our sector. And I assure you that we will *never* endorse political candidates or suggest to our friends how to vote. Despite what you may have read in the newspapers in June, we are not the heir to the Moral Majority and never will be. We will spend less than 1 percent of our income on lobbying activity this year. That's right! Less than 1 percent. When all of our public policy efforts are combined, the total expense for the current year will be only 6 percent. Ninety-four percent will go toward traditional family-related assistance. Politically speaking, we're going nowhere. But I assure you that we will fight to the death for the moral values in which we believe. It would be one of the great joys of my life if you would choose to join us.

Family-Strengthening Resources



Unlocking the Secrets of Your Childhood Memories

(suggested donation: \$15)

What is the earliest thing you can remember? A special event? A fear? An embarrassing moment? Those childhood memories—and the emotions they evoke—hold the keys to understanding the person you are today.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Kevin Leman and Randy Carlson have successfully used childhood memory therapy in their family counseling, and now they share their fascinating techniques in this hardback. Using actual case studies from their private practice, the authors explain how you can retrieve even forgotten memories and control their effect on your adult life.

When You Feel Like Screaming

(suggested donation: \$10)

Most mothers agree that screaming is not a constructive means of discipline—yet many continue to lose control, raise the volume, and then feel guilty. In this easy-to-read paperback, Pat Holt and Dr. Grace Ketterman, both mothers and experts on children, offer help for frustrated mothers. They explain what kinds of things tend to make you shout, how it affects you and your youngsters, and—most important—how you can achieve quiet control of yourself and your family.

Strong, cool, calm parents raise children who are controlled and confident themselves. Find out how you can do it!

McGee and Me—A Star in the Breaking

video cassette (VHS)

(suggested donation: \$20)

Eleven-year-old Nicholas is thrilled. He and his fun-loving cartoon friend, McGee, have been chosen to appear on a local TV game show!

Children 6 to 13 won't want to miss this exciting second episode in the new "McGee and Me" series from Focus on the Family and Tyndale House Publishers. The quality of this 28-minute video is top-notch, with music, live action and animation. Your kids will join our friends as they find out what it's like to get attention from everyone. And they'll learn what happens when we let a little success go to our heads!

Focus on the Family Citizen

12-month membership

(complimentary)

Ever wish you had some assistance staying on top of issues that concern you and your family? Distressed by the anti-family bias in the media? Want to get involved, or write a letter, but don't know how to go about it or what to say?

The *Citizen* can help. This 16-page monthly magazine, published by Focus on the Family, will keep you informed with timely updates, accurate issue analysis and practical advice to aid you in making your views known.

Every household should receive the *Citizen*.

Please note: This is a limited offer. Focus on the Family will provide the *Citizen* on a complimentary basis for as long as funds permit.

On the Radio. In case you missed the name of a resource mentioned on our radio broadcast, here is a list of items offered during the month of August: *Love for a Lifetime* (suggested donation: \$14) BK041; *Help for the Workaholic and His Family* free LF178; *McGee and Me!—The-Not-So-Great-Escape* (suggested donation: \$20) VI043; *With Love to Our Dads* (suggested donation: \$5) CS468; *Preparing for Adolescence* (suggested donation: \$10) BK012; *Operation Rescue* (suggested donation: \$10) BK430; *Operation Rescue* video (suggested donation: \$30) VI039; *The Divorce Decision* (suggested donation: \$10) BK457; *Occupied Territory* (suggested donation: \$12) BK395; *The Mind Polluters* (suggested donation: \$10) BK281; *Healing for Damaged Emotions* (suggested donation: \$10) BK127; *How to Help Your Child Say No to Sexual Pressure* (suggested donation: \$10) BK354; *Why Wait?* (suggested donation: \$10) BK347; *Keeping Your Teen in Touch With God* (suggested donation: \$15) BK446; *You Gotta Have the Want To* (suggested donation: \$5) BK342.

To request any of the above resources, call us toll-free at 1-800-A-FAMILY, or use the enclosed reply card.



June 1992

Dear Friends,

In 1987, Shirley and I were in London throughout the national election when Margaret Thatcher was retained as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. We were surprised and disappointed to observe that not once during the entire campaign did we hear either candidate mention the institution of the family or any of the common family-related themes. Neither Mrs. Thatcher nor Mr. Neil Kinnock expressed an opinion about the effects of taxation on families or other governmental policies that impacted the home. The family was simply not an issue. Furthermore, we heard no references to the great moral issues of our time, such as abortion, homosexuality or pornography. The primary concerns of British voters apparently lay elsewhere.

Historically, we in North America have also been indifferent to our governments' family policies. But that has changed radically since 1980. Here in the United States, where the Presidential election is still nearly five months away, the family and its moral underpinnings are consistently in the headlines. All of the candidates for the White House have been addressing this concern in one way or another these past few weeks. However, none of their pronouncements created much of a splash. None, that is, until Vice President Dan Quayle's speech on May 20 in which he criticized the Murphy Brown television show for glamorizing unwed motherhood. That's when the media went into its familiar feeding frenzy. And what a feast it was.

David Letterman and a host of standup comedians tried to make Quayle look like the world's biggest fool. Johnny Carson thanked the V.P. mockingly for making his last week on the Tonight Show so easy. Barbara Reynolds, columnist for *USA Today*, wrote with surprising venom: "Murphy Brown or Dan Quayle? Which one is the most wretched excuse for a role model for this country?" Ellen Snortland snorted in the *L.A. Times*, "Traditional family values is a right-wing euphemism for 'a white family where Daddy's the boss.' . . . Our country's government is not pro-motherhood or even pro-parenthood. It's anti-choice, pro-married and in favor of 'traditional motherhood' because the guys in government want the old fairy-tale days back."

CNN's Bernard Shaw, NBC's Andrea Mitchell and ABC's Peter Jennings each took swipes at the Vice President. *The New York Daily News* carried the headline, "QUAYLE TO MURPHY BROWN: YOU TRAMP!" In Philadelphia it was, "MURPHY HAS A BABY . . . QUAYLE HAS A COW." Matt Groening, the creator of Fox's "The Simpsons," said, "You don't have to make up jokes about Dan Quayle anymore. The real thing is too funny."

Well, just how funny *was* the real thing? Casual observers may not know that the Vice President's comment about Murphy Brown represented a single sentence in a seven-page speech that went largely unreported. Perhaps it would be enlightening to read the context in which the remark

was made. I invite you to evaluate the following excerpts, which Hollywood and the media considered to be the most stupid speech in recent memory. Judge for yourself:

... right now, the failure of our families is hurting America deeply. When families fall, society falls. The anarchy and lack of structure in our inner cities are testament to how quickly civilization falls apart when the family foundation cracks. Children need love and discipline. They need mothers and fathers. A welfare check is not a husband. The state is not a father. It is from parents that children come to understand values and themselves as men and women, mothers and fathers.

And for those concerned about children growing up in poverty, we should know this: marriage is probably the best anti-poverty program of all. Among families headed by married couples today, there is a poverty rate of 5.7 percent. But 33.4 percent of families headed by a single mother are in poverty today.

Nature abhors a vacuum. Where there are no mature, responsible men around to teach boys how to become good men, gangs serve in their place. In fact, gangs have become a surrogate family for much of a generation of inner-city boys. I recently visited with some former gang members in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In a private meeting, they told me why they had joined gangs. These teenage boys said that gangs gave them a sense of security. They made them feel wanted, and useful. They got support from their friends. And, they said, "It was like having a family." "Like family"—unfortunately, that says it all.

The system perpetuates itself as these young men father children whom they have no intention of caring for, by women whose welfare checks support them. Teenage girls, mired in the same hopelessness, lack sufficient motive to say no to this trap.

Answers to our problems won't be easy.

We can start by dismantling a welfare system that encourages dependency and subsidizes broken families. We can attach conditions—such as school attendance, or work—to welfare. We can limit the time a recipient gets benefits. We can stop penalizing marriage for welfare mothers. We can enforce child support payment.

Ultimately, however, marriage is a moral issue that requires cultural consensus, and the use of social sanctions. Bearing babies irresponsibly is, simply, wrong. Failure to support children one has fathered is wrong. We must be unequivocal about this.

It doesn't help matters when prime time TV has Murphy Brown—a character who supposedly epitomizes today's intelligent, highly paid, professional woman—mocking the importance of a father, by bearing a child alone, and calling it just another "lifestyle choice."

I know it is not fashionable to talk about moral values, but we need to do it. Even though our cultural leaders in Hollywood, network TV, the national newspapers routinely jeer at them, I think that most of us in this room know that some things are good, and other things are wrong. Now it's time to make the discussion public.

It's time to talk again about family, hard work, integrity and personal responsibility. We cannot be embarrassed out of our belief that two parents, married to each other, are better in most cases for children than one. That honest work is better than hand-outs—or crime. That we are our brothers' keepers. That it's worth making an effort, even when rewards aren't immediate.

So I think the time has come to renew our public commitment to our Judeo-Christian values—in our churches and synagogues, our civic organizations and our schools. We are, as our children recite each morning, “one nation under God.” That’s a useful framework for acknowledging a duty and an authority higher than our own pleasures and personal ambitions.

Well, that’s the substance of Dan Quayle’s infamous speech of May 20. How about it? Pretty hilarious stuff, huh? With such funny things coming out of Washington, comedians need not make up any more jokes about the Vice President. Carson, Letterman and Arsenio had their monologues prepared for them. But in the midst of the frivolity, did you notice who *didn’t* laugh?

Virtually every poll taken during the firestorm revealed that the majority of the people *agreed* with Mr. Quayle. Isn’t that interesting? Hollywood and the press fired every big gun in their mighty arsenal from ridicule to sarcasm yet the public came out solidly against them! *The Rocky Mountain News* recorded over 14,000 calls for Quayle and only 5,000 against. A *Houston Post* call-in poll produced 10,387 for the V.P., and 1,866 against. More than 10,000 callers paid 50 cents each to express their opinions to TV station KCBS in Los Angeles, and 62 percent agreed that Murphy Brown set a bad example. Major radio stations in Atlanta, Milwaukee and other cities had similar results. What this public response indicates is just how dramatically out of touch the entertainment industry and the media elite are with the American people.

Actually, the hostile reaction by Hollywood and the press reveals one of their dirty little secrets. It was not the Murphy Brown comment that outraged them. It was the blatant endorsement of traditional morality—of the institutions of marriage and parenthood—of this being “one nation under God”—of the distinction between right and wrong—and of the Judeo-Christian system of values. It’s been many years since a senior politician has had the temerity to come out in favor of these old fashioned ideas. And make no mistake about it: those “politically incorrect” concepts emanating from the Christian faith are *despised* by people in the media. They would destroy the family and its moral foundation in a heartbeat if given the chance. Indeed, they work on that project 365 days a year—as evident in the Murphy Brown program and other trash served up to us as entertainment.

Please understand that my defense of Vice President Quayle in this instance refers specifically to his wonderful speech to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco. Whom you vote for in November is not my concern. My point in writing is not political at all. It is to defend the institution of the family from its most dangerous opponents, and they are not hard to identify. Take a look at your television screens this evening and then tell me who has the best interests of this country at heart. Those entertainers and producers who screamed most loudly at the Vice President are doing everything they can to corrupt the morals of the nation—and especially its youth. They pump depictions of murder, rape, incest, infidelity, sexual perversion, profanity, nudity and every other evil into America’s bloodstream night after night. Their only real passion is greed. Their only ideal is self-indulgence. Their only viable god is free expression, regardless of who it hurts. I pray that America will continue its skepticism of those power-brokers who would tell us what to believe. They have earned no right to lead!

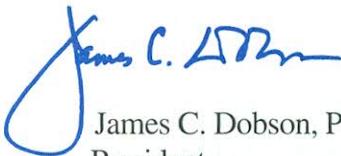
Referring again to my earlier comment about the family rhetoric we’re hearing from today’s politicians: Have you ever stopped to wonder why our representatives and *wannabe* presidents are “focusing on families” so frequently these days? It is because we have a growing pro-family movement in the U.S. that is determined to protect the basic unit of society from the intrusion of government and from those who wish to destroy it. I thank God for those millions of citizens who are awakening, at last,

to the dangers of non-participation in this representative form of government. With their continued diligence, and with your own, we *will* protect the precious value system we inherited from our God-fearing forefathers. But the battle is only beginning.

Before closing, I want to express a word of appreciation to Gary Bauer and my other colleagues at the Family Research Council. They were besieged by the media when the Murphy Brown issue broke in Washington. Even though newspaper reporters and television anchors were often hostile and they typically stacked the debate, Gary was in there swinging in defense of family values. During those tumultuous days, he appeared on CBS Morning News, NBC and CBS Nightly News, the prestigious MacNeil/Lehrer program, and gave dozens of interviews with *AP*, *UPI*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other papers. What a unique service Gary Bauer and the Family Research council are performing on behalf of traditional values in the world's most influential city! I'm sure he and his staff would appreciate your dropping us a note of encouragement.

Please don't forget Focus on the Family during the coming months. We have very little reserve to get us through September. Your continued support will be deeply appreciated, as always.

Sincerely,



James C. Dobson, Ph.D.
President

P.S. One more thought about the response of the media: Do you remember six weeks ago that homosexual activists became very upset because gays were depicted unfavorably in the movie "Basic Instinct"? Their irritation with the producers of the film was reported dutifully on all the major news programs. For three days, their complaints were echoed on talk shows and in the tabloids without challenge or editorial opposition. No one made the point that the film was nothing but fiction and that creative productions of that nature do not influence society—they merely reflect it. Yet those are the precise responses being given by entertainment people to Quayle's criticism of Murphy Brown. "He's overreacting to a fantasy," said one member of the production staff. Another replied, "We don't influence society—we just represent it." Yeah, right! So where were they with this argument six weeks ago? This shifting response reminded me of the Christian opposition to the movie "The Last Temptation of Christ," in 1988. Our concern about the blasphemy in that film was met with outrage in Hollywood. It was labeled "censorship," "bigotry" and "fundamentalist nonsense." Tell me, once more, why homosexuals are entitled to object to their treatment by the media and others are not? It is because Christians represent the *only* minority which can be mocked and vilified with impunity by the entertainment industry today. It is politically incorrect to mock African-Americans, Native-Americans, Hispanics, Moslems, Jews, women, Asians, homosexuals, lesbians, the disabled, the aged, or the mentally handicapped. That is as it should be, for *all* human beings deserve respect. But why is it that Christians can be depicted in movies stereotypically as weird, hanky-waving freaks who run around saying "Praise the Lord" while exploiting the poor and cheating the rich? No other minority in the world would have to tolerate such abuse. I would like to hear *someone* from the entertainment industry admit that a massive double standard exists, and that it is viciously discriminatory. What do *you* think?